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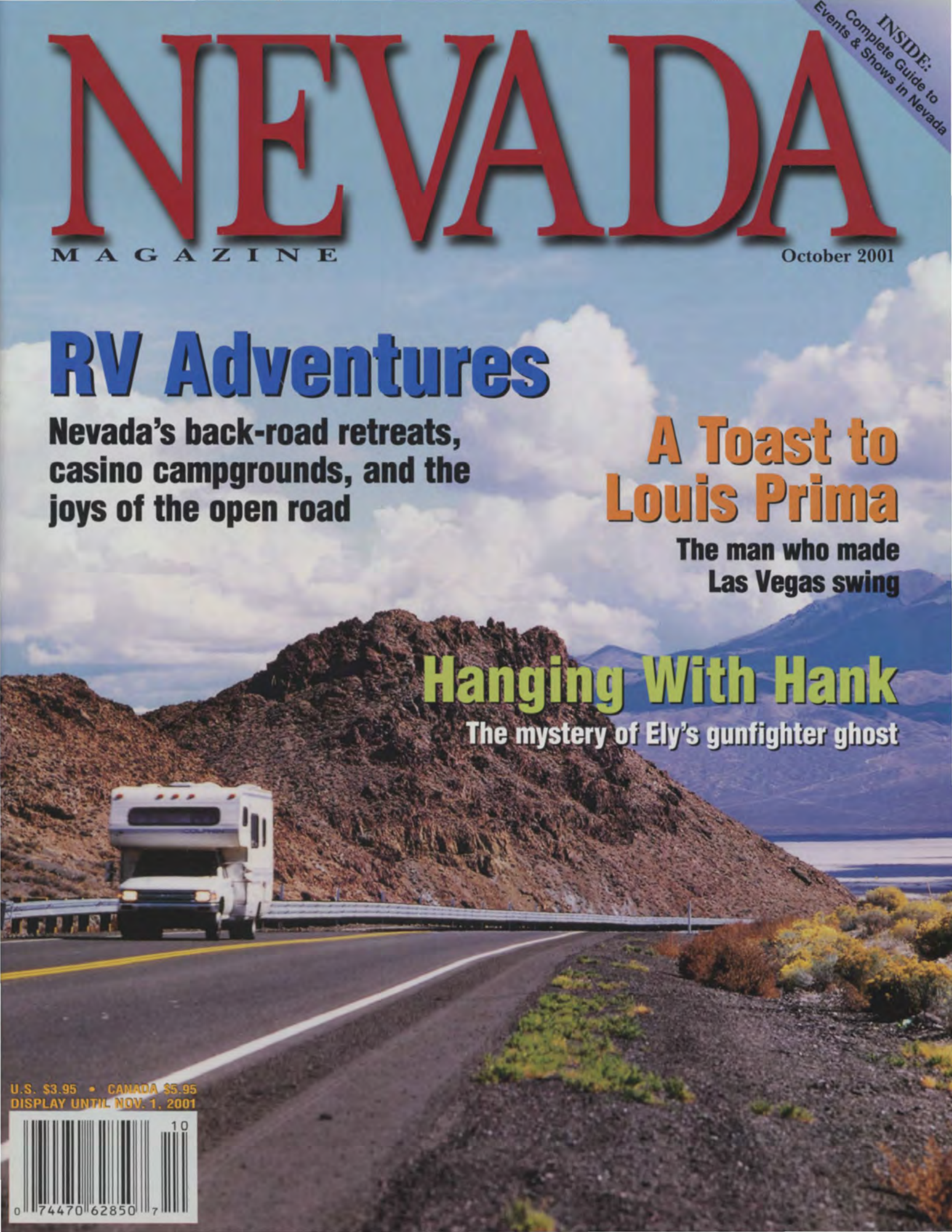
October 2001

INSIDE: Complete Guide to Events & Shows in Nevada

RV Adventures
Nevada's back-road retreats, casino campgrounds, and the joys of the open road

A Toast to Louis Prima
The man who made Las Vegas swing

Hanging With Hank
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I found what I wanted in small Nevada towns, along those two-lane roads that connect them, and in the beautiful desert that is everything else.

—RV author Bill Graves



On the Cover

RVing in Nevada on Sand Springs Pass, U.S. 50, east of Fallon.

Photo by Jeff Ross

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This travel writer says his RV is a home with a view that is constantly changing.

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Photos: Bill Graves (top), Douglas Keister (center)

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Wild About Nevada

When she's covered with mud and what she politely calls "birdstuff," Elko photographer Cynthia A. Delaney is the equivalent of the motorcycle rider with bugs in her teeth—she's happy. "My life is photographing," Cynthia says. "It is what I love to do." She often hikes to remote places to take pictures of birds, plants, and animals, crawling under bushes when necessary to get the best shot. In "Northeastern Exposure" in this issue, she describes five favorite spots to photograph wildlife in Northeastern Nevada.

"This region allows me to go out with ease, with few restrictions, because of the numbers of acres of public land and wilderness areas," she says. "Northeastern Nevada is a prize that we Nevadans should cherish and other people would cherish if they took the time to see it. I want people to understand how special it is."



Cynthia A. Delaney is an outdoor enthusiast.

Cynthia grew up in Winnemucca and began taking photos at the age of 12. "Since I lived in the country, my first subjects were horses and sagebrush," she says. With a bachelor's degree in writing from the University of Alabama and a certificate from the applied photography program at the New England School of Photography in Boston, she turned to freelancing about three years ago. She takes pictures and writes for travel publications and is planning a book on photographing animals and wilderness areas in Nevada.

Cynthia teaches photography classes at Great Basin College in Elko and is married to Ronnie Joe Varnell, a fire assay technician for Barrick Goldstrike Mining Co. and an amateur photographer. They frequently camp and hike together in the mountains around Elko. "I couldn't ask for a better location to work in," Cynthia says. "I can drive down the road out in the middle of nowhere, and there's an animal doing its animal thing—and I have the opportunity to photograph it. It thrills me."—*Joyce Hollister*

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Photo: K. Warner

Letters

Robert Laxalt, Austin bikers, and triple sheeting.

Austin Fat-Tire Awards

It sounds like Nevada has everything. I sure loved Christy Chalmer's July/August article, "Fat Tires and Claim Jumpers," on the cross-country mountain bike race in Austin.

This must be one exciting event to see, and with a home-style barbecue and awards ceremony, it would be like the Academy Awards for mountain bikers.

Larry Leaird
Newton, KS



The Etchemendy family and guests at the Overland Hotel.

Laxalt Remembered

I greatly enjoyed "A Polite Town," the story of 1930s Carson City by Robert Laxalt, and "Robert Laxalt: A Remembrance" by Warren Lerude in the July/August issue. It was over 10 years ago that I first heard Robert Laxalt speak at the photo seminar Shooting the West II in Winnemucca. (It was ranching country, but I was so naïve it took me three days to figure out why there were photos of sheep in my motel room.)

Although I was an amateur photographer and never dreamed of being a writer, I chose to attend his talk. Mr. Laxalt was the first famous writer I'd ever come across. It was there that the first glimmer of this thought came into my mind: "Maybe even I could give writing a try." And I'm still trying.

Carolyn Fox
Jackson, CA

The Overland Route

I was really surprised when my brother, Bill Etchemendy, gave my sister, Josephine Uhalde, a 2001 Nevada Historical Calendar, and the month of May had a picture of my mother along with other relatives, friends, and boarders at the Overland Hotel in Gardnerville about 1922. The people in the photo (see above, left to right) are Peter Guerra, Pierre Ithurburu, Laurence Etchemendy, Jeanne Etche-mendy, Mary Uhalde, Anne Urizaga, Juanes Arosteguy, and Francisco Lippi. Mr. Guerra and Mr. Arosteguy were in town for a couple of weeks from their



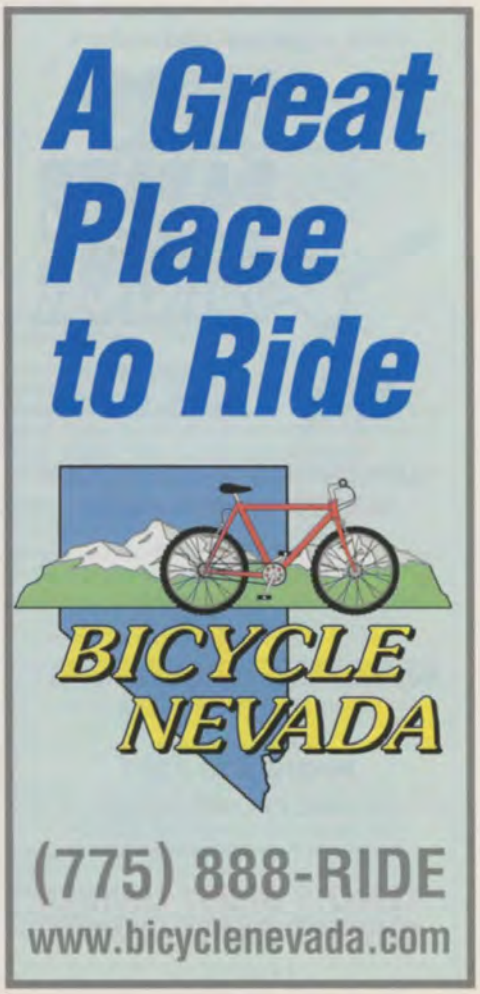


Photo: Elvira Cenoz Collection

sheepherding duties. My parents, John and Jeanne Etchemendy, purchased the hotel and dining room in 1921 and owned it for 60 years until they sold it to Osebio Cenoz. My sister and I were both born in the hotel, and along with our three brothers, we were raised there, and all worked necessary chores. I thought it was great to grow up in the hotel, where we had many friends.

My parents used to arrange to have relatives brought to the states for some of the Basque families, and they would allow the new arrivals to work off expenses by being maids, bartenders, or dishwashers in the hotel.

Marie Uhalde
Reno

Do You Triple Sheet?

Here's a comment on "Going Under Cover," the story about "triple sheeting" by Carolyn Fox in the May/June issue. I thought everyone did that. I know I have "triple sheeted" from the day I was married 60 years ago. Perhaps it was my Iowa upbringing.

Darline Hancock
San Leandro, CA

Laughlin Dam Tour

I love *Nevada Magazine*. Here's a correction for you. In the "Attractions" section of "Nevada Events and Shows," under Laughlin, the self-guided tour at Davis Dam closed a few years ago. Those who visit Laughlin will know that Davis Dam holds back Lake Mohave on the Colorado River. In the past a visitor could take an elevator down into the dam and see the control room. Not any more—no visitors allowed.

Larry Stone
Somers, NY

Larry, thanks for the tip. We have changed the listing to emphasize that it's possible to take a self-guided tour of the outside, not the inside, of Davis Dam.—Ed.

Web Sighted

I love Nevada. Glad I found your excellent Web site.

Stephen M. Sapuder

Stephen, thanks for visiting the magazine's Web site, www.nevadamagazine.com. It's open 24 hours a day.—Ed.

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Roadside Attractions

Pedicabs, fall color in Hope Valley, and carp at Lake Mead.

Magic Carpet Ride

LAS VEGAS—At the **Desert Passage**, the giant mall next to the Aladdin, shoppers burdened with bags can hitch a ride Middle Eastern-style. The mall offers three-wheeled pedicabs to transport visitors along the mall's exotic but long trade routes. Each of the seven pedicabs has a theme, such as "Desert Jewel," "Indian Odyssey," or "Monkey Business," and can carry passengers through the Hall of a Thousand Lamps, the Lost City, the India Gate, and other themed areas that house the mall's 130 shops and 14 restaurants.

The pedicabs are available during mall hours (10 a.m. to midnight daily) and average about 336 rides per day, says Shelly Harris, owner-manager of the American Pedicab Company, which operates the unusual vehicles. She notes that the drivers, who often dress in colorful costumes, work for tips only. "We have UNLV students and teachers," she says. "We have struggling artists and even musicians." Six of the drivers are women.



Pedicabs whisk shoppers to and fro at the Desert Passage mall.

Visitors often hire pedicabs for sightseeing trips through the picturesque mall, but the drivers also take shoppers to stores, the Aladdin casino, or the Aladdin Theater for the Performing Arts. The pedicabs generally hold two adults and one small child and are available for group rides and private parties inside the Desert Passage.

For more information call 702-591-5061 or stop by any store or the mall's information center near the Aladdin entrance.—*Carolyn Graham*

Feeding the Fish

LAKE MEAD—"Gross!" and "Awesome!" are some of the comments you often hear on the floating boardwalks of **Lake Mead Marina**. In a daily ritual, kids lean over the water and drop popcorn into the wide open mouths of huge carp. These are not the delicately colored Japanese koi that you see in backyard ponds but dark-brown specimens of lake-dwelling bottom-feeders.



Children watch the carp beg for food at Lake Mead Marina.

To take part in the fun, you can bring your own popcorn or buy a bag at the marina's mini mart. As you walk along the boardwalk, the carp begin to follow you. Stop, and hundreds of the fish crowd together in a writhing snarl and open their mouths, hoping some popcorn will fall their way. Brave mallard ducks stagger across the carps' slippery backs, looking for their own handouts.

Not just kids are attracted to the fish. Often, adults will stop to feed the carp on their way to fishing or boating on Lake Mead. "I don't know why this is so fun," one marina regular says. "Maybe it's because when you go to those fancy aquariums, you aren't allowed to feed the fish."

Lake Mead Marina is located two miles north of the Alan Bible Visitor Center on Lakeshore Road off U.S. 95 between Boulder City and Hoover Dam. Be advised: There is an entrance fee of $5 per vehicle as you enter Lake Mead National Recreation Area.—*Joyce Hollister*

Passion for Porsches

RENO—Unique Porsches are on exhibit at the **National Automobile Museum (The Harrah Collection)** in Reno. "Porsche Passion: A Private Collection" includes a silver 1955 P550 Spyder like the one James Dean drove when he had his fateful accident in September 1955 and a black 1993 911 RSR prepared for competition at the Concours d'Elegance. The dozen cars on display through September 30 are a part of the collection owned by Reno resident Ranson Webster, chairman of

Photo: Richard Menzies (top)

the auto museum's board of trustees.

The museum is also featuring a collection on a smaller scale. "2001: A Model Car Odyssey" showcases creations from 17 states in the Model Car Expo and a special display from model manufacturer Revell Monogram. The 127 models, ranging in scale from 1/43 to 1/18, are in the changing exhibits gallery until October 12.

The museum houses more than 220 cars presented in period street scenes. The National Automobile Museum (The Harrah Collection) is located at the corner of Lake and Mill streets in downtown Reno. Admission is $7.50 for adults, $6.50 for seniors, and $2.50 for children six to 18. The museum is open 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. For information on exhibits, call 775-333-9300 or visit www.automuseum.org.

—Susan Elbe



A 1955 Porsche 550 Spyder is on display at the auto museum.

High Sierra Hope

HOPE VALLEY—From late September to mid-October, the aspens in Hope Valley present a kaleidoscope of fall color. A 20-mile drive west of Gardnerville, the scenic Sierra valley appeals to hikers, mountain bikers, and cross-country skiers who explore the dirt roads and trails that lead to groves of quaking aspens, jagged mountains, and high-country lakes. The nearby Blue Lakes and the Carson River lure anglers.

Visitors to this corner of California can join autumn watercolor classes, photography workshops, or guided hikes sponsored by **Sorensen's Hope Valley Resort**. Each of the 33 cabins at Sorensen's has a different name and theme. For example, St. Nick's, a Christmas-themed cabin, was moved log by log from Santa's Village in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Throughout the year, Sorensen's hosts other activities, including workshops on holiday crafts, basket-weaving, and medicinal plants. Astronomers conduct star-gazing excursions, and Emigrant Trail historian Frank Tortorich of Pioneer, California, leads a guided history tour. In winter, mushers and their dog sleds whisk guests across snow-blanketed meadows. The adjacent Hope Valley Outdoor Center holds full-moon cross-country ski tours. While you're at the outdoor center, stop in the cafe for homemade pies and cookies. The berry cobbler at Sorensen's Country Cafe also packs enough calories to fuel any outdoor excursion.

Hope Valley was named by Henry William Bigler, a Mormon Battalion leader returning to Salt Lake City from Sacramento in July 1848. He and his men struggled over Carson Pass by horseback and stopped for the night. "We camped at the head of what we called Hope Valley," Bigler wrote in his journal, "because we began to have hope."

From Gardnerville, State Route 88 leads directly to Hope Valley. For reservations at Sorensen's, call 800-423-9949. To make

Photo: David Webb

Traveler's Advisories

New Laughlin Beach Open Hotel guests at the River Palms in Laughlin may now sunbathe at newly opened **Crystal Sands Beach**. Covered with imported sand, the beach is the resort's extension of the River Walk, which now runs continuously from Don Laughlin's Riverside to the River Palms. The man-made beach covers more than 300 feet of riverbank and features a refreshment stand, watercraft rentals, and a sand volleyball court.

Reno Museum in Transition This fall, work will begin on the **Nevada Museum of Art's** new $14.5-million, 55,000-square-foot building, which is expected to open in March 2003. Because of the construction, the Reno museum will close September 16 and show its exhibits two blocks north at the Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, opening October 24. The first exhibition, "Alchemy: Wild Women Transformed," a contemporary-craft display and sale, will run October 24-28. Exhibits of art from Cuba and Brazil, sculpture, photography, and a presentation on the new museum are planned. Call 775-329-3333 or visit www.nevadaart.org for a schedule of exhibits, hours, and entrance fees.



Nevada recreation is detailed on gorp.com.

Center Moves to Wells The **Trail of the '49ers Interpretive Center**—home of pioneer artifacts such as a covered wagon, a butter churn, lists of children's chores, and pioneers' photographs—has moved from Battle Mountain to Wells. Between 1840 and 1860, more than 200,000 pioneers crossed the Nevada desert on their way to California. Many stopped at Wells, then known as Humboldt Wells, because the grassy meadows at the headwaters of the Humboldt River provided a place to rest, repair wagons, and fatten livestock. Wagon ruts can still be seen near the center. The Trail of the '49ers Interpretive Center is located at the Wells Chamber of Commerce in historic downtown Wells, where visitors may take a walking tour of the old business district. For information, call the chamber at 775-752-3540 or visit www.wellsnv.com.

Surfing Nevada If you're planning to go to Nevada's 137th birthday celebration this year, you can find the information you need about Nevada Day events at **www.nevadaday.com**. Visitors to the site may choose to listen to a rendition of "Home Means Nevada," the state song. A history of the Nevada Day parade features historic photos. The site also offers names of last year's trophy winners, an events calendar, merchandise, and a place to e-mail comments. Nevada's birthday is October 31, and events begin Friday, October 26, and continue through Sunday, October 28, in Carson City. The parade will be held Saturday, October 27.

Nevada's outdoor recreational opportunities are well represented on **www.gorp.com**, a commercial online guide to hiking, biking, camping, fishing, and other outdoor activities. GORP, which stands for Great Outdoor Recreation Pages, offers information about getaway sites throughout the state including two of Nevada's national parks (Great Basin and Death Valley), national forests, wilderness areas, scenic byways, wildlife refuges, and state parks. Feature stories found on GORP's Nevada pages include a guide to hiking the Tahoe Rim Trail and suggestions for adventure escapes near Las Vegas.

Life Jackets Required Beginning October 1, boaters in Nevada will have to provide child-sized, **Coast Guard-approved life jackets** for children under 12. All passengers, no matter what age, riding in any private moving watercraft will be required to wear a life jacket. Nevada joins 38 other states in requiring children to wear appropriately sized jackets.



Guests stay in themed cabins at Sorensen's Hope Valley Resort. This cabin, called "Silver Tip," is surrounded by yellow aspen in the fall.

reservations for fly-tying lessons, call Horse Feathers Fly-Fishing School, 530-694-2399. Husky Dog Express Dog Sled Tours, based in Gardnerville, can be reached at 775-782-3047 For the Hope Valley Outdoor Center, call 530-694-2266. Hope Valley also has two public campgrounds.—*Kim Pryor*

New Museum Building

CARSON CITY—The 60-year-old **Nevada State Museum** in Carson City has a little more breathing room thanks to its new North Building, which opened last April. The museum converted an 8,900-square-foot former bank, creating a large, airy display space and a redesigned museum store that offers Nevada books and other Western merchandise.

The new changing gallery currently features "Selections From the Collections," seldom-seen items from the state museum's geology, history, natural history, and anthropology areas. In a mockup of a natural history curator's office, children can feel the fur of specimens such as the Panamint kangaroo rat. This and other mammals, plants, and birds are stored in drawers that youngsters are welcome to open and inspect, says Bob Nylen, the museum's curator of history. Kids also can compare their footprints to those of Big Foot, the Alaskan brown bear and Shaquille O'Neal. Visitors will admire a restored sheepherder's wagon, circa 1930, with its tidy interior filled with a Basque herder's clothing, cooking utensils, and bed compete with patchwork quilt.

Other relics include the fossilized bones of what is believed to be a three-million-year-old mastodon found southeast of Gardnerville by two teen-agers last year. A simulated rock wall and cave offer large photos of petroglyphs and pictographs created by the earliest Nevada residents.



With help from his mother Melissa, Michael Loomis, six, inspects minerals at the Nevada State Museum's new North Building in Carson City.

Opening next year is "Under One Sky," an exhibit on Nevada's Native American heritage. Admission to the Nevada State Museum in downtown Carson City is $3 for adults, $2.50 for seniors, and free for children under 18 years. Call 775-687-4810 for more information.—*Joyce Hollister*

Wildlife at Desert Refuge

LAS VEGAS—In theory, it's possible to catch a glimpse of Nevada's state mammal, the desert bighorn sheep, while exploring the vast back country of the **Desert National Wildlife Range**. Located 25 miles north of Las Vegas, the preserve celebrates its 65th anniversary this year. The refuge was established in 1936 to protect the bighorn and is home to more than 240 species of birds, including the golden eagle and the roadrunner. The 1.5-million-acre range has more than 35 reptiles, from rattlesnakes to horned lizards,



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Photos: Jay Aldrich (top left), Scott Klette (top right), Joyce Hollister (bottom right)

as well as 52 kinds of mammals and 500 different plants.

At the Corn Creek Field Station, a short nature trail leads to a railroad-tie structure built by early ranchers. For thousands of years, Southern Paiutes camped at the site. Picnickers dine under the trees, and bird watchers flock to see the migratory birds that stop at the oasis. The endangered Pahrump poolfish, transported from the vanishing Manse Spring in Pahrump, lives in a small pond.

Each year about 50,000 people visit the wildlife preserve. It's possible to see bighorns, says range manager Amy Sprunger-Allworth, if you have the intestinal fortitude and the right hiking gear. She says, "In the dead of summer the bighorn move into lower elevations and go to the watering areas. That is actually one of the best times to see them. Otherwise, it is very difficult."

More than half of the refuge lies within the U.S. Air Force's Nellis Test and Training Range and is off limits to the public. In the public portion, visitors may camp, backpack, hike, and ride horseback. The terrain includes desert valleys at 2,500 feet and rocky crags reaching 10,000 feet.

A brown sign on U.S. 95 marks the four-mile gravel road to the Corn Creek Field Station. Visitors planning to travel beyond Corn Creek should be prepared. Roads are primitive and rough, water is scarce, and there is no wood for fires. For more information about hiking and camping at the refuge, visit www.desertcomplex.fws.org or call outdoor recreation planner Callie Le'au Courtwright, 702-646-3401. The Desert National Wildlife Range is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.—*Joyce Hollister*



The visitor center at Corn Creek Field Station offers information on the terrain, animals, and plants found at the Desert National Wildlife Range.

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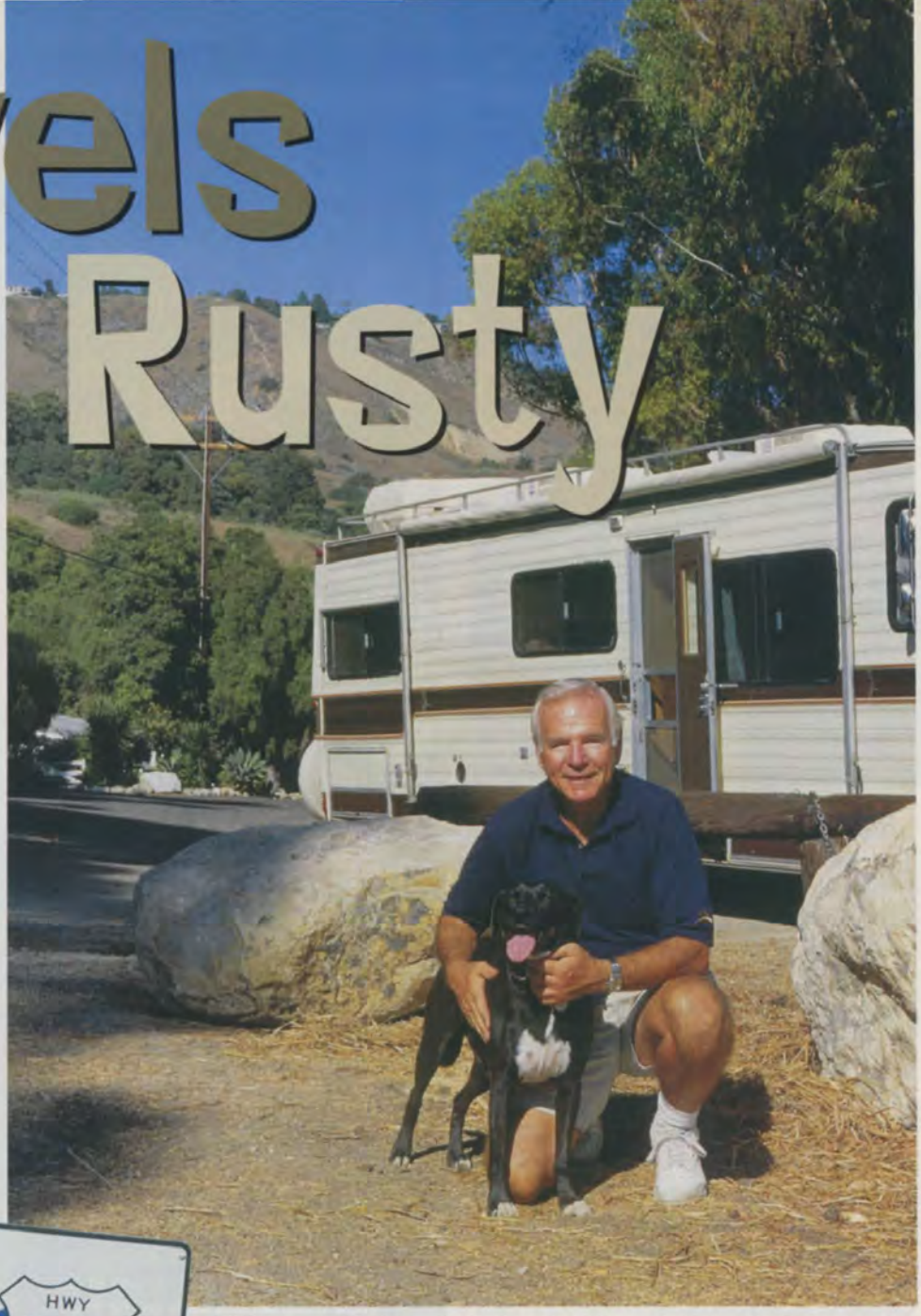
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NEVADA MAGAZINE Best of Nevada 2001
Fourth Annual Readers Award

Travels With Rusty

This travel writer says his RV is a home with a view that is constantly changing.

By Bill Graves



Bill Graves and Rusty tour the back roads of Nevada in their motor home.

Curiosity and frustration led me to the back roads of the West, but it was the allure of the true RV experience that brought me to Nevada. This only-in-America lifestyle, that of an RVer, now defines what I do. The total definition, incidentally, includes my dog Rusty and a comfortable, self-contained motor home.

In essence, I was a burned-out travel writer who had had it with the touristy spots. It was not just the crowds and the sameness of it all that soured me; it was having to write in cliches as if for a travel brochure. I now roam the West, allowing curiosity to create my schedule, and write about places where most tourists don't go.

In the early 1990s—when frustration got the best of me—I took off in my motor home into the immense, open backcountry of Nevada. I wanted to enjoy the true independence that an RV offers and to travel for travel's sake. I found what I wanted in small Nevada towns, along those two-lane roads that connect them, and in the beautiful desert that is everything else.



RV traveling taught me that the journey is usually more fun, more vital, and often far more interesting than the destination. Nevada has some of the greatest journey roads in the West. Most are empty and straight as a chalk line. There is plenty of space and time to enjoy it. I am sure the inventor of cruise control found a ready market in Nevada. Indeed, Nevada has the "Loneliest Road in America"—U.S. 50, according to *Life Magazine*. Actually, Highway 50 is no lonelier then the rest of Nevada's rural routes.

I remember my first trek between Ely and Tonopah on Highway 6. The only hints of human life were jet contrails. Even the crashing of dragonflies against my windshield was a welcome distraction. I was put on notice by "Open Range" signs that a cow had as much right to be on the road as I did, which set the appropriate perspective on the day.

A good distance ahead, two men were riding near the road on horseback. When I got closer, I saw they were cowboys riding on the flanks of a young bull. A few yards past them, I stopped my motor home dead in the road, as if I had a claim to park there, and stepped out. They rode up

alongside to chat. Even the bull seemed in no hurry to go anywhere. One of the cowboys—his stomach resting full on his saddle horn—said they had been out since daybreak to fetch this stray. He spoke of the wild horses and antelope they saw running in the hills and the bubbling hot spring where they had rested. During those 10 minutes, I saw no other vehicle.

You get the point. These roads of Nevada are ideal for the RV journey—no traffic, much to explore, and plenty of room to stop, even camp, without interfering with anyone.

I got to Goldfield a little before five o'clock that afternoon. I watched the iron curtains—they roll down like garage doors—being lowered over windows of the recorder's office in the courthouse, which dates to 1907 It's ironic that Goldfield, at one time Nevada's largest city, is now the seat of the smallest county in the state, Esmeralda County, with 1,600 people.

I parked for the night by the Santa Fe Saloon, which claims to be "Nevada's oldest" by adding "in continuous use." A sign taped to the back of the bar advertised cactus juice at $1.50.

"That's for the people on the tour buses that stop here from Japan and Washington and like that," the bartender said. Placing a beer in front of me, he asked, "You driving through or what?"



Graves met and chatted with two friendly cowboys in the wide-open country between Ely and Tonopah.

"Little of both," I said. "I want to see what's in Goldfield."

"Then you're about 70 years too late," said a man hunched over a glass one stool over. "We had here a big city once. It had banks and newspapers and trains and the Ziegfeld Follies one time. Now, you could put the whole town up for a night in the Goldfield Hotel and the building would still be half empty."

"Hell, Jack, the hotel's been closed for 50 years. You ain't gonna put nobody up there for the night," came advice that was a little slushy and slurred from further down the bar.

"I know that. I was just making a figure of speech." The man shook his head and turned to tell me about the hotel. The four-story Goldfield Hotel, when it was built in 1907, was said to be the most modern, elegant, and elaborate in Nevada. Attempts to renovate it have gone bankrupt, and the hotel stands empty today as it has since 1945.

After breakfast in the motor home the next morning, Rusty and I surveyed the town. Unlike many mining towns in Nevada that sprouted overnight, Goldfield was well planned, surveyed, and mapped. Its population exceeded 20,000 in 1908. Goldfield's mines are said to have produced a total of $80 million in gold and were among the most productive in the world.

These roads of Nevada are ideal for the RV journey—no traffic, much to explore, and plenty of room to stop.

Goldfield is typical of the small towns of Nevada. Each has a great story. They all have a focus, character, and reason for being. They are not extensions of Los Angeles designed for retirement living or country-club communities like those in the Sunbelt. Each town had a role in the making of Nevada, and there are still folks around who love to tell about it.

Many towns have private RV parks where a person can hook up his RV to municipal power and water, even cable TV. The parks usually have showers and laundromats and often a swimming pool and hot tub. Nightly rates run about $12 to $18. But there are always interesting places where an RVer can comfortably and safely park for the night. I usually head for the town park, and Rusty is happy when I do. There I can sometimes catch the action of a couple local ball teams before going to bed. In the morning, fresh coffee is usually no more than a block away.



Local residents gather at Goldfield's Santa Fe Saloon, where Graves stopped for a beer and conversation.

Photos: Bill Graves

Incidentally, all the television programming a person could want is available in the outback of Nevada—any place in the country, for that matter—with an 18-inch satellite dish. All RVs have ample batteries for 12-volt power and most have onboard generators to run air conditioners, TVs, and microwaves.

If the town has a casino, I might pull into its parking lot. Some casinos have special lots designated for RV parking. Coffee is hot 24 hours a day, meals and drinks are a bargain, and many casinos are the town's social centers.

RVs and casinos go well together—a point not lost on Don Laughlin and the other entrepreneurs who have made the town of Laughlin a gambling mecca. Some casinos have special lots for RVs with no limits as to how long they can stay. The

An RV provides comfort, security, plus room to carry a lot of stuff.

Riverside, for example, has parking for RVs right next to the casino; some spots even offer a view of the Colorado River. I know folks who stay there all winter.

The cities of Las Vegas and Reno have comfortable, even beautiful, RV parks, but they are population centers with space limitations and different priorities. In Laughlin, staying in an RV is an integral part of the experience of being in Laughlin.

But the back roads and small towns are what lure Rusty and me to Nevada. The state is full of places for hiking, fishing, and sightseeing—activities for which the recreational vehicle was invented. An RV provides comfort, security, and self-sufficiency, plus room to carry a lot of stuff. It lets you follow your own leisurely pace, not the pace dictated by a schedule, a watch, or a calendar. An RV is like a second home from which the view is constantly changing.

Bill Graves, an RVer since 1987, lives in Palos Verdes, California. He is the author of On the Back Roads, Discovering Small Towns of America *and writes for several RV magazines. His column, "America's Outback," appears monthly in* Trailer Life Magazine.

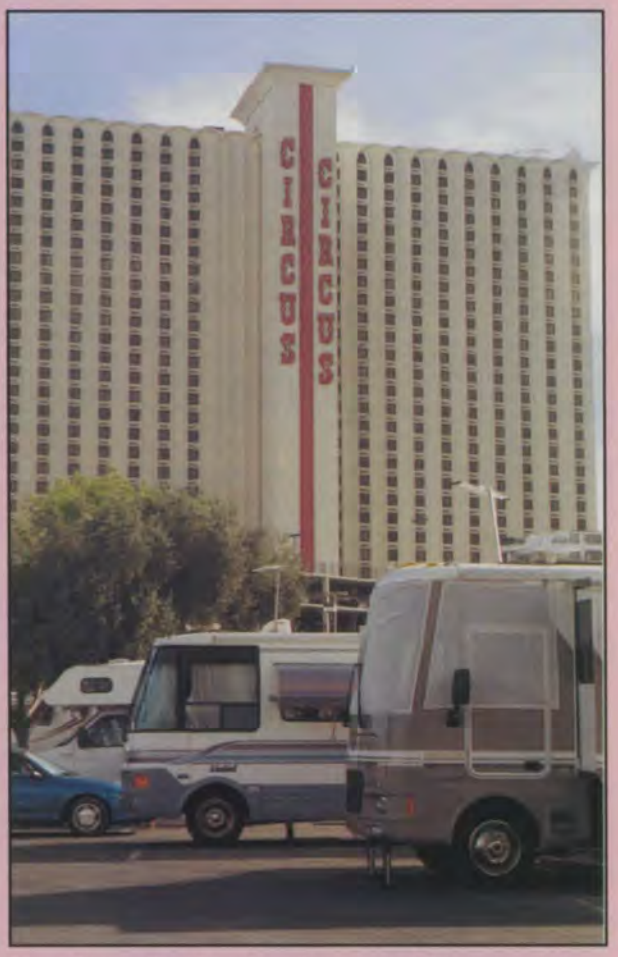
Casino CAMPGROUNDS

RVers can combine slot machines and the great outdoors at these 38 casino RV parks.

By Susan Elbe

Recreational vehicle travelers will find a haven at the 38 Nevada hotels and casinos that have RV parks. The parks not only offer full hookups, but also let indoor and outdoor guests combine pursuits—blackjack, buffets, trout fishing, and roller coasters.

Most RV parks have showers and laundromats. Some provide sewer and cable connections and even Internet data ports for guests who travel with their laptops. Advance reservations are recommended, especially in summer and during special events. Some Reno-area parks book up to a year in advance for Hot August Nights. Many parks have seven- or 14-day maximum stays as well as vehicle age and type limitations.



Circus Circus offers the only casino-operated RV campground on the Las Vegas Strip. Guests have pool and arcade privileges.

From south to north, here's a sampling of the state's casino campgrounds noting number of sites and nightly rates. Attractions and rates are subject to change.

Las Vegas Area

At **Arizona Charlie's East RV Park**, the landscaped pool area has a Jacuzzi for RVers. Each site has a phone jack. A large picnic area includes shuffleboard. Sites: 239. Rates: $16.35 May-Sept., $20 deposit for bathroom key. 4445 Boulder Hwy. Call 702-951-5911 or visit www.azcharlies.com.

East of downtown, the **Castaways** has phone jacks and a dog run. RVers can use the hotel's pool and receive a free membership to its Club Castaway. Sites: 84. Rates: $16-$20. 2960 Fremont St. For more information call 800-826-2800 or visit www.castawayslv.com.

Next to Circus Circus and its Adventuredome theme park, the **Circusland RV Park** is the only casino-operated RV park on the Strip. Guests can use the pool, sauna, arcade, and kids' playground. A 24-hour shuttle runs RVers to the hotel-casino. The Adventuredome has roller coasters, a carousel, and an 18-hole miniature golf course. Sites: 399. Rates: from $19. 500 Circus Circus Dr. Call 800-634-6505.

Mahoney's Silver Nugget RV Park has a pool and hot tub, and each site has a phone jack and basic cable. Campers receive casino coupons. Sites: 152. Rates: $14.50. 2236 Las Vegas Blvd. N. Call 702-649-7439.

A grassy common with trees is at the center of the **Main Street RV Park**, located at the California Hotel. RVers can use the hotel's pool. This downtown park offers 24-hour security and a dog run. Sites: 94. Rates: $12. 100 E. Stewart Ave. Call 800-634-6505.

Nevada Palace features all pull-thrus, a pool, and gaming coupons. Sites: 168. Rates: $13.75. 5325 Boulder Hwy. Call 800-634-6283.

The landscaped **Sam's Town RV Park** features a pool and barbecue and picnic areas. Sam's Town has a bowling center and 18-screen movie theater. Sites: 291. Rates: $18. 5225 Boulder Hwy. Call 800-634-6371 or visit www.samstown.com. **Sam's Town**

(Continued on page 78)

Photo: Joyce Hollister

Road Regulars

Most RVers like to get away from it all—except people.



Full-time RVers Gene and Charlotte Butler can't decide which way to go on a short jaunt through Carson Valley.

In Nevada RV parks, you'll find the regulars who return each year to see old friends and make new ones. They may come for the fishing, to soak in the history, or for the thrill of a daily slot tournament, but most have one thing in common—they like people.

This holds true for Nevada's casino RV campgrounds. Cookie Sloss, manager of the Carson Valley Inn RV Park in Minden, says, "I've met the nicest people here—people from all over the world." She says driving and maintaining an RV "keeps you young. You have to work at living every day."

Full-time RVers Gene and Charlotte Butler drive their 35-foot motor home into the CVI's RV park every summer. Gene says, "I like the town. I can drive around here and see garage doors open. It's like Roseville in the '40s, where I grew up." Retired telephone-company employees from Fresno, Gene and Charlotte have been on the road since May 2000.

People considering hitting the road full-time should rent a motor home first to see if they like it, according to the Butlers. They note the advantages of setting up automatic check deposits and bill payments with a bank and renting a post box and making arrangements for forwarding mail. The Butlers say they've found casino RV parks in Mesquite, Pahrump, Primm, Armagosa Valley, and Beatty to be top-notch. While at the Minden park, Gene makes sightseeing trips, and Charlotte goes to the casino to play the slots.

"We love it," Charlotte says. "It's a whole other world out there, so many different things to go to and to see." Gene adds, "You pull into a facility like this, pretty soon you sit down with somebody here and have a Coke and talk with them. You never get tired of any place, the people are so nice."

Palm Springs residents Doug and Ursula Cripps have been stopping at the Carson Valley Inn's RV park since it opened in 1988. "The moment we pull in, the dog recognizes it," Ursula says. "We feel quite at home here. We see a lot of familiar people." They have a favorite space at the end of a row shaded by pine trees. They travel by convoy, Doug driving the pickup truck with a camper shell, pulling a trailer. Ursula follows in their sedan.

The Crippses have been escaping to the Reno-Tahoe area from the heat of Palm Springs since 1959. They usually arrive in Minden in May and stay two to three weeks, head to Lake Tahoe for the summer, and then visit the CVI again in September.

The semi-retired couple spend their summer vacations volunteering for the U.S. Forest Service. For 14 years, they have helped restore Tallac Historic Site on Tahoe's south shore. Ursula combed through Nevada museums and collections, and Doug, an architect, completed a set of drawings of Tallac. The Forest Service named the Crippses National Volunteers of the Year in 1999.

Ursula adds they have cut back on the volunteer work this year. "We'll be taking a little R&R ourselves," she says, sitting next to her favorite pine trees at the CVI RV park.—*Joyce Hollister and Susan Elbe*



Ursula Cripps rides a scooter in the Carson Valley Inn RV park. She and husband Doug stay every summer.

Photos: Jay Aldrich

King of the Lounge



Trumpeter and songwriter Louis Prima wrote the classic "Sing, Sing, Sing" for Benny Goodman.

Louis Prima and his wife, Keely Smith, made the late night swing in 1950s Las Vegas.

By Mike Weatherford

Louis Prima was the undisputed king of the Las Vegas lounge. With saxophone second banana Sam Butera and Keely Smith—his wife from the time of his 1954 arrival in Vegas until 1961—Prima did more than anyone except Frank Sinatra to fuel Vegas' image as a wild all-night party.

Prima didn't invent the lounge any more than Sinatra invented the showroom; he was really just in the right place at the right time. But it was Prima who became the quintessential lounge act and put the Sahara's Casbar onto the cocktail napkin of history as "The Wildest Show in Vegas."

Las Vegas was actually a comeback for Prima, who was almost 44 the first time he set foot in town. The New Orleans native had written the standard "Sing, Sing, Sing" for Benny Goodman, which paved the way for him to form his own big band in the '40s. When the gravelly voiced bandleader hired Keely Smith as a singer in 1948, she was only 16 to his 34. They married four years later.

Prima's arrival in Vegas was not a stroke of genius but of desperation. "Louis and I were flat broke," Keely Smith recalls. "I was pregnant, and we didn't have a job." Prima and his fourth wife had attempted to breed race horses on farm property they'd bought in Louisiana with an eye toward retirement. However, Smith says, "The horses took all our money, and by the time the big-band era went out and we got rid of the horses, we were

Photo: Sands Collection, UNLV Special Collections

broke." Prima placed a desperation call to Bill Miller—an entertainment promoter and early innovator of the Strip—because he used to work Miller's Riviera nightclub in New Jersey.

"Louis called Bill, and he told him the truth," Smith recalls. "He said, 'Bill we're broke, and we really need a job. Bill said, 'O.K., come on to Las Vegas, and I'll put you in the lounge for two weeks.'"

The Primas and their band drove cross-country in three cars and arrived in time to discover that Cab Calloway was finishing his stint in the same lounge where they were starting theirs. That discovery almost cost them the job. Because the segregated casinos allowed black performers to work but not socialize on the Strip, Prima was shocked to hear that his old friend wasn't allowed to sit and have a drink with him. "Louis tried to reach Bill Miller on the phone, who—thank God—was on his way driving to Mexico," Smith recalls. "Louis Prima was going to cancel our two weeks because of that. And here we were broke. I mean broke!"

Instead, the two weeks that began on November 24, 1954, were extended through the holiday season—traditionally the city's slowest time. Before leaving New Orleans, Prima had seen saxophonist Sam Butera and his band, the Night Trainers—who had recorded a single, "Easy Rockin'"—packing a club back home. Prima told Butera that if his fortunes changed, he would be calling. Before Christmas, he was calling. Butera joined the band on December 26 and, says Smith, "it just took off like a rocket."

Butera adds, "We thought with the sound entering the casino, it would make the gamblers start groovin' and betting and forgetting about what they were losing. And that's the way it worked."

Butera says he originally wanted to be a bebop jazz saxophonist. But, he explains, "I had a family and it was hard to support them. In order for me to make some money, I had to change my style completely." He started listening to Fats Domino and other rock 'n' roll legends and rearranging Prima's stock big-band arrangements to fit the "honkin' wild style" he was hearing in French Quarter nightclubs. The band was now known as the Witnesses, and Prima's finger-popping tumult achieved its longtime billing of "The Wildest Show in Vegas."

"Everything we did, we found onstage—including all the lines that Sam used to throw," Smith says. A little-known singer when they came to Vegas, Smith saw her fame grow as she found her place in the stage show. The couple played upon their age and physical differences—the brash Italian lurching, gyrating, and mugging while his thin wife in the Dutch-boy haircut kept her distance and looked on calmly, either in amusement or in horror. It was an interplay lifted almost verbatim by Sonny and Cher for their TV show in the '70s.

"The deadpan happened because we did five 45-minute shows, and I was up there like a half hour each show before I even opened my mouth," Smith says. "I didn't know what to do with myself. So I used to just fold my arms, cross my legs, and lean up against the piano. And I watched everything that went on in the room, and the casino, too. And then when Louis would come and pull on my skirt, he would be disrupting what I was watching, and I'd look down at him like, 'Don't bother me.'"

The sets, on the other hand, fell into an exact formula: "He was a master at lining the show up," Smith says of her ex-husband. "He would feature himself in the first three songs, then he'd feature the trombone player, then Rolly Dee [DiIorio] the bass player, or sometimes the drummer. Then Sam, then me, then he and I would close the show together."

Freddie Bell, another lounge star of the era, marveled, "Nobody could pace an audience like Louis. He was the best at pacing the crowd. He had a feel for an audience. I've never seen anybody better. He made everybody around him look good, had a tremendous way of showing off his people." The small band structure that had been an economic necessity conveniently left more open space for each sideman to shine. Film footage of the band shows antics such as Prima vamping to "Oh, Marie," with Butera parroting every vocal phrase with a saxophone retort until Prima finally gets the better of him. "What happened?" Prima asks. "You can't play in Italian?"

The lounges had become almost as important as the main showroom, and the lounge performers almost as well-paid. Bandleader Harry James settled in town and became a permanent fixture in the Flamingo's Driftwood lounge, often sharing the billing with Della Reese.

Prima was shocked to hear that his friend Cab Calloway wasn't allowed to sit and have a drink with him in the casino.



Louis Prima (on trumpet), Keely Smith (center), and Sam Butera (on sax) perfected the lounge show and helped give Las Vegas its party image. The band kept the Sahara's Casbar swinging until the early morning hours.

Photo: Donn Knepp Collection, from Cult Vegas (Huntington Press)

Not many housewives in the '60s worked from midnight to 6 a.m. But even that "wasn't abnormal to me," Smith says.

Bandleaders such as Gene Krupa and Artie Shaw were commonplace. Country acts including Bob Wills and Ray Price played the Golden Nugget downtown, while Patsy Cline played Del Webb's Mint in December 1962, just three months before her death. (She was astonished by the money, $1,000 per day, but crushed to discover she was playing all-night sets in a cramped lounge instead of a glamorous showroom.)

But it couldn't go on forever. The great partnership of Louis Prima and Keely Smith came to an end in late 1961 when their marriage fell apart.

Although he was the life of the party onstage, Prima away from the spotlight was almost uniformly described as a cold, distrusting person with few friends. In New Orleans, he was known for voicing the words "union scale" when hiring the musicians, but tapping two fingers to his chest to signal he really was offering half that. As soon as a business meeting ended, he made copious notes of everything said in the meeting. "He didn't trust anybody. He had been taken advantage of so many times," Smith says. "We never had anything to do with the musicians.... He always used to tell me, 'Babe, keep 'em over here. Don't let 'em in.'" Prima's offstage contact with his band was limited to open houses on Christmas and the Fourth of July.

It was about the time the Primas were testing the waters in the main showrooms—playing the Desert Inn in early 1960—that Louis began to cheat on her, Smith claimed. "I think he went through male menopause," she said. "I don't think Louis would have given up his career or his home if he could have controlled it. I'm just sorry I wasn't old enough to have figured out how to handle it and weathered the storm for a few years. But I couldn't. It hurt too much."

The two were divorced on October 3, 1961. Just before their marriage broke up, Prima put $15,000 down on a $65,000 house on the Desert Inn golf course. "The only thing I got was [the] unfinished house," Smith says. "Everybody assumed I walked out of this divorce with a lot of money, but I walked out broke."



The couple earned top billing and a photo in ads for the lounge, upgraded to the Casbar Theater in 1956.

Prima introduced his new "girl singer," a 21-year-old former receptionist named Gia Maione, in the summer of 1962. By January 1963, columnist Forrest Duke reported the bandleader had "bought her a sports car and whisked her off to Reno"—on her way to becoming the fifth Mrs. Prima. A month later, they slipped out after a Lake Tahoe gig and tied the knot 20 miles away, in the tiny town of Minden. But Gia would never quite escape the shadow of Keely, and Prima's act was losing its "wildness" in the face of British rock 'n' roll.

Louis Prima's one remaining mark on pop culture would be as the voice of King Louie in Disney's 1967 animated feature *The Jungle Book*, doing a memorable duet with his Las Vegas showroom buddy Phil Harris on "I Wanna Be Just Like You." On October 17 1975, Prima underwent surgery at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles to remove a brain tumor and lapsed into a coma. Four months later, he was transferred to a nursing home in his native New Orleans, where he remained in a coma for nearly three years. He died on August 24, 1978, at the age of 66. Butera kept the act going even before Prima died, which angered Gia enough to sue him over using the name the Witnesses. Butera changed the name to the Wildest.

"I never knew how big we were until after we divorced," Smith says. Prima was afraid of plane travel, which limited the group's options outside of Vegas. "I was very happy. I was married to a man I adored. I had two wonderful children." Granted, not many housewives in the '60s worked from midnight to 6 a.m. But even that "wasn't abnormal to me," she says. "I'd sleep till noon. I'd get up and spend all day with my kids, then I'd take a nap and go to work at midnight. I was up onstage with my husband and people I liked. What was there for me to stop and think about?

"I just think the lounge made us work harder," she notes. "It kept our feet on the ground. When you're flying all over the country with first-class treatment in the best hotels, it's kind of hard to keep your feet on the ground. If you're in Las Vegas working midnight till six in the morning and your best friends are cab drivers and hookers and waitresses, you're pretty normal."

The life of the party onstage, Prima away from the spotlight was a cold, distrusting person with few friends.

Mike Weatherford is an entertainment writer for the Las Vegas Review-Journal. *This story is an excerpt from his new book,* Cult Vegas: The Weirdest! The Wildest! The Swingin'est Town on Earth!, *published earlier this year by Huntington Press.* Cult Vegas *(247 pages, $19.95, paperback, ISBN 0-929712-71-4) is available from bookstores and the publisher, Huntington Press, 3687 South Procyon Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89103; call 800-244-2224 for catalog information.*



Get ready to swing

These current lounge acts are worth a drink and a tip.

Some classic lounge greats are still performing, if not regularly, in Las Vegas and at times in Reno and Lake Tahoe lounges. For instance, both **Sam Butera** and the **Treniers** played the Castaways Hotel (the former Showboat) in Las Vegas this year.

Other veterans have standing gigs. The **Checkmates**—Sonny Charles and Marvin "Sweet Louie" Smith—call themselves the oldest active lounge performers in Las Vegas. "There ain't but a few of us left," Smith says. The boyhood friends from Indiana served in the Army together and first played Las Vegas in 1964. In 1969, they became the rare group to have a Top 10 single, "Black Pearl," while still working as a lounge act. For the year 2001, the Checkmates have a contract to rotate between Arizona Charlie's two Las Vegas locations.

The inimitable **Cook E. Jarr** is the late-night weekend attraction at Harrah's popular outdoor Carnaval Court, the rare venue to feed the sidewalk scene on the Strip. Few performers could hold their own against the lounge's bottle-juggling bartenders and fraternity-party atmosphere, but the Jarr knows how to work a crowd. When he's not singing soul standards (to recorded backing), he's dispensing advice on sports betting or running through his gamut of impressions, which are as good as some of the acts you pay big money for.

When it comes to the next generation of lounge performers, a few performers stand out amid the clutter of synthesized duos and trios that serve as human jukeboxes cranking out casino background music or live versions of Top 40 dance tunes.

Art Vargas moved to Las Vegas in 1987 "It was hard to get booked because I wasn't doing the Top 40 thing," he recalls. "I couldn't believe what entertainment directors were telling me: 'Nobody wants to hear Sinatra. They were saying this in Las Vegas!" But once the retro-swing revival gave credence to his sharkskin suits and '50s-crooner leanings, hotels such as Harrah's Las Vegas and, currently, the Bellagio embraced Vargas and his horn-powered sextet.



Cook E. Jarr knows how to work a crowd at Harrah's Carnaval Court.

Jimmy Hopper isn't retro, but he goes beyond the prevailing hits to turn his impressive tenor on an array of song choices—and even obscure instrumentals that let him show off his skill with a flamenco guitar. In one set at the Bellagio's classy Fontana Lounge, you'll hear Hopper take on everything from Neil Diamond's "Coming to America" to Sting's "Desert Rose." But, as **Earl Turner** recently did at the Rio, Hopper wants to find a venue where he can charge a ticket price for his show. Good news for the entertainers, of course, but another blow to the loss-leader lounges of the *Cult Vegas* era.

Other acts of note: The high-kicking **Tony Tillman** used to play Sammy in "The Rat Pack Is Back," but his own voice is more smoky and soulful, better suited to R&B than to mimicking Davis' formal tenor. He plays Caesars Palace.

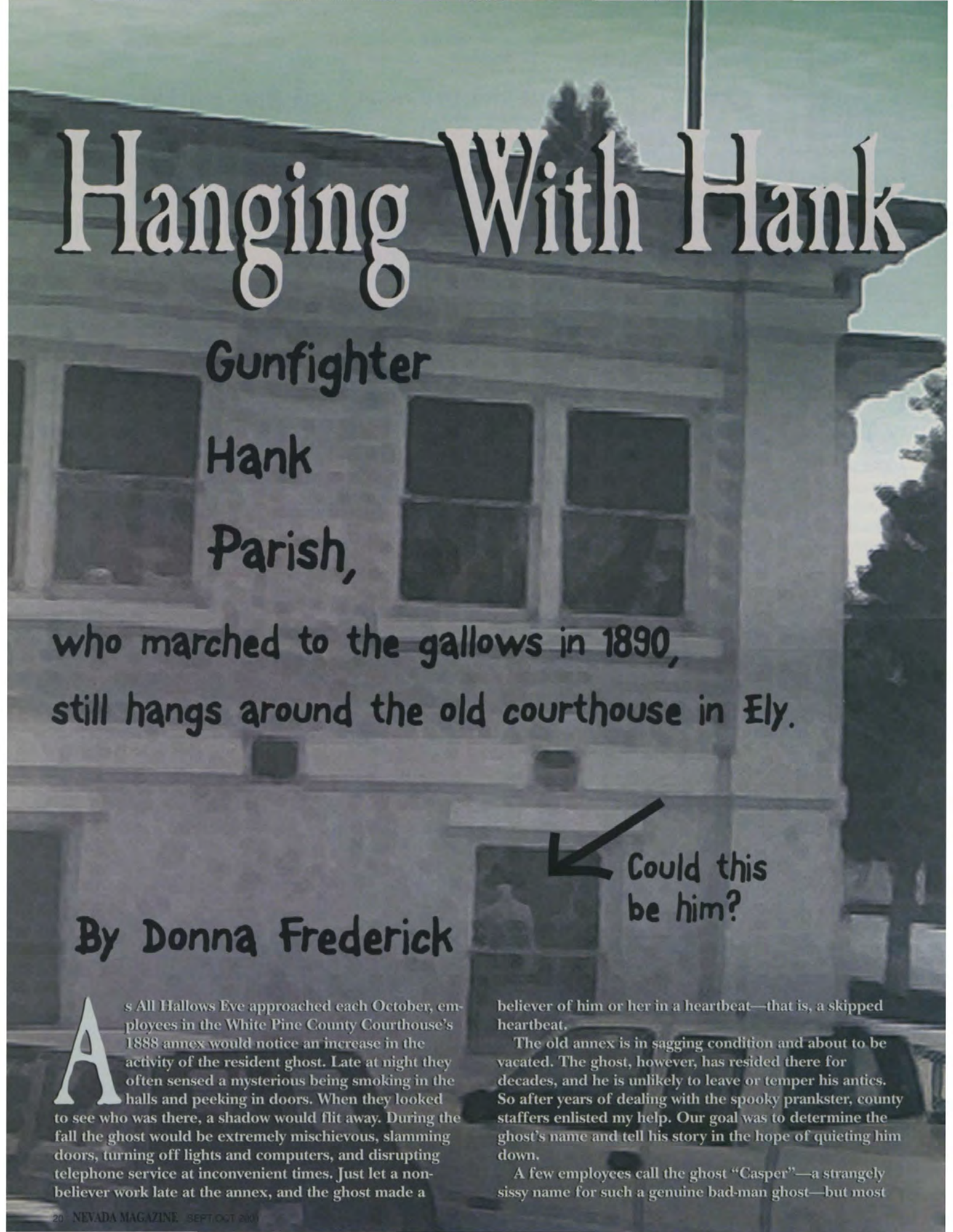
Johnny Seaton came to town to perform as the young Elvis in "Elvis: An American Musical" at the Las Vegas Hilton in 1988. The line blurs between where his Elvis tribute ends and his own original rockabilly stylings begin in his show at the MGM Grand.

If it's straight-up impersonation you're looking for, **Bobby Barrett's** salute to Sinatra is a good way to wind down after dinner or a concert. He appears in the swanky piano bar of the MGM's Brown Derby restaurant.

Lon Bronson's All-Star Band convenes at the Riviera only in the post-midnight hours of Saturday night and Sunday morning to offer tight, Tower of Power-style horn arrangements to an audience that often includes band members and headliners from other shows on the Las Vegas Strip.—*Mike Weatherford*

Hanging With Hank

Gunfighter Hank Parish, who marched to the gallows in 1890, still hangs around the old courthouse in Ely.



By Donna Frederick

As All Hallows Eve approached each October, employees in the White Pine County Courthouse's 1888 annex would notice an increase in the activity of the resident ghost. Late at night they often sensed a mysterious being smoking in the halls and peeking in doors. When they looked to see who was there, a shadow would flit away. During the fall the ghost would be extremely mischievous, slamming doors, turning off lights and computers, and disrupting telephone service at inconvenient times. Just let a non-believer work late at the annex, and the ghost made a believer of him or her in a heartbeat—that is, a skipped heartbeat.

The old annex is in sagging condition and about to be vacated. The ghost, however, has resided there for decades, and he is unlikely to leave or temper his antics. So after years of dealing with the spooky prankster, county staffers enlisted my help. Our goal was to determine the ghost's name and tell his story in the hope of quieting him down.

A few employees call the ghost "Casper"—a strangely sissy name for such a genuine bad-man ghost—but most

call him "Hank." And that could be his name. Hank Parish, a 19th-century desperado from the Pioche area, had the dubious honor of being the first person legally hanged in Ely. Quieting him is doubtful. Parish had more than the standard 15 minutes of fame. Newspapers reported his deeds, old-timers mentioned him in reminiscences, and all agreed that Parish was a hothead, a drunk, and a gunfighter.

Hank Parish's early misdeeds are described in the reminiscences of mining man John L. Riggs. In 1880, Riggs discovered the Lone Star Mine in Eldorado Canyon, a mining district near the Colorado River, and established a camp there. A couple of weeks later Parish and three other men staked out their "1880 camp." There was no semblance of law in the camps except Winchester's amendment to the Colt statute. While working as a miner in Eldorado Canyon, Parish shot a man named Taylor. No reason is given for the murder, nor is there any record of punishment for the crime.

In 1881, Parish shot two men, Jim Greenwood and N. Clark, over a poker game in Eldorado Canyon, according to Riggs. Both men recovered, but thinking he had killed Greenwood, Parish fled. When he discovered that Greenwood was alive, Parish returned to either finish the deed or recover Greenwood's winnings. According to one account, a friend of the wounded man gave Parish $100 not to finish Greenwood off. Again, the gunfighter was not tried for any crime. Lincoln County—which then included not only Pioche but also the Las Vegas area and Eldorado Canyon—was on the verge of bankruptcy due to a slowdown in mining, and sending a posse after Parish was deemed too expensive.

Parish's journey to the gallows began when he murdered P.G. Thompson at Jimmy Curtis' saloon in Royal City, a whisky stop 14 miles north of Pioche. Four men were playing poker on the early morning of August 3, 1890, according to the *Pioche Weekly Record*. While watching the game, Parish drunkenly leaned on the shoulder of Thompson, one of the players. After Thompson protested, Parish leaned against him several more times. Parish returned to the bar and then heard laughter from the table. The players later said they were joshing one of their group for passing a club flush, but the hot-tempered Parish thought they were laughing at him.

> During the fall the ghost would be extremely mischievous, slamming doors and turning off lights and computers.

Advancing to the table, Parish spouted obscenities at Thompson. Thompson replied that he "did not give a damn for him." Parish struck Thompson in the face with his right hand. When Thompson rose from the table, Parish stabbed him in the abdomen with a large pocketknife. Thompson, finding himself cut, ran out of the saloon, pursued by Parish. Failing to overtake the wounded miner, Parish returned to the saloon boasting, "that he had cut the S— of a B—— to the heart, and he would go off in the brush and die."

The saloon owner obtained a team and took Thompson to McFadden's Hotel in Pioche. Meanwhile, Sheriff Turner went to Royal City, arrested Parish, and lost no time in jailing him. Despite two doctors' best efforts, the 36-year-old Thompson died four days later. Thompson had arrived in the area only four days before the stabbing and was a stranger to Parish. The Pioche newspaper said of Thompson that "although a stranger to the community the citizens mourn him as an old resident from the fact of his pleasant presence and fortitude under great bodily pain."

With Thompson's death, Parish's final troubles began. The *Pioche Weekly Record* stated: "Parish, for the murder of P.G. Thompson, without bail, [is] to await the action of the grand jury. The evidence showed Parish to be guilty of a dastardly cold-blooded murder." In the early 1870s, most such offenses went unpunished, but this was 1890. Union Pacific officials talked of extending their line to Milford, Utah, lawlessness had decreased, and Pioche was trying to clean up its reputation.

> Hank Parish, a 19th-century desperado from the Pioche area, had the dubious honor of being the first person legally hanged in Ely.

Parish alleged prejudice against him in Lincoln County, and in October "the State of Nevada v. Hank Parish" was transferred to White Pine County. The prisoner was taken to Ely and lodged in the jail next to the courthouse. Parish's trial began on October 13, 1890. The evidence for the prosecution was strong, and the jury agreed on a guilty verdict in little more than an hour. On October 16, Judge Thomas H. Wells pronounced the extreme sentence of the law on Parish, that "he be hanged by the neck until dead."

While the *White Pine News* pondered the cost of Parish's trial, estimated not to exceed $500, Parish sat in jail awaiting execution. "From the time of sentence," the *Pioche Weekly Record* noted, "Parish was particularly disagreeable and caused great trouble to his guards who are said to have done everything they could for his convenience and comfort, short of turning him loose, taking him up town ... procuring drinks, etc." The sheriff reported on November 22 that in spite of his good treatment, Hank Parish was suffering "great mental anguish."

Carpenters soon began building the gallows on a site between the jail and the courthouse, with a canvas enclosure to screen the hanging from the public. In the meantime, the Ely newspaper reported that Parish was "waiting for his doom."

The night before his execution, Parish stayed up until 1:30 laughing, smoking, and talking incessantly. In a conversation with Dr. J.D. Campbell that night, Parish said he had killed only three men, but had shot three other S— of B—s. Evidently, Parish regarded the latter as of little consequence.

The next day in Pioche, the *Weekly Record* published a thank-you message from Thompson's family of Etra, New Jersey. The family expressed its gratitude for the "prompt and energetic manner" in which his murderer had been brought to justice and "that it was a great consolation to them to know that their son had fallen in the house of friends."

On the morning of December 12, Hank Parish saw his last sunrise. Sheriff Billy Bassett read the death warrant in the jail,







Hank Parish may be the spirit haunting Ely's original courthouse halls (above left). That courthouse was built in 1888 (above right). The building was moved and became the right-hand wing of the county hospital (below right). After 50 years, officials closed the hospital, and the building housed White Pine County offices once again. Preservationists hope to raise funds to restore the building.

and at two minutes before noon the sheriff, a deputy, the doctor, and the condemned man made a solemn procession from the jail to the scaffold. Parish had requested an hour and a half to address the public. Instead, he stepped to the railing and spoke for about five minutes to the 50 spectators gathered inside the enclosure. Parish told the crowd he had been accused of killing eight to 20 men, but he had killed only three and was "right in doing it." He stated that Thompson, with two others, had hung him up three times by the neck. These final words made many spectators embarrassed for him as they knew from the trial testimony that Thompson was a total stranger.

Finished speaking, Parish stepped back onto the trap door and shook hands with the sheriff and attendants. As his hands and feet were tied, Parish remarked, "Tie them tight so they won't slip." When the black cap was pulled over Parish's head, the *White Pine News* reporter hurriedly walked into the courthouse to avoid witnessing the final act in this drama. The reporter for the *Pioche Weekly Record* felt no such trepidation. He wrote that the trembling of Parish's lips was quite visible and that Dr. Campbell afterward stated that the man could not have remained upon his feet one minute longer. The trap was sprung, and the resulting fall instantly broke Parish's neck. Half a minute later the doctor was at his side, but life was already extinguished. The news articles contained data on the condemned man's pulse. When Dr. Campbell examined Parish's pulse before they left the jail, he counted 99 beats per minute, and Parish joked, "Well, Doc, how are they?" When the black cap was pulled over Parish's head, his pulse ran up to 142. It does not take a medical degree to guess that the last time the doctor examined Parish, the pulse registered zero.

> So where was Hank buried? The answer may lie in Ely's original 1888 courthouse.

The sheriff cut the body down and sliced away the noose, using the same knife with which Parish had killed Thompson. Parish's body was placed in the courtroom, where it lay for two hours before being buried.

The next day's *Pioche Weekly Record* headline screamed, "HANGED! Hank Parish Swung into Eternity for the Murder of P.G. Thompson."

While it can be said that Hank Parish passed to an "unknown realm" before a crowd of witnesses on that day in 1890, his interment remains a matter of mystery. Extensive research of the two counties' records does not reveal Parish's final resting place. His headstone has not been found in the Ely cemetery.

So where was Hank buried?

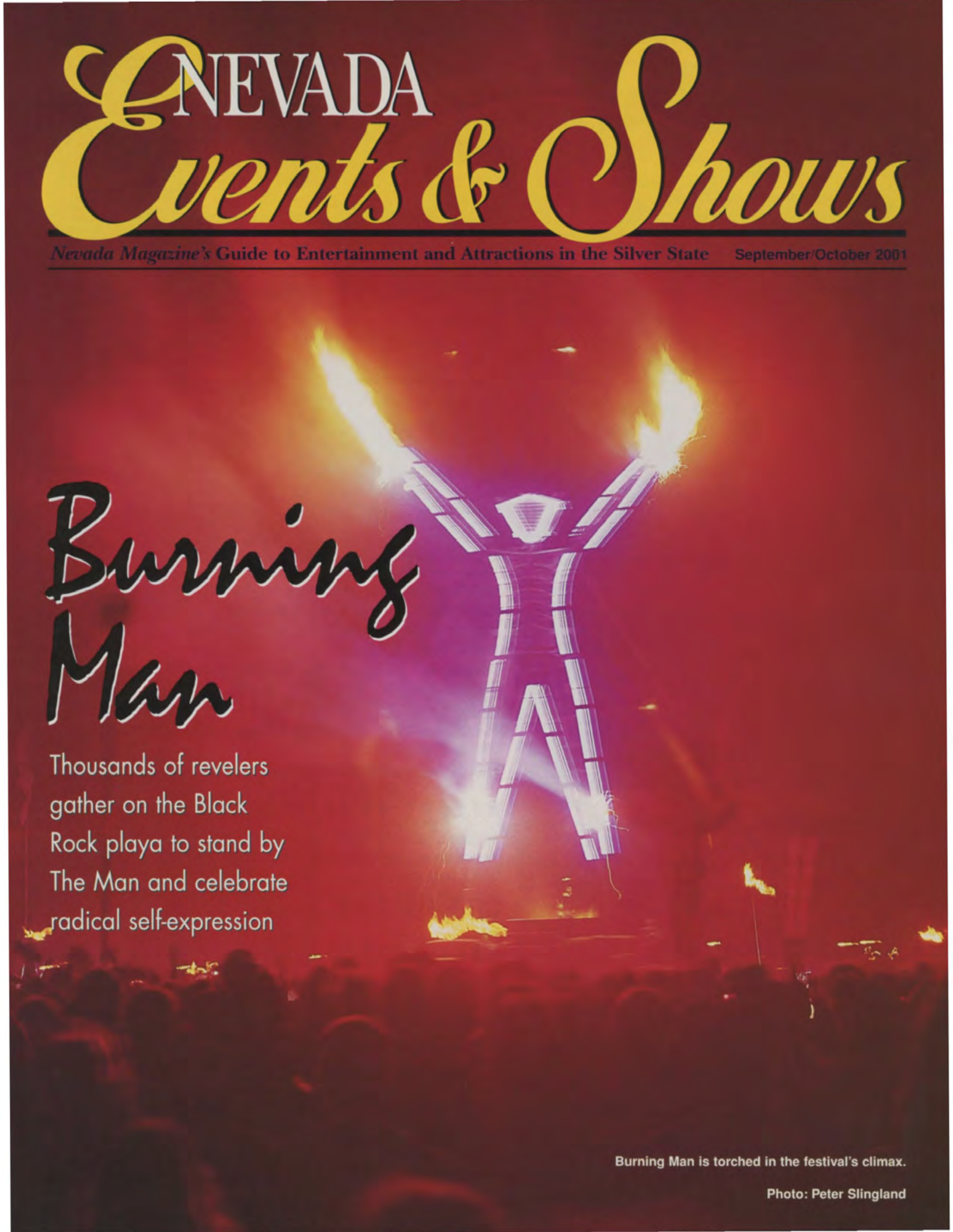
The answer may lie in Ely's original 1888 courthouse, the annex where Hank the ghost lurks at night. It's a historic building that local preservationists hope to save. Two years after the present courthouse opened in 1909, the old courthouse was moved down the hill to its current location. Perhaps the old courthouse, where Hank the ghost turns off lights and slams doors, sits on a long-forgotten burial plot. Perhaps Hank got there first.

Donna Frederick is the owner of the Ely Gift Boutique and a student of White Pine County history. For more information on White Pine County historic buildings, visit www.geocities.com/marysad/Historic_Annex.html.

Photos: Mary Sorenson (top left), White Pine Historical Society (top right), Ruben Gonzales (bottom right)

NEVADA Events & Shows

Nevada Magazine's Guide to Entertainment and Attractions in the Silver State September/October 2001



Burning Man

Thousands of revelers gather on the Black Rock playa to stand by The Man and celebrate radical self-expression

Burning Man is torched in the festival's climax.

Photo: Peter Slingland

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Self-expression takes on the colors of the rainbow during the Burning Man festival in the Black Rock Desert.

Burning Man



The week's grand finale, the nighttime torching of The Man, originated as a cure for a lousy romance.

The colorful residents of Nevada's temporary desert city celebrate self-expression in the Black Rock Desert.

By D. Brian Burghart

Black Rock City is set to rise once again from the floor of the Black Rock Desert. Black Rock City is the home of the internationally known counterculture event, Burning Man.

For those who have been cloistered in a Tibetan monastery, Burning Man brings together artists, partiers, and curiosity seekers to create a temporary art installation that is second to none in breadth, diversity, and outlandishness. The annual event, unique to Northern Nevada, runs from August 27 through September 3 on the playa north of Gerlach.

Eric Baron, owner of the Melting Pot World Emporium in Reno, is a longtime participant at the event. His camp this year will be named the Midnight Popcorn Palace and Drive-Thru, Self-Serve Dental Floss Center. Naming camping spots is a Burning Man tradition.

"The great thing about Burning Man is there is no cement," he says. "I don't get out of the city enough, and it's just good to get out of this cement jungle. I love all the possibilities, the limitless possibilities out there. It's a great place to connect with all the other creative people. It re-inspires

Photos: Daisy Golgan (top), Peter Slingland (bottom)



Thousands of Black Rock City residents gather to watch the burning of the festival's 40-foot-tall namesake in a spectacular combustion of performance art.

me. I try to do creative things all year around, but my batteries wear down. Burning Man recharges my creative batteries and inspires me to do more all year."

In the past three years, Baron's camp has grown from a mobile popcorn-popping cart to a full-size theme camp. (Camps range in size from pup tents to wooden structures the size of a house, and themes vary from yoga retreats to exotic nightclubs.) Baron says he and his wife, Monique, originally got the idea while traveling in the Rajasthan region of northern India when they bought popcorn from a local vendor pushing around a "very funky, very primitive popcorn cart." He adds, "Our goal this year is to pop 24 hours a day for eight days." In the event's tradition, Baron will give the popcorn away.

Burning Man began in 1986 on a San Francisco beach. According to one story, some friends got together and burned a representation of a person to help founder Larry Harvey recover from a broken heart. The Man first burned in the Nevada desert in 1990.

Black Rock City, located about seven miles northeast of Gerlach, begins with the bare playa as a canvas. On August 1, the Burning Man Department of Public Works, which is made up of volunteers, begins building the infrastructure for a city that is expected to reach a population of 25,000 to 30,000 this year. Portable restrooms, law enforcement, roads, virtually anything an urban area requires will be imported in the days leading up to the event. One thing that is not imported is retail. Sales of just about anything, and that includes essentials, are forbidden in Black Rock City, except coffee and ice in the city's center camp. Barter takes the place of monetary commerce.

"Our goal is to pop 24 hours a day for eight days," Baron says.

Burning Man culminates in the torching of a 40-foot-tall effigy. This year, The Man will stand atop a 40-foot-tall tower. Organizers have dubbed the eight-story icon the Tower of Wisdom in keeping with this year's theme, the Seven Ages.

"Our theme in 2001 takes the form of an enormous board game," asserts the Burning Man Project's Web site, www.burningman.com. "The object of this game is the attainment of wisdom. In order to achieve this goal, participants must pass through successive stages of life. The theme of our game is choice, striving, trial, and transformation."

Founder Harvey characterizes the event as an annual experiment in radical self-expression and radical self-reliance. That description is a little vacuous for those who haven't seen the worldwide media coverage or participated in the event.

The radical self-reliance is easy to peg: Participants have to bring everything they need to survive, including shelter, water, food, and fuel. Temperatures reach 107 degrees on the playa, and thunderstorms

Photo: Peter Slingland







Burning Man artists display their oversized creations (far left). Vehicles reminiscent of the hippie era are pressed into service (above) while creative energy is devoted to theme camps such as Eric Baron's popcorn palace (left).

are not uncommon in this part of Nevada.

The chance for radical self-expression is the reason most people go to Burning Man. Thousands of artists display art and art installations. Some of the works are enormous and constructed of materials you couldn't pick up at the local arts supply store. Some of the themes are overtly sexual (Burning Scouts of America), some are vaguely spiritual (Temple of Atonement), some mind-bending (3D Camera Obscura—Fiat Lex) and some are just plain weird (Body Hair Barber Shop). There are more than 120 theme camps planned. If a camp has a theme, like Book Worms United, then it is a theme camp. If it's just an undecorated tent or RV, then it's just a camp. The camp in some cases *is* the art.

It would be an understatement to say this event isn't suitable for all members of all families. As point of fact, an adult must accompany children under 18 years old.

Burning Man, which has generated more than its share of controversy in years past because of open nudity, drug use, and environmental impacts on the desert playa, these days gets good marks from the Bureau of Land Management. The BLM administers the use of the public lands where the event is held.

"We've been working for four years to eliminate problems out there," Mike Bilbo, permit compliance officer for the BLM, points out. "Burning Man gets maligned unfairly for environmental damage. They do a really great job cleaning up."

The dress code is extremely casual, so if a Tibetan monk should make his way down the mountain, across the ocean, and to the Black Rock Desert wearing a robe and sandals and sporting a shaved head, he won't have to worry about making friends. As long as he brought his survival gear, an admission ticket, and a sense of the absurd, he'll fit right in.

Do's, Don'ts, and Other Important Stuff

The Web site www.burningman.com is the Burning Man Project's primary method of sharing information. It includes such indispensable stuff as photo and story archives, where and how to get tickets, and a survival guide. Tickets to Burning Man, which began at $125, increase to $250 at the gate as the Labor Day weekend approaches.

Wind storms, thunderstorms, skincracking daytime heat, and chilly nighttime temperatures nail home one fact: Burning Man isn't just about making art or building a community—it's about survival. Sure, it's more fun than a bucket of M-80s and a book of matches, but even Tibetan monks have to be prepared for this kind of entertainment. Here's a list of do's and don'ts:

Do's: Buy your ticket in advance. Be prepared to participate and help your neighbors. Do respect human and public boundaries. Bring two gallons of water per day for every person in your party. Bring enough food. Bring a first-aid kit. Pick up any trash. Bring warm clothing for the night. Bring shelter. Observe fire rules. Bring garbage bags. Bring flashlights. Bring bicycles to ride on the playa.

Don'ts: Don't drive in camp. Don't break county, state, or federal laws. Don't bring firearms. Don't be too loud. Don't bring pets. Don't try to sell anything; you'll get kicked out.

D. Brian Burghart, a Sparks writer, has intermittently attended Burning Man since 1995.

Photos: Peter Slingland (top left and right), Eric Baron (bottom)

Nevada Events

September and October events in Las Vegas, Reno-Tahoe, and Rural Nevada.

Nevada communities offer a great variety of events this fall. In the Las Vegas area, the World Water-Ski Championships will be decided at Lake Mead. Fall brings the Great Reno Balloon Race and National Championship Air Races to Reno. In Ely, the Trains, Planes, and Automobiles festival includes many events, and Fallon celebrates its Hearts O' Gold Cantaloupe Festival. *Nevada Magazine* presents the following statewide events for September and October. Be sure to call ahead to confirm dates and times.

Las Vegas Territory

Big Band Dance • Sept. 1 • Tickets are $12 at the door for the popular dance series. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Moonlight Concert • Sept. 1 • Concert featuring the Irish group, Mary Black Band. Tickets are $10 at the gate. Clark County Center Amphitheater, Las Vegas, 702-455-8200.

Drag Racing • Sept. 1 • 8AA-Fuel Altered Outlaw Street and Super Quick Showdown competition. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Motocross Grand Prix • Sept. 1-2 • Motorcycle races on the MX track. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Jungle Madness Slot Tournament • Sept. 3-5 • $250 entry fee. Tropicana, Las Vegas, 702-739-2783.

A Journey Into 365 Days of Black History • Sept. 4 • Discussion of various African cultures. West Las Vegas Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

Summer Slot and Blackjack Spectacular • Sept. 4-6 • Tournament open to visitors who book a three-night stay; non-hotel guests pay $30. Golden Nugget, Las Vegas, 866-346-5336.

Latina Award of Distinction • Sept. 6 • Dinner honoring three women by the Nevada Association of Latin Americans. Stardust Hotel, Las Vegas, 702-382-6252.

ZMA Motocross • Sept. 8 • Points series motorcycle race. Mesquite Raceway, Mesquite, 702-523-6551.

Family Series Event: Michael Cooper • Sept. 8 • Artist uses larger-than-life puppetry, mask-making, and mime to tell stories of wisdom and whimsy. Black Mountain Recreation Center, Henderson, 702-565-2367.

Mexican Independence Day Celebration • Sept. 9 • Mexican culture is celebrated with music, food, crafts, and exhibits. Lorenzi Park, Las Vegas, 702-284-6400.

Las Vegas Region SCCA Autocross Solo II • Sept. 9 • Timed trials on a marked course. Texas Station, North Las Vegas, 702-897-3774.

Drag Racing • Sept. 9 • NHRA Junior Dragster Division Finals. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Egyptian Slot Tournament • Sept. 9-11 • Entry fee is $450, top prize $20,000. Colorado Belle, Laughlin, 877-480-2747.

Show Me the $$ I • Sept. 11-13 • Slot tournament. Ramada Express, Laughlin, 702-298-6231.

$150,000 Slot Tournament • Sept. 12-15 • Westward Ho Casino, Las Vegas, 702-731-2900.

San Gennaro Feast and Las Vegas Street Fair • Sept. 12-16 • International foods, music, dancing, carnival, arts, crafts, beer and wine garden, and games. Flamingo and Valley View across from the Gold Coast, Las Vegas, 702-286-4944.

Las Vegas Primm 300 • Sept. 14-15 • SCORE-sponsored off-road race offers action between cars and motorcycles. Primm, 43 miles south of Las Vegas on I-15, 818-225-8402.



Photo: Larry Cantrall

Planes on a Mission

Brightly decorated airplanes capture the spirit of the National Championship Air Races, September 13-16 at Reno-Stead Airport, 10 miles north of Reno. Apollo astronauts Buzz Aldrin, Dick Gordon, and Gene Cernan will be honored this year. Between races around pylons, spectators will be treated to aerobatic stunts and military displays.

Half Way to St. Patrick's Day • Sept. 14-15 • An excuse to serve green beer, corned beef and cabbage, and listen to Irish Chase and the Las Vegas Highland Pipe Band. Fitzgeralds, Las Vegas, 800-274-5825.

Thai Cultural Arts Festival • Sept. 15 • Celebration features traditional dances, entertainment, food, and a no-host bar. Free admission, but reservations are required. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-369-5439.

Moonlight Concert • Sept. 15 • Performance by Los Mocosos, a hot Latin band that combines hip-hop and funk. Tickets are $10 at the gate. Clark County Center Amphitheater, Las Vegas, 702-455-8200.

Handel Celebration and Napoli • Sept. 15 • Nevada Ballet Theatre performs Handel's water music. Napoli offers Italian dances, including the tarantella. Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza, Lorenzi Park, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Laughlin Shoot Out • Sept. 15-16 • Features 45 of the top pro bull riders vying for $100,000 in the Bud Light Cup Series. Event includes fireworks, Western entertainment, dances, and barbecues. Special Events Center, Laughlin, 817-735-1944.

Brad Richter • Sept. 16 • The classical guitarist performs in concert. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211.

Ms Senior Nevada Pageant • Sept. 16 • Contestants vie to represent the Silver State in the Ms Senior America Pageant. River Palms, Laughlin, 702-458-9899.

Mexican Independence • Sept. 16 • Celebration features entertainment, music, games, food, and drink. Freedom Park, Las Vegas, 702-649-1198.

Summer Slot and Blackjack Spectacular • Sept. 17-19 • Tournament open to visitors who book a three-night stay; non-hotel guests pay $30. Golden Nugget, Las Vegas, 866-346-5336.

Wine and Roses Slot Tournament • Sept. 20-22 • $1,000 entry fee. Tropicana, Las Vegas, 702-739-2783.

Cruise Night • Sept. 21 • Monthly gathering of fans and owners of street rods and classic and muscle cars. Location TBA, Las Vegas, 702-260-6960.

Poets' Corner • Sept. 21 • Readings by established poets and open-mike participants. West Las Vegas Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

Art and Literature of Comic Books • Sept. 21-22 • *Nevada Magazine* publisher Rich Moreno will discuss on Sept. 21 how the comic book industry has affected movies. On Sept. 22 there will be an art exhibit, comic book collection appraisals, and lectures on the history and literature of comic books. Valley View Recreation Center, Henderson, 702-565-2367.

Taste of Vegas • Sept. 21-23 • Music of the '80s, food, and fine art. Clark County Center Amphitheater, Las Vegas, 702-730-0300.

Greek Food Festival • Sept. 21-23 • 29th annual event celebrates with Greek music, exhibition dancing, church tours, market, kids' games, and food. St. John's Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, 702-248-3896.

Good Guys Fuel and Gas Finals • Sept. 21-23 • Pre-1972 nostalgia drag-racing event featuring historical dragsters and personalities from the past. Event includes a classic hot-rod car show. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

ZMA Motocross • Sept. 22 • Points series motorcycle race. Mesquite Raceway, Mesquite, 702-523-6551.

Frozen Fury 5 • Sept. 22 • Los Angeles Kings v. San Jose Sharks in a preseason National Hockey League game. MGM Grand, Las Vegas, 702-474-4000.

Pacific Islands Festival: Ho'olaule'a 2001 • Sept. 22-23 • More than 100 booths, entertainment, food, crafts, and demonstrations. Maunalua, the 2001 Na Hoku Award-winner of Hawaiian Album of the Year, performs in concert Sat. night. Lorenzi Park, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Show Me the $$ II • Sept. 25-27 • Slot tournament. Ramada Express, Laughlin, 702-298-6231.

Summer Slot and Blackjack Spectacular • Sept. 25-27 • Tournament open to visitors who book a three-night stay; non-hotel guests pay $30. Golden Nugget, Las Vegas, 866-346-5336.

Third Annual Blues and Brews • Sept. 27-29 • Free outdoor blues festival featuring handcrafted brews, the Miss Hawaiian Tropic Pageant, poker charity run, and such bands as John Earl and the Boogeyman Band. Colorado Belle, Laughlin, 702-298-4000 for more information.

Best in the Desert: Vegas to Reno • Sept. 27-30 • Longest off-road race in America with trucks, quads, cars, and motorcycles. Las Vegas, 702-457-5775.

Roddin' on the River • Sept. 27-30 • Classic car show. Riverside, Laughlin, 702-298-2535.

Blue Sky International Film Festival • Sept. 28-30 • Filmmakers screen their works. Event also includes workshops. Regal's Village Square Cinemas, Las Vegas, www.bsiff.com, 702-737-3313.

American Indian Show • Sept. 28-30 • Native American jewelry, Hopi, Apache, Navajo baskets, Pueblo pottery, beadwork, old estate and pawn jewelry. Henderson Convention Center, Henderson, 520-526-9232.

Gold Coast SNORE 250 • Sept. 28-30 • Trucks and buggies compete in the 32nd annual desert race covering four 60-mile laps. Eldorado Valley, Boulder City, 702-452-4522.

Andre Agassi Grand Slam for Children • Sept. 29 • Celebrities David Foster, Don Henley, Elton John, Dennis Miller, and Ray Romano are expected for the concert, black-tie dinner, and auction. MGM Grand Garden Arena, Las Vegas, 702-227-5700.

Old Time Barn Dance • Sept. 29 • Square dancing, mixers,



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contras, waltzes, and polkas make for a lively evening. Introductory lesson at 6:30 p.m. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Wurstfest • Sept. 29 • Auction and feast with bratwurst, beer, and German music. Bicentennial Park, Boulder City, 702-294-1499.

International Short Course Championship Handcar Races • Sept. 29-30 • Five-man teams race side-by-side against the clock and each other on railroad handcars. Yucca Street Railroad Yard, Boulder City, 702-294-0982.

Mesquite Mud Run • Sept. 30 • Side-by-side mud drag racing featuring stock trucks, modifieds, pro-modifieds, and unlimited classes. Mesquite Raceway, Mesquite, 702-346-3766.

Super Run 2001: A Classic Car Experience • Oct. 5-7 • Free car show open to all years, makes, and models of classic vehicles. Downtown area, Henderson, 702-739-0045.

Shakespeare in the Park: "Othello" • Oct. 5-7 • The tale of Othello, who loved not wisely but too well. Fox Ridge Park, Henderson, 702-565-2367.

Moonlight Concert • Oct. 6 • Nevada Chamber Symphony plays classical and popular music. Picnics welcome. Clark County Center Amphitheater, Las Vegas, 702-455-8200.

Dinosaur Ball • Oct. 6 • Black-tie fundraiser offers dinner, dancing, and silent and live auctions. Las Vegas Natural History Museum, Las Vegas, 702-384-DINO.

Art in the Park • Oct. 6-7 • Visitors will find more than 300 booths at one of the largest fine-art and crafts shows in the West. Bicentennial Park, Boulder City, 702-294-1611.

Invensys Classic at Las Vegas • Oct. 10-14 • Top pros play in the annual five-round PGA tournament, which this year has a $4.5-million purse. Play is on TPC at Summerlin, Southern Highlands, and TPC at the Canyons, Las Vegas, 702-242-3000.

World Water-Ski Racing Championships • Oct. 11-21 • A field of international water-ski racers choose a new champ in this 12th annual competition. Lake Mead, Boulder City, 702-294-0517.

THQ United States Open • Oct. 12-14 • Indoor motocross competition has three performances. MGM Grand, Las Vegas, 702-474-4000.

Renaissance Faire • Oct. 12-14 • Colorful medieval games, food, and demonstrations. Sunset Park, Las Vegas, 702-455-8273.

Night Racing • Oct. 13 • 11-mile NASCAR Featherlite Southwest Series (6:30pm) and 100-lap NASCAR Winston West Series (8pm) races. Day also includes practice and qualifying for the Orleans NASCAR Craftsman Truck race, which will be run on Oct. 14. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 800-644-4444.

Harvest Festival • Oct. 13 • Crafts for children, natural history demonstrations, live creatures, cultural history demonstrations. Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, 13 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-363-1921.

Fall Floating Fine Art Show and Sale • Oct. 13-14 • The Boulder City Art Guild displays fine art on the dock at Lake Mead Marina. Lake Shore Drive, Boulder City, 702-293-2138.

AMA Jean to Death Valley • Oct. 13-14 • Desert motorcycle race. Jean, 23 miles south of Las Vegas via I-15. Jean, 818-249-2141.

Orleans NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series • Oct. 14 • 150-lap race starts at 3pm. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 800-644-4444.

Las Vegas Basque Festival • Oct. 14 • Mass at noon, traditional dances, weight-lifting exhibition, and authentic food. Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza, Lorenzi Park, Las Vegas, 702-361-6458.

Las Vegas SCCA Rally Cross • Oct. 15 • Jean Dry Lake, 23 miles south of Las Vegas on I-15. Las Vegas, 702-897-3774.

Cruise Night • Oct. 19 • Monthly gathering of fans and owners of street rods and classic and muscle cars. Location TBA, Las Vegas, 702-260-6960.

All-Harley Drag Racing World Finals • Oct. 19-21 • Stock drags and a manufacturers' midway with booths, food, music, and displays. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Clark County Gem and Mineral Fair • Oct. 19-21 • Rocks, minerals, fossils, books, and equipment sale. Event includes gold panning, geode cutting, lapidary demonstrations, craft tent, and silent auctions. Clark County Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.

Los Angeles Lakers v. Sacramento Kings • Oct. 20 • NBA teams meet in a preseason game. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-895-3900.

Family Series Event: Alison Brown Quartet • Oct. 20 • 2001 Grammy Award-winner's group plays jazz, new age, bluegrass, and light rock. Whitney Ranch Center, Henderson, 702-565-2367.

Fall Festival Car Show • Oct. 20 • A car show anchors community events such as slow drags, cowboy poetry, bluegrass music, food, and sidewalk sales. Overton Park, Overton, 702-397-8875.

MRAN Gran Prix • Oct. 20-21 • Desert off-road motorcycle race. Call for location, Mesquite, 702-437-6726.

Las Vegas Region SCCA Autocross Solo II • Oct. 20-21 • Timed event around a course. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-897-3774.

International Air Show • Oct. 20-21 • Aerobatics, static displays, entertainment, military aircraft. Jean Airport, 23 miles south of Las Vegas via I-15. Las Vegas, 702-255-7445.



Henderson Civic Symphony • Oct. 21 • A concert of American overtures launches a 15th season. Valley View Recreation Center, Henderson, 702-565-2367, for details.

Greyhound Renaissance Picnic • Oct. 21 • Food, vendors, contests, speakers, demonstration, greyhound adoptions. Fundraiser for Greyhound Pets of America, which finds home for retired racers. Floyd Lamb State Park, Las Vegas, 702-392-5822.

Tour Las Vegas Ride of the Century • Oct. 21 • Bicycle course has 40-, 60-, and 100-mile options through Red Rock National Conservation Area and the towns of Blue Diamond, Henderson, and Boulder City, and return to Las Vegas along the shore of Lake Mead. 775-588-9658.

Dolly's Birthday Bash • Oct. 22-24 • Blackjack tournament. Ramada Express, Laughlin, 702-298-6231.

It's Happening in Henderson • Oct. 24 • Bus tour of the city's new development and residential areas. Includes breakfast and lunch. Henderson Civic Center, Henderson, 702-565-8951.

Legends Asphalt National Championships • Oct. 25-27 • Legend cars competition. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

NHRA Winston Drag Race • Oct. 25-28 • World's best drag racers compete in top fuel, federal mogul, and sportsman classes. Event is held in conjunction with the Specialty Equipment Market Association Show, which draws 125,000 members. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

PBR Bud Light Cup World Championships • Oct. 25-28 • The top 45 bull riders compete for $1.5 million in prize money and bragging rights. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-731-7865.

Pomegranate Art Festival • Oct. 26-27 • Art and craft fair featuring original, not mass-produced, creations. Old Logandale School, Logandale, 702-398-7007.

ZMA Motocross • Oct. 27 • Points series motorcycle race. Takes place at Mesquite Raceway, Mesquite, 702-523-6551.

Red Rock Days • Oct. 27-28 • Volunteers lend a hand helping with restoration and repair projects. Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, 13 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-363-1921, for information on Red Rock Days.

Ghouls and Goblins Twin Stakes Slot Tournament • Oct. 28-



Ready to Roar at MGM Grand

Riders get ready for another heat of pack racing in the THQ United States Open of Motocross, which returns to Las Vegas for the fourth consecutive year October 12-14. Spectators can relax in the comfort of the hotel's Grand Garden Arena as competitors negotiate the course.

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ONGOING EVENTS

All Events are color coded according to Territory (see map on page 29).

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

Museums and Exhibits

The Only Way to Fly: Bringing Commercial Aviation to Southern Nevada: Thru Sept. 2. Exhibit showcases Western Airlines and its impact on Las Vegas. Clark County Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.

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

Seasons and Seasonings: Thru Sept. 3. One-woman show by printmaker Suzanne Riley. North Tahoe Art Center, Tahoe City, Lake Tahoe, 530-581-2787

Joliene Dexter and Dean Wright: Thru Sept. 7 Dexter's work includes dental plaster casts of hands and feet. Wright uses texturing medium in his acrylic paintings on canvas. Northwest Reno Library, Reno, 775-329-ARTS.

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

Valley Vistas: Thru Sept. 12. Exhibit of paintings, pottery, photography, jewelry, and porcelain. East Fork Gallery, Gardnerville, 775-782-7629.

Rodin's Obsession: The Gates of Hell: Thru 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.

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

The Private Collection of Steve Martin: Thru Sept. 23. 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.

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

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

Stories From the Sagebrush: Thru 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.



Las Vegas police officer Patrick Taylor shows paintings such as "Please Remember Me" (above) at the Metro Art show at the West Charleston Library October 16-December 9.

Chicano Artists: Sept. 1-Oct. 14. Selection of works in a variety of mediums that identify social issues important to Chicano artists. West Charleston Library, Las Vegas, 702-228-4274.

Southwestern Festival Artists: Sept. 1-Oct. 29. Preview of Latino artists' work that will be presented at the library at the Festival de Modernistas on Sept. 22. West Las Vegas Library, Las Vegas, 702-228-4275.

Edw Martinez: Los Dias de las Muertos: Sept. 7-Nov. 5. UNR art professor exhibits mixed media drawings that celebrate the Day of the Dead. Charleston Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Pressed and Pulled: Sept. 7-Sept. 30. Printmaking exhibit. North Tahoe Art Center, Tahoe City, Lake Tahoe, 530-581-2787

Taking Stock in Nevada: Mining Stock Certificates from Nevada Companies: Sept. 9-Nov. 18. Beautifully engraved certificates are exhibited with photographs, ore specimens, and mining artifacts. Clark County Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.

Leaf-ings: Sept. 12-Nov. 13. Exhibit of photography, paintings, pottery, jewelry, and porcelain. East Fork Gallery, Gardnerville, 775-782-7629.

Marcia Keegan: Photography of Pueblo Indians: Sept. 21-Nov. 17 Slide presentation, lecture, and book-signing on Sept. 21 Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211 for show information.

Vatos: A Photographic Tribute: Sept. 22-Oct. 12. Photographer and author Jose Galvez presents black-and-white photographs drawn from 30 years of photographing the Latino culture. Clark County Library Exhibition Hall, Las Vegas, 702-228-4274.

Ray Valdez: Sept. 22-Oct. 25. The painter uses acrylic and watercolor to convey his culture in a contemporary manner. Silver State Gallery, Reno, 775-324-2323.

Earth 2U: Exploring Geography: Sept. 22-Nov. 18. Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and National Geographic Society show covers exploration, origins of everyday things, and the impact of natural forces and population. Lied Discovery Children's Museum, Las Vegas, 702-382-3445.

Lost City Museum: Oct. 2-Dec. 13. Exhibit from the Lost City Museum in Overton deals with Native American tribes indigenous to Nevada. Whitney Library, Las Vegas, 702-228-4274.

Eleanor Beckert: Oct. 6-Dec. 31 Watercolorist is the Boulder City Art Guild's featured artist. Boulder Dam Hotel, Boulder City, 702-293-2138.

Metro Art: Oct. 16-Dec. 9. Exhibit of fine arts and crafts created by employees of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. West Charleston Library, Las Vegas, 702-228-4274.

This Contest Is for Real Hands: Rodeo Photographs of the 1930s: Nov. 26-Jan. 13. Black-and-white photographs by Western photographer Otho Hartley capture the drama of old-time rodeo. Clark County Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.

Plays, Lectures, Tours

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

Hidden Cave Tours: 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

"Master Class": Sept. 15-16, 21-22, and 28-29. Comedy by Terrence McNally has Maria Callas teaching a class in front of an audience and "victimizing" each of the singers who audition. Elks Lodge, Reno, 775-329-0661

Nevada Shakespeare Festival: "Romeo and Juliet": Sept. 21-Oct. 31 Thurs.-Sun. Piper's Opera House, Virginia City, 775-847-0600.
Poets' Corner: Sept. 21 and Oct. 19. Established poets and open-mike. West Las Vegas Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.
Fourth Night: 4th at the 4th: Sept. 26. Presentations by authors, musicians, poets, theater artists. Fourth Ward School, Virginia City, 775-847-0975.
Earth Science Month: Oct. 6, 13, 20, and 27 Classes, seminars, and lectures about the mysteries of the Earth. Las Vegas Natural History Museum, Las Vegas, 702-384-DINO.
"Death in England": Oct. 26-28 and Nov. 2-3. Mystery-comedy about Death paying a call to an English household and discovering he's in the wrong place. Elks Lodge, Reno, 775-329-0661

Sporting Events

UNLV Football: The Rebels play home games Sept. 7 v. Northwestern, Sept. 14 v. Colorado State, Sept. 29 v. BYU, Oct. 13 v. San Diego State, Nov. 3 v. Utah. Sam Boyd Stadium, Las Vegas, 702-895-UNLV.
University of Nevada Football: The Wolf Pack plays home games Sept. 15 v. Hawaii, Oct. 6 v. UNLV, Oct. 13 v. Louisiana Tech, Nov. 3 v. SMU, Nov. 17 v. Fresno State. Mackay Stadium, U of N, Reno, 775-784-6900, ext. 263.
Western Nevada Dirt Track Racing: Sept. 15 and 29, Oct. 20-21 Centennial Raceway, Hawthorne, 775-945-5896.
NASCAR Weekly Racing: Sat. nights thru Sept. 15. Stock-car racing. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.
ET Bracket Points Racing and Junior Dragster Races: Fri. and Sat. nights thru Nov. Test and tune on Fri., points racing on Sat. 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

Farmer's Markets

Carson City Farmer's Market: Wednesdays thru Sept. 12. Pony Express Pavilion, at mills park Carson City, 800-NEVADA-1
Sierra Farmers' Markets: Wednesday mornings thru Oct. 10 at Lampe Park, Gardnerville, 775-782-9828; Friday mornings thru Sept. 14 at Kahle Park, Stateline, 775-588-0271
Fallon Farmer's Market: Tuesday evenings thru Sept. 18. 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.
Lattin Farms: Thru Oct. Produce, kitchen, and the Nevada Maze, a life-sized puzzle in a cornfield. Fallon, 775-867-3750.

31 • Tropicana, Las Vegas, 702-739-2783 for details.
President's Slot Tournament • Oct. 30-Nov. 1 • Ramada Express, Laughlin, 702-298-6231 for event information.
$150,000 Slot Tournament • Oct. 31-Nov. 3 • Westward Ho Casino, Las Vegas, 702-731-2900.

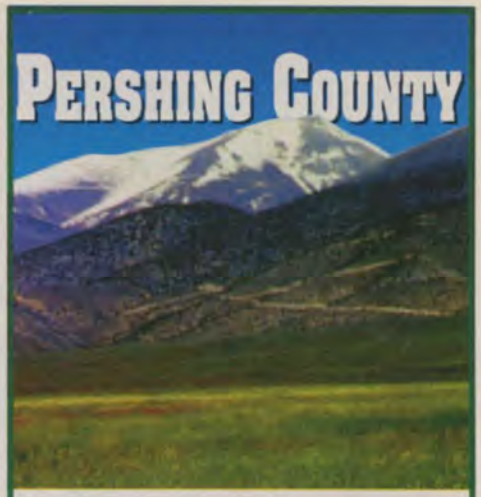
Reno-Tahoe Territory

Burning Man Festival • Aug. 27-Sept. 3 • Annual counter-culture event draws about 25,000 people for a radical party that culminates in the burning of a 40-foot-tall effigy. Black Rock Desert, seven miles northeast of Gerlach, www.burningman.com.
Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off • Aug. 30-Sept. 3 • Visitors taste-test barbecue ribs while attending concerts and the arts and crafts fair. Entertainers include Larry Yates and the Blues Monsters, Delbert McClinton, Gunshy, Delta Cat, Smoking Caterpillars, Unkle Funkle, Mumbo Gumbo, Heather Combs Band, Jamie Rollins, Dane Rinehart, Tracy Byrd, and Elvin Bishop. Victorian Square, Sparks, 775-353-2291.

Ghostly Event

The Commercial Hotel in Elko opens its third floor for Halloween Howl tours on Saturday, October 27. The rooms are normally closed to occupants because of the hotel's resident ghost.

Champion Speedway • Aug. 31-Sept. 1 • Events include all-division, legends, and late-model stock-car races. Carson Tahoe Champion Speedway, Carson City, 775-888-9777.
Carson Valley Bocce Bash • Aug. 31-Sept. 2 • Weekend includes bocce tournament competition, cocktail party, continental breakfast, and awards banquet. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-783-6625.
Great Lake Tahoe Sternwheeler Race • Sept. 1 • Annual contest between the *M.S. Dixie II* and Hornblower's *Tahoe Queen*. South Shore, Lake Tahoe, 800-AT-TAHOE.
Moonlight Rides on the V&T • Sept. 1 • Brats and beer are on the menu during the excursion on the steam-powered tourist train. F Street Station, Virginia City, 775-847-0151.
Children's Natural Crafts Day • Sept. 1 • Afternoon of making a variety of crafts for all ages. Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa, 775-782-2590.
Special Event Race • Sept. 1 • Late model cars in all divisions. Carson Tahoe Champion Speedway, Carson City, 775-888-9777.
Wolf Howl Night: Play Like a Wolf • Sept. 1 • Interactive wolf games include tag, wrestling matches, charge-and-tackle, keep-away, a howling contest, and discussion about wolves. Animal Ark, 12 miles north of Reno off U.S. 395. Reno, 775-970-3111.
Lake Tahoe Big Ol' Fishin' Derby • Sept. 1-2 • More than $3,000 in cash and prizes for the biggest fish caught privately or on a guided fishing tour. Register at Camp Richardson Resort Marina. South Lake Tahoe, 800-AT-TAHOE.
Full Moon Hike • Sept. 1-2 • Final guided hike of the summer season. Dress warmly. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-586-6985.
Labor Day Steam-Up • Sept. 1-2 • Visitors can take a ride on a steam-powered train. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.
Mountain Sport and Film Festival Weekend • Sept. 1-3 • Films shot in the most pristine mountain environments.



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Carson City Library Foundation

Oktoberfest



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Craft Faire

Big Book Sale

Admission: $2 adults
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Saturday, October 6, 2001

12:00 NOON 6:00PM
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Carson City, Nevada

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ELKO

Kirkwood Mountain Resort, south of Lake Tahoe, 209-258-6000.

Back Country Camp • Sept. 1-3 • Help build the last four miles of the Tahoe Rim Trail. Food and tools provided. Mount Baldy Area near Kings Beach and Incline Village, Lake Tahoe, 775-588-0686.

Spectacular Fireworks Show • Sept. 2 • The biggest Labor Day musical pyrotechnic show west of the Mississippi. South Shore, Lake Tahoe, 800-AT-TAHOE.

Alpen Wine Fest • Sept. 2 • 12th annual event to benefit the Jimmy Heuga Center, a multiple sclerosis research organization. Event includes appetizers and a silent auction. Plumpjack Squaw Valley Inn, Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 510-205-4285.

Emergency Vehicle Owners and Operators Association • Sept. 6-9 • West Coast conference centers around police, fire, and ambulance vehicles and features driving courses, cruises, a judged show, tours, picnic. The show is open to classic, restored, and antique vehicles. Victorian Square, Sparks, 775-626-3266.

Carson Valley Inn Mixed Scramble Golf Tournament • Sept. 7-8 • Competition includes a reception and team-draw party, awards banquet, and $3,500 cash prizes. Silver Oak Golf Course in Carson City. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 800-321-6983.

Bullnanza • Sept. 7-8 • Professional bull riders have an eye on the prize money as they try to control angry beasts. Reno Livestock Events Center, Reno, 775-688-5751.

Great Reno Balloon Race • Sept. 7-9 • 20th annual event will attract 130,000 spectators to watch more than 100 hot-air balloons compete for $20,000 in prize money. Highlight is the 5:30 a.m. Dawn Patrol, which is choreographed to music. Rancho San Rafael Park, Reno, 775-826-1181.

Virginia City International Camel Races • Sept. 7-9 • Despite the hilarious action, there is an element of danger as camels and ostriches try to dispose of their riders as they race around the Camel Race Arena. Virginia City, 775-847-0311.

Antiques and Collectible Sale • Sept. 8 • Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Gardnerville, 775-265-6097.

Speedway Races • Sept. 8 • Open to all divisions. Carson Tahoe Champion Speedway, Carson City, 775-888-9777.

The Hot Rod Event • Sept. 8 • Fifth annual pre-1954 car show includes music, barbecue, parade, and show 'n shine. Miners Park, Virginia City, 775-265-7064.

Pipers at Piper's • Sept. 8 • 40th anniversary celebration concert and reception by the Sierra Highlanders Pipe Band. Piper's Opera House, Virginia City. 775-847-0433.

Flumes of the Comstock • Sept. 8 • Learn about the role the flumes played in the history of Nevada. Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa, 775-782-2590.

Lake Tahoe-Reno Chili Cook-Off • Sept. 8 • Visitors can sample chili made by more than 50 contestants. Entertainment includes music, dancing, contests, food, children's events, and arts and crafts. Ponderosa Ranch, Incline Village, 775-831-4440.

Heavenly Ski Foundation Brew-Ski Beer Fest • Sept. 8 • Outdoor fundraiser features tastings from local and regional breweries, music, and food. Lake Tahoe Horizon, Stateline, 530-541-7354.

South Lake Tahoe MS Walk • Sept. 8 • Three- to five-mile walk to raise money for multiple sclerosis research. Camp Richardson, South Lake Tahoe, 775-329-7180.

Fine Arts and Crafts Street Celebration • Sept. 8-9 • Craft shoppers will find food and entertainment. Downtown, Minden, 775-782-8144.

Carson City Mint and Nevada State Museum Coin Show •

Sept. 8-9 • Forty national coin dealers will showcase rare Carson City-minted coins, currency, tokens, gold and silver bullion, historic documents, jewelry, and postcards. Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 702-486-5933.

Truckee Railroad Days • Sept. 8-9 • Events include the 19th annual Hand Car Races, which five-person teams are welcome to enter. Practice runs take place at 8am and time trials at 1pm Sat., with finals at 10am Sun. Truckee, 530-582-3951.

Biggest Little Quilt Show in the West • Sept. 8-9 • Reno Livestock Events Center, Reno, 775-322-3737.

Inaugural Altitude with Attitude: Reno/Sparks Triathlon • Sept. 9 • A one-mile swim, 25-mile bicycle ride, and six-mile run for individuals and teams. A second race for individuals only consists of a one-half-mile swim, 12-mile bike ride, and three-mile run. Sparks Marina Park, Sparks, 775-786-5531.

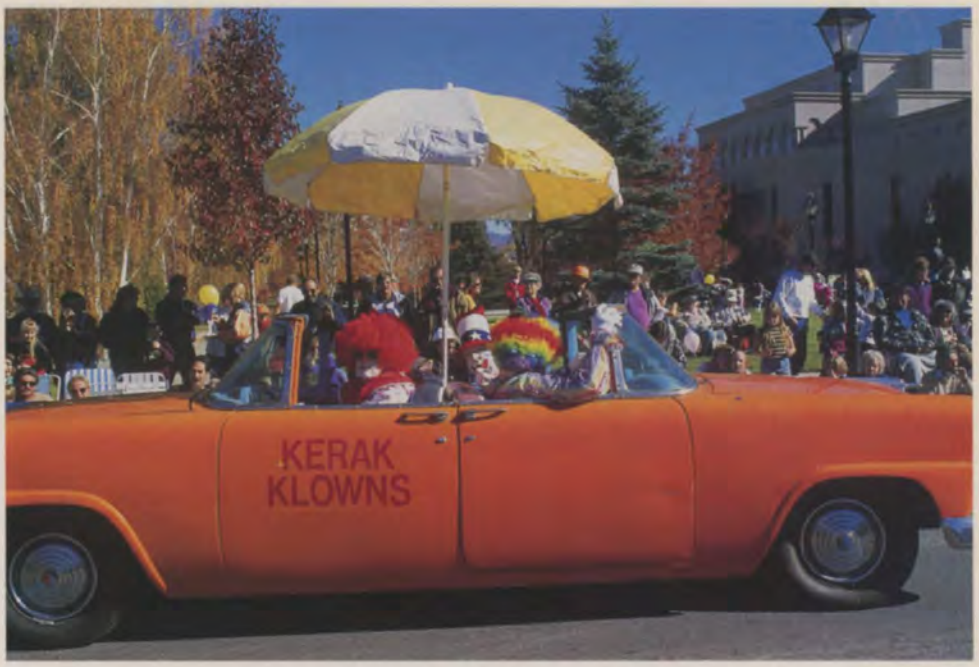
Autumn Classic Slot Tournament • Sept. 9-10 • Atlantis, Reno, 800-723-6500.

Reno Philharmonic • Sept. 9 and 11 • Selections from Hansen, Rachmaninoff, and Dvorak. Guest is pianist Horacio Gutierrez, who was a guest soloist with the Havana Symphony at age 11. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-323-6393.

Meet the Winemaker • Sept. 10 • Five- or six-course gourmet dinner served with wines from the featured winery. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-783-6611.

Photograph Restoration • Sept. 12 • Lecture and demonstration on preserving photos. Genoa Courthouse Museum, Genoa, 775-782-4325.

BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet • Sept. 12 • Six musicians comprise what Garrison Keillor of "Prairie Home Companion" calls the best Cajun band in the world. Nightingale Hall, U of N, Reno, 775-784-6847.



Nevada's Birthday Bash

Zipping up and down Carson City's main street on motorcycles and in two-way cars, the Kerak Klowns are among the most popular entries in the Nevada Day Parade. The parade on Saturday, October 27 will feature more than 200 entries. Other events include the 1864 Grand Ball.

National Championship Air Races • Sept. 13-16 • For the first time, jet airplanes will be one of the classes of aircraft that race around pylons. This year's theme, "The Race Odyssey," is a tribute to Apollo astronauts such as Buzz Aldrin, Dick Gordon, and Gene Cernan, who will attend the first-ever Apollo reunion. The event features aerobatic stunts, military displays, and Taste of Reno food court. Stead Airport, Reno, 775-972-6663.

There are a
Thousand Things to Do in Lyon County



Here are just a few of THEM!

Event	Month	Location
VORRA/Off Road Races	Sept 1-3	Mason Valley/Yerington
Dayton Valley Days & Rodeo	Sept 14-16	Dayton
Yerington Airport Fly-In	Oct 6-7	Mason Valley/Yerington
Smith Valley Fun Days	Oct 7	Smith Valley

We also have museums, ghost towns, golfing, fishing, camping, boating, motocross, mountain biking, rock climbing, and much, much more!

Lyon County Information Center
227 South Main Street • Yerington, Nevada 89447
www.tele-net.net/lyontour
(775) 463-2245

Photo: Janet Jones



Calling All Hogs

Two-wheelers take over the Reno area during Street Vibrations, the annual motorcycle roundup, on September 19-23. The event offers riders and wannabes a weekend of music, entertainment, parades, poker runs, ride-in show, and Harley-Davidson display.

Cool September Days • Sept. 13-16 • Car show. Lake Tahoe Horizon, Stateline, 530-541-7300.

Special Event Race • Sept. 14 • USAC Sprint cars, all divisions, plus legend cars. Carson Tahoe Champion Speedway, Carson City, 775-888-9777.

Queen of Hearts Blackjack Tournament • Sept. 14-16 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427 for information.

100-Mile Endurance Ride • Sept. 15 • Riders and horses are tested in 25-mile loops around the Comstock area. Virginia City, 775-847-0311.

An Evening with Toni Tennille • Sept. 15 • Grammy Award-winning singer performs music from some of America's favorite composers, including Cole Porter and George and Ira Gershwin. Guest soloist is Robin Andrew Stamper, Nevada Opera artistic director. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-786-4046.

Ferrari Hillclimb • Sept. 15-16 • A race on the winding State Route 341 between Virginia City and Silver City. 775-847-0311.

Woodfords' Community Faire and Country Chili Challenge • Sept. 15-16 • Sixth annual event offers entertainment by the Alpine Trio and Tim Baley, antiques, collectibles, arts and crafts, food, barbecue, horseshoe tournament. Woodfords, 12 miles south of Gardnerville, 530-694-2934.

Autumn Reception • Sept. 16 • Tour the gallery from noon to 5pm. Refreshments will be served. East Fork Gallery, Gardnerville, 775-782-7629.

Salsa y Salsa • Sept. 16 • Hispanic food, entertainment, music, and dancing. Mills Park, Carson City, 775-885-1055.

America's Loneliest Bike Tour/OATBRAN (One Awesome Tour Bike Ride Across Nevada) • Sept. 16-22 • 11th annual camping-style bicycle ride across Nevada on U.S. 50 from Lake Tahoe to Great Basin National Park. 775-588-9658.

Street Vibrations • Sept. 19-23 • Music, motorcycles, entertainment, parades, ride-in show, poker runs, and a Harley-Davidson display. Reno, Lake Tahoe, Carson City, and Virginia City, 800-200-4557.

Special Event Race • Sept. 21-22 • Intermountain late model cars. All divisions, plus legends. Carson Tahoe Champion Speedway, Carson City, 775-888-9777.

150-Mile Celebration • Sept. 21-23 • Ribbon-cutting marks the completion of the Tahoe Rim Trail, a 150-mile loop around Lake Tahoe, after 17 years of work. Ceremony is scheduled for 2pm on Sat., Sept. 22, on the trail near Martis Peak on the north shore. Other events include guided trail hikes, mountain bike tours, horseback rides, sternwheeler cruise with a silent auction, reception, and pancake breakfast. Various locations at Lake Tahoe, 775-588-0686.

Winners' Weekend Slot Tournament • Sept. 21-23 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427.

North Lake Tahoe Classic Car and Motorcycle Week • Sept. 21-23 • Motorcycle tours, concerts and entertainment, ride-in shows, parade, poker run-walk. Tahoe Biltmore, Crystal Bay, 530-541-7300.

Lake Tahoe Fall Games • Sept. 22-23 • Pentathlon-style amateur individual, team, and corporate sports challenge. Tahoe City, North Lake Tahoe, 800-824-6348.

SCCA Reno Region Autocross • Sept. 22-23 • Timed event around obstacle course. Minden-Tahoe Airport, Minden, 775-828-0608.

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

Great Basin Book Festival • Sept. 27-29 • Readings, panel discussion, lectures, book-signings, children's activities, and food. Featured authors include Russell Banks, Syl Cheney-Boker, Sally Denton, and Roger Morris. Event includes a starving artist's sale. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-784-6587.

Tahoe International Film Festival • Sept. 27-Oct. 2 • Emerging filmmakers from around the world screen their best works. The event includes a comedy jam, black-tie gala, awards, expo and fair, filmmakers' forums. Various locations, North Lake Tahoe, 530-583-FEST.

Winner Take All Slot Tournament • Sept. 28-30 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427.



Photo: Lonnie Peck/Reno News Bureau

Tahoe Jazz Festival • Sept. 28-30 • Outdoor concert features David Benoit, Chuck Loeb, Special EFX with Chieli Minucci, Nestor Torres, Steve Oliver, Solar Wind, and Ryan Cohen Quintet. Event includes workshops and dinner. Northstar-at-Tahoe, Lake Tahoe, 800-365-4827.

$100,000 Bingo Blowout • Sept. 29 • John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-843-2427.

Special Saturday Dance • Sept. 29 • Square and round dancing. Senior Citizens Center, Reno, 774-425-3684.

Moonlight Rides on the V&T • Sept. 29 • Drinks and snacks are on the menu during the excursion aboard a steam-powered train. F Street Station, Virginia City, 775-847-0151.

Cyclists Backcountry Camp • Sept. 29-30 • Max Jones, Mountain Bike Hike of Fame inductee, will lead the backcountry camp for mountain-bike enthusiasts. Location TBA, Tahoe Rim Trail, 775-588-0686.

Alpine Autumnfest • Sept. 29-30 • Festival celebrates autumn colors with music, food, and beer. Kirkwood, south of Lake Tahoe, 209-258-6000.

Candy Dance Arts and Crafts Faire • Sept. 29-30 • Genoa and its 240 residents host 50,000 visitors who shop among 300 arts and crafts vendors and purchase the event's much-prized candy. Mormon Station and Genoa parks, Genoa, 775-782-8696.

Oktoberfest • Sept. 30 • German food and music provided by Al Gruber and His Bavarian Band. Minden Park, Minden, 775-784-8250.

Toy Run • Sept. 30 • Motorcycle riders collect toys to benefit needy families. Union Brewery, Virginia City, 775-847-0311.

Oktoberfest Keno Tournament • Sept. 30-Oct. 1 • Atlantis, Reno, 800-723-6500.

"Fortune and Flattered Cock" • Oct. 5-6 • Musical with a moral as historical figures like Julius Caesar discover the consequences when they gamble with Dame Fortune. Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-541-4975.

Scarecrow Festival • Oct. 6 • Everything is provided to create a one-of-a-kind scarecrow. The cost is $7. Minden Park, Minden, 775-782-7629.

Oktoberfest 2001 • Oct. 6 • Craft fair, book sale, music, beer, bratwurst, and dancing. Fundraiser for the Carson



Genoa Arts and Crafts

Shoppers visit more than 300 booths featuring fine arts and crafts during the Candy Dance celebration in Genoa, September 29-30. Genoa residents use proceeds from the annual event to pay for community projects. The booths above are located inside the Mormon Station stockade.



Photo: Jinny Anderson



In the event you want to have fun, visit the Carson Valley Inn.

- Bocce Bash — August 31 - September 2
- Fall Stag Golf Tourney — October 18-20
- Oktoberfest & Beer Tasting — October 19-20
- Tri Game A Thon Tournament — October 26-27
- Rhymers Rodeer Cowboy Poetry — November 2-3
- Gourmet Wine & Food Weekend — November 9-10

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City Library Foundation. Mills Park, Carson City, 775-887-2244, ext. 1012.

SCCA Reno Region Autocross • Oct. 6-7 • Timed event around obstacle course. Reno-Stead Airport, Reno, 775-828-0608.

Lake Tahoe Marathon • Oct. 9-14 • Marathon, half marathon, 10K, and relays on Oct. 14. Race week activities include a sports and fitness expo at Embassy Suites Hotel, 5K and kids fun runs, acclimation runs, motivational speakers. Marathon begins at Commons Beach in Tahoe City and ends at Pope Beach in South Lake Tahoe. Tahoe City, 800-AT-TAHOE.

Lecture-Chautauqua • Oct. 10 • Learn about area cemeteries. Genoa Courthouse Museum, Genoa, 775-782-4325.

King of the Hill Blackjack Tournament • Oct. 12-14 • Atlantis, Reno, 800-723-6500.

Appraisal Fair • Oct. 13 • Professional appraisers evaluate family treasures. Fundraiser. Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Gardnerville, 775-265-6097.

End of the Season Trail Work Day • Oct. 13 • Volunteers work on the Tahoe Rim Trail. Lunch and tools will be provided. Mount Baldy Area near Kings Beach and Incline Village, Lake Tahoe, 775-588-0686.

Capital Community Concert: Linda Wang • Oct. 14 • Violinist debuted at the age of nine with the New York Philharmonic. Community Center, Carson City, 775-246-5783.

Fall Keno Tournament • Oct. 14-17 • Flamingo Reno, 800-950-2WIN.

Carson Valley Inn Fall Stag Golf Outing • Oct. 18-20 • Reception, golf, and banquet. Play at Sierra Nevada Golf Ranch and Golf Club at Genoa Lakes. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-783-6625.

Carson Valley Inn Oktoberfest • Oct. 19-20 • Beer, German food, oom-pah music, and dancing. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-783-6611.

High Desert Jazz Festival • Oct. 19-20 • Big-band and jazz music, workshops, food, and drinks. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 775-883-1976.

Cemetery Tour • Oct. 20 • A self-guided tour of the Garden Cemetery. Bring a flashlight and dress warmly. Refreshments will be served after the tour. Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Gardnerville, 775-782-2555.

Kit Carson Trail Ghost Walk • Oct. 20 • Walking tour of historic homes that have a "spirited" past. Meet at the Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 775-687-7410.

Carson City Symphony • Oct. 20 • Concert soloist TBA. Community Center, Carson City, 775-883-4154.

Victorian Grand Ball • Oct. 20 • Period costumes are encouraged. A period dance master will conduct the dancing. Location TBA, Reno, 775-972-7565.

Reno Philharmonic • Oct. 21 and 23 • Selections from Vivaldi, Strauss, Copland, and Rimsky-Korsakov. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-323-6393.

Wind Ensemble Concert • Oct. 24 • Music in the Celtic tradition. Nightingale Hall, U of N, Reno, 775-784-6145.

Peppermill's Fall Tournament • Oct. 25-Nov. 4 • Poker action. Peppermill, Reno, 800-648-6992.

Friesian Extravaganza • Oct. 26-27 • Horse show includes halter championships, competitions, sales, trade fair, demonstrations, seminars, and a three-hour showcase of the breed. Reno Livestock Events Center, Reno, 877-777-7560.

Nevada Day • Oct. 26-28 • The Silver State celebrates its admission day with an 1864 Grand Ball with guests in formal or Civil War attire, a parade with more than 200 entries on Oct. 27, a carnival at Mills Park, the annual beard



Pahrump Parade Shoe-in

Five-year-old Courtney Rose of Pahrump adjusts the stirrup of her horse, Rosita, as they line up for the parade during the Pahrump Harvest Festival. Scheduled for October 5-7 the event draws a crowd to the PRCA rodeo, carnival, barbecue, entertainment, dances, and stock-car races.

contest, Annual World Championship Single Jack Drilling Contest, free chili feed, concerts, historical activities, and bluegrass music. The Brewery Arts Center offers cultural entertainment, and the Nevada State Railroad Museum stages Just for Fun Handcar Races. Carson City, 775-882-2600.

Black and Black Ball • Oct. 27 • Halloween dance; costumes required. Tahoe Dance Band will play music from the '40s, '50s, and '60s. $10, individuals, $18, couples. Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

Lake Tahoe Autumn Food and Wine Festival • Oct. 27-28 • Reserve wine tastings, food and wine pairing classes, and seminars. Resort at Squaw Creek, Olympic Valley, North Lake Tahoe, 800-824-6348.

Casual Classics: Mozart—A Man for All Seasons • Oct. 28 • Chamber music concert featuring the Argenta Quartet. Questions about the music are encouraged. Nightingale Hall, U of N, Reno, 775-784-6847.

Trick or Treat in the Streets of the Museum • Oct. 31 • Family entertainment, games, pumpkin patch, a haunted house for younger children, and an auto-related costume contest. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

Virginia City's Ghost Town 2001 • Oct. 31 • Halloween-night family activities include a V&T train ride, Haunted Hallways at the Fourth Ward School, ghost walks around town, Chollar Mine candlelight tour, and trick-or-treating on C Street. Virginia City, 775-847-0311 or 775-847-SHOW.

Rural Nevada

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.

Western Art Roundup • Aug. 31-Sept. 2 • Gathering of artists, poets, crafts people, and inductees into the Buckaroo Hall of Fame. Winnemucca Convention Center, Winnemucca, 800-WNCA-NEV.

Pioche Labor Day • Aug. 31-Sept. 3 • The population of the small community doubles for the weekend's mining events, dances, parades, barbecue, kids' games, fireworks, ball games, and parties in the town's saloons. Main Street, Pioche, 775-962-5544.

Trains, Planes, and Automobiles • Aug. 31-Sept. 3 • Events include Rail Days 2001, with 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-In with aviation games, barbecue, and rides; a Cruisin' Car show with a show 'n shine; Run to the Red Lights, a motorcycle event with a poker run, bike games, and 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 • Concerts, farmer's market, cantaloupe foods and games, carnival, entertainment, crafts, kids' rides. Churchill County Fairgrounds, Fallon, 775-423-4556.

Geology-Nature Walk • Sept. 1 • Ranger-led moderate walk to identify birds, fall wildflowers, and geologic features at 11am. Bring a lunch. Beaver Dam State Park, six miles north of Caliente and 28 miles east by gravel road. Caliente, 775-728-4460.

Geology-Nature Walk • Sept. 1 • Ranger-led easy walk to identify geologic features of the park at 5pm. Bring a picnic. Cathedral Gorge State Park, Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Saturday at the Races • Sept. 1 • Classes include street stock cars, IMCA modifieds, hobby stocks, modified minis, and pure stock minis. Reno-Fernley Raceway, Fernley, 775-575-7217.

$20,000 Turkey Nationals • Sept. 1-2 • NHRA pro, amateur, and circuit drag racing. Top Gun Raceway, Fallon, 775-423-0223.

Yerington Desert Race • Sept. 1-3 • VORRA off-road race; course TBA. Headquarters will be set up at Casino West,



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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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Yerington, 775-463-2481 for more event information.

Jarbidge Labor Day Party • Sept. 1-3 • The annual corn barbecue is planned for Sunday, with live music Saturday and Sunday night at the Outdoor Inn. There will be bingo at the Community Hall. Jarbidge, 775-488-2311.

Leave No Trace Workshop • Sept. 2 • Learn ways to reduce impacts on recreation sites. Echo Canyon State Park, 12 miles southeast of Pioche via State Route 322 and County Road 86. Pioche, 775-728-4460.

ACTRA Team Roping • Sept. 7-9 • Buckaroos try for the best times. Humboldt County Fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 775-623-2220.

Pahrump Fat Tire Festival • Sept. 7-9 • NORBA-sanctioned state championship mountain-bike race on a five-mile winding track. Call for location. Pahrump, 775-727-5800.

Celebrating Cultures

The Hispanic-Mexican culture is spotlighted along with other area ethnic groups during the Great Basin Festival, September 28-October 7 in Elko. Music, arts, foods, and films are among the events planned.

Saturday at the Races • Sept. 8 • Legends, super trucks, street stock cars, and dwarf classes. Reno-Fernley Raceway, Fernley, 775-575-7217.

Nuts About Pines • Sept. 8 • Learn about pine trees and where to look for pinenuts in the area. Bring a picnic. Echo Canyon State Park, 12 miles southeast of Pioche via State Route 322 and County Road 86. Pioche, 775-728-4460 for event information.

Wilderness Survival Workshop • Sept. 8 • Learn ways to prepare for backcountry trips. Bring a picnic. Spring Valley State Park, 18 miles east of Pioche on State Route 322. Pioche, 775-728-4460.

Sundae in the Park • Sept. 9 • Festival featuring arts, quilts, crafts, and foods produced in the Mason Valley area. Event includes entertainment and free ice cream sundaes. Rocket Park, Yerington, 775-463-2245.

North-South Showdown • Sept. 9 • Hare and hound motorcycle off-road race. Tonopah, 702-437-6726.

Amargosa Sand Drag Nationals • Sept. 9-10 • Desert competition. Amargosa, www.sanddrags.com.

Open Horse Show: Cow Horse Futurity • Sept. 14-15 • Working cow horse competition. Humboldt County Fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 775-623-2220.

Bonneville Challenge 200 • Sept. 14-15 • 200-mile off-road race for buggies and trucks. Wendover, 801-773-1651.

Pinenut Festival 2001 • Sept. 14-16 • Free public barbecue, kids' games, fun run, horseshoe tournament, junior rodeo, arts and crafts, handgames, car contest, pinenut blessing dance. Walker River Paiute Indian Reservation, Schurz, 775-773-2306.

End of Summer Slot Tournament • Sept. 14-16 • El Capitan, Hawthorne, 800-922-2311.

Old-Fashioned Biker BBQ • Sept. 14-16 • Camp-out, two breakfasts, pig roast, dance. Admission $20. Middlegate Station, 47 miles east of Fallon, 775-423-7134.

Dayton Valley Days • Sept. 14-16 • Country fair, outhouse races, rodeo, crafts, and entertainment. Downtown and rodeo grounds, Dayton, 775-246-3378.

Dune Riders International Xwest Huck Fest • Sept. 15 • Sandboarding competition 11am-6pm with big air, duel jumps, distance trials. Sand Mountain, 25 miles east of Fallon on U.S. 50, www.sandboard.com.

ET Double Points Race • Sept. 15 • Drag racing and imports. Top Gun Raceway, Fallon, 775-423-0223.

Saturday at the Races • Sept. 15 • Classes include IMCA modifieds, street stock cars, hobby stocks, modified minis, pure stock minis, and SORA spring 100s. Reno-Fernley Raceway, Fernley, 775-575-7217.

Ranch Hand Rodeo • Sept. 15-16 • Working cowboys spend the weekend riding saddle broncs and milking wild cows. Humboldt County Fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 775-623-2220.

Silver State Gold Rush • Sept. 16 • Open-road auto race on State Route 278 from Carlin to Eureka will precede the Silver State Classic Challenge run on Sept. 23. In the intervening week there will be daily activities in Ely including trials, rallies, and tours to interesting locations. A different dinner or party is planned for each evening. Carlin, 775-289-8877.

Fall Nature Walk • Sept. 16 • Ranger-led easy walk to identify fall-blooming flowers, nuts, and berries. Kershaw-Ryan State Park, two miles south of Caliente via State Route 317. Caliente, 775-728-4460.

NENHA Open Buckle Series • Sept. 16 • Open horse show. Competitions include showmanship, English equitation, Western performance, trail, and gymkhana. Elko County Fairgrounds, Elko, 775-753-7765.

Humboldt Campaign • Sept. 20-23 • Civil War-period camp, reenactment battles, cannon demonstrations, civilian and military living-history demonstrations, Victorian dance. Pioneer Park, Winnemucca, 775-623-5704.

Red, White, and Blue Slot Tournament • Sept. 21 • $25 entry fee. Saddle West, Pahrump, 775-727-1111.

World of Speed • Sept. 21-24 • Land speed time trials. Event includes the Barstool Landspeed competition. Bonneville Salt Flats, Wendover, 661-946-6986.

ET Race • Sept. 22 • Drag racing and final imports point race. Top Gun Raceway, Fallon, 775-423-0223.

Watchable Wildlife • Sept. 22 • Learn ways to see more wildlife. Slide program includes photography tips. Spring Valley State Park, 18 miles east of Pioche via State Route 322. Pioche, 775-728-4460.

Saturday at the Races • Sept. 22 • Classes include outlaw modifieds, hobby stock cars, and NCMA wingless spring 360s. Reno-Fernley Raceway, Fernley, 775-575-7217.

White Pine BMX Races • Sept. 23 • State-qualifying race for bike racers. BMX track, Ely, 775-289-3217.

Fall Duck Walk • Sept. 23 • Ranger-led program to identify migratory birds. Bring a picnic. Echo Canyon State Park, 12 miles southeast of Pioche via State Route 322 and County Road 86. Pioche, 775-728-4460.

Silver State Classic Challenge • Sept. 23 • Open-road car race on State Route 318 from Lund to Hiko. Pre-race activities in Ely Sept. 17-22 include time trials, rallies, and tours. A different dinner or party is planned for each evening. Ely, 775-289-8877.

Great Basin Festival • Sept. 28-Oct. 7 • Hispanic-Mexican culture is spotlighted along with other area ethnic groups. There will be dancing, singing, drumming, storytelling, Chautauqua, puppetry, juried arts and crafts, traditional foods, and workshops on willow-chair construction, quilting, rag rugs, and papermaking. Sol de Mexico, a mariachi group from Los Angeles, will be featured performers, and three films will be screened: *Hispanic Sheepherder in Ely, Charro,* and *Salt of the Earth.* Great Basin College, Elko, 775-738-7135.

Wings Over the Valley • Sept. 28-30 • Hunters' outdoor festival includes a wildlife carving show, gun dog demonstrations, duck- and goose-calling contest, hunting area tours, seminars, and workshops. Convention Center, Fallon, 800-874-0903.

Second Annual Fall Cribbage Classic • Sept. 28-30 • Continuous play. Convention Center, Winnemucca, 775-623-2511.

Agog at the Guggenheim

Two new museums bring art to the Las Vegas Strip.



Glass floors, stainless-steel walls, and chain-link curtains form the backdrop for "The Art of the Motorcycle" exhibition this fall in the new Guggenheim Las Vegas at the Venetian.

The Guggenheim Museum of New York City has chosen Las Vegas to open two new museums to house its world-renowned art collections. The **Guggenheim Hermitage Museum** and **Guggenheim Las Vegas** will open September 16 at the Venetian on the Strip.

Las Vegas was selected as the fifth international city to exhibit art under the Guggenheim name. The others are New York City, Berlin, Venice, and Bilboa, Spain.

Las Vegas was chosen after Thomas Krens, director of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, visited Las Vegas for the first time. He toured the Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art and realized tourists come to Las Vegas not only to gamble but to be entertained in other ways. "Las Vegas presents a unique opportunity to communicate with millions of people from all over the world that visit this extraordinary city," says Krens. "Given the 38 million annual visitors and the largest transient population in the United States, Las Vegas is a terrific location for the museums."

The 7,600-square-foot Guggenheim Hermitage Museum will permanently display paintings from such artists as Matisse, Monet, Renoir, Picasso, Kandinksy, and Chagall. The opening collection, "Masterpieces and Master Collectors: Impressionist and Early Modern Paintings from the Hermitage and Guggenheim Museums," will show pieces that highlight impressionism, post-impressionism, and early modernism. Classics such as Claude Monet's "Woman in the Garden, Sainte-Adresse" (1867) and Vasily Kandinsky's "Dominant Curve" (1936) are examples of the style that uses vivid colors and imagery.



A 1969 Harley-Davidson Easy Rider chopper (above) will be among the 120 motorcycles on display at the Guggenheim Las Vegas. Monet's "Lady in the Garden" (below) is part of the "Masterpieces and Master Collectors" show in the Guggenheim Hermitage Museum.



For the more contemporary art enthusiast, the 63,700-square-foot Guggenheim Las Vegas will host "The Art of the Motorcycle" collection. The exhibit, which will appear at the Venetian through Christmas, will display more than 120 motorcycles that date back to Michaux Perreux's 1868 model and lead up to today's high-tech machines. More than 200 pieces of memorabilia follow the evolution, technology, culture, and design of motorcycles. The design of the exhibition facility by Frank O. Gehry enhances the collection's atmosphere with curved polished stainless steel walls, chain-link curtains, and glass floors.

There are other casino art galleries in Nevada. Also on the Strip, the **Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art** offers a rotating art collection and is currently displaying the private collection of comedian Steve Martin until September 23. The exhibition features 28 modern and contemporary works, including art by Picasso and Lichtenstein. In Reno, the new **Nevada Historical Society Downtown Gallery** at the Club Cal Neva-Virginian houses the permanent exhibit "Water: Life in a Dry Land" as well as a rotating gallery that offers artwork and artifacts chronicling Nevada's history.

Casino Art

The **Guggenheim Hermitage Museum** and **Guggenheim Las Vegas** are open daily from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. at the Venetian in Las Vegas. Admission to each gallery is $15 per person, $11 per student. Call 702-414-2440.

The **Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art** at the Bellagio in Las Vegas is open daily from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Admission is $12 per person, $6 for Nevada residents. Call 702-693-7722 or 888-488-7111.

The **Nevada Historical Society Downtown Gallery** can be viewed in the hotel lobby of the Club Cal Neva-Virginian in Reno. Admission is free. Call 775-688-1190.—*Kelly J. Kozeliski*

Desert Oasis Music Festival • Sept. 28-30 • Bands, fans congregate for bluegrass music, camping, workshops, food, drinks, arts, crafts. Churchill County Fairgrounds, Fallon, 775-423-7733.

Van Norman Horse Show • Sept. 28-30 • Horse jumping, barbecue, wine tasting. Spring Creek Horse Palace, Spring Creek, 775-738-1240.

007 Jackpot Team Roping • Sept. 29 • Singles or team steer roping. City Corrals, Ely, 775-591-0439.

Fall Safety and Survival Workshop and Stargazing Program • Sept. 29 • Safety tips for hiking, camping, and hunting. Bring a picnic and lawn chairs for the stargazing session. Cave Lake State Park Ranger Station, seven miles south of Ely via U.S. 93 and eight miles east on State Route 486. Ely, 775-728-4460.

Saturday at the Races • Sept. 29 • Last points race for modifieds, street stock cars, hobby stocks, modified minis, and pure stock minis. Reno-Fernley Raceway, Fernley, 775-575-7217.

Desert Challenge • Sept. 29-30 • Off-road point-to-point motorcycle race through the desert from Fallon to Lovelock. Fallon, 775-850-1219.

Founder's Day and Stew Doo • Sept. 30 • Car show, entertainment, arts, crafts, and a stew cook-off contest. Penny Park, Silver Springs, 775-463-2245.

Fall Nature Walk • Sept. 30 • Ranger-led easy walk to identify fall-blooming flowers, nuts, and berries as well as geologic formations. Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Park, 15 miles south of Ely via U.S. 93 and seven miles west on unnumbered gravel road. Ely, 775-728-4460.



This Bar Stool Really Moves

Competitors aim for world records in the Bar Stool Landspeed Class on the Bonneville Salt Flats during the World of Speed, September 21-24 near Wendover. Some racers reach 40 mph.

World Human-Powered Speed Challenge • Oct. 1-6 • A field of international teams competes on bicycles that are encased in aerodynamic shells. Competitors will try to best the category world records set last year of 72.75 mph by Sam Whittingham and 53 mph by Andrea Blaseckie, both of Canada. The 200-meter course is located on State Route 305 between Battle Mountain and Austin. Battle Mountain, 775-635-8245.

Seventh Annual Military Vehicle Rally and Swap Meet • Oct. 4-6 • Military vehicles such as tanks and jeeps feature rides and demonstrations. Calder Cycle Park, Winnemucca, 775-623-3920.

World Space Week • Oct. 4-10 • Event calls attention to the role of gold in space exploration and the contribution made in Elko County, one of the largest gold-producing areas in the world. Activities include static displays and video and slide presentations. Northeastern Nevada Museum and Elko County Library, Elko, 775-753-9165.

Pahrump Harvest Festival, Fair, and PRCA Rodeo • Oct. 5-7 • Parade, carnival, deep-pit barbecue, fair exhibits, entertainment, dances, booths, fun run, stock-car races, 4-H exhibits, contests, and games. Petrack Park, Pahrump, 775-727-8195.

MRAN Bushwhackers Race • Oct. 6 • Hare scrambles off-road motorcycle race. Call for location. Pioche, 702-437-6726.

Fall Safety and Survival Workshop • Oct. 6 • Learn ways to stay safe when hiking, camping, or hunting in the mountains. Spring Valley State Park, 18 miles east of Pioche via State Route 322. Pioche, 775-728-4460.

Comstock Cowboys • Oct. 6 • Concert of original songs and Western standards. Sturgeons Center Club Showroom, Lovelock, 775-273-2005.

Yerington Airport Fly-In • Oct. 6-7 • Aviation enthusiasts will

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Photo: Cris Shearer

find poker run and war-bird and static displays. Yerington Airport, Yerington, 775-463-2245.

ET Series Final • Oct. 6-7 • Several drag-race classes. Top Gun Raceway, Fallon, 775-423-0223.

High Desert Shoot Out • Oct. 6-7 • Race classes include IMCA modifieds, street stock cars, hobby stocks, modified and pure stock minis, legends, and super trucks. Reno-Fernley Raceway, Fernley, 775-575-7217.

33rd Annual Smith Valley Fun Day • Oct. 7 • Country Cruise Car Show, antique tractors, trap shoot, barbecue, arts and crafts. Dressler Park, Wellington, 775-465-2354.

Elko Temoak Powwow • Oct. 12-14 • Traditional Native American dances, colorful costumes, food, and booths. Elko Indian Colony, Elko, 775-738-5038.

Fall Safety and Survival Workshop • Oct. 13 • Learn ways to stay safe when hiking, camping, or hunting in the mountains. Beaver Dam State Park, U.S. 93 north of Caliente and 28 miles east on an unnumbered gravel road, Caliente, 775-728-4460.

Leave No Trace Workshop • Oct. 13 • Learn how to plan for hiking and camping trips in a way to reduce your impact. Spring Valley State Park, 18 miles east of Pioche via State Route 322. Pioche, 775-728-4460.

Dune Riders International Sand Mountain Open • Oct. 13 • Sandboarding competition, 10am-5pm with duel slalom, big air, pro and amateur divisions, entries welcome. Sand Mountain, 25 miles east of Fallon, www sandboard.com.

Fort Churchill Encampment • Oct. 13-14 • Civil War camp with civilian and military living-history demonstrations, chapel service. Fort Churchill Historic State Park, south of Silver Springs on State Route 95A. Silver Springs, 775-575-5887.

Desert Motorcycle Race • Oct. 14 • Mason Valley Dirt Squirts club- and MRAN-sponsored off-road race. Yerington, 775-322-1499.

Bonneville World Finals • Oct. 17-20 • Record land speed trials. Bonneville Salt Flats, Wendover, 661-946-6986.

Goin' in Style • Oct. 20 • Slide program on outhouses. Cathedral Gorge State Park, Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Harvest Farm Auction • Oct. 21 • Arts and crafts, antique auction, booths, and homemade pastries. Community Hall, Smith Valley, 775-465-2353.

Pig Roast and Halloween Party • Oct. 27 • Jarbidge goes all out for its annual free pig roast, bake sale, and costume party. Outdoor Inn, Jarbidge, 775-488-2311.

Nevada Day • Oct. 27 • Pumpkin-carving, costumes, parade, prizes, and games. Community Center, Hawthorne, 775-945-5896.

Moonlight Spooky Tour • Oct. 27 • Ranger-led easy walk through the park's canyons and caves. Cathedral Gorge State Park, Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Halloween Party • Oct. 27 • Party for children with activities, crafts, music, games, stories, spooky walk, costume contest, parade. Elko County Library, Elko, 775-738-3066.

Red, White, and Blue Slot Tournament • Oct. 27 • $25 entry fee. Saddle West, Pahrump, 775-727-1111.

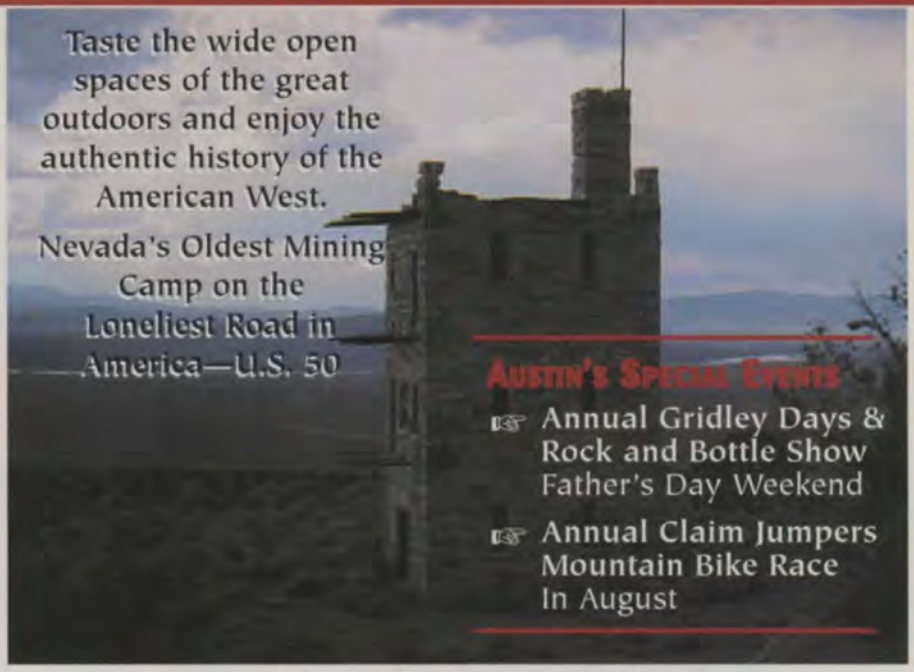
Beatty Burro Races • Oct. 27 • Unwilling burros are partnered with humans, each of whom must build a campfire, make a pancake, and feed it to his or her burro. Event includes a craft fair. Beatty, 775-553-2424.

Halloween Howl • Oct. 27 • There will be attempts to contact the ghost that lives in Elko's Commercial Hotel, a spirit that has been the subject of a PBS-TV special. Event includes tours of the hotel's third floor where he hangs around, a battle of the bands (Steel Breeze and Mud Puppy), and a costume contest. Stockmen's and Commercial hotels, Elko, 775-738-5141.

Rim Benders • Oct. 28 • Off-road motorcycle race. Moon Rocks, Palomino Valley, north of Sparks, 775-322-1499.

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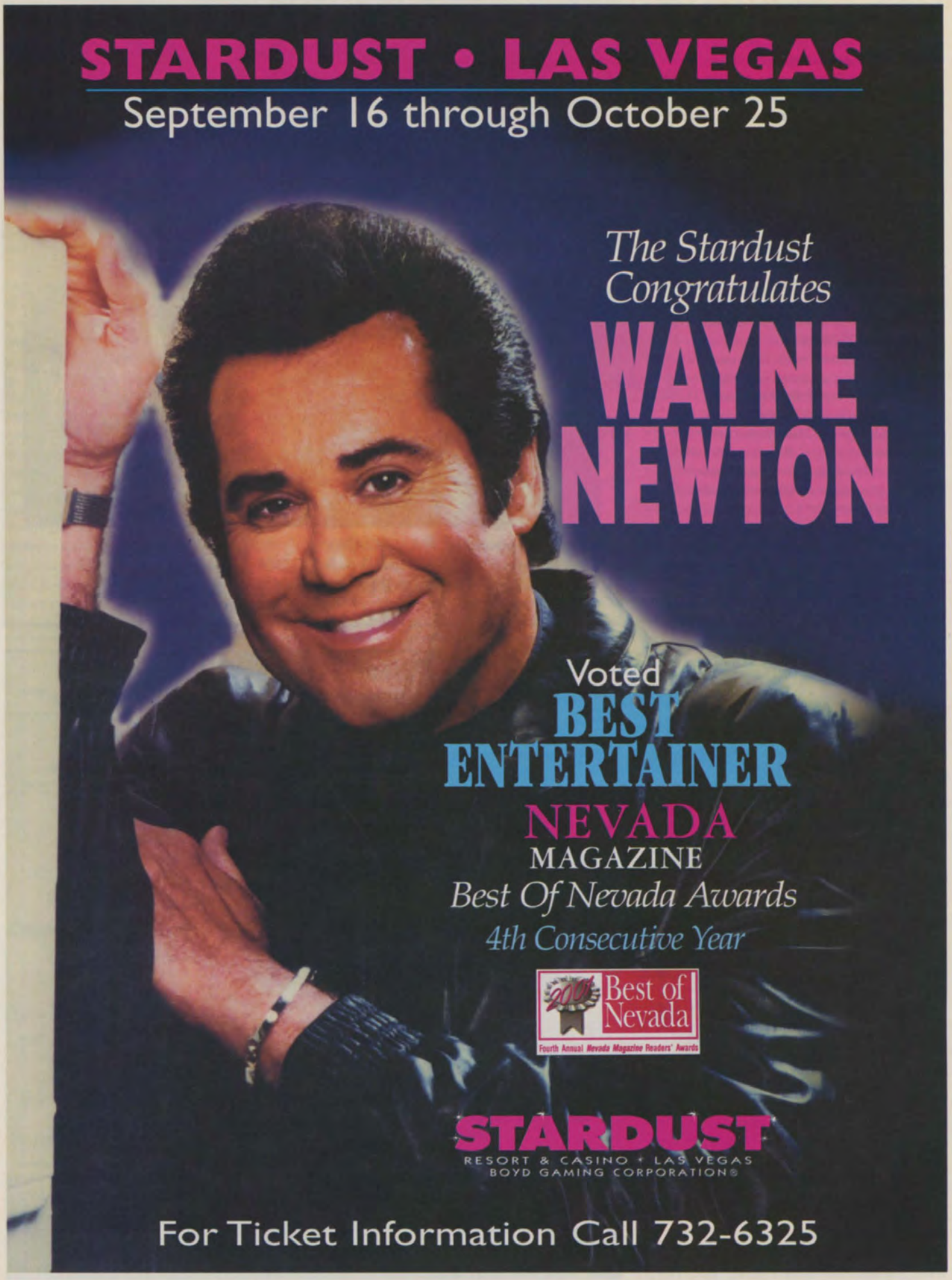
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Nevada Showguide

Where the stars and shows are playing in September and October.

Nevada's clubs and hotels offer big-name entertainment and production shows. This fall, Victor Hugo's play, "Les Misérables," headlines at the Aladdin in Las Vegas, "Les Folie's des Paris" continues its run at the Eldorado in Reno, and Don Rickles appears at the Stardust in Las Vegas and Harrah's Lake Tahoe. Here, *Nevada Magazine* presents a guide to featured performers. Showrooms often fill fast, so call ahead for show times and reservations.



Remember the Fab Four

"Yeah! Yeah! Yeah!: A Tribute to the Beatles starring Rain" appears at Harrah's Lake Tahoe through September 17 Rain members include (from left) Steve Landes (John Lennon), Joe Bithorn (George Harrison), Joe Curatolo (Paul McCartney), and Ralph Castelli (Ringo Starr).

Las Vegas Territory

BOULDER CITY

Hacienda • 702-293-5000 or 800-245-6380: Between Boulder City and Hoover Dam.

HENDERSON

Joker's Wild • 702-564-8100: Live entertainment Wed.-Sun.

Hyatt Regency Lake Las Vegas • 702-567-6181: Piano music and hors d'oeuvres, 6-9pm Fri.-Sun.

Reserve • 702-558-7000: Wasimba's Lounge: Bands play Thurs.-Sat. Guitar Bar: Music Wed.-Sat. Local guitar players are invited to jam on Fri.-Sat.

Sunset Station • 702-547-7777: Club Madrid: 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: Charlie Daniels Band and the Kentucky Headhunters, Sept. 29.

JEAN

Gold Strike Hotel • 702-477-5000 or 800-634-1359: Bands play nightly except Tues.

Nevada Landing • 702-387-5000 or 800-628-6682: Bands appear nightly except Wed.

LAS VEGAS

Aladdin • 877-333-WISH: Theater for the Performing Arts: Marco Antonio Solis, Sept. 15, Grammy-winning Latin musician. Broadway Comes to Vegas: "Les Misérables," 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 • 702-391-4634: Jazz, Fri.-Sat.

Arizona Charlie's • 702-258-5200: Naughty Ladies Saloon: Yellowbrick Road, Mon., Jerry Tiffe's Band, 4-7pm Fri.-Sat. Rhythm Nation, Aug. 28-Sept. 2.

Arizona Charlie's East • 702-951-5800: The Lounge: Sonny Charles and Sweet Louie: The Checkmates, Aug. 27-Sept. 9. Chyna, Sept. 11-16. Michael Parish, Sept. 18-23.

Bally's • 702-739-4111 or 800-237-SHOW: Jubilee Theater: "Jubilee!" (dark Fri.). Indigo Lounge: Music nightly except Tues.

Barbary Coast • 702-737-7111: Lounge: Bands play Wed.-Sun. Karaoke, Mon.

Bellagio • 888-987-6667: Cirque du Soleil's "O," indf. (dark Wed.-Thurs. and Oct. 15-16). Musicians play in the Allegro and Petrossian lounges and Baccarat Bar. Fontana Lounge: Jimmy Hopper.

Boardwalk Casino Holiday Inn • 702-730-3194: Lighthouse Showroom: Entertainment TBA.

Boulder Station • 702-432-7777 or 800-683-7777: The Railhead: Loretta Lynn, Sept. 6-8. Hal Ketchum, Sept. 15. Freddie Jackson, Oct. 20. Jerry Vale, Oct. 26-27. Bands play nightly except Sun., Tues., and Wed. Jerry Tiffe 2-4pm Tues. KIXX: Bands play Thurs.-Sat., karaoke Tues.

Bourbon Street • 702-737-7200: Bourbon Street Theatre: Dr. Naughty, adult hypnotist show (dark Sun.). "Aloha Elvis," tribute to the King (dark Sun.).

Caesars Palace • 702-731-7333 or 800-445-4544: Shadow Bar: Dancers and flair bartenders perform 8pm-2am Sun.-Wed. Caesars Magical Empire: Dinner and magic. Entertainment, La Piazza Terrazza lounges and Cleopatra's Barge. Piano music, Galleria Bar and Café Lago.

Casino Royale • 702-737-3500: Cafe Trilussa: Piano music nightly (dark Tues. and Wed.).

Castaways • 702-383-9232 or 800-826-2800: Windjammer Lounge and Outer Bar: Bands play nightly.

Circus Circus • 702-734-0410 or 800-444-CIRCUS: Free circus acts from 11am to midnight.

Excalibur Hotel • 702-597-7600: King Arthur's Arena: "Tournament of Kings," music-dinner show. Catch a Rising Star: Comedians perform nightly at 7:30 and 10pm. Court Jesters Stage: Strolling entertainers, 10am-10pm. Minstrels Lounge: Live bands and dancing. Music in the Regales and Camelot restaurants.

Fitzgeralds Holiday Inn • 702-388-2400 or 800-274-LUCK (U.S. outside Nevada): Second Floor Events Center: Michael Kennedy's "Tribute to Elvis," Thurs.-Sun.

Flamingo Las Vegas • 702-733-3333 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 • 702-737-1343: Comedy Theater: "Hip-Nosis: Playin' With Your Head," starring Justin Tranz, R-rated comedy show, 9pm Tues.-Sat.

Four Queens • 702-385-4011 or 800-634-6045.

Four Seasons • 702-632-5000: Piano entertainment during Traditional Afternoon High Tea in the Verandah restaurant, 2-5pm daily.

Gold Coast • 702-367-7111 or 888-402-6278 (U.S. outside Nevada): East Lounge: Kinda Dixie Jazz Band, noon-6pm. Bands play nightly except Mon. Gold Coast Showroom: Entertainment TBA. Latin Breeze, Fri.-Sat. indf. Ballroom dancing and free dance lessons with disk jockey Larry Taylor on Tues. Sunday Tea Dance Party with Larry Taylor. Free drama workshop, 9:30-11:30am Sat.

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Golden Gate • 702-385-1906: Live piano featuring David Morris, Danny Sands, and Moses Hazen, noon-midnight. Jazz trio performs on Sun. and Wed. evenings.

Golden Nugget • 702-385-7111: Golden Nugget Showroom: David Brenner, thru Oct. 31 (dark Thurs.). Bands play in the Oasis Lounge nightly except Mon.

Hard Rock Hotel • 702-226-4650: The Joint: Gipsy Kings, Sept. 1. Margaret Cho, Oct. 5. Jaguares, Oct. 20.

Harrah's Las Vegas • 702-369-5111: 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. Carnaval Court: Cook E. Jarr, midnight-2am. Fri.-Sat. Bands play outdoors till 1:30am. Music nightly in the La Playa Lounge.

Imperial Palace • 702-794-3261: Imperial Theatre: "Legends in Concert," celebrity impersonator show (dark Sun.). Poolside: "Hawaiian Hot Luau," Tues. and Thurs. thru Oct. 25, with buffet dinner, house drinks, and Polynesian entertainment. Kabuki Lounge: Bands like Solomon Duo, May and Murray, John Gardner, and Chuy's Company play 4:30pm-1:40am.

Key Largo • 702-733-7777: Sand Bar Lounge: Bands provide live entertainment.

Lady Luck • 702-477-3000 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.

Las Vegas Hilton • 702-732-5755 or 800-222-5361: Hilton Theater: Dwight Yoakam, Aug. 31-Sept. 2. Smokey Robinson, Sept. 7-8. Alabama, Sept. 13-15. Kenny Rogers, Sept. 20-22. Trisha Yearwood/Keith Urban, Sept. 28-29. Tim Conway and Harvey Korman, Oct. 4-6. Kenny Chesney, Oct. 12-13. Johnny Mathis, Oct. 19-20. Sinbad, Nov. 1-3. Wynonna, Nov. 15-17. Commodores, Nov. 29-Dec. 1. Brooks and Dunn, Dec. 10-12. Brad Paisley, Dec. 13-15. The Night Club: Sheena Easton thru Sept. 2. Forward Motion, thru Sept. 9. Groove City, Sept. 12-Oct. 7. Jazz in the Benihana Lounge, 4-8pm Mon.-Sat.

Luxor • 702-262-4400: 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 Thurs.

Main Street Station • 702-387-1896 or 800-713-8933.

Mandalay Bay • 877-632-7400: Mandalay Bay Events Center: Mariachi Festival starring Jose Luis Rodriquez 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.). House of Blues: Dennis Miller, Sept. 1. B.B. 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 • 702-891-7777 or 800-929-1111: EFX Theatre: "EFX Alive," starring Rick Springfield, special-effects production show (dark Sun.-Mon.). Hollywood Theatre: Entertainment TBA. Grand Garden Arena: Madonna,

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Sept. 1-2. Frozen Fury V: Los Angeles Kings v. San Jose Sharks meet in a National Hockey League preseason game, Sept. 22. Andre Agassi Grand Slam for Children, with guests Don Henley, Elton John, Dennis Miller, and Ray Romano, Sept. 29. Janet Jackson, Oct. 5-6. THQ U.S. Open, Oct. 12-14. La Femme Theatre: Topless Crazy Horse production from Paris (dark Tues.). Studio 54: Dancing nightly. Live entertainment in the Dome/Show Bar and Hollywood Brown Derby lounges.

The Mirage • 702-792-7777: Siegfried and Roy Theater: "Siegfried and Roy," magic spectacular (dark Wed.-Thurs. and Sept. 14-27). Paul Anka, Sept. 14-17 and 20-22. Danny Gans Theatre: Impressionist Danny Gans performs nightly (dark Fri. and Mon. and Sept. 23 and Oct. 31). Entertainment in the Lagoon Saloon and Corner and Baccarat bars. Samba Grill: Brasilia 2000, Fri.-Sat.

Monte Carlo • 702-730-7000: Lance Burton Theatre: "Lance Burton, Master Magician" (dark Sun.-Mon.). Top 40, disco, country, and classic-rock dance music nightly in the Monte Carlo Pub and Brewery.

New Frontier • 702-794-8200: Roundtable Showroom: "Thunder From Down Under," Australian male revue (dark Tues.). "The King in Concert," Elvis tribute, 4pm. "All Shook Up" with the Inspirations, 7pm. The Magic of David Darkstone, noon and 2pm (dark Mon.). "Ol' Blue Eyes," a tribute to Frank Sinatra, 5:30pm. Gilley's Saloon: Bands play nightly Tues.-Sat.

New York-New York • 702-740-6969: Broadway Theatre: "Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance" (dark Mon.). Cabaret Theatre: Rita Rudner, 8pm Mon.-Sat. Martha Reeves and the Vandellas, the Buck Ram Platters, and Cornell Gunter's Coasters, 10pm Mon.-Wed. and Fri., 4 and 10pm Sat., and 8pm Sun. (dark Thurs.), indf. Bands play in the Empire Bar. The N.Y.P.D. (New York Piano Duos) dueling pianos play 8pm-2:15am nightly in the Bar at Times Square. The Lounge at New York-New York: Café Karaoke (dark Mon.). Saturday Night Poolside Parties: Music, DJ, dancing, contests, thru Sept. 2.

The Orleans • 800-ORLEANS: Orleans Showroom: Air Supply, Aug. 31-Sept. 2. Jerry Lewis, Sept. 6-9. Righteous Brothers, Sept. 12-23 (dark Sept. 17). Frankie Avalon and Bobby Rydell, Sept. 27-30. Neil Sedaka, Oct. 2-7. Smothers Brothers, Oct. 9-14. Debbie Reynolds, Oct. 17-21. Art Garfunkel, Oct. 26-28. Righteous Brothers, Oct. 31-Nov. 11 (dark Nov. 5). Everly Brothers, Nov. 21-25. Lorrie Morgan, Dec. 7-9. Tanya Tucker, Dec. 12-15. "Mame," Broadway musical, Dec. 21-30 (dark Dec. 24). Bourbon Street Cabaret: Performers like Susan McDonald play nightly (dark Mon.) at the Orleans.

Palace Station • 702-367-2411 or 800-634-3101: Laugh Trax Comedy Club: Comedians perform Thurs.-Sat. 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 Arts: 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.

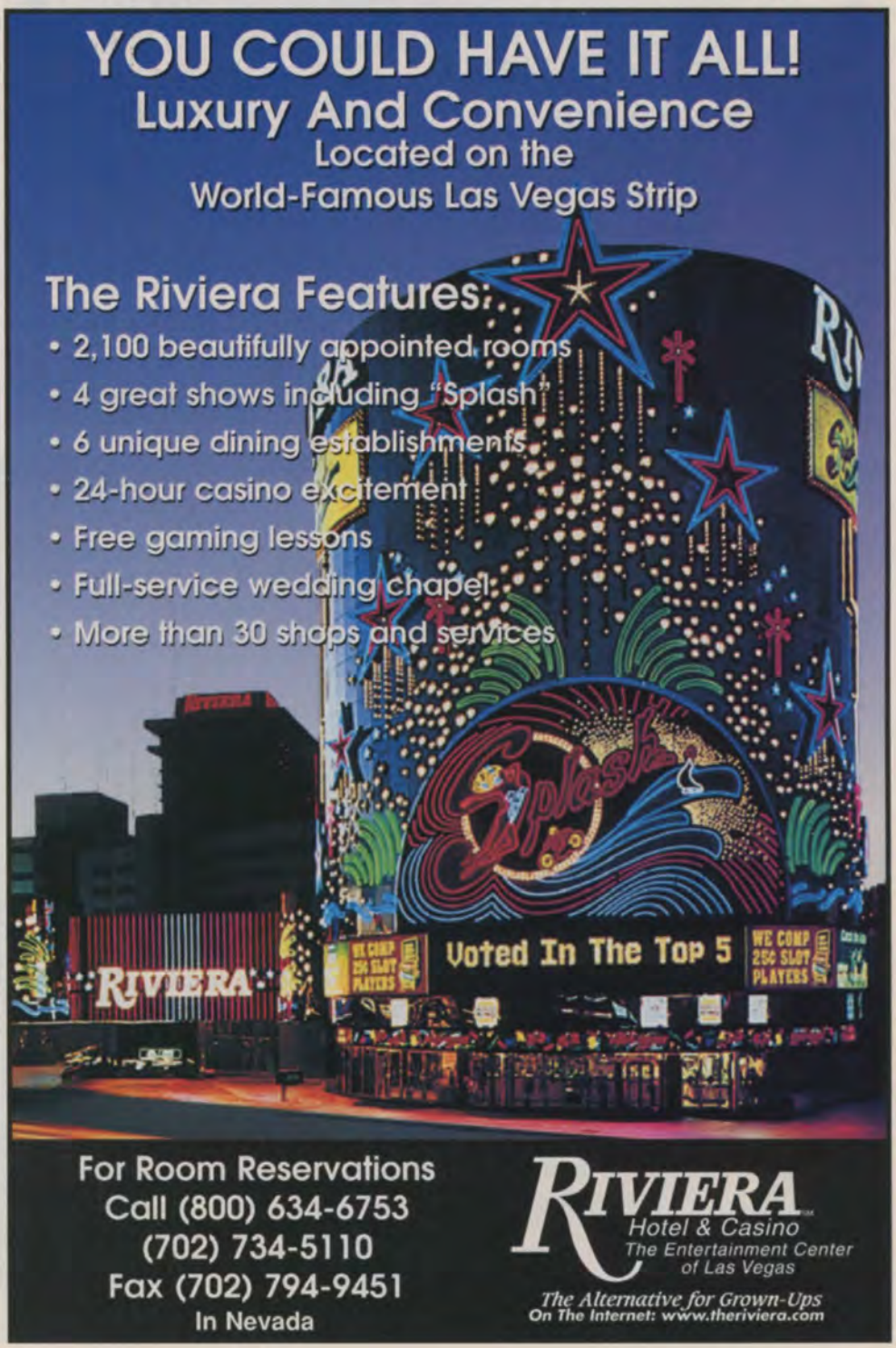
Regent Las Vegas • 877-869-8777: J.C. Wooloughan Irish Pub: Entertainment Wed.-Sun. Music in Addison's Lounge. Summer Pool Parties: Fridays thru Sept. Music, dancing, food.

Rio Suite Hotel • 702-252-7776 or 800-PLAYRIO (U.S. and Canada): Copacabana Entertainment Complex: The Scintas (dark Wed.-Thurs.). Pavilion: Ringo Starr and the All-Starr Band, Sept. 1. De La Guarda Theatre: "De La Guarda," avant-garde off-Broadway interactive experience, 9pm (dark Mon.), 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: "Don Quixote," Oct. 20-21, Nevada Ballet Theater performance. "Nutcracker," Dec. 20-23, Nevada Ballet Theater performance. 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 • 702-794-9301: Splash Theatre: "Splash," production show. Top of the Riv: Jackie "The Joke Man" Martling, Sept. 21-22. Royale Pavilion: Tony Orlando, Sept. 1-2. Blood, Sweat, and Tears, Sept. 28-29. 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 • 702-737-2515: Sahara Theatre: Magician Steve Wyrick, indf. (dark Tues.). Congo Room: "The Rat Pack Is Back" (dark Thurs. and Sept. 3-9). Michael Holly Off-the-Wall Comedy Hour, 1 and 3pm, (dark Sun.-Mon.). Entertainment in the Casbar Lounge.

Sam's Town • 702-454-8048: Sam's Town Live: Lonestar, Sept. 7-8. Creedence Clearwater Revisited, Sept. 15. Jessica Andrews and Billy Gillman, Sept. 22. The Boys From Beaumont (Mark Chestnut and Tracy Byrd), Oct.



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20. Jimmy Sturr Orchestra, Oct. 26-27. Gladys Knight, Nov. 2-3. Ronnie Milsap, Nov. 10. Pam Tillis Christmas Show, Dec. 2. 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 • 702-739-9000 or 800-522-7366: Parisian Cabaret: "Showgirls of Magic," featuring comedian Joe Trammel, revue (dark Mon.). Bonne Chance Lounge: Entertainers perform nightly.

Santa Fe • 702-658-4900: The Lounge: Entertainment TBA. Jerry Tiffe and His Orchestra, 7-11pm Wed.

Silverton • 702-263-7777 or 800-588-7711: Rattlesnake Rickey's Saloon: The Turtles featuring Flo and Eddie, Sept. 2. Chris LeDoux, Dec. 12-14. Bands play nightly. Labor Day Motor Extravaganza Car Show, Sept. 1-3. World's Largest Yard Sale, Oct. 15.

Stardust • 702-732-6111 or 800-824-6033: Wayne Newton Theatre: Little Anthony and the Imperials and Sonny Turner, Aug. 31-Sept. 2. Don Rickles with Lorna Luft, Sept. 6-13. Wayne Newton, Sept. 16-Oct. 25. Bill Engvall, Oct. 26-27. Wayne Newton, Oct. 28-Nov. 11. Don Rickles, Nov. 15-18. B.B. King, Nov. 23-25. Wayne Newton, Nov. 26-Dec. 6. Bill Engvall, Dec. 7-8 and 13-15. Stardust Ballroom: Asian Night (Vietnamese entertainment), Sept. 8. Ray Anthony and His Big Swing Band, Sept. 22. Les Brown's Band of Renown, Oct. 13. Bands play in the Stardust Lounge.

Stratosphere • 702-382-4446 or 800-99-TOWER: Broadway Showroom: "American Superstars," impersonator revue (dark Thurs.). "Viva Las Vegas," musical revue, 2 and 4pm daily except Sun. Entertainment in the Top of the World and Oasis lounges.

Suncoast • 702-636-7111: Showroom: Little River Band, Sept. 7-9. Bobby Collins, Sept. 22-23. The Lettermen, Sept. 28-30. Riders in the Sky, Oct. 12-14. Frankie Avalon/Steve Rossi, Oct. 20-21. Frankie Randall with the Vincent Falcone Orchestra, Oct. 26-28. Eddie Money, Nov. 9-11. Bobby Rydell, Nov. 16-18. Frankie Randall with the Vincent Falcone Orchestra, Nov. 23-25 and Dec. 29-30. Don Ho Christmas Show with Hoku Ho and the Kids Next Door, Dec. 14-16. Bands like Jive and Elements play nightly except Mon.-Tues. Jimmy Fitzgerald's Band plays for dancing on first Wed.

Treasure Island • 702-894-7111: Cirque du Soleil in "Mystère" (dark Mon.-Tues. and Oct. 9-10). Music in Captain Morgan's piano bar. Hideaway Lounge: Music nightly.

Tropicana • 702-739-2411: 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, 12:30pm, and 2pm except Thurs. "T 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 • 702-897-1700 or 800-658-5000: Koo Koo's Lounge: Bands play nightly.

Venetian • 702-733-5000: Showroom at the Venetian: Robert Goulet, thru Sept. 4 (dark Sun.). André-Philippe Gagnon, singing impressionist, indf. (dark Tues. and Thurs.). Melinda: First Lady of Magic, indf. (dark Wed.).

Westward Ho • 702-731-2900: Crown Room: Grubstake Jamboree, dinner and show, Wed. and Sat., thru Nov. 10. Bands play nightly except Sat.-Sun. in the lounge.

Wild West Gambling Hall • 702-740-0000.

LAUGHLIN

Avi • 702-535-5555: Arrowweed Lounge: Bands nightly.

Colorado Belle • 702-298-4000: Bands play in the Boiler Room Microbrewery and Restaurant.

Edgewater • 702-298-2453: Kokopelli's Lounge: Music nightly.

Flamingo Laughlin • 702-298-5028 or 800-435-8469: Club Flamingo: The Comedy Stop, thru Sept. 6, stand-up comedians. "Reflections of the Rat Pack," Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, and Sammy Davis Jr. impersonators (dark Thurs.). Flamingo Ballroom: Gladys Knight, Sept. 22. Pam Tillis Christmas Show, Nov. 30. Outdoor Amphitheater: Clay Walker, Sept. 15. Kenny Rogers, Sept. 29-30. Englebert Humperdinck, Oct. 27.

Golden Nugget Laughlin • 702-298-7111 or 800-237-1739: Tarzan's Nightclub: Bands play. Karaoke on Tuesdays.

Harrah's Laughlin • 702-298-4600 or 800-447-8700: Fiesta Showroom: "Bewitched," thru Sept. 3, revue (dark Thurs.). "Laughternoon in Laughlin," starring juggler Tyler Linkin, 2pm Tues.-Sat. Rio Vista Outdoor Amphitheater: Jeff Foxworthy, Sept. 8. Trisha Yearwood, Sept. 27.

Pioneer • 800-634-3469: Gunfighter demonstration 7pm Fri-Sat.

Ramada Express • 702-298-4200 or 800-243-6846: Pavilion Theatre: Rich Little, Sept. 1-2. "Gypsy," Broadway musical about the stripper Gypsy Rose Lee, Sept. 29-Oct. 4. Lounge: Bands play nightly except Mon. Karaoke Madness, Mon. Swing and Latin dance contests, 5pm daily. Train rides also are available at the hotel.

River Palms • 702-298-2242 or 800-835-7904: Bands or DJ music nightly in the Bermuda Club Lounge. Karaoke with Don West, 4-7pm Wed.

Riverside Resort • 702-298-2535 or 800-227-3849 ext. 616: Don's Celebrity Theatre: "Country Music USA," thru Sept. 15. Pat Benatar, Sept. 1-2. 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.



Michael's Little Sister

Janet Jackson's world tour stops in Las Vegas October 5-6 at the MGM Grand. Jackson will perform her latest songs including "All for You."

MESQUITE

CasaBlanca • 702-346-7529 or 800-459-7529: CasaBlanca Showroom: 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 • 702-346-4646: Wild Cactus Lounge: Sonny D, Mon. and Wed. Fun Fool's Karaoke, Tues. Bands play Thurs.-Sun.

Oasis • 702-346-5232 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 • 702-346-7777 or 800-346-7721: Bands play in the casino lounge nightly except Mon.

NORTH LAS VEGAS

Fiesta Casino • 702-631-7000: Roxy's Theatre: Roy Ayers, Dec. 1. Music Thurs.-Sat. Bands play Wed.-Sat. in the Cabo Lounge. Shooting Stars Karaoke, Fri.-Sat.

Jerry's Nugget • 702-399-3000: Royal Street Lounge: Dance bands play Fri. and Sat.

Texas Station • 702-631-1001: Dallas Events Center: 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: Brooks and Dunn, Sept. 7. Stage Bar: Bands play Thurs.-Sun. Carolee's Comedy Club: Guest comedians, Fri.-Sat.

Primm 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, 775-882-1626 or 800-426-5239 (continental U.S. including Nevada): Oldies But



Goodies Street Dance, Sept. 22, '50s and '60s music, and food specials. Nugget Show Bar: Killer Tomatoes, Aug. 28-Sept. 2. David Proud, Sept. 4-9. The Motifs, Sept. 11-16. Whitewing, Sept. 18-23. The Rockers, Sept. 25-30. Joey Carmon, Oct. 2-7. The Motifs, Oct. 9-14. Band on the Run, Oct. 16-21. Killer Tomatoes, Oct. 23-28. Stevie and the Stingrays, Oct. 30-Nov. 4.

Carson Station • Carson City, 775-883-0900: Bands play nightly except Mon.

Carson Valley Inn • Minden, 775-782-9711 or 800-321-6983: Shannon Ballroom: Comedy Night Live featuring Michael Mancini, Bob Allen, and Kat Simmons, Sept. 13. Bands like American Made, Louie Fontaine, and Speedy Garfin play in the Cabaret Lounge nightly except Mon.

Piñon Plaza • Carson City, 775-885-9000: Sports Book Lounge: Bands play Wed.-Sun.

Sharkey's Nugget • Gardnerville, 775-782-3133: Live music and dancing, Fri.-Sat. Also, extensive displays of boxing, circus, and rodeo memorabilia.

Topaz Lodge • Topaz Lake, 775-266-3339: Bands Fri.-Sat.

RENO/SPARKS

Atlantis • 775-825-4700 or 800-723-6500: Grand Ballroom: Danny Marona, Aug. 31-Sept. 2. Fall Concert Weekend, Oct. 5-6, performers TBA. Bands play nightly in the Center Stage Cabaret.

Boomtown • 775-345-6000: Boomtown Cabaret: Lelands, Aug. 28-Sept. 2. Gary and Sandy, Sept. 18-23 and 25-30. Midnight Riders, Oct. 2-7.

Club Cal Neva-Virginian • 775-323-1046 or 877-777-7303. Bands play on Fri. and Sat.

Circus Circus • 775-329-0711: Free daily circus acts, 11am-10:30pm.

Eldorado • 775-786-5700, 800-648-5966 (U.S. outside Nevada) or 800-648-3024 (Canada). Eldorado Showroom: "Les Folie's des Paris," musical production (dark Mon.) thru Dec. Brew Brothers: Bands like Lazy Eights and Mud Puppies play nightly at the microbrewery. Piano music in Bistro Roxy. BuBinga Lounge: Dance to DJs and bands like Steel Breeze and Night Crew. Italian Festival, Oct. 6-7, features grape stomping and entertainment outside the hotel.



Just Plain 'Misérables'

The musical, "Les Misérables," taken from Victor Hugo's classic novel, comes to Las Vegas September 19-23 at the Aladdin Theater for the Performing Arts on the Strip.

Eddie's Fabulous '50s • 775-329-1950: Lounge entertainment. DJ music at Reno Live at Eddie's.

Fitzgeralds • 775-785-3300 or 800-648-5022 (U.S. outside Nevada): Bands perform nightly.

Flamingo Reno • 775-785-7080: Flamingo Showroom: "Jubilation," adult dance production (dark Tues.). Bottoms Up Lounge: N' Effect plays except Mon.-Tues. Top of the Flamingo: Craig Evans, Christine and John, and Ron Perry play in the restaurant (dark Tues.).

Harrah's Reno • 775-788-2900 or 800-HARRAHS: Sammy's Showroom: "Whisper," adult revue, 10pm Sun.-Tues, 7:30 and 10pm Wed., 10pm and midnight Fri., midnight Sat. (dark Thurs.) thru Oct. Gordie Brown, one-man theatrical production, 7:30pm plus 9:30pm Sat. (dark Wed.-Thurs.) thru Dec. The Plaza at Harrah's Reno: Ray Charles, Sept. 2, gated concert. Louie Fontaine and the Rockets, Sept. 3. Craft show, Sept. 7-9. Louie Fontaine and the Rockets, Sept. 14. Street Vibrations, Sept. 19-23, special event with activities all day. Louie Fontaine and the Rockets, Sept. 23. World Chili Cook-Off, Sept. 28-30. Andy Lo Russo, the Singing Chef/Those Darn Accordions, Oct. 6-7.

John Ascuaga's Nugget • Sparks, 775-356-3304 or 800-648-1177: Celebrity Showroom: The Lettermen, Sept. 14-15. Eric Burdon and the New Animals, Sept. 20-22. Marty Stuart, Sept. 28-29. Gordon Lightfoot, Oct. 5-6. John Mayall, Oct. 12-13. Rose Ballroom: Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme, Oct. 26-27. Bands play nightly in the Casino Cabaret and Trader Dick's. Flamenco guitarist Thurs. and jazz Fri.-Sat. in Restaurante Orozko.

Peppermill • 775-826-2121 or 800-648-6992: Tahoe Grand Showroom: Freddy Fender, Sept. 7. Air Supply, Sept. 15. Saffire, the Uppity Blues Women, Oct. 27. Bands play in the Cabaret Lounge.

Rail City Casino • Sparks, 775-359-9440: Entertainers play on weekends in Rail City's Side Track Lounge.

Ramada Inn and Speakeasy Casino • 775-329-7400: Pretty Boy Floyd's Bar features karaoke (Mon.) and live music.

Reno Hilton • 775-789-2285 or 800-648-3568 (U.S. outside Nevada): Hilton Theater: "Carnival of Wonders," magic revue (dark Fri. and thru Sept. 7). Yo Quiero Comedy Jam with Paul Rodriquez, Sept. 14. Daryl Hall and John Oates, Oct. 19. The Garage: Bands play nightly. Hilton Outdoor Amphitheater: An Evening With James Taylor, Sept. 22.

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

Silver Club • Sparks, 775-358-4771 or 800-905-7774 (U.S. outside Nevada).

Silver Legacy • 775-329-4777 or 800-225-BASS (U.S., Canada, and Mexico): Grande Exposition Hall: 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. Neil Sedaka, Oct. 13. Engelbert Humperdinck, Oct. 19-20. Comedians perform at the Catch a Rising Star comedy club (dark Sun.-Mon.). Silver Baron Lounge: Piano music.

Sundowner • 775-786-7050.

Western Village • Sparks, 775-331-1069, 800-648-1170.

STATELINE, LAKE TAHOE

Bill's Lake Tahoe • 775-588-2455.

Caesars Tahoe • 775-588-3515 or 800-648-3353: Circus Maximus: Diane Ford's Cosmopolitan Comedy Tour, Sept. 6-7. Little River Band, Sept. 11-12. Yo Quiero Comedy Jam starring Paul Rodriguez, Sept. 15-16. Trisha Yearwood, Sept. 22-23. Keith Urban, Sept. 26. Daryl Hall and John Oates, Oct. 20-21. 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.), thru Nov. 3. "Yeah! Yeah! Yeah! A Tribute to the Beatles," starring Rain (dark Tues.), thru Sept. 17. Don Rickles, Sept. 21-22. Penn and Teller, Nov. 23-24. "Tap Dogs," Dec. 7-8. Bands like Madison Avenue and Sidro's Armada play in the Casino Center Stage.

Harvey's • 775-588-2411 or 800-553-1022 ext. 2883: Cabaret: "Full Body Rock," musical revue (dark Mon.).

Lake Tahoe Horizon • 775-588-6211 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 • 775-588-7777: Entertainment TBA.

NORTH LAKE TAHOE

Cal-Neva Resort • Crystal Bay, 775-832-4000 or 800-225-6382: Frank Sinatra Celebrity Showroom: TBA.



The Soul Man

Singer Ray Charles performs September 2 in an outdoor concert at The Plaza at Harrah's Reno. Charles will have showgoers bouncing in time to "Unchain My Heart," "What'd I Say," and "Hit the Road, Jack."

Crystal Bay Club • Crystal Bay, 775-831-0512: DJ Wed.-Sun.

Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe • Incline Village, 775-832-1234: Bands play in the Regency Grand Ballroom. Lone Eagle Restaurant: Music, Wed.-Sat. Casino Stage Bar: Pianist, Wed.-Sun.

Jim Kelley's Tahoe Nugget • Crystal Bay, 775-831-0455.

Tahoe Biltmore • Crystal Bay, 775-831-0660: Bands play nightly.

Cowboy Country

ELKO

Commercial Hotel • 775-738-3181: Bands play nightly.

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

High Desert Inn • 775-738-8425: Comedy show Fri.

Red Lion • 775-738-2111 or 800-545-0044 (Western U.S. outside Nevada): Club Max Showroom: Entertainment TBA.

Stockmen's Hotel • 775-738-5141 or 800-648-2345 (U.S. and Nevada): Bands play in the Stockmen's Showroom.

JACKPOT

Barton's Club 93 • 775-755-2341.

Cactus Petes • 800-821-1103: Gala Showroom: 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: Lonestar, Sept. 9.

Horseshu Casino • 775-755-2321. Horseshu Cabaret: Entertainment TBA.

LOVELOCK

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

WENDOVER

Peppermill • 775-664-2255 or 800-648-9660 (U.S. outside Nevada): Bands play nightly except Mon.

Rainbow Casino • 775-664-4000: Cabaret Lounge: Bands play nightly except Mon.

Red Garter • 775-664-2111 or 800-982-2111 (continental U.S. outside Nevada).

Silver Smith • 775-664-2231 or 800-354-3671: Jim's Bar: Live entertainment nightly except Mon.

State Line • 775-664-2221, 800-354-3671: Stateliner Lounge: Entertainment nightly.

WINNEMUCCA

Winners Hotel • 775-623-2511: Bands play nightly in lounge.

Model T Hotel • 775-623-2588. Bands play Wed.-Sun.

Holiday Inn Express • 775-775-625-3100.

Sundance Casino • 775-623-3336.

Red Lion • 800-633-6435.

Pony Express Territory

ELY

Hotel Nevada • 775-289-6665.

FALLON

Bonanza Inn • 775-423-6031.

Fallon Nugget • 775-423-3111.

Pioneer Territory

AMARGOSA VALLEY

Longstreet Inn • 775-372-1777: Weekend entertainment.

BEATTY

Stagecoach • 775-553-2419 or 800-4-BIGWIN (U.S. outside Nevada): Bands play Fri.-Sat.

Exchange Club • 775-553-2368: Karaoke on Fri.

HAWTHORNE

El Capitan • 775-945-3322: Bands like Memphis Rising, George Pickard, and Naked City play in the casino lounge.

Joe's Tavern • 775-945-2302.

PAHRUMP

Mountain View Casino and Bowl • 775-727-7777: Bowling alley at the Pahrump casino.

Saddle West Hotel, Casino, and RV Park • 775-727-1111. Old West Showroom: Sam's Comedy Club, stand-up comedians, Thurs. Circo Italiano Circus, Nov. 9-11. Dance to DJ on Fri. in Club West.

TONOPAH

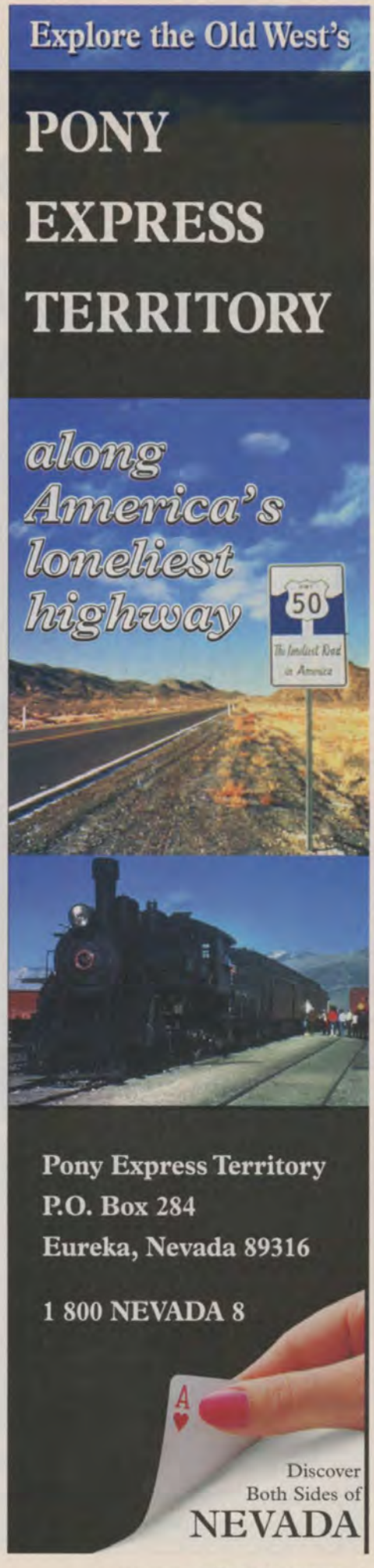
Banc Club • 775-482-5409: Bands play Thurs.-Sat.

Station House • 775-482-9777: Shotgun Willie's Saloon: Bands play nightly except Mon.

YERINGTON

Casino West • 775-463-2481: Weekend music.

Dini's Lucky Club • 775-463-2868: Weekend music.



Gordie's World

Harrah's Reno headliner Gordie Brown hopes to make an even bigger impression.

By Joyce Hollister



At Harrah's Reno, funnyman Gordie Brown teases audience members during his show and offers outrageous ad-libs along with a mix of music.

A headliner in his own music-and-comedy show at Harrah's Reno, impressionist Gordie Brown says his background as a political cartoonist helps him develop his stage routines. "It's the same kind of vision as when you're doing a caricature of somebody," he says. "You see certain things that stand out. It's the same when I study a certain star's mannerisms or quirks. I have an option just like a cartoonist. I exaggerate them."

During his Reno show, which opened in May, Brown reproduces the mannerisms of dozens of stars. He sings and jokes his way through impressions of entertainers like Frank Sinatra and Michael Jackson, Roy Orbison and Tom Jones, even Smash Mouth and Barney, backed by a band that switches from swing to punk.

Brown has made people laugh since he did impressions of Elvis in high school. In the early 1980s, the Canadian-born Brown was a cartoonist at the *Ottawa Herald*. His coworkers encouraged him to enter a media lip-synching contest, and he won first place.

"I did Elvis in a contest once in high school, so I just learned another character," he says. "I did Michael Jackson. I said, 'If I do well with Michael, I may as well learn more characters. That's how I started. They really came easily to me."

After spending two years performing in Ottawa, Brown decided to go for the big time. "I got in my car one day and drove to Las Vegas," he says. "As I drove down the Strip, my eyes were as big as softballs, I was so excited." Las Vegas beckoned, he says, because "it's the entertainment capital of the world. I started to perform there, and then Paul Anka saw me and took me on the road with him. Barry Manilow and Randy Travis wanted me, and Louie Anderson." Brown opened for Anka and Rich Little. He also has performed with Jay Leno, Kenny Rogers, the Righteous Brothers, and Jerry Seinfeld. He's been on *Hollywood Squares*, starred in the PAX TV series *Twice in a Lifetime*, and was a featured performer in "Spellbound," which played in Reno and Las Vegas in the early '90s.

"I want to do more TV and I want to do movies. I want the world to know who I am."

All was not work, however. In Reno, Brown discovered the joys of fishing. "For three months I fished every day from five in the morning until six at night. Then I'd go to work. I went to a fishing store and spent $500. I bought waders and everything a fisherman needs. I was way overdressed for the Truckee River."

Brown, who is divorced, has lived in Las Vegas since 1988. During his run at Harrah's Reno, he visits his "three incredible kids" whenever he can. When he's not flying to Las Vegas to see his children, he likes to hike the Tahoe Rim Trail and go fishing. "I really have fun here," he says.

Brown wants to be more than an entertainer. "My goal," he says, "is not to just have a room like Sammy's Showroom and a band behind me, though all that is just incredible stuff. I really feel inside me that I'm not there yet. I want to keep pushing. I want to do more TV and I want to do movies. I want to be a big star. I want the world to know who I am."

Brown says he develops a character by watching tapes over and over until he's absorbed them into his subconscious. "This is the weirdest thing," he says. "When I am Elvis, I feel like Elvis. When something comes out of my mouth, it's coming from his persona. It's really him. It's still Gordie Brown, but it's him. I like to think that if Elvis had a sense of humor, he'd kind of like what I'm doing."

As Elvis, Brown engages the audience in conversation and introduces his band members in that familiar throaty Southern accent.

He writes his own parodies of song lyrics and tries to feature music for every age group in the audience. A few props help set the mood: The fake curly hair on Brown's chest when he's Engelbert Humperdinck becomes the hair on his head when he's Michael Jackson.

Every show is different, and Brown adds and subtracts bits almost nightly in an effort to make it better. He does a double impression of Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis Jr., for whom the Harrah's Reno showroom was named. With the flip of a fedora, he switches from Sinatra to Davis and back. Brown says this routine, an on-stage creation, has become one of the show's high points.

> "I like to think that if Elvis had a sense of humor, he'd kind of like what I'm doing."

True to his career goal, Brown hopes to create a role for a television sitcom and sell it to network producers. "I want to not only be on stage but also on TV and in film," he says. "I want to do it all. That's what Frank [Sinatra] did. It's all beautiful art, and I want to be a part of it."

Show Notes

Gordie Brown performs through December in Sammy's Showroom at Harrah's Reno. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Friday, and 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. Saturday. Ticket prices are $29.95 Sunday through Tuesday and $34.95 Friday and Saturday. Call 800-HARRAHS or 775-788-2900 to make reservations.

Joyce Hollister is associate editor of Nevada Magazine *and a former Elvis fan.*

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Attractions, Tours & Museums

Places to go and things to do around the Silver State.

Visitors can explore Nevada's diverse attractions when they visit the Silver State's many museums, resorts, and state and national parks. For details on attractions, tours, and museums, call the information phone numbers provided.

Las Vegas Territory

BOULDER CITY

Black Canyon River Raft Tours • 702-293-3776 for information.

Boulder City Historic District • Walking tours. 1305 Arizona St., 702-293-2034.

Boulder City/Hoover Dam Museum • Displays and books on the dam's construction in 1930s. 1305 Arizona St., 702-294-1988.

Boulder Dam Hotel • 1305 Arizona St., 702-293-3510.

Colorado River Tours • Underground gold mine tour. Nelson, 702-293-4422.

Hoover Dam and Hoover Dam Visitor Center • Tours, theaters, exhibit hall, High Scaler Monument. U.S. 93, 702-597-5970.

Lake Mead Cruises/Desert Princess • Excursions on Lake Mead. 702-293-6180.

Lake Mead National Recreation Area and Alan Bible Visitor Center • Visitor center is on U.S. 93 between Boulder City and Hoover Dam. 702-293-8990.

Skydive Las Vegas.com • Tandem jumps. 702-293-1860.

St. Jude's Ranch for Children • Chapel tours. 100 St. Jude's St., 702-294-7100.

HENDERSON

City of Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve • Self-guided or guided tours for more than 10 people of the 80-acre preserve. 2400 Moser St. off Sunset, 702-565-4264 and 702-566-2940.

Clark County Museum • 1830 S. Boulder Hwy., 702-455-7955.

Ethel M Chocolate Factory and Cactus Garden • Tours. 2 Cactus Garden Dr., 702-458-8864.

Mountasia Family Fun Center • 2050 Olympic, 702-898-7777.

Ron Lee's World of Clowns • Tours. 330 Carousel Pkwy., 702-434-1700.

LAS VEGAS

Adventuredome • Covered park with rides and attractions. Next to Circus Circus, 800-444-CIRCUS.

A.J. Hackett Bungy • 810 Circus Circus Dr., 702-385-4321.

Bellagio • Fountain shows, art gallery. 702-693-7111.

CART Driving 101 • Indy-cars driving experience. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 702-651-6300.

Cinema Ride • Motion simulator rides. Forum Shops at Caesars, 702-369-4008.

Cowboy Trail Rides • Horseback riding. 702-387-2457.

Crystal Palace In-Line Skating and Hockey Complex • 9295 W. Flamingo, 702-253-9832.

Desert Demonstration Gardens • 3701 W. Alta, 702-258-3205.

Elvis-A-Rama Museum • 3401 Industrial, 702-309-7200.

Excalibur • Dragon battle in front moat, motion simulators. 702-597-7777.

Flamingo Las Vegas • Wildlife sanctuary. 702-733-3111.

Floyd Lamb State Park • Picnicking and fishing. 9200 Tule Springs Rd., 702-486-5413.

Flyaway Indoor Skydiving • 200 Convention Center Dr., 702-731-4768.



Fawning Over Wildlife

Heather Bacher holds Dewdrop, a new addition to the Sierra Safari Zoo north of Reno. The baby Muntjac deer from South Asia will stand about 20 inches at the shoulder when fully grown. Muntjac deer bark, but Dewdrop seldom raises her voice because she is so tame.

Forum Shops at Caesars • Hourly shows at Festival and Atlantis fountains. 702-893-4800.

Fremont Street Experience • Light show on the hour from dark to midnight. Downtown Las Vegas, 702-678-5600.

Gameworks • Climbing wall and arcade. Showcase Mall, 702-597-3122.

Guggenheim Museums • Guggenheim-Heritage features works of the masters. Guggenheim Las Vegas has the Art of the Motorcycle. Museums open Sept. 16. Venetian, 702-414-4500.

Guinness World of Records Museum • 2780 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 702-792-3766.

Hard Rock Hotel • Music memorabilia. 702-693-5000.

Harley-Davidson Cafe • Motorcycle memorabilia, Harleys, and other items on display. Las Vegas Strip, 702-740-4555.

Holy Cow! Casino • Brewery tours. 702-732-2697.

Howard W. Cannon Aviation Museum • McCarran International Airport, 702-455-7968.

Imperial Palace Auto Collection • Classic and antique vehicles. 702-794-3174.

Laser Quest • 7361 W. Lake Mead, 702-243-8881.

Las Vegas Art Museum • 9600 W. Sahara Ave., 702-360-8000.

Las Vegas Club • Sports memorabilia. Downtown, 702-385-1664.

Las Vegas Mini Gran Prix • Go-kart track, roller coaster, super slide. 702-259-7000.

Las Vegas Motor Speedway • Guided tours. 702-644-4444.

Las Vegas Natural History Museum • From dinosaurs to desert creatures. 900 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 702-384-DINO.

Liberace Museum • Pianos and memorabilia. 1775 E. Tropicana, 702-798-5595.

Lied Discovery Children's Museum • Science and other learning exhibits. 833 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 702-382-KIDS.

Luxor • Motion rides, IMAX Theatre, and King Tut's Tomb and Museum. 702-262-4000.

M&M's World • Museum and gift shop. Showcase Mall, 702-736-7611.

Madame Tussaud's Celebrity Encounter • Wax Museum. Venetian, 702-367-1847.

Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History • 4505 Maryland Pkwy., UNLV, 702-895-3381.

MGM Grand • Lion habitat open daily. 702-891-7979.

Mirage • Volcano and Siegfried and Roy Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat. 702-791-7111.

Mount Charleston • Recreation information. 702-222-1597.

NASCAR Cafe • Race cars displayed. Sahara Hotel, 702-734-7223.

Nevada State Museum and Historical Society • Lorenzi Park, 700 Twin Lakes Dr., 702-486-5205.

New York-New York • Roller coaster. 702-740-6969.

Nevada Zoological-Botanical Park • Home of 150 species, from apes to peacocks. 1775 N. Rancho Dr., 702-648-5955.

Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort Historic State Park • Site of

1855 settlement. 908 Las Vegas Blvd. N., at Washington Ave., 702-486-3511.

Paris • Rides to the observation deck of the hotel's Eiffel Tower. 702-946-7000.

Planet Hollywood Las Vegas • Movie memorabilia. 702-791-7827.

Race for Atlantis • IMAX 3D motion simulator. Forum Shops at Caesars, 702-893-4800.

Rainforest Cafe • Bird habitat and animated creatures. MGM Grand, 702-891-8580.

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area • 702-363-1921.

Richard Petty Driving Experience • Drive NASCAR-style cars. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 702-643-4343.

Rio Suite Hotel • Free carnival-themed sky parade. 702-252-7777.

Sahara Hotel • Speed: The Ride roller coaster, virtual-reality car racing. 702-737-2735.

Sam's Town Sunset Stampede • Water and laser show. 702-456-7777.

Santa Fe Station • Ice arena. 4949 N. Rancho Dr., 702-658-4900.

Scandia Family Fun Center • 702-364-0070.

Shark Reef at Mandalay Bay • Exhibit of sharks, sea predators, and aquatic creatures. Visitors can ask questions of divers. 702-632-7777.

Shelby American • Shelby Cobra auto museum and factory tour. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 702-643-3000.

Spring Mountain Ranch State Park • Red Rock Canyon, 702-875-4141.

Star Trek: The Experience • Las Vegas Hilton, 702-697-8700.

Stratosphere • Roller coaster, Big Shot ride, and Strat-O-Fair midway. 702-380-7777.

Treasure Island • Sea battle every 90 minutes from 4 to 11:30pm. 702-894-7111.

Tropicana • Birds and gambling museum. 702-739-2222.

Venetian Hotel • Gondola rides.702-733-5000.

Walker African-American Museum and Research Center • Exhibits and records, by appointment only. 702-647-2242.

Wetlands Park • Nature center and walking trails. 7050 E. Tropicana Rd., 702-455-7522.

Wet 'n Wild • Water theme park closes for the season Sept. 30. Open weekends in Sept. 702-765-9700.

LAUGHLIN

Big Bend of the Colorado State Recreation Area • Nature and water sports. Four miles south of Laughlin, 702-298-1859.

Colorado Belle • Cyber Roller Coaster and Boiler Room Microbrewery. 702-298-4000.

Colorado River Museum • Arizona Hwy. 95, 520-754-3399.

Davis Dam • Self-guided exterior tours. 520-754-3623.

Del Rio River Tours • 520-754-4391.

Grapevine Canyon • Seven miles west of Laughlin. Inquire about road conditions, 702-298-2214.

Laughlin River Tours • Colorado River, 702-298-1047.

Ramada Express • American Heroes Museum. 702-298-4200.

Riverside Resort • Classic cars, river tour boat, and bowling center. 702-298-2535.

MESQUITE

Desert Valley Museum • 702-346-5705.

Oasis • Gun club, hayrides. 702-346-5232.

NORTH LAS VEGAS

The Planetarium • Community College of Southern Nevada, 702-651-4759.

U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds • Tour of demonstration squadron's facility, 2pm Tues. and Thurs. Nellis Air Force Base, 702-652-7200.

OVERTON

Lost City Museum of Archaeology • Ancient Pueblo culture in the Moapa Valley. 702-397-2193.

Valley of Fire State Park • 702-397-2088.

PRIMM

Primadonna Resorts • Roller coaster, water flume, cyber coaster and Turbo Drop rides, cars belonging to Bonnie and Clyde and Dutch Schultz, and Clyde's bullet-riddled shirt. 702-382-1111.

SEARCHLIGHT

Paddle River Art.com • Art gallery. 702-297-1540.

Searchlight Museum • Area history. 702-455-7955.







Reno-Tahoe Territory

CARSON CITY

Brewery Arts Center • 449 W. King St., 775-883-1976.
Carson and Mills Park Railroad • Mills Park, 775-887-2523.
Children's Museum of Northern Nevada • Educational exhibits. 813 N. Carson St., 775-884-2226.
Kit Carson Trail • Walking tour. 775-687-7410 or 800-NEVADA1.
Nevada State Capitol • 775-687-5030.
Nevada State Library and Archives • State Constitution exhibit. 100 Stewart St., 775-684-3310.
Nevada State Museum • 600 N. Carson St., 775-687-4810.
Nevada State Railroad Museum • S. Carson St. at Fairview Dr., 775-687-6953.
Nevada Supreme Court • Tours. 775-684-1617.
Roberts' House Museum • 1207 N. Carson St., 775-882-2174.
Stewart Indian Museum and Cultural Center • 5366 Snyder, closed for remodeling.
Warren Engine Co. No. 1 Museum • 777 S. Stewart St., 775-887-2210.

DAYTON

Dayton State Park • 775-687-5678.
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, 775-782-2555.
Sharkey's Nugget • Boxing, rodeo memorabilia. 775-782-3133.

GENOA

Genoa Courthouse Museum • 775-782-4325.
Mormon Station State Historic Park • 775-782-2590.
David Walley's Hot Springs • 775-782-8155.

LAKE TAHOE

Hard Rock Cafe • Harveys, Stateline, 775-588-2411.
Heavenly Gondola • Stateline, 775-586-7000.
Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park • Sand Harbor, 2005 Hwy. 28, Incline Village, 775-831-0494.
M.S. Dixie II Paddlewheeler • Zephyr Cove, 775-588-3508.
Ponderosa Ranch • Seasonal hours. 775-831-0691.
Tahoe Gal Paddlewheeler • Tahoe City, 530-583-0141.
Tahoe Rim Trail • 150-mile system. 775-588-0686.
Tallac Historic Site • Tours daily through Sept. South Lake Tahoe, 530-541-5227.
U.S. Forest Service Visitors Center • Stream-profile chamber. 530-573-2600.
Vikingsholm • Tours. 530-525-7232.
Zephyr Cove Resort • Cruises, boat rentals. 775-588-6644.

RENO

Animal Ark • 10 mi. north of Reno on U.S. 395, then 12 mi. on Red Rock Road to reach Animal Ark, 775-969-3111.
Bartley Ranch Regional Park • Hiking, horse arena, and one-room Huffaker Schoolhouse. 775-828-6612.
Fleischmann Planetarium • Stargazing programs. U of N campus, 775-784-4811.
Galena Creek Regional Park • Mount Rose Hwy., 775-785-4319.
Harrah's Reno • Laser show nightly at the outdoor plaza. 775-786-3232.
Liberty Belle Slot Collection • Liberty Belle Saloon, 4250 S. Virginia St., 775-825-1776.
National Automobile Museum (the Harrah Collection) • 10 Lake St. S., 775-333-9300.
National Bowling Stadium • Tournaments and IWERKS theater. 300 N. Center St., 775-334-2695.
Nevada Historical Society Museum • 1650 N. Virginia St., U of N campus, 775-688-1190.
Nevada Museum of Art, E.L. Wiegand Gallery • 160 W. Liberty St. Because of construction of new museum, will close Sept. 16-Oct. 24 and then reopen in the Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts. 775-329-3333.
Kiddie Playland • Rides, picnicking. Idlewild Park, 775-329-6008.
Raymond I. Smith Truckee River Walk • 775-334-2077.
Reno Hilton • Water golf, Ultimate Rush thrill ride, putting course, go-kart center. 775-789-2000.
Reno Tahoe Gaming Academy • Classes. 1313 S. Virginia St., 775-329-5665.
Riverside Artist Lofts • Arts and cultural center. 775-329-2787.
Sierra Arts Center Gallery • Gallery and offices. 200 Flint St., 775-329-2787.
Sierra Safari Zoo • 10 mi. north of Reno at Red Rock Rd., 775-677-1101.
Silver Legacy • Giant mining machine and laser shows every hour. 800-MUSTSEE.
Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden • Rancho San Rafael Park, 775-785-4153.
Wilbur D. May Great Basin Adventure • Rancho San Rafael Park, 775-785-4064.
Wilbur D. May Museum • Rancho San Rafael Park, 775-785-5961.

PYRAMID LAKE

Numana Hatchery Visitors Center • 775-574-0290.

SPARKS

John Ascuaga's Nugget • Ranchers' brands exhibit. 775-356-3300.
Sparks Heritage Foundation and Museum • Local history, Southern Pacific train cars, 1864 Glendale School. Victorian Square, 775-355-1144.
Sparks Marina Park • Fishing, walking paths.775-353-2376.
Victorian Square Fountain • Water shows. 775-353-2284.
Wild Island • Water park open in summer, miniature golf and raceway open year-round. Off I-80, 775-359-2927.

VERDI

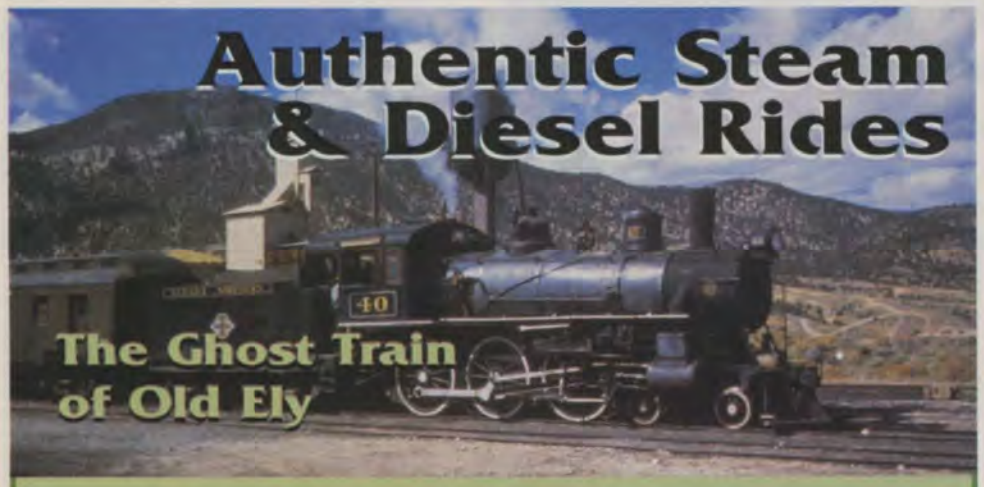
Boomtown Family Fun Center • Motion-theater rides, Ferris wheel, and miniature golf. 775-345-8668.

VIRGINIA CITY

Assay Office Museum • 775-847-0777.
The Castle • 775-847-0275.
Chollar Mine • Tours of workings. 775-847-0155.
Fourth Ward School Museum • 775-847-0975.
Julia C. Bulette Red Light Museum • 775-847-9394.
Mackay Mansion Museum • 775-847-0173.
Nevada Gambling Museum • 775-847-9022.
Piper's Opera House • 775-847-0433.
Ponderosa Mine • Tours. 775-847-0757.
Virginia and Truckee Railroad • 775-847-0380.
Virginia City Radio Museum • 775-847-9047.
Virginia City Tours • 775-786-0866.
The Way It Was Museum • 775-847-0766.

WASHOE VALLEY

Bowers Mansion Park • Historic mansion of Comstock millionaires. 775-849-1825.
Davis Creek Park • 775-849-0684.
Washoe Lake State Park • Birdwatching, windsurfing, fishing. East Lake Blvd., 775-687-4319.



Savor the Real West and step back in time as you explore the "Best Preserved Shortline" in North America. Experience the sights, sounds, and smells of a real old-time steam railroad.

Our 100% complete and authentic museum features depot, roundhouse, machine and blacksmith shops and a historic roster of diesel, electric, and steam locomotives, passenger cars, freight cars and antique equipment. Open all year. Excursions offered WEEKENDS, May through September. Ask about guided tours, locomotive rentals, bus tour rates, and special charter and dinner trains.

Nevada Northern Railway Museum
P.O. Box 150040, East Ely, Nevada 89315
For reservations and information:
(775) 289-2085 • www.nevadanorthernrailway.net

Cowboy Country

ELKO

Northeastern Nevada Museum • 1515 Idaho St., 775-738-3418.
Ruby Mountains and Jarbidge Wilderness Area • 775-752-3357.
Sherman Station Complex • Restored 1875 ranch, tours, visitor information. 775-738-7135.
Western Folklife Center • 501 Railroad St., 775-738-7508 for information.
Wild Horse State Recreation Area • 65 miles north of Elko, 775-758-6493.

LOVELOCK

Giant Tufa Park • West of Lovelock, 775-273-7213.
Pershing County Marzen House Museum • Lovelock-area history. 775-273-7213.

WENDOVER

Bonneville Salt Flats • 801-977-4300.

WINNEMUCCA

Buckaroo Hall of Fame • 775-623-2225.
Humboldt Museum • Winnemucca-area history. 775-623-2912.
Midas Schoolhouse • Call for tours of the two-room



Maize Puzzle

When the cornstalks begin stirring at Lattin Farms in Fallon, it is time to follow the Nevada Maze, a life-sized puzzle that winds more than a mile through the 12-foot-tall fields. Farm visitors will also find a produce stand and Halloween-themed events through October.

schoolhouse located in Midas, 46 miles by dirt road from the Golconda exit east of Winnemucca, 775-529-0302.

Pony Express Territory

AUSTIN

Hickison Petroglyph Recreation Site • Self-guided tour with signs. 24 miles east of Austin on U.S. 50, 775-635-4000.

ELY/GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK

Cave Lake State Recreation Area • 15 miles south of Ely, 775-728-4467.

East Ely Railroad Depot Museum • Tours. 775-289-1663.

Great Basin National Park • Hiking, camping, ancient bristlecones, and tours of Lehman Caves. Baker, 65 miles east of Ely, 775-234-7331.

McGill Historical Drug Company • Call for tours of an old-fashioned drugstore. McGill, 775-235-7082.

Nevada Northern Railway Museum • Train rides on historic locomotives. 1100 Ave. A, East Ely, 775-289-2085.

Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Site • 16 miles (11 dirt) south of Ely, 775-728-4467.

White Pine Public Museum • Exhibits on history of Ely area. 2000 Aultman St., 775-289-4710.

EUREKA

Eureka Opera House • Open for tours Mon.-Fri. or by appointment. 775-237-6006.

Eureka Sentinel Museum • 775-237-5010.

FALLON

Churchill County Museum and Hidden Cave • Tours. 1050 S. Maine St., 775-423-3677.

Fort Churchill State Historic Park • Eight miles south of Silver Springs, 775-577-2345.

Nevada Maze • Walk through a cornfield puzzle till Oct. 31. Farmer's market. Lattin Farms, 775-867-3750.

Sand Mountain • Giant sand dune. 20 miles east of Fallon, 775-885-6000.

Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge • 15 miles east of Fallon, 775-423-5128.

FERNLEY

Reno-Fernley Raceway • Paint ball games park. Fernley, 775-575-7217.

SILVER SPRINGS

Fort Churchill State Historic Park • Eight miles south of Silver Springs, 775-577-2345.

Pioneer Territory

BEATTY

Beatty Museum • Mining exhibits. 775-553-2424.

Death Valley National Park • Park can be reached via Beatty. 775-553-2200.

Rhyolite • Historic bottle house and the Gold Well Open Air Museum sculpture exhibit. Four miles west of Beatty, 775-553-2424.

GABBS

Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park • Dinosaur fossils and ghost town of Berlin. 20 miles east of Gabbs, 775-964-2440.

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., 775-945-5142.

Walker Lake State Recreation Area • Fishing, camping, and birdwatching. 775-945-5896.

PAHRUMP

Death Valley National Park • Park can be reached via Pahrump. 775-727-5880.

Pahrump Valley Winery • Tours. 3810 Winery Rd., 775-727-6900 or 800-368-WINE.

PIOCHE/CALIENTE

Box Car Museum • Railroad and local history. Caliente, 775-726-3129.

Cathedral Gorge State Park • 10 miles south of Pioche, 775-728-4460.

Elgin Living History Schoolhouse Museum • Open for weekend 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 • Three miles south of Caliente, 775-728-4460.

Lincoln County Historical Museum • Pioche, 775-962-5207.

Million Dollar Courthouse • Pioche, 775-962-5182.

Spring Valley State Park • 775-728-4460.

Stone Cabin Living History Museum • One mile north of Spring Valley State Park near Pioche, seasonal. 775-728-4460.

ROUND MOUNTAIN

Smoky Valley Museum • 1935 schoolhouse and assay equipment. Open second Wednesday of the month and by appointment. 775-377-2243.

TONOPAH

Belmont Courthouse State Historic Site • 50 miles north of Tonopah, 775-867-3001.

Central Nevada Museum • Tonopah-area history. 775-482-9676.

Tonopah Historic Mining Park • 775-482-9274.

YERINGTON

Lyon County Museum • Exhibits and photos on the history of the Yerington area. 775-463-2245.

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www.vivalasvegasweddings.com
www.vivalasvegasvillas.com
www.theelviswedding chapel.com

Photo: Gary Elam

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

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, Mesquite, NV 89027; 702-346-2702, 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.

Urban C of C (formerly Nevada Black C of C): 1048 W. Owens Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89106; www.lvurbanchamber.org; 702-648-6222.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

Carson City C of C: 1900 S. Carson St., Suite 100, Carson City, NV 89701; www.carsoncitychamber.com; 775-882-1565.

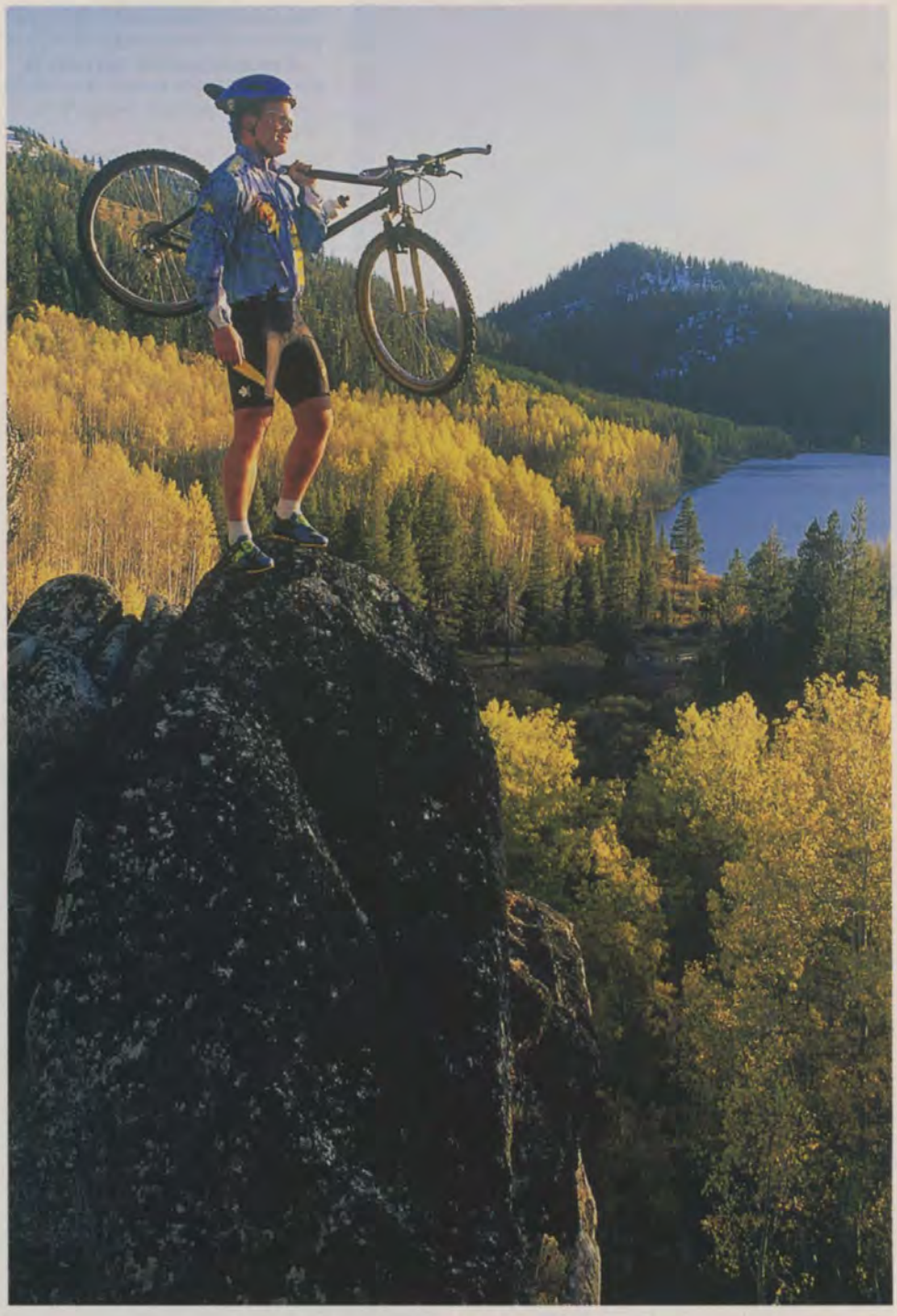
Carson City Convention and Visitors Bureau: 1900 S. Carson St., Suite 200, Carson City, NV 89701; www.carson-city.org; 775-687-7410 or 800-NEVADA-1 in U.S.

Carson Valley C of C and Visitors Authority: 1513 Hwy. 395, 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 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.



Top of the World

Beautiful fall colors attract bicycle riders, hikers, and horseback riders to remote Marlette Lake above the east shore of Lake Tahoe. Fall weekends in the area also offer special events such as the Great Reno Balloon Race and the Virginia City International Camel Races.

Photo: John Clausen

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. for Lake Tahoe information.

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.

North Lake Tahoe C of C: 245 N. Lake Blvd., Box 884, Tahoe City, CA 96145; www.tahoefun.org; 530-581-6900.

North Lake Tahoe Resort Association: 245 North Lake Blvd., Box 5459, Tahoe City, CA 96145; www.tahoefun.org; 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: 131 S. 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.elkonevada.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.

Jarbidge Community Association: Trading Post, 72 Main St., Box 260072, Jarbidge, NV 89826; jarbidge@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.

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.governet.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.

Lincoln County C of C: Box 915, Panaca, NV 89042; www.lincolncountynevada.com; 775-728-4282.

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 St., 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 Brougher Ave., Box 869, Tonopah, NV 89049; www.tonopahnevada.com; 775-482-3859 for Tonopah information.

Tonopah Convention Center: Box 408, 301 Brougher 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.nv.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/nvwildlife/; 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 for USFS information.

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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 at the Imperial Buffet. 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. Coffee shop selections. B, L, D. $-$$.

Stardust/Island Paradise Café—732-6111. Omelets, salads, sandwiches, steak, seafood, open 24 hours. B, L, D. $-$$.

Stardust/Tony Roma's—732-6111. Steaks, chicken, seafood, and barbecued ribs. 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 roughy with black pepper sauce. D. $-$$.

Stardust/Sushi King—732-6111. Chicken karaage, freshwater eel, and sushi selections such as shrimp, octopus, and squid. L, 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 at the Riviera buffet. B, L, D. $.

Stardust/Coco Palms Buffet—732-6111. International cuisines, "action" stations, and healthy selections. 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. $-$$$$.

MEXICAN

Stardust/Tres Lobos—732-6111. Fajitas, enchiladas, tostadas, burritos, and chimichangas. 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. $$.

Stardust/William B's—732-6111. Steaks, chops, chicken, seafood, pasta in fine-dining atmosphere. 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. $-$$.

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Hong Kong-style Chinese cuisine is served at the Golden Fortune restaurant at the Eldorado Hotel and Casino in downtown Reno.

Carson Nugget/Buffet—Carson City, 882-1626. Sunday champagne brunch, Saturday breakfast buffet, Friday seafood buffet. B, L, D. $.

Carson Nugget/Coffee Shop—Carson City, 882-1626. Open 24 hours. B, L, D. $.

Carson Station/Station Grill and Rotisserie—Carson City, 883-8400. Baby back ribs, fish specials. L, D. $$.

Carson Station/Station Restaurant—Carson City, 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—Reno, 826-2121. Mexican, Asian, Italian, hamburgers, and salad bar. B, L, D. $.

Peppermill/Island Buffet—Reno, 826-2121. Chicken, seafood, prime rib, salads. B, L, D. $.

Peppermill/Peppermill Restaurant—Reno, 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, served family-style. L, D. $$.

BREW PUBS

Eldorado/The Brew Brothers—Reno, 786-5700. Gourmet pizzas, ribs, barbecue shrimp, sausages. L, D. $.

CONTINENTAL

Peppermill/White Orchid—Reno, 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. $.



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ITALIAN

Eldorado/La Strada—Reno, 786-5700. Northern Italian cuisine featuring a variety of veal, chicken, and seafood entrees. The restaurant has an award-winning wine list. D. $$.

Peppermill/Romanza Ristorante Italiano—826-2121. Osso Bucco Alla Romanza, Salmone Affumicato con fettuccini nere alla vodka, costolette D'Agnello, ravioli di zucchine dolci. D. $-$$.

MEDITERRANEAN

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Restaurante Orozko—Sparks, 356-3300. Veal medallions saltimbocca, braised lamb shank, paella valenciana. D. $$-$$$.

STEAK & SEAFOOD

Carson Nugget/Oyster Bar—Carson City, 882-1626. Clam chowder, fish and chips, pan roasts. L, D. $.

Carson Nugget/Steak House—Carson City, 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—Reno, 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. Views of Lake Tahoe with contemporary cuisine. L, D. $$-$$$$.

ITALIAN

Caesars Tahoe/Primavera—Stateline, 588-3515. Linguini carbonara, tenderloin pizzaiola. D. $$.

MEXICAN

Harveys Tahoe/El Vaquero—588-2411. 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. Seafood dishes. L, D. $$.

Around the State

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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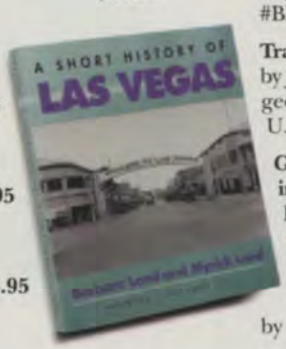
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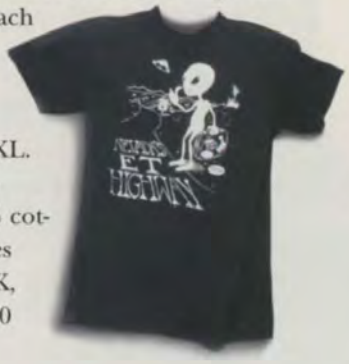
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Windy City Comedy

"Second City" actors tweak (and teach) conventions at the Flamingo Las Vegas. **By Wendy Miller**

The "Second City" comedy troupe, a Chicago staple since taking up residence in the trendy Old Town district in 1959, opened its only West Coast location last March at the Flamingo Las Vegas. The result is a distinctly Windy City kind of comedy.

Having been born and raised in the Chicago area, I am a longtime fan of "Second City's" brand of humor. The concepts of comedy skits and improv are not new, but the folks at "Second City" have elevated them to an art form. Unlike other comedy clubs, "Second City" does not feature stand-up comics targeting the big, the bald, or the loudly dressed. Instead, the actors rely on skits (think *Saturday Night Live*) and improvisation (think *Whose Line Is It, Anyway?*) to poke fun at public figures, issues, politics, religion, sex, and the human race.

The 75-minute show in Bugsy's Celebrity Theater has been finely tuned to appeal to a broad audience. While not overly controversial or offensive, the segments are usually dead-on.

During a recent show, the opening skit by Jennifer Estlin, Sarah Gee, Mike Lukas, Jason Sudeikis, and Marc Warzecha offered a parody of "River Dance," substituting stumblebums for fleet-footed Irish dancers. The group later performed a "ballet" on office chairs, gracefully crossing each other's paths and sailing up, down, and around the stage, coming to a stop just short of soaring into the audience. Another sketch taught a driving student "real world" skills such as how to drive while eating a Value Meal, applying makeup, and talking on the phone.

Actors rely on skits and improvisation to poke fun at the human race.



"Second City" castmates Sarah Gee, Seamus McCarthy, and Jason Sudeikis weave comedic sketches.

Now approaching its 42nd birthday, "Second City" is famous as a comedic training ground. Bill Murray, John Belushi, Dan Aykroyd, Gilda Radner, Robert Klein, Peter Boyle, George Wendt, Mike Nichols, Bonnie Hunt, Ryan Stiles, and Mike Myers are "Second City" graduates.

The Las Vegas cast includes veterans of "Second City's" other locations in Chicago, Toronto, and Detroit. Nine performers rotate through the five-member cast each week. Besides performing at the Flamingo, cast members also teach their craft. Aspiring comedians, convention groups, corporate types, and just plain folks who want to think more creatively sign up for "Second City's" comedy college.

The cast and crew members have settled into life in Las Vegas. Musical director and piano player Mike Watkins was married at a wedding chapel. Late Monday night the cast may congregate at Café Roma, a hangout for improv sessions, while Thursday night often finds them bowling at the Orleans. And every night except Monday they can be seen at the Flamingo, making fun of our foibles and fantasies.

Show Notes

"Second City" appears in Bugsy's Celebrity Theater at the Flamingo Las Vegas. Show times are 8 and 10:30 p.m. daily except Monday. Tickets cost $24.95 plus tax. Drinks are extra. Call 702-733-3333 for reservations.

Wendy Miller was born and raised in Addison, Illinois, where one has to develop a sense of humor to survive the cold winters. She is presently editor of the Paradise Valley Independent *in Scottsdale, Arizona.*

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Dining Out

You can celebrate Oktoberfest all year long at these eateries.

Swiss Watch

The **Swiss Cafe** proves that not everything good in Southern Nevada has been created in, well, a Las Vegas minute. Established in 1972, this Old World restaurant sits a few miles east of the Strip, wedged in a pink stucco strip mall. Look beyond the shoe stores and Wal-Mart, and you will find a year-round slice of Oktoberfest. Inside the softly lit room, tables are covered with pale pink cloths and intricate lace. Grandfather clocks and steins fill nearly every nook and cranny.



Wolfgang and Mary Haubold show skillets filled with schnitzel and sausage at the Swiss Cafe.

The menu is the creation of chef-owner Wolfgang Haubold and his wife, Mary. With its mix of German, Swiss, and Austrian food, it goes far beyond the usual, from the dinner salad topped with savory dill dressing, sweet marinated beans, and homemade garlic croutons, to the German schnitzel—pork loin with delicate wild mushroom sauce ($16.95).

Other entrees include the Bavarian rib chop stuffed with a crabmeat dressing ($18.95) and St. Moritz schnitzel—veal cordon bleu stuffed with imported ham and Swiss cheese ($17.95). Daily specials include fresh seafood such as salmon and scallops. Meals come with bread, vegetables, and a choice of spaetzel or Swiss potatoes. A German sampler platter of stuffed cabbage, smoked pork chop, and sausage will be featured at the Swiss Cafe during Oktoberfest.—*Joan Patterson*

Swiss Cafe, 3175 East Tropicana Avenue, Las Vegas, 702-454-2270. Reservations recommended. Lunch weekdays, dinner daily except Sunday. AE, MC, Visa accepted.

The Heidelberg

Cafe Heidelberg German Deli and Restaurant in Las Vegas also offers German favorites. The Oktoberfest platter with its cabbage roll, bratwurst, schnitzel, German noodles, sauerkraut, and red cabbage is so big it's meant for two or more ($17.95 per person). One unique item is a pork and veal peasant loaf called Leberkaese ($15.95). The bakery sells strudel and Black Forest and German cakes.—*Joan Patterson*

Cafe Heidelberg, 610 East Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas, 702-731-5310. Reservations recommended. Lunch and dinner daily. Major credit cards accepted.

A Bavarian World

If you are in the mood for a surprise feeding find, drive to 595 Valley Road in Reno, pull into a parking spot, and give yourself three guesses as to what this warehouse-looking building holds. Chances are you'll guess appliance parts or a supermarket—its former incarnation—but never a Black Forest fantasyland.

Bavarian World, specializing in German fare such as schnitzels, sauerbraten, and sausage, is about as exciting as a sister's kiss on the outside, and the lobby isn't going to have you e-mailing rhapsodic postcards home, either. But let them lead you into the dining room. The first tip is the recorded music, conjuring visions of Oktoberfest and oompah bands. You are immediately struck by an urge to polka and the feeling you've wandered into a Technicolor musical with a name like "Blossom Time in Bavaria." The food offered by proprietors Klaus and Lura Ginschel is quite delightful. For dinner you might try the jagarschnitzel, a pork loin with mushroom gravy, vegetables, and tasty potato pancakes, or the Munich schnitzel or the fish special. Most entrees range from $9.95 to $13.95. The beer is German, and you can purchase baked goods created on the premises.—*Pat Craig*

Bavarian World, 595 Valley Road, Reno, 775-323-7646. Breakfast and lunch weekdays, dinner daily except Sunday. AE, MC, Visa accepted.

Dayton Swiss

Diners at **Mia's Swiss Restaurant** in Old Town Dayton get to tour a Comstock-era landmark just by walking through the doorway. Inside the Odeon Hall, built in 1869, Mia's has the bar used in filming *The Misfits* and memorabilia of stars Marilyn Monroe and Clark Gable. Swiss-born owners Max and Mia Kuerzi offer Swiss bratwurst, schnitzel Holstein, and a number of European-style pasta, veal, chicken, and fish dishes. Dinners, which cost $9.95 and up, include soup and salad. The dining room is furnished with lace curtains and American antiques. Mia oversees the dining room and likes to chat with guests. Large groups often can persuade her to yodel.—*Wilma LaRocca*

Mia's Swiss Restaurant, 65 Pike Street, Dayton, 12 miles east of Carson City, 775-246-3993. Reservations recommended. Lunch Tuesday through Friday, dinner Tuesday through Saturday, and 2 to 9 p.m. on Sunday. AE, MC, Visa accepted.

Photo: Chris Leedham



Boundary Peak Exposed

A passion for peaks takes this climber to the highest point in Nevada.

By Wade Eakle

I have a weakness—a passion—for high points, especially high points in the West, where it's still possible to experience the joys of exploring the wilderness. My passion naturally led me to a point on the map of Nevada—Boundary Peak, which at 13,140 feet is the highest in the state. Each year the mountain lures hundreds of hikers and climbers eager to hone their skills on a "thirteener."

The peak is located at the northern end of the White Mountains in the Inyo National Forest, about 70 miles west of Tonopah. The mountain probably has answered to many names over the centuries, but since Alexis von Schmidt's 1873 survey of the nearby Nevada-California border, it has been known as Boundary Peak.

As the Silver State's tallest, Boundary was simply too high for me to ignore. In the early 1990s, I had set a goal—to reach the summits of the highest mountains in the 13 Western states. My first was Mount Humphreys (12,633 feet) in northern Arizona. Since then, I've climbed Mount Shasta (14,162 feet) in northern California four times; Mount Rainier (14,410 feet) in Washington; Mount Whitney (14,494 feet) in the eastern Sierra Nevada; and several others, including Cerro Chirripo (12,530 feet) in Costa Rica—my first international high point.

Each year, Boundary Peak lures hundreds of hikers eager to hone their skills on a "thirteener."

Peaks are rated on a difficulty scale (or climbing class rating) of 1 to 4. A Class 1 climb is a hands-in-pocket hike. Class 4 is the most difficult, where you're climbing in considerable exposure and crossing glaciers and snowfields, aided by ropes and other specialized equipment. Boundary Peak's eight- to 10-mile, round-trip hike is rated Class 2, with some rough cross-country travel and boulder-hopping where

Photo: Lori Barekman

you need to use your hands for balance.

As my wife Lori and I made arrangements for the hike, we found that reaching the summit of Boundary Peak doesn't demand highly technical climbing skills, but it does require careful planning, good physical conditioning, and a reasonable amount of mountaineering knowledge. The mountain can be climbed as a day hike, so backpacking and camping gear aren't required. Good footgear, such as heavy leather boots with lug soles, and layered wool or pile clothing are important. We took plenty of water and food for the day. Climatic conditions on the mountain can change rapidly with snow likely any time at the higher elevations, so hikers need to have wind- or water-resistant jackets, wool or pile gloves, and warm hats.

Climatic conditions may change rapidly, with snow at the higher elevations any time of year.

We approached Boundary Peak using the most popular access, Trail Canyon Road off State Route 264. The turnoff is about six miles south of the junction of State Route 264 and U.S. 6. The graded dirt road, heading west and marked "Middle Creek, Trail Canyon," is found between mileposts 19 and 20 on State Route 264. The road ends at the trailhead, about 14 miles from the turnoff. The trailhead placed us at a good starting point at 8,800 feet above sea level. The use of a four-wheel drive or high-profile vehicle is recommended to reach this point.

Ahead of us was a five- to six-hour, 4,500-foot strenuous ascent to the peak. The trail, often faint, took us west through a mountain meadow beside a running creek and willow thickets. Wild rose, lupine, paintbrush, and blue iris bloom in early summer, but in September, we were surrounded by sagebrush. With wild horses in the area, you're also likely to encounter their mountainous dung heaps. We must have stumbled across half a dozen of these fertilizer outposts on the trail.

Heading up the slope to Trail Canyon Saddle, about 2.3 miles away, the trail became even fainter until finally we were bushwhacking through the sagebrush. Its pungent, aromatic smell suffused the landscape as we aimed for the saddle, about 11,000 feet in elevation. At Trail Canyon Saddle, we were well above the timberline. The talus-covered ridge line to the south leads to an intermediate peak—often referred to as Peak 12,201—after a 1.4-mile, 1,000-foot steady and strenuous climb.

At this point, we began the boulder-hopping and cross-country travel portions of the route. This is where hikers are most likely to encounter the first snowfall, as we did, which can severely restrict visibility below and ahead.



Lori Barekman, the author's wife, pauses before their ascent. At left, Eakle clambers toward the peak.

Photo: Wade Eakle

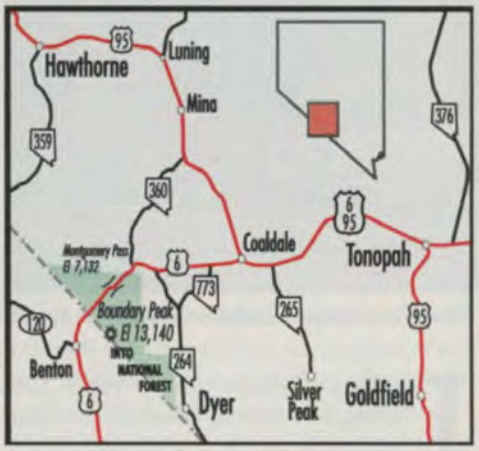
After another 1,000 feet of hiking the ridge line, we were finally on top of the highest point in Nevada. Even though it was cloudy, the view was impressive.

On a clear day, it is surely more dramatic. The glaciated face of Boundary Peak towers more than 6,300 feet above the sagebrush-covered floor of the Queen Valley, less than four miles away. To the southwest is California's slightly higher and more rugged 13,441-foot Montgomery Peak, about one mile away.

Looking to the east, the vast and barren Middle Creek Basin looms in the distance, and to the south one can see the main mass of the White Mountains, including the high plateau of Pellisier Flats and Mount Dubois on the horizon at 13,559 feet. This wide-open view of sagebrush-covered landscapes is what makes hiking Boundary Peak special.

Planning Your Hike

The climbing season is June through mid-October. However, July through September are usually the best months for hiking in the White Mountains. Additional Boundary Peak information and route instructions can be found in *Hiking the Great Basin* by John Hart (Sierra Club Books, San Francisco, California) and *Highpoints of the United States* by Don Holmes (Cordillera Press, Evergreen, Colorado). To obtain maps and more information by mail from the U.S. Forest Service's White Mountain Ranger Station in Bishop, California, call 619-873-2500.



Boundary Peak is located on the boundary of Nevada and California in the White Mountains.

Wade Eakle is an ecologist with the U.S. government and a freelance adventure-travel writer, with a special focus on climbing. He lives in Santa Rosa, California, with his climbing partner and wife, Lori Barekman. He climbed Gannet Peak in Wyoming in July and plans an attempt on Mauna Kea, Hawaii, in December.

Pourin' Norman

After more than a half century at the McGill Club, Norm Linnell remains the Energizer bunny of Nevada bartenders.

By Richard Menzies





When Norm Linnell's Dodge pickup (left) is parked in front of the McGill Club, residents know he's at the bar pouring. Linnell chats with a customer (right).

Like the operator of H.G. Wells' time machine, Norm Linnell remains rooted in one spot while everything around him changes. Where a live band plays on Saturday nights, there once stood a roulette wheel. On the floor where couples dance the night away, there used to be a blackjack table. Fast forward to the year 2001, and the gaming appliances are gathering dust in the basement—artifacts of a bygone age that only Norm remembers because he was there.

"I just work here," insists the 79-year-old bartender and official "host" of the McGill Club in McGill. "I started working here in 1939, when I was going to school. And what I done, I did all the janitor work. Mopped the floors, cleaned up, put the stuff on the shelves. Then I'd go home, seven o'clock in the morning, get cleaned up, and go to school. And that was seven days a week, up until 1942, when I was drafted into the army."

"Then I finally got a day off—on Sundays," Norm says. "And I still get Sundays off."

Following a three-year stint in the India-China-Burma theater, Norman returned to his Eastern Nevada hometown, where he found himself facing a major career decision. Before going off to war, he'd worked at both the McGill Club and the post office. Now he had to choose between the two.

"And I should've went back to the post office," he laughs. "But the guy that was manager here, he was more or less a good friend of mine, and he asked me, he says, 'Norman, you come on back to work for me because you're my right-arm man.'"

That was way back in 1945, and Norm Linnell has been on the job ever since—every day, seven days a week, all during the 1950s, '60s, and '70s. Then came a slump in the price of copper, which led to the closure of the copper smelter that was McGill's chief industry and the McGill

Photos: Richard Menzies

Club's principal supplier of customers.

"And then I finally got a day off—on Sundays," Norm says. "And I still get Sundays off."

Much as he enjoys having Sundays off, Norm misses the days when McGill's main street was a beehive of human activity. The best time, he says, was the two decades between the end of World War II and the beginning of America's involvement in Vietnam. "I mean, we had some pretty good years there. This place was just jam-packed. Movie theater was open, and the meat market across the street there. Now, everything's pretty well closed down."



World War II vet Linnell points to his photo on the club's memorial wall.

According to the sign on the front window, the McGill Club was established in 1907 on the ground floor of historic Cyprus Hall. At one time, the two-story building housed a grocery store and an upstairs dance hall. Then in 1922 it was converted to a pool hall, complete with an ice cream fountain, barber chair, shoe shine parlor, and cigar counter. Ten years later, following the repeal of Prohibition, the ice cream scoops went into cold storage, and soda pop gave way to draft beer.

The antique back bar is perhaps the only piece of furniture older than the bartender. Milled on the East Coast in the 19th century, it was shipped around the Horn to San Francisco, thence by rail car to Caliente, and finally by wagon train to a saloon in East Ely. There it resided from 1900 till 1943, when the saloon was torn down to make room for a motel, whereupon the much-traveled fixture was hauled another 10 miles up the road to McGill.

In spite of having spent the majority of his days in a saloon, Norm Linnell has enjoyed a remarkably stable home life. He and his bride, Vivian, enjoyed 50 years together—until she died five years ago, only four days following the couple's golden wedding anniversary. His son, Robert, runs an electrical shop in Ely, while daughter Maureen is the proprietor of a local auto accessory and cell phone business. A pair of twins died in infancy, and also a set of triplets, who were born and died on November 24th—their father's birthday. "Which is why I never celebrate my birthday and don't look forward to it," Norm says matter-of-factly.

Norm also outlived his previous employer, Stanley Draper, and now works for former Kennecott general manager George Allen, whom he refers to as "the second administration." The way Norm tells it, he was seriously contemplating retirement at the time Allen purchased the club but decided to stick around just long enough to show the new owner how to run things.

"And here I am," sighs Norm, "23 years later, under his administration."

Allen, who has since moved to Salt Lake City, drops in "about once or twice a month" to see how things are going. Other regular visitors include blue-collar workers, retirees, tourists, and the celebrity motorcyclist Evel Knievel. They know the club is open for business whenever they see the bartender's pickup truck out front—a 1982 Dodge with almost 190,000 miles on the odometer, most of it logged between McGill and Ely, plus one 340-mile trip to Wendover and back.

"My truck was *stolen*," Norm declares. "A guy came into the bar one day holding a paper sack with 32 cents in it. He'd just got out of prison, he said, and it was all the money he had." Feeling charitable, Norm bought the stranger a beer and sent him on his way. The next customer who walked in the door asked, "Hey, Norm, where's your truck?"

Regular visitors include blue-collar workers, retirees, tourists, and the celebrity motorcyclist Evel Knievel.

Apprehended in Wendover, the miscreant was sent back to jail, and the runaway Dodge returned to its regular parking spot in front of the McGill Club. The truck looks perfectly at home, as does its rightful owner as he goes about his daily chores behind a well-worn counter, surrounded by familiar things and friendly faces.

How many faces it's hard to say without a flashlight, for even at midday the interior of the McGill Club is black as the inside of Johnny Cash's clothes closet. What little light emanates from beer signs and glowing cigarettes is reflected in the glassy eyes of a stuffed moose, a stuffed elk, and a one-of-a-kind saber-toothed jackrabbit. When Norm looks up at that moldering rabbit, he realizes that even the Energizer bunny of bartenders can't be expected to keep going and going and going indefinitely. Someday, just like Elvis, he'll surely have to leave the building. Or will he?

"Hell, Norm, we'll just mount ya," chirps a voice from the far end of the bar. "Can't be any law against that."

"That's right," chuckles Norm. "You can either put me on the wall or maybe sittin' on this chair here."

Richard Menzies putts around Nevada in a 1973 Volkswagen bus with 215,000 miles on the clock.

Antique Heritage

The shops of historic Genoa recall its past and present. **By Shannon Montana**

Antique hunters can find not only great bargains but also a few ghosts and a lot of Nevada history in Genoa, 15 miles south of Carson City. Established in 1851, Genoa was once the seat of Carson County, Utah Territory. Today the little town has a couple of restaurants, a country store, the state's oldest saloon, and several antique dealers.

At the south end of town you'll find **Antiques Plus**, where owners Martha, Bob, and their daughter Kristen Williams have been dealing in vintage items for more than 20 years, assisted by a resident ghost. "The ghost is usually very malevolent but is protective of the house," says Martha. "A customer once pulled back the upstairs curtains to look at the view, and the ghost slapped him upside the head. He left in a hurry."

The ghost resides in the main house, called the Dake House Antique Emporium, named after its builder and owner, C.W. Dake. Mr. Dake was Nevada's first undertaker, so the grounds were the last stop for many Nevada travelers. The 1860s Gothic-style home offers Bennington and Fiesta ware, a mahogany and marble English vanity circa 1850s, and a spinning wheel. The Williamses have a selection of Eastlake Victorian furniture for sale, including a table used for murder-mystery dinners that seats up to 12 guests.

Next door to the Dake House is the undertaker's original carriage house. Today the outbuilding is filled with antiques. Treasure hunters there will find a selection of "primitives," handmade items, and furniture reflecting the builder's personal design. The Williamses host several events: the Antique Show in April, Renaissance Faire in July, a Murder Mystery Dinner in October, and High Victorian Christmas Show in December. The garden is available for weddings. The address is 2242 Main Street; hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. For information call 775-782-4951, write Box 89, Genoa, NV 89411, or e-mail antiplus@nanosecond.com.



Kristen, kneeling with dog Annie, Martha, and Bob Williams are dressed for the occasion in front of Antiques Plus. Below, Martha sits in a corner of the shop where furniture is displayed.

A couple of miles south on Foothill Road, antique shoppers can step back in time at **Laura Springs Ranch and Country Antiques**. In 1863, Nils Morrison and wife Carrie Johanna Sorensen, immigrants from Norway and Denmark, settled the ranch, which has remained in the same family for five generations. Present owner Laurie Hickey and her family operate the antique shop and a cattle ranch that holds Old West barbecues. Hickey notes that the ranch, located on the Pony Express and Emigrant Trails, is the site of the last steam-operated sawmill in the Eastern Sierra.

The store features Victorian and primitive furniture, shabby chic decorative items, and collectibles. An assortment of ranch tools, watering cans, and cupboards makes interesting décor for collectors. Hickey says she receives shipments of harvest tables, benches, pine chests, and trunks from New England and the Midwest. "We have three buildings and a barn, all full," she adds.

Laura Springs' hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily in summer, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday in winter. In the colder months visitors can



Photos: Jay Aldrich





Laurie Hickey and her family sell antiques and collectibles and host events at the Carson Valley ranch established by her forebears. At right, one of the outbuildings is packed with items.

take scones and coffee and tea in the Victorian dining room. In the summer, refreshments are served on the porch or in the garden. Other events sponsored by the ranch include antique shows, a ghost tour, cemetery history tour, and Christmas tree cutting. Call 775-782-2893, write 1456 Foothill Road, Gardnerville, NV 89410, or e-mail LauraRanch@aol.com.

In downtown Genoa buyers and sellers are welcome at **Genoa Antiques** on Main Street, where owner Ron Bommarito has been dealing in old stuff since 1969. The shop specializes in gambling and Western memorabilia, lamps, mining and Indian artifacts, and old photographs. Several buildings are crammed full of old trunks, a stagecoach, bits and spurs, railroad items, a faro table, and gambling devices. Hours and days vary, so if the store is not open, ring the bell out front. Call 775-782-3893 or write Box 1, Genoa, NV 89411.

Genoa is located four miles west of U.S. 395 on Genoa Lane, between Carson City and Minden. The town's famous Candy Dance Arts and Crafts Faire is set for September 29-30.

Shannon Montana of Gardnerville is a freelance writer, photographer, and antique hunter.



Casino CAMPGROUNDS

(Continued from page 14)

Nellis RV Park is open Oct.-April. Sites: 200. Rates: from $18. 4040 S. Nellis Blvd. Call 800-634-6371.

A Western-themed pool with slides is a feature of the **Silverton RV Park**. A free shuttle takes guests to the casino, to the Strip (about four miles north), or to the nearby Belz Factory Outlet World. Sites: 460. Rates: $21 Sun.-Thurs. and $23 Fri.-Sat. for pull-thrus; $2 less for back-ins. 3333 Blue Diamond Rd. Call 800-588-7711 or visit www.silvertoncasino.com.

Laughlin

The **Avi Resort RV Park**, 16 miles south of Laughlin, offers access to the hotel's pool, fitness room, beach, and boat launch. The RV park has a pavilion for barbecues. Sites: 260. Rates: $17 Sun.-Thurs. and $27 Fri.-Sat. May-Sept.; $17 Oct.-April. 10000 Aha Macav Pkwy. Call 800-284-2946.

The **Riverside Resort RV Park** offers a 24-hour shuttle to the casino and within the terraced park. Resort amenities include pools, restaurants, movie theaters, bowling center, and the Kid's Kastle and arcade. King of Club slot club members may also use points at the RV park. Sites: 740. Rates: $17. 1650 Casino Dr. Call 800-227-3849 or visit www.riversideresort.com.

Mesquite

Visitors to the **CasaBlanca RV Park** receive full access to the resort's pool, spa, and tennis courts. The CasaBlanca also has an 18-hole golf course. the landscaped park has a grassy dog-walking area. Some sites have telephone hookups. Sites: 45. Rates: $12.50. 950 W. Mesquite Blvd. Call 800-896-4567 or visit www.casablancaresort.com.

Diversions at the **Oasis Resort** include a spa, golf courses, an arcade with miniature golf, horseback riding, hayrides, and skeet shooting. A shuttle takes RV guests to the casino. Sites: 86. Rates: $14 Sun.-Thurs. and $14-$17 Fri.-Sat. 897 W. Mesquite Blvd. Call 800-621-0187 or visit www.oasis-resort.com.

Virgin River RV Park guests can use the hotel's bowling center, four-screen movie theater, arcade, and pool, as well as the attractions at its sister property, the Oasis Resort. Sites: 40 back-ins. Rates: $12.50 up to seven days. 100 N. Pioneer Blvd. Call 800-346-7721 or visit www.virginriver.com.

Primm

The **Primm RV Village** has sand volleyball courts, a pool with a Jacuzzi, and a playground. A shuttle takes RVers to Primm's three resorts. Whiskey Pete's, Buffalo Bill's, and Primm Valley are connected by a monorail, and a skywalk links Primm Valley to the Fashion Outlet mall. Buffalo Bill's has Desperado, one of the fastest and tallest roller coasters in the country. Sites: 197. Rates: from $15. 355 E. Primm Blvd. Call 800-FUN-STOP or visit www.primmvalleyresorts.com.

Amargosa Valley

Guests will find a 942-yard, nine-hole golf course at the **Longstreet Inn and RV Park**, 115 miles north of Las Vegas and 37 miles southwest of Furnace Creek in Death Valley National Park. Sites: 51. Rates: $10 June-Labor Day Weekend and $16 Sept.-May. State Route 373 at the state line. Call 775-372-1777.

Beatty

The **Burro Inn** has trees and flowers throughout its RV park. A new picnic area is planned for September and a mini-mart for January. The ghost town of Rhyolite is four miles west. Sites: 43. Rates: $15. Call 800-843-2078 or visit www.burroinn.com.

Cal-Nev-Ari

At the **Cal-Nev-Ari RV Park**, 18 miles south of Searchlight, RV guests can use the motel's pool or drive across the highway to the casino and restaurant. The local post office is inside the casino. Sites: 53. Rates: $13. Call 702-297-1115.

Pahrump

The **Saddle West RV Park** in Pahrump, 65 miles west of Las Vegas, is surrounded by grass and several picnic gazebos. RVers can use the pool and Jacuzzi, and a free breakfast buffet is included. 1220 S. State Route 160. Sites: 80. Rates: $18. Call 800-433-3987 or visit www.saddlewest.com.

With a lake as its centerpiece, **Terrible's Lakeside Casino RV Park** offers kayaks and paddle boats free of charge to guests. Stocked for fishing, the lake has a sandy beach. There's an outdoor pool, fireplace, Jacuzzi, and amphitheater. Sites: 159. Rates: $9.95 May-Aug.; $11.95 Sun.-Thurs. and $13.95 Fri.-Sat. Sept.-April. 5870 S. Homestead Rd. Call 888-558-LAKE or visit www.terribleherbst.com.

Tonopah

The **Station House** offers RVers basic services in addition to the casino's restaurant, bar, and arcade. A laundromat is available. Sites: 19. Rates: $16.08; deposit for bathroom key is $10. 1100 Erie Main St. Call 775-482-9777.

Reno-Sparks

The **Bordertown RV Resort**, 14 miles north of Reno, offers $16 in restaurant and casino coupons. A small field with a stand of aspens is used for tent camping. Sites: 50 for RVs, 20 for tents. Rates: $17.85-$25. 19575 U.S. 395. Call 800-218-9339.

Casino shuttle service is available 24 hours a day for guests of the **Boomtown RV Park**, eight miles west of Reno in Verdi. RVers have access to the Fun Center and Player's Club points. The park has a pool, private showers, movie rentals, and an area with barbecues and picnic tables. Sites: 203. Rates: $25.95



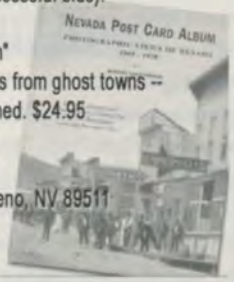
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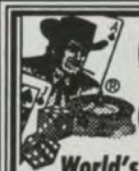
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A Guide to Advertisers in the RV Special Feature



See advertisements on pages 78-81 for more details.

Reno-Tahoe Area

In Carson City **Born Free** motorcoaches are sold factory direct and are team-built by trained craftspeople from start to finish. No mass production or assembly lines. Each coach is customized to the buyer's exact specifications. On the east shore of Lake Tahoe **Zephyr Cove Resort RV and Campsite** is undergoing a $4-million refurbishing project, set to open in 2002. **Gold Ranch RV Resort** in Verdi, just a short drive west of Reno features private bathrooms, data ports at each site, and pool and spa.

Las Vegas Area

Saddle West Hotel/Casino/RV Resort in Pahrump features extra wide pull-through spaces and full hookups and is 45 minutes west of Las Vegas.

Rural

Model T Hotel/Casino/RV Park in Winnemucca offers many RV amenities as well as a 24-hour coffee shop and food court and extra-friendly service.

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The **Gold Ranch RV Resort** in Verdi, 10 miles west of Reno, is set among pine trees and offers data ports at each site, six private bathrooms, and a pool and spa. Guests receive discount coupons for the casino restaurant. Sites: 105. Rates: $25.89 from May-Sept. and $21.43 from Oct.-April. I-80 West, exit 2. Call 877-914-6789.

The **KOA at the Reno Hilton** has completed the first phase of a landscape and park remodel. RVers can use the Reno Hilton's pool and tennis courts. The Reno Hilton also has a shopping mall, 50-lane bowling center, and the Hilton Bay Aqua Range for golfers. Sites: 210. Rates: $26.99 from May-Oct., $15.99 from Nov.-April. 2500 E. Second St. Call 888-562-5698 or visit www.koa.com/where/nv/28136.

Carson City Area

With pasture on two sides, Carson City's **Piñon Plaza RV Resort** has 50 back-in spaces, 20 pull-thrus, a laundromat, and a horseshoe pit with loaner horseshoes. RV guests can use the hotel's pool, spa, and 32-lane bowling center. Sites: 70. Rates: $18 for back-ins and $21 for pull-thrus April-Oct., $12 Nov.-March. 2171 U.S. 50 East. Call 877-519-5567 or visit www.pinonplaza.com.

Pines and shade trees beautify the **Carson Valley Inn RV Resort** in Minden. This park has a mini-mart, laundry, and keycard-protected showers. RVers can use the pool, hot tub, and workout room. Sites: 59. Rates: $20 April-Oct. 1627 U.S. 395. Call 800-321-6983 or visit www.cvinn.com.

RV guests at the **Topaz Lodge Casino and RV Park** have a view of Topaz Lake, 20 miles south of Gardnerville. The lake offers swimming and fishing, and picnic areas are available. Sites: 59. Rates: $18 full hook-ups, $13 without sewer hookup. 1979 U.S. 395. Call 800-962-0732 or visit www.enterit.com/topaz3338.

Elko

RVers at the **Best Western Gold Country RV Park** can use the hotel's pool and receive a coupon book for discounts at the Gold Country casino and the Red Lion. Sites: 26. Rates: $20. 2050 Idaho St. Call 800-621-1332 or visit www.bestwesternnevada. com.



Terrible's Lakeside Casino RV park offers watersport activities such as kayaking, fishing, and swimming.

Battle Mountain

The **Broadway Colt Casino and Flying J Travel Center** is open 24 hours with showers, toilets, and laundry. Most of the 80 sites are pull-thrus. Tents may be pitched as well. Anglers fish in the Humboldt River two miles away. Sites: 80. Rates: $15. 650 W. Front St. Call 775-635-5424.

Ely

Outdoor enthusiasts at the **Prospector Casino RV Park** will find tennis courts and a golf course close by and fishing out of town at Cumins and Cave lakes. Guests can use the hotel's pool, spa, and exercise room and receive a 10-percent discount for breakfast, lunch, or dinner. Sites: Six pull-thru, 16 back-in. Rates: First two nights are free, $9.72 each night thereafter. 1501 E. Aultman. Call 775-289-8900.

Fallon

Guests of the **Bonanza RV Park** in the center of Fallon can park close to the casino entrance. Basic hookups are available year-round. Lahontan State Recreation Area is 18 miles west and Sand Mountain Recreation Area is 25 miles east. Sites: 20. Rates: $12 Sun.-Thurs. and $15 Fri.-Sat. 855 W. Williams. Call 775-423-6031.

Fernley

Halfway between Reno and Fallon is the **Best Western Fernley Inn RV Park**. RVers can swim in the hotel's pool and picnic. Sites: 30. Rates: $20. 1405 E. Newlands Dr. Call 877-576-6776.

Gerlach

Bruno's Country Club has a restaurant, bar, motel, a dozen pull-thru spaces, and access to a laundromat. Bruno's is five miles south of the Black Rock Desert and 70 miles north of Pyramid Lake. Sites: 12. Nightly rate: $12. 445 Main St. Call 775-557-2220.

Jackpot

Cactus Petes Saguaro RV Park offers a landscaped park near the Idaho border. A 24-hour courtesy shuttle drops off guests at the hotel, which has a pool, or anywhere in Jackpot such as the 18-hole golf course. Plateau Player's Club members can use points for the RV park. Sites: 90. Rates: $14 May-Oct. 15, $10 Oct. 15-April, without water. 1385 U.S. 93. Call 800-821-1103.

Wendover

Visitors to the **State Line RV Park** can use the pool, arcade, and restaurants at the **State Line** and

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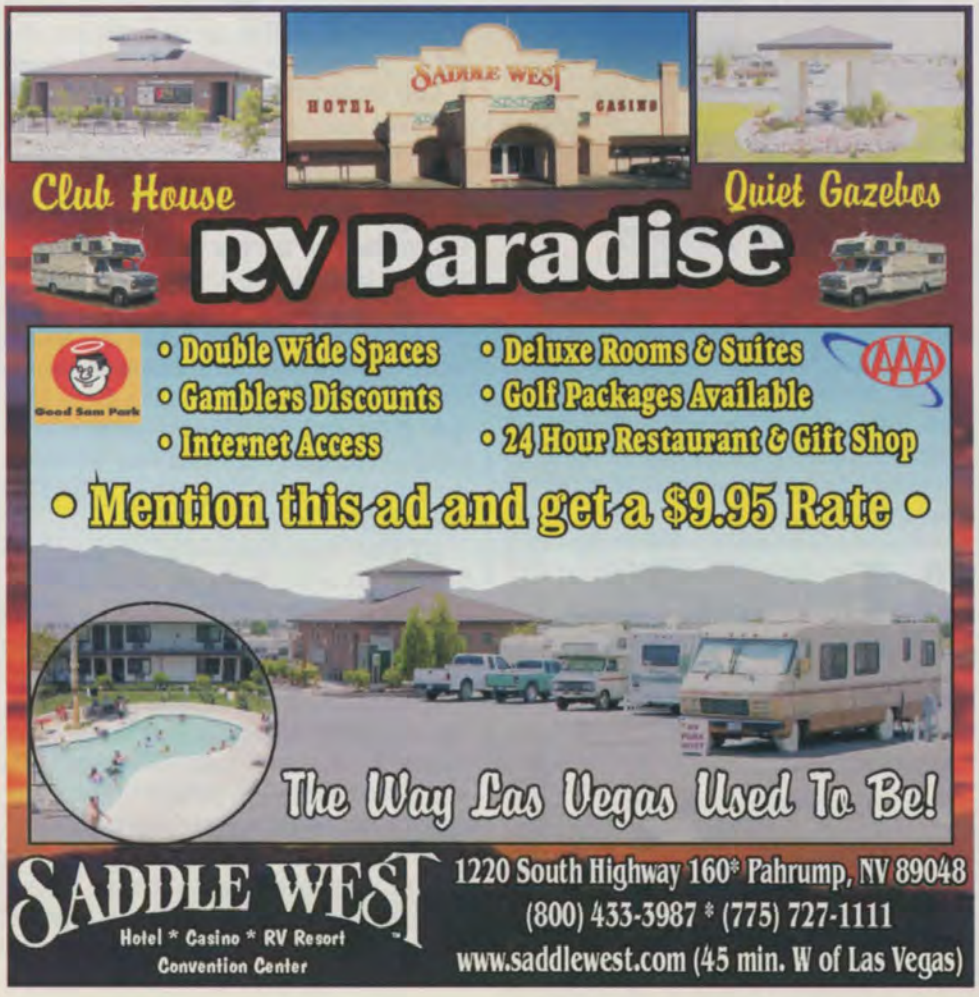


Photo: Dean Otteson

its sister casino, the **Silver Smith**. Sites: 56. Rates: $20. I-80 and Wendover Blvd. Call 800-848-7300.

Winnemucca

The **Model T RV Park** is located at the west end of town. Each site has a grassy area with a picnic table, and a rest area has a barbecue and tables. A fun book offers gaming coupons and meal discounts. The hotel pool is available for RV visitors. Sites: 58. Rates: $18 Nov.-April, $22 May-Oct. 1130 W. Winnemucca Blvd. Call 775-623-2588 or visit www.modelt.com.

Yerington

In addition to gaming, **Casino West** RV visitors can use the casino's movie theater, 12-lane bowling center, and two restaurants or the motel's pool and exercise room. Sites: 11. Rates: $5. 11 N. Main St. Call 800-227-4661.

New RV Resorts

Several big RV parks have been built recently in Nevada. Two Southern Nevada resorts offer land-purchase options for motor coach owners.

In Henderson, the **Paradise Coach Resort**, a motor coach-only resort, plans to open in November. There will be 25-foot greenbelts between neighbors and an 18,000-square-foot main clubhouse with pools and tennis courts. Sites: 381. Lots: $75,000 to $150,000. Rates: $50. 701 Conestoga Way. For information call 702-894-4488 or visit www.paradisecoachresorts.com.

The **Las Vegas Motor Coach Resort**, operated by Outdoor Resorts of America, is a $42-million project on 41 acres six miles north of the Strip. Once completed, the motor coach-only park will have 407 spaces for sale and rent. A main clubhouse will have a health spa. Sites: 200 in fall 2001. Lots: $79,900 to $129,900. Rates: $40. 8175 Arville St. Call 702-897-9300 or visit www.outdoor-resorts.com.

On the east shore of Lake Tahoe, the **Zephyr Cove Resort RV and Campsite** is undergoing a $4-million refurbishing project in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service. Additions include several outbuildings with showers and restrooms and a central Four Seasons building with retail space and Internet access for laptop users. Sites will be temporarily open to mid-Sept. Construction is expected to be complete early in 2002. Sites: 94 for RVs and 57 for tents. During the interim opening, rates: $29 for RV and $20 for tents. 760 U.S. 50, four miles north of Stateline. Call 775-588-6644 or visit www.tahoedixie2.com.

Susan Elbe is a soon-to-be graduate of the Reynolds School of Journalism at the University of Nevada, Reno. She plans to write for travel and museum publications.

Renting an RV

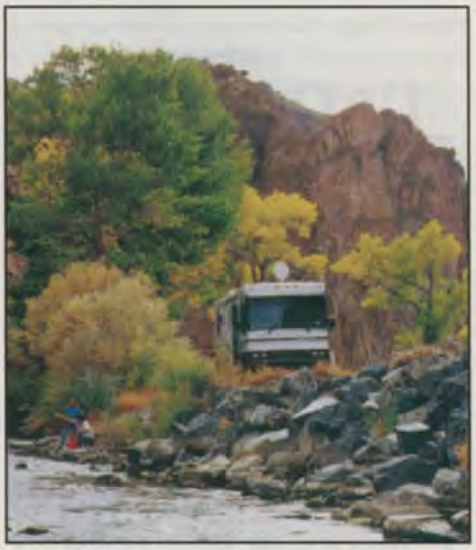
Recreational vehicles can be rented in a variety of sizes, types, and prices, which generally are slightly higher in Southern Nevada. The most luxurious is a Class A motor home with a motorized slide out. The Class A is self-contained and 30 to 40 feet in length with all living space behind the driver's compartment. During the peak summer season, a 34-footer may rent for $250 daily and $1,540 weekly.

Most rental motor homes are Class C, with the living area above and behind the driver's cabin. A 22-foot Class C can be rented during the summer season for $108 to $155 a day or $840 to $1,050 a week. Class B motor homes are also called van campers. Converted vans with sleeping and kitchen areas, they rent for about $100 daily and $950 weekly.

A 23-foot travel trailer rental averages about $100 per day or $450 per week. A folding-camping travel trailer has collapsible sides for kitchen and sleeping areas. Fifth-wheel travel trailers are designed to be towed using a special hitch mounted in a truck bed. Most RV rental companies do not offer folding-camping or fifth-wheel trailers. A fully loaded trailer can weigh more than 5,000 pounds, so you need to check your vehicle's tow weight in your owner's manual.

It's best to book far in advance, especially in summer, when demand and prices are highest. During the winter, not all vehicles are available. Some agencies require a three-day minimum rental. Typically, smoking is not allowed in a rental. Ask about security deposit, pet fee, prep fee, and a refundable cleaning fee. Dealers offer from 100 free miles a day to 1,000 free miles a week. Renters are charged from 18 to 40 cents per additional mile. Gas mileage, which varies by vehicle weight, may be about 10 miles per gallon. Most insurance carriers can add a binder to your auto policy to cover a travel trailer or motor home.

Before hitting the road, go surfing. Web sites such as www.GoRVing.com and www.gocampingamerica.com offer rental directories, campsite locations, and RV organizations. You can also check out your yellow pages for phone numbers in your local area.—*Susan Elbe*



Renting a motor home gives you a taste of RVing.

Photo: Jeff Ross

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2001 Best of Nevada

Fourth Annual *Nevada Magazine* Readers' Awards

The readers of *Nevada Magazine* recently chose their favorite Silver State entertainers, shows, scenic places, restaurants, and other attractions in the fourth annual "Best of Nevada" poll. The results in the 38 categories appeared in the July/August issue. As an additional thanks to the readers who voted and a salute to the winners, here is a summary of the 2001 "Best of Nevada" awards.

Best Entertainer
North: Danny Marona, Atlantis
South: Wayne Newton, Stardust

Best Revue or Long-Running Show
North: "Spirit of the Dance," Eldorado
South: "Legends in Concert," Imperial Palace

Best Dinner Show Package
North: Stepping Out Package, John Ascuaga's Nugget
South: "Tournament of Kings," Excalibur

Best New Show/New Entertainer
Tie, "Blue Man Group: Live at the Luxor" and "Bill Acosta: Lasting Impressions," Flamingo Las Vegas

Best Afternoon Show
"The Magic of Rick Thomas," Tropicana

Best Comedian
North: Danny Marona, Atlantis
South: Carrot Top, MGM Grand

Best Magician/Hypnotist
Lance Burton, Monte Carlo

Best Hotel/Resort
Carson City: Piñon Plaza
Lake Tahoe: Harveys
Las Vegas: Bellagio
Laughlin: Harrah's Laughlin
Mesquite: Tie, Oasis and CasaBlanca
Reno/Sparks: Peppermill
Rural: Carson Valley Inn

Best Place to Gamble
Carson City: Carson Nugget
Lake Tahoe: Harrah's Lake Tahoe
Las Vegas: Sam's Town
Laughlin: Harrah's Laughlin
Mesquite: Oasis
Reno/Sparks: Peppermill
Rural: Carson Valley Inn

Friendliest Casino
Carson City: Carson Nugget
Lake Tahoe: Tie, Harrah's and Harveys
Las Vegas: Tie, Rio Suites and Sam's Town
Laughlin: Harrah's Laughlin
Mesquite: Oasis
Reno/Sparks: Peppermill
Rural: Carson Valley Inn

Best Slot Club
North: Harrah's Total Rewards
South: Harrah's Total Rewards
Rural: Ramada Express, Laughlin

Best Thrill Ride
Rides at the Stratosphere

Best Golf Course
North: LakeRidge, Reno
South: Legacy, Henderson
Rural: Genoa Lakes

Best Place to Take a Photo
North: Lake Tahoe
South: Red Rock Canyon
Rural: Virginia City

Best Park
North: Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park
South: Valley of Fire State Park
Rural: Great Basin National Park

Best Place to Ski
Mt. Rose

Best Hiking Trail
Tahoe Rim Trail

Best Place to Camp
Lake Tahoe

Best Spot for Boating
Lake Mead

Friendliest Town
Reno

Best Historic Place
Virginia City

Best Place to Take Kids
North: Lake Tahoe
South: Circus Circus Adventuredome, Las Vegas
Rural: Virginia City

Best Special Event/Festival
North: Hot August Nights, Reno
South: National Finals Rodeo, Las Vegas
Rural: Virginia City Camel Races

Best Sports Event
Boxing

Best Place to Shop
North: Meadowood Mall, Reno
South: Forum Shops at Caesars, Las Vegas
Rural: Horizon Outlet Center, Laughlin

Best Wedding Chapel
North: Chapel of the Bells, Reno
South: Tie, Viva Las Vegas and Little Chapel of the Flowers, Las Vegas

Best Museum
North: National Automobile Museum, Reno
South: Liberace Museum, Las Vegas
Rural: Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko

Best Place for a Romantic Evening
North: Tie, White Orchid Restaurant, Peppermill, and Lake Tahoe
South: Top of the World Restaurant, Stratosphere
Rural: Ramada Express Steakhouse, Laughlin

Best Buffet
North: Island Buffet, Peppermill, Reno
South: Carnival Buffet, Rio, Las Vegas
Rural: Canyon Cove, Cactus Petes, Jackpot

Best Sky's-the-Limit Restaurant
Lake Tahoe: The Summit, Harrah's Lake Tahoe
Las Vegas: Tie, Picasso, Bellagio, and Top of the World, Stratosphere
Reno: White Orchid, Peppermill
Rural: Tie, Adele's, Carson City, and Ramada Express Steakhouse, Laughlin

Best Themed Restaurant
Romanza, Peppermill, Reno

Best Saloon
North: Brew Brothers, Eldorado, Reno
South: Tie, Gilley's, Las Vegas, and P.T.'s, Las Vegas
Rural: Bucket of Blood, Virginia City

Best Brewpub
North: Brew Brothers, Eldorado, Reno
South: Pub and Brewery, Monte Carlo, Las Vegas

Best Night Spot
North: BuBinga, Eldorado, Reno
South: VooDoo Lounge, Rio, Las Vegas

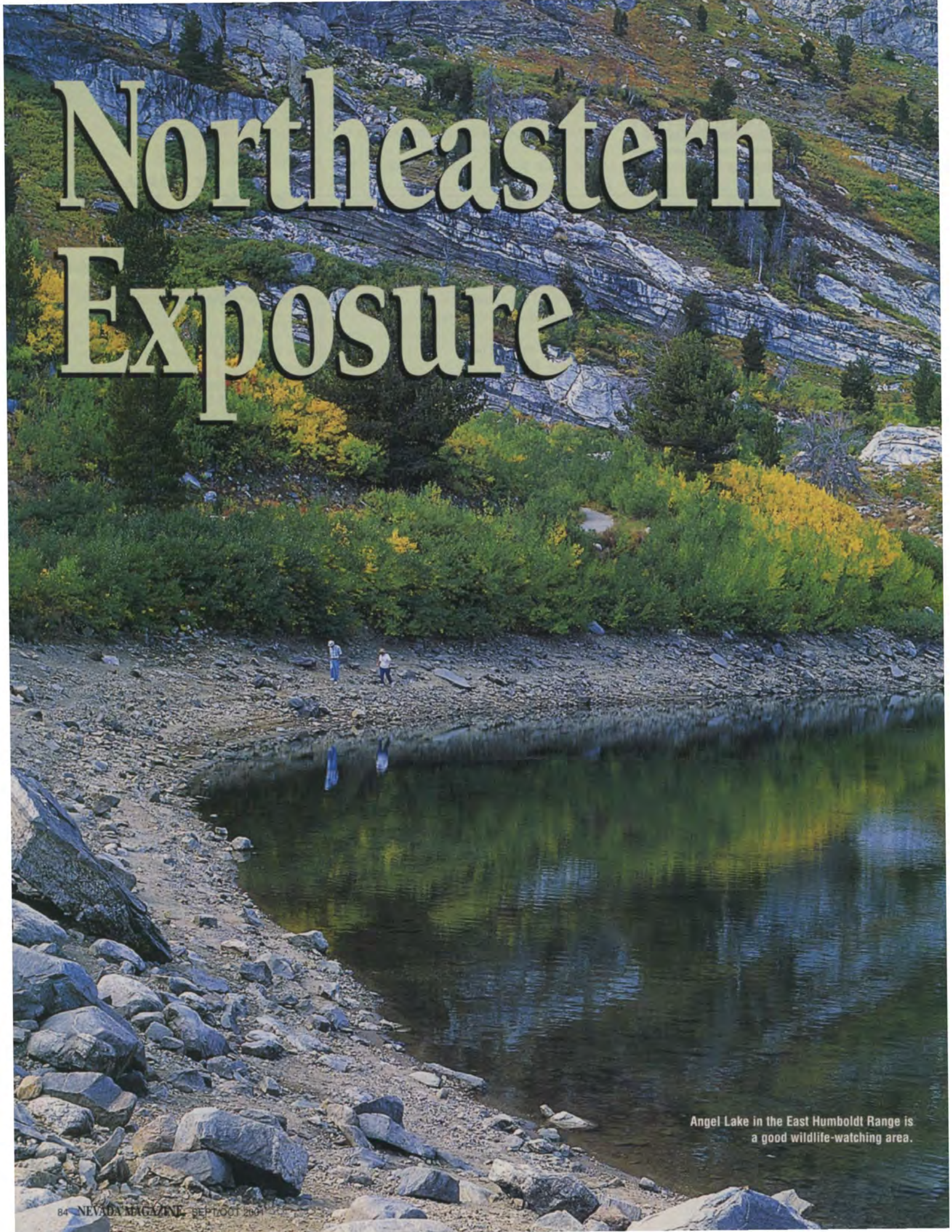
Best Coffee Shop
North: Peppermill, Reno
South: Caribe Café, Mirage, Las Vegas
Rural: Sturgeon's, Lovelock

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Best Adventure Tour Company
Tie, Black Canyon River Raft Tours, Guaranteed Tours, and Valley of Fire Adventures

Northeastern Exposure



Angel Lake in the East Humboldt Range is a good wildlife-watching area.

The northeastern corner of Nevada offers great places to photograph wildlife. Here are five of the region's top spots.

Story and Photos by Cynthia A. Delaney

For several years I have been quietly pursuing birds and animals in the mountains around Elko and Ely. My objective is to photograph the creatures in their natural settings, and it's an exciting endeavor. Sometimes I have to stumble up a steep slope while carrying a long, 500-millimeter lens. Other times I can shoot from my truck.

Both techniques work well in Northeastern Nevada, one of the richest wildlife-viewing areas in the West. Here, many mountain peaks exceed 10,000 feet. Riparian corridors fed by snowmelt connect alpine habitats with desert—and where there is water, there is life. Elk and deer migrate near the wet areas, and birds such as egrets and ducks frequent the lakes and marshes. If you are lucky, you can spot Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep and white mountain goats, as well as smaller mammals such as squirrels and muskrats.

Remember, animals are as curious about us as we are about them, yet they also have a fear instinct. It's best to approach them very quietly. Shoot from the car first and then stalk, but never push an animal so it feels threatened. When animals see a two-legged thing with arms waving, the fear mechanism kicks in, and they're gone.

I recommend going in early morning or late afternoon—that's when the light is best and the animals are feeding. It's a good idea to use a long lens, between 200 and 500 millimeters, but a lot of photographers have success with 70- to 210-millimeter zooms. A car is a great blind, and you can steady your camera using a bean bag or a folded coat in the open window. Animals see cars on the scenic byways all day, so they don't feel threatened by them. Use 100 or 200 ASA film for prints or 100 ASA for transparencies. These films are fine-grained and will give you good-quality photos. If you're outside your car, use a tripod if possible.

All of the roads mentioned here are well-maintained and within easy access of state highways and Interstate 80. Most are paved. Some secondary roads within the areas may require four-wheel drive. Here are five of my favorite wildlife-viewing locations in Northeastern Nevada.



The author hiked down the Angel Lake Scenic Byway to photograph this bighorn sheep. The bighorns are not too wary in the wintertime, she says. "We had a little female walk right up to the truck and lay down."

Angel Lake Scenic Byway

This is an exceptional spot for seeing two of Nevada's prized mammals, the Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep and the shaggy, white mountain goat. In Nevada, mountain goats live only in the Ruby and East Humboldt ranges. Look for them along the walls of the cirque basin above Angel Lake. The lower section of the road is a good place to find bighorn sheep in winter. During summer mule deer forage near the lake's edge, and

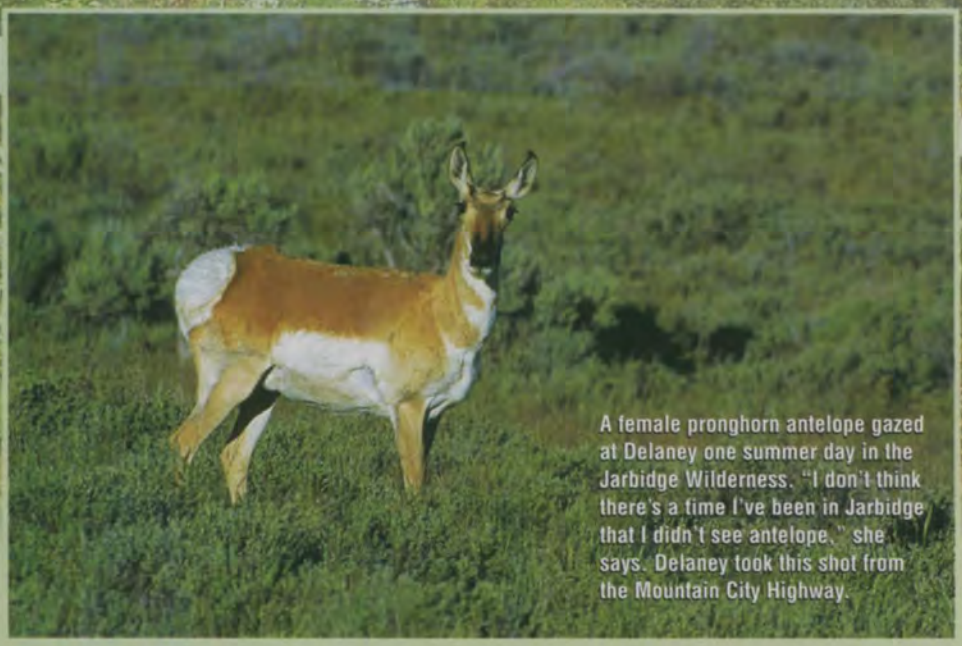
Background photo: Lamoille Canyon.



This golden-mantled ground squirrel was begging for food in the O'Neil Basin in the Jarbidge Wilderness. "He was very curious about us and very unafraid. Near campsites, animals are accustomed to people. I've had chipmunks jump on my leg, begging for tortillas."



An American kestrel fluffs his feathers to keep off the early spring chill in Lamoille Canyon. People commonly park on the road and watch the birds from their cars.



A female pronghorn antelope gazed at Delaney one summer day in the Jarbidge Wilderness. "I don't think there's a time I've been in Jarbidge that I didn't see antelope," she says. Delaney took this shot from the Mountain City Highway.



pint-sized Uinta chipmunks and golden-mantled ground squirrels scamper near the parking area.

Angel Lake is 12 miles southwest of Wells. From Interstate 80 take the west Wells exit to State Route 231. The paved road is winding and steep at the top and not recommended for RVs.

Great Basin National Park

The Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive is a fine place to scout wildlife. The road, which passes through sage and juniper, is home to pronghorn antelope, mule deer, badgers, and black-tailed jackrabbits. It also lets motorists see several different birds, including Clark's nutcracker, piñon jays, and golden eagles. The views are spectacular and give the uninitiated a snap lesson in Great Basin geography.

To reach Great Basin National Park take U.S. 50 southeast of Ely to State Route 487. At Baker, continue on State Route 488 to the park boundary. The park is 65 miles from Ely.

Lamoille Canyon Scenic Byway

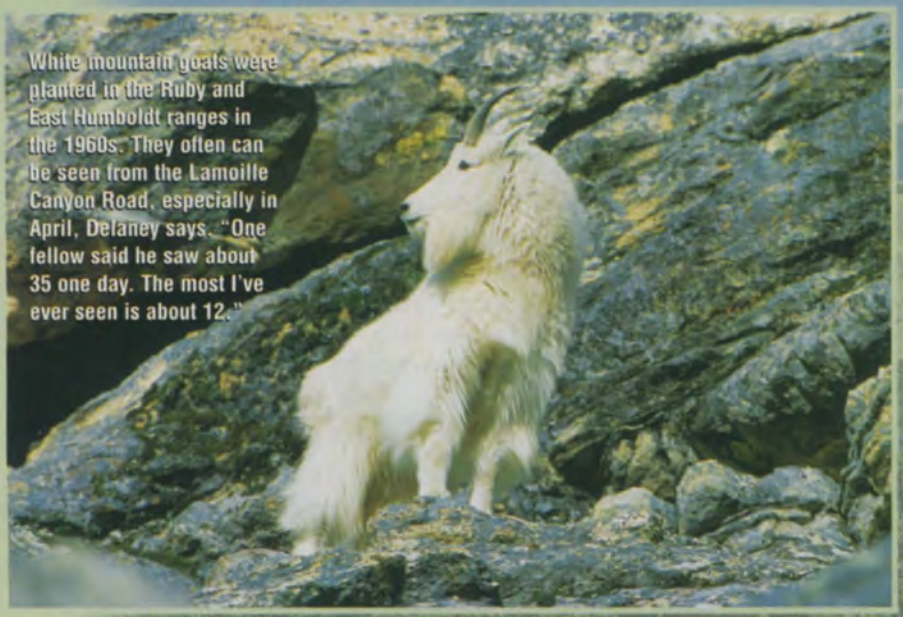
Lamoille Canyon lives up to its nickname, the Yosemite of Nevada, on this drive into the heart of the Ruby Mountains. Late spring and autumn are the best times to see wildlife against backdrops of snowcapped peaks or burnt-orange aspen groves. Sage grouse, yellow-bellied marmots, and Lewis' woodpeckers are commonly spotted along the roadway. Many beaver make their homes here, and their lodges dot the upper section of Lamoille Creek. Hikers can find Himalayan snowcock and pikas—small, rabbit-like rodents—along the alpine trails.

Lamoille Canyon Scenic Byway is 20 miles southeast of Elko via State Route 227 The road is paved and 12 miles in length.

Jarbidge Wilderness Area

The Jarbidge Mountains receive seven to eight feet of snow annually, and the moisture creates a forested wonderland. The wilderness area is

Background photo: Jarbidge Mountains.



White mountain goats were planted in the Ruby and East Humboldt ranges in the 1960s. They often can be seen from the Lamoille Canyon Road, especially in April, Delaney says. "One fellow said he saw about 35 one day. The most I've ever seen is about 12."



This burrowing owl seemed to pose for the author, allowing her to squeeze off about seven shots before he turned away. Burrowing owls take over the former homes of ground squirrels instead of digging their own.



This white-faced ibis stood alongside the road at the Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Spring and fall are the best times to see birds there, Delaney says.

one of the least-used in the country and teems with wildlife. Sometimes you can see herds of Rocky Mountain elk near streams and lakes along the main road. Coyotes, burrowing owls, golden-mantled ground squirrels, and hunting red-tailed hawks also frequent the area.

Bear Creek Summit Road is the best route for seeing wildlife. From Elko drive 55 miles north on State Route 225, turn right on County Road 746 and drive 27 miles to the Charleston Reservoir. Continue north on County Road 748. You will climb the summit and drop down into the small town of Jarbidge. The summit road is gravel and may be closed until July and after October because of snow. It is not recommended for long trailers or low clearance cars.

Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge

Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge, also known as Ruby Marsh, encompasses 37,632 acres at the eastern base of the Ruby Mountains. The 17,000 acres of marshland attract many species of birds. The hillsides are dotted with piñon and juniper trees, offering nesting sites for many colorful songbirds. During a short visit you are likely to see species such as American avocet, black-necked stilt, eared grebe, great blue heron, ruddy duck, sandhill crane, yellow warbler—and the list goes on.

You may see mule deer and the ever-comical muskrats who build their mound homes in the middle of the brackish waters. If you are lucky, you may catch a glimpse of the dozen or more trumpeter swans that nest there.

The refuge is located 63 miles southeast of Elko (via State Routes 227 and 228) and 78 miles south of Wells (via U.S. 93 and State Route 229). The refuge area has good gravel roads that are suitable for RVs.

For more information about these locations, contact the Elko Chamber of Commerce, 800-428-7143, or visit www.elkonevada.com. For details about Great Basin National Park, call 775-234-7331 or visit www.nps.gov/grba.

Cynthia A. Delaney is an Elko photographer. She travels worldwide but is always happy to be back home in the Nevada outback.

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Nevada Almanac

(Continued from page 90)

when the trees are a beautiful golden color and the air is warm but not too hot. We visit our daughter and her family, who live in Carson City, in late September every year, and we usually do a picnic at the park on a Sunday afternoon. The kids play and the adults talk. We stop at Smith's on U.S. 50 in Carson City to pick up a couple of barbecued chickens and some coleslaw from the deli. This state park is not as well known as other Nevada parks, and we love it. It's about a 15-minute drive from Carson.—*Susan Elkins, Sacramento, CA*

Do you have a Nevada travel recommendation to share with other readers? *Write "Nevada Almanac," Nevada Magazine, 401 North Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701; fax 775-687-6159; or e-mail editor @nevadamagazine.com (be sure to include town and state). Readers whose items are used will receive a Nevada state-flag lapel pin, suitable for any occasion.*

Big Date

Traditionally, Nevada Day is October 31, the day in 1864 that President Abraham Lincoln signed Nevada into statehood. However, two years ago the legislature created Nevada Day Weekend, the last weekend in October, to celebrate the state's birthday. So celebrants this year should note that Friday, October 26, is a state holiday, and the big parade in Carson City will be held on **Saturday, October 27.**

Map Facts

The relatively high elevation of Nevada towns means that golf balls go farther, cocktails go to your head faster, and marathon runners will find a lot of good places for high-altitude training. For a statewide comparison, here are the elevations of Nevada's 17 county seats according to the Nevada Department of Transportation.



Las Vegas: 2,025 feet
Pioche: 6,064
Goldfield: 5,869
Tonopah: 6,030
Eureka: 6,481
Ely: 6,435
Elko: 5,067
Battle Mountain: 4,510
Winnemucca: 4,320
Lovelock: 3,975
Fallon: 3,963
Reno: 4,498
Carson City: 4,687
Minden: 4,721
Yerington: 4,384
Hawthorne: 4,320
Virginia City: 6,220

Contest



We want YOU to design a new state flag.



True blue: Nevada's state flag.

Recently, the North American Vexillological Association ranked Nevada's state flag as one of the continent's least attractive. The vexillologists (the name is derived from *vexillum*, Latin for "flag") described our banner as a "blob on a bedsheet" and criticized the design, which includes a golden scroll with "Battle Born" above a silver star, the state's name, and two sprigs of sagebrush. The flag was ranked 55th out of 72 flags from states, provinces and territories on the continent.

Just for fun, we'd like to know if you have a better idea for a Nevada state flag. Show your design on an 8-1/2-by-11-inch sheet of paper and send it to Nevada Magazine Flag Contest, 401 North Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701. The deadline is October 1, 2001.

Designs can also be e-mailed to rich@nevadamagazine.com. Be sure to include your mailing address and daytime phone number. The winner will receive a free one-year's subscription, and the best designs will be run up the flagpole in a future issue of *Nevada Magazine*.



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Nevada Almanac

Trivia, state flag contest, and readers' recommendations.

Nevada Trivia

Q What Nevada community was named after a newspaper comic strip?

A Jiggs in Elko County was named for the cartoon character of the "Maggie and Jiggs" duo featured in "Bringing Up Father," a comic strip that started in 1913 and continues to this day. The name was suggested by a local rancher to settle a controversy with postal authorities over what to name the community (it was previously called Dry Creek, then Mound Valley, then Skelton, then Hylton). The dispute reminded him of the bickering between the comic strip's two protagonists.

Q What singer opened the showrooms of both the International Hotel (now the Las Vegas Hilton) in 1969 and the MGM Grand Hotel in 1993?

A Barbra Streisand provided the opening entertainment for both resorts, which were, not coincidentally, owned by Kirk Kerkorian.

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



Photo Finish It's 400 miles from Rachel and the ET Highway, but the long, flat playa of the Black Rock Desert also has been called an alien place. Here, photographer Douglas Keister of Chico, California, reveals evidence of intergalactic explorers.

Reader Recommended

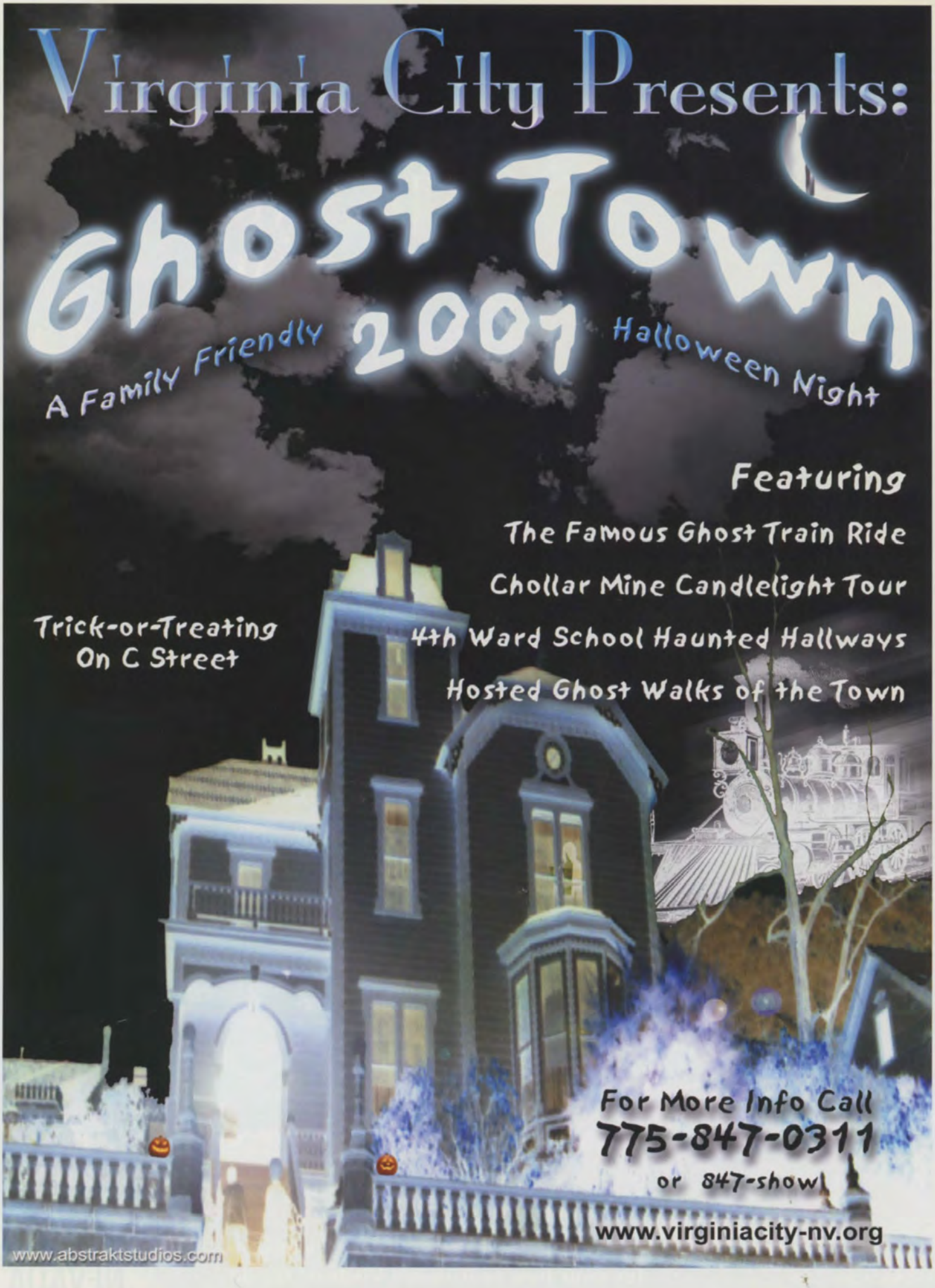
Tonopah Tip: Last June my husband and I pulled into Tonopah after nine on a Saturday evening—too late for a light dinner, we feared. We registered at the Jim Butler Motel and drove down Erie Main Street to the El Marques Mexican restaurant. Even though it was late, the people there couldn't have been nicer and more cheerful. Soon we were sipping margaritas and eating tasty chicken tacos. We appreciated how helpful the waitresses and proprietors at the El Marques were to us late arrivals, and the bill came to less than 20 bucks.—*Georgia Moon, Los Angeles, CA*

High Over Paris: I've been to the real Paris, so when I visited Las Vegas recently and walked through the Paris Hotel, I resisted when friends wanted to take the elevator to the top of the Eiffel Tower. I'm not a travel snob; it just didn't seem right. Hey, it's only a half-sized replica. It's not real! I tried to get my friends to go back to the Napoleon bar for a cognac. Instead they dragged me to the ticket booth ($9), then to the elevator to the top, 50 stories up. The views were beautiful. *C'est si bon.—S. Jones, Reno*

Fall in Dayton. The state park in Dayton is nice place for a fall picnic,

(Continued on page 88)

Photo: Douglas Keister


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Nevada
Travel Update
Tourism Industry News • September/October 2001

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TOURISM CONFERENCE
An invitation to attend the 18th Annual Governor's Conference on Travel and Tourism, December 10-12 at the Rio in Las Vegas. Page 3.

SELLING ADVENTURE
Las Vegas Soaring Center offers high-flying rides in a sailplane. Page 4.

Site Inspection

Two Worlds Meet at Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe

There aren't many hotel-casinos where you can cozy up to a blackjack table and a fireplace—at the same time—or place a sports bet under the watchful eye of a moose head. But at the **Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe**, you'll find both natural Sierra beauty and upscale resort amenities.


The Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe offers an atmosphere of ski-lodge luxury following a $27-million renovation.

Last spring the Hyatt, located in Incline Village on the lake's north shore, completed a $27-million renovation that reflects the resort's alpine surroundings and upscale clientele. Inside the lobby, visitors are transported to an elegant 1920s grand ski lodge with huge wooden beams, leather sofas, and throw rugs. While lounging in the lobby you can peer through the two-sided fireplace overlooking the bar in the casino, where the crap table and slot carousels blend seamlessly with the stone walls and rustic light fixtures.

The newly renovated guest rooms have pine furnishings. Guests also can rent one of the hotel's 24 lakeside cottages, each of which has two bedrooms, a wood-burning fireplace, and a private deck.

Restaurants: The Lone Eagle Grille, which offers gourmet cuisine and one of the lake's best Sunday brunches, continues the old-lodge theme with its stone walls and large windows overlooking the lake. The Hyatt's other eateries have been renovated. Ciao Mein Trattoria offers a mix of Asian and Italian cuisines. The Sierra Café offers coffee-shop fare and a buffet. Cutthroat's Saloon is a woodsy bar and restaurant where, after a day of hiking, swimming, or skiing, you can shuck your peanut shells on the floor while listening to live bands.

Amenities: The Hyatt's outdoor pool and Jacuzzi are heated year-round. The guests-only beach offers sunbathing and a new floating pier, where custom fishing and boating excursions depart. Spa Hyatt has relaxation options from Swedish massage to beauty treatments. Camp Hyatt Tahoe is open to children ages three to 12 and features supervised activities.

Meetings: The property is available for conventions, meetings, and retreats. One group taking advantage of the renovations is the Women Executives in State Government's annual conference, which meets at the hotel September 24-26.

Fast Facts: Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe rack rates for a standard room begin at $185 and a mountain view at $210. Lake cottages start at $435 for one bedroom and $705 for two bedrooms. Suites start at $395 and $625. For reservations call 800-55-HYATT.

—Carolyn Graham

New Event Center in Winnemucca

Tourism Talk

Conventions in Winnemucca will take on a new look when the **Humboldt County Indoor Event Center** opens in December. The $5-million, 93,000-square-foot arena at the fairground will accommodate everything from small conventions to monster-truck racing.

The center's dirt-floor arena has 1,800 bleacher-style seats, and two mezzanines offer an additional 500 seats each. The mezzanines can be used for vendors, meetings, and lounge space. For livestock shows and rodeos there is an attached, covered warm-up, livestock-holding, and preparation arena. The facility also offers two show rooms, a sound system, kitchen, and concession stand.

Winnemucca's location 165 miles east of Reno and 123 miles west of Elko makes the town a prime convention destination. "Winnemucca is located on two major highways, Interstate 80 and U.S. 95, and has many fine amenities, and our hospitality is immeasurable. The entire community extends a welcoming hand," says Kim Peterson, director of the Winnemucca Convention and Visitors Authority and Agricultural District Number Three.

Winnemucca (population 9,404) has a comfortable Western personality, a rich history, several Basque restaurants, and a national reputation for events such as the Shooting the West photography symposium and the Tri-County Fair and Stampede.

In addition to the new events center, Winnemucca offers meeting planners a 23,540-square-foot convention center, an inventory of 1,550 rooms, 350 RV spaces, and a nine-hole golf course. For more information, call the Winnemucca Convention and Visitors Authority and the Agricultural District Number Three, 775-632-5071 or 800-WMCA-NEV, or visit www.winnemucca.nv.us.

What's New

The Latest Information on Travel Around the Silver State

LAS VEGAS TERRITORY

New Caesars Tower

Caesars Palace on the Strip has announced plans to build a 29-story all-suite hotel tower that is estimated to cost about $450 million. The tower will feature approximately 900 suites and mini-suites, bringing the property's room total to 3,350. The project will include 50,000 square feet of retail space, 70,000 square feet of meeting area, new restaurants, and a spa. Construction is scheduled for completion in 2004.

Lady Dresses Up

This fall is the expected completion date for renovations at the **Lady Luck**. The scope of the downtown hotel's project includes remodeling the buffet and restaurants and upgrading the standard rooms and outdoor reader board. The Corner Stage Lounge was added last spring.

Changes at McCarran

An interior renovation of **McCarran International Airport's** C Gates, which house Southwest flights, was completed in May. An open ramp control tower was finished in July to provide easier contact with landed flights. McCarran has also begun construction on a third D Gates wing, which will be completed in 2004. Land has been purchased for a consolidated rental car facility; construction will be completed in 2004.

Mardi Gras Party Place

The Orleans, an off-Strip property on Tropicana, recently opened Brendan's Irish Pub and Sazio Italian Restaurant and completed a parking garage. In 2002, the hotel will add six screens to its Century Theater, a 2,600-space parking garage, a hotel tower with 620 rooms, 40,000 square feet of casino space, a 9,000-seat arena, and a Koto Chinese-Japanese restaurant.

Things Are Changing

Commander's Palace, which was rated by the Zagat Survey as New Orleans' most popular restaurant, has opened at the **Aladdin** on the Strip. The eatery offers an array of Creole cuisine. The Aladdin also joined a number of hotels offering airport check-in at the hotel lobby. Certified Airline Passenger Services arranges a boarding pass, seat assignment, and baggage claim checks. Also at the Aladdin, work is progressing on a $13.5-million, 32,000-square-foot Steiner Spa. It will offer guests a hair salon, steam rooms, water treatment facilities, and a fitness and weight exercise room.

Shoppers' Alert

Belz Factory Outlet Mall has announced a 50,000-square-foot expansion in 2002 adjacent to its existing 63,000-square-foot facility, which is located at the south end of the Strip. Belz currently offers shoppers 155 outlet stores.

Snack Attack

The **Edgewater Hotel and Casino** in Laughlin recently added a McDonald's and Krispy Kreme Donuts to its food court offerings. The Edgewater is located on Casino Drive in the Colorado River gaming mecca.

Cool Pool

Changes at the **Golden Nugget Las Vegas** include the opening of a Starbucks. Renovation and expansion of the property's pool area, which will accommodate 400 sunbathers, has a fall completion date, as does the renovation of the Golden Nugget's 416 rooms.

Room to Park

The **Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority** has purchased the World Trade Center for $14.9 million. The 10-acre piece of property will be used to provide 1 100 more parking spaces to support the Las Vegas Convention Center's 1.3-million-square-foot South Hall expansion project.

New Off-Strip Hotel

Construction on the new **Tuscany Suites** east of Bally's on Flamingo Road has a projected completion date of December 2001. The 1,022-room property will feature a 30,000-square-foot casino, three restaurants, and meeting rooms. The hotel will be marketed to business clients.

RENO-TAHOE TERRITORY

Piñon Project

The **Best Western Piñon Plaza** in Carson City recently completed changes to the Steakhouse restaurant. Included in the project was a new Southwestern décor, back-to-back fireplaces, and a designer bar and lounge.

Welcome, Sports Fans

Last spring, the 6,500-square-foot **Bully's Sports Bar and Grill** opened in Carson City, offering a restaurant, numerous television screens for sports and entertainment, a full-service bar, and 15 slot machines.

Alpine Renovation

The $3-million renovation at **Tahoe Biltmore Lodge and Casino** in Crystal Bay has a scheduled fall completion date. Design elements from the 1940s include pitched roofs, dormer windows, crown molding, wrought iron railings, and river rock fireplaces. To date, the Café Biltmore, Pub and Grille, and hotel rooms have been refurbished. This fall, remodeling will concentrate on the front desk, gift shop, administrative offices, and a new lobby, which will feature a montage of many never-before-seen historical Tahoe photos. An exterior facelift at the property and a wedding chapel are slated to be finished by spring 2002.



A cozy firepit is the centerpiece of the Tahoe Biltmore's new Lobby Bar, part of a $3-million renovation at the Crystal Bay hotel-casino.

Taking Care of Travelers

The **Carson City Visitors Center** has extended its hours in order to assist travelers with information on local attractions, events, and services. The center, located at 1900 South Carson Street, will be open daily during spring, summer, and fall, while changing to a Monday through Saturday schedule for the winter months.

Lookin' Good

Caesars Tahoe at Stateline has completed changes and refurbishments to its casino, rooms, and spa. Last summer 28 suites were refurbished, and seven floors of the hotel tower were remodeled. The casino gained a new air-conditioning system, VIP check-in, and a high-limit lounge. Caesars Tahoe also added the Aroma Café, which offers coffee, pastries, and sandwiches. In August, additional meeting space was added to the current 16,000-square-foot convention area of the hotel-casino on Lake Tahoe's south shore.

Courting the Convention Market

A guest room-remodeling project and three convention renovation projects are planned for the **Reno Hilton**. The first phase of the four-year plan at the 2,003-room hotel involves a $6-million upgrade of 403 rooms, which should be completed in December. The Reno Hilton's tennis pavilion is undergoing a $2.2-million conversion into an additional 35,000 square feet of convention space. In addition to the Silver State Pavilion, construction of a hallway joining the Grand Ballroom and Hilton Pavilion will result in the creation of 90,000 square feet of contiguous convention space in the hotel.

Tourism Industry Conference

Tourism professionals are invited to the **18th Annual Governor's Conference on Travel and Tourism** at the Rio All-Suite Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas on December 10-12. The conference theme will be "Breaking Through: Meeting the Demands of the Want-It-Now Generation." Since its inception, the conference has grown from a gathering of 300 people to one of the premier meetings of its kind and a registration of more than 1,000 attendees.

Featured national speakers will reveal forward-thinking ideas on generational transitional marketing, the customer of the future, and customer service. Speakers will also address energy concerns, Internet gaming, and the impact of the economy on travel and tourism.

Concurrent sessions will focus on marketing strategies, promoting adventure travel, and the growth of Indian gaming. The Internet-based reservation management panel held at last year's conference will be revisited to see what has changed within the industry. International sessions will be focusing on continued growth in the markets of Europe and Asia.

The Governor's Conference will continue to advocate the need for a diverse customer base. Top clients from the meetings, incentive, and leisure markets will be invited as special conference guests to participate in the Sixth Annual Buyers-Suppliers Exchange. An exchange of information will take place in new and exciting interactive sessions to facilitate stronger and more rewarding relationships.



The Rio All-Suite Hotel will be headquarters for the Governor's Conference on Travel and Tourism, December 10-12 in Las Vegas.

For program and registration materials, log on to www.travelnevada.com or call the Nevada Commission on Tourism at 800-237-0774, ext. 2. The registration fee for the conference is $345 before November 1 and $395 after that date.

Nevada Convention Update

To assist your sales and marketing efforts, the following guide lists upcoming major conventions booked for the Las Vegas and Reno-Sparks areas. (Abbreviations: LVCC = Las Vegas Convention Center, LVH = Las Vegas Hilton, RSCC = Reno-Sparks Convention Center, and Nugget = John Ascuaga's Nugget.) The number of attendees is noted.

For further information contact the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, **702-892-0711**, or the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority, **775-827-7600**.

Las Vegas Area

Las Vegas Antique Arms Show • Nov. 1-3 • 5,000. Riviera.

Comdex Fall Show • Nov. 12-16 • 225,000. LVCC and Sands Expo.

International Autobody Congress and Exposition • Nov. 30-Dec. 2 • 42,000. LVCC and multiple locations.

National Finals Rodeo • Dec. 7-16 • 170,000. Thomas and Mack Center.

Power-Gen • Dec. 11-13 • 12,500. LVCC and in the Las Vegas area.

International Coin and Stamp Collector Society • Dec. 14-16 • 5,000. Tropicana.

2002 International Consumer Electronics Show • Jan. 8-11 • 120,000. LVCC and LVH.

Video Software Dealers Association • Jan. 8-11 • 10,000. Sands Expo and Venetian.

International Solid Surface Fabricators Association • Jan. 11-18 • 6,000. Mirage.

Reno-Sparks Area

National Sash and Door Jobbers Association • Oct. 24-Nov. 1 • 3,000. To be held at the Reno Hilton and RSCC.

American Institute of Chemical Engineers • Oct. 31-Nov. 10 • 2,100. Reno Hilton.

American Nuclear Society • Nov. 8-17 • 1,400. Reno Hilton.

American Farm Bureau Federation • Jan. 2-12 • 6,000. RSCC, Atlantis, Reno Hilton, Silver Legacy.

American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics • Jan. 10-21 • 2,500. Reno Hilton.

Weed Science Society of America • Feb. 9-15 • 700. Reno Hilton.

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation • Feb. 10-19 • 2,300. RSCC and Reno Hilton.

Clinic of Champions Annual Football Clinic • Feb. 15-17 • 1,500. Reno Hilton.

National Association of Insurance Commissioners • March 13-21 • Reno Hilton.

Flying With the Eagles Above Las Vegas

By Michael Henderson

The Jean Airport, located 25 miles south of Las Vegas off Interstate 15, is home to the **Las Vegas Soaring Center**. The center is owned by Jerry Marshall, an aviator who has logged more than 7,000 hours of flight time since 1981. His company operates five sailplanes and a number of powered aircraft, including a classic Stearman biplane. Every day of the week, weather permitting, Jerry and his sailplane pilot, Jeff Reynolds, give sailplane and biplane rides at the airport.

One day last spring I had the opportunity to fly in a sailplane with Jeff. The ride began with a briefing on safety, such as how to open and close the canopy and use the shoulder-harness safety belt. After the briefing, Jeff attached a long rope from the Piper Brave tow plane to the nose of the 1,300-pound Grob sailplane. The Grob, made in Germany, has a bubble canopy and a cockpit similar to that of a modern-day jet fighter. Like other sailplanes, the Grob is designed to literally sail on the wind. Beginning one mile above the ground, even on a calm day some high-performance sailplanes can glide up to 60 miles—assuming no rising terrain is in the way—before reaching the ground.

My first impression was, "Gee, it's really quiet, and we're a really long way from the runway."

Takeoff is simple; just follow the tow plane. Jeff has over 2,300 hours as a sailplane pilot, and he made the mechanics look easy as we climbed in the midday air. After reaching a suitable height while riding a thermal, Jeff released the rope from the tow plane by pulling on a knob on the instrument panel. Free of the tow plane, we banked sharply right in search of the updrafts that make sailing in the air possible. We circled upward at nearly 1,000 feet per minute. After several steep turns we were nearly 4,000 feet above the valley and we began to enjoy the freedom of flight that has appealed to humankind since the first people looked up in envy at birds so many millennia ago. My first impression was, "Gee, it's really quiet, and we're a really long way from the runway."

As we cruised, Jeff pointed out a high ridge where a golden eagle nests. Occasionally the eagle flies with the sailplane, man and bird alike seeking the elusive updrafts rising from the desert floor. The eagle was not to be seen that day, and all too soon we were back at the airport. After a slow approach, Jeff held the sailplane about 10 feet in the air until he reached the spot he wanted. A quick pull on the knob controlling the wind spoilers, and the sailplane promptly settled on the runway.

Although the Grob carries only a pilot and one passenger, the Las Vegas Soaring Center has two other sailplanes that carry two passengers. The cockpits are small, so the passengers' combined weight cannot exceed 340 pounds. Generally, afternoons, when winds and thermals increase, are best for soaring. The center guarantees a minimum ride of 15 minutes on calm days when updrafts can't be found.

Occasionally the eagle flies with the sailplane, man and bird alike seeking the elusive updrafts.

Fast Facts: At the Las Vegas Soaring Center, a sailplane ride for one passenger costs $79 for a 15-minute minimum or $139 for a 30-minute minimum. Two-passenger rides are $49.50 and $99.50 per passenger. Major credit cards are accepted. For further information call 702-874-1010.

Michael Henderson is a Las Vegas pilot who would fly his Piper Cherokee to the grocery store, if it were possible.



Pilot Jeff Reynolds is shown with a Grob sailplane at the Las Vegas Soaring Center in Jean. The sailplane rides can reach 10,000 to 15,000 feet, depending on thermal activity. The Jean Airport is 25 miles south of Las Vegas off Interstate 15.

Photo: Michael Henderson

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