

NEVADA

MAGAZINE

INSIDE:

The State's Most
Complete Guide to
Events & Shows

July/August 2004

Best of Nevada: South

Readers pick **60** favorite
attractions and stars

A Hard Day's Night
The **BEATLES** in Las Vegas

The Tule Artist
A Paiute Tradition

Extreme
Camping at
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A week in the Black Rock can instill an appreciation of life's smaller pleasures.

—L.J. Williamson



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Photo by John Indelicato

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Publisher: Richard Moreno
Editor: David Moore
Art Director: Denise Barr
Associate Editor: Joyce Hollister
Graphic Designer: Margie Enlow
Production Assistant: Melissa Loomis
Production Assistant: Jennifer Hollister
Circulation Manager: Amy Ginder
Retail Coordinator: Pam Massey
Accountant: Betty Farris
Circulation Support: David Dickson
Staff Writer: Wilma LaRocca
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Events Office

Events Editor: Ann Henderson
555 E. Washington, Suite 5600, Las Vegas, NV 89101
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e-mail: ann@nevadamagazine.com

Main Advertising Office

Advertising Coordinator: Susan Wunsch
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Southern Nevada Sales Representatives Skyword Marketing

Shaun McIlveen, Robyn Davies
(702) 897-9287, fax (702) 897-7546
e-mail: skyword@sierranv.net

Northern Nevada Sales Representative Kelley-Rose, Inc.

Cynthia Kelley
(775) 322-7770, fax (775) 337-2487
e-mail: ckelley@sbcglobal.net

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Noms de Plume

Linda Williamson wasn't ever called by her initials, but when she learned there was another journalist with the same name, she took the nom de plume L.J. Williamson. The Los Angeles-based writer's initialized byline has appeared in *Sunset*, *Los Angeles Times Magazine*, *Utne Reader*, and *Hipmama*.

Linda—whoops, make that “L.J.”—wrote this issue's “Camping at the Man” about the challenges of camping at Burning Man, the counterculture event held the week before Labor Day in the Black Rock Desert. “Most participants seem to agree that the experience just wouldn't be the same if the festival was in a benevolent environment with a mild climate. Sure, there are parties and wacky fun, but there are serious challenges at this event, too,” she says.

“Burning Man has really changed the way I view creative endeavors. I used to think that art was something that these exalted beings called artists made and hung in galleries and museums, but I've learned more about the joy of creating just for creativity's sake.”

Venturing into the artists' world, L.J. regularly paints with the help of her three-and-a-half-year-old son, Ricky. Their first two-person exhibit of collaborative works is on display on their kitchen wall.



L. J. Williamson



Carrot Top

Scott Thompson doesn't need to be recognized by his given name. As he recently told an audience at the MGM in Las Vegas, “Just yesterday I went over to the MGM snack shop—it's about a five-mile walk—and I was waiting in line when this woman said, ‘You look just like **Carrot Top**—no offense.’”

Indeed, the orange-haired, tie-dyed comedian takes no offense, as long as the joke draws a laugh. Carrot Top writes his own material, from one-liners to farcical skits. In this issue's newly revamped Nevada Events and Shows section, he writes a different kind of material—a magazine column.

When we asked Carrot Top to inaugurate our new “Last Word” column, which will be written by a different guest celebrity each issue, he was happy to share his cheerfully exaggerated takes on props, Cirque du Soleil, and backstage visits by his mother, who lives in Las Vegas.

Also in this issue, Carrot Top repeats as the top Las Vegas-area comedian in our annual “Best of Nevada” readers' poll. Readers apparently agree that it's hard to resist a guy who has 35 trunks filled with props and the ability to take his own joke.

Best of Nevada 2004

“Best Afternoon Show”

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Letters

The mystery of the redwood RV.

The Elusive Redwood RV

I noted with interest the redwood RV, formerly of Gerlach, that appeared in last issue's "Almanac." I have seen the redwood RV, or its exact twin, alongside U.S. 101 in Eureka, California, where my wife and I lived for many years. It was called the Stump House and used as a gift shop specializing in cheese. According to friends who still live in Eureka, the Stump House has been moved to the Blue Ox Millworks and Historical Park in that area.



The jury is still out on the location of the redwood RV.

Chris Haden
Fallon

RV on Tour?

I read the "Almanac" item on the redwood trailer in the May/June issue. We do RV shows for a living and would like to inquire if you have gained any info on this unit.

This redwood trailer had already sparked my interest. I had heard about it years ago but could never gain any information concerning it. I would love to have it at our events, to share this treasure with many people. The RV industry has been growing by leaps and bounds, simply because people love to travel, love to ex-

plore, love to see new things. I could easily see a tour across the country.

Denny Johnston, Events Ltd.
Peoria, IL

Chris and Denny, thanks for the letters on the redwood RV. Initial research indicates that the historic Stump House in Eureka, California, has always been a stationary structure and is not the elusive redwood RV. If any reader knows the fate of the redwood recreational vehicle, please let us know.—Ed.

Too Many Strokes

Not that I am a party pooper, but the May/June issue was devoted to golf—pages and pages. Aren't there enough magazines devoted to golf without destroying the real *Nevada Magazine* stories?

L.R. Zellmer Family
Lancaster, CA

Publisher's Note

The 'Best'

An annual pleasure for me is writing the "Best of Nevada" feature announcing the winners of our *Nevada Magazine* readers' poll. The participation of so many readers has helped make this summer story one of the magazine's most popular features.

This year, you'll notice that we're presenting the "Best of Nevada" in two issues rather than one. The "Best of Nevada: South" favorites are profiled in this issue, and the "Best of Nevada: North" will be spotlighted in Sept/Oct '04. The change will allow us to devote more attention to the worthy winners, both north and south.

Sharp-eyed readers also will spot other

changes in the magazine, including **Nevada Events and Shows**. Its features and departments have been redesigned for a brighter, more modern look. The event and show listings have been organized in three sections—Las Vegas, Reno-Tahoe, and Rural—to better serve readers planning vacations and outings around the state.

Also, we've added new departments such as a guest celebrity column inaugurated by Carrot Top. The changes, directed by Art Director Denise Barr and Entertainment and Events Editor Ann Henderson, are designed to make *Nevada Magazine* even easier to use and enjoy. Let us know if we've succeeded.—*Richard Moreno*

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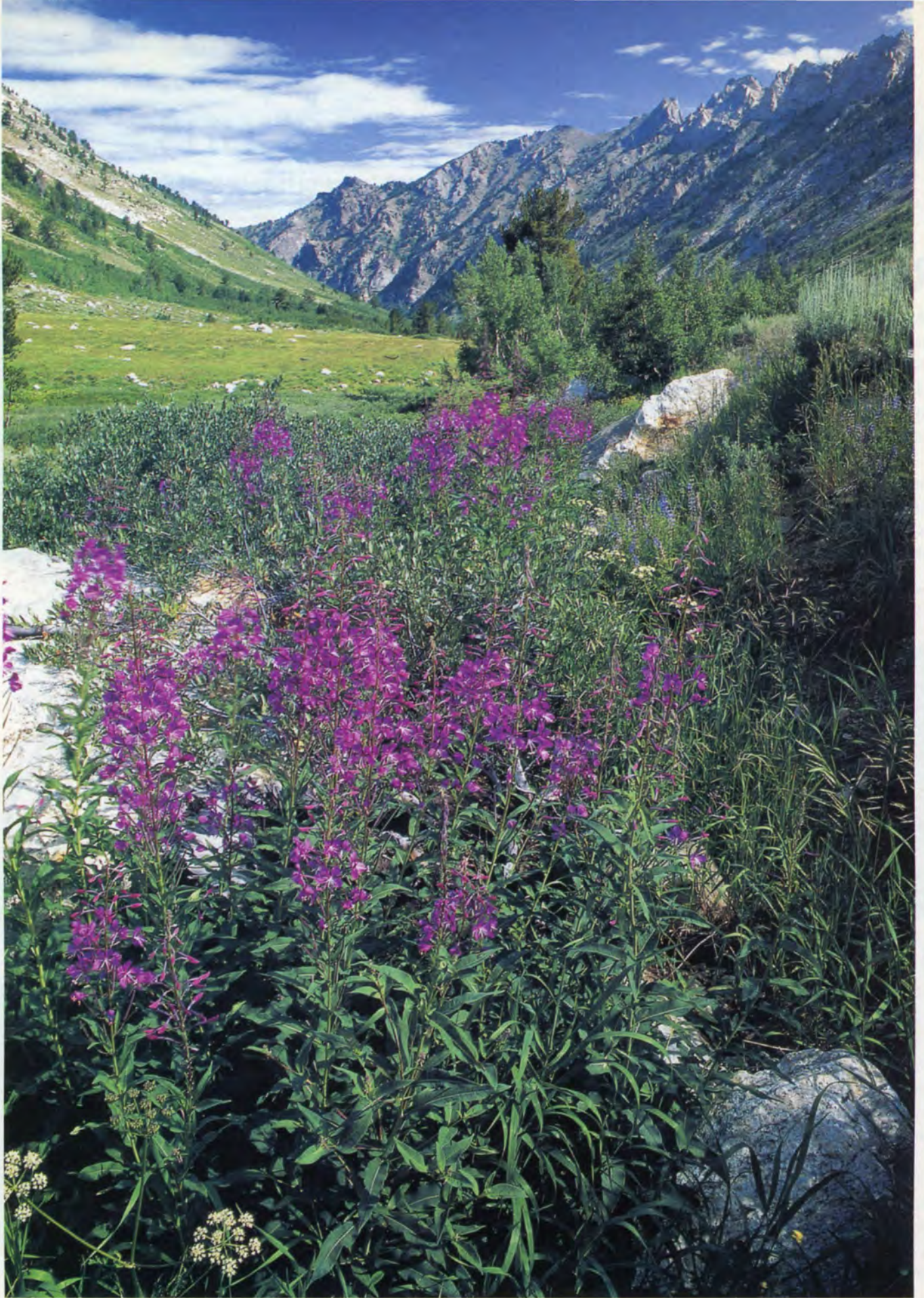
Backcountry Blooms

Doug Bruha
prefers the
(dirt) road
less traveled.

Living as he does in Lamoille, photographer Doug Bruha frequently hikes in the nearby Ruby Mountains. His physician wife, Lynn Greenhouse, joins him to sketch and identify plants, such as the red fireweed he photographed in Upper Lamoille Canyon (opposite page). "July is the best time to catch the

flowers," Bruha says. The couple also hike in other backcountry spots in Northeastern Nevada. It was on a trip to Jarbidge that Bruha photographed a meadow of arnica and lupine (above). "I'd rather drive on dirt roads than paved ones," Bruha says, "because they're more interesting."

—Joyce Hollister





Roadside Attractions

Rim Trail **SHUTTLE**, Vegas **SHARKS**, and **SUMMER FUN**.

Rim Trail Shuttle

LAKE TAHOE—For the past four years, hikers and mountain bikers have been able to plan one-way trips on the Tahoe Rim Trail without the hassle of arranging for return rides. The solution is to park at Spooner Lake, take the **Flume Trail Bikes** \$10 shuttle to the Tahoe Meadows trailhead on Mount Rose, and then hike or bike south to Spooner.

The 21-mile trail is a good distance for a two-day backpacking trip, and mountain bikers can ride it in half a day or less, says Max Jones, owner of Flume Trail Bikes and a Rim Trail board member. "It is some of the best single track in Nevada," Jones says. Volunteers who work with him on Rim Trail maintenance

can use the shuttle for free.

Shuttle riders can stay overnight in one of Spooner's remote log cabins, and staff will deliver their luggage. The company also rents and sells mountain bikes. Riders can demo a \$2,500-\$4,500 bike for the day for \$39 or \$49. "There is no better way to test a bike," says Jones.

Flume Trail Bikes, inside Spooner Lake State Park one-half mile north of U.S. 50 on State Route 28 on Lake Tahoe's east shore, is open from May to November. Visit www.flumetrailbikes.com or call 775-749-5349 for information.—*Krista Benjamin*



Bikers on the Flume Trail can take the Spooner Lake shuttle.

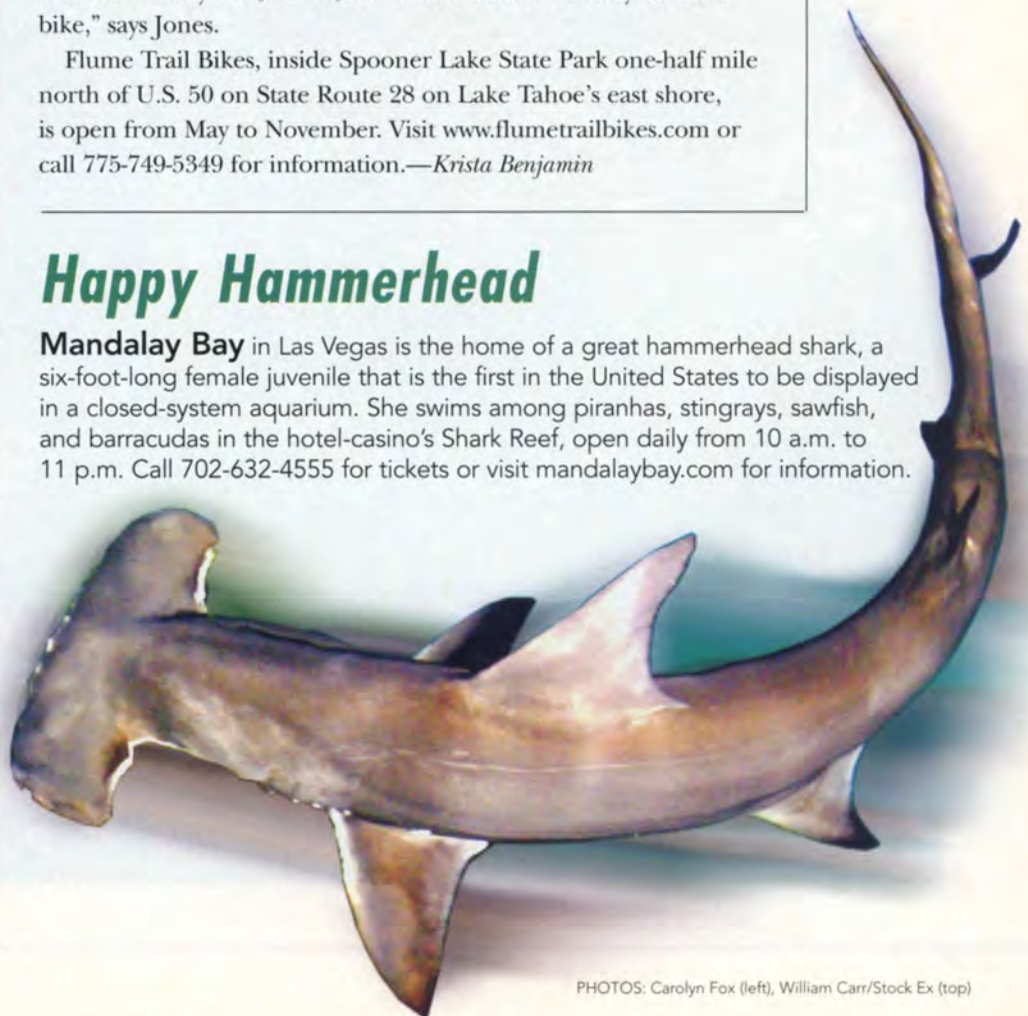
COURTHOUSE PARK



The **Belmont Courthouse** stands as a reminder of how boom-and-bust cycles affect rural Nevada. The site of a silver strike in 1865, Belmont served as the seat of Nye County from 1867 to 1905, when it lost that status to Tonopah. By the time the two-story brick courthouse was completed in 1876, the mines were already declining. Now the property of Nevada State Parks, the building is the centerpiece of the Belmont Courthouse State Historic Park in the semi-ghost town of Belmont, located 45 miles northeast of Tonopah via U.S. 6, State Route 376, and old Route 82. Visit www.parks.nv.gov for more information. The Belmont Inn (775-482-2000, belmontinn@yahoo.com) bed and breakfast offers home-cooked meals and special events.

Happy Hammerhead

Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas is the home of a great hammerhead shark, a six-foot-long female juvenile that is the first in the United States to be displayed in a closed-system aquarium. She swims among piranhas, stingrays, sawfish, and barracudas in the hotel-casino's Shark Reef, open daily from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Call 702-632-4555 for tickets or visit mandalaybay.com for information.



Hot Fun in the Summertime

Pool parties and rock shows are on tap from **Las Vegas** to **Reno**.

Nevada turns into the tropics this summer, and it's not only because of the heat. Spicy Caribbean and Mexican flavors are offered at two new restaurants, but you can cool off with a mai tai or piña colada in either eatery or poolside at many Las Vegas resorts.

Margaritaville Las Vegas (702-733-3302) reflects the travels and tropical tastes of singer Jimmy Buffett, who also has tropical-themed restaurants in Jamaica, Cancun, Orlando, Key West, and New Orleans. Inside the **Flamingo**, Margaritaville serves Buffett's Cheeseburger in Paradise and grilled sirloin steak topped with



Sammy Hagar takes a playful swipe at a tequila-bottle piñata at the grand opening of his Cabo Wabo Cantina at Harveys Lake Tahoe.

pineapple rum sauce. Diners can eat inside or on one of two outdoor patios. The bar is open nightly, serving—what else?—margaritas, and bands perform until 2 a.m.

Sammy Hagar opened his first stateside café at Lake Tahoe last spring. **Cabo Wabo Cantina** inside **Harveys** (775-588-2411) brings Hagar's own Cabo Wabo brand of tequila to the Mexican-themed eatery. Dishes include chile relleno lobster burritos and spicy shrimp. Cabo Wabo's lounge turns into a nightclub at 10 each evening. Umbrella-drink fans can try the Cabo Waborita, made with Cabo Wabo Blanco tequila, triple sec orange liqueur, fresh lime juice, and a splash of blue curacao. "Tahoe Wabo" rock 'n' roll shows are scheduled for the South Shore Room at **Harrah's Lake Tahoe**.



Sun worshippers gather at pool parties at Las Vegas' Hard Rock.

Bikinis and shorts comprise the dress code for the outdoor beach concerts at **Mandalay Bay** in Las Vegas. Showgoers can recline at the pool and watch Cindy Lauper July 23, the Go Go's July 24, and Rick Springfield September 3. A reggae beach party is planned August 13... **Sunset Station** (702-547-7777) in Henderson offers Grand Funk Railroad July 3, Keith Urban August 20, and Styx September 25 in the amphitheater.

Pool parties are a hot summer ticket item in Las Vegas. Some casinos charge admission that includes drinks and finger food, and some parties are free... On the Shangri-La pool deck at the

Imperial Palace (702-794-3261) you can order a margarita, munch on party food, and enter contests, all for \$19 on Friday and Saturday nights. The popular Imperial Palace Luau continues Tuesdays and Thursdays for \$31.95... Every Wednesday through August, for five bucks you can eat, dance, and maybe win a prize at the **Suncoast** (702-636-7111)... Skinny Dip Tuesdays cost \$10 at the **Palms** (702-942-7777), and Reggae Wednesdays are free at the **Tuscany** (702-893-8933)... Tropical drinks like mai tais, daiquiris, and piña coladas are served at the swim-up blackjack tables at the **Tropicana** (702-739-2222)... The **Hard Rock** (702-693-5000) offers pool parties on Sunday: \$10 for women and local men, \$20 for out-of-state men... The party at **Terrible's** (702-733-7000) is open to players club members with 1,500 points... The **Plaza** (702-386-2110) plans pool parties, too... Hotel guests can attend pool parties for free at **MGM** (702-891-1111), **New York-New York** (702-740-6969), the **Mirage** (702-791-7111), **Treasure Island** (702-849-7111), and **Bellagio** (702-693-7111).

At Lake Tahoe, **Harrah's** and **Harveys** (775-588-6611 775-588-2411) reprise the casinos' popular outdoor summer concerts. John Mayer, Chris Isaak, Jack Johnson, and Toby Keith appear... The grassy outdoor plaza at **Harrah's Reno** (775-786-3232) is the setting for the free Virg Summer Concert series. Look for such acts as Berlin, Garrat Wilkin and the Parrot Heads, and Twist and Shout.

The outdoor amphitheater at **Reno Hilton** (775-789-2000) features Reba McEntire, Train, Rod Stewart, REO Speedwagon, and Styx this summer... Also in Reno, concerts at **Bartley Ranch** (775-828-6642) include Lucinda Williams, the Flatlanders, Janis Ian, "The Legends of Hawaiian Music," and David Byrne and the Tosca Strings. See listings for details.—Joyce Hollister



Splash

When it's hot in the Reno-Sparks area, kids and adults can cool off at **Wild Island Family Adventure Park**. You can bob along in a wave-pool tube or scream your way down the Red Viper slide (above). The park offers a restaurant, bowling center, roller coaster, and miniature golf. Big kids can race in Indy cars and little kids in Sprint cars on a two-track raceway. For information and hours call 775-359-2927 or visit www.wildisland.com. The park is located at 250 Wild Island Court, on the east side of Sparks off Interstate 80.

Art Haven

HENDERSON—The **City Lights Artists Co-op and Gallery** showcases 60 Southern Nevada artists whose works range from woodcuts of the Las Vegas Strip to watercolors of desert landscapes. Stone sculptures, solar prints, and fused glass are displayed in rotating exhibits.

The co-op, subsidized by the Henderson Redevelopment Agency, offers members exhibit space in return for keeping the gallery open. The building, with its large windows and white walls, had been boarded up by the city before undergoing a recent renovation.

"It's our mission to provide artistic opportunities for the community," says co-op president Merle Blair, who is helping the city in its revitalization of Water Street and the creation of an arts district. Many of the co-op's members also belong to the Boulder City Art Guild and have worked with the Old Town Gallery, another Henderson art haven.

The City Lights Gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Saturday. A portion of the sale of artwork, prints, and cards helps fund the gallery. Water Street is off Lake Mead Boulevard in Henderson. Visit www.citylightsart.com or call 702-260-0300 for more information.—*Jennifer Prosser*



Instructor Anneliese Kielhorn (left), Richard Barrett, and his mother, Mary Barrett, take part in a City Lights art class.

Bones and Buggies

WINNEMUCCA—Replicas of mammoth bones discovered during an archaeological dig in the nearby Black Rock Desert are featured at the **Humboldt Museum**. The museum also displays many artifacts donated by Winnemucca's pioneer families. Visitors can see Winnemucca's first piano and several early automobiles, known as "auto buggies," that date to 1903. An exhibit honors Edna Purviance, the Paradise Valley native and silent-film actress who was Charlie Chaplin's long-time leading lady. Ornately carved Victorian furniture and an antique organ recreate an 1880s parlor.

Two historic buildings were moved to the museum's parking area. Greinstein's Feed Store served freighters and mule

trains in the 1800s. Penciled accountings of goods sold or traded for furs were found behind some of the store's wallpaper. Now a thrift shop, the store stocks second-hand items on vintage display racks, and proceeds benefit the Winnemucca museum.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, originally constructed in downtown Winnemucca in 1907 is crowned by a replica of its original bell tower. Inside, the sunlit space displays a collection of Native American arrow points and an exhibit dedicated to Sarah Winnemucca, the 19th-century Paiute author and educator. Public and private gatherings are held in the church.



The 1880s Victorian parlor at the Humboldt Museum.

The Humboldt Museum is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays year-round and 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturdays from May through October. Tours are available by appointment. Admission is free, but a \$2 per person donation is suggested. The museum is located at the corner of Jungo Road and Maple Avenue off U.S. 95. For information call 775-623-2912 or visit www.humboldt-museum.com.—*Paula Riley*

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Best of Nevada: South 2004



Readers name their favorite Southern Nevada entertainers, hotels, parks, and eateries in *Nevada Magazine's* seventh annual poll. **By Richard Moreno**



Mr. Las Vegas: Wayne Newton is the south's top entertainer, again. **High Nods:** At the Stratosphere (above), the Top of the World restaurant and the hotel's three top-of-the-tower thrill rides were winners in this year's readers' poll.



Top Resorts: Voters chose Harrah's Laughlin (above) and Bellagio (below) as best hotel/resorts in Laughlin and Las Vegas, respectively.



Seven was a lucky number for many Southern Nevada hotels, restaurants, and other winners of *Nevada Magazine's* 2004 "Best of Nevada: South" readers' poll. Responding to our annual "Best of Nevada" survey—this year is the seventh—*Nevada Magazine* readers recommended their favorite places and people in the state. Because of the growing number of categories, we decided to reveal the Southern Nevada winners in this issue and then announce the Northern Nevada winners in Sept/Oct '04.

Not surprisingly, the voting for the 2004 "Best of Nevada: South" included some of the state's most recognizable names. Although there were numerous repeat winners—some of them victorious all seven years—readers didn't always stick with the familiar.

So here are the winners of this year's "Best of Nevada: South" readers' poll. The envelopes, please.

Best Hotel/Resort

With its dancing-water fountains, world-class restaurants, and Euro-American elegance, **Bellagio** became a four-time winner as best hotel/resort in Las Vegas. In Laughlin, **Harrah's Laughlin** was the favorite, as it has been for the past six years. In Mesquite, readers chose **CasaBlanca** for the second year in a row.

Best Place to Gamble

In one of the tightest votes, **Mandalay Bay** outpointed Bellagio and MGM Grand as the best place to gamble in Las Vegas. **Harrah's Laughlin** repeated as best gambling joint on the Colorado River, and **CasaBlanca**, the 2003 winner, was the top bet in Mesquite.

Friendliest Casino

It must be all the comfortable rattan furnishings because this year's friendliest Las Vegas casino was the tropical-themed **Mandalay Bay**, which knocked off the Rio, a perennial winner. Laughlin's most congenial casino was **Harrah's Laughlin** for the fourth year in a row. In Mesquite, **CasaBlanca** again was the friendliest.

Best Slot Club

Each year since we added this category in 1999, readers have named **Harrah's Total Rewards** the best slot club in Southern Nevada. Under the program, players accrue redeemable points each time they play a slot machine or table game in a Harrah's resort.

Best Entertainer

Let's just give the guy a crown. For the seventh straight year **Wayne Newton** was voted Southern Nevada's best entertainer. The singer has been playing Las Vegas since 1958, when he was 16, and has performed more than 25,000 shows in the city.

Best Production Show

Readers were evenly split when it came to best production or musical show, resulting in a tie between "**O**" at the Bellagio and "**Mamma Mia!**" at Mandalay Bay. "O" is an innovative water-acrobatics show by Cirque du Soleil, while the musical "Mamma Mia!" showcases the songs of Abba, the '70s Swedish supergroup. A bonus for southern showgoers: This year's winner in Northern Nevada was the Celtic-influenced "**Spirit of the Dance**," which has moved from Reno's Eldorado Hotel to the Golden Nugget in downtown Las Vegas.

Best New Show

You must be 18 to see the winner of this year's best new show/new entertainer. The adults-only "**Zumanity**" at New York-New York was voted tops in this category. "Zumanity," which celebrates eroticism and human sexuality, is yet another Cirque du Soleil offspring.

Best Afternoon Show

For the third year Breck Wall's "**Bottoms Up**" at the Flamingo Las Vegas was voted best afternoon show. Wall, who was inducted into the Casino Legends Hall of Fame last year, has presented various versions of the burlesque-style show since 1964 in Las Vegas, Reno, and Lake Tahoe.



Adults Only: "Zumanity" at New York-New York was named the best new show (left). **Magic Master:** Lance Burton (center) performs tricks at the Monte Carlo on the Strip. **Orange Genius:** Carrot Top, who plays the MGM Grand and Harrah's Laughlin this summer, gets the most laughs in the Las Vegas area (right).

Best Comedy Club

Readers selected the **Improv at Harrah's Las Vegas** as the best comedy club in Southern Nevada. Part of a national network, the Las Vegas Improv hosts some of the hottest comedians in the country. Improv alumni include Jerry Seinfeld, Robin Williams, and David Spade.



for years, usually at the MGM Grand, while appearing in countless AT&T ads on television.

Best Magic Show

Apparently *Nevada Magazine* readers agree that the talents of **Lance Burton**, who appears at the Monte Carlo, are not illusory. For the fourth year in a row Burton was the landslide choice for best magic show in Southern Nevada.

Best Comedian

What's orange and white and all over your TV set? Funnyman **Carrot Top**, the top vote-getter for best comedian. Carrot Top, whose real name is Scott Thompson, has performed his prop-filled comedy routine in Las Vegas

Best Place for a Romantic Evening

It must be the view. Readers selected the Stratosphere Tower's **Top of the World** restaurant, which offers a 360-degree view of the Las Vegas Valley



Mesquite Winner: CasaBlanca beat out the usual suspects in the best hotel, place to gamble, buffet, and gourmet room (Katherine's) categories in the border city.

from 1,149 feet up, as best place for a romantic evening in the Southland.

Best Buffet

For the seventh straight year the Rio's **Carnival World Buffet** was a runaway winner in the voting for best buffet in Las Vegas. In Laughlin, Harrah's **Fresh Market Square Buffet** was again tops, while the **CasaBlanca Buffet** was the big spread in Mesquite.

Best Gourmet Restaurant

Obviously, readers enjoy dining in the presence of fine art. This year's best gourmet restaurant in Las Vegas was **Picasso** at Bellagio, where you can enjoy Chef Julian Serrano's award-winning French-Mediterranean cuisine in a room filled with oils and ceramics by Pablo Picasso. In Laughlin, the best gourmet eatery was **William Fisk's Steakhouse** at Harrah's Laughlin. Mesquite's top gourmet room was **Katherine's**, which offers live Maine lobster and Italian cuisine at the CasaBlanca.

Best Italian Restaurant

For the second straight year the popular **Bootlegger Restaurant**, owned by Lorraine Hunt, Nevada's lieutenant governor, was voted top Italian dining spot in the southern part of the state. Part of the Bootlegger's charm comes from the fact that its recipes are the creations of Maria Perry, Hunt's mother, who still keeps an eye on the kitchen.

Best Chinese Restaurant

When it comes to the south's best Chinese restaurant, the clear winner was **P.F. Chang's**, part of a national chain. The Arizona-based company has four locations in the Las Vegas area: Green Valley Ranch, the Aladdin Resort, Summerlin, and Paradise Road.

Best Japanese Restaurant

The Las Vegas Hilton's **Benihana** was selected best Japanese restaurant in Southern Nevada. Benihana is famous for its performing Hibachi chefs, who expertly slice and dice at your table.

Best Thai Restaurant

Voters chose **Komol** as the area's best Thai restaurant. Offering traditional Thai dishes as well as Thai-influenced vegetarian food, Komol, at 953 East Sahara in Las Vegas, is where many locals go to eat Thai.

Best Mexican Restaurant

Readers thought that **Lindo Michoacan Restaurant**, 2655 East Desert Inn in Las Vegas, was the best Mexican restaurant in Southern Nevada. Owner Javier Barajas, who learned to cook at a seminary in Michoacan, prepares a full complement of traditional Mexican dishes.

Best Hamburger

In-and-Out Burger doesn't do chicken. It doesn't do salads. It doesn't do wraps. It just does burgers, fries, shakes, and soft drinks. It also does



Just Desserts: The Carnival World Buffet at the Rio (top) took center stage for the seventh year. **Hip Spot:** The MGM Grand's Studio 54 again captured the award for the best place to go dancing in Southern Nevada.

them better than anyone else, according to readers, who overwhelmingly voted In-and-Out Burger as the best patty maker in Southern Nevada.

Best Seafood Restaurant

Winner of best seafood restaurant in Southern Nevada was **Aqua** at Bellagio in Las Vegas. Nestled in Bellagio's Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, the award-winning Aqua offers seafood continental style.



Blue Ribbon for Red Rock: Voters chose Red Rock Canyon, a 12-mile bike ride west of Las Vegas, as the south's top federal parkland and adventure place.

Best Vegetarian Restaurant

Open only two years, the **Go Raw Café and Juice Bar** has quickly become a favorite of readers looking for vegan fare. As a result, the Go Raw Café, with two Las Vegas locations, 2910 East Lake Drive and 2381 Windmill Lane, was voted best vegetarian restaurant.

Best Coffee Shop

The kitchens inside Bellagio must be busy. Yet another Bellagio eatery, **Café Bellagio**, was selected best coffee shop in Southern Nevada.

Best Saloon

It must be the mechanical bull. For the fourth straight year **Gilley's** at the New Frontier in Las Vegas was voted best saloon in the south.

Best Brewpub

For three years after we added this category in 2001, readers tapped the **Monte Carlo Pub and Brewery** as the south's best brewpub. Nothing has changed. The Monte Carlo, maker of High Roller Red, wins again.

Best Place to Go Dancing

Once again, the hip **Studio 54** at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas was the top place to trip the light fantastic in the Southland.

Best Thrill Ride

Acrophobes may skip this category. The 2004 Southern Nevada winner for best thrill ride was

the **Stratosphere Tower's** three *Fear Factor* contenders. The Big Shot shoots you into the air high above the 1,149-foot tower. The High Roller coaster circles the top of the tower. X-Scream is a giant teeter-totter that makes your hair stand on end.

Best National Park

With its multicolored cliffs, **Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area** is one of Southern Nevada's scenic wonders. Readers voted Red Rock as best national park or federal lands in the region.

Best State Park

There's nothing like being first and best. **Valley of Fire State Park**, 55 miles northeast of Las Vegas, was Nevada's first state park, designated in 1935. Readers also believed it was the best, voting it the region's top state park.

Best Golf Course

Two Henderson courses tied for top area honors in this year's poll. The **Revere Golf Club** has two 18s, the Lexington and the Concord, and **Rio Secco Golf Club** is home of the Butch Harmon Golf School. **Emerald River Country Club** in Laughlin was named one of the state's best rural courses.

Best Place to Take Kids

Adventuredome, the indoor theme park attached to Circus Circus in Las Vegas, was chosen

Best of Nevada: North

Next issue, be sure to watch for "Best of Nevada: North," which will announce the *Nevada Magazine* readers' poll winners for the Reno-Tahoe area and rural Nevada.

best place to take kids in Southern Nevada. With its five acres of roller coasters, carnival games, motion simulators, and other thrill rides, Adventuredome has captured this category seven years running.

Friendliest Town

Las Vegas, previously a two-time winner, again was voted the friendliest town in Southern Nevada, edging Laughlin and Mesquite.

Best Outdoor Adventure Place

While this category generated dozens of nominations, **Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area** was the readers' choice as the best place for outdoor adventure in Southern Nevada.

Best Special Event/Festival

Even in Las Vegas, **NASCAR** (National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing) is big. Readers, in fact, selected the various NASCAR races at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway as the south's best special event or festival.

Best Place to Shop

The results were closer, but, as it has been for the past seven years, the **Forum Shops at Caesars** in Las Vegas was named best place to shop in Southern Nevada, outpointing the Fashion Show Mall. The **Horizon Outlet Center** in Laughlin, a four-time winner, tied **Fashion Outlets of Las Vegas** in Primm for rural honors.

Best Museum

Wladziu Valentino Liberace died in 1987, but the public continues to be fascinated by the entertainer known for his elegant piano playing and outrageous

oufits. The **Liberace Museum** in Las Vegas, which houses his extensive collection of vintage pianos and memorabilia, was voted the south's best museum for the seventh straight year.

Best Wedding Chapel

In recent polls the **Viva Las Vegas Wedding Chapel** and **Little Chapel of the West**, both in Las Vegas, have alternated as best wedding chapel in Southern Nevada. This year they tied. Congratulations to both.

Best Sightseeing Tour Company

There was a deadlock in this category, too, as **Sightseeing Tours Unlimited**, **All American Tours**, and **Casino Travel and Tours** tied for best sightseeing tour company.

Best Helicopter Tour Company

We eliminated this category in 2003, but several readers asked for its return. After the votes were counted, previous honoree **Sundance Helicopters**, which offers tours of the Grand Canyon and the Strip, was the winner.

Reader Recommendations

Year after year, this category is one of the most entertaining. Reader suggestions in 2004 included best publications (*Nevada Magazine* received a number of write-in votes) and best-looking cocktail waitresses. Some readers wanted to revive a few old categories, like the best place to hike and best spa. Our favorite came from a reader who suggested that the best place to dine in rural Nevada was his home in Ely. Let's hope he has enough food for all of us. ▣

Richard Moreno is Nevada Magazine's publisher and a fan of rural home cooking.



Hail, Shoppers: The Forum Shops at Caesars was voted the best place to shop till you drop in the Southland. The mall has more than 100 stores and restaurants.

Trees at the Top



Mount Washington in Great Basin National Park has a grove (above), but the bristlecones on Wheeler Peak are much easier to reach.

You can hike to groves where bristlecone pines, the world's oldest trees, survive at 10,000 feet.



By Thomas J. Straka

Bristlecone pines offer Nevada explorers an enchanting natural experience. These gnarled and twisted evergreens are the oldest trees on earth. Some live to be 4,000 to 5,000 years old. When you hike into a grove of bristlecones for the first time, there is a certain honor in approaching something older than the Egyptian pyramids.

But age is only one thing that makes the bristlecone special. Each tree has a unique character. Nature sculpts it into an individual work of art, none with the same shape or form. And nature's work is slow. These small trees, no more than 60 feet tall and often shorter, may grow only an inch in diameter in a century.

Age is only
one thing
that makes
the bristlecone
special.

The bristlecone pine is one of Nevada's two state trees (the other is the single-leaf piñon pine). The bristlecone's name comes from its cones, which have scales tipped with claw-like bristles. As with other foxtail pines, the bushy foliage on young branches resembles foxtails swaying in the wind.

Adding to the trees' allure are their locations on the highest mountains. Bristlecones live at the tree line, mostly between 7,500 and 11,500 feet in elevation. They usually grow on outcrops of dolomite, which tend to store water and reflect sunlight well. Because the trees live widely scattered, unable to tolerate competition, a bristlecone pine grove often resembles a lunar landscape. Views can extend more than 100 miles.

There are hundreds of bristlecone groves scattered around Nevada, many near 10,000 feet. Where can the average person get a glimpse?

With a little planning and sturdy hiking shoes, you'll find good access to the high-living ancients in these three places in and near Nevada: Mount Charleston, Wheeler Peak, and the White Mountains. The best bristlecone-viewing season is May to October, when roads and trails aren't covered with snow.

Mount Charleston

One of the state's largest stands of bristlecone pines can be found 50 miles northwest of Las Vegas in the Spring Mountains, an area of impressive alpine scenery that most people don't associate with the city. Mount Charleston, as locals call the area, is part of the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area and includes 11,918-foot Charleston Peak. Paved roads reach 8,500 feet, about 6,000 feet higher than Las Vegas.

There are small bristlecone pines at lower elevations, but in summer you may want to hike Charleston's well-developed trail system for the best high-



The hiking trails that lead to bristlecone pines on Mount Charleston are less than 50 miles from Las Vegas.

elevation viewing. Be aware that hiking on some trails is arduous and requires planning. The trees can be seen on the Bristlecone Trail, six up-and-down miles round-trip, and on the South Loop, North Loop, and Griffith Peak trails. What may be the range's largest bristlecone pine can be seen at the trailhead of Mummy Springs Trail.

Getting There: You can reach Mount Charleston by driving northwest of Las Vegas on U.S. 95. Turn west on State Route 157 (Kyle Canyon) or, 14 miles farther, State Route 156 (Lee Canyon). State Route 158 (Deer Creek Highway) links both canyon roads to form a scenic loop.

Information: Spring Mountains National Recreation Area, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, 702-515-5400, www.fs.fed.us/htnf/smnra. The USFS visitor center in Kyle Canyon is staffed by helpful volunteers.

Wheeler Peak

Wheeler Peak in Great Basin National Park, 65 miles east of Ely, offers excellent summer access to bristlecone pines. At 13,063 feet, Wheeler is the state's second-highest peak. The

trees can be reached by driving to the parking lot (elevation: 10,000 feet) at the top of Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive and then hiking the moderately strenuous Bristlecone Trail, a 2.8-mile round trip. The upper Scenic Drive is generally open from May to October; other seasons, the snow can be deep.

In summer, park rangers periodically lead hikes to the grove; from there you can continue to a glacier and other points of interest. Check at the park's excellent visitor center for details.

The park has three major bristlecone groves standing just below the tree line, but the Wheeler Peak grove is the most ac-

cessible. It's also the most unusual for two reasons. First, it grows on quartzite boulder glacial moraine instead of the more common dolomite or limestone. Second, it faces northeast, while most bristlecone pines grow on southern or western exposures to make the best use of the sun.

Wheeler was the home of Prometheus, a 5,000-year-old bristlecone pine cut down in the name of research in 1964 (see "Whatever Happened to the World's Oldest Tree?" by Ronald M. Lanner, May/June '97). Parts of the unfortunate bristlecone can be seen in the park's visitor center and at the Bristlecone Convention Center in Ely. The trees are now fully protected by law.

The park's two other major groves are located on Mount Washington and Eagle Peak. However, access is extremely difficult, and neither has developed trails. Only the hardiest will want to visit those two groves, and only after consulting with park rangers.

Getting There: Great Basin National Park is located east of Ely off U.S. 6/50 near the town of Baker.



The tree gets its name from the claw-like bristles on its cones.

Information: Great Basin National Park, Baker, NV 89311, 775-234-7331, www.nps.gov/grba. Be sure to stop at the visitor center next to Lehman Caves, another good place to explore.

White Mountains

Groundbreaking research on the bristlecone pine took place in the White Mountains, 240 miles south of Reno and 15 miles west of the Nevada-California border. The range's north end includes Boundary Peak, at 13,140 feet the tallest point in Nevada. Most of the Whites are in California, and in that section you'll find the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest and Schulman Grove. The latter is named for Dr. Edmund Schulman, a University of Arizona tree-ring researcher who in 1957 discovered a 4,723-year-old bristlecone pine, later named Methuselah, in the area.

The bristlecones are 20 miles east of Big Pine, California. Schulman Grove Visitor Center is open from May to October and has exhibits, trails, a picnic area, and restrooms. Another 13 miles up the mountain by gravel road is the Patriarch Grove. A self-guided trail leads to the Patriarch Tree, believed to be the largest bristlecone pine in the world.

Getting There: The White Mountains' Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest is 240 miles south of Reno via U.S. 395 and 120 miles west of Tonopah via U.S. 6. From Central Nevada you can approach by way of Dyer (State Route 264) or Lida (State Route 266). From Big Pine go 13 miles east on California Route 168 to White Mountain Road and proceed seven miles north to Schulman Grove.

Information: Inyo National Forest, White Mountain Ranger District, 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA 93514, 760-873-2500, www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo.

When You Go

While visiting bristlecone areas, keep these maxims in mind:

When to Go: Summer and early fall are the best times to visit the high-altitude bristlecone country. Snow usually closes the high roads and trails in winter.

Elevation: Many bristlecone-pine groves

stand at about 10,000 feet, which is especially high for persons accustomed to low altitudes. About one-third less oxygen is available at 10,000 feet than at sea level, so beware of altitude sickness and problems associated with high blood pressure.

Weather: Temperature and other conditions can change rapidly at such high elevations, so be ready for unexpected rain or hail.

Hiking: Hikers should be prepared, especially on longer outings, with water,

food, hat, sunscreen, and good footwear.

Camping: Each area has camp sites. Call ahead for details.

Advice: Ask park and USFS rangers for details and maps (see "Information"). And be sure to bring a camera to record your encounter with these remarkable trees. ▽

Thomas J. Straka is a forestry professor at Clemson University in South Carolina and a frequent Nevada traveler.

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Ringo, John, George, and Paul land at McCarran airport during their August 1964 tour of the States. The lads played 23 cities, including Las Vegas, in four weeks.

Las Vegas Meets the Beatles

Forty summers ago the **Fab Four** swept into the hearts of young Las Vegas, as described in this “*Nevada Magazine Classic*.”

By K.J. Evans

Barry was savvy about such things. “You slip the maitre d’ a fin like this, and he puts you down in the very front row,” he said. He held up his hand, which had a folded \$5 bill showing between his fingers. Barry’s dad was a showroom waiter and had schooled his son in the protocols of showroom bribery.

“A whole five?” I gasped. Such a lordly sum would buy two model sports cars. Or even enough accessories at the Western

Auto store to customize a guy’s bicycle like a Mexican jitney bus. Or a spectacular case of sugar-sickness at the Walgreen soda fountain.

“This is the Beatles,” Barry hissed. “We want to get close to the stage so we can get their autographs.”

Barry wasn’t really a devoted fan of the Beatles. But his older sister, Rhonda, developed a case of the trembling shrieks whenever anyone so much as mentioned the name “Paul.” McCartney was generally

regarded as far and away the cutest of the Fab Four, the one who elicited the most sincere squeals of ecstasy among adolescent girls—the “fave” in Beatlespeak.

Barry’s idea was that we would sit at the foot of the stage and, between numbers, nonchalantly stroll up on stage, chat the guys up, and get their autographs, which could then be peddled at school for a handsome amount of money—maybe even enough to cover the \$4.40 cost of admission and the \$5 bribe.



The Beatles gave two half-hour concerts before 16,000 adoring teens—and a few curious adults—at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

**Barry's idea was
that we'd sit at the
foot of the stage,
chat the guys up,
and get their
autographs.**

I decided I would try to get John's autograph. He was my fave Beatle. Girls seemed to like Paul; guys seemed to like one of the other three. Girls who liked George always seemed to be kind of odd, the type who ironed their hair and wore sweatshirts.

For a while, if you were named John, Paul, or George, you gained a few points in popularity. I knew one guy who was actually named Ringo before the Beatles came along. He was a cowboy type who had taken the name of the gunfighter portrayed by John Wayne in the 1939 film *Stagecoach*. He also was a hard-core Elvis fan who thought the Beatles were sissies.

"My dad says they're communists," he added.

In August 1964, I was 12 years old, and the only time I had set foot in the five-year-old Las Vegas Convention Center was for the Jaycee State Fair and, once, for the Cub Scout Jamboree.

Musically, my tastes ran toward Chubby Checker and Jerry Lee Lewis. Personally, I

was becoming interested in girls but hadn't the vaguest notion of what to do about it. I did notice that a lot of very nice-looking girls went wild over the four Brits, and I was going with the crowd. So when Barry produced those two tickets, I ran home and pledged myself to a lifetime of domestic slavery and model behavior in exchange for 10 bucks. It was a lot of money, but my parents seemed amiable and amused by the whole thing.

We didn't know it, of course, but all of this would never have come to pass if Herb McDonald hadn't been visiting London while on a trip to see the British Open golf tournament. McDonald, the late head of Las Vegas Events, was at the time publicity director at the Sahara Hotel. One evening, as McDonald was relaxing in his hotel room, he received a call from the Sahara's entertainment director, Stan Irwin.

"He told me he wanted me to go see the Beatles," said McDonald. "I'd never heard of them." McDonald said he wasn't impressed by a musical group named after a garden pest, but he did as he was bid and took a taxi to London's Talk of the Town Club, where the Fab Four were appearing. He recalled that Beatles manager Brian Epstein was quite interested in booking a Las Vegas date. The stop would be made prior to engagements in Los Angeles and Seattle. They would do two shows in one day, August 20, one at 4 p.m. and the other at 8 p.m.

The Beatles' appearance could be a

success, McDonald believed. "It was announced on the West Coast," the longtime Las Vegas promoter recalled, "and those kids had parents who were crap shooters. When the kids heard they were in Las Vegas, they said, 'Daddy, you're taking me to the Sahara to see the Beatles.'"

Although the show was aimed primarily at the tourist trade, there was plenty of local interest. In what was essentially a conspiracy, *Las Vegas Review-Journal* columnist Don Digilio and KENO-Radio disc jockey Coffee Jim Dandy put themselves in opposite corners on the question of whether the Beatles were the super-talented vanguard of a new age in rock 'n' roll or a gang of talentless opportunists, bent on separating gullible young girls from their babysitting money. Digilio, who later admitted he actually had no strong feelings about the Beatles one way or the other, took the latter view, stridently ridiculing their looks, mocking their vocal abilities, and describing them as "fly-by-night entertainers."

Meanwhile, over at the sheriff's office, local lawmen, whose biggest crowd rowdiness problem to that point had been the Shriners convention, were gearing up to handle a horde of hysterical youngsters.

The cops had been practicing their riot control, which in those days was kind of primitive. In the week before the show, the cops met in front of the convention center and divided into two groups, the Good Guys and the Beatlemaniacs. The latter provided verbal provocations and insufferable insults like "Hey, fuzz." The Good Guys responded by wading in, falling back,



Screaming fans nearly drowned out "I Want to Hold Your Hand" and 11 other songs.

**The girls would
put their arms
around each other's
shoulders and jump
up and down,
screaming at the
top of their lungs.**

forming a flying wedge, and so on. According to a newspaper account of the practice session, it ended with "officers strewn all over the parking lot." One officer complained he had ripped open the seat of his pants. Sergeant Don Brown declared the practice unsatisfactory and ordered six more hours of drill prior to the Beatles' arrival.

Barry, Rhonda, and I were driven to the convention center by Barry's mom. With advance tickets to the first show, we had no trouble getting inside, where Rhonda, a couple of years older than us, forgot she knew us and scurried off to locate friends.

It turned out that we couldn't even get onto the main floor. Our seats were in the balcony, and Barry complained bitterly when he realized there was no one to bribe and that his plan had been foiled. The fact is, all the seats up front were reserved for

VIPs, people like Liberace, who made sure he was photographed in the audience.

There were some future VIPs in there with us common folks. Former Nevada Attorney General Frankie Sue Del Papa, then 15 years old and a ninth grader at J.D. Smith Junior High School, was there. She denied making any significant contribution to the vocal noise pollution in the rotunda that day.

"I wasn't really a screamer," Del Papa laughed. "A drooler, maybe. I wasn't a real Beatlemaniac. I liked Bobby Darin, Shelley Fabares, and I liked the Beach Boys as much as the Beatles. I didn't really have a crush on them the way I did on guys like Troy Donahue and Richard Chamberlain."

Del Papa said she didn't hear very much music, and neither did I. During the warmup acts—the Bill Black Combo, the Exciters, Jackie DeShannon, and the Righteous Brothers—Barry and I ran around the rotunda, trying to find the best

vantage point. There was no shortage of seats since almost all the balcony patrons were swarming in the aisle along the rail overlooking the main floor, elbowing for good positions.

We finally settled for a spot about two rows back from the rail overlooking six girls who performed an amusing dance about every 10 seconds. They would put their arms around each other's shoulders and jump up and down, screaming at the top of their lungs, until they tired. Then they would break up, hug each other, and re-form for another dance.

The Beatles led off a 30-minute set with "Twist and Shout." I remember that one because it was the only song I was able to actually hear. The amplification, by today's standards, was pitiful. Not that it wasn't loud. It was just that 8,000 screaming teens were louder. It was an entirely visual experience. (I later learned that the whole set included "Can't Buy Me Love," "All My Loving," "She Loves You," "Till There Was You," "Roll Over, Beethoven," "You Can't Do That," "If I Fell," "I Want to Hold Your Hand," "Boys," "A Hard Day's Night," and "Long Tall Sally.") Barry and I were amazed to discover the Beatles looked, in person, just as they did in pictures—only three dimensional. That's what we had paid to see, and we were satisfied.

But the novelty lasted for about two songs, and we turned our attentions to the real show—the audience. It was awesome. I recall one girl with a jar. She was sweeping it around her head repeatedly, then snapping the lid on. I was curious to know what she was doing but didn't speak to her because tears were streaming down her face and she looked like she was nuts. I finally decided that she was scooping up the air inside the convention center on the theory that some of it must have been breathed by a Beatle.

The boys in the audience seemed a little bewildered by the female response. I watched one guy, a high schooler, as he sat next to his girl, who was leaping and yowling and waving a handkerchief in the air. He was obviously convinced that all this excitement would put his date in an amorous mood. Following Paul's solo on "Till There Was You," he attempted to drape an arm around her shoulder. He received a sharp elbow in the ribs in response and was completely ignored for the rest of the show.

The Beatles flew out of Las Vegas the next day \$34,000 richer, having played to 16,000 people. The total take was \$55,000. The Sahara Hotel, after expenses, cleared

a tidy \$17,000, which seemed to support McDonald's theory.

It was only a 30-minute concert, but in the weeks that followed, Barry and I discovered that, having attended it, we were celebrities. I played it pretty straight. Barry, typically, played the angles. He became an expert on the Beatles and developed an interesting British accent.

I recall him slouching in the school hallway, surrounded by a small crowd, mostly female. He was holding a stack of Beatles bubblegum trading cards that somehow had been autographed. "Here you are, luv," he said to a girl with a bouffant hairdo

and frosted lipstick as he handed her one of the cards. "I got this from John." ♡

The preceding "Nevada Magazine Classic" by K.J. Evans appeared in the July/August '89 issue in a somewhat longer form. The late K.J. "Ken" Evans, who contributed many stories to the magazine, worked at several Nevada newspapers, including the Elko Daily Free Press and Las Vegas Review-Journal, and as media relations director of the Nevada Commission on Tourism. He was the coeditor, with A.D. Hopkins, of The First 100: Portraits of the Men and Women Who Shaped Las Vegas (Huntington Press, 1999).

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The Tule Artist

Walker River Paiute
Mike Williams
makes decoys using
2,000-year-old
techniques.

By Joyce Hollister

When collecting tules, Mike Williams always leaves enough of the stalk to regrow for next year's harvest.

Sitting on his haunches at the edge of the marsh, Mike Williams grasps a tule stalk and cuts it off six inches from the bottom. He gathers more reeds and ties them in bundles. Williams, dressed in jeans, a blue shirt, and waterproof boots, wields a yellow-handled utility knife. His ancestors would have worn woven tule vests, hats, and sandals and cut the reeds with obsidian blades.

Williams, a Walker River Paiute, has

taught himself to make tule duck decoys. He is acknowledged to be the only craftsman who makes decoys in the ancient Lovelock style.

"I tell people I learned it the way my ancestors did, just getting out there and doing it," the Carson City resident says. Williams had made Paiute deer-antler jewelry for many years, but in the late 1990s he became intrigued with how his people once used tules and other natural fibers to make virtually anything they

needed, from houses to baskets. Williams often visited the Nevada State Museum to see decoy ducks, egg bags, and mats on display. Also known as bulrushes, tules (pronounced "too-leees") are tough, hollow reeds that grow thickly on the banks of streams and lakes.

"Tule work had always interested me," the tall, soft-spoken 47-year-old says, "but it looked too complicated. I thought I would need a hands-on teacher, and there was no one around."

One day he took a pad and pencil to the museum and sketched a tule duck made by Ivan George of Stillwater. He studied photos of 2,000-year-old tule decoy ducks discovered in Lovelock Cave in 1924 and spoke with tribal elders. Initially, he made the mistake of working with the reeds soaking wet. When they dried, they shrank, and the decoy bodies loosened.

"I figured out I had to work with the tules while they were moist, not wet. Now I soak them for about 20 minutes under the hose in my yard, let them dry for a few minutes, then place them in a plastic bag." Williams surmises that the original decoy-makers worked at the marsh's edge.

The ancient people made tule decoys for the same reason modern hunters buy rubber decoys—to hunt birds. Tule decoys bobbing in the marshes drew ducks into close range, where the hunters could shoot the birds with arrows or tangle them in nets. While other modern-day Nevada Indians make tule ducks, Williams is the only one to make decoys in the 2,000-year-old Lovelock style.

Williams had a practical demonstration of his ducks' authenticity. When a friend who lives near Gardnerville put one of Williams' duck decoys in her backyard swimming pool, a couple of mallards looking for a pond splashed into the pool instead.

Williams was born in Carson City to Everett and Rosie Allen Williams. Everett is a member of the Walker River Paiute Tribe from Schurz. Rosie was from Stillwater, near Fallon, and a member of the Northern Paiute tribe known as the cattail eaters. They both attended Stewart Indian School in Carson City—she entered the boarding school at nine, and he at 13—but they met at a powwow in Schurz. After graduation, Everett was a student counselor at Stewart, and Rosie, a dormitory counselor. Williams and his brothers, Randall and Luke, and his sister, Dianne, grew up on campus and attended Carson City schools. The Williams brothers and their cousin, Mike Kane from Hungry Valley, played in a band they called Rollin



Mike and his son, Micah, inspect tule work at the Carson River. Below: a Williams-made tule quiver.



"I want others to be able to see what our people made and how they worked and lived."

Thunder, performing for dances at Stewart and various community events. Williams played the drums and sang.

The Williams family was close. "Whatever we did, our parents were always there, supporting us," Williams remembers. Everett and Rosie had been married for 45 years when she died of diabetes in 1997. Williams learned some of the Paiute language from his mother before her death.

Everett, a carver and artist, retired after 27 years at Stewart but still works. He is the maintenance supervisor for the Washoe Tribe's health center in Dresslerville and often accompanies his son on tule-gathering trips.

As boys, Randall and Luke showed an affinity for art. Williams was more interested in football, playing defensive end at Carson High School.

"My brothers laugh now," Williams

says. "They say, 'When you were younger, all you were interested in was sports. Now I'm the one that's really picked up the tule work and learning the art.'"

Williams and his wife, Kimberly, and son, Micah, live in a tidy Carson City home decorated with Williams' tule work, and daughter Shawntay and her children, Isaiah and Oliviarose, live nearby. Micah, 16, has made two miniature tule boats, and he says he's ready to tackle a duck.

"It's pretty cool that my dad makes those ducks," Micah says. "When my dad passes on, I'll be able to do what he's doing." Williams' niece, nephews, and four-year-old granddaughter also show an interest in tule work.

Williams says working with tules in the ancient Lovelock style is his calling. "I was given the art of tule ducks by the Creator," he says. "It's my purpose in life to teach this art and pass it on."

Besides decoys, Williams also makes tule hats, sandals, quivers, and mats in his



Mike Williams twists cord he'll use to tie decoys.



He ties the duck head into a tule-bundle body.



Williams trims the tail to resemble feathers.

Making a Decoy

Mike Williams recently demonstrated how he makes a decoy duck at the Marzen House Museum in Lovelock (above). Using tules gathered at Carson River marshes, he first makes cord to tie the decoy together. To form the body, he folds a two-foot-long bundle of about 25 tules in half. He wraps the breast section with additional tule stalks and uses a piece of deer antler to poke the ends inside the body. He makes the head separately and fastens it to the breast. For the finishing touch, he trims the tail section to resemble feathers. Williams

leaves some ducks plain. Others he paints black and red and adds white goose or turkey feathers. He grinds the red pigment from ochre obtained in the hills above Carson City. The black is the resin from piñon-pine logs he burns in his wood stove.

Williams attaches the feathers with string he makes from Indian hemp. (Of the ancient ducks found in Lovelock Cave, nine were painted and feathered.) The dressed decoy ducks can take up to 10 hours to complete, Williams says, as the paint must be allowed to dry between coats.

home workshop. Mike Kane's wife, Lois, showed him how to create the long-handled tule bags the tribal people used to transport birds' eggs they gathered in the marshes. Williams' relatives at Stillwater and Schurz supply him with deer antler and other materials he uses to build and decorate the decoys.

Williams gives his decoy ducks to relatives and sells them at powwows. His painted and feathered ducks are sought by collectors of Native American art.

One of Williams' prized possessions is a photo of one of the Lovelock Cave duck decoys. The artifacts from Lovelock Cave have been called some of the richest archaeological treasures found in the West. In 1911 miners removing bat guano from the cave dug up numerous artifacts. Many were lost or passed into private hands, but several found their way to the Nevada



Visitors watch their steps as they descend into Lovelock Cave, part of a BLM back country byway.

Historical Society in Reno. In 1912 the University of California sent Llewellyn L. Loud to Lovelock Cave to conduct an excavation. Working alone, he found more than 10,000 specimens—a profusion of

woven textile fragments, sandals, bags, and baskets. The digging stopped when Loud's funds ran out.

In 1924 Loud returned to the cave with archaeologist M.R. Harrington under

When You Go

Although the 2,000-year-old tule duck decoys from Lovelock Cave are housed in the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in New York, Northern Nevada visitors can see other cave artifacts at three museums and explore Lovelock Cave itself. Thousands of items were found in the cave, and the oldest date to 2,700 B.C.

"Our interpretation is that the cave was used for storage and temporary shelter by people living in the Humboldt Sink," says Peggy McGuckian, a BLM archaeologist. Nomadic hunter-gatherer groups would stash tools they needed for the hunting and fishing seasons before moving to other campsites.

The **Pershing County Marzen House Museum**, located just off Interstate 80 on the west end of Lovelock, displays artifacts discovered by bat-guano miners in 1911 as well as items found at other Humboldt sites. There are duck decoy parts, basketry fragments, a tule bag, matting, tule knives, a fire-starting kit, grinding stones, and shell trade beads. A diorama shows how the duck decoys were used, and there are photos of the 1924 excavation and duck decoys, a wood grasshopper effigy, and a blanket made of 100 mouse skins. The Marzen House Museum (775-273-7213) is open 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Saturday, May 1 to October 31, and 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, November 1 to April 30.

The "Under One Sky" Native American exhibit at the **Nevada State Museum** in downtown Carson City includes two of Paiute artist Mike Williams' works, a replica of a Lovelock Cave tule duck decoy and a miniature tule boat, and pieces of 800- to 1,500-year-old Lovelock decoys. There also are chewed tule quids—ancient people chewed tule like modern people chew gum. Text and artifacts found at other Humboldt Sink sites explain the ancient Lovelock culture. The museum (775-687-4810) is open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily.

Six darts and a spear-thrower from Lovelock Cave are on display at the **Nevada Historical Society** museum in Reno. The museum (775-688-1190) is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Saturday.

You can obtain the BLM booklet *Lovelock Cave Back Country Byway* at the Marzen House Museum. The self-guided driving tour passes through Lovelock, stopping at four historical sites in town and seven others on the 20-mile route to the cave. The booklet features vintage photos and a map.

At the cave, brochures, interpretive signs, and a kiosk explain the site's history. The cave, about 150 feet long and 35 feet wide, is empty, but blackened walls and ceilings hint at its earlier occupation. There is a shaded picnic area at the cave's base. The half-mile **Lovelock Cave Nature Trail** has 11 marked stops. Visitors learn about native plants, such as Indian tea and rabbitbrush, and how the Northern Paiute people used them. For more information about Lovelock Cave Back Country Byway and the Lovelock Cave Nature Trail, call the BLM Winnemucca field office at 775-623-1500.—*Joyce Hollister*



Williams arranges 11 of his ducks in a tule basket in the same pose in which the 2,000-year-old decoys were found at Lovelock Cave.

the auspices of the Heye Foundation's Museum of the American Indian in New York. (Harrington also excavated the Lost City near Overton and was a longtime curator of the Southwest Museum in Los Angeles.) The two men systematically excavated the cave, finding nets, stone implements, snares, cords, ropes, spear-throwers, and darts.

The 11 decoys—two plain and nine painted and feathered—were discovered in a big tule basket topped with a tule mat. The artifacts were divided among the University of California at Berkeley, the Nevada Historical Society (and later the Nevada State Museum), and the Museum of the American Indian in New York, now the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. The decoys are currently in the Smithsonian's hands.

Williams feels a strong spiritual connection when he visits Lovelock Cave. "Wow, it's powerful," he says. "The first

time I was there, Channel 2 News from Reno was filming me as I sat right in front of the cave and put together a decoy. I still have that one—it's a real special duck."

The Community Artist of the Year for Carson City in 2002, Williams demonstrates decoy making for schoolchildren and community groups. "I want others to be able to see what our people made and how they worked and lived," he says. "The way I look at my ancestors, they were professors in their own culture."

As Williams packs his tule bundles and tools to return home from the marshes, he sprinkles tobacco on the ground as an offering. "When you take something from

the earth, you must give something back. The elders at Stillwater told me this," he explains. "I'm thanking Mother Earth for the tules. That is what our ancestors did. They thanked her for everything she had given us." ▀

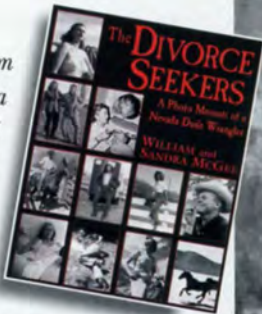
Joyce Hollister, associate editor of Nevada Magazine, owns two of Mike Williams' tule ducks. Readers can call Williams at 775-883-7310 for further information about his tule art.

The Summer of '48

A former dude wrangler recalls a memorable season at a Washoe Valley guest ranch in this excerpt from *The Divorce Seekers*.

By **William** and **Sandra McGee**

*In the late 1940s William "Bill" McGee worked as a wrangler at the Flying M E Ranch, one of several retreats in the Reno area that catered to women and men who were establishing their six-week residency for a Nevada divorce. Last spring Bill McGee and his wife, Sandra, published *The Divorce Seekers: A Photo Memoir of a Nevada Dude Wrangler*, much of which centers on the Flying M E. The Washoe Valley dude ranch was named for its owner, Emmy Wood, who hosted such celebrities as Clark Gable, Ava Gardner, and Eleanor Roosevelt. Wood was assisted by Allie Okie, who introduced guests (the "Allie Cats") to the nightlife of Reno, Tahoe, Carson City, and Virginia City. In the following excerpt Bill McGee recalls a memorable season at the ranch.*



During the summer of '48, the Flying M E was booked solid. The cast of characters was a little different than usual because there was a variety of age groups. There was the typical age group of 30-, 40-, and 50-somethings doing their time for a divorce. There were three women my age (early 20s) awaiting divorces. (One of them would become my first wife.) Then there were the college kids.

The Ghost of the M E

When Allie and I met Carol Greenley at the Reno train depot, it took both the "Woody" and the convertible to transport all her luggage to the ranch. She had steamer trunks, hat boxes, makeup cases, and what looked like a portable bar. Mrs. Greenley was from England and had come "out West" for a dude ranch vacation. She was treating her college-age



Joan Allison Borg (left page), a ranch guest from New Jersey, and I enjoyed horseback riding and each other's company. We married the next year. A train (top) steams down the Virginia and Truckee tracks past the Flying M E Ranch in Washoe Valley. Ava Gardner (right) was staying at the ranch the following summer when a group of us decided to take in Frank Sinatra's show at the Cal-Neva at Lake Tahoe. After his show Frank made a beeline for our table and danced with Ava. Later they had a tempestuous marriage.

son and a classmate to join her during their summer vacation. They were driving cross-country from Princeton in the son's new Frazer Manhattan.

Emmy, Allie, and I were looking forward to showing our British guest the sights. Emmy and Allie would take her sightseeing and gambling, and I, of course, would take her riding.

As it turned out, Mrs. Greenley had other ways of spending her time. What we thought was a portable bar was a silver tea service—with China cups and saucers, silver spoons, and a variety of teas. She drank tea continuously, all day and all night. During the day, she held court in her room and invited the other guests to stop in for a cup of tea and a chat. During the night, she wandered around the ranch house with her tea cup in hand. This habit earned her the nickname "The Ghost of the M E." Mrs. Greenley rarely



dressed to go out and spent her days in dressing gowns and peignoir sets. She never unpacked her trunks, leaving them open to display rows of gowns, cosmetic jars, and makeup.

The College Boys

Mrs. Greenley's son, Colin, was a nice-looking, charismatic young man with the good manners one expects from an English-bred gentleman. His love of the moment was his new

Nevada Dude Ranches

Horseback riding, cattle roundups, guitar pickers at the campfire—today nearly a dozen Nevada dude ranches cater to couples, singles, and families for a week or weekend. Most also offer group activities, weddings, and pack and fishing trips. Costs range from about \$700 to \$1,500 per week. Following is a sampling of Nevada dude ranches.

Badlands Wilderness Ranch offers horseback rides and cattle drives. O'Neil Basin, Wells, 800-616-0670, www.badlandsranch.com.

Corley Ranch hosts daytime ranch events. Gardnerville, 775-265-3045, www.corleyranch.com.

Cottonwood Ranch features Old West horse and cattle drives. O'Neil Basin, Wells, 775-755-2231, www.cottonwoodguestranch.com.

Hidden Canyon Guest Ranch is located near Great Basin National Park. Baker, 775-234-7267, www.greatbasinpark.com/hiddencanyon.htm.

Hunewill Circle H Guest Ranch is a longtime dude retreat south of Wellington near Bridgeport. 760-932-7710, off season 775-465-2201, www.hunewillranch.com.

Mustang Outfitters leads wild mustang viewing and horseback rides around the Toiyabes. Round Mountain, 775-964-2145, www.mustangoutfitters.net.

Nevada High Country Outfitters is based at the Jaz Ranch. Lamoille, 775-777-3277, www.nevadajazranch.com. The ranch also has info on the **Nevada Outfitters and Guides Association**, www.nevadaoutfitters.org.

Old Yella Dog Ranch and Cattle Co. plans to open in summer 2004 at Vya, 190 miles north of Reno. 530-279-2779, www.oldyelladogranch.com.

Ruby Crest Ranch features the Elko Guide Service. Elko, www.nv-biz.com/rubyranch.

Soldier Meadows Guest Ranch offers hay rides, jeep tours, and cookouts in the Black Rock Desert north of Gerlach. 530-279-4881, www.soldiermeadows.com.

Tyson's Canyon Ranch hosts individuals and groups. Virginia City, 775-847-7223, www.nevadaduderanch.com.

More Information:

Nevada Commission on Tourism, 800-NEVADA-8, www.travelnevada.com.



Our clientele included Eastern socialites like Penna Tew Hinton (left) and Ethel du Pont Roosevelt, here in the ranch kitchen in 1949. The horse-riding pals often socialized in Virginia City with other members of the Reno divorce colony. There, Penna met and fell in love with saloon owner Pat Hart, and by year's end they were wed. Proprietor Emmy Wood (right) shares a toast with frequent guest Clark Gable, who enjoyed mixing cocktails for the ranch crowd.



car. Why a Frazer Manhattan was anyone's guess. He was always working on it or talking on the phone to the Kaiser-Frazer dealer in Reno. At Emmy's request, I finally had to ask him to please take the car into Carson City to work on it. "It makes the driveway look like an auto repair shop lot," she opined.

Bud Henry, Colin's Princeton classmate, was a jovial jock-type with a blond crew-cut and a stout, muscular frame. He was into sports—and shorts—at all times except for dinner.

My Age Group

Now for the ladies in my age group. Dee Allen was from Newport, Rhode Island, and flew in from Providence. Flying cross-country was still new and considered adventurous, not to mention expensive. Dee was tall, a little tomboyish, and dressed like what we would call today "preppy"—complete with the strand of Tiffany pearls. She didn't act like the debutantes or rich girls from Newport who had been to the ranch before. I thought Dee was very nice.

Ruth Gordon arrived by train from Cleveland, Ohio, with her mother in tow. They were inseparable the entire six weeks. "Very Midwestern," was the catty guests' verdict for Ruth. Colin, Bud, and I tried to get Ruth away from her mother to participate in ranch activities, but we had no luck.

Then there was Joan Allison Borg, who also arrived by train from Englewood, New Jersey. Joan's mother, Lucy Dodsworth Allison, had been at the ranch—albeit for only two weeks—to get a divorce from Joan's father. So when Joan needed a divorce, Lucy called Emmy to make the arrangements. Emmy made a special point of welcoming Joan and met her at the train as if she was one of the family. It was a court witness day for Emmy, so she was dressed

Danielle created quite a stir the day she first disrobed and went skinny-dipping in the pool.

in a suit, hat, and gloves. This was Joan's first trip "out West," and it surprised her to see someone "dressed up."

Being "family" had its advantages and disadvantages, as Joan recalls: "Upon my arrival, I was assigned to the downstairs corner room. It was more luxurious than the others with its own entrance, private bath, and brick fireplace. The knotty pine walls were washed pale yellow. It was a warm and charming place. It was usually reserved for 'special' guests who were willing to pay 'special' rates. I was not in that category.

"As new faces kept appearing at the ranch, one day, in her refined and kindly manner, Emmy took me aside and asked if I would mind moving to the other end of the ranch house as there was a shortage of rooms? Or would I mind taking one of the twin beds in her room while Allie was away? So I moved to Emmy's cozy, combination bedroom/office. I was able to observe some of the behind-the-scenes workings of the ranch.

"That happened two or three times. Of course, if a guest was willing to pay extra for a private room, it could usually be arranged and guaranteed."

Trail Rides

The energy level and constant demand for activities by the younger group was a welcome change for me. We had daily morning trail rides and/or horseback picnics, afternoon sightseeing trips, plus evening jack rabbit shoots. A Sierra pack trip was tentatively planned.

Colin and Bud were a cut above novice riders, but Dee and Joan were

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rank beginners. Joan still remembers her first ride: "As I recall, Emmy encouraged me to try riding. I was terrified of horses, always had been, and still am. But Emmy sensed I was terribly unhappy and homesick. She insisted I would be 'perfectly safe on horseback with Bill McGee as a guide. So to please Emmy, I said OK.

"The trail Bill took me on had a brook that had to be crossed. The horses would make a small jump. I was frozen with fear. But I did it! We went this way more than a few times, and, even though I'd been warned, one time a branch knocked me off Little Joe's back. I pretended I was getting to like riding. I even went into town with Emmy and some of the guests to buy Western wear at Parker's [a famous Reno store]. Instead of the baggy jeans from New Jersey I'd been wearing, I came back with slim-fitting riding pants and a pair of two-toned, brown cowboy boots. Finally, I was 'in. I even began forgetting to count the days."

Pilot's License

Before and after each trail ride, the saddle horses would be tethered to the paddock fence while they were being groomed and saddled or unsaddled. Of course, this routine resulted in the almost daily dropping of "road apples" in the white-gravel driveway area. Naturally, if Colin and Bud were around, I wanted them to help with the clean-up, and in no time at all they earned their "pilot's license"—learning to "pile it here, pile it there."

Birthday Party

Colin and Bud surprised Joan with a birthday gift in mid-August. Joan recalls: "Those fellows gave me a silver and jade bracelet for my 21st birthday. It matched my green dress. The dress was bare-shouldered with thin straps and a little jacket that matched.

"Colin sort of courted me. He had a terrible crush, but I was a year older than he. I didn't know that younger guys ever went for 'older women.

"As I recall, Colin and Bud also sang me a song on my birthday. It went something like, 'She was only a Borg in a

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gilded cage. My first husband was Eddie Borg. The real song, of course, was "You were only a bird in a gilded cage."

I was only a year older than Joan and maybe two years older than Colin and Bud, but at the time, they thought I was much older. Four years fighting a war can do that to you.

French Nude

Danielle Masiere (not her real name) created quite a stir among both guests and staff the day she first disrobed and went skinny-dipping in the pool. Danielle was quite beautiful with a sexy French accent. Emmy, who was closed-mouthed about the guests' ages, hinted that she might be in her mid-30s. But she looked 10 years younger. Her dark hair was short and chic, and she dressed very stylishly.

Tom Waring, our only male guest at the time, gave me a full report. "Every morning, without fail, Danielle strolls to the pool about 11 o'clock in her robe with only a towel underneath. She faces south, away from the ranch house, to disrobe, then dives into the pool. After several laps, she gets out of the pool and casually climbs the steps to the top of the pool house. Judiciously, she drapes her towel over the railing in consideration of us other guests and then she lies



The authors, Sandra and William "Bill" McGee, will sign copies of *The Divorce Seekers* at the Gatekeepers Museum in Tahoe City on July 13 at 10 a.m. (530-583-1762), at Borders in Reno on July 16 at 7 p.m. (775-448-9999), and the Nevada Historical Society in Reno at 1 p.m. on July 17 (775-688-1190) during the society's Centennial Jubilee.

down to sunbathe—nude, of course!"

I overheard two women discussing Danielle's delightful routine:

"She uses a depilatory while taking a sunbath."

"I know. I saw her white creamy mustache as she lay there with her eyes closed. She must have a lot of hair on her upper lip."

Colin and Bud swapped more than one morning ride for a swim. Word of our French nude must have spread like wildfire, because we had more neigh-

bors than usual visit the ranch during her six-week stay. ▀

The preceding story is an excerpt from The Divorce Seekers: A Photo Memoir of a Nevada Dude Wrangler by William and Sandra McGee. The Divorce Seekers (444 pages, 502 b&w photos and illustrations, \$49.95, hardcover, ISBN 0-9701678-1-4, April 2004) is available from Nevada bookstores and from the publisher, BMC Publications, at www.bmcpublications.com or 800-431-1579.

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Camping at the Man

The wind “turned the tent into a parachute. Everything went flying, including me. It was just like ‘The Wizard of Oz.’”



Tano Sokolow seems to be daring the clouds to open up at Burning Man, the desert festival where weather can be an unknown but not necessarily unwelcome factor.

Wind, dust, and mud make camping an extreme sport

at Burning Man **By L.J. Williamson**

Mark laughs now, but at the time he didn't think it was funny. “I was trying to break camp in a whiteout,” he said. “I walked about 50 feet away from my RV and couldn't find it again for the next two hours.” For the remainder of the five-hour dust storm, Mark tied a rope to his RV's bumper and tied the other end to his belt loop so he wouldn't get lost again.

Eric recalls the time “we spent about six hours just hanging on to our shade structure, trying to keep it from blowing away.” And Heather remembers when “the winds had our camp totally flattened by the second day.”

Welcome to Burning Man, where camping is an extreme sport.

At Burning Man, the late-summer festival on the Black Rock Desert where participants expect to find fun and frolic, extreme weather conditions often throw a

nasty curveball. Many people attend just to party, appreciate art, or ogle the chicks, but they return home with ripping yarns of man versus the elements. “Burners” often find themselves stuck in mud, blinded by dust storms, felled by heat stroke, or shivering through Labor Day cold snaps.

“Be ready for anything—heat, cold, rain, wind, you name it,” says Robert, who has attended the festival yearly since 1997. “If you can imagine it, Black Rock can probably dish it out.”

The Black Rock Desert, 100 miles north of Reno near Gerlach, is a dry lakebed that is one of the largest flat places on Earth. Since 1990 the playa has been the stage for Burning Man, a festival of artistic freedom and creativity. Scheduled for August 30-September 6, Burning Man culminates with the torching of a giant effigy on Labor Day weekend. Last year's event attracted 30,000 people.

To visit the Black Rock playa for the first

time is to be awed by its vast, unending openness. The playa's main characteristic is that it is virtually without characteristics, making it a perfect place for the human imagination to run wild. There are no plants and no animals—not even insects—that call this place home. Underfoot is nothing but a dry, cracked, beige surface that easily breaks into powder. Overhead is an immense and spreading sky and a blinding, persistent sun—that is, until a thunderstorm turns the surface into a clinging, clay-like mud that glues down your tires. Then there are the winds, sometimes cooling the desert, sometimes leveling entire camps with a careless swipe.

“I had just arrived and finished setting up this big, long tent I had,” says David. “I was pretty tired, so I just threw in all of my gear and went inside to lie down for a while. I hadn't really staked it down yet.” Big mistake. Moments later, one of the Black Rock's famous windstorms roared



Dust swirls around festival-goers. Below right: Mud-encrusted boots are called "playa risers" or "playaforms."

through. David recalls, "It turned the tent into a parachute. One end of the tent was open, and it created a windsock. Everything went flying, including me. It was just like *The Wizard of Oz*."

Most camps at Burning Man have elaborate structures with themes (healing circles, body painting, all-you-can-eat popcorn). High winds can catch even experienced theme campers unprepared.

"I was in Xara when it collapsed a few years back," explains Fred. "It was a big rectangular shade structure that had a rainforest inside of it, and it was made out of conduit pipes about 12 feet tall. We thought we had it anchored really well, but the storm came through, and the thing just blew to bits. It had taken about 150 people three or four days to set it all up, and then it was gone. There was rebar and big poles flying everywhere—fortunately no one was injured—but it was really a scary event."

Burning Man organizers provide an "Event Survival Guide" for festival-goers on the Web site www.burningman.com. Although much of the guide is devoted to warnings about dehydration, a lack of water wasn't the problem for clean-up crews after the 1998 event.

"I saw the clouds threatening," says Karie, "and some people were packing as quickly as they could and fleeing, but I thought they were overreacting." They weren't. Once the rains came, "only people with high clearance, four-wheel drive, and the right tires made it out," she remembers.

David, who narrowly avoided being trapped in the deluge, remembers, "People were trying to drive out, but so much mud would build up on their tires that they couldn't rotate anymore. When you're spinning the tires, it turns into clay,

and you're basically baking the clay inside your wheel wells." Karie and her companions spent seven days marooned on the playa, waiting for the mud to dry and release their vehicles.

Each year scores of festival-goers succumb to heat stroke. Still more experience moderate to severe dehydration. The alkali dust cracks feet and makes nasal hygiene a substantial task; nosebleeds are common. At night, temperatures can plummet more than 40 degrees, sending those who wore little more than sunscreen during the day scrambling for parkas.

So why do people keep coming back?

"My favorite part of Burning Man is when you have a full whiteout," Heather says. "It's the best time to find a drum circle and just put on a good mask and good goggles. You can't even see where you're going, but you can hear the drums and you find them and you dance, and you can't see the people next to you. In that moment, there's chaos, everything's breaking loose, and you're celebrating. It's amazing."

Jenny adds, "I like the unpredictable element because it's taught me how to appreciate things as they are now. When Xara blew down, everyone said it was horrible, but it made me realize that when you see something, you've got to do it now, because tomorrow it might be gone. Just like in life, somebody you love might be alive today, and then they're not tomorrow, and it really makes you realize why every day is important."

A week in Black Rock also can instill an appreciation of life's smaller pleasures. Liz says, "After so many days of dust, there's nothing better than that first shower you take when you get back home." ♡

L.J. Williamson is a Los Angeles freelance writer who has attended Burning Man since 1997.

When You Go

To paraphrase Ben Franklin, there's not much you can do about the weather. But if you go to Burning Man—or plan to camp at other desert sites—you can take precautions that will help make your trip safer. Items to bring include:

- Water**, about one gallon per day, per person.
- Hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, and first-aid kit.**
- Shade** for your camp, such as an umbrella or tarp.
- Warm clothing and sleeping bags.** Temperatures in the Nevada desert can drop 50 degrees at night.
- Flashlights** and spare batteries.
- Sealable plastic bags** for electronic gear and cameras.

This is a brief list. Visit www.burningman.com for the detailed "Event Survival Guide." The counterculture celebration will be held August 30-September 6, and tickets at \$200, \$225, and \$250 may still be available.



Narrow Escape

The author hikes into South Twin River Canyon.

Or how three guys found a cool, green haven in the Toiyabe Range **By John Dalton**

Having been a resident of Hawthorne in an earlier life, I had a vague recollection of what was hidden in South Twin River Canyon in the Toiyabe Range, and I liked what I remembered. So when three of us were looking for a weekend backpacking trip, I described a long, narrow, and colorful canyon, deep enough to be shaded most of the day, and lush with year-round water and greenery. Don and Chris, my two companions, quickly bought in.

The Toiyabe Range's Arc Dome Wilderness Area, as the expanse is now known, is located midway between Austin and Tonopah. Arc Dome is the largest wilderness area in Nevada, and its position on one of the state's longest and highest mountain ranges makes it a hiker's paradise. The 65-mile Toiyabe Crest Trail can be reached from most of the trailheads that surround the preserve.

Our intentions were much more modest. Given the South Twin's remote lo-

"We descended into the canyon and quickly began to lose light. The passage seemed to be getting narrower."

cation—it would be mid-afternoon before we reached the trail—and given the uncertainties arising from my 25-year absence, we planned to hike into the canyon only until a good campsite presented itself.

We were in good spirits as we pulled off State Route 376 about 65 miles north of Tonopah. We didn't get on the trail until three o'clock, switchbacking above the locked gate that marked the road-end. As

we climbed, I tried to recall where the canyon widened enough for us to camp. I remembered that it was, unfortunately, quite a distance.

At the top we took in broad vistas of Big Smoky Valley and the chocolate-colored eastern wall of the Toiyabes. Another mile took us to a saddle where the view by itself made the trip worthwhile. Looking down from our perch, we peered several miles into the canyon. Cottonwoods and aspens lined the river, with piñons and junipers standing higher and the summits of the Toiyabe Crest looming behind it all.

We descended into the canyon and quickly began to lose light. The passage seemed to be getting narrower. Don noted that he had rarely hiked a trail where even a minimalist camp seemed so out of the question. Two miles later the rocks widened some but not enough. The canyon's beauty partially soothed our anxiety about finding a camp. Even the half-light reflecting from above accented the

contrast between the lush greenery near the river and the sometimes hazelnut, sometimes khaki walls of the canyon.

After passing some old mining equipment, we arrived at a small, wooded clearing. The spot was away from the river but right on the edge of the trail. That didn't matter. We dropped our stuff and pitched our tents. Chris observed, "Now I know a little of what Moses felt like when he led his flock out of the desert." As luck would have it, we only saw one other person, a day-hiker, during the three days we spent there, but had the trail been populated, our site would have been a nuisance.

In the morning we noticed a nice campsite on the river's south fork, which entered the canyon just above our camp. That site would have gotten us off the main trail and kept us from being an eyesore to fellow explorers—if there had been any.

We followed the canyon until it widened into a broad meadow. The terrain began to resemble the more conventional images of Nevada's high country: rounded mountains, a reddish tint above the tree line, and lower elevations adorned with piñon, juniper, and sage. We agreed, however, that the first three miles deep in the canyon had been the best part of the trip.

As we walked out the next morning, I noted how unusual this place was. We were hiking through a cool, well-watered canyon, trees everywhere, all framed by luscious marble walls, in Central Nevada in August. The lack of permits, fire restrictions, and crowds, together with some of the clearest air we had seen in years, were icing on the cake.



Making the Trip

South Twin River Canyon is located in the Arc Dome Wilderness Area, 245 miles east of Reno and 262 miles north of Las Vegas. The trailhead is three miles west of State

Route 376 between Austin and Tonopah. The turnoff is well marked between mile markers 59 and 60. The trails are clear and junctions marked. The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest has offices in Austin (775-964-2671) and Tonopah (775-482-6286, www.fs.fed.us/ushntnf). Be sure to obtain maps and information in advance. ▽

John Dalton, a Bay Area writer, wrote about hiking Boundary Peak in March/April '03.

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Nevada Almanac

Wayne Newton's Rolls-Royce and Nevada Trivia.

Danke, Wayne

By Frank Barron

Seeing that *Nevada Magazine's* readers once again selected Wayne Newton as Southern Nevada's best entertainer (page 14) brings to mind several fond memories of meetings with Wayne when I was editor of the *Hollywood Reporter*.

My first encounter with Wayne took place at the Brown Derby in Hollywood in the mid-'60s. Even though our interview was brief (he had to get back to Las Vegas quickly), it was memorable.

Wayne showed me his new Rolls-Royce, a Silver Cloud, as I recall. The car's interior had a strange smell that I could not fathom. "It's hay," Wayne explained. "I store the hay in there when I bring the feed to my horses. I don't use a tractor or wagon."

Of course. Doesn't every Rolls-Royce owner use that vehicle as farm equipment?

Now dissolve, as they say in the movies, to many years later, and Wayne was at MGM for a film role. I went to the Culver City studio, and Wayne greeted me like an old friend—despite our one brief interview. The first thing he asked me about was a personal problem I had mentioned, and had it been solved? I was amazed, although I had heard that he had a remarkable memory.

When he saw my astonishment, he simply said, "We talked about it back at the Brown Derby, remember?"

Now move ahead to 2002 and the annual Publicists Guild Awards show in Beverly Hills. My wife and I were in the VIP pressroom prior to the awards, and in strolled Wayne, who as chairman of the USO's Celebrity Circle was there for a special tribute to the USO. Immediately Mr. Las Vegas came over and greeted me, bypassing numerous Hollywood celebrities.



Wayne Newton hauled his horses' hay in style.

Yes, of course, he recalled the previous get-togethers, without even my mentioning them.

How does the man do it?

Well, earlier this season, my spouse and I visited Las Vegas—my first time there in decades. At the last minute on our first night we decided to take in the Wayne Newton Show at the Stardust. I called the hotel and got Wayne's office, leaving a message on his answering machine, hoping he would remember me.

When we arrived at the Stardust, there were, indeed, tickets waiting for us—his own personal seats. On stage,

he acknowledged our presence and had one of his people deliver a bottle of champagne to our booth.

Danke schoen, Wayne. ♥

Frank Barron lives in Van Nuys, California.

Nevada Trivia

Q What name did many Nevada miners, particularly those of Cornish background, give to the mischievous troll-like creatures that allegedly warned of disasters and mishaps in the mines?

A These impish creatures were called "Tommyknockers." They supposedly made tapping sounds to indicate the location of rich ore as well as to warn of coming disaster. Tommyknockers also played pranks on the miners, like dropping small rocks on their heads or taking tools.

Q How many people are buried in Hoover Dam?

A Contrary to myth, no one is buried in Hoover Dam. However, there were 111 fatalities during the dam's construction from 1931 to 1935.

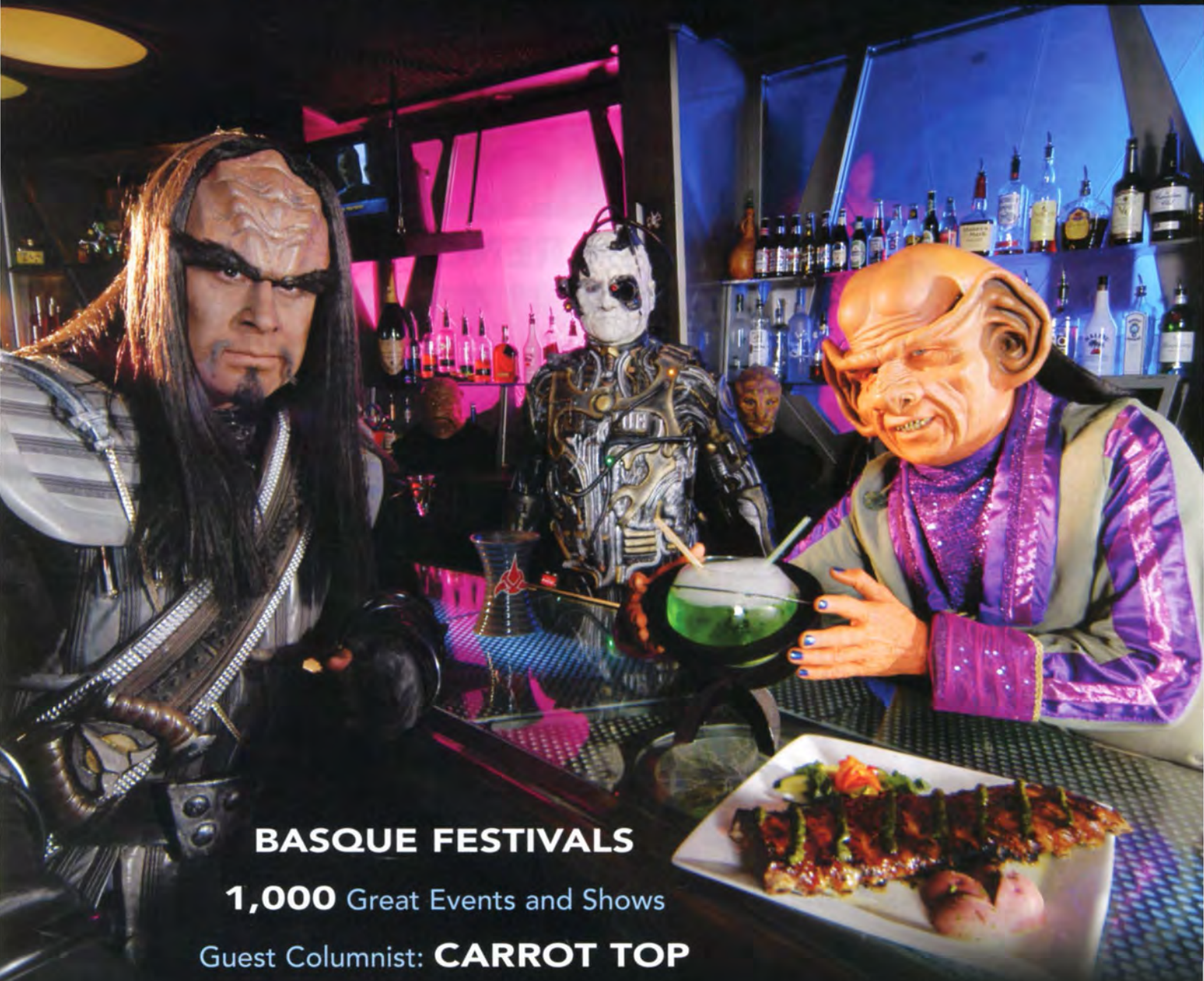
NEVADA *Events & Shows*

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

July/August 2004

Space Oddities

A new ride invades **Star Trek** in **Las Vegas**



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A Klingon (left), Borg, and Ferengi space out in Quark's Bar at **Star Trek: The Experience**



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Oompah Season

By Ann Henderson

Invite 800 friends, and the **Hofbräuhaus** in **Las Vegas** is yours for the evening. The restaurant, with its 380-seat beer hall and 430-seat beer garden, is a replica of the Munich Hofbräuhaus commissioned in 1589 by King William V. The indoor garden décor includes a stone floor, trees, fountain, hand-painted flowers, fish, animals, musical instruments, and a sky-blue, 49-foot-high ceiling. Servers dressed in German dirndls serve cool brews and hearty fare such as sausages, knackwurst, baked pretzels, and schnitzel-breaded chicken breast. Oompah bands from Munich, which rotate every six weeks, perform nightly. **Didi's Hormittel** appears in July, and **Steirerbluat** plays in August.

In **Reno**, let us know how you rate **Oceano**, the **Peppermill's** new seafood restaurant and sushi and oyster bar. The eatery features a sake bar and an overhead décor of blue neon and mirrors and more than 240 life-size replicas of sharks, turtles, whales, and other sea creatures. Oceano also has a video screen showing underwater scenes. The Peppermill is known for its gourmet **White Orchid Restaurant**, which earned a Four Diamond AAA rating last spring.

Simon and Garfunkel, Rod Stewart, Sting, and Annie Lennox play **Las Vegas** this summer. **Stewart, Sting, Annie Lennox, and Toby Keith** play **Las Vegas** this summer. **Stewart** is also booked for **Reno**, and **Kenny Loggins** is headed for **Sparks**. **Styx** has dates in **Reno** and **Elko**, where **Wynonna Judd** will also appear.

A real grandmother, **Mama Scinta**, has been tapped to play **Mama Nunzio** in "**Tony N' Tina's Wedding**" at the **Rio** in **Las Vegas**. **Mama (Mary) Scinta** is the real-life matriarch of **The Scintas**, who have played at the **Rio** for three years. Except for Wednesday and Thursday, when she is involved in **Tony and Tina's** nuptials, you can find **Mama Scinta** watching her children, **Joe, Frank, and Chrissi**, plus friend **Peter O'Donnell**, perform in the showroom named for them.

Mac King has moved his afternoon comedy and magic show to the **Clint Holmes Theatre** at **Harrah's Las Vegas**. He will perform in the larger showroom through September. King was



Didi's Hormittel play oompah rhythms at the **Hofbräuhaus** in **Las Vegas**.

Simon and Garfunkel, Rod Stewart, Sting, and Annie Lennox play **Las Vegas** this summer.

recently named "Magician of the Year" by the Magic Castle, Academy of Magical Arts. He performs Tuesday through Saturday at 1 and 3 p.m. at the Strip hotel.

As you can see, we've changed the look of **Nevada Events and Shows**. The information you need for an evening out or a weekend getaway is divided into regions: **Las Vegas Area, Reno-Tahoe Area, and Rural Nevada**. To help launch a new guest celebrity column, comedian **Carrot Top** gives his views on Nevada, his mother, and adult film stars. Thanks to Art Director **Denise Barr**, Nevada E&S has a new, more appealing design. Let us know what you think as more changes unfold in future issues.

Coming attractions include **Nevada Magazine's** November/December issue, which will focus on the **Las Vegas Centennial**, a yearlong celebration that begins December 31. Our coverage will be a keeper. Other Nevada Centennial Cities planning 100th birthday parties include **Beatty** (October 15-16, 2004) and **Sparks** (March 15, 2005). ♡

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



At the Peppermill's new **Oceano Restaurant** in **Reno**, server **Shamira Lopez** holds a platter of sliced spicy tuna sushi rolls. Sushi Chef **Yoshi Nagase** presents swordfish rolls (center) and ahi tuna rolls.

A Collective Gasp

The recent Borg Collective
 "Invasion" sends ride fans into a hairy
 new dimension at **Star Trek: The Experience**.

By Matt Farley

The Las Vegas Hilton has fallen to a contingent of the Borg Collective, a race of cyborgs bent on assimilating all living tissue in the universe. Their first victim was Jason Alexander, who played George Costanza on *Seinfeld*. The actor was presiding over a press conference at Star Trek: The Experience when it happened.

Alexander, a Star Trek fan who guest-starred as a Think Tank leader on *Voyager*,

"The Borg don't mess around. They all have one mind, one consciousness, and they get smarter every time they absorb somebody."

was telling our group of scribes about "Borg Invasion 4D," the first new ride added to the Experience since it opened in 1998. He also was expressing his disgust with the aliens.

"The Borg are the worst thing to happen to this galaxy in a long time," he shouted to us, clenching his hands. "And if any of them were here right now, I'd..."

Suddenly, a dozen of the creatures lurched onto the podium and wrestled Alexander backstage. Everyone around me took a step away from the platform. During the struggle, one of the creatures turned and fixed us with one glowing eye.



The Borgs are all well-connected. Above: a Borg regeneration chamber at the Experience.



Visitors to the Star Trek universe can go up to the Borg and Klingon rides or down to Quark's Bar (above). "Borg Invasion 4D" star Robert Picardo (left) grimly faces a representative of the Borg Collective.

The crowd, which included Klingons, Ferengi, humans, and several other races, seemed unsure whether to run or to linger and stare at the creature, an unsettling marriage of pale flesh and exposed wiring. Then it spoke.

"The Borg have arrived," it groaned. "Resistance is futile."

The occupying force remains there today, and its presence can be felt throughout the Experience.

"'Borg Invasion 4D' will immerse guests in a darker, edgier dimension of the Star Trek universe," Paramount Parks head Alexander Weber Jr. declared. "Thrill seek-

Then, something went horribly, horribly wrong: The Borg found the ship.

ers from around the world will enjoy it."

Audiences have noted the dark, violent "Invasion" marks a departure from traditional Star Trek themes. The original tele-

vision series, created in 1966 by Gene Roddenberry, was a weekly "space opera" that followed the Starfleet crew of the *U.S.S. Enterprise* as they explored the edges of the known universe. The show attracted many fans during its three-season run and eventually spawned 10 movies and five more television series. But few episodes in the franchise feature the dire mood and high body count of the new ride.

Still, visitors will find the path to the "Borg Invasion 4D" safe enough. The meandering walkway runs through the Star Trek museum, which includes a "History of the Future" timeline and various props from the series and films. The timeline details the "history" of the Star Trek universe from man's first trip into space through the distant future. The decor, by and large, involves video screens filled with alien symbols, presumably related to space exploration.

Further on, the path forks. To the right lies the "Klingon Encounter," the original Experience ride. A \$29.99 "Invasion" ticket also allows admission to the "Encounter."



A couple exchanges vows during a 24th-century wedding on the Starship *Enterprise* bridge.

The Klingon ride houses a full-sized replica of the *Enterprise's* bridge that is often used for weddings.

"A lot of couples dress up as characters from the show," said Experience sales executive Lisa Lotruglio. "We also have aliens as witnesses. People like to have them in the pictures."

As our group of interplanetary visitors waited to enter the twisted universe of "Borg Invasion 4D," we paused at the museum to inspect the timeline and Star Trek artifacts. A few people examined a rack of gleaming weapons, ranging from hand-held phasers to man-sized Klingon blades, but most hurried past, hoping to be first in line at the new ride.

One man pushed his way through a clot of people who had stopped to admire a Klingon tunic. A medium-sized, well-dressed guy, he didn't look much like a Trekkie, but the grim, workmanlike set of his face told me he was just that. His pumping arms carved a wide swath through the crowd, leaving a trail of indignant journalists in his wake. This was a man who clearly was not stopping until he saw somebody get assimilated.

"I won this radio contest in Texas, and they flew me here," he said. "It's my first time in Vegas." He repeatedly clapped his hands softly together as he waited for an opening. "I'm pretty excited."

Someone asked him why he opted for the Borg ride rather than the "Klingon Encounter." The Texan grew thoughtful.

"Klingons are cool and all," he explained, "but the Borg don't mess around. They all have one mind, one consciousness, and they get smarter every time they absorb

In a miraculous turn of events, our group escaped without a single casualty.

somebody." He continued to outline the abilities of the Collective for 10 minutes as we waited in the blue glow cast by a row of viewscreens.

Finally, the first 30 of us in line were escorted into a dark room; the ride was about to begin. The lights came up, and the bridge of Space Station *Copernicus* appeared. A woman in a red Starfleet jumpsuit stood at the controls and explained why we had been transported into the orbiting research vessel. She said our group had been selected for a specific genetic trait we shared. A video screen crackled to life, and the Doctor, *Deep Space Nine's* Robert Picardo, detailed his plans to use our genetic codes to build a weapon to use against the Borg.

Then, something went horribly, horribly wrong: The Borg found the ship. "Something always goes horribly wrong," Nicole Koebrich, an Experience representative, had pointed out earlier. "If it's not the Klingons or the Borg, it's somebody else. What makes this ride different is the level of interaction. You have things happening on the floor, in the seats, and on all sides."

We found ourselves running down a corridor as live Starfleet officers and Borg drones opened fire on each other. One officer stood on top of a desk and shouted, "Everybody run!" as he fired a phaser at the approaching cyborgs. Then a Borg arm sheathed in cables and varicose veins



An intergalactic crowd gathers in Quark's Bar, named for a prominent Ferengi character.



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- Scenic aerial flight tour of the Western Grand Canyon
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Up to \$50 off **Grand Canyon Above & Below the Rim Airplane Tour**
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1/2 off **Grand Canyon Heli Cowboy Ranch Combo**
"Like stepping back in time!"
2nd person Reg. \$334 ea. 2nd person \$167 (1/2 off ea. 2nd person with each full paying adult)

2 action-packed adventures for the price of 1 * Luxury 6 passenger jet helicopter flight by Hoover Dam, Lake Mead, Colorado River * Low altitude flight deep in the Grand Canyon * See Canyon above & below the Rim * Land at working western ranch * Western style meal * Cowboy & cowgirl fun: myths & stories, gunfights, music & horse riding (optional cost) * FREE Las Vegas helicopter tour on your return * Departs 5 times a day * Approx. 4.5 hours hotel to hotel

Call (702) 243 0181 Ext. 200 * Toll Free 1 800 566 5868
www.looktours.com Void with any other offer. No Cash Value. Exp 12/31/04 Code: NES H4

1/2 off **Grand Canyon - Hoover Dam Helicopter Flight**
"Soar Through the Canyon."
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Fly - Above the Canyon edge, below and through the Grand Canyon * State of the art VIP air conditioned luxury 6 passenger jet helicopter * See Hoover Dam & Lake Mead * FREE Las Vegas Helicopter tour on return * Departs 5 times a day * Approx. 3.5 hours hotel to hotel

Call (702) 243 0181 Ext. 200 * Toll Free 1 800 566 5868
www.looktours.com Void with any other offer. No Cash Value. Exp 12/31/04 Code: NES H2

\$25 off **Las Vegas by Night Helicopter Tour**
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Reg. \$80 ea. Now from only \$54.99 each

6 passenger helicopters with large view windows * FREE Champagne toast to the night flight * Cruise down the Las Vegas Strip * Aerial views as you pass the Luxor light beam, MGM Grand, Caesars Palace, Bellagio & more * Fly by Stratosphere Tower & Neon Glitter Gulch * Approx. 1.2 hours hotel to hotel (flight duration approx. 14 minutes)

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Save up to \$30 off each **Grand Canyon Ultimate 4-Ways Tour**
"Airplane - Helicopter - Bus - River boat Combo!"
Reg. \$310 ea. Now from \$279.99 each person

1. **Airplane:** Las Vegas to Hoover Dam & Grand Canyon Western Rim (Return flight to Las Vegas by airplane too!) * 2. **Helicopter:** Descend 4000 ft from the Rim to the Canyon floor and land down (Return ascent by helicopter too!) * 3. **River Boat:** Relaxing 20 minute cruise along the Colorado River * 4. **Bus Tour:** Scenic tour along the rim with Indian guide * Stand on the Canyon edge * BBQ style meal overlooking Grand Canyon * Approx. 6 hours hotel to hotel

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www.looktours.com Void with any other offer. No Cash Value. Exp 12/31/04 Code: NES A9

Save up to \$30 off each **Horseback Riding & Sunset Steak Dinner**
"Saddle up partners!"
Reg. \$140 ea. Now from \$109.99 each person

Scenic drive to Spring Mountain (included) * 2 hour guided wilderness horse trail ride Hearty Sizzlin' Steak dinner with fixin's * Helmets provided for kids. 5 years + Approx. 4 to 5 hours total * Breakfast & Lunch rides available from \$99.99 per person

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www.looktours.com Void with any other offer. No Cash Value. Exp 12/31/04 Codes: NES HR2, HR3, HR4

Save up to \$20 off each **Valley of Fire Off-Road ATV Adventure**
"Feel the wind in your hair!"
Reg. \$155 ea. Now from \$134.99 each person

Scenic drive to Valley of Fire & Logandale Trail * Easy to operate personal ATV 4x4 * 2.5 hour guided off road ATV adventure by sandstone cliffs & red rock formations * Picnic lunch & drinks (included) * Helmets, gloves & goggles provided (included) * Visit Hollywood movie spots * Approx. 5.5 hours total

Call (702) 243 0181 Ext. 200 * Toll Free 1 800 566 5868
www.looktours.com Void with any other offer. No Cash Value. Exp 12/31/04 Code: NES O8



A Ferengi eyes a Warp Core Breach, a bubbling rum-based concoction made in Quark's Bar.

ripped through the ceiling and pulled him up into the dark. Several women screamed. It was hard to believe that this scene would play itself out twice each hour for the next several years.

The ride ended in a theater where we wore 3-D "safety goggles" and watched the action outside the ship on a large screen. This portion was not a conventional motion ride with tilting seats and vibrating foot rests, but everyone seemed to be fully involved, especially when the Borg leader (Alice Krige, who played the Borg Queen in the 1996 movie *Star Trek: First Contact*) activated a series of tactile probes.

In a miraculous turn of events, our group escaped without a single casualty. Everyone was in high spirits as we exited the ride into the largest Star Trek store in the world, which sells everything from key rings to autographed props that fetch more than \$1,000 each.

"That was so worth it," said the Texan. "I'm going again." He hustled off toward the entrance. "OK, that was pretty fun," another rider said as he examined a Borg teddy bear. "But you know that part when the thing comes flying by and blows up? It sprayed water all over my shoes."

The group filtered into Quark's Bar and Restaurant. The establishment is based on a bar in *Deep Space Nine* and serves alien

dishes like Glop on a Stick and the Wrap of Khan. The bar offers several unique beverages, including a Klingon Warnog Ale brewed by Pyramid especially for the Experience. It also features a tap that appears to pour upwards, which becomes deeply disturbing after a few drinks.

A pair of Borg drones shambled their way into the dining area. No one seemed concerned that they'd just seen these pallid, jerking creatures rain scorching death on half of the Starfleet. People posed for pictures with them and tried to shake their hands.

One man asked a drone how many of his kind there were on the Borg home-

world. "Six bill-ll-lion," it moaned. The man asked, "How many on Earth?"

The abomination looked at him blankly. Then, with a whirring of servos, it turned to look at the other Borg, who was talking to a table full of women.

Quark's is based on a bar in Deep Space Nine and serves alien dishes like Klingon ale and Glop on a Stick.

"At present? Twooooo. Good luck on your mission, huoooo-man," it said before clanking off to join its brother. The man looked at his friends, and they all burst out laughing.

When You Go

Star Trek: The Experience, located in the Las Vegas Hilton, is open daily from 11 a.m. until 11 p.m. Admission to both rides, "Borg Invasion 4D" and "Klingon Encounter," costs \$29.99. Call 702-697-8700 or visit www.startrekexp.com for further information. ▽

Matt Farley is a Reno writer.



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Las Vegas

AREA EVENTS AND SHOWS

Culture is cool this summer in the Las Vegas area when outdoor performances of "Kiss Me, Kate" and "Man of La Mancha" are staged at Spring Mountain Ranch State Park. Shawn Colvin and B.B. King give concerts, and fireworks brighten the night sky on July Fourth. In area showrooms, Rod Stewart appears at the MGM Grand, and Van Halen and Toby Keith play Mandalay Bay. *Nevada Magazine* presents the following Las Vegas events and shows for July and August. Be sure to call ahead to confirm dates and details.

Events

Summer Children's Film Series: Aladdin • July 1 • East Las Vegas Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-1515.

Rockets Over the River • July 1 and 4 • Fireworks along the Colorado River. Laughlin, 800-227-5245.

Fireworks and Racing • July 2 • Super Late, IMCA, and Demo Derby models. The Bullring, Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Mesquite Independence Day Celebration • July 3 • Fireworks, home run derby, and three-on-three and basketball skills competitions. Citywide, Mesquite, 702-346-8732.

Happy Birthday, America • July 3 • Children's day includes making ice cream in a bag, hands-on display of wildland firefighter gear, patriotic crafts, and cool insects. Visitor Center, Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, 13 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-525-5350.

Damboree • July 3-4 • Parade, games, patriotic programs, food, and drink July 3 at Central Park. Fireworks July 4 at Veterans Memorial Park. Boulder City, 702-293-2034.

Red, White, and Boom • July 4 • Fireworks, carnival, contests, and skateboarding. Desert Breeze Park, Las Vegas, 702-455-8200.

"A Patriotic Celebration" • July 4 • Bring your picnic, wine, and blanket for an outdoor concert featuring singer Clint Holmes and the Las Vegas Philharmonic. Hills Park, Summerlin, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Side Street Strutters • July 4 • Performance by New Orleans Dixieland band precedes fireworks. Day includes children's games and picnic. Anthem Hills Park, Henderson, 702-267-4055.

American Veterans Program: Eddie Zuleger • July 6 • The Vietnam War through the eyes of a 21-year-old rifle platoon leader. Ramada Express, Laughlin, 702-298-4200.

CanDoos • July 7 • Children's comedy entertainers Ruby



Clint Holmes and the Las Vegas Philharmonic perform in Summerlin on the Fourth of July.

Red and Mucho. Whitney Ranch Center, Henderson, 702-267-4055.

\$99 Slot Tournament • July 7-8 • Includes a two-night stay. Bally's Las Vegas, 702-739-4111.

\$139 Slot Tournament • July 7-8 • Includes a two-night stay. Paris Las Vegas, 702-946-7000.

Children's Summer Concert Series: The Banana Slug String Band • July 7 at Charleston Heights Center (702-229-6383) and July 9 at Reed Whipple Center (702-229-6211). Las Vegas.

Summer Children's Film Series: A Bug's Life • July 8 • East Las Vegas Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-1515.

The Directing of Sidney Poitier: A Study of Black Exploitation • July 8 • The 1977 crime-drama film *A Piece of the Action* is

analyzed by director-producer Stan Armstrong. West Las Vegas Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3989.

Family Film Series: Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs • July 8 • Bring a picnic. Jaycee Park, Las Vegas, 702-229-1087.

Midnight Mayhem • July 9 • Street drags. The Strip, Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Doug Robertson and Company • July 10 • Woodstock-generation musical group. Henderson Multigenerational Pool, Henderson, 702-267-4055.

Photo Contest Kick-Off • July 10 • Submit Red Rock Canyon photos. Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, 13 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-515-5350.

Wayne DeSilva Trio • July 10 • Jazz concert. Reed Whipple



"Glass-Wing Butterfly at Rest" by Christian Ziegler appears in a Smithsonian show at UNLV's Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History.

Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211 for more information.

Ogbon Opon: The Knowledge Circle • July 10 • Discussion of the philosophical and cultural achievements of the Yoruba, Dogon, and Egyptian people. West Las Vegas Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

Cruise Night • July 10 • Open to all makes and models. 5 and Diner, Las Vegas, 702-643-0000.

American Veterans Program: Andrew Anderson • July 13 • Experiences of a pilot during WWII and the Korean Conflict. Ramada Express, Laughlin, 702-298-4200.

Summer League Stars of Tomorrow • July 13-18 • NBA Summer League games with the Boston Celtics, Cleveland Cavaliers, Denver Nuggets, Phoenix Suns, Washington Wizards, and Orlando Magic. Cox Pavilion, UNLV, 702-739-FANS.

"Kiss Me, Kate" • July 14-17, 21-24, 28-31 • Musical version of "The Taming of the Shrew" is performed under the stars. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-594-PLAY.

Children's Summer Concert Series: Jim Moore and the Animal Band • July 14 at Charleston Heights Center (702-229-6383) and July 16 at Reed Whipple Center (702-229-6211). Las Vegas.

\$75,000 Polynesian Luau Slot Tournament • July 15-18 • \$1,000 entry fee. Tropicana, Las Vegas, 702-739-2411.

Mary Ellen Spann • July 16 • Jazz combo. Justice Court Park, Henderson, 702-267-4055.

Joe Lano Jazz Band • July 16 • Noon concert; bring a lunch. Lloyd D. George U.S. Courthouse, Las Vegas, 702-229-1087.

The Poets' Corner • July 16 • Established and amateur poets. West Las Vegas Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

NHRA Desert Sport Compact Nationals • July 16-17 • Car show, racing on the Strip, Midnight Mayhem Cruise Night, and bikini contest. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 702-400-8731.

Philip Hamilton • July 17 • Jazz and acoustic soul singer. Henderson Pavilion, Henderson, 702-267-4055.

"A Comedy in Spanish" • July 17 • Play. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

American Veterans Program: Jack Stecker • July 20 • Serving with the Asiatic Fleet during WWII. Ramada Express,

Laughlin, 702-298-4200.

Children's Summer Concert Series: Toys of Joy Puppet Theatre: "Coyote Tales" • July 21 at Charleston Heights Center (702-229-6383) and July 23 at Reed Whipple Center (702-229-6211). Las Vegas.

Hot Lava • July 22 • Polynesian folk dance ensemble. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

Family Film Series: Peter Pan • July 15 • Bring a picnic. Jaycee Park, Las Vegas, 702-229-1087.

Summer Children's Film Series: Scooby Doo • July 22 • East Las Vegas Center, 702-229-1515.

Oasis Dash for Cash Blackjack Tournament • July 23-25 • \$99 buy-in. Oasis, Mesquite, 800-21-OASIS.

Performing Arts Society Concert • July 24 • Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

Bob Winett Quartet • July 24 • Jazz concert. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211.

Astronomy/Planets • July 24 • Viewing and slide presentation. Visitor Center, Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, 13 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-515-5350.

Britney six nights a week? Kristie Fisher (right) appears as Spears in "American Superstars" at the Stratosphere.



African-American Fathers: Factors That Motivate Their Commitment to Their Children • July 24 • Presentation by Dr. John Carter. West Las Vegas Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

The Remedy • July 24 • Music from the '50s to the present. Black Mountain Center, Henderson, 702-267-4055.

Urban Artists • July 24 • Dramatic presentations featuring poetry, dance, and music. West Las Vegas Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3989.

Stars and Stripes Slot Tournament • July 24-25 • Eureka Casino, Mesquite, 800-346-4611.

American Veterans Program: Ray Hernandez • July 27 • The lighter side of combat in Vietnam. Ramada Express, Laughlin, 702-298-4200.

Sunshine Patriots • July 28 • Meet and greet with novelist Bill Campbell. West Las Vegas Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

Summer Children's Film Series: The Lion King • July 29 • East Las Vegas Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-1515.

Family Film Series: Fantasia • July 29 • Bring a picnic. Jaycee Park, Las Vegas, 702-229-1087.

Rick Arroyo • July 30 • Latin Percussion ensemble. Justice Court Park, Henderson, 702-267-4055.

Jazz in July • July 31 • Nevada Jazz Orchestra performance. Concert at Henderson Pavilion, Henderson, 702-267-4055.

Old Time Barn Dance • July 31 • Square, mixers, contras, waltzes, and polkas. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Dance in the Desert Festival • July 31-Aug. 1 • Three programs performed by Las Vegas and Southwestern choreographers and dance companies. Nicholas Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-651-4000.

Surfin' Safari Slot Tournament • Aug. 1-4 • \$199 entry fee. Tropicana, Las Vegas, 702-739-2411.

American Veterans Program: James McGeachy • Aug. 3 • An expert in combat ground sensors. Ramada Express, Laughlin, 702-298-4200.

Coin and Stamp Expo • Aug. 6-8 • Sahara, Las Vegas, 818-997-6496.

Conched Out • Aug. 7 • Tommy Rocker and his band perform. Black Mountain Center, Henderson, 702-267-4055.

B.B. King in Concert • Aug. 7 • Cox Pavilion, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Moonlight Concert: Shawn Colvin • Aug. 7 • Grammy Award-winning singer and songwriter. Clark County Amphitheater, Las Vegas, 702-455-8200.

American Veterans Program: Billye Grymwade • Aug. 10 • Served as U.S. Navy

WAVE during WWII. Ramada Express, Laughlin, 702-298-4200.

\$99 Slot Tournament • Aug. 10-11 • Includes a two-night stay. Bally's Las Vegas, 702-739-4111.

\$139 Slot Tournament • Aug. 10-11 • Includes a two-night stay. Paris Las Vegas, 702-946-7000.

Hand to Mouth • Aug. 11 • Children's program featuring percussion and rhythm instruments. Black Mountain Center, Henderson, 702-267-4055.

"Man of La Mancha" • Aug. 11-14, 18-21, 25-28 • Broadway play performed under the stars. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-594-7529.

The Directing of Sidney Poitier: A Study of Black Exploitation • Aug. 12 • The 1975 comedy film *Let's Do It Again* is analyzed by director-producer Stan Armstrong. West Las Vegas Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3989.

Circus Italiano • Aug. 12 • Winchester Theater, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

T Minus 5 • Aug. 13 • Bring a lawn chair for a free a cappella concert. Justice Court Park, Henderson, 702-267-4055.

Gary Queen Trio • Aug. 13 • Guitar and drum concert. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

Cruise Night • Aug. 14 • Open to all makes and models. 5 and Diner, Las Vegas, 702-643-0000.

Mark Nizer • Aug. 14 • Comedic juggler. Henderson Pavilion, Henderson, 702-267-4055.

Incubus • Aug. 14 • Tour stop will feature The Vines as opening act. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-739-3267.

American Veterans Program: Bob Worthington • Aug. 17 • Specialist in counter-insurgency and guerilla warfare during Vietnam. Ramada Express, Laughlin, 702-298-4200.

\$100,000 Craps Tournament • Aug. 19-21 • \$499 buy-in. Las Vegas Hilton, Las Vegas, 702-732-5111.

Monster Truck Extravaganza • Aug. 20-22 • Bearfoot, Monster Patrol, Carolina Crusher, and American Cowboy compete. Deathwish Dan will attempt a motorcycle jump over a helicopter. Orleans Arena, Las Vegas, 702-365-7469.

Mustra Folklorico International • Aug. 20 and 27 • Folklore dance festival. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

Rock Steady • Aug. 21 • Classic rock 'n' roll. Henderson Multigenerational Pool, Henderson, 702-267-4055.

A Tribute to Soul • Aug. 21 • Bring a picnic and your dancing shoes. West Las Vegas Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3989.

Astronomy at Red Rock Canyon • Aug. 21 • Viewing and slide presentation by the Las Vegas Astronomical Society. Visitor Center, Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, 13 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-515-5350.

Academy of Nevada Ballet Theatre Open House • Aug. 21 • Tours and dance and fencing demonstrations. Donald W. Reynolds Cultural Center, Summerlin, Las Vegas, 702-243-2623.

Las Vegas Invitational ShootOut • Aug. 23 • PGA pros play four amateurs vying for a spot in the 2004 Las Vegas Invitational, Oct. 6-10. TPC Summerlin, Las Vegas, 702-242-3000.

Loretta St. John's Jazz Connection • Aug. 27 • Jazz quartet. Justice Court Park, Henderson, 702-267-4055.

John Sebastian • Aug. 28 • Founding member of the Lovin' Spoonful. Henderson Pavilion, Henderson, 702-267-4055.

Performing Arts Society Concert • Aug. 28 • Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

Gospelrock • Aug. 28 • Recording artist RSVP and local gospel singers perform. West Las Vegas Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3989.

Ongoing Events

Free Concerts: Tues.-Sat. at the Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, 702-678-5777.

Third Thursdays: Art galleries and businesses are open 5-9pm to showcase the arts. Old Town Gallery, Henderson, 702-568-5655.

Whales: Permanent exhibit features live sharks in a 3,000-gallon tank, shark-egg hatchery, and scale models. Las Vegas Natural History Museum, Las Vegas, 702-384-DINO.

Spring Mountain Ranch Walking Tours: Daily guided 45-minute tour of the historic site's blacksmith shop, the reservoir, Wilson Graveside, and Sandstone Cabins, the second oldest buildings in the Las Vegas Valley. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141.

Oasis Gaming Tournaments: Video poker, Thurs. No Limit Hold 'Em, Sun. Pizza and Poker, Wed. Early Bird Poker Shootout, Mon.-Fri. Bad Beat Progressive Jackpot poker, Wed. and Sun. Oasis, Mesquite, 800-21-OASIS.

Henderson Art Association Exhibit: Thru July 5. Paseo Verde Library, Henderson, 702-568-5655 for details.

The Color of Hay: Ancient Peasant Ways in Transylvania: Thru July 11. Black and white photographs. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4674.

Viva Downtown: Celebrating the Art of the Aerial Gallery: Thru July 29. Las Vegas artists exhibition. City Hall, Las Vegas, 702-229-4674.

Cats! Wild to Mild: Thru July 31. Traveling exhibit traces felines from the sabertooth to domestic cats. Las Vegas Natural History Museum, Las Vegas, 702-384-DINO.

Michelle Currie: Thru Aug. 11. Paintings in pastels. Green

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Valley Library, Henderson, 702-507-3659.

Urban Fusions: Thru Aug. 15. Urban environment photographer Susan Bowen. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211.

John Mihopoulos: Thru Aug. 17. Wildlife paintings. Sunrise Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3659.

Joe Chernicoff: Thru Aug. 24. Tour of the photographer's rodeo pictures. Enterprise Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3659.

The Amazing Castle: Thru Aug. 29. Children can don costumes and engage in role-play by becoming lords and ladies. Lied Discovery Children's Museum, Las Vegas, 702-382-3445.

Desert Babies: Tues. and Wed. thru Aug. 29. Stories, crafts, and activities for ages three and four. Visitor Center, Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, 13 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-525-5350.

Racing at the Bullring: Thru Sept. 18, except July 10-24. Weekly competitions feature racecars such as Super Late Models and Legend Cars. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Cool Stuff: Thru Oct. 3. A hot pink gown, a sanitation kit from the Sands Hotel's bomb shelter, and a watch from Al Capone are among the items that tell the story of Las Vegas. Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Las Vegas, 702-486-5205.

Las Vegas 51s Baseball: The Los Angeles Dodgers AAA team plays July 1-3 vs. Fresno Grizzlies, July 8-11 vs. Salt Lake City Stingers, July 19-22 vs. Tucson Sidewinders, July 23-26 vs. Sacramento Wild Cats, Aug. 5-8 vs. Memphis Red Birds, Aug. 9-11 vs. Nashville Sounds, Aug. 25-29 vs. Fresno



Las Vegas 51s first baseman Luis Garcia watches the batter. The team plays at Cashman Field through September.

Grizzlies, Sept. 3-6 vs. Salt Lake City Stingers. Cashman Field, Las Vegas, 702-798-7825.

Nevada Southern Railway Train Rides: July 3, Aug. 14, Sept. 11, Oct. 2-3, Nov. 13, and Dec. 4-5. Seven-mile round-trip train rides from Boulder City to Railroad Pass aboard historic Pullman coaches at 9 and 10:30am, noon, and 1:30pm. Nevada State Railway Museum, Boulder City, 702-486-5933.

Gemstones of Nevada and the Southwest: July 3-Nov. 7. Exhibition details the history and how to find them. Clark County Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.

A Magic Web: July 6-Aug. 29. Large-format photographs by ecologist Christian Ziegler. Marjorie Barrick Museum, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-3381.

Phyllis Sloane Retrospective: July 10-Sept. 19. Exhibition covers six decades of paintings and prints. Las Vegas Art Museum, Las Vegas, 702-360-8000.

Boulder City Art Guild: July 10-Dec. 18. Exhibition by 20 artists. City Hall, Boulder City, 702-293-2138.

Transforming Images of Nature: July 16-Sept. 12. Collages by Roxene Rockwell. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Nevada Camera Club: July 20-Sept. 19. Slide competition. Whitney Library, Las Vegas, 702-207-3659.

Sergio Sagado: Aug. 31-Oct. 17. Photos, abstract images. Hispanic Heritage Month exhibition. Summerlin Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3659.

Coming Events

San Gennaro Feast • Sept. 14-19 • Las Vegas, 702-286-4944.
Super Run 2004 Car Show • Sept. 23-26 • Henderson, 702-643-0000.
NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series • Sept. 24-26 • Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 702-644-4444.



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Las Vegas Invitational PGA Tournament • Oct. 6-10 • Las Vegas, 702-242-3000.
 Maxxis U.S. Open Motorcycle Race • Oct. 8-10 • MGM Grand, Las Vegas, 800-929-1111.
 Las Vegas Basque Festival • October 9 • Lorenzi Park, 702-361-6834 or 702-270-9199.
 Las Vegas 200 Off-Road Race • Oct. 15-17 • 702-457-5775.
 LA Lakers vs. Phoenix Suns • Oct. 24 • Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.
 World Bucking Bull Classic and Bullfighting Championship • Oct. 26-27 • Orleans, Las Vegas, 702-284-7777.
 NHRA ACDelco Las Vegas Nationals • Oct. 28-31 • Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 702-644-4444.
 Magical Forest Winter Wonderland • Nov. 24-Dec. 30 • Las Vegas, 702-225-TREE.
 Henderson's Terrible 300 Off-Road Race • Dec. 2-5 • Henderson, 702-267-2171.

Shows

BOULDER CITY

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

HENDERSON

Casino MonteLago at Lake Las Vegas • 702-939-8888: Special events TBA.

Fiesta Henderson • 702-558-7000: Bands play in the Lava Lounge on Fri.-Sat.

Green Valley Ranch • 702-454-0544: Jazz Club: Entertainment Fri.-Sat. Whiskey Amphitheater: TBA.

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

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

Ritz-Carlton Lake Las Vegas • 702-567-4700: Firenze Lobby Lounge: Florentine Tea daily from 2:30-5pm.

Sunset Station • 702-547-7777: Club Madrid: Paula Poundstone, Nov. 13. Strunz and Farah, Nov. 20. Eric Burdon and the New Animals, Dec. 3. Gary Puckett, Feb. 12. Amphitheater: Grand Funk Railroad, July 3. Dave Koz and Friends, Jonathan Butler, Wayman Tidale, and Rick Braun, July 9. Keith Urban, Aug. 20. Randy Travis, Sept. 24. An Evening with STYX, Sept. 25. Alice Cooper, Oct. 23.

JEAN

Gold Strike Hotel • 702-477-5000 or 800-634-1359: Bands like Blush, Laura Ash and Inferno, Foreign Affair, and Runaway Train play nightly except Tues.

Nevada Landing • 702-387-5000 or 800-628-6682: Bands such as T.J. Weaver, Drew Baker, and Ross Lewis appear nightly except Wed.

LAS VEGAS

Aladdin • 877-333-WISH: V Theatre at Desert Passage: "V," variety show. Call 702-932-1818. "Ba Da Bing," interactive musical dinner theater, 7:30pm nightly. For tickets call 702-257-0297. "M...Mariachi Passion and Tradition," Latin production show. For tickets call 702-892-7790. Aladdin Theater for the Performing Arts: Lynyrd Skynyrd, July 10. Linda Ronstadt and Symphony Greatest Hits Tour, July 17. 14th Annual Mariachi Festival, Sept. 18. For tickets call 702-798-5090. Steve Wyrick Theater: Magician Steve Wyrick, dark Tues. Sinbad's Lounge: Bands play until 3am. Music in the Curve nightclub 10:30pm-5am Fri.-Sat., and 7-9pm Wed. for Jazz Night. "One Night Stand," 10pm Fri.

Arizona Charlie's • 702-258-5200: Naughty Ladies Saloon: Coasters, July 6-17. Greg Peterson, July 20-31. Checkmates, Aug. 3-14. Smooth, Aug. 17-21. Jump, Jive, Wail, Aug. 24-28. Fahrenheit, Aug. 31-Sept. 4. Karaoke Mon. Bands play Tues.-Sat. Jerry Tiffe's Band plays 4-7pm Fri.

Arizona Charlie's East • 702-951-9000: Palace Grand Lounge: Checkmates, thru July 4 and Aug. 17-29. Perfect Choice, July 6-11 and Aug. 10-15. State of the Art, July 13-18. Primetime, July 20-25. Randy Anderson, July 27-Aug. 8. Bands play 4-7pm Fri.-Sun.

Bally's • 702-739-4111 or 800-237-SHOW: Jubilee Theater: "Jubilee!," dark Fri. Backstage Walking Tour, 2pm Mon., Wed., and Sat. Entertainment in the Indigo Lounge.

Barbary Coast • 702-737-7111: Barbary Coast Lounge: Pete Vallee as "Big Elvis," 3-6pm Tues.-Fri. Bands like The Klique play Wed.-Sat. in the lounge.

Bellagio • 888-987-6667: Cirque du Soleil's "O," indf., dark Mon.-Tues. Light Nightclub, 10:30pm-4am Thurs.-Sun. Caramel Bar, 5pm-4am. Musicians play in the Petrossian Lounge and Baccarat Bar. Fontana Room: Entertainment nightly except Sun.

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

Boulder Station • 702-432-7777 or 800-683-7777: The Railhead: Pam Tillis, July 3. En Vogue, July 17. Chris Cagle,

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The Cannery's "American Trilogy" stars Paul Casey as Elvis.

July 23. Emerson Drive, July 30. Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers, Aug. 13. Al Jarreau, Aug. 14. The Neville Brothers, Aug. 20. Bill Engvall, Aug. 21. Alan Parsons Live Project, Aug. 27. Blue Oyster Cult, Sept. 18. Norman Brown, Sept. 25. The Four Aces and The Four Lads, Oct. 1. Boney James, Oct. 8. Diane Schuur, Oct. 9. Hal Ketchum, Oct. 22. The Tubes, Nov. 5. Don Williams, Nov. 6. Gerry and the Pacemakers, Nov. 12. Jerry Tiffe plays 2-4pm Thurs. KIXX: Shooting Stars Karaoke, Thurs.-Sat.

Bourbon Street • 702-737-7200: Big Easy Showroom: "Hypnolarios," 9pm., dark Mon.-Tues. "Applause," starring magician Will Roya and comedian Michael Johns, 7pm Sat.-Thurs.

Caesars Palace • 702-731-7333 or 800-445-4544: The Colosseum Showroom: Celine Dion stars in "A New Day..." July 1-4, 7-11, 14-18, Aug. 25-29. Sept., dark Mon.-Tues. Oct. 1-3, 6-10, Nov. 3-7, 10-14, 17-21, 24-28, Dec. 1-5, 8-12, 28-31 (call 877-4-CELINE). Elton John performs July 23-Aug. 8 (call 888-4-ELTONJ). Shadow Bar: Dancers perform nightly. DJ 9pm-2am Wed.-Sun. Entertainment in the Café Lago Restaurant, Terrazza Lounge, Cleopatra's Barge Nightclub, and Galleria Bar.

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

Egg and I Restaurant • 702-364-9686: "Marriage Can Be Murder," interactive dinner theater has guests playing detective, 7pm Wed.-Fri., 6pm Sat.

Excalibur Hotel • 702-597-7600: King Arthur's Arena: "Tournament of Kings," jousting-dinner show. Merlin's Theater: "Thunder From Down Under," all-male revue plays at 7:30pm Sun.-Wed., 7:30 and 11:30pm Fri.-Sat., dark Thurs. "Money and Madness Show," starring Jeff Hobson,

comedy-variety show, 10pm Sat.-Thurs. and 7:30pm Thurs., dark Fri. Catch a Rising Star Comedy Club: Comedians perform at 10pm nightly and 7:30pm Thurs. 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): Fitzgeralds Showroom: "Two Girls and a Guy," music and magic, 5pm Thurs.-Mon. "Spirit of the King" starring Steve Connolly, 7:15pm Thurs.-Mon. Wild Billy Tucker, comedian, 9:15pm Thurs.-Mon. (Shows have a one-drink minimum per person; must be 21 for Wild Billy Tucker.) Paul Casas, musical comedy, 5pm Tues.-Wed. Bobby Ruffin's Tribute to the Drifters, 7:15 and 9:15pm, Tues.-Wed. Bands play on the First Floor Stage.

Flamingo Las Vegas • 702-733-3333 or 800-221-7299: Flamingo Showroom: Gladys Knight, 7:30pm, dark Sun.-Mon. and July 3, 6-10, Aug. 10, Sept. 7-11. "Bottoms Up," comedy revue, 2 and 4pm, dark Sun. Second City Theater: "Second City," improv comedy sketches, 8pm Thurs.-Tues., 10:30pm Mon., Thurs.-Sat. Second City Scriptless, new show, 10:30pm Tues. and Sun. Flamingo Late-Night Lounge: DJ and dance music, midnight-4am Thurs.-Sun. Bands like Panama play Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville. Flamingo

Pool Parties, food and DJ, daily 4-8pm.

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

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

Fremont • 702-385-3232.

Gold Coast • 702-367-7111 or 888-402-6278 (U.S. outside Nevada): Lounge: Kinda Dixie Jazz Band, noon-6pm. Bands like Front Page play nightly except Mon. Gold Coast Showroom: "Outlaws, Cowboys, and Men in Black," thru July 11, pays tribute to Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson, John Wayne, and Johnny Cash. Karaoke Party, 8pm Mon. Latin Breeze, Fri.-Sat., indf. Ballroom dancing with disk jockey Larry Taylor 7-10pm Tues. Dance lessons 6-7pm. Sunday Tea Dance Party with Larry Taylor from 1-4pm. Dance lessons noon-1pm. Drama workshop, 2-4pm Tues.

Golden Gate • 702-385-1906: Live piano 6pm-midnight. **Golden Nugget** • 702-385-7111: Theatre Ballroom: "Aaron Lewis Unplugged," July 1-3, 8pm. "Spirit of the Dance," 5:30pm, dark Fri. Gordie Brown, 7:30pm, dark Wed.-Thurs. Lon Bronson's All-Star Orchestra, 10pm-1am Mon., midnight-3am Sat. Bands like Destiny and Perfect Choice play in the Show Bar Lounge. ZAX: Art Douglas plays Tues.-Sat. **Golden Palm** • 702-798-1111: Karaoke, 10pm-4am nightly.

Greek Isles • 702-737-5540: Magic Theater: "Tribute to Frank, Sammy, Joey, and Dean," dark Fri. Sandy Hackett Comedy Club, dark Fri.

Hard Rock Hotel • 702-693-5066: The Joint: John Fogerty, July 31. Dance to DJs in Baby's Night Club.

Harrah's Las Vegas • 702-369-5111: Clint Holmes Theatre: Clint Holmes, musical variety show, dark Sun. "Mac King Comedy Magic Show" appears thru Sept. at 1 and 3pm

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Tues.-Sat. Comedy Cabaret: Improv, nightly except Mon. "Skintight, adult musical revue, dark Thurs. Carnival Court: Bands appear Fri.-Sat. Dueling pianos nightly in La Playa Lounge, karaoke party 6-9pm nightly except Tues.-Wed., and jazz in the Range Steakhouse Lounge.

Howard Johnson Hotel • 702-798-1111.
Imperial Palace • 702-794-3261: Imperial Theatre: "Legends in Concert," impersonator revue, 7 and 10pm, dark Sun. Casino Floor: Celebrity impersonators deal blackjack to gamblers. Entertainment nightly in the Kabuki Lounge and Fri.-Sun. in the Nomiya Lounge. Tequila Joe's: Karaoke, nightly. "Be a Legend" Amateur Celebrity Impersonator Karaoke Contest is held monthly. Shangri-La Pool: Imperial Hawaiian Luau, 5:30pm Tues. and Thurs. thru Sept. Polynesian revue and buffet.
J.W. Marriott • 702-869-2335: Plush Ultra Lounge and

Supper Club: Opens 5pm weeknights, noon weekends. Music and dancing. Summerlin, Las Vegas.
Key Largo • 702-733-7777: Sand Bar Lounge: Entertainment nightly 8pm-2am.
Lady Luck • 702-477-3000 or 800-523-9582: Lucky Louie's Lounge: Bands play Thurs.-Sun.
Las Vegas Hilton • 702-732-5755 or 800-222-5361: Hilton Theatre: Kenny Loggins, July 30-31. Elvis impersonator Trent Carlini in "The Dream King, June 29-July 25, Aug. 17-Sept. 12, dark Mon. and July 8-10. The Fab Four: The Ultimate Tribute to the Beatles, July 27-Aug. 15, Sept. 14-26, dark Mon. ZZ Top, Sept. 24-25. The NightClub: Dance music Wed.-Sun. in the nightspot.
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 play nightly in Nefertiti's Lounge. Movies in the IMAX theater.
Mandalay Bay • 877-632-7400: Mandalay Bay Theatre: "Mamma Mia!, the Broadway musical based on the music of Abba, dark Fri. Matinee Sat.-Sun. at 5pm. Mandalay Events Center: Steve Miller Band, July 2. Gipsy Kings, July 3. Sarah McLachlan, July 17. Van Halen, Aug. 6-7. Josh Groban, Aug. 21. Toby Keith, Aug. 27. Professional Bull Riders 2004 World Finals, Oct. 22-24. Summer Beach Concert Series: Smashmouth, July 10. Cyndi Lauper, July 23. Go Go's, July 24. Reggae Beach Party featuring Burning Spear, Aug. 13. Rick Springfield, Sept. 3. REO Speedwagon, Sept. 4. House of Blues: Bo Diddley, July 1. Reverend Horton Head, July 2. Pauly Shore, July 10. W.A.S.P., July 15. Chaka Khan, July 17. Reel Big Fish, July 21. Al Green, July 24. Ani DiFranco, July 29. America, July 30. Heart, Aug. 7. The Pietasters, Aug. 8. Shadows Fall with As I Lay Dying, Himsa and Remembering Never, Aug. 9. Pat Green w/ Cross Canadian Ragweed, Aug. 11. Chris Isaak, Aug. 28. Dance music, Fri.-Sun. Gospel Brunch, 10am and 1pm Sun. Live music Thurs.-Sun. in the Courtyard. OBA lounge atop House of Blues open late nights Mon, Wed.-Thurs., Sun. Bands play in the Orchid, Island, and Coral Reef lounges. Shark Reef at Mandalay Bay open daily.

MGM Grand • 702-891-7777 or 800-929-1111: Hollywood Theatre: Carrot Top, July 1-7. David Copperfield, July 8-21, matinee at 3pm July 10 and 17. George Carlin, July 22-Aug. 4. MGM Grand Garden Arena: Simon and Garfunkel, July 3. Professional Darts, July 4. Maze, Gerald Levert, and Stephanie Mills, July 10. Rush, July 17. Rod Stewart, Aug. 7. Phil Collins, Aug. 28. Sting and Annie Lennox: Sacred Love Tour, Sept. 24. MAXXIS U.S. Open, motocross and supercross races, Oct. 8-10. La Femme Theatre: "La Femme, topless Crazy Horse production from Paris, dark Tues. Studio 54: Dancing Tues.-Sat. Entertainment in the Tabu, Zuri, and Show Bar Lounge. Fashion show 10pm Wed. in Tabu. EFX Theatre: Cirque du Soleil show TBA.

The Mirage • 702-792-7777: Danny Gans Theatre: Impressionist Danny Gans, nightly except Fri. and Mon. Ray Romano, July 16-17 and Oct. 8-10. Entertainment in the Ava 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: Free bull rides 4-9pm Mon.-Tues. and all night Wed. Mud wrestling 10pm Wed. Free line dance lessons 7:30pm Thurs. Bikini bull riding midnight Fri.-Sat. Line dancing 9pm.

New York-New York • 702-740-6969 or 800-693-6763: Broadway Theatre: "Zumanity," adult Cirque du Soleil production, 7:30 and 10:30pm, dark Sun.-Mon. Cabaret Theatre: Comedienne Rita Rudner performs nightly. The Pub at Nine Fine Irishmen: Entertainment Tues.-Sat. Coyote Ugly: Dance nightclub opens at 6pm. The N.Y.P.D. (New York Piano Duos) dueling pianos play from 8pm nightly in the Bar at Times Square. *Las Vegas Wired* radio show taping 5-6pm Sat. Bands play in the Big Apple Bar. Manhattan Express Roller Coaster opens daily at 10am.

The Orleans • 800-ORLEANS: Orleans Arena: Entertainment TBA. Orleans Showroom: Tony Danza, July 1-3. Art Laboe Live! Oldies Bar Goodies Concert with Heatwave, Barbara Lewis, GQ, Bloodstone, The Originals, Sly Slick, and Wicked, July 10. Dion, July 15-18. The Greatest Hit-makers, July 17. Righteous Brother Bill Medley: Relive the Memories, July 22-25. Mrs. United States Pageant, Aug.

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Lance Burton of the Monte Carlo was named top magician in "Best of Nevada."

2-5. Engelbert Humperdinck, Aug. 6-8 and 12-15. Neil Sedaka, Aug. 17-22. Thunder and Fire Monster Truck Extravaganza, Aug. 20. Louie Anderson, Aug. 26-29. Air Supply, Sept. 2-5. Righteous Brother Bill Medley: Relive the Memories, Sept. 16-19. Burt Bacharach, Sept. 23-26. Neil Sedaka, Oct. 5-10. Steven Wright, Oct. 14-17. Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, Oct. 21-24. Vicki Lawrence and Mama, Oct. 28-31. Bobby Vinton, Nov. 4-7. Engelbert Humperdinck, Nov. 11-14. Righteous Brother Bill Medley: Relive the Memories, Nov. 18-21. Debbie Reynolds, Nov. 25-28. Miss Rodeo America Pageant, Nov. 28-Dec. 4. Bourbon Street Cabaret: Performers like Elements appear nightly except Mon. Brendan's Irish Pub: Bands play nightly except Mon. Jazz on Tues., Blues Zydeco on Wed. Irish acoustic sing-a-long on Sun. "Rock This Town Live," tribute to Elvis, Buddy Holly, and Jerry Lee Lewis, Tues.

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

The Palms • 702-942-7777: Rain: Hollywood Comedy Tour, July 3. Train, July 25. Ghost Bar opens at 8pm. The lounge features groups like UnderCover and Vibe.

Paris Las Vegas • 800-237-SHOW: Theatre des Arts: "We Will Rock You," a production based on the music of Queen, opens in September. Bands play in Le Cabaret Lounge,

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Napoleon's Lounge, and Ah Sin Restaurant, entertainment nightly. Dancing 10pm-4am Wed.-Sun. in the Risqueé nightclub. Eiffel Tower rides 10am-1am daily.

The Plaza • 800-634-6575: Plaza Theatre: Dirk Arthur: "The New Art of Magic," 7pm Wed.-Sat., 3 and 7pm Sun. "Stars of the Strip," impersonator show, 1 and 3pm Tues.-Sat. Omaha Lounge: Dusty Barron/The Sun Spots, Tues.-Sat. Center Stage Restaurant: Larry Manetti and Joey Villa, comedians, 9 pm Wed.-Sat.

Rampart Casino at the Resort at Summerlin • 877-869-8777: Addison's Lounge: Rock, oldies, and R&B bands perform 8pm-midnight Fri.-Sat. Round Bar: Entertainment nightly except Tues.

Rio All-Suite Hotel • 702-252-7776 or 800-PLAYRIO: Scinta Showroom: The Scintas, musical-comedy show, dark Thurs. Ronn Lucas, comic-ventriloquist, 3pm Sat.-Thurs., dark Fri. Samba Theater: Penn and Teller, comedy-magic show, dark Tues. "Erocktica: Sex, Sweat, and Rock 'n Roll," a new late-night adult production opens in early fall. Club Rio: "Chippendales: The Show," dark Tues. Club Rio Nightclub is open for late-night dancing Thurs.-Sat. Calypso Room: "Tony 'n Tina's Wedding," off-Broadway interactive dinner theater, nightly. Masquerade Show in the Sky: Carnival-themed parade above the casino daily at 3, 4, 5, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, and 9:30pm. Bikinis Beach and Dance Club: Nightclub opens 10pm Thurs.-Sun. Sexy swimwear competition on Thurs.

Riviera • 702-794-9301: Splash Theatre: "Splash," production show, dark Fri. La Cage Theatre (third floor): "An Evening at La Cage," celebrity female impersonators revue, 7:30pm, dark Tues. "The Amazing Johnathan," bizarre magic, 10pm, dark Thurs. Mardi Gras Plaza (second level): "Crazy Girls"

Almost everyone loves Ray Romano's brand of comedy. He's at the Mirage in July and October.



adult revue, dark Thurs. "Riviera Comedy Club," 8:30 and 10:30pm nightly. Le Bistro Theatre: Dueling Pianos: Keyboard Cabaret, 2:30, 4, and 5:30pm. Singer Marlene Ricci, 8:30pm Tues.-Wed. and 7pm Fri.-Sat. "Neil Diamond Tribute Starring Jay White," 7pm Sun.-Thurs. The Exotic Hypnotics, featuring Genie and Richard, 11:30pm Tues.-Sun. "A Tribute to Sinatra" starring Kevin Cavenaugh, 8:30pm Mon. Dr. Scott Lewis: Outrageous

Comedy Hypnotist, 10 and 11:30pm Mon. "The Hypnosis Zone," 10pm Tues.-Sun. Royale Pavilion: "The World's Most Beautiful Transsexual Contest," July 22-24.

Sahara • 702-737-2515: Sahara Theatre: "Saturday Night Fever," Broadway production show. Entertainment in the Congo Room and Casbar Lounge.

Sam's Town • 702-454-8048: Showroom: "Las Vegas Now" with Dennis Bono, radio show taping, 2pm Thurs. thru Aug. 24. Roxy's Saloon: The Fab, thru Dec. 31. Mystic Falls Park: Laser and water show at 2, 6, 8, and 10pm.

San Remo • 702-739-9000 or 800-522-7366: Parisian Cabaret: "Showgirls of Magic," revue, dark Mon. Entertainment in the Bonne Chance Lounge.

Santa Fe Station • 702-658-4900: The Green Room Comedy Corner is closed for renovation. Memphis Championship Barbecue: John Earl and the BoogieMan Band Fri.-Sat.

Silverton • 702-263-7777 or 800-588-7711: Rattlesnake Rickey's Saloon: When We Were Fab: A Tribute to the Beatles, July 2-4. Little River Band, July 10. The Bellamy Brothers, July 31. KISS Tribute, Aug. 6-7. Loverboy, Aug. 21. Asleep at the Wheel, Aug. 27. Bands play nightly.

Stardust • 702-617-5577 or 888-217-9565: Wayne Newton Theatre: Legendary Ladies of Rock 'n Roll: Lesley Gore, Darlene Love, Little Peggy March, The Chiffons, June 30-July 3. Tim Conway and Harvey Korman with Louise DuArt, July 14-17. Don Rickles with Julius LaRosa, July 22-25. Chicago, Sept. 8-11. Wayne Newton, Sept. 20-Oct. 13. Don Rickles with Shawn King, Oct. 14-17. Wayne Newton, Oct. 23-Nov. 14. Tim Conway and Harvey Korman with Louise

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DuArt, Nov. 17-20. Bill Engvall, Dec. 3-4 and 9-11. Stardust Ballroom: "Polkapalooza" Starring Jimmy Sturr and His Orchestra, Oct. 23-24. Stardust Pavilion: Ricky and the Redstreaks, Dec. 3-12. Stardust Lounge: Bands play nightly. **Stratosphere** • 702-382-4446 or 800-99-TOWER: Theater of the Stars Showroom: "American Superstars," impersonator revue, dark Thurs. "Viva Las Vegas," musical revue, 2 and 4pm daily except Sun. Outdoor Events Center: Entertainment TBA. Images Lounge: Bands like Fahrenheit, the Coasters, Jonathan Music Magic, and Vision play nightly. Michaelina Bellamy performs thru Aug. 29 in the Top of the World Lounge. Crazy Armadillos: Latin/Disco Night, Mon. Karaoke on Tues.-Wed. DJ Dance Party Thurs.-Mon. Bands play Fri.-Sun.

Suncoast • 702-636-7111: Showroom: Larry Carlton, July 2-3. Tony Orlando, July 16-18. Roger Williams, July 23-25. McKenna Medley, July 31-Aug. 1. Debbie Reynolds, Aug. 6-8. Rich Little, Aug. 13-15. Vicki Lawrence and Mama, Aug. 20-22. Jack Jones, Aug. 28-29. Sha Na Na, Sept. 3-5. The Fifth Dimension, Sept. 11-12. Roy Clark, Sept. 17-19. The Four Freshmen, Sept. 24-26. Michael Franks, Oct. 1-3. Al Martino, Oct. 8-10. The Lettermen, Oct. 15-17. Tony Danza, Oct. 29-31. Tower of Power, Nov. 5-7. Bobby Rydell, Nov. 12-14. Frankie Avalon, Nov. 19-21. Ben Vereen, Nov. 26-28. Alter Ego, Dec. 3. Bill Acosta, Dec. 10-12. Susan Anton, Dec. 17-19. Suncoast Lounge: Bands play nightly except Mon.

Terrible's • 702-733-7000: Stage Bar Lounge: Bands play Tues.-Sun.

Treasure Island (TI) • 702-894-7111: Cirque du Soleil in "Mystère," dark Wed.-Thurs. Entertainment in the Mist and Breeze lounges. Tangerine Nightclub features burlesque performances in the speakeasy style. The new venue has a



Toby Keith, whose album "Shock 'n Y'all" was a 2003 hit, plays Mandalay Bay. He also performs outdoors at Harveys Lake Tahoe.

deck overlooking "The Sirens of TI," the hotel's pirate-battle attraction, which plays at 6, 8, and 10pm outside.

Tropicana • 702-739-2411: Tiffany Theatre: "Les Folies Bergere," dark Sun. "The Magic of Rick Thomas," 2 and 4pm daily except Sun. Tropics Lounge: "The Tropicana Bird Show," 11:30am, 1:30, and 2:30pm except Thurs. "T. Fox and the Fox City Show," dark Sun.-Tues. Comedy Stop

Theatre: "The Comedy Stop," stand-up comedy nightly. Celebration Lounge: Entertainment nightly. "Air Play," acrobats perform above the casino at 11am, 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9pm. **Venetian** • 702-733-5000: Entertainment TBA. **Westward Ho** • 702-731-2900: Crown Room: Entertainment TBA. Bands play nightly except Mon. in the lounge. **Wild West Gambling Hall** • 702-740-0000. **Westin Casuarina** • 866-837-4215: David Brenner Theatre: Comedian David Brenner performs nightly.

LAUGHLIN

Avi • 702-535-5555: ArrowWeed Lounge: Bands play nightly. **Colorado Belle** • 702-298-4000: Dixieland band strolls on D Deck and in the hotel-casino's Boiler Room Microbrewery. **Edgewater** • 702-298-2453: Lounge: Music nightly. **Flamingo Laughlin** • 702-298-5111 or 800-435-8469: Flamingo Amphitheater: Kenny Rogers, Sept. 25-26. Charlie Daniels Band, Oct. 23. Engelbert Humperdinck, Nov. 6. Club Flamingo Showroom: The Comedy Stop, three comedians appear nightly at 7:30 and 9:30pm thru Sept. 4. **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: "Dancin' in the Streets," production show, 7pm Thurs.-Sat., 8pm Mon.-Tues. "Showgirls," 10pm Thurs.-Sat. Rio Vista Outdoor Amphitheater: Carrot Top, July 10. **Pioneer** • 800-634-3469. **Ramada Express** • 702-298-4200 or 800-243-6846: Pavilion Theatre: 4th Annual Talent Quest Karaoke National Finals, Sept. 13-18. Caboose Lounge: Bands play nightly except Mon. Karaoke Madness is scheduled on Mon. American Heroes Museum of Memories: Memorabilia and speakers.

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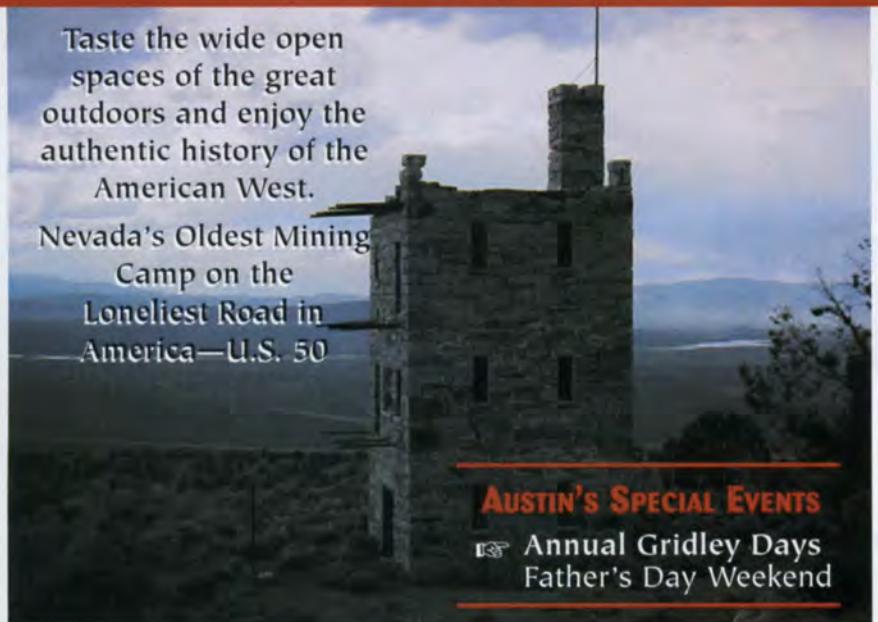
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River Palms • 702-298-2242 or 800-835-7904: Bermuda Club: The Magic and Comedy of Berri Lee, 6pm Sat. Berri's Comedy Club, 9pm Tues.-Sat.

Riverside Resort • 702-298-2535 or 800-227-3849 ext. 616: Don's Celebrity Theatre: "A Tribute to the Righteous Brothers," thru July 18. "Country Music USA," July 20-Aug. 5. Elvis impersonator Trent Carlini as "The Dream King," Aug. 10-15. Gallagher, Sept. 8-12. "Country Music USA," Sept. 14-26. Freddy Fender, Oct. 6-10. Bellamy Brothers, Oct. 19-24. Vicki Lawrence and Mama, Nov. 3-7. Tony Danza, Nov. 9-14. Mel Tillis, Nov. 16-21. Roy Clark, Nov. 23-28. "Country Christmas," Dec. 1-22. Debbie Reynolds, Dec. 28-31. Entertainment in the Lightning Strikes Nightclub.

MESQUITE

CasaBlanca • 702-346-7529 or 800-459-7529: CasaBlanca Showroom: Paul Revere and the Raiders, July 3. Bellamy Brothers, Aug. 6. Australia's "Thunder From Down Under," Sept. 9. "Revolution: A Tribute to the Beatles," Dec. 31. Comedy Club: Weekends when no performers are scheduled. Entertainers play in the Skydome Lounge nightly except Mon.

Eureka Casino Hotel • 702-346-4646: Wild Cactus Lounge: Fun Fool's Karaoke, Tues. Bands like Braxton, Vegas Road Show, and Kari and Jerry play Thurs.-Sun.

Oasis • 702-346-5232 or 800-621-0187: Club Xtreme: Dance music Wed., dance contest Fri. Cabaret Lounge: Bands play nightly except Mon.

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

NORTH LAS VEGAS

Cannery • 702-507-5700: The Club: Gene Pitney and The Lovin' Spoonful, July 2-3. Yellow Brick Road, July 6, 13, 20, and 27. "Hotel California: A Salute to the Eagles," July 16-17. David Clayton Thomas and Blood, Sweat, and Tears, July 31. "American Trilogy" starring Elvis impersonator Paul Casey, Aug. 13-14. Pin-Ups Bar: Bands play nightly except Mon.

Fiesta Rancho • 702-631-7000: Club Tequila: The Fabulous Thunderbirds, July 23. Foghat, Aug. 13. Bobby Bare, Oct. 8. David Allan Coe, Dec. 17. Music in the Cabo Lounge.

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

Texas Station • 702-631-1001: Dallas Events Center: Johnny Rivers, Aug. 7. '70s Soul Jam featuring the Stylistics, the Chi-Lites, Cuba Gooding Sr., and the Delfonics, Aug. 27. Jamie O'Neal, Oct. 15. Charley Pride, Jan. 22. The Armadillo: Kroakies Karaoke, Wed. Loveshack plays music from the '80s, Fri.-Sat. Sunday Swing with Jerry Tiffe, 4-8pm.

PRIMM

Buffalo Bill's Resort • 800-FUN-STOP: Star of the Desert Arena: TBA. Bands play weekends in the lounge.

Primm Valley • 800-FUN-STOP: Show Bar Lounge: Fri.-Sun. **Whiskey Pete's** • 800-FUN-STOP: Showroom: "Hail, Hail, Rock 'n Roll," tribute to Cher, Jimi Hendrix, young Elvis, Roy Orbison, and Stevie Nicks, 8pm Wed.-Sat. Whiskey Pete's Comedy Club: Comedians perform 10pm Fri.-Sat.

Nevada
 EVENTS AND SHOWS
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 MAGAZINE

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Clint Holmes

The **singer has** his own theater, an 11-piece band, and **a way with an audience.**

Reviewers of Harrah's Las Vegas headliner Clint Holmes often compare the singer to Sammy Davis Jr. Like Davis, Holmes has a strong, mellow voice, and although he's more soft-shoe than hooper, he takes a page from Sammy in the way he strolls through the audience and gets customers involved in the show.

About three songs into a recent performance at the Clint Holmes Theatre, Holmes acknowledged the comparison with his own version of Davis' signature number, "Mr. Bojangles." Holmes' obvious affection for the Rat Pack's style of "saloon" singing probably would have made Davis proud.

Holmes' impressive voice was the heart of the show. The set was heavy on covers of acts like Phil Collins and R. Kelly but also included original pieces, such as the opening "In This Moment." Holmes, the son of an African American jazz musician and a white English opera singer, seemed as comfortable crooning as he

Even Holmes' 88-year-old mother sang a spot-on 'Summertime'

did belting it out with his microphone clenched in both hands.

The most enjoyable songs were the relative rockers, like Collins' "Higher Love" and an original flamenco-style number, "Canate Con Mi." On these, Holmes' 11-piece band really cut loose.

Holmes and company jumped genres freely, swapping lounge music for show tunes and opera. A medley of songs from "West Side Story" featured bongo drums and slapping of crates a la "Stomp." Holmes traded verses of "Largo Al Factotem" ("The Barber of Seville") and "Habenera" ("Carmen") with his musical director, Bill Fayne. Later, four of the male band members joined Holmes in the spotlight for a doo-wop medley of "In My Room"



The smooth-singing Holmes knows how to put the spirit in Harrah's Las Vegas showgoers.

and "Dream Lover" that drew a standing ovation.

The performance slowed at the midpoint when Holmes shared an account of his parents' courtship, complete with old pictures. But when Holmes handed the microphone to his 88-year-old mother for a spot-on rendition of "Summertime" from the Gershwin brothers' "Porgy and Bess," the show regained traction.

Overall, an informal atmosphere and skilled backup musicians allowed Holmes to relax and just sing. And even without pyrotechnics or a procession of chart-topping hits, it was enough.—*Matt Farley*

Produce Party

Customers at the **Sparks Hometowne Farmer's Market** often come for the melons and stay for the music. **By Matt Farley**

Once a week each summer beginning in 1992, the Sparks Hometowne Farmer's Market would transform Victorian Square into a modest agora of fresh fruit, local crafts, and the odd Indian taco. Sometimes an acoustic band would play a short set between the stalls as the desert sky turned purple and middle-aged couples hurried to find the sweetest ear of corn or the most perfect strawberry. For the vendors, the money wasn't exactly pouring in, but the market was growing comfortably.

Then, three summers ago, something happened that caught the market's organizers completely off guard.

The market became cool.

"We started getting 12,000 people every week," recalls Gabriel Ornelas, a special-events coordinator for the City of Sparks. "In 2003, it was more like 15,000. It just sort of sprang up. And the market continues to grow."

Today the Sparks farmer's market resembles a weekly block party. Only here do families looking for organic produce at the Lattin Farms booth mingle with university students looking for an Ichthyosaur Pale Ale at the Great Basin Brewing Company. The attitude of the market has changed. It no longer is just a place to buy squash—it's a community event.

The Sparks gathering is the largest of nearly a dozen public produce bazaars in Nevada. Growers, brewers, crafters, and confectioners also sell their wares at markets in Las Vegas, Henderson, Boulder City, Carson City, Fallon, Fernley, Gardnerville, and Reno (see sidebar).



Fruit and vegetable booths lure shoppers to the Sparks market.

This year the Sparks Hometowne Farmer's Market will be open every Thursday from 4 to 9 p.m. through August 26, with a break on August 5. Ornelas says the market will present 120 vendors, multiple bands, a climbing wall, and a huge inflatable slide. Organizers plan theme nights such as "Seize the Sizzle: Let's Barbecue" and "Market Mardi Gras."

"There will be street entertainment and cooking demonstrations," Ornelas says. "But the overall theme is a tribute to the American farmer...a celebration of the things we get from the earth and what that represents."

Produce sellers will include Lewis Family Farms of Oakley, California, Rodriguez Farms of Watsonville, California, and Lattin Farms. Known for the cornfield maze it creates each fall at its Fallon property, Lattin Farms is a longtime regular at farmer's markets.

"Early in the season we'll have mostly bread and jellies,"

Beverly Lattin says. "Corn, tomatoes, and squash should be there by the middle of July. Then the Hearts O' Gold cantaloupes usually are ripe in August."

On Thursday nights many of Victorian Square's restaurants and bars position themselves to catch post-market partiers. In recent years more and more 20-something visitors have been crowding businesses like the Great Basin Brewing Company and Cantina Los Tres Hombres after the market closes. The restaurants have responded by offering live music and drink specials, and the area often remains crowded until early the next morning.



Fallon's Hearts O' Gold cantaloupes are prized for their flavor.

"Anyone who wants to come out and have a good time can, but we are definitely going to be proactive this year to make sure the market has a family atmosphere," says Ornelas, who is enthusiastic about this year's events. "I'm sure it will be a safe, responsible environment. There will be 30 farmers, 40 artisans, and more than 50 food and nonprofit booths at every market. Everyone is going to have a good time."

Up the street, the **Sparks Heritage Museum** remains open from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursdays, allowing market-goers to peruse its exhibits on Sparks and Nevada history. Call 775-355-1144 for information or tours.

Also, the **Sparks United Methodist Church** at 1231 Pyramid Way holds a market on Tuesday mornings. Besides fresh produce, the market sells locally made honey, and a "pet chef" makes treats for animals.

Elsewhere in the state, the **Fallon Farmer's Market** promises live music every Tuesday through August 24, with



A youngster gets a new look at the Sparks farmer's market.

acts such as Papa Clutch and the Shifters and the Comstock Cowboys. The market is held on Maine Street in downtown Fallon.

For those who want even fresher produce, the **End of the Rainbow Ranch** in Caliente lets visitors pick apples for a few dollars per bucket. The orchard has 3,000 apple trees as well as a few wild turkeys. Varieties include Golden Delicious, Red Delicious, Jonathan, and Winesap. The ranch is 15 miles south of Caliente on State Route 317

The **Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park** in Las Vegas has planted a Native American garden that includes Hopi blue corn, Navajo red melon, and Lakota squash. As long as the crop lasts, visitors can ask for samples. The park, including the restored Mormon Fort, is open daily.

Matt Farley is a Reno writer and regular attendee at the Sparks Hometowne Farmer's Market.

Nevada Farmer's Markets

The following farmer's markets offer produce, crafts, homemade foods, and entertainment. Most Southern Nevada markets operate year-round.

LAS VEGAS AREA

Boulder City: Thursdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Bicentennial Park. Seniors can receive \$40 in credits at produce booths. Closed in December. Call 702-293-2034.

Henderson: Fridays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Galleria Mall. Call 702-300-4492.

Las Vegas North: Tuesdays 4 to 8 p.m. at Gardens Park. Wednesdays 4 to 8 p.m. at Bruce Trent Park. Thursdays 3 to 7 p.m. at Centennial Hills Park. For details call 702-562-CORN or visit www.lasvegASFarmersMarket.com.

Las Vegas South: Saturdays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Colonnade Square Shopping Plaza. Call 702-300-4492.

Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park: Crops are grown using pioneer methods. Samples are available. Call 702-486-3511.

RENO-TAHOE AREA

Carson City: Wednesdays 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. through August 25 in Mills Park. The fall farmer's market on Telegraph Street runs Saturday mornings from September 4 to October 2. Call 775-687-7410.

Crystal Bay: Mondays 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. through August 30 at the Tahoe Biltmore. Call 775-831-0660.

Gardnerville: Wednesdays 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. through September 29 at Lampe Park. Call 775-782-9828.

Reno: Tuesdays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. through October 5 at Park Lane Mall. Fridays 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. through October 8 at Tamarack Junction Casino. Saturdays through October 9 at Village Shopping Center.

Sparks: Tuesday mornings at Sparks United

Methodist Church, 1231 Pyramid Way. Call 775-358-0925.

Sparks Hometowne Farmer's Market: Thursdays 4 to 9 p.m. through August 26, except August 5, at Victorian Square. Call 775-353-2291.

RURAL NEVADA

Caliente: Pick your own apples at the End of the Rainbow Ranch, State Route 317, 15 miles south of Caliente. Call 775-726-3373.

Fallon: Tuesdays 5 to 9 p.m. through August 24 on Maine Street; call 775-423-4556. Also, Fallon's **Hearts O' Gold Cantaloupe Festival** takes place September 3-6; call 775-423-2544.

Fallon/Latin Farms: Produce stand weekdays and Saturdays, May to October. Call 866-638-6293.

Fernley: Wednesdays 4-8 p.m. through August 25 at Out of Town Park. Call 775-287-2811.



Reno-Tahoe

AREA EVENTS AND SHOWS

Arlo Guthrie and the Joffrey Ballet appear during Artown, Reno's July-long arts celebration. This summer fans of the Bard will find much ado at the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival, and the American Century Celebrity Golf Championship brings sports and film stars to Edgewood Tahoe. Showroom stars include Kenny Loggins at John Ascuaga's Nugget. The Broadway musical "Grease" opens at the Eldorado. *Nevada Magazine* presents the following events and shows for July and August. Be sure to call ahead to confirm dates and details.

Events

Volleyball Festival • June 26-July 2 • Event is expected to draw more than 20,000 athletes, coaches, recruiters, staff, and families. Reno-Sparks Convention Center and citywide venues, Reno, 800-FOR-RENO.

Lily Cai Chinese Dance Company • July 1 • Blend of Chinese and modern dance. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-322-1538.

The Great Race • July 1 • Parade of antique cars. Downtown Truckee, 530-587-2757.

Cavalcade of Spectaculars • July 1-4 • Carnival, arts and crafts, food, and fireworks on July 4. Mills Park, Carson City, 775-687-4680.

Artown • July 1-31 • Summer arts festival features more than 200 events, including cultural celebrations, food, and music, produced by 60 cultural organizations and businesses in more than 50 locations citywide. Most events are free. Reno, 775-322-1538 or www.renoisartown.com.

"Titus Andronicus" • July 2-3, 8-10, 15-17, 22-24, 29-31 • Shakespeare's play about feuding Roman families. Bruka Theater, Reno, 775-323-3221.

Great International Chicken Wing Society Cook-Off • July 2-4 • Restaurants and bars compete for prizes. Sampler plates available for purchase. Downtown, Reno, 775-352-4272.

Tune Up for the Fourth! • July 3 • Independence Day concert by Carson Valley Pops Orchestra, Minden Park, Minden, 775-265-2841.

American Arts Festival • July 3 • Jazz, blues, country, gospel, and bluegrass music, barbecue, Great American Hot Dog and Pie Eating contests, and performances by the Reno Big Swing Band and the Brian Landrus Project. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-329-2787.



Dinner and a Play

About an hour and a half before the performance starts at the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival at Sand Harbor, diners can buy grilled steak, sausage, and chicken, salads, and exotic desserts from vendors. Of course, a sip of wine and a crust of French bread add to the romance of the evening, but the play's the thing—and this year the Foothill Theater Company will produce two of the Bard's most popular comedies, "As You Like It" and "Much Ado About Nothing." The festival runs from July 15 to August 22. Call 800-74-SHOWS or visit www.laketahoeshakespeare.com for a schedule, tickets, and more information.



The Silver Legacy in Reno will celebrate its ninth anniversary with a free outdoor concert featuring the Reno Philharmonic Orchestra and a fireworks display on Friday, July 23. The Hot Club of Cowtown (below right) will play Boomtown August 12.

Squaw Valley Fourth of July • July 3-4 • Ice skating, swimming, hiking, fireworks, Old West entertainment such as gold panning and shootouts, and the Third Annual American Bluegrass and Blues Festival. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Lake Tahoe Fourth of July Celebrations • July 3-4 • Kings Beach State Park, July 3 (530-546-3270); Commons Beach, July 4 (530-583-3494); parade, downtown Truckee, July 4 (530-587-2757).

Lake Tahoe Festival of Fine Arts • July 3-5 • More than 100 arts, food vendors, entertainment, and children's art activities. South Tahoe Middle School, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-3632.

Star Spangled Sparks • July 4 • Arts and crafts, food, hot-air balloon rides, milk-carton boat regatta, children's games, and entertainment at Sparks Marina Park. Fireworks at Victorian Square, Sparks, 775-356-3300.

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

Star Spangled Fourth: Lights on the Lake • July 4 • Largest synchronized fireworks display west of the Mississippi. Stateline, Lake Tahoe, 530-544-5050.

Fireworks in Reno • July 4 • Rancho San Rafael, Reno, 800-FOR-RENO.

Pops in the Park • July 4 • Fourth of July concert by Reno Philharmonic Orchestra. Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa, 775-782-8696.

Star Spangled Slots Tournament • July 4-5 • Peppermill, Reno, 775-689-7114.

Valhalla Arts and Music Festival • July 5-6 • Tahoe Improv performance on July 5, and Sourdough Slim, the yodeling cowboy comic and songster, on July 6. Valhalla Boathouse Theatre, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-541-4975.

Tahoe ARTour 2004 • July 8-11 • Artists open their studios in North Lake Tahoe, Truckee, and Incline Village areas. Lake Tahoe, 530-581-2787.

Summer Family Concert: Shane Morrison and Caledonia • July 9 • Free performance. Minden Park, Minden, 775-782-9828 for more event information.

Klezmer Band • July 9 • Free concert. Village at Squaw Creek, Lake Tahoe, 530-581-1184.

Trans Tahoe Sailboat Race • July 9-11 • Annual sailing regatta across Lake Tahoe. Tahoe Yacht Club, Lake Tahoe, 530-581-4700.

Cannibal Cruise • July 9-11 • Vintage car show. Truckee Regional Park, Truckee, 530-582-0962.

Super Summer Swap Meet • July 10 • Genoa Town Park, Genoa, 775-782-8696.

Pops on the River • July 10 • Bring a picnic for the Reno Philharmonic Orchestra concert. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-322-2030.

Swing Fever Dance • July 10 • Valhalla Grand Hall, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-541-4975.

Blues Festival • July 10 • Concerts on the green. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Dog Days of Summer • July 10 • Activities for the canine set. Fuji Park, Carson City, 775-848-0078.



SCCA Solo Event • July 10-11 • Timed sports-car competition against course and clock. Car safety inspection required. Reno-Stead Airport, 10 miles north of Reno, 775-267-4845.

Concert on the Green • July 11 • Deja Blues. Genoa Town Park, Genoa, 775-782-5697.

"Picasso at the Lapin Agile" • July 11-12, 18-20 • Valhalla Players Production. Valhalla Boathouse Theatre, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-541-4975.

Hike With a Ranger at Squaw Valley • July 11 • Ride the cable car to High Camp and learn about the flora, fauna, and wilderness. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

The Lake Mansion Comes Home • July 11 • The 40-ton historic Lake Mansion is moved to downtown Reno. Built in 1877, the mansion was owned by the founder of Reno, Myron Lake. Other events include a pancake breakfast and welcome party. For information call VSA arts of Nevada, Reno, 775-826-6100.

American Century Celebrity Golf Championship • July 12-18 • More than 75 athletes and movie and television stars compete. Edgewood Tahoe, Stateline, 800-FOR-RENO.

Jazz Under the Stars • July 13 • Mile High Jazz Band performance. Comma Coffee, Carson City, 775-883-2662.

Celtic Sunday • July 13 • Bagpipes, dancers, and madrigals. Valhalla Lawn, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-541-4975.

Summerfest Carnival 2004 • July 14-18 • Rides, food, and games. Lampe Park, Gardnerville, 775-267-0900.

Lucinda Williams • July 15 • Concert. Bartley Ranch Regional Park, Reno, 775-828-6642.

Pied Pipers and the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra • July 15 • Concert. Resort at Squaw Creek, Lake Tahoe, 530-581-1184.

Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival at Sand Harbor • July 15-Aug. 22 • "Much Ado About Nothing" and "As You Like It" rotate, dark Mon. Performances are held on the beach. Food vendors are on site, or bring a picnic. Sand Harbor State Park, Incline Village, 800-74-SHOWS.

"The Guys" • July 16-17 • Oscar winner Tim Robbins' theater company presents play set in the aftermath of Sept. 11. Truckee Meadows Community College Performing Arts Center, Reno, 775-322-1538.

The Big Easy • July 16-18 • Festival features Cajun food, music, dance, parades, bread tossing, cooking demonstrations, and shopping. Entertainment includes Doug Kershaw, Alligator and the Bayou Boogie Band, Motordude Zydeco Sean Vidrine, Swamp Fire, and Blues Monsters. Victorian

Square, Sparks, 775-358-4771 for further information.

Stargazing at High Camp • July 16-18 • Viewing led by Great Western Astronomers. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

\$15,000 Pai Gow Poker Tournament • July 16-18 • Reno Hilton, Reno, 888-547-2081.

Living History Day: Early Tahoe Marinas • July 17 • History and display of classic antique boats and cars. Tahoe Maritime Museum, Homewood, Lake Tahoe, 530-525-9253.

Trans-Tahoe Invitational Swim Relay • July 17 • 28th annual event sponsored by the Olympic Club of San Francisco, which has teams of six swimmers each cross the 11.5 miles from Sand Harbor State Park to Skylandia Beach, Lake Forest, CA. Lake Tahoe, 415-775-3088, ext. 1241.

Alasdair Frazier and the San Francisco Scottish Fiddlers • July 17 • Concert. Alpine Meadows, Lake Tahoe, 530-581-1184.

River Walk Merchants Artown Wine Walk • July 17 • Purchase a souvenir wineglass and sample wines and treats at 20 businesses. River Walk, Reno, 775-826-6100.

Reno Basque Festival • July 17-18 • Traditional food, dancing, Basque Mass, games, sporting competitions including *soka tira* (tug-of-war), wood chopping, and weight lifting. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-322-1538.

Summer Pai Gow Tournament • July 17-18 • Peppermill, Reno, 775-689-7114.

Downhill Mountain Bike Race • July 18 • Beginner to expert classes. Northstar-at-Tahoe, 800-GO-NORTH.

The Heat Is On Video Poker Tournament • July 18-19 • Peppermill, Reno, 775-689-7114.

John Ascuaga's Nugget Amateur Challenge • July 18-22 • Fifth annual golf tournament at several Reno-Tahoe courses of- fers women's, men's, senior men's, and super senior men's



Families sit on chairs and blankets during the annual July Fourth Pops in the Park event at Genoa's Mormon Station State Historic Park. The Reno Philharmonic concert is free.

divisions. John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-803-6918.

Great Basin Chautauqua 2004 • July 18-22 • Characters include Theodore Roosevelt portrayed by Clay Jenkinson, Aimee Semple McPherson by Doris Dwyer, Carl Sandburg by Fred Krebs, Zora Neale Hurston by Sandra Kamusikiri, Huey Long by Frank Mullen, and Woody Guthrie by David Fenimore. Rancho San Rafael Regional Park, Reno, 800-382-5023.

Joffrey Ballet of Chicago • July 21-22 • Features prima ballerina and native Nevadan Maia Wilkins. Part of Artown celebration. Reno Hilton, Reno, 775-322-1538.

Treasures in Your Attic Art and Antique Appraisals • July 22 •

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Carson City and Virginia City host a year-round calendar of fun. Here's a sample for this summer:

- Annual 4th of July Parade & Fireworks Virginia City, July 4
- Silver Dollar Car Classic. All-makes car show. Carson City, July 30-August 1
- Nevada State Museum Coin Show. CC-minted coins, bullion, jewelry... Carson City, August 28-29

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Upwards of 5,000 classic cars parade the streets of Reno and Sparks during Hot August Nights. Rock 'n' roll and sock hops foster feelings of nostalgia for the 1950s and '60s.

VSA arts of Nevada, Reno, 775-826-6100 for information.
 Swing the Night Away: Lavay Smith and Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers • July 22 • Concert. Tahoe City Golf Course, Lake Tahoe, 530-581-1184.
 Handcar Rides at Sparks Farmer's Market • July 22 and Aug. 26
 • Free activities are being sponsored by the Nevada State

Railroad Museum. Victorian Square, Sparks, 775-687-6953.
 Silver Legacy's Anniversary Concert • July 23 • Free Reno Philharmonic Concert and fireworks display. Downtown, Reno, 775-323-6393.
 Summer Family Concert: Larry Yates and the Blues Monsters • July 23 • Minden Park, Minden, 775-782-9828.

Cruisin' in Carson, '50s style • July 24 • Show of 200 cars to benefit Carson-Tahoe Cancer Center, Carson City, 775-885-4140.
 Reno Chamber Orchestra Concert • July 24 • Free concert is part of Artown. Meadowood Mall, Reno, 775-348-9413.
 The Russians Are Coming • July 24 • Concert by the Russian National Orchestra. Tahoe Donner, Truckee, 530-581-1184.
 Coeur d'Alene Art Auction • July 24 • Annual event will feature sculptures and paintings by Charles M. Russell, Frederick Remington, and Sydney Laurence. Part of Artown events. Silver Legacy, Reno, 775-322-1538.
 Fireman's Fun Muster • July 24 • Competition between fire agencies, bucket brigade, hose cart race, and display of antique fire equipment. Across from Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-887-2210, ext. 25.
 Squaw Valley Art, Wine, and Music Festival • July 24-25 • Fine art show. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.
 Reno Celtic Celebration • July 24-25 • Bagpipe bands, parade, crafters, and Irish and Highland dancers, featuring about 14 troupes. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-332-3336.
 Summer Blackjack Tournament • July 24-25 • Peppermill, Reno, 775-689-7114.
 Genoa Renaissance Faire • July 24-27 • Eighth annual medieval festival featuring jousting, jugglers, dancers, and music. Genoa, 775-782-4951.
 Hike With a Ranger at Squaw Valley • July 25 • Ride the cable car to High Camp and learn about Sierra Nevada flora, fauna, and wilderness. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.
 "Guilty Pleasures" • July 25-26, Aug. 1-3 • Lake Tahoe Community College production. Valhalla Boathouse Theatre, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-541-4975.

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Reno Chamber Orchestra: Beethoven at Bartley • July 26 • Free concert under the stars. Bartley Ranch Regional Park, Reno, 775-348-9413.

Miner Family Vineyards Winemaker Dinner • July 26 • White Orchid Restaurant, Peppermill, Reno, 775-689-7114.

"A Bit O' the Bard IV" • July 26-28 • Nevada Shakespeare Company presents a family-friendly medley of Dr. Seuss, Shakespeare, and physical theater. Lear Theater, Reno, 775-786-2278.

Bach on the Rocks Festival Orchestra • July 29 • Concert. Alpine Meadows, Lake Tahoe, 530-581-1184.

Arlo Guthrie • July 29 • Folk singer's appearance is part of Artown month-long arts celebration. Bartley Ranch Regional Park, Reno, 775-322-1538.

Squaw Valley/North Lake Tahoe Mid-Summer Fair • July 29-Aug. 1 • Carnival rides, games, and food. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

The Flatlanders: Jimmie Dale Gilmore, Joe Ely, and Butch Hancock • July 30 • Concert features Terri Hendrix and Lloyd Maines. Bartley Ranch Regional Park, Reno, 775-828-6642.

Orchestra d' Soul • July 30 • Dance to Latin, jazz, funk, and soul music. Valhalla Grand Hall, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-541-4975.

Antique Show and Sale • July 30-Aug. 1 • Truckee Elementary School, Truckee, 530-587-2757.

Silver Dollar Car Classic • July 30-Aug. 1 • Car show with all makes and models, street dance, show and shine, and poker run. Mills Park, Carson City, 775-687-7410.

An American Classic: The Souza Band • July 31 • Concert. Alpine Meadows, Lake Tahoe, 530-581-1184.

Tevis Cup Horse Race • July 31 • Amateur 100-mile race that begins in Squaw Valley and ends in Auburn. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-823-7282.

Silver City Fireman's Ball • July 31 • Family entertainment and food. Silver City Park, Silver City, 775-847-3090.

Hot August Nights • July 31-Aug. 8 • Celebration of the music and cars of the '50s and '60s. More than 5,000 cars and their owners are expected for the proms and sock hops. Sparks and Reno, 775-353-2291 or 775-356-1956.

Cruisin' in the Hot Tahoe Moonlight • Aug. 4-8 • Classic car show and auction. Crystal Bay Club, Crystal Bay, North Lake Tahoe, www.goodsamsaferide.com.

The Mozart Experience: Kid's Night Out • Aug. 5 • Concert. Alpine Meadows, Lake Tahoe, 530-581-1184.

Concours d'Elegance • Aug. 6-7 • Lake Tahoe's original wood boats are spotlighted during the 32nd annual display of restored historic craft. Concours is part of Wooden Boat Week, Aug. 5-12. Sierra Boat Company, Lake Tahoe, 800-824-6348.

Taste of Gardnerville • Aug. 7 • Historic tours, food, and music. Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Gardnerville, 775-265-6097.

Squaw Valley Bear Fair and Fun Run • Aug. 7 • Open to all ages. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-581-0181.

All That Jazz: Cleo Laine and John Dankworth • Aug. 7 • Concert. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-581-1184.

Janis Ian • Aug. 8 • Concert. Bartley Ranch Regional Park, Reno, 775-828-6642.

"Isn't It Romantic?" • Aug. 8-10 • Rodgers, Hart, and Hammerstein musical. Boathouse Theatre, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-541-4975.

Big Band Jazz • Aug. 10 • Concert features Mile High Jazz Band. Comma Coffee, Carson City, 775-883-2662.

Awe Inspiring Gospel Show: The Blind Boys From Alabama • Aug. 12 • Concert. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-581-1184.

Truckee Championship Rodeo • Aug. 13-15 • Pro rodeo, plus

mutton busting, steer decorating, boot race, and team penning. Also barbecue and dance. McIver Arena, Truckee, 530-582-9852.

Stargazing at High Camp • Aug. 13-15 • Viewing led by Great Western Astronomers. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Classic Car Slot Tournament • Aug. 13-15 • Reno Hilton, Reno, 888-547-2081.

Saturday Night Blues: Charlie Musselwhite • Aug. 14 • Concert. Sierra Nevada College, Incline Village, 530-581-1184.

The Legends of Hawaiian Music • Aug. 14 • Concert. Bartley Ranch Regional Park, Reno, 775-828-6642.

Tahoe Dance Band • Aug. 14 • Dance to the classics. Valhalla Grand Hall, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-541-4975.

The Great Truckee River Duck Race • Aug. 14-15 • More than 15,000 yellow rubber ducks compete. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-353-4600, ext. 115.

Third Annual Brews, Jazz, and Funkfest • Aug. 14-15 • More than 30 breweries represented. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-584-6266.

Downhill Mountain Bike Race • Aug. 15 • Beginner to expert classes. Northstar-at-Tahoe, 800-GO-NORTH.

In the Good Old Summer Time • Aug. 15 • Ice cream social. Roberts House, Carson City, 775-882-1805.

Reggae and Brewfest • Aug. 16 • Performance by Caribbean Island and Sweetfoot. Valhalla Lawn, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-541-4975.

Reno-Tahoe Open • Aug. 16-22 • PGA Tour event features a field of 132 pros competing for a \$3-million purse on the Jack Nicklaus-designed course. Montreux Golf and Country Club, Reno, 775-322-3900.

Wine Tasting and Jazz • Aug. 17 • Valhalla Lawn, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-541-4975.

David Byrne Featuring the Tosca String • Aug. 17 • Outdoor concert. Bartley Ranch Regional Park, Reno, 775-838-6642.

The Limelighters Reunion: Glenn Yarborough • Aug. 19 • Incline Village Ball Field, Lake Tahoe, 530-581-1184.

An Evening with Bruce Cockburn • Aug. 19 • Bartley Ranch Regional Park, Reno, 775-828-6642.

Fridays at Third Street • Aug. 20 • Street dance. Mom and Pop's Diner, Carson City, 775-884-4411.

Main Street Event • Aug. 20-22 • Street dance, barbecue, show and shine, breakfast, music, and car show. Downtown and Lampe Park, Gardnerville, 775-267-1511.

\$15,000 Sizzling Summer Blackjack Tournament • Aug. 20-22 • Reno Hilton, Reno, 888-547-2081.

"Romeo and Juliet" • Aug. 20-29 • Shakespeare's love story. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 775-883-1976.

Wildflowers Music Festival • Aug. 21 • Outdoor concert benefits women's wellness programs. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Kids Karnival • Aug. 21 • Midway games, cake walks, and boat races. Children's Museum of Northern Nevada, Carson City, 775-884-2226.

Basie Bash at the BAC • Aug. 21 • Mile High Jazz Band celebrates Count Basie's 100th birthday. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 775-883-1976.

Bluegrass in the Garden • Aug. 21 • Concert. Governor's Mansion, Carson City, 775-883-0703.

River Walk Merchants Wine Walk • Aug. 21 • Purchase a souvenir wineglass and sample wines and treats at 20 businesses. River Walk, Reno, 775-826-6100.

Rhapsody in Blue: The Festival Orchestra • Aug. 21 • Incline

Village Ball Field, Lake Tahoe, 530-581-1184.

Carson Valley Antique Tractor, Engine, and Farm Show Aug. 21-22 • Working museum of 300 to 500 displays of farm equipment from the late 1800s to 1940s. Stephanie Way, seven miles south of Carson City on U.S. 395. 775-882-5801.

Silver State Marathon • Aug. 22 • Annual half-marathon, 10K run, 10K walk, and post-race picnic sponsored by the Silver State Striders. Pick up registration Aug. 16 at the Peppermill or register online. Bowers Mansion Park, Washoe Valley. For details visit www.silverstatestriders.com.

Concert on the Green • Aug. 22 • Genoa Town Park, Genoa, 775-782-5697.

Zd Wines Winemaker Dinner • Aug. 23 • White Orchid Restaurant, Peppermill, Reno, 775-689-7114.

Nevada State Fair • Aug. 25-29 • Entertainment, livestock exhibits, contests, creative living, barrel racing, and bull riding championships. Livestock Events Center, Reno, 775-688-5767.

Johnny Carsino and the Sophisticated Ladies • Aug. 26 • Musical revue. Valhalla Boathouse Theatre, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-541-4975.

Summer Family Concert: The Michael Powers Group • Aug. 27 • Free jazz concert. Minden Park, Minden, 775-782-9828.

Carson Valley Sertoma Truck Pull • Aug. 28 • Kiddie truck pull, modified 4x4 trucks, stock classes, and exhibition vehicles. Douglas County Fairgrounds, Gardnerville, 775-782-7630.

Bluegrass Festival • Aug. 28 • Virginia City, 775-847-7500.

Nevada State Museum Coin Show • Aug. 28-29 • Rare Carson City-minted coins, tokens, gold and silver bullion, and jewelry. Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 775-687-4810.

Richie Havens • Aug. 29 • Community concert. Corley Ranch, Gardnerville, 775-782-8144.

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Blow the Whistle on Asthma • Aug. 29 • Fun run and walk. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-829-5864.

Labor Day Lake Tahoe • Aug. 30 • Events include the Great Lake Tahoe Sternwheeler Race, Big Ol' Fishing Derby, and fireworks. South Shore, Lake Tahoe, 800-AT-TAHOE.

Burning Man Festival • Aug. 30-Sept. 6 • Annual counterculture event draws about 25,000 people who erect a temporary "town" for a radical party that culminates in the burning of a 40-foot-tall effigy. Black Rock Desert, seven miles northeast of Gerlach, www.burningman.com.

Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off • Sept. 2-6 • Concerts, arts and crafts, and rib sampling. Victorian Square, Sparks, 800-843-2427.

Ongoing Events

The Record-Courier's 100th Anniversary: Permanent exhibit celebrates the newspaper's coverage of the Carson Valley. Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Gardnerville, 775-782-2555.

Gaming Tournaments: Blackjack on Tues. Pai Gow Poker on Wed. Texas Hold 'Em on Wed. and Sun. Slots on Thurs. Keno on Sun. Peppermill, Reno, 775-689-7114.

Video Poker Tournaments: Thursdays. \$10 buy-in. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 877-783-7711.

Nevada State Museum: Behind-the-scenes tour takes place the last Friday of each month and covers the anthropology, plant, and animal collections. Advance registration is required. Carson City, 775-687-4810.

Mormon Station State Historic Park: Sunday tours of historic Genoa. 775-782-2590.

An Impressionist Eye: Painting and Sculpture from the Philip and



Visitors can sample barbecued ribs at the Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off in Sparks' Victorian Square on Labor Day weekend. Music and arts and crafts booths are also planned.

Janice Levin Foundation: Thru July 18. Works by Edgar Degas, Claude Monet, Camille Pissarro, and Pierre-Auguste Renoir. Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 775-329-3333.

Lorenzo Latimer and the Latimer Art Club: Thru July 18. Known for his watercolors of Lake Tahoe and the Sierra Nevada. Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 775-329-3333.

Deon Reynolds: Panorama Nevada: Thru July 30. Photo-

graphic exhibition. Metro Gallery, Reno City Hall, Reno, 775-329-2787.

Ghost Town Photo Exhibition: Thru July 31. S. Martin Shelton displays 50 images from his photo collection of Nevada ghost towns, mining camps, and historic sites. Nevada State Library, Carson City, 775-687-5160.

Artouring: Thirty-seven artists exhibit thru Aug. 6 at the

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Northwest Reno Library and thru Aug. 13 at the South Valley Library. The Artown event includes Open Studio Tours on Tues. and Thurs. in July. Sierra Arts, Reno, 775-329-2787.

Movie Tuesdays: Thru Aug. 10. Free films, popcorn, and drinks at 9pm Tuesday. Bring a blanket and lawn chair. Movies TBA. Jot Travis Student Union, UNR, Reno, 775-784-4046.

Marco Brambilla: HalfLife: Thru Aug. 29. Explores the hypnotized attention between teenagers and violent video games. Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 775-329-3333.

Farmer's Market Exhibit: Thru Aug. 31. Coincides with the popular market on Victorian Square. Sparks Heritage Museum, Sparks, 775-355-1144.

Year of the Basket: Thru Sept. 1. Indian, African, and Pacific Island baskets. Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Gardnerville, 775-782-2555.

Space Silence Spirit: Maynard Dixon's West: Thru Sept. 12. Paintings and drawings of the West span 50 years. Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 775-329-3333.

Town of Gardnerville's 125th Birthday: Thru Sept. 22. Exhibit on the history of the Carson Valley community. Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Gardnerville, 775-782-2555.

The 1950s: Cold War, Hot Cars: Thru Sept. 27. Display of political and social aspects of the Cold War with a fallout shelter and photos of the Nevada Test Site by Peter Goin. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

Beetle Mania: Thru Sept. 27. Volkswagens, from buses to dune buggies. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

Virginia and Truckee Railroad: Thru Oct. 1. Narrated 35-minute train rides from Virginia City to Gold Hill. Virginia and Truckee Railroad, 775-847-0380.

V&T Art: Thru Oct. 1. Six paintings of Virginia and Truckee Railroad locomotives by Reno railroad artist Archie Burnett. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-8323.

Locomotive Stories of the V&T: Thru Dec. Exhibit features models of Virginia and Truckee Railroad locomotives, photographs, and artifacts. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

Tireless and Unremitting: The Chinese and Nevada's Railroads: Thru Jan. 2006. Explores the relationship of Chinese immigrants with the railroad and other aspects of their culture and daily life in Nevada. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

Ghost Towns of Nevada: July 1-31. Photo exhibit. Sparks Heritage Museum, Sparks, 775-826-4113.

Rockin' Out: July 1-31. Exhibition of petroglyph art. Silver State Gallery, Reno, 775-324-2323.

Northstar's Thursday Evening Cross-Country Mountain Bike Races: July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Aug. 5, 12. All ages and abilities. Helmets required. Northstar-at-Tahoe, 800-GO-NORTH.

Village at Squaw Valley Music Series: July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26. Squaw Valley USA, 530-582-6266.

Art Creation Stations: July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31. Children ages five to 12 create art in a new medium each week. VSA arts of Nevada, Reno, 775-826-6100.

Super Outlaw Karts of Nevada: July 3, 17, 31. Night racing. Thunder Bowl Speedway, Mound House, 775-246-3396.

Historic Train Rides: July 3-5, 10-11, 17-18, 24-25, 31-Aug. 1, Aug. 7-8, 14-15, 21-22, 28-29. Ride the museum's 1926 diesel-powered railcar or a steam train. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

Summer Music Series: Sundays, July 4-Aug. 8. Bring a picnic. Legislature Lawn, Carson City, 775-687-7410.

Summer Concerts and Watermelon on the Quad: Bring a blanket and picnic to hear the Reno Municipal Band play the music of John Philip Sousa on July 7, big swing July 14, and Disney themes July 21. Guitar Woody and the Boilers perform July 21, and Heather Combs Band on Aug. 4. UNR, Reno, 775-784-4046.

Movie Night at the Village at Squaw Valley: Wednesdays, July 7-Aug. 25. Free outdoor movies. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-584-6266.

Valhalla Arts and Music Festival Movies: *The Parent Trap*, July 7. *Out of Africa*, July 9. *Old Yeller*, July 14. *The Madness of King George*, July 16. *The Love Bug*, July 21. *La Cage Aux Folles*, July 23. *Bednobs and Broomsticks*, July 28. *Gandhi*, Aug. 30. *The Borrowers*, Aug. 4. *Burnt by the Sun*, Aug. 6. *Jumanji*, Aug. 11. *Il Postino*, Aug. 13. *Mouse Hunt*, Aug. 18. *Last Emperor*, Aug. 20. *Muppets From Space*, Aug. 25. *Mambo Kings*, Aug. 27.

Boathouse Theatre, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-541-4975.

Valhalla Arts and Music Festival Concerts: Black Irish Band, July 8. Kenny Blackwell, Dorian Michael, and Piper Heisig, July 15. Hurricane Sam, piano soloist, July 17. Rowan and Boblak Piano Duet, family concert, July 22. Gordy Ohliger, family concert, July 27. Harmonics, island sounds, July 29. Dream Spirit, ethnic music, Aug. 5. Solid Air, Aug. 12. Akimbo!, Aug. 19. Golden Bough, Aug. 21. Third Degree Blues Band, Aug. 22. Blues Box Bayou Band, Aug. 23. Tien Hsieh, pianist, family concert, Aug. 24. Miss Freida and the Cajun Fusiliers, Aug. 28. Brad Richter, classical guitar, family concert, Aug. 29. Valhalla Boathouse Theatre, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-541-4975.

Sunset Hikes at Squaw Valley: July 9-10, 16-17, 23-24, 29-31, Aug. 6-7. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

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National Basque Festival

July 8th - 10th
Silver State Stampede
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July 15th
Thunder in the Ruby Mountains
(Drum & Bugle Corps Show)

August 5th - 8th
Senior Olympic Games

August 27th - September 6th
Elko County Fair

September 23rd - 26th
Elko Fall Fest
(Featuring the Great Basin Festival, Ruby Mountain Balloon Festival & Oktoberfest)



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Dinner Theater: Wednesdays and Thursdays, July 28-Sept. 2. Gold Hill Theater Troupe presents "Deception" on Wednesday and "The Day the Comstock Stood Still" on Thursday. Gold Hill Hotel, Gold Hill, 775-847-0111.

Hot August Nights Exhibit: Aug. 1-31. Memorabilia from the popular festival. Sparks Heritage Museum, Sparks, 775-826-4113.

Native American Artists: Sept. 1-Oct. 31. Exhibit from Nancy Takahashi's collection. Fourth Ward School Museum, Virginia City, 775-847-0975.

Coming Events

Great Reno Balloon Race • Sept. 10-12 • 775-826-1181 for event information.

Virginia City International Camel Races • Sept. 10-12 • 775-847-0311.

Tahoe Big Blue Adventure Race • Sept. 11 • Lake Tahoe, www.bigblueadventure.com.

National Championship Air Races • Sept. 16-19, Reno, 775-972-6663.

Dayton Valley Days • Sept. 18-19 • 775-246-5746.

Salsa Y Salsa! Festival • Sept. 19 • Carson City, 775-885-1055.

Genoa Candy Dance • Sept. 25-26 • 775-782-8696.

Broadway Comes to Reno • "The Producers" • Sept. 28-Oct. 3 • 800-714-5331.

Great Eldorado Italian Festival • Oct. 9-10 • Reno 800-648-5966.

Rhymers Rodeer Cowboy Poetry • Nov. 5-6 • Minden, 775-783-6679.

Sparks Hometown Christmas Parade • Dec. 4 • 775-353-2291.

Victorian Christmas • Dec. 6-7 • Virginia City, 775-847-0975.

Shows

CARSON CITY

Carson Nugget • 775-882-1626 or 800-426-5239 (continental U.S. including Nevada): Nugget Show Lounge: Entertainers appear Tues.-Sun.

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

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

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

RENO/SPARKS

Atlantis • 775-825-4700 or 800-723-6500: Grand Ballroom: Danny Marona, Sept. 3-5. Bands play in the Center Stage Cabaret. Dancing is offered in the Atlantis Nightclub.

Boomtown • 775-345-6000: Convention Center: Hot Club of Cowtown, Aug. 12. Norton Buffalo and Friends, Oct. 21. Can-Can Theater and Dancehall: Bands appear Tues.-Sun.

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

Circus Circus • 775-329-0711: Circus Cabaret: Entertainment daily except Tues.-Wed. Free daily circus acts, 11am-10:30pm.

City Center Pavilion • 888-288-1833: LeAnn Rimes, July 17. Kinsey Sicks (Dragapella Beautyshop Quartet), Aug. 20-21.

Eldorado • 775-786-5700, 800-648-5966 (U.S. outside Nevada) or 800-648-3024 (Canada): Eldorado Showroom: "Broadway! The Star-Spangled Celebration" and "Spirit of



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2004 Events Calendar

April 24	Rainbow Ridge Mtn. Bike Challenge
May 7-9	Spring Wings Bird Festival
June-August	Fallon Farmers Market Season
Jan. 29-Jul. 4	Silver State Int'l Rodeo
July 16-18	Nevada Indian Days Pow Wow & Rodeo
Aug. 13-14	Nevada Motocross Championships
Aug. TBD	Overland Hotel Chili Cook-off
Sept. 3-6	Hearts of Gold Cantaloupe Festival
Sept. 24-26	Senior Pro Rodeo
Oct. 9	Waterfowl Hunting Season, Opening Day (Date subject to change)
Dec. 3-4	Hometown Christmas
TBD 2004	Fallon Air Show

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the Dance. Musical revues rotate show times, thru July 11. Both are dark Mon. "Grease, the Broadway musical, opens July 16. "Taganaï, a Russian Cirque-style production show, opens Sept. 10. Bands play nightly at the Brew Brothers microbrewery. Piano music in the Roxy Lounge. BuBinga Lounge: Dance to DJs and bands Tues.-Sat. Bands play in the Casino Cabaret Thurs.-Sat.

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

Golden Phoenix • 775-785-7100: Showroom: "Hypnoliarious with Terry Stokes, thru Dec. "The Magic of Eli Kerr," 7pm Wed. thru July. Cabaret: Jazz Jam, 9pm Wed.

Harrah's Reno • 775-788-2900 or 800-HARRAHS: Sammy's Showroom: "Showgirls, adult revue, indf., dark Tues. "Wonderland, production show, thru Aug. The Plaza at Harrah's Free Concerts: Berlin, July 2. John Waite, July 9. Survivor, July 16. Orleans, July 23. Garrat Wilkin and the Parrot Heads, July 30. Twist and Shout, Aug. 6. Travis LeDoyt, Aug. 6-7. Bands play Thurs.-Mon. in the Sapphire Lounge and Sat.-Sun. in the Virg Nightclub.

John Ascuaga's Nugget • Sparks, 775-356-3304 or 800-648-1177: Rose Ballroom: Kenny Loggins, July 9-10. Celebrity Showroom: Ronnie Milsap, July 2-3. Charo, July 16-17. Second City, comedy improv, July 23-24. Rich Little, July 30-31. Mills Brothers, Aug. 1-2. Society of Seven, Aug. 13-14. George Thorogood and the Destroyers, Aug. 27-28. Bands play in the Casino Cabaret and Trader Dick's. Flamenco guitarist Thurs. and jazz Fri.-Sat. in the Nugget's Restaurant Orozko.

Peppermill • 775-826-2121 or 800-648-6992: Tahoe Grand Showroom: Led Zepplin Tribute, July 9. Shania Twain Tribute, Aug. 13. Cabaret Lounge: Bands play nightly.

Music is presented nightly 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): Outdoor Amphitheater: Reba McEntire/Jessica Andrew, July 2. Train, July 16. Rod Stewart, Aug. 8. REO Speedwagon/Styx, Aug. 28. Deep Purple, Joe Satriani, and Thin Lizzy, Sept. 2. ZZ Top, Sept. 18. Hilton Theater: The Four Tops, July 10. Heart, July 30-31. Keith Urban, Aug. 13-14. Bands play nightly in The Garage.

Sands Regency • 775-348-2200: Tequila Bar: Music nightly except Mon.-Tues. Comedians perform in the Just For Laughs Comedy Club, dark Mon.-Tues. Comedian Herb McQuay performs June 30-July 4, Aug. 4-8, Sept. 1-5, and Nov. 10-14. The Happy Hypnotist, Mon.-Tues.

Siena • 775-337-6260: Lexie's Lounge: Jammin' With the Siena Jazz Ensemble Fri.-Sat. Corky Bennett performs Wed.-Sun. in Lexie's Lounge.

Silver Club • Sparks, 775-358-4771 or 800-905-7774 (U.S. outside Nevada): Entertainment is presented in the lounge Wed.-Sun.

Silver Legacy • 775-329-4777 or 800-687-8733 (U.S., Canada, and Mexico): Grande Exposition Hall: Clay Walker, July 3. Engelbert Humperdinck, July 30-31. Hot August Nights Sock Hop, Aug. 5. The Beach Boys, Aug. 6-7. Martin Short, Aug. 27-28. Music in the Rum Bullions Island Bar. Comedians perform at the Catch a Rising Star comedy club, dark Mon. Silver Baron Lounge: Piano music.

Tamarack Junction • 775-852-3600.

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

STATELINE, LAKE TAHOE

Bill's Lake Tahoe • 775-588-2455: William's Back Door

Blues Club: Bands perform 9:30pm-12:30am Thurs.-Sat. **Caesars Tahoe** • 775-588-3515 or 800-648-3353: Circus Maximus: Howie Mandel, July 2-3. Reverend Horton Heat, July 7. Phife Dawg and Jarobi From a Tribe Called Quest, July 10. Montgomery Gentry, Sept. 25. The Club Nero nightclub has music for dancing.

Harrah's Lake Tahoe • 800-HARRAHS: South Shore Room: Jimmy Hooper, thru Sept. California Bar: Arthur Hervey, Tues.-Sat. Bands play in the Casino Center Stage.

Harveys • 775-588-2411 or 800-553-1022 ext. 2883: Cabaret: The Improv, comedians perform nightly except Mon. "X: An Erotic Adventure, adult musical revue, dark Mon. Outdoor Amphitheater: John Mayer, July 13. Maxim Comedy Festival starring Dennis Miller, Aug. 7. Chris Isaak, Aug. 20. Jack Johnson With G. Love and Special Sauce and Donavon Frankenreiter, Aug. 25. Toby Keith, Aug. 28. Tahoe Live Casino Stage: Bands play nightly at 9pm.

Lake Tahoe Horizon • 775-588-6211 or 800-322-7723: Golden Cabaret: Entertainment TBA. Bands play in the Aspen Lounge Thurs.-Sun.

Lakeside Inn • 775-588-7777: In the Tavern: Karaoke with Psycho Attitude, 11pm-3am Fri.

NORTH LAKE TAHOE

Cal-Neva Resort • Crystal Bay, 775-832-4000 or 800-225-6382. Showroom: Entertainment 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: Music nightly except Mon. at the North Tahoe casino.

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AUGUST

LYON COUNTY FAIR, RODEO & PARADE - YERINGTON

SPIRIT OF WOVOKA DAYS POWWOW - YERINGTON

SEPTEMBER

FERNLEY LIVING HISTORY FESTIVAL - FERNLEY

SENIOR PRO RODEO - FERNLEY

DAYTON VALLEY DAYS - DAYTON

OCTOBER

SMITH VALLEY FUN DAY - WELLINGTON



Bulls, Bread, and Botas

Nevada Basques

celebrate **Old Country** traditions.



Spectators cheer man and beast during the "Running From the Bulls," one highlight of the 41st annual National Basque Festival in Elko July 2-4. In the spirit of Pamplona, young men race ahead of maddened bulls on a course that begins and ends in front of the Stockmen's Hotel in downtown Elko.

The Basques have strong Nevada roots. In the 1890s and early 1900s, immigrants from the remote French and Spanish Pyrenees came to Nevada to herd sheep and work in hotels and saloons. They brought with them a vibrant culture that is kept alive by this and other festivals held in Nevada communities each summer.

Elko's bull vs. man event will be held Friday evening and Saturday afternoon. Traditional Basque dancing and music will be offered on all three days at Elko City Park and the Elko



Young people perform the *Arcu Dantza* (hoop dance) in Elko (above). The *Godaleta Dantza* (wine dance, left) involves jumping on a glass. The "Running From the Bulls" (bottom left) is a spectator sport at the Elko Basque festival.



County Fairgrounds. Visitors are welcome to watch events and feast on roast lamb, salad, and sourdough bread at picnics where red wine will flow from animal-skin bags known as *botas*.

Strongmen from around the world will compete in wood-chopping and weight-lifting contests. Also planned are a parade, handball tournament, shepherd's bread judging, and a contest for the best *irrintzi*, or traditional Basque war cry.

Costumed competitors will try to outdo each other in the *jota*—the Basque dance of joy. Non-Basque activities include a street dance and golf tournament.



Dancers weave around a pole in the *Zinta Dantza* (ribbon dance) in Elko. Wine flows from bota bags (below) at Basque festivals around the state.

For more information about Elko's National Basque Festival, call 775-753-7633. The **Reno Basque Festival** (775-762-3577) will be held at Wingfield Park July 17-18, and the **Oberenak Basque Club Summer Picnic** (775-635-2878) takes place August 21 at Lions Park in Battle Mountain. Also, Adele's Restaurant and St.



Teresa's Catholic Church (775-882-1968) in Carson City sponsor the **St. Teresa's Basque Festival** September 19 in Fuji Park, and the **Las Vegas Basque Festival** (702-361-6834 or 702-270-9199) will be held at Sammy Davis Jr. Plaza in Lorenzi Park on October 9. The **Winnemucca Basque Festival** (775-623-5071) is held in June.—*Joyce Hollister*

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 in Death Valley to higher than 13,000 feet at Boundary Peak, there is something for everyone in Pioneer Territory—families, RV travelers, outdoor enthusiasts, tourist groups, and those just desiring a weekend excursion.

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Rural Nevada

EVENTS AND SHOWS

Festivals, fairs, and rodeos are held throughout rural Nevada this summer. The National Basque Festival returns to Elko on the Fourth of July weekend, street drags are legal during Fifties Fever in Winnemucca, and rodeo cowboys compete in Elko, Fallon, McDermitt, and Winnemucca. Styx and Wynonna Judd appear at the Red Lion in Elko. *Nevada Magazine* presents the following events and shows for July and August. Be sure to call ahead to confirm dates and details.



Hot rods dash for the finish line during the Good Times Street Drags during Winnemucca's Fifties Fever celebration. Below: A mounted standard-bearer presents the colors in traditional fashion during the Nevada Indian Days All-Indian Rodeo in Fallon.

Events

Silver State International Rodeo • June 30-July 4 • Nine performances, trade show, vendors, parade, mud volleyball, and teen dance. Churchill County Fairgrounds, Fallon, 775-423-4674.

Summer Horse Cutting • July 1-4 • Training showcase. Event Center, Winnemucca, 775-838-1476.

Don Edwards • July 2-3 • Concert • Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 775-237-6006.

Summer Fling 1/16-Mile Drag Race and Car Show • July 2-4 • El Capitan, Hawthorne, 800-922-2311.

Hawthorne 250 • July 2-4 • A 250-mile off-road race for cars, trucks, and quads. Hawthorne, 530-417-5333.

National Basque Festival • July 2-4 • Cultural celebration with authentic dancing, weight lifting, wood chopping, food, golf tournament, parade, and Mass. Bulls will be released on the streets of Elko behind a group of runners. Fairgrounds, City Park, Basque House, Elko, 775-753-7633.

Wiley Days July 4th Celebration • July 2-5 • Country and bluegrass bands, barbecue, games, Old West shootouts, and fire-



works. Gold Point Ghost Town, 22 miles south of Goldfield, 775-482-4653.

Western States Corvette Show • July 2-8 • Parade, car show, drag race, autocross. Main Street, Yerington, 775-463-2245.

Moonlight Hike • July 3 • Ranger-led walk through the canyons and caves. Bring a flashlight and wear closed-toe shoes. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Wine Train • July 3 • Wine and appetizers served aboard the Ghost Train of Old Ely. Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Ely, 775-289-2085.

Jarbidge July Fourth Weekend • July 3-4 • Bingo, music, parade, and barbecue. Outdoor Inn and Community Hall, Jarbidge, 775-488-2311.

Perdiz Shooting Range • July 3-4 • Open to the public for sport shooting. Perdiz Shooting Club, Eureka, 775-237-5484.

McDermitt Ranch Hand Rodeo • July 3-4 • Competitors from Nevada, Oregon, and Idaho compete. Fairgrounds, McDermitt, 775-272-3241.

Caliente Independence Day • July 3-4 • Parade, games, and fireworks. Downtown and City Park, Caliente, 775-726-3129.

Wendover, 775-664-3138 for further event information.

Lake of Fire • July 4 • Food, games, and fireworks. Spring Creek Marina, Spring Creek, 775-753-6295.

Goldfield Old-Fashioned Fourth • July 4 • Goldfield Park, Goldfield, 775-485-3560.

Austin Fourth of July • July 4 • Parade and entertainment. Austin, 775-964-2200.

Elko Fireworks Spectacular • July 4 • Elko County Fairgrounds, Elko, 800-428-6143.

July Fourth Trap Shoot and Barbecue • July 4 • Shoot and dinner. Flying Saucer Trap Club, Lovelock, 775-273-7237.

Fernley Independence Day • July 4 • Parade. Downtown, Fernley, 775-575-4459.

State Line Nugget Four-Man Scramble Golf Tournament • July 6-7 • Toana Vista Golf Course, Wendover, 800-848-7300.

Silver State Stampede • July 8-10 • Pro rodeo. Elko County Fairgrounds, Elko, 775-738-7780.

Pioche Heritage Plays • July 8-10 • "Bones in a Box," based on local history, and "The Ballad of Gopher Gap," a melodrama. Town Hall, Pioche, www.piochenevada.com.

Fandango • July 9-11 • Eighth annual event features Native American dancing. Ely Shoshone Tribe, Ely, 775-289-3013.

Fallon Hearts O' Gold and a Lions Parade

The Fallon Lions Labor Day Parade draws as many as 130 entries.

The weekend's activities include the annual Hearts O' Gold Cantaloupe Festival, which celebrates the famous local melons that are prized for their taste. For information on Fallon call 775-423-2544.



Hawthorne July Fourth Patriotic Celebration • July 3-5 • Reading of the Declaration of Independence, bell-ringing, rib cook-off, vendors, mimes and musicians, and fireworks. Citywide, Hawthorne, 775-945-5171.

Family Fourth of July Celebration • July 4 • Games, food, and fireworks. City Park, Winnemucca, 800-962-2638.

Yerington Fourth of July • July 4 • Barbecue, crafts, entertainment, and fireworks. Mountain View Park, Yerington, 775-463-2245.

July Fourth BBQ and Fireworks Train • July 4 • Barbecue and train ride on the Hiline route to watch fireworks. There will be a parade on Main Street. Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Ely, 775-289-2085.

Eureka Independence Day • July 4 • Parade, entertainment, and barbecue. City Park, Eureka, 775-237-5484.

Battle Mountain Community July Fourth Celebration • July 4 • Food, games, parade, and fireworks. Battle Mountain, 775-635-8245.

Kiddie Parade • July 4 • Downtown, Lovelock, 775-273-7213.

Wendover Independence Day • July 4 • Parade, entertainment, run and ride races, games, and fireworks. City Park,

Painted Ladies and California Sisters • July 10 • Program on butterflies and moths. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Jim Marsh Classic • July 10-11 • Stock car races. Tonopah Speedway, Tonopah, 775-482-8900.

Winnemucca Junior Rodeo • July 10-11 • Events Complex, Winnemucca, 775-623-2220.

Art in the Park • July 10-11 • Arts, crafts, and food. Elko City Park, Elko, 775-777-7901.

Blackjack Tournament • July 11-12 • Peppermill, Wendover, 775-664-2255.

Peppermill Properties Two-Person Mixed Golf Scramble • July 12-13 • Toana Vista Golf Course, Wendover, 775-644-2255.

110-Mile Open Road Challenge • July 15-18 • Practice session July 15 at Las Vegas Motor Speedway. Caravan from Sam's Town in Las Vegas on July 16 to Eureka. Parade and car show, July 17, followed by race July 18 on S.R. 278. Call 702-631-6166.

Nevada Indian Days All-Indian Rodeo • July 16-18 • Parade, youth conference, arena events, hand games, powwow, and country-Western dance. Churchill County Fairgrounds,

PHOTO: Bob Francke

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Battle Mountain is on Interstate 80,
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Lander County Convention and Tourism Authority
625 S. Broad Street, Battle Mountain, NV 89820
Rogene Hill - 775-635-1112

Fallon, 775-423-6075 for further event information.

44-Hour Softball Tournament • July 16-18 • More than 90 teams compete around the clock. Sports Complex, Winnemucca, 888-44-HOURS.

Dutch Oven Cooking 101 • July 17 • Workshop on the basics. Samples will be served. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Tractor Pull • July 17 • Elko County Fairgrounds, Elko, 775-738-5141.

Kane's River • July 17 • Bluegrass concert. Great Basin College, Elko, 775-738-7508.

Sherman Dinner and Auction • July 17 • Event celebrates the historic site. Sherman Station Visitor Center, Elko, 800-428-7143.

Botanizing in the Rubies • July 17 • Workshop on the area's flora and fauna. Participants provide own transportation. Lamoille Canyon, 25 miles southeast of Elko, 775-738-7508.

Frontier Days • July 22-25 • Craft show, parade, arm wrestling, weight carrying, barbecue, kids games, and entertainment. Courthouse Park, Lovelock, 775-273-7213.

Ruby Mountain Fishing Pack Trip • July 23-25 • \$500 includes food, pack animals, and tent. Western Folklife Center, Elko, 775-738-7508.

Pool Party Slot Tournament • July 23-25 • El Capitan, Hawthorne, 800-922-2311.

Bonneville 100 Open Road Race • July 23-25 • Route goes 50 miles south from Wendover to Lages Station via U.S. 93 Alternate and return. Wendover, 775-664-3138.

Life Cycle of a Rock • July 24 • The geology and formations of the park. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Montego Bay Slot Tournament • July 25-26 • Montego Bay, Wendover, 775-664-9100.

Superior Livestock Auction • July 26-30 • Cattle buyers and sellers gather for a bid bonanza. Events include golf tournaments, entertainment, and food. Convention Center, Winnemucca, 208-343-9885.

Peppermill Properties Two-Man Best Ball Scramble Golf Tournament • July 29-30 • Toana Vista Golf Course, Wendover, 775-664-2255.

Good Times Street Drags • July 30-31 • Legal drags on a public street. Traders Way, Winnemucca, 800-962-2638.

Fifties Fever • July 30-Aug. 1 • Parades, car show, street dances, poker runs, free concert, and show and shine. Downtown, Winnemucca, 800-962-2638.

Nevada All-Around Working Cow Horse Championship • July 30-Aug. 1 • Competitive ranching event. Events Complex, Winnemucca, 775-329-4200.

Wells Fun Run Car Show • July 30-Aug. 1 • More than 350 cars will be on display, street dance, slow drags, burn-outs, and drag races. City Park, Wells, 775-752-3540.

Blue Moon Walk • July 31 • Ranger-led walk. Bring a flashlight and wear closed-toe shoes. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Curtis Stigers • July 31 • Vocal and saxophone concert. Great Basin College, Elko, 775-738-7508.

Spring Creek/Lamoille Business Association Barbecue • July 31 • Khourys Market Place, Spring Creek, 775-753-6789.

Manhattan Annual Benefit • July 31 • Fundraiser features games, music, and barbecue. Fire Station, Manhattan, 775-487-2438.

Triple Crown Softball Tournament • July 31-Aug. 1 • City Fields, Wendover, 775-664-3289.

Senior Olympic Games • Aug. 5-8 • Elko and Spring Creek, 775-777-2292.

Nevada's Best Cow Dog Series • Aug. 7 • Working cow dogs



Bikers at the ready on Fourth of July weekend during Elko's National Basque Festival. Celebrants can race bicycles, watch strongman competitions, taste ethnic dishes, guzzle wine from a bota bag, and run from a herd of snorting bulls.

compete, team sorting, and team branding. 7J Ranch, Caliente, 775-728-4682.

Wine Train • Aug. 7 • Wine and appetizers served aboard the Ghost Train of Old Ely. Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Ely, 775-289-2085.

Wendover Last Blast Coed Softball Tournament • Aug. 7-8 • City Fields, Wendover, 775-664-3289.

Bristlecone Arts in the Park • Aug. 7-8 • Arts, crafts, and food booths. County Park, Ely, 775-289-3539.

State Line Nugget Senior Invitational Golf Tournament • Aug. 8-9 • Toana Vista Golf Course, Wendover, 800-848-7300.

Logbooks, Journals, and Biogs: Writing From Observation • Aug. 12-15 • Workshop on transforming experience into art. Western Folklife Center, Elko, 775-738-7508.

Open Road • Aug. 13 • Bluegrass concert. Great Basin College, Elko, 775-738-7508.

Nevada Motorcross Championships • Aug. 13-14 • Extreme jump demonstration and racing. Churchill County Fairgrounds, Fallon, 775-240-2851.

White Pine Rodders Car Show • Aug. 13-14 • Barbecue, burn-outs, poker run and walk, slow drags, sock hop; 28 competition classes include convertibles, Corvettes, muscle cars, and street rods. Ely, 775-289-8888.

Festival in the Pit • Aug. 13-14 • Battle Mountain celebrates its selection as the "Armpit of the Nation" by the *Washington Post* with a tongue-in-cheek party and themed events. Battle Mountain, 775-635-1112.

Jarbidge Days • Aug. 13-15 • Arts and crafts, music, family activities, and cowboy church. Outdoor Inn and Community Hall, Jarbidge, 775-488-2311.

Santa Maria Day • Aug. 14 • Music, parade, crafts, and family entertainment. Fundraiser for historic Dayton. Downtown, Dayton, 775-246-8080.

Kingston Picnic • Aug. 14 • Parade, barbecue, and horseshoe tournament. Kingston Canyon, Austin, 775-964-2200.

Rail Days • Aug. 14-15 • Open house and exhibits. 1914 Fernley-Lassen Depot, Fernley, 775-575-2515.

Bonneville Speed Week • Aug. 14-20 • Bonneville Salt Flats, Wendover, 661-946-6986.

Keno Tournament • Aug. 15-16 • Peppermill, Wendover, 775-664-2255.

Lyon County Fair and Rodeo • Aug. 19-22 • Parade, kids day, carnival, tractor pull, hay boom, dance, and demolition derby. Yerington, 775-463-2245.

Goldfield Days • Aug. 20-22 • Heritage celebration includes a land sale, antique fair, and food. Goldfield, 775-485-3560 for information.

Oddities of the Sagebrush Desert • Aug. 21 • Program explores the mysteries in the high desert. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Oberenak Basque Club Summer Picnic • Aug. 21 • Ethnic food and entertainment. Lions Park, Battle Mountain, 775-635-2878.

Overland Hotel's Annual Chili Cook-Off • Aug. 21 • ICC-sanctioned event features chili and salsa cooks, dunk tank, and entertainment. Overland Hotel, Fallon, 775-423-2719.

Show and Shine and Art in the Park • Aug. 21-22 • Car show, games, barbecue, street dance, and crafts. Carlin City Park, Carlin, 775-754-6354.

Elko Gambler's Run Twin 50 • Aug. 22 • Open-road race. Elko, 702-614-6108.

Peppermill Properties One-Man Golf Scramble Golf Tournament • Aug. 23-24 • Toana Vista Golf Course, Wendover, 775-664-2255.

USTRC Northwest Regional Team Roping Finals • Aug. 26-29 • More than 2,000 teams compete. Events Complex, Winnemucca, 406-728-0080.

Nevada's Best Cow Dog Series • Aug. 27 • Working canines compete. Maggie Creek Ranch, Elko, 775-782-4682 for information.

White Pine Cattlewomen's Barbecue • Aug. 27 • Food, music, and dancing. White Pine County Fairgrounds, Ely, 775-289-8877.

Spirit of Wovoka Days Powwow • Aug. 27-29 • Celebration of the dance and vision of Wovoka, the Paiute Messiah and originator of the Ghost Dance religion. Native American dance, food, arts, and crafts. Free admission. Softball Field, Yerington, 775-463-2350.

Moonlight Hike • Aug. 28 • Ranger-led walk to explore the canyons and caves. Bring a flashlight and wear closed-toe shoes. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

White Pine County Fair • Aug. 28-29 • Home arts, crafts, and team roping. White Pine County Fairgrounds, Ely, 775-289-3074.

Elko County Fair • Aug. 28-Sept. 6 • Arts, crafts, and livestock exhibits, horse racing, and showmanship, snaffle bit,

(Continued on page 84)

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Tourism Authorities/ Chambers of Commerce

101 Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce—High desert region, U.S. 50 (Loneliest Road in America), history, mountain biking, hunting, 775-964-2200, www.mountainsage.org.

102 Beatty Chamber of Commerce—Between Las Vegas and Tonopah on U.S. 95, referred to as the Gateway to Death Valley National Park, 866-736-3716, www.beattynevada.org.

103 Boulder City Chamber of Commerce—"The city that built Hoover Dam," listed on the National Register of Historic Places, golf, outdoor sports, and Lake Mead National Recreation Area, 866-297-4336, www.bouldercitychamber.com.

104 Carson City Convention and Visitors Bureau—Nevada's capital city, rich in recreation and history, Carson City is a short drive from Lake Tahoe and Virginia City. "Divine 9" golf courses, lodging, and gaming. 800-NEVADA-1, 775-687-7410, visit www.visitcarsoncity.com.

105 Carson City Convention and Visitors Bureau/Seniors Strike Silver Cards—For ages 50 and over, discounts on lodging, meals, museums, recreation, and gaming from participating local merchants, 800-NEVADA-1, www.visitcarsoncity.com for information.

106 Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Authority—Genoa, Minden-Gardnerville, and Topaz Lake make up the Carson Valley, 800-727-7677, www.carsonvalleynv.org.

107 White Pine County Tourism and Recreation Board—Ancient bristlecone pines, Great Basin National Park, and Cave Lake State Park. Fishing, hunting, boating, murals, and Nevada Northern Railway, 800-HY6-9350, www.elynevada.net.

108 Eureka Opera House—Built in 1880 and restored in 1993, Eureka Opera House is located on U.S. 50 (Loneliest Road in America), 775-237-6006, www.co.eureka.nv.us.

109 Fallon Convention and Tourism Authority—Fallon is home to Navy's Top Gun flight school, Sand Mountain, Lake Lahontan, 866-4FALLON, www.fallontourism.com.

110 Elko Convention and Visitors Authority—In Northeastern Nevada on Interstate 80, outdoor recreation and history, hotels, casinos, convention and meeting facilities, 800-248-3556, visit www.elkocva.com.

111 Jackpot Tourism—Located on Idaho border on U.S. 93, Northeastern Nevada resort town with entertainment, casinos, restaurants, golf, 775-755-2229, www.jackpot-nevada.org.

112 Nevada Commission on Tourism—Nevada's tourism authority guides the visitor to unlimited outdoor adventure and world-class resorts, 800-NEVADA-8, www.travelnevada.com.

113 Virginia City Convention and Tourism Authority—Mine tours, train rides, mansions, opera house, museums, shops, restaurants, and events, 775-847-7500, www.virginiacitynv.org.

114 Lander County Convention and Tourism Authority—Battle Mountain, on I-80, is famous for its *Washington Post* appellation, "Armpit of America," 775-635-1112, www.battlemountain.org.

117 Winnemucca Convention and Visitors Authority—On Interstate 80, Basque restaurants, adventure, outdoors, history, events, nightlife, gaming, convention center, 800-962-2638, www.winnemucca.nv.us.

119 Pony Express Territory—Pony Express Trail (1860-1861) parallels U.S. 50 (Loneliest Road in America) through Pony Express Territory, 800-HY6-9350, www.ponyexpressnevada.com.

120 Truckee-Donner Chamber of Commerce—North of Lake Tahoe, Sierra Nevada views, six world-class ski resorts, and Donner Memorial State Park, 866-245-4347, www.truckee.com.

121 Lyon County Information Center—Yerington, Fernley, Dayton, and other areas offer mountain biking, four-wheeling, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, 775-463-2245, www.lyontourism.info.

122 Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority—Information for restaurants, shopping, entertainment, events, gaming, lodging, golf, 877-VISIT-LV, www.vegasfreedom.com.

125 Goldfield Days—Celebration on August 20-22, 2004, includes activities and prizes. Goldfield Chamber of Commerce, on U.S. 95 south of Tonopah, Box 204, Goldfield, NV 89013, 775-485-3560.

129 Greater Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce—Includes Alamo, Caliente, Rachel, Pioche, and Panaca, ghost towns, mining camps, trails, five state parks, Pahrnagat Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, 775-962-5271, www.lincolncountynevada.com.

132 Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority—Official guide to "The Blue World" of Tahoe hotels, cabins, lodging, rates, reservations, and vacation packages, both Nevada and California, 800-AT-TAHOE, www.virtualltaho.com.

133 City of West Wendover—Swimming, golfing, horseback riding, fishing, and bird watching, casinos, hotels, dining, and entertainment, 866-BZYCITY, www.westwendovercity.com.

Hotels/Casinos

202 Carson Nugget, Carson City—Video/slot machines, table games, keno, bingo, restaurants, buffet, gift shop, entertainment, Prospector's Club, 800-426-5239, www.cnugget.com for information.

203 Carson Valley Inn, Minden—Hotel, motor lodge, RV park, convention center, wedding chapel, pool, spa, gift shop, four restaurants, and casino, 800-321-6983, www.cvinn.com.

207 Imperial Palace, Las Vegas—On the Las Vegas Strip, the hotel-casino has 2,700 rooms, 10 restaurants, "Legends in Concert," 888-777-7664, www.imperialpalace.com.

208 John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks—Off I-80, gaming, John's Club, eight restaurants, wedding chapel, pool, health club, convention facilities, 800-648-1177, www.janugget.com.

209 Peppermill, Reno—Gaming, seven restaurants, entertainment, pool, spa, salon, senior specials, convention facilities, mention HNVMA4, 800-648-6992, www.PeppermillReno.com for information.

215 Saddle West, Pahrump—Rooms and suites, restaurant, buffet, RV resort, golf packages, convention facilities, Players Club, slot tournaments, 800-433-3987, www.saddlewest.com.

216 CasaBlanca, Mesquite—Kitchenette-studios, RV park, timeshares, gaming, spa, tennis, golf course, golf packages, three restaurants, 800-711-4653, www.casablancaresort.com for information.

217 Oasis, Mesquite—One hour north of Las Vegas, rooms and suites, five restaurants, convention space, golf, spa, gaming, and entertainment, 888-711-4653, www.oasisresort.com.

218 Harrah's Laughlin—Themed after a Mexican resort, hotel on the Colorado River has 1,571 rooms and suites. Harrah's Total Rewards, showroom, amphitheater, five restaurants, meeting and banquet facilities, www.harrahs.com, 800-HARRAHS, ask for offer LAUNVM07 when making reservations.

222 Carson Station and Piñon Plaza Resort, Carson City—Best Western. Carson Station has 92 hotel rooms, lounge, two restaurants, 800-501-2929, www.carsonstation.com. Piñon Plaza Resort has 148 hotel rooms, 70 RV spaces, pool, spa, three restaurants, lounge, 877-519-5569, www.pinonplaza.com.

224 Golden Nugget—Hotel on Fremont Street in downtown Las Vegas has five restaurants, 35,000 square feet of meeting space, and headline entertainment—including "Spirit of the Dance," Gordie Brown, and the Fremont Street Experience, 800-846-5336, www.goldennugget.com.

229 Cactus Petes Resort, Jackpot—At the Idaho-Nevada border on U.S. 93, hotel has 300 rooms and suites, live entertainment, concerts, five restaurants, 26,000 square feet of gaming, 800-821-1103, www.cactuspetes.com.

240 Riverside Resort, Laughlin—Hotel-casino, 1,404 rooms, RV park, six restaurants, convention space, Sun Country Airlines packages, gaming, 800-227-3849, www.riversideresort.com.

Golf

301 Golf Mesquite, Nevada—Situated on Interstate 15, 80 miles northeast of Las Vegas, five 18-hole courses and one nine-hole course; also courses in St. George, Utah. Golf-hotel packages, 866-720-7111, www.golfmesquitenevada.com.

Lodging

402 Lake Tahoe Accommodations—Management for rental properties, rental homes, or condominiums near skiing, golf, and lake, 800-544-3234, www.laketahoeaccommodations.com.

Shows

503 "Thunder From Down Under," Excalibur, Las Vegas—Australia's male revue appears at the Excalibur's Merlin's Theatre nightly at 8:30 and 10:30, dark Thursdays, 800-933-1324, www.thunderfromdownunder.com.

504 "V: The Ultimate Variety Show," Desert Passage, Aladdin Resort, Las Vegas—High energy, magic, special effects, stunts—a show for the whole family, nightly at 7 and 9 o'clock, 866-504-0044, www.vtheshow.com.

505 Catch A Rising Star, Silver Legacy, Reno—Comedy at the Silver Legacy Resort Casino since 1998, club opens at 8 week-nights, at 7:30 and 10 on Friday and Saturday, dark Mondays, 800-687-8733, www.silverlegacy.com, www.catcharisingstar.com.

506 "Spirit of the Dance," Golden Nugget, Las Vegas—Irish in origin, the show performs nightly at 7:30, dark Fridays. It is powerful, energetic Irish dance in the Theatre Ballroom, 866-946-5336, www.goldennugget.com.

507 Gordie Brown, Golden Nugget, Las Vegas—Comedian, singer, and master of impersonation, Brown is accompanied by his live band in the Golden Nugget showroom. Friday through Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., 866-946-5446, www.goldennugget.com.

Attractions, Galleries, Museums

601 Star Trails Project, Nye County Natural Resources, Tonopah—Away from the city lights, into truly dark skies, stargazing the Milky Way, www.tonopahstartrails.com.

602 Liberace Museum, Las Vegas—The museum at 1775 E. Tropicana Ave. features jewelry, wardrobe, and costumes worn by the late Liberace, custom-car collection, and pianos, 702-798-5595, www.liberace.com.

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603 Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Ely—Historic tourist train rides on 32 miles of track through copper country beginning in East Ely, 866-40-STEAM, www.nnry.com.

610 Goldwell Open Air Museum/Rhyolite—Celebrate the 20th anniversary of the "Last Supper" sculpture by Albert Szukalski on October 16-17, 2004. The outdoor sculpture park is located near the Nevada ghost town of Rhyolite, four miles west of Beatty, www.goldwellmuseum.org.

Events

703 Pioneer Territory—South-central third of Nevada, Death Valley to Boundary Peak. Mining towns, seven state parks and wilderness areas, mountain biking, skiing, camping, hiking, 800-357-8754, www.pioneerterritory.org.

704 Nevada's Cowboy Country—Loveland to Wendover, hotels, casinos, gaming, outdoor adventure, ranches, rodeo, Basque culture, gold mines, 877-626-9268, www.cowboycountry.org.

Wedding Chapels

801 Viva Las Vegas Weddings and Viva Las Vegas Villas—Chapel and villas offer traditional, themed, Elvis wedding, limos, flowers, photos, 800-574-4450, www.vivalasvegaweddings.com.

Recreation

901 Lake Mead Cruises—On Lake Mead and near Hoover Dam, excursions on the *Desert Princess* or *Desert Princess Too*, events, weddings, 702-293-6180, www.lakemeadcruises.com for information.

902 Tonopah Historic Mining Foundation—Tonopah Historic Mining Park is on site of Belle and Jim Butler's 1900 claim. Self-guided tours, 775-482-9274, www.tonopahnevada.org.

903 Papillon Grand Canyon Helicopter, Las Vegas—Fly the the Grand Canyon, three landing sites. Helicopter-bus tour combinations, weddings, groups, mention NVMAG-03, 888-635-7272, www.papillon.com.

905 Nevada Department of Transportation Bicycle Safety Program—Information on safety and statewide events, sells state bicycle jerseys, 775-888-RIDE, www.bicyclenevada.com.

908 Adventure Photo Tours/Las Vegas—4WD tours into the Mojave Desert, guides, photographic assistance, cameras available, 888-363-8687, www.adventurephototours.com.

911 Look Tours, Las Vegas—Tours of Grand Canyon, Hoover Dam by helicopter or airplane. Bus/van tours, horseback rides, riverboat combos, 800-LOOKTOURS, www.looktours.com.

Restaurants

1001 Louis' Basque Corner—Authentic Basque food served family style in downtown Reno, 301 E. Fourth St., since 1967. Open for dinner nightly and lunch Tues.-Sat., 775-323-7203 for information.

1002 Hofbräuhaus Las Vegas—The first original Hofbräuhaus in USA, an authentic replica of the Hofbräuhaus built in Munich in 1589. Serving authentic German-Bavarian food and imported beer, 4510 Paradise Rd., 702-853-BEER(2337), visit www.hofbrauhauslasvegas.com.

Real Estate

1101 Liberty Realty Relocation Division—Relocate to Nevada with a team of specialists. For information on available homes, 800-296-1802, www.LibertyRelocationDivision.com.

Retail Shopping

1203 Gamblers General Store, Las Vegas—Casino products, antique slots, books, chips, roulette wheels, tables, sold in store and online, 800-322-2447 www.gamblersgeneralstore.com.

Reservations

1301 Hotels.com—Internet site for hotel, suite, and vacation rental reservations. Packages include hotel, air, rental cars, and group travel, 800-2-HOTELS, www.Hotels.com.



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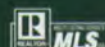
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Rural Nevada

(Continued from page 81)

flower show, parade, and dance. Elko County Fairgrounds, Elko, 775-738-3616.

Second Annual Livestock Music and Food Fest • Aug. 29-Sept. 1 • Bluegrass bands, barbecue, games, contests, and shoot-outs. Gold Point Ghost Town, Gold Point, 775-482-4653.

Ongoing Events

Goldfield Historical Firehouse and Museum: Antique equipment on display weekends. Goldfield, 775-485-6303.

Nevada Northern Railway Museum: Steam or diesel excursions daily thru Sept., weekends in Oct. Fireworks train and barbecue, July 4. Haunted Ghost Train, Oct. 9, 16, 23, and 30. Nevada Northern Railfan Spectacular, Oct. 2-3. Polar Express, Nov. 27 and Dec. 4. Winter Photo Freight, Dec. 4. Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Ely, 775-289-2085.

Lahontan Auto Racing Association Season: Thru Oct. Oval dirt track racing. Rattlesnake Raceway, Fallon, 775-423-7483.

Top Gun Raceway Drag Racing Season: Thru Nov. NHRA, pro, amateur, and circuit competitions. Top Gun Raceway, Fallon, 775-423-0223.

IMCA Stock Car Racing: July 2-3, 17, 31, Sept. 11, 25. Pahrump Valley Speedway, Pahrump, 775-727-7172.

An Evening Under the Stars: Saturdays beginning July 10. Outdoor entertainment, food, and beverages. Pahrump Valley Winery, Pahrump, 775-727-7800.

Stock Car Racing: July 10, 24, Aug. 7, 21, Sept. 3-4, 24-25. Summit Raceway, Elko, 775-753-5936.

Hidden Cave Tours: July 10, 24, Aug. 14, 28, Sept. 11, 25. Guided tour of Hidden Cave archaeological site includes self-guided tour of Grimes Point petroglyph site. Churchill County Museum, Fallon. Confirm tour dates, 775-423-3677.

Stock Car Races: July 17, Aug. 7, 21. Tonopah Speedway, Tonopah, 775-482-9506.

Lattin's Farms' Nevada Maze: Aug. 27-Oct. A cornfield becomes an intricate maze. Lattin Farms, Fallon, 775-867-3750.

Hard Words: Sept. 1-30. Peter Koch art exhibition. Western Nevada Community College, Fallon, 775-423-1440.

Mary Ann Bonjorni: Nov. 1-30. Mixed-media exhibition. Western Nevada Community College, Fallon, 775-423-1440.

Coming Events

Tri-County Fair and Stampede and Western Art Roundup • Sept. 3-5 • Winnemucca, 800-962-2638.

Hearts O' Gold Festival • Sept. 3-6 • Fallon, 775-423-2544.

Trains, Planes, and Automobiles • Sept. 4-6 • Ely, 775-289-2085.

Pioche Labor Day Celebration • Sept. 4-6 • 775-962-5876.

Silver State Classic Challenge Race: Lund to Hiko • Sept. 17-19 • Ely, 775-289-8877.

World of Speed • Sept. 17-22 • Bonneville Salt Flats, Wendover, 801-467-8628.

Wendover Fly-In and Air Show • Sept. 18-19 • 435-665-2308.

Great Basin Ethnic Festival • Sept. 21-16 • Elko, 775-753-2178.

Fallon Senior Pro Rodeo • Sept. 24-26 • 775-867-2115.

Ruby Mountain Balloon Festival • Sept. 24-26 • 775-738-7135.

Beatty Centennial Celebration • Oct. 15-16 • 775-553-2424.

Goldwell Open Air Museum Weekend • Oct. 16-17 • Rhyolite, goldwellmuseum.org.

Beatty Burro Races and Model Railroad Show • Oct. 30 • 775-553-2424.

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Shows

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: Music on weekends.

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

Red Lion • 775-738-2111 or 800-545-0044 (Western U.S. outside Nevada): Showroom: Styx, Aug. 21. Wynonna Judd, Sept. 5.

Stockmen's Hotel • 775-738-5141 or 800-648-2345 (U.S. and Nevada): Stockmen's Showroom: Kip and Bo, July 6-11. He Said, She Said, July 6-11, Aug. 3-8, 10-15. Bands play nightly.

ELY

Hotel Nevada • 775-289-6665.

FALLON

Bonanza Inn • 775-423-6031.

Fallon Nugget • 775-423-3111.

Stockman's Casino and Holiday Inn Express • 775-423-2117.

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: TBA.

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

Pahrump Nugget • 775-751-6500.

Saddle West Hotel, Casino, and RV Park • 775-727-1111: Club

West Nightclub: Headliner concert TBA, Aug. 21.

Terrible's Lakeside • 775-751-7770.

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

SILVER SPRINGS

Silver Springs Nugget • 775-577-4263.

TONOPAH

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

Tonopah Station Ramada Inn • 775-482-9777: Bands play on weekends.

WENDOVER

Montego Bay • 775-664-9100: Entertainment nightly.

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

Rainbow Casino • 775-664-4000: Bands play.

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

State Line Nugget • 775-664-2221.

WINNEMUCCA

Winners Hotel • 775-623-2511: Entertainment in the Winners Lounge.

Model T Hotel • 775-623-2588: Bands play Thurs.-Sat. Karaoke, Wed.

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.

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Fish Fantasy

Atlantis Aquarium at the Forum Shops offers behind-the-scenes tours. **By Deana Di Dio**



The Atlantis Aquarium sits beneath the rotunda at the Forum Shops at Caesars.

When you're walking in the Forum Shops at Caesars, the Roman-style mall on the Las Vegas Strip, it's hard not to notice the 50,000-gallon fish tank bolstered with ornate columns.

The Atlantis Aquarium is home to about 115 species of fish from around the world. The fish range from two inches to four feet in length. The biggest include five sharks that swim among Roman statues and the simulated ruins of the so-called Lost City of Atlantis.

If you're there at the right time, you'll see an aquarist swimming in the tank, feeding the fish. And if you want to learn more about the sea life and how the aquarium is maintained, you can take a tour behind the scenes.

Twice daily an elevator takes tour-goers to the aquarium's inner workings. One stop is the kitchen where food is prepared for the more than 500 fish that live in the tank. The aquarium also has a hospital and quarantine area. Michelle Gresham, the Forum Shops' director of entertainment

features, says, "If a fish gets sick, we treat it. If it needs special attention in order to maintain its health, we train it to help make it easier for us to take care of it." She adds, "For example, we have trained the rays to come to us for food in a specific area so we can feed them on their terms. They take a long time to chew their food,

so they come to us when they are ready for the next bite. We do not simply put the fish in the exhibit and forget about them."

The tour includes the ray and shark pool and a room for visiting school classes. Students range from preschool to college. Gresham explains that the ocean is not an ideal hands-on environment, but efforts are made to allow sight-impaired and special-needs students to touch some of the animals.

The aquarium has a crew of three biologists and an animal behaviorist. Built in 1997 to lure shoppers into a new wing of the Forum Shops, it quickly became a popular attraction.

The free tours of the aquarium are conducted at 1:15 and 5:15 p.m. Monday through Friday. Gresham says, "It opens up a whole new world to people who live in the desert."

Atlantis Aquarium: The aquarium is open during mall hours, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday. An aquarist enters the tank to feed the fish at 3:15 and 7:15 p.m. daily. The Forum Shops at Caesars are located next to Caesars Palace at 3570 Las Vegas Boulevard South. Call 702-893-3807 or visit www.forumshops.com for more information. ▣

Deana Di Dio is a Las Vegas freelance writer.

More Attractions on the Web

Another marine-life attraction on the Las Vegas Strip can be found at **Mandalay Bay**, where piranhas, stingrays, sawfish, barracudas, and sharks swim in the hotel-casino's Shark Reef, open daily from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Call 702-632-4555 for tickets or visit mandalaybay.com.

The dolphin habitat at the **Mirage** is home to a family of Atlantic bottle-nose dolphins that swim in four connected pools designed to look like their natural environ-

ment. The habitat is open 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on weekends and holidays. Call 702-791-7111 or visit www.mirage.com for information.

In Reno, the **Atlantis'** second-floor Seafood Steakhouse has an undersea theme and exotic fish in a large aquarium. **John Ascuaga's Nugget** in Sparks offers a saltwater tank filled with ocean species in Trader Dick's Restaurant.

To learn more about Silver State attractions and museums, visit *Nevada Magazine's* Web site, www.nevadamagazine.com, go to "Nevada Events and Shows," and click on "Attractions, Tours, and Museums."

Where's the Beach?



SAND HARBOR, LAKE TAHOE NEVADA STATE PARK, BY LARRY ANGIER

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NEVADA
MAGAZINE

Carrot Top

The comedian **attracts a crowd** backstage, too

Mop-top comedian Scott Thompson is known for his red hair and for turning ordinary objects into outrageous "creations," which he uses to punctuate one-liners during a hip and off-the-wall show. His sly comments spare no person or subject. As this issue's guest "Last Word" columnist, Carrot Top writes about his adventures in Nevada, his mother, and backstage visitors.

Okay, I know you're dying to ask me. Go ahead. "Is that your real hair color?" Come on, like I would do this to myself? I was on *Regis* one time, and he asked me who had the red hair in the family, and I said we had an Irish setter.

The red hair helped me stand out a bit when I first started in this business, but it wasn't enough. I'd go to open-mike nights, and there would be maybe 10 or 12 comics, and sometimes I'd be number 12. By the time I got up there, every topic had been discussed. So I thought I'd try doing something different with the visuals. If other comics did a Michael Jackson joke 10 times and I went up and did a *visual* Michael Jackson joke, it would still work.

I started with a simple joke. I had a sign. I didn't even make it. I stole it. It was a Neighborhood Crime Watch sign. I said, "Sorry I'm late, but I was in the neighborhood and picked up this sign." Then I asked, how great is their crime-watch program when they're not even watching their own sign?

And I went on from there.

I perform a lot in Nevada these days: Las Vegas, Reno, Lake Tahoe. I love Vegas. It's grown into this huge entertainment city. There are so many shows, and they're all different. Except the Cirque du Soleil. That's so funny. There are, like, 13 Cirque shows. I call it Cirque de Sold Out. The first thing I say in my show is, "How many of you are here because you couldn't get tickets to Cirque du Soleil? That's what I thought."



Onstage, Carrot Top delights in unpacking trunks filled with weird props. Last fall the comedian released a DVD, *Carrot Top Rocks Las Vegas*.

What's great about Vegas, too, is that you get celebrities at your show. I never had that before. Like Jim Belushi will come backstage, or Justin Timberlake, all the 'N Sync guys.

Then there are the porno people. They have a porno convention in Vegas every year. For some strange reason, these people like me. And my mom lives in Vegas. My mom's at the show, and there are these people backstage. I'm thinking, how do I know these people? Who is this guy? And my mom asks, "Who are these people?" I say, "I don't know. I'm meeting them for the first time myself." Then I realize, oh jeez, these guys are in porn. So my mom says, "What do these people do for a living?" And I say, "They make movies." She says, "What kind of movies?" And I say, "The kind you don't rewind, all right?"

She says, "Why are they here?" I say, "I don't know—they're fans of mine."

So you get an eclectic group of people at your shows. At any given time, it can be celebrities, it can be the porn actors, it can be my mother. Or all at the same time, which makes it an interesting night. There's nothing more fun than hanging out with the porn people and your mother.

So now you can ask the other clever question everyone asks. "Do I call collect?" Yes, I do!

Show Notes

Carrot Top headlines July 1-7 September 9-15, November 11-17 and December 2-22 in the Hollywood Theatre at the **MGM Grand** in Las Vegas. Show times for the July shows are 9 p.m. Sunday through Friday and 7:30 and 10 p.m. on Saturday, July 3. Tickets cost \$40. Call 800-929-1111 or 702-891-7777 The comedian also appears July 10 at the Rio Vista Outdoor Amphitheater at **Harrah's Laughlin**. Call 800-HARRAHS. Also visit www.carrottop.com for more information.

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