

NEVADA

MAGAZINE

October 2002

INSIDE:
Complete Guide to
Events & Shows in Nevada

Show Time!

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**The Man
Who Saved
Lake Tahoe**

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I found riding in a balloon is like becoming a cloud. You meander through the air as if you don't have a care in the world.

—Balloon passenger Joe Zentner



On the Cover:

Melissa Adamson and John Lombardo play the title characters in "Tony 'n Tina's Wedding" at the Rio in Las Vegas.
Photo by Steve Spathatore

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Viewed from the basket of a hot-air balloon, the world is peaceful, innocent, and free.

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Photographer Kris Vagner trains her lens on Tuscarora and Elko.



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Only in Nevada

The tallest tower, the loneliest road, the longest telegram, a town without gaming —by any measure Nevada is incomparable.

By Joyce Hollister, David Moore, and Leslie Pearson

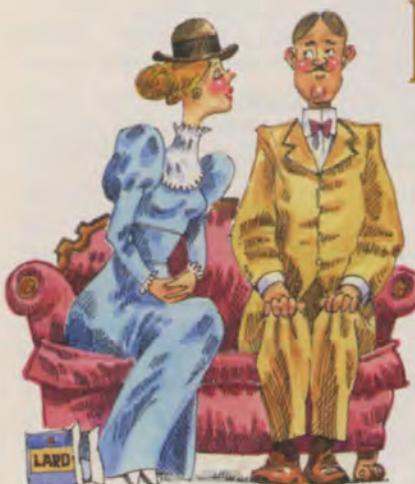
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The Man Who Saved Lake Tahoe

Wealthy playboy George Whittell's desire for privacy helped preserve most of Tahoe's eastern shore.

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(775) 687-5416 • Fax (775) 687-6159
e-mail: editor@nevadamagazine.com
Web site: www.nevadamagazine.com

Subscriptions and Customer Service:

Call toll-free 1-800-495-3281

Publisher: Richard Moreno

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Advertising Coordinator: Susan Wunsch

401 N. Carson St., Suite 100, Carson City, NV 89701-4291
(775) 687-0610, fax (775) 687-6159

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Nevada Magazine is a division of the
Nevada Commission on Tourism

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Submissions: Nevada Magazine assumes no responsibility
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A stamped self-addressed envelope must be included.

Subscriptions/Customer Service: Write to Nevada Magazine
Subscriptions, P.O. Box 726, Mount Morris, IL 61054-7652, or
call 1-800-495-3281. Please allow at least six weeks for sub-
scription fulfillment or change of address. Nevada Magazine is
published bimonthly. Subscriptions are \$18.95 per year. Add
\$7.00 per year for foreign and Canadian.

Disclaimer: Advertisements in this publication do not
constitute an offer for sale in states where prohibited or
restricted by law.

Reprints: Contact the Production Department, (775) 687-0606.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Nevada Magazine,
P.O. Box 726, Mount Morris, IL 61054-7652.

Printed in U.S.A.

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Quirks of Character

As a *Nevada Magazine* contributor since 1981, Susan James has written about a cast of "curious souls," as she calls them. They include Governor Henry Blasdel, whose disastrous 1866 exploration party to Southern Nevada was reduced to eating lizards, and Julia Bulette, the deified Virginia City prostitute whom Susan called "The Queen of Tarts." She says, "Once I did the story on Julia Bulette, I got hooked. It's fun to write about quirky people."

In this issue Susan introduces us to one of the quirkiest Nevadans of all time. In "The Man Who Saved Lake Tahoe" she describes how George Whittell owned most of the east side of Lake Tahoe and preserved one of the most beautiful places in the state. Susan says she became interested in the legendary eccentric four years ago after visiting his lakeside castle, the Thunderbird Lodge.

"As soon as you walk through those doors, every room has a story. As you walk down every path, into the tunnel, at the boathouse, every place tells a tale about Whittell." She heard about his wild animals and wild parties. "As a writer it was wonderful. It was just like Julia Bulette. You hear all the stories, and they are so outrageous. Are they true?"

Whittell proved such an intriguing subject that Susan and her husband, Ron, wrote a book about him. Their lavishly illustrated *Castle in the Sky: George Whittell and the Thunderbird Lodge* will be published this fall by the lodge's preservation society. Whittell likely was "an accidental environmentalist," she says. "The jury is still out on whether he actually wanted to preserve the pristine nature of the lake. Perhaps a part of him was that way, but it seemed that he mainly wanted to keep people away."

Today Susan, 49, serves as scholar in residence at the Fourth Ward School Museum in Virginia City and is writing a history of the school, which was built in 1876. The Carson City resident shares a



Historical detective Susan James.

love of history with Ron, Nevada's state historic preservation officer. However, their 16-year-old son, Reed, is more interested in archaeology. Susan jokes, "He says he'd rather be dusty than musty."

Recently several staff changes have taken place at *Nevada Magazine*. David Webb stepped down as production manager, and this issue we welcome his successor, Kurt Hildebrand, former managing editor of the *Nevada Appeal*. In addition, longtime circulation manager Debi Frame traded renewals for retirement, although we trust she'll keep busy. Same with retiring advertising director Patty Noll. Meanwhile, Susan Wunsch takes over Patty's coordinatorship. We wish them all the best.

Sadly, last spring saw the deaths of three friends of *Nevada Magazine*. Randal Grandstaff, owner of the

climbing school Sky's the Limit and key subject of Joan Patterson's March/April story "Rocking Out at Red Rock," died at age 44 in a 150-foot fall at Red Rock Canyon. When we saw Randal at the Governor's Conference on Tourism in Las Vegas last winter, he had just spoken on an adventure-travel panel and was training a group of Navy SEALs. He was so excited about the future. We'll miss Randal's help with stories, his enthusiasm, and his love for our state.

Ely photographer and photo archivist Ron Healy died in March at age 73. Ron frequently lent us his photographs and expertise, always with good humor.

Another Ely friend, Buddy Jukich, 71, died four weeks after he was featured in May/June's "Slivo Street" by Barbara Glass. Last spring we visited Buddy at his famous backyard barbecue headquarters, named Slivo Street after Slivovitz, a Yugoslavian plum brandy. After his death, according to Buddy's wishes, friends and family held a big wake at Slivo Street, and the Slivovitz flowed.—David Moore

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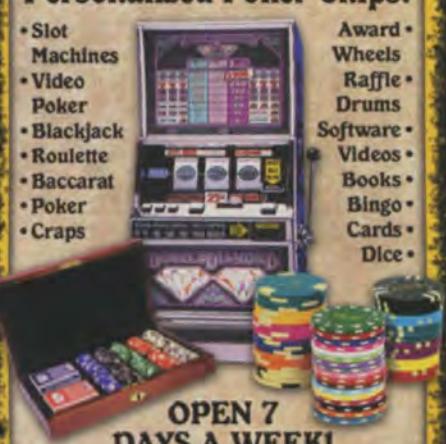
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Letters

Petula Clark, Buddy Jukich, and gas seekers on U.S. 6.

We Love LV

Jack Bulavsky's memories of a Las Vegas that no longer exists ("I Love LV," July/August '02) brought to mind the paean to the gambling mecca written and recorded by Petula Clark following a visit in the mid-'60s.

If anyone doubts that times have changed, he or she need only listen to some of the song's lyrics: "Sammy and Dean/They're bound to be seen/In Las Vegas/Even Noel Coward/Walks through the crowd/Singing out loud/In Las Vegas." Referring to the since-demolished Rat Pack hangout, she sings, "People dig bands/Clapping their hands/Down at the Sands/In Las Vegas."

However, these words by Clark will always hold true: "The money you earn/Is ready to burn/Everyone knows/That's how it goes/In Las Vegas"!

Thomas C. Rizzo Jr.
San Francisco, CA



Buddy Jukich at his Slivo Street retreat in Ely.

Respecting "Las Vegas"

I recently read Jack Bulavsky's article "I Love LV" in the July/August issue. I can understand the author's frustration. People should show more respect to a locale's accepted pronunciation. I am a former printer and have a great reverence for the English language. I don't like

sloppy word usage, such as when people call vegetables "veggies" and a refrigerator the "fridge." The article hit it right on the head.

We are fortunate to receive *Nevada Magazine* here at Sun Sounds of Arizona, where I am a volunteer reader. We are a 24-hour reading service for the blind and print-disabled, and I read frequently from *Nevada Magazine* and other Western publications for our program.

Philip Feld
Phoenix, AZ

All in the Family

Often you do not know how much an individual impacts your life. Buddy Jukich ("Slivo Street," by Barbara Glass, May/June '02) was such a man. Buddy, who died in June, lived near my father, Albert J.L. Cooper Sr., as a young boy in Old Ruth. They became the closest of friends.

Many words could describe Buddy, but

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one that always sticks in my mind is "hos-
pitable." I remember as a child going over
to "Uncle Buddy's" place in Ely. I was
always handed a Coke and something he
recently barbecued. Thanks to Buddy the
Yugoslavian barbecuing tradition was
adopted by many other cultures in White
Pine County. Buddy cooked for the Basque
Society, and he barbecued more than 200
pounds of meat for my parents' wedding.

Buddy never had children, but he was a
second father to me, a brother to my fa-
ther, and an uncle to many. If there is one
thing I've learned from Buddy's passing, it
is that "a home is nothing more than being
in the presence of family and friends."

Albert J.L. Cooper Jr.
Salt Lake City, UT

An Original

I would like to thank Barbara Glass for
writing and Richard Menzies for photo-
graphing the feature "Slivo Street" in the
May/June issue. Marco "Buddy" Jukich
was my cousin and an original Nevadan.

Dan Wilson
Twin Falls, ID

Herd But Not Seen

In response to the letters "Gasless in
Goldfield?" in May/June and "Is U.S. 6 the
Loneliest Road?" in July/August concerning
gasless Nevada highways: On U.S. 6 be-
tween Ely and Tonopah there is one gas
stop—Black Rock Station (formally Locke
Ranch) in Railroad Valley, 73 miles south-
west of Ely and 96 miles northeast of
Tonopah. Not only can you buy gas and re-
freshments at Black Rock Station, which
was established in 1995, but you also can
observe a small herd of buffalo. It's not un-
common to see deer, antelope, and mus-
tangs at Black Rock.

Jamie Drayton
Railroad Valley

Back in Black Rock

In response to Freddy White not finding
gas between Ely and Tonopah ("Letters,"
July/August '02), today's travelers will find
Black Rock Station less than 100 miles
from Ely. I should note that the beautiful
but very lonely U.S. 6 offers one of the
really great motorcycle rides in the state.

Warren Bowen
Cherry Creek

Gas Puzzler

In the May/June issue Pierre R. Sans
Souci asked if the 93 miles between
Tonopah and Beatty is the farthest one can
travel in Nevada between gas stations
("Gasless in Goldfield?"). Please consider

the stretch of highway from Winnemucca
north on U.S. 95 and northwest on State
Route 140 (via Denio Junction) to the
Oregon border as the longest gasless road
in Nevada. According to the state map,
such a drive would cover 141 miles.

Don Schiltz
Newark, NY

Country Roads

Regarding the letter "Gasless in
Goldfield?" in May/June: Tonopah is the
ideal place to own a service station, since
nearly everyone fills up at Tonopah.

The highway between Battle Mountain

and Tonopah is not the ideal place to run
out of gas, especially at night. Having driven
this route a number of times very late
at night, I know you could expect to meet
about five oncoming cars. During one of
my drives there was only one car over this
200-mile stretch.

George Sheaks
Ventura, CA

How to Submit Letters: Readers are encouraged to send letters regarding stories and photos in the magazine. Write "Letters to the Editor," Nevada Magazine, 401 N. Carson St., Suite 100, Carson City, NV 89701-4291. Fax 775-687-6159. E-mail editor@nevadamagazine.com.

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Roadside Attractions

Feeding the fish, The Wynn Collection, and a ghost story.

Cheetahs in Racing Form

RENO—Shaka and Zulu, brother and sister cheetahs who have starred in Mountain Dew commercials, can be seen running as fast as 65 mph at their temporary residence at **Animal Ark**, a nonprofit wildlife sanctuary for nonreleasable animals. The big cats are participating in a running program that keeps them healthy and gives visitors a chance to see these powerful animals.

"The cheetahs are being monitored for health, behavior, and nutrition in the running program," said Diana Hiibel, an Animal Ark founder. Shaka and Zulu will stay at the wildlife center until the end of September. Visitors can see the cheetahs and hear Dawn Simas describe her experiences with the cats at 2:30 p.m. on September 2. Simas works with Wild About Cats, a conservation group.

Tigers, mountain lions, wolves, foxes, bears, leopards, bobcats, and hawks live



Shaka runs at Animal Ark north of Reno, an exercise that keeps him and his sister, Zulu, in top condition.



Visitors feed the koi on the Colorado Belle's moat bridge (left). Below, a mallard tries to sneak a morsel as the koi circle.



Koi Story

LAUGHLIN—Twice a day guests at the **Colorado Belle** can feed the Japanese koi that dwell in the moat surrounding the paddle-wheeled casino. The fish are fed at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. all year except in the winter. Visitors can obtain commemorative cups of koi food at several feeding stations. The fish date back to 1997, when the moat was stocked with 100 nishikigoi, better known as koi. The fish have flourished, breeding in the shady areas created by the Colorado Belle's paddlewheels. Koi are not shy and love to eat. To keep the koi healthy, the hotel's chief engineer John Capps says, the fish food is specially formulated and the water in the moat is cleaned regularly.—Joyce Hollister

permanently at the center. Animal Ark is open 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily except Monday through October. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children. The center is located 24 miles north of Reno off U.S. 395; turn east at Red Rock Road and then right on the graded-gravel Deerlodge Road and watch for signs. Call 775-970-3111 for additional Animal Ark directions and information.—Leslie Pearson

Wynns' Gallery

LAS VEGAS—Paintings by Pablo Picasso and Vincent van Gogh are among the artworks exhibited at **The Wynn Collection**, housed in the Wynn Resorts building on the site of the former Desert Inn. Owner Steve Wynn, who opened the Bellagio with a similar top-drawer gallery, narrates the audio tour. Featured is Picasso's "Le Rêve" (The Dream), which is also the name of the new hotel Wynn plans for the property.

Steve and Elaine Wynns' collection includes more than a dozen 19th- and 20th-century paintings, including "Portrait of Mademoiselle Suzette Lemaire, In Profile" done in gouache and pastels by Edouard Manet in 1880. Among the oils from the



Henri Matisse painted "The Persian Robe" in 1940. Others in The Wynn Collection date from the 1800s.

early 1900s are "Portrait of a Woman" by Paul Cézanne and "Bathers" by Paul Gauguin. Amedeo Modigliani painted "Nude on a Couch" in 1917.

Several of the paintings are from the mid-20th century, including "Pineapple and Anemones" and "The Persian Robe" by Henri Matisse, done in 1940. Andy Warhol created a trio of portraits of Steve Wynn with synthetic polymer paint, silkscreen ink, and diamond dust in 1983.

The paintings eventually will be moved to a permanent gallery inside Le Rêve, which is expected to open in spring 2005. The collection's hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily at 3145 Las Vegas Boulevard South. Admission is \$5 for Nevada residents and \$10 for nonresidents. Call 702-733-4100 for information.—Joyce Hollister

Historical Photo Markers

CARSON CITY—A new type of Nevada historical marker offers photos and maps as well as text. For example, the marker at Spooner Summit on Lake Tahoe's east shore features an 1876 photo showing a denuded landscape—the pines had been cut down for use in Virginia City's mines. A notation, "You Are Here," allows readers to compare the current view to what Summit Camp looked like 126 years ago.

Made of fiberglass, the new markers resist damage by weather and vandals. Program director Barb Prudic of the State Historic Preservation Office says 262 markers, nearly all of them made of engraved aluminum, have been installed since 1964.

Traveler's Advisories

Radio on the Road

Las Vegas talk-show host Ira David Sternberg presents a radio tour of the state, *Traveling Nevada With Ira*, on Saturdays at 1:30 p.m. through September on KDNW AM 720. He'll broadcast from Ely on September 7, Laughlin on September 14, North Lake Tahoe on September 21, and Pahrump on September 28. The series is sponsored by the Nevada Commission on Tourism.

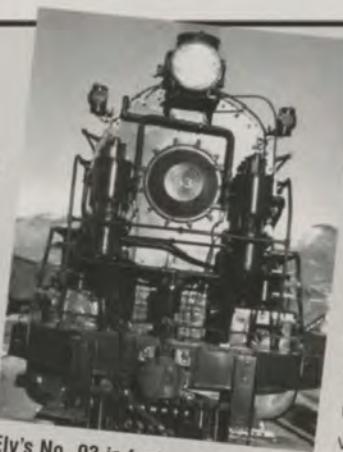
Old Buildings Are New to Register

Two buildings important to settlement of Southern Nevada have been listed in the State Register of Historic Places. The **LDS Moapa Stake Office Building** in Overton, opened in 1919, is now a museum depicting the early days of Mormon pioneers. In Las Vegas, officials plan to convert the **Las Vegas Post Office and Courthouse** in the old downtown area into a museum and cultural center. Visit www.nevadaculture.org for

more information on these and others in the state register.

Photographs Pull into Station

On Labor Day weekend, August 31-September 2, train fans can ride cars pulled by restored locomotives at the Nevada State Railroad Museum's **All Ely's No. 93 is featured in display. Steamed Up** event and afterward head indoors to see "Tribute to Another Era: The Photography of Gordon Osmundson." Osmundson, a San Francisco landscape architect, has been photographing railroads since 1963. The exhibit, on display until September 29, presents 60 black-and-white photographs of historic trains in Ely and in Jamestown, California. The railroad museum is open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$2 and free for visitors under 18. Call 775-687-6953 for more exhibit information.



Rim Trail Adopt-A-View

For \$5,000, Tahoe enthusiasts can adopt a view on the **Tahoe Rim Trail**. Available spaces can be seen on the TRT's Web site. Adoption fees go toward trail conservation. Adopters receive certificates, photographs of their views, maps showing the GPS coordinates, and their names printed on trail-head kiosks. Visit www.tahoerimtrail.org.

Hotel Packages

First-time visiting pilots to the **Carson Valley Inn** can park their planes at the Minden-Tahoe Airport and then park themselves at the hotel-casino for a free night's stay by mentioning its "Fly-Inn" promotion. The package includes free transportation. Call 775-783-6624 for details.



Spooner Summit marker tells of the area's history.

The fiberglass markers gradually will be added to high-traffic areas. Call 775-684-3448 for details and to obtain a guide to Nevada historical markers.—*Joyce Hollister*

Sierra Fall Foliage

MOUNT ROSE—The serene sound of water bubbling over rocks greets visitors to **Galena Creek Park**. A wooden footbridge crosses the creek and leads hikers to the easy quarter-mile Bitterbrush Trail that winds through the county park 17 miles south of downtown Reno.

The Bitterbrush Trail leads hikers to the Nature Trail, where markers describe Sierra plants and the history of Galena, an 1860s lumber town. A moderate-to-strenuous seven-mile hike on the Jones Creek-White's Creek Loop leads to picturesque meadows near Church's Pond. In fall the



Reno photographer Mark Vollmer leads an autumn photo workshop at Galena Creek Park.

leaves of the aspens and cottonwoods turn red and yellow. Hikers should allow about six hours to navigate the 10.2-mile trail, which rises from 6,200 to 8,200 feet in elevation. Rangers will offer the park's annual Fall Photo Workshop October 12 for those interested in autumn foliage.

Galena Creek Park is on the Mount Rose Highway seven miles west of the junction with U.S. 395. Fall and winter hours

are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. All 420 acres of the park are open to foot and equestrian traffic year-round. Horse trailers may be parked at the north entrance. Visitors can pick up brochures for the Nature Trail and the Jones Creek-White's Creek Loop Trail at trail entrances. Call Colleen Wallace Barnum at 775-849-2511 for details on the photo workshop or other events at Galena Creek Park.—*Susan Elbe*



renolaketahoe.com

The Ghost of Room 343

By Lin Anderson

Unrequited love, that most horrible and bitter of emotions, may haunt the dark upper reaches of Elko's historic Commercial Hotel.

That's the oft-told story, anyway, of a cowpoke named Handsome Harry Callahan and his ill-fated love for an Elko girl that ended in tragedy, death—and, perhaps, undeath.

According to Commercial Hotel employees, Harry haunts the upper floors of the hotel, which are unused now for the most part, awaiting what would be an extensive retrofit to conform to modern building codes. The casino, showroom, bars, and restaurants on the Commercial's ground floor still resonate 24 hours a day with the clatter and shouts of gaming and partying, but upstairs, if someone walks,

they most often walk alone. "Nobody goes up there," says David Johnson, assistant marketing director for the hotel. "I've thought about it myself. Things just ain't right up there."

Johnson says many employees have reported eerie sensations amid

strange fluctuations in the electrical system on the upper floors. And when they talk about these experiences, it is always with a mention of Harry, whom local legend says was on his way to greet his new bride in Room 343 when he was shot and killed by a jealous suitor. Now, decades later, he wanders the halls, looking for his love, for eternity. Or so the story has it.

Johnson says he's convinced something is going on. "I had one experience that was kind of odd. I went up there and found this Bible that was all dusty. I picked it up and looked at it, wondering why it was there, and I moved it to another spot. When I went back the next day, it had re-

turned to the place where it was the day before."

There's a lot of interest in Harry, so much so that the hotel is considering offering the public a glimpse of its mysterious upper reaches. "The word is getting out. People have gotten to asking and talking about it," Johnson says. "We're getting it cleaned up, and one day we'll be taking people on tours." For now, though, a private tour can be arranged. "Carl the security guard likes to take people up there," Johnson says. People interested in delving further into the legend of Handsome Harry are welcome to phone Elko's Commercial Hotel, 775-738-3181, to arrange a tour, whether for Halloween or just if the spirit moves them. █

Lin Anderson, editor of the Elko Independent, has for years communed with spirits across the Commercial Hotel bar. He recently was named best columnist by the National Association of Free Community Newspapers for his column, "One of These Weeks," in the Mail Box News.

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DINING AS

Entertainment

By
Joan Patterson
and
Mike Weatherford



The bride and groom mingle with "guests" in "Tony 'n Tina's Wedding" at the Rio.

The old-style supper show may be nearly extinct, but here are some current Las Vegas shows to dine for.

While their counterparts at other Strip hotels are dipping into crème brûlée and dabbing their mouths with crisp linen, diners at the "Tournament of Kings" inside the Excalibur Hotel-Casino are fighting the urge to chuck their broccoli spears at a nasty guy named Mordred.

The menacing black knight is literally spewing fire as he chases their hero, King

Christopher, with a giant broadsword. Tearing into roasted chicken legs and shaking their greasy fists like fans at a Yankees game, the aroused patrons begin picking up empty soup bowls and pounding them on the tables in one giant tantrum: "Clop! Clop! Clop!" As the evildoer finally falls to his knees, they erupt with a chorus of "Hazzah!" and toast their victorious king with manly mugs of Diet Coke and apple juice.

While the intimate dinner shows of the Sinatra era have faded into the sunset, there are still ways to combine an evening of dining and entertainment in Las Vegas without leaving your chair. The possibilities, in fact, are growing as more and more restaurants try to stand out from the pack and casinos look for ways to provide an entire evening out.

The Excalibur's "Tournament of Kings," for example, is one of the most successful

shows in town. The Middle Ages feast is set around a story in which the Knights of the Round Table compete in jousting tournaments, javelin throws, flag races, and hand-to-hand combat. There are elaborate sets, pyrotechnics, and stunt work credible enough to wow a crowd sitting just feet away. Most importantly, the show encourages a chest-thumping, let-it-all-go attitude by leaving the silverware in the kitchen so diners can devour their feast as if sitting shoulder-to-shoulder with the brazen knights and their King Arthur.

"It's a fun show. People can get rid of their frustrations," notes producer Patrick Jackson. "It's a good deal, too, and it's real. If there's sword fighting, there's sword fighting, and if they miss, they get stitches."

Another marriage of food and fantasy is "Tony 'n Tina's Wedding," a long-running off-Broadway show that puts audience members smack in the middle of an

Italian marriage celebration. A room at the Rio All-Suite Hotel has been transformed into a wedding hall with white lights, trelliswork, and even inscribed shot glasses. "It's just taking it to the 10th degree what an Italian wedding would be like," says coproducer Jeff Gitlin.

During the two-hour production the showgoing guests munch on antipasto and linguine while 30 cast members mill around the room improvising their parts. Audience members overhear several story lines depending on their table assignments and are encouraged to schmooze with the roving wedding party, do the chicken dance, and generally take part in the shenanigans.

Sin City even plays host to a weekly gospel brunch. Every Sunday at the House of Blues inside Mandalay Bay, the night-club's dance floor is transformed into a church hall. Long tables are covered with butcher paper and steaming pots of coffee. Audience members become instant friends over plates piled with cheese grits, jambalaya, collard greens, tender ham and



Jousting fans at the Excalibur's "Tournament of Kings" are seated close to the sword-swinging knights and Merlin, the bearded sorcerer (above). During "Tony 'n Tina's Wedding" a Rio showgoer joins actress Melissa Adamson on the dance floor.



beef, cobbler, chocolate brownies, and corn bread that has to be scooped from giant iron skillets.

Part of the fun is watching the crowd shake and shimmy to outstanding gospel music, including performances by a local group, the Gastons. Celebrity performers have included Stevie Wonder and the Reverend Al Green. The surroundings are an event in themselves, with rooms dripping in colorful folk art.

Following is a sampling of shows and eateries that combine good fun and good eats, whether it's an Irish pub serving Celtic rock and shepherd's pie or a retro

strip restaurant where employees in Jetson-style spacesuits offer 21 flavors of gelato.

Blue Note Jazz Club: Desert Passage Mall at the Aladdin Hotel; 702-862-8307. The creators of the Blue Note Jazz Club in

The Mellowtones rekindle big-band standards of the 1930s and '40s every Sunday evening at Oxo.

New York and Japan opened a Vegas edition in the hopes of providing big-city jazz. The club offers a range of jazz styles including Latin, fusion, and bebop. Show

times are 8 and 10:30 p.m., and the kitchen stays open until 11 p.m. Specialties include ceviche, filet mignon, and a decadent brownie sundae.

The cover charge is \$15 to \$25 depending on who's playing. On Sunday the club hosts an open jam session at 8 p.m. Everyone from University of Nevada, Las Vegas professors to Harrah's headliner Clint Holmes have stopped by for the impromptu sessions, which require only a \$10 food or drink minimum.

Caesars Magical Empire: Caesars Palace; 702-731-7333. Diners ride an elevator to "underground" catacombs allegedly built by Caesar to confine the wizards and entertain royal guests of the Roman Empire. Performing servers make a show of dinner in several small chambers. Patrons then catch magic shows in two small theaters, where sleight-of-hand is featured more than oversized stagecraft.

The show runs Tuesday through Saturday. Dinner service begins at 4:30 p.m. Tickets for the show and dinner are \$75.50 for adults, \$19.50 for ages five to 11. Tickets for the magic shows only are \$26.50 adults, \$10 children.

The Egg and I: 4533 West Sahara Avenue; 702-616-3322. Yes, this eatery does specialize in breakfast fare, but four nights

a week it also plays host to an audience-participation whodunit called "Marriage Can Be Murder." Everyone is a suspect in this comedic caper as several cast members

blend with the dinner crowd and everyone points the finger at everyone else. The dinner show begins at 7 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 6 p.m. Saturday. Tickets are \$44.95 and include a choice of three different entrées such as roasted chicken or pasta. Reservations are recommended, one week in advance if possible.

House of Blues Gospel Brunch: Mandalay Bay, 3950 South Las Vegas Boulevard; 702-632-7777 The Sunday shows have two seatings, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Tickets are \$37 for adults, \$19 for children 12 and under, and free for six and under.

J.C. Wooloughan's: J.W. Marriott, 221 North Rampart Boulevard; 702-869-7777 This Irish pub was built in Ireland and brought to Las Vegas piece by piece, from bar stools to bric-a-brac. Authentic menu items include the *boxty*, a thin potato pancake filled with meat and vegetables, and fish and chips made with Icelandic cod and a beer batter so hush-hush the chef won't reveal the secret lager.

Entertainment offerings vary, with an Irish folk singer, sing-a-long, and creative toasting on Wednesday and Thursday nights, Celtic rock on Friday and Saturday nights, and a Sunday evening jig session with step dancers. The kitchen is open until 2 a.m. The average entrée costs \$9.

Jazzed Café and Vinoteca: 8615 West



The Kevin Lyon Trio, with (from left) guitarist Lyon, bassist Tyler Williams, and drummer Dale Rampton, and other jazz groups play at the Jazzed Café and Vinoteca in Las Vegas.

Sahara Avenue; 702-233-2859. Jazz trios play Wednesday through Saturday to preserve a musical genre that is no longer deemed commercial on the modern Strip. The restaurant's interior gives the impression of walking into a painting; swoops of bright colors highlight the floor, accented by stone sculptures, folk art, and filmy fabrics. The Italian menu is a blend of the modern and traditional, with eggplant Parmigiano, artichoke lasagna, and a large selection of risotto dishes.

Olio: MGM Grand Hotel; 702-891-1111. The entertainment at this restaurant is in the creative extras. Patrons at the Bloody Mary Bar can turn this traditional drink into a hot and spicy experience by adding extras such as cayenne pepper, horseradish, or pickled asparagus.

Olio also has a gelato bar where girls dressed in spacesuits with silver boots and shoulder pads out to Neptune serve 21 flavors of the fat-free dessert including green apple, mandarin, and chocolate toasted hazelnut at \$3.25 a scoop.

Ortanique: Paris Las Vegas; 702-946-4346. This eatery offers a fusion of tastes from the West Indies with choices such as the Rasta Pasta or penne with sun-dried tomatoes, mushrooms, garlic, and jerk chicken or shrimp. The room has a relaxed, island atmosphere with filmy fabric canopies accenting the booths, lots of dark wood, and pots of bamboo.

Ortanique's stage features jazz, reggae, and steel drum bands. As the night wears on, tables and chairs are pushed aside so patrons can dance into the wee hours. Entertainment is scheduled Wednesday through Saturday nights. A full menu is

offered at Ortanique until 10:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

Oxo: J.W. Marriott, 221 North Rampart Boulevard; 702-869-7777 The Mellowtones, a 22-piece big band, rekindle ballroom standards of the '30s and '40s every Sunday evening at this hotel-casino. The retro-themed steakhouse in pink and green pastels is one of four Las Vegas eateries run by chef Gustav Mauler, a local success story. Big-band enthusiasts are offered a special deal: \$30 gets them the Mellowtones plus a three-course meal.

Rainforest Café: MGM Grand Hotel; 702-891-8580. There are plenty of theme restaurants in town, but this one offers good touches for kids (and adults) who are into anything jungle-related. The entire room is dripping in faux trees, vines, aquariums, and animatronic beasts such as gorillas, elephants, and jaguars. Every 20 minutes a tropical storm brings distant booms of thunder from surrounding speakers and streams of "rain" from water lines around the restaurant. The well-stocked menu includes a large selection of salads, ribs, steaks, seafood, burgers, sandwiches, and pizzas, with prices ranging from \$11 to \$22.

"Tony 'n Tina's Wedding": Rio All-Suite Hotel; 702-777-7776. Show times are 7 p.m. daily. Tickets are \$71.50 and \$82.50.

"Tournament of Kings": Excalibur Hotel; 702-597-7600. Two shows nightly at 6 and 8:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$46.86, silverware not included. ▀

Other Show-Dine Spots

You'll find a handful of hotel-casinos outside Las Vegas that mix morsels with music. The shows aren't in Reno or Lake Tahoe but rather in Laughlin and Jackpot.

"Joey and Maria's Comedy Italian Wedding": River Palms, Laughlin; 800-835-7904. This Boston-born dinner show resembles the Rio's "Tony 'n Tina's." An Italian buffet provides the dinner, eccentric guests offer the intrigue, and the audience takes part in the singing and dancing. "Joey and Maria's" plays in the River Palms' Crystal Sands Room several weekend nights each month through 2002 (for dates see this issue's "Showguide" in "Nevada Events and Shows"). Show time is 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$24.99 per person.

Gala Showroom: Cactus Petes, Jackpot; 800-821-1103. The dinner show may be nearly extinct in Las Vegas and Reno, but it's alive and well at Cactus Petes on the Idaho border. Seating in the Gala Showroom begins at 5:30 for the 8 p.m. dinner show. The menu features New York steak, prime rib, salmon, and lobster. Prices start at \$14.95 (\$19.95 Saturday) and include both dinner and show. After dinner you'll see acts like the Kingston Trio, the Smothers Brothers, Juice Newton, Dr. Hook, and the Grass Roots. There's also an 11 p.m. cocktail show.—David Moore

Joan Patterson is a Las Vegas writer. Mike Weatherford writes about entertainment for the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

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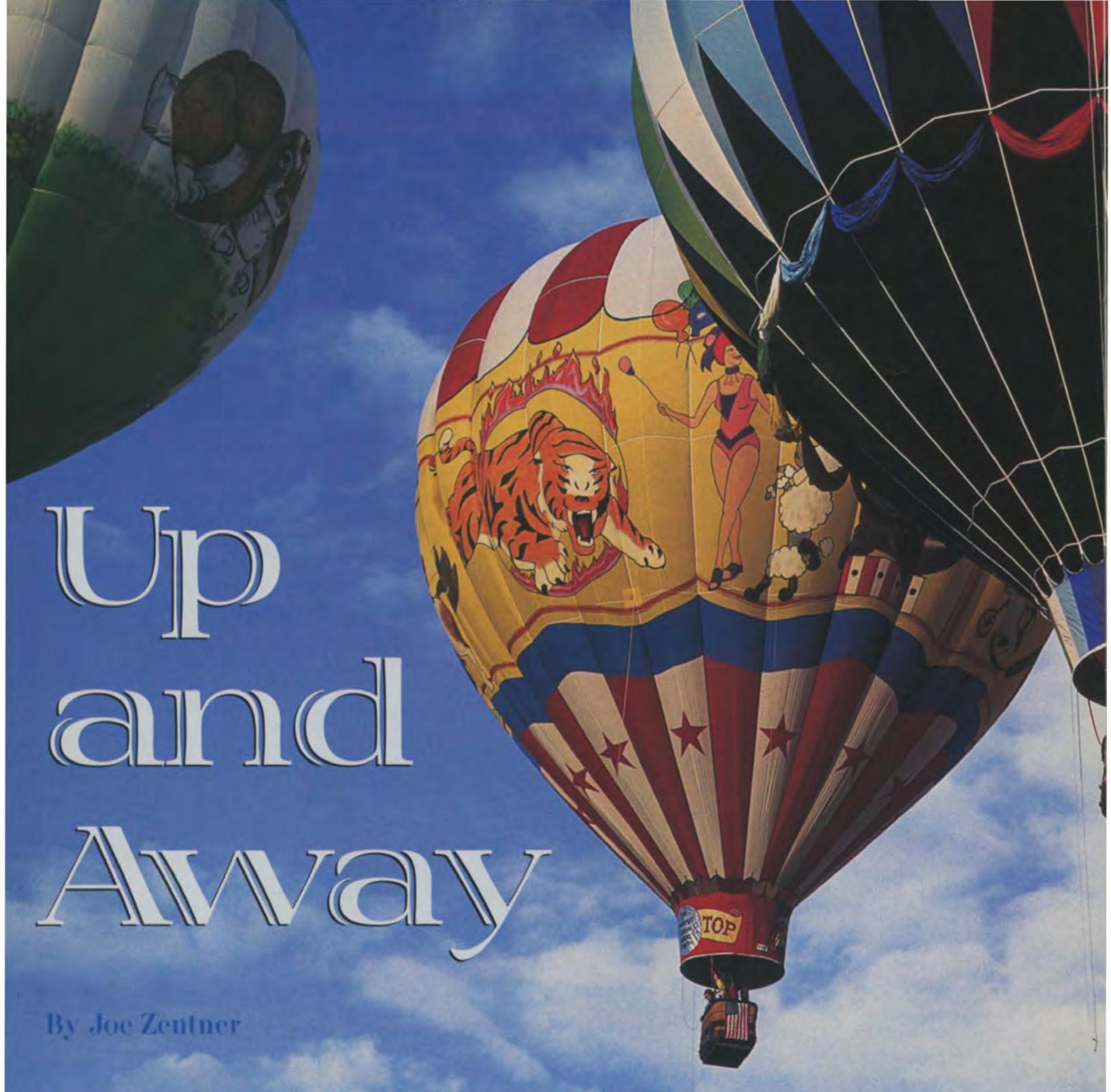
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Up and Away

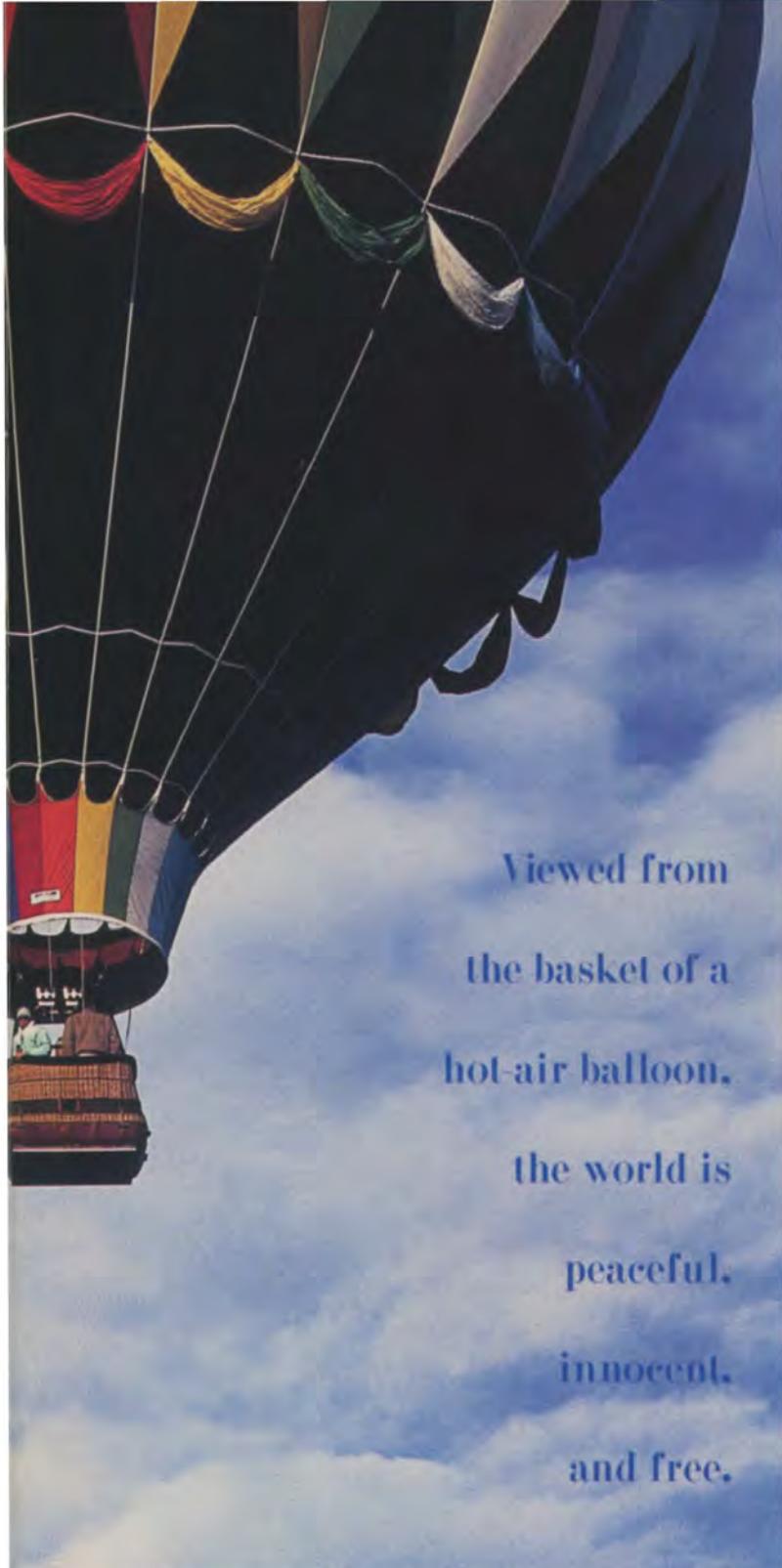
By Joe Zentner

Imagine floating in total silence, drifting slowly above the ground while watching patches of green and brown merge, creating the illusion that it is the earth and not you in motion. Your journey is similar to a dream, an airborne fantasy where loud ground noises are muffled and all motion slows. It is as though the earth is staging a slow-motion parade, and you are the only observer.

At a time when many people seem addicted to snowmobiles, personal watercraft, dune buggies, and other loud, off-road vehicles, ballooning is an environmentally harmonious activity. In a balloon, one does not terrorize wildlife or rend the air with raucous sounds. A balloonist travels largely at the mercy of the

wind and in peace with nature. From above, the world seems transformed. The land shrinks to Lilliputian dimensions. Horses run from this spectacle in the sky while people peer up and wave. A balloonist can fly just above the treetops and see wildlife that would never be seen from the ground. Viewed from the basket of a hot-air balloon, the world is halcyon, innocent. There is no sound when one is aloft, save for the occasional "whoosh" of the propane burner. You don't hear the wind because you float along with it.

People petrified at the top of a 15-foot ladder, like me, seldom experience fear in the basket of a balloon. "There's no sensation of movement because you're moving with the wind,"



Viewed from
the basket of a
hot-air balloon,
the world is
peaceful,
innocent,
and free.

says Ronnie Davis, a Reno bank executive. "I'm afraid of heights, but not of ballooning." One is hardly aware of being parted from the ground. It's like being in a museum and looking down at a model city laid out at your feet.

"My kids described it best," says balloonist Mike Willis, owner of a Henderson car dealership. "After their first ride in my balloon, they were asked, 'What was it like?' 'Oh, people on the ground got smaller,' they answered."

Balloon flight is the fulfillment of an age-old dream. It is the fantasy of Dorothy and Toto soaring over the Emerald City in *The Wizard of Oz* and of Phineas Fogg

crossing the English Channel at the start of his 80-day trip around the world.

More than a century before the Wright Brothers etched their names in aviation history, two French brothers accomplished a feat that may have been more noteworthy. Etienne and Joseph Montgolfier noticed that small paper containers rose in the fireplace of the family chateau. That gave them an idea. The brothers began experimenting with smoke-filled balloons. Believing that smoke possessed some magical property, they tested several varieties, burning such items as old shoes and rotten meat. The Montgolfiers settled on a combination of straw and wool but later determined that it was hot air, not smoke, that provided lift for their balloons.

Hot-air balloons have their place in history. Balloons smuggled French Republican statesman Leon Gambetta up and away from the siege of Paris during the Franco-Prussian War and helped protect London from the German Luftwaffe during World War II.

In Nevada, you can watch balloons fill the sky with a kaleidoscope of colors at the Great Reno Balloon Race on the second weekend of September (see "Nevada Events and Shows"). The event draws more than 100,000 spectators to Rancho San Rafael Park to see pilots loft their crafts in one of America's biggest ballooning events.

Watching a balloon race means taking pleasure in the beginning, not the end. From the time crew members unroll the balloons on the ground until the sky fills with these heaven-bound giants, you'll have a great time watching them come to life. It's a delight to watch balloons fill out and become sneakers, golf balls, or birthday cakes.

Of course, launch conditions need to be just right. Hot-air balloons don't fly if the wind is moving faster than 10 mph—it isn't safe. And balloonists fly only at dawn and just before dusk when the wind is typically the calmest.

At the Reno balloon race, as well as the Minden Rotary's Hot-Air Balloon Races in Carson Valley in June, the competition is deceptively simple. A lead balloon, called the "hare," will inflate and take off. The hare's job is to float with the air currents and find a likely spot to drop a target.

Until the hare is airborne, the other balloons—the "hounds"—can't inflate and give chase. But once the hare begins flight, the pursuing balloonists use fans to inflate the "envelopes," the technical term for balloons. Then each balloonist fires the burners to heat the air. As balloon after balloon ascends, the race is on. Slowly. The hounds try to pursue the hare closely enough so that the pilot can pitch a beanbag onto a target that the hare has dropped.

Besides a decent pitching arm, the pilot needs ballooning
(Continued on page 80)

People
petrified at
the top of
a 15-foot
ladder, like
me, seldom
experience
fear in the
basket of a
balloon.

Painted Desert

Kris Vagner

trains her lens
on Tuscarora
and Elko.

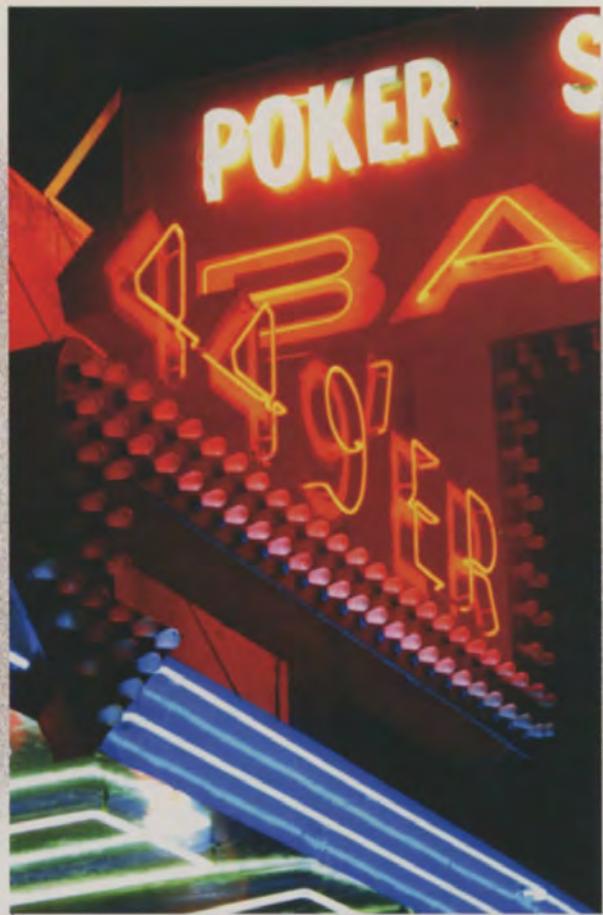
Kris Vagner likes to photograph Tuscarora's forsaken spots. "You can see all kinds of machinery and equipment in the fields, abandoned," the 31-year-old fine-art photographer says. "I like to take what's out there and make something else out of it. I use the details as a composition and the color as paint." Vagner and her husband, Jason, divide their time between Brooklyn and Tuscarora, the historic mining town north of Elko. Vagner often documents their travels along the way. The focus of her work is large, abstract color prints, which she has shown at the Winchester Gallery in Las Vegas.

—Joyce Hollister

Gas Pump, Tuscarora

"I loved this big piece of equipment just standing out there in the middle of nowhere with nothing around it."





Gas Pump, Tuscarora, Detail

"What appealed to me was the color—a bright-red gas pump."

449'er Bar, Elko

"I'm really interested in light, so I take pictures of lights and reflections and things that glint and refract."

Bottleneck Boulevard, Tuscarora

"This picture stands for creative possibility—people using very humble materials. Also, I'm a sucker for backlit glass."



Only in Nevada

The tallest tower, the loneliest road—by any measure
Nevada is incomparable.



Mayor Dotta and Bing Crosby model their tuxes.

Basin-and-range topography and Elvis-themed weddings aren't the only attractions that make Nevada unique. As we approach the Nevada Day festivities of October 25-27 it's appropriate to celebrate what sets the Silver State apart from the 49 others. Here are a few of those phenomena found only in Nevada.

High Point

At 1,149 feet, the **Stratosphere Tower** in Las Vegas is the tallest building west of the Mississippi and the highest free-standing observation tower in the U.S. The tower's Big Shot and High Roller are the world's highest thrill rides. Diners in the Top of

the World Restaurant, 833 feet above the Strip, can see it all as the room makes a complete revolution every 60 minutes. But the best view may be from the outdoor observation deck on the Stratosphere's 108th floor, where you can take in a 360-degree panorama of the Las Vegas Valley.

Bing's Tux

In 1951 Bing Crosby, the most famous singer in the world and owner of several Elko County ranches, arrived unshaven at a Vancouver hotel after a five-day hunting trip. The clerk thought Crosby was a bum and refused to register him. Elko townspeople decided to properly outfit their celebrity resident and ordered custom-made **denim tuxedos** from the Levi Strauss Company in San Francisco for Crosby and Elko Mayor Dave Dotta. The tuxedos featured boutonnieres made from the red tags usually stitched to the pockets of Levi's jeans. Crosby was presented his tuxedo on Blue Serge Day, June 30, 1951, during the Silver State Stampede rodeo in Elko. He then offered a song, sung to the tune of "On Top of Old Smoky":

*Way up in Elko
They know what to wear.
The next time I come here,
I'll have to bring my hair.*

Crosby then tipped his hat to reveal his bald head. Visitors can see his and Dotta's denim tuxedos in the history section of the Northeastern Nevada Museum in Elko.



The Stratosphere towers over Las Vegas.



A rare Nevada mineral helped power this 1928 Model A.

Spark Source

Model T's and Model A's once depended upon a little-known Nevada mineral to stay on the road. **Dumortierite**, used in spark plugs, was mined from 1925 to 1945 in the

Humboldt Range. In fact, Humboldt Queen Canyon, located about 20 miles northeast of Lovelock, had the world's only commercial deposit of the mineral, which maintains its strength at high temperatures. The Champion Sillimanite Company shipped 5,000 tons of du-mortierite to Detroit to make spark-plug insulators before porcelain replaced it in the 1950s.

Survival of the Loneliest

When *Life* magazine named U.S. 50 across Central Nevada the "Loneliest Road in America" in 1986, some Nevadans were outraged. Soon afterward official road signs and Highway 50 Survival Kits appeared in historic towns like Ely, Eureka, and Austin, making light of the designation—and proudly proclaiming the road the "loneliest."

Steamboat's Special Species

Many of Nevada's 2,800 species of flowering plants are unique to the state—like the **Steamboat buckwheat**, which grows only in the geothermal fields at Steamboat Hot Springs south of Reno. The plant thrives in poor soils made of minerals deposited by flows from the hot springs. It is a low, woody perennial that produces leafless



Steamboat buckwheat grows solely south of Reno.

stems three to 10 inches high, each topped with a fuzzy pinkish or white round flower head between May and July. "The Steamboat soil type is fairly harsh and makes it difficult for other plants to grow there," says Jim Moreland, botanist with the Nevada Natural Heritage Program. "It probably protects the buckwheat from competition from other species, such as sagebrush and rabbitbrush." Visit www.state.nv.us/nvnhp to discover more

information about Nevada's rare and native plants.

Banned in Boulder

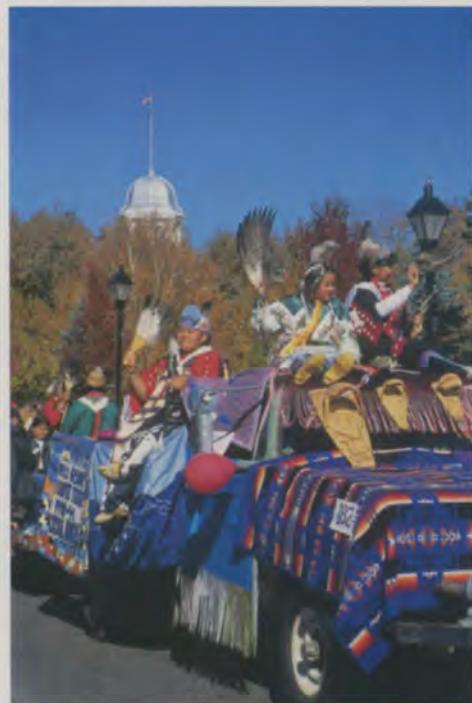
You'll find nary a slot machine or keno board in **Boulder City**, the only town in Nevada where gaming is outlawed. "No game, slot machine, pinball machine, or gambling device shall be conducted ... within the City," stated Article XIII of the city charter, which also prohibited liquor sales (later allowed) and prostitution. Boulder City was established as a federal camp to house Hoover Dam workers in the 1930s, and the charter was approved in the 1950s after the feds turned the town over to residents. So was the ban a federal plot? Apparently not. "The charter was written by a group of citizens," explains City Clerk Vicki Mayes. "You have to remember that liquor and gaming had always been prohibited in Boulder City. As a town it was very conservative in those areas." The charter authors did take pity on kitchen poker players by adding, "Nothing in this Section shall be construed to prohibit social games played in private homes or residences."



greens with biodegradable paint, and players use bicycles to carry clubs and gallons of sunscreen while braving sun, wind, and dust storms. As event founder Doug Keister says, picking sand out of his teeth, "It's 18 holes to test the spirit."

Nevada Day

Nevada is the only state in the continental U.S. to observe its admission day with a legal holiday on a Friday, creating a three-day weekend. Nevada's official birth date is October 31, 1864, but three years ago the legislature made the **Nevada Day** holiday the last Friday in October. Hawaii,



Nevada Day musters the state's biggest parade (above) while the Black Rock has its driest links.

Extreme Golf

Each June since 1988 a group of golfers has played an extreme version of the game of Scots on one of the most barren spots in North America. The **Black Rock Self-Invitational Golf Tournament** covers 18 holes, including a 700-yard par six, on the temporary Lucifer's Anvil links (see keis-terphoto.com). Artists create the tees and



admitted to the Union on August 21, 1959, observes its holiday on the third Friday of August. In West Virginia, the only other state to have an admission-day holiday, residents take a day off on June 20, the day the state was recognized in 1863. This year the Nevada Day parade in Carson City takes place on Saturday, October 26. The theme is "Nevada is Indian Territory." Call 866-NVDAY4U or visit www.nevadaday.com for Nevada Day details.

Mr. Showmanship

Eighteen of Liberace's 39 pianos, including his favorite Baldwin concert grand covered in mirrored tiles, are exhibited at the **Liberace Museum** in Las Vegas. The entertainer, who died in 1987, founded the museum in 1979 to raise money for scholarships. Recently expanded, the museum features Mr. Showmanship's collection of ornate cars, among them a 1934 roadster plastered with Austrian rhinestones. The entertainer's stage jewelry and fur-lined costumes are also displayed. His King

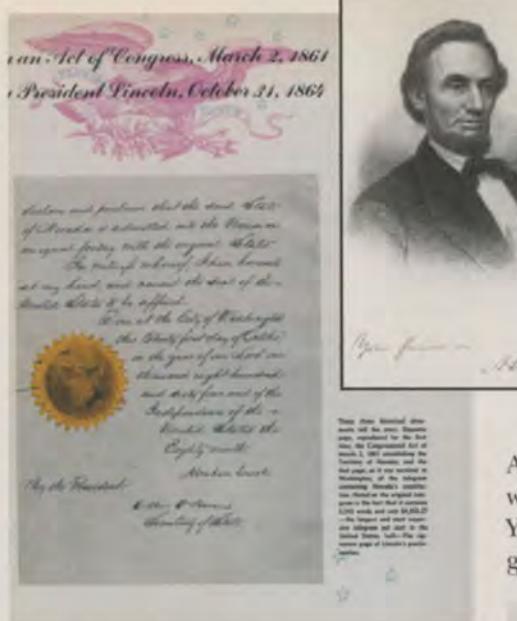


The entertainer who invented flair built his own museum.

Neptune costume, decorated with sea shells and pearls, weighs 200 pounds. The museum, at 1775 East Tropicana Avenue, is open every day except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

Longest Telegram

Nowadays if you need to send a message to the nation's capital, an e-mail gets it there with a click of a mouse. In October 1864, Territorial Governor James Nye sent two certified copies of Nevada's newly approved state constitution to President Abraham Lincoln, one by sea and the other by overland mail. When neither



Nevada's constitution was telegraphed to Lincoln.

copy arrived, another option was tried—the telegraph. The 16,543-word constitution reached Washington, D.C., via Chicago and Philadelphia as the **longest telegram** transmitted up to that time.

State Archives Manager Jeffrey Kintop says, "It took two days for this bit of 19th-century e-mail to cross the country. It was sent October 26th and received October 28th." A notation on the telegram received by Lincoln indicates the cost was \$4,303.27, but territorial officials probably considered it well spent since Nevada became a state a few days later.

Cockadoodle Contretemps

A **golden rooster** that was once a jailbird can be seen at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks.

In 1958, the Nugget built a new restaurant called the Golden Rooster Room and wanted a unique symbol to display. After gaining permission from the San Francisco Mint, the Nugget commissioned an 18-karat, 17-pound, solid-gold rooster. The bird was an immediate attraction for tourists, residents, and U.S. Treasury officials, who decided it violated the Gold Reserve Act rule that an individual cannot own more than 50

ounces of gold unless it is art. So was the rooster art? The government said no, and a tug-of-war lasted until 1962, when a panel of art critics convinced a jury that the statue was, in fact, art. Today, the rooster is perched in the lobby of John Ascuaga's Nugget and is insured for more than \$100,000.

Wovoka's Legacy

A Paiute man called Jack Wilson by the white family who raised him near Yerington and **Wovoka** by his followers gained national attention as the prophet



Wovoka, the Paiute prophet, with actor Tim McCoy.

of the 1880s Ghost Dance religion. Wovoka preached peace and brotherhood, but tribes across the Midwest, confined to reservations and decimated by disease, embraced the Ghost Dance as a way to rid themselves of their white oppressors—setting the stage for the tragic events at Wounded Knee in 1890. Wovoka remained a popular figure among the residents of Mason Valley and died a respected elder in 1932 at the age of 76. Wovoka was buried next to Mary, his wife of more than 50 years, in Schurz on the Walker River Indian Reservation.



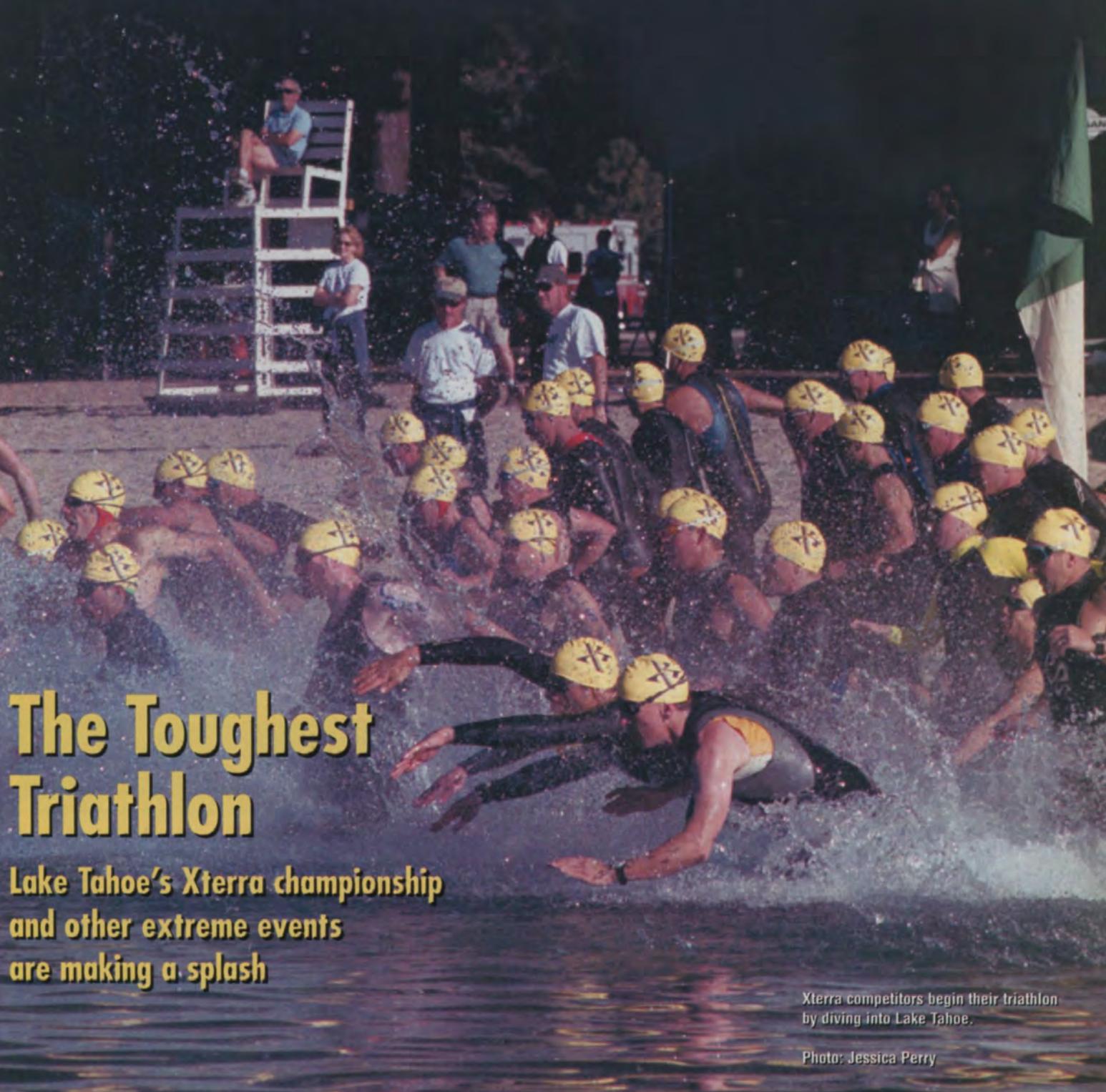
The Nugget's golden crower had its own tell-all booklet.

—Joyce Hollister, David Moore, and Leslie Pearson

NEVADA *Events & Shows*

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

September/October 2002



The Toughest Triathlon

Lake Tahoe's Xterra championship
and other extreme events
are making a splash

Xterra competitors begin their triathlon
by diving into Lake Tahoe.

Photo: Jessica Perry



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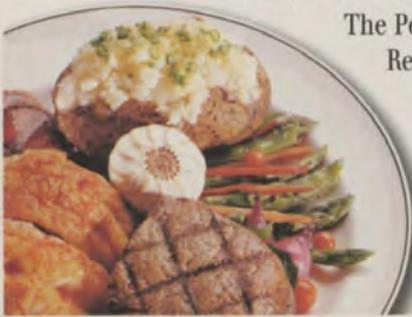
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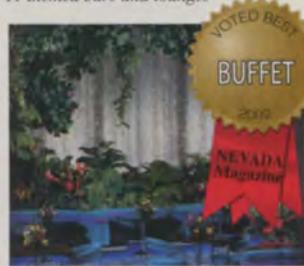
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Spotlight

Going to Xtremes

Triathletes test their limits during the Xterra championship at Lake Tahoe, one of Mother Nature's toughest training grounds.

**Story and Photos
by Jessica Perry**

Sometimes in sports you find yourself face-to-face with an even fiercer opponent than the competitor next to you. During this September's Nissan Xterra USA Championship in Incline Village, the triathletes will be acutely aware of that opponent—Mother Nature. They will have to endure a cold Lake Tahoe, thin air, constant elevation changes, treacherous hillsides, and boulders bigger than cars. In this extreme triathlon, many of the athletes will be happy just to finish.

"Xterra captures the elements of a triathlon—the swim, bike, and run—and injects a huge fear factor into the equation," says Kent Robison, a Reno lawyer and four-year Xterra veteran.

This duel of the fittest began in 1996 in Maui, where extreme mountain bikers and hard-core triathletes sought a common ground. The result is Xterra, whose slogan is "One planet, one tribe" and whose events showcase, as spokesman Trey Garman

"To reconquer mountain-bike riding was not an easy thing to do. I broke some ribs, a collarbone, and paid my dues."

says, "some of the best athletes in the world, competing at their highest level and against everything that Mother Nature can dish out." Last year more than 5,000 athletes participated in Xterra events, including 31 qualifying races held around the country and regional championships in Richmond, Virginia, Keystone, Colorado, and Half Moon Bay, California. The worlds are held in late fall in Maui.

The national titles will be decided September 21-22, when Lake



Pro Bryan Rhodes of New Zealand cools down as he faces a steep run at the Ponderosa.

Tahoe provides the backdrop for the Nissan Xterra USA Championship. This is the second year Incline Village will host the Xterra finals, and under a sponsoring agreement with the Nevada Commission on Tourism they are expected to return to Incline through 2004.

The Incline competition will consist of a 1.5K swim, a 32K mountain-bike ride, and an 11K trail run. Saturday is all-comers day, when the public can enter an Xterra Nevada that has a somewhat shorter swim and run. The big race is on Sunday, when about 60 Xterra-series pros will battle for the USA championship—and a share of the \$80,000 purse—while about 400 Xterra-series amateurs, the top qualifiers from eight regions, try to capture national titles in their age divisions.

One Sunday amateur will be Robison, a longtime triathlete who calls the Xterra competition "infectious." Robison, 55, started running marathons in 1976 and continually raised his level of competition, eventually competing in the grueling Ironman events.

"Xterra came along just about the time I was starting to get bored with the Ironman, and it created a whole new set of challenges for me that have pushed me further than I ever thought possible," he says. "To start at the age of 49 and have to



There is glory for amateurs, too. Moments after the pros begin their triathlon, a group of runners competes in a trail race on the Incline beach.

reconquer mountain-bike riding was not an easy thing to do. I broke some ribs, a collarbone, and paid my dues until I became proficient."

Robison trains several times per week on the Flume Trail, site of Xterra's mountain-bike leg. He also runs and swims daily. He says he is "thrilled to have the championship in my own backyard. It sweetens the pot."

But don't think the serious competitors have all the fun. On Saturday, Xterra invites members of the general public to compete in the Xterra Nevada—a 750-meter swim, 32K mountain-bike ride, and 5K trail run. Also, three people can unite to race each leg of the Xterra Nevada Team Challenge—still a difficult test. Xterra spokesman Trey Garman points out, "A group of three has never been able to beat a pro's time."

Experts with the traveling Xterra University—one might call it the Xterra School of Hard Knocks—will conduct clinics on how to mountain bike like a pro and how to improve your swim strokes. Melani McQuaid will discuss "Mountain

Biking for Chicks," from clothing to the all-important correct bicycle seat. Before Saturday's public-amateur event, Xterra star Jimmy Riccitello will offer a pre-race clinic for \$95 on conditioning schedules, food tips, and mental preparation. Other events include a 5K trail run, youth bike races, and adult mountain-bike contests.

For those who enjoy outdoor sports, the

announces the start of the championship event.

The blast ringing in their ears, the athletes race across the beach, dive into Tahoe's crystal-blue waters, and swim. About 20 minutes later the first competitors step ashore and sprint to the transition area, where they strip their wetsuits and don bike gear for a grueling ride up Tahoe's famous Flume Trail. The mountain-bike trail climbs 1,500 feet on a couple of Mother Nature's slipperiest surfaces—deep sand, loose gravel—and features direct downhills and tight rock-wall passes.

The competitors rejoin the spectators at the second transition point—the Ponderosa Ranch, the Western theme park based on TV's *Bonanza*. There, athletes hop off their bikes and slip on their running shoes before scrambling up a steep embankment of slippery sand, decomposed granite, and pine needles. The runners wind around Incline and back to the Village Green, where the insanity all began, for a quad-burning beach run to the blessed finish line.

The cheering onlookers seem to ap-

At the Ponderosa Ranch the athletes hop off their bikes and slip on their running shoes before scrambling up a steep embankment.

atmosphere can be inspiring. "You really feel the buzz of the festival at the pavilion, with all the gear and with the athletes walking around," Garman says. "People like Xterra because it promotes a healthy, active lifestyle that's good for everyone."

On Sunday morning, the adrenaline is flowing. At race time the Xterra lakeside pavilion empties as spectators crowd the starting line at Incline's Village Green Park, listening for the cannon blast that an-

preciate what the weary racers have gone through.

"I've never raced a more difficult run course," Truckee series amateur Conrad Snover said afterward. "It was so steep and sandy. I cramped up coming off the bike, and it took me a mile before I could run again, if running is what you can call it."

The 26-year-old Snover finished 42nd overall with a 23:31 swim, 1:57:03 bike, and 54:21 run—in all, about three hours and 15 minutes. He finished fifth in the 25-to-29 age group. "At the end it was just a struggle to finish," he said.

"Just to survive this thing is a bonus," reiterates Garman. "To see the athletes pushing themselves to the limit and the emotion on their faces when they run, walk, or stumble across that finish line—as a spectator, it's pretty powerful."

Event Note

The Nissan Xterra USA Championship takes place September 21-22 in Incline Village on Lake Tahoe's north shore. Festivities include pro and amateur triathlons, clinics, pavilion attractions, trail runs, and children's activities. Registration is still open for Xterra Nevada. Visit www.xterraplanet.com or call 877-751-8880 for information. Call the Lake Tahoe, Incline Village/Crystal Bay Visitors Bureau, 775-831-1606 or 800-GO-TAHOE, or visit www.gotahoe.com for lodging and travel information. ■

Jessica Perry is sports editor and photographer for the North Lake Tahoe Bonanza in Incline Village. She also is a mountain biker, soccer coach, and general outdoor enthusiast.



A competitor close behind, amateur Lazer Shelly of San Diego points his bike up the Flume Trail.

Personal Tests

The Nissan Xterra USA championship is one of a growing number of challenging outdoor events that you can watch or enter in the Silver State. Here is a sampling of non-motorized events that rely on muscle power, stamina, and zeal. Besides competition and camaraderie, many of these events have another attraction—great scenic locations. It's best to call to confirm dates, registration fees, and other details.

Xwest Huck Fest: Sept. 14. Big-air sandboarders compete on dual jumps and distance record trials. Competitors jump off a 16-foot ramp. Sand Mountain, 25 miles east of Fallon, 760-373-8861 www.sandboard.com.

Race to the Angel: Sept. 14. Walkers, runners, mountain bikers, and road bikers follow a 13.1-mile paved course that climbs 2,800 feet from Wells to Angel Lake. Transportation is available for the trip back to Wells for awards and picnic. Wells, 775-752-3328.

Tahoe Big Blue Adventure Race: Sept. 14. Multisport event involves paddling, mountain-biking, trail running, and navigating. Lake Tahoe, 800-824-6348, www.tahoobigblue.com.

Nissan Xterra USA Championship: Sept. 21-22. Xterra athletes compete in a 1.5K swim, 32K mountain-bike ride, and 11K trail run. Incline Village, Lake Tahoe, 877-751-8880.

America's Loneliest Bike Tour/OATBRAN (One Awesome Tour Bike Ride Across Nevada): Sept. 22-28. Camping-style bicycle ride across Nevada on U.S. 50 from Lake Tahoe to Great Basin National Park. For information: 800-565-2704, www.bikethewest.com.

World Human-Powered Speed Challenge: Sept. 30-Oct. 5. A field of international teams competes on bicycles encased in aerodynamic shells, trying to go more than 70 mph. Battle Mountain, 775-635-8245.

Desert Dash Heat Wave Race: Oct. 5, Nov. 10, and March 10. Challenge combines running, bicycling, and canoeing. Lake Mead, 702-431-4858.

Boatleg Canyon Mountain-Biking Events: Pumpkin

Bash downhill cross-country style, Oct. 26. Fall Bash downhill biking and cross-country, Nov. 23-24. Cross-country race, Dec. 7. Four-race series held in 2003 on the weekends of Feb. 15-16, March 29-30, April 26-27 and May 31-June 18. Boulder City, 702-293-2453, www.bootlegcanyon.com.

Lake Tahoe Marathon: Oct. 8-13. Marathon, half marathon, 10K, and relays. Race week includes a fitness expo. Tahoe City, 800-AT-TAHOE, www.gotahoe.com.

Dune Riders International Sand Mountain Open: Oct. 19. Sandboarding competition with dual slalom, big-air, pro, and amateur divisions; entries welcome. Sand Mountain, 25 miles east of Fallon, 760-373-8861 www.sandboard.com.

Mountain Rage, Lake Mead: Nov. 15-17. Race features mountain biking, kayaking, hiking, climbing, and ropes courses. Four Winds Adventures Co., 800-775-7671

Las Vegas International Marathon: Feb. 2, 2003. More than 9,000 runners and walkers compete in the annual marathon and half-marathon. Las Vegas, 702-240-2723.

Pine Nut Cracker: May 2003. Mountain bikers ride the Pine Nut Range near Gardnerville. Keith Hart, 775-782-7077

X-Rides: May 3-4, 2003. Bicycle ride on the outer limits of Area 51 Rachel, 800-565-2704.

America's Most Beautiful Bike Ride: June 1 2003. Annual bicycle ride at Lake Tahoe to benefit leukemia and lymphoma research. South Lake Tahoe, 800-565-2704.

Black Rock Self-Invitational Golf Tournament: June 21-22, 2003. Annual tourney on the Black Rock playa, 10 miles north of Gerlach, 530-892-2883, www.keisterphoto.com.

Running of the Bulls: July 2003. Participants run on Elko streets as they try to escape charging animals—part of the National Basque Festival on July 4-6. Elko, 775-738-1240.

Claim Jumpers Mountain Bike Festival: Aug. 16-17 2003. Mountain-bike races for all levels with a barbecue, swimming, and music. Bike trails in Toiyabe Range near Austin, 775-964-1212, www.trib.com.



Xterra pro Dave Bonnett of Kapaa, Hawaii, grabs a cup of water from a volunteer in the bike-to-run transition area.



Nevada Events

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



Nevada Day on Parade

Casino characters and classic cars will be plentiful during Nevada's 138th birthday party on October 23-27 in Carson City. Highlights of Nevada Day include a parade down Carson Street (above), a carnival, beard contest, handcar races, and the World Championship Single Jack Drilling Contest.

Nevada communities offer a great variety of events this fall, beginning with Labor Day celebrations. In Las Vegas, the Los Angeles Lakers meet the Phoenix Suns in a preseason NBA game. Reno visitors will find hot-air balloon, camel, and airplane races, while Battle Mountain hosts the World Human-Powered Speed Challenge. *Nevada Magazine* offers these statewide events for September and October. Be sure to call ahead to confirm dates and times.

Las Vegas Territory

Rollin' on the River • Aug. 29-Sept. 2 • Gamblers vie for cash prizes by rolling huge dice down the hotel's grand staircase. Colorado Belle, Laughlin, 877-480-0777.

Gun Show • Aug. 31-Sept. 1 • Cashman Center, Las Vegas, 800-333-GUNS.

Labor Day Motor Extravaganza • Aug. 31-Sept. 2 • Car show. RV Park, Silverton Hotel, Las Vegas, 702-263-7777.

NHRA Division Seven Junior Dragster Finals • Sept. 1 • Races and the pro street Labor Day jam. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Sparks in the Park • Sept. 1 • Music, vendors, and fireworks display. Desert Breeze Park, Las Vegas, 702-455-8200.

Karaoke Nationals • Sept. 2 and 6-7 • Finalists from across the country compete for prizes. Ramada Express, Laughlin, 702-298-6231.

Las Vegas Comedy Festival • Sept. 4-8 • Performances by winners of the Laugh Across America Contest. Event includes trade show, seminars, comedy panel discussions, open mike, and after parties. Stardust Hotel and Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, 702-736-6595.

Blackjack Tournament • Sept. 6 • \$20 buy-in. Hacienda Hotel, between Hoover Dam and Boulder City, 702-293-5000.

Blackjack Tournament • Sept. 6 • Free tournament. River Palms, Laughlin, 800-835-7904.

Boulder City Chautauqua • Sept. 6-7 • Historical figures Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, Sacagawea, and Thomas Jefferson are portrayed. Boulder Theater, Boulder City, 702-294-4365.

Las Vegas Back to School Bash • Sept. 6-7 • Monster Trucks IMCA Modifieds, Tuff Trucks, and thrill acts race on the dirt track. E.T. Bracket points race Sept. 7 on the dragstrip, Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

"Love Letters" • Sept. 7 • Eva Marie Saint stars in A.R. Gurney's play about the lifelong relationship of two people told through letters. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Sandstone Canyon Hike • Sept. 7 • Three-hour, moderate to strenuous. Long pants and hiking shoes are advised. Bring water and lunch. Small children not advised; pets not allowed. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141.

Ash Grove Hike • Sept. 8 • Easy 45-minute walk through natural areas with diverse habitats. No pets. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141.

Carnival of Slots • Sept. 10-12 • Slot tournament with \$199 entry fee and \$7,777 grand prize. Edgewater, Laughlin, 702-298-2453.

Wild Wednesday Finale • Sept. 11 • Bracket test 'n' tune on the dragstrip. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Grubstake Jamboree • Sept. 11-14 • Casino hosts \$150,000 slot tournament. Westward Ho, Las Vegas, 800-223-1709.

San Gennaro Feast • Sept. 11-15 • Italian festival featuring food from more than 40 restaurants, music, vendors, and carnival. Flamingo Rd. and Valley View Blvd., Las Vegas, 702-286-4944.

Boulder City Folk Festival • Sept. 12-14 • Storytelling, folk music, ethnic food, and artist demonstrations. Wilbur Park, Boulder City, 702-293-6634.

"Two by Two" • Sept. 12-15, 19-22 • Musical composed by Richard Rodgers about Noah and the Ark. Valley View Recreation Center, Henderson, 702-565-2367.

National Dragster Challenge • Sept. 13-14 • NHRA Trophy Race. Weekend includes the final NASCAR points night Sept. 14 featuring late models, outlaws, chargers, legends, bandoleros, and thunder roadsters. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Las Vegas Primm 300 • Sept. 13-14 • SCORE-sponsored off-road race offers action between cars and motorcycles. Primm, 43 miles south of Las Vegas on I-15, 818-225-8402.

PBR Barbecue • Sept. 13-15 • Part of the Laughlin Shoot Out, which features pro bull riders competition. Edgewater, Laughlin, 702-298-2453.

Las Vegas BikeFest and Music Experience • Sept. 13-15 • Motorcycle displays. Joan Jett performs Fri. night, BTO on Sat. Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, 702-678-5600.

Moonlight in Mesquite • Sept. 13-15 • Classic car show. Virgin River Casino, Mesquite, 702-346-6800.

Nevada Ballet Theatre • Sept. 14 • Outdoor performance. Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza, Las Vegas, 702-229-6328.

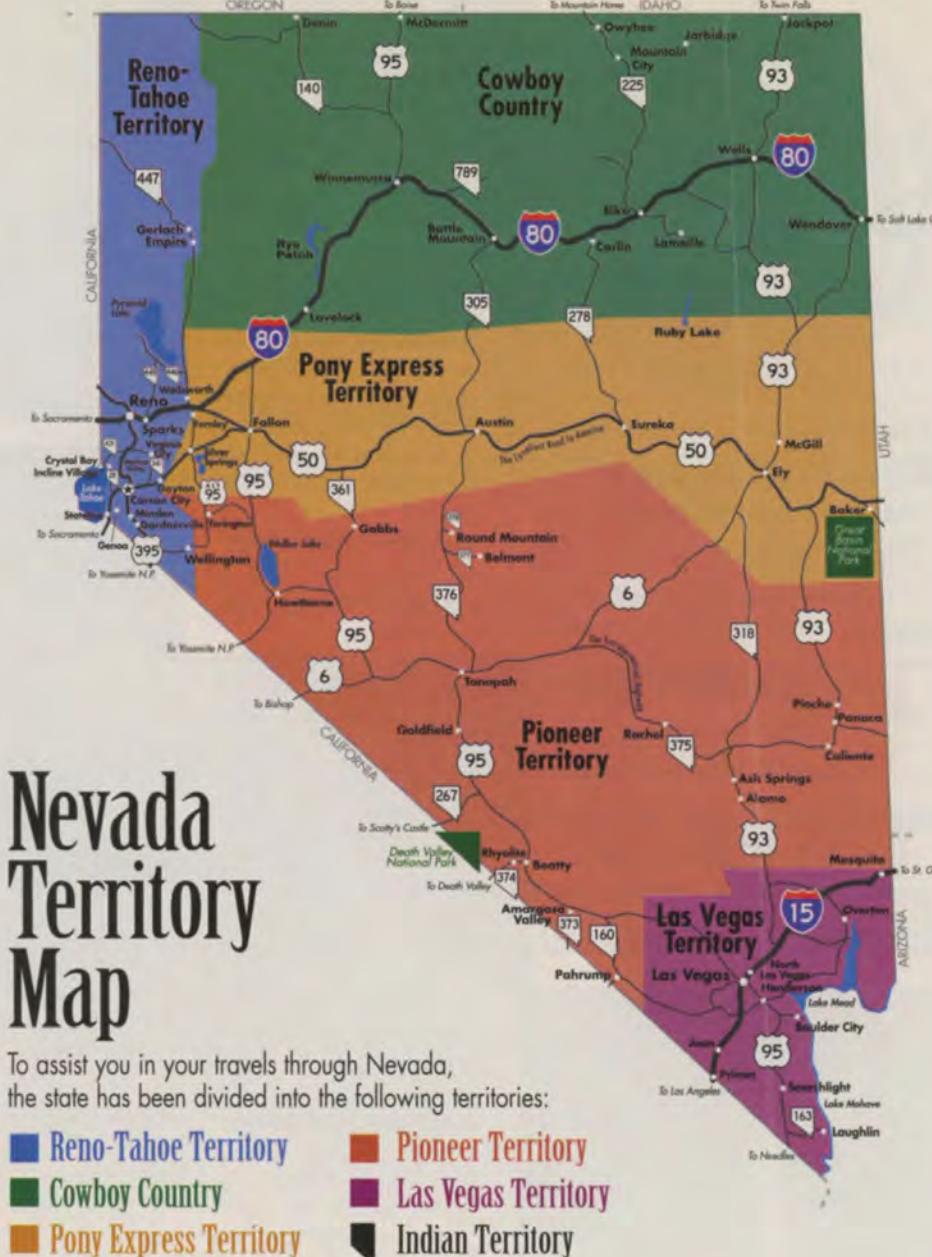
Celtic Festival • Sept. 14 • Irish band Lunasa and the Karan Casey Band and Spiral Bound. Clark County Amphitheater, Las Vegas, 702-455-8200.

Sandstone Canyon Hike • Sept. 14-15 • Three-hour, moderate to strenuous. Long pants and hiking shoes are advised. Bring water and lunch. Small children not advised; pets not allowed. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141.

Mexican Independence Day Celebration • Sept. 15 • Mexican culture is celebrated with music, food, crafts, and exhibits. Lorenzi Park, Las Vegas, 702-284-6400.

Brass Roots Quintet • Sept. 15 • Walter Boenig, Tom Wright, Garry Russell, Rocky Lombardo, and Doug Beasley play classical to contemporary music. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211.

Thai Performing Arts Appreciation Day • Sept. 17 • Thai food, dance, fashions, Young Miss Thailand Pageant. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-369-5439.





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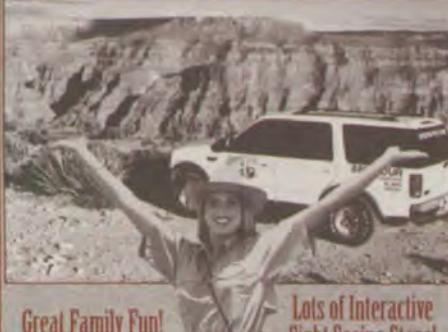
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Laughlin, 877-480-2747 for tournament information.

Blue Moon Ball: The Roaring '20s • Sept. 26 • Dance to music from the big-band era. Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza, Las Vegas, 702-229-6601.

Blues and Brews Festival • Sept. 26-28 • Blues bands including John Earl and the BoogieMan Band, Miss Hawaiian Tropic Blues and Brews Pageant, and beer sampling. Colorado Belle, Laughlin, 877-460-0777.

Henderson Carnival and New Car Show • Sept. 26-29 • Carnival at Sunset Station and car show at Galleria Mall. Henderson, 702-565-8951.

Home Decorating and Remodeling Show • Sept. 27-29 • Cashman Center, Las Vegas, 702-736-5958.

Las Vegas Motor Speedway • Sept. 27-29 • Las Vegas Fire and Thunder Showdown Test 'n' Tune, Sept. 27-28. Bullring Bombers, 200-lap race, Sept. 28. Las Vegas Junior Dragster Fall Festival points races, Sept. 28-29. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

National Public Lands Day • Sept. 28 • Clean up at First Creek Trail. Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, 13 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-363-1921.

Andre Agassi Grand Slam for Children • Sept. 28 • Elton John, Martina McBride, Dennis Miller, and Carlos Santana headline this benefit concert. MGM Grand Garden Arena, Las Vegas, 702-474-4000.

Village Square at Peccole Ranch Car Show • Sept. 28 • Las Vegas Cruisin' Association event. Village Square, Las Vegas, 702-643-0000.

Chet Lauck • Sept. 28 • The story of the radio and movie performer of the 1930s-1950s and his relationship with the ranch house. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141.

Wurstfest • Sept. 28 • Bratwurst, beer, German music, and auction. Bicentennial Park, Boulder City, 702-293-9208.

Rattlin' Rails Hand Car Races • Sept. 28-29 • Five-member teams race side-by-side on old-fashioned handcars. Yucca Street Railyard, Boulder City, 702-294-0982.

Light the Night • Sept. 29 • Walk to benefit leukemia research. Santa Fe Hotel, Las Vegas, 702-658-4900.

Olive Lake • Sept. 29 • Living-history program on the life of Olive Lake, early resident of Las Vegas. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141.

River Palms Pro Shamble • Sept. 29-Oct. 1 • Golf tournament. River Palms, Laughlin, 800-835-7904.

Mini Slot Tournament • Oct. 1-2 • Westward Ho, Las Vegas, 702-731-2900.

"Let's Be Friends" • Oct. 3-6 • Play featuring Cookie Monster and Big Bird teaches tolerance and differences. Cox Pavilion, Las Vegas, 888-164-2468.



Big Show in Las Vegas

The colorful San Gennaro Feast, featuring food from more than 40 restaurants, takes place September 11-15 on Flamingo Road across from the Gold Coast and Rio hotels (top). In addition to the cuisine, food lovers peruse the Ferris wheel and other activities at the Las Vegas feast's carnival.

Super Run 2002 • Oct. 3-6 • Car show. Water Street, Downtown Henderson, 702-643-0000.

Hot Lava Luau • Oct. 4 • Polynesian food, music, and dancers. Colorado Belle, Laughlin, 877-460-0777.

Blackjack Tournament • Oct. 4 • Free tournament. River Palms, Laughlin, 800-835-7904.

Gold Coast SNORE 250 • Oct. 4-5 • Trucks and buggies compete in the annual desert race covering four 60-mile laps. Eldorado Valley, Boulder City, 702-452-4522 for event information.

Great Hawaiian Adventure Jackpot Contest • Oct. 4-5 • \$77 entry, \$15,662 total prize money. Colorado Belle, Laughlin, 877-460-0777.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" • Oct. 4-6 • Nevada Ballet Theatre performance. Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-243-2623.

Las Vegas Motor Speedway • Oct. 4-6 • Test 'n' Tune, Oct. 4. Super modifieds, ARCA trucks, IMCA modifieds, Oct. 5. National Motorcycle Racing Association, Bug-O-Rama Test 'n' Tune, E.T. Bracket Racing Series Finale, Oct. 5. VW Bug-O-Rama, Oct. 6. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 704-644-4444.

The Walk • Oct. 5 • Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk. Green Valley Ranch Station Casino, Henderson, 702-798-6877.

Desert Dash Heat Wave Race • Oct. 5 • Running, bicycling, and canoeing. Lake Mead, 702-431-4858.

Frozen Fury 6 • Oct. 5 • Los Angeles Kings vs. Colorado

Avalanche, NHL hockey final preseason game. MGM Grand Garden Arena, Las Vegas, 702-474-4000.

Ballet Folklorico Quetzalli • Oct. 5 • Mexican folk dancers. Clark County Amphitheater, Las Vegas, 702-455-8200.

Vera Krupp • Oct. 5 • Program about German actress and movie star Vera Krupp, who was known for her 33.6-karat Krupp Diamond, and her relationship with Nevada. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141.

Club MX Grand Prix • Oct. 5 • Motorcycle race. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-563-2582.

Las Vegas Philharmonic • Oct. 5 • Guest artist is singer Kevin Deas. Artemus Ham Concert Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-2787.

Aviation Nation Air Show • Oct. 5-6 • Air Force Thunderbirds, F-15 Demonstration Team, Aerobatic Team, Formula One and Unlimited racing, and ground and aerial displays of vintage, modern, and cutting-edge aircraft. Nellis Air Force Base, Las Vegas, 702-652-1110.

Art in the Park • Oct. 5-6 • More than 300 booths offer fine art and crafts. Government Park, Boulder City, 702-293-4111, ext. 725.

Lowrider Magazine Super Show • Oct. 6 • Car show. Cashman Center, Las Vegas, 714-712-2110.

Sandstone Canyon Hike • Oct. 6 • Three-hour, moderate to strenuous. Long pants and hiking shoes are advised. Bring water and lunch. Small children not advised; pets not allowed. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141.

Let It Ride • Oct. 8-10 • Poker tournament has \$139 entry fee, \$10,000 grand prize. Edgewater, Laughlin, 702-298-2453.

Lake Tahoe Marathon • Oct. 8-13 • Marathon, half marathon, 10K, and relays on Oct. 14. Race week activi-



Thai Celebration

Kemika Sriprom, Young Miss Thailand Las Vegas 2000, wears a Sat Chatri costume worn in a traditional Thai dance-play. Various forms of dance, fashion, and food will be featured on Thai Performing Arts Appreciation Day, September 17 in Las Vegas.

ties include a sports and fitness expo, 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.

Invensys Classic at Las Vegas • Oct. 9-13 • PGA players compete for a \$5-million purse in an unusual five-day format. Defending champion is Bob Estes. TPC Summerlin, TPC at the Canyons, and Southern Highlands golf courses, Las Vegas, 702-242-3000.

Renaissance Faire • Oct. 11-13 • Colorful medieval games, food, and demonstrations. Sunset Park, Las Vegas, 702-455-8273.

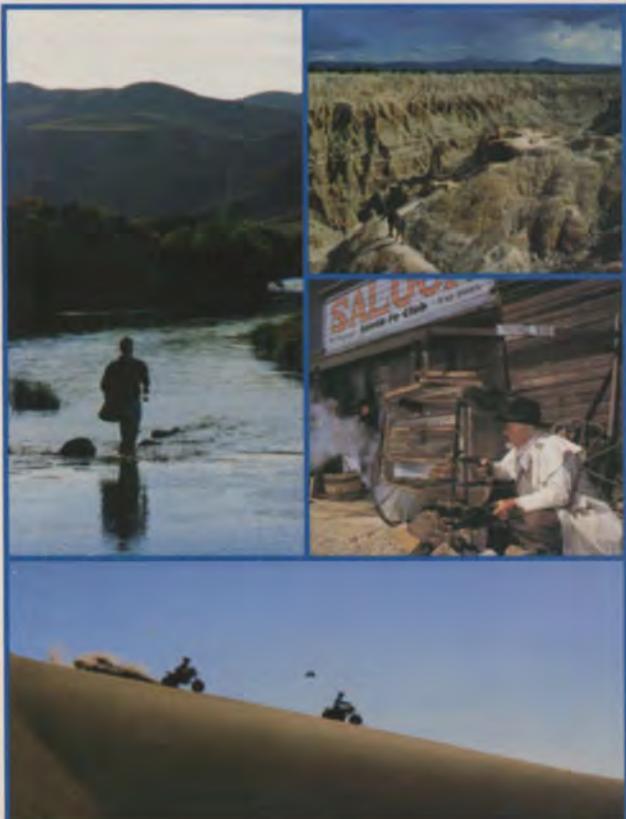
Shakespeare in the Park • Oct. 11-13 • The Bard's works are performed in a park setting. Amphitheater, Henderson, 702-896-9021.

U.S. Open • Oct. 11-13 • The fourth annual world's richest motorcycle race includes \$300,000-plus purse. Four Stroke Race, 80cc Mini Invitational, Freestyle Motocross, 50cc Mini Challenge, 125cc Manufacturer's Cup, Amateur Arenacross World Finals. MGM Grand Garden Arena, Las Vegas, 702-474-4000.

Logandale Bluegrass Festival • Oct. 11-13 • 13th annual event features local and national bands, camping, jamming, vendors, and music workshops. Clark County Fairgrounds, Logandale, 702-566-3320.

Pioneer Living • Oct. 12 • Living-history talks and demonstrations of old-time skills and crafts such as trapping, hatchet-throwing, black-powder shooting, storytelling, spinning, and weaving. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141.

Storytelling Festival • Oct. 12 • Bring blankets or lawn chairs for performance featuring James Bowen, Marsha Culter, Kendall Haven, and Martin Juan Rivera. Rainbow



High Desert Adventure

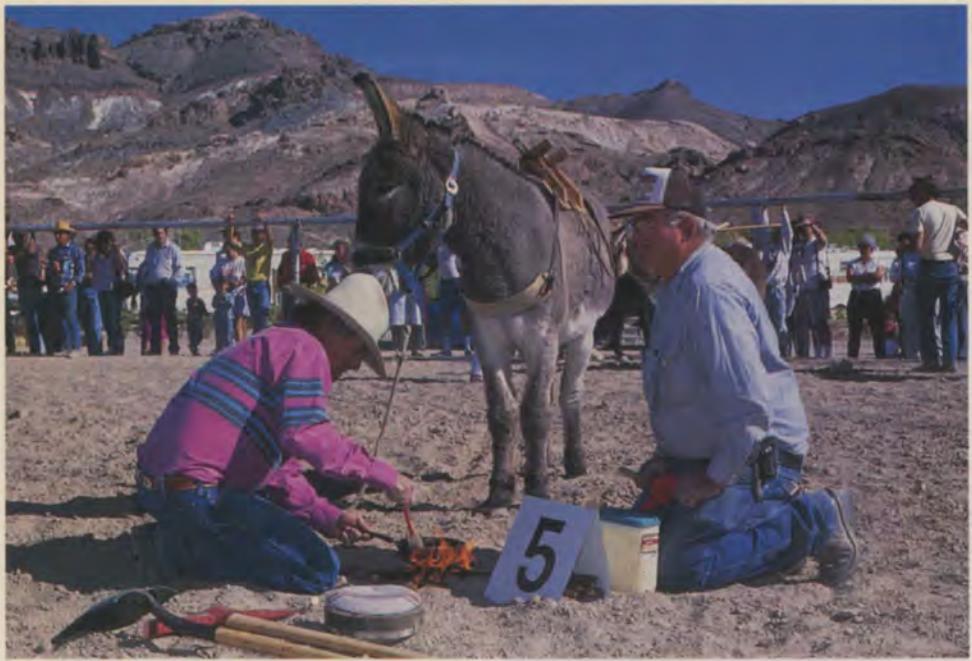
Remove yourself from civilization and experience the remoteness of Pioneer Territory. The pure vastness is enough to boggle your mind. Along the routes of Pioneer Territory are quaint communities filled with history, attractions, and outdoor activities too numerous to mention.

From below sea level to higher than 13,000 feet in elevation, there is something for everyone in Pioneer Territory families, RV travelers, outdoor enthusiasts, group tourists, and those just desiring a weekend excursion.

Nevada's Pioneer Territory

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775-482-3859



Burro Behaviorists in Beatty

Man and beast become teammates during Burro Days on October 26 in Beatty, located 115 miles north of Las Vegas on U.S. 95. Contestants in the always popular burro race must cook a flapjack from scratch and entice a burro to eat it. Not all burros feel like cooperating.

Library Amphitheater, Las Vegas, 702-734-READ.

NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series • Oct. 12-13 • Craftsman Trucks and Winston West races. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Age of Chivalry Renaissance Festival • Oct. 12-13 • Costumes, food, drink, jousts, and contests. Sunset Park, Las Vegas, 702-455-8200.

Las Vegas Basque Festival • Oct. 13 • Mass, dances,

weightlifters, and Basque food. Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza, Las Vegas, 702-361-6548.

NHRA Division Seven Junior Dragster Championship Finals

• Oct. 13 • Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Primm Valley Resorts Winter Nationals • Oct. 16-20 • Sand drags sponsored by the American Sand Drag Association. Primm, 43 miles south of Las Vegas on Interstate 15, www.sanddrags.com.

Nevada Heritage Festival and Clark County Gem and Mineral Fair

• Oct. 18-20 • Rocks, minerals, fossils, books, and equipment sale. Event includes gold panning, geode cutting, lapidary, traditional craft demonstrations, stagecoach rides, and bluegrass music. Clark County Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.

All Harley Drag Racing Association Screaming Eagle Shootout • Oct. 18-20 • Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Helen Stewart • Oct. 19 • Living-history presentation about one of Las Vegas' first settlers, who ran an 1,800-acre cattle ranch and farm. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141.

Las Vegas Brass Band and Nevada Chamber Symphony • Oct. 19 • American pop music and classical selections. Clark County Amphitheater, Las Vegas, 702-455-8200.

Harvest Festival • Oct. 19 • Program includes snakes, lizards, tortoises, pine needle basketry, and wild horses. Red Rock Canyon Visitor Center, 13 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-363-1921.

Las Vegas Century and BikeFest • Oct. 19 • Recreational bicycle rides of 100, 62, and 40 miles, plus a 10-mile historic ride. Charity event starts at Clark County Regional Transportation Commission, Las Vegas, 702-407-3077.

Fall Festival Car Show • Oct. 19 • Bluegrass music, food, vendors, cowboy poetry, contests, and car events. Overton Park, Overton, 702-397-8875.

Re/Max Long Drive Championship • Oct. 19 • Golfers go for the distance. Palms Golf Course, Mesquite, 702-346-6800.

Motorcycle Race • Oct. 19-20 • Groundshakers Motorcycle Club grand prix race. Avi Casino, Laughlin, 702-278-9818.

Henderson Civic Symphony • Oct. 20 • Music salutes the space age. Location TBA, Henderson, 702-565-2367.

Willard George • Oct. 20 • Presentation about George, who was a leader in the chinchilla industry and "furrier to the stars," and his relationship with rural Las Vegas. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141.

Goblins and Ghouls • Oct. 22-24 • Slot tournament has a \$550 entry fee, \$25,000 grand prize. Edgewater, Laughlin, 702-298-2453.

NHRA Winston Drag Race • Oct. 24-27 • World's best drag racers compete. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Professional Bull Riders Bud Light Cup World Championship

• Oct. 24-27 • Top bull riders compete for money and bragging rights. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-895-3900.

River Flight • Oct. 25-27 • Hot-air balloon pilots compete over the Colorado River with tethered and untethered rides. Ramada Express, Laughlin, 702-298-6231.

Spooktacular Slot Tournament • Oct. 25-27 • Virgin River Casino, Mesquite, 702-346-6800.

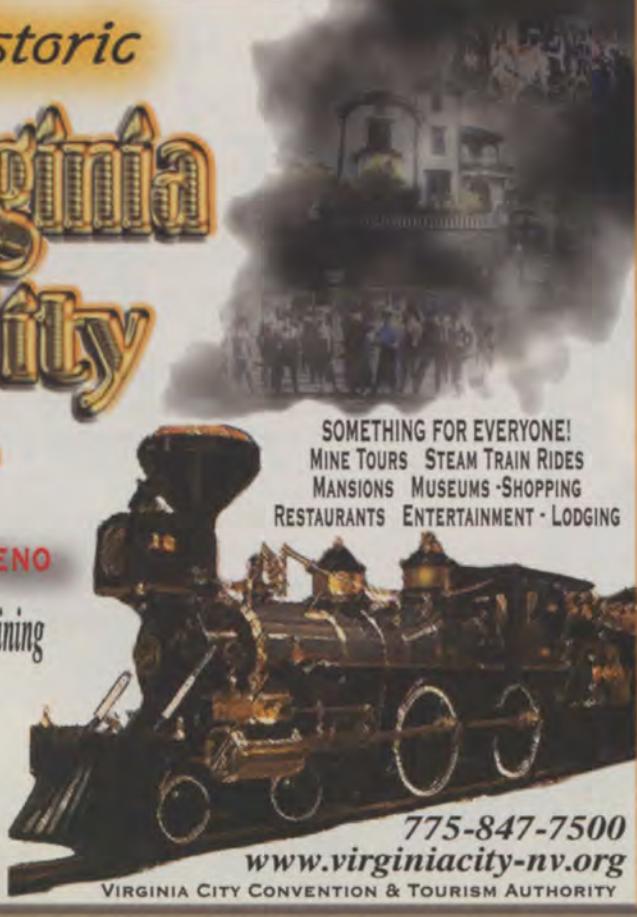
Fall Brawl • Oct. 25-29 • Poker tournament buy-in between \$60 and \$120. Oasis, Mesquite, 702-346-6800.

Dinosaur Ball • Oct. 26 • Dinner, dancing, and auction, a fundraiser for the Las Vegas Natural History Museum. Lake Las Vegas, Henderson, 702-384-DINO for details.

Chuck Wagon and Trail Cooking • Oct. 26 • Demonstration on the art of Dutch-oven cooking includes samples.

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Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141.

"Rice and Renee" • Oct. 26 • Wild West comedy show. Black Mountain Rec. Center, Henderson, 702-565-2367.

Bootleg Canyon Pumpkin Bash • Oct. 26 • Downhill cross-country style mountain-bike race. Boulder City, 702-293-2453, www.bootlegcanyon.com.

Red Rock Days • Oct. 26-27 • Clean up. Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, 13 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-363-1921.

International Air Show • Oct. 26-27 • Aerobatics, static displays, entertainment, military aircraft. Jean Airport, 23 miles south of Las Vegas via I-15. Las Vegas, 702-255-7445.

Open House and Fall Festival • Oct. 27 • Mass, picnic, entertainment, and craft show. St. Jude's Ranch for Children, Boulder City, 702-294-7100.

Pioneer Women • Oct. 27 • Living-history program on women's lives traveling to and settling the West. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141.

Los Angeles Lakers vs. Phoenix Suns • Oct. 29 • NBA pre-season game. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-895-3900.

Grubstake Jamboree • Oct. 30-Nov. 2 • \$150,000 slot tournament. Westward Ho, Las Vegas, 800-223-1709.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

Burning Man Festival • Aug. 26-Sept. 2 • 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.



The Party Is On

The Burning Man Festival attracts more than 20,000 counterculturists to the Black Rock Desert before and during Labor Day weekend. The festival, held on the playa seven miles north of Gerlach, features the burning of a 40-foot-tall effigy on the final evening.

Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off • Aug. 29-Sept. 2 • Barbecue ribs for taste-testing, concerts, entertainment, arts and crafts fair. Victorian Square, Sparks, 775-356-3300.

Numaga Days Celebration • Aug. 30-Sept. 1 • Native American dancing, crafts. Hungry Valley, 775-425-0775.

Back Country Camp • Aug. 31-Sept. 2 • Volunteers camp on the Tahoe Rim Trail and perform trail maintenance. Food, tools, and training provided. Call for location, Lake Tahoe, 775-588-0686.

Tahoe Jazz • Aug. 31-Sept. 1 • Appearances planned by Chuck Loeb, Jeff Kashiwa, Steve Oliver, Fattburger, Chieli Minucci and Special EFX, Sean Mason, Elaine Lucia, and the York Quartet. Northstar-at-Tahoe, North Lake Tahoe, 530-562-1010.

Blues Festival • Sept. 1 • Afternoon concert. Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa. Call Upstage Center Theatre, 775-882-8900, ext. 101.

Lights on the Lake Fireworks Display • Sept. 1 • Fireworks are launched from two barges moored on the lake. South Shore, Stateline, 530-544-5050.

Alpen Winefest • Sept. 1 • Annual event to benefit the Jimmy Heuga Center, a multiple sclerosis research organization. Event includes food and silent auction. Plumpjack Inn, Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-1576.

"These Colors Don't Run" • Sept. 2 • Concert at 3pm features singers and musicians including trumpeter Ray James. Piper's Opera House, Virginia City, 775-847-0433 for more information.

Slot Tournament • Sept. 2-3 • \$199 entry fee. Peppermill, Reno, 800-648-6992.

Blackjack Tournament • Sept. 6 • 10am play. Carson Nugget, Carson City, 775-882-1626.

Mixed Scramble Golf Tournament • Sept. 6-7 • Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-783-6625.

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Convention and Visitors Bureau

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ONGOING EVENTS

All events are color coded according to territory (see map on page 31).

Reno-Tahoe Territory

Cowboy Country

Pony Express Territory

Pioneer Territory

Las Vegas Territory

Indian Territory

Art Shows and Exhibits

The Nevada Quilt Odyssey: Thru Sept. 28. The works of creative quilters. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 775-688-1190.

Great Nevada Picture Hunt Winners Show: Thru Sept. 28. Selected winners from Nevada Magazine's 24th annual photo contest. Nevada Historical Society's Downtown Gallery at the Club Cal Neva Virginian, Reno, 775-688-1190.

Tribute to Another Era: The Railroad Photography of Gordon Osmundson: Thru Sept. 29. Steam locomotive apparatus and still-life photography of railroad shop machines and tools. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

Valley of Fire Art Show: Thru Sept. 30. Southwest-themed exhibition by the Boulder City Art Guild. Visitor Center, Valley of Fire State Park, 55 miles northeast of Las Vegas. 702-293-2738.

AAA: Angels of the Open Road: Thru Oct. 13. Exhibit on the American Automobile Association in Nevada with vintage tow trucks, a 1924 Harley-Davidson emergency road-service motorcycle, Lincoln and Victory highway signs, and early Sierra touring memorabilia. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

George Washington: A National Treasure: Thru Oct. 27. The "Lansdowne Portrait" of Washington is on tour from the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery. Gilbert Stuart painted the life-size portrait of the first president in 1796. Las Vegas Art Museum, Las Vegas, 702-360-8000.

Larger Than Life: Viola Frey: Thru Oct. 27. Six large-scale ceramic figurative sculptures. Nevada Museum of Art, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-329-3333.

Jo Whaley: Natura Morta-Entomology: Thru Oct. 27. Nature photographs. Nevada Museum of Art, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-329-3333.

From Mine to Mint: Thru Nov. 10. Ore samples, rare coins from the Carson City Mint, mining artifacts, and photographs are exhibited. Clark County Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.

Elko 75 Years Ago: Thru Nov. 30. Photo and map exhibit. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 775-738-3418.

Millennium Membership Quilt: Thru Dec. 31. The quilt, the creation of 45 volunteers, depicts landmarks and scenes of daily life in the Carson Valley. Carson Valley Museum and Cultural

Center, Gardnerville, 775-782-2555.

Nevada Wide: Panoramic

Photography in the Silver

State: Thru Jan. 3. More than 30 original panoramic photographs of Nevada's basin and range topography and some of the cameras used to make the images. Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Las Vegas, 702-486-5205.

Hans Meyer-Kassel: Thru Jan. 25: More than 110 works by the artist who lived the last 15 years of his life in Nevada. Show will be the first time 50 sketches and studies have been exhibited. Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center in Gardnerville and Genoa Courthouse Museum in Genoa, 775-782-2555.

Faberge: Treasures from the Kremlin: Thru Jan. 26. More than 100 Faberge eggs, including those commissioned by Tsar Nicholas II. Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art, Bellagio, Las Vegas, 702-693-7870.

Keeping the Valley Green: Thru Jan. 31. Advancements in conservation, recycling, land protection, and food products for animals. Carson Valley

Museum and Cultural Center, Gardnerville, 775-782-2555.

Out of Africa: Thru March 30. New exhibition recreates three extinct African primates through interactive displays. Las Vegas Natural History Museum, Las Vegas, 702-384-DINO.

Under One Sky: Thru March 30. Artifacts, life-size dioramas, children's room, and a contemporary art gallery of Nevada's Native American culture. Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 775-687-4810.

Two Cultures, One Spirit: Sept. 4-Oct. 27. Paintings by Jane Marquez illustrate cultural differences. Whitney Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3659.

The Last Album: Eyes From the Ashes of Auschwitz-Birkenau: Sept. 9-Nov. 16. An exhibition by Ann Weiss of 200 of the more than 2,000 family photographs unearthed from a locked storage room at Auschwitz. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4674.

Shipibo Art From the Amazons: Sept. 10-Nov. 12. Group exhibition of ceramic works, decorative



Gilbert Stuart's painting of George Washington, known as the "Lansdowne Portrait," is on display at the Las Vegas Art Museum.

ornaments, and textiles. Clark County Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3659.

Guatemala: Sept. 17-Nov. 17. Photographic images of the landscape and people of Guatemala. Summerlin Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3659.

Angel O'Briant: Sept. 19-Nov. 3. Pencil, pastels, and oils. Enterprise Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3659.

Spacey Ladies Quilting in Las Vegas: Sept. 24-Dec. 15. Small panels to full-size quilts created by quilting group. Sunrise Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3659.

Children: Oct. 1-Dec. 1. Drawings and paintings by Sarah Pearson-Ochoa. West Charleston Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3659.

Time in Nevada: The Photography of Lee Brumbaugh: Oct. 11-Dec. 30. Exhibit of works by the Nevada Historical Society's photo curator. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 775-688-1191

GTO: Leader of the Pack: Oct. 11-March 28. Exhibit features the fast, attention-getting car. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

Southern Paiutes: A Portrait: Oct. 17-Dec. 10. Collaborative exhibition by writer Logan Hebner and photographer Michael Plyler. Spring Valley Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3659.

Elko County Art Club: Nov. 1-Dec. 31. Juried fall-winter show. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 775-738-3418.

The Racer's Edge: Nov. 8-Dec. 8. Paintings by Jeff Corder depict motorsports. Rainbow Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3659.

Las Vegas History of Entertainment, Part IV: Nov. 9-Jan. 26. Historic photographs and entertainment artifacts. Clark County Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7948.

Music, Lectures, Tours

Fourth Fridays: Extended hours from 5-9pm on fourth Friday of each month. The \$10 admission includes appetizers and wine. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

Weekend Science Series: Saturday lectures on natural history and science from 10am-3pm. Las Vegas Natural History Museum, Las Vegas, 702-346-DINO.

Hidden Cave Tours: Sept. 14 and 28, Oct. 12 and 26. Guided tour of Hidden Cave archaeological site includes self-guided tour to nearby Grimes Point petroglyph site. Churchill County Museum, Fallon. Confirm tour dates, 775-423-3677.

Steam Train Rides: Aug. 31-Sept. 2, Oct. 20 and 26, Nov. 29-30, and Dec. 14-15. Ride on a train pulled by a steam-powered engine. Motorcar rides are offered on the weekends the steam train does not run. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

Wine Walk: Sept. 21-Oct. 19, Nov. 16, and Dec. 21. Taste fine wines along the Truckee River. River Walk, Reno, 775-348-8858.

Free Band Concerts: Rush Hour Band, Sept. 6. Johnny Slick and the Cheaters, Sept. 13. Hyde Street Band, Sept. 20. Third Street downtown at Mom and Pop's Diner, Carson City, 775-884-4411.

Sporting Events

NASCAR Weekly Racing at The Bullring:

Saturday nights. Racing divisions include late models, outlaw stocks, chargers, legends, speed trucks, bandoleras, demo derby, mods. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-632-8422.

Las Vegas 51s Baseball: The Los Angeles Dodgers' AAA team plays Aug. 30-Sept. 2 vs. Sacramento Rivercats. Cashman Field, Las Vegas, 702-798-7825.

UNLV Football: The Rebels play Aug. 31 vs. Wisconsin, Sept. 7 vs. Kansas, Oct. 5 vs. the University of Nevada Wolf Pack, Oct. 12 vs. New Mexico, Nov. 2 vs. Wyoming, Nov. 16 vs. Air Force. Sam Boyd Stadium, Las Vegas, 702-895-3900.

University of Nevada Football: The Wolf Pack plays Sept. 14 vs. Colorado State, Sept. 21 vs. Rice, Sept. 28 vs. BYU, Oct. 19 vs. San Jose

State, Nov. 9 vs. UTEP, Nov. 23 vs. Boise State. Mackay Stadium, Reno, 775-784-6900.

Top Gun Raceway Drag Racing Season: Aug. 31-Sept. 1 \$20,000 turkey national big bucks; Sept. 14, ET; Sept. 28, ET finals points series race; Sept. 29 J&L Trailers Top 16 Biggs Shootout, jackpot; Oct. 5, TNT sport compact finals; Oct. 10-13, NHRA Summit ET Series Final; Oct. 26, final race day jackpot, TNT. Top Gun Raceway, Fallon, 800-325-7448.

Rattlesnake Raceway: Points race and demo derby on Sept. 7. Final points race on Sept. 21. Nevada Dirt Track Championship on Oct. 19. Fallon, 775-423-7483.

Dirt Track Racing: Season runs every other weekend through mid-Oct. Hawthorne Speedway, Hawthorne, 775-945-1833.

Farmer's Markets

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

Fallon Farmer's Market: Tuesdays thru Sept. 3. Williams and Maine, Fallon, 775-423-4556.

Gardnerville Farmers' Market: Wednesdays thru Oct. Lampe Park, Gardnerville, 775-782-9828.

Hawthorne Farmer's Market: Fridays thru Sept. Lady Bird Park, Hawthorne, 775-945-3954.

Henderson Farmer's Market: Thursdays. Fresh produce, baked goods, crafts, and specialty foods. Water Street, Henderson, 702-565-2181.

Las Vegas Farmer's Market North: Wednesdays at Bruce Trent Park. Tuesdays at Gardens Park. Saturdays at Colonnade Square Shopping Plaza. Las Vegas, 702-562-2676.

Las Vegas Farmer's Market South: Fridays at Centennial Center. Saturdays at Desert Breeze Park. Las Vegas, 702-300-4492.

Nevada Maze at Lattin Farms: Annual corn maze and roadside farmer's market. 1955 McLean Rd., Fallon, 775-867-3750.

Reno Farmer's Market: Tuesdays thru Oct. 1 at Park Lane Mall. Fridays thru Oct. 4 at Tamarack Junction Casino. Saturdays thru Oct. 5 at Village Center, California and Booth streets. Reno, 775-746-5024.

Silver State Market Place: General wares, vendors on third weekend of the month at Sam Boyd Stadium, Las Vegas, 702-386-7927.

Sparks Hometowne Farmer's Market: Thursdays thru Sept. 12 (except Aug. 29). Event features more than 200 vendors, cooking demonstrations, and entertainment. Victorian Square, Sparks, 775-353-2291.

Nevada Events & Shows

is a section of

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Virginia City International Camel Races • Sept. 6-8 • Camels and ostriches try to unseat their jockeys during serious competition that can be hazardous for riders. Races are preceded by a daily parade, and event includes mountain man living-history demonstrations, petting zoo, barbecue, and vendors. Race Track, Virginia City, 775-847-7500.

Great Reno Balloon Race • Sept. 6-8 • More than 130 hot-air balloon pilots compete. Events include morning ascension, hare and hound race, community launch, Dawn Patrol, children's activities, and vendors. Rancho San Rafael Park, Reno, 775-826-1181.

Keno Klassic Tournament • Sept. 7 • \$500 buy-in. Harrah's Reno, 800-423-1121.

Street Faire • Sept. 7-8 • Food, entertainment, and crafts. Esmeralda Street, Minden, 775-782-8144.

Truckee Railroad Days • Sept. 7-8 • Rolling stock, parade, pancake breakfast, arts and crafts show, model trains, kids' carnival, and chili cookoff. Various locations, Truckee, 530-546-1221.

Truckee Meadows Quilters Quilt Show • Sept. 7-8 • Nevada Memories-themed exhibition. Livestock Events Center, Reno. For information write Box 5502, Reno, NV 89513.

Nevada State Museum Coin Show • Sept. 7-8 • Coin dealers showcase rare Carson City-minted coins, currency, tokens, and gold-silver jewelry. Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 775-687-4811.

America • Sept. 8 • Afternoon concert in the Sierra Starlight Amphitheatre. Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa. Call Upstage Center Theatre, 775-882-8900, ext. 101.

Back to School Slot Tournament • Sept. 8-9 • Atlantis, Reno, 888-552-7007.

Fishin' for a Jackpot • Sept. 8-9 • Slot tournament. Silver Legacy, Reno, 800-215-7721.

Meet the Winemaker • Sept. 9 • Gourmet dinner and wine tastings from J. Lohr. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-783-6611.

Limit Texas Hold 'Em Tournament • Sept. 9 • \$105 buy-in. Peppermill, Reno, 800-648-6992.

Blackjack Tournament • Sept. 10 • 7pm play. Carson Nugget, Carson City, 775-882-1626.

September Jazz at Comma Coffee • Sept. 10 • Mile High Jazz Band with vocalist Sheryl Adams. Comma Coffee, Carson City, 775-883-2662.

National Championship Air Races • Sept. 12-15 • Six racing classes compete in the only closed pylon course in the sport of aircraft racing. Event includes an air show, vintage aircraft competition, and the first-ever Appollo astronaut reunion. Stead Airport, Reno, 775-972-6663.

Cool September Days • Sept. 12-15 • Car show. Lake Tahoe Horizon Casino, Stateline, 530-541-7300.

Beer Tasting and Auction • Sept. 13 • Auction, prizes, beer, and food. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 775-883-1976.

Senior National Pro Rodeo and Living History Festival • Sept. 13-15 • A full slate of rodeo events and living-history enactments. Out of Town Park, Fernley, 775-575-4459.

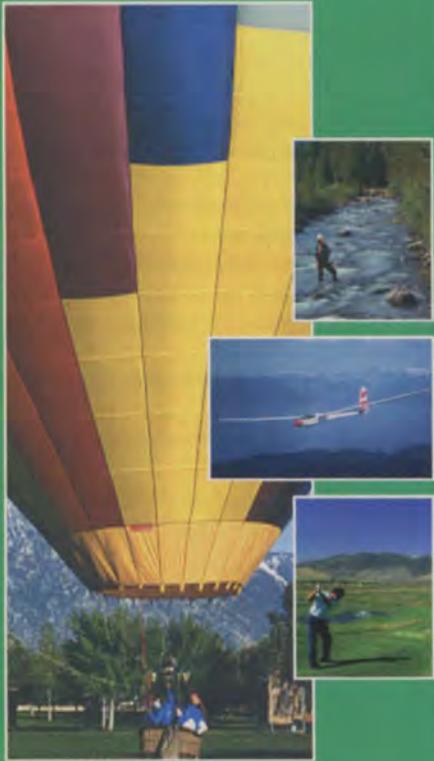
An Evening of Guitars and Saxes • Sept. 14 • Concert at Sierra Starlight Amphitheatre, Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa. Call Upstage Center Theatre, 775-882-8900, ext. 101.

Reno Chamber Orchestra • Sept. 14 • Concert features the music of Bach, Honegger, and Bruch. Nightingale Hall, U of N, Reno, 775-348-9413.

Tahoe Big Blue Adventure Race • Sept. 14 • Multisport competition involves paddling, mountain-biking, trail running, and navigating. Event includes a barbecue. Call for location, North Lake Tahoe, 800-824-6348, for further event information.

Family Jazz Concert • Sept. 15 • Mile High Jazz Band per-

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Autumn Ambassador

Fall is the time for harvest-themed celebrations such as Smith Valley Fun Day, October 6 in Wellington (above). Autumn event-goers also will find many ethnic festivals.

forms. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 775-883-1976.

Basque Festival • Sept. 15 • Mass, food, and ethnic dances. Fuji Park, Carson City, 775-882-3728.

Salsa Y Salsa • Sept. 15 • Hispanic cultural day features music, entertainment, arts, crafts, food, and dancers. Legislative Plaza, Carson City, 775-885-1055.

Great Basin Book Festival • Sept. 16-21 • Event celebrates writing and the human spirit with presentations at various city locations and a full day of activities on Sept. 21, the same day as the Starving Artist Sale at the Riverside Artist Lofts. Downtown, Reno, 775-784-6587.

22nd Annual John Wynn Open Golf Tournament • Sept. 19 • \$85 per player includes golf, lunch, and prizes. Lake Tahoe Golf Course, South Lake Tahoe, 530-541-5255.

Alamotocross • Sept. 20 • Professional motocross competitors vie for a \$25,000 purse. Motocross Track, Sparks, 775-329-9261.

North Lake Tahoe Classic Car and Motorcycle Show • Sept. 20-22 • More than 150 cars and trucks and 50 motorcycles vie for cash prizes. Tahoe Biltmore, Crystal Bay, 530-541-7300.

The Rippingtons • Sept. 21 • Concert features Russ Freeman, Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa. Call Upstage Center Theatre, 775-882-8900, ext. 101.

Hike-A-Thon • Sept. 21 • 10th annual fundraising walk along the Tahoe Rim Trail. Call for location, Lake Tahoe, 775-588-0686.

Street Dance • Sept. 21 • '50s music. Carson Nugget, Carson City, 775-882-1626.

Parasols on the River Walk • Sept. 21 • Fashion show of the latest designs of "wearable art." Event includes champagne, chocolates, and jazz. River Walk, Reno, 775-323-0777.

Book Appraisal Clinic • Sept. 21 • Books and manuscripts can be appraised by book dealers. Limit 10 items. South Virginia and First streets, Reno, 775-327-8360.

100-Mile Endurance Ride • Sept. 21-22 • Riders and horses are tested in 25-mile loops around the Comstock Area. Virginia City, 775-847-0523.

Ferrari Hill Climb • Sept. 21-22 • Ferraris race on the twisting State Route 341 from Silver City to Virginia City. Virginia City, 775-847-0311.

Video Poker Tournament • Sept. 22-23 • \$99 entry fee. Peppermill, Reno, 800-648-6992.

Reno Philharmonic • Sept. 22 and 24 • Music by Debussy and Barber and excerpts from "Romeo and Juliet." Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-323-6393.

OATBRAN: One Awesome Tour Bike

Ride Across Nevada • Sept. 22-28 • 11th annual tour from Lake Tahoe to Great Basin National Park across U.S. 50, the Loneliest Road in America. 800-565-2704.

Blackjack Tournament • Sept. 23 • 10am play. Carson Nugget, Carson City, 775-882-1626.

White Orchid Wine Maker Dinner • Sept. 23 • Gourmet dinner and Stag's Leap Wine Cellars. Peppermill, Reno, 800-648-6992.

Slot Tournament • Sept. 23-25 •

Silver Club, Sparks, 800-905-7774.

Bela Fleck and the Flecktones • Sept. 24 • Grammy winners perform mix of jazz, bluegrass, and pop. Hawkins Amphitheater, Bartley Ranch Regional Park, 775-828-6642 or 888-200-5599.

Flaming Colors Hike • Sept. 25 • Ten-mile ranger-led hike to Marlette Lake offers views of the changing season. Pack a lunch, water, and light jacket. Good for average hiker but not recommended for children. Spooner Upper Parking Lot, Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park, 775-687-4379.

Street Vibrations • Sept. 25-29 • Music, metal, and motorcycles celebrate Harley-Davidsons. Event includes parades, entertainment, stunt shows, poker runs, and ride-in shows. Reno, Virginia City, Carson City, and Lake Tahoe, 800-200-4557.

Tahoe International Film Festival • Sept. 26-Oct. 1 • Emerging filmmakers from around the world screen their best works. Various locations, North Lake Tahoe, 530-583-FEST.

Tahoe Jazz Festival Smooth Jazz Concerts • Sept. 27-29 • Northstar-at-Tahoe, North Lake Tahoe, 530-562-1010.

Comstock Wildhorse Music Festival • Sept. 28 • Proceeds go to purchase winter feed for wild horses. Miners Park, Virginia City, 775-847-9495.

Summer Fireworks Series • Sept. 28 • Celebrates end of Street Vibrations festival. Silver Legacy, Reno, 800-687-8733.

Victorian Dance Party • Sept. 28 • Dance and presentation by living-history characters. Historic Fourth Ward School, Virginia City, 775-847-0975.

Antique Show and Sale Peddlers Fair • Sept. 28-29 • Antique show. Antiques Plus, Genoa, 775-782-4951.

Genoa Candy Dance Arts and Crafts Faire • Sept. 28-29 • More than 50,000 visitors descend on the town of 240 residents to browse 350 arts and crafts vendors and purchase homemade candy. 82nd annual event includes a dinner dance. Mormon Station State Historic Park and town parks, Genoa, 775-782-8696.

Mountain Bikers' Back Country Camp • Sept. 28-29 • Weekend of trail work and camping. Call for location, Lake Tahoe, 775-588-0686.

Oktoberfest • Sept. 29 • Food and a German band. Minden Park, Minden, 775-782-8144.

Ladies Only Poker Tournament • Sept. 30 • \$22 buy-in and one re-buy for \$20. Peppermill, Reno, 800-648-6992.

Taste for Travel • Oct. 3 • 11th annual charity auction of hotel stays and samples of appetizers and desserts prepared by local chefs competing for the Best Chef title. Reno Hilton, Reno, 775-829-2273.

Blackjack Tournament • Oct. 4 • 10am play. Carson Nugget, Carson City, 775-882-1626.

Chaucer's Tales • Oct. 4-5 • Musical theater enactment of Chaucer's Tales performed by Geoffrey Chaucer and Company. Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

"The Trojan Women" • Oct. 4-5 and 11-13 • Nevada Shakespeare Festival's adaptation of Euripides' Greek tale of life after war. CVIC Hall, Minden, 775-324-4198.

World Championship Chili Cook-Off • Oct. 4-6 • Cooks stew the brew and offer samples. Demonstrations, entertainment, and vendors. Downtown Reno, 775-322-2020 for event information.

Carson City Library Foundation Oktoberfest • Oct. 5 • Grilled sausages, sauerkraut, German beer, polka music, craft fair, and used-book sale. Pony Express Pavilion, Mills Park, Carson City, 775-887-2244.



Simply Spooktacular

Spirits roam homes during Carson City's annual Kit Carson Trail Ghost Walk on October 19. The guided walking tour of the city's historic district has the undead trying to lure visitors with tales of unrest and paranormal activity. Maybe it's all hooey—or maybe not.

Birthday Celebration • Oct. 5 • Historic Comstock school celebrates its 125th birthday. Historic Fourth Ward School, Virginia City, 775-847-0975.

Toy Run • Oct. 5 • Motorcycle riders collect toys to bene-

fit needy families. Union Brewery, Virginia City, 775-847-0311.

World Championship Outhouse Races • Oct. 5-6 • Fun and inventive event. C Street, Virginia City, 775-847-0311.

JOURNAL Day 5

Racing over SAND DUNE after sand dune we flew in search of the dreaded GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE and the giant CORN MAZE. When suddenly, as if pointing the way, we came across ancient PETROGLYPHS. At one point an alluring waft of chili coated the air. What was happening? Is it a dream? Wake-up! It's no dream – Sand Dunes to surf, Petroglyphs to be amazed by, Giant Corn Maze to get lost in and more. Fallon, "the Oasis of Nevada," an hour east of Reno.

2003 EVENTS CALENDAR

- Top Gun Raceway, March thru November
- Fallon Farmers Market, July thru August
- Spring Wings Bird Festival, May 9-11
- Silver State International Rodeo, July 1-6
- Fallon Stampede Pow Wow, July 18-20
- Nevada Motocross Championship, Aug. 1-2
- Overland Hotel's 3rd Annual Chili Cook-off, August 9
- Hearts O' Gold Cantaloupe Festival, August 29-September 1
- National Sr. Pro Rodeo, September 26-28
- Fallon Harvest Days & Nevada State Picnic, October 10-12

The Lost Diaries...

Fallon

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Kokanee Salmon Festival • Oct. 5-6 • Family festival celebrates the salmon run and includes hikes, demonstrations, programs, barbecue, and 5K and 10K runs. USFS Lake Tahoe Visitors Center, South Lake Tahoe, 530-573-2674.

Slot Tournament • Oct. 6-7 • \$199 entry fee. Peppermill, Reno, 800-648-6992.

No Limit Texas Hold 'Em Tournament • Oct. 7 • \$105 buy-in. Peppermill, Reno, 800-648-6992 for further tournament information.

Meet the Winemaker • Oct. 7 • Gourmet dinner and wine tasting from Clos Du Bois. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-783-6611.

October Jazz at Comma Coffee • Oct. 8 • Mile High Jazz Band with vocalist Sheryl Adams. Comma Coffee, Carson City, 775-883-2662.

King of the Hill Blackjack Tournament • Oct. 11-12 • Atlantis, Reno, 888-551-7007.

Nevada Carriage Club Driving Show • Oct. 11-13 • Carriage horses, including mini, draft, mules, and donkeys, respond to commands. Fuji Park, Carson City, 775-425-6429.

"Cinderella" • Oct. 11-13 • Broadway Comes to Reno presentation of Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical written for television. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-787-8497.

Douglas County Sheriff's Mounted Posse Dinner-Dance • Oct. 12 • Music by County Line band, auction, and contest for best Western dress. Fifth annual event includes an equine clinic from noon-4pm. Douglas County Fairgrounds, Gardnerville, 775-267-4300.

Paint the Town Pink • Oct. 12 • Food and music fundraiser and awareness event for breast cancer. River Walk, Reno, 775-355-8989, ext. 11.



Sweet Booths in Genoa

More than 50,000 visitors buy homemade candy and browse 350 boutique-style vendors during the annual Genoa Candy Dance Arts and Crafts Faire on September 28-29.

Columbus Day Parade • Oct. 12 • Multicultural event kicks off the Eldorado's Great Italian Festival. Downtown Reno, 775-329-7469.

End of the Season Trail Work Day • Oct. 12 • Lunch, tools, and training will be provided. Call for location, Lake

Tahoe, 775-588-0686 for further trail work information.

Reno Chamber Orchestra Concert • Oct. 12 • Music by Strauss, Stamitz, Shostakovich, and Schubert. Nightingale Hall, U of N, Reno, 775-348-9413.

All the Arts Art Fair and Gold Hill Days • Oct. 12-13 • Artists

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NV Northern Railway Museum

White Pine County Golf Course

Great Basin National Park

Ride the Ghost Train of Old Ely

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display their work in second annual festival. Gold Hill, one mile south of Virginia City, 775-847-7150.

Great Italian Festival • Oct. 12-13 • 20th annual event includes a grape-stomp, spaghetti-eating contest, Italian food booths, and entertainment. Eldorado, Reno, 800-648-5966.

Limit Texas Hold 'Em Tournament • Oct. 14 • \$105 buy-in. Peppermill, Reno, 800-648-6992.

Carson Valley Inn Fall Fun Stag Golf Outing • Oct. 17-19 • Play at the Golf Club at Genoa Lakes and Sierra Nevada Golf Ranch. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-783-6625.

Oktoberfest and Beer Tasting • Oct. 18 • Specialty and microbrewery beers and German food. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-782-2555.

SoVoSo • Oct. 18 • A-cappella mix of jazz, rhythm and blues, pop, and gospel. Frank Sinatra Showroom, Cal-Neva Resort, Crystal Bay, 530-546-4602.

Cemetery Tour • Oct. 19 • Self-guided tour of the Fredericksburg Cemetery. Bring a flashlight and dress warmly. Call for directions, Carson Valley Historical Society, 775-782-2010.

Kit Carson Trail Ghost Walk • Oct. 19 • Spirits of yesteryear appear during guided walking tour of historic homes. Historic District, Carson City, 775-687-7410.

Carson City Symphony • Oct. 19 • Guest soloist violinist Virginia Blakeman Lenz. Community Center, Carson City, 775-883-4154.

A Tisket, A Tasket, A Literary Basket • Oct. 19 • Auction of literary-themed baskets. Event includes music, food, and drink. Downtown Library, Reno, 775-327-8360.

Lake Tahoe Autumn Food and Wine Festival • Oct. 19-20 • Celebrity chefs, reserve wine tastings, and seminars. Resort at Squaw Creek, North Lake Tahoe, 800-824-6348.

Golden Dollar Invitational Slot Marathon • Oct. 20-21 • Eldorado, Reno, 775-786-5700.

Reno Philharmonic • Oct. 20 and 22 • Music by Bernstein, Mozart, Barlow, and Respighi. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-323-6393.

Nevada Day Celebration • Oct. 23-27 • 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. 26, a carnival, midway games, vendors, arts, crafts, and fireworks at Mills Park, the annual beard contest, World Championship Single Jack Drilling Contest, concerts, historical activities, cultural entertainment, and the handcar races at the Nevada State Railroad Museum. Carson City, 775-687-7410.

Spin 'n' Wine Slot Tournament • Oct. 24-25 • \$150 buy-in, \$10,000 prize. Harrah's Reno, 800-HARRAHS.

Nevada Day Grand Ball • Oct. 25 • 1860s period music, dance master. Period or formal attire is encouraged. Piper's Opera House, Virginia City, 775-358-2284.

Nevada Day Party • Oct. 25-27 • Casino-wide events, food, drink, and gaming specials. Carson Nugget, Carson City, 775-882-1626.

Slot Tournament • Oct. 25-27 • Silver Club, Sparks, 800-905-7774.

Nevada Day Parade • Oct. 26 • More than 200 entries celebrate Nevada's admission to the Union. Carson Street, Carson City, 775-687-7410.

Nevada Day Jazz • Oct. 26 • Mile High Jazz Band performs after the admission day parade. Comma Coffee, Carson City, 775-883-4154.

Black and Black Ball • Oct. 26 • Halloween dance; costumes required. Brian Farmon's big band will provide music. Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

FoamFest • Oct. 26 • Beer tasting, appetizers, and music. Tahoe Biltmore Casino, Crystal Bay, 530-581-4161.

Halloween Slot Tournament • Oct. 26-27 • Atlantis, 888-551-7007.

Nevada Day Hand Car Races • Oct. 26-27 • Teams pump furiously as they compete side-by-side in railroad cars. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

Halloween Tournament • Oct. 26-27 • Slot tournament. Silver Legacy, Reno, 800-215-7721.

Carson Valley Inn Fall \$20,000 Invitational Tri-Game-A-Thon • Oct. 27-28 • Choose slots or blackjack, and the keno tournament is free. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-783-7711.

Blackjack Tournament • Oct. 28 • 10am play. Carson Nugget, Carson City, 775-882-1626.

White Orchid Winemaker Dinner • Oct. 28 • Gourmet dinner and Beaulieu Vineyards. Peppermill, Reno, 800-648-6992.

Ladies Only Poker Tournament • Oct. 28 • \$22 buy-in and one re-buy for \$20. Peppermill, Reno, 800-648-6992.

Flora Springs Winemaker Dinner • Oct. 29 • Gourmet dinner and wine tasting. Atlantis, Reno, 800-723-6500.

Carson Valley Sertoma Oktoberfest • Oct. 29 • Outdoor festival offers German food, drink, and music by Al Gruber and his Bavarian Band. Minden Park, Minden, 775-782-6649.

Oktoberfest Keno Tournament • Oct. 29-30 • Atlantis, Reno, 888-551-7007.

Virginia City's Ghost Town 2002 • Oct. 31 • Halloween family activities include Haunted Hallways at the Fourth Ward School, ghost walks around town, tours, and trick-or-treat on C Street. Virginia City, 775-847-0311.

Haunted Hallways • Oct. 31 • Classrooms and hallways are decorated and filled with ghosts for a haunted tour. Historic Fourth Ward School, Virginia City, 775-847-0975.

Trick or Treat in the Streets • Oct. 31 • Family entertain-

ment, games, haunted house, pumpkin patch, and costume contest. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

Rural Nevada

Western Art Roundup • Aug. 30-Sept. 1 • Artists, poets, craftspeople, and inductees into the Buckaroo Hall of Fame. Winnemucca Convention Center, Winnemucca, 800-WMCA-NEV.

Hearts 'O Gold Cantaloupe Festival • Aug. 30-Sept. 2 • Concerts, farmer's market, cantaloupe foods and games, entertainment, carnival, petting zoo, and fair exhibits. Churchill County Fairgrounds, Fallon, 775-423-2544.

Pioche Labor Day • Aug. 30-Sept. 2 • 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. Pioche Heritage Plays are held Sunday, Sept. 1. Main Street, Pioche, 775-962-5544.

Tri-County Fair and Stampede • Aug. 31-Sept. 1 • Fair and rodeo for Humboldt, Pershing, and Lander counties. Humboldt County Fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 775-623-5071.

Labor Day Celebration • Aug. 31-Sept. 2 • Corn feed, community potluck, bingo, and live music. Outdoor Inn and picnic area, Jarbridge, 775-488-2311.

Basque Picnic • Aug. 31 • Ethnic festival with dancing, food. Lions Park, Battle Mountain, 775-635-5135.

Nuts About Pines • Aug. 31 • Learn about the uses of pine trees and the history and gathering of the pine nut. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.



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Trains, Planes, and Automobiles • Aug. 31-Sept. 2 • Event combines Raildays 2002, Long Steel Rails Festival, and Ultra-Lite Fly-In, and includes a motorcycle run, model train expo, train rides, displays, hobos, and storytelling. Nevada Northern Railway Museum and East Ely railroad depot, Ely Airport, Ely, 775-289-8877.

Fallon Junior Rodeo • Aug. 31-Sept. 2 • Weekend includes the Labor Day parade on Sept. 2. Churchill County Fairgrounds, Fallon, 775-428-4745.

Valley Off-Road Racing Association • Aug. 31-Sept. 2 • 250-mile desert race of four 60-mile laps. Sturgeons Casino is the host for race activities. Tufa Motorsports Park Area, Lovelock, 775-246-5545.

Pioche Heritage Plays • Sept. 1 • Presentation of a living-history drama, "Heavenly Hangover," and a melodrama, "Stop That Villain." Town Hall, Pioche, 775-962-5308.

Elko County Fair • Sept. 1-2 • Horse racing, branding and roping contests, and livestock judging. Fairgrounds, Elko, 775-738-3616.

Yerington Desert Race • Sept. 1-3 • VORRA off-road race around the hills. Yerington, 775-463-2245.

Ceramicarama • Sept. 6-8 • Show and sale of porcelain and stoneware. Planet X Pottery, eight miles west of Gerlach on State Route 447, 775-557-2500.

Gamblers Run Car Show • Sept. 6-8 • Open to any model. Events include a warm-up party, chuckwagon breakfast, poker run, show and shine, and sock hop. Convention Center and city parks, Elko, 775-777-7896.

Life Cycle of a Rock • Sept. 7 • Geological program on Cathedral Gorge's formations. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Golf Nevada 4-Ball Championship • Sept. 7-8 • Golf tournament. White Pine Golf Course, Ely, 775-289-4095.

Sundae in the Park • Sept. 8 • Art and food festival features



Reno Takes to the Air

The imagination braces as aircraft of all descriptions, from jets to biplanes, perform and compete during the National Championship Air Races on September 12-15 in Reno. Six classes will compete in the closed-pylon course at Reno-Stead Airport amid an Apollo astronaut reunion.

arts, quilts, crafts, and foods produced in the Mason Valley area. Event includes entertainment and free ice cream sundaes. Swim Pool Park, Yerington, 775-463-1783.

Gold Rush Challenge • Sept. 12-15 • Open road rally on State Route 278 between Carlin and Eureka. 702-631-6166.

El Capitan Slot Tournament • Sept. 13-15 • El Capitan Casino, Hawthorne, 800-922-2311.

Edible Plants and Fall Foliage • Sept. 14 • Easy walk to identify the uses of native plants for food and medicine. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Dune Riders International Xwest Huck Fest • Sept. 14 • Sandboarding competition with big-air and distance record jumps on the sand dune. Sand Mountain, 25 miles east of Fallon on U.S. 50, 775-423-2117, www.sandboard.com.

Race to the Angel • Sept. 14 • Runners, walkers, and mountain- and road-bikers follow a 13.1-mile course that climbs 2,800 feet from downtown Wells to Angel Lake. Wells, 775-752-3328.

Motorcycle Desert Race • Sept. 14 • Bushwackers off-road competition. Pioche, 702-566-0127.

Fall Classic Team Roping • Sept. 14-15 • Fifth annual regional competition. City Corrals, Ely, 775-289-3851.

Blackjack Tournament • Sept. 15-16 • Rainbow Casino, Wendover, 775-664-4000.

Silver State Classic Challenge • Sept. 19-22 • Open road rally on State Route 318 between Lund and Hiko. Pre-race activities in Ely. 702-631-6166.

Old-Fashioned Biker BBQ • Sept. 20-21 • Campout, two breakfasts, pig roast, dance. Meals \$20. Middlegate Station, 47 miles east of Fallon, 775-423-7134.

Honoring Our Elders Powwow and Pinenut Festival • Sept. 20-22 • Walker River Paiute Tribe's celebration of the annual pinenut gathering includes a thanksgiving ceremony. Native American dancing honors tribal elders, and event features a rodeo and traditional handgames. Walker River Park, Schurz, 775-773-2396.

Fall Cribbage Tournament • Sept. 20-22 • Continuous play. Convention Center, Winnemucca, 775-623-5071.

PAHRUMP
NEVADA

Silver State Regional Chili Championship

May 4

ADDITIONAL UPCOMING EVENTS

Pony Express Ride • Sept. 27-28

Harvest Festival, Fair & Rodeo • Oct. 4-6

Senior A-Fair • Nov. 8-10

Social Pow-Wow • Nov. 22-24

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World of Speed • Sept. 20-23 • Land speed time trials. Event includes the Barstool Landspeed competition. Bonneville Salt Flats, Wendover, 801-485-2662.

Harvest Moonlight Walk • Sept. 21 • Ranger-led walk highlights the formations of Cathedral Gorge. Bring a flashlight and jacket. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Round Mountain Team Roping • Sept. 21 • Second annual competition. Brotherton's Arena, Lund, 775-238-5238.

Old Blind Dogs • Sept. 21 • Traditional Celtic music. Convention Center, Fallon, 775-423-1440.

Dayton Valley Days • Sept. 21-22 • Heritage festival features parades, craft fair, and youth rodeo. Old Town, Dayton, 775-629-0115.

Slot Tournament • Sept. 22-23 • Peppermill, Wendover, 775-664-0513.

National Senior Pro Rodeo • Sept. 27-29 • PRCA rodeo. Churchill County Fairgrounds, Fallon, 775-867-2115.

Pony Express Ride • Sept. 27-29 • 34-mile ride from Saddle West Casino in Pahrump to Longstreet Casino in Amargosa to deliver souvenir stamps. Pahrump and Amargosa, 775-727-5800.

Fall Safety and Survival Workshop • Sept. 28 • Learn ways to be prepared in an emergency. Spring Valley State Park, 18 miles east of Pioche, 775-728-4460.

Rodney Mike/Duckwater Classic • Sept. 28 • 12th annual team roping competition. Brotherton's Arena, Lund, 775-238-5238.

World Human-Powered Speed Challenge • Sept. 30-Oct. 5 • A field of international teams compete on bicycles encased in aerodynamic shells. Competitors try to reach speeds of more than 70 mph on a 200-meter course on State Route 305 between Battle Mountain and Austin. Battle Mountain, 775-635-8245.

Pahrump Harvest Festival • Oct. 4-6 • PRCA rodeo, deep-pit barbecue, contests, entertainment, carnival, car racing, vendors, fair and exhibits. Petrack Park, Pahrump, 775-727-8195.

Stargazing • Oct. 5 • Location and legends of fall constellations. Spring Valley State Park, 18 miles east of Pioche, 775-728-4460.

Star Party • Oct. 5 • Light-hearted program on outhouses and old-fashioned privies. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Smith Valley Rotary Fun Day • Oct. 6 • 4-H breakfast, steak and hamburger barbecue, car show, turkey shoot, craft show, antique engines and tractors, kids' games. Dressler Park, Wellington, 775-465-2354.

Lamoille Harvest Festival • Oct. 6 • Arts, crafts, food, and kids' games. Old School House, Lamoille, 775-777-1400.

Fall Roundup Golf Tournament • Oct. 9-10 • Room and golf packages. Saddle West, Pahrump, 800-433-3987.

ET Summit Finals • Oct. 10-13 • NHRA drag racing season finals. Top Gun Raceway, Fallon, 775-423-0223.

Fallon Harvest Days and Nevada State Picnic • Oct. 11-13 • Local farms and ranches show their wares. Event includes a family picnic and concert at Oats Park. Fallon, 775-423-4556.

Railroad Valley Days • Oct. 12 • 10th annual festival featuring games, arts, crafts, food, and music. Current Creek, 55 miles west of Ely on U.S. 6, Ely, 775-863-0271.

Civil War Encampment • Oct. 12-13 • Nevada Civil War Volunteers present an encampment with living-history events and camp life. Fort Churchill State Historic Park, seven miles south of Silver Springs, 775-577-2345.

Elko Temoak Powwow • Oct. 12-14 • Native American dress, dancing, and food. Elko Indian Colony, Elko, 775-738-5036.

Slot Tournament • Oct. 13-14 • Rainbow, Wendover, 775-664-0513.

Lavay Smith and Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers • Oct. 18 • Swing and jump band performs classic blues music. Convention Center, Fallon, 775-423-1440.

Moonlight Hike • Oct. 19 • Explore the park's canyons and caves under a hunter's moon (the full moon after a harvest moon). Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Sand Mountain Open • Oct. 19 • Dune Riders International dual slalom, big-air, and drags. Pro and amateur divisions. Sand Mountain, 25 miles east of Fallon on U.S. 50, 775-423-2117, www.sandboard.com.

Harvest Sale and Auction • Oct. 20 • Arts and crafts, antique auction, booths, and homemade pastries. Community Hall, Smith Valley, 775-465-2353.

Cathedral Gorge's First Century • Oct. 26 • Slide program on Cathedral Gorge, one of the state's oldest parks. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Pig Roast Halloween Party • Oct. 26 • Pig-on-a-spit barbecue, bake auction, costume party for adults and children. Outdoor Inn, Jarbridge, 775-448-2311.

Burro Days • Oct. 26 • Burro races, entertainment. Contestants must cook a flapjack and entice a reluctant burro to eat it. Downtown, Beatty, 775-553-2424.

El Capitan Classic • Oct. 26-27 • Stock-car racing. Hawthorne Centennial Speedway, Hawthorne, 775-945-1833.

Lions Club Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall • Oct. 26-Nov. 3 • 152-foot replica of the war memorial is on display. Saddle West Casino, Pahrump, 800-433-3987.

Blackjack Tournament • Oct. 27-28 • Peppermill, Wendover, 775-664-0513.

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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, the Broadway plays "Fosse" and "Blast!" are scheduled for the Aladdin in Las Vegas. The high-energy production show "Tap Dogs" begins an engagement at the Eldorado in Reno. Here, *Nevada Magazine* presents a guide to featured performers. Showrooms often fill fast, so be sure to call ahead for show times and reservations.

Las Vegas Territory

BOULDER CITY

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

HENDERSON

Fiesta Henderson • 702-558-7000: Lava Lounge: Entertainment offered 9pm-1am Saturdays. Guitar Bar: Open pick for guitar players, 6-9pm Thurs.-Sat.

Green Valley Ranch • 702-454-0544: Estancia Event Center: Entertainment TBA. Whiskey Sky Terrace: The Four Tops, Sept. 20. Al Jarreau, Sept. 27.

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.

Sunset Station • 702-547-7777: Club Madrid: Al DiMeola, Oct. 12. Paula Poundstone, Dec. 6. Eric Burdon, Dec. 13. Jerry Tiffe and His Orchestra play 2-4pm Wed. Loveshack, 9pm-1am on Thurs. Louie Louie plays at 11pm and 1am on Fri.-Sat. Sunset Amphitheater: The Doobie Brothers, Sept. 1. Johnny Rivers, Sept. 6. Spyro Gyra/Jonathan Butler, Sept. 7.

JEAN

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

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

LAS VEGAS

Aladdin • 877-333-WISH: Aladdin Theater for the Performing Arts: Bonnie Raitt/Lyle Lovett, Sept. 10. Las Vegas International Mariachi Festival, Sept. 14. "Fosse," Sept. 17-29. "Blast!" Oct. 22-27. "Beauty and the Beast," Nov. 12-17. "Jesus Christ Superstar," Nov. 26-Dec. 1. "Grease," Jan. 28-Feb. 2. "Miss Saigon," May 13-18. Sinbad's Lounge: Bands play until 3am. Music in the Curve nightclub.

Arizona Charlie's • 702-258-5200: Naughty Ladies Saloon: Fortunes, Aug. 27-Sept. 1. Sonny Charles and Sweet Louie: The Checkmates, Sept. 24-Oct. 6. Randy Anderson, Oct. 8-20. Sonny Charles and Sweet Louie: The Checkmates, Oct. 22-Nov. 3. Jerry Tiffe's Band, 4-7pm Fridays.

Arizona Charlie's East • 702-951-5800: Palace Grand Lounge: Sonny Charles and Sweet Louie: The Checkmates, thru Sept. 1. Christy Bryant, Sept. 3-15. Sue



"EFX" Master

Rick Springfield has extended his starring role in "EFX Live," the fantasy spectacular at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. Previous stars of "EFX" have included Michael Crawford, David Cassidy, and Tommy Tune. The fast-paced show slows down enough for Springfield to offer brief versions of his hits "Human Touch" and "Jessie's Girl."

McDonald appears Sept. 17-22 in the casino's lounge.

Bally's • 702-739-4111 or 800-237-SHOW: Jubilee Theater: "Jubilee!" dark Fri. Indigo Lounge: Doug Taylor appears nightly except Wed.

Barbary Coast • 702-737-7111: Barbary Coast Lounge: Pete Vallee as "Big Elvis," 3-6pm Thurs.-Sun. Monday Night Jazz on the Strip, 8pm. Bands such as Elements, Front Page, and the SFB Band play in the lounge. Karaoke, 8pm-1:30am Mon.-Tues.

Bellagio • 888-987-6667: Cirque du Soleil's "O," indf, dark Wed.-Thurs. and Oct. 14-17 and Dec. 4-19. Light: Nightclub opens at 10:30pm Thurs. and Sun., 9:30pm Fri.-Sat. Musicians play in the Allegro and Petrossian lounges and Baccarat Bar. Fontana Room: Jimmy Hopper and his band, dark Mon.

Blue Note Jazz Club • 702-699-9196: Blue Note: Jazz headliners nightly. Jam Session, 9pm Sun. Tease Showroom: "Tease," interactive dinner theater, dark Tues. Insomnia

Nightclub at the Blue Note: Opens at 11pm for dancing. **Boardwalk Casino Holiday Inn** • 702-735-2400: Lighthouse Lounge: Spectrum, Motown sound, indf., dark Mon. Purple Reign, a tribute to Prince, dark Sun.-Mon. **Boulder Station** • 702-432-7777 or 800-683-7777: The Railhead: Kenny Rankin, Sept. 27. Jerry Vale, Nov. 1-2. Ray Price, Nov. 15. Keiko Matsui, March 1. Blues Night: Michael Hill's Blues Mob, Sept. 26. Little Charlie and the Nightcats, Oct. 17. Debbie Davies Band, Oct. 31. Duke Robillard, Nov. 7. Big Bill Morganfield, Dec. 5. Jerry Tiffe plays 2-4pm Tues. KIXX: Shooting Stars Karaoke, Thurs.-Sat.

Bourbon Street • 702-737-7200: Bourbon Street Theatre: "The Fielding West Show: Comedy, Tricks, and Naked Chicks," comedy-magic revue plays Mon.-Tues. and Sat.

Caesars Palace • 702-731-7333 or 800-445-4544: Special Labor Day Event: Rockin' Under the Stars at Caesars Palace: Dennis Quaid and the Sharks and Vesica Pisces, Aug. 31. Jim Belushi and the Sacred Hearts and Vesica Pisces, Sept. 1. Colosseum Showroom: Celine Dion begins March 25. Shadow Bar: Dancers and flair bartenders perform 8pm-2am Sun.-Wed. Caesars Magical Empire: Dinner and magic featured in Sultan's Palace and Secret Pagoda. Sultan's Palace: The Majestix, Sept. 3-7, Oct. 8-26, and Oct. 29-Nov. 2. Joseph Gabriel, Sept. 10-28 and Oct. 1-5, Nov. 5-23. Nov. 26-30. Secret Pagoda: Scott Alexander/Collin Foster, Sept. 3-7 and 10-28. Daryl/John Shyrock, Oct. 1-5 and 8-26. Jon Armstrong/Jeff Lee, Oct. 29-Nov. 2. Magic performances with show only, no dinner, 11am-4pm. Entertainment in the La Piazza and Terrazza lounges and Cleopatra's Barge. Piano music, Galleria Bar and Café Lago. Caesars sponsors the Professional Bull Riders Bud Light Cup World Championships, Oct. 24-27, Thomas and Mack Center.

Castaways • 702-383-9232 or 800-826-2800: Waolani Showroom: "At Home in the Islands," Polynesian revue, with songs and dances of Hawaii, New Zealand, Samoa, and Tahiti, 8pm Wed.-Sat., 10pm show Fri.-Sat. (dark Sun.), indf. 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 Showroom: "Thunder From Down Under," all-male revue, plays at 7:30pm nightly except Thurs. Comedians perform nightly at 10pm. Court Jesters Stage: Strolling entertainers, 10am-10pm daily. Minstrels Lounge: Live bands and dancing. Music in the Regales and Camelot restaurants.

Fitzgeralds • 702-388-2400 or 800-274-LUCK (U.S. outside Nevada): Second Floor Events Center: Larry G. Jones, free impersonator show, 5pm Thurs.-Mon. (one-drink minimum). "Tribute to Elvis," 7 and 9pm Thurs.-Sun. First Floor Stage: Mike Lee, "Singer of Memories," 8pm-1am Thurs.-Mon.

Flamingo Las Vegas • 702-733-3333 or 800-221-7299: Gladys Knight, thru Feb., dark Sun.-Mon. "Bottom's Up," 2 and 4pm, indf., dark Sun. Bugsy's Celebrity Theatre: "Second City," improv comedy sketches, dark Thurs. Flamingo Room Restaurant: Emilio Morel, piano music nightly.

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.

Fremont • 702-385-3232: Entertainment TBA at the hotel. **Gold Coast** • 702-367-7111 or 888-402-6278 (U.S. outside Nevada): East Lounge: Kinda Dixie Jazz Band, noon-6pm. Bands like Elements, Smith Brothers, and Front Page play nightly except Mon. Gold Coast Showroom: "Honky Tonk Angels: A Tribute to Country's Great Ladies," dark Mon.-Tues. Latin Breeze, Fri.-Sat., indf. Ballroom dancing and free dance lessons with disk jockey Larry Taylor on Tues. Dance lessons are 6-7pm. Sunday Tea Dance Party with Larry Taylor from 1-5pm. Free drama workshop, 9:30-11:30am Sat.

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

Golden Nugget • 702-385-7111: Golden Nugget Theatre Ballroom: Amazing Johnathan, Nov. 4-11, bizarre magic act. Bands like the Klique, She-Bop, and the Motown Review play in the Show Bar Lounge nightly except Mon.

Golden Palm Casino/Hotel • 702-798-1111: Karaoke, 9pm-2am Wed.-Sun.

Greek Isles • 702-952-8000: Magic Theater: Dr. Naughty, comedian-hypnotist at 10:15pm daily. "The Tribute to Frank, Sammy, Joey, and Dean," dark Wed.

Hard Rock Hotel • 702-226-4650: The Joint Entertainment TBA.

Harrah's Las Vegas • 702-369-5111: Clint Holmes Theatre: Clint Holmes, musical variety show, dark Sun. Comedy Cabaret: Improv, nightly except Mon. "Skintight," musical production, dark Thurs. Mac King Comedy Magic Show appears at 1 and 3pm Tues.-Sat. Carnaval Court: Entertainment daily. Summer Concert Series: "Disco-Dyno-mite" with comedians Jimmy "JJ" Walker and Lawrence-Hilton Jacobs and singers Thelma Houston, Rose Royce, and Evelyn "Champagne" King, Sept. 7. Music nightly in La Playa Lounge and in the Range Steakhouse Lounge. View Nightclub opens in the Range Steakhouse at 11pm.

Howard Johnson Hotel • 702-798-1111: Sundowner Showroom: "The Great Baldini," starring impressionist T.J. Tyler (dark Mon.-Wed.).

Imperial Palace • 702-794-3261: Imperial Theatre: "Legends in Concert," celebrity impersonator show, dark Sun. Poolside: Hawaiian Hot Luau, dinner and show, Tues. and Thurs. thru Oct. 24. Kabuki Lounge: Bands play 4:30pm-2am.

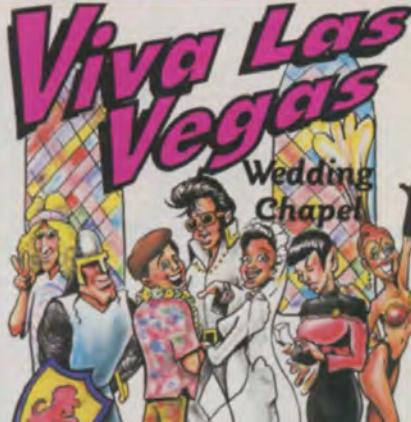
J.W. Marriott • 877-869-8777: J.C. Wooloughan Irish Pub: Entertainment Wed.-Sun. Addison's Lounge: Bands play Tues. and Thurs.-Sun. Karaoke Night, Wed. Dinner dance with Mellowtones, big band music, in the Oxo Restaurant, 5-9pm Sun.

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

Lady Luck • 702-477-3000 or 800-523-9582: Lady Luck Theater: Entertainment TBA. Lucky Louie's Lounge: Entertainment TBA.

Las Vegas Hilton • 702-732-5755 or 800-222-5361: Hilton Theater: Pat Benatar, Aug. 31-Sept. 1. The Smothers Brothers, thru Sept. 8, dark Mon. Go-Go's, Sept. 6-7. The Commodores, Sept. 10-Oct. 6, dark Mon. Paul Rodriguez, Sept. 13-14. Sinbad, Oct. 3-5. The Righteous Brothers, Oct. 8-12. Tim Conway and Harvey Korman, Oct. 10-12. The Righteous Brothers, Oct. 13-Nov. 3. The Smothers Brothers, Nov. 5-24, dark Mon. Kenny Rogers, Nov. 7-9. The Commodores, Nov. 26-Dec. 5, dark Mon. Brooks and Dunn, Dec. 9-11. The NightClub: Sheena Easton, thru Nov. 3, Nov. 11-17, and Nov. 25-Dec. 28. The Fab Four: The Ultimate Tribute to the Beatles, Nov. 4-10 and 18-24. Dance bands play 11pm-3am Wed.-Sun. Crystal Lounge:

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Listen to the Music

The Doobie Brothers, originally formed in San Jose in 1970, will bring their classic hits "Black Water," "China Grove," "Listen to the Music," and "Long Time Running" to Sunset Station in Henderson and the Silver Legacy in Reno in September.

Jazz artists play 7pm-midnight Sun.-Wed. Dance bands, Thurs.-Fri.

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. The hotel has an IMAX theater.

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

Mandalay Bay • 877-632-7400: Mandalay Bay Events Center: Lenny Kravitz/Pink and Abandoned Pools, Aug. 31. Oscar De La Hoya vs. Fernando Vargas, championship boxing, Sept. 14. Pavoratti, Oct. 26. Mandalay Bay Beach Summer Concert Series: George Thorogood and the Destroyers, Sept. 20. Beach Bash: Gipsy Kings, Sept. 1. Hall and Oates, Sept. 28. Mandalay Bay Theatre: David Spade, Dec. 26. House of Blues: An Evening With Ted Nugent, Aug. 31. Bela Fleck and the Flecktones, Sept. 22. Jim Breuer, Oct. 5. Pat Metheny Group, Nov. 15. Dance music, Thurs.-Sun. La Diabla, Latin dance night, Thurs. Gospel Brunch, 10am and 1pm Sun. Live blues Fri.-Sat. in the Courtyard. Bands play in the Orchid, Island, and Coral Reef lounges. The Shark Reef at Mandalay Bay is open daily.

MGM Grand • 702-891-7777 or 800-929-1111: EFX Theatre: "EFX Alive," starring Rick Springfield, special-effects production show, dark Sun.-Mon. MGM Grand Garden Arena: Rush, Sept. 21. Andre Agassi Grand Slam for Children, Sept. 28, benefit starring Sir Elton John, Martina McBride, Dennis Miller, and Carlos Santana. NHL: Hockey: Los Angeles Kings vs. Colorado Avalanche, Oct. 5. U.S. Open: The World's Richest Motorcycle Race, Oct. 11-13. Paul McCartney, Oct. 26. Rolling Stones, Nov. 30. Hollywood Theatre: David Copperfield, thru Sept. 4. George Carlin, Sept. 5-18 and Oct. 3-16. Paul Anka, Sept. 26-Oct. 2. Tom Jones, Oct. 17-30. David Copperfield, Oct. 31-Nov. 6. George Carlin, Nov. 7-13. Carrot Top, Nov. 14-20. La Femme Theatre: "La Femme," Topless Crazy Horse production from Paris, dark Tues. Studio 54: Dancing Tues.-Sat. Live entertainment in the Dome/Show Bar and Neyla lounges.

The Mirage • 702-792-7777: Siegfried and Roy Theater: Paul Anka, Nov. 30-Dec. 7, dark Dec. 1 and 4. "Siegfried and Roy," magic spectacular, dark Wed.-Thurs. and Sept. 18-26. Darren Romeo, "The Voice of Magic," Tues.-Sat. at 3pm. Danny Gans Theatre: Impressionist Danny Gans performs nightly except Fri. and Mon. and Oct. 18-19. Dennis Miller, Oct. 18-19. Entertainment in the Lagoon Saloon, Onda Lounge, and Baccarat Bar.

Monte Carlo • 702-730-7000: Lance Burton Theatre: "Lance Burton, Master Magician," dark Sun.-Mon. and Sept. 2-16. Top 40, disco, country, and classic-rock dance music nightly in the Monte Carlo Pub and Brewery.

New Frontier • 702-794-8200: Roundtable Showroom: "The Soul of Magic" starring Victor and Diamond with magician Rory Shank, 2pm, dark Fri. "Rock and Roll Legends," impersonator revue of celebrities such as Paul McCartney, Stevie Nicks, and Neil Diamond, 4pm. Daytripper, Beatles tribute, 5:30pm. "Tonight's Show," favorites from the past such as Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, and Elvis Presley, 7pm. "Men, Ultimate Male Revue," 9pm daily, 9 and 11pm Fri.-Sat., dark Thurs. Gilley's Saloon: Bands Tues.-Sat.

New York-New York • 702-740-6969 or 800-693-6763: Broadway Theatre: Showroom closed until Cirque du Soleil production opens summer 2003. Cabaret Theatre: Comedienne Rita Rudner performs nightly. "Boo," improvisational revue, Mon.-Thurs. at 10pm, Fri.-Sat. 10:30pm. Ticket includes an after-show roller-coaster ride. Coyote Ugly: Dance nightclub opens nightly at 6pm. The N.Y.P.D. (New York Piano Duos) dueling pianos play from 8pm nightly in the Bar at Times Square. Bands play in the Bar at Times Square and the Big Apple Bar.

The Orleans • 800-ORLEANS: Orleans Showroom: Air Supply, Aug. 29-Sept. 1. Frankie Avalon/Bobby Rydell, Sept. 12-15. Debbie Reynolds, Sept. 18-22. The Lettermen, Sept. 27-29. Neil Sedaka, Oct. 8-13. Steven Wright, Oct. 17-20. Louie Anderson, Nov. 1-3. Frankie

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Valli, Nov. 7-10. Frankie Avalon/Bobby Rydell, Nov. 14-17. Vicki Lawrence, Nov. 28-Dec. 1. Tony Orlando, Santa, and Me, Dec. 16-22. Bourbon Street Cabaret: Performers like Susan McDonald and Gregg Peterson appear nightly except Mon. Brendan's Irish Pub: Bands play nightly. Oasis Jazz Night, Tues.

Palace Station • 702-367-2411 or 800-634-3101: Gabe Kaplan's Laugh Trax Comedy Club: Steve White/Tammy Peskatelli, Sept. 3-7. Mark Gross/David Gee, Sept. 10-14. Michael Pace/Ian Harris, Sept. 17-21. Gabe Kaplan, Sept. 24-28. Tues.-Sat. Jack's Irish Pub: Entertainers perform nightly. Palace Pavilion: Entertainment TBA.

The Palms • 702-942-7777: Rain in the Desert: Carlos Santana, Sept. 29. Bands play nightly in the Palapa Lounge. DJs play Fri.-Sat. in the Ghostbar.

Paris Las Vegas • 800-237-SHOW: Theatre des Arts: George Lopez, Sept. 13-15. Earth, Wind, and Fire, Sept. 19-22. Olivia Newton-John, Oct. 4-5. Tony Bennett, Oct. 10-13. The Moody Blues, Oct. 31-Nov. 3. Wayne Brady, Nov. 22-23. Legends of Motown featuring the Temptations and Marvelettes, Nov. 28-30. Earth, Wind, and Fire, Dec. 19-22. Bands play in Le Cabaret Show Lounge, dark Tues. Napoleon's Cigar Bar: Jazz trio plays nightly except Tues. Ortanique Restaurant: Jazz Wed.-Thurs. with Tommy Thompson.

The Plaza • 800-634-6575: Plaza Showroom: Entertainment TBA. Omaha Lounge: Dusty Barron/The Sun Spots perform Tues.-Sun.

Rio All-Suite Hotel • 702-252-7776 or 800-PLAYRIO (U.S. and Canada): The Masquerade Showroom: The Scintas, musical-comedy show, dark Thurs. Ronn Lucas, comedian-ventriloquist, 3pm, dark Tues. and Sept. 14. Samba Theater: Penn and Teller, comedy-magic show, thru Dec., dark Tues. "Showgirls," dark Sun. Showgirls are available for photos from 10-11pm nightly except Sun. Club Rio: "Chippendales: The Show," male revue, dark Tues. Club Rio Nightclub is open for late-night dancing Wed.-Sat. Calypso Room: "Tony 'n Tina's Wedding," off-Broadway interactive dinner theater, nightly with a Sunday brunch performance at noon. Masquerade Show in the Sky: Carnival-themed parade with exotic floats and costumes above the casino daily at 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 7, 8, 9, and 10pm. Entertainment in the Rio Bamba Cabaret, Ipanema Piano Bar, and VooDoo Lounge.

Riviera • 702-794-9301: Splash Theatre: "Splash," production show, dark Fri. Top of the Riv: Entertainment TBA. La Cage Theatre (third floor): "An Evening at La Cage," celebrity female impersonators revue, dark Tues. Mardi Gras Plaza (second level): "Crazy Girls" adult revue, dark Thurs. "Riviera Comedy Club," comedians appear nightly. Le Bistro Theatre: Singer Marlene Ricci, 8:30pm Tues.-Sun. Jim LeBoeuf and the Naturals, 2:30-6pm Fri.-Sun. "Jay White as Neil Diamond," 7pm Tues.-Sun. "Stephen Sorrentino: Voices in My Head," impressionist, 10pm Tues.-Sun. Lon Bronson's All-Star Band plays at 1am Sat. Trent Carlini: The Dream King, impersonator, 11:30pm Tues.-Sun. Dr. Scott Lewis: Outrageous Comedy Hypnotist, 7-8pm Mon.

Sahara • 702-737-2515: Sahara Theatre: Magician Steve Wyrick, indf, dark Tues. Congo Room: "Bravo" starring Charo, dark Thurs. Entertainment also offered in the Casbar Lounge.

Sam's Town • 702-454-8048: Sam's Town Live: Little Richard, Sept. 1. 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," revue, dark Mon. Bonne Chance Lounge: Entertainers nightly.

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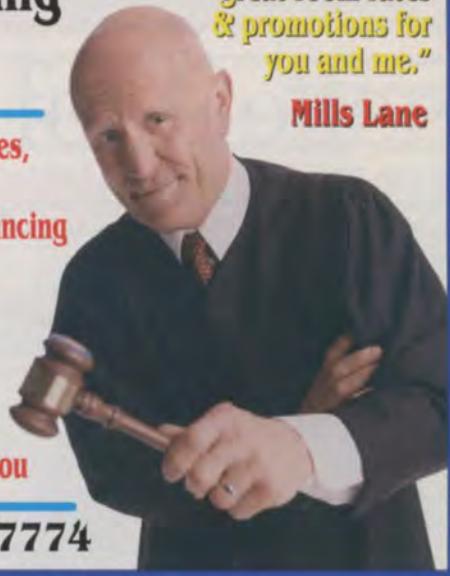
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www.beattynv.com • email: beattychamber@beattynv.com

Santa Fe Station • 702-658-4900: The Green Room: Jerry Tiffe and His Orchestra, 7-11pm Wed. Bands play Fri.-Sat. Memphis Championship Barbecue: John Earl and the BoogieMan Band perform Fri.-Sat.

Silverton • 702-263-7777 or 800-588-7711: Rattlesnake Rickey's Saloon: Entertainment TBA. Bands play nightly. **Stardust** • 702-732-6111 or 800-824-6033: Wayne Newton Theatre: Don Rickles/Peggy March, Aug. 29-Sept. 1. Andrew Dice Clay, Sept. 4-7 and 11-14. Wayne Newton, Sept. 16-23. Chicago, Sept. 24-28. Wayne Newton, Sept. 29-Oct. 10. John St. Peters, Oct. 11. Stardust Ballroom: Ray Anthony and His Orchestra, Nov. 16. Stardust Pavilion: Les Brown's Band of Renown, Oct. 19. Bands play onstage nightly in the resort's Stardust Lounge. Las Vegas Comedy Festival, Sept. 4-8, features workshops, seminars, and competitions; call 702-736-6595 for information on the festival.

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

Suncoast • 702-636-7111: Showroom: Brett Butler, Aug. 31-Sept. 1. Bill Acosta, Sept. 6-8. David Brenner, Sept. 14-15. Average White Band, Sept. 21-22. Bobby Collins, Sept. 28-29. Al Martino, Oct. 4-6. Riders in the Sky, Oct. 11-13. Rich Little, Oct. 18-20. Tower of Power, Oct. 25-27. The Lettermen, Nov. 1-3. The Four Freshmen, Nov. 15-17. Dave Mason, Nov. 23-24. Roger Williams, Nov. 29-Dec. 1. The Kingston Trio, Dec. 6-8. Bobby Rydell/Steve Rossi, Dec. 13-15. Don Ho, Dec. 20-22. Two for Tuesday: Sweet Al and the Boys 7-10pm, Yellow Brick Road 10pm-1am. Wednesday Knight Fever: Music 7-10pm, Boogie Knights



On the Beach

Daryl Hall and John Oates join the beach crowd at Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas in September and headline at Caesars Tahoe in October. Hall (right) and Oates are known for such early hits "Maneater" and "She's Gone" and later songs like "Everything Your Heart Desires."

10pm-1am. Bands play the casino nightly except Mon. **Terrible's** • 702-733-7000: Stage Bar Lounge: Bands play Tues.-Sun.

Treasure Island • 702-894-7111: Cirque du Soleil in

"Mystère," dark Mon.-Tues. Show Bar Lounge: Music nightly. Buccaneer Bay sea battle nightly at the hotel's Strip entrance.

Tropicana • 702-739-2411: Tiffany Theatre: "Folies Bergere," dark Thurs. "Illusionary Magic of Rick Thomas," 2 and 4pm daily except Fri. Tropics Lounge: "The Birdman of Las Vegas," 10am, noon, and 2pm except Thurs. Celebration Lounge: T. Fox and the Fox City Show, dark Mon.-Tues. Comedy Stop Theatre: "The Comedy Stop," stand-up comedy nightly.

Venetian • 702-733-5000: Showroom at the Venetian: "Melinda: First Lady of Magic," indf., dark Wed.

Westward Ho • 702-731-2900: Crown Room: "Ho-larious" comedy revue, magic, indf., dark Wed., Fri., and Sat. Bands play nightly except Mon. in the lounge.

Wild West Gambling Hall • 702-740-0000.

LAUGHLIN

Avi • 702-535-5555: Arrowweed Lounge: Bands nightly. **Colorado Belle** • 702-298-4000: John Earl and the BoogieMan Band, Sept. 26-28. Bands play in the Boiler Room Microbrewery and Restaurant.

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

Flamingo Laughlin • 702-298-5111 or 800-435-8469: Flamingo Showroom: Comedy Stop, thru Sept. 1. "Reflections of the Rat Pack," Sept. 16-April 20. Flamingo Ballroom: Lorrie Morgan/Sammy Kershaw, Sept. 14. The Four Tops, Sept. 28. Tim Conway and Harvey Korman, Oct. 3. Neil Sedaka, Oct. 5. Teri Clark, Oct. 16. Engelbert Humperdinck, Oct. 29. The Smothers Brothers, Nov. 2. Kenny Rogers, Nov. 10.

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

Harrah's Laughlin • 702-298-4600 or 800-447-8700: Fiesta Showroom: Earl Turner, high-energy cabaret singer, thru Sept. 18, dark Sun. and Wed. Rio Vista Outdoor Amphitheater: Bill Cosby, Sept. 8. Lou Rawls, Oct. 13. Burt Bacharach, Oct. 26.

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Pioneer • 800-634-3469: Showdown at Sundown, gun-fighter demonstration, 8pm Fri.-Sat.

Ramada Express • 702-298-4200 or 800-243-6846: Pavilion Theatre: "Always Patsy Cline," tribute production starring Sally Struthers, Oct. 19-24 and 26-31. Talent Quest: Karaoke Nationals, Sept. 2 and 6-7. Lounge: Bands play nightly at the Ramada Express except Mon. Karaoke Madness is scheduled on Mon.

River Palms • 702-298-2242 or 800-835-7904: Crystal Sands Room: "Joey and Maria's Wedding," interactive Italian wedding-dinner theater, Sept. 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 28, and 29, Oct. 5, 12, and 26, Nov. 9, 23, and 30, and Dec. 14, 21, and 28. 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. Freddy Fender, Oct. 2-6. Ricky Van Shelton, Oct. 29-Nov. 3. Roy Clark, Nov. 5-10. The Oak Ridge Boys, Nov. 13-17. Charlie Prose, Jan. 9-Feb. 13.

MESQUITE

CasaBlanca • 702-346-7529 or 800-459-7529: CasaBlanca Showroom: Tribute to the Blues Brothers: Eric Martin and Carmen Romano, Sept. 14. Kip Attaway, Oct. 4-5, musical comedy. Bands like the Fortunes and Perfect Choice play in the lounge.

Eureka Casino Hotel • 702-346-4646: Wild Cactus Lounge: Sonny D, Mon. and Wed. Fun Fool's Karaoke, Tues. Bands play in the lounge Thurs.-Sun.

Oasis • 702-346-5232 or 800-621-0187: The Boot Saloon: Video and live DJ on Fri. and Sat. Cabaret Lounge: Bands play in the lounge.

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

NORTH LAS VEGAS

Fiesta Rancho • 702-631-7000: Roxy's Theatre: Entertainment TBA. Cabo Lounge: DJ music 6pm-2am 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: Alan King, Sept. 27. Charley Pride, Oct. 4. Merle Haggard, Nov. 2. Ray Charles, Nov. 8. Connie Francis, Nov. 22-23. The Armadillo: Kroakies Karaoke, Wed. Loveshack, Fri.-Sat. Sunday Swing with Jerry Tiffie, 4-8pm Sun.

PRIMM

Buffalo Bill's Resort • 800-FUN-STOP: Star of the Desert Arena: Brooks and Dunn, Sept. 7. VH-1 Triple Shot of Rock: Eddie Money, Loverboy, and Survivor, Oct. 4. Stage Bar: Bands play Thurs.-Sun. Carolee's Comedy Club: Guest comedians appear on Fri.-Sat.

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

Whiskey Pete's • 800-FUN-STOP: Whiskey Pete's Comedy Club, Fri.-Sat.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

CARSON AREA

Carson Nugget • Carson City, 775-882-1626 or 800-426-5239 (continental U.S. including Nevada): Nugget Show Bar: David Proud, Sept. 3-18. The Motifs, Sept. 10-15. Teaser, Sept. 17-22. Off Our Rockers, Sept. 24-29. Joey Carmon, Oct. 1-6. White Wing, Oct. 8-13. Band on the Run, Oct. 15-20. Stevie and the Stingrays, Oct. 22-27. Killer Tomatoes, Oct. 29-Nov. 3.

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 with Karen Rontowski and Jackie Kashian, Sept. 13. Comedy Night Live with Lord Garrett, Oct. 11. Cabaret Lounge: Bands play nightly.

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

Sharkey's Nugget Casino • Gardnerville, 775-782-3133.

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

RENO/SPARKS

Atlantis • 775-825-4700 or 800-723-6500: Danny Marona, Aug. 30-Sept. 1. Bands perform nightly in the Center Stage Cabaret.

Boontown • 775-345-6000: Can-Can Theater and Dancehall: Outpsyders, Sept. 10-15. Band on the Run, Sept. 17-22. Tommy Bell, Sept. 24-29. Gary and Sandy, Oct. 1-13, dark Mon. Shake, Rattle, and Roll, Oct. 15-20. Lelands, Oct. 22-27.

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: "Tap Dogs," high-energy production, plays nightly except Mon. with a 3:30pm matinee on Wed., thru Nov. 24. Robert Dubac's "The Male Intellect: An Oxymoron?" Dec. 4-22. Bands play nightly at the Brew Brothers microbrewery. Piano music in the Roxy Lounge. BuBinga Lounge: Dance to DJs and bands. Special Event: 21st Annual Eldorado Great Italian Festival, Oct. 12-13.

Fitzgeralds • 775-785-3300 or 800-648-5022 (U.S. outside Nevada): Bands perform nightly in the casino's Fitz Showbar.

Harrah's Reno • 775-788-2900 or 800-HARRAHS: Sammy's Showroom: Gordie Brown, one-man theatrical production, 7:30pm Fri.-Tues. plus 9:30pm Sat., dark Wed.-Thurs. Geechy Guy Comedy Hour, Wed.-Thurs. The Plaza at Harrah's Reno: K.C. and the Sunshine Band, Sept. 1, free concert. Mike Furlong's Tribute to Tom Petty, Sept. 2. Madison Avenue, Sept. 6-8. Louie Fontaine and the Rockets, Sept. 7. Rob Hanna's Tribute to Rod Stewart, Sept. 13-15. Steel Breeze, Sept. 25-29. Raised on Radio, Sept. 25-28. Louie Fontaine and the Rockets, Oct. 4-6. World Chili Cook-Off, Oct. 5-6. Chef Andy LoRusso, Oct. 12-13.

John Ascuaga's Nugget • Sparks, 775-356-3304 or 800-648-1177: Celebrity Showroom: "Spirit of America," Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25 and Oct. 2 and 9, production show. Taj Mahal and the Phantom Blues Band, Sept. 6-7. Elvin Bishop, Sept. 20-21. Tracy Byrd, Sept. 27-28. The Lettermen, Oct. 4-5. Jeff Foxworthy, Oct. 11-12. Johnny Rivers, Oct. 18-19. Roy Clark, Nov. 1-2. Herb Reed and the Platters, Nov. 15-17. Ray Price and the Cherokee Cowboys, Nov. 22-23. Shaolin Wheel of Life, Kung Fu production, Nov. 28-Dec. 1. "Simply Cole!" Feb. 5-March 26, Cole Porter's music. Rose Ballroom: Entertainment TBA. Bands play nightly in the Casino Cabaret and Trader Dick's. Flamenco guitarist Thurs. and jazz Fri.-Sat. in Restaurante Orozko. Outdoor Events: Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off, Aug. 29-Sept. 2. Joan Jett and the Blackhearts, Aug. 31. Los Lobos, Sept. 1. Mumbo Gumbo, Sept. 2.

Peppermill • 775-826-2121 or 800-648-6992: Tahoe Grand Showroom: Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys, Sept. 2. John Anderson, Nov. 2. Bands like Slapback, True to Life, Pocket City, and Madison Avenue play in the Cabaret Lounge. Ron Perry and Dale Vernon perform in the Steakhouse Lounge.

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Rail City Casino • Sparks, 775-359-9440: Side Track Lounge: Bands like Xposure, Memphis Rising, Swift Kick, and Shake, Rattle, and Roll play on weekends.

Reno Hilton • 775-789-2285 or 800-648-3568 (U.S. outside Nevada): The Hilton Theater: "Kalin and Jinger's Illusionarium," magic revue, dark Sat. Lee Ann Womack, Oct. 19. Hilton Amphitheater: Brooks and Dunn, Sept. 12. Silver State Pavilion: Billy Ray Cyrus, Sept. 7. Rockin' Roadhouse Tour with Mark Chesnutt, Joe Diffie, and Tracy Lawrence, Oct. 27. The Garage: Bands play nightly.

Sands Regency • 775-348-2200: Tequila Bar: Music nightly except Mon.-Tues. 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): Entertainment TBA.

Silver Legacy • 775-329-4777 or 800-225-BASS (U.S., Canada, and Mexico): Grande Exposition Hall: Gallagher, Sept. 1. Chicago, Sept. 6-7. Earth, Wind, and Fire, Sept. 14. Doobie Brothers, Sept. 27-28. Johnny

Mathis, Oct. 11-12. Anne Murray, Oct. 18-19. Engelbert Humperdinck, Oct. 25-26. Tim Conway and Harvey Korman, Nov. 1-2. Rum Bullions Island Bar: Dueling pianos, Thurs.-Mon. Steel Rum Drums, Tues.-Sat. Comedians perform at the Catch a Rising Star comedy club, dark Sun. Silver Baron Lounge: Piano music. Special Events: Fireworks, Sept. 28. Great Reno Italian Festival, Oct. 12-13.

Sundowner • 775-786-7050.

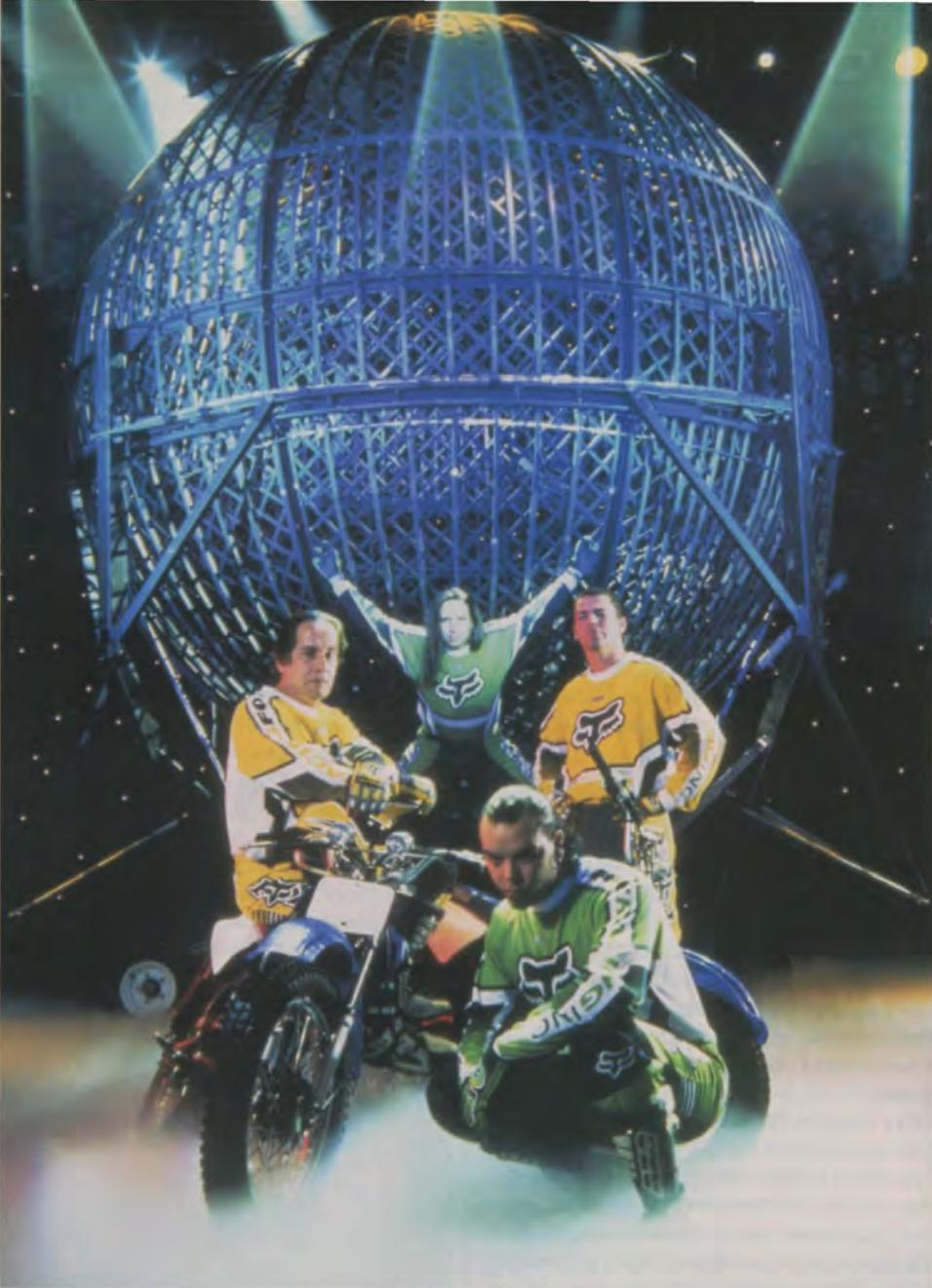
Tamarack Junction • 775-852-3600.

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: Jewel, Sept. 6-7. Carrot Top, Sept. 13-14. Hall and Oates, Oct. 4-5. Wayne Brady and Friends, Oct. 11-12. REO Speedwagon, Oct. 18-19. The Temptations, Nov. 22-23. Club Nero, nightclub has music for dancing. Cleo's Bar: Pianist Arthur Hervey.



A Daring Show

Daredevil motorcyclists ride 45 mph in the "Globe of Death" in "Splash" at the Riviera in Las Vegas. The special-effects production includes showgirls, ice skaters, dancers, and specialty acts.

Harrah's Lake Tahoe • 800-HARRAHS: South Shore Room: "Yeah, Yeah, Yeah! A Tribute to the Beatles," starring Rain, thru Sept. 15, dark Tues. and Fri. Bands play in the Casino Center Stage.

Harveys • 775-588-2411 or 800-553-1022 ext. 2883: Cabaret: The Improv, comedians perform nightly except Sun.-Mon. Goochey Guy on Sun.-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: Live entertainment TBA.

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 at the Biltmore.

Rural Nevada

AMARGOSA VALLEY

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

BEATTY

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

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

ELKO

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

Gold Country Casino • 800-621-1332: 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: Sixties Mania, thru Sept. 1.

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

ELY

Hotel Nevada • 775-289-6665.

FALLOON

Bonanza Inn • 775-423-6031.

Fallon Nugget • 775-423-3111.

HAWTHORNE

El Capitan • 775-945-3322: Bands play in the casino lounge.

Joe's Tavern • 775-945-2302.

JACKPOT

Barton's Club 93 • 775-755-2341.

Cactus Petes • 800-821-1103: Gala Showroom: Tommy Overstreet, Sept. 4-7. The Kingston Trio, Sept. 11-15. Laughing Room Only, Sept. 18-19. Ray Price, Sept. 20-21. Riders in the Sky, Sept. 25-29. Grass Roots, Oct. 2-6. Dr. Hook, Oct. 9-13. Danny Marona, Oct. 16-20 and 23-27. Outdoor Arena: Earth, Wind, and Fire gives an outdoor concert on Sept. 15.

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

LOELOCK

Ramada Inn/Sturgeon's • 775-273-2971: Center Club Showroom: Bands and karaoke are featured on weekends in the Lovelock casino.

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: Club West: The Coasters with Leon Hughes, Sept. 14. Bands like Birds and the Bees, Show and Tell, and Judy Barnett play in Club West. Nightclub with DJ, 9pm Fri. Special Events: Pahrump Harvest Festival, Oct. 4-6. Fall Round-Up Golf Tournament, Oct. 9-10. Vietnam Memorial Wall at Saddle West, Oct. 26-Nov. 3.

Terrible's Lakeside • 775-751-7770.

Terrible's Town Casino • 775-751-7777.

TONOPAH

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

Station House • 775-482-9777.

WENDOVER

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

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).

Montego Bay (formerly Silver Smith/State Line) • 775-664-2231 or 800-354-3671: Live entertainment nightly except Mon. Showroom: Asian Moon Festival, Vietnamese language concert, Sept. 22. Chinese Moon Festival, concert in the Chinese language, Sept. 29. Asian Mayflower Festival, Vietnamese language concert, Nov. 28. Asian Holiday Festival, Vietnamese language concert, Dec. 25. New Year's Eve.

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Charo's Back in Town

The effervescent performer dishes "cuchi-cuchi" comedy and classical guitar at the Sahara.

By Mike Weatherford

Charo recalls her wedding in Las Vegas as "love at first sight."

Except that she was in love with the city, not the groom. The future "Cuchi-Cuchi Girl" first laid eyes on Las Vegas in 1966 as a Spanish teenager who married Latin bandleader Xavier Cugat at the just-opened Caesars Palace.

"That was a funny wedding," she says. The ceremony, performed to give her legal residency in the United States, also furthered the womanizing image of the thrice-married, 66-year-old mambo king while giving his band new blood. With all due respect to Cugat, she says now, "I married Las Vegas."

Can you doubt her? What else but true love would compel the ageless comedian (who says she is 51) to leave a Hawaiian home that was paradise by almost any definition and re-launch her career on the Strip?

Charo was a Las Vegas regular in the '60s and '70s but took a long break from touring in 1988 to perform in Hawaii and raise her son in a seven-bedroom villa on three acres in Kauai. "I miss the ocean," she admits. "The sunrise and the sunset are unbeatable." Her manager-husband Kjell adds, "You can see the dolphins playing and the turtles on the beach."

But the house is "closed" now (it can be leased if you have the budget of Andre Agassi or Sandra Bullock), and the restaurant that carried Charo's name in Kauai is now used for special-event rentals. When her son Shel (spelled the way his Swedish father's name is pronounced) entered the University of Southern California in 2000, Charo and family followed, moving to Beverly Hills as a staging ground to coordinate her comeback assault on the Strip.

Her return to Nevada came last winter in the form of "Bravo," an international revue that first played the Venetian and now has settled comfortably into the



Charo salutes America and "Bravo" audience members, some of whom she meets after the show.

Sahara, Charo's Las Vegas base of the '70s.

"When we got the invitation from the Sahara, I felt like it was almost when my husband proposed to me," she says with a Castilian accent that's still nearly impenetrable after all these years. "I feel very at home here." She says some of the maitre d's "remember when my baby was crawling in the corridor."

She gave up the Hawaiian paradise "because I'm gonna make a very impossible retired bitch," she says with that unmistakable hoarse whoop of laughter. "For my son and my nephew"—the college-age son of her older sister, Carmen, Charo's costumer and assistant since the Cugat years—"I will give it up. But when they

don't need me, I can now have the cake and eat it," she says. "I did my job as a mother. Now it's time to really enjoy what I was trained at."

That includes, for those who fail to remember the talk shows of the '70s, a formidable skill at classical guitar. "Bravo" still manages to surprise audiences when the last third of the show shifts from campy comedy numbers such as "Give Me Cuchi" to a serious showcase for her florid classical talents. It was her youthful training in Andres Segovia's school in Spain that led Cugat to discover Charo and offer to bring her—with mother and sister in tow—to the United States.

"It is impossible to describe the feeling



The teenaged Charo and Xavier Cugat toast their 1966 marriage, the first at the newly opened Caesars Palace. Fringed costumes accent Charo's early "cuchi-cuchi" image (right) as Cugat leads the band.



of the standing ovation, especially when I play guitar," she says.

Thus addicted, Charo and family shopped for a Las Vegas home. "I like big houses, many rooms so we can fight and sleep in different places," she says.

Carmen bought a townhouse years ago when the sisters figured that Las Vegas was ripe with opportunity even if show busi-

ness should let them down. "You have opportunities that you don't find in any other part of the world," Charo says. "If you're a hard-working person, you make it ... If you have to go wild, there is no better place to go wild. If you have to get divorced, come to Las Vegas. If you're looking to marry a rich man, come to Las Vegas."

Behind the ditzy, mangled-English

façade is an entertainer who so far says she's been too busy launching her show and rehearsing every day to go too wild on the town. When things settle down, Charo vows she will be "having the time of my life on the Strip every night. I plan to enjoy it to the maximum. That's when I get the [tennis shoes with] the little wheels. So I can go fast all over the Strip."

The shoes hardly seem necessary, given the lasting energy of "cuchi-cuchi" power.

Show Notes

Charo appears in "Bravo" in the Congo Room of the Sahara Hotel in Las Vegas. Show time is 7:30 p.m., with an additional 10 p.m. performance on Saturday and Monday (dark Thursday). Tickets start at \$44.95 plus tax and service charge. Show and dinner packages are available. Call 702-737-2515 for reservations.

Charo Up Close: As a special attraction, fans who sign up for the "VIP Package" (\$89.95) get to meet Charo after the show. Fans not only will have a chance to chat with Charo in the reception area but also will receive CDs and signed photos. ▀

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

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Casino Notes

News from hotel-casinoland. By Ann Henderson

Las Vegas Territory

Rolling Stones Alert: Gamblers who play table games at the **Golden Nugget Laughlin** can earn entry tickets to win one of three packages to the Rolling Stones concert on November 30 at the **MGM Grand** in Las Vegas. The packages include two concert tickets and a stay at the MGM. Entries will be accepted until November 2.

Five New Eateries: The **Rio** in Las Vegas is adding five new restaurants, which will give the off-Strip property a total of 17 eateries. The new restaurants include Rosemary's, which serves French-influenced cuisine; Gaylord Indian Restaurant from San Francisco; Hamada of Japan; J.W.'s Tavern, which offers pub-style dining; and a to-be-named 11,000-square-foot nightclub and bar.

Silverton KOA: The 460-unit RV park at the 300-room **Silverton Hotel-Casino** on



It's a calendar whirl for the touring Neil Sedaka, who often plays Nevada showrooms.

Blue Diamond Road south of the Las Vegas Strip has become a KOA franchise. The casino will continue to accept Good Sam discount cards.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

Take a Bow: Michael's at the Inn, part of the **Carson Valley Inn** in Minden, has been selected by the Restaurant and Hospitality Rating Bureau to receive the International Award of Excellence for

2002 as "One of America's Outstanding Restaurants in the 21st Century." Selections are made by bureau members, and Michael's "scored exceptionally high point totals on every evaluation report received."

More About Pasta: Gamblers are invited to a spaghetti feed and old-time Western movies Tuesdays at the **Siena** in Reno. To earn a ticket guests need to bet \$20 at slot machines or have 45 minutes of play at table games. For information contact the hotel's slot club.

Wine Winner: Sterling's Seafood Steakhouse Restaurant at the **Silver Legacy** in Reno has received the Award of Excellence from *Wine Spectator Magazine*. It is the fourth consecutive year the eatery has received the award, a distinction given annually to 2,300 dining establishments.

Entertainment Notes

Do-Be-Do King: There's something straightforward about singer Neil Sedaka. He's been married to the same woman for 40 years, has toured with the same five musicians for 25 years, and sings with the same distinctive style. Recently, he reviewed his career with the audience at the **Orleans** in Las Vegas. He began writing music in the 1950s, an era "when the songs were naïve. You could understand all the lyrics," he said. Sedaka is known for songs like "Oh, Carol," which he wrote for his former girlfriend, Carole King; "Breaking Up Is Hard to Do"; and his "lucky" song, "Love Will Keep Us Together," which launched the Captain and Tennille. Sedaka, who describes himself as the "King of Tra-La-La and Do-Be-Do," has sold 25 million records and has a Grammy on his shelf. During the show, the performer encouraged the audience to sing along and allowed snapshots—an openness the capacity crowd appreciated. Showgoers emerged from the **Orleans** Showroom wearing big smiles. Neil Sedaka appears at the Flamingo Laughlin October 5 and returns to the **Orleans** October 8-13.

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At **Paris Las Vegas** on the Strip you're invited to renew your romance. Through September 27 the "Romance Package" for \$299 includes two nights in a European guest room with a view of the Eiffel Tower, dinner at Le Provençal, and an after-dinner bottle of champagne and chocolate-covered strawberries served in your room. In the evening you can sample compli-



Harrah's Reno points patrons to a Gordie Brown show package.

mentary champagne and hors d'oeuvres at the Champagne Reception Bar at Napoleon's. In the morning you get breakfast in bed. 888-266-5687, 702-946-7000, www.paris-lv.com.

Guests can enjoy an elegant meal with a river view at the **Flamingo Laughlin's** Alta Villa restaurant. The restaurant serves one pound of crab legs and pasta for \$16.99 from 5 to 10 p.m. Friday through Tuesday. For information: 800-435-8469, 702-298-5111, www.flamingo-laughlin.com.

In Laughlin, **Avi Resort** room rates are \$19 weekdays and \$59 and up on weekends. Located at 1000 Aha Macav Parkway, the Avi has a private beach on the Colorado River. On October 4-6 Indians from several tribes will hold a powwow at

the Avi. For information: 800-284-2946, 702-535-5555, www.avicasino.com.

Harrah's Reno has a "Night on the Town" dinner-and-show package. Guests may either dine at Café Napa for \$45 per person or partake of Italian cuisine at Café Andreotti for \$50 per person (price includes the show). After dinner, guests head to Sammy's Showroom for Gordie Brown's music-and-comedy show. Prices may vary by day of the week. 800-HARRAHS, 775-788-2900, www.harrahsreno.com.

Prices start at \$99 for the **Silver Legacy's** golf package through November 30. Golfers receive one night accommodations, free airport shuttle, one complimentary breakfast at the Victorian Buffet, one round of golf per person, and reserved tee times. Guests can choose from 35 courses in the Reno area. The rate is based on the course, number of people, and day of the week. 800-687-7733, 775-329-4777 www.silverlegacy.com.

The **Carson Nugget's City Center Motel** offers a "Get-Away Package" that includes a deluxe room, two \$7 restaurant coupons, four cocktails, four \$1.50 keno credits, and four \$1 gaming tokens for \$46 per night, per couple. 800-338-7760, 775-882-5535, www.ccsmotel.com/cityc.htm.

—Wilma LaRocca and Leslie Pearson

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Attractions, Tours & Museums

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

Travelers will find many intriguing attractions when they explore the Silver State's museums, resorts, and state and national parks. For more details on attractions, tours, and museums, please call the information phone numbers provided.

Las Vegas Territory

BOULDER CITY

Black Canyon/Willow Beach River Adventures • Boat and raft tours down the Colorado River. Hacienda Hotel, 702-294-1414 or 800-455-3490.

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 the 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 • Discovery Tour, theaters, exhibit hall, High Scaler Monument. U.S. 93, 702-597-5970.

Lake Mead Cruises • 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 and antique car museum. 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. 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 and art gallery. 702-693-7111.

CART Driving 101 • Indy-car 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.

ESPN Zone • Sports-themed restaurant. New York-New York, 702-740-6969.

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

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



Mr. Showmanship's New Museum

Crowds gathered last summer for the opening of the expanded Liberace Museum in Las Vegas. The museum's keyboard-themed exterior reflects the larger-than-life persona of an entertainer who parlayed his musical talent into success as a show business impresario.

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

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

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, 3785 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 702-597-3122.

Guggenheim Museums • Guggenheim Heritage features works of the masters. Guggenheim Las Vegas has temporary exhibits. 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 Café • Motorcycle memorabilia, Harleys on display. Las Vegas Strip, 702-740-4555.

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 Café • 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 State Historic Park • Site of 1855 settlement. 908 Las Vegas Blvd. N., at Washington Ave., 702-486-3511.

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

Planet Hollywood Las Vegas • Movie memorabilia. 3500 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 702-791-7827.

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

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

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area • 13 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-363-1921.

Richard Petty Driving Experience • Drive NASCAR-style cars. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 702-643-1343.

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.

The Palms • IMAX theater. 702-942-7777.

The Wynn Collection • Art belonging to casino mogul Steve Wynn. Wynn Resorts Building on the site of the former Desert Inn Hotel, 3145 Las Vegas Blvd. South, 702-733-4100.

Treasure Island • Sea battle every 90 minutes starting at 5:30pm. 702-894-7111.

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

Venetian Hotel • Gondola rides on the hotel's Grand Canal. 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. 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 and military tribute film. 702-298-4200.

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

MESQUITE

Virgin Valley Heritage Museum • 702-346-5705.

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

NORTH LAS VEGAS

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

Boulder City Calendar of Events

April

Clark County Artist Show

May

Spring Jamboree & Craft Fair
Boulder City Folk Festival

July

Fourth of July Damboree

August

Street Party

September

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

October

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

November

Boulder City High School Rodeo
Community Tree Lighting

December

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

Boulder City
Chamber of Commerce
702.293.2034
www.bouldercitychamber.com

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OVERTON

Echo Bay Resort and Marina • Water sports on Lake Mead, houseboat and ski-boat rentals. 702-394-4000.

Lost City Museum of Archaeology • Museum presents artifacts and reconstructed homes of ancient Pueblo people who lived 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 about how to obtain walking tour brochures.

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.

Warren Engine Co. No. 1 Museum • 777 S. Stewart St., 775-887-2210.

DAYTON

Dayton State Park • 775-687-5678. On the Carson River.

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.

GENOA

Genoa Courthouse Museum • Open May-October. 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 • Incline Village, 775-831-0691.

Tahoe Gal Paddlewheeler • Tahoe City, 530-583-0141.

Tahoe Rim Trail • 165-mile system. 775-588-0686.

Tallac Historic Site • 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, 775-969-3111.

Bartley Ranch Regional Park • Hiking, horse arena, and one-room Huffaker Schoolhouse. 775-828-6612.

Fleischmann Planetarium • Stargazing programs. University of Nevada campus, 775-784-4811.

Galena Creek Regional Park • Mt. Rose Hwy., 775-785-4319.

Harrah's Reno • Summer entertainment in 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 the-

ater. 300 N. Center St., 775-334-2695 for more information about the tournaments and programs.

Nevada Historical Society Museum • 1650 N. Virginia St., University of Nevada campus, 775-688-1190.

Nevada Museum of Art, E.L. Wiegand Gallery • During construction of new museum, gallery is located in the Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts. 775-329-3333.

Kiddle 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. 17 S. Virginia St., 775-329-2787.

Sierra Arts Center Gallery • Gallery and offices. Riverside Artist Lofts, 17 S. Virginia 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.

Pyramid Lake Visitor Center • Open May-October. 109 State St., Nixon, 775-574-1088.

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 • Park open year-round. 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.

Rural Nevada

AUSTIN

Hickison Petroglyph Recreation Site • Self-guided tour with signs. 24 miles east of Austin on U.S. 50, 775-635-4000.

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.

For more information, write or call:

Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 212 • Austin, NV 89310

775-964-2200



Hangin' in Pioche

Don Shanks slips the noose over Howard Fackrell in "High Justice at Hiko," one of the Pioche Heritage Plays last year. Pioche thespians bring local history to the stage again during the town's Labor Day Celebration.

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, and greater Elko area visitor information. 775-738-7135.

Western Folklife Center • 501 Railroad St., 775-738-7508.

Wild Horse State Recreation Area • 65 miles north of Elko, 775-758-6493.

ELY/GREAT BASIN PARK

Cave Lake State Park • 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.

FALLOON

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 for state park information. **Sand Mountain** • Giant sand dune 25 miles east of Fallon, 775-885-6000.

Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge • 15 miles east of Fallon, 775-423-5128.

FERNLEY

Reno-Fernley Raceway • Paintball park. 775-575-7217.

GABBS

Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park • Dinosaur fossils and ghost town of Berlin. 20 miles east of Gabbs, 775-964-2440.

GERLACH

Soldier Meadows Guest Ranch • Tours, horseback riding. Black Rock Desert National Conservation Area, 530-233-4881.

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.

LOVELOCK

Giant Tufa Park • West of Lovelock, 775-273-7213.

Pershing County Marzen House Museum • Lovelock-area history. 775-273-7213.

MOUNTAIN CITY

Mountain City Visitor Center • 80 miles north of Elko via State Route 225. Open for tours and information June-Oct. Mountain City, 775-763-6691.

PAHRUMP

Death Valley National Park • Park can be reached via Pahrump, which is 58 miles east of Furnace Creek. 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 for hours and details about the museum.

Cathedral Gorge State Park • 10 miles south of Pioche, 775-728-4460.

Echo Canyon State Park • 12 miles east of Pioche, 775-728-4460.

Elgin Living History Schoolhouse Museum • Open for weekend tours or by appointment; 21 miles south of Caliente. 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 • Park is 18 miles east of Pioche, 775-728-4460.

Stone Cabin Living History Museum • One mile north of Spring Valley State Park, 775-728-4460.

ROUND MOUNTAIN

Smoky Valley Museum • 1935 schoolhouse and assay equipment. Open by appointment. 775-377-2243.

SILVER SPRINGS

Fort Churchill State Historic Park • Eight miles south of Silver Springs, 775-577-2345.

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.

WENDOVER

Bonneville Salt Flats • 801-977-4300.

WINNEMUCCA

Buckaroo Hall of Fame • 775-623-2925.

Humboldt Museum • Winnemucca-area history. 775-623-2912.

Midas Schoolhouse • Call for tours; 46 miles by dirt road, east of Winnemucca, 775-529-0302.

YERINGTON

Lyon County Museum • Exhibits and photos on the history of the Yerington area. 775-463-2245.

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JACKPOT
Nevada

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Vacation Hot Lines

Where to call or write for Nevada travel tips.

When planning your Nevada trip or vacation, be sure to write or phone these one-stop sources for information. Also, Internet users can visit the Web sites listed. If you plan to stop by a chamber of commerce (C of C) office, chances are it will be open in the daytime Monday through Friday.

Statewide Information

Nevada Commission on Tourism: 401 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701; www.travelnevada.com; 775-687-4322 or 800-NEVADA-8 anywhere in U.S. and Canada.

Las Vegas Territory

Asian C of C: 900 E. Karen, No. C217, Las Vegas, NV 89109; www.lvacc.com; 702-737-4300.

Boulder City C of C: 1305 Arizona St., Boulder City, NV 89005; www.bouldercitychamber.com; 702-293-2034.

Boulder City Visitor Center: 100 Nevada Way, Boulder City, NV 89005; www.vegasfreedom.com; 702-294-1252.

Henderson C of C: 590 S. Boulder Hwy., Henderson, NV 89015; www.hendersonchamber.com; 702-565-8951.

Henderson Convention Center: 200 S. Water St., Henderson, NV 89015; www.cityofhenderson.com/convention; 702-565-2171.

Hoover Dam Visitors Services: Box 60400, Boulder City, NV 89006; www.hooverdam.usbr.gov; 702-294-3518.

Jean Visitor Center: Interstate 15 South, Exit 12, 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; 702-641-5822.

Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority: 3150 Paradise Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89109; www.vegasfreedom.com; 702-892-0711.

Latin C of C: 829 S. Sixth St., Suite 3, Box 7500, Las Vegas, NV 89125; www.LasVegasLatincc.com; 702-385-7367.

Laughlin C of C: Box 77777, 1585 Casino Dr., Laughlin, NV 89028; www.laughlinchamber.com; 702-298-2214 or 800-227-5245 outside Nevada.

Laughlin Visitor Bureau: 1555 S. Casino Dr., Box 502, Laughlin, NV 89029; www.visitlaughlin.com; 702-298-3022 or 800-4LAUGHLIN.

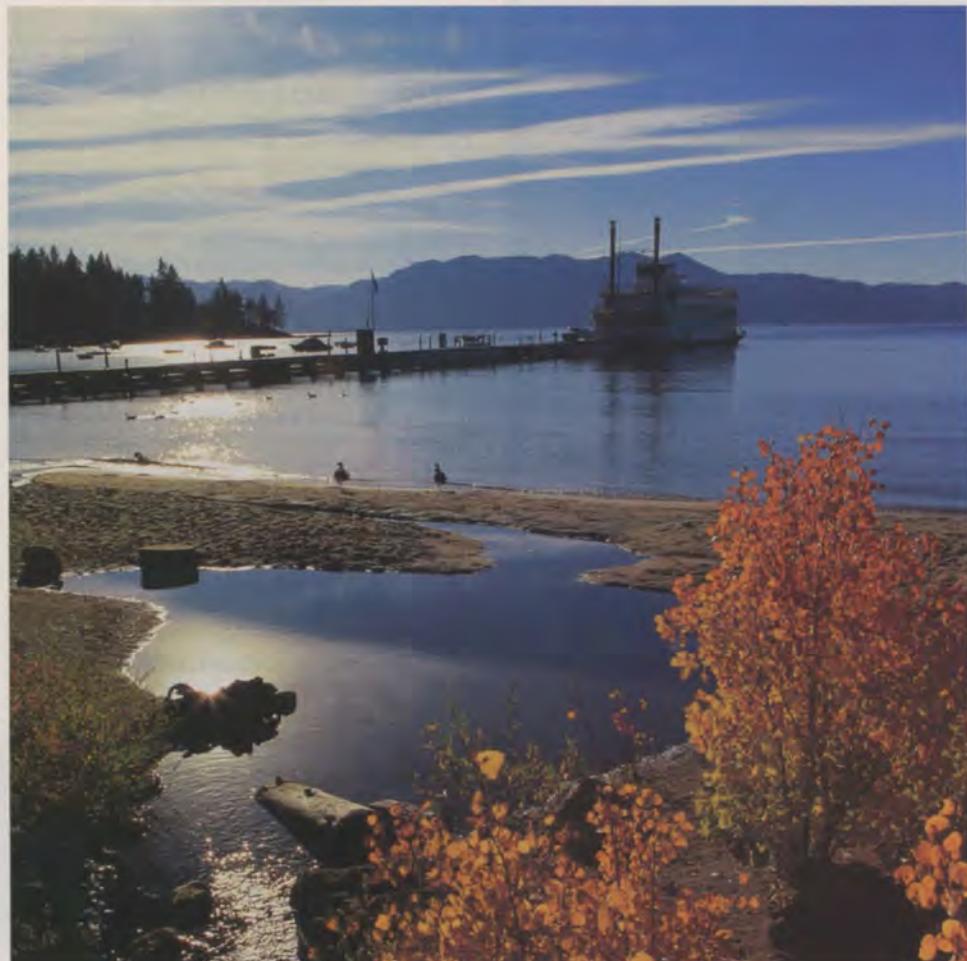
Mesquite Area C of C: 12 W. Mesquite Blvd., No. 107, Mesquite, NV 89027; www.mesquite-chamber.com; 702-346-2902.

Mesquite Visitor Center: Interstate 15, Exit 122, 460 N. Sandhill, Mesquite, NV 89027; www.visitmesquite.com; 702-346-2702, 877-MESQUITE.

Moapa Valley C of C: Hwy. 169, Box 1531, Overton, NV 89040; www.moapavalley.com; 702-397-8875.

North Las Vegas C of C: 2290 McDaniel St., North Las Vegas, NV 89030; www.nlvchamber.com; 702-642-9595.

Urban C of C: 1048 W. Owens Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89106; www.urbanchamberlv.org; 702-648-6222.



Lake Tahoe Excursions

The *M.S. Dixie II* paddlewheeler awaits passengers at Zephyr Cove, four miles north of Stateline on U.S. 50. The tour boat offers several day cruises and evening dinner-and-dance excursions to such destinations as Emerald Bay.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

Carson City Area C of C: 1900 S. Carson St., Suite 200, Carson City, NV 89701; www.carsoncitychamber.com; 775-882-1565.

Carson City Convention and Visitors Bureau: 1900 S. Carson St., Suite 100, Carson City, NV 89701; www.visitcarsoncity.com; 775-687-7410 or 800-NEVADA-1 in U.S. for information.

Carson Valley C of C and Visitors Authority: 1513 Hwy. 395 N., Gardnerville, NV 89410-5283; www.carsonvalleynv.org; 775-782-8144 or 800-727-7677 in U.S.

Dayton Area C of C: 35 Shady Lane, Box 2408, Dayton, NV 89403; www.daytonnvchamber.org; 775-246-7909.

Lake Tahoe, Incline Village/Crystal Bay Visitors Bureau: 969 Tahoe Blvd., Incline Village, NV 89451; www.gotahoe.com; 775-831-1606, 800-GO-TAHOE in U.S.

Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority: 1156 Ski Run Blvd., South

Lake Tahoe, CA 96150; www.virtualtahoe.com; 530-544-5050, 800-AT-TAHOE in U.S.

North Lake Tahoe C of C: 245 N. Lake Blvd., Box 884, Tahoe City, CA 96145; www.mytahoevacation.com; 530-581-8737.

North Lake Tahoe Resort Association: 245 N. Lake Blvd., Box 5459, Tahoe City, CA 96145; www.mytahoevacation.com; 530-581-8709.

Reno-Sparks C of C: 1 E. First St., Box 3499, Reno, NV 89505; www.reno-sparkschamber.org; 775-337-3030.

Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority: 4590 S. Virginia St., Box 837, Reno, NV 89504; www.renolaketahoe.com; 775-827-7654 or 800-FOR-RENO in U.S.

Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Tribal Council: 98 Colony Rd., Reno, NV 89502; www.rsic.org; 775-329-2936.

South Lake Tahoe C of C: 3066 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150; www.tahoeinfo.com; 530-541-5255.

Sparks C of C: 831 Victorian Ave., Sparks, NV 89431; www.sparkschamber.org; 775-358-1976.

Tahoe-Douglas C of C: Box 7139, Lake Tahoe, NV 89449; 195 Hwy. 50 at Round Hill, Zephyr Cove; www.tahoechamber.org; 775-588-4591.

Virginia City and Gold Hill C of C: 86 S. C St., Old Crystal Bar Visitor Center, Box 464, Virginia City, NV 89440; www.virginiacity-nv.org; 775-847-0311.

Virginia City Convention and Tourism Authority: 86 S. C St., Old Crystal Bar Visitor Center, Box 920, Virginia City, NV 89440; www.virginiacity-nv.org; 775-847-7500.

Rural Territories

Amargosa C of C: 821 E. Farm Rd., Box 40, Amargosa Valley, NV 89020; www.amargosavalley.com; 775-372-1515.

Austin C of C: Box 212, 122 Maine Street, Austin Courthouse, Austin, NV 89310; www.austinnevada.com; 775-964-2200.

Battle Mountain C of C: Box 333, Battle Mountain, NV 89820; www.battlemountain.org; 775-635-8245.

Beatty C of C: 119 E. Main St., Box 956, Beatty, NV 89003; www.governet.net/nv/as/bea; 775-553-2424.

Bristlecone Convention Center: 150 Sixth St., Ely, NV 89301; www.elynevada.net; 775-289-3720.

Caliente C of C: Depot Building, Box 553, Caliente, NV 89008; 775-726-3129.

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.

Eureka C of C: 111 N. Main St., Box 1078, Eureka, NV 89316; www.ecc.com; 775-237-5544.

Fallon Convention and Tourism Authority: 100 Campus Way, Fallon, NV 89406; www.fallontourism.com; 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.

Gabbs Information: 509 Main St., Box 176, Gabbs, NV 89409; 775-285-4019.

Goldfield C of C: Box 204, Goldfield, NV 89013; 775-485-3560.

Great Basin Business and Tourism Council: Info on Baker and Great Basin National Park. Box 166, Baker, NV 89311; www.greatbasinpark.com; 775-234-7323.

Greater Fallon Area C of C: 65 S. Maine St., No. C, Fallon, NV 89406; www.fallonchamber.com; 775-423-2544.

Greater Smoky Valley C of C: HCR 60 Box 53504, Round Mountain, NV 89045; www.mountainsage.com; 775-377-2490.

Jarbridge Community Association: Trading Post, 72 Main St., Box 260075, Jarbridge, NV 89826; jarbridge@aol.com; 775-488-2311.

Lincoln County C of C: Box 915, Panaca, NV 89042; www.pioneerterritory.org; 775-728-4282.

Lovelock C of C: Box 821, Lovelock, NV 89419; 775-273-7213.

Mason Valley C of C: 227 S. Main St., Yerington, NV 89447-2536; www.tele-net.net/mvcc; 775-463-2245.

McDermitt Information: Box 278, McDermitt, NV 89421; 775-532-8742.

Mineral County Economic Development Authority: 932 E St., Box 1635, Hawthorne, NV 89415; www.nvbottomline.org; 775-945-5896.

Pahrangat Valley Chamber of Commerce: Box 421, Alamo, NV 89001; www.pahrangat.net; 775-725-3483.

Pahrump Valley C of C: 1301 Hwy. 160, Box 42, Pahrump 89041; www.pahrumpchamber.com; 775-727-5800.

Pioche C of C: Box 127, Pioche, NV 89043; www.piochenevada.com; 775-962-5544.

Silver Springs Econ. Dev. Authority: Box 269, Silver Springs, NV 89429; www.silverspringsnevada.com; 775-577-2069.

Tonopah C of C: 301 Brougher Ave., Box 869, Tonopah, NV 89049; www.tonopahnevada.com; 775-482-3859.

Tonopah Convention Center: Box 408, 301 Brougher Ave., Tonopah, NV 89049; www.tonopahminingpark.org; 775-482-3558.

Wells C of C: 395 Sixth St., Box 615, Wells, NV 89835; www.californiatrialinterpretivecenter.com; 775-752-3540.

White Pine Chamber of Commerce: 636 Aultman St., Ely, NV 89301; www.elynevada.net; 775-289-8877.

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; Web www.winnemucca.nv.us; 775-623-5071 or 800-WMCA-NEV.

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; 760-786-3243.

Great Basin National Park: 100 Great Basin N.P., Baker, NV 89311; www.nps.gov/grba; 775-234-7331.

Lake Mead National Recreation Area: 601 Nevada Way, Boulder City, NV 89052; www.nps.gov/lame; 702-293-8947.

Nevada Division of State Parks: 1300 S. Curry St., Carson City, NV 89703; 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: Reno, www.nv.blm.gov, 775-861-6586; Las Vegas, 702-647-5000; Elko, 775-753-0200; Winnemucca, 775-623-1500; Carson City, 775-885-6107; Ely, 775-289-1842; Caliente, 775-726-8100; Battle Mountain, 775-635-4000; Tonopah, 775-482-7800.

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest: www.fs.fed.us/htnf/; 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks, NV 89431; 775-355-5311; 4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89130; 702-515-5400; 2035 Last Chance Rd., Elko, NV 89801; 775-738-5171.

Nevada Division of Wildlife: Main office: 1100 Valley Rd., Reno, NV 89512; www.nevadadivisionofwildlife.org; 775-688-1558; Southern Nevada: 4747 Vegas Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89108; 702-486-5127.

Pyramid Lake Fisheries: Star Route, Sutcliffe, NV 89510; www.plfisheries.org; 775-476-0500.

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Dining Directory

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, and more. B, L, D. \$.

Imperial Palace/Imperial Buffet—794-3261. Prime rib and champagne dinner nightly at the Imperial Buffet. B, L, D. \$.

Imperial Palace/The 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. \$.

ASIAN

Imperial Palace/Ming Terrace—794-3261. Mandarin and Cantonese cuisine, abalone, kung pao shrimp, roast duck. D. \$\$.

ITALIAN

Imperial Palace/Pizza Palace—794-3261. Pizza, pasta, salads. L, D. \$.

STEAK & SEAFOOD

Imperial Palace/Embers—794-3261. Steaks and continental dishes, 28 menu choices. D. \$\$.

Imperial Palace/Seahouse—794-3261. Selections include Alaskan crab legs, seafood salads. D. \$\$.

Reno-Carson Area

AMERICAN

Best Western Piñon Plaza Resort/Branding Iron Cafe and Margarita Saloon—Carson City, 885-9000. Western favorites at moderate prices. B, L, D. \$-\$\$.

Carson Nugget/Buffet—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. Omelets, pancakes, sandwiches, 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. \$.

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.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/General Store—Sparks, 356-3300. Prime rib, seafood Louis. 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. Burgers, sandwiches, salads, seafood, chicken. B, L, D. \$-\$\$.

Silver Club/Town Square Restaurant—Sparks, 358-4771. Breakfast served all day. B, L, D. \$-\$\$.

ASIAN

Eldorado/Golden Fortune—Reno, 786-5700. Hong Kong-style cuisine. D. \$\$.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Trader Dick's—Sparks, 356-



Restaurante Orozko at John Ascuaga's Nugget.

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, and sausages. L, D. \$.

CONTINENTAL

Peppermill/White Orchid—Reno, 826-2121. Filet mignon, seared ahi, medallions of elk. D. \$-\$\$.

INTERNATIONAL

Eldorado/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. Espresso bar, deli, bakery, Asian Noodle Kitchen. B, L, D. \$.

Eldorado/Tivoli Gardens—Reno, 786-5700. Multi-ethnic, 24-hour restaurant. B, L, D. \$.

ITALIAN

Eldorado/La Strada Restaurant—Reno, 786-5700. Northern Italian cuisine featuring a variety of veal, chicken, and seafood entrees. Award-winning wine list. D. \$\$.

Peppermill/Romanza Ristorante Italiano—826-2121. Osso buco alla Romanza, salmone affumicato con fettuccini nere alla vodka, costelette d'Agnello. D. \$\$.

Silver Club/Anna Maria's—Sparks, 358-4771. Italian cuisine served in a casual setting. D. \$-\$\$.

MEDITERRANEAN

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Restaurante Orozko—Sparks, 356-3300. Veal medallions saltimbocca, braised lamb shank, paella valenciana. D. \$-\$\$.

STEAK & SEAFOOD

Best Western Piñon Plaza Resort/Steakhouse—Carson City, 885-9000. Specialties include Southwestern shrimp, rack of lamb dijonaise, six cuts of steak. D. \$\$.

Carson Nugget/Oyster Bar—Carson City, 882-1626. Fish and chips, salmon burgers, and 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. \$-\$\$.

Silver Club/Victoria's Buffet—Sparks, 358-4771. Prime rib dinner buffet Sat.-Thurs., seafood on Fridays. 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. \$\$.

ITALIAN

Caesars Tahoe/Primavera—Stateline, 588-3515. Linguini carbonara, tenderloin pizzaiola. D. \$\$.

STEAK & SEAFOOD

Caesars Tahoe/Broiler Room—Stateline, 588-3515. Prime rib, seafood, Cajun specialties. D. \$\$.

Around the State

PAHRUMP: Saddle West Hotel/Silver Spur—727-1111. T-bone steak dinner, filet mignon and lobster, chicken cordon bleu, eight-ounce swordfish dinners. B, L, D. \$.



Best of Nevada

Fifth Annual Nevada Magazine Readers' Awards

Nevada Magazine readers selected their favorite Nevada people, places, and attractions in our fifth annual "Best of Nevada" poll. The results appeared in the July/August issue, and as an additional thanks to the readers who voted, here we offer a summary of the 2002 winners. We salute the following entertainers, shows, scenic places, restaurants, and other Silver State attractions.

Best Entertainer

North: Danny Marona, Atlantis
South: Wayne Newton, Stardust

Best Revue or Long-Running Show

North: "Kalin and Jinger's Illusionarium,"
Reno Hilton
South: "Siegfried and Roy," Mirage

Best Dinner Show Package

North: John Ascuaga's Nugget
South: "Tournament of Kings," Excalibur

Best New Show/New Entertainer

Gordie Brown, Harrah's Reno

Best Afternoon Show

"Bottom's Up," Flamingo, Las Vegas

Best Comedy Club

North: "Catch A Rising Star," Silver Legacy
South: "The Improv," Harrah's Las Vegas

Best Comedian

North: Danny Marona, Atlantis
South: Carrot Top, MGM Grand

Best Magician

Lance Burton, Monte Carlo, Las Vegas

Best Hotel/Resort

Carson City: Piñon Plaza
Lake Tahoe: Caesars Tahoe
Las Vegas: Bellagio
Laughlin: Harrah's Laughlin
Mesquite: Oasis
Reno/Sparks: Peppermill
Rural: Carson Valley Inn

Best Place to Gamble

Carson City: Carson Nugget
Lake Tahoe: Harrah's Lake Tahoe
Las Vegas: Rio All-Suite Hotel
Laughlin: Harrah's Laughlin
Mesquite: Oasis
Reno/Sparks: Peppermill
Rural: Carson Valley Inn

Friendliest Casino

Carson City: Carson Nugget
Lake Tahoe: Harveys
Las Vegas: Rio All-Suite Hotel
Laughlin: Harrah's Laughlin
Mesquite: Oasis
Reno/Sparks: Peppermill
Rural: Carson Valley Inn

Best Slot Club

Harrah's Total Rewards

Best Thrill Ride

North: Skyscreamer, Reno Hilton
South: Big Shot and High Roller, Stratosphere

Best Hotel Spa

North: Atlantis Resort
South: Canyon Ranch, Venetian

Best Golf Course

North: Red Hawk
South: Bali Hai
Rural: Genoa Lakes

Best Place to Take a Photo

North: Lake Tahoe
South: Tie, Hoover Dam and Red Rock Canyon
Rural: Great Basin National Park

Best Park (National, State, or County)

North: Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park
South: Red Rock Canyon National
Conservation Area
Rural: Great Basin National Park

Best Place for Horseback Riding

Lake Tahoe

Best Place to Ski

Mount Rose

Best Hiking Trail

Tahoe Rim Trail

Best Place to Camp

Lake Tahoe

Best Place to Boat

Lake Tahoe

Best Place to Take Kids

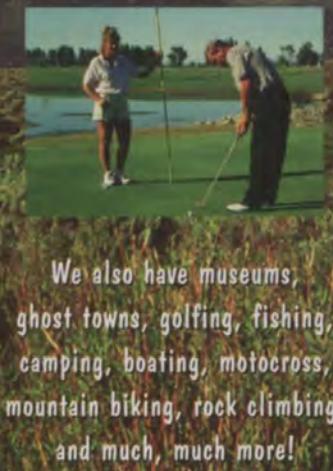
North: Lake Tahoe
South: Circus Circus/Adventuredome
Rural: Virginia City

Friendliest Town

Reno

(continued on next page)

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camping, boating, motocross,
mountain biking, rock climbing,
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Upcoming Events

Mother's Day Madness

Team Roping

Fernley Fly-In

Spring Fling Car Show

Western States Corvette

Conference & 4th Celebration

Month

May 2002

May 2002

May 2002

July 2002

Location

Fernley

Fernley

Yerington

Yerington

Lyon County Information Center
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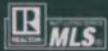
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September/October/November Events

- Tri-County Fair & Stampede, Winnemucca
- Race to the Angel, Wells
- World of Speed Races, Wendover
- Pony Express 100 Auto Race, Battle Mtn.
- Great Basin Festival of Arts, Elko
- Man Powered Vehicle Championships, Battle Mtn.
- World of Speed Race Finals, Wendover
- Harvest Wine Tasting & Art Show, Winnemucca
- GiffTours, Elko
- Sno-Goers Grass Drags, Elko
- Chariot Races, Wells
- Festival of Trees, Elko

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Best Historic Place

Virginia City

Best Special Event/Festival

North: Hot August Nights, Reno

South: National Finals Rodeo, Las Vegas

Rural: Tie, Virginia City Camel Races, Laughlin River Run, and Genoa Candy Dance

Best Place to Shop

North: Meadowood Mall, Reno

South: Forum Shops at Caesars, Las Vegas

Rural: Horizon Outlet Mall, Laughlin

Best Museum

North: National Automobile Museum, Reno

South: Liberace Museum, Las Vegas

Rural: Tonopah Historical Mining Park

Best Place for a Romantic Evening

North: White Orchid, Peppermill

South: Top of the World, Stratosphere

Rural: William Fisk's Steakhouse, Harrah's Laughlin

Best Buffet

Lake Tahoe: Forest Buffet, Harrah's Lake Tahoe

Las Vegas: Carnival World Buffet, Rio All-Suite Hotel

Laughlin: Fresh Market Square Buffet, Harrah's Laughlin

Reno/Sparks: Island Buffet, Peppermill

Rural: Canyon Cove Buffet, Cactus Petes, Jackpot

Best Gourmet Restaurant

Lake Tahoe: Tie, Llewellyn's, Harveys, and The Summit, Harrah's Lake Tahoe

Las Vegas: Tie, Hugo's Cellar, Four Queens, and Delmonico's, Venetian

Laughlin: William Fisk's Steakhouse, Harrah's Laughlin

Reno/Sparks: White Orchid, Peppermill

Rural: Plateau Room, Cactus Petes, Jackpot

Best Basque Restaurant

Louis' Basque Corner, Reno

Best Italian Restaurant

North: Romanza, Peppermill, Reno

South: Battista's Hole-in-the-Wall, Las Vegas

Best Asian Restaurant

North: Palais de Jade, Reno

South: Benihana Village, Las Vegas Hilton

Best Mexican Restaurant

North: Bertha Miranda's, Reno

South: Coyote Café, MGM Grand, Las Vegas

Best Saloon

North: Brew Brothers, Eldorado, Reno

South: Gilley's, New Frontier, Las Vegas

Rural: Bucket of Blood Saloon, Virginia City

Best Brewpub

North: Brew Brothers, Eldorado, Reno

South: Monte Carlo Brew Pub, Las Vegas

Best Night Spot

Lake Tahoe: Club Nero, Caesars Tahoe

Las Vegas: VooDoo Lounge, Rio All-Suite Hotel

Laughlin: Tarzan's, Golden Nugget Laughlin

Reno/Sparks: BuBinga Lounge, Eldorado

Rural: Horseshu Club, Jackpot

Best Wedding Chapel

North: Chapel of the Bells, Reno

South: Viva Las Vegas Wedding Chapel

Best Helicopter Tour Company

Sundance Helicopters, Las Vegas

Best Reservation Service

National Reservations Bureau

Best Adventure Tour Company

Lake Mead Cruises

Best Airline Vacation Packages

Tie, Southwest Airlines and America West Airlines

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TOURISM AGENCIES

- 001 Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce
- 002 Beatty Chamber of Commerce
- 003 Boulder City Chamber of Commerce
- 004 Carson City Convention & Visitors Bureau
- 006 Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Authority
- 007 White Pine County Tourism & Rec. Board/Ely
- 008 Eureka Opera House & Chamber of Commerce
- 009 Fallon Convention & Tourism Authority
- 011 Jackpot Tourism
- 012 Nevada Commission on Tourism
- 013 Tahoe Casino Express/Tahoe Douglas
- 015 Virginia City Convention & Tourism Authority
- 017 Winnemucca Convention Bureau
- 019 Pony Express Territory
- 020 Truckee Donner Chamber of Commerce
- 021 Lyon County Information Center
- 023 Reno Sparks Convention & Visitors Authority
- 024 Pahrump Chamber of Commerce

HOTELS/CASINOS

- 026 Caesars Tahoe
- 027 Carson Nugget/Carson City
- 028 Carson Valley Inn/Minden
- 029 Eldorado Hotel/Reno
- 030 Desert Paradise Resort/LV
- 031 Imperial Palace Hotel/Las Vegas
- 032 John Ascuaga's Nugget/Sparks
- 033 Peppermill Hotel Casino/Reno
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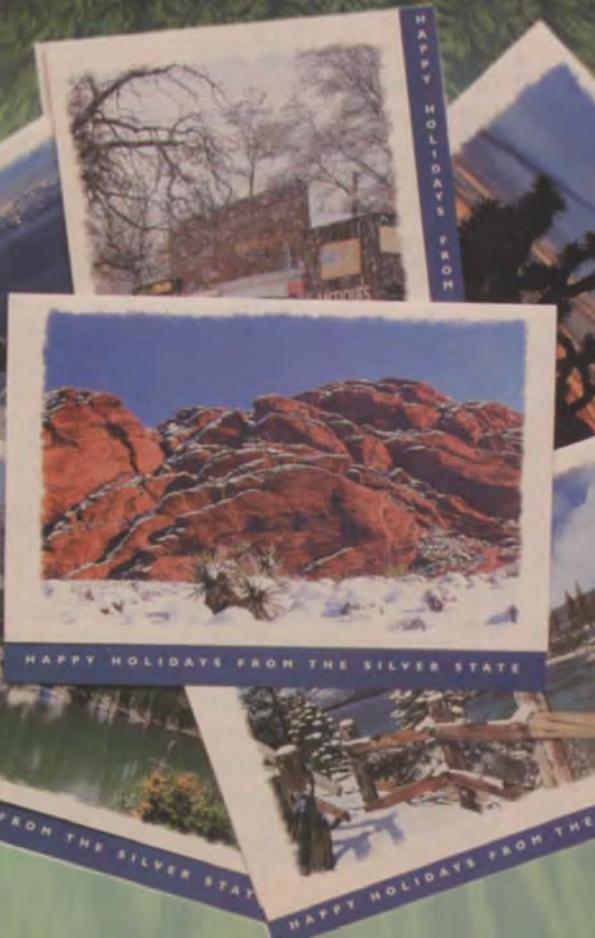
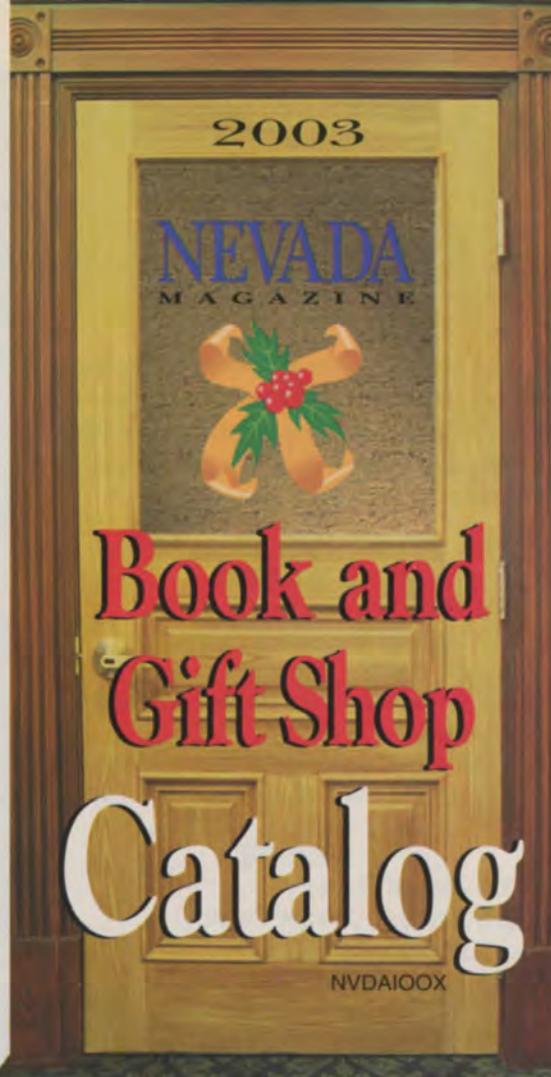
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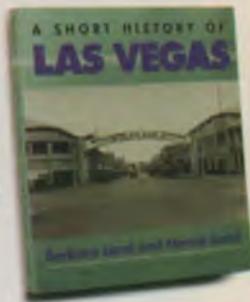


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Magical Couple

Kalin, Jinger, and "Illusionarium" keep you wondering at the Reno Hilton.

By Joyce Hollister



Jinger (left) and Kalin seem to share a fascination for fire in "Illusionarium."



Kalin and Jinger's "Illusionarium," with its slithery dancers dressed in pseudo snakeskin and a scary House of Horrors, looks and sounds like a carnival—which is not surprising, as the Reno Hilton show is a revised version of its predecessor, "Carnival of Wonders."

"Illusionarium" is a highly polished 75 minutes of magic tricks, dance, and comedy set on the Hilton's massive showroom stage. Mark Kalin opens the show by unrolling a life-sized poster of a beautiful girl, who—right before your eyes!—turns into a real girl, Jinger Leigh Kalin. She's a dancer by training and a magician's foil by marriage. Jinger and Kalin offer the audience a tour of the carnival punctuated with elaborate illusions. "How does he do that?" Kalin asks himself at one point.

Kalin gives his magic tricks a sideshow slant. In the Table of Terror sequence, steel spikes hang above Kalin as he struggles to unchain himself from a table. Burning ropes hold the spikes aloft for a couple of minutes before they slam down, but Kalin escapes. In a sequence straight from "Carnival of Wonders," Jinger,

dressed like a black cat and wearing a diamond choker, folds herself into a three-by-four-foot box. Moments later, she appears in the audience. Kalin opens the box, and a black panther emerges, sporting the same diamond collar. As Kalin leads the panther off stage, the cat hungrily eyes the showgoers in the front row. "Don't worry—she loves people," he says. "You look like a buffet."

Kalin, director Joanie Spina, and consultant Don Wayne have updated a host of hoary tricks. To emphasize the idea that magic is timeless, Kalin performs a sleight of hand with one, then two, and finally five billiard balls that he manipulates in his fingers. A video screen shows him at age nine, holding balls in an identical pose. "I even have the same haircut," Kalin quips.

Mark Kornhauser fills the comedian's role formerly filled by Jeff Hobson, the master of ceremonies in "Carnival of Wonders" who moved to Las Vegas. As the Braniac, one of his characters, Kornhauser asks audience members for their zip codes and correctly names their hometowns, using a skill he says he developed while working for the postal service. Through it

all, carnival-costumed dancers keep "Illusionarium's" theme on track.

Kalin saves the biggest trick for last. An American Airlines jumbo jet—left over from "Hello Hollywood, Hello" in the 1970 and '80s—dwarfs him, its nose facing forward and its wingtips grazing the side curtains. Huge drapes hide the jet for a few seconds before they drop to reveal an empty space.

You are left with that nagging question. How does he do that?

Show Notes

Kalin and Jinger's "Illusionarium" appears at the Reno Hilton at 8 p.m. weekdays and 7 p.m. Sunday; dark Saturday. Prices are adults \$27.45, seniors \$21.95, and children \$16.45. Dinner and show packages are available. Call 800-648-3568 or 775-789-2285 for reservations.

Joyce Hollister is associate editor of Nevada Magazine.

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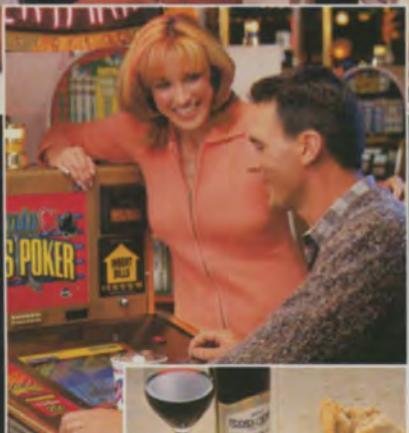
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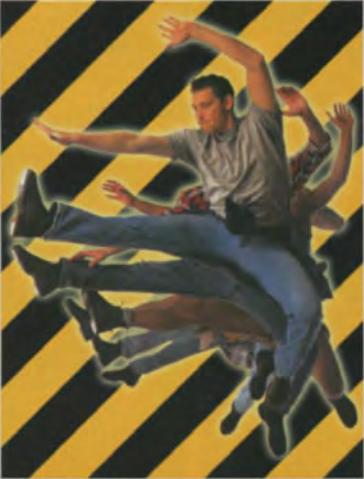
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How the Girls Kiss

Rural newspaper editors reflected on the smooching habits of Nevada's younger set in 1883. **By Howard Hickson**

In the late 19th century, young couples in Nevada faced Victorian ground rules when it came to kissing. Some bussing customs relied more on superstition than romance. For example, a girl might be kissed if she heard a bird sing after dark, if she put on a man's hat, or if coffee grounds formed a ring in the bottom of her cup.

Also, a young woman anticipating a smooch had to be resourceful. For lipstick she might use lard mixed with strawberry juice as lipstick. For a breath sweetener she might mix balls of powdered sugar with oil of cloves or peppermint. The young man, it seems, was relieved of similar duties prior to kissing—which was, in those days, usually the most daring thing a boy and girl did together.

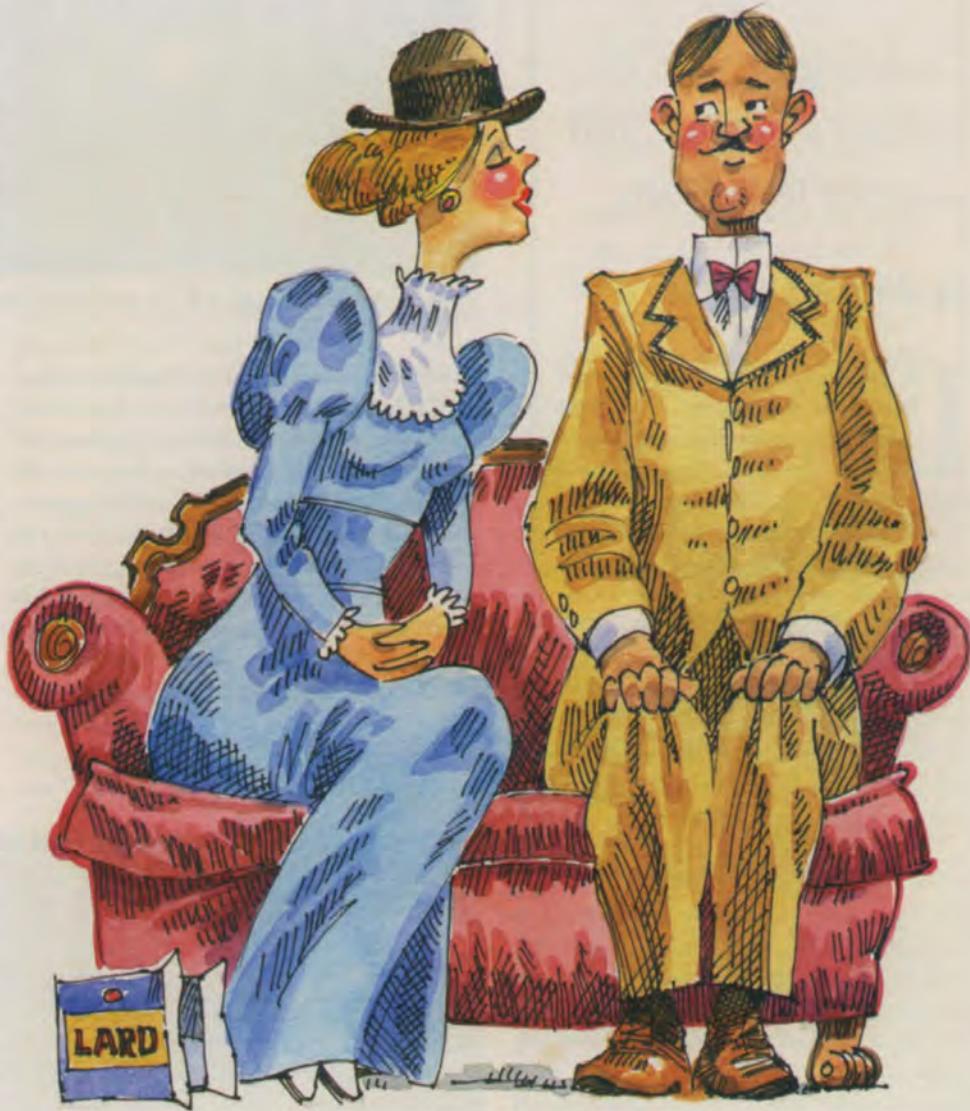
On September 7 1883, the editor of the *Elko Free Press* may have contemplated such romantic notions when he presented observations, previously printed in Austin's *Reese River Reveille*, about the kissing habits of young ladies in Central and Eastern Nevada:

"Eureka girls are not satisfied unless they are kissed on the mouth and prefer to be embraced at the same time.

"A Belmont girl starts in to kiss when she is thirteen or fourteen and, by the time she is twenty, she has a perfect knowledge of how it ought to be done. Sometimes she offers her cheek in a very bewitching way but, as a general thing, her pouting lips are taken advantage of. She also expects a gentle pressure of the hand.

"There is nothing backward about the girls of *Battle Mountain*. They enjoy kissing and are proud of the stylish way they go about the work. They expect a clinging kiss—a kiss that lasts about three seconds. They do not object to having the pleasant job repeated at intervals during the visit of the fortunate young man.

"Girls of *Winnemuca* are considered cold and more fond of dancing than osculating. They kiss like a sister does her



brother—a mere mechanical movement of the head and lips.

"*Elko* girls seldom allow someone to take liberties with their cheeks but, when they are tempted, they give a kiss in return for the one impressed on their blooming cheeks. The victim is left in a state of bliss.

"*Austin* maidens know but little about kissing but are always anxious to learn. What they lack in grace they make up in fond earnestness. To recline in the arms of a lover is considered vulgar and foolish.

"*Tuscarora* girls want to be kissed on the mouth every time. The dignified, cold and

aristocratic kiss on the forehead does not go with them.

"When a *Lewis* girl is embraced she wants to do all the kissing herself, and the noise she makes resembles the report of a flapjack striking against the dining room door."

Times have changed the past 100-plus years. I'll let it go at that. ■

Howard Hickson of Elko is museum director emeritus of the Northeastern Nevada Museum. His stories and columns appear on rabbitbrush.com and in the Mailbox News.

Wheel Retreats

Camping in style at Nevada's upscale and unusual RV resorts.

By Wilma LaRocca

In the morning you swim laps in the pool and play tennis. Checking the Internet, you confirm that your stocks are on the rise. Meanwhile, your travel companion shops at the retail center for gourmet snacks and French wine. Later in the clubhouse you meet friends for drinks, watch football on the big screen, and shoot a game of snooker.

Such is life in a relatively new vacation spot in Nevada—the upscale RV resort. Here the roads are paved, the spaces big and landscaped, and the RVers are driving everything from Lazy Dazes to \$390,000, 45-foot Quade Slide Selects.

"They bring in their own bed, and we provide the rest of the hotel," says Cesar Guerrero, resort manager of the Oasis Las Vegas RV Resort. "This isn't just a trailer park or a stop on the way from here to there."

This new breed of RV park includes the Oasis and several other Las Vegas area resorts, such as Paradise Coach Resort and Thousand Trails. Zephyr Cove Resort RVers stay under the pines, with Lake Tahoe nearby, and even Pahrump has a neat little RV retreat at Terrible's. Space-rental prices in the new resorts typically range from \$20 to \$50 nightly. Some allow members and only large, newer vehicles—no truck campers or trailers welcome there! At other resorts you can buy your own lot.

"We get young tourists, retirees, baby boomers, people who see a motorhome as a better investment than Enron stock," explains Guerrero, who adds, "We also get executives who move from one assignment



Pahrump visitors can kayak, fish, and swim in the seven-acre lagoon at Terrible's Lakeside Casino RV Park.

to another and take their families along."

While most RVers share a love of travel, freedom, and the outdoors, they also like a certain level of comfort and social contact. Al Rose, a semiretired sales representative for the Michael Hohl RV Center in Carson City, observes, "People who pay \$125,000 for a motorhome have obviously made some right decisions in their lives." He adds, "They are interesting people—retired mostly, business owners, master me-

11 acres next to the Silver Bowl, the UNLV stadium complex that has soccer fields, baseball diamonds, and a shooting range. The Bowl has daily activities and space for families and friends to organize their own games. In early October visitors can stand outside their coaches and watch the competition of giant radio-patrolled airplanes (they're built 40 percent to scale). Most of the 150 available spaces (220 when completed) have views of the mountains. "The spaces are designed for triple slides," says manager Garth Murphy. The park has a clubhouse, pool, and spa. Space rental is \$21.60 nightly, \$125 weekly. Off Boulder Highway at 6900 East Russell Road in Henderson. 887-977-1700, 702-547-5777 www.vegasresort.com.

"They bring in their own bed, and we provide the rest of the hotel," says the Oasis' Guerrero.

chanics, engineers. If you have a problem with your coach, someone will know what to do."

Of course, you don't have to drive a super-sized motorhome to stay at these RV resorts. All are open year-round and have full hookups and Internet connections. Because prices vary by season and vehicle size, call ahead for details and reservations. Ask about the number of pets and about special services like 24-hour security and handicapped spaces. Here is a sampling of Nevada's RV resorts.

Las Vegas Area

Opened in March, the **Las Vegas International RV Resort** offers a refuge from the city bustle. The resort occupies

Las Vegas Motorcoach Resort, one of 12 Outdoor Resorts of America parks, is under construction. It's restricted to Class A motorhomes only, and the minimum length is 25 feet. With phase one open, there are 202 spaces (407 upon completion), three pools, three spas, and a laundry. Nightly site rentals are \$29 to \$39. 8175 Arville Street, three miles southwest of the Strip. 800-897-9300, 702-897-9300, www.outdoor-resorts.com.

Oasis Las Vegas RV Resort, with its waterfall and Casablanca theme, is one of Destiny's six RV resorts west of the Mississippi. A large, shady facility, the Oasis has an adult pool and fitness center, an 18-hole putting course, 24-hour security, playground, convenience store, laundry, and a free shuttle to the Strip and outlet mall. The resort has 700 landscaped sites. Space rentals cost from \$16 to

RVers can buy their own lots at Paradise Coach Resort, another of the new breed of fancy facilities. Lot prices range from \$70,000 to \$150,000.

\$40 per night. 2711 West Windmill Road, four miles south of the Strip. 800-783-3784, 702-260-2020.

RVers can buy their own lots at **Paradise Coach Resort**, another of the new breed of fancy facilities. Lots are for sale or rent, with prices ranging from \$70,000 to \$150,000, and owners may put their lots in a rental pool. Only Class A motorcoaches are allowed. The minimum length is 26 feet, the maximum 45 feet, and there's an age limit—10 years and newer. The 45-acre resort has 381 spaces divided by 25-foot greenbelts. Although the spa and clubhouse are still under construction, the resort is open for short-term (one to seven days) and long-term (eight to 120 days) rentals. Barbecues, game rooms, and workout facility are available. Monthly owner's fees are \$190. Space rental nightly is \$50 and up, \$25 for Passport America. 701 Conestoga Way, one mile west of the U.S. 93 and 95 junction at Railroad Pass. 702-566-0331, www.paradisecoachresorts.com.



Christopher Giles of Reno rides his bicycle among the pines at Zephyr Cove Resort's RV park.

Six miles east of the Strip, **Thousand Trails** is a members-only resort. Campers considering membership in Thousand Trails, which has more than 50 such parks in the U.S., are invited to stay free three days and two nights if they attend a 90-minute membership orientation. Lifetime memberships cost \$3,000 to \$7,000. This quiet, tree-shaded preserve has a basketball court, swimming pool, playground, laundry, and trading post. There are 209 spaces, 10 rental trailers, and rental cabins and yurts (round tents with full baths). Owners can rent trailers for family or friends. 2495 Boulder Highway. 702-451-7632, 800-550-3367, www.thousandtrails.com.

Pahrump

Terrible's Lakeside, located in Pahrump near Terrible's Town Casino, has a seven-acre lake stocked with bass, bluegill, and crappie. If you prefer to be in the water yourself, you'll find a swimming lagoon, swimming pool, and Jacuzzi. Paddle boats and kayaks are free. Fishing costs \$7 for three days. The resort has 160 spaces on 38 acres. Space rental is \$17.95 Sunday through Thursday, \$24 on weekends. 5870 Homestead Road in Pahrump, 62 miles west of Las Vegas. 888-558-LAKE, 775-751-7770, www.terriblesherbst.com.

Reno

The **Reno KOA** is located on the east side of the Reno Hilton, so you can camp close to the casino action. RVers have the use of the Hilton's bowling center, heated

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pool, tennis courts, health club, driving range, and Fun Quest children's arcade. There are 170 sites. Big rigs are welcome. Nightly space rentals are \$28 to \$34. 2500 East Second Street, via the Mill Street exit on U.S. 395. 888-562-5698, 775-789-2147, www.koakampgrounds.com.

Lake Tahoe

The east shore of Lake Tahoe is only a block away from the RV park at **Zephyr Cove Resort**. Besides boasting a newly renovated, pine-shaded park, Zephyr Cove has 26 lakeside cabins (usually booked a year in advance), a mile of sandy beach, full-service marina, boat rentals, picnic areas, horseback riding, and a shuttle to Stateline casinos. The *M.S. Dixie II* and *Woodwind* cruise boats dock there. The resort has 93 motorhome spaces and 57 campsites (47 walk-in, 10 drive-in). Space rental is \$32 nightly, \$250 weekly. Located four miles north of Stateline on U.S. 50. 775-589-4981, www.tahoedixie2.com.

Carson Valley

The **Silver City RV Resort** sits at the north end of Carson Valley with mountain views in every direction. Guests often take day trips to Virginia City, Lake Tahoe, and Reno. The park occupies 40 acres and has

RV Information

For more information on RV resorts call the Nevada Commission on Tourism at 800-NEVADA-8 or visit www.travelnevada.com (click on Request a Nevada Visitors' Guide). You also can call or visit the Web site to learn how to win a 2002 Winnebago Brave in the Nevada RV Adventure Sweepstakes. At www.go-rving.com you can find information on RVing, resorts, and parks in Nevada and tips on how to buy or rent an RV.



205 sites, a clubhouse, market, swimming pool, spa, and playground. The park has a catch-and-release fishing pond where anglers can cast for bass and catfish. "The fish are readily available when the pelicans from Pyramid Lake aren't visiting us," says store manager Michelle Miley. The nightly

fee is \$23 plus small charges for cable TV and instant phone service. 3165 U.S. 395, nine miles north of Minden. 800-997-6393, 775-267-3359, www.silvercityrvresort.com.

Smith Valley

You can fish for trout or ride your own horse at **Walker River Resort** in Smith Valley. At this ranch-style retreat you can unwind or join the group for an outdoor barbecue or horseshoes. Located on the old town site of Hudson, Walker River Resort has shaded RV sites, rental cottages, and a clubhouse. The lounge hosts entertainment and dancing. Adventurous vacationers can take a float trip on the West Walker River, hike, go rockhounding, or compete in the resort's rodeo. Space rental is \$22 nightly, and \$6 to \$12 nightly for members of Walker River Resort, Coast to Coast, Camper Clubs of America, and Adventure Outdoor Resorts. Cottages rent from \$64 to \$84 nightly. Guest-horse boarding is \$5 per night (bring your own feed). 1 Hudson Way, Box 29, Smith, NV 89430. 800-446-2573, 702-456-2573. ▀

Wilma LaRocca is a Nevada Magazine editorial assistant. She once drove a Class A motorhome on a Los Angeles freeway.

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People Page

A Las Vegas music man and Carson City's doggone duo.

Dog at the Wheel

By Leslie Pearson

An old man, an old dog, an old Ford—it's a common sight in many Carson City neighborhoods, but what is not so common is that **Bill Williamson's** dog is usually in the driver's seat. Williamson, who works the pedals and guides the steering wheel with his knee, and his canine companions have fooled many an eye while driving his 1926 Model T pickup.

In 1968, Williamson's wife, Maxine, gave him his first pup, Buddy, a golden retriever. Williamson trained Buddy to fetch screwdrivers and oil rags in his shop, Bill's Tune-Up. Buddy learned so well that Williamson decided to teach him how to "drive."

In 1972, the two entered the Nevada Day parade. "The first time Buddy got in the car and we started it up, he was scared to death," Williamson says. "A week later we drove in the parade, and we won first place." The trio of man, truck, and dog have been together ever since.

In 1974, Buddy appeared on three episodes of *Hee Haw*. When Buddy died, his son, Beaver, took the wheel of the Model T, which Williamson acquired in 1964 from a Reno garage and restored.

Today, Williamson, 75 and retired, shares driving duties with his third-pooch, Budd. For the past five years, Budd has chauffeured Santa Claus to the lighting of the Christmas tree at the State Capitol.

Before Budd takes the car for a spin, he sits, waiting for a command. Then Williamson says, "Get in the Ford," and Budd hops into the driver's seat, placing his paws on the wheel, while Williamson rides shotgun. Returning to the garage, Williamson says, "Back the truck up, Budd," and the dog looks over his shoulder like a human motorist.

Afterward, Williamson will say, "Get tied up." Budd runs to his dog house and stands with his front paws on the roof,



Williamson and Budd putz around the neighborhood (above). The mailman's best friend (right).



waiting to be chained. "Well, you don't think I'm gonna bend over to tie up the damn dog, do ya?" Williamson chuckles as he pets Budd affectionately.

Leslie Pearson is a University of Nevada student.

Spin Doctor

By Bob Barnes

Studio 54 patrons have included stars like John Travolta, Pierce Brosnan, Michael Jackson, and Jennifer Love Hewitt, but one of the biggest celebrities at the MGM Grand nightclub is **Frankie Anobile**, known as "DJ Frankie" to his fans.

Anobile helped create the Las Vegas version of the New York nightery. Since opening in 1997 Studio 54 has been one of the top clubs in town and continues to draw 1,200 to 3,400 revelers every night. As program director, Anobile determines the videos and music that will be played each evening and directs the other DJs' music and video selections.

"I look for music that is totally high energy," he says. "And we use shortened versions of songs so we can fit more crowd



Frankie Anobile spins vinyl at MGM's Studio 54.

pleasers in. It's a great feeling to hear the roar of over 1,000 voices when they recognize a song they want to dance to."

Anobile, who has spun vinyl in Las Vegas for more than two decades, is a night person. "The club scene is a big factor in my life. I'm scared to think about 20 years from now, when I'm too old to enjoy this lifestyle," he says. "I visit other clubs at least once a week, preview new music for several hours every day, and look at the charts in *Billboard Magazine* and others."

The Brooklyn native lives in Las Vegas next door to his parents, Frank and Louise Anobile, and he sees them daily. Anobile also finds time to spend with his girlfriend Sharrelle, nephew Michael, and assorted film-making colleagues. In 2000, his *Christmas Payback*, made with coproducer Dino Esposito, won second place at the Houston Worldfest Film Festival. His new film, *Battling Morality*, is semi-autobiographical, he says.

When choosing the music at Studio 54, Anobile doesn't rate one style over another. "When I hear funky stuff, I say, 'Oh, that's the best stuff. Then I'll hear new electronica and say, 'Oh, that's the best,'" Anobile says. "It's all good for different reasons. It's like asking a chef what is his favorite dish or a writer what is his favorite word."

Bob Barnes is a Las Vegas freelance writer.



Ron Funk

Genoa painter finds landscapes and models close to home.

If you are a landscape artist, it helps to live in a beautiful place. Ron Funk, who creates rural scenes in oils and pastels, has only to walk out the front door of his Genoa home to find something to paint. Carson Valley provides Funk with plenty of scenes—rustic barns and farmhouses framed by green trees and the Carson Range with peaks more than 10,000 feet high.

"I think Nevada is so attractive in the sense of open space and distance and

mountains. It has a marvelous geography and landscape," Funk says. He recalls childhood summers at his grandparents' Illinois farm. He says, "At age 75, I think I feel a sense of identification with those who remember barns and farm life."

Several of Funk's paintings can be seen at the Douglas County Public Library and the county administration building in Minden. He has been featured in three major solo shows and won several awards. His oil portrait of the late Eusebio Cenoz

hangs in the banquet room at Gardnerville's Overland Hotel, a Basque restaurant that Eusebio operated with his wife, Elvira, who commissioned the painting and still runs the Overland.

A journalist, Funk moved to Carson Valley in 1980 from Santa Monica, California, where he edited the family newspaper and occasionally took art classes. He took life-drawing courses from David Foster at Lake Tahoe Community College. "I've always liked to draw and



"Rest Stop at Walker Lake": Funk was invited to exhibit at the Walker Lake Arts Festival to help raise awareness that the lake is disappearing. "Pelican Rock is close to shore, with loons and white pelicans there. It just appealed to me," Funk says. "In the distance the viewer can see the drying out of the lake along the shoreline."

paint the human figure," Funk says. "That is the most challenging for me."

Natural scenes also can evoke an emotional response, he says. "Sometimes I look at a landscape, and say, 'Man, I can feel that. But it's even more rewarding when you're painting or drawing a figure.' Living as he does in a picturesque valley, Funk will always paint landscapes, he concedes. "The nice thing about landscapes," he adds, "is they don't move, and you don't have to pay for models." —Joyce Hollister



Ron Funk

"Last-Minute Touch-up": A Lake Tahoe showgirl, dressed in a stage costume, was a model in a life-drawing class. Funk used pastels for the portrait. "Pastels lend themselves to this kind of drawing," he says.

Destination:

Carson City

By Joyce Hollister



The Nevada Day parade (above) will be held October 26. Sunridge (far left) is one of the Divine Nine courses in the Carson City area. Balloons lift off all year (left). Carson City's Ghost Walk visits historic houses in October (right).

Kit Carson, who traveled through present-day Nevada with John C. Fremont in 1844, lends his name to the state's capital only indirectly. Fremont named the Carson River after the famous scout, and **Carson City** came later, in 1861.

"We try to stress that we have a rich history," says Candace Duncan, executive director of the Carson City Convention and Visitors' Bureau. "That's what visitors are looking for. They've heard of Mark Twain and *Roughing It* and the Comstock, and they want to see where it all happened." Carson City's history is on parade October 19-27 when the community hosts the Nevada Day celebration, commemorating Nevada's entry into the Union in 1864.

Besides history, Carson City offers golf and other forms of outdoor recreation. "We have nine wonderful golf courses that we market as the 'Divine Nine,'" Duncan says. "You can make your home base in Carson City and venture out to **Washoe Valley**, **Virginia City**, and **Lake Tahoe**."

Carson City's historic district has nearly 60 restored 19th-century mansions and buildings. With or without the visitor bureau's illustrated map, you can follow the **Kit Carson Trail**. Look for the blue line painted on the sidewalks leading to historic homes, churches, and public structures, including the **Governor's Mansion**. One house belonged to Orion Clemens, brother of Samuel Clemens, better known as **Mark Twain**. A reporter for Virginia City's *Territorial Enterprise*, Twain stayed in the house occasionally in 1864. Twenty-five of the buildings are **Talking Houses**. With your car or portable radio tuned to the right AM frequencies, you will hear the history of each building. Three times a year owners open their homes

for tours. The **Ghost Walk** is held in October and on Memorial Day weekend. In December, the **Victorian Home Christmas Tour** features decorated houses.

Museum fanciers will find several places to visit. The **Nevada State Museum** (600 North Carson Street, 775-687-4810) was originally a U.S. Mint and features a simulated mine and a ghost town. The **Nevada State Railroad Museum** (2180 South Carson Street, 775-687-6953) offers antique railroad cars and steam engines and holds steam-up weekends. The **Nevada State Library and Archives** (100 North Stewart Street, 775-684-3360) shows a video on Nevada's admission to the Union in 1864 and the state constitution. The **Northern Nevada Children's Museum** (813 North Carson Street, 775-884-2226) features hands-on exhibits. The **State Capitol** (101 North Carson Street, 687-5030), an 1870s-era building, has historical exhibits and the restored Supreme Court room.

Fourteen miles northeast of Carson City is **Virginia City**, where visitors can ride the **Virginia and Truckee Railroad** to Gold Hill, walk boardwalks, visit the restored **Fourth Ward School**, and shop, drink, and eat in many historic establishments. At **Lake Tahoe**, backpackers can gain access to the 165-mile **Tahoe Rim Trail** on Spooner Summit, 12 miles west of Carson City. Camping, fishing, hang-gliding, hiking, hot-air ballooning, horseback riding, and mountain biking are popular in the surrounding valleys and mountains.

The Divine Nine golf courses include Carson City's **Eagle Valley West** and **East**, **Empire Ranch**, and **Silver Oak**; Carson Valley's **Genoa Lakes**, **Sunridge**, **Sierra**

Nevada Golf Ranch, and **Carson Valley Golf Course**; and **Dayton Valley Golf Course** in the nearby historic town of Dayton. Tee times can be made by calling 800-638-2321 or the Carson City Convention and Visitors Bureau at 800-NEVADA-1.

Visitors can also call the bureau to make lodging reservations. Accommodations range from elegant bed-and-breakfast inns to medium-priced hotels and affordable motels. Five major casinos offer gaming, including **Cactus Jack's**, **Carson Nugget**, **Carson Station**, **Horseshoe Club**, and **Piñon Plaza**. Carson City has about 40 restaurants featuring cuisines such as American, Basque, Chinese, Italian, Japanese, and Mexican. More than 30 fast-food stores and several coffee outlets are available. Gifts are sold in the museums and stores in the **Historic Downtown** business district on U.S. 395 near the Capitol. In addition, the **Nevada Legislature** (401 South Carson Street), the **Paul Laxalt State Building** (the former federal building, now home of **Nevada Magazine**, 401 North Carson Street) and the **Brewery Arts Center** (449 West King Street) house gift shops.

Events take place all year. This summer the **Farmers Market** offered fresh produce every Wednesday through August 28 in Mills Park on U.S. 50 East. The **Sunday Concerts in the Park** feature different music styles weekly at the Capitol Plaza through September. Major activities include the **Cowboy Jubilee** in March; **Eagle Valley Muzzle Loaders Spring Rendezvous** in April; **RSVP Spring Fun Fair** and the **Kit Carson Trail Wild West Tour** in May;

Carson City Rendezvous, Pony Express Re-Ride, and Run What Cha Brung car show in June; a carnival and fireworks on Independence Day, Chili Cook-Off and Beer Tasting, and the Silver Dollar Car Classic in July. Nevada Day, on the last weekend in October, is the big fall event.

Call the Carson City Convention and Visitors' Bureau at 800-NEVADA-1 or visit www.visitcarsoncity.com for details. Brochures can be picked up at the CCCVA office, 1900 South Carson Street, Suite 100, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, and at the office's visitor center 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday until the end of September.

Carson City SPECIAL EVENTS

Nevada State Railroad Steam-up: On Labor Day weekend, August 31-September 2, locomotives are steamed up 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Adults \$2.50, children six to 11 \$1, five and under free. 775-687-6953.

Nevada State Museum Coin Show: On September 7-8 coin dealers showcase rare Carson City-minted coins, currency, tokens, gold and silver bullion, and jewelry. 775-687-4810.

Beer Tasting and Auction: Prizes, beer, and food accompany a September 13 fundraiser at the Brewery Arts Center. 775-883-1976.

Basque Festival: St. Teresa Avila Church holds a celebration September 15 with Mass, Basque meal, and festival at Fuji Park. 775-882-3728.

Salsa y Salsa: Nevada Hispanic Services presents food, entertainment, music, and dancing on September 15. 775-885-1055.

Mile High Jazz Band: Free concert takes place September 15 at the Brewery Arts Center. 775-883-1976.

Kit Carson Trail Ghost Walk: Homes on historic trail are open October 19 to the public. Call ahead for tickets. 800-NEVADA-1

Nevada Day Celebration: Festivities October 19-27 include parade, contests, food, and entertainment. Nevada Day Office, 800-683-2948, or 800-NEVADA-1

Silver and Snow-flake Festival of Lights: Lighting of the Capitol Christ-mas Tree December 5 includes caroling, music, refreshments, and Santa. 775-887-1294.

Victorian Home Christmas Tour: Decorated homes on the Kit Carson Trail are open to the public December 8 in a tour to raise funds for the Nevada Landmark Society. 775-882-1805.

Santa Train Steam-up: On December 14-15 the Nevada State Railroad Museum operates its free Santa Train. 775-687-6953.

Joyce Hollister is associate editor of Nevada Magazine.



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Visitors can take balloon rides year-round in the Reno-Tahoe and Las Vegas areas. One-hour trips cost \$150 to \$195 for adults, \$88 to \$150 for children. In the Reno area, call Truckee-based **Mountain High**, 888-GO-ABOVE. The traditional champagne ceremony is held after the flight. You can fly over Lake Tahoe with **Lake Tahoe Balloons**, 530-544-1221, and **Balloons Over Lake Tahoe**, 530-544-7008. Both companies land their balloons on powerboats on the lake, where continental-style breakfasts are served. Lake Tahoe Balloons also launches from Gardnerville's Lampe Park from October to May.

In Las Vegas, **D&R Balloons**, 702-248-7609, launch and land at different sites. Champagne and finger foods are served afterward. The most popular ride for **Adventure Balloon Tours**, 702-247-6905, is over the Red Rock Canyon area. Riders receive certificates, pins, T-shirts, and champagne. **Balloon Adventure**



Propane burners light up the balloons in the Great Reno Balloon Race's early-morning Dawn Patrol.

Tours Las Vegas, 702-596-7582, adds a mounted lift-off photo to the souvenir package.

Ballooning events allow visitors to watch balloons being inflated and launched—a colorful sight, especially in the predawn hours when propane burners lend a golden glow to the interiors of the envelopes. The Dawn Patrol at the **Great Reno Balloon Race**, September 6-8 at Rancho San Rafael Park, can be breathtaking. Call 775-826-1181 or visit www.renoballoon.com for information.

The annual **Las Vegas Hot Air Balloon Festival to Benefit Deaf Kids' Kamp**, 702-247-6905, will launch between 35

and 50 balloons at Rhodes Ranch, September 20-22. Host hotel is J.W. Marriott in Summerlin.

The **Laughlin River Flight** balloon festival returns October 25-27. Balloon launches and special events, including tethered and untethered rides, will take place at the corner of Bruce Woodbury Drive and Thomas Edison Way.

Growing bigger every year, the **Minden Rotary Hot-Air Balloon Races**, 775-782-7987, will host about 40 balloons June 7-8, 2003. The launch field is open to the public at 6 a.m. at Herbig Park, located across from Lampe Park at the south end of Gardnerville.

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ILLUSTRATION: BRIAN CRANE



A balloon lifts off in Las Vegas.

Up and Away

(Continued from page 17)

skill and judgment. If he follows the hare too quickly, wind currents may cause the balloon to outpace the hare and overshoot the target. Conversely, if the hound doesn't follow closely enough, it may not catch the same air currents as the hare. If this happens, the balloonist won't have a chance at finding and hitting the target.

It's a delight to watch balloons fill out and become sneakers, golf balls, or birthday cakes.

me it is not uncommon for people to express a fear of heights or uneasiness with flying. That's natural if you've never been around hot-air balloons. But unless you look down, you'll hardly realize you're up in the air or moving at all.

I found riding in a balloon is like becoming a cloud. You meander through the air as if you don't have a care in the

world. As we rose higher and higher in the ride I took over Reno, I marveled at how the world was so blue and quiet. Roads appeared to be little gray strings, trees a mass of green.

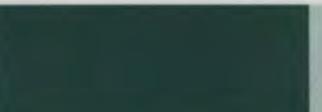
Because you feel no wind in the basket, you can spread out a map, and it won't blow away. People who like speed probably won't enjoy the ride since it is anything but fast. But if you like to mosey, you'll find a balloon ride quite enjoyable.

After about an hour of flight, the pilot will select a good landing spot. The chase vehicle's crew that followed the balloon

during the flight will meet you at the landing site, help you out of the basket, and begin deflating and packing the balloon. After the traditional champagne toast that began in Montgolfier's time, you are driven back to the launch site.

If you've ever seen a balloon in flight, you know it's akin to something out of a fairy tale. To see a balloon overhead is an exhilarating experience, to be sure. However, to ride in the basket is to know freedom. ■

Joe Zenter, a retired political science professor, is a freelance writer living in North Carolina.



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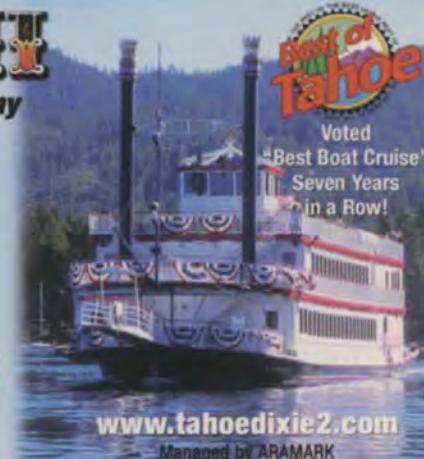
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The Man Who



Wealthy playboy George Whittell's desire for privacy helped preserve most of Tahoe's eastern shore.

George Whittell, a spoiled heir to fabulous wealth, was an unlikely savior of Lake Tahoe. The enigmatic tycoon moved to Nevada in 1929, bringing with him a penchant for fast cars, beautiful women, and wild animals. The Captain, as he liked to be called, set his sights on the Tahoe Basin and, with typical excess, bought nearly a third of it.

Ensconced in his elegant east-shore getaway, the Thunderbird Lodge, the reclusive millionaire disliked the idea of neighbors, and he resisted developing his property for more than three decades. When he died in 1969, his estate included approximately 20 miles of pristine, forested shoreline. George Whittell had become

Lake Tahoe's accidental environmentalist.

Whittell also left behind a fortune in folklore. The mention of his name still inspires anecdotes of wild parties, trumpeting elephants, a lion named Bill, and a fabulous wooden boat.

George Whittell Jr. and his twin brother, Nicholas, were born in 1881 to one of San Francisco's wealthiest families. Nicholas died four years later, but in 1892 George Sr. came home one day with a mysterious baby named Alfred, who grew up as a foster child in the Whittell household. In spite of the addition young George, or Junior, as his family called him, retained his position as sole heir to a financial empire. He could have followed his father into the banking and real estate business, but the young

man was determined to chart an unorthodox course that embarrassed his parents and shocked their Nob Hill neighbors.

In his late teens Junior acquired a lifelong love for wild animals when he followed the Barnum and Bailey Circus for a time. The restless heir attended many colleges but graduated from none. However, he was a bright guy who enjoyed technology and languages and was said to be fluent in French, Italian, and Chinese.

In 1903, he married chorus girl Florence Boyere, but his distraught parents purchased an annulment. Gossip about the incident had barely subsided when George eloped with Josie Cunningham, a dancer from "Floradora," a popular British stage show. She filed for divorce two years



Saved Lake Tahoe

By Susan James



George Whittell bought most of Lake Tahoe's east shore in the 1930s, and he could survey his domain from several vantage points. The millionaire (at far left in his yachting attire) commissioned Reno architect Frederick DeLongchamps to design a summer hideaway, the Thunderbird Lodge (left), south of the Sand Harbor beach. The Captain, as he liked to be called, also was proud of his custom-built powerboat, the *Thunderbird* (above). Whittell's wife, Elia (right), hated the lodge—she preferred Paris.



later. Whittell emerged as tainted goods, an unsuitable match for any proper West Coast debutante.

Seeking adventure, Whittell drove an ambulance in Italy during World War I. As the United States entered the war in 1917, he was commissioned as an army captain, a title he used proudly for the rest of his life. Whittell later told stories of spying for the allies, and although his name never appeared on personnel rolls, he bragged about flying with the Lafayette Escadrille.

In 1919, Whittell married Elia Pascal, a Parisian sophisticate. They lived happily in California for a few years until the Captain's escapades became the subject of Bay Area gossip. They began leading separate lives, Elia spending half the year in

Paris. The couple had no children, and they never divorced.

While most Americans struggled to survive the Depression, Whittell focused on preserving the savings he had realized by liquidating \$50 million in stocks just months before the Wall Street crash of 1929. When a reporter from the *San Francisco Chronicle* asked him to explain his stroke of psychic genius, Whittell declared, "When men stop boozing, womanizing, and gambling, the bloom is off the rose."

He soon decided that one way to guard his fortune was to move to Nevada, where many wealthy Americans found a haven from state income taxes. In 1929, hoping to dodge California taxes, he created a phony corporation at 443 Ralston Street

In 1938 the *Tahoe Tattler* reported on Whittell's plans for the Sand Harbor Hotel and Casino, surrounded by 200 guest cottages.



Young George was a rebellious member of San Francisco society and heir to his family's fortune.

If boats came too
close to Whittell's
lodge, loudspeakers
boomed the song,
"I'll Be Glad When
You're Dead, You
Rascal, You."

in Reno, where he may have lived briefly.

In 1933 Alfred Whittell, now claiming to be George Sr.'s illegitimate son, sued the Captain for a share of the family fortune. An undisclosed out-of-court settlement followed years of legal wrangling, leaving Whittell bitter and disillusioned.

Consumed by family turmoil, the beleaguered millionaire looked for diversions. He made friends with Reno real-estate man Norman Biltz, who persuaded him to invest in property at Lake Tahoe. In his oral history Biltz recalled that their friendship ended when a land deal soured and resulted in Whittell owning nearly the entire Nevada side of the lake.

The deal originated when Biltz and his



The man the press called a "monied enigma" holds a cub that may be Bill, his favorite lion.

partner, Henry Trevor, sought control of the 27 miles of Tahoe shoreline that stretched from Crystal Bay, on the lake's northern end, south to Zephyr Cove. The pair needed about \$2,070,000 to buy the property. They deposited about \$70,000, with the balance to come from a wealthy New Yorker, Walter Seligman. But Seligman changed his mind. Biltz, practically hysterical, asked Whittell for help.

Whittell agreed to buy the property, paying the \$2 million balance and returning the deposit to Biltz and Trevor. Then he told them to start subdividing and selling the land. According to their contract, Whittell would get his money back as soon as all the land was sold (plus three-percent interest), and Trevor and Biltz would receive 25 percent of the profits once the property was developed. Although Whittell retained veto power on all sales, the other two were grateful. "This looked like a gift from heaven," Biltz recalled, "because we had about 30 days to close."

During July 1938 the *Tahoe Tattler* buzzed with news that "George Whittell, publicity

shy Nevada capitalist, will soon begin construction of a mammoth all-year resort and hotel." Throughout the summer the newspaper reported on plans for the Sand Harbor Hotel and Casino, a huge development surrounded by 200 luxurious guest cottages and an aerial tram that would transport skiers to the proposed Mount Rose ski area. Biltz had lined up investors, including Hollywood stars Paulette Goddard and Janet Gaynor.

Suddenly, Whittell, now sole owner of 40,000 acres in the Tahoe Basin, refused to approve any sales, regardless of price. Outraged, his two associates confronted him with the agreement. Biltz said, "We tore it up and threw it in his face and spit in his face." Biltz concluded that "because of the sadistic nature of this individual...if we had kept it, I don't think he would have ever sold any [of the land]...This gave him great personal pleasure, to knock us out of the pot." The hotel-casino at Sand Harbor—today one of the state's most beautiful park areas—never moved beyond the drawing board.



Whittell guarded his privacy at the lodge (above) and permitted little development on his side of the lake.

While the Biltz-Trevor drama played out, the Captain hired prominent Reno architect Frederick DeLongchamps to design a summer retreat two miles south of the Sand Harbor beach. The collaboration with an unpredictable, overbearing client who changed designs on a whim frustrated DeLongchamps from beginning to end. Finally, Whittell endorsed the architect's plans, and construction of the Thunderbird Lodge began in the spring of 1938.

Completed in two years, the Captain's lakeside castle and outbuildings showcased the work of stonemasons from Carson City's Stewart Indian School. The grounds featured pools, waterfalls, and rock-lined streams. Whittell, a techno geek, installed a surveillance system to warn of intruders. If boats came too close, powerful loudspeakers boomed the song, "I'll Be Glad When You're Dead, You Rascal, You." For more aggressive trespassers, an earsplitting siren added an aura of law enforcement. Inside the house, Whittell could eavesdrop on private conversations with a secret intercom system. The presence of his favorite African lion, Bill, who freely roamed the grounds, added a further dose of intimidation.

Unlike the San Franciscans who witnessed Whittell's youthful excesses, Nevadans rarely saw the Tahoe tycoon, who also maintained an estate in Woodside, California. "As hard to confirm news about as a European government is Lake Tahoe's land-owning George Whittell," complained the *Tahoe Tattler* in 1939.

Speculation about his activities turned into folklore, helped by hearsay and the

local newspaper. The *Tattler* gleefully reported when two of Whittell's seaplanes crashed into the lake during the summers of 1938 and 1939. The paper followed with the exaggerated story that "Lake Tahoe's monied enigma, who often has his favorite

cows, lions, and horses flown from place to place with him, topped a season of freak activities by having an elephant flown from his Woodside place to the lake" (see page 88). Another tale related that partygoers at Whittell's castle were entertained by their eccentric host, who, on horseback, chased naked guests while three elephants trumpeted from the roof of their private barn. Parties were, in fact, so rare that the *Tattler* often commented on the silence enveloping Whittell's side of the lake.

The aging tycoon used this time to retreat to the tranquil east shore with his favorite mistress, Mae Mullhogen, a Midwesterner who was about 25 years younger than the Captain. Mae was Whittell's secretary at Woodside, and her personal relationship with her employer inspired open warfare with Elia. Away from her nemesis at the Thunderbird Lodge, Mae was part maid, part warden, and full-time confidant. Fortunately for her, Elia despised the place and continued to spend summers in Paris.

In 1939, the Captain hired renowned marine architect John Hacker to design a powerboat that would satisfy his hunger

Tahoe's Land Baron

George Whittell preserved most of Lake Tahoe's east side because he owned it. His holdings encompassed Crystal Bay, present-day Incline Village, and Zephyr Cove, not to mention nearly all of what is now Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park, including Spooner Meadows and Marlette Lake. He donated the land for George Whittell High School in Zephyr Cove and gave gifts to the University of Nevada and St. Mary's Hospital in Reno.

Whittell's legacy also is kept alive by the **Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society**. The lodge is open to the public through conferences, events, and educational programs. Tours are scheduled on Wednesdays and Thursdays, tentatively from May 1 to October 31. For information about lodge tours visit www.thunderbirdlodge.org or call the Lake Tahoe, Incline Village/Crystal Bay Visitor Center, 800-GO-TAHOE. From November through April the Thunderbird Lodge is available for group tours on a limited basis by calling 775-832-8750.

—Susan James



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Governor Grant Sawyer tussled with Whittell regarding proposed state-park lands at Lake Tahoe.

for speed and elegance. The Captain's sleek, new 56-foot yacht, the *Thunderbird*, required a larger home than the original boathouse. Workmen began immediately to blast a berth out of the granite shoreline. At the same time workers excavated a tunnel that ultimately burrowed nearly 600 feet from the main lodge to the boathouse.

The yacht also became the subject of folklore. When *Thunderbird* sightings became rare during World War II, lake dwellers speculated that the Captain was hiding the boat from the U.S. military, which supposedly was anxious to employ her twin Kermath 550-horsepower engines in the war effort. However, the reason for the boat's absence may have had more to do with the limitations placed upon an aging adventurer.

Before he became a Jesuit priest, the late Don Mason worked as a butler at Whittell's estate during the summer of 1941. America was on the brink of war, but Mason recalled carefree days spent aboard the *Thunderbird* with Whittell at the helm and Mae seated near him. When Mason returned to the lodge the following year, the Captain was a changed man. "He wanted with all his heart to be in the war but could not because of age," Mason recalled. "He did not take the boat out once—just sat and looked at the lake most of the day."

The relationship between the Captain and his mistress was a rocky one, and her temper occasionally shattered the silence of the mountain haven. Mason remembered that after quarreling with Mae, an

offended and often inebriated Whittell demanded the younger man's company for a sojourn to the Cal-Neva Lodge on the north shore. Whittell gave Mason cash and then watched the servant gamble. A few times they returned home with showgirls, whom Whittell loudly entertained while keeping an eye on Mae's bedroom, hoping that jealousy would grow from the carefully sown seeds.

Aside from those incidents, life at the lodge was quiet, and visitors were rare. "Summer was quite informal," Mason recalled. "Except for the Cal-Nevans, I can only recall two occasions when guests came, and they were the same: Mr. and Mrs. Fuller, who were renting Sand Harbor."

Still, George and Mae remained devoted to one another. Then, in 1954, she died in a car crash while returning from a shopping trip to Kings Beach. For weeks after her death the grief-stricken tycoon blared somber dirges from his giant loudspeakers until a weary neighbor asked him to stop. Whittell hauled her crumpled station wagon to a hilltop overlooking the lodge, where the car served as a gruesome memorial until the U.S. Forest Service removed the rusted clump of metal in 1999.

His companion gone, the Captain became even more reclusive. Throughout the 1950s he was plagued by a broken leg that failed to heal. The disability made trips from Woodside to Tahoe difficult, and in the 1960s the Golden State contested Whittell's claim of Nevada residency, suing him for back state income taxes. A lower court ordered Whittell to pay tens of thousands of dollars. The California Supreme Court reversed the ruling, and Whittell escaped with his fortune.

The Captain had an affable relationship with Nevada Governor Charles Russell and donated land for a state park at Sand Harbor. But when Grant Sawyer succeeded Russell in 1959, a cold war erupted between the state and the millionaire. Sawyer was determined to acquire more of Whittell's land. If negotiation failed, the governor made it clear he would take the tycoon to court.

Although Whittell had resisted development for years, he grew resentful and sold nearly seven miles of his north-shoreline holdings to a company that subdivided the land. Some observers maintain that the community of Incline Village came about as a result of Whittell's desire to keep the property away from the state of Nevada.

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Great Whittell Myths

The more George Whittell avoided people, the more they made up stories about him. His reckless youth and reclusive old age combined to produce tales that are still told. Most are whoppers. A few are true. Here are some of the best:

Myth: Whittell sneaked showgirls through the Thunderbird Lodge tunnel to the card house so they could entertain guests at his orgies.

Reality: Whittell hosted card games there, and sometimes a showgirl or two made an appearance, but orgies are doubtful.

Myth: During parties at the lodge, champagne flowed freely while naked women pranced around the grounds.

Reality: If this had happened, the *Tahoe Tattler* would have reported it eagerly.

Myth: Whittell's elephant, Mingo, died when the seaplane taking him back to the Captain's California estate crashed into Lake Tahoe.

Reality: Not true. Mingo lasted only a week at the lake's high altitude. He was safely returned to California.

Myth: Whittell once had a horse flown in from California to keep Mingo company.

Reality: There is no evidence that Whittell ever risked breaking a horse's leg on the lodge's irregular stone paths.

Myth: The Captain designed a plane that could fold its wings and travel underwater. He intended to bring it to Lake Tahoe.

Reality: No basis in fact. This myth won't fly.

Myth: Whittell hosted secret, high-stakes poker games in the lodge's card house. Guests included baseball player Ty Cobb.

Reality: True. Whittell had several poker buddies, including Cobb, who had a cabin near Cave Rock. To discourage robberies at the high-stakes gatherings, the players moved to secret locations around the lake, including the card house at the Thunderbird Lodge.

Myth: Whittell refused to pay huge gambling debts at Reno and Tahoe casinos.

Reality: Difficult to verify. According to former Whittell butler Don Mason, Whittell enjoyed most of the stories people told about him, but the newspaper claims of outstanding gambling debts made the Captain furious.

Myth: Whittell enjoyed attending executions at the Nevada State Prison in Carson City.

Reality: True. But he wouldn't let Mason kill a fly.

Myth: The Thunderbird Lodge menagerie included giraffes, cows, lions, cheetahs, elephants, myna birds, and polar bears.

Reality: An exaggeration. Only one lion, one elephant, one polar bear, and maybe one cheetah are known to have visited the lodge. Whittell also kept a flock of myna birds there, but he never brought his Woodside giraffes to the lake. There is no reason to believe he owned cows.—*Susan James*

Sawyer recounted the struggle with Whittell in his oral history, *Hang Tough*. "When I called, he wouldn't talk to me, so I sent out spies to try to find him. They learned where he lived in California, and I flew there on a secret mission and went out to his house," Sawyer said, "but I didn't get any further than the kitchen ... although I knew very well that he was in the house." Sawyer omitted one detail. Furious, Whittell had called the sheriff and demanded Sawyer's arrest. Instead, the officer quietly escorted Nevada's chief executive from the grounds.

Another well-known Nevada politician, Paul Laxalt, was a Carson City lawyer when he began representing Whittell in the late 1950s. So when Laxalt was elected lieutenant governor in 1962, he faced the possibility of having to represent Whittell in a legal battle against his own state government. In his memoirs, Laxalt recalls explaining the situation to his feisty client, who shot back, "You'll have a lot better future with me than being in that s--- office." Laxalt stayed in office, sacrificing millions in legal fees but later becoming governor and U.S. senator.

Eventually, the state went to court and won the right to claim the portion of Whittell's property that became a part of Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park. Much like his Las Vegas-based contemporary, Howard Hughes, an increasingly bitter Whittell began a final retreat into seclusion. Lake Tahoe's "monied enigma" died on April 18, 1969. He insisted that Elia bury him in his favorite ermine coat.

Whittell's refusal to develop one of the most stunning spots in the world became his accidental legacy. Much of his land is now managed by the Nevada Division of State Parks and the U.S. Forest Service. His pristine real estate is a tribute to both his lethargy and his cranky refusal to have neighbors.

Grant Sawyer later remembered the enigmatic millionaire with an appropriate mix of fact and folklore: "Whittell was extremely wealthy, and he owned a big castle out by the lake with lions and elephants and a bunch of exotic things there. He was almost a mythical figure." The man who saved Lake Tahoe may have died, but legends have a way of achieving immortality. █

Susan James, a historian who lives in Carson City, and her husband, Ron, are the authors of Castle in the Sky: George Whittell Jr. and the Thunderbird Lodge. The book will be published this fall by the Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society.



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Nevada Trivia

Q What was the unusual name given to the Austin City Railway's steam locomotive?

A Operating on a steep, 2.8-mile rail line between Austin and Clifton, the locomotive was named *Mules' Relief* because it replaced an earlier mule-powered operation. The train ran from 1882 to 1889.

Q What golfing superstar won his first professional tournament in Las Vegas six years ago?

A Tiger Woods, who won the Las Vegas Invitational on October 6, 1996.

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

Reader Recommended

Laughlin show: Recently I was at the Edgewater Hotel-Casino in Laughlin and saw the fantastic "Rock n' Roll Memories" show. You're spinning your wheels if you don't go. You won't be disappointed. The show has Buddy, Young and Old Elvis, Tina Turner, and my favorite, Jerry Lee Lewis. Go for it.

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Listening to Autumn

By Robert Wexler

Last year I listened to autumn at the Truckee River at John Champion Memorial Park in Reno. The river sounds special in the fall. I closed my eyes. The Truckee River sounded like a plane



High Time on Nevada Day A stilt-walking Uncle Sam towers over spectators and fellow entrants during the Nevada Day parade in Carson City. This year the festivities take place on October 19-27 with the parade on Saturday, October 26. Except for three years during World War II, Carson has celebrated the state's admission day (officially October 31, 1864) every year since 1938.

and then a train and then a smooth sailboat. The water sloshed and roared and gurgled. It rippled over rocks and then smoothly remixed and traveled on.

I felt excited and calm. A river's contradictions are like life's contradictions. The river's sounds evoked other fall sounds—the crunch of leaves underfoot on Hurd Road in Belmont, Massachusetts, when I

was five years old, the slicing sound of carving a plump pumpkin, and the brittle sound of raking drifts of crimson and gold leaves on our front lawn.

The river didn't talk or explain or lecture or ask questions. It spoke for itself. It just babbled. ■

Robert Wexler is a Reno freelance writer.

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