NEVADA
MAGAZINE

February 2003

INSIDE: Complete Guide to Events & Shows in Nevada

New Wave Weddings

Couples choose wild but wonderful ways to marry in Nevada

The Critics' Choice

10 writers reveal their 30 favorite shows in Las Vegas, Reno, and Tahoe

Black History Legacy

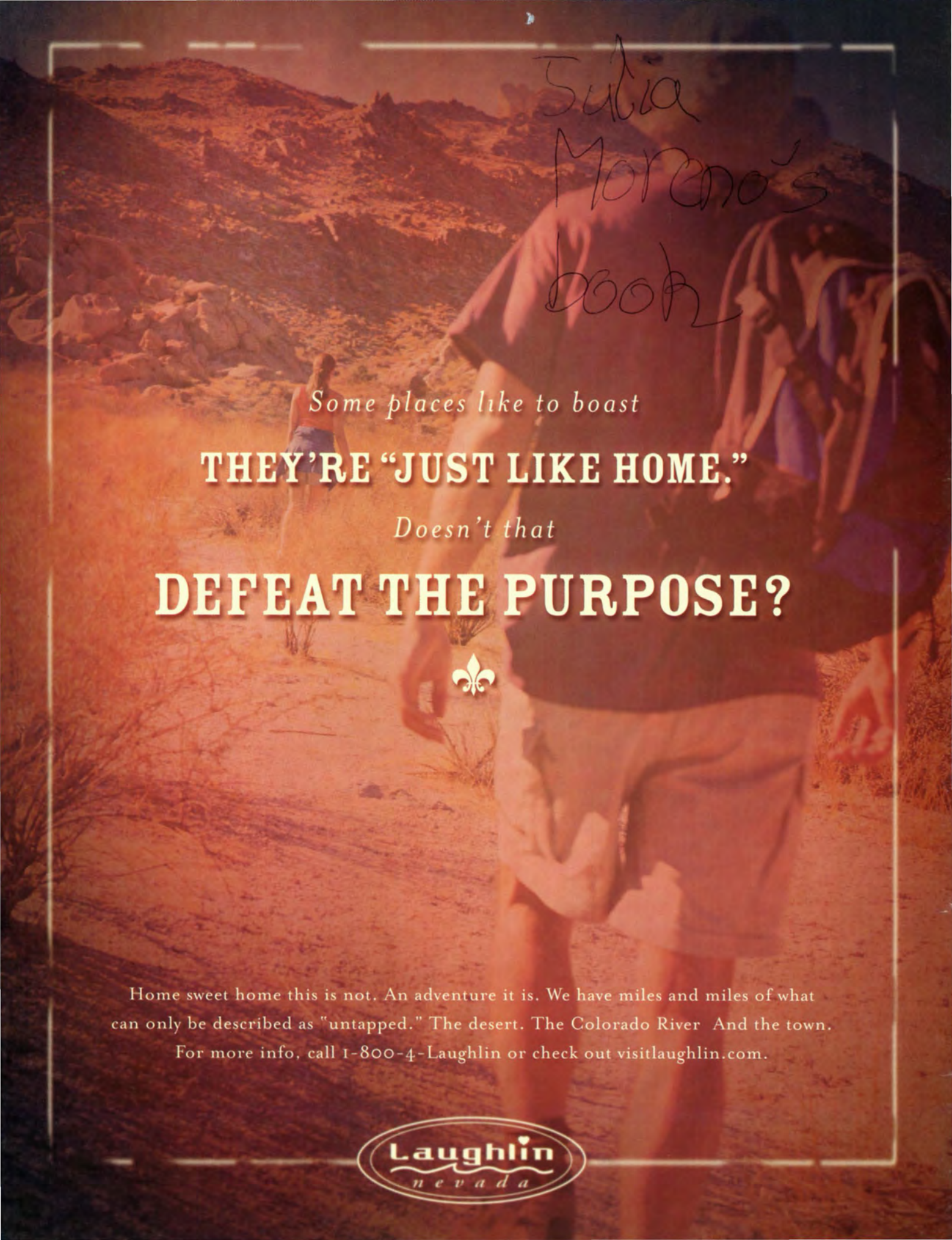
Bob and Anna Bailey recall the Moulin Rouge and the civil rights movement in Nevada

Christina Watson celebrates her wedding at Lake Tahoe

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"You didn't know who you'd see out there in the crowd—Harry Belafonte, Sinatra, Cary Grant, Edward G. Robinson. [The Moulin Rouge] was the top spot in Las Vegas for the elite of Hollywood and the East Coast."

—Bob Bailey



On the Cover:
Christina Watson poses after her Lake Tahoe wedding. Photo by Peter Spain

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Publisher: Richard Moreno
Editor: David Moore
Art Director: Denise Evans
Associate Editor: Joyce Hollister
Graphic Designer Margie Enlow
Production Manager: Kurt Hildebrand
Production Assistant: Melissa Loomis
Circulation Manager: Amy Ginder
Retail Coordinator: Isabel Espinoza
Retail Support: Bettie Johnson
Accountant: Jacqueline Morgan
Circulation Support: David Dickson
Editorial Assistant: Wilma LaRocca
Printing, Pre-Press: Banta Publications Group

Events Office
Events Editor: Ann Henderson
Internet Events Coordinator: Luciano Otano Jr.
555 E. Washington, Suite 5600, Las Vegas, NV 89101
(702) 486-2433, fax (702) 486-2789
e-mail: ann@nevadamagazine.com

Main Advertising Office
Advertising Coordinator: Susan Wunsch
(775) 687-0610, e-mail: susan@nevadamagazine.com
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Southern Nevada Sales Representatives
Skyword Marketing
Shaun McIlveen, Robyn Davies
(702) 897-9287, fax (702) 897-7546
e-mail: skywordca@att.net

Northern Nevada Sales Representatives
Dave Mulligan
(775) 722-1672, fax (775) 324-3031
e-mail: madmulligan@aol.com
Kelley-Rose, Inc.
Cynthia Kelley
(775) 322-7770, fax (775) 322-1719
e-mail: krireno@aol.com
Esther Isaac
(775) 852-0881, fax (775) 852-0882
e-mail: esther5739@aol.com

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Meet the Press


Brett


Delaplane


Espin


Leach


Preston


Pryor

Nine of the state's most astute entertainment writers describe their favorite Nevada shows and headliners in "The Critics' Choice" in this issue's "Nevada Events and Shows" section. While sharing many opinions, each critic offers his or her unique perspective.

Jackie Brett's byline appears in the *San Diego Union Tribune, Orange County Register,* and *Denver Post.* The Las Vegas resident says, "It's been amazing watching the scene go from the real Rat Pack to today's imitators, and from the once-shocking topless extravaganzas to the Cirque du Soleil productions."

Gaye Delaplane often covered show business while writing for the *Reno-Gazette Journal.* "I enjoyed most talking to the entertainers," the Reno resident says. "Some, of course, had large egos, but others were down to earth."

Kathy Espin, a frequent *Nevada* contributor, teaches at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. After three decades in Las Vegas, the Charlotte, North Carolina, native has not lost her Southern accent.

Robin Leach, former host of *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous,* is the entertainment critic for KVVU-TV in Henderson and Las Vegas show business editor for the TV show *Extra.* When a project at the Venetian brought Robin to Las Vegas in 2000, he decided to buy a house rather than stay in a hotel. He also reasoned that Las Vegas is the new frontier of entertainment: "What Hollywood used to be is now what Las Vegas is becoming."

Dave Preston contributes to *Showtime* magazine and KOH Radio in Reno. A former field producer for CBS and NBC news, Preston says entertainment "is one of the things that gives us a chance to realize life is not mundane."

Kim Pryor, a Lake Tahoe resident, often writes about entertainers. The *Nevada* contributor says, "The best part has been interviewing and being around people who are incredibly creative."

Monti Rock III was a hairdresser to the stars in New York City and appeared 84 times on the *Tonight Show* with Johnny Carson. In Las Vegas he writes for *Gaming Today* and *Viva.*

Mel Shields' Reno column appears in the *Sacramento Bee.* "I see Reno in a state of transition in entertainment," he says. "I'm looking forward to more production shows, perhaps brought on by competition from Indian gaming."

Mike Weatherford covers entertainment for the *Las Vegas Review-Journal.* He says, "I saw the last of the old wave of entertainers, the rise and conquest of Cirque du Soleil, and the creation of a new wave, again, of stars like Danny Gans, the Scintas, and Clint Holmes." Mike also is a frequent *Nevada* contributor.—*Ann Henderson*


Rock


Shields


Weatherford

"What Hollywood used to be is now what Las Vegas is becoming."

— Robin Leach

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Letters

Sharkey, snowballs, and Dat So La Lee.

Tribute to the Shark

C.J. Hadley's moving tribute to Sharkey Begovich in the Nov/Dec issue caused me to reflect on a very memorable time in my life. Back in the '70s I was fortunate enough to be on the staff of *The Record-Courier* in Gardnerville, and Sharkey's Nugget became our unofficial meeting place. Like countless thousands of others, I was privileged to call Sharkey my friend, and his passing saddens me very much. I shall always consider Nevada my second home. Sharkey personified the hospitality of a people who will always occupy a special place in my heart.

William W. North
Lockport, IL



Michelle Delumyea throws a snowball.

Snowball Blues

I would like to make a comment about the cover of the Nov/Dec 2002 issue of *Nevada Magazine*, which shows a girl holding a snowball. With the holidays coming up, couldn't you show more imagination? In my opinion, the front covers of the Land's End and L.L. Bean catalogs were more entertaining. At least they had Christmas scenes. The issue's cover looks like it belongs on a Toys R Us or children's magazine.

Walter Dearden
Boulder City

Walter, we appreciate the comment. Many others have said the "snowball" cover with Larry Prosor's photo of Truckee resident Michelle Delumyea hit the mark.—Ed.

Dat So La Lee

I enjoyed reading "The Dat So La Lee Basket Mystery" by Maria Davis Denzler in the latest issue. The story of the four baskets' disappearance and recovery was remarkable. I'm glad they were returned. It was also interesting to learn about her benefactors in Carson City, the Cohns, and how they took it upon themselves to invent Dat So La Lee's background and motivation, as if they needed inventing.

George Moon
Sacramento, CA

Fremont Street Arch

After seeing a photo of the Gloucester Cathedral in England in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, I noted the cathedral's structure is strikingly similar to the archway over Fremont Street in downtown Las Vegas. Perhaps the architect of the Fremont Street Experience drew on the knowledge of the medieval builders who, 600 years ago, tied the structure's overhead arches to its side walls, thus giving it strength and beauty.

Richard Runevitch
Twinsburg, OH

Richard, you've got a good eye. The Las Vegas landmark was inspired by the cloisters and gallerias of Europe, according to Wendy Arrington, marketing manager for the Jerde Partnership International, the architectural firm that designed the Fremont Street Experience. See page 57 in "Attractions, Tours, and Museums" for a photo of the Fremont Street canopy.—Ed.

A Square Deal

From 1941 to 1988, Las Vegas High School seniors painted pictures commemorating their graduation on the concrete squares in front of the school.

Over the years the squares have deteriorated, so in 2000 the class of 1970 spearheaded a movement to restore them. We are getting ready to paint this spring, but we need color photos of the squares. We want to contact class members from the years 1942 to 1945, 1971, and 1973 to 1988 because there are no clear-cut designs from those years. As a member of the class of 1970 and graphic artist for the project, I'd like to encourage anyone who wishes to help to visitwww.woodywoodward.com/squares, e-mail pigs@skylink.net, or call 702-260-7447 during the daytime.

Marjie (Willis) Holland
Las Vegas

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Roadside Attractions

The Desert Love Buggy, Tahoe snowmobiling, and Austin's gem art.

Car of the Stars

LAS VEGAS—The **Desert Love Buggy**, a yellow 1911 horseless carriage that once carried celebrities in Las Vegas parades, greets visitors to the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society through March.

The rustic Sears Model K was used to promote the 1939 film *Rulers of the Seas* and then began appearing in Helldorado parades, helping to project the town's Old West image. Over the years the Desert Love Buggy, owned by pioneer Las Vegas auto dealer James Cashman, carried such celebrities as radio stars George Burns and Gracie Allen. The car made its last Fremont Street cruise in 1994 before the downtown street was closed to auto traffic to make way for the Fremont Street Experience canopy.



The Desert Love Buggy, a 1911 horseless carriage, sits at the entrance of the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society in Las Vegas. The car was once a fixture in the Helldorado parade as a symbol of the Old West.

The Desert Love Buggy is on loan to the museum by the Tim Cashman family. With hickory wheel spokes and a two-cylinder, 14-horsepower engine, the Model K originally sold through the Sears catalog for $455 (about $9,000 today). The vehicle seated two and was touted as a "practical business car."

The Nevada State Museum and Historical Society is located in Lorenzi Park at 700 Twin Lakes Drive, three miles west of downtown. The museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Admission is $2 for adults, free for children under 18. Call 702-486-5205 for more information.—*Elizabeth Nielsen*

Spa of the Seasons



LAS VEGAS—Guests at the **Spa at the Four Seasons** find relaxation as exotic oils and Asian massage techniques are combined with European spa traditions such as Swedish massage. A $2.1-million expansion has tripled the size of the Strip hotel's original facility, providing space for 16 private treatment rooms, a relaxation area, and steam and locker rooms.

The spa offers more than two dozen treatments. The Royal Rub, a Javanese ritual that begins with a brisk scrub using a blend of rice, tumeric, and jasmine, is followed by a yogurt massage. The Four Seasons Four Layer Facial, a spa specialty, employs European seaweed and a mineral thermal mask. For guests who have spent the day golfing Bali Hai or hiking the Valley of Fire, the Balinese Foot Wash with volcanic clay exfoliation and massage will revitalize tired feet.

Nonhotel guests are welcome use to the spa, which is open daily from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. The Four Seasons is a luxury hotel inside the Mandalay Bay hotel tower on the Strip. For information on special packages and prices and to make reservations, call 702-632-5000. Visit www.fourseasons.com for further details.—*Joyce Hollister*

Snowmobiling at Tahoe



Snowmobile tours wind along the ridge tops above Lake Tahoe's south shore.

ZEPHYR COVE—The air is crispy cold, but riders are dressed for the weather, and the heated handgrips on the Ski-Doo snowmobiles keep their fingers warm. The **Zephyr Cove Snowmobile Center's** tour guides lead riders on trails as high as 9,000 feet above sea level overlooking Lake Tahoe's south shore. "It's absolutely spectacular up there, and we do three or four stops for photo opportunities," says Jeff Anderson, Zephyr Cove Resort's sales director.

The center offers its standard, two-hour tour daily through mid-April. Many of the 100 miles of trails are in heavily wooded areas where riders are protected from wind blasts. The center offers sunset and full-moon tours, and a cruise-and-ride package combines a snowmobile tour and two-hour cruise on the *M.S. Dixie II* paddlewheeler.

Riders 15 and older can operate a machine, while children six to 14 must ride with an adult. Rates are $89 for a single rider, $129 for two. Experienced snowmobilers can take a three-hour, off-trail tour for $179. A complete clothing package rents for $12, and the required helmet is provided.

Zephyr Cove, on U.S. 50 four miles north of Stateline, has lodging, a restaurant, campground, RV park, and marina. Call 775-589-4908 to make reservations or visit www.zephyrcove.com for more information.—*Joyce Hollister*

Photo: Nevada State Museum and Historical Society (left)



Kids and Canines

Adults, youngsters, and even the family dog can have fun at the Kirkwood Cross-Country Center, 35 miles south of Lake Tahoe. Children can learn to ski on the Kiddie Kilometer, and many other trails are beginner-friendly. Kids six and under ski free; the cost for ages seven to 12 is $6, adults $20. For $3 per animal, skiers can take their pets on two dog trails (above). Lessons are offered daily at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Call 209-258-7248 or visit www.kirkwood.com for details.

A Saddle Maker's Legacy

ELKO—A century-old saddle that won two major fairs' gold medals will be part of **"Everything for the Vaquero: The Legacy of G.S. Garcia,"** the featured exhibit in the Western Folklife Center Gallery at this year's National Cowboy Poetry Gathering. Opening January 20, the exhibit honors Guadalupe S. Garcia who, with the craftsmen he employed, produced high-quality cowboy gear in his Elko saddle shop from the late 1890s until the 1930s. The saddle—which won medals at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair and the 1905 Lewis and Clark Exposition in Portland, Oregon—will sit on its original display horse. Garcia decorated the saddle, bridle, and stirrups with gold and silver. He also adorned the pommel with the likenesses of President Theodore Roosevelt and Nevada Governors John Sparks and William Nye, carved out of $20 gold pieces.

Garcia arrived in Elko in 1894 from San Luis Obispo, California, where he learned his craft. "Garcia brought his Hispanic California vaquero tradition with him to Elko," says the exhibit's co-curator, Griff Durham, a Reno resident who has spent 50 years researching the history of Western cowboy gear. Garcia found a ready market in Elko, Durham says, because many of the area's stockmen and buckaroos hailed from California.

The exhibit's name is taken from Garcia's motto, "Everything for the Vaquero." The work of Garcia craftsmen is included in the show, which runs from January 20 to May 31 at the Western Folklife Center, 501 Railroad Street in Elko. The center is open 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. The National Cowboy Poetry Gathering takes place January 25 to February 1 in Elko (see "Nevada Events and Shows"). Call 775-738-7508 or visit www.westernfolklife.org.—*Joyce Hollister*



Guadalupe S. Garcia poses with his medal-winning saddle, which appears in a Western Folklife Center exhibit on Garcia.

Lake Outlets

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE—If you want a break from the slot machines, forgot your ski pants, or just want to shop, the 21 outlets at the **Factory Stores at the Y** is a good place to go.

Salomon, Hi-Tec, and the Great Outdoor Clothing Outlet stores are for adventurers, selling hiking boots, ski apparel, and winter sports equipment for adults, children, and even Fido. You can try Van Heusen, Izod, or Geoffrey Beene for business and casual attire or

Traveler's Advisories

Walker Lake Lunkers

Anglers can find another excuse—if they need one—to fish Walker Lake near Hawthorne. The **El Capitan Fishing Derby** holds two $50 drawings monthly for anglers who reel in trout weighing more than three pounds. The first fish to weigh more than 10 pounds earns $100, and the angler who catches the biggest fish each month wins $200. Call Steve Munger at the El Capitan in Hawthorne, 775-945-3321, for more information.

Battle Born Bicycle Shirts

Nevada's official **bicycle jersey** is now available from the Nevada Bicycle Advisory Board. Designed by Baron Lauderbaugh of the Nevada Department of Transportation, the jerseys feature the state shape in dark blue and the motto "Battle Born" backed by yellow sunrays streaming down on tan and green mountains. "Every state out West had a jersey. Now Nevada has its own Battle Born jersey," says board chairman Mark Kimbrough. "We didn't want to see Nevada get left out." The bike shirts come in adult sizes (they run large) and can be ordered through www.bicyclenevada.com and purchased at the Nevada Magazine Gift Shop, 401 North Carson Street, Carson City. Proceeds are used to promote bicycling and bike safety.



Bicycle Nevada Advisory Board chairman Mark Kimbrough (second from right) leads a group of jersey-clad riders above the east shore of Lake Tahoe.

Nevada Maps and Guides

Geological-tour guides of the Las Vegas and Reno areas and Nevada mining histories are just a few of the publications available at the **Nevada Bureau of Mines Publications Sales** shop. A colorful Lake Tahoe shaded-relief map comes with 3-D glasses that make the mountains jump up at the viewer. Topographical maps for hikers are sold new ($6) and used ($1). The shop is inside the Bureau of Mines building, next door to the Mackay School of Mines on the University of Nevada, Reno campus. Call 775-784-6691 ext. 2 or visit www.nbmg.unr.edu for details.

Photo: Northeastern Nevada Museum (bottom)



Assistant Frankie Coquillette holds a yard ornament at Home Again, one of the Factory Stores at the Y.

find sweats and T-shirts at Big Dog and Sierra Shirts. For leather and faux fur coats and hats, you can stop by Silk and Sable. For shoes and boots, Bass and Adidas have a large selection of footwear.

Romantic shoppers can choose silky lingerie or boxers at Sealed With a Kiss. The Fragrance Outlet sells scents for men and women, and special trinkets can be discovered at The Gold Store. If you're looking for gifts, you can try Home Again, where items range from candles to outdoor statuary. Treasures found at Oneida include crystal dishes, stemware, and kitchen utensils. For the unexpected gift, you can check out Tahoe Music or the Sunglass Hut and Watch Station. The Samsonite Company Store can help if you've purchased more than what will fit in your travel bag. And to fortify yourself after a long day of playing, you can swing by Vitamin World or the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory.

Shops are open daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Factory Stores at the Y are found at the intersection of U.S. 50 and California Route 89, five miles southwest of the Stateline casinos.—*Susan Elbe*

Gem Art in Austin

AUSTIN—At first glance, the building looks like its original incarnation, a late-1800s mine entrance. Tables of mining artifacts and ore samples on the sidewalk evoke images of rough-and-tumble bygone days.

If you step inside the **Little Bluebird Mine** you'll discover that owner Mitch Cantrell's shop is a showcase for his passions: collecting mining and cowboy paraphernalia and late-1800s bottles. Cantrell, himself a miner, sells Nevada turquoise and rare local sulfide ore containing silver and gold—which are elements in the

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Photo: Susan Elbe

jewelry he also creates. He has a large collection of Indian artifacts and tools.

History buffs and rock hounds can put Cantrell's 35 years of mining experience to work. He says, "We have great knowledge of the local area and can provide guided trips to ghost towns or gemstone and mineral deposits."

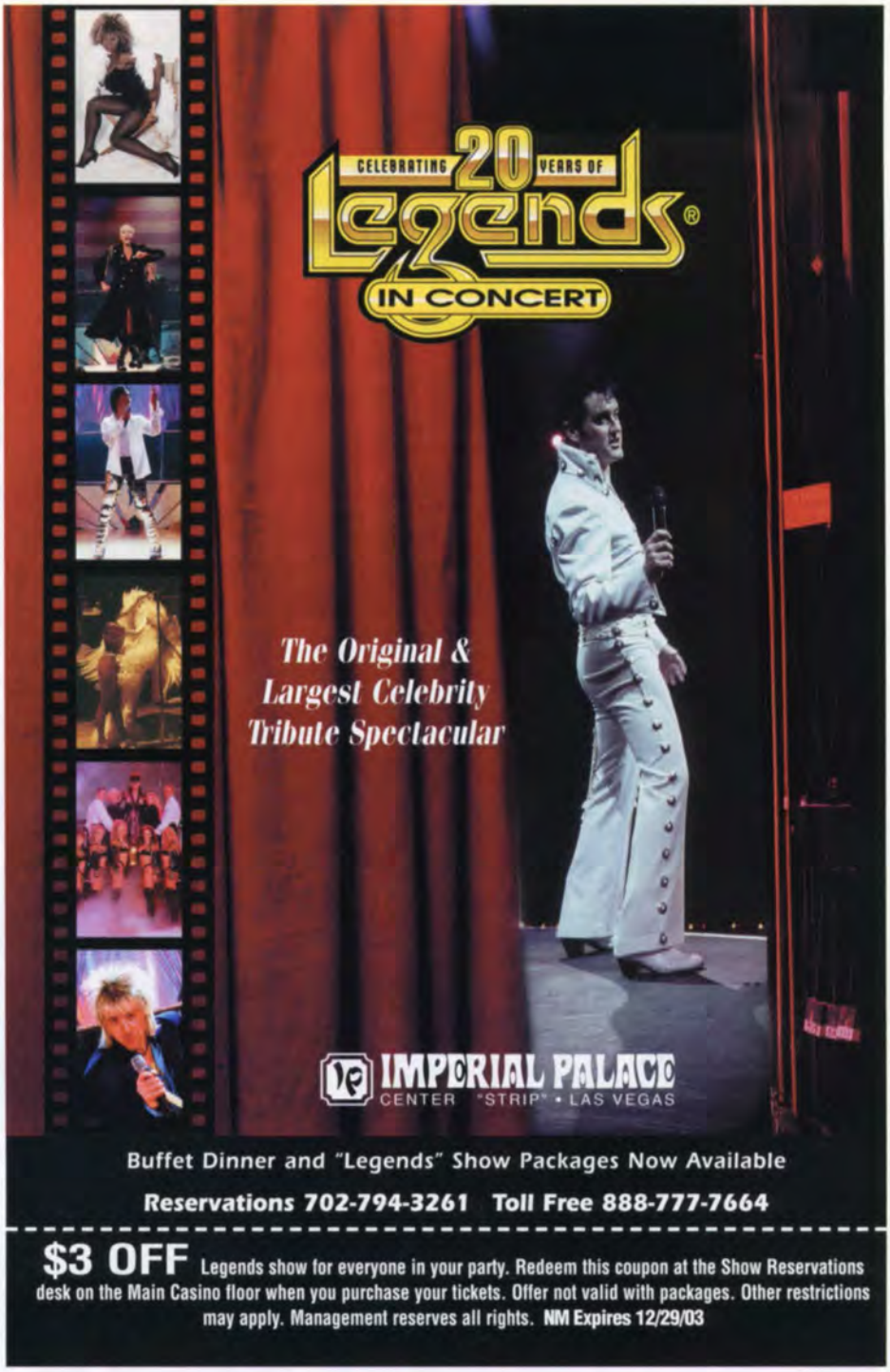
The building is also home to **Jason's Art Gallery**, where the art is in the jewelry. A trophy elk and other big-game mounts gaze down on necklaces, rings, earrings, and bracelets made of Nevada turquoise, lapis lazuli, malachite, Russian chariote, and Nevada opal. You can the credit owners, father and son Duane and Jason Cooley, for the wildlife décor and expertly cut stones. "We're the only ones locally who do our own stonework," says Jason's wife, Megan Cooley. Silver jewelry and gifts range in price from $5 to $1,500, and custom silversmith, goldsmith, and lapidary work can be ordered. Duane's mother, Betty Sandoval, runs the register.



Jason (left), Duane, and Megan Cooley are the proprietors of Jason's Art Gallery inside the Little Bluebird Mine shop in Austin. They are flanked by mining artifacts and ore samples.

The Little Bluebird Mine and Jason's Art Gallery, 45 Main Street on the west end of Austin, are open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Call 775-964-1346 for information on the two shops.—*Paula Riley*

Photo: Paula Riley





A Las Vegas Legacy

By Joan Patterson

From the **Moulin Rouge** to **Martin Luther King Jr.,** **Bob and Anna Bailey** left their mark on Nevada entertainment and civil rights.



Photos: Bailey Family Collection

When Anna Bailey took that first drive to the Moulin Rouge back in 1955, she knew the next chapter in her life was going to be memorable. The drive encompassed a roller-coaster ride of flat desert highway, the incredible lights of the Strip, and finally a detour over railroad tracks into what seemed like the end of the world.

"I just kept saying to myself, 'Where are we going?'"

Anna, a dancer from the East Coast, and her husband, Bob, a singer and emcee, had been hired to work at the newly opened Las Vegas casino. The Moulin Rouge closed after only six months, but the Baileys decided to settle in the strange little desert town and unwittingly began an extraordinary legacy.

Anna had grown up in Brooklyn, Bob in Cleveland. The two met while Bob was touring with the Count Basie Orchestra and Anna was dancing in clubs such as the Zanzibar and the Apollo in New York and others around the country. They were married in New York in 1951 and continued touring until the opening of the Moulin Rouge. Anna recalls how other performers, including Bob's second cousin, singer Pearl Bailey, "kept telling us about Las Vegas, that that's where it's going to be happening."

Pearl Bailey "kept telling us about Las Vegas, that that's where it's going to be happening."

What the Baileys didn't realize was that they also would be making history in Las Vegas. While the Strip casinos did not allow patronage by African-Americans, the Moulin Rouge was open to everyone. Word quickly spread that the French-themed casino—nestled in a segregated area of town, with its murals of can-can girls and rich, Burgundy-colored décor—was the place to congregate. It was a marriage between entertainment by the likes of Dinah Washington and Lionel Hampton and the sophistication of a New York nightclub.



Anna and Bob Bailey cut their wedding cake in 1951.

"It looked like a rainbow instead of one color out there," Bob explains. "You didn't know who you'd see out there in the crowd—Harry Belafonte, Sinatra, Cary Grant, Edward G. Robinson. It was the top spot in Las Vegas for the elite of Hollywood and the East Coast."

The glamour was short-lived, however.



Lionel Hampton meets Anna Bailey (far left) and other dancers backstage at the Moulin Rouge (left). Below, Pearl Bailey, Bob's cousin, appears at the Flamingo in 1958. Anna Bailey is the dancer at far left.







The Las Vegas Socialites meet in 1956 (above). Anna Bailey stands fourth from right among friends like Mickie McMillan, second from right. At top right, Bob Bailey chats with jazz singer Joe Williams (left), a fellow Las Vegan. At right, Sammy Davis Jr. deals blackjack to an enthusiastic crowd at the Cove Hotel.

The Baileys say the Moulin Rouge's closure was due to either financial failure or pressure from the Strip hotels that felt threatened by its popularity. Whatever the reason, the couple understood they were part of something that was breaking new ground.

"The shows were just terrific. We did the can-can, we did splits and flips and hurling each other over our backs," Anna says. "And it was a beautiful hotel. The service was the best in town. You didn't even have to reach for a napkin or cigarette."

The Baileys' connections in the entertainment world would transform their Vegas residence into a home-away-from-home for some of the world's best entertainers. It was common to see performers such as Lola Falana, Joe Williams, Redd Foxx, or B.B. King at their house, dancing, singing, or simply stopping by for some of Anna's sweet-potato pie. The Baileys remember Sammy Davis Jr., a close family friend, sitting in their living room in front of a roaring fire one night, listening to good music, and finally deciding to call the Sands and cancel his show. "He just didn't want to leave," Anna says.

Bob recalls the time he and Nat King Cole were escorted out of the Sands by two security guards.

Their daughter, Kimberly Bailey-Tureaud, fondly remembers those visits and understands that her family was fortunate enough to witness an important part of Las Vegas' entertainment history.

"Vegas was a different place. What I try to hold onto is the confidence and the endurance [of the black performers]. They were able to get into a room and entertain with love. That's what Vegas was built on," she says. The visits "are still like a daily thing in their house," she adds, almost chuckling. "I was at their house the other day and [choreographer] Cholly Atkins and B.B. King were there."

Last year, Bailey-Tureaud created a calendar with some of her parents' personal photographs featuring black Vegas entertainers from the 1950s and '60s. This year, she has a new calendar, the *Historic Black Entertainment Calendar 2003*, which features performers such as Ella Fitzgerald and Pearl Bailey working in venues around the country (see page 88).

Although Bailey-Tureaud says she has "crates of photos and could be doing calendars forever," her parents involvement in Las Vegas, and Nevada, has extended well beyond the realm of entertainment. After the Moulin Rouge closed, Anna worked at some of the Strip hotels and became the first black showroom dancer hired by casinos such as the Flamingo. In the meantime, Bob was making inroads of his own.

While the Moulin Rouge was still open, he was hired to produce and cohost a variety show for the hotel on KLAS-TV. The show, called *Talk of the Town*, included guest appearances by celebrities touted on the casino marquees. Even after the hotel closed, station owner Hank Greenspun, publisher of the *Las Vegas Sun*, extended the program, and it ran for about two years.

Bob continued to work as a newscaster, weatherman, and host of variety and movie shows for more than a decade, a rarity for a black man at that time. In the mid-1960s the Baileys also opened a nightclub called Sugar Hill. Johnny Carson, Tony Bennett, and Billy Eckstine were among the celebrities who enjoyed jazz and blues at the off-Strip club. And it all happened in Las Vegas, which was anything but colorblind

Photos: Bailey Family Collection

in those days. "Ironically, I had tried to get a television show all over the country, wherever I would tour, and it happened in Las Vegas," says Bob, who had studied at the School of Radio and Television in New York City.

In the 1950s and early '60s, Las Vegas was known as the "Mississippi of the West." Blacks had to live in one area of town, the west side, and were relegated to jobs as maids and porters at the hotels, Bob notes. Some of the biggest names in show business were not allowed to eat or sleep in the hotels where they performed.

Bob remembers the time he walked into the Sands with Nat King Cole. They were on their way to see a fellow performer in the showroom, and the next thing they knew, they were being escorted out of the building by two security guards.

"The biggest players at that time were from Texas, Louisiana, from the South, and they brought their mores with them. So the hotel owners were not interested in changing those social mores but were interested in the bottom line," Bob says.

Bob was seen as a leader in the black community, and in 1961 Governor Grant Sawyer appointed him chairman of a new committee investigating discrimination in the state. Hearings took place throughout Nevada, and it was during this time Bob learned how far the inequities reached.

"We would go to Carson City, and there was no place [for blacks] to eat. Hotels wouldn't allow you to have a room," he explains. "We would change in the restrooms in the Capitol building, and we would have to get box lunches from a church in Reno."

The commission's work, however, led to the end of discriminatory hiring practices and the passage of equal rights legislation. Later, Bob, who attended Morehouse College in Atlanta in the late 1940s, encouraged one of his college mates to pay a visit to Las Vegas. As a result, Martin Luther King Jr. made a landmark trip to the city in 1964.

Bob's work continued with programs aimed at job training and encouraging the growth of minority-owned businesses. In 1990, President George Bush appointed Bob deputy director of the Minority Business Development Agency in the Department of Commerce. Bob remains heavily involved in the community, running New Ventures, Inc., which assists small businesses, and holding positions with a hospital board, the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, and a scholarship fund. The Baileys' daughter, Kimberly, and her husband, Charles Tureaud, operate an advertising and public relations firm in Las Vegas and work with minority-owned businesses. Son John Bailey is a Las Vegas attorney and member of the Nevada Athletic Commission. In Bob and Anna Bailey's home there are more than 200 awards from various organizations for their work during the past 40 years.

The Baileys are both 75. They play with their grandchildren, go on cruises, and retain a graciousness that makes it easy to see why folks flocked to their house all those years. Bob has that glint in his eyes and a cunning, almost boyish grin. Anna looks years younger than her age.

One can imagine the couple in their younger days, taking Sarah Vaughan for a ride through Red Rock Canyon, convincing Martin Luther King Jr. to visit, and helping to transform Las Vegas. Bob says, "You address the conditions that control your lifestyle, and if they're not in concert with what you grew up to believe in, you do something about it."

Joan Patterson is a Las Vegas writer. Kimberly Bailey-Tureaud notes that the photographs accompanying this article are available for exhibition during February, Black History Month; call 702-615-8216 for information.



Martin Luther King Jr. greets college friend Bob Bailey (sitting to King's left), Anna Bailey (standing far right), and others at the Flamingo in 1964.

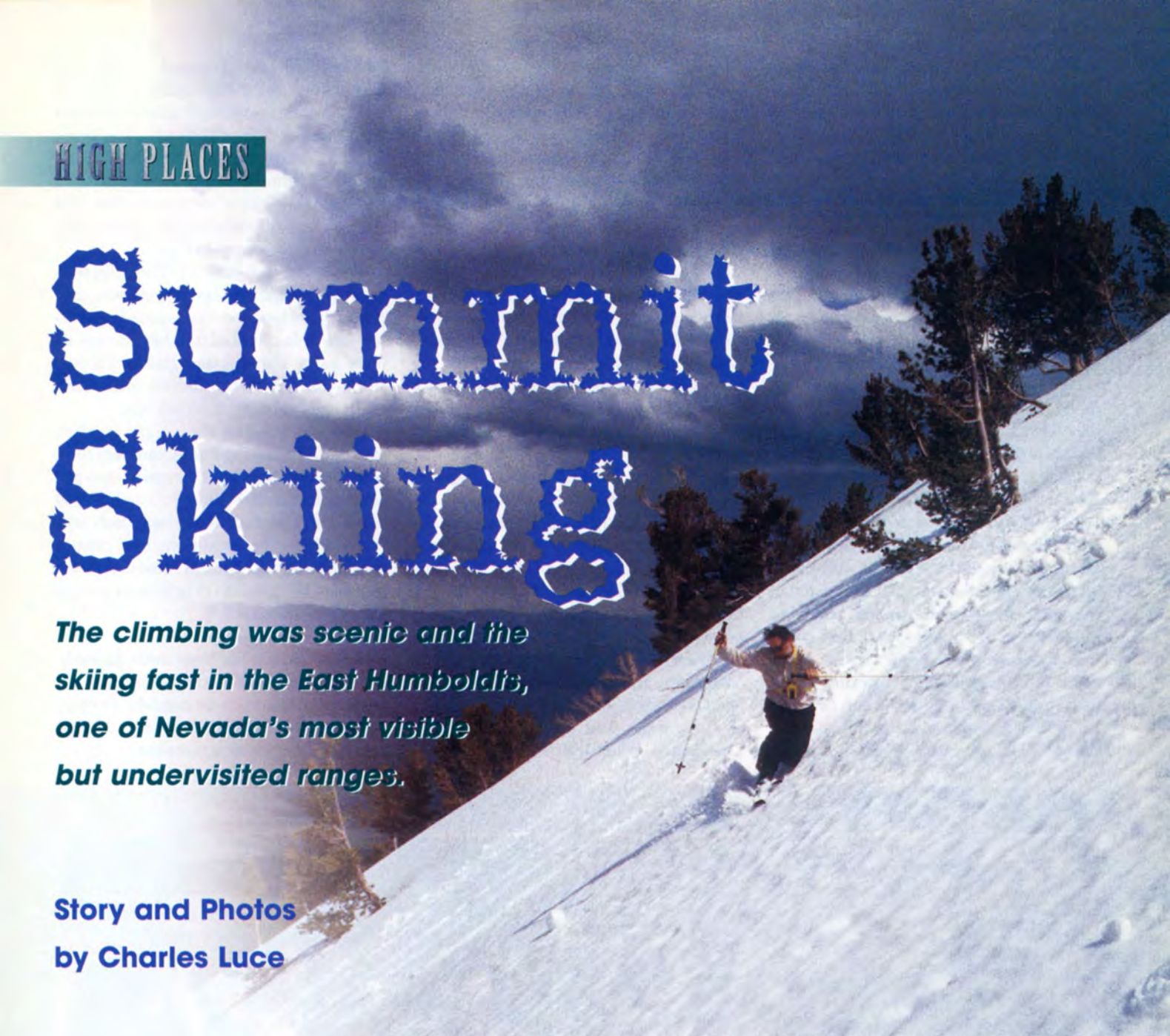


Anna and Bob Bailey pose at the 1998 wedding of their daughter, Kimberly, and Charles Tureaud in Red Rock Canyon.

Summit Skiing

The climbing was scenic and the skiing fast in the East Humboldts, one of Nevada's most visible but undervisited ranges.

Story and Photos by Charles Luce



The ski mountaineers carved uncut snow on a cirque south of Angel Lake. Above: Paul makes his descent.

Westbound on Interstate 80 a semi blasted past, its tires slinging a haze of gritty roadwash. I gripped the wheel, cursing under my breath. How had Paul, now sleeping, known that the weather would go bad just *after* he handed me the keys? I tried to focus on the wet highway.

Suddenly we rounded a curve, and a spectacular landscape appeared: stacks of lenticular clouds, a turquoise sky, and a jagged range of white peaks. I slammed on the brakes, tipping Paul's orange juice in his lap. He awoke with a jerk. "Whaaat?" he said groggily.

All I could do was point. There. Right in front of us. The peaks of the East Humboldt Range. Plastered with snow. Just waiting for our skis.

Our annual Nevada ski trip was unfolding better than we could have planned. The East Humboldt Range not only had 150 percent of its usual winter accumulation, but a new foot of snow had fallen in the past 24 hours. Paul jumped out of the car, wiped orange juice from his lap, and stared at the snowy peaks. "Cool!" we both exclaimed.

"Cold" might have been more like it. By the time we'd driven through Wells and ascended Angel Lake Road (State Route 231) to its Forest Service barricade, the temperature had dropped below freezing. Snowflakes swirled around our heads, and the peaks looked menacingly corniced. This wasn't supposed to be happening—it was spring—but we were winter lovers, and the East Humboldts, one of Nevada's most visible but undervisited ranges, was keeping the season alive.

Retiring to a comfortable motel in Wells, we planned our expedition: Hang out until the new snow stabilized, eat spicy food, go fishing, eat ice cream. This was a vacation, after all.

Three days later we hoisted heavy packs onto our bulging bodies at the U.S. Forest Service's Winchell Lake trailhead off the Angel Lake Road. By then we had a clear and safe ascent plan as well as an en-

We scrambled over to the cirque edge, where we gulped in unison. Boy, that headwall was steep!

ticing route picked for the ski back down.

First came a mile of the Winchell Lake Trail. When we got to the snow-filled valley of Schoer Creek, we donned skis and climbing skins, which would allow us to step uphill without sliding. Then we continued our ascent, aiming for the biggest cornice-free cirque we'd scoped along the eastern escarpment. A thousand vertical feet later we reached a flat, tree-clad moraine. Campsite.

After a calm, cool night and a brilliant, in-the-face sunrise we headed for the top. Our goal was an unnamed summit listed as 10,756 feet on the topo. It was a scenic ascent, with Clover Valley and the Pequop Mountains spread out behind us, Gray's Peak to the right, and our ski prize, the cornice-less cirque, looming nearby.

We panted and slogged in the thin air. Hours passed. Then, quite suddenly, we were on the wind-scoured summit. "Lunch!" I immediately gasped and dug for the ham and cheese. Smiling wickedly, Paul produced a bottle of horseradish mustard. "Told you I'd carry it!" he said.

We sat on a flat rock to chew and enjoy the view. The East Humboldt ridge line was spectacular. Below us, basins and ranges repeated endlessly. Fertile valleys glimmered, and nearby peaks draped the sky. But it was hard to concentrate on the splendor—the yawning cirque commanded all our attention. Every time we glanced northeastward, there it was, like a dream—steep, open, untracked, waiting.

As soon as we ate, we scrambled over to the cirque edge, where we gulped in unison. Boy, that headwall was steep!

But we'd done our homework. The avalanche danger was nil, our beacons were on, and we'd plotted escape points. "Ready, dude?" Paul asked. My gaze lingered on the uncut snow. If I muffed this descent, we could always climb back tomorrow. I planted a pole and launched.

My skis dug through a mashed-potatoes upper layer and then bit into soft corn. The first turn was exquisite—controlled, sweet, swift. I carved another, and another. Then came Paul, crossing my tracks into figure-eights. He passed me, I passed him, downward we spun. Such a long way, gone so fast! Three hours up, half an hour down.

At the campsite we stared back at our tracks. Do it again?

I shook my head. "There's a root-beer float in Wells with my name on it."

We were there before dark.

Charles Luce of Hoboken, New Jersey, is a college photography instructor and frequent Nevada traveler.



The author (left) and Paul Rehm stand near Wells, their target peak in the left background.



Paul tracks upward.

Making the Trip

Backcountry skiers should note that there is avalanche danger on the Winchell Lake route and many others in the East Humboldts. No one should attempt them without adequate training and equipment. Contact the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest office in Wells, 775-752-3357 for snow and road conditions, including closures of State Route 231. For more U.S. Forest Service information on the area visit www.fs.fed.us.htnf.

Campgrounds at Angel Lake and Angel Creek won't be open in winter, but motels abound in Wells. Located on Interstate 80, Wells (pop.: 1,500) is 50 miles east of Elko and 59 miles west of Wendover. Contact the Wells Chamber of Commerce, 395 Sixth Street, Box 615, Wells, NV 89835, 775-752-3540, or www.californiatrailinterpretivecenter.com for details on lodging, dining, the Trail of the 49ers Interpretive Center, and the Front Street Historic District. A good bet for food: Dee's on U.S. 93 at the four-way stop. Unbelievable hot sauce!—*Charles Luce*



Downtown Classic



Las Vegas' Golden Gate evokes Old San Francisco with its 99-cent "Original."

By Jim Foglio

When I told my mother during our recent Las Vegas vacation that I was heading downtown to the Golden Gate, she responded, "I've never heard of that one. Does it have a water park or a roller coaster?" I assured her, "No, it has the shrimp cocktail."

"Oh, yes," she said. "I know *that* little place."

"That little place" on the corner of Fremont and Main serves a Las Vegas keepsake you can eat, a tasty shellfish concoction that perennially has been voted "Best of Las Vegas" in area publications. So, driven by a combination of hunger and nostalgia, I set out to partake of the Golden Gate shrimp cocktail tradition.

As I peered through the Golden Gate's cut-glass windows, I imagined old-time San Francisco meeting old-time Las Vegas. Inside, I strolled through the casino and past the Bay City Diner, which appeared to capture the look of 1930s San Francisco.

My destination was the Shrimp Bar and Deli, which reflects the early days of Las Vegas, when the hotel was built. Pianists play jazz on the baby grand, encouraging requests and occasionally offering karaoke. The walls are lined with historical photos of San Francisco, secure in rich cherry frames. The mahogany doors resemble those of a Western saloon. You won't hear the ringing of slots—they're in a separate area.

Dating to 1906, a year after Las Vegas was founded as a railroad division point, the Golden Gate is the city's oldest hotel. Originally the Hotel Nevada, it became the Sal Sagev (Las Vegas spelled backwards) in 1931. The hotel was renamed the Golden Gate when a group of first-generation Italians from San Francisco—home of the Golden Gate Bridge—opened the casino in 1955. Four years later the hotel sold its first shrimp cocktail, today known as "the Original," for 50 cents.

"It's probably the sauce. It still amazes me when I see people from all over the world stand in line for it."

Present owner Mark Brandenburg's stepfather, Italo Ghelfi, was one of the Golden Gate's partners. Brandenburg and his brother Craig Ghelfi bought the hotel in the late 1980s.

"We are small," Brandenburg admitted, "but we've served nearly two tons of high-quality shrimp each week since 1959." The

Photos: Chris Leedham



Golden Gate owner Mark Brandenburg (right) says the Original's sauce recipe will remain a secret.

"Rather than building a billion-dollar resort and trying to contend with the Strip, we chose to remain who we are. The cocktail is part of our identity."

Golden Gate and the Original stand firm against the competition. He said, "Rather than building a billion-dollar resort and trying to contend with the Strip, we chose to remain who we are. The shrimp cocktail is part of our identity."

What is it about this particular shrimp cocktail that keeps people coming back? The 99-cent price doesn't hurt. Also, the Golden Gate declines to use fillers, like lettuce, or replace the tulip-shaped glasses with plastic cups.

Ultimately Brandenburg talked about flavor. "It's probably the sauce. It still amazes me when I see people from all over the world stand in line for it." While the recipe remains undisclosed, Brandenburg revealed the chef uses a touch of horseradish in the sauce of the shrimp cocktail. "You should try one," he challenged me.

With the piano player fingering Louis Armstrong's "There Must Be a Way" at the ebony baby grand to my right, I surveyed my first Original. The shrimp looked as if they had been pumped with creatine. They were rotund and bursting. The sauce resembled a strawberry-red, medium salsa laced lightly with horseradish. It had an extra kick to it, unlike anything I'd ever tasted. But the sauce was more than simply hot. It had a clean, homemade flavor that suggested whoever made it took care in crafting each drop. Yet, like a good steak, the cocktail actually did not need sauce—the shrimp were that good. Even now, each time I go back and reread this paragraph, I have an overpowering desire to consume three more Originals.

Before I left the Golden Gate, taste buds still ablaze, Brandenburg recalled a remark similar to one I had heard earlier that day. "In 1990 I met up with a friend I hadn't seen in years," he said. "He asked what I was doing with my life. When I explained I had bought an interest in the Golden Gate, which was just around the corner from where he worked, he admitted the name didn't ring a bell."

Brandenburg smiled. "But when I mentioned the shrimp cocktail, he said, 'Oh, the shrimp cocktail place!'"

Jim Foglio, a freelance writer based in Albany, New York, holds a master's degree in history and is pursuing a second MA in education.

More Casino Food Bargains

By Deke Castleman

The 99-cent shrimp cocktail at the **Golden Gate** (702-383-1906) is one of the best rock-bottom food bargains in Las Vegas, but it's by no means the only one. Here are some other great food deals in Bargain City—and beyond.

Steak and prime-rib specials abound, but Las Vegas' current best complete steak dinner is found at **Ellis Island Casino** (702-733-8901), on Koval behind Bally's. The steak is a 10-ounce top sirloin, "filet-cut" thick. It comes with rolls, soup or salad, baked potato, and garlic toast. A $20 dinner in any other big city, it's only $4.95 here. The steak special is not on the menu—you have to ask for it—but it's available 24 hours every day.

Hamburgers are frequent loss leaders in casino coffee shops, but the one served at **Wild Wild West** (702-740-0000) on West Tropicana sets a standard for burger bargains. It's an eight-ounce patty, grilled to perfection, accompanied by a big pile of French fries. It, too, is served 24 hours (for those who like a burger for breakfast) and priced at a giveaway $1.99.

The Ports O' Call Buffet at the **Gold Coast** (702-367-7111) takes top honors among the three dozen buffets in the Buffet Capital of the Known Universe. The Ports O' Call boasts American, barbecue, Chinese, Italian, Mexican, seafood, and Mongolian-grill serving stations. The prices are among the lowest in town: $4.45 for breakfast, $6.45 for lunch, and $8.95 for dinner and Sunday brunch. Sunday steak night is a mere $9.95.

The best happy hour for both drinks and appetizers is found at **Key Largo** (702-733-7777) on East Flamingo. Available 24 hours, it's more like happy days: draft beers are 50 cents, well drinks 75 cents, and strong eight-ounce margaritas 99 cents. Quesadillas, nachos, and onion rings cost a mere $2 to $2.50.

In Reno, the **Peppermill's** coffee shop (775-826-2121) offers $4.95 "comfort-food" specials 24 hours a day on weekdays: spaghetti and meat sauce, chicken pot pie, fried chicken, hot roast beef, chili burger, and the like. All come with soup or salad.

For at least a decade **Cactus Petes** (775-755-2321) in Jackpot has maintained one of the grandest meal deals in the state: "Wild Wednesdays." You need to show a Plateau Player's Club card (free to join), but all meals from 5 to 11 on Wednesday nights, from the snack bar to the dinner show, are two-for-one. This tradition is so popular that hungry patrons come from miles around. Call early for reservations.

Deke Castleman is senior editor of the Las Vegas Advisor.

Making Marry

You can wed in Nevada at a drive-thru window, next to the state line, or on the plank of a pirate ship.

By Ken Van Vechten



The maid of honor was a chipmunk, the best man a bat. Not to be outdone, the bride and groom appeared as a rabbit and monkey, respectively, and were wed astride Italian motor scooters.

Obviously Queen Victoria never envisioned modern love in Glitter Gulch when she gloomed, "A marriage is no amusement but a solemn act, and generally a sad one."

"They all are here to have a good time," counters Joni Moss, manager of A Special Memory Wedding Chapel, a white, gabled structure near downtown Las Vegas that would sit well in Salem, Massachusetts. Moss sees love and nuptial customs in a slightly different light than the dour monarch might have. The chapel performs 5,000 weddings each year, but one in five newlywed-couples-to-be don't exchange vows inside. They drive up to an outdoor portico, peruse the menu, and get married in the same manner they might order a burger and fries at a fast-food eatery.

Welcome to the wacky world of Nevada weddings. In a state where the quickie divorce was pioneered, marriage rules to the tune of more than 150,000 ceremonies annually.

The drive-thru is the wedding of choice for thousands of Nevada-bound lovebirds who like the speed, cost (as low as $25), and storytelling quality of tying the knot in this truly American way. Whether you look the part of woodland creatures or a traditionally groomed couple, you are legally married after the Reverend Duane, Tim, or Van has extracted two "I dos" to the strains of Pachelbel's wedding processional on the boom box.

Moss has seen it all through the window: cowboys

Photo: Peter Spain/peterspain.com







Sea Doo rider Christina (left) and Todd Watson were married on the beach at the Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe. Jennifer Martin and Benjamin Jahrsdoerfer of Oregon preferred a wildlife motif when they married at A Special Memory Wedding Chapel's drive-thru window (top right). Justina Waghorn and Antony Williams of London (right) rode the Big Shot following their wedding atop the Stratosphere Tower last summer.

and cowgirls on a flatbed, vacationing RVers, clowns pouring out of a VW Beetle, and, shock of shocks, brides in white.

Twenty-something Oregonians Jennifer Martin and Benjamin Jahrsdoerfer, the bunny and primate, were in town for a scooter rally when they decided to have the wedding they had been contemplating. Martin says scooter aficionados make a practice of taking costumes to rallies, but tradition inspired her groom's choice of formal wear.

"What do men usually get married in?" the bride asks. "Monkey suits."

The drive-thru craze is credited to Charolette Richards, the force behind A Little White Chapel, one of a handful of Las Vegas chapels that offer similar services. Richards has been uniting couples at her Strip weddingopolis for four decades. She recalls observing that patrons occasionally had difficulty getting from their cars to the altar, owing to physical challenges. In 1991 she asked her contractor (and son, Ron Richards) to install a drive-up chapel window, the first in Las Vegas. The window has since morphed into the canopied Tunnel of Vows.

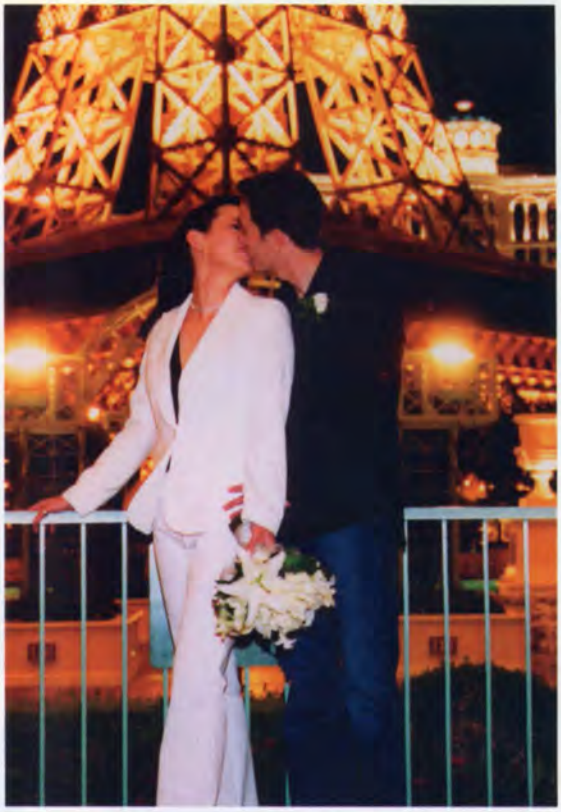
"It's turned out to be such fun," Richards reflects. "What I was taking seriously as a way to help people and God just turned out wonderful."

Welcome to the wacky world of Nevada weddings. In a state where the quickie divorce was pioneered, marriage rules to the tune of more than 150,000 ceremonies annually. That's a ton of lace, black patent leather, rose petals, and joyous sobs to go with all the neon.

The particulars are easy: Prove your age and tell 'em you're not presently married nor too closely related to your pending spouse.



Julie Park and Woody Rothermund turned their attention to the Elvis-a-Rama Museum, where they picked out Elvis frames for their wedding pictures.



Ron Decar officiated as Elvis at Viva Las Vegas Wedding Chapel (left), where Ohioans Julie Park and Woody Rothermund said "I do. Britishers Caroline Mottram and Andrew Cox (right) kissed following their wedding ceremony on the Eiffel Tower at Paris Las Vegas.

The fun part is choosing the method for your madness. Whether floating over the Carson Valley in a hot-air balloon or buzzing the Strip in a helicopter, the sky is literally the limit when it comes to marriage Nevada-style.

Justina Waghorn and Antony Williams decided to push those upper limits when they tied the knot recently on the Big Shot at the Stratosphere Tower in Las Vegas. The young Londoners—she's 29, he's 30—wanted a wedding that was "fun, interesting, different, and not too cheesy," Williams says.

For the uninitiated, the Big Shot is a thrill ride perched on top of the 1,149-foot tower. You are strapped in with a bunch of other folks you should take a moment to meet since that's the proper thing to do when facing, as a group, certain doom. The pre-ride check over, you are launched 160 feet into the air—as if starting atop the highest structure in the Western U.S. isn't enough—and experience the alternating rushes of four times the pull of gravity and seeming weightlessness over the course of a few seconds. Fun. Interesting. Different. Definitely not cheesy.

And let's not forget brief. The exchange of vows proceeded thusly:

Minister: "Will ya?"

Bride: "Yep."

Minister: "Will ya?"

Groom: "Yep."

Minister: "You are now husband and wife."

Launch Big Shot, *sans* minister.

It was just what the couple ordered. "We've always known if we were going to get married, it wouldn't be back home," Williams says. "Where? The Far East? The Caribbean? We wanted something really memorable for us. It was our day. Vegas gave us the opportunity to have that." Adds Waghorn, who doubtless wins the valor award because of her fear of heights, "It was definitely memorable. We aren't traditional. It is what we wanted. Really."

"I promise you, we are very normal people," her husband says with a chuckle.

(Continued on page 84)

Saying "*I Do*"

Following is contact information on the aerial weddings, drive-through nuptials, and other Nevada wedding attractions that are mentioned in the feature "Making Marry."

A Little White Chapel, 1301 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Las Vegas, 800-545-8111, www.alittlewhitechapel.com. Holds Internet-broadcast weddings and drive-thru services.

A Special Memory Wedding Chapel, 800 South Fourth Street, Las Vegas, 702-384-2211, www.aspecialmemory.com. This New England-style chapel has drive-thru services.

Cal-Neva Resort, Crystal Bay, Lake Tahoe, 800-225-6382 ext. 2122, www.calnevaresort.com. Couples can be married on either side of the Nevada-California line.

Paris Las Vegas, wedding chapel 877-650-5021, www.parislasvegas.com. Wedding ceremonies can be held at the top of the Eiffel Tower.

Sierra Adventures, Reno, 866-323-8928, www.wildsierra.com. Wedding packages include sky diving, soaring, hot-air ballooning, and a Mount Peavine expedition; works with Wildflower Village, 775-747-8848.

Stratosphere, Las Vegas, wedding chapel 800-789-9436, www.stratospherehotel.com. After a wedding in the chapel you can ride the Big Shot.

Treasure Island, Las Vegas, wedding chapel 800-866-4748, www.treasureisland.com. Pirate ship and wedding chapel nuptials available.

Viva Las Vegas Wedding Chapel, 1205 Las Vegas Boulevard South, 800-574-4450, www.vivalasvegasweddings.com. Themes include the Elvis-Blue Hawaii package.

Weddings on the Web

Be sure to visit the *Nevada Magazine* Web site, **www.nevadamagazine.com**, for a statewide sampling of wedding sites and information about obtaining a Nevada marriage license. St. Valentine's Day is the busiest marrying day of the year for Nevada wedding chapels. Most chapels provide a range of packages, offering flowers, photos, music, and video.

NEVADA
Events & Shows

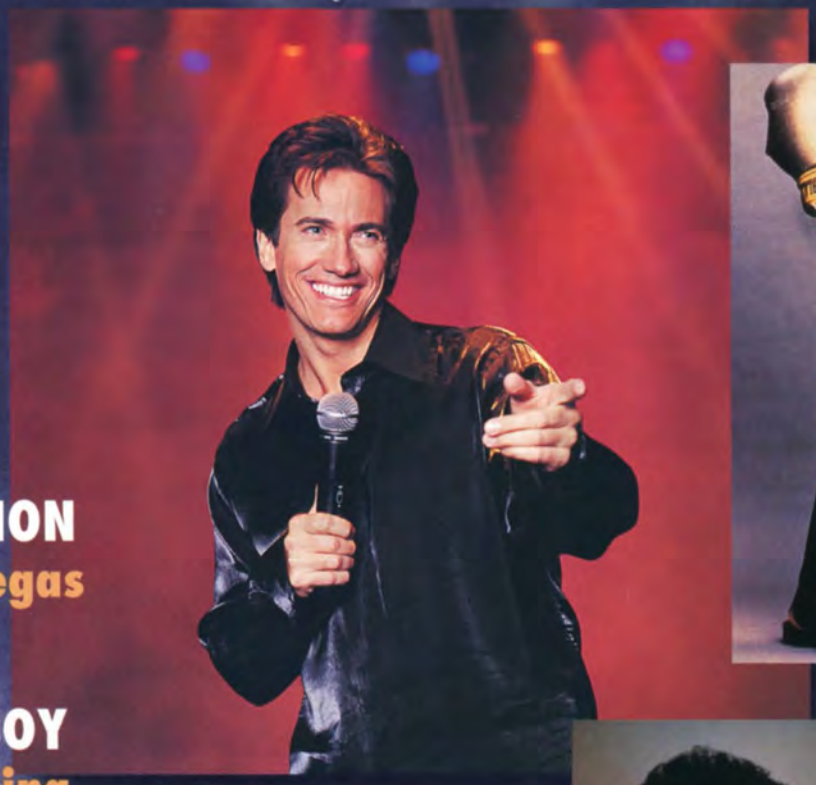
Nevada Magazine's Guide to Entertainment and Attractions in the Silver State

January/February 2003

The Critics' Choice

10 entertainment writers pick their 30 favorite Nevada stars and shows for 2003







CASINO VACATION DEALS in Las Vegas and Reno

National COWBOY POETRY Gathering in Elko

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The critics' favorites include (clockwise from top left) showroom stars Carrot Top, Gordie Brown, Rita Rudner, Johnny Mathis, and David Copperfield.

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The Critics' Choice

Entertainment writers reveal their 30 favorite Nevada headliners and shows for 2003.

By Ann Henderson







When my aunts Arlena and Betty came to visit from Utah last summer, they brought their golf clubs and the urge to go to a couple of shows. "Now that we're in Las Vegas, what should we see?" they asked me.

Arlena said she didn't want "anything too loud" and wondered if that "cutie," **Wayne Newton**, was still playing at the Stardust. They said they preferred moderate prices and early-evening shows. As their niece the entertainment critic, I pondered their criteria, and after extensive research and consultations we developed a plan. We went to the Golden Nugget to take in the comedy antics of the **Society of Seven** (now at the Aladdin), which they loved. Then we went to the Stardust to see Wayne, who was every bit the star they remembered. The prices were right, and the shows were great. Of Newton, Betty said approvingly, "He's still good-looking." My aunts drove home by way of Elko with their batteries charged.

Like Arlena and Betty, many of us appreciate good advice on what shows to see, whether we're in Las Vegas, Laughlin, Reno, Lake Tahoe, or other locales. After all, the entertainment choices in Nevada showrooms are so numerous they can seem daunting.

So when seeking an overview of Nevada's top entertainment choices for 2003, I took a page from my aunts. I asked the critics—nine of them, to be exact, all Nevada entertainment writers and reviewers who collectively have seen hundreds of shows, good



Most Las Vegas critics flip for "O," the Cirque du Soleil show playing at the Bellagio (above), and "Blue Man Group: Live at Luxor" (top). Paul Anka (top left), Johnny Mathis, and Ray Charles earn kudos for using orchestras.

"Simply put, 'Blue Man Group' is odd, eccentric, very clever, and very entertaining," Robin Leach says.





The critics like magician Mac King's show at Harrah's Las Vegas (right). Also popular are the family-minded Scintas—Frank, Chrissi, and Joe Scinta and Peter O'Donnell—at the Rio (far right). Opposite page: The cast of "Second City" at the Flamingo has included Sarah Gee, Seamus McCarthy, and Jason Sudeikis (top). Rising star Clint Holmes sings at Harrah's Las Vegas, and David Copperfield hangs out in various showrooms.

and bad. The group includes *Nevada Magazine* contributors Mike Weatherford, Kathy Espin, Kim Pryor, Jackie Brett, and Gaye Delaplane as well as show-biz-critiquing veterans Mel Shields, Dave Preston, Monti Rock III, and Robin Leach.

All shared their favorite shows, top performers, and tips on good entertainment values, although the probative process varied from critic to critic.

"When I review a show, I look at audience reactions," says Mel Shields, Reno columnist for the *Sacramento Bee*. "I started with *Variety* in 1974, and an editor told me that if I didn't like the show but the audience is standing and screaming, then I was wrong."

Personally, Shields favors performers who appear with orchestras rather than synthesizers. His top picks: singers **Johnny Mathis, Paul Anka,** and **Ray Charles.** "They spend money on their acts and are not greedy when it comes to paying backup musicians. They are not up there with tinny-sounding music, and they know how to play to and respect their audiences," says the retired high school English teacher. "They work hard to put together an excellent show and can sing the old songs with grace and charm, even though it is the millionth time."

Like Shields, the other critics have their own favorites but agree surprisingly often on entertainment choices. Virtually all the Las Vegas critics praise **"Blue Man Group: Live at Luxor,"** the show that stars three bald, silent men with blue faces who bang on PVC pipe and crunch cereal. One fan is Robin Leach, entertainment critic for KVVU-TV in Henderson and former host of *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*. "Simply put, 'Blue Man Group' is odd, eccentric, very clever, and very entertaining," Leach says. "It is even difficult to say why you enjoy it, but you do."

"I love the show's humor," says Kathy Espin, a freelance writer and instructor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. "'Blue Man Group' is unique, unlike anything else on the Strip. I find it charming."

Mike Weatherford, a writer and columnist with the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, reasons that "Blue Man Group" and the Cirque du Soleil shows **"Mystère"** and **"O"** "succeed in combining spectacle with a defined point of view."

Of the two Cirque productions, the stylish, circus-themed "Mystère" at Treasure Island is the choice of newspaper columnist Jackie Brett. "All Cirque shows are exquisitely designed and executed," says Brett. 'Mystère' was the initial Las Vegas show when it opened in 1994, and it was hard to describe because it was avant-garde. 'O' has more extraordinary special effects, but 'Mystère' moves at a better pace and has characters who bring soul to the show."

Leach praises the aquatic-themed "O" at the Bellagio. "'O' is the brilliance of Cirque set on water," says Leach. "The producers and the hotel didn't scrimp a penny on the production budget and thus have created the grandest and most lavish of spectacles."

Singer **Clint Holmes,** who performs at Harrah's Las Vegas, is a favorite of the Las Vegas critics. As Brett says, "He has a super voice and a life story to share." The son of an African-American jazz singer and a British opera singer, Holmes produced an autobiographical musical, "Comfortable Shoes," which debuted last September in Chicago. At Harrah's Las Vegas, Holmes' variety show recalls old-fashioned Las Vegas acts, according to Weatherford. "Musically he is not a throwback. He does songs that mean something to him, but you get a Sinatra-type show without him having to do that kind of music." Several reviewers, including Monti Rock III, a former entertainer, see a bright future for Holmes. "When I was performing and the number of people on stage outnumbered the audience, I knew it was time to hang it up," Rock says. But in Holmes, Rock sees someone who is "gracious and kind, who hasn't yet reached his pinnacle."

The Guest Critics

Jackie Brett Las Vegas writer and newspaper columnist

Gaye Delaplane Reno freelance writer

Kathy Espin writer and University of Nevada, Las Vegas instructor

Robin Leach entertainment critic for KVVU-TV in Henderson and former host of *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*

Dave Preston contributor to Reno's *Showtime* magazine and KOH-Radio

Kim Pryor Lake Tahoe freelance writer

Monti Rock III Las Vegas critic and former entertainer

Mel Shields Reno columnist for the *Sacramento Bee*

Mike Weatherford *Las Vegas Review-Journal* writer and columnist







"The Scintas are a high-energy package. We're lucky to have them," columnist Jackie Brett says.

Magician-comedian **Mac King,** who performs what he calls a "goofy little show" afternoons at Harrah's Las Vegas, is considered not only entertaining but also great value for the money ($16.45 a ticket). Weatherford picks King as the best of the afternoon shows. Rock notes that other before-dinner shows are "wonderful for the price": "Bottoms Up" at the Flamingo, "Viva Las Vegas" at the Stratosphere, and ventriloquist Ronn Lucas at the Rio.

High marks go to the **Scintas,** who also play the Rio. The musical-comedy quartet consists of siblings Chrissi, Frank, and Joe Scinta (pronounced "Shin-tah") and friend Peter O'Donnell. Brett, who sees the group whenever possible, says, "The Scintas are a high-energy package. We're lucky to have them." Leach agrees. "You get comedy, music, impressions, unbelievable singing—everything in one reasonably priced package," he says. "The closeness of their family unit comes shining through, and you know they are genuinely enjoying every performance. Their 'Stars and Stripes' finale brings tears to your eyes…a truly patriotic topping to a great night of pure unabashed, laugh-out-loud, sing-along entertainment."

When it comes to comedy, **"Second City"** at the Flamingo Las Vegas has fans in Rock and Weatherford. "'Second City' is a first-rate show," Weatherford says. "I like stand-up, but this is sketch comedy—time-tested bits from the company's 40-year history." Since the show opened in Chicago in 1959, "Second City" has graduated such comedians as Bill Murray, John Belushi, Dan Aykroyd, Gilda Radner, Robert Klein, Peter Boyle, and Mike Myers.

The entertainment scene in Reno, Sparks, and Lake Tahoe differs from that of Las Vegas. You will see the same quality, but in Northern Nevada there are more weekend headliners, like **Engelbert Humperdinck,** and production shows tend to change more often. Gaye Delaplane, a Reno freelance writer, favors Humperdinck. "He has great arrangements, his voice is still excellent, and he has a good rapport with the audience," she says of the crooner famous for "After the Lovin' " "Release Me," and "The Last Waltz."

Delaplane also likes **Gordie Brown,** who headlines at Harrah's Reno. The Canadian-born comedian delivers a mile-a-minute performance that is clever and funny, Delaplane says. Reno critic Dave Preston, who contributes to *Showtime* magazine and KOH-Radio, is another Gordie Brown fan. "Overall, he is one of the best acts to come along," Preston says. "Brown is highly creative and spontaneous. Even instantaneous, when he creates before your eyes."

Creativity is important to Kim Pryor, a Lake Tahoe writer. "I have a soft spot for magic, which is more impressive in person than on TV," says Pryor, who enjoys being baffled by **David Copperfield** when he performs in Reno-Tahoe.

Pryor maintains a keen eye for entertainment value. She recommends seeing pianist **Arthur Hervey,** who plays at Cleo's Bar in Caesars Tahoe. "Celebrities drop by and sing with him, members of the audience join the act, he uses props and costumes—and it is all free." At Harrah's Lake Tahoe, Pryor favors another free act, the **Dueling Pianos,** who play tunes picked by the audience.

Like Pryor, other critics encourage showgoers to check out the casinos' lounge entertainment. "I still like the open lounges where you can sit down, have a drink, and listen to performers who are playing because they want to, and who appreciate you being there," Shields says.

Preston is enthusiastic about **Wally Jones,** the pianist at Roxy's martini lounge in the Eldorado. "He plays everything from torch songs to boogie woogie, which means happy hour gets even more happy." Preston also likes **David Iasnaci,** host and opening act at the Just for Laughs comedy club in the Sands Regency. "He is one of the funniest guys in Reno," Preston says of Iasnaci, who builds numerous jokes around the fact that he is half Jewish and half Italian.

Preston says some of the Reno area's best values can be found in dinner-and-show packages at the Eldorado ("I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change"), Harrah's Reno ("Motor City All-Stars"), and John Ascuaga's Nugget (Elvin Bishop, Jeff Foxworthy). "When you cost them out, for the money the dinner packages are extraordinary," Preston says. Although packages are not available as widely in Southern Nevada, Weatherford sees similar value in the country-music tribute show **"Honky Tonk Angels"** at the Gold Coast in Las Vegas. "You get dinner, the show, and a drink





Bobby Hatfield and Bill Medley put on a righteous show while Charo is saluted for her musical skills.

for $25 plus tax," Weatherford points out.

Reno commentators enjoyed the magic revue **"Illusionarium,"** which unfortunately ended its Reno Hilton run in December. The huge stage allowed the disappearance of a jet that first appeared more than 20 years ago in the hotel's "Hello Hollywood Hello." Chances are the airplane will continue to appear or disappear in future Hilton shows.

This summer Preston suggests watching the musical schedule of the **Reno Hilton Amphitheater,** where B.B. King, Tom Petty, Bonnie Raitt, Alan Jackson, and others have played under the stars. **Harrah's Reno Special Events Plaza** offers entertainment, most of it free, in the summer. "In Northern Nevada you're hard pressed not to find good entertainment and fair prices," says Preston.

In Las Vegas, some critics salute the **Fremont Street Experience,** home to monthly concerts, usually on two stages. With a few exceptions like New Year's Eve, the shows are free, and the music covers a broad range of decades and styles from country to rock.

A number of shows deserve more attention, according to the critics. Jackie Brett and Mike Weatherford see singer-guitarist **Charo** at the Sahara as a prime example. "People do not know how talented this lady is," says Brett. "She speaks five languages, dances, and is a great comedian. She is only known in the U.S. for the 'cuchi-cuchi. The rest of the world respects her for her skill on the flamenco guitar."

Robin Leach recommends comedienne **Rita Rudner** at New York-New York. "She's got a delightfully clean and very funny take on life," he says. (Rudner will be dispensing her unique brand of advice on a new daily syndicated television show, *Ask Rita*, scheduled to debut on January 27.)

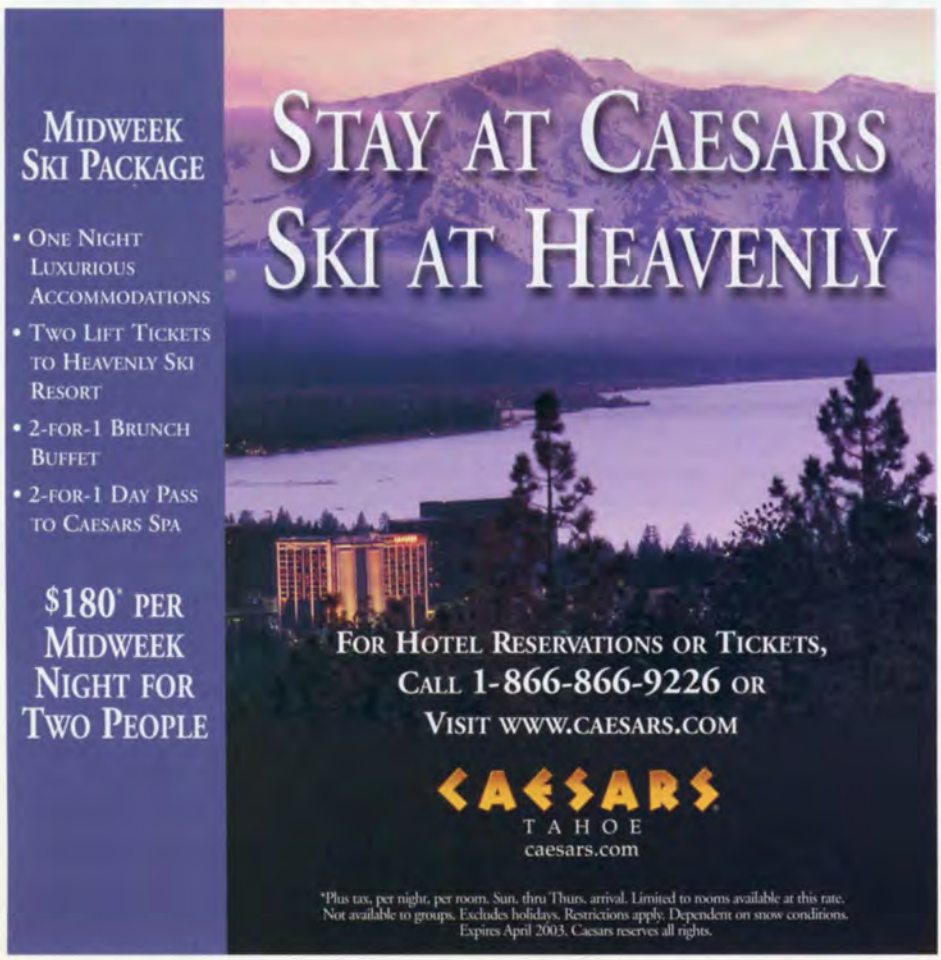
Monti Rock III suggests the French topless import **"La Femme,"** which appears at MGM Grand on the Strip. "I lived in Paris for two years and saw the original at the Crazy Horse," he says. "The show is elegant and has style."

"The biggest surprise for me is **Carrot Top,"** Mel Shields says of the comedian who uses trunks full of props. "He is inventive, spends a good deal of money on his act, adores his audiences, and works extremely hard. He is wonderful."

Since I get the last word, the word is the **Righteous Brothers.** Ever since the days I wore a bouffant hairdo, the masters of blue-eyed soul, Bobby Hatfield and Bill Medley, have been at the top of my list. Movies such as *Top Gun*, *Ghost*, and, for Medley, *Dirty Dancing* have introduced their music to new fans. Today, at age "50-eleven," as Medley calls it, they walk onstage to a standing ovation before they've sung a note.

No matter how many times I see their show, lately at the Orleans, Medley and Hatfield always get me with "Unchained Melody," "Ebb Tide," and "You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin' " I bet my aunts Arlena and Betty would like them, too.

Ann Henderson is Nevada Magazine's *entertainment and events editor.*



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The Silver State goes all out for New Year's Eve with big-name entertainment, special parties, and fireworks spewing from the hotel-casino rooftops. Southern Nevada golf courses are open for holiday duffers while Reno-Tahoe ski resorts get ready for 2003 with an extra dusting of powder.

Nevada communities offer a great variety of events this winter, including New Year's Eve and Super Bowl events statewide. Runners gather for the 37th annual Las Vegas Marathon while skiers watch races at Lake Tahoe. In Elko, the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering kicks off with music and rhyme. *Nevada Magazine* offers these events for January and February. Be sure to call ahead for confirmation.

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Las Vegas Territory

New Year's Eve: Laughlin Style • Dec. 31 • Live entertainment, DJs, party favors, and balloon drops are planned for several casinos. Laughlin, 800-452-8445.

World's Biggest Dance Party • Dec. 31 • Featuring Big Bad VooDoo Daddy and new light and sound show. Tickets $30. Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, 800-249-3559.

Flamingo Las Vegas New Year's Parties • Dec. 31 • Silver State party features dinner and entertainment for $125; Savoy event has a DJ and refreshments for $75. Flamingo Las Vegas, Las Vegas, 800-732-2111.

New Year's Eve Cruise • Dec. 31 • Family cruise aboard the *Desert Princess* paddlewheelers. Lake Mead Cruises, Boulder City, 702-293-6180.

New Year's Eve Dinner, Party, and Fireworks • Dec. 31-Jan. 2 • $449.94 plus tax includes a three-night stay. Las Vegas Hilton, Las Vegas, 800-457-3307.

Light the Night • Thru Jan. 3 • More than 200,000 holiday lights decorate the cactus garden at Ethel M Chocolates. Henderson, 702-458-8864.

Touchdown at the Belle • Jan. 3-5 • Slot tournament. Colorado Belle, Laughlin, 877-480-2747.

A Tribute to Martin Luther King Jr.: Teaching Tolerance • Jan. 4 • Video presentation of *Mighty Times: The Legacy of Rosa*

Photo: Brent Land

Parks. West Las Vegas Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

Dr. Dan Jeffery's Snake-Oil Brand Downhill Mountain Bike Series • Jan. 4-5 • Downhill and X-tended downhill event. Bootleg Canyon Mountain Bike Park, Boulder City, 702-293-2453.

The Gift of Lights • Thru Jan. 5 • Drive-through holiday festival to view more than 75 displays. Admission price $10, or $8 with a bag of "gently used" clothing. Sunset Park, Las Vegas, 702-455-8200.

Nevada Jazz Orchestra • Jan. 5 • 18-piece jazz band in concert. Winchester Community Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

Dynamic Trombone Quartet • Jan. 5 • Variety of musical selections and styles. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211.

John Encinio and the Full House Band • Jan. 5 • Country-Western band plays for Coffee Shop Sunday series. Whitney Ranch Recreation Center, Henderson, 702-565-2367.

Cloud's Jamboree • Jan. 10-19 • Rock, gem, jewelry, bead, and mineral show. Hosted at various hotels along Casino Drive, Laughlin, 866-558-7719 for further information.

New Year's Alert

Lionel Richie kicks off Reno's New Year's Eve on December 30 at the City Center Pavilion. Richie's appearance is presented by Circus Circus, Eldorado, Harrah's Reno, and Silver Legacy; call 800-MUST-SEE for details. The singer is known for such hits as "All Night Long."

Much Adieu • Jan. 12 • European and American steel string instruments play for the Coffee Shop Sunday series. Valley View Recreation Center, Henderson, 702-565-2367.

Viva Oy Vegas! • Jan. 12 • Local Jewish talent showcased in an adult variety show. Clark County Library, Las Vegas, 702-794-0090.

Winter Break 2003 • Jan. 14-17 • Festival for the 50-plus age group offering entertainment, dancing, bingo and slot tournament, healthy cooking classes, educational seminars. Hosted at various casinos along Casino Drive, Laughlin, 480-926-5547.

Laughlin Desert Challenge • Jan. 16-19 • SCORE-sponsored off-road race involving 16 classes of desert and exotic cars and trucks. Event includes the Laughlin Leap, a high-jump contest for vehicles. Laughlin Events Park, Laughlin, 800-227-5245.

The Shapiro Project • Jan. 17 • Bring a sack lunch and listen to a jazz quartet. Lloyd D. George U.S. Courthouse, Las Vegas, 702-229-6704.

Home Town Guitar Night • Jan. 17 • Programs feature styles from classical to a Chet Atkins tribute. Winchester Community Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

Hungarian National Philharmonic Orchestra • Jan. 17 • Selections from Bartok, Mozart, and Dvorak. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-2787.

Poets' Corner • Jan. 17 • Readings. West Las Vegas Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

Kawasaki Team Green Laughlin U.S. Hare Scrambles • Jan. 17-19 • Best in the Desert-sponsored off-road motorcycle race. Laughlin, 702-457-5775.

Something Scottish • Jan. 18 • Events in observance of Scottish Heritage Month include music, dance, poetry, children's events, and haggis tasting. Rainbow Library, Las Vegas, 702-223-8040.

Black and White Ball • Jan. 18 • Nevada Ballet Theatre gala honors person who has made a significant contribution to the arts. Bellagio, Las Vegas, 702-243-2623, ext. 230 for further details.

Southern Nevada Musical Arts Society • Jan. 18 • 40th anniversary event. Alumni Center, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-451-6672.

Choreographers Showcase • Jan. 18-19 • 24th annual event features original works. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration • Jan. 18-20 • Activities and entertainment TBA in the Las Vegas area.

Loretta St. John • Jan. 19 • Singer performs during the Coffee Shop Sunday series. Black Mountain Recreation Center, Henderson, 702-565-2367.

Soleil • Jan. 19 • Las Vegas Jewish Film Festival presentation starring Sophia Loren in a story of a young boy's poor but happy adolescence. Event includes the Second Annual Celebration of Jewish Art. Suncoast, Las Vegas, 702-794-0900.

UNLV Wind Orchestra Concert • Jan. 23 • Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-2787.

Super Bowl Weekend • Jan. 24-25 • Live entertainment on two stages. Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, 702-678-5600.

Nevada Ballet • Jan. 25 • The company's presentation is part of the Family Series of events. Downtown Recreation Center, Henderson, 702-565-2367.

An Afternoon With Mozart • Jan. 25 • The composer's operatic works are performed in concert. Winchester Community Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

Smokey Joe's Café: The Songs of Leiber and Stoller • Jan. 25 • Film based on the Tony Award-winning Broadway musical. Movie is part of the African American Perspectives on Film series. West Las Vegas Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

Old-Time Barn Dance • Jan. 25 • Callers and live fiddlin' for square dancing, mixers, contras, waltzes, and polkas. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo • Jan. 25 • Tour stop for the company whose dance style is between the fine line of high art and high camp. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-2787.

Super Bowl XXXVII • Jan. 25-26 • Imperial Palace, Las Vegas, 800-351-7400, ext. 1.



Super Bowl Party • Jan. 26 • Hotel San Remo, Las Vegas, 800-235-5987.

Super Bowl XXXVII • Jan. 26 • $45 plus tax includes buffet and beverages; $249 plus tax includes two-night stay. Las Vegas Hilton, Las Vegas, 800-457-3307.

Super Bowl Party • Jan. 26 • Westward Ho, Las Vegas, 800-223-1709.

Sierra Winds • Jan. 27 • Woodwind quintet celebrates Mozart's birthday. Winchester Community Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

Colorado River Bluegrass Festival • Jan. 31-Feb. 2 • Featured bands include Lost Highway, Front Range, and James King Band. Davis Camp, Laughlin, 928-768-5819.

Las Vegas International Friendship Run • Feb. 1 • 5K charity run from the Venetian down the Las Vegas Strip is a prelude to the Las Vegas Marathon on Feb. 2. Venetian, Las Vegas, 702-240-2722.

Las Vegas Marathon and Half-Marathon • Feb. 2 • 37th annual race is run on fast, flat courses with cool weather conditions. More than 10,000 runners are expected from 50 states and 30 countries. Tropicana Hotel, Las Vegas, 702-240-2722.

Slot, Video Poker, Keno, and Blackjack Tournaments • Feb. 3-6 • Riverside, Laughlin, 800-227-3849.

Shock Corridor • Feb. 5 • 1963 film set in a mental institution. Winchester Community Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

Twyla Tharp Dance • Feb. 7 • Company's director has choreographed five movies including *Hair* and *Amadeus* and received two Emmy Awards. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-2787.

"Tartuffe" • Feb. 7-9 and 13-16 • Moliere's comedy. Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-2787.

"Stories of Southern Nevada" • Feb. 7-9 and 13-16 • Rainbow Company's musicals based on historical tales of Nevada. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211.

Dr. Dan Jeffery's Snake-Oil Brand Downhill Mountain Bike Series • Feb. 8-9 • Downhill and X-tended event. Bootleg Canyon Mountain Bike Park, Boulder City, 702-293-2453.



Big Race Weekend

Racers plow through the desert during the Laughlin Desert Challenge January 16-19. The off-road race in the Colorado River town 90 miles south of Las Vegas involves 16 classes of desert and exotic cars and trucks. A highlight is the Laughlin Leap, a broad-jump competition for cars. The Kawasaki Team Green Laughlin U.S. Hare Scrambles, a Best in the Desert-sponsored off-road motorcycle race, takes place the same weekend.

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Photo: Las Vegas News Bureau

Henderson Civic Symphony • Feb. 9 • Valley View Recreation Center, Henderson, 702-565-2367.

UNLV Symphony Orchestra • Feb. 9 • Program includes selections from Dvorak and Beethoven. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-2787.

Slot Tournament • Feb. 9-11 • Imperial Palace, Las Vegas, 800-351-7400, ext. 1.

Sweet Smell of Success • Feb. 12 • 1957 film about a ruthless New York entertainment columnist. Winchester Community Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

Valentine's Day Dance • Feb. 14 • Dance to big band standards. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Valentine's Day Cruise • Feb. 14-15 • Dinner-dance cruise to Hoover Dam aboard the *Desert Princess* paddlewheeler. Includes souvenir photo and red rose per couple. Lake Mead Cruises, Boulder City, 702-293-6180.

Adaawe • Feb. 15 • Music of the African Diaspora and American gospel. Black Mountain Recreation Center, Henderson, 702-565-2367.

Las Vegas Motor Speedway Open House • Feb. 15 • Free NASCAR Busch race on big-screen television, driver autographs, race car display, tours. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

"Treasure Island" • Feb. 17-22 and Feb. 24-March 1 • Play performed by Missoula Children's Theatre at Silver Springs Recreation Center on Feb. 17-22 and Valley View Recreation Center on Feb. 24-March 1. Henderson, 702-565-2367.

Shadow of a Doubt • Feb. 19 • Alfred Hitchcock's film about the bond between an innocent girl and a serial murderer. Winchester Community Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

Puttin' on the Ritz $150,000 Slot Tournament • Feb. 19-22 • Westward Ho, Las Vegas, 800-223-1709.

Vivaldi to Pink Floyd • Feb. 21-23 • Nevada Ballet Theatre presents three one-act ballets including "Going for Baroque" and "Good Times," which is set to the music of Pink Floyd. Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-243-2623.

"Dance of Bees" • Feb. 21-23 and Feb. 26-March 2 • Suspenseful play about a group of friends who are stranded in a mountain resort. Black Box Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-2787.

Las Vegas Philharmonic • Feb. 22 • Guest artist pianist Orion Weiss featuring works by Mozart, Hindemith, and Brahms. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-2787.

Mesquite 10-Mile Run • Feb. 22 • Meet at the Oasis for transportation to starting area five miles north of Mesquite. Race starts at 7am. Oasis Resort, Mesquite, 702-346-2902.

Las Vegas Master Singers • Feb. 23 • Program includes spirituals, gospel music, and Paul Bassler's "African Mass." Clark County Library Theater, Las Vegas, 702-452-3104.

Zalmen Mlotek in Concert • Feb. 23 • From the origins of Yiddish theater to operetta arias. Summerlin Library, Las Vegas, 702-794-0090.

"Island of the Blue Dolphins" • Feb. 24 • Newbery Medal-winning musical about a Native American girl who discovers her own strength living with only birds, wild dogs, and dolphins for company. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 800-497-5007.

Rififi • Feb. 26 • 1954 French film about four jewel thieves. Winchester Community Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

Las Vegas Showdown • Feb. 27 • Super late models, IMCA modifieds, and legend cars. The Bullring, Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

UNLV Wind Orchestra Concert • Feb. 27 • Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-2787.

Flow • Feb. 28-March 1 • Faculty choreographed dance program. Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-2787.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

New Year's Eve Bash • Dec. 31 • Light parade, music, and fireworks. Northstar-at-Tahoe, North Lake Tahoe, 530-562-2020.

Carson Valley Inn New Year's Party • Dec. 31 • Three-night party stay for $349 per couple. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-783-6665.

New Year's Eve Torchlight Parade • Dec. 31 • Event includes fireworks. Kirkwood, south of Lake Tahoe, 209-258-6000.

Skyworks • Dec. 31 • Reno's synchronized show fired from casino rooftops and timed to music. Downtown, Reno, 800-FOR-RENO.

New Year's Eve Gala Dinner-Dance • Dec. 31 • Resort at Squaw Creek, Squaw Valley, North Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6300.

Gala New Year's Eve Party • Dec. 31 • Carson Nugget, Carson City, 800-426-5239.

"Grease" • Jan. 3-5 • Musical follows the friendships and adventures of Rydell High School students in the 1950s. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-686-6600.

Fresh Big Air Competition • Jan. 4 • $3,000 purse. Alpine Meadows, North Lake Tahoe, 530-581-8328.



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

Cassinelli and Perino Collection: Ongoing. An exhibit of arrowheads, spear points, and fashioned stones used by early Native Americans. Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Gardnerville, 775-782-2555.

Desert Love Buggy: Indefinite. Display presents the 1911 Sears Model K horseless carriage, known as the Desert Love Buggy, that personified the image of Las Vegas during the 1940s and carried celebrities in the town's Helldorado parade. Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Las Vegas, 702-486-5205.

Contemporary Native Artists of the Great Basin: Thru Jan. 3. Baskets, beadwork, cradleboards, paintings, and sculptures. Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 775-687-8323.

From Pit to Prison to Palace: Thru Jan. 4. Paintings by Harold Bradford. West Las Vegas Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

All in the Family: Thru Jan. 9. Local talent showcase of a variety of media and subjects. Left of Center Gallery, North Las Vegas, 702-647-7378.

Linda McCartney's Sixties: Portrait of an Era: Thru Jan. 12. Intimate photographs of rock musicians such as Mick Jagger, Jim Morrison, Pete Townshend, Janis Joplin, and the Beatles. Nevada Museum of Art, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-329-3333.

CowParade: Thru Jan. 15. A herd of life-size cow sculptures takes its place among the Las Vegas neon. The moo-ving designs will be auctioned in Feb. as a charity fund-raiser. Call for locations, Las Vegas, 702-967-3543.

Celebrate the Season: 1900-1920: Thru Jan. 18. Exhibit depicts bygone holiday seasons with decorations, meals and menus, parties and celebrations, clothing and gifts in the museum's historic homes. Clark County Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.

Illuminations: Thru Jan. 19. Paintings by Jane Marquez. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4674.

***Bears* and *Africa*: *The Serengeti*:** Thru Jan. 20. Two giant-screen nature films. Fleischmann Planetarium and Science Center, UNR, Reno, 775-784-4811

Lost City Museum: Thru Jan. 21 Exhibition from the Lost City Museum in Overton dealing with Native American tribes indigenous to Nevada. Enterprise Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3659.

Nevada Watercolor Society: Thru Jan. 21 Juried exhibition. Summerlin Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3659.

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, Gardnerville, 775-782-2555.

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

Fabergé: 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.

Nevada Camera Club Show: Thru Jan. 28. Color and black-and-white photographs. Clark County Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3659.



"Fabergé: Treasures from the Kremlin," which shows scenes from Russian history in the famous eggs, is on display through January 26 at the Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art.

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.

Nevada Wide: Thru March 23. Exhibit of 36 panoramic Nevada photographs, with the earliest an 1876 view of Virginia City. Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Las Vegas, 702-486-5205.

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

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.

Car Tones: The Power of Paint: Thru April 28. The perception of color in relation to the automobile. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

The Big Dig: The Tule Springs Expedition, 1962-63: Thru Oct. 2003. Mammoth remains, stone tools, and other artifacts found during the archaeological expedition to date human life in the Las Vegas Valley. Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Las Vegas, 702-486-5205.

Early Man in Southern Nevada: Thru Oct. 2003. Covers the Paleo through the Archaic and Basketmaker periods. Lost City Museum, Overton, 702-397-2193.

Under One Sky: Thru Dec. 2004. 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.

Airport Art Show: Jan. 1-31 Boulder City Art Guild exhibit. Boulder City Municipal Airport, Boulder City, 702-293-2138.

Valentine Invitational Exhibition: Jan. 13-Feb. 7 Seventh annual showcase of more than 90 local and regional artists. Sheppard Gallery, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6658.

A Call and Response: Gene Redden: Jan. 14-March 4. Jazz-inspired paintings. West Las Vegas Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

Collecting the Past: Selections From the Nevada Historical Society: Jan. 17-June 28. Artifacts from Nevadans; many of the items have never been displayed. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 775-688-1190.

Scholastic Art Awards 2003: Jan. 18-Feb. 23. Exhibition of works by Northern Nevada students who are judged in 15 artistic categories; regional winners compete nationally. Nevada Museum of Art, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-329-3333.

Frank McBride: Jan. 24-March 2. Oil landscape paintings. Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Wild Women: Digging Deep: Jan. 27-March 14. Exhibit explores the creative process used by eight female artists. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 775-738-3418.

City Hall Art Show: Feb. 1-18. Boulder City Art Guild exhibit. City Hall, Boulder City, 702-293-2138.

Universal Warning Sign: Yucca Mountain: Feb. 1-28. Visual arts exhibition. Stillwater Gallery, Western Nevada Community College, Fallon, 775-423-1440.

Traditional Baskets by Sue Coleman: Feb. 4-March 28. Nevada Arts Council, Carson City, 775-687-6680.

Traditional Ukrainian Easter Egg Designs by Zoria Zetaruk: Feb. 4-28. Nevada Arts Council, Las Vegas, 702-486-3700.

Real/Unreal: Feb. 13-March 13. Addresses what is happening politically, architecturally, and socially. Sheppard Gallery, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6658.

Mira Schor: March 20-April 18. Paintings by New York artist. Sheppard Gallery, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6658.

Barn Again! Celebrating an American Icon: May 27-June 30. Traveling Smithsonian Institution exhibi-

tion tracing the importance of barns across the U.S. Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 775-423-3677

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.

Community Arts Series: Jan. 6 and 27 and May 12. Workshops with area artists. Gold Hill Hall, Gold Hill, 702-847-9ART.

Hidden Cave Tours: Jan. 11 and 25, Feb. 8 and 22, and March 8 and 22. 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

Barn Again! Film and Lecture Series: Jan. 1 Artists Do Barns, fine art juried competition. Jan. 1 photo contest open to Douglas County residents' photos of Carson Valley barns. Jan. 16, *Barn Again!* film. Jan. 23, "Timber Frame and Other Barns of Carson Valley," lecture by Paul Oatman. Jan. 30, "Birds and Barns" by Nancee Goldwater. Jan. 30, "Dairies of Carson Valley" exhibit opens. Feb. 13, *Troublesome* film. Feb. 15, "Barn Sale" exhibit opens. Feb. 20, "Vaquero to Buckaroo" by Charles Greenlaw. Feb. 27 *Weathered Secrets* film. March 13, "Types of Barns" by Jerry Parkos. March 20, *Barns Reborn!* film. Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Gardnerville, 775-782-2555.

Las Vegas Woodwind Quintet: Performances Feb. 9 at the Laughlin Library, Laughlin; and Feb. 16 at the Whitney Library and Feb. 23 at the West Las Vegas Library, Las Vegas. 702-507-3459.

Gaming Tournaments

21 Tournaments: 10am Mon. and Fri., $10 buy-in. 6pm Tues., $20 buy-in. Carson Nugget, Carson City, 800-426-5239.

Free Tournaments: 11am Tues., slots and video poker. Silverton, Las Vegas, 702-263-9777

Blackjack Tournament: Wed. and Fri. River Palms, Laughlin, 800-835-7904.

Free Eye Opener Slot Tournament: Sun.-Thurs. Saddle West, Pahrump, 800-433-3987

Blackjack Tournaments: 6pm Tues., $20 buy-in. Peppermill, Reno, 800-648-6992.

Free Sensational 7's Slot Tournament: Thurs., $1,000 guaranteed prize. Peppermill, Reno, 800-648-6992.

Sporting Events

Running: The Las Vegas Running Team offers free training runs at 6pm Mon.-Fri. and 6am Sun. Call for locations and information, 702-450-4788.

Rink by the River: Thru March 2. Ice skating along the Truckee River. The rink features open skating, hockey, lessons, and special events. Downtown Reno, 775-334-2262.

El Capitan Annual Fishing Derby: Thru April 30. Walker Lake, Hawthorne, 775-945-2507

UNLV Men's Basketball: The Runnin' Rebels play Jan. 2 vs. Indiana-Purdue at Fort Wayne, Jan. 4 vs. Santa Clara, Jan. 20 vs. Utah, Feb. 1 vs. Wyoming, Feb. 3 vs. Colorado State, Feb. 9 vs. USC, Feb. 14 vs. BYU, Feb. 22 vs. New Mexico, Feb. 24 vs. Air Force, March 8 vs. San Diego State. The Mountain West Conference Tournament takes place March 13-15. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-739-3267

UNR Women's Basketball: The Lady Wolf Pack plays Jan. 2 vs. Tulsa, Jan. 16 vs. Louisiana Tech, Jan. 18 vs. SMU, Feb. 6 vs. Boise State, Feb. 8 vs. Texas-El Paso, Feb. 20 vs. Hawaii, Feb. 22 vs. San Jose State, March 2 vs. Fresno State. Lawlor Events Center, Reno, 775-348-PACK.

UNLV Women's Basketball: The Lady Rebels play Jan. 7 vs. Loyola Marymount, Jan. 11 vs. Cal State Fullerton, Jan. 23 vs. Utah, Jan. 25 vs. BYU, Feb. 6 vs. Wyoming, Feb. 8 vs. Colorado State, Feb. 15 vs. San Diego State, Feb. 27 vs. New Mexico, March 1 vs. Air Force. The Mountain West Conference Tournament takes place March 12-15. Cox Pavilion, Las Vegas, 702-739-3267

UNR Men's Basketball: The Wolf Pack plays Jan. 9 vs. Texas El-Paso, Jan. 11 vs. Boise State, Jan. 23 vs. San Jose State, Jan. 25 vs. Hawaii, Feb. 1 vs. Fresno State, Feb. 13 vs. SMU, Feb. 15 vs. Louisiana Tech, March 5 vs. Rice, and March 8 vs. Tulsa. Lawlor Events Center, Reno, 775-348-PACK.

Fishing Contests: Jan. 11 and Feb. 15, Echo Bay, 702-898-2451 Jan. 11-12 and March 15-16, Las Vegas Bay, 702-294-0000. Jan. 18, Feb. 8 and 15, and March 15, Callville Bay, 702-566-3667 Jan. 25 and March 1 Temple Bar, 928-753-5019. Feb. 1 and 22 and March 8, Cottonwood Cove, 928-757-5087 Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

Cruise Nights: Jan. 17 Feb. 21 and March 21 All makes, models, and years are welcome. Call for locations, Las Vegas, 702-400-7047

Farmer's Markets

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

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.

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

Freestyle Half Pipe and Big Air Competition • Jan. 4-5 • Squaw Valley USA, North Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985 for further information.

Far West Open Slalom • Jan. 4-5 • Best in the West future Olympians duel it out on the slalom course on World Cup run. Spectator seating available. Heavenly Ski Resort, Stateline, 775-586-7000.

Senior Moment Monday • Jan. 6, Feb. 3, March 3, and April 7. Seniors, ages 62 and over, with intermediate skiing ability, are eligible for an all-day lift ticket, two-hour lesson, and lunch for $25. Homewood Mountain Resort, Lake Tahoe, 530-525-2992.

X-Qualifier • Jan. 8-9 • Top freestyle skiers compete; three move on to the X-Games. Northstar-at-Tahoe, North Lake Tahoe, 530-562-3560.

USTSA Telemark Championships • Jan. 9-12 • Extreme, slopestyle, and half-pipe competition. Alpine Meadows, North Lake Tahoe, 530-581-8328.

Winter Craps Tournament and Winterfest Keno Tournament • Jan. 10-11 • Atlantis, Reno, 888-551-7007 for tournament details.

Race to Beat Cancer • Jan. 11 • Giant slalom open to skiers and snowboarders. Diamond Peak Ski Resort, Incline Village, 775-832-1177.

***Hot Dog* 20th Anniversary Celebration** • Jan. 11 • Party and screening of the film *Hot Dog*. Olympic Valley, North Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Far West Master's Open Slalom • Jan. 11-12 • Ski racers including former Olympians compete. Heavenly Ski Resort, Stateline, 775-586-7000.

Celebrity Sports Invitational • Jan. 11-12 • Personalities gather for a weekend of fundraising and winter sports. Squaw Valley USA, North Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Paul Mitchel Ultra-Cross • Jan. 11-12 • Boardercross and skier athletes pair up to win money. Northstar-at-Tahoe, North Lake Tahoe, 530-562-3560.

USASA Snowboard Series • Jan. 11-12 • Snowboard races. Sierra at Tahoe Ski Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 530-658-7453.

Diamond Peak's Halfpipe Competition • Jan. 12 • Competition open to skiers and snowboarders. Diamond Peak Ski Resort, Incline Village, 775-832-1177.

Reno Philharmonic • Jan. 12 and 14 • Master Classics program features the music of Bach, Ravell, and Stravinsky. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-323-6393.

$10,000 Slot Tournament • Jan. 12-13 • Caesars Tahoe, Stateline, 800-648-3353.

Millionaire Maker Slot Tournament • Jan. 13 • Qualifying round. Harrah's Reno, 800-HARRAHS.

Keno Klassic Tournament • Jan. 18 • $500 buy-in. Harrah's Reno, 800-423-1121, ext. keno.

Reno Chamber Orchestra • Jan. 18 • College concerto competition. Nightingale Hall, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6145 for ticket information.

Antique Show and Sale • Jan. 18-19 • Town Hall, Genoa, 775-782-4951.

Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration • Jan. 18-20 • Activities and entertainment TBA in the Reno-Sparks area.

Kids-X • Jan. 19 • Children ages four to 12 compete in boarder/skier-cross suitable for beginners. Northstar-at-Tahoe, North Lake Tahoe, 530-562-3560.

Colloquium: From Poetry to Song • Jan. 24 • Featuring Katharine DeBoer and Jim Winn. Nightingale Hall, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6145.

Kinder Cup Challenge • Jan. 25 • Races for children ages six and under. Heavenly Ski Resort, Stateline, 775-586-7000.

Far West Freestyle Event • Jan. 25-26 • Bumps and jumps competition. Heavenly Ski Resort, Stateline, 775-586-7000.

Super Bowl Party Weekend • Jan. 25-26 • Atlantis, Reno, 888-551-7007.

Super Bowl Party • Jan. 26 • Carson Nugget, Carson City, 800-426-5239.

Super Bowl Party • Jan. 26 • NFL guests and buffet. Silver Legacy, Reno, 800-MUST-SEE.

Sawmill 15K Cross-Country Race • Jan. 26 • 15K race for adults, 5K for juniors. Northstar-at-Tahoe, North Lake Tahoe, 530-562-1010.

Sierra Stomp • Jan. 26 • Guided snowshoe hike. Kirkwood Cross-Country Ski Area, south of Lake Tahoe, 209-258-7248.

Young Chautauqua • Jan. 29 • Presentation of historical figures by sixth-grade students. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 775-738-3418.

Reno-Tahoe Winter Wine and Ski Expo • Jan. 30 • Atlantis, Reno, 888-551-7007.

Firearms, Engravers, and Gunmakers Exhibition • Jan. 31-Feb. 2. Commemorates the 100th anniversary of the 1903 Springfield Rifle. Silver Legacy, Reno, 775-829-2810.

Clash of the Titans Blackjack Tournament • Feb. 1-2 • Atlantis, Reno, 888-551-7007.

USASA Snowboard Series • Feb. 1-2 • Snowboard races. Sierra at Tahoe Ski Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 530-658-7453.

$20,000 Video Poker Tournament • Feb. 2-3 • Caesars Tahoe, Stateline, 800-648-3353.

Argenta Concert • Feb. 3 • Guest violist Geraldine Walther. Nightingale Hall, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6847.

Perks Dance Music Theatre • Feb. 5 • Integration of dancers and musicians featuring Rebecca Stenn and her New York company. Nightingale Hall, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6847.

Northern Nevada Boat, Sport, and RV Show • Feb. 6-9 • Reno-Sparks Convention Center, Reno, 775-829-2810.

"Die Fledermaus" • Feb. 7 and 9 • Nevada Opera presentation. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-786-4046.

Snowboard.com Sick and Twisted Big Air • Feb. 8 • $3,000 purse. Alpine Meadows, North Lake Tahoe, 530-581-8328.

Blackjack Tournament • Feb. 9 • Harrah's Reno, 800-HARRAHS.

Bridal and Beauty Expo • Feb. 9 • 18th annual expo, sponsored by Weddings of the West. Reno-Sparks Convention Center, Reno, 775-849-8000 or 888-524-2316.

Special Olympics • Feb. 11-12 • Young athletes compete in alpine and snowboard racing. Heavenly Ski Resort, Stateline, 775-586-7000.

Valentine Sweetheart Race • Feb. 14 • Competition for a chance to win a 14K-diamond pendant and ring. Heavenly Ski Resort, Stateline, 775-586-7000.

Lovers' Cup Race • Feb. 14 • Seventh annual race for prizes. Homewood, Lake Tahoe, 530-525-2992.



A Car With Muscle

The GTO, the classic Pontiac muscle car produced from 1964 to '74, is the subject of the show "GTO: Leader of the Pack" at the National Automobile Museum in Reno. Above is a '65 model.

BATTLE MOUNTAIN

The Outback of the West!

Situated in the heart of Northern Nevada along major rail lines and roadways, Battle Mountain offers visitors a variety of outdoor adventures and road side services.

Coming Events

- Oberenak Basque Winter Festival - January 19, 2003
  Savor a full course Basque dinner, entertained by dancers and live music, a Sheepherder bread auction and then dance the night away until
- 18th Annual Crab Feed - February 8, 2003
  Enjoy all the crab you can eat & western style fun
  18th Annual Crab Feed February 8, 2002

Saddle all that with legendary Nevada gaming, and hold on tight for one fun vacation!



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Battle Mountain, NV 89820

LANDER COUNTY

Western Hospitality at its Best



Musical Fantasy "Island"

Michael Messer, J.D. Webster, Rachel Ulanet, and Tina Stafford (left to right) star in the "Island of the Blue Dolphins," which plays February 24 at UNLV. The musical tells the story of a young girl who discovers her own strength when she is forced to live alone except for birds, wild dogs, otters, and dolphins.

"Where's The Love" Valentine's Day Scavenger Hunt • Feb. 14 • Successful competitors receive discounts on food and lift tickets. Squaw Valley USA, North Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985 for more scavenger hunt information.

Spin 'n' Win Slot Tournament • Feb. 14 • $150 buy-in. Harrah's Reno, 800-HARRAHS.

Kinder Cup Challenge • Feb. 15 • Races for children ages six and under. Heavenly Ski Resort, Stateline, 775-586-7000.

Putting on the Ritz (With Your Valentine) • Feb. 15 • Dance party with DJ, dress up or down, no-host bar, live and silent auctions, $25 per person, benefits Family Support Council of Douglas County. St. Gall's Church Social Hall, Gardnerville, 775-782-8692.

Sweethearts Formal Ball • Feb. 15 • Featuring the Motifs. Carson Nugget, Carson City, 800-426-5239.

Annual Crab Feed • Feb. 15 • Elks Lodge, Minden, 775-782-3416.

Orchestra Concert • Feb. 20 • Nightingale Hall, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6145.

Brew Ha Ha • Feb. 21 • Sierra Arts at the Riverside Artist Lofts' eighth annual dance and microbrew party featuring headliner Mumbo Gumbo. John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 775-329-ARTS.

Annual Shooting Outing • Feb. 21-22 • Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-783-6679.

"Accomplice" • Feb. 21-22, Feb. 28-March 1, and March 7-8 • Comedy thriller about mistaken identities. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 775-883-1976.

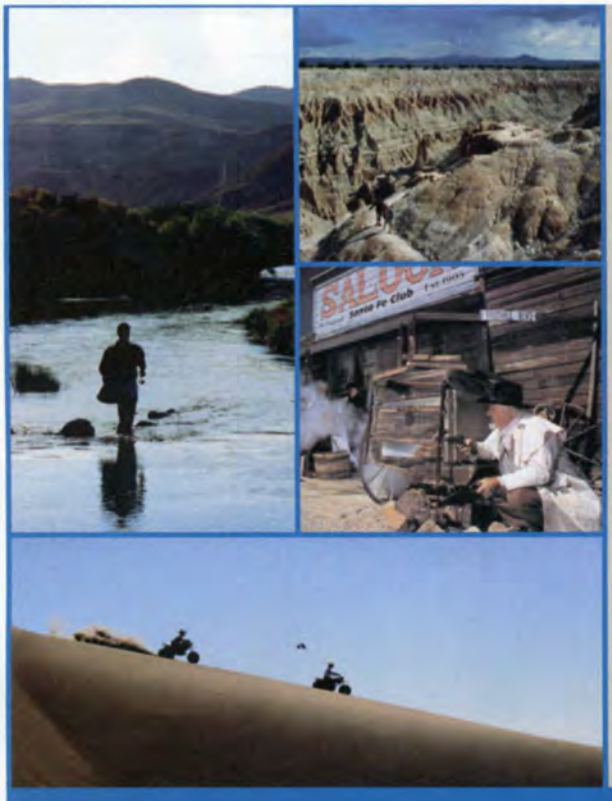
Savor the Flavor Wine Tasting • Feb. 22 • Sponsored by Soroptomist International of Carson Valley. Sierra Nevada Golf Ranch, Genoa, 775-783-6626.

Chinese New Year Celebration • Feb. 22 • Music and food. Silver Legacy, Reno, 800-MUST-SEE.

Carson City Symphony • Feb. 23 • Guest saxophone soloist David Ehrke. Community Center, Carson City, 775-883-4154.

Atlas Snowshoe Race • Feb. 23 • Compete for prizes. Alpine Meadows, North Lake Tahoe, 530-581-8328.

Sierra Stomp • Feb. 23 • Guided snowshoe hike.



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

www.pioneerterritory.org

Post Office Box 1232 / Elko, Nevada 89803
775-482-3859

Photo: Carol Rosegg

Vaqueros in Verse

The National Cowboy Poetry Gathering, January 25 to February 1, offers one of Nevada's most intriguing experiences. For the past 18 years, visitors from around the world have converged on Elko to celebrate range-rider culture through poetry, music, dance, cooking, gear-making, photography, art shows, and all-night jam sessions.

Through poetry, cowboys share the humor, loneliness, and tragedy that make up the culture and traditions of the American West. Expect performances by Baxter Black, Ramblin' Jack Elliott, ex-rodeo rider Paul Zarzyski, and Great Basin poets Rusty and Deanna McCall. There will be music from Wylie Gustafson and his Wild West Band and the Irish- and Scottish-influenced Canadian band, Cowboy Celtic.

During the weeklong event participants will hustle between workshops ranging from making chilie rellenos and Dutch-oven sourdough biscuits to braiding rawhide, carving leather, making cinches, and writing poetry. No experience or partner is required for the Friday and Saturday night dance workshops that teach swing dancing, two-step, schottische, and waltz.

The Western Folklife Center will host an exhibition on saddlemaker Guadalupe S. Garcia, who helped establish Elko's reputation as a center for vaquero gear. The exhibit "Wild Women" features the works of modern "pioneer" artists, and "Charros" displays historic and contemporary photos and gear from Mexican cowboys in the Great Basin. To order a schedule of events or to obtain tickets to the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, call 775-738-7508, 888-880-5885,or visit www.westernfolklife.org for further information on the event.







Baxter Black (upper left) appears at sold-out shows at the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko. Other popular performers include Eli Garsi, Lucky Whipple, and Waddie Mitchell (top, middle, and bottom right). Visitors also enjoy dance workshops (left) and poet Bimbo Cheney (center).

Photos: Chris Simon (top left); all others, Bruce Hucko/Western Folklife Center







Kirkwood Cross-Country Ski Area, south of Lake Tahoe, 209-258-7248.

Ultra Cross Ski and Snowboard Race • Feb. 23 • Ski and snowboard race in the boardercross format. Diamond Peak Ski Resort, Incline Village, 775-832-1177.

Golden Dollar Invitational Slot Tournament • Feb. 23-24 • Eldorado, Reno, 800-648-5966.

Police Winter Games • Feb. 23-28 • Police officers from around the world compete in slalom, giant slalom, super G, and family fun races. Heavenly Ski Resort, Stateline, 702-586-7000.

Symphonic Band • Feb. 25 • Wind ensemble concert. Nightingale Hall, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6145.

Rural Nevada

Cliff House New Year's Eve • Dec. 31 • Music, food, dancing. Cliff House, Walker Lake, Hawthorne, 775-945-6663.

El Capitan New Year's Eve • Dec. 31 • Music, food, dancing. El Capitan, Hawthorne, 775-945-3321.

Ely Volunteer Fireman's New Year's Ball • Dec. 31 • Bristlecone Convention Center, Ely, 775-289-6633.

New Year's Eve Party • Dec. 31 • Silver Smith and State Line casinos, Wendover, 800-3543657.

Lions Club Crab Feed • Jan. 18 • All-you-can-eat dinner and dancing. Convention Center, Winnemucca, 775-623-5071.

Oberenak Basque Winter Festival • Jan. 19 • Basque dancing, sheepherder bread auction, dinner, music, and dancing. Battle Mountain Civic Center, Battle Mountain, 775-635-1112.

Monster Truck and Sand Drags • Jan. 25 • Events Center, Winnemucca, 775-623-5071.

National Cowboy Poetry Gathering • Jan. 25-Feb. 1 • 19th annual event celebrates the Western lifestyle through poetry, music, and workshops. Western Folklife Center and Elko Convention Center, Elko, 775-738-7508.

Super Bowl Party • Jan. 26 • Silver Smith and State Line casinos, Wendover, 800-354-3657.

Kim Angelis: Gypsy Violinist • Feb. 6 • Angelis is accompanied by her husband, Josef Gault, on flamenco and classical guitar. Sturgeon's Center Club, Lovelock, 775-273-2005.

State Line Valentine's Keno Tournament • Feb. 7 • State Line Casino, Wendover, 800-354-3657.

Crab Feed • Feb. 8 • 18th annual all-the-crab-you-can-eat event. Battle Mountain Civic Center, Battle Mountain, 775-635-1112.

Valentine's Dinner • Feb. 14 • Special evening for sweethearts. Little A 'Le' Inn, Rachel, 775-729-2514.

Silver Smith Sweethearts Blackjack Tournament • Feb. 14-15 • Silver Smith Casino, Wendover, 800-354-3657.

Grand Opening: Barkley Theatre • Feb. 14-16 • Concerts featuring the Stevens Sisters, who perform bluegrass, country, and rock; Patricia Barber, jazz singer-songwriter; and Maria Muldaur, folk, country, and blues singer. Barkley Theatre, Fallon, 775-423-1440.

Nevada State Wrestling Tournament • Feb. 14-16 • High school competition. Events Center, Winnemucca, 775-623-5071.

Snowmobile Jamboree and Trout Fishing Derby • Feb. 15-17 • Ice fishing competition for tagged fish and biggest trout. Wildhorse Reservoir, north of Elko, 775-558-6471.

USA Nevada Wrestling • Feb. 21-23 • Amateur wrestling. Events Center, Winnemucca, 775-623-5071.

Pick of the Remuda Sale and Trade Show • Feb. 28-March 1 • Cow and performance horse sale. Events Center, Winnemucca, 775-623-5071.

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Location, Location, Location



Photographers focused on the Silver State's essence during the first "Nevada Magazine On Location."



A group of photographers gathered in Carson City last September for the first "Nevada Magazine On Location" photography workshop. Students and teachers clicked, shutters fluttered, and no one snapped (except photos). The result was a gallery of fine photos by the 17 students. They learned new techniques from Ira Gostin, the Reno photographer who organized the four-day event, and instructors Kim Komenich, a Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer at the *San Francisco Chronicle*; Jean Dixon, a former *Reno Gazette-Journal* photographer who serves in the communications office at the University of Nevada, Reno; and Douglas Keister, photographer and author from Chico, California. The experts led groups to two of Northern Nevada's more photogenic events, the Great Reno Balloon Race, where they greeted the Dawn Patrol, and the Virginia City Camel Races. In Virginia City, Tyson's Canyon Ranch was the location for some old-

On Location
NEVADA MAGAZINE
A Photography Adventure







"Nevada Magazine On Location" participant Joeann Edmonds of Mill Valley, California, photographed a horse with a fishy eye (above) at Tyson's Canyon Ranch. Tyson's was also the location for Manitowoc, Wisconsin, resident Edward Clayton's bullet portrait (top right). Jayne Krabbenhoft of Amenia, North Dakota, shot the mass ascension at the Great Reno Balloon Race (right). On the opposite page, Virginia City resident Joy Beldin McDonough (top) composed a photo at the Capitol, as photographed by workshop coordinator Ira Gostin. Colton Tohannie of Fallon (bottom) danced at Fort Churchill, as photographed by Rob Matthew of Mill Valley.

fashioned Western shooting, as was historic Carson City and the tree-shaded lawn of the State Capitol. A gathering of Native American dancers at Fort Churchill rounded out the photography sessions. The intensive seminars produced fresh perspectives on Nevada topics that the participants could take home to California, Oregon, Texas, Wisconsin, North Dakota, and Nevada towns from Gardnerville to Winnemucca.



Nevada Photo Workshops

Readers seeking information on this year's workshop, **"Nevada Magazine On Location 2003,"** will find details in future issues of *Nevada Magazine*, or they can e-mail ira@gostinphoto.com. Also, photographers should note that the 15th edition of **"Shooting the West"** takes place March 7-9 in Winnemucca. The photography conference presents top pros for three days of classes, shows, and "the Nevada Photography Experience." This year's conference is scheduled to feature well-known photographers such as Jim Richardson of *National Geographic*, John Shaw, Kurt Markus, Robert Holmes, Douglas Keister, and Richard Menzies. Call 800-962-2638 or visit www.winnemucca.nv.us for details on registration and speakers.







Instructor Kim Komenich talks at Tyson's Canyon Ranch (top), as photographed by Ira Gostin. Photo assistant Maurice Greeson photographed Gostin (middle left) as he focused on model Liza McIlwee at the Capitol. The Bliss Mansion in Carson City was a subject for Phil Lambert of Reno (left). Craig Malburg of Los Angeles caught Mark Twain impersonator McAvoy Layne (right).

Nevada Showguide

Where the stars and shows are playing in January and February.

Nevada's clubs and hotels offer big-name entertainment and production shows. This winter the curtain rises on the Broadway musical "Mamma Mia!," based on the music of Abba, at Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas. Tommy Tune performs on New Year's Eve at the Eldorado in Reno, while George Carlin headlines at Harrah's Lake Tahoe. Here, *Nevada Magazine* presents a guide to featured performers. Call ahead for 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 Sat. Guitar Bar: Shawn Eiferman, Thurs.-Sat.

Green Valley Ranch • 702-454-0544: Jazz Club: Entertainment Fri.-Sat. Estancia Event Center: Entertainment TBA. Whiskey Sky Terrace: Entertainment TBA.

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: Gary Puckett, Feb. 14. Hank Thompson, April 1. Will Downing and Gerald Albright, May 3. Jerry Tiffe and His Orchestra play 2-4pm Wed. Loveshack, 9pm-1am on Thurs. Louie Louie plays at 11pm and 1am on Fri.-Sat.

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: Alabama: The American Farewell Tour 2003 Kickoff, Dec. 31. Fireworks from the rooftop on New Year's Eve. "Grease," Jan. 28-Feb. 2. "Miss Saigon," May 13-18. CenterStage Showroom: Society of Seven, musical comedy, dark Mon. "X," adult production show, 10pm Tues.-Sun. Sinbad's Lounge: Bands play until 3am. Music in the Curve nightclub.

Arizona Charlie's • 702-258-5200: Naughty Ladies Saloon: Entertainment TBA. Jerry Tiffe's Band, 4-7pm Fridays.

Arizona Charlie's East • 702-951-5800: Palace Grand Lounge: Entertainment TBA. Bands play 4-7pm Fri.-Sun.

Bally's • 702-739-4111 or 800-237-SHOW: Jubilee Theater: "Jubilee!," dark Fri. Bally's Event Center: Hall and Oates, Dec. 31. Indigo Lounge: Doug Taylor appears nightly except Wed.

Barbary Coast • 702-737-7111: Barbary Coast Lounge: Pete Vallee as "Big Elvis," 3-6pm Tues.-Fri. Bands play in the lounge. Karaoke, 9pm-2:30am Tues.

Bellagio • 888-987-6667: Cirque du Soleil's "O," indf., dark Wed.-Thurs. Big Top: "Cheval," equestrian production thru Jan. 5. Light: Nightclub opens at 10:30pm Thurs.-Sun. Musicians play in the Petrossian Lounge 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. Insomnia Nightclub



Sharp Dressed Men

A tribute to ZZ Top has joined the cast of "American Superstars" at the Stratosphere in Las Vegas. Impersonators (from left) Dan Stover on bass, Kevin Curry on guitar, and Craig Aaron Small on drums play such hits as "Gimme All Your Lovin'" and "Sharp Dressed Man."

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Boardwalk Casino • 702-735-2400: Lighthouse Lounge: Spectrum, Motown sound, indf., dark Mon. Purple Reign, a tribute to Prince, dark Sun.-Mon. Party Gras, Sun.-Mon.

Boulder Station • 702-432-7777 or 800-683-7777: The Railhead: Marion Meadows, Feb. 14. Blue Oyster Cult, Feb. 15. Keiko Matsui, March 1. Michael Martin Murphey, March 14. Diane Schuur, March 29. Jerry Tiffe plays 2-4pm Tues. KIXX: Shooting Stars Karaoke, Thurs.-Sat.

Bourbon Street • 702-737-7200: Big Easy Showroom: "Soul of Magic," starring Victor and Diamond, dark Mon. "Paul Casas Show," cabaret singer, dark Mon.

Caesars Palace • 702-731-7333 or 800-445-4544: Colosseum Showroom: Celine Dion opens March 25. Shadow Bar: Dancers and flair bartenders perform 8pm-2am Sun.-Thurs. Entertainment in the Café Lago, Terrazza Lounge, Cleopatra's Barge and Galleria Bar.

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 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 at the Strip hotel-casino.

Excalibur Hotel • 702-597-7600: King Arthur's Arena: "Tournament of Kings," jousting-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: The Drifters, 7 and 9pm Tues.-Wed. thru Jan. 15. "Secrets" magic show starring Arian Black, 3pm. 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: Silver State and Savoy ballrooms, New Year's Eve parties on Dec. 31. Gladys Knight, thru Feb., dark Sun.-Mon. "Bottom's Up," 2 and 4pm, dark Sun., indf. 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.

Gold Coast • 702-367-7111 or 888-402-6278 (U.S. outside Nevada): East Lounge: Kinda Dixie Jazz Band, noon-6pm. Bands play nightly except Mon. Nevada Ballroom: New Year's Eve party with Jack Jones features dinner, open bar, dancing, and champagne toast for $125 per person. Arizona Ballroom: Alter Ego plays for dancing, hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, open bar, champagne toast at $80 per person. Dance Hall: Jim Fitzgerald and his 18-piece band, party snacks, two free drinks, dancing, and champagne toast at $40 per person. Gold Coast Showroom: "Honky Tonk Angels: A Tribute to Country's Great Ladies," dark 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: "Spirit of the Dance," thru March 7, musical review includes Celtic, Latin, and Broadway dance styles, dark Thurs. Amazing Johnathan, bizarre magic production, 10pm thru Jan. 6, dark Mon. Bands play in the Show Bar Lounge nightly except Mon.

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

Greek Isles • 702-952-8000: Magic Theater: Dr. Naughty, comedian-hypnotist at 10:15pm daily. Sandy Hackett Comedy Club, 9pm nightly. Dixie Dooley as Houdini, 8:30pm Tues., Thurs., and Sun. "The Tribute to Frank, Sammy, Joey, and Dean," dinner at 5:30, show at 7pm, dark Wed.

Hard Rock Hotel • 702-226-4650: 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," adult musical revue, dark Thurs. "Mac King Comedy Magic Show" appears at 1 and 3pm Tues.-Sat. Carnaval Court: Outdoor entertainment seasonally. 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: Entertainment TBA.

Imperial Palace • 702-794-3261: Imperial Theatre: "Legends in Concert," dark Sun. The real Lesley Gore headlines the celebrity-impersonator show on New Year's Eve. Nomiya Lounge: Jeff Cox, Fri.-Sun. Dancing in Tequila Joe's Nightclub.

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

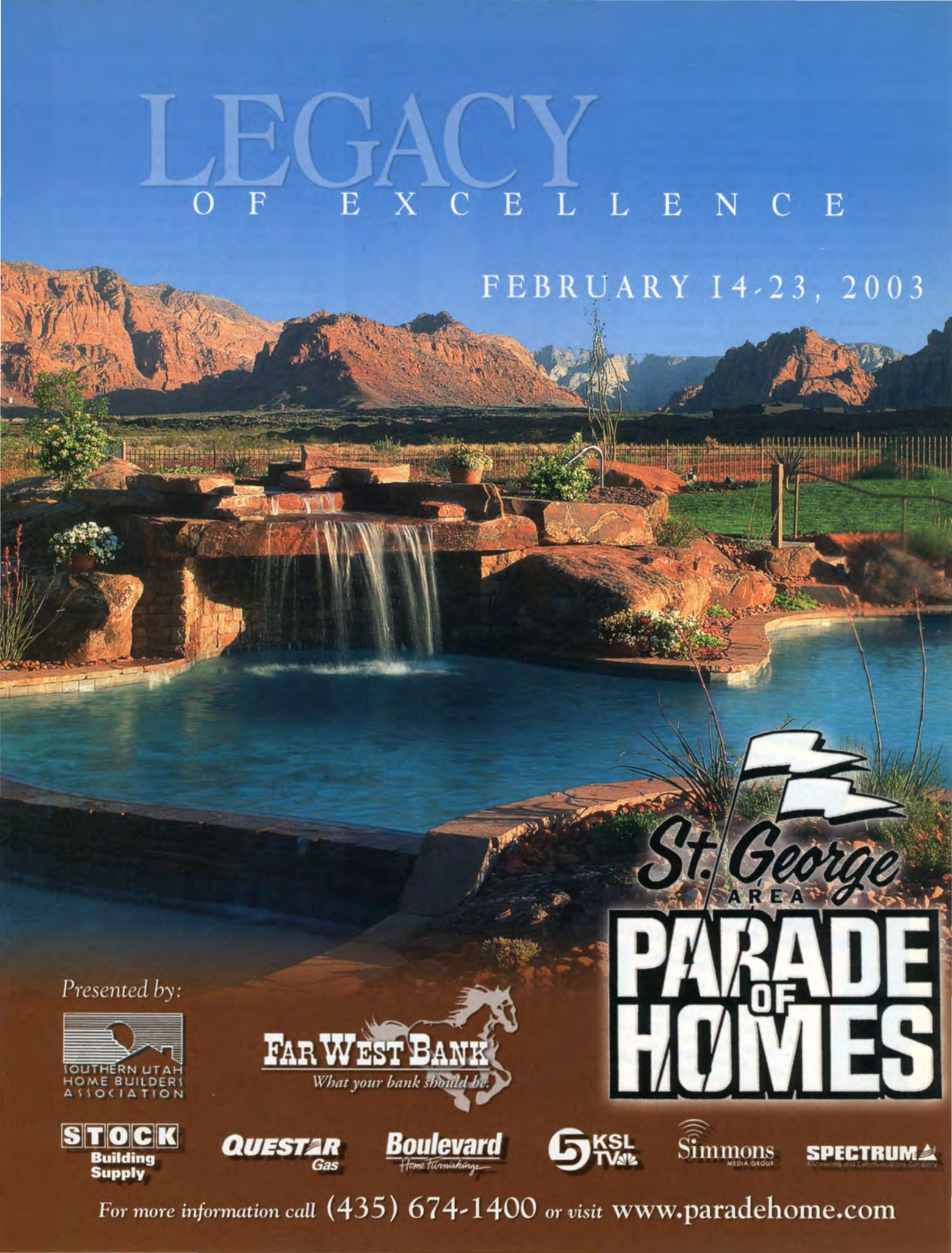
Lady Luck • 702-477-3000 or 800-523-9582: Lady Luck Theater: Entertainment TBA. Lucky Louie's Lounge: Entertainment TBA.

Las Vegas Hilton • 702-732-5755 or 800-222-5361: Hilton Theater: Huey Lewis and the News, Dec. 28-31. Engelbert Humperdinck, Jan. 14-Feb. 2. Doobie Brothers, Feb. 21-22. The B-52's, March 28-29. Engelbert Humperdinck, April 8-27. The Smothers Brothers, May 6-June 1. Engelbert Humperdinck, July 15-Aug. 3. The Smothers Brothers, Aug. 26-Sept. 14. Doobie Brothers, Sept. 26-27. The NightClub: Sheena Easton, thru Jan. 13, dark Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 and 10, Feb. 4-23, June 10-July 13, Sept. 23-Oct. 26. The Fab Four: The Ultimate Tribute to the Beatles, Feb. 25-April 6, Aug. 5-24, Sept. 16-21, Nov. 25-30, and Dec. 16-21. Dance bands play Mon.-Sat. in the Crystal Lounge.

Luxor • 702-262-4555: Luxor Theatre: "Blue Man Group: Live at Luxor," percussion theater. Pharaoh's Theater: "Midnight Fantasy," production show, dark Mon. Ra Nightclub at Luxor: DJs Wed.-Sat. Entertainers like Peter Monroy, Patty Janura, and Christy Bryant play in Nefertiti's Lounge. IMAX theater: *Lion King: Space Station 3D* thru Feb. 28.

Mandalay Bay • 877-632-7400: Mandalay Bay Events Center: Guns N' Roses, Dec. 28. Mandalay Bay Theatre: "Mamma Mia!," the Broadway musical based on the music of Abba opens Feb. 2. House of Blues: Reverend Horton Head, Dec. 30. Dance music, Thurs.-Sun. La Diabla, Latin dance night, Thurs. Gospel Brunch, 10am and 1pm Sun. Live blues Thurs.-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. and Jan. 1. MGM Grand Garden Arena: Neil Diamond, Dec. 27-28. Cedric "The


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Entertainer," Dec. 30. Hollywood Theatre: David Copperfield, thru Jan. 1. 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 Lounge.

The Mirage • 702-792-7777: Siegfried and Roy Theater: "Siegfried and Roy," magic spectacular, dark Wed.-Thurs. Danny Gans Theatre: Impressionist Danny Gans performs nightly except Fri. and Mon. 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. Top 40, disco, country, and classic-rock dance music nightly in the Monte Carlo Pub and Brewery.

New Frontier • 702-794-8200: Gilley's Saloon: Bands Tues.-Sat.

New York-New York • 702-740-6969 or 800-693-6763: Broadway Theatre: Showroom closed until Cirque du Soleil production opens in summer 2003. Cabaret Theatre: Comedienne Rita Rudner performs nightly. "Boo!" improvisational revue, 10pm Mon.-Thurs., 10:30pm Fri.-Sat. 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 at the Strip hotel-casino.

The Orleans • 800-ORLEANS: Mardi Gras Ballroom: New Year's Eve party includes an open bar, four-course, sit-down dinner, midnight toast, and Gianni Russo and his 16-piece orchestra, $120 per person. Esplanade Room: New Year's Eve party at $20 per person includes party snacks, two free drinks, party favors, and champagne toast. Orleans Showroom: The Lettermen, Jan. 3-5. Debbie Reynolds, Jan. 8-12. Neil Sedaka, Jan. 28-Feb. 2. Steven Wright, Feb. 6-9. Righteous Brothers, Feb. 11-23. Bobby Vinton, Feb. 27-March 2. Bourbon Street Cabaret: Performers appear nightly except Mon. Brendan's Irish Pub: Bands play nightly. Oasis Jazz Night, Tues. Sazio Restaurant: "Ba-Da-Bing," interactive dinner show, Thurs.-Mon.



Hughley's View

Comedian D.L. Hughley appears January 18-19 at the Silver Legacy in Reno. The host of *Comic View* has his own sitcom, *The Hughleys.*

Palace Station • 702-367-2411 or 800-634-3101: Gabe Kaplan's Laugh Trax Comedy Club: Comedians perform Tues.-Thurs. Jack's Irish Pub: Entertainers perform nightly. Palace Pavilion: Entertainment TBA.

The Palms • 702-942-7777: Rain in the Desert: Entertainment TBA. Bands play nightly in the Palapa Lounge. DJs play Fri.-Sat. in the Ghostbar.

Paris Las Vegas • 800-237-SHOW: Theatre des Arts: Classical Mystery Tour featuring the original cast of the Broadway production of "Beatlemania," Dec. 30-31. Smokey Robinson, Jan. 3-4. Julio Iglesias, Jan. 9-12. David Sanborn/Joe Sample, Jan. 17-18. Sinbad, Jan. 30-Feb. 2. Dana Carvey, Feb. 7-9. Olivia Newton-John, Feb. 20-23. Kenny Loggins, March 7-8. Lou Rawls/Nancy Wilson, March 21-22. The Moody Blues, March 27-30. Jeff Foxworthy, May 30-June 1. Sinbad, June 5-8. Paris Ballroom: Lionel Richie/Sinbad, Dec. 31. Bands play in Le Cabaret Show Lounge. Napoleon's Lounge: Entertainment nightly. Ovation Nightclub in the Ortanique Restaurant, 12:30-6am Fri.-Sat.

The Plaza • 800-634-6575: Plaza Theatre: The Comedy Zone, dark Mon. Omaha Lounge: Dusty Barron/The Sun Spots perform Tues.-Sun.

Rampart Casino at the Resort at Summerlin • 877-869-8777: Addison's Lounge: Entertainment is featured on weekends. Round Bar: Bobby Dickerson, Tues.-Sat.

Rio All-Suite Hotel • 702-252-7776 or 800-PLAYRIO (U.S. and Canada): Scinta Showroom: The Scintas, musical-comedy show, dark Thurs. Samba Theater: Penn and Teller, comedy-magic show, dark Tues. "Showgirls," late-night musical revue. Club Rio: "Chippendales: The Show," dark Tues. Club Rio Nightclub is open for late-night danc-



ing Thurs.-Sat. Calypso Room: "Tony 'n Tina's Wedding," off-Broadway interactive dinner theater, dark Tues. Masquerade Show in the Sky: Carnival-themed parade 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. Royale Pavilion: Fabian, Gary Lewis and the Playboys, Mark Lindsay, Andy Kim, Ron Dante, and Billy J. Kramer, Dec. 31. 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: "Rock This Town—Live," tribute to Jerry Lee Lewis, Little Richard, and Buddy Holly, 5pm Mon.-Thurs. "Shock: World's Most Bizarre Variety Acts," 10pm Mon. Singer Marlene Ricci, 8:30pm Tues.-Fri. "Ricci Martin: A Tribute to Dean Martin, His Son Remembers," 8:30pm dark Thurs. 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, 8:30pm Fri.-Sun. Lon Bronson's All-Star Band plays at 12:15am Sat. "Trent Carlini: The Dream King," Elvis impersonator, 10pm Tues.-Sun. Dr. Scott Lewis: Outrageous Comedy Hypnotist, 7pm Mon.

Sahara • 702-737-2515: Sahara Theatre: Magician Steve Wyrick, dark Tues., indf. Congo Room: "Bravo" starring Charo, dark Thurs. Golden Room: New Year's Eve party with dinner and entertainment by Forward Motion. Bands play in the Casbar Lounge.

Sam's Town • 702-454-8048: Sam's Town Live: Entertainment TBA. Late Night: Music and dancing 11pm-3am Fri.-Sat. Roxy's Saloon: Bands play. Mystic Falls Park: Laser and water show at 2, 6, 8, 10pm.



Bump in the Night

The improvisational dark-comedy revue "Boo!" plays for the late-night crowd at New York-New York in Las Vegas.

San Remo • 702-739-9000 or 800-522-7366: Parisian Cabaret: "Showgirls of Magic," revue, dark Mon. Bonne Chance Lounge: Tim Ballard appears nightly.

Santa Fe Station • 702-658-4900: The Green Room: Nightclub open for dancing. 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: "Dirk Arthur: The New Art of Magic," Wed.-Sun. thru Jan. "Joe Longthorne: Man of Many Faces," Dec. 30-Jan. 1. Bands play nightly.

Stardust • 702-732-6111 or 800-824-6033: Wayne Newton Theatre: Wayne Newton, thru Dec. 31. Tim Conway and Harvey Korman, April 2-5. Stardust Lounge: Bob Anderson, singing impressionist, 9-11pm Tues.-Sat. Bands play nightly.

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

Suncoast • 702-636-7111: Grand Ballroom: New Year's Eve, "A Tribute to Benny Goodman," starring Ken Peplowski and his 12-piece orchestra, features a five-course, sit-down dinner, open bar, and midnight toast for $119.95 per person. Showroom: "Frank, Dean, and Friends New Year's at Noon," includes one free drink, party snacks, and champagne toast at noon, $19.95 per person. Disco Inferno plays for the evening New Year's party that includes party snacks, two free drinks, and midnight toast for $29.95 per person. Showroom: Jack Jones, Jan. 4-5. Rich Little, Jan. 17-19. Artie Lange, Jan. 24-25. The Lettermen, Feb. 7-9. Charlie Prose, Feb. 14-16. Bobby Rydell, Feb. 21-23. Yellow Brick Road, 9pm-midnight Tues. Wednesday Knight Fever: Boogie Knights 10pm-1am. Bands play in the Suncoast Lounge nightly except Mon.

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A Swinging New Year

Big Bad VooDoo Daddy stars in the World's Biggest Dance Party December 31 at the Fremont Street Experience in Las Vegas. The band puts a contemporary twist on swing music.

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.

Tropicana • 702-739-2411: Tiffany Theatre: "Folies Bergere," dark Sun. "The 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: "Lord of the Dance," Celtic production, dark Mon. "V: The Ultimate Variety Show," nightly, specialty and daredevil acts.

Westward Ho • 702-731-2900: Crown Room: Entertainment TBA. Bands play nightly except Mon. in the lounge.

Wild West Gambling Hall • 702-740-0000.

LAUGHLIN

Avi • 702-535-5555: ArrowWeed Lounge: Bands play nightly.

Colorado Belle • 702-298-4000: Oldies duos play in the Boiler Room Microbrewery and Restaurant. Dixieland band strolls on D Deck and in the casino.

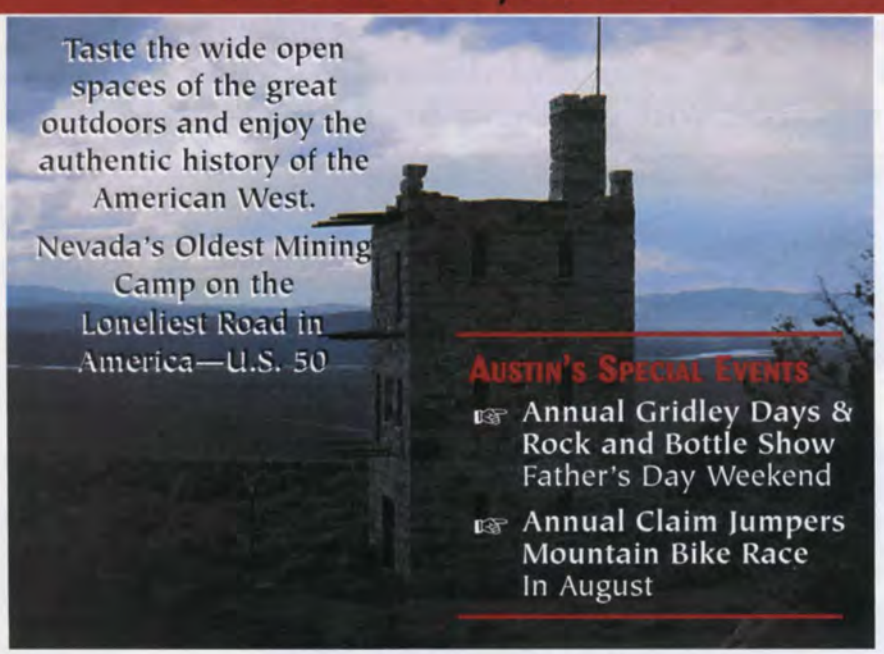
Edgewater • 702-298-2453: Edgewater Events Center: "Rock 'n' Roll Memories," tribute to Buddy Holly, Jerry Lee Lewis, Tina Turner, and Elvis, Tues.-Sun. Show includes free appetizers. Kokopelli's Lounge: Music nightly.

Flamingo Laughlin • 702-298-5111 or 800-435-8469: Flamingo Showroom: "Reflections of the Rat Pack," thru April 20, dark Thurs. Flamingo Ballroom: Lorna Luft, Jan. 2-4. Charo, March 10. Flamingo Amphitheater: Engelbert Humperdinck, April 5. Creedence Clearwater Revisited, April 24. George Thorogood and the Destroyers, April 25-26. The Beach Boys, May 31. The Righteous Brothers, Oct. 11. Engelbert Humperdinck, Oct. 25.

Golden Nugget Laughlin • 702-298-7111 or 800-237-1739: Tarzan's Nightclub: Dinner and dancing to the music of the '40s and '50s on Tues. Bands play nightly.

Harrah's Laughlin • 702-298-4600 or 800-447-8700: Fiesta Showroom: Earl Turner, high-energy cabaret singer, thru May 31, dark Sun. and Wed. "Laughternoon in Laughlin," variety show, thru April 19, dark Sun.-Mon. and Jan. 1. Rio Vista Outdoor Amphitheater: Entertainment TBA.

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

Ramada Express • 702-298-4200 or 800-243-6846: Pavilion Theatre: Collin Raye, Jan. 4-5. Country Nites, Jan. 6-8. Lounge: Bands like Four of a Kind, City Zu, and Shake, Rattle, 'n Roll play nightly except Mon. Karaoke Madness is scheduled on Mon. Special Event: Gem and Mineral Show, Jan. 11-20.

River Palms • 702-298-2242 or 800-835-7904: Crystal Sands Room: "Celebrities on Stage," impersonator show, Wed.-Sun. Berri Lee, comic-magician, Tues.-Sun. River Palms Events Center: Entertainment TBA. 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: Debbie Reynolds, Dec. 28-31.



Country Man

Country-music fans can see Roy Clark February 18-23 at Don's Celebrity Theatre at the Riverside Resort in Laughlin.

Charlie Prose, Jan. 9-Feb. 13. Roy Clark, Feb. 18-23. Mel Tillis, Feb. 25-March 2. Vicki Lawrence, March 5-9. Ricky Van Shelton, March 11-16. Chris LeDoux, March 27-29.

MESQUITE

CasaBlanca • 702-346-7529 or 800-459-7529: CasaBlanca Showroom: "Revolution: A Tribute to the Beatles," Dec. 31. Richard and Genie, adult hypnosis, Jan. 17-18. Mel Tillis, Feb. 22. Don Williams, May 23. Entertainment 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: Oak Ridge Boys, Feb. 1. The Armadillo: Kroakies Karaoke, Wed. Loveshack, Fri.-Sat. Sunday Swing with Jerry Tiffe, 4-8pm Sun.

PRIMM

Buffalo Bill's Resort • 800-FUN-STOP: Star of the Desert Arena: Entertainment TBA. Stage Bar: Bands play Thurs.-Sun.

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

Whiskey Pete's • 800-FUN-STOP: Show Bar Lounge: Entertainment Fri.-Sun.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

CARSON CITY

Carson Nugget • 775-882-1626 or 800-426-5239 (continental U.S. including Nevada): Nugget Show Bar: David Proud, Dec. 31-Jan. 5.

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

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

CARSON VALLEY

Carson Valley Inn • Minden, 775-782-9711 or 800-321-6983: Shannon Ballroom: Entertainment TBA.

Sharkey's Nugget • 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, Feb. 14-16. Bands perform nightly in the Center Stage Cabaret. Dancing in the Atlantis Nightclub.

Boomtown • 775-345-6000: Can-Can Theater and Dancehall: Bands perform Tues.-Sun.

Club Cal Neva-Virginian • 775-323-1046 or 877-777-7303: Entertainment 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: Tommy Tune and the Manhattan Rhythm Kings, Dec. 31. "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" opens Jan. 17 for an indefinite run. Bands play nightly at the Brew Brothers microbrewery. Piano music in the Roxy Lounge. BuBinga Lounge: Dance to DJs and bands.

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, dark Tues.-Thurs. "Motor City All-Stars," starring Chapter One, dark Sun. Comedy Magic, rotating comics perform in a one-man show, dark Mon.-Tues., Dec. 31, and Jan. 26. The Plaza at Harrah's: Seasonal entertainment.

John Ascuaga's Nugget • Sparks, 775-356-3304 or 800-648-1177: Celebrity Showroom: Roy Rogers and Norton Buffalo, slide guitar and harmonica duo, Jan. 3-4. "Sheep Dip," Reno-area show with satirical skits, Jan. 30-31. "Simply Cole!," Cole Porter's music, Feb. 5-March 26. Del McCoury Band, Feb. 20. Joan Jett and the Blackhearts, March 7-8. Robben Ford, March 21. Rose Ballroom: Brew-Ha-Ha, microbrews and entertainment, Sierra Arts Foundation fundraiser, Feb. 21. Bands play nightly in the Casino Cabaret and Trader Dick's. Flamenco guitarist Thurs. and jazz Fri.-Sat. in Restaurante Orozko.

Peppermill • 775-826-2121 or 800-648-6992: Tahoe Grand Showroom: Entertainment TBA. Bands play in the



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

Cabaret Lounge. Ron Perry and Dale Vernon perform in the Steakhouse Lounge.

Rail City Casino • Sparks, 775-359-9440: Side Track Lounge: Bands play on weekends.

Reno Hilton • 775-789-2285 or 800-648-3568 (U.S. outside Nevada): Hilton Theater: Joe Satriani, Jan. 29. The Miracles, Dec. 31. Hilton Pavilion: The Pointer Sisters, Dec. 31. 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: D.L. Hughley, Jan. 18-19. Bill Cosby, March 29. City Center Pavilion: Entertainment TBA. 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.

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: Williams Back Door Blues Club: Bands play 9:30pm-12:30am Fri.-Sat.

Caesars Tahoe • 775-588-3515 or 800-648-3353: Circus Maximus: Bonnie Raitt, Dec. 30-31. Club Nero nightclub has music for dancing. Cleo's Bar: Pianist Arthur Hervey.

Harrah's Lake Tahoe • 800-HARRAHS: South Shore Room: Creedence Clearwater Revisited, Jan. 17-19. George Carlin, Jan. 24-25. Willie Nelson, Feb. 14-16. Bands play in the Casino Center Stage.

Harveys • 775-588-2411 or 800-553-1022 ext. 2883: Cabaret: The Improv, comedians perform, dark Mon.

Lake Tahoe Horizon • 775-588-6211 or 800-322-7723: Golden Cabaret: "Carnival Cabaret," male celebrity impersonator revue, dark Mon. Club Z: Dance music. Bands play in the Aspen Lounge.

Lakeside Inn • 775-588-7777: Entertainment TBA.

NORTH LAKE TAHOE

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

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: Entertainment TBA.

Stockmen's Hotel • 775-738-5141 or 800-648-2345 (U.S. and

Nevada): Bands play in the Stockmen's Showroom.

ELY

Hotel Nevada • 775-289-6665.

FALLON

Bonanza Inn • 775-423-6031.

Fallon Nugget • 775-423-3111.

HAWTHORNE

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

Joe's Tavern • 775-945-2302.

JACKPOT

Barton's Club 93 • 775-755-2341.

Cactus Petes • 800-821-1103: Gala Showroom: Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers, Dec. 30-31.

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

LOVELOCK

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

PAHRUMP

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 Nightclub with DJ, 9pm Fri. New Year's dinner with jazz band entertainment, Dec. 31. Comedy Corral, stand-up comedians, 8pm. Oldies with the Marvelettes, Penguins, Crests, and Judy Barrett Band, Feb. 15. Special Event: Shoot-Out Golf Tournament, April 22-23.

Terrible's Lakeside • 775-751-7770.

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

TONOPAH

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

Tonopah Station Ramada Inn (formerly the Station House) • 775-482-9777: Bands play on weekends.

WENDOVER

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

Silver Smith/State Line • 775-664-2231 or 800-354-3671: Asian New Year Festival, Feb. 1. Entertainment nightly.

WINNEMUCCA

Winners Hotel • 775-623-2511: Comedians perform 7:30-9pm Thurs. Bands perform Thurs.-Sat. at the Winnemucca hotel.

Model T Hotel • 775-623-2588: Bands play Tues.-Sat.

Holiday Inn Express • 775-625-3100.

Sundance Casino • 775-623-3336.

Red Lion • 800-633-6435.

YERINGTON

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

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



Broadway Comes to Vegas

"Mamma Mia!" opens February 2 at Mandalay Bay on the Strip. The Broadway musical (shown above) about a young woman's upcoming wedding features the music of Abba.



Good-Time Charlie

Comedian Charlie Prose sets a record every time he plays the Riverside in Laughlin. **By Kathy Espin**

Charlie Prose claims he's just a regular guy. Of course, he happens to play 200 club dates a year all over the country, has a multimillion-dollar direct-mail business that sells his tapes and videos, and, at 57, just started a career in dinner theater.

But Prose's down-home comedy and piano playing make him seem like the star next door. In fact, he's so comfortable at Don's Celebrity Theatre at the Riverside Resort in Laughlin that he has appeared there more than 1,000 times.

"Laughlin has been like a winter home for me for 14 years. I hold the record at Don's Celebrity Theatre for the most performances," he says. Prose, who returns to the Riverside January 9 to February 13, makes his real home in Mays Landing, New Jersey, near Atlantic City, where he also performs regularly. His office and retail business are located there, as are his wife, Linda, and two adult daughters, Michelle and Alicia. "The girls are a big part of my show," he says. "I talk about when they were growing up and differences between kids then and now."

Prose goes out and talks to his fans after every show at the Riverside.

Prose's regular-guy style, reminiscent of Red Skelton's, includes good-natured jokes with a lot of goofy mugging for the audience. Although his show is heavy on bathroom humor—such as an extended riff on the suction power of cruise-ship toilets—there's not a bad word spoken. The jokes don't get much raunchier than: "A laugh held inside turns to gas."

During the show he reminisces about the simplicity of his childhood in the Pennsylvania coal country. He explains how sneakers have changed: "You can take a little kid today that's one-and-a-half-feet tall, and if you have enough money, you can pump him up to eight feet tall." In contrast to today's high-tech toys, Prose introduces one of his childhood playthings,



Charlie Prose brings his one-man variety show to Don's Celebrity Theatre, where he's appeared more than a thousand times. "I try to tell people to take care of each other and laugh more," Prose says.

an empty toilet paper roll—the "tu-ta-roo." Showgoers laugh, remembering the pretend trumpet.

"The humor and the message I try and give in my show is an up kind of message. I try to tell people to take care of each other and to laugh more," he says. "I'm not afraid to show them my vulnerability on stage. I think that's the basis of my success."

Prose pokes fun at himself, Laughlin, and Michael Jackson (he attributes Jackson's habit of grabbing himself to friction from corduroy pants). Prose's act includes a couple of love songs and a rousing medley of movie songs such as *Casablanca's* "As Time Goes By" and the theme from *Gone With the Wind.*

"That's what I enjoy doing. My love is still being on stage in front of a live audience," he says.

Recently Prose starred in a Pittsburgh dinner-theater production of "Send Me No Flowers." Next fall he is scheduled

"I'm not afraid to show them my vulnerability on stage. I think that's the basis of my success."

to appear in "Never Too Late" at the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse in Clinton, New Jersey. In between he'll take his own stage show to the Riverside in Laughlin.

"We have the most wonderful fans. They come 15, 20 times to see my show, and I go out and talk to them after every show. They have just spent two hours with me, and I appreciate that. Besides," the regular guy says, "I like them."

Show Notes

Charlie Prose appears in Don's Celebrity Theatre at the Riverside Resort in Laughlin from January 9 to February 13 (dark Friday and on Super Bowl Weekend, January 25-26). Show time is 7 p.m. Afterward Prose greets fans at the showroom door. Tickets are $27.50, or $20 for groups of 35 or more. Room-and-show packages are available; call 800-227-3849 ext. 616. Prose also appears at the Suncoast in Las Vegas on February 14-16. Tickets start at $24.95; call 702-636-7111.

Kathy Espin is a Las Vegas writer.





Casino Notes

News from hotel-casinoland. **By Ann Henderson**

Las Vegas Territory

Fabulous Forties: The new **Cannery Casino and Hotel** resembles a 1940s factory with its aged-brick exterior and 120-foot smokestack, but inside it's 21st-century Las Vegas. The property offers a 50,000-square-foot casino with 1,277 slot and video poker machines and 21, roulette, craps, poker, pai gow, and Caribbean draw poker tables. Victory's Booze and Bets, an 8,725-square-foot facility, offers sports betting, 12 big-screen TVs, and a bar menu.

The hotel has 201 rooms and five restaurants, including a buffet, coffee shop, steakhouse, Mexican eatery, and sandwich outlet. The Club, an indoor-outdoor tree-lined entertainment and pool area, will showcase concerts, exhibits, and festivals. Customers earn points in the American Can Club for cash back, merchandise, tickets to events, and meals. Located on East Craig Road in North Las Vegas, the Cannery is six miles north of the Strip.

Plaza Reflection: A waterfall spills into a reflecting pond at the **Lewis Avenue Corridor**, a $2.6-million downtown Las Vegas redevelopment project. A walkway across the pond features verse embedded in the bridge, and more than 600 trees and shrubs enhance the three-block plaza. The city also opened a parking garage.

Back to School: **New York-New York** offers gaming lessons from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily. You can learn roulette, craps, blackjack, mini baccarat, pai gow, Let It Ride, and Caribbean stud poker.

Big Changes: A $150-million expansion project at **The Orleans** included six new movie screens, a 2,600-space parking garage, a 630-room tower, an additional 30,000 square feet of casino space, a new poker room, two restaurants, and a spa and fitness center. A 9,000-seat arena will open in 2003.

Down at the Riverside: A 190,000-square-foot parking garage and a two-story, 20,000-square-foot casino expansion will serve guests at the **Riverside Resort** in Laughlin. The new facilities at the Colorado River property will be connected to the Riverside's main casino by a walkway bridge.



The Cannery, a new 1940s factory-themed hotel-casino in North Las Vegas, has several restaurants.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

Stay and Ski: The **Eldorado** and **Silver Legacy** in downtown Reno offer ski packages this winter. Packages start from $55 per person based on double occupancy with access to ski resorts such as Heavenly, Squaw Valley, and Kirkwood. The packages include meal coupons and transportation to ski hills. Both hotels present après-ski entertainment and dining. Visit www.eldoradoreno.com or www.silverlegacy.com for details.

Now in Reno: The **Golden Phoenix** features 604 rooms and suites as well as 14,000 square feet of meeting space and the Benihana Japanese Steakhouse. Other dining options include the Golden Place Chinese Restaurant and the Vista Room, an upper-floor eatery with views of the Sierra Nevada. The Golden Phoenix, formerly the Flamingo Reno, is located at Second and Sierra streets.

Motown Music: "Motor City All-Stars Rhythm and Blues Revue" appears at **Harrah's Reno** through March. Chapter One, the four-man singing and dancing group, takes audiences on a musical tour of the 1960s Detroit sound, presenting classic songs of the era such as "My Girl," "Soul Man," and "Papa Was a Rolling Stone." Tickets to "Motor City All-Stars," which plays in Sammy's Showroom, are $25. Call Harrah's Reno, 800-427-7247.

Relaxing and Eating: The **Reno Hilton** gained new space by expanding the Health Club and Spa by 1,200 square feet and remodeling the buffet and the Executive Business Center. The hotel is continuing its five-year room-renovation project.

Dine at Rosie's: A new restaurant, Rosie's Café, opened at **John Ascuaga's Nugget** in Sparks. The restaurant's American cuisine is served with a bistro flair.

Minden Deals: Spa-suite, ski-bargain, senior, and midweek getaways make up the **Carson Valley Inn's** winter packages this season. Ski deals include lift tickets at Heavenly or Kirkwood. Prices range from $49 per person, double occupancy, for the Senior Inn Club getaway to $193 per person for the three-day, Friday-Saturday-arrival ski packages (some restrictions apply). Call 800-321-6983 ext. 629 for further information.

Rural Nevada

Stretching Out: The **Rainbow Hotel Casino** in Wendover completed its expansion in July. Added are a 9,000-square-foot convention space, race and sports book, 130-seat steakhouse, and 11,000 square feet of casino area.

New Operation: After extensive remodeling, the former Station House in Tonopah became the **Tonopah Station Ramada Inn** last summer.

Casino Deals

You'll get some change back from a $10 bill at the Surf Buffet inside the **Boardwalk** on the Las Vegas Strip. Breakfast costs $5.99, brunch $6.99, dinner $8.49, and the steak-and-egg night-owl supper $5.99. 702-735-2400, 800-635-4581, www.boardwalk.com.

A yearning for beef can be satisfied any time of day or night at the **California Hotel's** Market Street Café in downtown Las Vegas. The $5.99 prime-rib special includes a baked potato and salad. 702-385-1222, 800-634-6255.

The **Colorado Belle** in Laughlin celebrates Mardi Gras February 21 to March 4 with the annual Carni-Belle celebration and its New Orleans-style carnival theme. Among the activities is the "Rollin' on the River" dice game, which is played by rolling giant dice down the Colorado Belle's grand staircase. For each roll players get to cover numbers from one to 10 on the game's scoreboard according to the numbers rolled. Cover the entire board, and you win $1,000. Roll snake eyes and win $100. There are various ways to earn drawing tickets, and the dice are rolled five times a day. The top prize for each session is $1,000. 702-298-4000, 800-47-RIVER, www.coloradobelle.com.



You can roll the big dice at the Colorado Belle.

New Players Club members at the **River Palms** in Laughlin pay for one night's room (for two adults) and get one free night. The deal includes a buy-one, get-one-free buffet. Room rates are $24 to $28 weekdays and $48 and up weekends. Membership in the Players Club is free. Using the savings you can see "Celebrities on Stage" starring the Edwards for $19.95 per ticket ($24.95 without club membership) in the Bermuda Room. Anthony and Eddie Edwards are identical twins who impersonate superstars like Billy Joel, Sonny and Cher, and Barbra Streisand. 702-298-2242, 877-787-7256, www.riverpalms.com.

A Club Paradise card (it's free) lets customers take advantage of food deals at the **Atlantis** in Reno. Toucan Charlie's Buffet offers a two-for-one breakfast Tuesday to Thursday. The Purple Parrot's soup and salad bar is $3.99 from 2 to 5 p.m. weekdays. Most nights MonteVigna and the Atlantis Seafood Steakhouse offer 30 to 50 percent off most dinners between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. 775-825-4700, 800-723-6500, www.atlantiscasino.com.

The **Eldorado** in Reno offers a chance to grab a handful of cash in 30 seconds from the Whirlwind of Cash machine. Players earn drawing tickets by visiting restaurants, getting a same-suit blackjack, and hitting jackpots. A drawing occurs every two hours from noon to 10 p.m. daily. Average winnings are $50 to $150, with some up to $400. 775-786-5700, 800-777-5325 (Promotional Center), www.eldoradoreno.com.—*Wilma LaRocca*

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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, 702-291-0026 for river, mine tours information.

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

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

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

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

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 • 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.

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

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



High Times at the Trop

Flying acrobats Jon Harms (top) and Chris Santistevan of Aerial Expressions perform on straps suspended from the Tiffany ceiling of the Tropicana. The Strip hotel's "Air Play" appears daily at 3, 5, 7:30, and 9:30 p.m. featuring aerial acts and singers and dancers on the stage below.

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 contemporary 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 Cafe • Motorcycle memorabilia, Harleys on display. Las Vegas Strip, 702-740-4555.

Houdini Museum • Memorabilia and magic shop. Venetian, 702-798-4789.

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

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 of the race track. 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.



Big New Year's Eve Party

Big Bad VooDoo Daddy plays for the "World's Biggest Dance Party" on December 31 at the Fremont Street Experience. Tickets are $30 for the New Year event, which marks the debut of a new light-and-sound show at the downtown Las Vegas entertainment canopy.

Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History • 4505 Maryland Pkwy., UNLV, 702-895-3381.
MGM Grand • Lion habitat open daily. 702-891-7979.
Mirage • Volcano and Siegfried and Roy Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat. 702-791-7111.
Mount Charleston • Recreation information. 702-222-1597.
NASCAR Cafe • Race cars displayed in the themed restaurant. 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., next to Cashman Center, 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, 702-643-4343.
Rio Suite Hotel • Free carnival-themed sky parade. 702-252-7777.
Sahara Hotel • Speed: The Ride roller coaster, virtual-reality car racing. 702-737-2735.
Sam's Town Sunset Stampede • Water and laser show. 702-456-7777.
Santa Fe Station • Ice arena. 4949 N. Rancho Dr., 702-658-4900.
Scandia Family Fun Center • 702-364-0070.
Shark Reef at Mandalay Bay • Exhibit of sharks, sea predators, and aquatic creatures. Visitors can ask questions of divers. 702-632-7777.
Shelby American • Shelby Cobra auto museum and factory tour. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 702-643-3000.
Spring Mountain Ranch State Park • Red Rock Canyon, 702-875-4141.
Star Trek: The Experience • Las Vegas Hilton, 702-697-8700.
Stratosphere • Roller coaster, Big Shot ride, and Strat-O-Fair midway. 702-380-7777.
The Palms • IMAX theater. 702-942-7777.
The Wynn Collection • Art belonging to casino mogul Steve Wynn. Wynn Resorts Bldg. 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, gambling museum, and aerial acrobatic show. 702-739-2222.

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From pre-history to pioneers and mining booms, from WWII to modern technology, come join us for a casual, intimate encounter with this region's rich and unique past.
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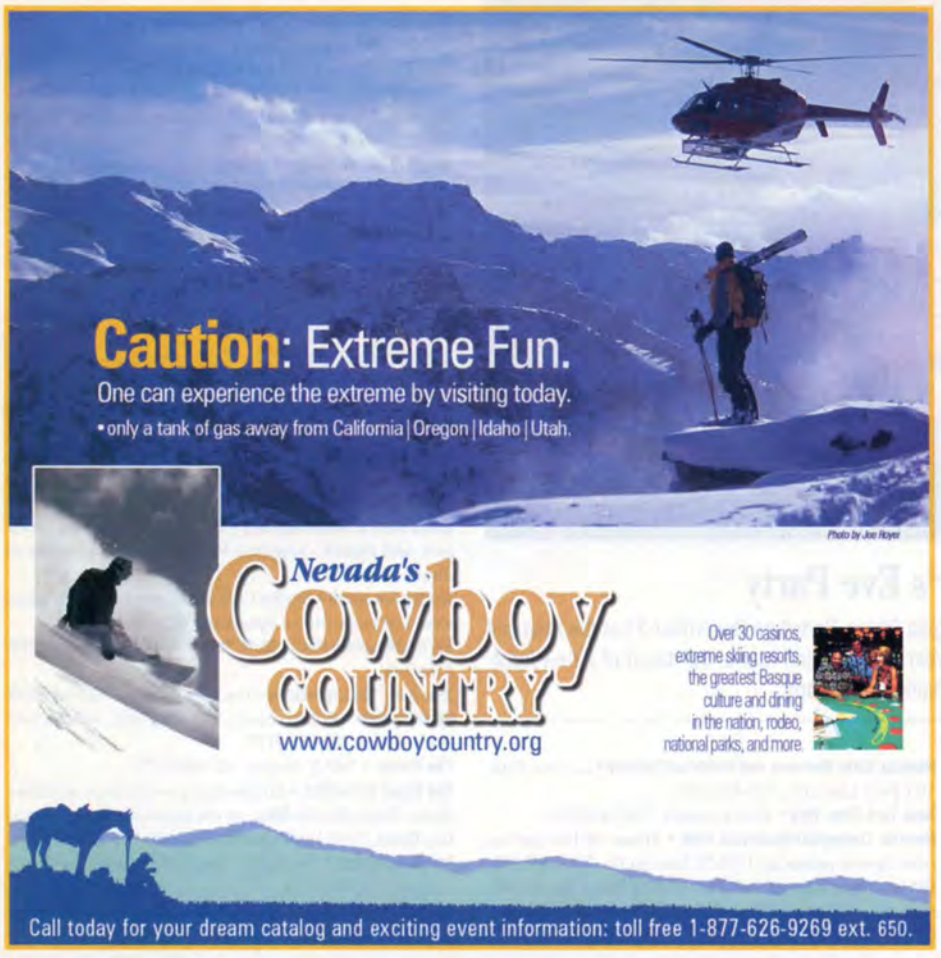


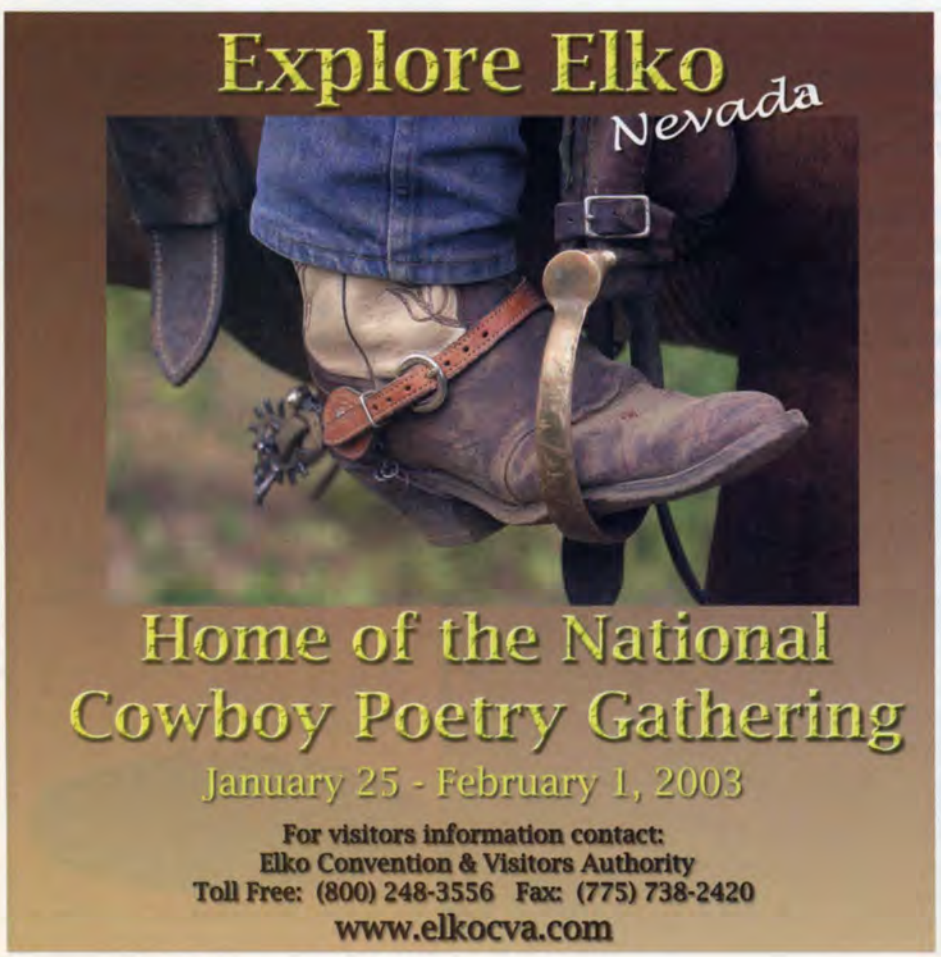
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Photo: Craig Malburg





Venetian Hotel • Gondola rides. 702-733-5000.
Walker African-American Museum and Research Center • Exhibits and records, by appointment only. 702-647-2242.
Wetlands Park • Nature center and walking trails. 7050 E. Tropicana Rd., 702-455-7522.
Wet 'n Wild • Water theme park opens in May. 702-765-9700.
XPLEX • Open-wheel racing experience. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 702-260-6355.

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.
Elvis-A-Rama Museum • Edgewater, 702-298-2453.
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.

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.
Old Logandale School Historical Museum and Cultural Society • Open Wed.-Sat. Logandale, 702-398-7272.
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. 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-NEVADA-1 about 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.



Hard Rock, Tonopah Style

Life in the Central Nevada community of Tonopah, 207 miles north of Las Vegas, has been a roller coaster of boom and bust since the silver discovery by Jim Butler in 1900. The mining memorabilia, equipment, and head frames at the Tonopah Historic Mining Park (above) tell the town's story.

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** • Cruise ship docks at Zephyr Cove, 775-588-3508.
Ponderosa Ranch • Seasonal. Incline Village, 775-831-0691.
***Tahoe Gal* Paddlewheeler** • Tahoe City, 530-583-0141.
Tahoe Rim Trail • 165-mile system. 775-298-0012.
Tallac Historic Site • South Lake Tahoe, 530-541-5227.
U.S. Forest Service Visitors Center • 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, Reno campus, 775-784-4811.
Galena Creek Regional Park • Mt. Rose Hwy., 775-785-4319.
Harrah's Reno • 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 S. Lake St., 775-333-9300.
National Bowling Stadium • Tournaments and IWERKS theater. 300 N. Center St., 775-334-2695.
Nevada Historical Society Museum • 1650 N. Virginia St., 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.
Kiddie Playland • Rides, picnicking. Idlewild Park, 775-329-6008.
Raymond I. Smith Truckee River Walk • 775-334-2077.
Reno Hilton • Water golf, Ultimate Rush thrill ride, putting course, go-kart center. 775-789-2000.
Reno Tahoe Gaming Academy • Classes. 1313 S. Virginia St., 775-329-5665.
Riverside Artist Lofts • Arts and cultural center. 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.



Photo: Jim Galli

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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.

ELKO

Northeastern Nevada Museum • 1515 Idaho St., 775-738-3418.
Ruby Mountains and Jarbidge Wilderness • 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.

FALLON

Churchill County Museum and Hidden Cave • Tours. 1050 S. Maine St., 775-423-3677.
Fort Churchill State Historic Park • Eight miles south of Silver Springs, 775-577-2345.
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 • 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 • Pahrump 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.
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 • Seasonal. 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 • 775-577-2345.

TONOPAH

Belmont Courthouse State Historic Site • 50 miles north of Tonopah, 775-867-3001.
Central Nevada Museum • 775-482-9676.
Tonopah Historic Mining Park • 775-482-9274.

WENDOVER

Bonneville Salt Flats • 801-977-4300.

WINNEMUCCA

Buckaroo Hall of Fame • 775-623-2225.
Humboldt Museum • 775-623-2912.
Midas Schoolhouse • Call for tours; 46 miles by dirt road, east of Winnemucca, 775-529-0302.

YERINGTON

Lyon County Museum • Winter hours. 775-463-2245.

What's a Jarbidge?



JARBIDGE WILDERNESS/SCOTT T. SMITH

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TOURISM AGENCIES

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002 Beatty Chamber of Commerce
003 Boulder City Chamber of Commerce
004 Carson City Convention & Visitors Bureau
005 Carson City Convention & Visitors Bureau—Senior Discount
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
010 Elko Convention & Visitors Authority
011 Jackpot Tourism
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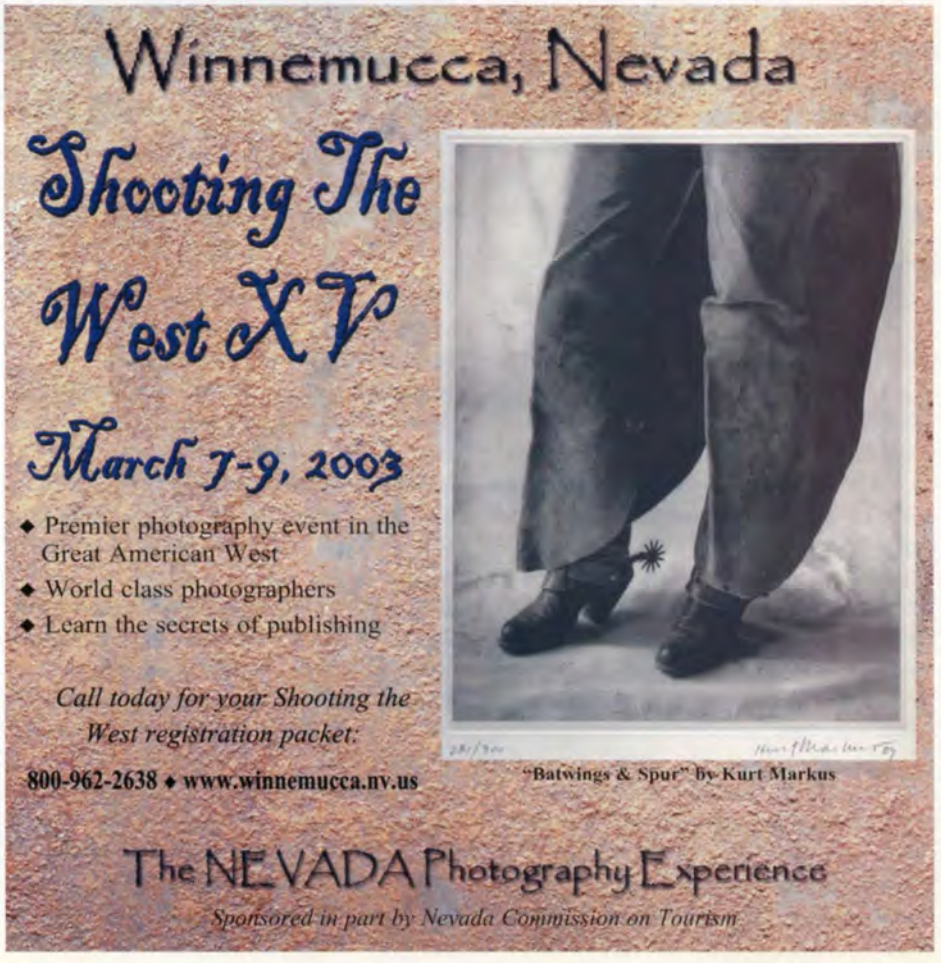
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Travel Hot Line: The Nevada Commission on Tourism provides travel information: 1-800-NEVADA-8, 775-687-4322, or www.travelnevada.com.





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.



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Urban C of C: 1048 W. Owens Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89106; www.urbanchamberlv.org; 702-648-6222.

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.carsonvalley nv.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

Photo: Christian Heeb/Gnass Photo Images

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: 122 Main Street, Austin Courthouse, Box 212, 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.

Jarbidge Community Association: Trading Post, 72 Main St., Box 260075, Jarbidge, NV 89826; jarbidge@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.

Pahranagat Valley Chamber of Commerce: Box 421, Alamo, NV 89001; www.pahranagat.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.pioche nevada.com; 775-962-5544 for Pioche-area information.

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.californiatrailinterpretivecenter.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; 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, 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 office: 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

The following Nevada dining directory includes current magazine advertisers. Each listing gives sample dishes, whether breakfast, lunch, and dinner (B, L, D) are served. Price ranges refer to typical entree price per person: up to $10 ($), $11 to $20 ($$), $21 to $30 ($$$), and more than $30 ($$$$). Nevada's area codes are 702 in the Las Vegas area and 775 in the rest of the state. Major credit cards are accepted at the restaurants unless otherwise noted.

Las Vegas Area

AMERICAN

The Cannery/Victory's Cafe—507-5700. Specialty sandwiches. Cafe open 24 hours. B, L, D. $.

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, desserts, 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. $.

INTERNATIONAL

The Cannery/Cannery Row Buffet—507-5700. Cuisine from around the world, champagne brunch. L, D. $-$$.

MEXICAN

The Cannery/Casa Cocina—507-5700. Mexican-style cuisine. L, D. $.

The Cannery/Casa Cocina Express—507-5700. Quick-service Mexican food. L, D. $.

STEAK & SEAFOOD

The Cannery/Waverly's Steakhouse—507-5700. Porterhouse and New York strip steaks, filet mignon, salmon, sea bass. D. $$.

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, $$.

Laughlin

AMERICAN

Don Laughlin's Riverside/Prime Rib Room—298-2535. Prime rib, chicken cordon bleu, salad bar. D. $.

Don Laughlin's Riverside/Riverside Cafe—298-2535. Steak and eggs, hamburgers. 24 hours. B, L, D. $.

Flamingo Laughlin/Flamingo Diner—298-5205. Build-your-own-omelets, Steak 'n Pasta. B, L, D. $.

Flamingo Laughlin/Fruit Basket Buffet—298-5348. Fresh fruit, salad bar, and entrees. Free beer and wine with dinner. B, L, D. $

Harrah's Laughlin/Fresh Market Square Buffet—298-4600. Food stations featuring pizza, vegetable lasagna, crab legs, prime rib. B, L, D. $

Harrah's Laughlin/Cabo Café—298-4600. Burgers, sandwiches, omelets, Caesar salad, fish and chips. B, L, D. $$

Harrah's Laughlin/Club Cappuccino—298-4600. Gourmet coffees, pastries, sandwiches, fruit smoothies. B, L, D. $.

MEXICAN

Harrah's Laughlin/Baja Blue—298-4600. Mexican cuisine. Fajitas (steak, pork, seafood, chicken), Steak Mexicana, mixed grill Baja Blue, tacos de carne asada. D. $.

STEAK & SEAFOOD

Don Laughlin's Riverside/Gourmet Room and Lounge—298-2535. French renaissance menu, tableside cooking. D. $$.



Katherine's fine-dining room at the CasaBlanca in Mesquite offers beef and Maine lobster.

Don Laughlin's Riverside/Riverside Buffet—298-2535. Multinational menu, Sunday champagne brunch. B, L, D. $

Flamingo Laughlin/Alta Villa—298-5257. Affordable gourmet dining with a view of the Colorado River. D. $$.

Flamingo Laughlin/Beef Barron—298-5111. Prime rib, barbecue chicken and ribs, steaks and fish. D. $$.

Harrah's Laughlin/The Range Steakhouse—298-6832. 14-ounce bone-in filet, Australian rack of lamb, grilled Atlantic salmon filet, grilled chicken breast. D. $$.

Mesquite

AMERICAN

CasaBlanca/Purple Fez Café—346-7529. Steak and lobster special, various entrees, 24 hours. B, L, D. $-$$.

Oasis/Charmaine's Fine Dining—346-5232. Steaks, prime rib, lobster, lamb chops, pasta, and seafood, two-time Zagat award winner. D. $$.

Oasis/Garden Room—346-5232. Extensive menu includes porterhouse and prawns, prime rib, 24 hours. B, L, D. $.

Oasis/Pizza Pub—346-5232. Pizza, wings, sub sandwiches. L, D. $.

INTERNATIONAL

CasaBlanca/Katherine's—346-7529. Dining room features certified Angus beef, Maine lobster, and Italian cuisine. D. $$.

CasaBlanca/Buffet—346-7529. Daily specials and themes, including Mexican and Southwestern, Italian and Mediterranean, Oriental, Creole and Cajun, seafood and prime rib, Hawaiian and Pacific Rim, and continental. B, L, D. $-$$.

Oasis/Paradise Buffet—346-5232. Mongolian barbecue, deli, and fruit, soup, and salad bars. Themes include All American, Italian Festival, prime rib. B, L, D. $.

Carson City

AMERICAN

Best Western Piñon Plaza Resort/Branding Iron Cafe and Margarita Saloon—885-9000. Western favorites at moderate prices. B, L, D. $-$$.

Carson Nugget/Buffet—882-1626. Sunday champagne brunch, Saturday breakfast buffet, Friday seafood buffet. B, L, D. $.

Carson Nugget/Coffee Shop—882-1626. Open 24 hours. B, L, D. $.

Carson Station/Station Grill and Rotisserie—883-8400. Baby back ribs, fish specials. L, D. $-$$.

Carson Station/Station Restaurant—883-0900. Home-style cooking. B, L, D. $.

STEAK & SEAFOOD

Best Western Piñon Plaza Resort/ Steakhouse—885-9000. Specialties include Southwestern shrimp, rack of lamb Dijonaise, six cuts of steak. D. $$.

Carson Nugget/Oyster Bar—882-1626. Fish and chips and pan roasts. L, D. $.

Carson Nugget/Steak House—882-1626. Veal scaloppini, scampi in dill sauce. D. $$.

Carson Valley

AMERICAN

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. $$.

Reno-Sparks

AMERICAN

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. $.

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. $-$$.

ASIAN

Eldorado/Golden Fortune—Reno, 786-5700. Hong Kong-style cuisine. D. $$.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Trader Dick's—Sparks, 356-3300. Cashew chicken, Szechwan specialties, flaming dagger brochette. L, D. $$.

BASQUE

Louis' Basque Corner—301 E. Fourth St., Reno, 323-7203. Sweetbreads, tripe, paella, 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 at the Eldorado eatery 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 hours. 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 bucco alla Romanza, salmone affumicato con fettuccini nere alla vodka, costolette d'Agnello. D. $$.

MEDITERRANEAN

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Restaurante Orozko—Sparks, 356-3300. Veal medallions saltimbocca, braised lamb shank, paella valenciana. D. $$-$$$.

STEAK & SEAFOOD

Eldorado/The Grill Steakhouse—Reno, 786-5700. Prime rib, seafood, and grilled entrees. D. $$.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Oyster Bar—Sparks, 356-3300. Lazyman's cioppino, seafood stews. L, D. $$.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Steak House—Sparks, 356-3300. Prime rib, steak, and lobster. L, D. $$.

Peppermill/Steak House—Reno, 826-2121. Steaks, seafood, chicken, salads. D. $$$-$$$$.

Lake Tahoe

AMERICAN

Caesars Tahoe/Cafe Roma—Stateline, 588-3515. Lamb chops, prime rib. B, L, D. $-$$.

ASIAN

Caesars Tahoe/Empress Court—Stateline, 588-3515. Szechwan, Mandarin. D. $$.

ITALIAN

Caesars Tahoe/Primavera—Stateline, 588-3515. Linguini carbonara, tenderloin pizzaiola. D. $$.

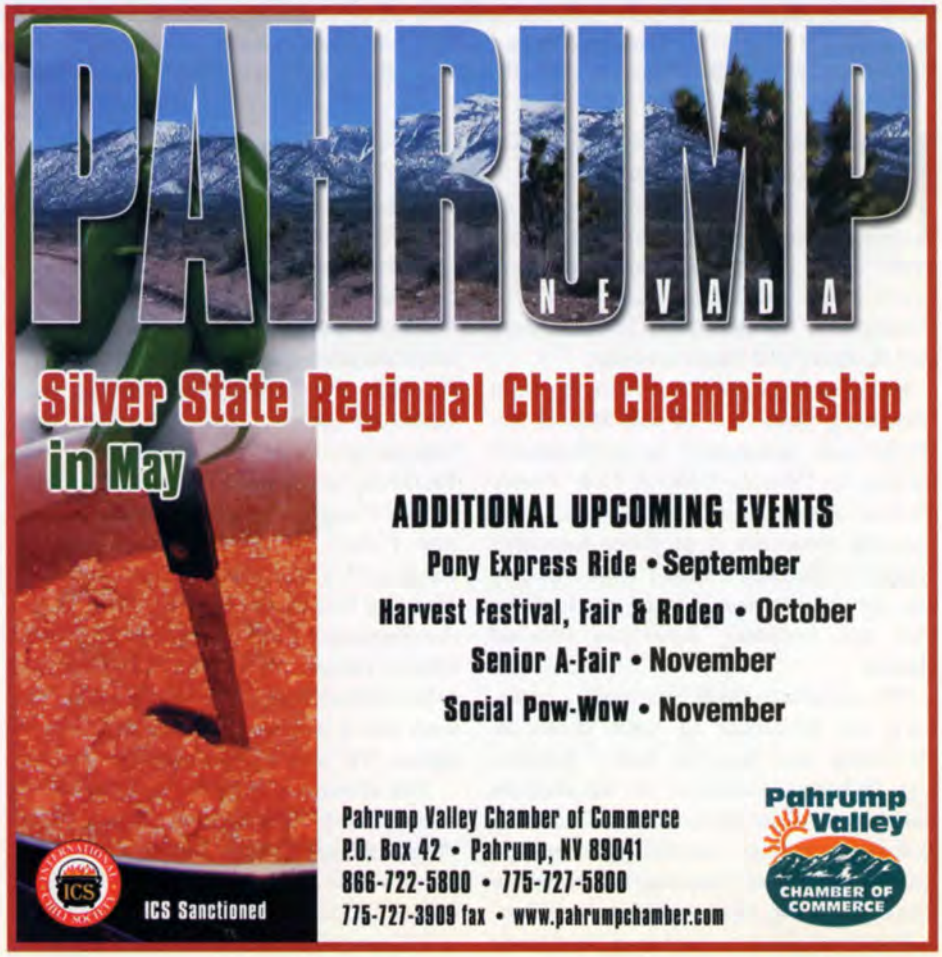
STEAK & SEAFOOD

Caesars Tahoe/Broiler Room—Stateline, 588-3515. Prime rib, seafood, and 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. $.





Cole Porter Hit Parade

Anything goes in "Simply Cole!" **By Joyce Hollister**





The vocalists of "Simply Cole!" sing the opening medley at John Ascuaga's Nugget (left). From left are Cami Thompson, Trace Robbers, Nanci Shaw-Pferschy, Steven Meyer, and Deidre Robbers. The show offers fast-paced arrangements of Porter's classics. "Can-Can" is one of the show's jazzy numbers (right).

In the Roaring Twenties, Cole Porter was regarded as a wealthy world traveler, a dilettante with a beautiful wife and an appetite for lavish parties. But Porter wrote some of America's most sophisticated songs, and critics rank him with George and Ira Gershwin, Jerome Kern, and Rodgers and Hammerstein.

Forty-five of Porter's hits—ranging from "Anything Goes" to "In the Still of the Night"—are presented in a 75-minute medley in "Simply Cole! A Cole Porter Musical Celebration," a midweek show opening February 5 at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks. Producer Trace Robbers says the show is one of many productions that are revisiting American musical classics.

"Great old standards have made a comeback on Broadway in such shows as 'Showboat' and 'Kiss Me, Kate,'" Robbers says. "What we wanted to do was capture the beauty of the lyrics of Cole Porter as well as the fantastic melodies. When you hear Porter's music, you may not know the title of the song, but you know the lyrics."

Porter was known for his wit and turns of phrase, as in the song "I Get a Kick Out of You":

I get no kick from champagne.
Mere alcohol doesn't thrill me at all.
So tell me why should it be true
That I get a kick out of you.

Porter wrote hundreds of songs, 24 musicals, and eight movies from the 1920s through the 1950s. Two of his most successful shows, "Kiss Me, Kate" and "Anything Goes," were revived on Broadway in the last two years.

The Nugget stage show presents a virtual Porter hit parade, featuring such songs as "It's De-Lovely," "Night and Day," "I've Got You Under My Skin," and "Begin the Beguine." Each number incorporates related pieces. "We do the 'Can-Can' and other upbeat songs, then torch songs. The story line is in Porter's lyrics," Robbers explains. "We take a theme and run with it."

The ensemble includes singers Steven Meyer, Cami Thompson, Nanci Shaw-Pferschy, and Deidre Robbers, the producer's wife. The dancers are Jennifer Chaney, Chrissy Fastabend, Kelly O'Neil, and Cassandra Mistak. Robbers, the communications director for the National Judicial College in Reno, also sings in the show. He studied under Nevada Opera founder Ted Puffer and has performed with John Raitt, Debbie Reynolds, and Toni Tennille.

"Simply Cole!" grew out of a concert version that Robbers presented earlier at the Nugget. This production will have an on-stage orchestra, and new, fast-paced arrangements will appeal to all ages, Robbers says. "You hear those great love songs, and they still apply today," he says. "When you listen closely, you understand how timeless the music really is."

Show Notes

"Simply Cole! A Cole Porter Musical Celebration" appears Wednesday evenings from February 5 to March 26 in the Celebrity Showroom at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks. Show time is 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost $22. Call 800-648-1177.

Joyce Hollister, Nevada Magazine's *associate editor, belts out Cole Porter songs in the shower.*

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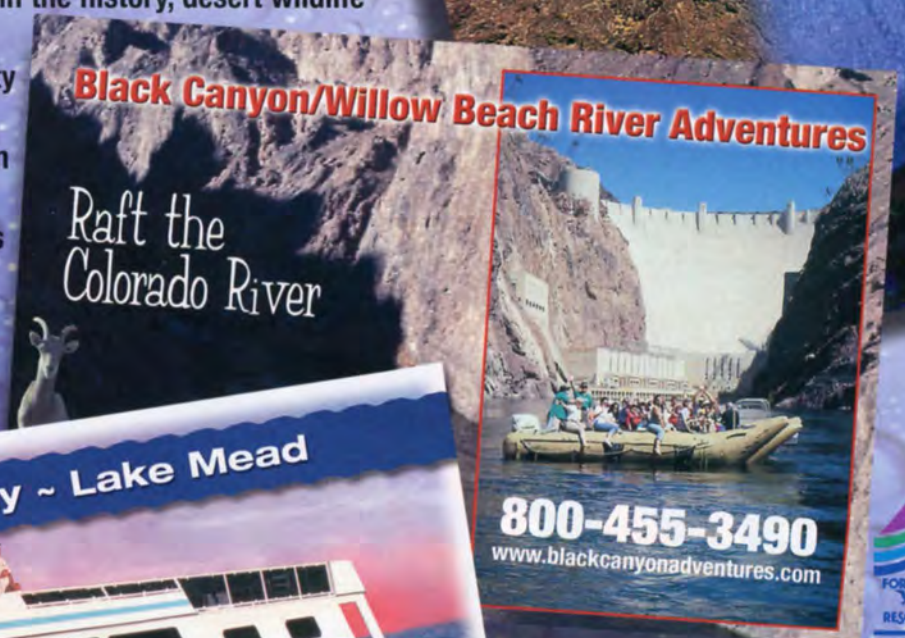
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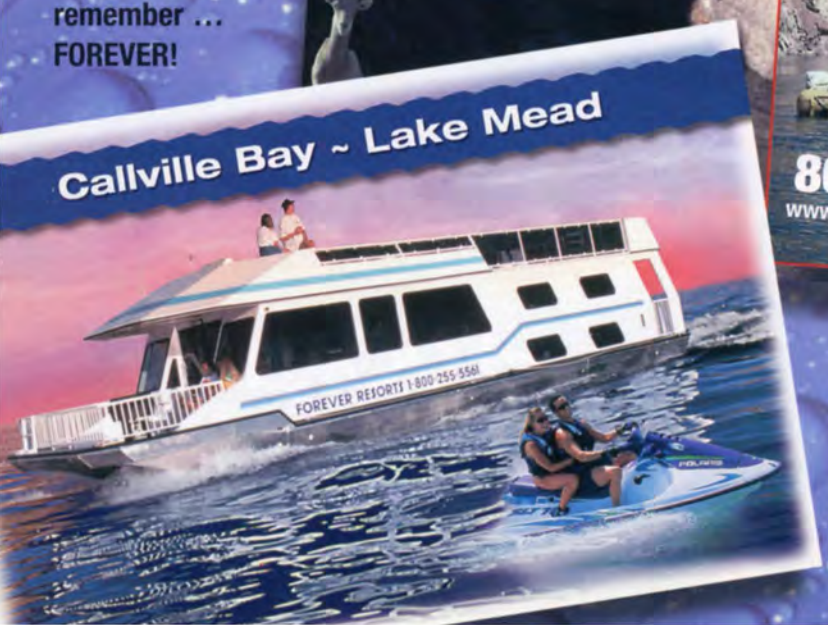
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Dining Out

Beginning the new year in the city and country.

Gourmet Buffet

By Deke Castleman

When you park in the garage of the Aladdin Hotel, you have to take a five-minute hike through the Desert Passage mall to get to the casino. Although some patrons find this inconvenient, I've discovered it's a great way to work up an appetite when I'm heading for the **Spice Market Buffet.**



The Middle Eastern station is a prized stop in the Spice Market Buffet inside the Aladdin.

Signs lead to an escalator that delivers you to the buffet. The cashier's booth is topped by one of the onion domes that pervade the Las Vegas hotel's Arabian-themed architecture, and the large dining room has a Moorish motif. Located one level below the casino, the Spice Market is in a world all its own.

That goes for the eating as well. In the 15 years that Nevada has been my beat, I've seen hundreds of buffets, and the Spice Market is number one, bar none—a superspread worthy of its tony center-Strip location. The food is gourmet quality. The serving areas are spotless. The presentation is pleasing. And the variety of selections is unsurpassed.

The salad bar, for example, has a watercress, almond, and orange salad. In the Italian section you'll find wild-mushroom ravioli and roasted-garlic eggplant. At the seafood island you can savor king-crab legs (at dinner), jumbo shrimp, mussels, and California rolls. Carvers serve New York strip steak, turkey breast, pork loin, and salmon. There also are Mexican, Asian, and American stations. Dessert always includes fresh berries and some sort of flambé preparation.

But the most exotic selections found at any smorgy in Buffet City are at the Middle Eastern island—lamb kabobs fresh off the grill, baba ganouj, labneh, curries, dolmades, phyllo caponata, and tandoori chicken.

If, by chance, you happen to overindulge a tiny bit—at the Spice Market, I've discovered it's impossible not to—you'll be able to walk off a little of it on your hike through the mall back to your car.

Spice Market Buffet, Aladdin Hotel, Las Vegas, 702-785-5555, www.aladdincasino.com. Open daily. Breakfast costs $11.99, lunch $13.99, dinner $19.99, and weekend brunch $16.99—all plus tax. Major credit cards are accepted at the buffet.

Deke Castleman is senior editor of the Las Vegas Advisor *and author of* Las Vegas.

Just Like Home

By Connie Emerson

In these days of cookie-cutter franchises, it's refreshing to find a small-town restaurant where everything is made from scratch. That's why the **Country Kitchen** in Winnemucca has been a hit with both tourists and locals during its eight years of serving breakfast and lunch from its storefront location on Winnemucca Boulevard.

"I started out catering on a shoestring," says owner Lynn Jenkins, who moved with her family from Layton, Utah, to Winnemucca in 1989. "I still have a catering business. But I've wanted to have a restaurant since I was four years old. As a child I would rather play with dishes than dolls." Jenkins' fulltime helpers at the restaurant include daughters Shanna and Shelley, and a third daughter, Kristin, lends a hand on Saturdays.

By the time she opened the Country Kitchen, Jenkins knew the kind of restaurant she wanted. "From the very first we made the restaurant nonsmoking. There was some resistance then, but now there isn't."

She also decided all the food should taste homemade. The long breakfast menu offers chicken-fried steak with eggs ($6.75), a seafood omelet ($6.95), and biscuits and gravy ($3.95). Popular luncheon dishes include Santa Fe Chicken, a salad of grilled chicken breast, cheese, tomatoes, beans, and crisp greens. The super-size sandwiches include the California Club, Philly Cheesesteak, and BLT, which come with potato, pasta, or green salad. Most lunches cost $6 to $7.50.

There's homemade soup and an array of desserts like Luscious Lemon Cake ($3.25). Jars on the counter are filled with chocolate-chip, peanut-butter, triple-chocolate, and oatmeal-raisin cookies. Jenkins ships cookie tins ($22.95 for two dozen) around the country. "Last year we sent a tin to Rosie O'Donnell," Kristin says, recalling how a visitor from back East ordered some for his talk show-host friend. "That was pretty exciting for us."

Like the cookie fan, the customers are as varied as the items on the menu—farmers wearing seed caps and overalls, moms and grandmas with their families, office workers, store clerks, and travelers on their way across Nevada on Interstate 80.

"We have lots of regulars—three to four times a week, some twice a day," says Jenkins. "We have tourist regulars, too, who have told us they time their trips so that they get here before we close at three."

Country Kitchen, 45 East Winnemucca Boulevard, Winnemucca, 775-623-0800, fax 775-623-4374. Open 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. MC and Visa are accepted.

Connie Emerson's latest book is The Cheapskate's Guide to Branson, Missouri.

Snowbound in Austin



Rural Nevada snowplow drivers like Wayne Norcutt work hard to keep the roads (and their minds) clear in winter.

By Carolyn Fox

It was a sunny winter morning, and Austin was covered with snow. Cars, tractors, houses, and the town's three churches were cloaked in white. A nice snowman stood in a yard. At the cemeteries, marble angels hovered over fresh snow unmarked by a single footprint.

A road crew was hard at work on Main Street. A tall, noisy machine was removing a mountain of snow piled in the center of the road. Suddenly the machine broke down in front of the youth center. We converged on the silent hulk.

Dressed in Nevada Department of Transportation orange, Wayne Norcutt already was replacing a part. He told us they called the machine Pak-Man because of its ability to gobble snow. Wayne explained that the shear pin had broken, so it must have hit something in the mound. He added, "Better than busting the gear box." Soon Pak-Man—in reality a 1963 Uni-Mog made by Mercedes—was back chewing hard, icy snow and spitting it into the dump truck rolling alongside.

Why pile snow in the middle of Austin in the middle of the Loneliest Road in America? Wayne explained that the snow doesn't melt until spring, so it can't be pushed against the sidewalks or parked cars. I'd always wondered how those NDOT guys were always ready to plow the roads in a snowstorm. And how could they live in the middle of nowhere. So I asked Wayne.

He told us there were seven men in the Austin crew. They covered U.S. 50 from the Churchill County line, through Austin, and eastward to Eureka County. They also covered the highways north and south of Austin. That's a lot of summits. A truck driver heading west once told Wayne that Highway 50 looked pretty straight on the map, so he gave it a try. When he got to Austin, he cussed, "How many more damn summits are there on this road?" (There are nine summits between Austin and the Utah line.)

Wayne's usual territory was U.S. 50 east of town over Austin, Scott, and Hickison summits. The maximum speed limit was 35 mph with blades down and 45 mph with blades up. Wayne had his section memorized, and he knew it by feel; the road's crown was only one inch higher than the edge. The drive would take about three hours to the Eureka County line, and with low visibility, he said, "it feels like a basketball on the back of my neck from the tension." Once he reached the county line, he would turn around and scrape the other side of the highway back to Austin.

Wayne usually plowed U.S. 50 east of town over three summits, and he had the section memorized.



Wayne Norcutt discusses the snow-gobbling Pak-Man he revived on the Loneliest Road in America.

For Wayne it wasn't a thankless job. "A guy's gotta be as good as you can. Ninety percent of the time you'll see people give you the thumbs up, and once in a while you'll get the middle finger."

Lander County was always home for Wayne. Raised east of Austin on a farm named Altameyer, he rode the bus 63

Photos: Larry Angier (top), Carolyn Fox (middle)

miles to school in Battle Mountain. He went to the College of Southern Idaho on a rodeo scholarship and in 1987 won the National Intercollegiate Saddle Bronc Championship. He later followed the pro-rodeo circuit, but when his wife, Vonda, got pregnant with son Devin, Wayne said, "I thought I'd better get a real job and started to work for the state." Daughter Jordan came along soon after.

I asked Wayne if he had any funny snowplow stories, but he reiterated that when you're driving a 10-wheel dump truck with chains, spreading a sand-salt mixture behind and sporting a 12-foot snowplow and a six-foot wingplow, and there's no visibility in the middle of a snowstorm, you'd better pray that nothing funny happens.



The Norcutts relax after a day's branding for their friends Jerry and Janet Lancaster on the Race Track Ranch near Austin. From left are Jordan, Vonda, Wayne, and Devin.

A month later I called Wayne. "So what's happened since we saw you?" He laughed and after much prodding told me about the night he was driving the snowplow on Austin Summit, where snow collects in big drifts. He'd been keeping watch on a guy who may have had a little too much to drink sitting in his car on the roadside. Why did he think he'd had too much? Well, the guy was stuck on the shoulder and had let his rear wheels spin until all the rubber was gone and the tires were flat, and then apparently he fell asleep.

Wayne still had him in his sights as he was plowing snow on the narrow road. Wayne got closer and closer. The guy woke up and started waving. Wayne got closer and closer. Just as he was about to pass the car, the sleepy motorist opened his door, and Wayne accidentally filled the inside of the car with snow.

The Austin crew is strictly a maintenance crew, so you won't see them building a road from scratch, but they have a variety of duties. They'll fix potholes, resurface the road, patrol the highways, and maintain the fences. The last duty surprised me. "Don't the ranchers do that?" He told me how, in the old days, people in the area tried to get home before dark due to the large number of cattle—in particular, black cattle—roaming on and near the roadways. It was free range. If you hit a cow, the rancher just needed to see what was left of your vehicle to find the culprit. Now most of Highway 50 is fenced, but a washout or a driver falling asleep can create a repair order for the crew.

And how about Wayne, what was he doing the next day? Taking his boy, Devin, to Reno, where Devin's doctor was flying in from Oakland to meet them to treat the boy's leukemia. I was momentarily stunned by Wayne's answer, so he assured me that his son was in remission. The year before, Devin had gotten really sick, and since there's a doctor in Austin only once a week, they drove him immediately to Fallon, and by the afternoon they were in Oakland.

The extended community helped raise money for Devin's doctor bills. The ladies had bake sales and bingo nights. Prizes were donated for turkey shoots. The roping clubs in Austin, Battle Mountain, and Fallon put on events. The Make-A-Wish Foundation sent Devin and the family on a fishing trip to Alaska. They had a great time and brought 175 pounds of halibut home to Austin. It was payback time, and Wayne and Vonda held a high-desert fish fry with a couple of kegs of beer. Everyone was invited. Wayne recalled, "There were three or four fistfights. It's just not a good party without the fistfights."

I talked to Wayne recently. He explained he had transferred to the Fallon NDOT station. He, Vonda, and Devin and Jordan, now 13 and 11, had moved to a 10-acre spread with horses outside Fallon, which has cut down on the long drives. "Yes, we put 30,000 miles on the Toyota going from Austin to Oakland." Devin is doing great now. Last fall he played football and had a deer tag, and he's riding horses and starting to rope. Jordan, who plays basketball, also is learning to be a team roper.

"It's nice to be closer to family here in Fallon," Wayne said. "Being in Austin was plumb tough. There was seven to eight months of snow control. Here there's two or three, more ice control than anything. It's pretty nice to be off that big snowy mountain and be in the banana belt of Fallon. Same exact work, just a lot less of it."

It was good to hear the Norcutts had found a new home in Fallon. Still, I remember how impressed we were the day we saw Wayne and his crewmates rescuing Austin from winter gridlock, a group of orange-vested Nevadans keeping the Loneliest Road clear for travelers.

When I think of that snowy scene in Austin, I remember another time I called Wayne to ask about Pak-Man. I didn't even hear the telephone ring. "Oh, hi," he said. "I'm staying close to the phone. It's starting to snow quite a bit tonight."



Carolyn Fox is a writer-photographer from Jackson, California.

Photos: Norcutt Family Collection (top), Larry Angier (bottom)

Destination: Laughlin

Casinos along the Colorado River in Laughlin.

In **Laughlin** they call it the good old wintertime. The casino town's winter weather fits its altitude (510 feet), latitude (35 degrees, 10 minutes), and location in the lower Mojave Desert. While most of North America is bundled in wool caps and parkas, Laughlin enjoys sunny days with temperatures in the 70s, and visitors are golfing, fishing, shopping, and river-going as if it were fall or spring (or even summer) in Ohio or Idaho.

The only reminders of snow in the **Colorado River** town are the 10,000 to 15,000 retired RVing "snowbirds" from the northern states and Canada who spend the winter in Laughlin (pop.: 8,000) and its cross-river Arizona neighbor, **Bullhead City** (pop.: 33,000). Other travelers find shelter in Laughlin's nine hotel-casinos and one motel. All visitors sate their hunger at Laughlin's famous buffets and growing number of gourmet rooms while finding time to gamble in the casinos.



The river town 90 miles south of Las Vegas—near Nevada's southern tip—offers a confluence of outdoor activities and events. The Colorado flows by the casinos, and several cruise boats offer sightseeing trips (water levels in winter occasionally are too low for the big boats). The ***Celebration*** at the Flamingo Laughlin and the ***Edgewater Belle*** at the Edgewater are operated by Laughlin River Tours (702-298-1047, 800-228-9825, www.steamboatwedding.com). The ***U.S.S. Riverside*** is based at the Riverside Resort (702-298-2535, 800-227-3849, www.riversideresort.com). The **Del Rio Yacht** departs from the River Palms dock (928-754-4391, 800-835-7904, www.rvrpalm.com). **London Bridge Jet Boat Tours** offers rides to Lake Havasu City (702-298-5498, 888-505-3545). **River Jetz Tours** (800-327-2386) departs to the London Bridge from the Golden Nugget and Flamingo docks. Personal watercraft can be rented at several casinos. Also, a state park, **Big**

Photos: Las Vegas News Bureau



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The Laughlin River Run (above) is a major spring event. Golfers can play the Emerald River (left) and Mojave links. Hotel-casinos hug the Colorado River (top).

Bend of the Colorado (702-298-1859), offers the chance for water sports four miles south.

You can boat, fish, and camp year-round at **Lake Mohave**. Created by **Davis Dam**, the lake is part of **Lake Mead National Recreation Area**. **Lake Mohave Resort** is located two miles north of town at Katherine Landing. On Lakes Mohave and Mead, **houseboat-rental** prices usually are lowest in winter (about $650 for three days and two nights). **Seven Crown Resorts** rents houseboats at Lake Mohave Resort (800-752-9669, www.sevencrown.com). **Forever Resorts** rents houseboats at Cottonwood Cove (800-255-5561 or 480-998-1981, www.foreverresorts.com).

Golf is another winter sport in Laughlin. Hotels team with the two 18-hole courses on the Nevada side to offer room-and-golf packages. The **Emerald River Country Club** (702-298-0061) has several holes on the river. The links-style **Mojave Resort Golf Club** (702-535-4653), across from the Avi Casino on the Fort Mojave Indian Reservation, is 16 miles south of the Laughlin casinos. Bullhead City also has golf courses.

In the three decades since casino owner Don Laughlin saw his name become a postal designation, the town's hotel-casinos have multiplied and expanded until today's Casino Drive boasts nine resorts with more than 10,000 rooms and 125,000 square feet of meeting space. Laughlin's low room rates generally range between $20 and $75 depending on the season. Call the hotels individually or dial 800-4-LAUGHLIN for town-wide room reservations. From north to south along the river:

Riverside Resort (702-298-2535, 800-227-3849, www.riversideresort.com) has 1,401 rooms, the Riverside Buffet, the Gourmet Room, Don's Celebrity Theatre, an RV park, an auto collection, movie theaters, bowling center, and *U.S.S. Riverside* cruises.

Flamingo Laughlin (702-298-5111, 800-352-6464, www.flamingolaughlin.com) has 1,900 rooms, the Fruit Basket Buffet, Alta Villa for fine dining, Club Flamingo, Flamingo Outdoor Amphitheater, exercise and massage center, tennis courts, and *Celebration* cruises.

Ramada Express (702-298-4200, 888-888-8695, 800-243-6846, www.ramadaexpress.com) has 1,500 rooms, the Roundhouse Buffet, the Steakhouse, Pavilion Theater, and train rides. Open daily, the hotel's **American Heroes Museum** has a multimedia show, flag raisings, and armed-forces tributes.

Edgewater (702-298-2453, 800-67-RIVER, www.edgewater-casino.com) has 1,420 rooms, the Grand Buffet, Hickory Pit Steakhouse, Kokopelli's Lounge, **Elvis-A-Rama Museum**, and *Edgewater Belle* cruises.

Colorado Belle (702-298-4000, 800-47-RIVER, www.coloradobelle.com) has 1,201 rooms, the Captain's Food Fare buffet, the Orleans Room, the Boiler Room Microbrewery and Restaurant, and a moat filled with koi.

Pioneer (702-298-2442, 800-634-3469, www.pioneerlaughlin.com) has 414 rooms, the Boarding House Restaurant, and Granny's Gourmet Room.

Golden Nugget Laughlin (702-298-7111, 800-237-1739, www.gnlaughlin.com) has 300 rooms, the Deck, Jane's Grill, and Tarzan's.

River Palms (702-298-2242, 877-RVR-PALM, www.river-palms.com) has 1,003 rooms, the No Ka Oi Buffet, the Lodge, Bermuda Club Lounge, massage therapy, and sandy beachfront.

Harrah's Laughlin (702-298-4600, 800-HARRAHS, www.harrahs.com) has 1,600 rooms, the Fresh Market Square Buffet, the Range Steakhouse, Fiesta Showroom, Rio Vista Amphitheater, health club, and a beach.

Bayshore Inn (702-299-9010) is a motel with 100 rooms about three miles south of Harrah's.

Avi (702-535-5555, 800-430-0721, www.avicasino.com), operated by the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, has 300 rooms, the Native Harvest Buffet, the Moonshadow Grille, ArrowWeed Lounge, private beach, and an RV park. The Avi is located 16 miles south of Laughlin's casino core.

Entertainment in Laughlin includes headliners and production shows. Charlie Prose appears at the Riverside's Don's Celebrity Theatre Jan. 9-Feb. 13, and Earl Turner performs through May in the Fiesta Room at Harrah's Laughlin. The celebrity-impersonator "Reflections of the Rat Pack" plays the Flamingo Laughlin's showroom through April 20. The River Palms offers "Celebrities on Stage," and the Edgewater presents "Rock 'n' Roll Memories," a tribute to Buddy Holly, Jerry Lee Lewis, Tina Turner, and Elvis. The Ramada Express features Collin Raye January 4-5. Stars appear at the Flamingo's and Harrah's outdoor amphitheaters.

RVers will find hookups at two resorts on the Nevada side. The **Riverside RV Park** (800-227-3849 ext. 5) has 740 spaces, and the **Avi RV**

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Park (800-430-0721) has 300 spaces. Other RV parks are located on the Arizona side. Reservations are necessary between November and April, the snowbird season.

Shoppers can explore more than 50 stores at the **Horizon Outlet Mall** (702-298-3003) in Laughlin. The indoor mall has Levi's, Mikasa, Geoffrey Beene, London Bridge Candle Factory, Polo Ralph Lauren Factory Store, movie theaters, and a food court.

Another attraction is **Grapevine Canyon**, seven miles west of Laughlin. It's a brief hike from the parking lot to the ancient Indian petroglyphs etched in the canyon walls. Wildlife such as bighorn sheep and coyotes are often seen in the area. Water and sunscreen are recommended for the hike.

Laughlin enjoys mild, sunny weather in fall, winter, and spring. Summer is hot—temperatures regularly reach 110 degrees.

Laughlin Information: Stop at the Laughlin Visitor Center just north of the Riverside for brochures and maps. Phone 702-298-3321 or 800-4LAUGHLIN, visit www.visitlaughlin.com, or write 1555 Casino Drive, Laughlin, NV 89029.


Laughlin Desert Challenge.

Laughlin EVENTS

New Year's Eve, Laughlin Style: Several hotels provide live entertainment, DJs, party favors, and balloon drops December 31.

Cloud's Jamboree: The Rock, Gem, Jewelry, Bead, and Mineral Show is held at Laughlin casinos January 10-19. For vendor and exhibit information only, call 866-558-7719 or visit www.cloudsjamboree.com.

Winter Break: This festival planned for January 14-17 celebrates life for the 50-and-over age group with entertainment and activities such as sand volleyball games, dancing, bingo and slot tournaments, and trade show. Admission is $39. Visit www.winterbreak.us or call 480-926-5547.

Laughlin Desert Challenge: Laughlin sponsors the six-race circuit of SCORE International Off Road Racing January 16-19 with classes of cars and trucks. Call the Laughlin Chamber, 800-227-5245.

Laughlin River Stampede: Cowboys compete for more than $225,000 in prize money March 26-30 as Laughlin hotels offer top country music. For tickets call the Laughlin Chamber, 800-227-5245, beginning in February or visit www.honeycuttrodeo.com.

Laughlin River Run: Motorcycle enthusiasts roar into Laughlin April 23-27 for a five-day celebration. Activities include stunt and custom bike shows, Miss River Run contest, and a poker run. For registration or room and concert packages contact 714-694-2800, 800-357-8223, or www.laughlinriverrun.com.

Laughlin Mile Dragon Boat Challenge: On May 10, teams paddle traditional 44-foot Chinese war canoes, kept in rhythm by a drummer. For team registration contact 888-679-4222 or www.facilitymarketing.com.

Rockets Over the River: The July 4 fireworks display is free to the public along the River Walk. Radio stations will simulcast the show with speakers set up on the river.

Rodeo fans can look ahead to the **Laughlin Bud Light Cup** professional bull riders event in September and the **Laughlin Team Roping Finals** in November. For details contact the Laughlin Visitor Center, 702-298-3321, 800-4LAUGHLIN, or www.visitlaughlin.com.—*David Moore*





People Page

A Las Vegas sign designer and Tahoe's snowboarding singer-songwriter.

Absolutely Fabulous

By Fred Hinners

The competition for the best and most exciting hotel signs takes shape along the Las Vegas Strip, but none of those lighted extravaganzas is a match for what **Betty Willis** created on a drafting table for Western Neon Company in 1956—a hand-lettered sign welcoming visitors to "Fabulous Las Vegas."

That the 20-foot-wide sign has endured and even gained new fame surprises Willis, a lifelong Las Vegas resident. "I thought it would be up the normal life span, 10 years or so," Willis said. "I never thought it would be this famous in a million years."

Last September, the "Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas" sign was used in a new Nevada license plate design, and Willis was one of the first motorists to sign up for it. Last spring, the U.S. Postal Service unveiled a "Greetings From Nevada" stamp that features her work, and National Public Radio aired a report on Willis and the "fabulous" sign.

Although the public likes the sign's retro look, Willis says, "there are lots of things I would like to improve. The lettering was hand-done, and now you can do lettering beautifully on the computer. We didn't have anywhere near the number of fonts we have today, and if you did a line of lettering a quarter-inch too long, you had to do it over."

In the 1950s, Willis worked on most of the motel and smaller signs on the Strip. She did signs for the Moulin Rouge and the Blue Angel that are still standing. For all the "Welcome" sign's fame, its designer gets no compensation for its use. "I decided a long time ago that if it helped Las Vegas, it was good for all of us," she says.

At Western Neon she assisted Jack DuBoise and Chuck Bernard, who created many of the larger signs on the Strip, and her career branched out to engineering and estimating. "I also answered the phone and trained secretaries and bookkeepers," Willis says. "I was a handy person to have around."

At 79, Willis is still good to have around. She works with her daughter, Marjie Holland, at Marjie's graphics company, The Pig Trough, designing T-shirts and doing whatever is required. As she looks back at a career that gave her more fame than she expected, Willis sums it up in three words: "It's been fun."



Betty Willis created the famous Las Vegas sign.

Fred Hinners is a public information officer for the Nevada Department of Transportation.

Snowboarding Troubadour

By Jessica Perry

As an Incline Village teenager in the mid-'80s, **Darin Talbot** was a pioneer snowboarder, strapping Sorrel boots onto a board with duct tape and riding the slopes of Mount Rose. One day he watched a buddy get huge air off a jump and take a major wipeout. His friend's goggles were filled with snow, his hair was caked with ice, and pure adrenaline flowed through his eyes.

That moment gave Talbot, today one of Tahoe's best-known musicians, the inspiration for his most famous song, "Tweeker Shred Master," about a kid who lives only to snowboard in Tahoe's "sick" powder:

Riding fakey loose
Down the Mount Rose chutes
And all that Tweeker had to say
Is man, that was fricken cool.

Talbot remembers, "One time after I was done playing the song, a guy came up to me and said he completely related to [Tweeker]. That guy was *him*."

A performer for 12 years, Talbot plays his country-rock, acoustic-guitar music at Squaw Valley, Alpine Meadows, and Diamond Peak and at pubs and eateries like Paradise Grill in Incline, Rapscallion's and Silver Peak in Reno, and OB's in Truckee. On Valentine's Day, he will appear at the Eureka Opera House. Talbot, 31, was voted "Best Local Musician" in the *North Lake Tahoe Action* the last two years. His CDs, "Tahoe Backcountry" and "Music Flight," are available at www.cdbaby.com/talbot. Songs such as "Lazy Days at Tahoe" and "Dusk Upon the Lake (Tahoe's Child)" reflect his attachment to the area where he grew up.

Talbot, who still snowboards, hopes his songs will help people understand the lake's sensitive environment. "There is something about this place that will always keep me here because I know Tahoe needs a voice," he says. "If I can capture an out-of-town crowd and create more awareness about this delicate and fragile place we live in, maybe I can help them respect it a little more."



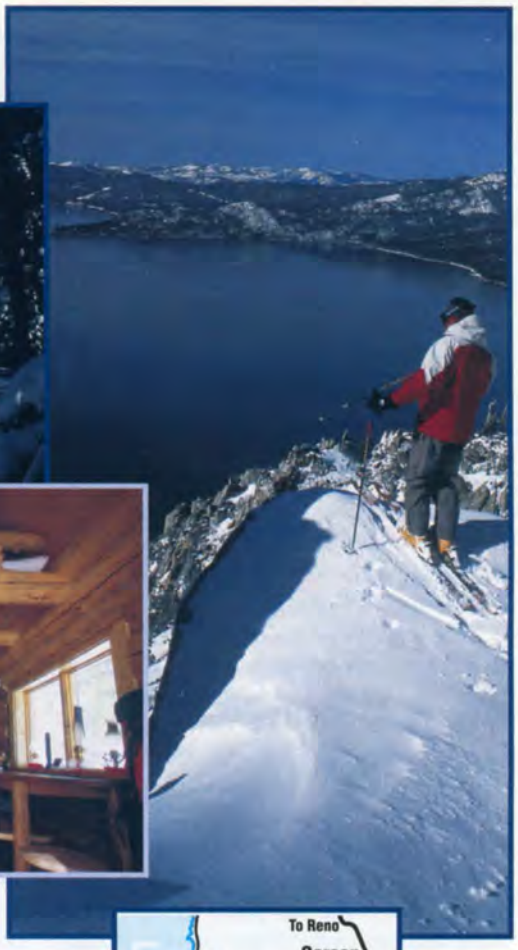
Snowboarder Darin Talbot sings about Lake Tahoe.

Jessica Perry is the sports editor and photographer for the North Lake Tahoe Bonanza *in Incline Village.*

Photos: Chris Leedham (top), Chris Talbot (right)







Snug at Spooner

Kids love the lofts (above) at the Spooner Lake cabins. The Wild Cat Cabin stands surrounded by snow (left). Guests can ski or snowshoe in. Skiers will find this view of Lake Tahoe about 200 yards from the Wild Cat Cabin (right).



Snow lovers can ski or snowshoe to two wilderness cabins near Lake Tahoe.

By Sam Bauman

Cross-country skiers at Lake Tahoe can stay overnight in the snowy wilderness above Spooner Lake without having to lug tents and all the accoutrements along. The rustic shelter is provided by two hand-built log cabins perched high in the mountains near the Spooner cross-country ski trails, 15 miles southwest of Carson City. In winter the isolation is inspiring. In summer the pine greenery is lush. And year-round the views of Lake Tahoe and Emerald Bay are marvelous.

The two cabins are available for short-term rent all year. The Spooner Lake Cabin is perched on a knoll on the north side of Spooner Lake less than a mile from the parking area of the cross-country ski center. The other cabin, Wild Cat, is about two miles northeast on the trail to Marlette Lake. In summer it's a pleasant stroll to both; in winter guests can ski or snowshoe.

The idea for the cabins came from veteran mountain man Max Jones and his wife, Patti McMullan, who operate the Spooner Lake Cross-Country Ski Area and the cabins under a special use permit from the Nevada Division of State Parks. When Sierra logsmith Randy Hughes built the cabins in 1997-1998, Jones served as one of his apprentices. The cabins' logs, from standing-dead lodgepole pines, were cut near the North Canyon campground and retrieved by snow cat.

Each cabin has a queen-size and a full-size futon and bedding, cooking gear, a propane cooking stove, a wood-burning heating unit, photovoltaic and propane lights, two gallons of fresh water a day, and an adjoining composting toilet. There is no shower.

While a stock of teas, hot chocolate, coffee, and snacks are provided, guests must bring their own dinner and breakfasts. Dishes and flatware are on hand. There is no refrigerator, of course, but one is not needed in the winter, and only after the snow melts in July do you need to use an ice chest.

Winter rates for two persons range from $139 per night Sunday through Thursday to $150 on Friday and $200 on Saturday. With the cabins come trail passes for two people each day, rental skis or snowshoes, and a lesson. There are 9,000 acres in the Spooner trail system, which provide some of the finest cross-country skiing in Nevada for all levels of skiers.

For cabin information or reservations call 775-749-5349 or 888-858-8844 or visit www.spoonerlake.com, where you can see photos of the cabins and the area's ski trails. You also can book your wilderness retreat online.

Sam Bauman is a downhill skier and Sierra hiker. He writes for the Nevada Appeal *and is working on* The I Just Got Divorced, Now How Do I Boil an Egg? Cookbook.

Photos: Max Jones (left, right), Larry Prosor (middle)

Skiing Around the State

A Guide to Nevada and Tahoe Basin Ski Areas.

2002-2003 Downhill Skier's Guide

Area	Web Site	Phone	Top Elevation	Vertical Feet	Lifts	Rating Bg-Int-Adv	Lift Price Adult/Y/Child	Rentals Skis/Board
TAHOE BASIN								
Alpine Meadows	www.skialpine.com	530-583-4232	8,637	1,800	13	25-40-35	$56/$42/$10	$30/$35†
Boreal	www.borealski.com	530-426-3666	7,700	500	9	30-55-15	$35/$10	$28/$34†
Diamond Peak	www.diamondpeak.com	775-831-3211	8,540	1,840	6	18-46-36	$41/$28/$15	$20/$32
Donner Ski Ranch	www.donnerskiranch.com	530-426-3635	7,751	750	6	25-50-25	$20/$10	$18/$28†
Granlibakken	www.granlibakken.com	530-583-4242	6,480	280	1	50-50-0	$18/$10	$25/$30
Heavenly	www.skiheavenly.com	775-586-7000	10,040	3,500	29	20-45-35	$59/$49/$29	$30/$32†
Homewood Mountain	www.skihomewood.com	530-525-2992	7,880	1,650	8	15-50-35	$44/$27/free	$27/$35†
Kirkwood	www.skikirkwood.com	209-258-6000	9,800	2,000	13	15-50-35	$54/$43/$12	$30/$34†
Mount Rose/Ski Tahoe	www.skirose.com	775-849-0704	9,700	1,440	5	30-35-35	$48/$32/$12	$29/$29†
Northstar-at-Tahoe	www.northstarattahoe.com	530-562-1010	8,600	2,200	15	25-50-25	$57/$47/$19	$32/$39†
Sierra at Tahoe	www.sierratahoe.com	530-659-7453	8,852	2,212	10	25-50-25	$53/$43/$11	$29/$35†
Soda Springs	www.skisodasprings.com	530-426-1010	7,352	652	4	30-50-20	$23/$16/$10	$28/$34
Squaw Valley	www.squaw.com	530-583-6955	9,050	2,850	33	25-45-30	$42/$21/$5	$29/$35†
Sugar Bowl	www.sugarbowl.com	530-426-9000	8,383	1,500	13	17-43-40	$54/$42/$13	$30/$36†
Tahoe Donner	www.tahoedonner.com	530-587-9444	7,350	600	4	40-60-0	$29/$12	$20/$28†
AROUND THE STATE								
LV Ski/Snowboard	www.skilasvegas.com	702-385-2754	9,510	1,000	3	20-60-20	$30/$23	$16/$25†
Elko Snobowl		800-428-7143	7,000	670	2	20-60-20	$15/$10	$15/$15
Ruby Mountains (Elko)	www.helicopterskiing.com	775-753-6867	Ruby Mt. Heli-Skiing offers backcountry helicopter skiing; $2,850 per person					

2002-2003 Cross-Country Skier's Guide

Area	Web Site	Phone	Trail (km)	Trail Fee Adult/Y/Child	Rental Adult/Y/Child	Lessons Adult/Y/Child	Day Lodge
TAHOE BASIN							
Clair Tappaan Lodge	www.sierraclub.org	530-426-3632	14	$7/$3.50	$13/$9	$14	√
Hope Valley		530-694-2266	100	none	$15/$9	$35/$25	√
Kirkwood	www.skikirkwood.com	209-258-7248	80	$20/$15/$6	$20/$15	$45/$35/$25*	√
Lake Tahoe Basin	www.r5.fs.fed.us/ltbmu	530-573-2600	The U.S. Forest Service has brochures on many forest areas				
Northstar-at-Tahoe	www.northstarattahoe.com	530-562-1010	50	$26/$15	$26/$15	$30/$18	√
Royal Gorge	www.royalgorge.com	530-426-3871	330	$25/$12	$18/$10.50	$49.50/$29.50*	√
Spooner Lake	www.spoonerlake.com	775-749-5349	91	$19/$9/$2	$18/$9/$2	$39/$25*	√
Resort at Squaw Creek	www.squawcreek.com	530-583-6300	12	$12/$8	$12/$8	$35*	√
Tahoe Donner	www.tdxc.net	530-587-9484	103	$19/$14	$17/$9	$40*	√
AROUND THE STATE							
LV Ski and Snowboard (Mount Charleston)	www.fs.fed.us/htnf	702-385-2754 702-873-8800 (USFS)	The Ski Chalet offers x-country suggestions The U.S. Forest Service has info on camping and avalanche conditions				
Spring Valley (Eureka)	www.eurekacounty.com	775-237-5280	Ron Carrion at the Owl Club provides directions and information				
White Pine (Ely)	www.nv.blm.gov/ely www.fs.fed.us/htnf	775-289-1800 (BLM) 775-289-3031 (USFS)	Ward Mt. and Loop Trails info. available from the BLM and USFS				

* Includes trail pass, equipment, and lessons.

† Resort has a half pipe for snowboarders.

All downhill resorts have terrain parks unless otherwise noted.

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

MARKETPLACE

TRAVEL



BOOKS

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Mary Alexander photographed **"Phone Booth"** (above) and **"Bottle House"** (right) in Rhyolite and then painted the photos in her home studio. While attending Henderson's Native American Arts Festival, Alexander photographed **"Nathan"** (opposite page). Nathan Morris, an Oklahoma Choctaw and Las Vegas stockbroker, had just completed a dance demonstration and agreed to pose. "Because his clothing was so intriguing, I was already planning how to paint the photo," she says.



Mary Alexander

This black-and-white photographer creates her own color reality.

After amateur photographer Mary Alexander took a class in painting monochrome photographs with transparent color oils in 1995, she switched from shooting color film to black-and-white. "When I discovered the photo-painting method, it became more and more intriguing to me," the 51-year-old dental hygienist says. "It appealed to me because I could do much more with the images and be a little bit more creative."

Alexander works with her dentist husband, Ron Levandoski, who also is a serious amateur photographer. The couple moved to Las Vegas from Minnesota two years ago and immediately joined the Nevada Camera Club. On club field trips Alexander takes black-and-white photos of scenic places such as Death Valley and Rhyolite. At home she develops and prints the images on matte paper in her darkroom. Then she spends up to two hours painting each 11-by-14-inch print, using oils designed to blend and cling to the paper. Two of her recent photo paintings, "Nathan" and "Bottle House, Rhyolite," took awards in *Nevada Magazine's* 2002 Great Nevada Picture Hunt.

The photo-painting technique harks back to the 1940s, when color photography was rare and black-and-white portraits were routinely tinted. "I've always felt the photo-oil painting medium really lends itself to the Southwest and Southern Nevada in particular," Alexander says. Her pastel palette reflects the soft colors of the desert floor, sagebrush, and sky.

However, Alexander feels free to choose whatever colors she wants when she paints her photographs. "I like to portray the scenes the way I think they should look," she says. "I'm not trying to copy reality. I'm trying to give my own interpretation."

—Joyce Hollister



Weddings

(Continued from page 22)

Don't laugh. They are quite "normal." Toss out Californians and the in-state crowd, and people from other countries make up the largest percentage of vow-takers in Nevada. Clark County, home to Las Vegas, hosts 90 percent of the state's weddings and more than 99 percent of the U.N. contingent's Nevada nuptials. It's a true marital melting pot under the desert sun.

Childhood sweethearts Caroline Mottram and Andrew Cox came to the States from the U.K. for a friend's wedding last fall and ended up taking the plunge themselves.

"A friend of mine was marrying an American girl in San Francisco, so we planned a holiday to go out to his wedding," the new Mrs. Cox says. "People were joking that we should go to Las Vegas and get married by a fake Elvis." Sure enough, the couple booked their own soirée after seeing a show about Neon City weddings on the Travel Channel.

However, Memphis' favorite son lost out to Paris Las Vegas and its Eiffel Tower. "A fake Elvis was too totally over the top," the self-professed nontraditionalist Englishwoman says. But how about coming to America for a wedding in a faux France when the real deal is a day's drive from their home in the Lake District? "Paris Las Vegas offered the perfect combination of kitsch and glamour," she says. But the couple plan a kiss atop Monsieur Eiffel's real tower on their first anniversary.

Kitsch and glamour also headed the must-have list of Julie Park and Woody Rothermund of Bowling Green, Ohio, who are both in their 40s. In their language of love, kitsch plus glamour equaled one thing: the King.

"We wanted to get married in Vegas, and we wanted an Elvis wedding," Park says. "We've always liked Elvis. We started in our basement. It's kinda like a rec room. We have one whole wall that's a tribute to Elvis. We got more into it after we got married by 'Elvis.'"

An Internet search led them to the Viva Las Vegas Wedding Chapel. Owner Ron Decar is not the first, nor will he be the last, Elvis-impersonating officiant in Nevada. But if you want a true touch of Graceland in the middle of the Mojave Desert, then Park feels Decar's your



Jennifer Ritter and Byron King (center) chose a pirate theme for their wedding on Buccaneer Bay at Treasure Island.

Presley: "Anybody can dress up like Elvis. But you have to be able to do the whole picture, do the mannerisms, present yourself like him. Ron did it perfectly."

Their "wonderful, fantastic" wedding behind them, Park and Rothermund turned their attention to partaking all that Southern Nevada offers: sights, sounds, buffets, slots, and a trip to the Elvis-a-Rama Museum, where they picked out Elvis frames for their wedding pictures.

"It was absolutely a blast. I wouldn't do it any other way," Rothermund vows.

Wedding purists take heart. Jennifer Ritter and Byron King had a wedding with an aisle, boutonniere, wedding party in full regalia, and a processional that is nothing short of apropos. These early-30s residents of the Lone Star State chose Treasure Island's Enchantment Package last summer.

The aisle was a plank, the groom's flower was affixed to a stuffed parrot, the bride sported an "ocean of cleavage" (her words) in her red dress and black "wench" corset, and members of the wedding party donned nautical togs and cutlasses. You see, Ritter and King had a pirate wedding. With the song from Disney's "Pirates of the Caribbean" attraction for a march, a hook for a hand here and eye patches there, the 12-person wedding party was the scourge of the bounding main of Buccaneer Bay, site of the daily battles between the warships *Hispaniola* and *H.M.S. Britannia.*

A professional cellist and educator, Ritter says that after performing in weddings since age 12, she decided the traditional, wear-white-while-getting-married-in-a-church wedding just wasn't for her. Ritter's shower was a pirate luau, and the betrothed received from their friends and loved ones the accoutrements of a proper scalawag—earring, hook, sword—and a treasure chest loaded with coins—real ones—to aid with their registry. The invitation was salted with buccaneer-speak and closed with, "Shiver me timbers … we're getting married."

Ritter says perhaps the best part of the experience was the excitement King showed in the planning process. As she recalls, "Grooms always seem bored with the whole event. They're just there being told what to do, what to wear. He was excited about picking out his outfit—having it be fun and not stressful."

With a minister dressed as a sea captain and a pirate for a ring bearer swooping down from the crow's nest, is anything but fun an option?

Lydia Andrew-Jones took the nuptial plunge in Nevada—twice. The first occurred on June 8, when the 36-year-old veterinarian exchanged vows with Jason Matisheck. The wedding took place at a church in serene Incline Village, and the wedding party stayed at Zephyr Cove. The true leap of faith came 48 hours later when Lydia and two friends, Sondra Kahler, maid-of-honor and obviously all-around daredevil, and Jacqueline Brassard, stepped from an airplane into the crystalline sky over her Reno home.

Andrew-Jones says she and Kahler have enjoyed spontaneous adventures together over the years. "She (Kahler) called me up a couple weeks before the wedding and said, 'Let's do this,' and we did." Her husband, 32, was more than content to let the women do their thing. "He designs airplanes for a living and sees no point in jumping out of them."

Making the arrangements for the parachutists was Sierra Adventures. The Reno-based firm orchestrates outdoor excursions that can run from a leisurely hot-air balloon ride to the wind-in-your-hair buzz of a mountain-bike descent of Peavine Mountain to the all-out rush of sky diving. Sierra Adventures works with Wildflower Village, a wedding chapel and bed and breakfast, on weddings and accommodations.

The beach at the Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe has seen its share of weddings. Last October, Christina and Todd Watson of Hamilton, Ohio, got sand between their toes while both sets of parents and a few close friends attended their marriage ceremony. A friend had told them about the Incline Village beach. "He'd been on me about doing something different for our wedding. He'd been to the Hyatt and kept saying, 'Do it. Trust me,'" Todd says. "I wasn't sure, for I had never been to Tahoe. But when I got here, I thought this was the most beautiful spot."

The Watsons often ride their Sea Doos



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Wedding Directory



Las Vegas

The **Wedding Chapel at the Imperial Palace** features flowers, candlelight, traditional music, and free limousine service from the hotel to the marriage license bureau and back. A religious or civil marriage ceremony and renewal of vows can be arranged. Photo packages, corsages, bouquets, garters, wedding gown and tuxedo rental, video recording, and tape recording are available. The Imperial Palace offers reception rooms and catering. 800-346-3373, www.imperialpalace.com.

Brides and grooms can choose from many options at **Viva Las Vegas Wedding Chapel** and **Viva Las Vegas Villas.** The traditional wedding ceremony features stained glass and wooden benches in the chapel. Couples can celebrate less traditionally with themed packages such as Egyptian, Camelot, or Galactic, but the most popular is the Elvis-Blue Hawaii. The bed-and-breakfast-style hotel rooms also have themes. The Elvis and Priscilla Suite has been "all shook up" with gold lamé and a pink Cadillac bed, and the Camelot Suite has a drawbridge bed. 1205 Las Vegas Boulevard South, 800-574-4450, 702-384-0771, www.vivalasvegasweddings.com, www.vivalasvegasvillas.com.

Laughlin

Wedding packages at the **Flamingo Laughlin** include use of the chapel, a cake top, and keepsake toasting glasses for bride and groom. 800-292-3711 ext. 5156, www.flamingolaughlin.com.

The banquet room at **Harrah's Laughlin** accommodates 30 to 300 guests. Wedding services include a decorated cake table, cake, gift table, guest book, and multicourse dinner. 800-221-1306 ext. 6822, www.harrahs.com.

At **Don Laughlin's Riverside Resort** couples can choose between a Colorado River wedding aboard the *U.S.S. Riverside* or a traditional chapel- or banquet-style wedding. The river wedding is an 80-minute cruise under the Laughlin Bridge to Davis Dam and includes the minister, champagne, toasting glasses, and videotape. The staff wedding coordinator can help couples with traditional wedding packages. 888-733-5824, www.riversideresort.com.

Mesquite

CasaBlanca Resort offers two wedding packages, which include wedding consultant services. Bride and groom must be 21. 877-771-2777 ext. 6794, www.casablancaresort.com.

The **Oasis Resort** has a staff of wedding consultants. Arrangements can be made for a photographer and videographer, and the catering department can plan receptions. Couples can choose an intimate candlelight dinner, a dinner and dance for 300 guests, or an outside garden reception. 877-771-2777 ext. 6815, www.oasisresort.com.

Pahrump

Saddle West's showroom, complete with chandeliers, bar, dance floor, and stage, can accommodate up to 225 people. Smaller groups of 125 or fewer can attend a patio reception. Full banquet facilities for both are available. 800-433-3987, www.saddlewest.com.

Carson City

Piñon Plaza Resort's reception and banquet services are available for groups of up to 180 people, offering a private reception room, dance floor, entertainment, bridal dressing room, and beverage service. Wedding planners are available by appointment to coordinate flowers, decorations, and other details. 877-519-5567 ext. 1009, www.pinonplaza.com.

Carson Valley

The nonsectarian **Chapel at the Carson Valley Inn** is decorated with flowers and stained-glass windows. The chapel seats 115, and a minister can be arranged with advance notice. Reception space is available in the convention center for up to 300 guests or, for smaller groups, in one of the Michael's Restaurant private dining rooms or a hotel suite. Spa suites are available for the wedding night. Barbara Bourne, 775-783-6695 or 866-284-7766, press 1, barbarb@cvinn.com.

Lake Tahoe

The wedding coordinator at the **Chapel at Caesars Tahoe** can plan indoor or outdoor weddings with florist, photographer, musicians, caterer, reception room, and bridal suite. The indoor wedding chapel features ivory pews, marble processional aisle, raised altar, and grand piano. The outdoor wedding chapel boasts gardens and a Roman fountain. 800-833-4422, www.caesars.com.

Reno

The **Circus Circus Reno** wedding chapel offers packages that include ceremony, bridal-ready room, reception facilities, cake, champagne, flowers, photographers, and hotel accommodations. 800-894-3588, 775-328-9438, www.circusreno.com.

Sparks

John Ascuaga's Nugget Courtyard Chapel's catering coordinators help plan weddings and receptions in one of several banquet rooms. Packages include transportation to pick up the marriage license, chapel, minister's fee, champagne, accommodations, and continental breakfast. 800-843-2427 ext. 3549, www.janugget.com.

Reno/Sparks Bridal Expo

Bridal and Beauty Expo-Lockett, Inc. presents the 18th Annual Bridal and Beauty Expo at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center on February 9. To exhibit, visit www.showsbridal.com or call 888-524-2316. The February show in Reno is sponsored by Weddings of the West and features exhibitors, honeymoon giveaways, and a fashion show. Admission is $8. **Weddings of the West,** www.sierraweddings.org, is an association of wedding professionals who arrange for banquet facilities, photographers, cakes, coordinators, ministers, musicians, florists, and other services.

on Kentucky's Lake Cumberland, so when Todd saw one of the personal watercraft, he said to his new wife, "That would make a really neat photo." Christina climbed on the Sea Doo for one of their favorite wedding pictures.

Who knows how many blushing brides and beaming grooms have rushed off to the Ruby Mountains for trout fishing, Rachel for starship gazing, or Great Basin National Park for hiking with minister in tow? Crystal Bay at North Lake Tahoe offers another way to get married within this state of atypical matrimony. Just watch your footing.

The Cal-Neva Resort occupies an enviable point of land on the North Shore. It is one of *the* wedding spots in the area, with a balconied chapel, billion-dollar-view outdoor gazebo, and two elegantly rustic rooms in which to wed. The alpine setting notwithstanding, what makes the Cal-Neva unique is the happenstance that put the state line through the middle of the property, with the Silver State ruling the side hosting the gazebo and the Golden State holding sway over the Lakeview Chapel and State Room. Then there are the pool and the Indian Room, both cleaved by the state line.

But don't worry, Indian Room grooms. If you fail to properly "toe the line" on your first day of marriage, the resort's ministers can fulfill their duties in both Nevada and California. You, however, need only a single license.

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



You can be married—or go for a swim—in either Nevada or California at the Cal-Neva Resort in Crystal Bay.

Photos: Peter Spain/peterspain.com

HE SAID, SHE SAID

After they married in the "ghost town" of Silver City, Margaret Bourke-White and Erskine Caldwell did not remember the romantic event in the same way.

By Bernadette S. Francke



Tobacco Road Author And Photographer Wed

Bourke-White And Erksine Caldwell Wed

'TOBACCO ROAD' COMES TO 'LIFE'

Erskine Caldwell, famous author of "Tobacco Road," and Margaret Bourke-White, noted Life magazine photographer, are pictured above in Reno shortly after their wedding Monday.

The happy couple appeared on the front page of the *Nevada State Journal* the day after their wedding.

All brides and grooms have different recollections about their weddings. Such was the case on February 27, 1939, when photojournalist Margaret Bourke-White married novelist Erskine Caldwell in Silver City, a tiny mining town three miles south of Virginia City. Years later and long-divorced, Bourke-White and Caldwell recalled the ceremony differently in their autobiographies. They couldn't even agree who wed them.

Both were famous in their day. Bourke-White worked for *Fortune* and *Life*, traveled in Europe and Asia, documented battle scenes, photographed Mahatma Gandhi, and sent back haunting images of the Buchenwald concentration camp to magazine readers in the United States.

Caldwell was one of America's most acclaimed authors. Besides *Tobacco Road*, Caldwell penned *God's Little Acre* and *Journeyman*. The often-criticized literary realist collaborated with Bourke-White on works like *You Have Seen Their Faces*, which revealed the plight of the underprivileged.

This was a second marriage for both. Bourke-White and Caldwell flew from New York to Reno and formulated wedding plans over the Nevada-Utah desert. She recalled in her autobiography, *Portrait of Myself*, that she wanted to be married in a "ghost town" and that they were "delighted" when they found Silver City on the map.

In Reno, the couple purchased a marriage license while taxi driver Clifford Bahem waited in front of the Washoe County Courthouse. When they emerged with their license and a complimentary copy of *Cupid's Cook Book*, Bahem agreed to coordinate the ceremony and be a witness. As the trio drove through Carson City, he secured the services of the Reverend C.H. Sloan, a Baptist minister and state assemblyman from Las Vegas who served as chaplain to the legislature. Sloan's role was confirmed in subsequent reports in the *Nevada State Journal*, the *Reno Evening Gazette*, and the Washoe County Recorder's Office. The *Gazette* also listed Clifford Bahem as the taxi driver.

However, in his autobiography, *With All My Might*, Caldwell refers to the minister as Brother David, who after a theatrical career operated a Reno wedding chapel and was thought to be an excommunicated cleric. Caldwell's Brother David instructed the taxi driver to stop as they approached a bar because "in this part of our great land high noon calls for civilized refreshments." The author related that Brother David enjoyed a double slug of rye whiskey with a beer chaser, the taxi driver had a beer, and Caldwell and Bourke-White each had a glass of white wine before advancing to Silver City.

Bourke-White made no mention of this pause. She did describe the landscape. Silver City, she said, was "hanging on a bluff above us…both of us knew that this was the perfect town." According to Bourke-White, Caldwell joked that the wedding should take place before sundown because cattle trading was illegal after sunset.

When the group arrived at Silver City's Episcopal Church, they found the building locked. Bahem continued to direct the wedding plans. He located a neighbor, Mrs. Bertha Pedlar. She opened the building and stood as a second witness.

Bourke-White wrote that she was enchanted with the church and the "glorious panorama of bluffs and mesas and desert patches, stretching as far as the eye could reach." Caldwell, on the other hand, recalled a "bleak" landscape and that Brother David married them quickly amid the squawking of pigeons across the vaulted ceilings. Bourke-White noted that, as Caldwell wished, they were married just before sunset.

The marriage lasted three years. While wed the couple collaborated on a book, *Say, Is This the U.S.A.?*, on Western towns such as Elko and McDermitt. Later, Caldwell made several trips to Las Vegas from his home in Tucson. Caldwell married for a fourth time in Reno. On the stroke of midnight on January 1, 1957, he married Virginia Fletcher at a wedding chapel near the courthouse. In recalling this ceremony Caldwell reveals "Brother David" again as the minister, although the marriage certificate lists Rev. G. Hughes as officiate.

As one reviews Bourke-White's and Caldwell's comments about their 1939 wedding, it seems that their recollections reflect their own creative sensibilities. But for the photographer and the novelist, Nevada was a place of wild geography and nostalgia, not to mention both real and fanciful personalities.

Bernadette S. Francke of Fallon is a freelance writer and historical-research consultant. She notes that the Silver City church is now a private residence.

Photo: Nevada Historical Society



Nevada Bookshelf

Recent releases of Nevada interest.

Fifty Miles From Home: Riding the Long Circle on a Nevada Family Ranch, 2003 Calendar

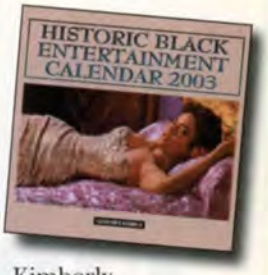


Photos by Linda Dufurrena and words by Carolyn Dufurrena. Surprise Valley Press, Carmel Publishing Company, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA 93921. $12.95 (ISBN: 1-886312192). For several decades, Linda Dufurrena, who lives north of Winnemucca, has photographed the Western landscape and lifestyle (her work frequently appears in *Nevada Magazine*). Last year, she and writer Carolyn Dufurrena, her daughter-in-law, collaborated on the book *Fifty Miles From Home: Riding the Long Circle on a Nevada Family Ranch*, published by the University of Nevada Press. This 2003 calendar is a companion to the book and incorporates many of Linda Dufurrena's best images with brief, poetic descriptions by Carolyn Dufurrena.

Emigrant Shadows: A History and Guide to the California Trail

By Marshall Fey, R. Joe King, and Jack Lepisto, edited by Stanley W. Paher. Western Trails Research Association, Drawer G, Virginia City, NV 89440. 228 pages, $24.95, paper (ISBN: 1-889243-3). This is one of the most complete guides to the Emigrant Trail (also known as the California or Overland Trail) in Nevada. Between 1841 and 1869, when the transcontinental railroad was completed, nearly a quarter of a million people traveled the trail between Missouri and California. *Emigrant Shadows* describes historic sites, roads, and the various routes of the Emigrant Trail. The book includes 70 historic and contemporary maps, 160 pioneer diary excerpts, and 220 photos and drawings. *Emigrant Shadows* is recommended for anyone interested in the Westward movement.

Historic Black Entertainment Calendar 2003



Culturally Diverse Advertising/Media Relations, 716 Sixth St., Las Vegas, NV 89101, 702-615-8216, $14.95. In this followup to last year's *Historic Black Vegas Calendar*, publishers Charles Tureaud and Kimberly Bailey-Tureaud have included rare photos of African-American entertainers from the collection of her parents, Bob and Anna Bailey (see "A Las Vegas Legacy," page 12). Dizzy Gillespie, Ella Fitzgerald, and Bill "Bojangles" Robinson are among those featured, and Dorothy Dandridge appears on the cover. Some photos were taken in other cities, but there are many Las Vegas images and connections, such as Dinah Washington at the Moulin Rouge in 1955. The calendar, which can be ordered from the publisher, is available at Borders and other book and gift stores.

Books Now/Clicksmart Ordering Service

To order any of the above-mentioned books, call Books Now/Clicksmart at 800-BOOKS-NOW or 800-266-5766 (24 hours, 365 days) or visit the Books Now Web site, www.clicksmart.com/nevada/.

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- Why was Ross Brymer sentenced to only two years for killing Bonavena, yet was hammered with life imprisonment for selling prescription Valium tablets?



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Nevada Almanac

Lights! Action! Announcing the TV show contest winners.

Your Own Nevada TV Show Contest Results

In response to last fall's now-defunct ABC series ***Push, Nevada,*** readers were invited to devise an imaginary TV show based in the Silver State. Following are some ideas that caught the editors' attention.

Get Real, Nevada

Barbara Rohde of Panaca sent her outline for *Get Real, Nevada,* which she calls "sort of a documentary and cross between *Survivor* and *Thelma and Louise*":

An open-minded couple seek out adventures in the Silver State and meet interesting characters in small towns like Pioche, Gabbs, Baker, and Gerlach. Their mishaps: being abducted by aliens in Rachel, running out of gas between Pioche and Baker, getting stranded in Jarbidge during a freak July snowstorm, getting three flat tires on the Reese River Valley road en route to Ione, and radiator overheating just as they reach the Cottontail Ranch brothel.

The interesting characters they meet: the folks who run the Little A 'Le' Inn, the owners of antler factory near Sacramento Pass, the regular customers at the bars in each little town, the "working girls," the Basque sheepherders out in the middle of nowhere.

Vegas Undercover

Kathleen Jurkowski of Antioch, Illinois, submitted her idea for a light comedy-drama:

A recently divorced Las Vegas FBI or criminal investigator who has diligently fought crime for 20 years decides to retire and enjoy the good life of a debonair professional gambler. He talks a coworker into being his associate to keep track of his gambling, his money, and his love life.

He takes his retirement bankroll, and the two men head for Las Vegas' classiest casinos to be wined and dined in a manner to which they are not accustomed. The problem is that their ex-employers keep coming to them for undercover help on major cases since they have the inside track at the casinos and years of experience solving crimes. Possible stars are Dennis Farina as the gambler and Joe Mantegna as the associate.

The comedy: They aren't sure what the butler bell is for in the presidential suite, why the bellman expects a $25 tip for carrying two bags, and which of the four forks and six wine glasses they should use first. Part of the fun for the characters is spotting the cons and outwitting them, but the downside is that the pair have no luck in love.

The drama: The two help their ex-employers solve murders, kidnappings, and major shakedowns of the top casinos.



The 1957 B-movie *Amazing Colossal Man* featured a 60-foot-tall monster created by atomic radiation. Jon Mayes' *Yucca Café* and Matthew W. Troy's *51* concepts are also set near the Nevada Test Site.

51

Matthew W. Troy of Guilford, Maine, envisions a show called *51.* The series would explore the world of two Nevada Highway Patrol officers, one male and one female, who travel the highways that border Area 51. Events that would be normal for most officers would have either a federal government or alien intervention element. The show would be filmed on location, offering wonderful scenes of Nevada's rural interior matched against unnatural events.

Yucca Café

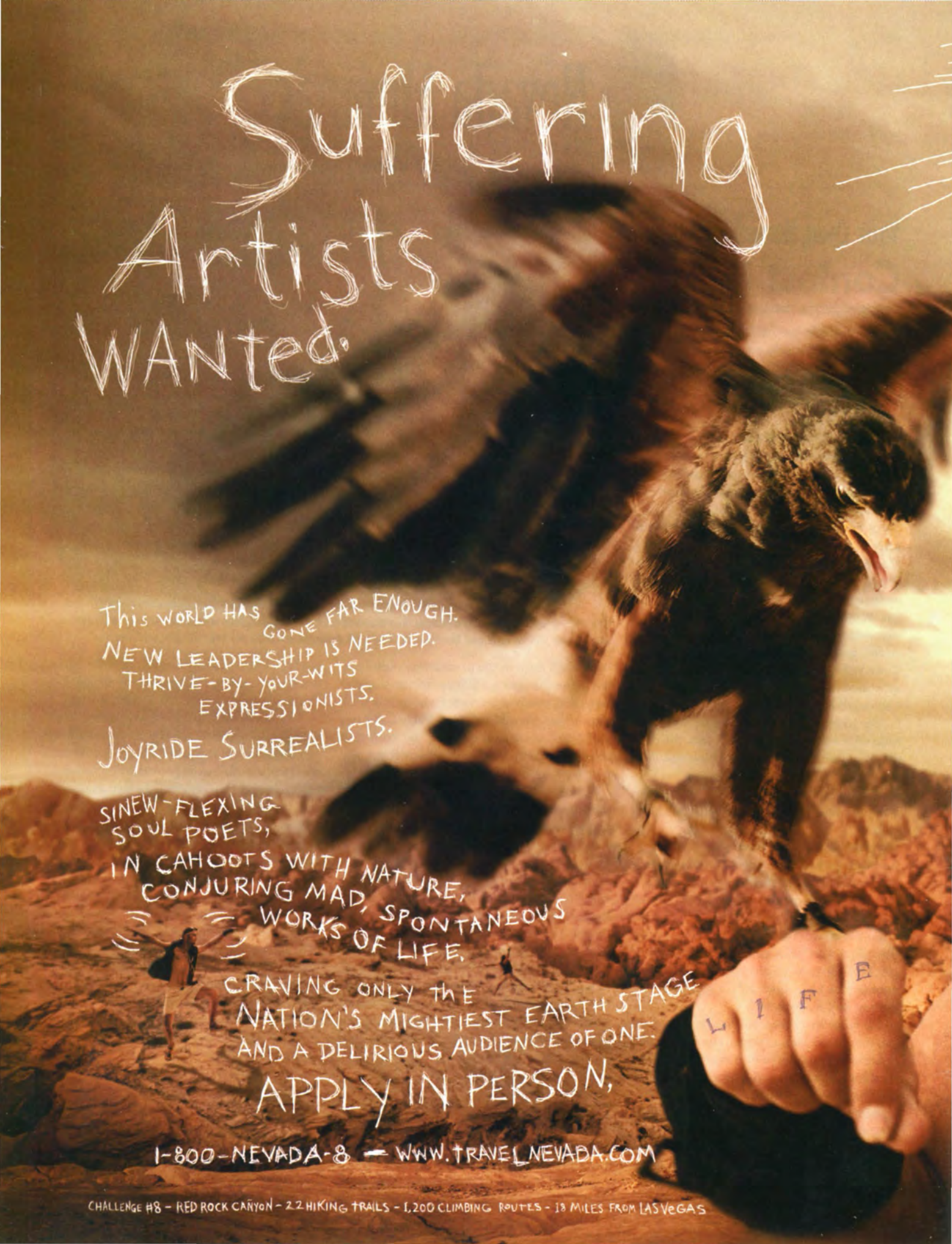
Jon Mayes of Gardnerville pitches *Yucca Café,* a dark-humored sitcom that takes place in a small restaurant serving the employees and long-haul truck drivers at the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Facility. The show opens with the shot of a large sign that reads: "Our Motto: Forget health! Rich, decadent, and tasty-fat-enriched meals, because you won't live much longer anyway!"

The cook, Rad, is a paranoid young man who always wears a cumbersome radiation suit. Because of his youth he is agile; however, his speech and hearing are muffled because of the tinted face shield. His workstation is by a large griddle, but he "nukes" most food orders in the many microwaves behind the counter. The counter person is a very pretty but tough-looking cowgirl. The truck drivers have nicknamed her Thermal. She can often be heard shouting, "Rad, nuke me an order of cheese enchiladas with 'glow' sauce."

At each booth are 1960s-era Geiger counters converted to coin-operated jukeboxes. The coffee cups are shaped like nuclear waste burial casks. Weekly episodes examine the lives of the café employees, the facility employees, and the truck drivers who deliver nuclear waste from throughout our great nation.

Thanks to all of the readers who entered the "Your Own Nevada TV Show Contest." In recognition of their intriguing proposals, Barbara Rohde, Kathleen Jurkowski, Matthew W. Troy, and Jon Mayes will receive their choice of a T-shirt or mousepad from the Nevada Film Office. We'll forward all calls from Hollywood.

Photo: Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences


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