NEVADA

MAGAZINE

INSIDE:
The State's Most Complete Guide to Events & Shows

September/October 2004

Best of Nevada: North

Readers reveal their **50** top stars and attractions

Magic Moments

The winners of our **27th** annual photo contest

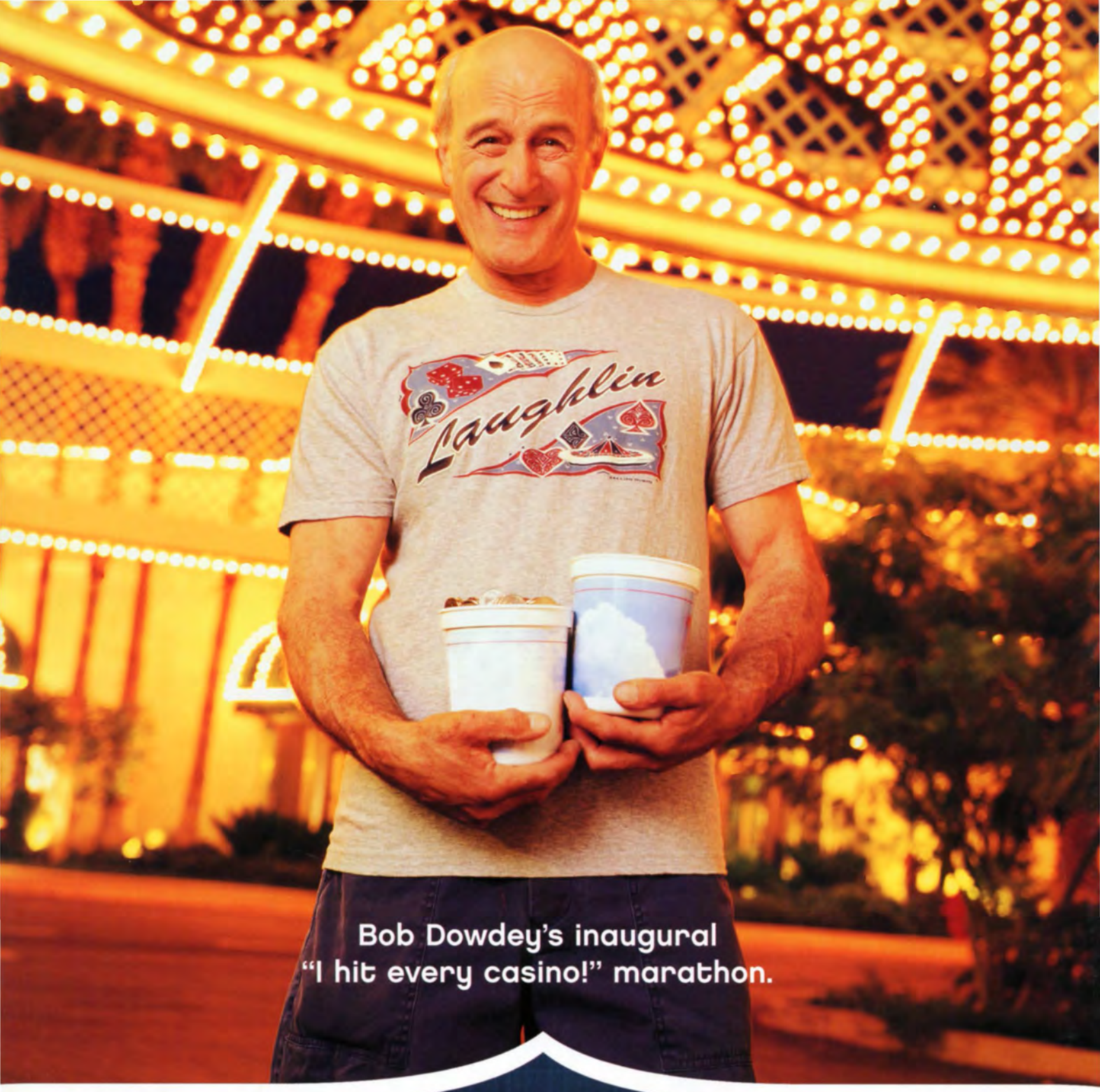
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Fall leaves at Mormon Station, Genoa



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MAGAZINE • VOL. 64 • NO. 4 • SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2004

"The summer sun blasting through our windshield made me wonder how Depression-era travelers endured this trip without air-conditioning."
—Kristin Johannsen on U.S. 93



On the Cover
Fall leaves at Genoa's Mormon Station State Historic Park.

Photo by Jay Aldrich

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PHOTO: Patti McMullan (middle)

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Signs of Nevada

When **Kristin Johannsen** takes a trip, she travels back in time. Kristin and her husband, Kevin Millham, have been retracing tours from the *American Guide Series* travel books, which were written for each state in the 1930s by the Writers' Program of the Works Projects Administration.



Johannsen

"I often ran across the guidebooks in dusty old bookstores," the 46-year-old resident of Berea, Kentucky, says. "Each book is like a portrait of a time as much as of a place." Last year, Kristin and Kevin drove U.S. 93 from Las Vegas to Wendover with the 1940 *Nevada: A Guide to the Silver State* in hand. Her story of that trip, "Time Travel," and several of Kevin's photos appear in this issue.

Kristin, who is working on a book about American ginseng, also has written about their tours of Missouri, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah using WPA guidebooks. During the Nevada trip, Kristin was delighted by the sense that the past is still alive.

"We went to a lot of small towns, like Pioche, where it takes no imagination at all to put yourself back 100 years," she says. "In other places in the West the past is preserved as a tourist attraction, but in Nevada it's really breathing."



Clifton

Reno newspaper columnist **Guy Clifton**, who moved with his parents and five siblings to Gabbs at age two in 1964, feels people don't have to be born in the Silver State to be "real Nevadans."

"But there are things every Nevadan should know or might have done," Clifton says. On Nevada Day 2001 he pursued that notion in his *Reno Gazette-Journal* column by listing "real-Nevadan" signs such as "You've thrown a rock down a mine shaft." The response surprised him. "I invited people to send me their own memories, and I literally got flooded with thousands of submissions." The inundation led to six more columns and two books, which are illustrated by Marilyn Melton of Reno. Volume II of *You Know You're a Nevadan If...*, due out this fall, is excerpted in this issue's "Nevada Almanac."

Clifton, the author of *Reno Rodeo: A History*, is writing a novel set in 1930s Nevada. Weekly he receives new *You Know You're a Nevadan If..* submissions and plans a third book. He says he considered including "You know you're a Nevadan if you went swimming in a Fallon irrigation ditch and a dead cow floated past," but he's still too traumatized by the experience.—*Joyce Hollister*

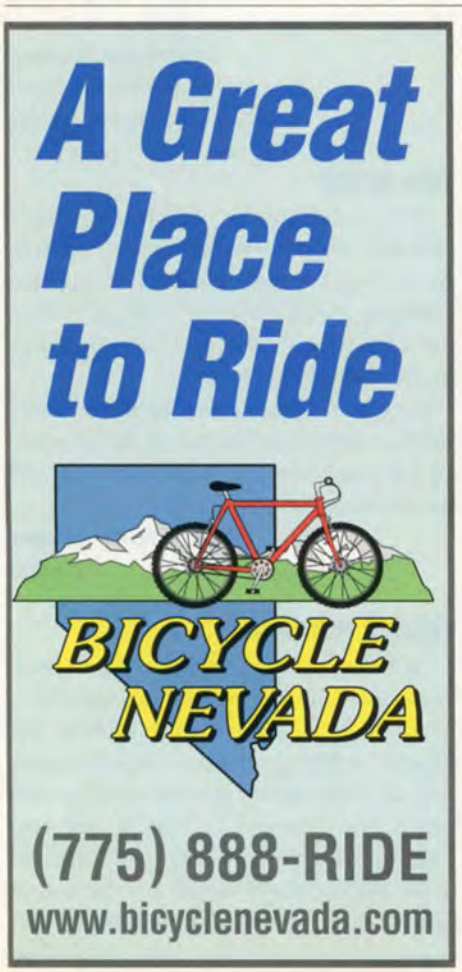




PHOTO: Kevin Millham (left)

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Letters

"Best of Nevada," the redwood RV, and clean air

Logging On

When I read the letters about the redwood RV in *Nevada Magazine's* July/August issue, I had to send you these pictures. They were taken January 17 2004, at an RV show in Tampa, Florida. When I was a little girl, I saw a redwood tree house in the redwood forests. My grandson Lazer and I went through it so I could relive old memories. I don't know if it is the same RV.

Linda Hensley
Orlando, FL



Linda Hensley's grandson Lazer stands on the porch of a redwood travel trailer at an RV show in Florida. Is this the mystery RV?

Redwood RV at the Fair

I am interested in the photo of the redwood RV that appeared in the May/June issue. I believe that I went through the RV at our county fair in Asheville last September. I can't be positive that it is the same one, but it looks the same, and I remember that it was rather old.

When I opened the magazine, I remember thinking, "Wow, I got to walk through that!" The RV was very nice and well kept.

Jane Patterson
Arden, NC

Linda and Jane, thanks for your letters about the redwood RV that was once based in Gerlach. Linda, the redwood RV in your photo looks very much like one in last issue. Perhaps the unique travel trailer has been found.—Ed.

Valley of Fire Fans

Thanks to the readers of *Nevada Magazine* for voting Valley of Fire the best state park in the south (July/August 2004). Even though we were competing against our colleagues, it is nice to know that you thought we were the best. We strongly encourage readers to visit all Nevada state parks. After all, we're yours for the keepin'

Jennifer Finlen
Park Ranger, Valley of Fire State Park
Overton

Steaking Claim

We are thrilled that Harrah's Laughlin received several awards, including the best gourmet restaurant in Laughlin, in *Nevada Magazine's* "Best of Nevada" readers' poll. I want to note that our steakhouse is no longer called William Fisk's. The steakhouse was renovated about two years ago and reopened as the Harrah's-branded Range Steakhouse, with the same spectacular view of the Colorado River. We thank the readers of *Nevada Magazine* for voting Harrah's the best in Laughlin.

Madeleine Weekley
Director of Public Relations
Harrah's Southern Nevada

Tule Artist

The July/August article by Joyce Hollister about Mike Williams, "The Tule Artist," was fantastic. How wonderful that Williams has found his calling making duck decoys and other art while using tules in the style of his ancestors.

Even better yet, his son Micah and other young members of the family are showing an interest in the tule work. Heritage and traditions are so important.

Shirley Fraser
Minden

There's the Beach

As I was perusing my July/August issue of *Nevada Magazine*, I was challenged by a headline on a photo asking, "Where's the Beach?" I thought it would be easy to answer as I had spent every summer on that beach since I was three months old, and I am now three score and two. This had to be Zephyr Cove Beach on the southeastern shore of Lake Tahoe, but I was surprised to see it identified as Sand Harbor.

PHOTO: Linda Hensley

My grandmother, Tegwen Daniel, built a summer cabin at Zephyr Cove in 1926-1927 She at one time was Worthy Grand Matron of Eastern Star for Nevada. I thought of her as I reexamined Larry Angier's photo (at right). Looking closely, I saw a familiar rock, the Big Pier, and the point where the Dreyfus Mansion is located in the background.

Dave Minedew
Reno

Dave, thanks for the correction.—Ed.



Where's the beach? This shoreline is at Zephyr Cove.

Smoke-Free Eateries

"Smoking or Non? Casinos Clear the Air" by Wilma LaRocca in the May/June issue made several great points. I appreciate that the article focused on the fact that most people don't smoke (73 percent of Nevada adults don't smoke) and how some casino areas are going smoke-free.

There are more than 210 Las Vegas-area restaurants listed in the Clark County Health District's smoke-free restaurant guide (www.cchd.org/smokefree). Also, the Washoe County Tobacco Prevention Coalition maintains an extensive directory (www.notobacconevada.com) that lists about 230 smoke-free restaurants in Reno, Sparks, Incline Village, Carson City, and Elko. Second-hand smoke is a serious issue, and more needs to be done to raise awareness of its dangers. Thanks to the places that are trying to protect people from secondhand smoke.

Mandi York
Clark County Health District
Las Vegas

Clearing the Air

While I appreciated reading about Nevada's move towards smoke-free gaming, eating, and hotel environments in "Smoking or Non?" in the May/June issue, it is important to realize that neither ventilation nor separate sections can protect people from the health damage caused by second-hand tobacco smoke. Many of these health risks—especially heart attacks—are triggered at very low levels of exposure.

Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights applauds those Nevada proprietors who have adopted 100-percent smoke-free policies in recognition of the better health and business that comes with clean, healthy air.

Cynthia Hallett
Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights
Berkeley, CA

How to Submit Letters

Readers are encouraged to comment on stories and photos in the magazine. Write "Letters to the Editor," Nevada Magazine, *401 N. Carson St., Suite 100, Carson City, NV 89701-4291; fax 775-687-6159; e-mail editor@nevadamagazine.com.*



PHOTO: Larry Angier

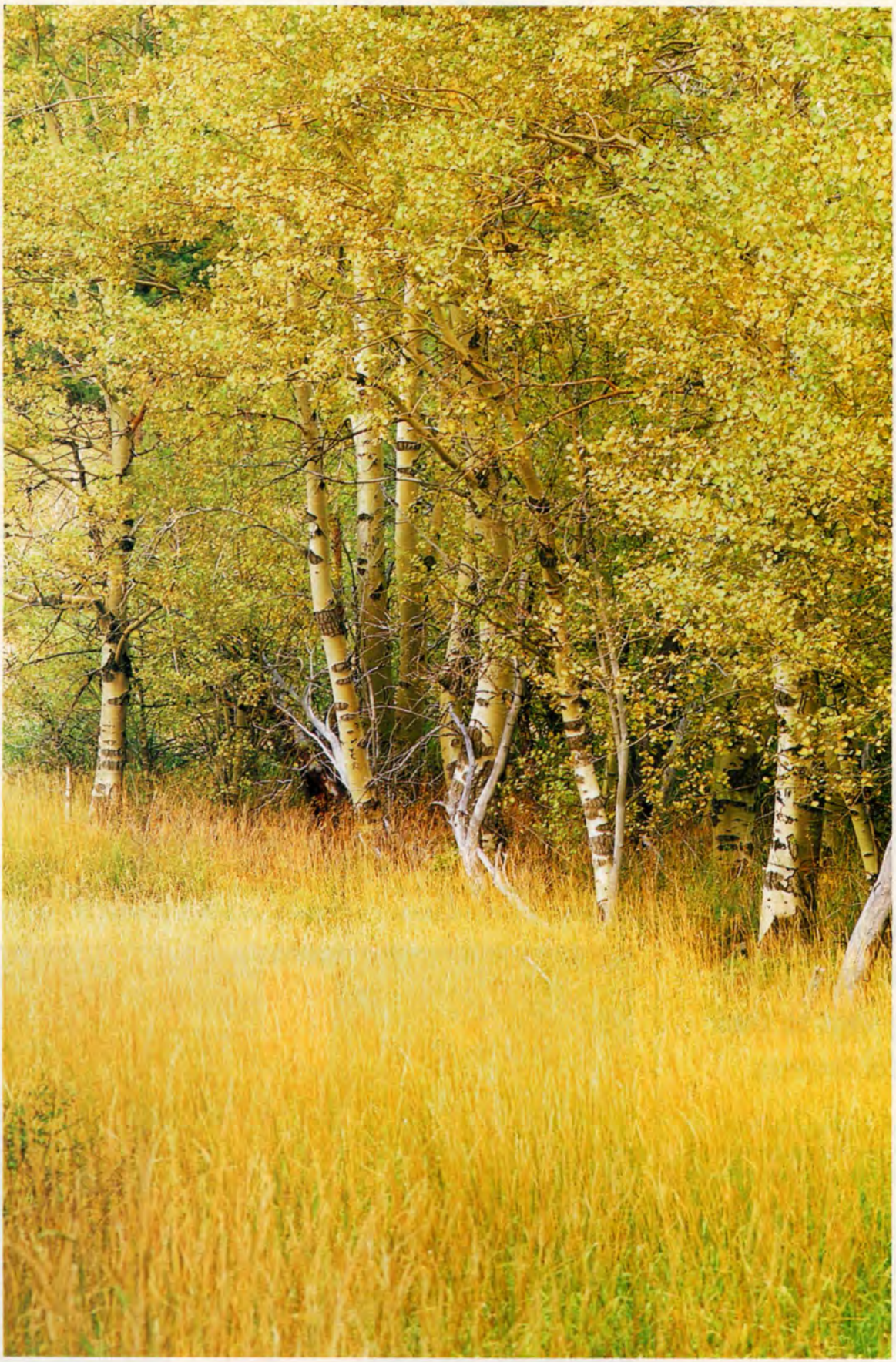


Colors of Fall

Autumn offers impressionist views of Nevada.

Yellow rabbitbrush contrasts with the red leaves of skunkbrush sumac at Great Basin National Park (above) in a photo by **Tom Gamache**, who owns Wandering Around Outdoors Photography in Calabasas, California. "Photographers find transitions exciting," he says, "like when things change from winter to spring, summer to fall."

Opposite page: The sun had just gone down at Galena Creek Park near Reno, and the grasses and aspen were vibrant with autumn color. Reno nature photographer and backpacker **Tim Stach** says the scene matched his solitary mood. "There was nobody else around," he says. "The wind was blowing, and the colors were incredible."—*Joyce Hollister*



People

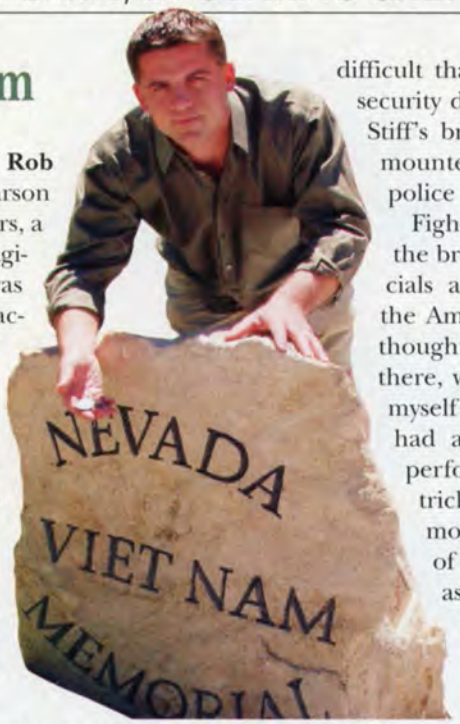
Tag hunters, an **OLYMPIC CHEF**, a stellar speller, and a **LEGEND.**

Dogtags.com

By Eric Bolander

In January 2001 **Rob Stiff**, owner of Carson City's Magic Makers, a manufacturer of magician's supplies, was scouting possible factory sites in Ho Chi Minh City along with his business partner, Jim Gain of Florida. With time to kill before their return flight, they went souvenir shopping.

In a small shop they made what Stiff calls "an eerie and macabre discovery." The vendor was selling American war souvenirs—GI helmets, uniforms, boots, medals, even letters and postcards. Something hanging on a wire from the ceiling caught Gain's attention: a bundle of dog tags.



Rob Stiff holds a dog tag.

"Are these real?" they asked.

"Yes. Genuine," the shopkeeper answered.

Sickened, they left the shop for the airport. In the air, Gain spoke to Stiff of the importance that dog tags held for soldiers, and the two men formulated a plan to return the dog tags to their rightful owners.

Rob Stiff and Jim Gain have returned 152 of 620 dog tags to their rightful owners.

Four months later, Stiff and Gain were back in Ho Chi Minh City. They scoured the shops that dot the former capital of South Vietnam. Out of thousands of dog tags they examined, they bought 620 for the total sum of 2,000 *dong*, or about 14 cents apiece.

Leaving the country proved to be more difficult than expected. Airport security discovered the tags in Stiff's briefcase. The tension mounted as the Vietnamese police were summoned.

Fighting the urge to throw the briefcase at airport officials and make a run for the American Embassy, Stiff thought quickly. "As I stood there, wishing I could make myself disappear," he says, "I had an idea." He started performing coin and card tricks. Soon the officials' mood changed from one of suspicion to delight as Stiff performed one illusion after another. With smiles, bowing, and hand-shaking the security personnel waved the two Americans through the gates.

Back in the States, they spent hours sorting the dog tags and searching the Internet. To date, they have returned 152 of the 620 "liberated" dog tags to veterans or their families, all at Stiff's and Gain's own expense.

Critics of the Found Dog Tags project have expressed concern that the dog tags might not be genuine, but Stiff and Gain are not deterred.

"The thought that they might be fakes had crossed our minds," says Stiff. "We, instead, decided to take the more positive approach and ask ourselves, 'What if they are real?'"

Eric Bolander is a freelance writer living in Dayton. Visit www.founddogtags.com for more information on Stiff's and Gain's project.

Cooking by the Numbers

Chef **Jesus Cibrian** of Las Vegas was hired to oversee the care and feeding of more than 16,500 athletes, 5,500 team officials, and 10,000 volunteers at the 2004 Summer Olympic Games held in Athens in August. The buffet-style dining hall at the Olympic Villa was open 24 hours and served more than 6,000 people a day.

Cibrian is the chef at the Las Vegas Convention Center's Aramark in-house food management service (Aramark was contracted by the International Olympics Committee). In Athens he managed 100 Aramark employees, who manned multiple stations serving 200 to 250 food items each. The chef will return to Las Vegas following the Paralympic Games in Athens, which conclude September 28.—*Joyce Hollister*



Las Vegas chef Jesus Cibrian.

PHOTOS: Eric Bolander (top), Las Vegas News Bureau (bottom)



Shankari Rajagopal of Fallon wears the National Spelling Bee shirt she won in June.

Spelling Champ

Thirteen-year-old **Shankari Rajagopal** finally got the National Spelling Bee logo shirt she has coveted since the second grade. "I always wanted that shirt," says the Fallon student, who appeared on national television as Nevada's representative to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in June. "I made it to the fifth round, and I got the shirt."

Shankari was accompanied by her mother, Karpagam, her father, Raj Krishnamoorthy, the environmental director for Fallon Naval Air Station, and her 11-year-old brother, Shiva, to the competition in Washington, D.C.

Shankari tied for 27th out of 265 contestants before she was eliminated. She missed "anemochore" (a plant in which the fruits or seeds are dispersed by the wind). She says she had reviewed the word only two days earlier but probably became nervous by having to wait during an ESPN commercial break.

An eighth grade student when she won the Nevada State Spelling Bee in March, Shankari is now a ninth grader at Churchill County High School. She wants to be a surgeon.

Shankari's classmates were pulling for her during the competition. The Fallon middle school's televisions were set on ESPN, and all the computers displayed the bee's Web site. Shankari says, "My teachers told me that between classes the kids would run in and ask, 'Did she make it to the next round?'"—*Joyce Hollister*

When You're Smiling

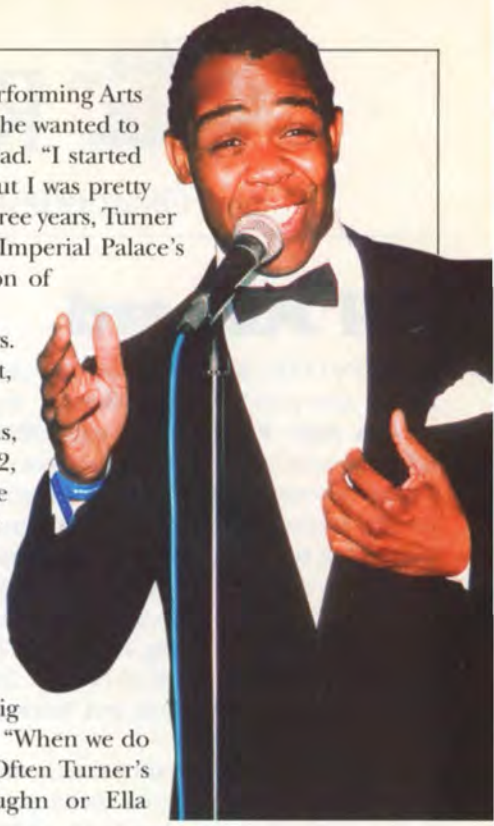
Darrell Turner entered the Visual and Performing Arts School in Long Beach in 1977 because he wanted to meet girls, but he found a career instead. "I started singing. I started acting," he says. "I found out I was pretty good at it." A Las Vegas resident for the past three years, Turner recently won $500 and an audition for the Imperial Palace's "Legends in Concert" with his impersonation of Louis Armstrong.

"I practice Armstrong every day," Turner says. "I study his mannerisms, his gestures. I just eat, sleep, and drink Louis Armstrong."

Under the name Turnout Productions, Turner and his five sons, Andre, 7 Darrell, 12, Justin, 15, Germaine, 16, and Michael, 18, have performed at public schools. They educate students on the history of African-American and popular music from the days of slavery to the modern era. Country, jazz, hip-hop, and Motown are part of the show, which features all live singing.

"When we're the Jackson Five, we wear big Afro wigs just like the Jacksons," Turner says. "When we do the Temptations, we come out in tuxedoes." Often Turner's wife, Carmela, does a turn as Sarah Vaughn or Ella Fitzgerald.

Turner believes the music of Armstrong, a great singer and trumpeter, is timeless. "It's a feeling that goes beneath the surface, and it really touches your soul when you hear it," he says. "It puts you in a good mood."—*Joyce Hollister*



Darrell Turner earned an audition for "Legends in Concert" with his Louis Armstrong impersonation.



PHOTO: Raj Krishnamoorthy (top left)



Roadside Attractions

Oktoberfest, **TRAIN RIDES**, and historical **TREASURES.**

All Aboard

CARSON CITY—Motor Car No. 401, one of the few non-Nevada exhibits at the **Nevada State Railroad Museum**, offers rides on three weekends in September.

The restored motor car first operated on the Tucson, Cornelia, and Gila Bend Railroad at the Phelps-Dodge copper operations in Ajo, Arizona. Originally powered by a gasoline engine, the motor car covered 700,000 miles from 1926 to 1947 In 1976 No. 401 doubled as the No. 50 *Washoe Zephyr* at the Virginia and Truckee Railroad in Virginia City.

Acquired by the state railroad museum in 1988, the motor car, now diesel powered, is on track September 11-12, 18-19, and 25-26. A steam locomotive will be operating on October 17 and again for Nevada Day parade day on October 30. Admission to the railroad museum is free that day.

A motor car ride costs $2 adults, $1 ages six to 11, and free under age six. Steam-train ticket prices are $4 and $2. Museum admission costs $4 adults and $3 seniors 65 and older; those under 18 enter free. The Nevada State Railroad Museum is located at 2180 South Carson Street, a mile south of the Capitol. Call 775-687-6953 for more museum information.—*Carolyn Fox*



Motor Car No. 401 gives rides in September at the state railroad museum in Carson City.

On Track in Boulder City

BOULDER CITY—Railroad history is picking up steam in Southern Nevada, where the new **Nevada Southern Railway** rolls out its historic cars for treks along the Boulder Branch Line.

Train buffs can climb aboard one of several old-time Pullman coaches, some of which date back to 1911, for the seven-mile, 45-minute round trip to Railroad Pass. While passengers soak up views of the cacti-covered Eldorado Valley, they can relax on the cushy velvet seats and listen to volunteers tell of railroad history. The ride offers two air-conditioned enclosed cars, one open-air car, and one lounge coach. The engines are diesel-electric. The costumed volunteers are happy to pose for pictures.

The Union Pacific built the tracks in 1931 to haul supplies from Las Vegas to Boulder City for the construction of Hoover (then Boulder) Dam. The Boulder Branch Line used for the excursion was donated to the Nevada State Railroad Museum in 1985.

The railroad museum's new station, with shaded benches and a small gift shop and museum, is located in Boulder City at Boulder Highway and Yucca Street. The train will offer rides four times a day on September 11, October 2-3, November 13, and December 4-5 (the Santa Train) at a cost of $7 adults, $6 seniors, and $4 ages 11 and under. Call 702-486-5933 for more information.—*Carolyn Graham*

Unique Boutique

Jewel-encrusted iron doors lead Las Vegas shoppers inside the **Jay Strongwater Boutique** in the Forum Shops at Caesars. Strongwater's carries jeweled and enameled home-décor items such as picture frames, vases, and candlesticks as well as a variety of lipstick holders, mirrored compacts, and whimsical brooches. Strongwater's clients have included Elton John, Madonna, and Celine Dion. The boutique is open 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday through Monday and until midnight Friday and Saturday. Call 702-732-4448 for information.







PHOTO: Carolyn Fox (top)



Costumed servers provide steins of beer and broad smiles at Hofbräuhaus Las Vegas.

Oktoberfest *Oompah-pah*

LAS VEGAS—When visitors enter **Hofbräuhaus Las Vegas**, they're stepping into 400 years of German tradition. King William V commissioned the original Hofbräuhaus in Munich in 1589.

Everything from the tiles on the roof to the scenes painted in the 800-seat beer hall and garden is a precise replica of Hofbräuhaus Munchen. "We took video of the interior and hired an artist to recreate it," says president Stefan Gastager.

The Hofbräuhaus pours Hofbräu lager, one of the many items imported directly from Bavaria. Waitstaff can carry up to 18 liter glasses of the beer at once.

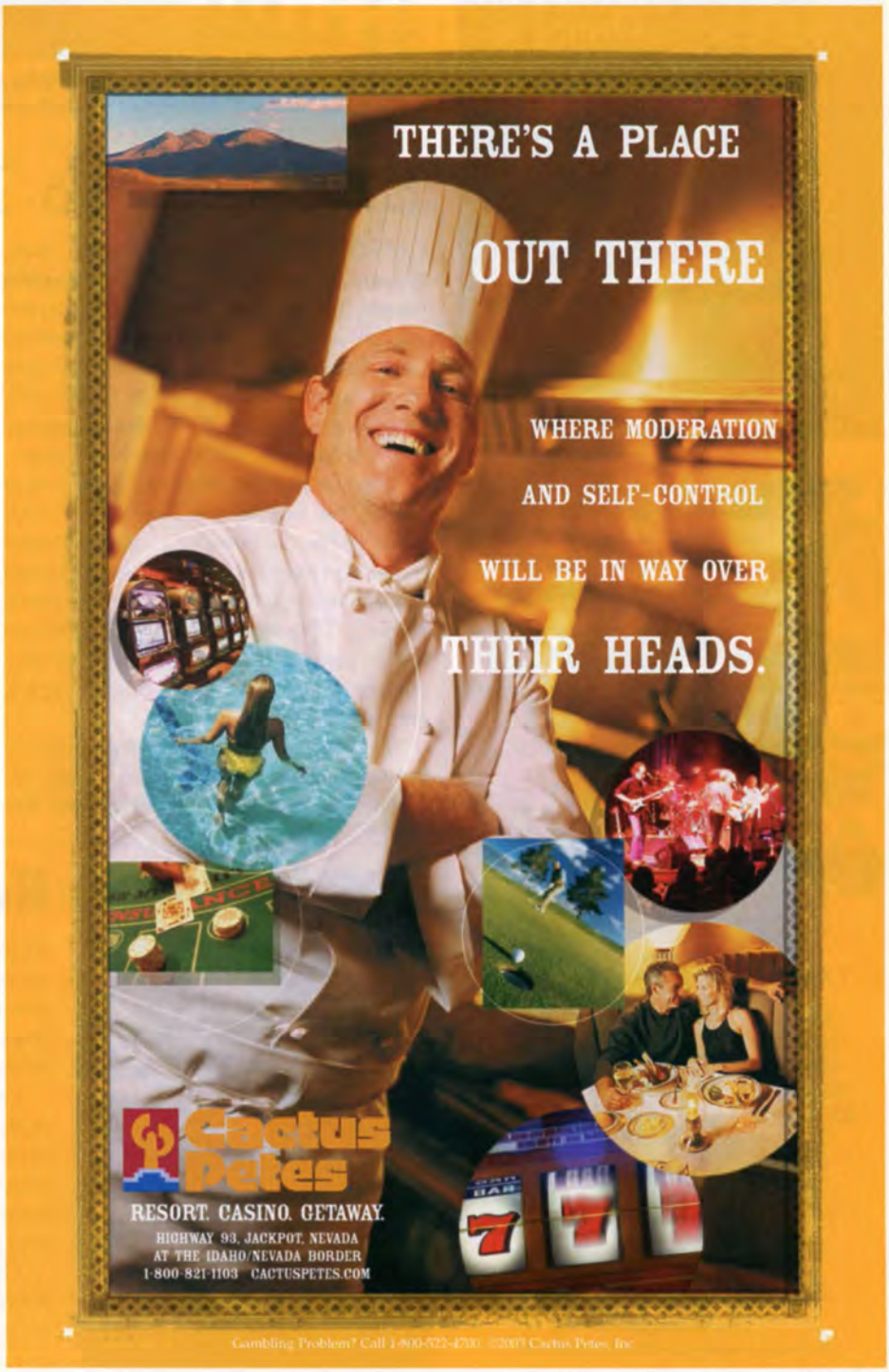
The Las Vegas establishment also offers Oktoberfest, which, in conjunction with the celebration in Germany, begins on September 18 with a keg-tapping ceremony and continues until the end of October.

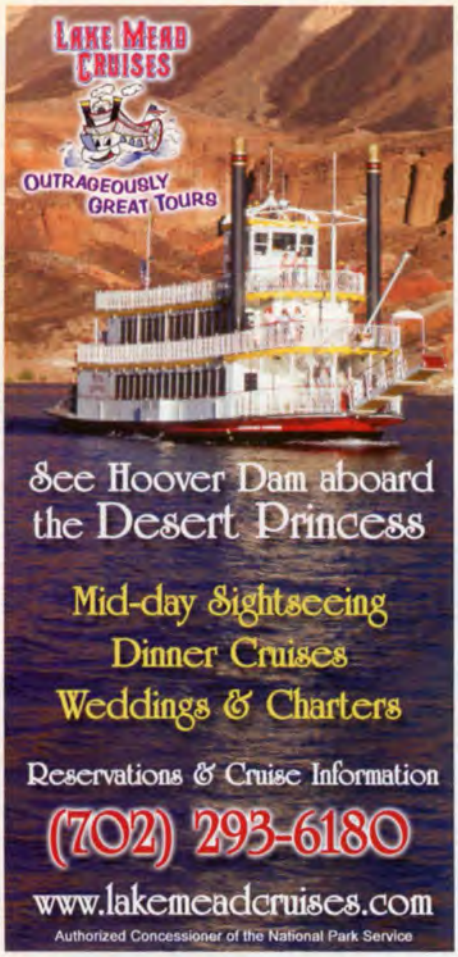
Hofbräuhaus Las Vegas, 4510 Paradise Road at Harmon Avenue, is open daily from 11 a.m. to late evening. Oompah bands play nightly. A free shuttle is available for parties of at least four persons. Call 702-853-2337 or visit www.hofbrauhauslasvegas.com.—*Jennifer Prosser*

Cool Stuff

In 1928 Frank Detra, owner of the Pair-O-Dice Club in Las Vegas, gave a pocket watch to Al Capone in honor of their friendship. The watch is part of the **"Cool Stuff From the Back Room"** exhibit through October 3 at the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 700 Twin Lakes Drive in Las Vegas. The show includes such items as a 1962 *Mad Magazine* slot machine (below) and the silver saddle that cowboy movie star and Nevada Lieutenant Governor Rex Bell rode in Las Vegas' Helldorado parades. Call 775-486-5205 or visit www.nevadaculture.org for more information.











The Red House is the headquarters of Mike Bailey, Silver Saddle Ranch park ranger. Visitors can hike and ride horses on trails traversing Prison Hill west of the ranch.

ESCAPE to PRISON Hill

CARSON CITY—Visitors can bike, hike, and ride their horses at the **Silver Saddle Ranch**, a historic property with ties to the capital city's early ranching and mining days. Several trails crisscross the 720-acre ranch, which covers part of Prison Hill, crosses the Carson River, and stretches into the foothills of the Pine Nut Range.

"People can actually hike from Prison Hill all the way to the Pine Nuts," says Chris Miller, archaeologist and outdoor recreation planner for the Bureau of Land Management, which purchased the ranch in 1997 "The view from the top of Prison Hill is just gorgeous." Visitors can also spot deer, coyotes, hawks, golden eagles, and other wildlife.

The Mexican Ditch runs the length of the ranch. As early as 1862 the irrigation channel provided water to power the now-destroyed Mexican Mill, where silver ore from Virginia City was processed. Today cattle ranching and haying are conducted under a BLM permit.

Old ranch buildings include a root cellar and hay and milk barns. The Red House serves as an information center for the Friends of the Silver Saddle Ranch, a volunteer group. All the buildings are open, says BLM park ranger Mike Bailey, who adds, "People can poke their heads in and look around."

Located at 4901 Carson River Road, the ranch is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. The Friends of the Silver Saddle Ranch plan group activities, such as bird walks and nighttime stargazing, on the second Saturday of every month. Call 775-883-7763 or visit www.nv.blm.gov/carson for information.—*Andy Bourelle*



Rockin' in Reno

RENO—You never know which rock star will take the stage at **The Virg at Harrah's Reno**. Named for its location—at the corner of Virginia and Second Streets—the new night spot offers rock 'n' roll Friday and Saturday nights.

Vintage album covers and posters decorate the dark-blue walls of the room, where beginning about 9:30 p.m. a mix of well-known and up-and-coming artists perform. Visiting rock stars such as John Cafferty (left) and Ronnie Montrose preside over impromptu jam sessions.

The Virg at Harrah's Reno opens at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free, although a cover charge is required for some bands. Call 800-HARRAHS or visit www.harrahs.com for information.

PHOTO: Joyce Hollister (top)

UP and RUNNING



You can take a train ride four miles from the Sahara Hotel to the MGM Grand on the **Las Vegas Monorail**, which opened in July. The elevated train runs daily parallel to the Strip, making stops at seven stations: Sahara, Las Vegas Hilton, Las Vegas Convention Center, Harrah's/Imperial Palace, Flamingo, Bally's/Paris, and MGM Grand. Cost is $3 per ride; ticket combinations are offered. Call 702-699-8200 or visit www.lvmonorail.com for details.

Outback Resort

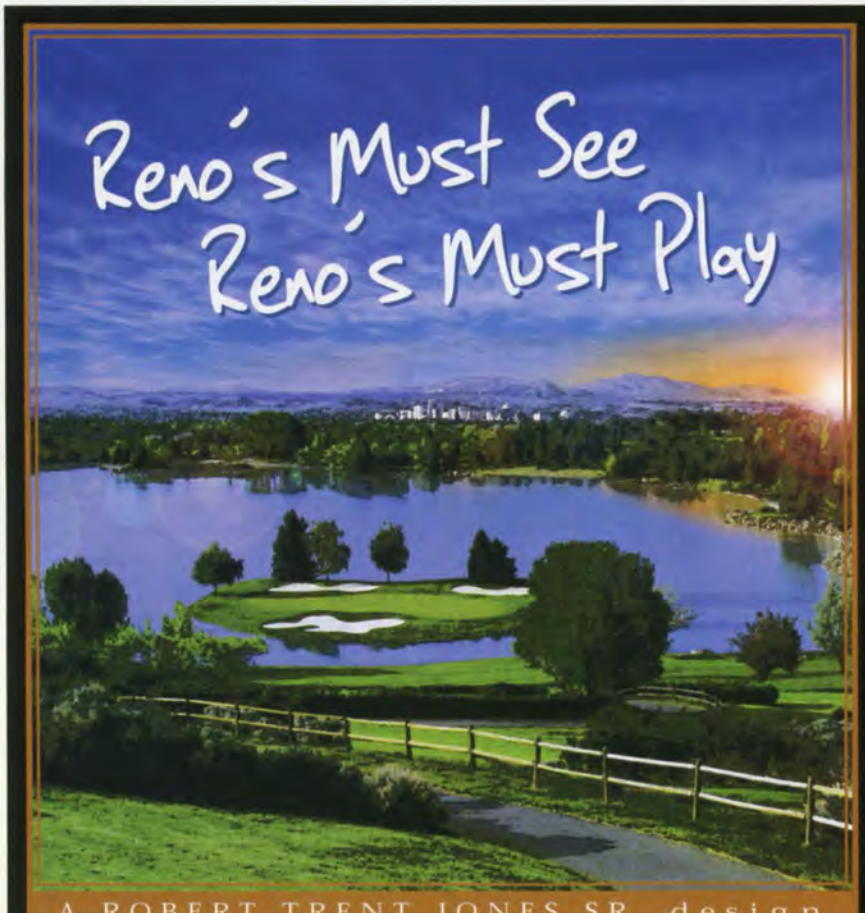


Dennis Dunn and his staff will prepare your catch for you.

ELKO—At **Dunn's Wildhorse Resort**, guests breakfast on stacks of fluffy pancakes dripping with maple syrup. The really hearty eaters stick around for lunch and dinner, when juicy hamburgers and crisp fries are served along with other favorites like steak and pork chops.

Located 67 miles north of Elko on State Route 225, Dunn's is more than a stop along an otherwise lonely road. Resort owner Dennis Dunn provides numerous services. His general store carries bait, ammo, and everyday items. The resort has a full-service RV park, a 16-room lodge, and laundry facilities. RV rates are $18, and lodge rental costs $52.50 per day, double occupancy. Evening conversations revolve around the day's activities. You can fish year-round at Wildhorse Reservoir, less than a mile away, which also offers bird and wildlife watching. There are good chances to see wading birds, raptors, and songbirds. Guides for hunting elk, deer, and mountain lion are available, and boating and trap shooting are popular pastimes. Winter visitors can ski, ride snowmobiles, and ice fish.

The angling experts at Dunn's offer advice on what's biting, and the staff will even cook your catch. When it's time to finally tuck into bed, you might hear a hoot owl's lullaby. For information call 775-758-6472 or log on to www.dunnswildhorseresort.com.—*Cynthia A. Delaney*



Voted the
Best Golf Course in Northern Nevada!

NEVADA Best of Nevada 2004

Thank you, voters!

LAKERIDGE

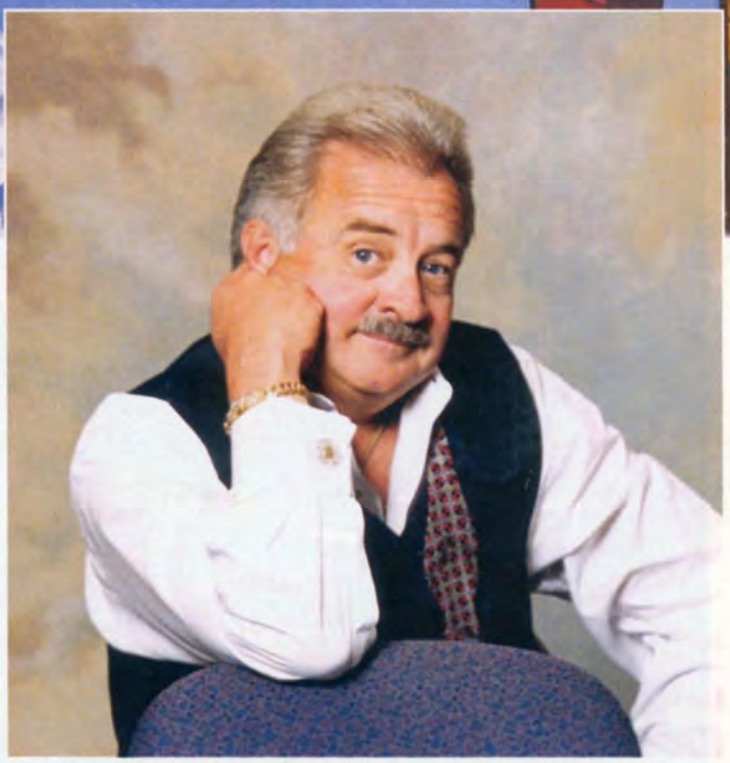
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PHOTO: John Linden Photography (left), Karl Horeis (right)

Best of Nevada: North 2004

Readers reveal their favorite Northern Nevada attractions in *Nevada Magazine's* seventh annual poll.

By Richard Moreno



WIT PLAYER: Danny Marona, who mixes comedy, song, and piano playing in his showroom act, was voted best entertainer and best comedian in Northern Nevada. Marona frequently plays the Atlantis in Reno and Cactus Petes in Jackpot.

PHOTO: Gail Bandini (top)





SAILS: Lake Tahoe (left) was tops for camping and adventure. **STEPS:** "Spirit of the Dance" (above) at Reno's Eldorado was named the north's best production show. "Spirit" is now at the Golden Nugget in Las Vegas. **HONORS:** The Peppermill took several awards, including Reno's best hotel/resort.



Where can you find the best Thai or Italian food in Northern Nevada? What is the region's friendliest town? Who is the north's top entertainer?

The answers to those questions and more are revealed in the seventh annual *Nevada Magazine* "Best of Nevada" survey, in which readers named their choices for Nevada's best of the best. The winners of this year's poll were divided into south and north, and the southern winners were announced last issue (July/August 2004).

Here we present the northern champs from Reno-Sparks, Lake Tahoe, Carson City, and Carson Valley as well as the top finishers in rural Nevada. The voting was, in many cases, extremely close, with the victors decided by a handful of ballots. Following are the winners of this year's "Best of Nevada: North" *Nevada Magazine* readers' poll.

Best Hotel/Resort

Can you say **Peppermill**? For the fourth year in a row the Peppermill was voted the best hotel/resort in Reno, although a previous winner, the Silver Legacy, was close behind. At Lake Tahoe, the best hotel/resort was **Harrah's Lake Tahoe**, a perennial winner. In Carson City, the **Piñon Plaza** was tops for the third straight year. The **Carson Valley Inn** was an easy winner in Carson Valley, and Jackpot's **Cactus Petes** repeated as the premier rural hotel.

Best Place to Gamble

Readers placed their bets on **Harrah's Lake Tahoe, Harveys**, and **Caesars Tahoe**, which tied as the best places to gamble at the lake. In Reno, the **Peppermill** was a four-time winner while in Carson City the **Carson Nugget** was selected top place to gamble for the sixth time. A longtime reader favorite, the **Carson Valley Inn**, was best gambling hall in the Carson Valley, and **Cactus Petes** in Jackpot won in rural Nevada.

Friendliest Casino

There were several repeat winners in the voting for friendliest casino. In Carson City, the **Carson Nugget** became a six-time honoree while the **Peppermill** won for the fourth straight year in Reno. Two-time regional victors in this friendly competition included **Harrah's Lake Tahoe**, the **Carson Valley Inn**, and Jackpot's **Cactus Petes**.

Best Entertainer

He sings. He tells jokes. He plays a pretty mean piano. He's **Danny Marona**, and he was named best entertainer in Northern Nevada for the third time in the last four years.





PICON TIME: Louis Erreguible serves a picon punch at his Louis' Basque Corner in Reno. **PLATEAU PLEASURES:** Cactus Petes in Jackpot won numerous rural honors.

Best Production Show

"Spirit of the Dance" tapped to victory in the voting for best production show. In 2004, the popular revue, which spotlights traditional Celtic dancing and music, had an extended run at the Eldorado Hotel in Reno before heading south to the Golden Nugget in downtown Las Vegas.

Best New Show

Nevada Magazine readers were whistling a happy tune after voting **"Broadway! The Star Spangled Celebration"** at the Eldorado in Reno as the north's best new show.

Best Comedy Club

With its rotating stable of up-and-coming comedians, **Catch A Rising Star** at Reno's Silver Legacy was an easy winner in the vote for best Northern Nevada comedy club.

Best Comedian

Previous winner **Danny Marona**, who appears regularly at the Atlantis Resort in Reno and Cactus Petes in Jackpot, returned to the winner's circle for the third time in the last four years.

Best Slot Club

Slot clubs are becoming increasingly popular, so it was no surprise that there were two new names at the top of the voting for best slot club. The Reno Peppermill's **Passport** was selected the best club in Northern Nevada while Cactus Petes' **Plateau Players Club** was the rural champ.

Best Place for a Romantic Evening

Romanza at Reno's Peppermill, which features gourmet Italian cuisine, narrowly outpointed its sister restaurant, the White Orchid, as best place for a romantic evening in the north. Best romantic spot in rural Nevada was the **Plateau Room** at Cactus Petes in Jackpot.

Best Buffet

For the fourth year in a row, the Peppermill's **Island Buffet** was the readers' choice for best buffet. Close behind were the Atlantis' Toucan Charlie's Buffet and the Silver Legacy's Victorian Buffet. The **Forest Buffet** in Harrah's Lake Tahoe was the best place to eat your fill at the lake while in rural Nevada it was all **Cactus Petes**.

Best Gourmet Restaurant

With its magnificent views, it's no surprise that the best gourmet room at Lake Tahoe was the **Summit**, perched near the top of Harrah's Lake Tahoe. In Reno, the glamorous **White Orchid** at the Peppermill was the winner. Readers decided that the **Plateau Room** at Cactus Petes offered rural Nevada's best high-end dining.

Best Basque Restaurant

Three years ago we began asking readers for Nevada's best Basque restaurant. Twice before, the answer has been **Louis' Basque Corner** in Reno. The third time is a charm.

Best Italian Restaurant

There was plenty of variety in the voting for best Italian eatery in the north. In the end, **Romanza** at the Peppermill narrowly outpointed Atlantis' MonteVigna, the Eldorado's La Strada, and Romano's Macaroni Grill, all in Reno.

Best Chinese Restaurant

Voters said the north's best Chinese restaurant was Reno's **Palais de Jade**, which also won in 2002.

Best Japanese Restaurant

There's nothing like being entertained by a chef tossing around a big, sharp knife. Or so readers believed by voting **Ichiban Japanese Steakhouse and Sushi Bar** in Reno as best Japanese restaurant in Northern Nevada.

PHOTO: Joyce Hollister (left)





STATION MASTERS: The Peppermill's Island Buffet was first in line in Reno-Sparks. **SWINGING PLACE:** The Reno Hilton's Ultimate Rush was the ultimate thrill ride.

Best Thai Restaurant

There was no tie for best Thai. Readers overwhelming selected the popular **Café de Thai** in Reno as offering the north's best Siamese cuisine.

Best Mexican Restaurant

Readers went with an old Reno favorite, **Mi Casa Too**, in the quest for best Mex. With three locations in Reno and Carson City, there's bound to be a Mi Casa near su casa.

Best Hamburger

It's big, greasy, messy—and definitely delicious. Readers selected the appropriately named **"Awful, Awful"** at the downtown Nugget in Reno as best burger.

Best Seafood Restaurant

When it came to superb seafood, there was a tie in the balloting between **Sterling's Seafood Steakhouse** at the Silver Legacy and **Rapscallion Seafood House**, both in Reno.

Best Vegetarian Restaurant

Vegans of the world will find lots of tasty, meatless dishes at downtown Reno's **Pneumatic Diner**, which was selected as best vegetarian restaurant.

Best Coffee Shop

Top vote getter in this category was the Reno **Peppermill Coffee Shop**, which serves huge helpings of comfort foods, ranging from chicken fried steak to omelets. In rural Nevada, the **Branding Iron** in Caliente was chosen for its fine country cooking.

Best Place to Go Dancing

There was a tie for best place to go dancing between a four-time winner, the **BuBinga Lounge** at the Eldorado in Reno, and **Club Nero's** at Caesars Tahoe. So check out both.

Best Saloon

With its live music, hip atmosphere, and award-winning ales and lagers, the **Brew Brothers** at the Eldorado in Reno earned honors for best saloon. In rural Nevada, the **Bucket of Blood Saloon**, which has served drinks and food to Virginia City tourists and locals for more than half a century, won for a sixth time.

Best Brewpub

Since we added this category four years ago, the **Brew Brothers** at Reno's Eldorado has won every year. It did again.

Best Thrill Ride

This year we added the category of best thrill ride in Northern Nevada. While there were creative suggestions such as "riding in a car driven by my 16-year-old son," the winner was the Reno Hilton's **Ultimate Rush**, on which you swing back and forth at a height of about 180 feet. And you actually pay $25 for the privilege.

Best National Park/Federal Lands

Great Basin National Park was once again chosen best national park/federal lands in rural Nevada. Winner of same in Northern Nevada was the **Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest**, which includes 10 districts spread across 6.3 million acres in the state.

Best State Park

It was all dinosaurs and deep water here. Best rural state park was **Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park** near Gabbs, which combines a preserved early-20th-century mining camp and an archaeological dig site containing the fossilized remains of nearly three dozen prehistoric ichthyosaurs. Best northern park was **Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park**, which includes Sand Harbor, the Tahoe Rim Trail, and Spooner Lake.





NEAT STREETS: Tourists visit C Street in Virginia City, readers' favorite historic town (above). In Reno, a '32 Lincoln attracts admirers at the National Automobile Museum (top), which tied for tops with the Nevada Museum of Art.

Best Golf Course

Readers were passionate about their favorite links. In rural Nevada, there was a three-way tie between the **Mason Valley Country Club** in Yerington, the **Jackpot Golf Club**, and the **Emerald River Country Club** in Laughlin. There was also a tie for best northern golf course between the **Resort at Red Hawk** in Sparks and **LakeRidge Golf Course** in Reno.

Best Place to Take Kids

For the first time since we started "Best of Nevada," there was a new champion for best place to take kids. **Circus Circus** in Reno dethroned six-time winner Lake Tahoe. In rural Nevada, **Virginia City** was named the top kid-friendly place for a fifth time.

Friendliest Town

Just because you're the Biggest Little City in the World doesn't mean you can't be friendly. Once again, **Reno**, which won the three previous years, was the clear choice as the region's friendliest town.

Best Outdoor Adventure Place

The Blue World—**Lake Tahoe**—was the overwhelming choice for best outdoor adventure place. With its deep, clear waters and picture-perfect alpine setting, what's not to like?

Best Special Event

It must be the cars. For the seventh year the annual celebration of the vehicles and music of the '50s and '60s, **Hot August Nights**, was tapped as best special event in Northern Nevada. Meanwhile, there was a tie in rural Nevada between the **Virginia City Camel Races**, a previous winner, and **Jim Butler Days**, Tonopah's Memorial Day weekend festivities.

Best Place to Ski

For the fourth time, **Mount Rose-Ski Tahoe**, located a half-hour from Reno, was the prohibitive choice as best place to ski in the state.

Best Campground

With so much open space in Nevada, there's no shortage of places to set up a tent. Readers, however, really liked one camping place in particular—**Lake Tahoe**.

Best Historic Community

Comstock mines. Wooden sidewalks. Mock gunfights. Mark Twain. It all adds up to **Virginia City**, the 19th-century mining town that *Nevada* readers voted the state's best historic community.

Best Place to Shop

With stores ranging from Macy's to the Gap, Reno's **Meadowood Mall** made it a perfect seven as readers named it best place to shop in the north for a seventh straight year. In rural Nevada, it was a tie between two factory-store powerhouses, the **Horizon Outlet Mall** in Laughlin and **Fashion Outlets of Las Vegas** in Primm.

Best Museum

In a battle of Reno cultural centers, the **Nevada Museum of Art** tied with the **National Automobile Museum** as the Northland's best museum. In the rurals, the **Tonopah Historic Mining Park** was selected the winner for the third year in a row.

Best Wedding Chapel

It was a mad dash to the altar in this category, but the **Arch of Reno Wedding Chapel** repeated as best wedding chapel in the north.

Richard Moreno is Nevada Magazine's *publisher.*

PHOTO: Julius Fava (bottom)

"Best of Nevada: South 2004"

Here we present the entertainers, shows, resorts, restaurants, and attractions that were selected as Southern Nevada winners by *Nevada Magazine* readers in the seventh annual "Best of Nevada" poll. These honorees for Las Vegas, Laughlin, Mesquite, and other Southern Nevada places were announced in the July/August issue. Congratulations to the 2004 winners, both north and south.—*Richard Moreno, Publisher*

Best Hotel/Resort
Bellagio, Las Vegas
Harrah's Laughlin
CasaBlanca, Mesquite

Best Place to Gamble
Mandalay Bay, Las Vegas
Harrah's Laughlin
CasaBlanca, Mesquite

Friendliest Casino
Mandalay Bay, Las Vegas
Harrah's Laughlin
CasaBlanca, Mesquite

Best Slot Club
Harrah's Total Rewards

Best Entertainer
Wayne Newton

Best Production Show
Tie: "O," Bellagio, and "Mamma Mia!," Mandalay Bay, Las Vegas. Also, north winner "Spirit of the Dance" is now at Golden Nugget, Las Vegas

Best New Show
"Zumanity," New York-New York, Las Vegas

Best Afternoon Show
Breck Wall's "Bottoms Up," Flamingo Las Vegas

Best Comedy Club
Improv at Harrah's Las Vegas

Best Comedian
Carrot Top

Best Magic Show
Lance Burton, Monte Carlo, Las Vegas

Best Place for a Romantic Evening
Top of the World Restaurant, Stratosphere Tower, Las Vegas

Best Buffet
Carnival World Buffet, Rio, Las Vegas
Fresh Market Square Buffet, Harrah's Laughlin
CasaBlanca Buffet, Mesquite

Best Gourmet Restaurant
Picasso, Bellagio, Las Vegas
Range Steakhouse, Harrah's Laughlin
Katherine's, CasaBlanca, Mesquite

Best Italian Restaurant
Bootlegger Restaurant, Las Vegas

Best Chinese Restaurant
P.F. Chang's, Las Vegas

Best Japanese Restaurant
Benihana, Las Vegas Hilton

Best Thai Restaurant
Komol, Las Vegas

Best Mexican Restaurant
Lindo Michoacan Restaurant, Las Vegas

Best Hamburger
In-N-Out Burger, Las Vegas

Best Seafood Restaurant
Michael Mina Bellagio(formerly Aqua) Bellagio, Las Vegas

Best Vegetarian Restaurant
Go Raw Café and Juice Bar, Las Vegas

Best Coffee Shop
Café Bellagio, Bellagio, Las Vegas

Best Saloon
Gilley's, New Frontier, Las Vegas

Best Brewpub
Monte Carlo Pub and Brewery, Las Vegas

Best Place to Go Dancing
Studio 54, MGM Grand, Las Vegas

Best Thrill Ride
Big Shot, High Roller, and X-Scream at Stratosphere Tower, Las Vegas

Best Golf Course
Tie: Revere Golf Club and Rio Secco Golf Club, Henderson
Rural: Emerald River Country Club, Laughlin

Best National Park
Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area

Best State Park
Valley of Fire State Park

Best Place to Take Kids
Adventuredome, Circus Circus, Las Vegas

Best Special Event/Festival
NASCAR, Las Vegas Motor Speedway

Best Place to Shop
Forum Shops at Caesars, Las Vegas
Rural tie: Horizon Outlet Center, Laughlin, and Fashion Outlets of Las Vegas, Primm

Best Museum
Liberace Museum, Las Vegas

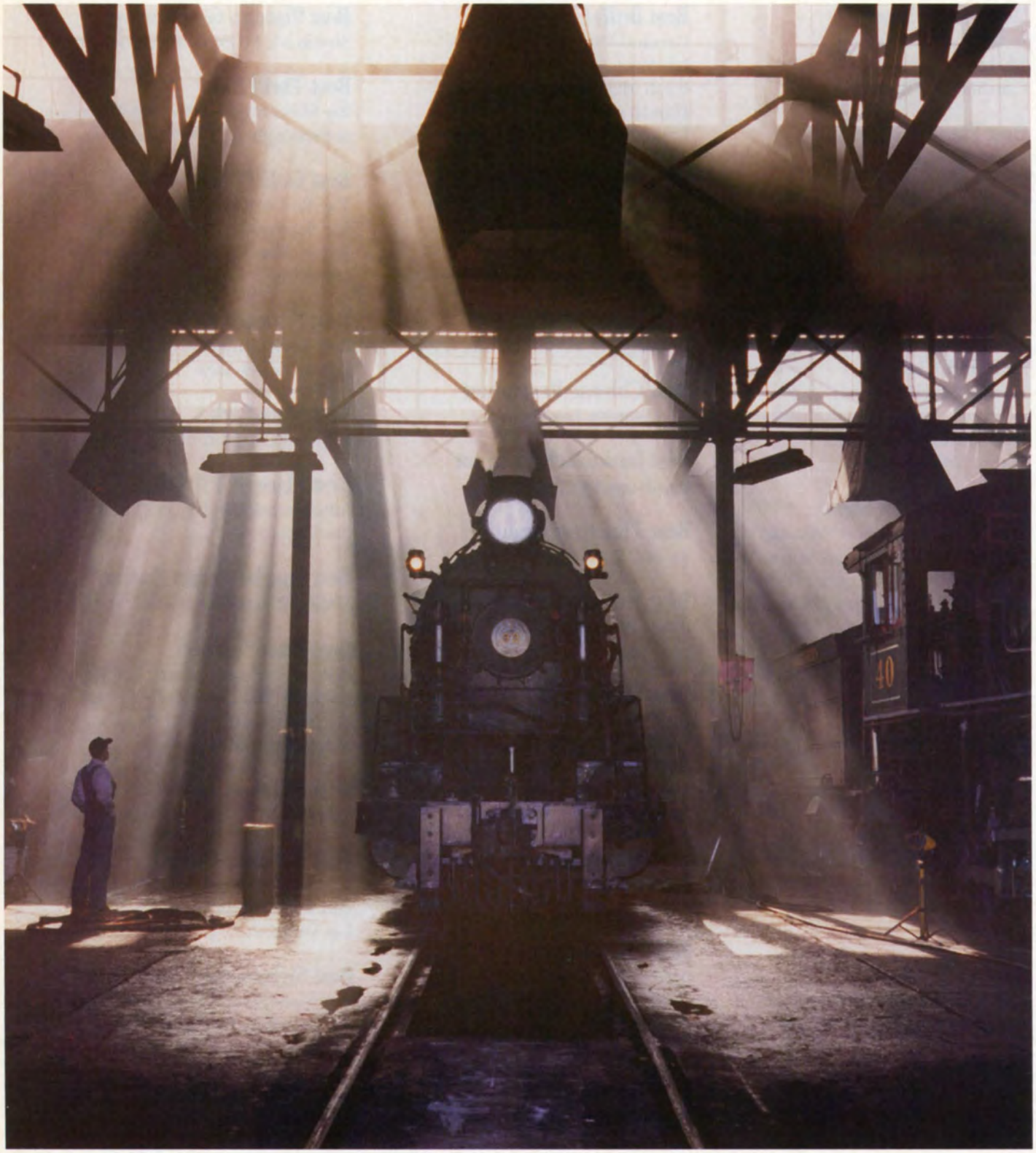
Best Wedding Chapel
Tie: Viva Las Vegas Wedding Chapel and Little Chapel of the West, Las Vegas

Best Sightseeing Tour Company
Tie: Sightseeing Tours Unlimited, All American Tours, and Casino Travel and Tours, Las Vegas

Best Helicopter Tour Company
Sundance Helicopters, Las Vegas

Magic Moments

Great Nevada Picture Hunt winners find that time is on their side



FIRST PLACE: "Welcome Home, Nevada Northern Railway Museum" by Joel Jensen, Summerland, CA



THIRD PLACE: "Spring Sunset, Red Rock Canyon" by Komkrit Thusanapanont, Las Vegas

Timing is everything, say the top photographers in the 2004 Great Nevada Picture Hunt. For instance, winter is the best season to photograph steam trains, says **Joel Jensen**, whose photo of Engine No. 93 at the Nevada Northern Railway won first place in *Nevada Magazine's* 27th annual photo contest.

"You get more steam when it's cold," Jensen explains. He should know—he coordinates a popular two-day photo shoot at the Ely tourist railroad each February. "We ride the train and get off at various points," says Jensen, a resident of Summerland, California, where he runs a photo lab. "The train backs up and charges toward us, and everybody shoots furiously."

His winning image, "Welcome Home," taken inside the engine house, shows a volunteer talking to someone in No. 93's cab. The contest judges said the scene, with shafts of light filtering through the coal smoke, resembled the inside of a cathedral. "It was almost a religious experience," Jensen says. "To me it captures the essence of the Nevada Northern Railway."

Snow also adds drama to train photos. Jensen took fourth with "The Middle of Nowhere," featuring No. 93 surrounded by white steam, clouds, and snow.

Timing also was critical for **Gary Reese** when he coordinated a demonstration shoot with three fire agencies—the U.S. Forest Service, the Clark County Fire Department, and the Nevada Division of Forestry—for his Community College of Southern Nevada photography students last summer. "It was the most



SECOND PLACE: "Fire Fighters of Mount Charleston" by Gary Reese, Las Vegas

elaborate demo I had ever set up. So many things can go wrong, so you generally set up something simple," the Las Vegas photographer points out.

The result was his second-place winner, "Fire Fighters of Mount Charleston," taken with black-and-white infrared film. Reese broke his own rule that instructors don't take pictures during a demo. "I couldn't help myself," Reese says. "I knew that I would never set that scene up again." The photo shows two Mount Charleston "icons" that Reese required: the tanks that once supplied Old Town's water and Charleston Peak.

Reese also won Best Event for his photo of the Las Vegas New Year's Eve fireworks in 2001, Best Wildlife for "Three Horses," and two honorable mentions.

Komkrit Thusanapanont, a sushi chef at Ah Sin at Paris Las Vegas, waited an entire year for the right moment to take his third-place winner, "Spring Sunset at Red Rock," so he could capture the blooms on the Joshua trees. He'd missed the bloom the year before.

"The thing that makes my pictures different is the weather conditions," the native of Thailand says. "It's really clear right after a rainfall or a storm, and you get really beautiful light." Thusanapanont, who lives near Red Rock Canyon, checked several days ahead to make sure the sun would strike the mountains at the right time. Thusanapanont also photographed Indian petroglyphs for "Art Wall, Valley of Fire State Park," which was named Best Rural Night Scene. He exposed the photo for 15 minutes to show the star trails and used a flashlight to highlight the rock carvings.

Reno photographer Ira Gostin joined Susan Boskoff, director of the Nevada Arts Council, and *Nevada Magazine* art director Denise Barr on the judging panel. The judges noted that the quality of the entries in this year's Great Nevada Picture Hunt was high. Boskoff added, "The submissions demonstrated an understanding and love for the state."—*Joyce Hollister*

Top Five Winners

First Place: "Welcome Home, Nevada Northern Railway Museum" by Joel Jensen, Summerland, CA
Second Place: "Fire Fighters of Mount Charleston" by Gary Reese, Las Vegas
Third Place: "Spring Sunset, Red Rock Canyon" by Komkrit Thusanapanont, Las Vegas
Fourth Place: "The Middle of Nowhere" by Joel Jensen, Summerland, CA
Fifth Place: "Glass Bottle Fence" by Louis Basso, Reno



FIFTH PLACE: "Glass Bottle Fence, Palomino Valley" by Louis Basso, Reno



BEST WILDFLOWERS: "Small Sunflowers and License Plate in Genoa" by Carolyn Fox, Jackson, CA

Best Categories

People: "Lazy Days of Summer With Grandpa, Belmont, Nevada" by Susan Terras, Tonopah
Rural: "Pelosi's Flag" by Marla Carr, Reno
Action: "Close Encounter" by Kenny Merlino, Tonopah
Event: "New Year's Eve Fireworks 2001, Las Vegas" by Gary Reese, Las Vegas
Photo Art: "North End of Carson Valley," two images combined in Photoshop, by Steve Johns, Carson City
Wildlife: "Three Horses" by Gary Reese, Las Vegas
Urban Night: "Boat Ride, Venetian, Las Vegas" by Tom Bidlack, Las Vegas
Scenic: "Winter at Red Rock" by Anne Carter, Las Vegas
Wildflowers: "Small Sunflowers and License Plate in Genoa" by Carolyn Fox, Jackson, CA
Rural Night: "Art Wall, Valley of Fire State Park" by Komkrit Thusanapanont, Las Vegas



BEST PEOPLE: "Lazy Days of Summer With Grandpa, Belmont" by Susan Terras, Tonopah



FOURTH PLACE: "The Middle of Nowhere" by Joel Jensen, Summerland, CA

Honorable Mentions

"Roy Ladd of Marietta" by Larry Angier, Jackson, CA
"Lifting Off," photo art, hand done, by Lainie Thompson, Crystal Bay
"Kaolin Wash 2, Valley of Fire State Park" by Gary Reese, Las Vegas
"Vance Nelson Milking a Cow, Winnemucca, circa 1952" by Mel DeLong, Reno
"71 Ranch," cowboy Scott Satterthwaite and cowdog companion, by Cynthia A. Delaney, Elko
"Ice Crane" by Kurt Molnar, Zephyr Cove
"Mari Gold" by Tara Kilpatrick, Sandy Valley
"Goldfield Cabin" by Gary Reese, Las Vegas
"Ely Cafe" by Warren Bates, Las Vegas
"Desert Blooms Near Toiyabe Dome, Big Smoky Valley" by Barry Glazier, Round Mountain



BEST EVENT: "New Year's Eve Fireworks 2001, Las Vegas" by Gary Reese, Las Vegas



BEST SCENIC: "Winter at Red Rock" by Anne Carter, Las Vegas





BEST RURAL: "Pelosi's Flag, Virginia City" by Marla Carr, Reno

Q&A Hip Hotelier

Las Vegas hotel owner **George Maloof** wants the **Palms** to connect with America's pop culture. **By Bob Barnes**



George Maloof (left) and his Palms Casino Resort are towering trendsetters in Las Vegas.

In the decade since he built the Latin-themed Fiesta in North Las Vegas, **George Maloof** has forged a reputation as one of Nevada's youngest and most innovative hotel-casino owners. Today the 39-year-old hotelier presides over the Palms, the trendy, youth-oriented Las Vegas resort he opened in 2001.

Home of nightclubs like ghostbar and Skin, the Palms gained fame from the MTV show *Real World*, in which a group of party-minded 20-somethings had the run of the place. Maloof's family owns a wide range of businesses, including the NBA's Sacramento Kings. During televised games Maloof and his brothers Joe, Gavin, and Phil often can be seen cheering Chris Webber, Mike Bibby, and other Kings from seats near the team bench. At the Palms, Maloof oversees operations from his office on the third floor.

Recently Las Vegas writer Bob Barnes talked to Maloof about his hotel, his view of the future, and his status as one of the town's most eligible bachelors.

Q When did you know you wanted to live in Las Vegas?
A I visited Las Vegas as a little boy and was drawn to the energy and excitement of the city. My favorite TV show was *Vega$*, and when I was 14, I actually got to watch it being filmed. I wanted to be just like Dan Tanna, the cool private eye with all the girls chasing after him.

Q Did you get your college degree from UNLV?
A I did. I transferred to UNLV in 1984 after attending Trinity College in San Antonio for a year. I graduated in 1987 with a degree in hotel management.

Q When did you venture into the gaming business?
A I knew it was what I wanted to do when I was in college. I spent time in locals' casinos to get the feel for the gaming environment. I got my family interested in the idea, and we eventually opened the Fiesta on Rancho Drive in 1994. We started small and grew into it.

Q Did your youth pose any problems in getting started in the gaming industry?
A It caused major problems. I found the piece of land I wanted to develop the Fiesta on in 1989, but it took me four years to get the financing. After being turned down numerous times I developed a small casino called Central Palace Casino in Central City outside Denver to gain credibility, and then was able to secure a loan.

Q How much involvement do you have with your family's business? Is there a conflict with the Sacramento Kings ownership and your owning and running a gaming enterprise?
A Our family owns all of our enterprises jointly, and we each have different areas of responsibility, mine being the hotel division. We are all involved in the bigger decisions. As for the Kings, we are not allowed to take wagers involving the Kings in our sports book.

Q The Palms is trendy and hip. Did you plan it that way?
A It was all part of a plan to connect with the pop-youth culture and at the same time also appeal to a local clientele. We really have two markets: the younger hip tourist market and the local market. So many couples have met at the Palms—I've heard over and over again stories of people meeting their boyfriend or girlfriend here.

Q Is there a certain reputation you want the Palms to have?
A I've been in Vegas for a long time, 20 years to be exact, and I want to create a place that represents what Vegas is all about, and that's to have a good time and party. I want to make the Palms the ultimate party place where locals and tourists can gather, meet, have fun, and feel comfortable.

Q You've been seen with Hugh Hefner—in fact, having a 50th *Playboy* anniversary party at the Palms. To what extent do you relate to the *Playboy* lifestyle?
A I admire Hefner and how *Playboy* has survived and prospered over the past 50 years. I don't really share the lifestyle. I hope to get married someday, but I just haven't had the time.

Q You've been seen with Britney Spears and Paris Hilton. What's your relationship with them? Strictly business or more?
A It's business and friendship. I have developed many friendships with a lot of celebrities that I enjoy hanging out with and having fun with.

Q What other celebrity guests have you hosted and met at the Palms?
A It's more a question of who hasn't been to the Palms, but to name a few: James Caan, Dustin Hoffman, Christina Aguilera, 'NSync, Rebecca Stamos, Ben Affleck, Jennifer Lopez, and Eminem.

"I want to create a place that **represents what Vegas is all about,** and that is have to have a **good time and party."**

"I wanted to be just like **Dan Tanna, the cool private eye with all the girls** chasing after him."

Q What is the best party or concert you've ever held at the Palms?
A No Doubt was phenomenal. Other great concerts were Ozzy Osbourne, Santana, Pink, KISS, and a private concert in ghostbar by Brooks and Dunn.

Q Do you live the lavish lifestyle that the Palms seems to celebrate?
A I have lived it—I have to at times to understand what the consumer likes and wants—but most of the time after work I just want to go home and relax.

Q You are one of the most recognizable faces in Las Vegas. Is it hard to go out and not be noticed in public?
A I used to be able to go out and sneak around, but in the last year or two that has changed. It's now impossible not be noticed, but I really don't mind when people approach me.

Q What's your favorite place—restaurant or bar—to hang out at the Palms?
A I love the whole place, and it just depends on the mood I'm in, but I like to spend time at Alize, Little Buddha, and ghostbar.

Q What's your favorite place to hang out in other hotel-casinos?
A I like Mandalay Bay. I think they've done a great job with that place. I also like Light at Bellagio.

Q What do you see as the future for Las Vegas?
A This is the craziest town in the world. There's so much growth, money, and creative people, and it'll just continue to get bigger and bigger.

Q What are the future plans for the Palms?
A I want to keep progressing and getting better. We have an expansion coming soon that's been two years in the design. It'll feature a new tower with 300 rooms and suites that are very unique with elements that no one's ever done before in a Vegas resort.

Q Do you plan on opening any more casino resorts?
A I hope to. I'm only 39.

Interviewer Bob Barnes, a native Las Vegan, is a fifth-grade teacher at Garehime Elementary School and a frequent Nevada Magazine *contributor. For information about the Palms Casino Resort, call 866-PALMS-RES or visit www.palms.com.*



WHITE PINE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Time Travel

Motoring from Las Vegas to Wendover, we journeyed back to 1930s Nevada with the state's classic WPA guide.

By Kristin Johannsen • Photos by Kevin Millham





Travel publishers invest lots of time and money to keep their guidebooks current. In any Las Vegas or Reno bookstore you'll find a dozen guides describing Nevada's latest attractions. But is newer always better? On a recent road trip my husband and I decided to go a different route—by following the very first Nevada guidebook ever written.

In 1935, in the depths of the Depression, the Roosevelt Administration came up with an idea: put unemployed writers to work producing travel guides under the Work Projects Administration. The Federal Writers' Project divided the employees into two groups, researchers and writers. The researchers did the driving and reporting while the writers sat in offices and wrote up the information that was collected. In all, more than 7,000 anonymous writers

Model Ts and horse-drawn wagons vie for parking spaces on Aultman Street in Ely (top). Right: The 1940 guidebook and its 1991 reprint.

"It was customary," the WPA guide reported, "for horse thieves and rustlers to drive their stolen herds to the Pahranagat Valley."





FRANK SCOTT COLLECTION

The local Union Pacific Band performs at Caliente's mission-style train depot, about 1930. Top: Cattle graze near Alamo on Pahranagat Valley ranch lands where rustlers once rode.

contributed to the *American Guide Series*, creating one volume for each state. *Nevada: A Guide to the Silver State* appeared in 1940.

WPA researchers drove the length of each highway in Nevada and were required to describe something about every town they passed through, no matter how small. Where there were no tourist attractions, they chatted with locals to fill their quota of pages with superstitions, recipes, and tall tales, capturing an era that was vanishing as they wrote. In Reno, the researchers turned their notes over to the writers, who were supervised by Jeanne Elizabeth Wier, director of the Nevada Historical Society. The Nevada guide they produced contains everything from ranchers' slang (a "pumpkin roller" was an incompetent cowboy) to the menu at schoolhouse dances ("coffee so strong it curls the hair of those unaccustomed to it.")

The WPA guides make marvelous reading, and some book collectors spend years assembling the complete set. But can travelers still use them? In the Nevada volume, Las Vegas is a tidy town of 10,000 people with a modern train station, "broad sunny streets," and two "motion picture houses." Casinos and shows were just beginning to entice tourists who came to marvel at the newly built Hoover Dam.

We set out along Tour 2b, covering 361 miles of U.S. 93 from Las Vegas to West Wendover. All WPA state guides used the same format: Tours follow major highways from north to south and east to west. Heading north from Las Vegas, we traced the route backwards, puzzling out decades of highway renumbering.

The summer sun blasting through our windshield made me wonder how Depression-era travelers endured this trip without air-conditioning. We began with some four-lane backtracking on Interstate 15 to Glendale, "chiefly a large service station," according to the *Guide*, and not much bigger now. A freight train with four engines inched across the arid plains.

Driving north, we were startled to come over a rise and find a big blue lake encircled by cottonwood trees, with water birds paddling its marshes. "The highway," I read, "skirts shallow Pahranagat and Maynard Lakes, where ducks, geese, and snipe are plentiful and draw sportsmen from considerable distances." Hunting is still popular in the Pahranagat National Wildlife Refuge, and the splashing ducks enjoy the oasis as much as human visitors do.

Near Alamo the valley bursts into brilliant green, thanks to underground springs. It's a tranquil scene today, with cattle grazing in plush pastures. The past was another story—the *Guide* called this valley "a mecca for horse thieves." "It was customary," I read, "for horse thieves and rustlers operating in southern Nevada, Utah, and Arizona to drive their stolen herds to the Pahranagat Valley for fattening. It is declared that at one time as many as 350 different brands were found in this region"—rustled from as many ranches!

The WPA writers take the reader on side trips and sidetracks, like the one to Hiko, an 1860s mining camp where close to a million dollars was invested with high hopes. By the 1930s Hiko had faded to a few weathered buildings, and, looking at the handful of present-day ranches, I



The clay spires of Cathedral Gorge State Park formed a backdrop for pageants. Below: A signpost at Pioche's Million Dollar Courthouse.

couldn't imagine where hundreds of people might have lived.

Some other detours, though, proved impossible to follow. In some places the route had vanished with time; in others, our citified sedan couldn't handle the rough dirt road.

The roller-coaster road near Caliente set me marveling again at those 1930s motorists. How had they ever climbed these hills in creaky Model Ts? The *Guide* calls Caliente "charming" but overlooks its most charming feature for present-day travelers—the grand 1929 railroad station, in elegant white stucco with a tile roof and gorgeous oak woodwork.

For years, we read, Caliente was an important junction on the Union Pacific Railroad. Its "long row of company houses" still stands, complete with picket fences and perky flowerbeds, but in our individualistic era, the houses are painted blue, beige, or pink—in fact, anything but "the familiar bright yellow" of the 1930s. A resident told us the houses were sold when the railroad no longer wanted to maintain them.

Nearby Cathedral Gorge State Park enthralled 1930s travelers and still mesmerizes visitors today. We camped there one night to watch the sunset paint its colors on the intricate spires and columns. During the Depression the canyons made a backdrop for pageants and religious services.

Pioche, further up U.S. 93, was one of the notorious towns that put the "wild" in the west. The *Guide* positively revels in the mayhem. When WPA researchers were roaming Nevada, old-timers still remembered the days when "nobody knew whether he would live to see the next morning," in the guidebook's words. "According to pioneer yarn-spinners, mine owners imported thugs at the rate of 20 a day to fight one another's encroachments. The cemetery on the lower hillside became the pride of Pioche." It was said that 75 murder victims were buried before anyone died of natural causes.



Today, the grave markers on Boot Hill are wind-polished planks. Some bear faintly visible lettering: "July 6, 1873/John H. Lynch/Shot during a dispute over a dog." The small, weather-beaten teddy bear adorning one grave mystified me.

But another side of Pioche emerges in its Lincoln County Historical Museum, the town's collective attic. Residents have contributed schoolbooks, miners' tools, Grandpa's army uniform, a homemade sleigh, painting a cozy portrait of the past. I paged through albums of century-old photos, like one depicting "Dr. Stockham's Drugstore 4th of July Ice Cream Cone Treat"—a long row of mustachioed gents beaming over their cones.

The most famous building in Pioche was—and still is—its "Million Dollar Courthouse," built in the 1870s. "It was condemned in 1933, three years before it was paid for," the *Guide* states dryly, noting that "if a sheriff made a journey of two or three hundred miles and turned in an expense account of $15,000, it was paid." The planned cost of the ornate brick building was $25,000, but enterprising

Pioche mine owners imported thugs at the rate of 20 a day, according to pioneer yarn-spinners.

locals saw an unmissable opportunity. Cronies were hired, contractors padded their bills, bonds were issued and refinanced for decades, and the bill headed for the stratosphere.

The restored courthouse today contains an unexpected treat: a display of paintings by R.G. Schofield, the town watchmaker, who recorded scenes of daily life from 1870 to 1915. Old Pioche lives and breathes in these watercolors. A dog barks in a dusty lane in Chinatown, home to cooks and laborers. A covered wagon rolls off down the trail to Utah.

Continuing north, we followed a detour to Lehman Caves, the centerpiece of present-day Great Basin National Park. The *Guide* describes the caves' accidental discovery, but the ranger who led our tour added a few details—including how Abe Lehman, a former miner, blasted his way into closed passages and searched everywhere for ore before publicizing his find. Lehman charged visitors the outrageous fee of $1, but this entitled them to souvenirs—their own broken-off stalactites, grown an inch in a thousand years!

In Ely we found the 1930s description still fit perfectly: "This most important town in the east central part of the state has a somewhat metropolitan aspect, surprising when met after traveling over endless uninhabited miles of mountains and valley." By now, the shade trees around the courthouse have grown enormous, and businesses have overflowed the downtown streets and spread down the highway.

Some of the changes in Eastern Nevada are bittersweet. Ely's prosperity was built on mining, and satellite towns like Riepetown and Ruth sprang up to provide homes and services to the miners. Many of these places have vanished. Gloria Schuh of the Nevada Northern Railway Museum told us about growing up in "Old Ruth" and returning after 20 years to find her hometown gone—swallowed by the mine pit.

The museum itself evokes the passage of time. Its entire yardful of trains was stranded there when the operation closed in the 1980s. After our exploration we refueled with huge soda-fountain milkshakes at Economy Drug back downtown (one each, caramel and raspberry).

Our road trip ended in West Wendover, not exactly a metropolis in the '30s. The guidebook lists its population as nine, commenting only that "two-thirds of Wendover lies in Utah." Today, Wendover is the quintessential border town, between states, lifestyles, and even landscapes—Utah's white Bonneville Salt Flats lie just a mile away. There are big-name resorts, plenty of neon, and casinos in which to say goodbye (or hello) to Nevada.

For us, it was a shock to reenter interstate-highway America after our 1930s-inspired ramble in two-lane Nevada. The sights and sounds of the past were still vivid, and the voices of old-timers whispered in our ears. Our trip had showed us that Nevada's first guidebook is still one of the best.

Kristin Johannsen and her husband, Kevin Millham, live in Berea, Kentucky. The classic 1940 guidebook by the Works Project Administration was re-released in 1991 as The WPA Guide to 1930s Nevada *by the University of Nevada Press. The 1991 edition is out of print but is available in libraries, online, and from used-book stores.*



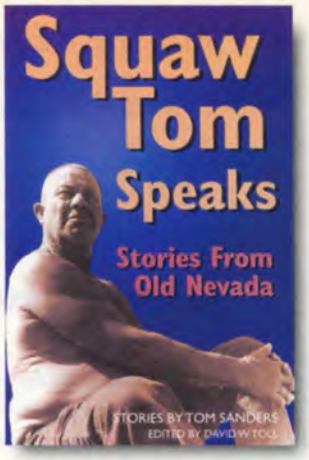


WHITE PINE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Ruth was a busy Ely suburb in 1939 (above) but later gave way to the ever-growing copper mines. Top: Pioche visitors will find antiques, saloons, and a historical museum.

The Sacred Tree

A mystery tree grows near Yerington in this excerpt from **Squaw Tom Speaks:** Stories From Old Nevada



Tom Sanders (1900-1981) was a logger, a roustabout, and when called upon by friends and relatives with toothaches, an amateur dentist. A white man who lived among the Indians in Fallon and the miners in Virginia City, Sanders also was a storyteller whose award-winning column, "Squaw Tom Speaks," appeared in the* Gold Hill News *in the 1970s. The* News' *publisher, David W. Toll of Gold Hill, recently collected 29 of Tom's tales in* Squaw Tom Speaks: Stories From Old Nevada. *They include sketches of old-time characters, frontier justice, and friendship among outcasts. Following is one of those stories, "The Sacred Tree."

This happened in Yerington about 1930, when they was building the highway in Fallon, just as you go over the hill from Silver Springs, by Wabuska. About half ways down the line there, why, there was a piece of ground right alongside the highway, right in the rocks, and a mystery tree grew there. It was a cottonwood tree.

I seen that little tree when it started to grow there. It was a small tree and it looked like it was tryin' to survive; I happened to come by there and I saw that little tree. It looked like it was dry for water.

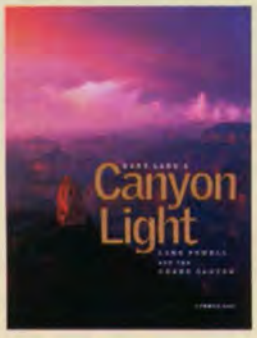
I had canteens in my old pick-up and I stopped and I watered that tree. I banked it up so if there was any water or rain it would be kind of a catch basin, and if any water would come down, it would catch it and soak in the ground. Every time I'd come by there I'd dump a little water there.

So the tree got growin' it got to be about four feet. And then I think the highway outfit would come by there and they would see that little tree. And nobody said anything about it but before they went home at night they'd stop by there and they'd dump water for this tree to give it a drink. Then, there was a

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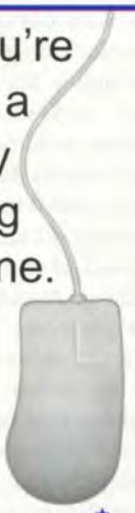
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lot of people going by there, who took to waterin' that little cottonwood tree, and treating it. Some guy put a little fertilizer around there.

You know that little tree grew and grew and it got to be a beautiful tree. What I mean, you never seen such a beautiful tree off on the side of the highway.

It was a mystery tree to begin with. How it grew there nobody knew. It wasn't planted. It just grew.

I guess a lot of people who lived around Yerington or Wabuska can remember that little tree. And that tree I guess it lived on love. Because the people on the highway, they took great pride of this tree growing there. It got to be a beautiful tree and there wasn't another tree, oh, I guess the closest tree from there would be about 35 miles. It was just a desert, no trees at all.

But anyway, this tree got to be a pretty good-sized tree, you know. And these kids played football there in Yerington. They'd come by with a football outfit on the bus, you know, and they all looked at that tree when they'd go by. Finally, every time they'd go by there they'd bring a canteen of water and they'd water it. When they'd have a football game, why, they would congregate around this tree. The football bus would stop there, and they'd kind of play around that tree. I guess they must have made what they call their "mascot" out of the tree, you know. Everything's got a "mascot." They'd kind of play around that tree and some way or another that really got to be a mystery of how them boys would win the football games when they would go out and play. By golly, everybody'd like that tree around Yerington, especially the men that worked on the highway.

It was a mystery tree to begin with. How it grew there nobody knew.

People from all over the country when they'd go by there they'd see that tree and they'd...take pictures of it. And them high school boys, that was years later, you know, the tree got to be a pretty big tree, and them high school boys they'd get around there and they'd bless that tree all the time before they'd even play a game—they'd go down there and congregate around that tree. They always kept no cans or anything around there because it was a sacred tree.

Well, some way or another one of the boys let it out. They should have kept it a secret. They let it out that they had a "mascot" that would win their games, you know, this mystery tree.

I think it was a bunch of kids from Reno who went over there, and they chopped that tree down. They destroyed that tree.

You know, the people around Yerington and all over they got so mad about whoever cut that tree down they had a $1,500 reward, but they never did catch the [jerk] that cut that tree down. Now imagine a man gettin' jealous over a tree and choppin a tree down. Why, you'd have to be uncivilized.

The preceding is an excerpt from Squaw Tom Speaks: Stories From Old Nevada, *edited by David W. Toll and published by Gold Hill Publishing Co., Drawer F, Virginia City, NV 89440. The book (157 pages, $15.95, paper, ISBN 0-940936-13-5) is available at xtrasecure.com/books/bookorder.php3, at bookstores, and from the publisher. David W. Toll is the author of* The Complete Nevada Traveler *and director of NevadaWeb.com.*

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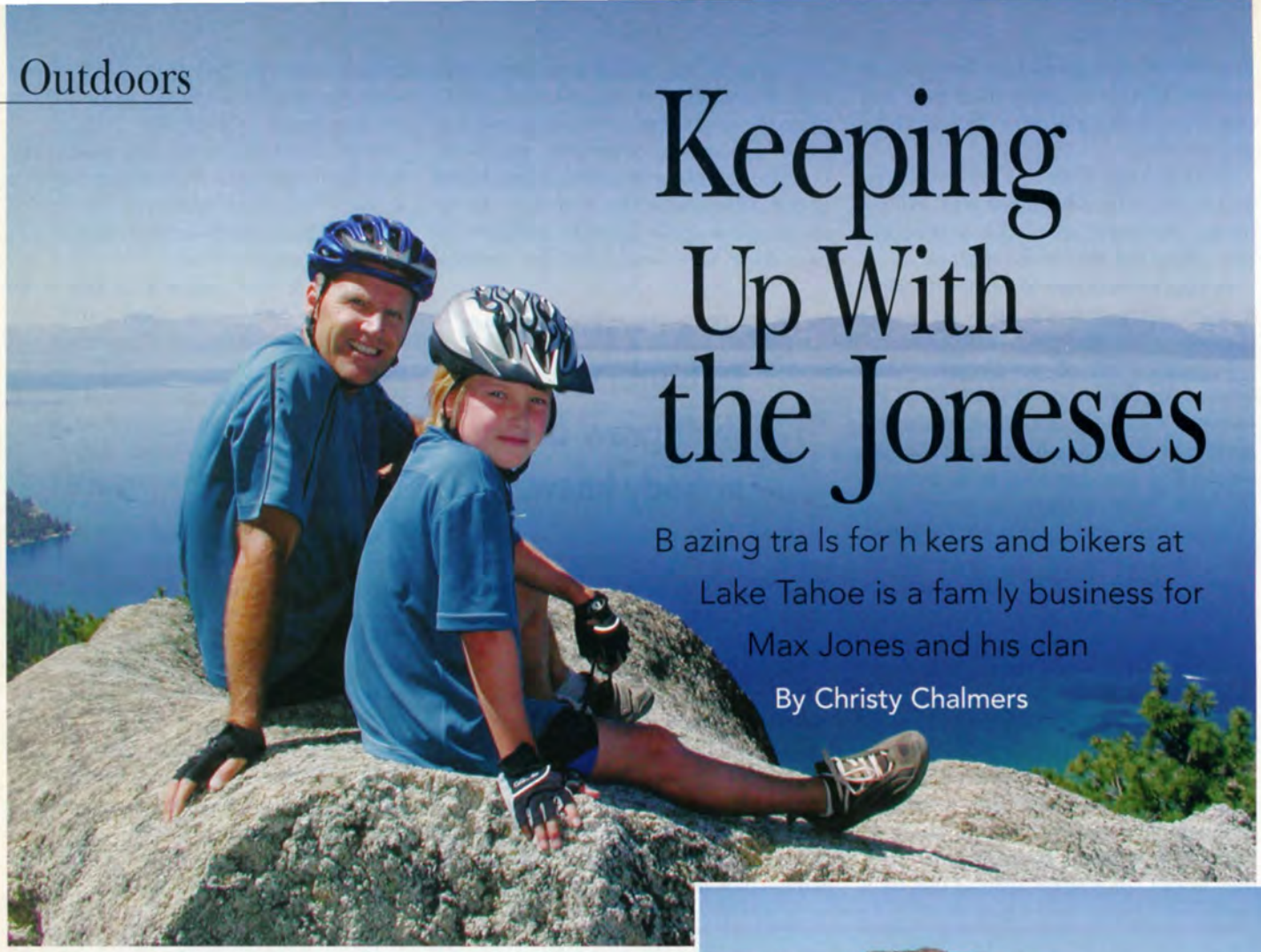
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Keeping Up With the Joneses

Blazing trails for hikers and bikers at Lake Tahoe is a family business for Max Jones and his clan

By Christy Chalmers



Max Jones and daughter Caitlin take a break on Tahoe's Flume Trail.

Armed with an axe and a trailblazer's fortitude, Max Jones spent the summer and fall of 1983 clearing the Tahoe Flume Trail. He hacked away fallen trees and aluminum pipe from the route, where a wooden flume once carried water to Virginia City.

"The most difficult thing was to get the pipe out of the way," Jones recalls. "It was hot, and you were breathing the dust and were very thirsty. All the time you're looking at Lake Tahoe, and it's just driving you crazy."

The underbrush was so thick Jones often had to hurl his bike through the willows and crawl after it. When he was done, the trail, a narrow path winding four and a half miles on a mountainside 1,600 feet above the lake, was ready to ride.

Today the Flume Trail is regarded as one of the country's



Patti McMullan rides her mountain bike near Moab.

PHOTOS: Patti McMullan (top), Max Jones (bottom)

premier mountain biking experiences, and an estimated 30,000 people ride it every year. The trail is located in Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park, where Jones and his wife, Patti McMullan, operate Flume Trail Bikes, a mountain-bike rental concession and shuttle service, and the Spooner Lake Cross Country ski area. Year-round, they have two hand-built log cabins available for overnight stays.

Jones and McMullan built the businesses from the ground up—by building cross-country ski trails after they won the bid to run the Nordic area in 1985. Jones, a retired professional mountain biker, used his race winnings to finance the Spooner ski area in its nascent years.

Nowadays Jones does everything from guiding mountain bike tours in the summer to plowing parking lots and grooming trails in the winter. He jokes that his goal is never to have a real job. "Being stuck in an office all day is my idea of hell," Jones says.

McMullan works at the ski area in the winter. During the summer, when their daughter, Caitlin, is out of school, McMullan handles the bookkeeping from their Carson City home. Caitlin likes to help at Spooner, making change for customers. All three bike and ski together.

Max Jones encountered his first mountain bike in 1982. "I thought it was the coolest thing I'd ever seen."



Max Jones on the Rim Trail near Spooner.

The sports-minded Jones and McMullan both grew up in Reno. A fourth-generation Nevadan, Jones played Little League and, unafraid of heights, became an avid rock climber. He left the University of Nevada, Reno after three years to climb mountains in North America and Europe. McMullan ran track at Wooster High and later was a member of the ski, tennis, and cross-country teams at UNR.

They met as members of the Mount Rose junior ski team. The teenagers got to know each other while riding two-seat chairlifts. An excellent skier, McMullan was popular and outgoing. "She always had a boyfriend, but it was never me," Jones recalls, smiling.

He was shy. "We were really good friends, but he wouldn't ask me out," McMullan remembers. She often took her gear to Reno Mountain Sports, where Jones worked, to be repaired. He says, "I found out later she would break the buckles on her boots just to get me to work on them."

Finally a coworker convinced Jones to ask McMullan for a date. She was 18; he was 19. They went to a Gordon Lightfoot concert at Lake Tahoe. They dated throughout their years at the university, where McMullan earned a bachelor's degree in education.

For the couple, 1982 was a good year. They married. Jones was asked to develop trails for Ski Etude in Incline Village, where McMullan was an instructor. And Jones encountered his first mountain bike.

"I'd never seen a mountain bike," he recalls. "I thought it was the coolest thing I'd ever seen." He entered a race in Reno and kept pace with a rider who had placed third in the nationals. He was hooked.

Jones and McMullan began traveling to races in Northern California. "It was low-key," Jones says. "Patti would be there helping me out, handing me water during the race." She took care of logistics so Jones could focus on racing. McMullan raced a bit herself but preferred the support role.

"I think I'd had my fill of competing after I grew up," she explains. "But we went to a lot of neat places. If there was a mountain bike race in the early '80s, I've been there."

In 1984, Jones joined a mountain-biking team in Crested Butte, Colorado. The three-month gig paid $300 per month plus a bike and parts. Jones raced in summer and used his winnings to run Spooner in the winter. "I was getting by but not getting rich," he says. In 1996 Jones retired from racing and served as a manager and coach for professional teams until 1998. He was inducted into the Mountain Bike Hall of Fame that year.

His Hall of Fame credentials include service on the Tahoe Rim Trail board of directors and three years as vice president in charge of trail operations. Jones' efforts draw praise from Mark Kimbrough, executive director of the Tahoe Rim Trail Association, and Bill Champion, a ranger at Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park since 1988. They credit Jones with helping to ease tensions between mountain bikers, who have been accused of discourtesy and destruction on the trails, and other users who wanted mountain bikes banned.

Jones and McMullan, who both grew up in Reno, met as members of Mount Rose's junior ski team.

"Max came in and really talked to the bike community and

PHOTO: Mark Vollmer

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NEVADA MAGAZINE

said, 'Come on, folks, if we're going to be on these trails, we need to be a part of the maintenance and support them,'" says Kimbrough.

Jones and McMullan divide their time between Spooner and their 10-year-old daughter's activities. McMullan notes that Caitlin was a factor in her dad's decision to leave the pro circuit. "Max spent a lot of time driving around to races. He would come home after a few weeks, and she would have grown, and he was very disappointed to miss that," McMullan says.

Jones coaches Caitlin's soccer team and heads a parents group for her gymnastics team. In April, the trio made a 100-mile bike trip in Moab, Utah, Caitlin and her father riding tandem.

At Lake Tahoe, the family recently rode the Flume Trail, McMullan riding her bike while Jones and Caitlin paired on the tandem. The four-and-a-half-mile ride took an hour and a half. Caitlin marvels, "It would take me hours and hours if I rode on my own."

Although Jones also helps maintain the Tahoe Rim Trail, the upkeep of the Flume Trail remains his pet project. Once a week after work he meets volunteers and friends at the Flume Trail Bikes shop.

"We ride our bikes up and move rocks and repair sections of both trails for about an hour. Then we ride back when it gets dark," Jones says. "We feel the people who use the trails should help maintain them."

Christy Chalmers of Carson City is one of the 30,000 people who ride the Flume Trail at Lake Tahoe annually.

Biking the Flume Trail

The **Flume Trail** is a four-and-half-mile ribbon of flat, sandy single-track with spectacular views of Lake Tahoe. Bikers can start from the Spooner Lake trailhead, one-half mile north of U.S. 50 on State Route 28 in Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park. The trail climbs 1,100 feet through aspens and pines. Heading north, the trail overlooks Tahoe's east shore.

There are several fee options for mountain bikers. You can pedal the trail

Although Jones also helps maintain the Tahoe Rim Trail, the Flume Trail remains his pet project.



Jones and Caitlin ride a tandem bike on the Flume Trail.

for $2 if you ride your bike into the park or pay $5 per vehicle (for up to four people) if you drive.

Max Jones and his wife, Patti McMullan, operate **Flume Trail Bikes** (775-749-5349), where riders can rent bikes, reserve a return shuttle for $10, and rent a log cabin for overnight. In winter Jones and McMullan operate the **Spooner Lake Cross-Country** ski area. For information and trail conditions visit www.flumetrailbikes.com, www.spoonerlake.com, or parks.nv.gov/lt.htm.

Besides the Flume Trail, Jones likes to ride the section of the Tahoe Rim Trail that runs above the east and south shores from Tahoe Meadows near Mount Rose to Luther Pass. He tries to complete the trip once a year.

"There's no place like that trail," he says, describing the initial climb that results in a glimpse of Luther Pass, nearly 60 miles away. "Little by little, you do it. You pedal, and you climb up another pass, and each pass you're closer and closer."—*Christy Chalmers*

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PHOTO: Patti McMullan

Nevada Almanac

Trick-or-treat at the Mansion and Nevada trivia.

Guy Clifton reminds us that "You Know You're a Nevadan If..."



Cowboy poet Waddie Mitchell

In honor of Nevada Day, October 31, Reno Gazette-Journal *writer Guy Clifton shares a few signs of "true" Nevadans that appear in his second volume of* You Know You're a Nevadan If... *The book, illustrated by Marilyn Melton, is due to be published by Nevada Humanities this fall, well in advance of the Nevada Day Parade in Carson City on October 30, as we celebrate Nevada's 140th birthday. Following are 20 of those telltale signs.*

You've driven the pole-line road between Tonopah and Gabbs.

You watched the Alan King Tennis Classic at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas and saw an elementary-aged Andre Agassi hitting balls across the net to his father between matches.

You've seen Elko County's Waddie Mitchell recite cowboy poetry. (If you remember him as Bruce Mitchell, you might be a native.)

You remember all the inhabitants of Jiggs (population nine at the time) piling into a Microbus for a 1960s Volkswagen commercial.

You've seen the Pyramid and the Stone Mother at Pyramid Lake.

You remember when you could park for free at Hoover Dam and a tour of the dam was only $1.

You watched Keely Smith and Louis Prima in the lounge at the Sahara Hotel in Las Vegas.

You not only know what a "Washoe Zephyr" is, you've also been hit by one.

You know the current name of Pizen Switch.

You can properly pronounce Pioche, Panaca, and Pahranagat.

You remember standing on the Virginia Street bridge in Reno on a warm summer night, watching the lights from the Mapes and the Riverside dance on the waters of the Truckee River.

You know what Nevada's "Black Book" is, and you don't want to be in it.

You know Carson City is not in Carson Valley but in Eagle Valley.

You've trick-or-treated at the Governor's Mansion in Carson City, and the governor personally handed you your candy.

You know why all the trees in Washoe Valley lean to the east.

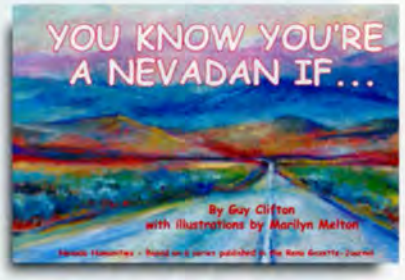
You've eaten at both of Nevada's Mizpah Hotels (Lake Street in Reno and downtown Tonopah).

You ate at the top of the Dunes or the Landmark in Las Vegas.

You drove up the Tonopah Highway from Las Vegas to watch the atomic blasts.

You saw Sammy Davis Jr. perform at Harrah's in Reno and know why the showroom is known as Sammy's Showroom.

You know the only First Lady of the United States to come from Nevada—Pat Nixon.



Guy Clifton was raised in Gabbs. He plans a third volume of You Know You're a Nevadan If.. *but says he hasn't broken the news to illustrator Marilyn Melton yet.*

Nevada Trivia

Q Since Nevada became a state in 1864, has the state had more Democratic governors or more Republican governors?

A More Republicans. Of Nevada's 28 elected and appointed governors, 13 have been Republicans, 11 Democrats, and four from the short-lived Silver Party.

Q What Nevada shrub did Mark Twain say made "a very fair fuel, but as a vegetable it is a distinguished failure?"

A This lowly shrub is the sagebrush. Twain wrote his remarks about the state's most ubiquitous shrub in his 1872 classic, *Roughing It*, which described his years in Nevada.

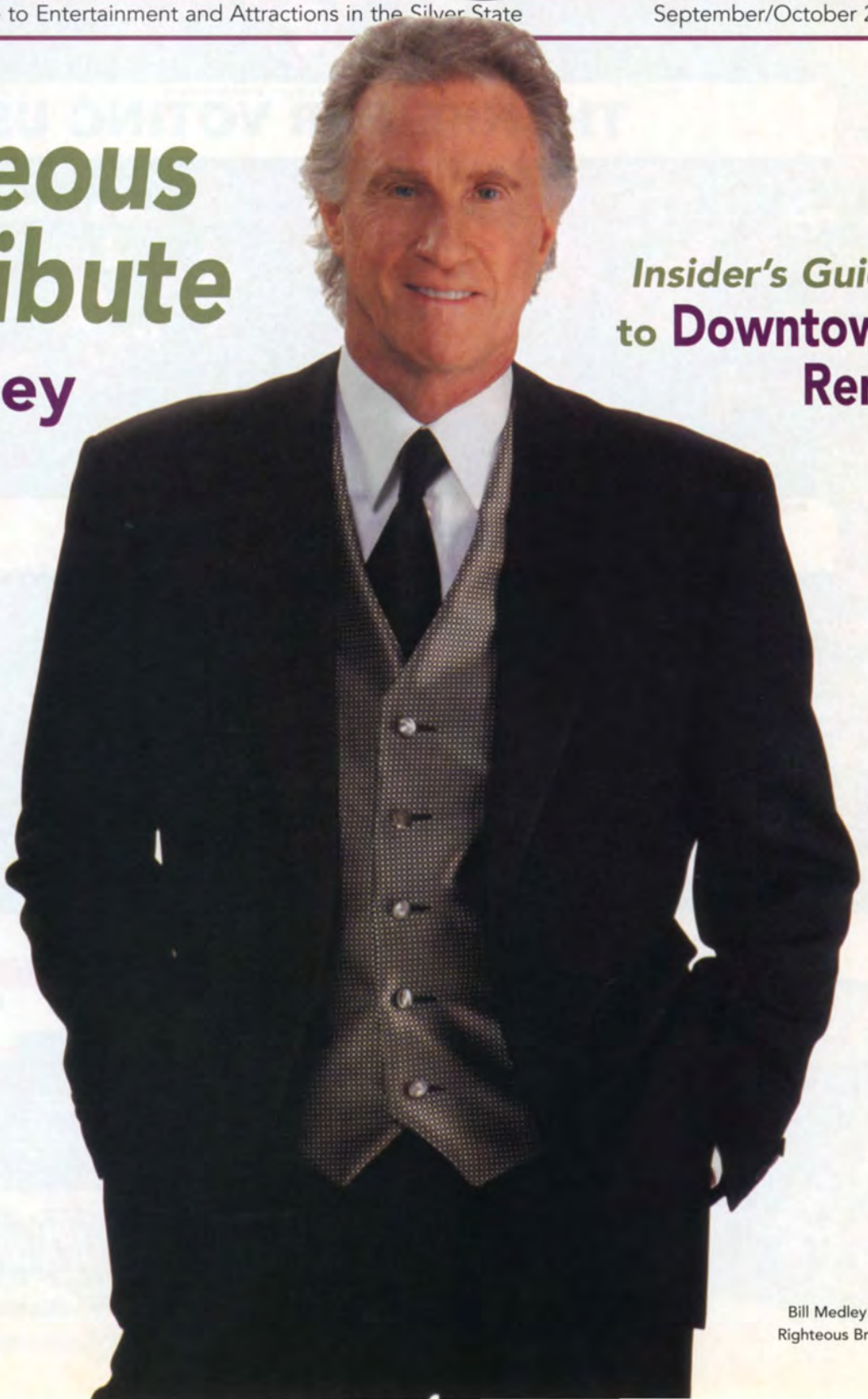
—*from* The Nevada Trivia Book *by Richard Moreno (Gem Guides, 1998)*

ILLUSTRATIONS: Marilyn Melton

Nevada Events & Shows

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

September/October 2004



Righteous Tribute

Bill Medley celebrates **4** decades of rock and roll

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A Righteous Brother

Bill Medley brings back the music that he and **Bobby Hatfield** made famous.

By Ann Henderson

When Righteous Brother Bill Medley sings "Rock and Roll Heaven," he adds a new name to the list of entertainers remembered—that of his partner, Bobby Hatfield, who died last November. The duo performed nearly four decades together, Medley's baritone and Hatfield's tenor combining on a string of hits. Their appeal extended across generations as their songs appeared in films such as Ghost *("Unchained Melody"),* Top Gun *("You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'"), and* Dirty Dancing, *which featured Medley's Oscar-winning duet with Jennifer Warnes, "(I've Had) The Time of My Life."*

The Righteous Brothers' recording of "You've Lost That Lovin Feelin'" is the most-played song on American radio and television, having been played more than eight million times since its release in 1965. Medley and Hatfield were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2003 shortly before Hatfield's death.

In a recent interview at the Orleans in Las Vegas, Medley, 63, talked about his future hopes and getting his professional life back on track.



"Thank God for the **audience.** They just feed you that **love, and you're OK."**

Q **You have appeared before as a solo headliner in Laughlin, Reno, and Sparks. Did that help prepare you for working without Bobby Hatfield? What is different about your new show?**

A I've done a lot of work on my own with a kind of Bill Medley pacing. During those shows, I do 90 percent of the Righteous Brothers songs, but it is just a different kind of a vibe. Sometimes I get a little front room, a little more relaxed, and interact more with the audience. That's the main thing that is different. But this is the Righteous Brothers band, and I'm trying to keep an upbeat tempo and forcing myself to stick with the script. I have my head screwed on to the Righteous Brothers, not Bill Medley.

Q **You are Bill Righteous, not Bill Medley.**

A Exactly.

Q **What went through your mind in your first show without Bobby?**

A It was scary, heartbreaking. That first night we did a show at the Orleans for invited guests and friends. Bobby's dressing room was right across the hall, and when we were rehearsing, I walked into his room to get something, and, God, it floored me. He wasn't there. His stuff wasn't there. It was empty. It was depressing and sad. It was very tough, but I must admit when I went on stage, I got lost in the magic and the energy the audience was feeding me.

If I get too relaxed and don't stay focused, then I start thinking about him, and it catches me. During the show I don't turn around to look at the video tribute. As time goes by, the more I think about him while I'm on stage, it isn't quite so scary. I don't choke up as much. That first night walking on stage, I said, I don't know if I can do this. But the minute that I got out there, whew, thank God for the audience. They just feed you that love, and you're OK.

Q **From the stage, can you see all the heads bobbing in time to the music?**



Bill Medley belts out a Righteous hit during a recent performance at the Orleans in Las Vegas.

A Oh, yeah. Absolutely. When Bobby was here and we would go into "Unchained Melody," we could see people holding hands and snuggling. It is heartwarming.

Q Are there any memories of appearing in Nevada that are favorites?

A Frank Sinatra brought Bobby and me to Las Vegas. We were the first rock-and-roll act to play a Strip hotel [the Sands in the mid-1960s]. We were doing three shows a night—that was a killer. But when you are in your 20s, it is exciting. Everything about Las Vegas is magical, and everything about our career was magical.

The Sands said they wanted us for a month, but it would be during the time Frank Sinatra was appearing. First they needed to get Sinatra's approval because he brought all the stars that came to see him into the lounge to party. Everyone at the Sands was afraid of Sinatra. After the show one night he asked us how it was going. It was three shows a night, it was Las Vegas, and it was dry, so who knew? I told him it was a little tough on the throat because of the dry, desert air. He advised humidifiers and steam rooms, and thank God he told us about the steam room, because, honey, it is still tough.

That night after he sent everyone up to his suite, he sat and talked to us for about 45 minutes. I think he saw a little bit of himself in us. One night he couldn't be there, and a substitute was needed in the showroom. Sinatra said, "Have the kids fill in."

We opened for Jack Benny about 1966. We also opened for the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. But working with Jack Benny was our most memorable time. Our parents were huge Benny fans, and when we were kids we'd hear his radio show and then watch his TV show. He was one of our heroes and an enormously funny guy. Onstage we'd get to do a monologue with him. We were doing jokes with *Jack Benny*. We were 25 years old, scared, and he would give one of those long looks that seemed to last an eternity.

Q What do you do when you're not working?

A About the only time I get out, literally, is with some of my friends on my night off. Cook E. Jarr [a rock singer who appears at Harrah's Las Vegas] is a really good friend, and he starts work at 11 p.m. When I'm in town, I play a little golf, but my sinuses don't like me to play golf. I'm real mindful of my throat.

Q Do you have a favorite place to hang out?

A I love Ruth's Chris Steak House, the one on Flamingo. They're open late, and they have great jazz. I eat dinner after the show, and I also like the restaurants here [at the Orleans]. In fact, I'm having dinner tonight with Cook E. Jarr. My favorite, though, are the hamburgers and chili dogs at Terrible Mike's.

Q Of your songs, do you have a favorite?

A "You'll Never Walk Alone" has always been special, one of my favorites to sing. We always tried to do a gospel song on every album. That's why we did "He" and "In That Great Gettin' Up Morning."

Q Is there a cause or issue that you are passionate about?

A Cancer and lupus. I had prostate cancer, which is not a tough one if you stay on top of it and get tested. I'm telling all you guys, it is a reality—you're going to get it sooner or later. And Bobby's wife, Linda, has lupus, and he had a benefit golf tournament for about the last 13 years. I do what I can for worthwhile things, but I don't like to waste my time doing political shows.

"I do **every show** like it is the **last one** I'm going to do. **I sing my brains out.** Bobby and I did that forever"

Q What gives you the most pleasure personally and professionally?

A My family, my wife, Paula, my kids. My daughter, McKenna, is a great singer. My son, Darrin, is the lead singer for Paul Revere and the Raiders. He also has a very successful company and is a wonderful man. He lost his mom when he was 10. They give me the most pleasure.

Careerwise, just being able to go out there and perform and feel the audience. I do every show like it is the last one I'm going

PHOTO: Las Vegas News Bureau



The Righteous Brothers harmonize at the Landmark in 1969 after Hatfield (right), appearing as a solo act, pulled Medley from the audience.



Medley's 18-year-old daughter, McKenna, performs often at the Suncoast in Las Vegas.

to do. I sing my brains out. I sing as hard as I possibly can. Bobby and I did that forever. We always said, this might be our last year, even when we were kids. Also, being inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame—that was something.

Q You and Bobby didn't perform together from 1968 to 1974. What happened?

A I had started out as a singer-songwriter when Bobby and I just hit it big. "Little Latin Lupe Lu" was our first hit [in 1963], and it was enough to get us out there. By 1968 the business was changing drastically. We were like the old guys, having trouble getting our records played. I didn't want to push it uphill, so I decided to go back and finish my dream of being a singer-songwriter. And thank God for Vegas. Las Vegas saved my life when things got tough. I worked the lounges and did very well.

Getting back together happened in Vegas. Bobby was working at the Flamingo, and I was working at the Hilton. I'd go visit him and jump up on stage, and people would go nuts. And we said, jeez, maybe we should go back and do this again.

But me leaving for those six years was the best thing that ever happened to me. I really grew up. Then in 1976 I retired for about four or five years. My ex-wife had passed away, and I was a single guy with a son. Darrin came to live with me so that we could put our lives together. That was rewarding. I hate how it happened. His mother, Karen, was a beautiful woman, one of my best friends, and it was a horrible death; she was murdered. Darrin was only 10, so I retired. That's why he was named Darrin, because it rhymed with Karen.

The experience threw me back into reality and the flow of real life. When you are a celebrity of sorts, you don't have to do what anyone tells you to do.

Q What do you see in Bill Medley's future? What do you want it to be?

A I feel so fortunate getting this far. I just want to keep going. To work. They're going to have to come get me. I don't see dramatic things. I see watching my children, being behind them. What I see in my future is just working, and as long as this throat holds up, I'll be out there.

Show Notes

Bill Medley appears September 4 at the Silver Legacy in Reno, September 16-29 at the Orleans in Las Vegas, October 1-2 at Cactus Petes in Jackpot, and November 18-21 at the Orleans. Medley's children share a stage December 29-31 when McKenna Medley headlines with Paul Revere and the Raiders, for whom Darrin Medley is the lead singer, at the Suncoast in Las Vegas.

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

PHOTO: Las Vegas News Bureau (top)



Las Vegas

AREA EVENTS AND SHOWS

This fall in Las Vegas you can watch the PGA Tour's annual Las Vegas Invitational, NASCAR Craftsman Truck racing, the Professional Bull Riders World Finals, and an NBA preseason game between the Los Angeles Lakers and the Phoenix Suns. In area showrooms, Robin Williams headlines at the MGM Grand and Ray Romano at the Mirage. *Nevada Magazine* presents the following Las Vegas-area events and shows for September and October. Be sure to call ahead to confirm dates and details.



Magician Dirk Arthur makes a Bengal tiger's stripes disappear in "Splash" at the Riviera.

Events

$99 Slot Tournament • Sept. 1-2 • Entry includes two-night stay. Bally's Las Vegas, 702-739-4111.

UNLV Rebel Volleyball Classic • Sept. 3-4 • San Jose State, Washington State, and UNLV compete. Cox Pavilion, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

Mexico Vivo Children's Show • Sept. 3-4 • Folkloric dance group. Winchester Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

Las Vegas 51s Baseball • Sept. 3-6 • The Los Angeles Dodgers AAA team plays the Salt Lake City Stingers. Cashman Field, Las Vegas, 702-798-7825.

No-Limit Oasis Poker Tournament • Sept. 3-8 • Special $15 room rate. Oasis, Mesquite, 800-216-2747.

Joan Sebastian and Marco Antonio Solis • Sept. 4 • Concert. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

PSCA Edelbrock Labor Day Nationals • Sept. 4-5 • Outlaw super quick points races. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 800-644-4444.

NHRA Division Seven Junior Dragster Series Finals • Sept. 5 • Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 800-644-4444.

$28,000 Pirate's Treasure Slot Tournament • Sept. 6-9 • $199 entry, a three-night stay. Tropicana, Las Vegas, 800-545-4989.

American Veterans Program: Colin Care • Sept. 7 • Iraq war veteran. Ramada Express, Laughlin, 702-298-4200.

Craps Tournament • Sept. 9-11 • $499 entry includes room. Las Vegas Hilton, Las Vegas, 800-457-3307.

Boulder City Chautauqua • Sept. 10-11 • Presentations represent President Theodore Roosevelt, folk singer Woody Guthrie, and evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson. Boulder Theatre, Boulder City, 702-293-7688.

Primm 300 SCORE Off-Road Race • Sept. 10-11 • Primm, 43 miles south of Las Vegas, 818-225-8402.

CasaVino • Sept. 11 • Wine tasting fundraiser with a performance by comedian Kip Attaway. Grand Ballroom, CasaBlanca, Mesquite, 800-459-PLAY.

Dinosaur Ball • Sept. 11 • Fundraiser for the Las Vegas Natural History Museum. Ritz-Carlton, Lake Las Vegas, Henderson, 702-384-3466.

Colorado Belle Golf Tournament • Sept. 12-14 • $30,000 in prize money based upon 144 golfers. Mojave Resort Golf Course, Laughlin, 877-480-2747.

San Gennaro Feast • Sept. 14-19 • Italian food festival, Italian music, arts, crafts, dance, strolling entertainment, and carnival. Boca Park, Las Vegas, 702-286-4944.

Greek Food Festival • Sept. 16-19 • 32nd annual event features music, ethnic gifts, and children's entertainment. St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, 702-221-8245.

Cruise Night • Sept. 17 • Hot Rod Hill, Henderson, 702-567-5655.

Downtown Cultural Series: Richard Clark as Kit Carson • Sept. 17 • Living-history outdoor program. Bring a sack lunch. Lloyd D. George U.S. Courthouse, Las Vegas, 702-229-1087.

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

Las Vegas BikeFest • Sept. 17-18 • Motorcycle show, music. Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, 702-678-5777.

Laughlin Professional Bull Riders Built Ford Tough Series • Sept. 17-19 • Top 45 bull riders compete for places in the National Finals Rodeo and more than $100,000 in prize money. Laughlin Events Park, Laughlin, 800-308-2253.

Re/Max Las Vegas Hot Air Balloon Festival • Sept. 17-19 • Benefit for Deaf Kids' Kamp includes a mass launch, tethered rides, and balloon glow. YMCA and Durango Hills Golf Course, Las Vegas, 702-247-6905.

Ethnic Traditions Festival • Sept. 18 • Recreation Center West Field, Mesquite, 702-346-8732.

Ballet Under the Stars • Sept. 18 • Bring a picnic and blankets for an outdoor performance by Nevada Ballet Theatre. Hills Park, Las Vegas, 702-243-2623.

Oscar De La Hoya vs. Bernard Hopkins • Sept. 18 • World middleweight championship. MGM Grand, Las Vegas, 702-891-1111.

Living History: The Rifle Musket • Sept. 18 • Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park, Las Vegas, 702-486-3511.

Pacific Islands Festival Ho'olaule'a 2004 • Sept. 18-19 • Entertainment, crafts, traditional dances, and food. Lorenzi Park, Las Vegas, 702-229-1087. On Sept. 18 the Hawaiian trio Na Palopalai performs traditional island music on guitar, ukulele, and bass during the festival. 702-229-6383.

Mexican Independence Day Festival • Sept. 19 • Family picnic and civic ceremony marks the 94th anniversary of the Mexican holiday. Freedom Park, Las Vegas, 702-383-8395.

Ogbon Opon: The Knowledge Circle • Sept. 19 • Chief Fafore

Akinlana and members of the Egbe Ifa Traditional African Society lead a discussion on the philosophical and cultural achievements of the Yoruba, Dogon, and Egyptian people. West Las Vegas Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

American Veterans Program: Glenn Chapman • Sept. 21 • U-2 pilot and author. Ramada Express, Laughlin, 702-298-4200.

Super Run 2004 • Sept. 23-26 • Car show open to all years, makes, and models. Event includes concerts Fri. and Sat. Water Street, Henderson, 702-643-0000.

Roddin' on the River • Sept. 23-26 • Car show, night slow drags, open header contest, poker run and walk, model car contest, and music. Riverside, Laughlin, 702-298-2535.

Fall Showcase and Carnival • Sept. 23-26 • Showcase of more than 40 merchants at Club Sport, and a carnival at Fiesta Henderson. Henderson, 702-565-8951.

Rick Arroyo Trio • Sept. 24 • Outdoor concert with an Afro-Cuban flair. East Las Vegas Community Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-1515.

LAX Vegas Lacrosse Festival • Sept. 24-26 • Seventh annual men's and women's post-collegiate featuring teams from Canada, California, Utah, Arizona, Virginia, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Illinois, Maryland, Georgia, Oregon, Florida, and Washington. Intramural Fields, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-795-7772.

Blues and Brews Festival • Sept. 24-26 • Blues musicians, microbrew beer, and the Miss Hawaiian Tropic Blues and Brews contest. Colorado Belle, Laughlin, 877-460-0777.

"Harlequin Brill" • Sept. 24-26, 29-Oct. 3 • Drama. Black Box Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series Event • Sept. 25 • Oval track race. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 800-644-4444.

Yuji Matsuoka and Misao • Sept. 25 • Traditional dance and music. Winchester Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

Champ Car World Series Race • Sept. 25 • Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Learn What an Archeologist Does • Sept. 25 • Children's program. Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park, Las Vegas, 702-486-3511.

American Indian Heritage Festival and Concert • Sept. 25 • Dance, music, storytelling, food, arts, and crafts. Flutist Travis Terry performs in concert. Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza, Lorenzi Park, Las Vegas, 702-229-1087.

Fall Fine Arts Festival • Sept. 25-26 • Entertainment, food vendors, and a showcase by 100 regional artists. MonteLago Village, Lake Las Vegas, Henderson, 702-939-8888.

Sandstone Canyon Hike • Sept. 26 • Three-hour, moderate to strenuous hike. Long pants and hiking shoes advised. Bring water and lunch. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 16 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141.

Senior Softball World Championships • Sept. 27-Oct. 8 • Teams from the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Japan compete. City ball fields, Las Vegas, 916-326-5303.

American Veterans Program: Louis Cavagnaro • Sept. 28 • Retired marine and author. Ramada Express, Laughlin, 702-298-4200.

Chamber Golf Tournament • Sept. 30 • Falcon Ridge Golf Course, Mesquite, 702-346-2902.

Tea, Trends, and Tranquility • Sept. 30 • High tea, fashion show by Saks Fifth Avenue, and a silent auction sponsored by Las Vegas Founders. Location TBA, Las Vegas, 702-369-4357.

"The Little Princess" • Oct. 1-10 • Rainbow Company Youth Theatre. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211.

Images in Sound • Oct. 2 • Pianist Orio Weiss performs with the Las Vegas Philharmonic. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Super E Association West Coast Showdown • Oct. 2 • Drag racing. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 800-644-4444.

Tantalizing Telescopes • Oct. 2 • Las Vegas Astronomical Society program. Visitor Center, Red Rock Canyon NCA, 13 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-515-5350.

Art in the Park • Oct. 2-3 • One of the top fine-art shows in the West draws thousands. Bicentennial and Escalante parks and Wilbur Square, Boulder City, 702-294-5725.

Living History: Gold Panning • Oct. 3 • Demonstration and audience participation. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141.

Nevada Jazz Orchestra • Oct. 3 • Opening concert. Winchester Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

Las Vegas Bug-In • Oct. 3 • All-VW racing and car show. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 800-644-4444.

American Veteran Program: Joe Langone • Oct. 5 • Korean conflict. Ramada Express, Laughlin, 702-298-4200.

$139 Slot Tournament • Oct. 6-7 • Entry includes a two-night stay. Paris Las Vegas, 702-946-7000.

$99 Slot Tournament • Oct. 6-7 • Entry includes a two-night stay. Bally's Las Vegas, 702-739-4111.

Las Vegas Invitational • Oct. 7-10 • 22nd Las Vegas PGA Tour event. Former champions include Fuzzy Zoeller, Greg Norman, Curtis Strange, Tiger Woods, and three-time winner Jim Furyk. TPC Summerlin, TPC at the Canyons, and Bear's Best golf courses, Las Vegas, 702-242-3000.

Renaissance Faire • Oct. 7-10 • Parades, one-act Shakespeare plays, jousting, gladiator battles, trick riding, strolling minstrels. Sunset Park, Las Vegas, www.lvrenfair.com.

Alaskan Seafood Festival • Oct. 7-16 • Foods, totem pole carving, native dancers, and Alaskan arts and crafts. MonteLago Village, Lake Las Vegas, Henderson, 702-565-7400.

Star Chef • Oct. 8 • About 25 Las Vegas chefs prepare their specialties. Event includes auction for March of Dimes. Rio All-Suite Hotel, Las Vegas, 702-732-9255.

Logandale Bluegrass Festival • Oct. 8-10 • Southern Nevada Bluegrass Society's 15th annual event features parking lot jams, RV and tent camping, food and craft vendors, music workshops, and local and national bands perform. Clark County Fairgrounds, Logandale, 702-564-3320.

"Proof" • Oct. 8-10, 14-17 • Tony award-winning play about madness and



The Suns meet the Lakers in a preseason game October 24.



Italian food and strolling entertainers are part of the San Gennaro Feast September 14-19.

genius. Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Living History: Pioneer Living • Oct. 9 • Old-time skills and crafts. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141.

Super Car Spectacular: Buick Grand Nationals • Oct. 9 • Car show. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 800-644-4444.

Red Rock Canyon Harvest Festival • Oct. 9 • Tenth annual event includes cultural and natural history demonstrations and crafts for kids. Visitor Center, Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, 13 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-515-5350.

Las Vegas Basque Festival • Oct. 10 • Mass followed by dancers, relay races, food, and drink. Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza, Las Vegas, 702-270-9199.

American Veterans Program: Greg Young • Oct. 12 • Vietnam army veteran. Ramada Express, Laughlin, 702-298-4200.

Samuel Ramey: A Date with the Devil • Oct. 13 • UNLV Symphony Orchestra appearance. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

American Veterans Program: Fred Dungan • Oct. 14 • Served in a night-flying program. Ramada Express, Laughlin, 702-298-4200.

October Keno Tournament • Oct. 14-16 • Fitzgeralds, Las Vegas, 800-274-5825.

Friday Night Cruise In • Oct. 15 • Open to anyone interested in automobiles. Henderson Chevrolet, Henderson, 702-643-0000.

Las Vegas 200 • Oct. 15-17 • Best in the Desert off-road race. Las Vegas, 702-457-5775.

"One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" • Oct. 15-17, 21-24 • A charming rogue copes with an insane asylum and Nurse Ratchet. Nicholas J. Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-651-LIVE for further production information.

Living History: Vera Krupp • Oct. 16 • Actress and ranch owner's story. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141.

Fall Festival Car Show • Oct. 16 • Bluegrass music, kids' rides and games, pie-eating contest, crafts, and displays. Overton Park, Overton, 702-397-8875.

Las Vegas Century Bicycle Ride and Bike Fest • Oct. 16 • Five rides of different lengths start at Grand Central Parkway and end at a bikefest at Memphis Barbecue. Benefit for Ronald McDonald House. Las Vegas, 702-252-4663, ext. 0.

Around Our World in 80 Minutes • Oct. 16 • Singing comics Tony Arias and Lloyd Zeil. Winchester Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

BBSC Endurance Sports Pumpkinman Triathlon and 10K Run • Oct. 17 • Running, biking, and swimming. MonteLago Village, Lake Las Vegas, Henderson, 702-565-7400.

Sandstone Canyon Hike • Oct. 17 • Three-hour, moderate to strenuous hike. Long pants and hiking shoes advised. Bring water and lunch. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141.

American Veterans Program: Frank Denison and Bill Galbraith • Oct. 19 • WWII airborne infantrymen. Ramada Express, Laughlin, 702-298-4200.

Re/Max World Long Drive Championship • Oct. 19-23 • The best long-hitting golfers compete. Palms Golf Course, Mesquite, 888-233-4654.

One Act Play Festival • Oct. 20-24 • Plays by UNLV's graduate playwrights. Paul Harris Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.



Traditional dancers, crafters, and singers appear at the Pacific Islands Festival Ho'olaule'a 2004 on September 18-19 at Lorenzi Park in Las Vegas.

American Veterans Program: Carl Rizer • Oct. 21 • Retired air force. Ramada Express, Laughlin, 702-298-4200.

Second Annual Laughlin Run to Fun • Oct. 21 • Charity motorcycle run. Laughlin, 877-200-6378.

Pomegranate Art Festival • Oct. 22-23 • Crafts, music, artwork, entertainment, food, and kids make-and-take area. Old Logandale School, Logandale, 702-308-7007.

Vegas Valley Book Festival • Oct. 21-23 • Authors Walter Mosley speaks on Oct. 22 at Sam's Town Live and Charles Johnson on Oct. 23 at a location TBA. Book fair is planned for the Henderson Pavilion at Liberty Pointe. For information visit www.vegasvalleybookfest.org.

World's Championship Chili Cook-Off • Oct. 22-24 • $25,000 prize. Mandalay Bay, Las Vegas, 949-496-2651.

Nevada Heritage Festival • Oct. 22-24 • Craft and homemaking demonstrations, music, stagecoach rides, gold panning, and geode-cutting. Event includes a gem and mineral show. Clark County Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.

Oktoberfest • Oct. 23 • Entertainment, food, drinks, games, and dancing. Virgin River Convention Center, Mesquite, 702-346-2902.

Living History: Willard George • Oct. 23 • Ranch owner and "furrier to the stars. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141.

Tommy Tune and the Manhattan Rhythm Kings: Tap, Tunes, and Tails • Oct. 23 • Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

Hawaiian Isle Festival and Outrigger Canoe Regatta • Oct. 23-24 • Ethnic food, crafts, arts, entertainment, children's programs and an outrigger competition. MonteLago Village, Lake Las Vegas, Henderson, 702-565-7400 for more information.

All-Harley Drag Racing Association Screamin' Eagle Shoot-Out • Oct. 23-24 • World finals on Oct. 24. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 800-644-4444.

NBA Preseason Game: Los Angeles Lakers vs. Phoenix Suns • Oct. 24 • Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

Living History: Chet Lauck • Oct. 24 • Ranch owner and "Lum" of radio's *Lum and Abner.* Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141.

"Ethel Merman's Broadway" • Oct. 24 • Rita McKenzie stars as the singer. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Colorado Belle Golf Tournament • Oct. 24-26 • $18,000 in prize money based upon 90 golfers. Desert Lakes Golf Course, Laughlin, 877-480-2747.

American Veterans Program: Doug Pricer • Oct. 26 • Author solved the 60-year-old mystery of Dante Benetetti, a soldier listed as missing in 1945. Ramada Express, Laughlin, 702-298-2400.

Ghosts and Goblins of Nevada's Past • Oct. 26 • Ghost town tours and trick or treat at historic homes. Clark County Museum, Henderson, 702-455-455-7955.

Remembering Mexican Revolutionary Heroes • Oct. 26-Nov. 5 • Paintings by Mexican artist Argu. Winchester Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

American Veterans Program: Weymouth Symmes • Oct. 28 • Vietnam veteran. Ramada Express, Laughlin, 702-298-4200.

Professional Bull Riders World Finals 2004 • Oct. 28-31 • Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS for event information.

NHRA ACDelco Las Vegas Nationals • Oct. 28-31 • Drag races featuring 6,000-horsepower Top Fuel and Funny Cars. The Strip, Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 800-644-4444.

The Great Mesquite Chili and Arts Festival • Oct. 29-31 • Event includes chili and salsa cook-off. Virgin River Convention Center, Mesquite, 702-346-1338.

"Dracula" • Oct. 29-31 • Nevada Ballet Theatre presentation of the gothic tale. Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-243-2623.

Sarett Winner • Oct. 29-31, Nov. 3-7 • Premiere of the winning play in the Morton R. Sarett National Playwriting Competition. Black Box Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Nevada Day Celebration • Oct. 30 • Living-history pioneer activities, food, kids' games. Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park, Las Vegas, 702-486-3511.

Dracula's Macabre Masquerade Party • Oct. 30 • Costume party following the performance of "Dracula." UNLV Foundation Room, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-243-2623.

Monster Run/Walk • Oct. 30 • Benefit for UNLV Cancer Institute. Sun City Anthem Community Center, Las Vegas, 702-632-5333.

Living History: Chuckwagon and Trail Cooking Demonstration • Oct. 30 • Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141.

Sandstone Canyon Hike • Oct. 31 • Three-hour, moderate-to-strenuous hike. Long pants and hiking shoes advised. Bring water and lunch. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141.

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MGM Grand is proud to present the talents of Carrot Top, winner of the 2004 Nevada Magazine Readers' Award.
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Ongoing Events

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

Third Thursdays: Art galleries and businesses offer hors d'oeuvres and entertainment from 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 Gravesite, 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.

CasaBlanca Gaming Tournaments: Video poker, Wed. Keno, Wed. and Sat. Slots, Sun. CasaBlanca, Mesquite, 800-459-PLAY.

Hacienda Gaming Tournament: Blackjack, Fri. Hacienda, Hoover Dam, 702-293-5000, ext. 170.

Oasis Gaming Tournaments: Blackjack, Mon. Keno, Mon., Fri., and Sun. Slots, 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.

Virgin River Gaming Tournaments: Slots, Tues. and Thurs. Blackjack, Fri. Keno, Tues. and Thurs. Virgin River, Mesquite, 800-346-7721.

The Nature of Holography: Thru Sept. 5. Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Las Vegas, 702-486-5205.



"M...Mariachi Passion and Tradition" plays the V Theatre at Desert Passage at the Aladdin.

Gregory Etchison 9-11 Mural: Thru Sept. 11. Tribute painting. Las Vegas Art Museum, Las Vegas, 702-360-8000.

Barbara Lamdin 9-11 City Views: Thru Sept. 11. Las Vegas artist's memories. Las Vegas Art Museum, Las Vegas, 702-360-8000.

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

Jalees Nagee: Thru Sept. 14. Paintings and sculpture exhibition. Clark County Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3659.

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

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

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

Visions of the Southwest: Thru Sept. 21. Paintings by Jane Marquez. Spring Valley Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3820.

Anne Guertin: Thru Oct. 3. Fantasy paintings. Sunrise Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3659.

Viva Downtown: Celebrating the Art of the Aerial Gallery: Thru Oct. 8. Local artists. Bridge Gallery, City Hall, Las Vegas, 702-229-4674.

Life in Nevada: Thru Oct. 12. Henderson Art Association's exhibition of paintings, sculpture, and photography. Enterprise Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3760.

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

Nevada Wildlife: Thru Oct. 19. Paintings by John Mihopulos. Green Valley Library, Henderson, 702-507-3790.

Sharon Hildebrand Tour: Thru Oct. 24. Large-format contemporary paintings. West Charleston Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3659.

Michael Garcia: Thru Oct. 26. Hispanic Heritage Month exhibition. West Las Vegas Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3659.

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

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

Cats! Wild to Mild: Thru Dec. 30. Traveling exhibit traces felines from the sabertooth to domestic cats. Las Vegas Natural History Museum, Las Vegas, 702-384-3466.

Cool Stuff: Thru Jan. 9. 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.

Neon Las Vegas Photographs: Thru Jan. 11. Images of historic



and current neon signs. Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Las Vegas, 702-486-5205.

Neon Unplugged: Signs from the Boneyard: Thru Dec. 2005. Thirty pieces including historic photos, non-restored neon letters, and signs from historic marquees. Lied Discovery Children's Museum, Las Vegas, 702-382-KIDS.

Boulder City Art Guild at the Valley of Fire: Sept. 1-30. Visitor Center, Valley of Fire State Park, 60 miles northeast of Las Vegas, 702-293-2138.

Visual Journal: Sept. 1-Oct. 23. Paintings by Anthony E. Johnson. West Las Vegas Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

Movies Al Fresco in MonteLago Village: *School of Rock*, Sept. 2. *The Prince and Me*, Sept. 9. *Chocolat*, Sept. 16. *Matchstick Men*, Sept. 23. *America's Sweethearts*, Sept. 30. MonteLago Village, Lake Las Vegas, Henderson, 702-564-4785.

Short Line Express Markets Junior Drag Racing Series: Sept. 4, 11, Oct. 2. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 800-644-4444.

Midnight Mayhem: Sept. 10, Oct. 1, 8, 22. Alternative to street racing, 10pm-2am. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 800-644-4444.

Jerry's Nugget Championship Drag Racing Series: Sept. 11, Oct. 2. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 800-644-4444.

Motorcycle Madness Race: Sept. 11, Oct. 2, 9. 11pm-1:30am. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 800-644-4444.

Nevada Southern Railway Train Rides: 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.

Community Roots: The History of West Las Vegas: Sept. 11-Dec. 4. Weekly workshops with different speakers and topics. West Las Vegas Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

All Who Wander: Reflections From Journeys Past: Sept. 17-Nov. 14. Paintings by Nila Oakes. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

UNLV Football: The Rebels play Sept. 18 vs. Air Force, Sept. 25 vs. Utah, Oct. 2 vs. University of Nevada, Reno, Oct. 16 vs. New Mexico, Nov. 6 vs. Wyoming. Sam Boyd Stadium, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

Alex Boupha: Sept. 21-Dec. 7. Primitive paintings. Whitney Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3659.

Frederick Hart, American Sculptor: Oct. 1-Nov. 14. "Creative Spirit" exhibition. Las Vegas Art Museum, Las Vegas, 702-360-8000.

Pattern Wizardry: Oct. 1-Dec. 30. Hands-on activities featuring the patterns found in nature and culture. Lied Discovery Children's Museum, Las Vegas, 702-382-KIDS.

Autocross: Oct. 10, Nov. 13-14, 28. Competitive amateur driving event open to all drivers with a valid driver's license. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 775-727-1936.

Bats!: Oct. 29-Dec. 2006. Exhibit covers the myths, truths, and facts about the winged creatures. Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Las Vegas, 702-486-5205.

Coming Events

World of Outlaws Race • Nov. 5-6 • Las Vegas, 800-644-4444.

Mountain Man Rendezvous • Nov. 12 • Living-history camp. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141.

TJ Maxx Tour of Gymnastics Champions • Nov. 13 • Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

Aviation Nation Air Show • Nov. 13-14 • Las Vegas, visit www.nellisairshow.com.





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Oscar De La Hoya (above) fights Bernard Hopkins for the undisputed world middleweight title September 18 at the MGM Grand.

Laughlin Team Roping • Nov. 18-21 • Laughlin, 520-458-7922.

Celebrate the Season: 1920-1940 • Nov. 20-Jan. 16 • Holidays and historic homes. Clark County Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.

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.

National Finals Rodeo • Dec. 3-12 • Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

America's New Year's Eve Party and Centennial Kick-Off • Dec. 31 • Las Vegas, 702-260-8605.

Winter Break for 50-Plus Seniors • Jan. 7-13 • Laughlin, 480-926-5547.

Las Vegas Lives! 100 Years of Photographs • Feb.-Dec. 2005 • Centennial exhibit. Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Las Vegas, 702-486-5205.

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.

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: Eric Burdon and the New Animals, Dec. 3. Gary Puckett, Feb. 12. Amphitheater: Randy Travis, Sept. 24. An Evening with STYX, Sept. 25. Lonestar, Oct. 9. Alice Cooper, Oct. 23.

JEAN

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

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

LAS VEGAS

Aladdin • 877-333-WISH: 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, 10:30pm Wed.-Thurs., 5pm Fri.-Sun., 2pm Sun. matinee. For tickets call 702-892-7790. Aladdin Theater for the Performing Arts: 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.

Arizona Charlie's • 702-258-5200: Naughty Ladies Saloon: Fahrenheit, Aug. 31-Sept. 4. Checkmates, Sept. 7-18. Randy Anderson, Sept. 21-Oct. 2. Klass One, Oct. 26-Nov. 6. Karaoke Mon. Bands play Tues.-Sat. Jerry Tiffe's Band plays 4-7pm Fri.

Arizona Charlie's East • 702-951-9000: Palace Grand Lounge: Skip Eaton, Aug. 27-Sept. 12. John Encinio, Aug. 31-Sept. 5. Christy Bryant, Sept. 7-19. John Grieco, Sept. 17-Oct. 3. Greg Peterson, Sept. 21-Oct. 3. Checkmates, Oct. 5-10. Bruce Fargo, Oct. 8-17. Primetime, Oct. 12-17. Perfect Choice, Oct. 19-24. Martin Kohl, Oct. 22-Nov. 7. Randy Anderson, Oct. 26-Nov. 7. Bands play daily except Mon.

Bally's • 702-739-4111 or 800-237-SHOW: Jubilee Theater: "Jubilee!," dark Fri. Society of Seven with Lani Misalucha, 3pm Sat.-Thurs. Backstage Walking Tour at 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 play Wed.-Sat. in the lounge.

The Beach Nightclub • 702-610-5237: "Laughs at the Beach, touring stand-up comedians and improv group, 8-10pm Sat.

Bellagio • 888-987-6667: Cirque du Soleil's "O, indf., dark Mon.-Tues. Light Nightclub, 10:30pm-4am Thurs.-Sun. Caramel Bar, 5pm-4am Mon.-Sun. 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. G. G. Girls, Sun.-Mon.

Boulder Station • 702-432-7777 or 800-683-7777: The Railhead: 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. Average White Band, Oct. 16. Hal Ketchum, Oct. 22. The Tubes, Nov. 5. Don Williams, Nov. 6. Gerry and the Pacemakers, Nov. 12. Paula

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Poundstone, Nov. 13. Strunz and Farah, Nov. 20. Jerry Tiffe plays 2-4pm Thurs. KIXX: Shooting Stars Karaoke, Thurs.-Sat.

Bourbon Street • 702-737-7200: Big Easy Showroom: "Hypnolarious, 9pm., dark Mon.-Tues. "Spotlight," 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...," Sept., Oct. 1-3, 6-10, Nov. 3-7, 10-14, 17-21, 24-28, Dec. 1-5, 8-12, 28-31, dark Mon.-Tues. (call 877-4-CELINE).



Norah Jones performs "Come Away With Me" with the Handsome Band October 4-5 at the Hard Rock.

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 nightly except Thurs. 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: "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.) "Mr. Golden Voice, Philippine performer Jun Polistico, 5pm Thurs.-Mon. Bobby Ruffin's Tribute to the Drifters, 7:15 Tues.-Wed. Loni Clark's Tribute to the Marvelettes, Tues.-Wed. 9:15pm. 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 Sept. 7-18. "Bottoms Up," comedy revue, 2 and 4pm, dark Sun. George Wallace, comedian, performs Tues.-Sat. Second City Theater: "Second City," improv comedy sketches, Thurs.-Tues. "Second City Scriptless," Tues. and Sun. Bands play Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville. Flamingo Pool Parties, food and DJ, daily 4-8pm thru Sept. 6.

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: TBA. 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: "Spirit of the Dance, 5:30pm, dark Fri. Gordie Brown, 7:30pm, dark Wed.-Thurs. Lon Bronson's All-Star Band, 10pm-1am Mon., midnight-3am Sat. Bands play in the Show Bar Lounge. Music in the ZAX restaurant.

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. "Shock," bizarre acts, 11pm Sat.-Mon.

Hard Rock Hotel • 702-693-5066: The Joint: Crosby, Stills, and Nash, Sept. 10. Norah Jones, Oct. 4-5. 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. Comedy Cabaret: "Mac King Comedy Magic Show" appears at 1 and 3pm Tues.-Sat. Improv, nightly except Mon. "Skintight," adult musical revue, dark Thurs. Carnaval Court: Bands appear daily. Jazz in the Range Steakhouse Lounge 5:30-10:30pm Fri.-Sat.

Hofbrauhaus Las Vegas • 702-853-BEER. Bavarian bands like Die Biermeisters perform daily.

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.

JW Marriott Las Vegas • 702-869-2335: Plush Ultra Lounge and Supper Club: Opens 5pm weeknights, noon weekends. Music and dancing.

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 Theater: Elvis impersonator Trent Carlini in "The Dream King," thru Sept. 12, dark Mon. The Fab Four: The Ultimate Tribute to the Beatles, Sept. 14-26, dark Mon. ZZ Top, Sept. 24-25. Kenny Rogers, Oct. 1-2. Earth, Wind, and

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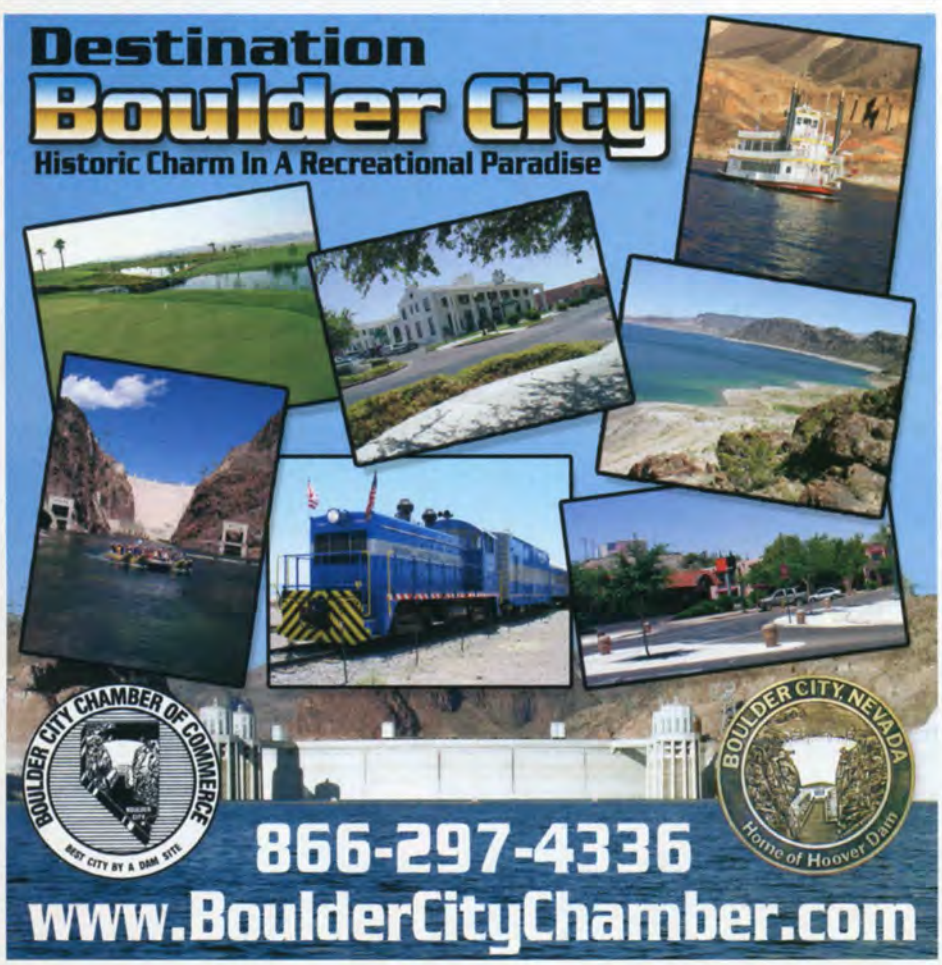


FREDDY FENDER
OCT 6–10



MARTY STUART
OCT 13–17





Fire, Oct. 7-9. Doobie Brothers, Nov. 5-6. Etta James, Nov. 12-13. The NightClub: Dance music Wed.-Sun. in the nightspot. Weekly dance contest 10pm Sun. thru Oct. 10.

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 are offered 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: Championship Boxing: Lamon Brewster vs. Kali Meehan and Cory Spinks vs. Miguel Angel Gonzalez, Sept. 4. Usher and Kayne West, Sept. 5. Professional Bull Riders 2004 World Finals, Oct. 22-24. Joe Weider's Fitness and Ms. Olympia Finals, Oct. 29-30. Summer Beach Concert Series: Rick Springfield, Sept. 3. REO Speedwagon, Sept. 4. House of Blues: Less Than Jake, Sept. 2. Coors Light Rock Prendido, Sept. 4. Aretha Franklin, Sept. 24-25. Decide w/Goatwhore, Oct. 7. Bright Eyes, Oct. 12. Flogging Molly, Oct. 23. Wynonna, Nov. 13. 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: David Copperfield, thru Sept. 8. Carrot Top, Sept. 9-15. David Copperfield, Sept. 16-29. Paul Anka, Sept. 30-Oct. 6. MGM Grand Garden Arena: Hilary Duff, Sept. 3. Robin Williams, Sept. 4. "Quest for History," Oscar De La Hoya vs. Bernard Hopkins, Sept. 18. 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 and Zuri lounges. Fashion show 10pm Wed. in Tabu. Louie Louie performs in the Show Bar Lounge, 10pm-2am Fri.-Sat. EFX Theatre: Cirque du Soleil show TBA.

The Mirage • 702-792-7777: Danny Gans Theatre: Impressionist Danny Gans, dark Fri. and Mon. Wayne Brady, Sept. 3-5. Ray Romano, Oct. 8-10. Entertainment in the Ava and Onda lounges 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 except Sept. 1, 7, 9, 12, Oct. 12, 31. 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 Showroom: Air Supply, Sept. 2-5. Righteous Brother Bill Medley: Relive the

Memories, Sept. 16-19. Smothers Brothers, Sept. 23-26. Joe Piscopo with Vincent Falcone conducting, Sept. 30-Oct. 3. 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. 29-Dec. 4. Clay Walker, Dec. 9-11. Orleans Arena: Pimp and Ho Costume Ball, Sept. 5. KWNR's Double Down Throwdown with Gary Allen, Joe Nichols, Rushlow, Brad Cotter, Jeff Bates, and Little Big Town, Sept. 18. Mariachi USA Festival, Oct. 2. World Bullfighting and Bucking Bull Championship, Oct. 23-24. Bourbon Street Cabaret: Performers 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.

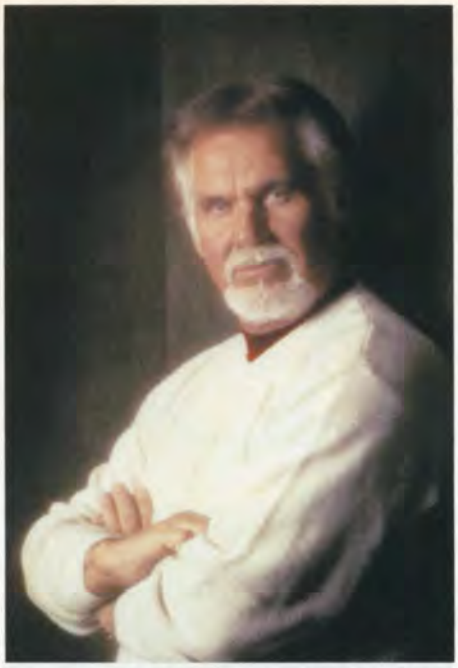
Palace Station • 702-367-2411 or 800-634-3101: Laugh Trax Comedy Club: Comedians perform Tues.-Thurs. Jack's Irish Pub: Entertainers perform nightly.

The Palms • 702-942-7777: Entertainment in Rain, Ghost Bar, and The Lounge.

Paris Las Vegas • 800-237-SHOW: Theatre des Arts: "We Will Rock You," a new production based on the music of Queen, dark Thurs. Bands play in Le Cabaret Lounge, Napoleon's Lounge, and Ah Sin Restaurant, entertainment nightly. Dancing 10pm-4am Wed.-Sun. in the Risqué nightclub. Eiffel Tower rides 10am-1am daily.

The Plaza • 800-634-6575: Plaza Theatre: TBA.

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 is offered nightly except Tues. in the Round Bar.



Kenny Rogers sings hits like "The Gambler" at the Flamingo Laughlin September 25-26 and the Las Vegas Hilton October 1-2.

Rio All-Suite Hotel • 702-252-7776 or 800-PLAYRIO: Samba Theater: Penn and Teller, comedy-magic show, dark Tues. Scinta Showroom: The Scintas, musical-comedy show, dark Thurs. Ronn Lucas, comic-ventriloquist, 3pm Sat.-Thurs., dark Fri. 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. Bands play nightly in the Voodoo Lounge.

Riviera • 702-794-9301: Splash Theatre: "Splash, production show starring magician Dirk Arthur, 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" 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. "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 Sat.-Sun., Tues.-Wed. "Visions of a King, with Michael Conti, Thurs.-Sun.

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

Sam's Town • 702-454-8048: Events Center: TBA. Showroom: TBA. 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: Rocksicle, 10pm Sat.

Silverton • 702-263-7777 or 800-588-7711: Showroom: Chubby Checker, Sept. 4. Little River Band, Sept. 18. Tribute to Bruce Springsteen, Sept. 24-25. 38 Special, Oct. 1. Davy Jones, Oct. 2. Tracy Byrd, Oct. 30. Bands play nightly.

Stardust • 702-617-5577 or 888-217-9565: Wayne Newton Theatre: Siegfried and Roy Present "Havana Night Club: The Show," thru Sept. 6. Chicago, Sept. 8-11. Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme, Sept. 17-19. 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 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 Rhythm Nation, Smooth, the Coasters, and Stinger play nightly. Kathy Lamar plays nightly thru Jan. 2 in the Top of the World Lounge, dark Mon.-Tues. Crazy Armadillos: Karaoke on Tues.-Wed. DJ Dance Party on Thurs.-Mon. Bands play Fri.-Sun.



Robin Williams plays the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas September 4.

Suncoast • 702-636-7111: Showroom: Battle of the Bands, Tues. in Sept. Sha Na Na, Sept. 3-5. Ronnie Laws, Sept. 10-11. 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. Jose Feliciano, Oct. 22-24. James Darren, 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. Lee Ritenour, Dec. 4-5. Bill Acosta, Dec. 10-12. Susan Anton, Dec. 17-19. Paul Revere and the Raiders and McKenna Medley, Dec. 29-31. 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 Mon.-Tues. Entertainment in the Mist and Breeze lounges. Tangerine Nightclub opens at 4pm Wed.-Sun. and features burlesque performances in the speakeasy style. The new venue has a 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," aerialists 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



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Black Diamond, wearing '70s "Love Gun" costumes, will rock all night in "Detroit Rock City" style during its KISS tribute October 29-30 at the Cannery in North Las Vegas.

Deck and in the hotel-casino's Boiler Room Microbrewery.

Edgewater • 702-298-2453: Lounge: Music plays nightly.

Flamingo Laughlin • 702-298-5111 or 800-435-8469: Flamingo Amphitheater: Kenny Rogers, Sept. 25-26. Charlie Daniels Band, Oct. 23. Engelbert Humperdinck, Oct. 30. 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., thru Dec. 31. "Showgirls, 10pm Thurs.-Sat., thru Dec. 31. Rio Vista Outdoor Amphitheater: Entertainment TBA.

Pioneer • 800-634-3469.

Ramada Express • 702-298-4200 or 800-243-6846: Pavilion Theatre: Fourth Annual Talent Quest Karaoke National Finals, Sept. 13-18. When We Were Fab: A Tribute to the Beatles, Sept. 26-29. 108th Army National Guard Band, Nov. 20. Caboose Lounge: Bands play nightly except Mon. Karaoke Madness is scheduled on Mon. American Heroes Museum of Memories: Memorabilia and speakers.

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: Gallagher, Sept. 2-6. "Country Music USA, Sept. 14-26. Yeah! Yeah! Yeah! Beatles Tribute by Rain, Sept. 28-Oct. 3. Freddy Fender, Oct. 6-10. Marty Stuart, Oct. 13-17. Bellamy Brothers, Oct. 19-24. Lesley Gore, Oct. 26-31. Vicki Lawrence and Mama, Nov. 3-7. Charo, Nov. 9-14. Mel Tillis, Nov. 16-21. Roy Clark, Nov. 23-28. "Country Christmas," Dec. 1-22. Debbie Reynolds, Dec. 28-31. Charlie Prose, Jan. 16-Feb. 6. "Ragus, March 15-20, Irish dance spectacular. Entertainment in the Lightning Strikes Nightclub.

MESQUITE

CasaBlanca • 702-346-7529 or 800-459-7529: CasaBlanca Showroom: Australia's "Thunder From Down Under," Sept. 9. Kip Attaway, Sept. 10-11. Little River Band, Sept. 17. Glenn Yarborough and the Kingston Trio, Oct. 15. Mel Tillis, Nov. 6. "Revolution: A Tribute to the Beatles, Dec. 31. Hypnotist Michael Mezmer, March 25-26. Comedy Club: Weekends when no performers are scheduled. Entertainers like Fortunes, Perfect Choice, and Electric Avenue play in the Skydome Lounge nightly except Mon.

Eureka Casino Hotel • 702-346-4646: Wild Cactus Lounge: Fun Fool's Karaoke, Tues. Bands play Thurs.-Sun.

Oasis • 702-346-5232 or 800-621-0187: Club Xtreme: Karaoke, Tues. Dance music Wed., Fri.-Sat. Cabaret Lounge: Bands like Pop Culture, Next Level, and Score play nightly except Mon.

Virgin River • 702-346-7777 or 800-346-7721: Entertainers like Susan Rey, Touch of Silk, and American Made play in the casino lounge nightly except Mon.

NORTH LAS VEGAS

Cannery • 702-507-5700: The Club: Grass Roots, Sept. 4. Glenn Frey, Sept. 5. Viva! A Tribute to Santana, Sept. 10-11. '60s Mania, Sept. 17-18. Black Diamond: A Tribute to KISS, Oct. 29-30. Pin-Ups Bar: Bands like Dynasty and Denole play nightly except Mon.

Fiesta Rancho • 702-631-7000: Club Tequila: Bobby Bare, Oct. 8. David Allan Coe, Dec. 17. Music in the Cabo Lounge.

Jerry's Nugget • 702-399-3000: Royal Street Lounge: Motown Fridays, dance music.

Texas Station • 702-631-1001: Dallas Events Center: Jamie O'Neal, Oct. 15. Brian McKnight, Oct. 16. Charley Pride, Jan. 22. The Armadillo: Kroakies Karaoke, Wed. Loveshack plays music from the '80s on Fri.-Sat. Sunday Swing with Jerry Tiffe, 4-8pm.

PRIMM

Buffalo Bill's Resort • 800-FUN-STOP: Star of the Desert Arena: Brooks and Dunn with Gretchen Wilson, Oct. 2. Bands play weekends in the lounge. Funniez Comedy Club: Stand-up comedians perform Fri.-Sat.

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



Nevada insider

The inside scoop on Nevada places of interest.



Reno's Rebirth

Downtown Reno mingles casino action, the river, and the arts.

By Richard Moreno

For decades, downtown Reno has been primarily known as the city's hotel-casino core, home of well-known resorts like **Harrah's**, **Eldorado**, **Circus Circus**, **Silver Legacy**, **Cal-Neva**, and **Sands Regency**. There you could always find a little action, whether it was catching Jay Leno or Bill Cosby in a showroom, playing an animated game of craps, or enjoying a thick slab of prime rib in a first-class restaurant.

While you can still do all of those things, the buzz in Reno these days is how downtown is evolving into an arts community and trendy place to live and play, particularly along the **Truckee River**.

It is appropriate that Reno's rebirth is taking place near the river because that's where the city started. In 1868 early bridge owner Myron Lake sold about 160 acres of what is now downtown to the Central Pacific Railroad. The railroad then plotted a townsite and auctioned the land that became Reno.

Today you may not recognize downtown if you haven't wandered around there recently. For instance, stroll into **Dreamer's** coffeehouse on the river, and you'll find comfortable, overstuffed chairs that offer a perfect place to read and sip a beverage while listening to a guy who plays Brahms on a piano for tips. Pop into **Bantu Spirit,** and you might leave with a carved ostrich egg. Browse the shelves at **Dharma Books,** and you're likely to find that out-of-print novel you've been longing for.

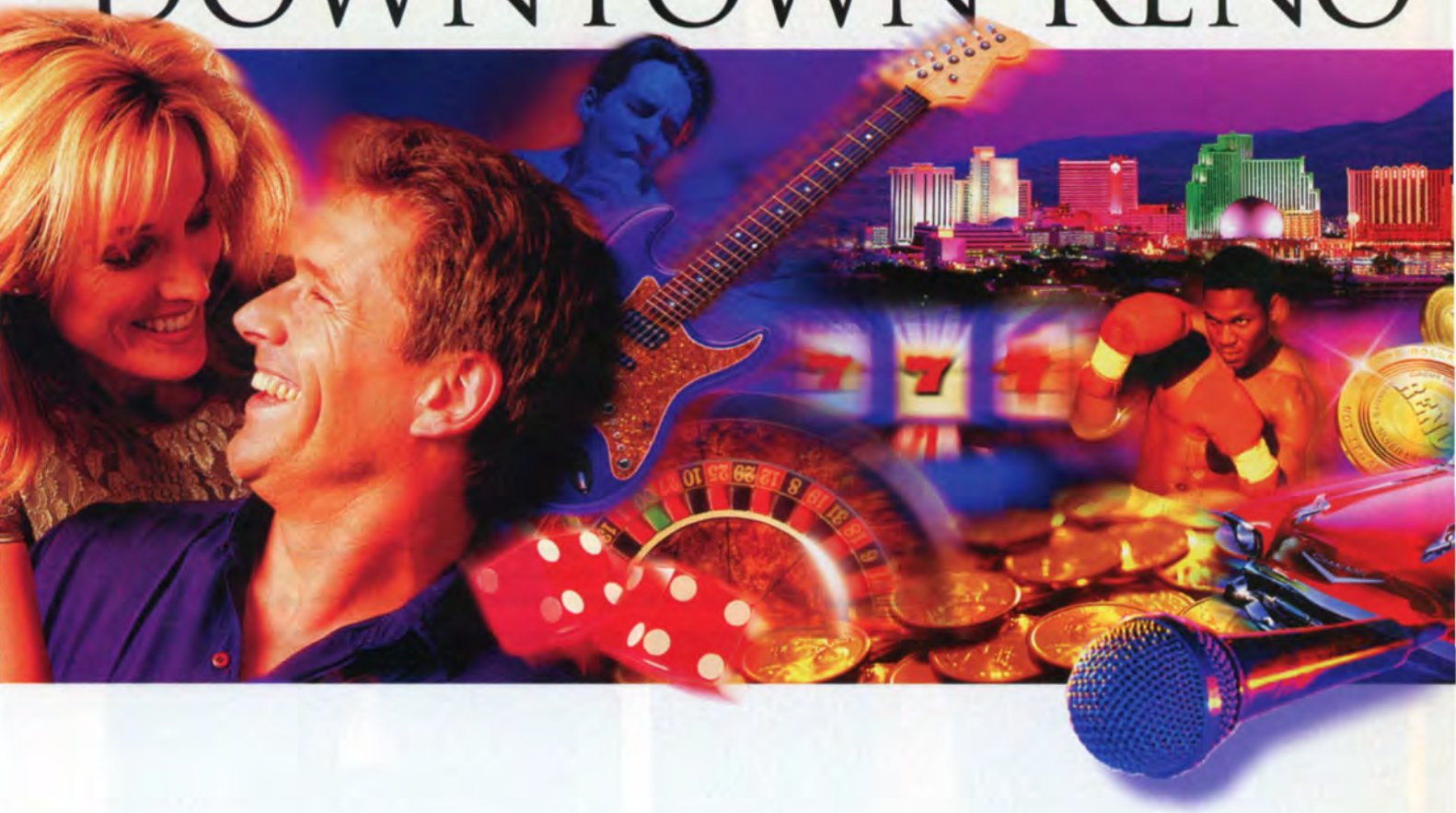
Reno's promotional slogan is "America's Adventure Place"—which targets outdoor enthusiasts—and one of the hottest new things in town is the **Truckee River Whitewater Park**. Less than a year old, the half-mile water attraction has rapids, a slalom racing course, and "drop pools" and boulders for kayakers.

Art and Culture: Downtown Reno also is the home of a budding arts and culture district. The centerpiece is the $16-million **Nevada Museum of Art** (160 W. Liberty St.), which opened in 2003. The distinctive four-story building, designed to evoke Nevada's Black Rock Desert, has 55,000 square feet of exhibit space for traveling art shows and the museum's permanent col-

The Century Riverside (above) plays art-house films and blockbusters on the Truckee River. Behind it are downtown's hotel-casinos.

PHOTO: Joyce Hollister

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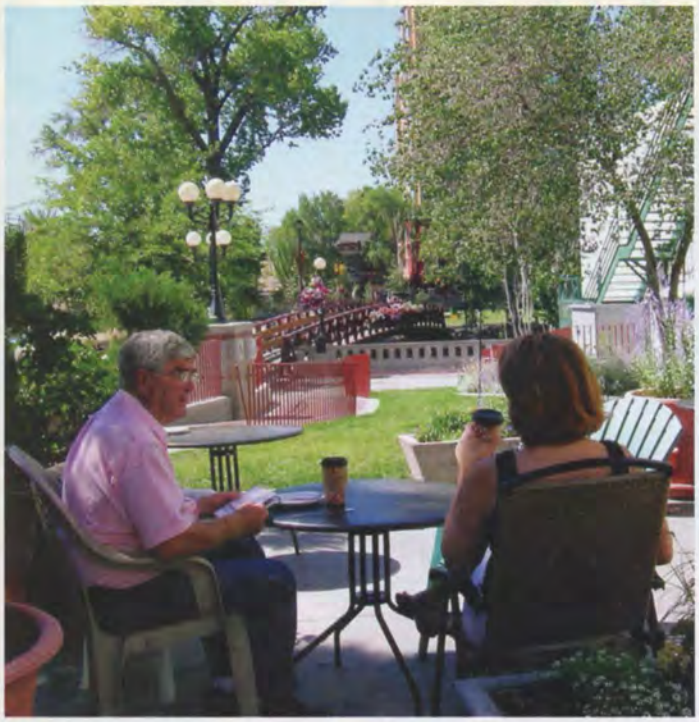
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RENO MORE PLACES TO PLAY!





Java Jungle's patio (left) draws coffee drinkers. Reno bike officers police downtown (above right). Celeste Roberge's "Carin" kneels at the entrance of the Nevada Museum of Art (below left). The 1,720-room Silver Legacy is downtown's largest hotel-casino (below).





lections. Recent shows have included works by impressionists Claude Monet and Edgar Degas, Mexican artists Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo, and Western artist Maynard Dixon.

The **Century Riverside 12** (11 N. Sierra St.) shows art-house movies as well as current blockbusters. **Bruka Theatre** (99 N. Virginia St.) presents popular and experimental theater **Magic Underground** (Virginia and Mill) is a magic show that features illusionists Mark Kalin and Jinger. You can catch an opera or Broadway play at the nearby **Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts** (100 S. Virginia St.).

In July 2005, the district will gain another arts venue with the opening of the **Lear Theater** (501 Riverside Dr.) in the historic First Church of Christ Scientist building. Erected in 1938, the former church is being restored.

The **Riverside Artist Lofts** (17 S. Virginia St.), located in the historic Riverside Hotel, built in 1927 and renovated in 2000, is home to 35 artists, many of whom sell their works in local galleries, including the first-floor **Sierra Arts Gallery**. Other galleries in the district include **Bantu Spirit** (17 S. Virginia St.), specializing in African arts and crafts, and **VSA arts of Nevada Gallery** (135 N. Sierra St.).

The art and culture of the car is the subject of the **National Automobile Museum** (10 S. Lake St.), a shrine to all things with pistons. Displaying more than 200 classic vehicles, the museum hosts special exhibits and events throughout the year.

Dining and Shopping: In recent years, trendy restaurants have appeared downtown, such as the **Beaujolais Bistro** (130 West St.), with country French cuisine, and **EJ's Jazz Café** (17 S. Virginia St.), offering Cajun dishes and live jazz. More are on the way, including the **Silver Peak Grill and Taproom, Pho Bac Hoa Viet,** a Vietnamese and Chinese restaurant, and **The Jungle** wine bar.

Of course, no place aspiring to hipness is complete without coffeehouses, and downtown Reno has two. **Java Jungle** (246 W. First St.) features live music, wireless Internet access, and gourmet

PHOTOS: Joyce Hollister (top left and right, below left), Larry Turner (below right)

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coffees. **Dreamer's Coffeehouse and Deli** (17 S. Virginia St.) offers the same caffeinated beverages as well as soups, salads, and sandwiches.

Upscale shops and boutiques have also blossomed, such as **Cavanaugh's** (135 N. Sierra St.), with classical and fine art; **La Brussola** (211 W. First St.), a funky retro-art, jewelry, and furniture shop; and **Parasols on the Riverwalk** (11 N. Sierra St.), a clothing shop specializing in original designs.

Events: Downtown has become an events magnet. **Street Vibrations**, a huge motorcycle rally, rolls into town September 22-26, while grape stompers and bands appear at the **Great Eldorado Italian Festival** October 9-10. Other fall events include the **Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off** September 2-6, the **Great Reno Balloon Race** September 10-12, and the **National Championship Air Races** September 16-19. (See this issue's "Reno-Tahoe Events and Shows" for details.)

Big summer events in and outside downtown include the **Reno Rodeo and Parade**, the **Eldorado BBQ, Brews, and Blues Festival**, **Artown** (throughout July), **Reno Basque Festival**, **Hot August Nights**, **Reno-Tahoe Open**, and **Nevada State Fair**.

Facilities and Redevelopment: Construction is under way on the $28-million **Reno Events Center**. The downtown facility will offer 118,000 square feet of exhibit space for small conventions, concerts, trade shows, and sporting events. Also, the former Mapes Hotel site is set to become the **Reno Public Plaza**, a $4-million outdoor arena that will serve as a seasonal ice rink and provide space for events. Set to open in 2005, the plaza will have shops and restaurants.

Since the mid-1980s, the city's redevelopment projects have included the **National Automobile Museum**, the **Raymond I. Smith Truckee River Walk**, the **National Bowling Stadium**, and improvements to **Wingfield Park**, including an outdoor amphitheater. More recently, the city has begun lowering the downtown railroad tracks, a project expected to be completed by 2006.

Several residential projects are in the works. The 12-story **Palladio** will have 87 luxury condominiums and 19,200 square feet of retail space on the ground floor. The $32-million project at the corner of First and Sierra is scheduled to be completed in 2005. The **Riverside Loft Project**, an eight-story, $17-million development adjacent to the Riverside Artists Lofts, will include 50 condos, a parking garage, and retail space. **Belvedere Towers**, formerly the Sundowner Hotel-Casino, is being converted into 377 condominiums. **Riverwalk Condominiums**, formerly the



Kayakers and sunbathers congregate at Wingfield Park's Truckee River island.

Comstock Hotel, will have 150 condos.

Hotel-Casinos: Of course, the biggest lure of downtown remains the hotel-casinos with their games, restaurants, and other attractions. And the scene is constantly evolving.

Downtown's landscape was radically changed in the 1990s with construction of the 1,720-room **Silver Legacy**, linked via skywalks to the **Eldorado** and **Circus Circus** hotels. The result is an enclosed mega-hotel-mall that, combined, has 22 restaurants, 240,000 square feet of casino space, convention space, showrooms, and more than 4,100 rooms and suites. Between the three properties there's so much to do—live circus acts, huge arcades, indoor fountains, entertainment—that sometimes you almost forget there's a whole city outside.

Three years ago the Tuscany-themed, 214-room **Siena** opened as Reno's first true boutique hotel, offering upscale rooms, a small casino, and gourmet restaurants. The **Golden Phoenix**, with its lofty restaurant, opened two years ago.

The **Sands Regency** and the **Club Cal-Neva** have added upgrades and refurbishings. **Fitzgeralds** is one of a number of downtown casinos close by the Reno Arch.

When **Harrah's Reno** tore down the old Harolds Club a few years ago, it built a special event plaza on Virginia Street. There you can almost stand beneath the Reno Arch to hear live music during holidays and special events.

To those who enjoy the mingling of many influences—the casinos, the river, and the arts—the music has never sounded so good.

Downtown Reno Information: Contact the **Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority**, 888-HIT-RENO or www.renolaketahoe.com; **Reno Redevelopment Authority**, www.cityofreno.com/redevelopment; and **Downtown Reno**, 888-288-1833 or www.downtownreno.com. A pocket-sized *Truckee River Arts District Map* is free at shops and galleries.

Richard Moreno is Nevada's *publisher.*






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PHOTO: Denise Barr

The Fastest Racers

Pilots fly biplanes, Soviet jets, and WWII fighters at the 41st Reno Air Races.

Story and Photos by Charlene Aro

Pulling his T-33 jet out of formation, pace-plane pilot Steve Hinton calls over the radio, "You have a race!" Eight pilots push their throttles to full power, and the roar of airplane engines echoes across the desert. Thus begins the world's fastest race—the Unlimited Gold, the final event of the National Championship Air Races in Reno.

This September 16-19 pilots will compete for the 41st year at the Reno Air Races, the longest-running event in air-racing history. Racers will vie for part of a record $1.1-million purse. Spectators will witness a pageant of speed and flying.

Air racing is similar to auto racing, but there's one big difference—air racing is full-dimensional. Imagine maneuvering against competitors that lurk not only on your side, in front, and behind you but also above and below as you fly 100 feet above the ground at more than 400 mph.

The racers compete in six classes on three- to eight-mile courses at Reno-Stead Airport.



Dago Red, a four-time champion, draws attention in the pits before an Unlimited race in Reno. Top: Fans are reflected in the polished spinner of a vintage Beech Staggerwing. Below: *September Pops* is a Hawker Sea Fury racer flown by Randy Bailey of Carson City.

Biplane racers recall the pioneer days of flying when most airplanes had two wings. Biplanes generally are home-built, often from kits, and compete on Reno's three-mile course at about 200 mph.

Formula One racers are the only aircraft designed exclusively for racing. Many are original designs, often built in someone's garage, and use wood, fabric, metal, fiberglass, and a lot of imagination. They fly 250 mph on the three-mile course.

Sport class competition began at Reno in 1998. These "sports cars" of air racing come in kits or factory-assembled with engines no larger than 600 cubic inches. Speeds reach about 300 mph on a six-mile course.

This class will receive much attention as fans eagerly await the debut of Jon Sharp's new *Nemesis NXT*. Between 1991 and 1999 Sharp established 16 world records with his Formula One *Nemesis* before retiring the aircraft to the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. Using a similar carbon-fiber construction, the aeronautical engineer from Lancaster, California, now plans to compete in the Sport class, the domain of air-race legend Darryl Greenamyer of San Diego.

T-6 racers are stock World War II-vintage training planes. Virtually every American pilot in the Greatest Generation flew an Army AT-6, a Navy SNJ, or a Canadian-built Harvard at some point. These planes are evenly matched, so winning is often the result of pilot skill rather than speed and horsepower. Speeds may reach 225 mph on a five-mile course.

Jet racers, which began demonstration races in 2002, will be competing for the first time. Each competitor flies an L-39 Albatross jet trainer, used by the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact countries after 1972 and now available in substantial numbers in the U.S. The sleek L-39s compete on a six-mile course at 450 mph for a $51,000 purse.

Unlimited racers are the real crowd pleasers. These former fighters fought great air battles in World War II. Arch rivals such as John Penney in *Rare Bear* and Skip Holm in *Dago Red* will race around the Unlimiteds' eight-mile pylon course at close to 500 mph. Penney, of Evergreen, Colorado, flies *Rare Bear*, a former Navy F8F Bearcat fighter owned by Lyle Shelton. *Rare Bear* holds the world speed record for propeller-driven aircraft (just over 528 mph) and has won seven Reno championships. Holm, of Calabasas, California,

in the World



T-6 races feature World War II-vintage training planes.



Voodoo, a modified P-51 Mustang, has been a top Unlimited Gold contender.

pilots *Dago Red*, a former Air Force P-51 Mustang fighter that has won in Reno four years in a row.

Patriotic Air Act: The weekend's air show is headlined by Julie Clark, a captain with Northwest Airlines, who presents a popular patriotic aerial ballet. Flying a T-34 military trainer, Clark performs graceful maneuvers to music and trailing red, white, and blue smoke-streams.

Fans can inspect a vast display of modern and vintage aircraft. Youth-oriented attractions include climbing walls and virtual rides. There will be a large food selection, too, as hot dogs and hamburgers have made way for Mexican dishes, Indian food, and sushi in recent years.

Tips for Racegoers

Qualifications and time trials on Monday to Wednesday, September 13-15, are free to the public.

Reserved seating is a good bet for the Thursday to Sunday race days. General admission seating is first come, first served.

Buying a pit pass allows you access to the event's inner workings. You can stroll among rows of brightly colored racing planes, some wearing authentic military camouflage and markings, others sporting flamboyant racing colors. Crews often are willing to answer questions.

You will spend a long day in the sun. Drink water, put on sunscreen, and wear a hat. Coolers are not allowed inside the main gate.

Information

The National Championship Air Races take place September 16-19 at Reno-Stead Airport, 10 miles north of downtown Reno. Tickets are available from Ticketmaster; for details call 775-787-8497 or visit www.ticketmaster.com. Starting Monday, September 13, tickets also will be sold at the gate. For more information on the event contact the Reno Air Races office, 775-972-6663 or www.airrace.org.

Charlene Aro is the longtime director of public relations for the National Air-racing Group (NAG) and a Reno resident.



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Reno-Tahoe

AREA EVENTS AND SHOWS

Fall is the Reno area's busiest season for events with back-to-back celebrations such as the Great Reno Balloon Race and National Championship Air Races. Athletes gather for the Lake Tahoe Marathon and the Tahoe Big Blue Adventure. Olivia Newton-John appears at Caesars Tahoe and ZZ Top at the Reno Hilton. *Nevada Magazine* presents these events and shows for September and October. Please call ahead to confirm dates and details.

Events

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 • Free concerts featuring Mumbo Gumbo on Sept. 2, Joe Diffie on Sept. 3, Foghat on Sept. 4, David Bromberg and Reunion Band on Sept. 5, and Euge Groove on Sept. 6. Also, there are arts and crafts and rib sampling. Victorian Square, Sparks, 800-843-2427.

Northern Nevada Senior Games • Sept. 2-11 • Open to ages 50 and older. Events include golf, weight lifting, track and field, tennis, bowling, and basketball. Gardnerville, 775-783-6455.

Numaga Days Powwow • Sept. 3-5 • Dancing, crafts, and food. Hungry Valley, north of Sparks, 775-329-2936.

Reno Sports Car Club of America • Sept. 4-5 • Autocross competition open to all licensed drivers. Location TBA, Reno, 775-267-4845.

Labor Day Lake Tahoe • Sept. 4-6 • Fishing derby, sternwheeler race, and fireworks. Stateline, Lake Tahoe, 775-588-4591.

Alpen Wine Fest • Sept. 5 • 16th annual benefit for the Jimmy Heuga Center for multiple sclerosis. Wine tasting, hors d'oeuvres, and a silent auction. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 510-205-4285.

Labor Day Concert • Sept. 5 • Free outdoor concert. Carson Nugget, Carson City, 800-426-5239.

Fireworks Spectacular • Sept. 5 • Stateline, Lake Tahoe, 775-588-4591.

Pajama Party Slot Tournament • Sept. 6-7 • Peppermill, Reno, 800-648-5555.

"Interesting Trolleys: Unusual Track" • Sept. 8 • Phil Stevenson lectures on trolley operations in the U.S., Canada, and Europe. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

World Championship Outhouse Races • Sept. 8-9 • Hand-constructed outhouses are pushed, pulled, dragged, shoved, carried, or thrown across the finish line. C Street, Virginia City, 775-847-0311.

Team Big Bear's CA Cross-Country and Downhill Mountain Bike Race • Sept. 9-12 • Northstar-at-Tahoe, Truckee, 909-866-4565.

Carson Valley Inn Mixed Scramble Golf Tournament • Sept. 10-



An acrobat performs in "Taganai" at the Eldorado in Reno, September 10-November 27

11 • $3,500 cash prizes. Play at Empire Ranch in Carson City. Minden, 775-783-6679.

Bullnanza • Sept. 10-11 • Fierce bull riding competition. Lawlor Events Center, Reno, www.tickets.com.

Great Reno Balloon Race • Sept. 10-12 • More than 100 balloonists compete for cash and prizes. Event begins at 5:30am with Dawn Patrol, followed by mass ascension. Rancho San Rafael Regional Park, Reno, 775-826-1181.

Virginia City International Camel Races • Sept. 10-12 • Jockeys get the worst of the deal during the 45th annual camel, emu, and ostrich races. Event includes petting zoo, food, crafts, and entertainment. Camel Dome Amphitheater, Virginia City, 775-847-7500.

$20,000 Balloon Race Slot Tournament • Sept. 10-12 • $100 entry fee. Reno Hilton, Reno, 888-547-2081.

Brawl in the Fall Handicapping Tournament • Sept. 10-12 • $800 entry fee. Reno Hilton, Reno, 888-547-2081.

Governor's Tin Cup Tea and Chuckwagon BBQ • Sept. 11 • State Museum benefit is $45 per person. Governor's Mansion, Carson City, 775-687-4810, ext. 222.

Tahoe Big Blue Adventure Series Finale • Sept. 11 • Teams and individuals compete in kayaking, mountain biking, trail running, orienteering/navigation, and rope-skill events. Various North Lake Tahoe locations, Lake Tahoe, 800-GO-NORTH.

Truckee Railroad Days • Sept. 11-12 • Rolling stock rail cars, model train, and motor car exhibits, handcar rides, parade, Wild West shows, and entertainment. Truckee, 530-546-1221.

Reno Philharmonic • Sept. 12 • Concert features composers Paul Dukas, Brahms, and Rachmaninoff. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-323-6393.

Squaw Valley Towne Picnic • Sept. 12 • Barbecue, games, and music. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Concert on the Green • Sept. 12 • Genoa Park, Genoa, 775-782-5697.

$35,000 Back to School Slot Tournament • Sept. 12-13 • Atlantis, Reno, 800-723-6500.

Cool September Days Car Show • Sept. 15-19 • Horizon, Stateline, 530-541-7300.

National Championship Air Races and Air Show • Sept. 16-19 • Six classes of aircraft race 40 feet above the ground in the world's only closed-course pylon air racing. Event features aerobatics and static displays. Reno-Stead Airport, Reno, 775-972-6663.

"Arsenic and Old Lace" • Sept. 17-18, 24-25, Oct. 1-2 • Classic comedy. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 775-883-1976.

$100,000 Bucks and Benz Slot Giveaway • Sept. 17-21 • Eldorado, Reno, 800-648-5966.

Street Festival • Sept. 18 • Event celebrates the Nevada Historical Society and Washoe County Library System centennials. Powning Park, Reno, 775-688-1190.

Street Dance and Car Show • Sept. 18 • Free outdoor event. Carson Nugget, Carson City, 800-426-5239.

Virginia City 100-Mile Horse Ride • Sept. 18 • 37th annual event is open to all persons. Each horse and rider must complete three loops with elevations between 5,000 and 7,800 feet and cross the finish line within 24 hours. The Depot, Virginia City, 775-847-0311.

Hayseed Hoot • Sept. 18 • Hootenanny featuring the Trailer Park Troubadours, Reverend Billy C. Wirtz, Paul Thorn, Doodoo Wah and the Willies. Hawkins Amphitheater, Bartley Ranch Regional Park, Reno, 775-828-6612.

The Bark Festival • Sept. 18 • Dog jump, fashion show, look like your pet contest, pet fortunetellers, and vendors. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-9247.

Dayton Valley Days • Sept. 18-19 • Street fair offers crafts, food, music, barbecue, dance, parade, pancake breakfast, games, stagecoach rides, silent auction, pinewood derby, cowboy poetry, pet parade, show and shine, and fire dancers. Pike Street, Dayton, 775-246-5746.

Relay for Life • Sept. 18-19 • Benefit 18-hour walk. Lampe Park, Gardnerville, 775-265-5634.

Ferrari Races at Virginia City • Sept. 18-20 • 31st annual ride featuring 22 corners and an elevation climb of 1,200 feet on State Route 342. Virginia City, 775-847-0311.

St. Teresa's Basque Festival • Sept. 19 • Ethnic food, dance, and games. Fuji Park, Carson City, 775-882-1968.

Richard Thompson with The Websters and Scott Nygard • Sept. 19 • Outdoor concert at Hawkins Amphitheater, Bartley Ranch Regional Park, Reno, 775-828-6612.

Back Forty • Sept. 19 • Bluegrass concert. Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa, 775-782-8696.

Salsa y Salsas! Festival • Sept. 19 • Eighth annual event features food, crafts, salsa tasting competition, dance contest, and entertainment. Legislative Plaza, Carson City, 775-887-1294.

Autumn Jazz • Sept. 21 • Big-band jazz with the Mile High Jazz Band. Comma Coffee, Carson City, 775-883-4154.

Street Vibrations • Sept. 22-26 • Harley-Davidson motorcycle festival with show and shines, parades, ride-in and stunt shows, concerts, music, vendors, and food. Various locations, Reno, 800-826-1181.

Harleys on Mount Davidson • Sept. 22-26 • Motorcycle rally. C Street, Virginia City, 775-847-0311.

Kepa Junkera • Sept. 23 • Folk music. Nightingale Hall,



A grinning visage looms over the spectators at the Great Reno Balloon Race. The September 10-12 event begins with the Dawn Patrol.

PHOTO: Joy Beldin McDonough



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UNR, Reno, 775-784-6847 for further event information.

$15,000 Fall Craps Tournament • Sept. 24-26 • $100 entry fee. Reno Hilton, Reno, 888-547-2081.

"Once Upon a Mattress" • Sept. 24-Oct. 3 • Western Nevada Theatre Company presentation. Community Center, Carson City, 775-445-4249.

Tahoe Sierra Century Bike Ride • Sept. 25 • Benefit event has 30-, 60-, and 100-mile routes. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, www.tahoesierracentury.com.

Rosanne Cash • Sept. 25 • Outdoor concert at Hawkins Amphitheater. Bartley Ranch Regional Park, Reno, 775-828-6612.

Reno Chamber Orchestra • Sept. 25 • Concert features violinist Corey Cosovsek. Nightingale Hall, UNR, Reno, 775-348-9413.

Genoa Candy Dance • Sept. 25-26 • 84th annual event draws more than 350 craft and art vendors. Includes a dinner and dance to the music of the Comstock Cowboys, and the town's famous candy sale. Genoa, 775-782-8696.

Peddlers Fair • Sept. 25-26 • Antiques Plus, Genoa, 775-782-4951.

Nissan Xterra USA Championship • Sept. 25-26 • Extreme athletes compete for an $80,000 purse in a 1.5K swim, 32K mountain-bike ride, and 10K trail run. Xterra Nevada is Sept. 25. Pre-qualified event on Sept. 26. Lake Tahoe is the last stop before the world championship event in Maui. Incline Village, www.xterraplanet.com.

Carson Valley Sertoma Oktoberfest • Sept. 26 • Music, food, and dancing. Minden Park, Minden, 775-265-9673.

$15,000 Fall Classic Keno Tournament • Sept. 26-27 • Atlantis, Reno, 800-723-6500.

$20,000 Find Your Fortune Blackjack Tournament • Sept. 26-27 • Atlantis, Reno, 800-723-6500.

The Sky's the Limit Video Poker Tournament • Sept. 26-27 • Peppermill, Reno, 800-648-5555.

OATBRAN: One Awesome Tour Bike Ride Across Nevada • Sept. 26-Oct. 2 • Fully-supported ride on U.S. 50 from Lake Tahoe to Great Basin National Park passes through Fallon, Austin, Eureka, Ely, and Baker. Stateline, Lake Tahoe, 800-565-2704.

$1,500 Blackjack Tournament • Sept. 28 • $25 entry fee. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-783-7711.

"The Producers" • Sept. 28-Oct. 3 • Tony Award-winning comedy. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 800-714-5331.

Taste for Travel • Sept. 30 • Benefit appetizer and dessert competition. Reno Hilton, Reno, 775-829-2273.

Carson City Oktoberfest • Oct. 1-2 • Music, food, book sale, and crafts. Mills Park, Carson City, 775-887-2244.

"Night Mother" • Oct. 1-2, 7-10, 14-16, 21-23 • Drama presented by Bruka Theatre. Bruka Theatre, Reno, 775-323-3221.

Lake Tahoe Autumn Food and Wine Fest • Oct. 1-3 • Wine tasting, cooking demonstrations, and samplings. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 800-824-6348.

Oktoberfest • Oct. 2 • Bavarian music, dancing, and beer. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-584-6268.

Scarecrow Festival • Oct. 2 • Materials are provided to help you create a scarecrow. Minden Park, Minden, 775-782-7629.

Reno Doll and Teddy Bear Show • Oct. 2 • Regional show and sale features demonstrations, seminars, and contests. Speakeasy Conference Center, Reno, 775-224-1884.

Native American Basketweaver's Market • Oct. 2-3 • Demonstrations, sale, and show. Gatekeepers Museum, Tahoe City, 530-583-1762.



Diet is a four-letter word at the Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off September 2-6.

Kokanee Salmon Festival • Oct. 2-3 • Celebration marks the running of the salmon. USFS Visitor Center, Taylor Creek, South Lake Tahoe, 530-543-2600.

Oktoberfest Slot Tournament • Oct. 3-4 • Peppermill, Reno, 800-648-5555.

Lake Tahoe Marathon Race Week • Oct. 5-10 • A field of 3,000 world-class and recreational runners is expected for the ninth annual event, which for the first year will include an orienteering event on Oct. 7. Athletes compete in a marathon, half-marathon, relays, wheelchair marathon, and 10K, 5K, and kid's runs, a 35-mile bike run, and the Tahoe Three-Day Triathlon. Also included are a sports and fitness expo and pasta cruise aboard the *Tahoe Queen*. Visit www.laketahoemarathon.com or call 530-544-7095 to check Lake Tahoe locations.

Pot of Gold Poker Tournament • Oct. 7-17 • Buy-ins from $200. Reno Hilton, Reno, 888-547-2081.

Carson Valley Pops Concert • Oct. 9 • Civic Hall, Minden, 775-265-2841.

Stroke for Hope Breast Cancer Golf Tournament • Oct. 9 • Benefit to provide free mammograms. Eagle Valley Golf Course, Carson City, 775-882-3051.

Eldorado Great Italian Festival • Oct. 9-10 • Grape stomp, entertainment, and food. Eldorado, Reno, 800-648-5966.

Reno Sports Car Club of America • Oct. 9-10 • Autocross competition open to all licensed drivers. Reno-Stead Airport, Reno, 775-267-4845.

Reno Philharmonic • Oct. 10 • Concert features Mozart and Beethoven. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-323-6393.

Slot Tournament • Oct. 10-11 • Atlantis, Reno, 800-723-6500.

"South American Railroads" • Oct. 13 • David Bell lecture on steam train operations. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

Perla Batalla • Oct. 14 • Former backup singer for Leonard Cohen and k.d. lang. Nightingale Hall, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6847.

Oktoberfest • Oct. 15 • Specialty and microbrews, German food. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-782-8144.

V&T History Symposium • Oct. 15-17 • Event's theme, "Yerington to Wurm: Building and Preserving the Past, also covers an in-shop progress report on the restoration of the museum's one-of-a-kind 1910 McKeen motor car and includes a steam-up on Oct. 17. Presentations on narrow gauge railroads, and a night photography session. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

Blackjack Tournament • Oct. 16-17 • Peppermill, Reno, 800-648-5555.

Carson Valley Inn/Genoa Lakes Charity Pro-Am Golf Tournament • Oct. 18 • Play at Genoa Lakes. Minden, 775-782-4653.

October Jazz • Oct. 19 • Mile High Jazz Band concert. Comma Coffee, Carson City, 775-883-4154.

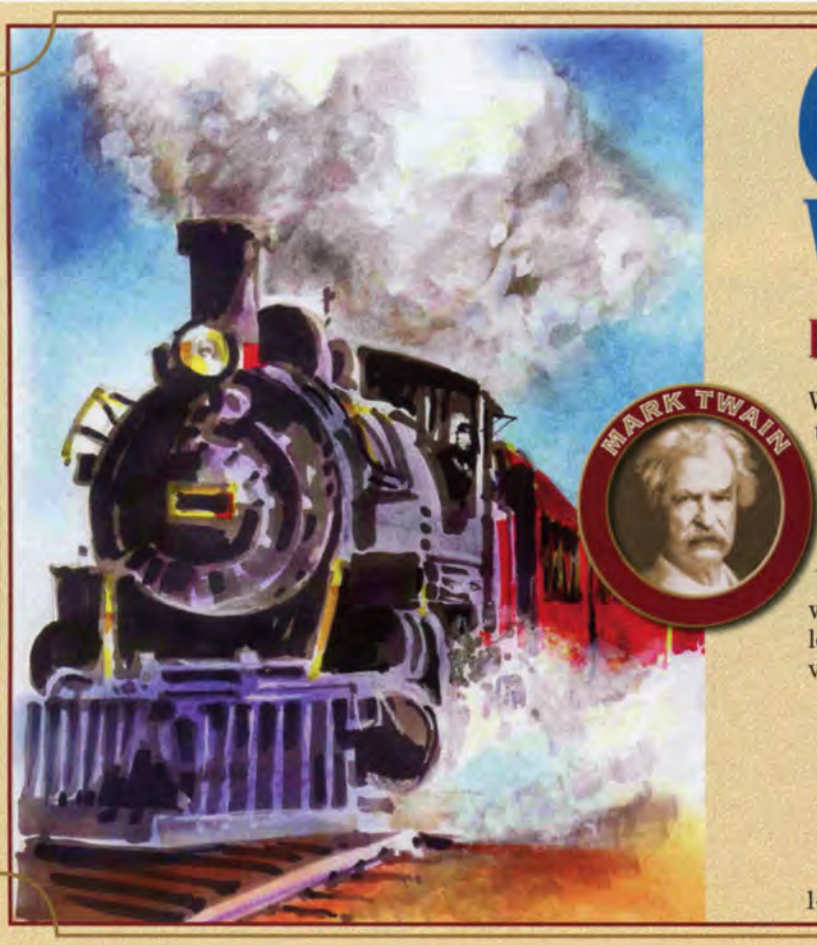
David Copperfield • Oct. 19-20 • Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-686-6600.

Carson Valley Inn Fall Stag Golf Outing • Oct. 21-23 • Play at Genoa Lakes Golf Club and Sierra Nevada Golf Ranch. Minden, 775-783-6625.

Carson Valley Inn Oktoberfest and Beer Tasting • Oct. 22 • Music, food, and dancing. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-783-6679.

Reno Hilton Oktoberfest • Oct. 22 • Music, food, and souvenir beer steins. Reno Hilton, Reno, 800-648-3568.

Barn Dance • Oct. 23 • Music by Exit 22. Location TBA, Gardnerville, 775-782-8698.



Carson and Virginia Cities

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PHOTO: Chris Talbot

Kit Carson Trail Ghost Walk • Oct. 23 • Participants on a guided walking tour of historic homes are greeted by "spirits." Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 775-687-7410.

Nevada Ghost Hunting Conference • Oct. 23 • Lectures on the paranormal and investigative methods and tours of haunted sites. Truckee Meadows Community College, Reno, 775-839-9010.

Cemetery Tour • Oct. 23 • Self-guided tour from 6:30-8pm. Bring a flashlight and dress warmly. Genoa Cemetery, Genoa, 775-782-2010.

Reno Chamber Orchestra • Oct. 23 • All-Mozart concert. Nightingale Hall, UNR, Reno, 775-348-9413.

Nevada Day Celebration Week • Oct. 23-31 • Admission Day festivities include Nevada's largest parade on Oct. 30. Also, a golf tournament, carnival, pancake breakfast, fun run and walk, historic train ride, chili feed, beard contest, and the Silver State Rumble boxing events are included. Piper's Opera House in Virginia City hosts the Masked Ball and the 1864 Grand Ball, and the 29th World Single-Jack Drilling World Championships take place downtown. Carson City, 800-NEVADA-1, www.nevadaday.com.

Carson City Symphony • Oct. 24 • Opening concert features guest cellist Stephen Framil. Community Center, Carson City, 775-883-4154.

$1,500 Blackjack Tournament • Oct. 26 • $25 entry fee. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-783-7711.

Boot Hill Bash Halloween Party • Oct. 29 • Reno Hilton, Reno, 800-648-3568.

Carson Valley Inn $20,000 Fall Tri-Game-A-Thon • Oct. 29-30 • Blackjack or slots and keno. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-783-7711.

Northern Nevada Fall Home and Lifestyle Show • Oct. 29-31 • Reno-Sparks Convention Center, Reno, 775-852-SHOW.



Camels provide comic relief at the Virginia City International Camel Races September 10-12.

Pai Gow Poker Tournament • Oct. 29-31 • Eldorado, Reno, 800-648-5966.

Halloween Slot Tournament • Oct. 29-31 • Atlantis, Reno, 800-723-6500.

Nevada Day Parade • Oct. 30 • Carson City, 800-NEVADA-1, www.nevadaday.com.

Nevada Day Open House • Oct. 30 • Free museum admission celebrates Nevada's Admission Day. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953 for event information.

Brenn Hill • Oct. 30 • Concert is part of the Nevada Day Music and Heritage Festival. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 775-883-1976.

Nevada Day Steam-Up • Oct. 30 • The 1881 steam locomotive No. 8 runs every 40 minutes. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

Black and Black Ball • Oct. 30 • Elegant Halloween dance. Valhalla Historic Site, Lake Tahoe, 530-542-4166.

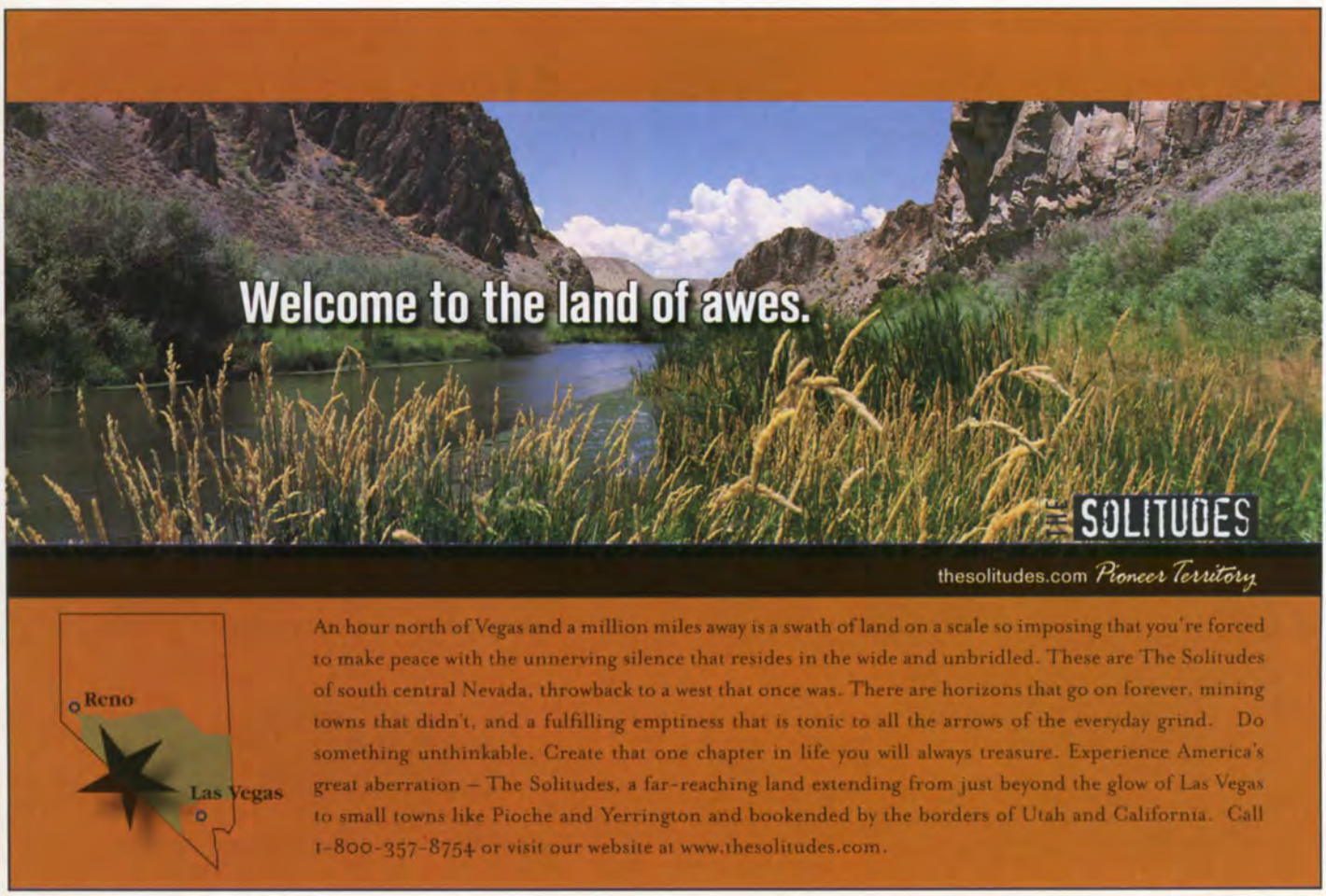


PHOTO: Gayland Anderson



"Wonderland" dancers swirl across the stage in a flamenco sequence at Harrah's Reno.

Ghost Walk • Oct. 30-31 • Historic Comstock town sports Halloween decorations. Trick-or-treating on C Street. Virginia City, 775-847-0311.

Genoa Halloween Party • Oct. 31 • Town Hall, Genoa, 775-782-8696.

Rick Hayes and American Steele • Oct. 31 • Concert is part of the Nevada Day Music and Heritage Festival. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 775-883-1976.

Haunted Halls • Oct. 31 • Tours to search for ghostly residents. Fourth Ward School Museum, Virginia City, 775-847-0975.

Reno Bridal and Beauty Expo • Oct. 31 • Reno-Sparks Convention Center, Reno, 775-849-8000.

Halloween Keno Tournament • Oct. 31-Nov. 1 • Atlantis, Reno, 800-723-6500.

Deja Blues • Nov. 1 • Concert and barbecue is part of the Nevada Day Music and Heritage Festival. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 775-883-1976.

Emma Nevada • Nov. 2 • Mary McNeill portrays the 1885 opera singer from the Silver State. Concert is part of the Nevada Day Music and Heritage Festival. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 775-883-1976.

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.

Blackjack and Slot Tournaments: Daily. $5 entry fee. Circus Circus Reno, 888-682-0147.

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.

Siena Gaming Tournaments: Blackjack Mon., video poker. Tues. and Fri. Siena Hotel, Reno, 775-337-6260.

Blackjack Tournaments: Tues. $20 buy-in and Fri. $10 buy-in. Carson Nugget, Carson City, 800-426-5239.

Video Poker Tournaments: Thurs. $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.

Dinner Theater: Wed. and Thurs. thru Sept. 2. Gold Hill Theater Troupe presents "Deception" on Wed. and "The Day the Comstock Stood Still" on Thurs. Gold Hill Hotel,



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Kids gather 'round the face-painting booth at Dayton Valley Days, a celebration filled with food, crafts, and family attractions.

Gold Hill, 775-847-0111 for more theater information.

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.

Fred Reid: Thru Sept. 24. UNR ceramics professor. Sheppard Fine Arts Gallery, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6658.

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, Virginia City, 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.

Year of the Basket: Thru Nov. 30. Indian, African, and Pacific Island baskets. Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Gardnerville, 775-782-2555.

Jeanne Elizabeth Wier Exhibit: Thru Dec. 31. Centennial tribute to the museum's founding director. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 775-688-1190.

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.

Judy Hilbish Exhibition: Sept. 2-30. Paintings and weavings. Silver State Gallery, Reno, 775-324-2323.

PHOTO: Kurt Hildebrand



Norton Buffalo and Friends present several musical styles, from bluegrass to reggae and rockabilly to ballads, October 21 at Boomtown, eight miles west of Reno.

Village at Squaw Valley Music Series: Sept. 2, 9, 16. Free entertainment 5-7pm. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-582-6266.

People and Places in Pastels: Sept. 3-26. North Tahoe Arts, Tahoe City, 530-581-2787.

Historic Train Rides: Sept. 4-6, 11-12, 18-19, 25-26, Oct. 17 and 30. Ride the museum's 1926 diesel-powered railcar or a steam train. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

Movie Night at the Village at Squaw Valley: Sept. 8 and 15. Outdoor free movies. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-584-6266 for movie information.

UNR Football: The Wolf Pack plays Sept. 11 vs. Sacramento State, Sept. 18 vs. Buffalo, Oct. 16 vs. Rice, Oct. 23 vs. Tulsa, Nov. 6 vs. San Jose State, Nov. 27 vs. Boise State. Mackay Stadium, Reno, 775-784-6900.

Western Landscapes Exhibition: Oct. 3-Nov. 20. Paintings by Gene Speck. Silver State Gallery, Reno, 775-324-2323.

Lynn Kirby Exhibition: Oct. 4-Nov. 5. Video exhibition. Sheppard Fine Arts Gallery, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6658.

Basque Tree Carving Exhibition: Oct. 5-Nov. 30. Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Gardnerville, 775-782-2555.

Have Paint...Will Travel: Oct. 21-Nov. 13. Paintings by Dan MacInnis. Silver State Gallery, Reno, 775-324-2323 for exhibit information.

Coming Events

Senior National Finals Rodeo • Nov. 1-7 • Reno, 775-688-5751.

Rhymers Rodeer Cowboy Poetry • Nov. 5-6 • Minden, 775-783-6679.

Nevada Opera Presents "Turandot" • Nov. 5 and 7 • Reno, 775-786-4060.

American Brass Quintet Concert • Nov. 18 • Reno, 775-784-6847.

Turkey Trot Run/Walk • Nov. 25 • Sparks, 775-353-7815.

Sparks Hometowne Christmas Parade • Dec. 4 • 775-353-2291.

Parade of Lights • Dec. 4 • Minden and Gardnerville, 775-782-8144.

Victorian Christmas • Dec. 6-7 • Virginia City, 775-847-0975.

"The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" • Jan. 28-30 • Reno, 800-714-5331.

Reno Chamber Orchestra Concerto Competition with Leonard Nimoy • April 30 • Reno, 775-348-9413.

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Shows

CARSON CITY

Carson Nugget • 775-882-1626 or 800-426-5239 (continental U.S. including Nevada): Nugget Show Lounge: Entertainers like the Motifs, Melissa Dru, Madison Avenue, Sidewinder, The Act, and Band on the Run appear Tues.-Sun. Special Events: Labor Day Concert, Sept. 5. Street Dance and Car Show, Sept. 18.

Carson Station • 775-883-0900: Bands like City Zu, Amy Clawson, Shake, Rattle, and Roll, and Stew Stewart play nightly except Mon.

Piñon Plaza • 775-885-9000: Sports Book Lounge: Bands like Rob Hanna, Stew Stewart, and the Midnight Riders play Wed.-Sun.

CARSON VALLEY

Carson Valley Inn • Minden, 775-782-9711 or 800-321-6983: Cabaret Lounge: Kid 'n Nic, thru Sept. 5. Tommy Bell, Sept. 7-12. Manny B and the Rhythm Nights, Sept. 14-19. Chazz, Sept. 21-26. Sidro's Armada, Sept. 28-Oct. 3. Perfect Choice, Oct. 4-10. Four-Way Street, Oct. 11-17. Melissa Dru, Oct. 19-24. Major Link, Oct. 26-31.

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: Norton Buffalo and Friends, Oct. 21. Can-Can Theater and Dancehall: Bands like Midnight Riders and Louie Fontaine appear Tues.-Sun.

Club Cal Neva • 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: Tony Bennett, Oct. 9. Eyes of Alice Cooper Tour Masquerade, Oct. 30.

Eldorado • 775-786-5700, 800-648-5966 (U.S. outside Nevada) or 800-648-3024 (Canada): Eldorado Showroom: "Grease, the Broadway musical, thru Sept. 5. "Taganai, a Russian Cirque-style production show, Sept. 10-Nov. 27. Robert Goulet: The Man and His Music, Nov. 29-Dec. 2. 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: "Hypnolarious with Terry Stokes," thru Dec.

Harrah's Reno • 775-788-2900 or 800-HARRAHS: Sammy's Showroom: "Wonderland, production show, 8pm Thurs.-Fri. and Sun.-Mon., 7 and 9pm Sat., dark Tues.-Wed. "Showgirls, adult revue, indf., 10:30pm Thurs.-Fri. and Sun.-Mon., 11:30pm Sat., and 8pm Wed., dark Tues. 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: Entertainment TBA. Celebrity Showroom: Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood, Sept. 10-11. Robert Cray, Sept. 17-18. Joan Jett and the Blackhearts, Sept. 24-25. Eric Burdon and the Animals, Oct. 1-2. The Subdudes, Oct. 5. Rick Springfield, Oct. 9. Mark Curry, Oct.

15-16. Debbie Reynolds, Oct. 22-23. Bands play in the Casino Cabaret and Trader Dick's. Flamenco guitarist Thurs. and jazz Fri.-Sat. in Restaurante Orozko. Special Event: Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off free concerts at Victorian Plaza: Mumbo Gumbo, Sept. 2. Joe Diffie, Sept. 3. Foghat, Sept. 4. David Bromberg and Reunion Band, Sept. 5. Euge Goove, Sept. 6.

Peppermill • 775-826-2121 or 800-648-6992: Tahoe Grand Showroom: Entertainment TBA. Cabaret Lounge: Bands like Slapback, Bad Moon Rising, Uncle Funkle, and Laurie Thomas and the Trick play nightly. Piano music featuring Ron Perry or Dale Vernon nightly in the Steakhouse.

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: Deep Purple, Joe Satriani, and Thin Lizzy, Sept. 2. ZZ Top, Sept. 18. Hilton Theater: Entertainment TBA. 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. Singer Herb McQuay performs 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 except Sun.-Mon. Corky Bennett performs Tues.-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: Bill Medley, Sept. 4.



Debbie Reynolds appears at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, the Orleans in Las Vegas, and the Riverside Resort in Laughlin.

Tim Conway and Harvey Korman, Sept. 17-18. Doobie Brothers, Sept. 24-25. Randy Travis, Oct. 2. Johnny Mathis, Oct. 15-16. 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: Olivia Newton-John, Sept. 4. Montgomery Gentry, Sept. 25. The Club Nero has music for dancing.

Harrah's Lake Tahoe • 800-HARRAHS: South Shore Room: Jimmy Hopper, thru Sept. 26. 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: Alabama, Sept. 4. 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: Breeze Nightclub: Superstars on Stage, Sept. 30-Oct. 1 and Oct. 28-29, celebrity look-and sound-alike performances. Music nightly except Mon.

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AUGUST
LYON COUNTY FAIR, RODEO & PARADE - YERINGTON

SPIRIT OF WOVOKA DAYS POWWOW - YERINGTON

SEPTEMBER
FERNLEY LIVING HISTORY FESTIVAL - FERNLEY

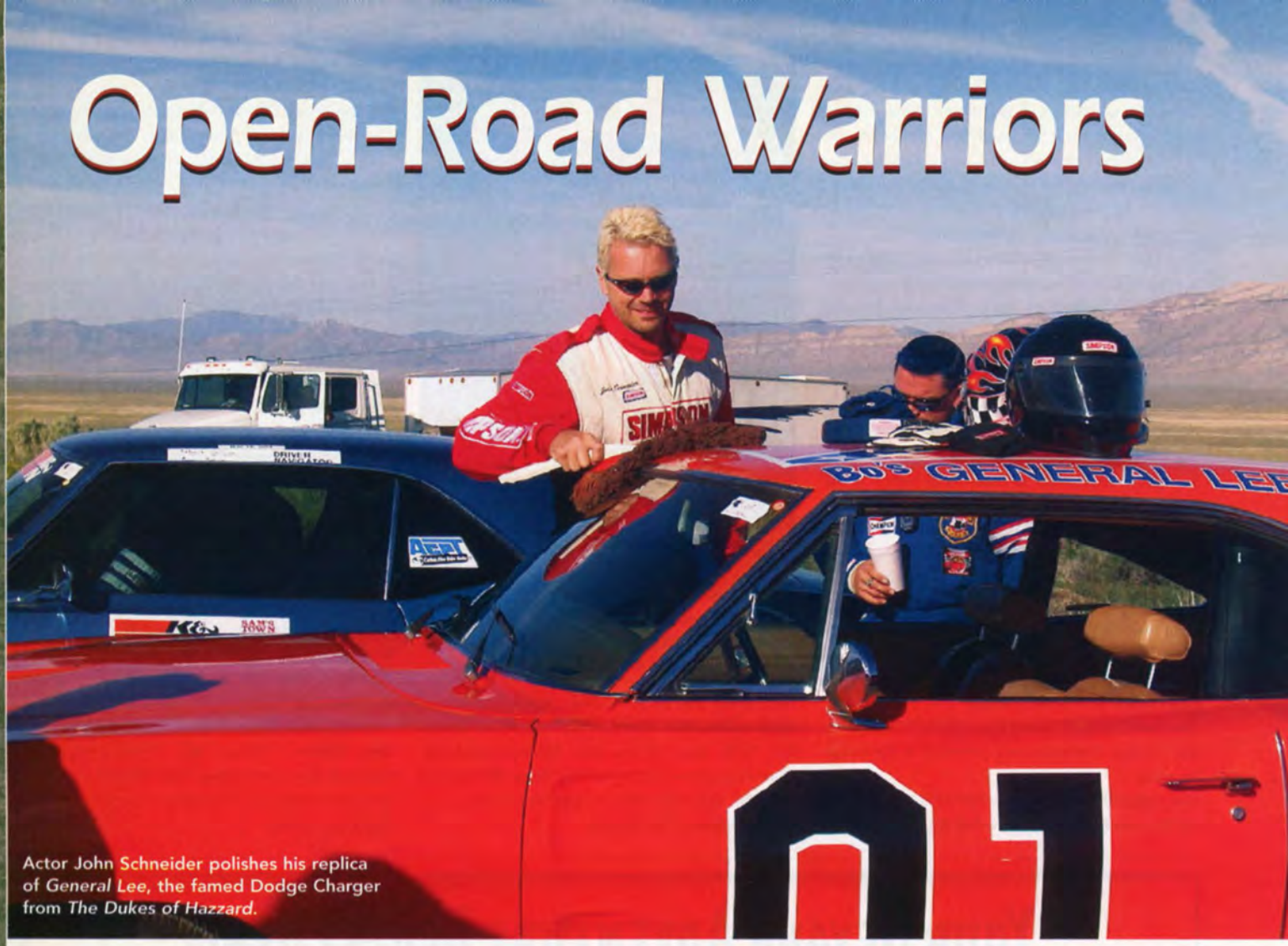
SENIOR PRO RODEO - FERNLEY

DAYTON VALLEY DAYS - DAYTON

OCTOBER
SMITH VALLEY FUN DAY - WELLINGTON



Open-Road Warriors



Actor John Schneider polishes his replica of *General Lee*, the famed Dodge Charger from *The Dukes of Hazzard*.

Adventurers from celebrities to the guy next door race on the state highway from Lund to Hiko. **By Norm Johnson**

Each September and May, I join more than 200 racers who gather to fulfill the Walter Mitty dream of racing flat-out on a public highway without fear of receiving a speeding ticket.



The author's 1999 Camaro Z28 was clocked at 161 mph, the top speed allowed in his class.

As a race driver, I can attest to the fact there is no better adrenaline rush than the Silver State Classic Challenge, to be held September 16-19, or the Nevada Open Road Challenge, which takes place in May. Both races are based in Ely and cover the 90 miles on State Route 318 from Lund to Hiko. There is a third Nevada competition held in July on State Route 278 north of Eureka. These races are unique—Nevada is the only state that will close a highway so a nonprofit group can use it for racing.

I'm anxious to get behind the wheel of my 1999 Camaro Z28 again for this September's event. We run at high speeds—95 mph is the minimum. A two-mile stretch of winding road

PHOTO: Norm Johnson (top)

through mountainous terrain, called the Narrows, can be a challenge for drivers. There is a mandatory school for first-time novice drivers.

Also, I'll be trying to match my finish in last May's race. I took first place in the 135-mph class with an average speed of 135.0267 mph. Between the two

If you don't mind **driving your family car 95 mph,** you can enter the Touring class.

races, I've competed 23 times. The speed is exhilarating, but the competition also involves a mental game. You are computing speed, time, and distance to finish as close as possible to your class' required average speed. If you reach the finish line too early or too late, you lose.

The events are open to all comers. If you don't mind driving your family car at least 95 mph and meeting a few safety requirements, you can enter the Touring class. When the green flag is dropped, you'll try for the best average speed, hence the need for a navigator. My winning navigator is Jeanine Hefflin, my next-door neighbor.

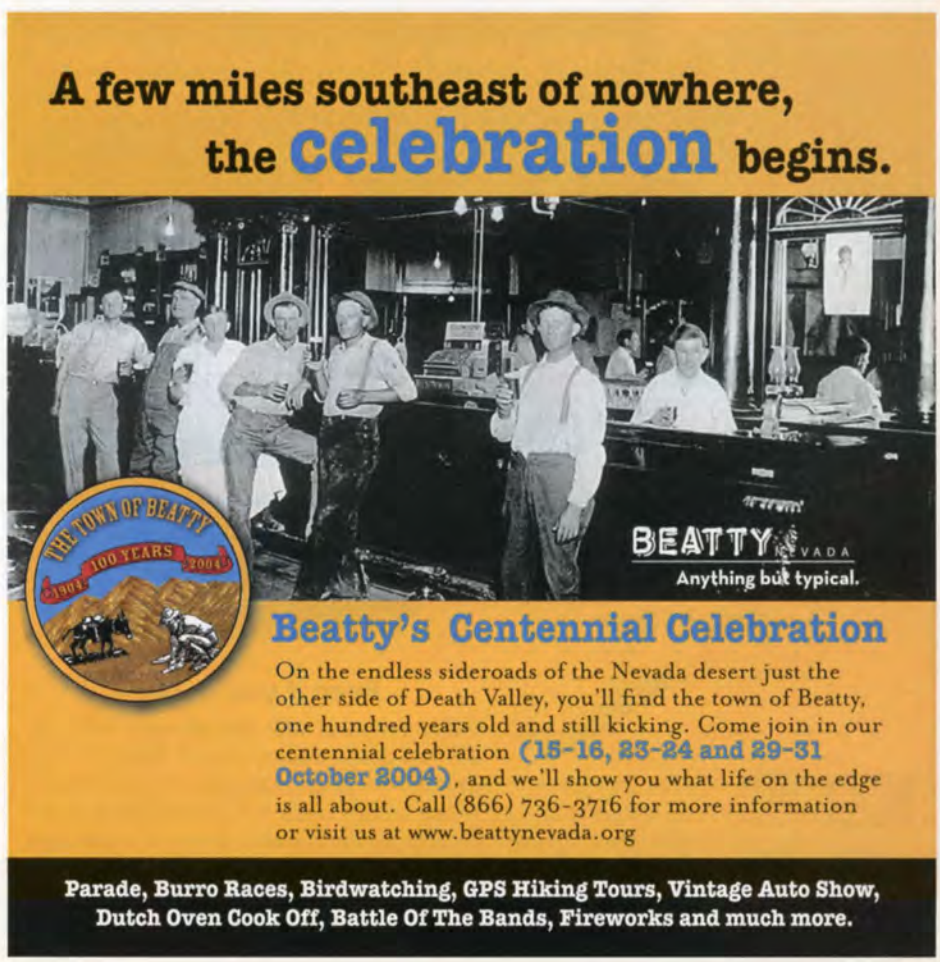
Your competitors will be a swarm of Porsches, Corvettes, and Vipers, plus a few Ferraris and a real race car or two. Past events have drawn celebrity entrants such as actors Marsha Mason, Perry King, and John Schneider, who races a replica of *General Lee*, the 1969 Dodge Charger of *The Dukes of Hazzard* television show. Schneider played Bo Duke in the television series.

There are 15 speed classes in all, including the Unlimited. *The Guinness Book of World Records* has recognized the current public-highway land speed record of 207 7801 mph that was set on May 21, 2000, by Unlimited competitors Chuck Shafer and Gary Bockman of Portland, Oregon. They were driving a 1993 Chrysler Le Baron in the Nevada Open Road Challenge.

Where to Watch

Along the race route, spectators are not allowed to be on or in front of the





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The *General Lee* replica waits at the curb in front of the Hotel Nevada in Ely.



fence that lines the highway because the Nevada Department of Transportation deems the race a nonspectator event. But there are more than 130 ranch gates along State Route 318 that need guarding. So thousands of spectators line the highway at the gates, having camped out the night before or crossed either the start line outside Lund or the finish line near Hiko before 5 a.m. on race day.

Race Events

The racers initially meet in Las Vegas at Sam's Town, the host hotel where preregistration, technical inspection, and the awards banquet are held. On Friday morning everyone caravans to Ely.

Ely is party central prior to the race on Sunday. The Parade of Cars takes place Friday evening on Main Street, where residents and race fans get their first look at the competitors. All racers are required to have their cars on display Saturday at Broadbent Park, where photographs and autographs can be obtained. Also, the city hosts a public reception in Ely's Bristlecone Convention Center.

Event Information

For more information and event history visit www.silverstateclassic.com or www.sscc.us.

Norm Johnson is a Las Vegas writer, racer, and sculptor. You can see his art at www.sculpturesbynorm.com.





PHOTO: Norm Johnson

Rural Tours & Brochures

This fall travelers will find brochures on tours of several Nevada towns. Also, a new state map acquaints motorists with major highways and smaller roads in the Silver State.

The **Ely Mural Tour** brochure details 18 outdoor artworks painted on the walls of businesses and public buildings in the historic copper-mining town. Several new murals have been added since the brochure was printed, but staff at Ely's Chamber of Commerce will be happy to point them out. The newest mural, completed this summer on the wall of the First National Bank of Ely, depicts Italian immigrants building the Nevada Northern Railway. Ely Chamber of Commerce, 636 Aultman Street, 775-289-8877 www.elynevada.net.

The **Eureka, Nevada Walking Tour** brochure, with photos of historic buildings and a town map, leads travelers to nearly 50 sites on a walking tour of this Central Nevada mining town. Eureka Sentinel Museum, 775-237-5010; Eureka Opera House, 775-237-6006.

The **Lincoln County Driving and Walking Tours** brochure, which features Caliente, Pioche, Panaca, Alamo, Rachel, and area state parks, can be found at the depot in Caliente and at various businesses in Southeastern Nevada. Historical information, attractions, and places to eat are included in the brochure. 775-726-3129, www.lincolncounty.com.

A Birder's Desert Paradise is a colorful brochure offering a list of the migratory and resident birds to be found in Beatty and the Oasis Valley. Town of Beatty, 866-736-3716, www.beattynevada.org.

The **2004-2005 Official Nevada State Map** can be obtained free from the Nevada Commission on Tourism. 800-NEVADA-8, www.travelnevada.com for information.—*Joyce Hollister*







Rural Nevada

EVENTS AND SHOWS

County fairs and holiday celebrations attract Labor Day crowds to Elko, Fallon, Pioche, Ely, and Winnemucca. There will be fast times during the World Human Powered Speed Challenge in Battle Mountain and the World of Speed on the Bonneville Salt Flats. Beatty celebrates its centennial. Wynonna Judd headlines at the Red Lion Inn in Elko, and Bill Engvall plays Cactus Petes in Jackpot.

Events

Elko County Fair • Aug. 28-Sept. 6 • Arts, crafts, and livestock exhibits, horse racing and showmanship, snaffle bit, 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, south of Goldfield, 775-482-4653.

Elko County Auto Racing: Bud Shoot-Out • Sept. 3-4 • IMCA modifieds, pro stock, modified minis, and Gen-X. Summit Raceway, Elko, 775-738-5641.

Tri-County Fair and Stampede • Sept. 3-5 • Contests, displays, dances, competitions, demolition derby, ATV pulls, food, petting farm, art shows, parade, and entertainment. Event includes the 83rd annual pro rodeo on Sept. 4-5. Winnemucca, 800-962-2638.

Western Art Roundup • Sept. 3-5 • Artists, poets, and crafts. Convention Center, Winnemucca, 800-962-2638.

Pioche 99th Annual Labor Day Celebration • Sept. 3-6 • Night and morning parades, softball tournament, chili cook-off, golf tournament, 10K run, mining events, bands, street dance, kids' games, pet show, cake walk, and craft show. Main Street and town park, Pioche, 775-962-5895.

Hearts O' Gold Cantaloupe Festival • Sept. 3-6 • Parade, concerts, farmer's market, cantaloupe foods and games, entertainment, country fair, and petting zoo. Churchill County Fairgrounds, Fallon, 775-423-2544.

Junior Rodeo • Sept. 3-6 • Churchill County Fairgrounds, Fallon, 775-867-4700.

Life Cycle of a Rock • Sept. 4 • Slide program on the park's geology. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Two Tall for Our Hair and Back 40 • Sept. 4 • Bluegrass, blues, and folk music. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 775-737-6006.

Jarbidge Labor Day • Sept. 4-5 • Corn feed and music. Community Hall and Outdoor Inn, Jarbidge, 775-488-2311.

Ione Days • Sept. 4-5 • Labor Day celebration. Ione Bar and Marshall Earth Works, Ione, 775-964-2003.

Lake Lahontan Fall Expo • Sept. 4-5 • Fishing derby, music, food, crafts. Lahontan State Recreation Area, Silver Springs, 775-577-4336.

Trains, Planes, and Automobiles • Sept. 4-6 • Event includes Rail Days 2004 with steam engine and diesel locomotive cab rides and displays of railroad history; the Ultra Lite Fly-In with aviation games, barbecue, and rides; a Crusin' Car Show with a show and shine; and the third annual Model Train Expo. Nevada Northern Railway Museum and other locations, Ely, 775-289-2085.

Geology Walk • Sept. 5 • Ranger-led easy walk to explore the park's weathering process. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Fallon Lions Labor Day Parade • Sept. 6 • Parade draws up to 130 entries. Maine Street, Fallon, 775-867-4700.

International Motorcycle Speed Trials • Sept. 6-10 • Bonneville Salt Flats, Wendover, 530-477-7490, ext. 209.

State Line Nugget Two-Person Mixed Scramble Golf Tournament • Sept. 7-8 • Toana Vista Golf Course, Wendover, 800-848-7300.

Load-Em in the Dark Steer Roping • Sept. 9-11 • Wendover Rodeo Grounds, Wendover, 775-664-3289.



A jack-o'-lantern balloon rises at the Ruby Mountain Balloon Festival, part of the Elko Fall Fest that includes the Great Basin Festival and Oktoberfest in late September.

PHOTO: Charlie Ekburg/Sweet Light Photography

Paradise Valley Beef Rib and Chili Cook-Off • Sept. 10-11 • Music, sippin', and tastin'. City Park, Paradise Valley, 775-578-3533.

"Girl of the Golden West" • Sept. 10-11, 17-18 • Musical comedy. Saddle West, Pahrump, 775-727-5800.

ACTRA Nevada/Idaho Finals • Sept. 10-12 • Roping event for cash, prizes, and a spot at the national finals. Events Complex, Winnemucca, 208-466-6595.

Up, Up, and Away Slot Tournament • Sept. 10-12 • El Capitan, Hawthorne, 800-922-2311.

Morrodder's Gamblers Run Car Show • Sept. 10-12 • City Park, Elko, 775-777-7320.

Mrs. Godbe's Gorge • Sept. 11 • Slide program on the naming of the park more than 100 years ago. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Race to the Angel • Sept. 11 • Runners, walkers, and mountain bikers enter this 13.1-mile race from Wells through the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest to Angel Lake, a 2,800-foot vertical climb. A carbo feed is held the night before, and competitors gather for a picnic in the Wells City Park after the event. Wells, 775-752-3540.

Bluegrass Festival • Sept. 11 • Three bands will perform. Pahrump Valley Winery, Pahrump, 775-751-7800.

Demolition Derby • Sept. 11 • Elko Fairgrounds, Elko, 775-777-7354.

Tifeneb • Sept. 11 • Fall celebration of Tifeneb ("benefit" backwards) features music, arts, crafts, and entertainment. Downtown, Hawthorne, 775-945-5400.

Winnemucca Pro-Am Golf Tourney • Sept. 11-12 • More than 100 golfers. Golf Course, Winnemucca, 800-962-2638.

Lander County Fair • Sept. 11-12 • Exhibits, car show, games, and entertainment. Civic Center, Battle Mountain, 775-635-8045.

Cory Melville Memorial Men's Softball Tournament • Sept. 11-15 • City Parks, Wendover, 775-664-3289.

Million Dollar Shoot-Out • Sept. 12 • Fifth annual golf tournament. Ruby View Golf Course, Elko, 775-738-8101.

Peppermill Slot Tournament • Sept. 12-13 • Peppermill, Wendover, 800-217-0049, ext. 6672.

Horse and Cattle Drive • Sept. 12-18 • Drive a herd to their winter pastures. Food, bedroll, and horse included. Cottonwood Guest Ranch, Wells. For information call the Western Folklife Center, Elko, 775-738-7508.

World Human Powered Speed Challenge • Sept. 13-18 • Specially designed enclosed recumbent bicycles race on S.R. 305 in an attempt to top last year's record speed of 81 mph. Battle Mountain, 775-635-8245.

Peppermill Properties Two-Man Scramble Golf Tournament • Sept. 16-17 • Toana Vista Golf Course, Wendover, 775-664-2255.

Pinenut Festival • Sept. 16-19 • Celebration includes the Agai Dieutta Powwow and All-Indian Rodeo, Sept. 18-19. Other events include Miss Walker River pageant, parade, car contest, arts, crafts, fry bread and bean cook-off, talent show, fun run, traditional hand games and gambling, kids' games, cradle board contest, and food booths. Schurz Park, Schurz, 102 miles south of Reno on U.S. 95, 775-773-2306.

Silver Cup Race • Sept. 17-18 • IMCA modified, pro stock, and modified minis. Battle Mountain Raceway, Battle Mountain, 775-635-5060.

Silver State Classic Challenge • Sept. 17-19 • Open-road, high-speed race from Lund to Hiko on S.R. 318. Headquarters in Ely, 775-289-8877.

Smoky Valley Days • Sept. 17-20 • Midway booths, gold-panning, games, rodeo, dances, and monster trucks. Rodeo Grounds, Smoky Valley, 60 miles north of Tonopah, 775-377-3112, www.bigsmoky.com.

World of Speed • Sept. 17-20 • Land speed racing. Bonneville Salt Flats, Wendover, 801-485-2662 for further information.

Stars and Stories at the Gorge • Sept. 18 • Ranger-led easy morning nature walk. Evening telescope viewing. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460 for information on park programs.

Wendover Airfield Fly-In and Air Show • Sept. 18 • Displays, antique planes, demonstrations, and parachute jumpers. Wendover Airfield, Wendover, 435-665-2308.

Peter Breck • Sept. 18 • Former star of the TV show *Big Valley* performs a benefit concert for the arts. Pahrump Valley Winery, Pahrump, 775-751-7800.

Open Horse Show and Cow Horse Futurity • Sept. 18-19 • Events Complex, Winnemucca, 775-623-3220.

Fernley Senior Pro Rodeo • Sept. 18-19 • Out of Town Park, Fernley, 775-575-4459.

Rainbow Blackjack Tournament • Sept. 19-20 • Rainbow, Wendover, 800-217-0049, ext. 6672 for information.

Elko Fall Fest • Sept. 21-26 • Event includes the **Great Basin Festival** that celebrates the diverse cultures of the people who have lived in the Great Basin region (Sept. 20-25 at

(Continued on page 88)

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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—Beatty, the Gateway to Death Valley National Park, celebrates its centennial Oct. 15-31. 866-736-3716, www.beattynevada.org.

103 Boulder City Chamber of Commerce—"The city that built Hoover Dam," 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 has "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—Discounts on lodging, meals, museums, recreation, gaming. 800-NEVADA-1, www.visitcarsoncity.com.

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, Ely—Ancient bristlecone pines, Great Basin National Park and Cave Lake State Park. Fishing, hunting, boating, murals, Nevada Northern Railway. 800-HY6-9350, www.elynevada.net.

108 Eureka Opera House—Built in 1880 and restored in 1993, the 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, history, hotels, casinos, and meetings. 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.

116 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—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. 866-4FALLON, 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, hiking, hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing. 775-463-2245, www.lyontourism.info.

122 Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority/Laughlin—Information for restaurants, shopping, entertainment, events, gaming, lodging, golf. 877-VISIT-LV, www.vegasfreedom.com.

123 Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority—With the theme "America's Adventure Place" the RSCVA has information for Reno-Tahoe area. 888-HIT-RENO,www.renolaketahoe.com.

124 Pahrump Valley Chamber of Commerce—Pahrump has outdoor activities, events, hotel-casinos, Pahrump Valley Winery, RV parks. 866-722-5800, www.pahrumpchamber.com.

129 Greater Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce—Five state parks, Pahranagat Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, ghost towns, mining camps. 775-962-5271, www.lincolncountynevada.com.

132 Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority—Official guide to Tahoe hotels, cabins, lodging, rates, reservations, and vacation packages, Nevada and California. 800-AT-TAHOE, www.virtualtahoe.com.

133 City of West Wendover—Swimming, golfing, horseback riding, fishing, and bird watching, casinos, hotels, dining, and entertainment. 866-BZYCITY, www.westwendovercity.com.

140 Moapa Valley Chamber of Commerce, Logandale/ Overton—Car Show and Fall Festival, Bluegrass Festival, Valley of Fire Marathon. 702-398-7160, www.moapavalleycom.

Hotels/Casinos

202 Carson Nugget, Carson City—Video/slot machines, table games, keno, bingo, restaurants, buffet, gift shop, entertainment. 800-426-5239, www.ccnugget.com.

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, conventions, mention HNVMAG4. 800-648-6992, www.PeppermillReno.com.

212 Circus Circus, Reno—Circus Circus has 1,572 rooms, gaming, six restaurants, circus acts, golf and ski packages, banquets and catering. 877-213-7709, www.circusreno.com.

214 Stardust, Las Vegas—This Boyd Casino on the Strip has 1,500 rooms, nine restaurants and food places, room and show packages, gaming. 866-642-3120, www.stardustlv.com.

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.

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.

222 Carson Station and Piñon Plaza Resort, Carson City—Best Western. Carson Station has 92 rooms, lounge, two restaurants, 800-501-2929, www.carsonstation.com. Piñon Plaza Resort has 148 rooms, 70 RV spaces, pool, spa, three restaurants, lounge. 877-519-5569, www.pinonplaza.com.

227 Atlantis Casino Resort, Reno—Concierge tower, 1,000 hotel rooms, health spa, nine restaurants, gaming, 24,000 square feet of meeting space. Mention NEVADA. 800-723-6500, www.atlantiscasino.com.

229 Cactus Petes Resort, Jackpot—Hotel has 300 rooms and suites, live entertainment, concerts, five restaurants, 26,000 square feet of gaming. 800-821-1103, www.cactuspetes.com.

239 Downtown Reno—Stay, Play & Win entertainment and show, room, and gaming package co-op for Circus Circus Reno, Eldorado Reno, Harrah's Reno, and Silver Legacy Reno. 888-288-1833, www.downtownreno.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.

250 Silver Legacy, Reno—Rooms, spa suites, penthouses in hotel tower, eight restaurants, conventions, parties, entertainment, gaming. 800-687-8733, www.silverlegacyreno.com.

252 Eldorado, Reno—Casino, room packages, 816 rooms and spa suites, 10 dining places, meeting and business travel accommodations. 800-648-5966, www.eldoradoreno.com.

253 Harrah's Reno—Rooms and suites ranging from standard to skyline, 1,300 slot machines, entertainment, seven restaurants, groups and meetings, charter flights with Allegiant Air, enjoy *Nevada Magazine* aboard each flight. 800-eHARRAH, www.harrahs.com.

Golf

301 Golf Mesquite, Nevada—Five 18-hole courses and one nine-hole course; also courses in St. George, Utah. Golf-hotel packages. 866-720-7111, www.golfmesquitenevada.com.

302 LakeRidge Golf Course, Reno—The course, designed by Robert Trent Jones, is located at 1218 Golf Club Drive (South McCarran to Plumas). 775-825-2200, www.lakeridgegolf.com.

314 The Resort at Red Hawk, Reno/Sparks—Lakes Course by Robert Trent Jones Jr. Golf and accommodations packages. 888-874-3777 ext. 16 or www.TheResortAtRedHawk.com/N1.

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

508 Carrot Top, MGM Grand, Las Vegas—Carrot Top is appearing September 9-15 in the Hollywood Theatre at the MGM Grand. Reservations 877-880-0880, www.mgmgrand.com.

509 Wayne Newton, Stardust Las Vegas—"Mr. Las Vegas" appears 40 weeks a year in his own Wayne Newton Theatre at the Stardust. 866-642-3120 or www.stardustlv.com.

Attractions, Galleries, Museums

602 Liberace Museum, Las Vegas—Museum features jewelry, wardrobe, and costumes worn by the late Liberace, custom-car collection, and pianos. 702-798-5595, www.liberace.com.

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—Celebrating the 20th anniversary of the "Last Supper" sculpture by Albert Szukalski on October 16-17, 2004. www.goldwellmuseum.org.

611 Jeanne Dini Cultural Center, Yerington—Former grammar school houses café, gallery, meeting rooms, gift store, theater, patio, gardens. 775-463-9116, www.yeringtonculture.org.

Call to reserve advertising space: **Susan Wunsch**, Advertising Manager, **775-687-0610** or **susan@nevadamagazine.com**

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—Lovelock to Wendover, hotels, casinos, gaming, outdoor adventure, ranches, rodeo, Basque culture, gold mines. 877-626-9268, www.cowboycountry.org.

714 Reno Air Races—41st Reno National Championship Air Races and Air Show takes place September 16-19, 2004. Six classes of racing and competition. For tickets 775-787-8497, www.ticketmaster.com.

716 Great Basin Festival/Great Basin College, Elko—Event celebrates the Great Basin's diverse cultures, coupled with the Ruby Mountain Balloon Festival and Oktoberfest. 775-753-2260, www.gbcnv.edu/festival.

717 Carson City CVB Ghost Walk—Ghostly walk of historic homes in downtown Carson City. Interesting history and period-dressed guides. 800-NEVADA-1, www.visitcarsoncity.com.

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.vivalasvegasweddings.com.

Recreation

901 Lake Mead Cruises—On Lake Mead and near Hoover Dam, *Desert Princess* or *Desert Princess Too*, events, weddings. 702-293-6180, www.lakemeadcruises.com.

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—Grand Canyon, three landing sites. Helicopter-bus tours, weddings, 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.

912 Rebel Adventure Tours, Las Vegas—Valley of Fire ATV tours, 4x4s, whitewater rafting, Hummers, jet ski, helicopter, horseback. 800-817-6789, www.rebeladventuretours.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.

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.

1210 Commemorative Medallion, Friends of the Washoe County Library—Carson City mint medallion honoring Reno's Carnegie Library, first public library in Nevada. 775-327-8342.

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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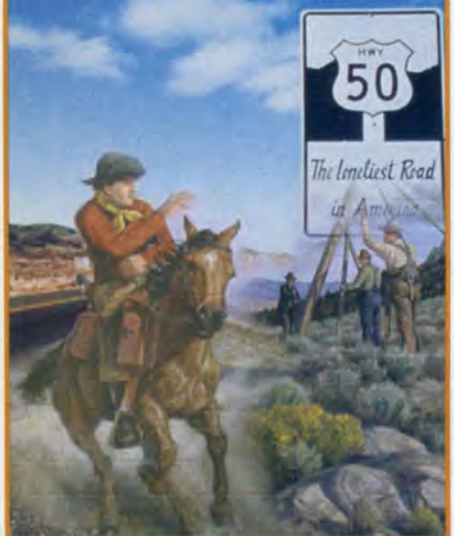
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Rural Nevada

(Continued from page 85)



The cyclist pedaling inside this aerodynamic shell might reach 80 mph during the World Human Powered Speed Challenge held September 13-18 south of Battle Mountain.

Great Basin College, Elko, call 775-753-2260); **Ruby Mountain Balloon Festival** (Sept. 24-26 in Elko and Spring Creek, call 800-428-7143); and the **Ruby Mountain Symphony's Oktoberfest** (Sept. 25 at Stockmen's Casino, Elko, call 775-738-4187 for information).

Civil War Reenactment • Sept. 23-26 • Living-history camp features a fashion show and cooking demonstrations. Pioneer Park, Winnemucca, 800-962-2638.

McDermitt Rock and Gem Show • Sept. 23-26 • Display and sale. McDermitt, 775-532-8009.

Elko County Auto Racing: Gold Rush • Sept. 24-25 • IMCA modifieds, pro stock, modified minis, and Gen-X cars. Summit Raceway, Elko, 775-738-5641.

Winnemucca Fall Cribbage Tournament • Sept. 24-26 • Fifth annual competition for cash prizes. Convention Center, Winnemucca, 775-623-2511.

Wild West Extravaganza/Pony Express Trail Ride and Hoe Down • Sept. 24-26 • Entry fee $25 per rider. A "Boom Town" façade includes a saloon, gambling hall, stable, blacksmith's shop, and sheriff's office. Saddle West, Pahrump, 775-727-5800 or 800-433-3987.

Fallon Senior Pro Rodeo • Sept. 24-26 • Churchill County Fairgrounds, Fallon, 775-867-2115.

Harvest Moonlight Walk • Sept. 25 • Easy ranger-led walk. Bring a jacket and flashlight. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Country Music Night with Rex Allen Jr. • Sept. 25 • Pahrump Valley Winery, Pahrump, 775-751-7800.

Good Ole Mountain City Days • Sept. 25 • Duck race, parade, vendors, food, kids' games, street dance, horseshoes, cake walk, and entertainment. Mountain City, 84 miles north of Elko, 775-763-6691.

Man-Mule Race • Sept. 25 • Annual contest to determine who is fleet of foot and hoof. Elko and Lamoille, 775-753-6164.

Rodney Mike Duckwater Classic • Sept. 25 • 13th annual roping competition. Brotherton's Arena, Lund, 775-238-5238.

Taste of Home Cooking School • Sept. 30 • Convention Center, Elko, 775-738-9845.

Peppermill Properties Ladies Classic Golf • Sept. 30-Oct. 1 • Toana Vista Golf Course, Wendover, 775-664-2255.

Hunter Jumper Classic • Sept. 30-Oct. 3 • Horse show. Horse Palace, Spring Creek, 775-753-6295 for event information.

Pahrump Fall Festival, Parade, and Rodeo • Oct. 1-3 • Pro rodeo, booths, and food. Petrack Park, Pahrump, 775-727-2400.

High School Rodeo • Oct. 1-3 • Events Complex, Winnemucca, 775-587-3399.

Lamoille Harvest Festival • Oct. 2 • Craft fair, lunch, and homemade pies and desserts. Ranchers Center, Lamoille, 775-753-7717.

Grape Stomp • Oct. 2 • Stomp contest, jazz and blues music, wine tasting, and food. Pahrump Valley Winery, Pahrump, 775-751-7800.

Time in a Bottle • Oct. 2 • Slide program on the changes in jars, cans, and bottles over the century. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Quilt Show • Oct. 2 • Silver Springs Elementary School, Silver Springs, 775-577-2588 or 775-577-3424.

Searchlight's 106th Birthday Celebration • Oct. 2 • Music, street dance, cow chip toss, ladies' skillet throw, horseshoe tournament, and barbecue. Community Center, Searchlight, 702-297-1642.

Nevada Northern Railfan Spectacular • Oct. 2-3 • Photo opportunity with the museum's historic railroad equipment. Call for admission information. Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Ely, 775-289-2085.

Fallon Harvest Days • Oct. 7-9 • Corn maze and petting zoo. Lattin Farms, Fallon, 775-867-4580.

Seventh Annual Stockhorse Spectacular and Fifth Annual Reining Futurities • Oct. 7-10 • Events include a reined cow-cutting horse competition and horse show. Churchill County Fairgrounds, Fallon, 775-423-0532.

Richard Elloyan • Oct. 8 • Poet and country-western singer. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 775-237-6006.

Deer Me: Beyond Bambi • Oct. 9 • Slide program on the lives of deer, elk, and antelope. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Peppermill Craps Tournament • Oct. 9-10 • Peppermill, Wendover, 800-217-0049, ext. 6672.

State Line Nugget Two-Man Scramble Golf Tournament • Oct. 10-11 • Toana Vista Golf Course, Wendover, 775-664-7300.

PHOTO: Richard Menzies

Beatty Centennial Celebration • Oct. 15-16, 23-24, 29-31 • Events on Oct. 15-16: Barbecues, poker run, parade, Old-West shoot-outs, antique car show, Goldwell Open Air Museum Celebration, hiking tours and geocaching, Beatty Championship Bed Races, Dutch oven cook-off, kids' games, music festival, and fireworks. Oct. 23-24: Beatty Grand Prix Motocross and weapons shoot. Oct. 29-31: Horseshoe tournaments, model railroad display, gold panning, fiddlers contest, Halloween costume contest, and Beatty Burro Races. Beatty, 775-553-2424.

Goldwell Open Air Museum Celebration • Oct. 15-17 • Event marks the 20th anniversary of Belgian artist Albert Szukalski's environmental artwork, "The Last Supper." Events include screening Fri.-Sat. of the film *Death Valley Project: The Making of the Last Supper Sculpture* at the Sourdough Saloon in Beatty, walking tours of the sculptures and the ghost town of Rhyolite, children's activities, panel discussion by authors, artists, and scientists on deserts, fundraising dinner, and a concert by E.J. Wells and the Haymakers at the Exchange Club in Beatty. Goldwell Open Air Museum, Rhyolite, www.goldwellmuseum.org.

World Finals at Bonneville • Oct. 15-19 • 60 fastest qualifiers from the Bonneville Speed Trials in August. Bonneville Salt Flats, Wendover, 661-949-6986.

Fall Harvest • Oct. 16 • Slide program covers fall colors and edible nuts and berries. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Harvest Wine Tasting and Art Show • Oct. 16 • Area wines, hors d'oeuvres, music, and art. Convention Center, Winnemucca, 775-623-2225.

Rainbow Slot Tournament • Oct. 17-18 • Rainbow, Wendover, 800-217-0049, ext. 6672.

Spring Creek Haunted House • Oct. 22-23, 29-31 • Horse Palace, Spring Creek, 775-738-3819.

Civil War Encampment • Oct. 23-24 • Nevada Civil War Volunteers present living-history demonstration of 1860 military life. Fort Churchill State Historic Park, Silver Spring, 775-577-2345.

Beatty Centennial Celebration: Week 2 • Oct. 23-24 • Beatty Grand Prix Motocross, weapons shoot. Beatty, 775-553-2424.

The '49ers • Oct. 24 • Slide program about the emigrants who crossed Nevada searching for a shortcut to California. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Halloween Costume Contest • Oct. 29 • $700 in cash prizes. Winners Casino, Winnemucca, 800-648-4770.

Nevada Day Parade • Oct. 29 • Admission Day celebration. Downtown, Elko, 775-738-7991.

Beatty Centennial Celebration: Week 3 • Oct. 29-31 • Beatty Burro Races, in which contestants must cook a flapjack and then push, pull, or drag a stubborn mule to the finish line. Weekend includes horseshoe tournaments, model railroad displays, gold panning, fiddlers contest, and a Halloween costume contest. Beatty, 775-553-2424.

Halloween Slot Tournament • Oct. 29-31 • El Capitan, Hawthorne, 800-922-2311.

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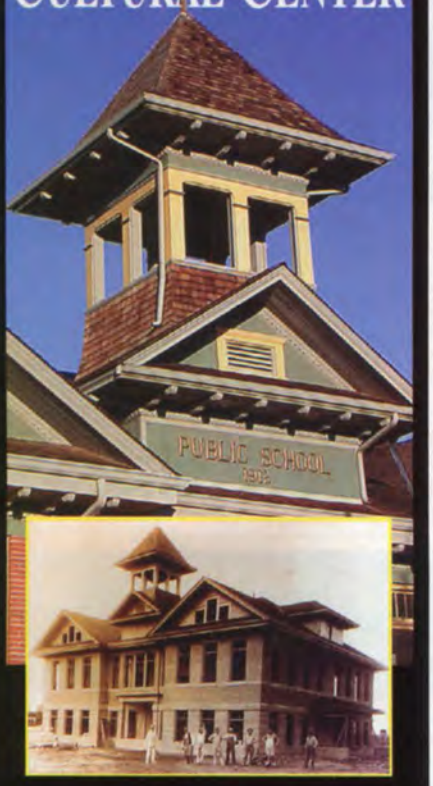


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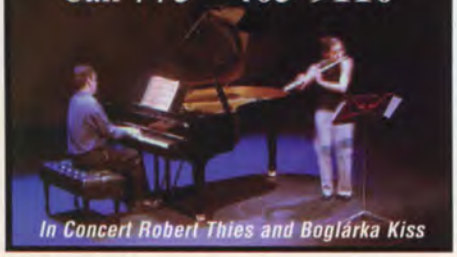


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The Polar Express brings Santa Claus to Ely's Nevada Northern Railway during the holidays.

Halloween Party • Oct. 30 • Pig roast and costume party. Outdoor Inn, Jarbidge, 775-488-2311.

Native Nevadans • Oct. 30 • Slide program on Eastern Nevada's earliest settlers. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Punkin Festival • Oct. 30 • Haunted house and businesses dispense treats. Civic Center, Battle Mountain, 775-635-1112.

Ongoing Events

Goldfield Historical Firehouse and Museum: Antique equipment on display weekends. Goldfield, 775-485-6303.

Eye Opener Slot Tournament: 9am-1pm Mon.-Thurs. Saddle West, Pahrump, 800-433-3987.

Saturday Night Fever Slot Tournament: 7pm, $10 buy-in. Saddle West, Pahrump, 800-433-3987.

Nevada Northern Railway Museum: Steam or diesel excursions daily thru Sept. (closed Tues.), weekends in Oct. Nevada Northern Railfan Spectacular, Oct. 2-3. Haunted Ghost Train, Oct. 9, 16, 23, and 30. Thanksgiving Train, Nov. 20, fare, one can of food per person. Polar Express, Nov. 27-28, Dec. 4-5, and Dec. 11-12. Winter Photo Freight, Dec. 4-5. 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.

Lattin Farms' Nevada Maze: Thru Oct. A cornfield becomes an intricate maze. Lattin Farms, Fallon, 775-867-3750.

The Nevada Northern Railroad: A Photographic Journey Through Time: Thru Nov. 7. Large-format photographs by Greg Dahlgren of Newcastle, Colorado. East Ely Railroad Depot Museum, Ely, 775-289-1663.

Top Gun Raceway Drag Racing Season: Thru Nov. NHRA, pro, amateur, circuit. Top Gun Raceway, Fallon, 775-423-0223.

Hard Words: Sept. 1-30. Peter Koch art exhibition. Western Nevada Community College, Fallon, 775-423-1440.

Stock Car Racing: Sept. 3-4, 24-25. Summit Raceway, Elko, 775-753-5936.

IMCA Stock Car Racing: Sept. 11 and 25. Pahrump Valley Speedway, Pahrump, 775-727-7172.

Hidden Cave Tours: Sept. 11, 25, Oct. 9, 23, Nov. 13, 27. 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.

Rob Schleef and Linda Young: Paintings by local artists. Hawthorne Community Convention Center, Hawthorne, 775-945-5896.

Mary Ann Bonjorni: Nov. 1-30. Mixed-media exhibition. Western Nevada Community College, Fallon, 775-423-1440.

Coming Events

Senior Pro Rodeo • Nov. 1-7 • Winnemucca, 406-375-1400.

Men of Worth Concert • Nov. 12 • Eureka, 775-237-6006.

Festival of Trees • Nov. 29-Dec. 2 • Elko, 775-738-4091.

Boar's Head Feast Winter Solstice Celebration • Dec. 3 • Eureka, 775-237-6006.

Fallon Hometown Christmas • Dec. 4 • Fallon, 775-423-2544.

Christmas in the Nighttime Skies • Dec. 4 • Elko, 775-738-8011.

Countdown in Downtown • Dec. 31 • Elko, 775-738-1240.

New Year's Eve Fireworks • Dec. 31 • Fallon, 775-423-455.

National Cowboy Poetry Gathering • Jan. 22-29 • Elko, 888-880-5885.

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 like Corky and Jan, The Hildees, and He Said, She Said 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: Wynonna Judd, Sept. 5. Kepa Junkera, Basque musician, Sept. 24. Bands like Left of Centre play in the lounge.

Stockmen's Hotel • 775-738-5141 or 800-648-2345 (U.S. and Nevada): Bands like Crush, Damon Smith, Amy Clawson, Touch, and Shout appear in the showroom.

ELY

Hotel Nevada • 775-289-6665.

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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: Bill Engvall, Sept. 3-4. The Doors of the 21st Century, Sept. 12. Phil Vassar, Sept. 17-18. Bill Medley, Oct. 1-2. Paul Revere and the Raiders, Oct. 15-16. Trick Pony, Nov. 5-6. Danny Marona, Nov. 12-13.

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: Entertainment TBA.

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: Entertainers play nightly.



A 20-year veteran of the country-music scene, Wynonna Judd plays the Red Lion in Elko.

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

Rainbow Casino • 775-664-4000: Bands play nightly.

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: Bands like Rock 'n Horse, Audiobox, Octane, Redstone, and Full House appear in the Winners Lounge in the Winnemucca hotel-casino.

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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NEVADA Best of Nevada 2004

Beatty's 100th Birthday



Beatty celebrates its centennial with burros, birds, and rockabilly.

By D. Richard Harris

In 1904, Beatty was established as a crossroads haven for miners, railroaders, and Death Valley excursionists 100 miles northwest of Las Vegas. Long known as a traveler's rest, Beatty lately has acquired green status—as a retreat for birdwatchers, geocachers, and ecotourists seeking the rare Amargosa toad.

This October 15-31, Beatty citizens will celebrate their town's 100th birthday by staging three weekends of events that have a similarly wide appeal.

Besides burro races, there are birding events. One day it's gold panning, the next it's GPS hiking. You can spend the afternoon in the ghost town of Rhyolite admiring avant-garde sculpture and that night enter a Halloween-costume contest at the Burro Inn.

"We're using our centennial to remind people about the great variety of things to do in Beatty," says Jim Mulryan, a chamber official and owner of the Exchange Club. "We're not as glitzy as Las Vegas and other places. Beatty is more rustic—there's a lot of history here. And there's our proximity to Death Valley."

Beatty has survived for a century largely because of its location in the Oasis Valley. In 1896, Montillus Murray Beatty acquired the area's first ranch, where he planted trees and cultivated crops. When gold was discovered in the Bullfrog mining district—so named because of the ore's green color—Beatty's ranch was ideally located and, more importantly, tapped water from the underground Amargosa River.

In 1904 the town of Beatty was established south of the ranch and quickly became a supply point for Bullfrog and Rhyolite. Soon the community boasted 1,000 residents and the 23-room Montgomery Hotel. Although the rush to Bullfrog ended almost as quickly as it began, Beatty survived because of the same things that attracted people in the first place—water and a roadside location.

Beatty Information: Beatty (pop. 700) is located on U.S. 95 a quarter of the way from Las Vegas to Reno. For centennial and tourist information contact the



Motorists gathered at the opening of the Montgomery Hotel, built by Beatty founder Bob Montgomery (top). The town was named after Montillus Murray "Old Man" Beatty (right).





Centennial visitors will see "The Last Supper" at Rhyolite's Goldwell Museum (detail, left) and new rock work in Beatty (above). Teammates compete in the burro races (below).



Beatty Chamber of Commerce, 775-553-2424 or www.beattynevada.org.

Lodging: Visitors today find a pleasant, small community with three hotel-casinos, the Exchange Club, Burro Inn, and Stagecoach, and numerous restaurants and shops. Motels include El Portal, Phoenix Inn, and a new Motel 6. Snowbirds and vacationing families can choose from five RV parks.

Death Valley Days: Beatty serves as a gateway to **Death Valley National Park**. The park's Furnace Creek headquarters are located 44 miles southwest of Beatty via State Route 374.

Historical Points of Interest: The **Beatty Museum** at 417 Main Street is open daily and has historical displays and photos (775-553-2303). Four miles west of Beatty, on the way to Death Valley, stands **Rhyolite**, one of the state's most picturesque ghost towns. Remnants include a train depot and the Rhyolite Bottle House, built with 30,000 bottles by an enterprising resident 98 years ago.

Outdoor Art: The **Goldwell Open Air Museum**, at the entrance to Rhyolite, features several avant-garde sculptures and eventually will host artist workshops (www.goldwellmuseum.org). During the Beatty centennial Goldwell will celebrate the 20th anniversary of Belgian sculptor Albert Szukalski's "Last Supper," the piece that started the museum, on October 16-17

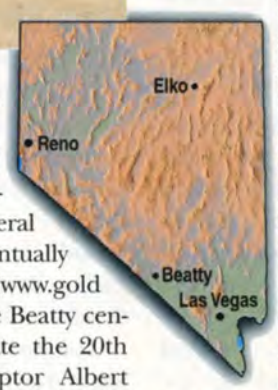
Bird Watching: The Oasis Valley's desert riparian habitat, created by the Amargosa River, attracts many migratory birds, which in turn are attracting many birders. The valley has been named an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society. A color brochure with a bird list is available upon request (www.beattynevada.org).

Also, residents have helped preserve the habitat of the Amargosa toad and other sensitive species. The Nature Conservancy has a preserve near town, and citizens are working on a long-range Habitat Trails Project involving trails and parklands.

Paintball: Paintball? Yes, enthusiasts come to Beatty to participate in tournaments at the town's new multicourt paintball facility.

Dune Time: Beatty is 29 miles north of Amargosa Big Dune, a popular off-road playground.

Beatty Centennial Celebration: The **Centennial Parade** on Main Street starts at 10 a.m. Saturday, October 16. Other **Events of October 15-17** include Nature Conservancy trail tours, GPS-geocache hiking tours, the Beatty Championship Bed Races, a Beatty Museum book-signing, a Goldwell Museum symposium and tours of Rhyolite, a music festival, and fireworks. **Events of October 23-24** include the Beatty Grand Prix Motocross, based at the Stagecoach Casino. **Events of October 29-31** include the Beatty Burro Races (a test of man vs. beast), gold panning, a fiddlers contest, and the Halloween gala at the Burro Inn. For more details see this issue's "Rural Nevada Events and Shows."



Music will be prevalent throughout the festivities, as on October 16, when the Exchange Club presents E.J. Wells and the Haymakers, an Ohio rock band. "He plays voodoo rockabilly," Jim Mulryan says of Wells, a one-time Nevada resident. "In fact, he has an album named 'Rhyolite, so he's pretty excited to be playing here."

D. Richard Harris saw a yellow-rumped warbler during his last visit to Beatty.

PHOTOS: Richard Stephens

Where's the Beef?

Gourmet **burgers** and chic **shopping.**



Hamburger aficionados pay $60 for the sandwich made of Kobe beef at the Burger Bar in Mandalay Place (left). The District at Green Valley Ranch in Henderson has 41 shops and restaurants in its tree-lined plaza. Friends often meet at the bronze sculpture (below).



Burgers on the Ritz

How much are you willing to spend on a really good hamburger? Five dollars? Ten dollars? Well, this is Vegas, baby, and when you order the Rossini Burger at the **Burger Bar** at Mandalay Place, the correct answer is $60. That's because the burger is eight ounces of pure Kobe beef topped with pan-seared foie gras and black truffles. The French fries, be they regular, zucchini, or sweet potato, are extra.

For the uninitiated, Kobe beef is a special grade of beef from cattle raised in Kobe, Japan. These cattle are massaged with sake and fed a diet that includes large amounts of beer, which produces meat that is extraordinarily tender, finely marbled, and full-flavored. It is also extremely expensive.

Besides the Rossini, the restaurant's other gourmet hamburgers are made from Angus beef, naturally raised Ridgefield Farm beef, Colorado lamb, and lean turkey. Non-meat customers can choose the veggie burger, a grilled cheese, or a Greek or Caesar salad. As at any good burger place, expect to find thick, creamy milkshakes and tall ice cream floats.

The real fun at the Burger Bar is deciding which of the 40 toppings will go on your gourmet burger. There are the standard cheese, bacon, and grilled onions. But how about anchovies, portobello mushrooms, smoked salmon, lobster, or duck liver? (I don't think so.)

The Burger Bar is located in the Mandalay Place shopping center, which connects Mandalay Bay with its sister hotel, the Luxor. The eatery is open 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and until 1 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. Call 702-632-9364 for information.—*Jack Bulavsky*

New Flavors in Shopping

The first thing you notice while walking toward The District is the aroma of sizzling barbecue and baking bread. The offenders are **Lucille's Smokehouse Bar-B-Que**, the first of the Southern California chain's outlets in the Silver State, and **Panera Bread**, that chain's fourth café in Southern Nevada.

The two eateries anchor the food outlets at The District at Green Valley Ranch, a pedestrian mall comprised of 41 boutiques and restaurants that extend out from the Green Valley Ranch Casino in Henderson. The relaxed, tree-lined avenue gives a new vibe for casino-sanctioned shopping centers. Shoppers meet friends at the central statue, a 15-foot-tall geometric bronze. The live music featured here on weekends includes string quartets, flamenco guitarists, and Mexican fiesta dancers. The music is piped throughout the mall's shops and walkways. Benches are plentiful. The District may be a multimillion-dollar facility, but it has the feel of a quaint village, which will become a reality when the lofts above the stores are sold as residences.

The mall features a number of stores new on the Nevada scene. Popular catalog clothier Coldwater Creek has set up shop, as has sporting goods megastore REI. Francesca's Collections offers handmade jewelry and handbag selections, and men's fine fashions take up residence at Kevoman.

The District is open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. Call 702-564-8595 or visit www.thedistrictatgvr.com for more information.—*Jennifer Prosser*

PHOTO: Jennifer Prosser (right)

What Do Aliens Look Like?



PHOTO: NEVADA COMMISSION ON TOURISM

Nevada Magazine Readers Know

Travelers on Nevada's Extraterrestrial Highway (State Route 375) have reported curious-looking aircraft and visitors—especially near Rachel, a tiny town 140 miles north of Las Vegas and more than 390,000,000 miles from Jupiter. Each issue of *Nevada Magazine* explores such Silver State outposts as Rachel, where the unusual is the norm.

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MAGAZINE

Mac King

I used to be the **hardest working man** in show business.



Mac King has a briefcase full of cereal to sell you—unless you'd rather buy his book, *Tricks With Your Head.*

Magician-comedian Mac King stars in his own show at Harrah's Las Vegas. He was named 2004 Magician of the Year by the Magic Castle and recently saw the debut of his nationally syndicated Sunday comic strip, "Mac King's Magic in a Minute." The Las Vegas resident studied anthropology in college and enjoys cooking, although he says one did not prepare him for the other.

I'm Mac King, and I have the greatest job in all of Las Vegas. This is my fifth year as the star of my one-man comedy-magic show, "The Mac King Comedy Magic Show" (I thought of the title myself). The show is performed at 1 and 3 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday at Harrah's Las Vegas.

I mention this not only to shamelessly plug my show, but also so you understand my job allows me to wake up and have breakfast with my wife, Jennifer, and daughter, Elizabeth, and be home in time for dinner (obviously, they're getting mighty tired of me). People always say Las Vegas is a transient city, but I moved here so I could settle down, get off the road, and raise a family. I used to be on the road 220 days a year, living in hotels and on airplanes. I'm so happy to be sleeping in my own bed every night, going to work in the daytime, just like a guy with a regular job.

Before Harrah's, I would take every performance opportunity that passed my way. Once, on the busiest day of my Las Vegas life, I did 10 shows in 14 hours. On the day in question, which lasted until 3 a.m., I performed two afternoon shows at the old Maxim Hotel (now closed), taped six segments for the TV special *The World's Greatest Magic* at Caesars Palace, and twice substituted at the Flamingo for a trained dog act in "The Radio City Rockettes" (the show is also now closed—a coincidence, I feel certain).

So when audience members ask me how I get the energy to do what I do, I just smile. Performing 10 shows in one week is nothing compared to doing 10 shows in 14 hours.

Come to think of it, not only do I have the greatest job in all of Las Vegas, I'm pretty sure I have the greatest job in all of show business (except, of course, for Beyoncé's dresser). Every afternoon at least two or three people tell me that this is their second or third (or, believe it or not, ninth or 10th) time attending my show. They say it's always different because of the people in the audience who come on stage to help with the jokes. That's the thing I love most—the audience interaction. The other day I asked an eight-year-old boy if he knew "the rule" while visiting Las Vegas. He replied in a hesitant voice, "Dads can't stink up the bathroom?"

If I weren't a magician, I'd be a chef. I love to cook—and eat. My pal Penn (of Penn and Teller) and I are members of a super-secret gourmet society called the Caviar Dining Club. I'm not really at liberty to speak of the details (I could probably be killed just for mentioning it in this magazine), but we occasionally go out for fancy dinners at restaurants that no member has eaten at before.

I'm also a member of a less secret society with Clint Holmes, Lance Burton, Sheena Easton, Bill Fayne, and Dennis Blair. Periodically we meet after their shows for dinner and do what all show business people do when they get together—make fun of each other.



Show Notes

"The Mac King Comedy Magic Show" appears in the Clint Holmes Theatre at **Harrah's Las Vegas** at 1 and 3 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Tickets cost $16.95 plus tax and do not include drinks. Call 702-369-5111 or 800-392-9002 ext. 5111 or visit www.harrahs.com for show information.

The Stardust Congratulates

Wayne Newton



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

Wayne Newton
appears at the Stardust
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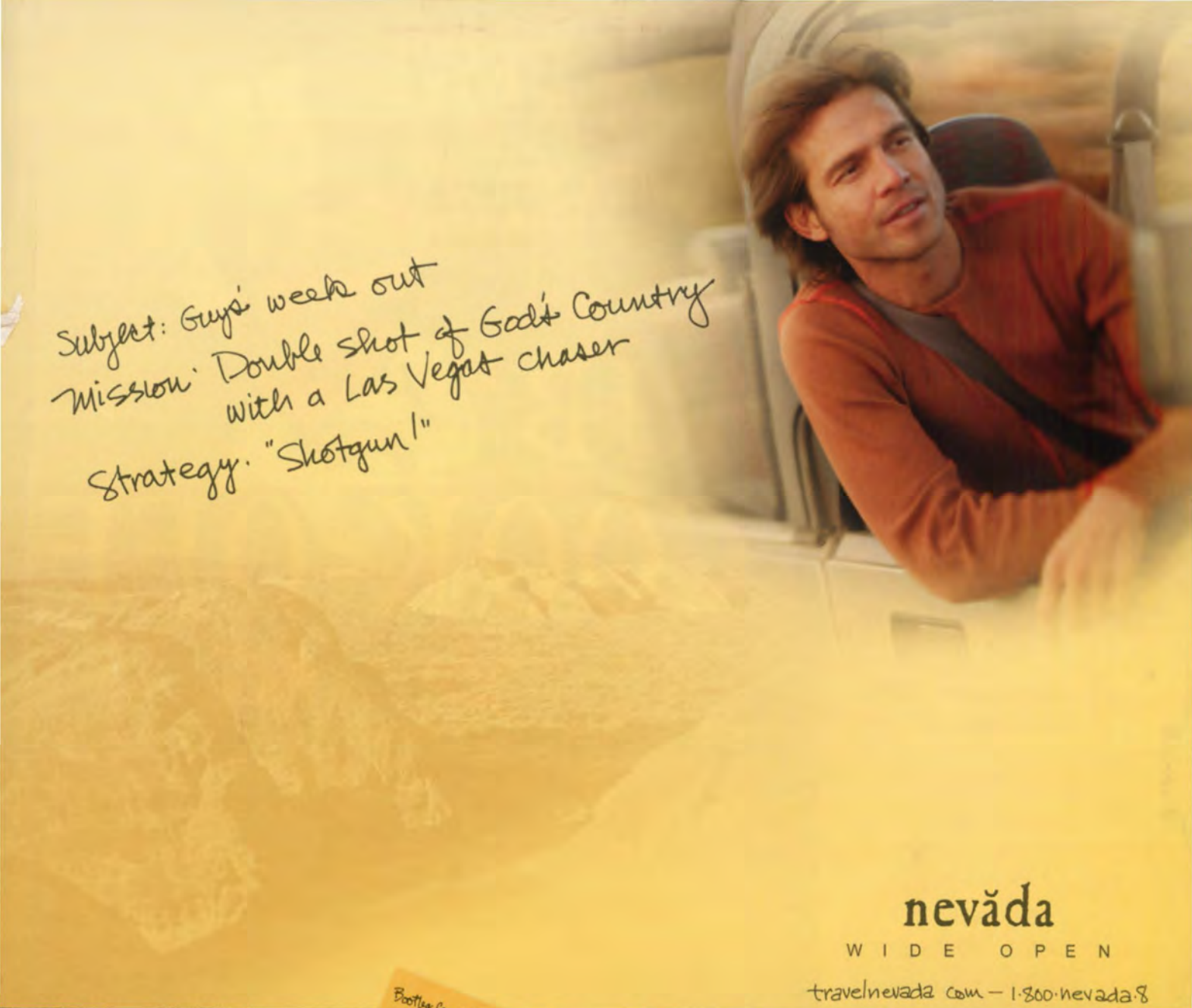
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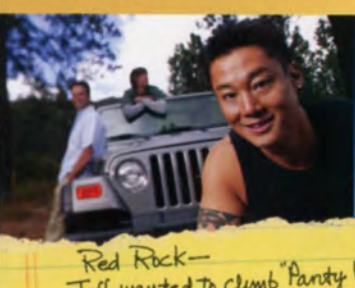

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Bootleg Canyon Trails—
Got sick
← Bad Taco.







Red Rock—
Jeff wanted to climb "Panty Wall."
Can't argue with that.

Bottle House, Rhyolite Ghost Town —
Haven't seen that many empty bottles since college.



Chris streaked the trail for all-time Shotgun rights.









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