

Official Las Vegas Centennial Edition

NEVADA

MAGAZINE

INSIDE:
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December 2004

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"The town has been converted to an opulent playground to satisfy the entertainment whims of any visitor."

—AP reporter Bob Thomas on the Flamingo's 1946 opening night



On the Cover

Megawatt lights make the Las Vegas Strip the world's brightest street.

Photo by Christian Heeb for Jeff Gnass

Happy 100th Birthday, Las Vegas

Las Vegas is a city that lives for today—and tomorrow. But in 2005 the city's residents also will honor the past. On New Year's Eve, Las Vegas begins its centennial celebration with many activities, some recalling the 1905 land auction that marked the birth of modern Las Vegas. In this Official Las Vegas Centennial Edition of *Nevada Magazine* we salute our state's largest and most famous city. As the King once said, "Viva Las Vegas!"

Richard Moreno
Publisher



We Did It Our Way!

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Welcome to the Las Vegas Celebration!



Las Vegas is America's 21st-century city. No other community has come so far in such a short time as Las Vegas. A century ago, the community consisted of little more than a few ranches, a brand-new railroad, and a dream. Today, Las Vegas is America's fastest growing metropolitan area with more than 1.6 million residents, world-class resorts, a new monorail system, a major doctoral granting research university, and much more.

All Nevadans take great pleasure in congratulating Las Vegas for all that it has achieved during its breathtaking first century and look forward to its bright future. Please join me in celebrating the centennial of this remarkable city, which I am proud to call my home.

Kenny C. Guinn
Governor

It is amazing what Las Vegas has accomplished during its first 100 years. Over the decades, this most cosmopolitan of cities was literally carved out of vast tracts of empty desert land. The city has evolved from hardscrabble railroad town to Western-themed village to modern metropolis.

Along the way, Las Vegans realized that it was only through working together toward common goals that they would transform a harsh environment into a paradise. I salute Las Vegas for a marvelous first century and know that even greater things are ahead.

Lorraine T. Hunt
Lt. Governor

It's not every day that a single event has the power to unite an entire community. In December, we'll kick off a yearlong celebration so special that it happens only once every hundred years, and so grand that it will place Las Vegas at the center stage of the world—exactly where it belongs! The party gets started on December 31 with a New Year's Eve fireworks extravaganza like no other. We'll cruise through 2005 with hundreds of centennial events that pay tribute to our fabulous city.

You can visit www.lasvegas2005.org for information on how you can get involved. As mayor of this phenomenal city, I invite you to join me in toasting the city of neon lights during this exciting occasion.

Oscar Goodman
Mayor of Las Vegas

There is no better place to be than Las Vegas—and there will be no better time to be in our destination than during its centennial year.

Indeed, 2005 will be a momentous year for the Entertainment Capital of the World. Myriad festivities designed to celebrate our 100th birthday are planned, from the biggest New Year's Eve fireworks show in the city's history to a re-creation of the 1905 land auction that launched modern Las Vegas.

One thing's for certain. Las Vegas' centennial year will be the perfect time for all of us to join together and throw the biggest and best birthday party the world has ever seen.

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A CENTURY to Celebrate

Las Vegas, soon to mark its centennial, has been shaped by Mormons, gangsters, resort builders, and its citizens' faith in its destiny.



On May 15, 1905, the railroad auctioned 40 blocks of lots for a new Las Vegas townsite.

By Michael Green

On the morning of May 15, 1905, hundreds of people gathered around an auction stand to create a new town. The thermometer hit 110, and it was so hot that some of the men removed their jackets.

Charles P. Squires, who owned a tent hostelry called the Hotel Las Vegas, started the ovens to cook lunch, closed the flaps, and walked to the corner of Main and Fremont to watch the bidding. When Squires returned at noon, the blast from the heat drove him back. It was about 130 degrees in the tent.

A century later, summers are still hot, and so is Las Vegas. Its population is nearing two million, half of whom have arrived since the Mirage opened on the Strip in 1989. As Las Vegas celebrates its centennial (1905-2005) in the coming year, the city is known worldwide as a 24-hour tourist mecca where "what happens here stays here." What happened here in the last 100 years, and in centuries past, still shapes the city every day.

Humans have lived in the Las Vegas Valley for perhaps 11,000 years. Native groups, such as hunter-gatherers and more

sedentary Basket Makers, made their homes in the area. Later came the Paiutes, who have lived in the valley and mountains for the last millennium, farming and living off the land.

The Spanish claimed that land in the 16th century, and late in 1829 Rafael Rivera, the first non-Native American whose steps through Las Vegas can be traced, scouted the region for New Mexico businessman Antonio Armijo's trading party. Besides making camp in the valley on January 7 1830, Armijo's group pioneered part of the Old Spanish Trail and



William Andrews Clark, a wealthy U.S. senator, built the railroad that built Las Vegas.

linked the area to Southern California.

Many travelers followed in Rivera's footsteps. The most important, Captain John Fremont of the Army Topographical Corps, put Las Vegas on the map in 1844. His best-selling report of his explorations excited interest in the West.

Using Fremont's account as a guide, Brigham Young, leader of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, brought his flock west from Illinois in 1846-47. After settling Salt Lake City the Mormons expanded to the south and west, building forts and missions as far as San Bernardino. In 1855 Young sent 30 men to Las Vegas ("the meadows" in Spanish) to start one of those missions. One of the men called dry, remote Las Vegas a place "the Lord had forgotten."

The Saints built a fort at present-day Las Vegas Boulevard North and Washington Avenue. They imported their families, began an experimental farm for the Paiutes, planted crops, and mined for lead at Mount Potosi.

This blissful picture lasted barely two years. There weren't enough crops for both the Mormons and the Paiutes. The lead was useless. The Mormons became so weary of the heat and divided over their purpose that Young finally let them return to Utah.

Former miner Octavius D. Gass moved into the fort in 1865 and built a successful farm, but he kept mortgaging it to finance his mining ventures. In 1881, Gass lost the ranch to Pioche businessman Archibald Stewart, who moved his family to Las Vegas.

However, neighbor Conrad Kiel thought Stewart had bilked his friend Gass. The two families feuded. In 1884, a Stewart ranch hand left to work for the Kiels and insulted Mrs. Stewart. Archibald rode his horse to the Kiel Ranch, ready to fight. Helen Stewart soon received a note from Kiel: "Your husband is here dead. Come take him away."

Widowed with four children and one on the way, blaming her nearest neighbors for her husband's death, Helen Stewart

stayed. She expanded the ranch and eventually owned about 1,800 acres she hoped someone would buy.

In 1902, that someone arrived. Montana copper baron William Andrews Clark wanted to build a railroad from Salt Lake to Los Angeles to capitalize on the Southern California boom. He bought most of Stewart's land for \$55,000. She built a new house in Las Vegas and another in Southern California. She deeded 10 acres to the Paiutes, whose descendants still live on that colony near Main Street.

The auction of Clark's townsite in 1905

Sheriff Sam Gay was known for kicking miscreants across the city limits with his size-14 boots.

and the arrival of his San Pedro, Los Angeles, and Salt Lake Railroad marked the birth of modern Las Vegas. The town grew fast. By 1910, the census showed 937 residents. The population doubled in each of the next two decades—and, on average, has doubled every decade since.

Most residents worked for or depended on the railroad, which built repair shops, controlled many municipal services, forced minorities into less attractive sections of town, and looked the other way as Block 16, on First Street between Stewart and Ogden, provided illegal gambling, liquor, and prostitution. Las Vegas was virtually a company town.

But in 1921, Clark sold his railroad to the Union Pacific, and the next year a

11,000 B.C. Paleo-American Clovis culture thrived in what is now the Las Vegas area and indeed throughout Nevada. A Clovis point, an ancient projectile point, is found recently at Las Vegas Wash.

9,600 B.C. Tule Springs is occupied by early archaic people, who followed a pattern of hunting and gathering that continued with subsequent Native American cultures.

600 A.D. Basket Maker culture flourishes in Las Vegas Wash. The ancestral pueblo people plant corn, beans, and squash, supplemented by hunting and gathering. Later, multiroom adobe structures and pottery appear.

1776 Spanish priest Father Francisco Garcés and a small party cross into the future state of Nevada at its most southern tip.

1829 Spanish scout Rafael Rivera travels through the Las Vegas Valley in December, becoming the first non-Indian to visit the region.

1855 Mormon settlers arrive in Las Vegas on June 14, build a fort, and establish a small community named Bringham, after William Bringham, head of the colony.

1882 Helen and Archibald Stewart move to the ranch on the old fort site.

1905 Town of Las Vegas is established on May 15 when the San Pedro, Los Angeles, and Salt Lake Railroad auctions 110 acres.

1909 On July 1, Clark County is created from the southern part of Lincoln County, and Las Vegas is named the county seat.

1911 Las Vegas approve incorporation of the city in a special election on June 1.

1926 Commercial air service begins April 17 in Las Vegas, operated by Western Air Express.



Air mail in 1926.

national railroad strike divided Las Vegans. Sam Gay, the long-time sheriff known for kicking miscreants across the city limits with his size-14 boots, deputized strikers to help maintain order.

When the strike ended, the UP moved its shops 150 miles north to Caliente. For Las Vegas, that event could have been disastrous, but just as Helen Stewart stayed and survived, so did her successors. The train still stopped in Las Vegas, airplanes and highways helped visitors find the city, and its desert climate was appealing most of the year. As early as the 1920s, Las Vegas served travelers bound for Utah's national parks.

The construction of Hoover Dam, 30 miles to the southeast, began in 1931. The dam was the first of a series of federal projects that expanded and enriched Las Vegas. During World War II an army gunnery school, later Nellis Air Force Base, brought new visitors and residents and promoted North Las Vegas' growth. The Basic Magnesium plant aided the war effort and established Henderson, now Nevada's second largest city.

Las Vegans found other ways to thrive. In 1931, the state reduced the residency requirement for divorce from three months to six weeks. Las Vegas prospered from the divorce and marriage business after its discovery by Hollywood celebrities, led by Ria Gable, who established residency in 1939 to divorce Clark, who later passed through with his new love, Carole Lombard.



Ria Gable's divorce from Clark was a publicity coup.

Tragically, in 1942, Lombard was aboard a plane that crashed into the mountains near the Mormons' old lead mine on Mount Potosi, and Gable, in mourning, returned to Las Vegas. He stayed at El Rancho Vegas, which the year before had become the first hotel-casino on the Strip.

Ever since the Nevada Legislature made wide-open gambling legal in 1931, casinos had been inching their way from downtown to the Los Angeles Highway. At first all the action was downtown, where the Las Vegas Club, Boulder Club, Apache, Frontier, and Northern—whose names tied them to the Old West—lined Fremont Street. In 1941, Thomas Hull built El Rancho Vegas on



Downtown casinos, circa 1950. They now are covered by the Fremont Street Experience.



The beard contest was part of Helldorado high jinks.

Highway 91 at what today is the Strip and Sahara Avenue. In 1942, R.E. Griffith followed with the Hotel Last Frontier. Both resorts were Western-style low-rises with wooden fence posts and wagon-wheel chandeliers.

These new properties fit Las Vegas' Western image. In 1935, the local Elks Lodge, led by auto dealer James Cashman, who helped persuade Hull to build his hotel, began the annual Helldorado Days parade and rodeo. Las Vegas advertised itself as "still a frontier town."

The frontier town attracted gaming-minded businessmen from California. Tony Cornero built a swanky supper club and casino, the Meadows, in 1931. He later returned to L.A. to run a gambling cruise ship. Cornero also operated a downtown Las Vegas casino and planned the construction of the Stardust Hotel before dying at a Desert Inn crap table in 1955.

El Rancho's Hull operated several hotels in California. Sam Boyd dealt on one of the cruise ships before working his way to Las Vegas and becoming the owner of several casinos.

Onetime L.A. vice cop Guy McAfee owned the Frontier Club downtown and the 91 Club on the street he nicknamed the Strip. In 1946 he built the Golden Nugget on Fremont Street. His L.A. friends Tutor Scherer, Farmer Page, and their partners started the Pioneer Club, complete with the big neon Vegas Vic blaring, "Howdy, Podner," to passersby.

None of the California migrants brought a more controversial reputation than Bugsy Siegel. Raised in New York, Siegel moved to Hollywood, where he became involved in the rackets and hoped to be in movies, reasoning he looked more like a mobster than most actors and clearly had more experience playing the role. With Meyer Lansky overseeing events from back East, their friends and allies moved into Vegas,



New Frontier showgirls present rising star Sammy Davis Jr. a cake on his 30th birthday in '55.

1931 Construction of Hoover Dam begins in April. The project is completed in 1935.

1931 Gambling is legalized in Nevada on March 19. Two days later the Northern Club on Fremont Street in downtown Las Vegas becomes Clark County's first licensed casino.

1935 Helldorado Days, with its parade and rodeo, begins in Las Vegas.

1941 On April 3, El Rancho Vegas becomes the first resort to open on the Las Vegas Strip.

1942 Last Frontier opens on the Strip on October 30.

1946 The Flamingo Hotel, controlled by mobster Bugsy Siegel, opens.

1948 McCarran Field is dedicated as the county airport.

1950 Wilbur Clark opens the 300-room Desert Inn.

1951 Atom bomb testing begins at the Nevada Test Site. Benny Binion opens the Horseshoe Club. The Pioneer Club erects the "Vegas Vic" sign high above Fremont Street.

1952 The Sands and the Sahara open on the Strip.

1954 Future president Ronald Reagan appears in a variety show at the Last Frontier.

1955 The nine-story Riviera Hotel, the first high-rise resort in Las Vegas, and the Dunes open.

1956 Elvis Presley appears for the first time in Las Vegas. His show at the New Frontier is a flop.

1957 Nevada Southern University, later known as the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, is established.

1959 The Las Vegas Convention Center opens in April. The Golden Gate Casino introduces its Giant Shrimp Cocktail for 50 cents (now 99 cents).

Sands Copa Girl Linda Lawson with A-bomb crown, 1955.



LAS VEGAS THROUGH THE YEARS

1960 Las Vegas hosts its first championship boxing match, between welterweights Benny "Kid" Paret and Don Jordan.

1963 The Las Vegas Convention Center is site of rematch between world heavyweight boxing champion Sonny Liston and challenger Floyd Patterson on July 22. Liston knocks out Patterson in the first round.

1964 The Beatles play two shows at the Las Vegas Convention Center on August 20.

1966 Howard Hughes moves into the Desert Inn on Thanksgiving. He later buys six hotels and other properties for a total of \$300 million.

1966 Caesars Palace and the Aladdin open on the Strip. The Four Queens opens on Fremont Street.

1967 Elvis Presley and Priscilla Beaulieu are married at the Aladdin.

1969 Elvis makes a triumphant showroom return to Las Vegas at the International (now the Las Vegas Hilton).

1970 Howard Hughes leaves the Desert Inn and moves to the Caribbean.

1971 The Union Plaza opens downtown.

1973 The MGM Grand (now Bally's) opens with 2,100 rooms. At the time it is the world's largest resort hotel.

1976 The Asian-themed Imperial Palace opens.

1978 Vega\$ TV show starring Robert Urich as private eye Dan Tanna begins a three-season run.

1980 Muhammad Ali and Larry Holmes fight at Caesars Palace.



Priscilla and Elvis in 1967.



A staged floating crap game appeared in this famous Las Vegas News Bureau photo.

operating several race wires and casinos.

Another Hollywood businessman, Billy Wilkerson, began building the Flamingo Hotel late in World War II. When his funds ran out, Siegel stepped in. The Flamingo opened on December 26, 1946, as an unqualified failure. The hotel wasn't ready. A downpour kept away or delayed customers. The second night, Jimmy Durante, Xavier Cugat, and Rose Marie played to about a dozen in the showroom. The Flamingo's fortunes improved, but it was too late for Siegel. In June 1947 he became Las Vegas' first victim of a hostile takeover, if all those bullet holes were any indication.

Siegel's successors, whatever their backgrounds, were better businessmen, and

they built the Strip of the 1950s and 1960s that was known for cheap rooms, cheap food, cheap shows, and great entertainment, from the Rat Pack to French revues. If those attractions weren't enough, mushroom clouds rose from the Nevada Test Site northwest of town. Tourists and locals rushed outside to watch the blasts—and then went back inside to gamble or go about their business, little knowing they might expose themselves to radiation. As the Miss Atomic Blast contest showed, what mattered was fun.

The job of marketing the mushroom cloud—or anything else—fell to the Las Vegas News Bureau, created after World War II to promote the city. Imaginative news bureau photographers and hotel publicists devised elaborate stunts and photo poses, generally with a showgirl as the focus.

They advertised hotels and casinos, but not their owners and operators. Bosses like the Flamingo's Gus Greenbaum and the Desert Inn's Moe Dalitz had run illegal casinos elsewhere. They fit Las Vegas' image, then and now, as a place of reinvention.

The discrimination that Dalitz and his generation suffered as members of immigrant families drove some of them into organized crime—and after coming to Las Vegas, they discriminated. In the 1950s, Las Vegas became known as the Mississippi of the West. African Americans had to live west of the railroad tracks, often without basic amenities. Black entertainers couldn't stay in hotels where they performed.

By the late 1950s, black and sympathetic white residents were forcing changes.



The Mirage, opened by Steve Wynn in 1989, launched a new wave of resorts on the Strip.



The Moulin Rouge Dancers performed in the city's first integrated showroom in 1955.

Finally, in 1960, the Strip and downtown operators agreed to let blacks patronize their casinos and eventually to start hiring African Americans in more than just menial jobs.

While Las Vegas started cleaning up its racist image, its leaders wanted to rub out its organized-crime image. Legitimate businessmen were leery of investing. Only one banker, Parry Thomas of the Bank of Las Vegas, loaned money to casinos. When asked, he replied, "How are you going to do banking in a state by ignoring its main industry?" But Thomas joined state and local officials to back new laws encouraging corporations to invest in Nevada gaming. Nor did it hurt when Howard Hughes arrived in 1966 and starting buying hotels. Hughes was eccentric but not a gangster.

These changes helped create the second great Strip boom. After Kirk Kerkorian opened the International (now the Las Vegas Hilton) in 1969 and MGM Grand (now Bally's) in 1973, most Strip activity consisted of expansion, not new hotels.

The Strip needed a new look, and Steve Wynn provided it. With help from Thomas, Wynn had taken over and revamped the downtown Golden Nugget. But he wanted to change the Strip. With help from junk-bond king Michael Milken, Wynn built the Mirage, which opened in 1989 and catered to a wealthier crowd. The next year, Circus Circus opened the Excalibur, aiming at a middle-class clientele. The new boom was on, driven by casino corporations.

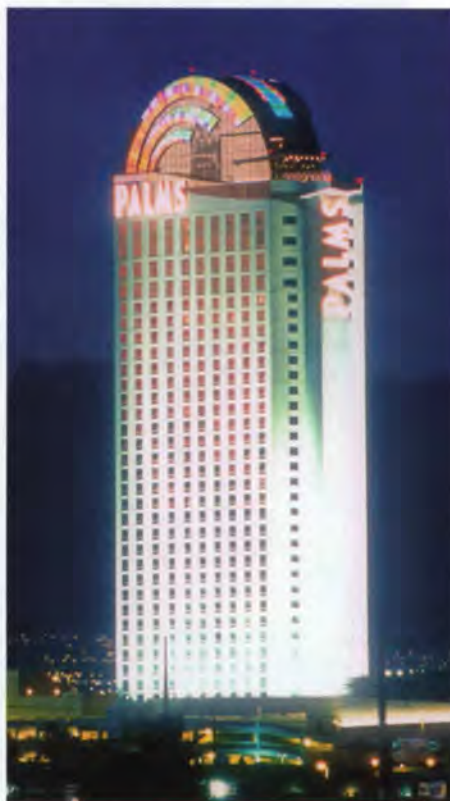
Downtown Las Vegas began its own reinvention. The area's centerpiece was the Fremont Street Experience, a four-block-long canopy with a light-and-sound show.

For part of the 1990s, Las Vegas attracted families intrigued by Treasure Island's pirates, the Luxor's King Tut's Tomb, and video arcades everywhere. Eventually, the family trend dissipated. Casino executives moved to make Las Vegas more hip, blatantly appealing to a younger generation. The Hard Rock, the Palms, and clubs like Studio 54, a symbol of 1970s late-night partying, suggested visitors might get lucky at more than just the 21 tables.

"What happens here stays here" is the city's current theme. What happens in Las Vegas is well-known, thanks to cable television, even if much of its history isn't.

Of course, Las Vegas is more than casinos, with an average of one new school opening monthly, diverse cultural offerings, downtown redevelopment plans, and hotly debated local issues such as growth and water—many of the same topics discussed by Las Vegas pioneers a century ago. Early Las Vegas called theirs a "city of destiny." A century later, the city still recreates its destiny every day. ▀

Michael Green is a professor of history at the Community College of Southern Nevada. He is coauthor, with UNLV history professor Eugene Moehring, of Las Vegas: A Centennial History, to be published by the University of Nevada Press in 2005. He also is working on a book of Las Vegas historical and current photographs to be published by Barnes and Noble.



The Palms and other hotels target a younger crowd with reality TV and pool parties.

1981 Illusionists Siegfried and Roy debut their show, "Beyond Belief," at the Frontier Hotel.

1983 The Las Vegas Stars (now the 51s) begin play at the new Cashman Field as a Triple-A farm club of the San Diego Padres.

1985 The National Finals Rodeo is held in Las Vegas for the first time.

1989 The 3,039-room Mirage opens on the Strip, ushering in a new era of megaresorts.

1990 Excalibur opens with 4,032 rooms. It becomes the world's largest resort hotel at the time. The Rio Suite Hotel opens.

1993 MGM Grand opens with 5,005 rooms, becoming the world's largest resort hotel. The 2,526-room Luxor and 2,900-room Treasure Island also open.

1995 The MGM-Bally's monorail starts operations in summer. The Landmark, built in 1961, is imploded in November, and in December the Fremont Street Experience debuts its light-and-sound show.

1996 The Stratosphere Tower, the largest free-standing observation structure in the U.S., opens. The Monte Carlo opens. The Las Vegas Motor Speedway opens for NASCAR racing with seating for 107,000 fans.

1997 Paris Las Vegas and New York-New York open.

1998 The Bellagio, billed as the most expensive hotel ever (\$1.7 billion), opens.

1999 The Venetian and Mandalay Bay open.

2001 The Palms opens.

2003 "The Sirens of TI" debuts at Treasure Island.

2004 The Las Vegas Monorail begins service in summer.

2005 Las Vegas celebrates its centennial.

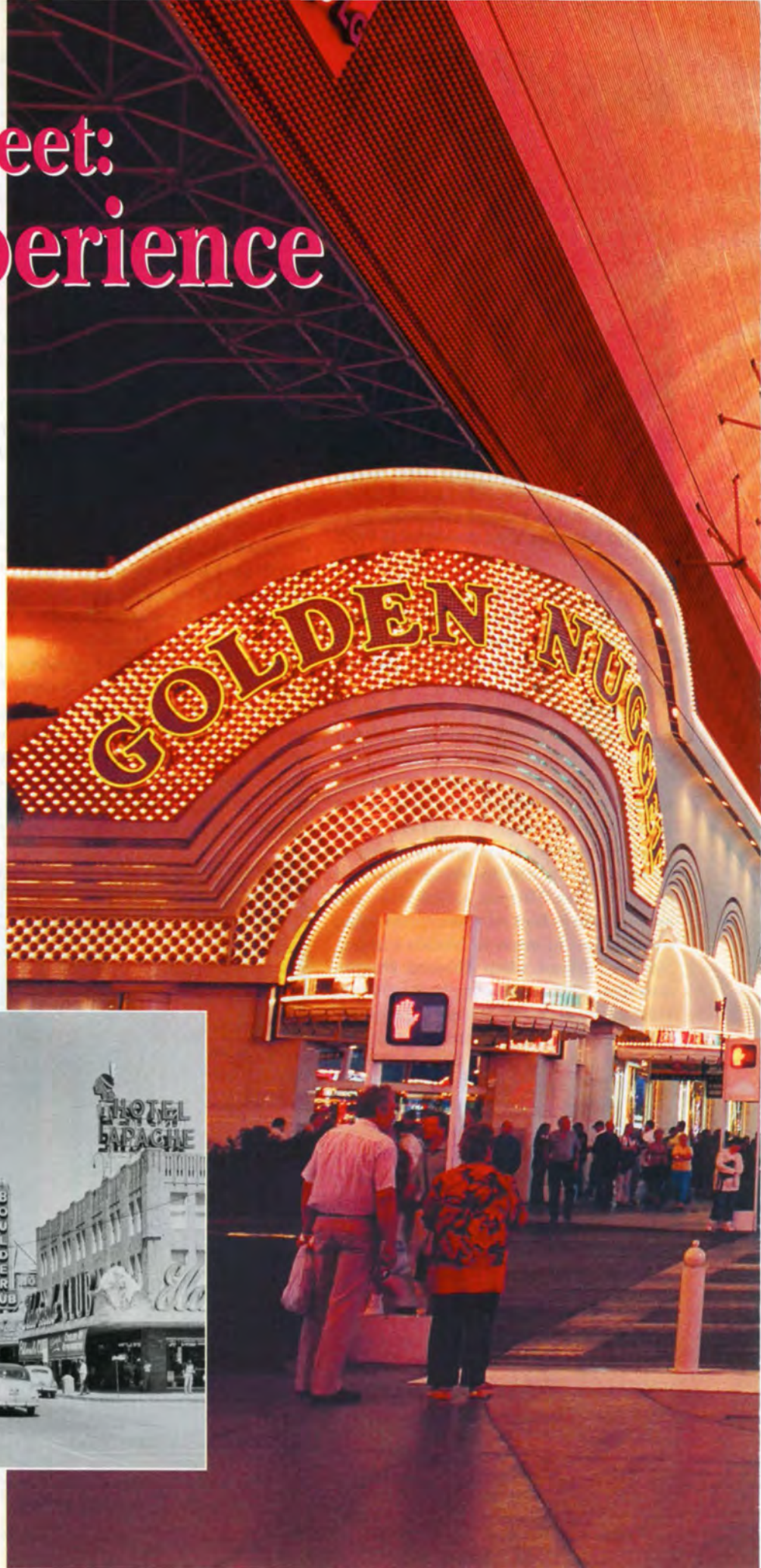


The Stratosphere Tower.

Fremont Street: The Experience

Photography by
Steve Spatafore

When the sun goes down, the lights go on at the Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas' downtown entertainment center. The city was born here in 1905, and after some rough times, downtown has seen a rebirth with its high-tech light-and-sound show, roving entertainers, restaurants, and brightly lit casinos (as shown in the composite photo at right). Trailblazer John C. Fremont, who passed through the Las Vegas Valley in 1844, would be astonished to see the street named after him—and the canopy that stands over it.



The same view on Fremont Street, circa 1950.

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BINION'S

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HORSESHOE

A New Deal

During the past century
Las Vegas casinos
have witnessed great
changes in their games
and in the people
who play them.

By Jack Bulavsky

Take a moment and imagine a Las Vegas saloon in 1907 (there aren't any casinos yet). The customers standing at the polished oak bar, smoking cigars and drinking whiskey, are all men. They are sharing stories while missing spittoons at their feet. Some are dressed in their finest Sunday suits, others in their overalls after a hot day's work on the San Pedro, Los Angeles, and Salt Lake Railroad. For a little rest and relaxation the men are playing the popular games of the era—craps, blackjack, roulette, and faro.

During the past century Las Vegas casin-

os have witnessed great changes in their games and also in the people who play them. Craps, blackjack, and roulette are still the favorites of many gamblers, but faro was last played in the mid-1960s at the Las Vegas Club.

"Faro was played with a single deck of cards selected one at a time," says Frank Toti, director of casino operations for Coast Resorts and a 40-year Las Vegas gaming veteran. "In the old days, faro was king of the table games."

After the Nevada Legislature legalized wide-open gambling in 1931, faro and

other table games were still king in the Apache Club and other Fremont Street casinos. So were the men who played them. While men gathered around the crap table, their wives and girlfriends played the slot machines. Sitting atop stools, women in flowered dresses and heels sometimes played three nickel machines at a time, their arms moving back and forth like orchestra conductors.

As Hoover Dam's construction and post-war prosperity spurred the clubs' growth, table games and male customers continued to dominate the scene. All the dealers were men, too. Hotels such as the Flamingo, Desert Inn, Riviera, and Stardust opened with large casino pits. Through the 1960s table games brought in twice as much revenue as slots.

To keep the men at the tables as long as possible, casino owner Sam Boyd started using women to deal blackjack at the Union Plaza in 1971. Blackjack was the most popular game on the floor, and Boyd believed women were friendlier to customers. Sam's son, Bill, now chairman of the board and CEO of Boyd Gaming, says his father was not dismayed by the initial chorus of negative comments.

"He was confident in what he was doing and knew that players would not mind women dealers as long as they were winning," Bill Boyd says. "And that's exactly what happened. Players didn't care because they kept on winning. And women, seeing other women dealing cards, became more comfortable playing alongside men



In Las Vegas' early days, men found faro, roulette, and spittoons at the Arizona Club.

Tools of the Trade

When you hold a blackjack hand or pull a slot handle, chances are excellent that the card deck or slot machine was made by a Nevada company. In fact, Las Vegas is home to most major gaming-equipment makers.

International Game Technology has a large office in Las Vegas. IGT maintains sales, service, and manufacturing sites around the globe. Some of its popular games are The Price Is Right, I Love Lucy, Wheel of Fortune, and Megabucks. IGT is based in Reno. Visit www.igt.com.

Bally Gaming, which has a huge plant near McCarran International Airport, is the premier supplier of reel-spinning slot machines led by its flagship Millionaire 777s/Blazing 7s. Bally makes Betty Boop, Saturday Night Live, Cash For Life, and Playboy slots. Visit www.ballygaming.com.

Shuffle Master, named the fifth-best small company in America by *Forbes* in 2003, specializes in automatic card shufflers for poker rooms and blackjack tables. The Las Vegas company also has proprietary table games such as Three Card Poker, Four Card Poker, and Let It Ride. Visit www.shufflemaster.com.

JCM American Corp. makes bill-validation and cash-handling equipment for slot and video machines as well as the banking and vending industries. JCM, the first to put bill-validators in slots, has also created self-serve kiosks for the Nevada DMV. Based in Japan, JCM has its U.S. headquarters in Las Vegas. Visit www.jcm-american.com.

Paul-Son Gaming Corp. of Las Vegas manufactures and supplies casino table-game equipment, including casino chips, table layouts, playing cards, dice, table accessories, and gaming furniture. Visit www.paulsongaming.com.

WMS Gaming maintains its Western regional offices in Las Vegas. WMS produces reel slots, poker, and multi-line video machines, and among its well-known games are Monopoly, Hollywood Squares, Reel 'em In Poker, and Ms. Pac-Man. Visit www.wmsgaming.com.

Aristocrat, an Australian manufacturer of gaming systems, has its American headquarters in Las Vegas. Producer of Mr. Cashman, Reel Power, and King of the Nile, Aristocrat operates in 55 countries. Visit www.aristocratgaming.com.

—Jack Bulavsky



Modern slot machines, like these at Paris, have a dizzying array of lines and symbols. Left: This 1950s publicity photo featured women playing roulette at the Flamingo.

ing cards (king, queen, and jack) and later bells, lemons, and cherries is now a sleek, neon-lit video slot machine that features multilevel bonus rounds and sharp graphics. It carries an integrated computer chip and depicts everything from diamonds and rubies to Playboy bunnies and the music of Frank Sinatra. Slot themes include the Beverly Hillbillies, Wheel of Fortune, and Saturday Night Live.

Today's slot and video-poker players are trending younger, says Marcus Prater, senior vice president of marketing for Bally Gaming. He notes that advanced graphics appeal to the folks who have been playing video games for more than 25 years.

"We follow trends established by the computer generation," Prater says. "The advanced computer-game technology that kids are playing today will eventually make their way to the slot-playing public."

As they do, table games will continue to disappear. Toti believes two more table games are headed for the gambling graveyard. "The Big Six wheel and Caribbean stud poker are on their way out," he predicts. "Big Six is not for serious players, and it's tough to win at Caribbean stud. Table games are for those who want to gamble seriously."

And a serious business it is. The smoky, dark saloons with a few card and dice games have given way to billion-dollar casinos, where video slot machines ring with digital melodies and some table games have minimum bets of \$100 or \$1,000.

Maybe it's time for faro to make a comeback. ♠

Jack Bulavsky of Henderson is a former table games player who hasn't been the same since he discovered The Girls of Playboy slot machine.



at the tables." As the '70s progressed, female dealers became as prominent as cocktail waitresses on the casino floor.

An even greater revolution occurred when the first video-poker machines arrived in the early '80s. At that time, says Toti, slots still belonged to women.

"Most men didn't play slots," Toti says, "but when poker machines came along, that changed the entire industry. Slot players could now make decisions. Instead of inserting a coin and waiting for three cherries to line up, you now had to decide whether you were going to keep the two kings or go with the 8, 9, and 10 of diamonds. This was a game men could play."

Actually, men had been playing primitive slot machines since the 1890s. In 1899, San Francisco inventor Charles Fey created a three-wheel slot machine, called the Liberty Bell, that paid out automatically. (His grandsons, Marshall and Frank Fey, display a collection of historic slots at their Liberty Belle Restaurant in Reno.)

However, Fey's machine wouldn't be recognized today. What began as a cast-iron, spring-loaded machine that depicted play-



Once and Future Themes

From **Wild West** village
to the **Manhattan** skyline,
Las Vegas has evolved
into the land of themes.

By **Deke Castleman**

In the beginning (of legalized gambling in Nevada), all casinos were created equal. They were rudimentary affairs, often in saloons and little changed in terms of aesthetics from the proverbial back rooms of cigar stores and barbershops that served as illegal gambling parlors throughout the country.

The sawdust joints' only nod to originality was in their names: the Northern, Tango, Boulder, and El Cortez clubs in Las Vegas and Harold's, Harrah's, and the Nevada Club in Reno. Today's emphasis on cohesive casino themes was unknown. In Las Vegas it was appropriate that the Pioneer, Silver, and Apache casinos augured the first full-blown theme to come: the Wild Wild West.

This theme further evolved in Las Vegas when hotelier Thomas Hull opened the first Strip resort, El Rancho Vegas, in 1941, and theater-chain owner R.E. Griffith and architect William J. Moore opened the Last Frontier the next year. The Last Frontier lobby had mounted buffalo heads, sandstone hearths, Pony Express lanterns hanging from wagon wheels—even paintings of nudes in Gold Rush gaudiness. Outside, the Last Frontier Village was Las Vegas' first theme park, complete with hundreds of Western artifacts from Elko collector Robert "Doby Doc" Caudill. The village displayed entire mining trains, authentic jailhouses, and the Little Church of the West wedding chapel, plus huge collections of firearms, wagons, saddles, and barber chairs. Moore's designs for the Last Frontier not only established the trend of casino theming but set a standard for style that's still evolving more than 60 years later.

Although the Western theme has been revisited regularly, most notably with the Golden Nugget (1946), Horseshoe (1954), and Westward Ho (1976), the Last Frontier also inspired competing ornamental styles. The Flamingo (1946) introduced a coastal-resort ambience, followed by the Riviera (1955) and Tropicana (1957). Desert décor arrived early, embodied by the Desert Inn (1950), the Sahara and the Sands (1952), and the Aladdin (1966). These casinos were ostensibly themed—the Sahara had signature camels, and the Aladdin had its famous lamp—but the detail was more decorative than dramatic.

In 1955, the Last Frontier was replaced by the New Frontier, establishing a trend toward accelerated reinvention that remains



Left: Caesars Palace created a Roman setting with fountains and statuary. Right: The two peaks of the New York-New York skyline are the Empire State Building (left) and the Chrysler Building. Below: Downtown clubs in the '40s boasted Western names like Pioneer, Boulder, Eldorado, and Golden Nugget. Bottom: Theme master Jay Sarno (right) poses with partner Nate Jacobson (center) and Governor Grant Sawyer at the Caesars Palace opening in 1966.



The Pioneer and Apache casinos augured the city's first theme: the Wild Wild West.

with us today. The New Frontier had an outer-space theme: flying-saucer chandeliers, Cloud Nine cocktail lounge, Planet coffee shop, and Venus theater. Still, the New Frontier, like the Last, was an anomaly. In 1958, the Stardust borrowed the New Frontier's otherworldly theming, but it was not a serious, unified casino context.

It wasn't until Jay Sarno, who owned a chain of motels, turned his vivid imagination toward casinos that theming found a permanent home in Las Vegas. Sarno designed Caesars Palace, which opened in 1966 with a grandeur-of-ancient-Rome motif that informed every inch of the property, from the Coliseum architecture, toga uniforms, Appian Way fountains, and Roman statuary all the way down to the missing apostrophe in "Caesars"—Sarno's implication that the Palace belonged not to a single Caesar, but that every guest should feel like a Roman emperor.

To top himself, Sarno opened Circus Circus two years later.





The Stardust opened in 1958 with a motif that was out of this world. A half-scale Eiffel Tower (lower left) affirms the hotel's name: Paris.



Here, he miscalculated slightly, originally conceiving of Circus as a high-roller casino to which he actually charged admission. Circus failed in its upscale ambitions but was wildly successful in its theming, with its clowns, midway, trapeze artists, and performing animals.

Nothing much happened in the Las Vegas theming scheme of things for the next two decades. But when Steve Wynn opened the Mirage in 1989, it signaled the Big Bang of casino theming. The Mirage's South Seas ambience came complete with a 100-foot-tall glass dome sheltering a tropical rain forest, a 20,000-gallon aquarium behind the front desk, and, out front, the

pièce de résistance, the volcano that still erupts every 30 minutes after dark.

Since the Mirage it's the rare megaresort that has opened without a distinct theme. For example, Excalibur (1990) has Arthurian turrets, spires, and bell towers, plus the Fantasy Faire midway and Renaissance Faire attractions. Luxor (1993) is one of the most recognizable buildings in the world. The huge hotel pyramid has inclinators, King Tut's mu-

When Steve Wynn opened the Mirage in 1989, it signaled the Big Bang of casino theming.

seum, and a giant, cosmic spotlight emanating from its apex.

Also, recent casino theming has adopted famous cities. Caesars Palace started the trend with Rome, but other resorts have gone to great lengths since, with the Rio (1990), Monte Carlo (1996), Orleans (1996), Venetian (1999), and Paris (1999). There's New York-New York (1997), the epitome of not only the city theme but of all themes in Las Vegas. From the replicated skyline (Empire State, Chrysler, CBS, and Seagram buildings,

plus a half-size Statue of Liberty) and the Coney Island-type roller coaster to the steaming manhole covers and faux fire escapes of the Greenwich Village eateries area, New York-New York achieves the pinnacle of themed accomplishment.

What does the future of theming have in store for Las Vegas casinos? One hint might be taken from Steve Wynn's latest project, Wynn Las Vegas, scheduled to open in spring 2005 on the former site of the Desert Inn. Arguably, no one has been better attuned to the pulse of the gambling business over the past 15 years than the great developer himself. Although characteristically tight-lipped about the details, Wynn has hinted that the new design is a revolutionary departure from the Mirage, Treasure Island, and Bellagio, which he created.

"If you're inside Bellagio, you're behind the fountains. Big mistake," Wynn says. "Wynn Las Vegas is designed from the inside looking out. We're not giving a payoff to a guy on the sidewalk. The 120-foot mountain blocks the view." That mountain, instead, is oriented to the inside of the property, with varying views from the casino, nightclub, restaurants, retail shops, and common areas.

So even though Wynn Las Vegas won't reflect a specific place or time period, its alpine ambience could herald a return to a general topographic phase for casino theming. Deserts, anyone? ▀

Deke Castleman is senior editor of the Las Vegas Advisor and the author of Whale Hunt in the Desert: The Secret Las Vegas of Superhost Steve Cyr (Huntington Press, 2004).

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Show Stoppers

Jimmy Durante, Cirque du Soleil, and other opening nights that defined "Vegas-style" entertainment. **By Mike Weatherford**



"Blue Man Group" has been a red-hot "Vegas-style" show.

Sure, it seems like a long, strange trip from the "schnoz" of Jimmy Durante to the cobalt-chrome domes of the "Blue Man Group," but the evolution of Las Vegas entertainment follows an almost orderly path over the past six decades. Aside from technological changes, much of what you see on the Strip today has strong threads back to the '50s, when entertainers helped create the image of the city that most people currently recognize. You can still see one show that opened in 1959—the Tropicana's "Les Folies Bergere"—as well as nightly tributes where costumed impersonators play to the public's lingering fascination with Elvis Presley and the Rat Pack.

Less specific is that elusive "Vegas style" of entertainment that still influences many productions. There are two variations that make for compatible and intriguing opposites. The first is the down-front, stripped-down, anything-to-entertain attack of old-school entertainers such as Clint Holmes, Danny

Gans, and the Scintas. The second is the over-the-top, anything-goes, everything-but-the-kitchen sink oh, what the heck, throw the sink in, too) spectacle of the Las Vegas production show. Crazy? Campy? Outrageous? You bet. But people don't come to Vegas for under-the-top.

See for yourself. The lines that connect the dots are fairly clear in what are here argued to be the defining landmark moments of Las Vegas entertainment history.

Jimmy Durante and Xavier Cugat

Flamingo, December 26, 1946

Only in Las Vegas can you feel little guilt about skipping 41 years of history. The Strip was a postwar phenomenon if ever there was one, and the city's cowboy era never became the stuff of legend that the Flamingo and its, ah, creative financing strategies did.

The pre-World War II days of Glitter Gulch captured the public's imagination enough for a 1942 Tommy Dorsey movie to be named *Las Vegas Nights*. (The movie's posters proclaimed, "The hottest spot in the country .. With the hottest band on Earth!") By mid-1943 the term "floor show" was used to advertise entertainment at the Last Frontier and Nevada Biltmore. The very week the Flamingo opened in 1946 you also could see the Mills Brothers at the Biltmore or Peggy Lee and



Jimmy Durante, who opened the Flamingo over the holidays in 1946, sang about "that well-dressed man."



Above: Keely Smith and Louis Prima celebrate a payday during their heyday. Right: Harry Belafonte made Riviera executives agree to an anti-discrimination clause in his contract. Left: Twenty years before Xavier Cugat married Charo (left), the bandleader headed the bill with Jimmy Durante at the Flamingo Hotel's 1946 debut.

the Ritz Brothers at El Rancho Vegas. Still, the Bugsy Siegel legend helps the Flamingo's opening night—starring Jimmy Durante and Xavier Cugat—stand out as a pioneering showroom date. Ava Gardner, Lucille Ball, George Raft, and Veronica Lake were among the movie stars who attended the first week's festivities. It also was Durante—

and about the same time, comic Joe E. Lewis—who helped hone the wide-ranging supper-club circuit down to what appealed specifically to gamblers and thus became quintessentially “Vegas.”

A vaudeville veteran, Durante showed the path for all Las Vegas stars to follow. He didn't need fancy staging, just a battered fedora to go with his slightly battered stage persona as he hammered the piano, joked, and danced his way through novelty “patter” songs such as “I'm Jimmy, That Well-Dressed Man” and his signature tune, “Inka-Dinka-Doo.”

Durante's costar, Xavier Cugat, would be mambo king on the Strip for years down the road, pacing his Latin big band behind two singing wives, Abbe Lane and Charo, well into the 1970s.

“This is where the Wild West went when it couldn't go farther westward,” Associated Press reporter Bob Thomas declared after the Flamingo's opening night. “The town has been converted to an opulent playground to satisfy the entertainment whims of any visitor.”

Louis Prima and Keely Smith

Sahara, November 24, 1954

This is the act that took “lounge” from a physical location to a rollicking musical sound and a swingin' all-night image of the Strip. Louis Prima and his fourth wife, Keely Smith, pulled a favor from Sahara entertainment director Bill Miller to land this holiday dead-time booking when the New Orleans bandleader was bordering on broke.

Prima and Smith were soon joined by saxophonist Sam Butera, and the “Wildest Show in Vegas” made the Sahara's Casbar lounge the late-night gathering point of all the other stars who had finished their own shows.

Harry Belafonte

Riviera Hotel, July 7, 1955

Sometimes the real drama takes place backstage. Belafonte, a solid Las Vegas star, was a Caesars Palace regular in the late '60s who returned periodically



Two Copa Girls hold cue cards for "Summit" swingers Peter Lawford (left), Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., and Joey Bishop on their opening night at the Sands.

through 1997. But his 1955 Riviera show was more than just the launch of a long career on the Strip. As Belafonte recalled for the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* in 1997, it also was an engagement that broke down the doors of segregation.

After receiving shabby treatment a few years prior at the Thunderbird, Belafonte said, he returned in '55 "at the height of my career" and demanded—in writing—that "under no circumstances would I accept being submitted to any racial discrimination whatsoever." The hotel agreed, and Belafonte saved a copy of the contract for posterity.

Segregation as a formal casino policy didn't end in Las Vegas until 1960, but that summer of 1955 also marked the opening of the Moulin Rouge, Las Vegas' first integrated casino. Belafonte escorted Tallulah Bankhead to the Moulin Rouge, which lasted only a few months but proved that "whites and blacks could congregate without any problem," said longtime Las Vegas civic activist Bob Bailey, who with his wife, Anna Bailey, performed at the Moulin Rouge during its brief heyday.

"Lido de Paris"

Stardust, July 2, 1958

Let us take a moment to separate the two parts of the phrase "topless showgirl." Television had driven burlesque to a final stand in the desert, where in 1957 "Minsky's Follies" went one step beyond pasties at the Dunes. "Topless" had arrived.

But a year later, "Lido de Paris," a \$10-

million cabaret revue, opened at the Stardust and transformed the showgirl from a French staple into a symbol of Las Vegas. The "Lido" is also where spectacle began to replace the modest floor shows of old. The Stardust production came complete with a 30-foot swimming pool and an ice rink that could be brought to stage level in 15 seconds. "Lido" showgirls lined the revolving stage like a "living curtain" before more descended from the ceiling and then dove into the pool. Thereafter, such stagecraft became an essential element of shows that physically could not tour—a "bring the world to us" strategy still practiced by *Cirque du Soleil*.



In 1958 "Lido de Paris" introduced feathered spectacle to Las Vegas casino floor shows.

"Summit at the Sands"

Sands, January 20, 1960

Louis Prima and the Sahara topped the lounge scene, but it was the Sands showroom that elevated Las Vegas entertainment to mythic proportions.

By 1960 the Sands was synonymous with Frank Sinatra, who for the past seven years had reinvented himself as the anti-rock king of cool and suave master of the standard. When he wasn't making movies or records, he was playing tour guide to fellow stars by introducing them to the Sands, "A Place in the Sun"—where he just happened to share "points" in the profits—and its influential entertainment director, Jack Entratter.

When Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., Joey Bishop, and Peter Lawford convened at the Sands during the filming of *Ocean's Eleven*, the combined star power was unprecedented, even if the Rat Pack's seemingly improvised antics owed a heavy nod to Las Vegas forerunners such as the Mary Kay Trio. The gathering also derived from the tradition that on a star's last night in the Copa Room, the headliner who opened the next night would show up to add a little semi-improvised mayhem.

The "Summit" name was a play on the upcoming Paris summit conference that would bring Eisenhower, Khrushchev, and de Gaulle to the same table. Sinatra, Davis, and Martin would convene around their drink-cart prop periodically for the next six years.

"That was clearly the best show in the history of this community," said former Nevada Governor Bob Miller, who saw one of the Copa Room dates as a teenager. "It was like being backstage with them."

Elvis Presley

The International, July 31, 1969

By the summer of *Easy Rider*, the Rat Packers were dirty old men on the wrong side of the generation gap, and Las Vegas needed a new jolt of adrenaline. Elvis Presley also was in need of a



Elvis Presley and his wife, Priscilla, pose with friend and fellow heartthrob Tom Jones.

comeback, having thrown much of his career away in the '60s with a string of cheesy movies.

It was the perfect marriage. Elvis delivered his now grown-up fans, who flocked to the International (now the Las Vegas Hilton) and easily filled the hotel's 2,000-seat showroom, which was the city's largest at the time. By his last performance in 1976 at the Hilton, Presley's image was so closely associated with the town that the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority eventually would draft Elvis impersonators for its marketing campaigns.

"Siegfried and Roy at The Mirage"

The Mirage, February 1, 1990

The entertainment momentum of the '50s and '60s stalled in the '70s and took a near-fatal nap in the '80s. A

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Notable Nights

Following is a sampling of other noteworthy dates in Las Vegas entertainment history.

1946: Sammy Davis Jr. stars with the Will Mastin Trio at the Last Frontier.

1951: Frank Sinatra gives his first Las Vegas performance on September 4 at the Desert Inn.

1954: Ronald Reagan stars in a variety show at the Last Frontier. The future president teams with the Continentals for the February gig.

1955: Liberace opens the Riviera on April 25. His salary of \$50,000 per week makes him the highest-paid Las Vegas performer to date.

1959: "Les Folies Bergere" opens at the Tropicana on December 24; in 2004 the show is still running. At the Fremont, Wayne Newton plays the lounge with his brother Jerry.

1964: The Beatles perform two shows at the Las Vegas Convention Center on August 20.

1968: Tom Jones first plays the Strip on March 21 at the Flamingo.

1969: Barbra Streisand opens the International.

1971: Duke Ellington performs a special show at Caesars Palace in December.

1976: Julie Andrews brings the sound of music to Caesars Palace in August.

1978: Disco diva Donna Summer first plays the Las Vegas Hilton.

1981: "Jubilee!" opens at Bally's on July 30.

1983: "Legends in Concert" opens at the Imperial Palace with impersonations of Elvis, Marilyn Monroe, Buddy Holly, and other stars.

1984: Tenor Luciano Pavarotti plays the Riviera in his Las Vegas debut.

1987: Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, and Sammy Davis Jr. share a Las Vegas stage for the last time on October 29 as Martin and Davis surprise Sinatra on his Bally's opening night.

1991: The Grateful Dead play two sold-out concerts at the Silver Bowl, now Sam Boyd Stadium, in April.

1994: The Rolling Stones perform at the MGM Grand in October.

1996: Wayne Newton celebrates his 25,000th Las Vegas performance. Also, Siegfried and Roy perform in the city for the 15,000th time.

1998: Cirque du Soleil opens "O" on October 16 at the Bellagio.

1999: Millennium New Year celebrations include concerts by Barbra Streisand at the MGM Grand, Tina Turner and Elton John at Thomas and Mack Center, and Rod Stewart at the Rio.

2003: Celine Dion opens "A New Day..." on March 25 in the new 4,100-seat Colosseum at Caesars Palace. Cirque du Soleil's "Zumanity" debuts in September at New York-New York.

2004: Elton John agrees to perform at Caesars Palace while Celine Dion is on hiatus. Britney Spears appears at the MGM in March, two months after her brief Las Vegas marriage to a childhood friend. "We Will Rock You," based on the music of Queen, opens at Paris Las Vegas.



Roy Horn and Siegfried Fischbacher own white lions, Royal White tigers, other big cats, and an Asian elephant. Many of the animals, as well as dolphins, can be seen at the Mirage.

prominent exception was the illusion-and-big-cat spectacular of "Siegfried and Roy."

Siegfried Fischbacher, Roy Horn, and their tigers and lions had been a growing presence on the Strip since their 1967 debut as a 12-minute specialty act in the Tropicana's "Les Folies Bergere." In 1981, circus impresarios Irvin and Kenneth Feld made stars of them with "Beyond Belief," which more than three million showgoers saw at the Frontier over the course of 3,500 performances.

But that show was still old Vegas in flavor, complete with showgirls and campy circus music. "Siegfried and Roy at The Mirage" opened the door to the Las

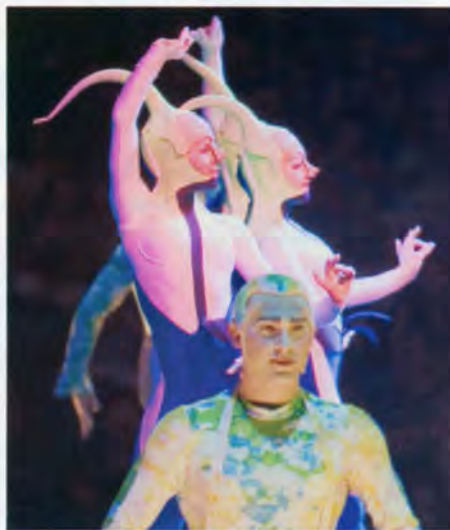
Vegas that was to come, with computerized lighting and production design by John Napier of "Les Misérables" and "Cats" fame. The show ran until Roy suffered a near-fatal bite from one of his show tigers onstage on October 3, 2003.

"Mystère"

Treasure Island, December 25, 1993

The Cirque du Soleil takeover of Las Vegas actually began a year earlier, in 1992, when the Cirque touring show "Nouvelle Experience" settled in a custom big top behind the Mirage, invited by owner Steve Wynn. Then Wynn built a theater for Cirque du Soleil at Treasure Island, where the troupe created "Mystère," an only-in-Vegas opus that took full advantage of the custom-fit staging that a Strip hotel-casino can offer.

Cirque later topped itself with the water show "O" at the Bellagio and experimented with the edgy "Zumanity" at New York-New York. Now Cirque plans to begin previews of "KÀ" in late November at the MGM Grand. Perhaps this new spectacle will keep Las Vegas on the cutting edge of entertainment in a new century. ▽



"Mystère," one of four Cirque du Soleil shows in Las Vegas, plays at Treasure Island.

Mike Weatherford is an entertainment columnist for the Las Vegas Review-Journal and the author of *Cult Vegas: The Weirdest! The Wildest! The Swingin'est Town on Earth!* (Huntington Press, 2001).

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Mob Mentality

The glamorized image of the old Vegas mobsters contrasted with their need to keep a low profile—or else. **By John L. Smith**

They say Benjamin “Bugsy” Siegel, the man who opened the Flamingo Hotel and hated his famous nickname, died of natural causes. He was murdered.

Evolve or perish—that’s the story of the mob in Las Vegas. When the first wave of gangsters came West during World War II, they found a parched promised land where gambling was legal and their illegitimate lives could be cleansed. But there were rules to the game.

Those who, like Siegel, were suspected of stealing from their partners were expendable. Bugsy was shot to death on June 20, 1947 in the Beverly Hills home of his girlfriend, Virginia Hill. His demise made national headlines, and ironically it probably did more to put Las Vegas on the map than the creation of the Flamingo.

Other mobsters with Las Vegas ties met the same fate. Mob casino man Gus Greenbaum, a star of the 1963 book *The*

“Las Vegas was started by the mob. We still get questions every day. But the public should remember that they weren’t good people.”

Green Felt Jungle, was so addled by booze and heroin he became a loose-lipped liability. The same was true for Chicago mob insider Johnny Roselli, once a Las Vegas power-house.

Tough Tony Spilotro, portrayed by Joe Pesci in *Casino*, the 1995 Martin Scorsese Vegas mob epic, failed to keep a low pro-

file in the 1970s and effectively opened the door to federal investigations. He paid the price, too.

“Maintaining order, that was Tony’s job, and he screwed it up,” says organized-crime expert Ed Becker, coauthor of *All American Mafioso: The Johnny Roselli Story*.

Evolve or perish. Moe Dalitz was a prince of the Cleveland rackets and one of America’s biggest bootleggers, but after moving to Las Vegas to complete the Desert Inn in 1950 he embraced the community, diversified, gave generously to charity, and lived to the ripe age of 89.

In the early 1950s, Dalitz had sparred with Estes Kefauver, the Tennessee senator whose rackets committee shed light on the criminal element in the gambling business. But Moe realized that his future depended on his ability to keep a low profile, even in the 1960s, when he used his contacts with Teamsters Union titan Jimmy Hoffa to arrange the flow of millions in Central States Pension Fund loans to Strip hotels.

Secretive billionaire Howard Hughes sped the mob’s exit after he arrived by train on Thanksgiving 1966 and proceeded to buy a string of casinos linked to Meyer Lansky and other organized-crime figures. In less than a decade most Strip casinos had gone corporate.

By the 1980s, when the last vestiges of



Bugsy Siegel, mob trailblazer.

mob influence were being scrubbed out of the Strip, the stakes had risen, and the megaresort era had begun. Former Organized Crime Strike Force prosecutor Don Campbell, now a Las Vegas attorney, says the traditional mob just couldn’t keep up.

“In its day, everything was connected in Las Vegas,” Campbell says. “Today, I don’t know of any casino that’s connected or influenced in any way. The Teamsters could only develop so many hotels. Wall Street is the only place you can raise the money it takes to build those enormous resorts. You have to have Wall Street, and you have to show where your money comes from. It just got too big. The mob couldn’t control it.”

Becker’s take differs slightly. “I don’t know that they were outgrown,” he says, “but they screwed up, the mob did.”

Once mob families were weakened by attrition and incarceration, most authorities contend, they couldn’t survive in a legitimate world in which major corporations had honed the business of gambling and entertainment to a science. In time, Wall Street fell in love with gaming stocks.

With Hollywood continuing to romanticize the mob in Las Vegas, Gaming Control Board Chief of Enforcement Keith Copher can’t blame visitors for wondering whether the boys still have the run of the joints. “Las Vegas

was started by the mob," he says. "We still get questions every day. But the public should remember that they weren't good people. They were street crooks who pulled burglaries and committed violent crimes and have unfortunately been glamorized."

Gaming Control Board member Bobby

Siller, a former special agent in charge of the FBI's Las Vegas office, says, "I think the era of mob influence in the casino industry is over. Now, are there some people historically associated with organized crime working in the industry? Yes. But I'm not aware of any who have any control in any casino. The old La Cosa Nostra

control of the casinos is gone. If there was one, I sure would like to know."

Evolve or perish. Campbell, the ex-mob buster, laughs at the irony. Turns out the tough guys weren't so tough after all.

"The demise of the mob saw the rise of corporations in the casinos," Campbell says. "Whoever would have thought? ♣

Out in a Flash

A mobster meets his match in a persistent photographer.

By John L. Smith

It was a Friday evening in late October 1960, and *Las Vegas Sun* photographer Frank Maggio had just returned from a three-day fishing trip to Lake Mead. An award-winning former White House lensman for the Associated Press, Maggio smelled like a month-dead carp as he dropped by the newspaper to pick up his mail.

Reporter Alan Jarlson collared him and announced that state gaming-control agents were about to eject notorious Chicago gangster Marshall Caifano from the Desert Inn. Maggio grabbed his Pontiac-sized Speed Graphic camera, and the pair raced to the Strip hotel.

Caifano, the first hood placed in Nevada's infamous *Black Book* of notorious characters banned from casinos, was the mob's Las Vegas enforcer and arguably the most feared gangster in America. Running the streets under the alias Johnny Marshall, the ex-boxer had a maniacal stare and a reputation for violence. His mere presence in a casino struck fear in the mob's front men.

A suspect in several murders, Caifano was on law enforcement's watch list. The gaming agents also were eager to enforce the state's newly issued *Black Book*. When the agents found him, dapper Johnny Marshall was hiding out at the mobbed-up Desert Inn.

Maggio and Jarlson arrived in the lobby as the agents were escorting Caifano from the hotel. Maggio quickly set his camera and fired a flash. But Caifano

Caifano wasn't in the mood to say cheese.

wasn't in the mood to say cheese. The furious mobster broke loose from his escorts and punched Maggio's camera half way to Las Vegas Boulevard.

"When you hit a Speed Graphic with your fist, you're taking a chance on cutting your hand up," the unassuming Maggio once told me. "All I know is the camera went flying, and it put me in position."

In position, that is, for the best shot of his career—a dandy right cross that landed flush on Caifano's notorious mug. The punch knocked the toughest hoodlum in the country all the way to La La Land.

"I'm not a fighter," Maggio said. "It was just natural reflexes."

With Caifano taking a carpet nap in the Desert Inn lobby, chaos ensued. The agents picked up the nodding hit man. Security guards grabbed Maggio, who stunk like bait and resembled a transient.

His life flashed before him. What had he done? According to legend, Caifano had killed people for less.

Maggio eventually was released, Caifano was taken to the friendly confines of the local slammer, and the *Sun* bannered the



story. Jarlson painted Maggio as a camera-toting Marciano.

Although Maggio looked over his shoulder for weeks afterward, Caifano never retaliated. The consummate mob hard case eventually served nine years on extortion charges. Thanks to a 1980 racketeering conviction, he grew old in prison. In 1991 the 80-year-old Caifano was released from federal prison after the authorities had declared that he was no longer a threat to society. Caifano died in September 2003, at age 93, in his sleep.

Maggio went on to become Hacienda Hotel matron Judy Bayley's personal photographer and confidant and spent 15 years as the Union Plaza's director of promotions. In 1975 he authored *Las Vegas Calling*, a photo book about the city's development. Before his death at age 75 in 1993, Maggio operated the One-Hour Photo Lab on Decatur Boulevard.

During his career Maggio photographed countless public figures, from Harry Truman to Mario Lanza, from pugilists to pimps. He had 14 cameras smashed by unwilling subjects. He also absorbed three broken noses and one skull fracture by others seeking to remain out of focus. But he always got the picture.

Maggio's impromptu match with one of Murder, Inc.'s top executives remains a memorable episode in Vegas mob history, even if Maggio himself had second thoughts about his actions. As he told me years later, "If I had used my head, I wouldn't have done it." ♣

John L. Smith is a columnist for the Las Vegas Review-Journal and the author of Of Rats and Men: Oscar Goodman's Life From Mob Mouthpiece to Mayor of Las Vegas (Huntington Press, 2003).

Las Vegas in the 21st Century

As the city marks its centennial, it also celebrates an evolution in attractions.

By Marina Nicola

The Fashion Show Mall's "Cloud" features a giant projection screen.

A remarkable evolution has taken place in Las Vegas, a change that few could have predicted as recently as 20 years ago. Many of the record 37 million people expected to visit Las Vegas this year will notice that evolution—that although the city remains the world's preeminent gaming destination, casino gaming is just one part of the entertainment experience in 21st-century Las Vegas.

When gaming was legalized in 1931, it instantly became the city's defining feature. However, with some form of gaming legal in 48 states, Las Vegas has diversified its offerings. Today Las Vegas boasts a broad spectrum of dining, entertainment, shopping, golf, spas, and resorts as it celebrates its first hundred years.

The Next Generation: In the showrooms, the curtains are rising for a new generation of performers. Two years ago, when Celine Dion announced she had signed a multimillion-dollar contract to perform in her own customized, \$95-million Colosseum at Caesars Palace until 2006, it reinforced Las Vegas' image as the "Entertainment Capital of the World."

Besides perennial favorites such as impersonator Danny Gans at the Mirage, master magician Lance Burton at the Monte Carlo, and Wayne Newton, a.k.a. "Mr. Las Vegas," at the Stardust, shows from around the world now call Las Vegas home. Cirque du Soleil's popularity is evident in its three Strip spectacles, "O" at Bellagio, "Mystère" at Treasure Island, and "Zumanity" at New

York-New York. A fourth Cirque show, "KÀ," is scheduled to begin preview performances on November 26 at the MGM Grand.

Broadway musicals also have found a firm foothold on the Strip. The Abba musical "Mamma Mia!" plays at Mandalay Bay, and the Queen-based "We Will Rock You" recently opened at Paris Las Vegas.

Restaurant Scene: The Vegas dining scene now ranks among the best in the world, and the list of chefs—from Wolfgang Puck to Emeril Lagasse to Bradley Ogden—who have

Visitors will not only see **Glitter Gulch** nostalgia but also a **bright future** for the city's historic center.

opened restaurants in Las Vegas reads like a *Who's Who* of the culinary world. Izabela Wojcik, assistant program director of the James Beard Foundation, recently noted that Las Vegas is now the "Cliffs Notes of the culinary industry." You can name any world-renowned chef, and he or she has a restaurant (or two or three) in Las Vegas—or has plans for one.

Buffets have been transformed, as evident by the recent \$9-million revamping of the Rio's already successful Carnival World Buffet. The Mirage upped the ante with Cravings, a buffet featuring 13 kitchens where chefs work their magic

in front of diners. Other buffets have renovation plans as well.

Great Malls: Shopping has emerged as a favorite visitor activity. The Fashion Show Mall recently completed a \$1-billion expansion. The mall's façade is highlighted by a 72,000-square-foot outdoor plaza covered with a 128-foot-high multimedia "cloud." Mandalay Bay recently opened Mandalay Place, a 100,000-square-foot retail area connecting Mandalay Bay and the Luxor via a 310-foot-long retail sky bridge.

Scheduled to open this fall is a new section of the Forum Shops at Caesars. The three-level expansion will feature about 60 upscale specialty retail tenants and restaurants and a sidewalk entrance on the Strip. The addition will have a large reflecting pool, a domed skylight, and the city's first Mitsubishi Electric spiral escalator.

Those looking for a different kind of shopping locale can gravitate to downtown's Las Vegas Premium Outlets, where more than 120 designer and name-brand outlet stores offer savings of 25 to 65 percent.

Downtown: There's more than shopping in downtown Las Vegas. Visitors will see not only Glitter Gulch nostalgia but also glimpses of a bright future for the city's historic center. Earlier this year, the Fremont Street Experience unveiled a \$16.5-million facelift that includes a "Viva Vision" video-display system in the four-block-long canopy. The new system has 16 million lights, making it one of the largest virtual LED screens in the world.

Downtown's resurgence has been aided by its appearances on national TV. The shows tap into the growing popularity of high-profile poker tournaments at properties such as the Horseshoe. Also, Fox's *The Casino* showcases the Golden



The Las Vegas Monorail has seven stops on its four-mile track.

Nugget and its young owners, Tim Poster and Tom Breittling.

At the southern edge of downtown the Las Vegas Arts District has galleries, antique shops, and restaurants. The city also is encouraging an entertainment district featuring small clubs with live music. The World Market Center, a convention facility showcasing international furniture manufacturers, is under construction.

The Monorail: Even transportation is reaching new heights. The \$650-million Las Vegas Monorail opened on the east side of the Strip in July. Using up to nine trains of four cars each, the monorail runs 20 feet above the ground in most areas, reaching its highest point, 70 feet, in front of the Las Vegas Convention Center. The monorail extends from the MGM Grand to the Sahara, with five stations in between. The city hopes to extend the monorail to downtown in the next few years.

Centennial Year: As we ride into Las Vegas' future, next year will prove to be an active time as Las Vegas celebrates its 100th birthday on May 15, 2005. Festivities are planned over many months, from the biggest New Year's Eve fireworks show in Las Vegas history to the return of Hellsdorado Days.

Another highlight of 2005 will be the opening of Wynn Las Vegas. Steve Wynn's \$2.5-billion, 2,700-room resort, like his previous hotels, will help to redefine Las Vegas.

Beyond Las Vegas' centennial year, what's next? No one knows for certain, but in this land of odds, it's a sure bet that the next evolution will be equally entertaining. ▀

Marina Nicola is a publicist for the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority. For a guide to Las Vegas centennial activities through 2005 see this issue's "Nevada Events and Shows."



Vegas Vic towers over Fremont Street Experience showgoers.

Reel Vegas



Mobsters, aliens, and showgirls star in these 13 top Las Vegas movies. **By Carol Cling**

You may have heard of *Cinema Paradiso*, the Italian charmer about the magic of the movies that won 1990's Academy Award for best foreign-language film. But forget *Cinema Paradiso*. It's time to talk Cinema Pair-a-dice-o.

You know the place—the 24-hour party town that's in a state of perpetual insomnia, a neon-lit Sodom and Gomorrah populated by heart-of-gold showgirls, heartless casino bosses, desperate gamblers down to their last chip, icy heistmeisters, jet-setting spies, murderous mobsters, and murderous monsters. So let's hoist a glass (a comped cocktail, of course), break out the popcorn, and celebrate a baker's dozen of Cinema Pair-a-dice-o's best movies that capture the myriad moods of Neon Nirvana.

Here's a list of favorites in alphabetical order. Roll 'em!

Casino (1995): Director Martin Scorsese's blistering account of mob reign—and ruin—in 1970s Las Vegas delivers an unflinching, unforgettable portrait of an outwardly intoxicating, inwardly toxic Sin City. It's a fallen Pair-a-dice where not even the insiders (Robert De Niro and Joe Pesci as thinly-disguised versions of Lefty Rosenthal and Tony Spilotro) can be sure of the odds.

The Cooler (2003): Despite being filmed in a shabby, shuttered Reno casino, *The Cooler* proudly trumpets its utter Vegasness with a winning portrait of a "piece of walking Kryptonite" (William H.

Macy) who can freeze a lucky streak by strolling past a slot machine—until, inevitably, he's redeemed (and undone) by love.

Desert Bloom (1986): Tucson stands in for Las Vegas, the land of easy money and quickie divorce, in a poignant drama set at the dawn of the Atomic Age, about a troubled nuclear family (including Jon Voight, Ellen Barkin, JoBeth Williams, and then-newcomer Annabeth Gish). Unlike most Vegas movies, *Desert Bloom* looks beyond the casino whirl to explore the city's hometown heart.

Diamonds Are Forever (1971): Las Vegas has been a mecca for spyjinks from *Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery* to *The Return of the Man From U.N.C.L.E.* They wouldn't have felt so at home, however, without Bond, James Bond—and Connery, Sean Connery, whose visit to Neon Nirvana in his lucky-seventh 007 adventure provides a glittering tour of vintage Vegas.

Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas (1998): Las Vegas serves its customary metaphorical role as the embodiment of wretched excess in director Terry Gilliam's adaptation of Hunter S. Thompson's early-1970s counterculture classic, which delivers truly twisted visions (featuring Johnny Depp and Benicio Del Toro) to match the original's hallucinogenic prose. Buy a ticket,



Mars Attacks!,
Tim Burton's
madcap spoof
of alarmist atomic
cheapies, casts
Las Vegas as the
center of human
civilization.

Tom Jones (above) plays himself in *Mars Attacks!* as Annette Bening, playing a laser-toting showgirl, tries to save him from aliens. Right: Robert De Niro portrays a casino boss in *Casino*, which costars Joe Pesci and Sharon Stone. Opposite page: Johnny Depp stars in *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, which is based on Hunter S. Thompson's Vegas classic.

take the ride—and realize what a strange trip it truly is.

Leaving Las Vegas (1995): There's only one Las Vegas, but two versions of it show up in *Leaving Las Vegas*. Two beautiful losers (Oscar winner Nicolas Cage and Elisabeth Shue) fall in love and make themselves at home in the last-chance final stop before oblivion. This is an elusive, illusory nightscape that's half dream, half nightmare, and all Vegas.

Lost in America (1985): Writer-director-star Albert Brooks' uproarious baby-boomer odyssey perfectly captures crazed casino madness as a nice Yuppie couple discovers that, at bottom, Vegas is and always will be about the bottom line. As the movie's post-script touchingly advises, "To those few who have the courage to drop out and find themselves, may God be with you and take you to Utah, avoiding Nevada completely."

Mars Attacks! (1996): Creature features from *The Amazing Colossal Man* to *The Night Stalker* have long found Vegas a congenial



setting. But Tim Burton's madcap spoof of those alarmist atomic cheapies casts Las Vegas as the center of human civilization—which explains why those little green meanies from Mars pick Pahrump as the site of their first official Earth landing and blast the Landmark to smithereens.

Melvin and Howard (1980): It all starts when hapless Melvin Dummar (Paul LeMat) gives hitchhiker Howard Hughes (Jason Robards Jr.) a ride to Las Vegas. But that's hardly where it ends in an Oscar-winning glimpse of the American dream lost and found—and Las Vegas' role in same, from wedding chapels to courtrooms.



The remake of *Ocean's Eleven* can't possibly recapture the original's unstoppable, untoppable cool.

The 2001 version of *Ocean's Eleven* features George Clooney as heistmeister Danny Ocean.

Ocean's Eleven (1960/2001): Talk about seeing double. The first *Ocean's Eleven* returns us to those thrilling days of yesteryear when Vegas was the ring-a-ding, swingin' center of the universe—and the Rat Pack's residency proved it. The remake, despite an all-star cast (led by George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, and Julia Roberts) can't possibly recapture the original's unstoppable, untoppable cool. As both versions demonstrate, however, Glitter City—whether it's the mobsters or the numbers-crunchers calling the shots—remains one hell of a place to rob. And ain't that a kick in the head?

Rain Man (1988): Another cross-country odyssey, this Oscar-winner casts Las Vegas as a crossroads of the heart, the place where a hustler (Tom Cruise) finally connects with his autistic brother (Oscar winner Dustin Hoffman). The latter reacts to a panoramic Strip view from their impossibly plush high-roller suite with this impeccable assessment: "Very sparkly, very twinkly." Truer words were never spoken.

Viva Las Vegas (1964): And where better to end our cinematic tour of Cinema Pair-a-dice-o than with a scenic tour led by race-

car driver-waiter Elvis Presley and swim instructor Ann-Margret that embraces the Strip, Mount Charleston, Lake Mead, and everything in between? The view has changed considerably since Elvis first sang, "Bright light city gonna set my soul, gonna set my soul on fire..." But what was true then remains true today: "Viva Las Vegas, turnin' day into nighttime, turnin' night into daytime—if you see it once, you'll never be the same again."

And unlike so much else—real or reel—in Las Vegas, that notion is, and always will be, a sure bet. ♣

Carol Cling is the movie critic and an entertainment writer for the Las Vegas Review-Journal.



Vegas Film Fest

Movie fans can see *Viva Las Vegas* (right) at next summer's CineVegas Film Festival. The 1964 Elvis Presley and Ann-Margret romp will be given a special outdoor screening at the Palms' Skin Pool Lounge during the June 10-18 festival. The Palms serves as headquarters for the 2005 CineVegas, which will feature actors and films that have made contributions to Las Vegas as part of the city's centennial celebration. The "Five Favorite Vegas Movies of All Time," to be decided in a national contest, will be shown. Call 702-992-7979 or visit www.cinevegas.com for more information.

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Boatley Canyon Trails—
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Yep, running water in Nevada

Red Rock—
 Jeff wanted to climb "Panty Wall."
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Bottle House, Rhyolite Ghost Town —
 Haven't seen that many empty bottles since college.

Chris streaked the trail for all-time Shotgun rights.

Rhyolite
 Valley of Fire—
 No one for miles and
 we get neighbors.
 3 low students from
 AZ (the female
 variety, nice!)
 Just chilled.
 Recharged
 for final
 destination.
 Vegas, Baby!



100 Things to Do in Glitter City

You can go shopping, stargazing, or skydiving as the city turns 100.

By Wilma LaRocca

To get a head start in celebrating the city's centennial, here is a sampling of 100 things to do and places to see in the Las Vegas area. Adult admission prices are listed; children's and senior admission charges are often less. Hours are daily unless otherwise noted. Be sure to call ahead to confirm hours and prices.

Free Things to Do

Air Play at Tropicana: Aerialists and dancers perform overhead six times daily, 11 a.m. and 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 p.m. 888-826-8767 702-739-2222.

Bellagio Fountain Show and Conservatory: Set to music and light, the fountains soar 245 feet into the air. Inside, you can stroll among the conservatory's flowers and exotic plants. 888-987-6667 702-693-7111.

Circus Circus Midway: Balancing acts, jugglers, and trapeze artists appear on the Midway and in the casino. 800-634-6661, 702-734-0410.

Clark County Wetlands Park: Wildlife, ponds, plants, and walking trails. 7050 E. Tropicana, nine miles east of the Strip, 702-455-7522.

Ethel M Tour: After a tour of the Ethel M Chocolate Factory, you can munch free samples and visit the cactus gardens. Henderson, 702-435-2641.



Shoppers enter Desert Passage, which has 140 shops and an African-marketplace ambiance.

Fantasy Faire at Excalibur: Medieval minstrels, magicians, and jugglers. 800-937-7777 702-597-7777

Forum Shops at Caesars: The Roman statues come to life hourly. 800-634-6661, 702-893-4800.

Sam's Town Sunset Stampede: The Western-themed laser show features an atrium and waterfall. 2, 6, 8, and 10 p.m. 800-634-6371, 702-456-7777

Masquerade Village Carnival-Mardi Gras at the Rio: Watch from the balconies or pick a costume and board a float. 877-784-5737 702-252-7777

MGM's CBS Television City Research Center: TV junkies judge whether CBS should keep or can a new show. 800-646-7787 702-891-5752.

Rain Storm: At Desert Passage at the Aladdin, storms periodically threaten the Merchant's Harbor. 800-800-8284, 702-866-0710.

"The Sirens of TI": Treasure Island's outdoor pirate

show stars sexy sirens. 7 8:30, 10, and 11:30 p.m. 800-944-7444, 702-894-7111.

The Strip: Driving on the Las Vegas Strip, designated a National Scenic Byway, you'll see a volcano, a pyramid, the Eiffel Tower, and the New York skyline.

Volcano Eruption, the Mirage: When it blows, you can feel the heat on the sidewalk. Eruptions every 15 minutes, 8-11:55 p.m. 800-627-6667 702-791-7111.

Animal Attractions

Flamingo Wildlife Habitat: Flamingos, African penguins, swans, turtles, and cockatoos live behind the Flamingo Hotel. 800-732-2111, 702-733-3111.

Las Vegas Natural History Museum: Live sharks and dioramas that depict animals in their habitat. \$6. 900 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 702-384-DINO.

Mandalay Bay's Exotic Birds: Bird girls in the lobby



"Mamma Mia!" at Mandalay Bay reaches back to the disco era with its Abba songs (left). Right: New York-New York's Manhattan Express.

present Catalina macaws, Mollucan cockatoos, and other exotics. 877-632-7800, 702-632-7000.

MGM Lion Habitat: Guests watch from a glass tunnel inside the habitat. 800-929-1111, 702-891-7777

Shark Reef at Mandalay Bay: Visitors walk on a clear plastic floor to see 2,000 aquatic creatures, including sharks. \$15.95. 800-228-9290, 702-632-4555.

Siegfried and Roy Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat, the Mirage: Bengal and Siberian tigers, white lions, and a snow leopard. Dolphins swim nearby. \$12. 800-267-6667 702-791-7111.

Southern Nevada Zoological-Botanical Park: Cats, apes, eagles, and venomous reptiles. \$6.50. 1775 N. Rancho Dr., 702-648-5955.

Tiana Carroll's Tropicana Bird Show: Tropical birds ride bicycles and dance. 800-634-4000, 702-739-2411.

Themed Fun

Rio BevErtainers: Casino beverage servers sing and dance. 24 hours. 877-784-5737 702-252-7777

Elvis-A-Rama: Tribute shows, Elvis' automobiles, jumpsuits, and guitars. \$9.95. 3401 Industrial Rd. at Spring Mountain Rd. Free shuttle. 702-309-7200.

Hard Rock Hotel Music Memorabilia: Commemorating rock 'n' roll, punk, and hard-rock performers. 800-HRD-ROCK, 702-693-5000.

Harley-Davidson Cafe: Motorcycle memorabilia. 3725 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 702-740-4555.

Legends Pit, Imperial Palace: You can play blackjack with Elvis, Madonna, and other impersonator dealers after 6 p.m. 800-634-6441, 702-731-3311.

NASCAR Cafe, Sahara: While waiting for hamburgers you can marvel at "Carzilla," a giant-sized 2000 Pontiac stock car. 702-737-2111.

MGM Rainforest Café: It's a jungle out there. Animated elephants, leopards, and birds. 800-929-1111, 702-891-8580.

Planet Hollywood Las Vegas, Caesars Palace: Restaurant has many displays of photos, wardrobes,

props, and other movie memorabilia. 702-791-7827

"Tournament of Kings" Dinner Show, Excalibur: Jousting matches, sword fights, knights, ladies, and stunt riding. \$47.50. 800-937-7777 702-597-7600.

Cultural Affairs

Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art: "Claude Monet: Masterworks from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston" thru January 9. Each year the gallery offers two exhibitions of internationally known artworks. \$15. 888-987-6667 702-693-7871.

Guggenheim Hermitage Museum, Venetian: The museum, in alliance with the Guggenheim Foundation in New York, hosts art shows drawn from great museums. \$15. 888-2VENICE, 702-414-2440.

Las Vegas Art Museum: Collection includes works by Marc Chagall and Salvador Dali. \$6. 702-360-8000.

The Wynn Collection: At the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno until March 2005, Steve and Elaine Wynn's collection is slated to open at the new Wynn Las Vegas in April. 3145 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 702-733-4100.

Family Attractions

Adventuredome, Circus Circus: Sling shot, roller coaster, bumper cars, and arcade. All-day pass \$13.95-\$21.95. 800-444-2472, 702-794-3939.

Gameworks: Nearly 200 video games. Showcase Mall, 3785 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 702-432-4263.

Hoover Dam: Tours of dam daily except Thanksgiving and Christmas; 30 miles southeast of Las Vegas on U.S. 93. Tour \$10, parking \$5. 702-597-5970.

Las Vegas Mini Gran Prix: Stock car track and Grand Prix. 1401 N. Rainbow Blvd., 702-259-7000.

Lied Discovery Children's Museum: 100 hands-on

Downtown Las Vegas

Downtown includes 12 hotel-casinos that stand where the city was founded in 1905. You can walk around and see it all in a few hours or find a bench to sit and people-watch.

Fremont Street Experience: Pedestrian promenade has a mega-wattage light-and-sound show, retail carts, and free entertainment. The show begins at dusk and runs through midnight. 800-249-3559, 702-687-5777

Hand of Faith: Gold nugget weighs 61 pounds, 11 ounces. Golden Nugget, 800-634-3454, 702-385-7111.

Neon Museum: An open-air display of old but working neon signs occupies a block at the end of the canopied section of Fremont Street.

Neonopolis: 14-screen movie theater, shops, and restaurants next to the Neon Museum.

Golden Gate Casino: The venerable downtown casino is home to a famous 99-cent shrimp cocktail (right). 800-426-1906, 702-385-1906.

The Louisa Alcott Pullman Parlor Car: On display with other antiques at Main Street Station. 800-465-0711, 702-387-1896.



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exhibits are designed to teach and entertain. \$6. 833 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 702-382-KIDS.

"In Search of the Obelisk,"

Luxor: Motion-simulator journey. \$7.50. 800-288-1000, 702-262-4400.

Scandia: Miniature golf, go-karts, batting cages, boats, and arcade. 2900 Sirius Ave., 702-634-0070.

Stratosphere Tower Observation

Deck: America's tallest free-standing observation tower is 1,149 feet up. \$9. 800-998-6937 702-380-7777

Historical Outings

Atomic Testing Museum: Open mid-December, the museum will present the history of the Nevada Test Site and the Cold War. Desert Research Institute, 755 E. Flamingo Rd., 702-794-5151.

Howard W. Cannon Aviation Museum: Exhibits review the history of aviation in Southern Nevada. McCarran International Airport, 702-455-7968.

King Tut's Tomb and Museum, Luxor: A replica of King Tut's gold-filled tomb as found by Howard Carter in 1922. \$5. 800-288-1000, 702-262-4400.

Las Vegas Gambling Museum: Gaming chips, playing cards, and the history of Las Vegas. \$2.50. East end of Fremont Street at Las Vegas Blvd., 702-385-1883.

Luxor IMAX Theatre: Technology creates sight-seeing of the Grand Canyon or puts you behind the wheel of a race car. 800-288-1000, 702-262-4400.

Neon Unplugged: Signs From the Boneyard: Signs from the past at Lied Discovery Children's Museum. \$7 833 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 702-382-KIDS.

Nevada State Museum and Historical Society: Nevada and Las Vegas history from the Ice Age to the present. Twin Lakes Drive, Lorenzi Park, 702-486-5205.

Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History: Garden of drought-resistant plants. UNLV campus, 4505 S. Maryland Parkway, 702-895-3381.

Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park: Site of an 1855 LDS mission. \$3. Washington Ave. and Las Vegas Blvd., 702-486-3511.

Warsaw Remembrance Garden: Six eternal flames commemorate the six million Jews who died in the Holocaust. Tours. 10700 Havenwood Lane, Summerlin, 702-804-1333.

Take a Ride

Eiffel Tower, Paris Las Vegas: Zip up to the 50th story of the Eiffel Tower in a glass elevator, 540 feet above the Strip. \$9. 888-266-5687 702-946-7000.

Gondolas, Venetian: Glide the canals in a replica of an Italian gondola. \$15. 888-2VENICE, 702-414-1000.

Las Vegas Cyber Speedway, Sahara: Virtual-reality NASCAR machines race at 220 mph. 888-696-2121, 702-734-RACE.

Magic Motion Film Ride, Excalibur: The seats move, so hold on for a thrill. \$4. Fantasy Faire Midway, 800-937-7777 702-597-7777

Star Trek: The Experience, Las Vegas Hilton:



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Riders blast through space into the 24th century. \$34.99. Store, café. 800-732-5111, 702-697-TREK.

Star Spots

Casino Legends Hall of Fame, Tropicana: Memorabilia such as Elvis' gold records and Liberace's candelabra. \$6.95. 888-826-8768, 702-739-5444.

Liberace Museum: Stage wardrobe, jewelry, pianos, and autos. \$12. 1775 E. Tropicana Ave., 702-798-5595.

Madame Tussaud's Interactive Wax Attraction, Venetian: Guests can take pictures with waxed figures of Julia Roberts, Tiger Woods, and others. \$20.95. 800-2VENICE, 702-862-7800.

Drivers

The Auto Collections, Imperial Palace: More than 300 antique vehicles and the '67 Mustang Shelby GT that Nicolas Cage drove in *Gone in 60 Seconds*. \$6.95. 800-634-6441, 702-731-3311.

Driving 101: Indy Car Driving Experience: Mario Andretti Racing School puts you in an Indy car. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 702-651-6300.

Fast Lap Indoor Kart Racing: You'll race with up to 15 other people. \$25 for 18-20 laps. 4288 S. Polariss St., 702-736-8113.

Las Vegas Motor Speedway: Tours available at the Speedway, which hosts NASCAR events. \$8. 700 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 702-644-4444.

Richard Petty Driving Experience: Drive or ride in a NASCAR Nextel Cup-style car. \$99 and up. 6795 Speedway Blvd., D-106, 800-BE-PETTY, 702-643-4343.

Carroll Shelby Museum: Tours of the Cobra factory. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 6755 Speedway Blvd., 702-942-7325.

XPLEX: Open-wheel racing in high-powered go-karts. 1500 Las Vegas Blvd. S., Sloan, 702-260-6355.

Divers

A.J. Hackett Bungy: Bungee jumping, walk-ins. \$59. 810 Circus Circus Dr., 702-385-4321.

A SkyDive Las Vegas: Ground training, tandem jump, and free-fall. \$155-\$199. Boulder City Airport, 800-U-SKYDIV or 702-SKY-DIVE.

Flyaway Indoor Skydiving: The blast from an

airplane engine keeps you suspended. \$50. 200 Convention Center Dr., 877-545-8093, 702-731-4768.

Vegas Extreme Skydiving: You can tandem-jump with an instructor. \$189. 866-398-5867

You Scream, I Scream

Adventuredome's Canyon Blaster, Circus Circus: Indoor double-loop, double-corkscrew roller coaster; Rim Runner flume ride. Safe for kids 48 inches tall. All-day pass \$21.95. 800-444-2472, 702-794-3939.

Manhattan Express, New York-New York: The Coney Island-style roller coaster twists around the Manhattan skyline. \$12.50. 702-740-6969.

Speed, The Ride, Sahara: Riders are propelled up a 222-foot tower at 70 mph. \$10. 888-696-2121, 702-734-RACE.

Stratosphere Tower Rides: Big Shot: Shoots straight up 160 feet to the 1,081-foot level, then plunges back to the launch pad. **High Roller:** Roller coaster wraps around the crown of the tower above the observation deck. **X Scream:** A teeter-totter takes you over the edge. 800-998-6937 702-380-7777

Shopping Sprees

You can cruise for bargains or pick one-of-a-kind treasures at the **Boulevard Mall**, 702-732-8949; **Desert Passage**, 702-866-0710; **Fashion Show Mall**, 702-369-0704; **Forum Shops at Caesars**, 702-893-4800; **Galleria at Sunset**, Henderson, 702-434-0202; **MonteLago Village**, Henderson, 866-752-9558; **Las Vegas Outlet Center**, 702-896-5599; **Las Vegas Premium Outlets**, 702-474-7500.

Outdoor Tours

Area 51 Adventure Photo Tours: Visits the top-secret military site and stops at the Little A'le'Inn in Rachel for an Alien Burger. \$195. 3111 S. Valley View Blvd. No. 106, 888-363-8687 702-889-8687

Rebel Adventure Tours: Wild West Hummer tour, \$199; whitewater rafting, \$459; horseback adventure, \$139. 800-817-6789, 702-380-6969.

Look Tours: Grand Canyon airplane tour, \$99-\$140; Grand Canyon bus tour, \$89-\$150; Valley of Fire ATV tour, \$134-\$165. 800-566-5868, 702-243-0181.

Nightly Las Vegas Strip Helicopter Ride: A jet helicopter flies over Las Vegas. \$70. 3712 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 702-736-0031.

Pink Jeep Tours: Tours to Valley of Fire, Red Rock Canyon, and Mount Charleston. \$79-\$119. 4005 West Reno Ave., Suite G, 888-900-4480, 702-895-6777

Showgirls

Bally's Backstage Walking Tour: A close look at "Jubilee!" costumes and dressing rooms. 2 p.m. Mon., Wed., Sat. \$15; \$10 with purchase of "Jubilee!" show ticket (\$55-\$74). 800-237-SHOW, 702-739-4111.

"Les Folies Bergere," Tropicana: Lavishly costumed (and topless) showgirls, chorus lines, and comedy. Tiffany Theatre, 800-829-9034, 702-739-2411.

"Jubilee!," Bally's: Las Vegas' topless extravaganza features glittering showgirls, magic, and a re-creation of the sinking of the *Titanic*. \$54-\$74. 800-237-SHOW, 702-739-4111.

Stardust: You can pose for a photo with a showgirl. 2 p.m.-midnight. \$5. 888-217-9565, 702-617-5577

Show Time

Here is a sampling of some long-running shows that reflect the variety of entertainment in Las Vegas.

"Bottoms Up," Flamingo: Bawdy humor and dancing. \$12.95. 800-732-2111, 702-733-3333.

Celine Dion's "A New Day..." at Caesars Palace: Dion presents her show in the Colosseum. \$87.50-\$225. 800-634-6661, 702-731-7110.

"Legends in Concert," Imperial Palace: Re-creations of stars such as Tom Jones and Marilyn Monroe. \$39.95. 800-634-6441, 702-784-3261.

"The Mac King Comedy Magic Show," Harrah's:

Family show. \$16.95. 800-392-9002, 702-369-5111.

"Mamma Mia!," Mandalay Bay: Based on songs of Abba. \$49-\$110. 877-632-7800, 702-632-7580.

"O," Bellagio: Cirque du Soleil pays tribute to the theater. \$93.50-\$150. 888-987-6667 702-693-7722.

"The Tribute to Frank, Sammy, Joey, and Dean," Greek Isles Casino: Back to the Rat Pack days. \$44.95, dinner \$54.95. 800-591-NICE, 702-737-5540.

Wayne Newton, Stardust: "Mr. Las Vegas" has performed more than 25,000 shows in the city. \$54.95. 800-634-6757 702-732-6325. ♣

Wilma LaRocca, a Nevada Magazine staff writer, lives in Carson City and frequently visits Las Vegas with her husband, Tom.

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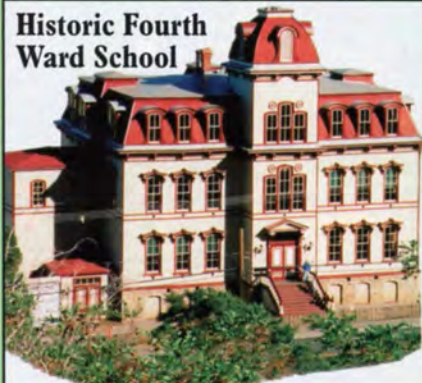


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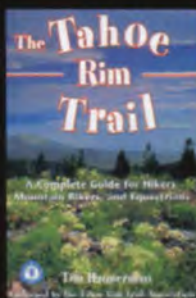
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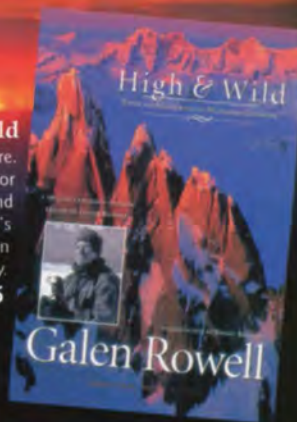
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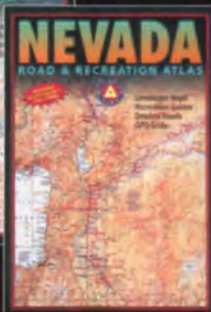
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Viva the King

Elvis has left the building, but his fans can imagine he's still among us. Las Vegas keeps his legend alive with dozens of talented impersonators. You can find these Elvi at wedding chapels (Viva Las Vegas), in museums (Elvis-A-Rama), on stage ("Legends in Concert"), and even on the gaming floor (Imperial Palace), where the King deals blackjack.

Food Fantasia

Las Vegas has long set the standard for sumptuous buffets. In the '40s it was all-you-can-eat for \$1 at El Rancho's midnight Chuck Wagon buffet—where it all began. Today's buffets are open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and some have been elevated to gourmet heights. At Bally's Sterling Sunday Brunch, tuxedoed waiters serve Russian caviar, lobster, sushi, and all-you-can-drink champagne for \$58.

The Power of Light

It's best to see the Las Vegas Strip at night, when it bombards you with multicolored neon and hotel marquees, all flashing and moving and flickering and shooting into space. This portion of Las Vegas Boulevard, which runs about five miles from Russell Road north to the Stratosphere Tower, is a designated National Scenic Byway. The Strip glitters like no place on earth.

Drive-thru "I Do"

Las Vegas credits Charlotte Richards of A Little White Chapel with the drive-thru wedding concept, which was inspired, Richards explains, by a need to accommodate physically handicapped patrons. Since the window's introduction in 1991, one in five of the chapel's 5,000 couples has elected to say "I do" at the chapel's drive-thru portico.



The Las Vegas Strip dazzles the eye with lights.



Ron Decar officiates at ceremonies as Elvis at Viva Las Vegas Wedding Chapel.

Poker Fever

Every spring the giants of poker gather at the Horseshoe in downtown Las Vegas for the World Series of Poker. Launched in 1970 by Horseshoe owner Benny Binion, this Texas hold 'em showdown has produced such champions as Amarillo Slim, Bobby Baldwin, and Stu Ungar. The event has become immensely popular on television, leading to other high-stakes action on ESPN and Bravo. This year's champion, Greg Reynor, won \$5 million. You can enter a satellite competition for \$100 and try to win your way to the World Series, but it's also fun just to watch.

Lounge Life

Lounge shows were initially designed to give gamers a break, yet keep them in the casino. Today Las Vegas lounge shows are for folks who want to come early, order drinks, and kick back. Lounges present a wide variety of entertainment at little or no cost. You can catch a magician, a comedian, or a rock group. Cook E. Jarr at Harrah's Las Vegas invites his celebrity friends to the stage, so you might get a bonus performance by Tom Jones or Oprah Winfrey. —Wilma LaRocca

NEVADA *Events & Shows*

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

November/December 2004

Celebrating the *Showgirl*

"Folies," "Jubilee!"
and Las Vegas showgirls take the spotlight



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A Salute to Showgirls

The showgirl, once a center of controversy, has become a Las Vegas icon.

By Ann Henderson

When showgirls from New York and Europe donned their feathers for Las Vegas productions such as "Lido de Paris" and "Les Folies Bergere" in the 1950s, they were considered attractive mannequins. Those early showgirls were not expected to dance or sing. They were required simply to glide across the stage in spectacular costumes. To be showgirls, the women had to meet three requirements—they had to be tall, beautiful, and willing to perform topless.

In the past four decades the Las Vegas showgirl has become a symbol of the city's glamorous and risqué heritage. Onstage, she continues to play an important role in the Strip's entertainment history. Offstage, the showgirl travels the world, representing the city, serving as a casino mascot, and posing with visitors for souvenir photographs.

Showgirls are still statuesque and perform topless, but now they also must be able to dance, a trend that has somewhat blurred the longstanding distinction between a "dancer" and a "showgirl."

"The public often considers any woman in a show to be a 'showgirl,' but there are differences," says Ginny Murphy, Tropicana entertainment director and show producer of "Les Folies Bergere." Murphy notes that the "Folies" cast has many dancers—female and male, who range from adagio to acro dancers—as well as showgirls.

A dancer might frown if you called her a showgirl. Generally, dancers perform dressed and boast years of formal training. For example, the "Folies" acro dancers have the gymnastics background needed for the tumbling runs in the show's Can-Can segment.

Showgirls, who perform topless, or sometimes "covered" for early shows, may or may not have extensive dancing duties. In her costume, a showgirl can measure eight feet from her three-inch high heels to the top of her elaborate headdress. The headdress alone may stand as high as four feet but weigh only 16 ounces thanks to its styrofoam construction.

The showgirl in all her costumed glory survives in two Strip extravaganzas. "Les Folies Bergere" appears in the Tropicana's Tiffany Theatre, where the show celebrates its 45th anniversary

To be showgirls, the women had to be tall, beautiful, and willing to perform topless.

Janu Tornell has danced in "Les Folies Bergere" for nine years.

on December 24. "Jubilee!" has played at Bally's since 1981. Backstage tours of "Jubilee!" costumes and sets are conducted three days a week—by a showgirl, of course.

"Lido de Paris" (1958) and the "Folies" (1959) are credited with influencing the elaborate Strip productions and smaller lounge revues that appeared in the early '60s, such as "Vive Les Girls" and "Casino de Paris" at the Dunes. The "Lido," a Parisian import that ran at the Stardust until 1992, excited showgoers with chariot races, train wrecks, and an erupting volcano.

But it was a burlesque show, "Minsky's Follies," that introduced topless showgirls to Nevada in 1957 when it opened at the Dunes amid great controversy. A *Las Vegas Review-Journal*



Dining showgoers at the Stardust found plenty of "oo-la-la" in "Lido de Paris," a French production imported to Las Vegas in 1958.

editorial condemned "Minsky's" on "moral grounds." Despite the debate, the show ran for more than four years.

At first some "Minsky's" performers were not entirely comfortable with their topless castmates, recalls Kim Krantz, who earned about \$120 per week as a dressed dancer in "Minsky's." "The topless dancers were recruited from burlesque shows across the country, so they were not dancers," the 70-something former performer says. "We fought for our own dressing room." She had danced for show-business impresario Lou Walters in the "Latin Quarter" show in New York and at the Riviera. Krantz recalls, "He changed my name from Delores Dalkowski to Kim Perrin."

Walters, the father of television newswoman Barbara Walters, brought the "Folies" to the Tropicana from Paris, where the French version starred Maurice Chevalier. The producer was looking for a show that would lure people from Southern California, says the Tropicana's Murphy, who began working with the "Folies" in 1979.

"Everyone had dancers, but Walters wanted the 'Folies' because it was topless. It would be risqué and very naughty," Murphy says. "I'm sure Lou Walters thought the 'Folies' would run a couple of months, maybe 12. I'm sure he said, 'Let's knock their socks off and move on, never thinking it would run 45 years.'" Murphy says, "At the time,



Ginny Murphy, entertainment director at the Tropicana.



Kim Krantz was a dancer with the controversial "Minsky's" at the Dunes.

the classic topless showgirl was tall, between five-nine and six-one, with champagne glass-sized breasts." The height requirements still apply.

Ffolliott "Fluff" LeCoque, company manager of "Jubilee!," says, "We require a minimum of five-eight, but sometimes I can take five-seven if she is a good dancer." LeCoque explains that a four-foot-tall headdress on a shorter girl would look like plumage with feet. In addition to dancing talent, LeCoque says she looks for natural beauty in a showgirl. "The focus is not on the show's nudity. The focus is the overall picture of the human form, the beauty of both male and female."

Vegas showgirls have long attracted off-stage attention, too. "In the old days, showgirls not only got a salary, but there also were a lot of perks like clothes and parties," says Murphy. "We at the Tropicana used to encourage our showgirls to mix with players between shows." In the '60s and '70s showgirls were wined and dined, she says. "In their off hours they would be able to go to restaurants and receive free beverages, but that changed when corporations took over."

LeCoque, a former dancer who has been with "Jubilee!" since it opened in 1981, also speaks of an earlier Las Vegas. A 1950 graduate of a Thunderbird



Fluff LeCoque, company manager of "Jubilee!" at Bally's.

show where she earned \$35 a week, LeCoque was spotted by "Jubilee!" producer Donn Arden when she appeared in "Hollywood Extravaganza" in Paris. He signed her for "Hello, America" and "Pazazz" at the Desert Inn.

"Girls were supposed to mix after the second show, sit in the cocktail lounge, and were allowed two free drinks," LeCoque says. "They were considered atmosphere, and it was part of their agreement. They never came to work in slacks or shorts. They wore cocktail dresses." LeCoque adds, "Mixing with customers was not a prerequisite for me because I was married and the company watchdog."

Today's showgirls, dancers, and singers are college students,

the future while they make a living doing something they love."

And the showgirl, once a siren of scandal, remains a symbol of Las Vegas entertainment—a tall, feathered, high-heeled performer revealed in the midst of spectacle.

Show Notes

"Les Folies Bergere": Show times are 7:30 and 10 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday and 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday and Friday in the Tiffany Theatre at the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas. The 7:30 p.m. performances are "covered" family shows; all others are topless. Prices are \$52.45, \$57.95, and \$63.45, depending on seating location. Drinks are extra. Dinner and show packages are available. Call 800-829-9034 or 702-739-2411 for more show information.

"Jubilee!": Show times are 7:30 and 10:30 nightly except Friday in the Jubilee! Theater at Bally's in Las Vegas. All shows are topless, so showgoers must be 18 and older. Phone orders cost \$60, \$69, \$74, and \$79, depending on seating location. Deduct \$2 for tickets purchased at the box office. Drinks are extra. Backstage Walking Tours are scheduled at 2 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday. Tour tickets are \$15, or \$10 if purchased with a ticket for "Jubilee!" Private group tours may be arranged. Call 800-237-SHOW or 702-739-4111 for "Jubilee!" and walking tour reservations. ▽

Ann Henderson is Nevada Magazine's entertainment editor.

"Walters wanted the 'Folies' because it was topless. It would be risqué and very naughty."

soccer moms, and wives. Murphy cites a performer who earned her bachelor's, master's, and PhD while appearing in the "Folies." Anthony Brown, a Las Vegas police officer, prevents crime during the day and dances in "Jubilee!" at night.

"People in our show are here because they have a passion for performing," says Murphy of the "Folies" cast. "They do not come here to get rich."

LeCoque recalls the days when three months was considered a long contract. "We didn't think about owning a house or car—no idea of permanency," she says. "Now the majority of performers come here to settle down, go to school to prepare for



"Jubilee!" and its cast of 100 have been sinking the *Titanic* and destroying Philistine temples since the show opened in 1981 at Bally's.



Las Vegas

AREA EVENTS AND SHOWS

This winter in Las Vegas you can catch the excitement of the **National Finals Rodeo** and join the city's year-long centennial celebration starting on New Year's Eve. In area showrooms, **Tony Bennett** headlines at the Golden Nugget and **Bette Midler** performs at the MGM Grand. *Nevada Magazine* presents the following Las Vegas-area events and shows for November and December. Be sure to call ahead to confirm dates and details.

Events

Eric Manuelito • Nov. 1-2 • Navajo flute player and storyteller performs Nov. 1 at 1:30pm at Spring Valley Library; 4pm at Enterprise Library; and 7pm at Sunrise Library. On Nov. 2 he will appear at 10am at Whitney Library and 4pm at Sahara West Library. Las Vegas, 702-507-3459.

Life in Death Festival • Nov. 1-2 • Mexican cultural event features dance, music, food, vendors, workshops, and a poetry contest. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

"Les Misérables" • Nov. 2-7 • Broadway musical. Cashman Theatre, Las Vegas, 702-798-5090.

La Historia Oficial • Nov. 3 • Oscar-winning 1985 film from Argentina. Spanish dialogue, English subtitles. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

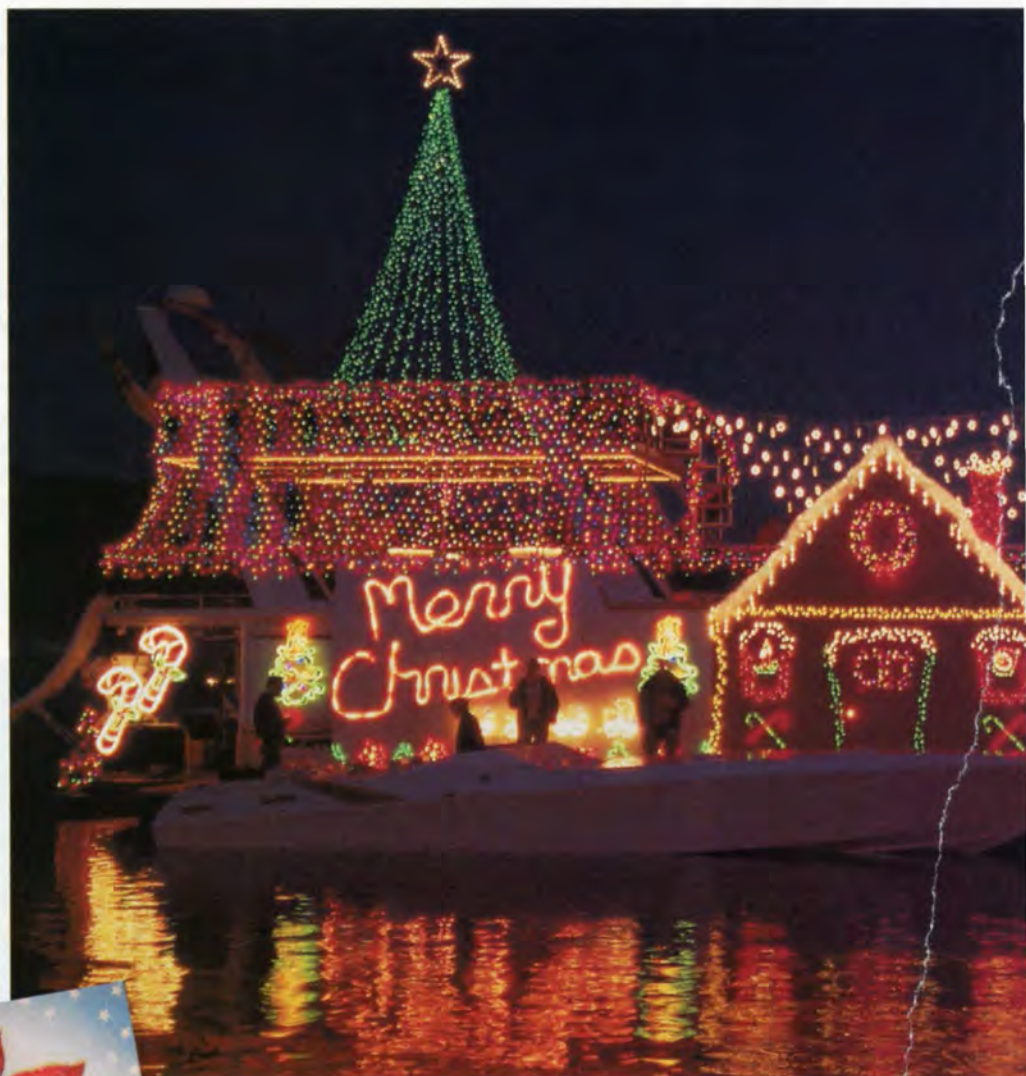
\$99 Slot Tournament • Nov. 3-4 • Includes two-night stay. Bally's Las Vegas, 800-7BALLYS.

\$139 Slot Tournament • Nov. 3-4 • Includes two-night stay at Paris Las Vegas, 888-BONJOUR.

\$25,000 Fall Harvest Blackjack Tournament • Nov. 4-6 • \$399 entry includes a three-night stay. Las Vegas Hilton, Las Vegas, 800-457-3307.

2004 Las Vegas Odyssey • Nov. 4-7 • Gourmet dinners prepared by more than 30 of the city's chefs. Charity event includes wine, art, and a golf tournament. Dinner tickets range from \$150 to \$500. Mandalay Place, Four Seasons, and Rio Secco Golf Club, Las Vegas, 702-257-2345.

World of Outlaws • Nov. 5-6 • Sprint cars race on dirt track. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 800-644-4444.



Lighted boats cruise holiday-style from Lake Mead Marina to Hemenway Harbor during the annual Parade of Lights (above). Christmas decorations from the 1920s and '30s are displayed at the Clark County Museum (left).

UNLV Football • Nov. 6 • The Rebels play Wyoming. Sam Boyd Stadium, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

Living History: Old Bill Williams, Mountain Man • Nov. 6 • Rustler who rested horses at the historic ranch. Spring Mountain

Ranch State Park, 18 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141.

Village Square Festival • Nov. 6-7 • Fine arts and crafts. Peccole Ranch, Las Vegas, 702-245-6077.

Blue Diamond to Jean Mountain Bike Ride • Nov. 6 • 33-mile non-competitive ride includes single and double-track trails. Blue Diamond, 702-228-4076.

Native American Festival • Nov. 6 • Dance, artisan demonstrations, films, children's activities, food, and a mini craft market. Hopi, Navajo, Choctaw, Zuni, and Apache dancers. Clark County Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3459.

Blow the Whistle on Asthma Walk • Nov. 6 • Charity event. UNLV, Las Vegas, 775-829-5864.

Dynamic Trombone Quintet • Nov. 7 • From country to classical music. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211.

Blackjack Tournament • Nov. 7-9 • \$199 primary, \$99 secondary entry fee. Fitzgeralds, Las Vegas, 800-274-5825.

Minyo Taikai • Nov. 9 • Japan's most popular minyo singer. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

CCSN Music Scholarship Concert • Nov. 9 • Fundraiser for the Joe Williams Music Scholarship. Nicholas Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas,

702-651-5483 for further fundraiser information.

Pixote: A Lei do Mais Fraco • Nov. 10 • 1981 Brazilian film about street children. Portuguese dialogue, English subtitles. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Ceremony and Hart Symposium • Nov. 11 • Frederick Hart is known for his "Three Soldiers" sculpture at the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Las Vegas Art Museum, Las Vegas, 702-360-8080.

Mesquite Rotary Veterans Day Golf Tournament • Nov. 12 • Charity fundraiser. Hamilton Ranch Golf Course, Mesquite,



702-346-7495 for further CCSN concert information.

Military Appreciation Ball • Nov. 12 • Gene White's Big Band plays for the formal dress event. East Las Vegas Community Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-1519.

Black Tavern Owners and Retail Beverage Association Golf Classic • Nov. 12-13 • Scholarship tournament. Silverstone Golf Club, Las Vegas, 702-808-9195.

Living History: Mountain Man Rendezvous • Nov. 12-14 • Primitive camp includes tomahawk, knife, and lance throwing, archery, black-powder shoot, and blacksmithing.

Also see
Nevada Magazine's guide
to Las Vegas
Centennial Events
on pages 64 and 65.

Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 18 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141.

British Invasion Slot Tournament • Nov. 12-14 • Colorado Belle, Laughlin, 877-480-2747.

Studio Straight Ahead Jazz Series • Nov. 13 • The Matteson/Neuman Jazz Quartet performs. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211.

Sabores De Chile • Nov. 13 • Ethnic food, music, and wines. Tickets for the benefit event are \$95 per person. Spanish Trail Golf and Country Club, Las Vegas, 702-436-1624.

Nevada Southern Railway Train Rides • Nov. 13 • 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 Railroad Museum, Boulder City, 702-486-5933 for further information.

Mesquite Veterans Day Parade • Nov. 13 • Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite, 702-346-5295.

Warsaw Philharmonic: The National Orchestra of Poland • Nov. 13 • Olga Kern, a Van Cliburn International Piano Competition winner, is featured with the 95-person orchestra. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS for more event information.

Saturday Cruise Night • Nov. 13 • All makes and models welcome. Five and Diner, Las Vegas, 702-643-0000.

Candle-Making • Nov. 13 • Children's living-history program includes a tour of the Old Fort. Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park, Las Vegas, 702-486-3511.

2004 T.J. Maxx Tour of Gymnastics Champions • Nov. 13 • Exhibition by members of the U.S. Olympic and World Championship Team. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

Aviation Nation Air Show • Nov. 13-14 • Air races and civilian and military demonstrations include the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, the U.S. Army Golden Knights parachute team, and displays of modern and historic aircraft. Nellis Air Force Base, Las Vegas, www.nellisairshow.com.

Nevada Jazz Orchestra Concert • Nov. 14 • Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

Ogbon Opon: The Knowledge Circle • Nov. 14 • Monthly discussion of African scientific and medical achievements. West Las Vegas Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

Slot Tournament • Nov. 14-16 • First place \$20,000. Imperial Palace, Las Vegas, 800-351-7400, ext. 1 for further tournament information.

Festival of Trees • Nov. 16-20 • Decorated trees for sale, crafts, refreshments, and entertainment. Virgin River Convention Center, Mesquite, 702-346-5295 for further information.

"Starvation Flats" • Nov. 17-21 • Drama involves a dying town and a broken family. Paul Harris Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Slot Tournament • Nov. 18-20 • First place \$20,000. Imperial Palace, Las Vegas, 800-351-7400, ext. 1.

Million Dollar Blackjack III • Nov. 18-20 • \$1,000 entry fee for monthly tournament includes a three-night stay. Las Vegas Hilton, Las Vegas, 800-457-3307.

Downtown Cultural Series • Nov. 19 • Noon outdoor concert featuring the music of Meshuggina Klezmorim. Lloyd D. George U.S. Courthouse, Las Vegas, 702-229-1098 for information.

Poets' Corner • Nov. 19 • Professionals and amateurs recite. West Las Vegas Center, Las Vegas, 702-449-4800.

Laughlin Team Roping Finals • Nov. 19-22 • U.S. Team Roping Championship's seventh annual competition with 3,800 teams. Laughlin Events Park, Laughlin, 702-298-3022.

Marty Warburton Band • Nov. 20 • Picnic concert noon-2pm. Huntridge Circle Park, Las Vegas, 702-229-4614.

Nobody Remembers Me • Nov. 20 • Author Leola Silas Johns discusses book. West Las Vegas Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

Veronica Lopez • Nov. 20 • Hispanic dance music. East Las Vegas Community Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-1515.

Rockabilly Rod Reunion • Nov. 20 • Car show open to hot rods and kustoms (no cars or bikes newer than 1963), vendors, an appearance by Cadillac Angels, car designer Tom Daniel, and customizer Gene Winfield. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Mexican Revolution Celebration • Nov. 20 • Fiesta celebrates Mexican traditions. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

Las Vegas Philharmonic Concert • Nov. 20 • The music of Beethoven, Mozart, and Brahms. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-2787.

Soldiers of the Old Fort • Nov. 20 • Living-history presentation on the ordnance sergeant and his role in the army. Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park, Las Vegas, 702-486-3511.

Strut Your Mutt • Nov. 20 • Dog contests, silly pet tricks, agility courses, and vendors. Dog Fancier's Park, Las Vegas, 702-455-8200.

Valley of Fire Marathon • Nov. 20 • Marathon, half-marathon



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The cast sings "One Day More" in "Les Misérables," the Broadway musical based on the novel by French author Victor Hugo. "Les Miz" comes to Cashman Theatre November 2-7

and 10K race follow a challenging course through Valley of Fire State Park. Overton, 702-397-2951.

Astronomy at Red Rock Canyon • Nov. 20 • Slide presentation and viewing. Visitor Center, Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, 13 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-515-5350.

Winter Survival • Nov. 20 • Short hike and program on preparedness. Visitor Center, Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, 13 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-515-5350.

Chamber Music Festival • Nov. 20-21 • Little Theatre of the Performing Arts Center, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-651-4659.

Larry Redhouse Trio • Nov. 21 • Jazz concert. Clark County Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3459.

\$25,000 Pilgrims Pride Slot Tournament • Nov. 22-24 • Includes three-night stay. Las Vegas Hilton, Las Vegas, 800-457-3307.

EnduroCross Championship • Nov. 27 • Invitation-only European-style indoor motorcycle racing. Orleans Arena, Las Vegas, 702-365-7469.

Old Time Barn Dance • Nov. 27 • Square dances. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Lady Rebel Shootout • Nov. 27-28 • Features the Lady Rebels, Villinova, North Carolina, and Texas-Arlington. Cox Pavilion, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

Pub Crawl • Nov. 28 • Scottish dining and social hour includes pipers and dancers. Crown and Anchor, Las Vegas, 702-658-9733.

Las Vegas Million Dollar Shoot Out • Nov. 29-Dec. 3 • Orleans-sponsored golf tournament with four-person team format and daily rounds in a three-round qualifier. Play at Las Vegas Paiute Golf Resort, Las Vegas, 866-326-4071.

AIDS Quilt • Nov. 29-Dec. 3 • Clark County Government Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-5911.

CCSN Orchestra Concert • Nov. 30 • Nicolas Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-651-5483.

\$99 Slot Tournament • Dec. 1-2 • Includes two-night stay. Bally's Las Vegas, 800-7BALLYS.

\$139 Slot Tournament • Dec. 1-2 • Includes two-night stay. Paris Las Vegas, 888-BONJOUR.

Downtown Hoedown • Dec. 2 • Western music and party to celebrate the National Finals Rodeo. Fremont Street

Experience, Las Vegas, 702-678-5777 for more information.

Colorado Belle Golf Tournament • Dec. 2-4 • \$18,000 in prize money based upon a minimum of 90 golfers. Play at Desert Lakes Golf Course. Colorado Belle, Laughlin, 877-480-2747.

Cowboy Christmas Gift Show • Dec. 2-11 • Elaborate holiday show offers unique gifts, entertainment, food, and vendors. Held in conjunction with the National Finals Rodeo. Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, 702-260-8605.

Synchronized Swimming Holiday Show • Dec. 3 • Seating provided. Municipal Pool, Las Vegas, 702-229-6309.

Community Lighting • Dec. 3 • Participating merchants on Nevada Way turn on their holiday lights, signaling the start of the holiday season. Musical program and lighting of the community Christmas tree at 6:30pm. Frank Crowe Park and Nevada Way, Boulder City, 702-293-2034.

Fall Dance Concert • Dec. 3-4 • Appearance by the chamber group Marcolivia. Nicholas Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-651-4201 for further event information.

Mexico Vivo Holiday Concert • Dec. 3-4 • Dance company celebrates Mexican traditions. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

Blackjack Tournament • Dec. 3-5 • Imperial Palace, Las Vegas, 800-351-7400, ext. 1.

Henderson's Terrible 300 • Dec. 3-5 • Off-road desert race for motorcycles, quads, cars, and trucks. A \$1,500 bounty is being offered to the driver who can beat Las Vegas driver and racing legend Rob MacCachren. Tech inspection is Dec. 3, race day Dec. 4, awards party Dec. 5. Downtown Henderson and Eldorado Valley, Henderson, 702-457-5775.

"Annie" • Dec. 3-5, 9-12, 17-19 • Broadway musical. Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Wrangler National Finals Rodeo • Dec. 3-12 • The year's top 15 contestants in each event compete in steer wrestling, team roping, calf roping, barrel racing, and bareback, saddle-bronc, and bull riding for gold buckles, saddles, and more than \$4.9 million in prize money. If events are sold out, hotels provide closed-circuit coverage. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-260-8605.

LDS Music Festival • Dec. 4 • Mormon artists scheduled to appear include Jericho Road, Kenneth Coipe, Greg Simpson, Julie DeAzevedo, Ryan Shupe and the RubberBand, Slender, Jon Schmidt, Maren Ord, and Alex Boye. Orleans Arena, Las Vegas, 702-365-7469.

Miss Rodeo America Pageant • Dec. 4 • Orleans, Las Vegas, 719-948-9206.

Parade of Lights • Dec. 4 • Parade of more than 60 decorated boats may be watched from the shore at Boulder Beach or from the water. Lake Mead between Lake Mead Marina and Hemenway Harbor, Boulder City, 702-457-2797.

Christmas Parade • Dec. 4 • Includes photos with Santa. Nevada Way and Colorado St., Boulder City, 702-293-2034.

Linda Eder • Dec. 4 • Christmas concert featuring the Broadway singer. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Nevada Southern Railway Train Rides • 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 Railroad Museum, Boulder City, 702-486-5933.

CCSN Jazz Combos • Dec. 5 • Standards and contemporary works. Nicholas Horn Theatre, Community College



Paulina Sparkuhl looks over the Chilean red and white wines that will be served at Sabores De Chile, a fundraiser for Child Focus at Spanish Trail Golf and Country Club in Las Vegas.

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Las Vegas Wranglers captain Jason McBain battles Idaho's Adrei Vasilyev behind the net. The West Coast Hockey League team plays its home games at the Orleans Arena.

of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-651-5483.

CCSN Big Bands Concert • Dec. 6 • Nicholas Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-651-5483.

CCSN Concert Band • Dec. 7 • Concert of impressionistic music. Nicholas Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-651-5483.

Fall Choir Concert • Dec. 9 • Classical to jazz music. Nicholas Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-651-5483.

Ramada Express International Rally VII • Dec. 9-12 • Racers compete in race-prepared street-legal vehicles over mountain and forest roads. Course includes a new 8.5-mile hill climb. Spectators can view side-by-side competition during Sunday's SuperStage 10am-3pm at the Laughlin Special Events Arena. Weekend includes the JAOS Rally Grand Canyon

V, a tour challenge using GPS navigation. Recommended for SUV or AWD vehicles. Entry fee and information at www.rallyusa.com. Laughlin, 702-298-8171.

Vegas Valley Legacy Band Holiday Concert and Choirs • Dec. 10 • Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

"Winter Wonderettes" • Dec. 10-12, 16-19 • Play about four high school friends, bouffant hairdos days, and Christmases past. Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-651-5483.

Celebrity City Chorus • Dec. 11 • Christmas show performed by the Greater Las Vegas Chapter of Sweet Adelines. Nicholas Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-223-7893.

Las Vegas Philharmonic • Dec. 11-12 • Holiday concert. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-2787.

Mannheim Steamroller • Dec. 12 • Christmas concert. Mandalay Bay, Las Vegas, 702-598-5090.

Messiah Sing-In • Dec. 12 • Combined choirs perform. Nicholas Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-651-5483.

Tenor Madness Jazz Concert • Dec. 12 • Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

Performing Arts Society of Nevada Holiday Concert • Dec. 16 • Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

\$15,000 Winter Wonderland Slot Tournament • Dec. 16-18 •

\$169 entry fee includes a three-night stay. Las Vegas Hilton, Las Vegas, 800-457-3307.

Million Dollar Blackjack III • Dec. 16-18 • \$1,000 entry fee in the monthly tournament includes three-night stay. Las Vegas Hilton, Las Vegas, 800-457-3307.

Guitar Society Holiday Concert • Dec. 17 • Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

"The Nutcracker" • Dec. 17-23 • Nevada Ballet Theatre presentation of the Christmas classic. Samba Theatre, Rio All-Suite Hotel, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Andy Williams Christmas Show • Dec. 18 • Orleans Arena, Las

Vegas, for information call 702-598-5090.

Gospel Music Concert • Dec. 18 • Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

Pioneer Christmas • Dec. 18 • Children make Christmas decorations and help decorate the Old Fort's tree. Event includes refreshments and a tour. Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park, Las Vegas, 702-486-3511.

Christmas Toy Run • Dec. 18 • Sponsored by Las Vegas Cruisin' Association. Location TBA, Las Vegas, 702-643-0000.

Las Vegas Showdown • Dec. 18 • Features Oklahoma State, Georgia Tech, Gonzaga, and the Runnin' Rebels. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

Duel in the Desert • Dec. 18-19 • This eight-team



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women's basketball tournament includes the Lady Rebels, Virginia Tech, Western Michigan, Texas Tech, Arkansas State, Northern Arizona, Iowa State, and Eastern Kentucky. Cox Pavilion, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

New Year's Eve at the Fremont Street Experience • Dec. 31 • Entertainment, countdown, and the light and sound show. Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, 702-678-5777.

America's Party and Centennial Kick-Off New Year's Eve • Dec. 31 • Historical video projected from Las Vegas hotels and casinos, with a soundtrack written by singer Clint Holmes and performed by entertainers. The Strip and downtown illuminated by more than 200 light cannons. More lights follow the midnight fireworks display. Las Vegas, 702-229-2005.

Note on Centennial Events: For a schedule of events that take place during the Las Vegas centennial year, see this section of "Nevada Events and Shows" or visit www.nevadamagazine.com or www.lasvegas2005.org.

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.

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

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

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

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

Our Daily Bread: Edible Routine, Habit, and Ritual • Thru Nov. 6 • Five artists show works that address food consumption. Contemporary Arts Collective, Las Vegas, 702-382-3886.

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

Las Vegas Artists Guild • Thru Nov. 10 • Derfelt Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6601.

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

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

A Reason for Hope: Deborah Barr • Thru Nov. 21 • Paintings depict children's issues. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211.

Alex Boupha • Thru Dec. 7 • Primitive paintings. Whitney Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3659.

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.

Pattern Wizardry • Thru Dec. 30 • Hands-on activities featuring the patterns found in nature and culture. Lied

Discovery Children's Museum, Las Vegas, 702-382-KIDS.

Fall Art Roundup • Thru Dec. 31 • Juried exhibit includes photography, drawings, sculpture, and mixed media. Las Vegas Art Museum, Las Vegas, 702-360-8080.

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.

Celebrating Life! 2004 Exhibition • Thru Jan. 21 • Exhibition from the city's fine-arts competition for senior arts. Bridge Gallery, City Hall, Las Vegas, 702-229-4674.

Las Vegas Aerial Gallery • Thru April 30 • Works by 10 local



Frederick Hart's "Born of Light" acrylic sculpture is featured in his "Creative Spirit" exhibition at the Las Vegas Art Museum.

artists are featured on a street banner display from Charleston Blvd. to Mesquite Ave. Las Vegas, 702-229-5431.

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

Fall Art Show • Nov. 1-30 • Boulder City Art Guild exhibition. Boulder City Library, Boulder City, 702-293-2138.

Darrell McGarvey • Nov. 1-Jan. 28 • Photo exhibition. Boulder Dam Hotel, Boulder City, 702-293-2138.

American Veterans Program • Speakers recount military experiences at the American Heroes Museum. Nov. 2, WASP



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pilot Betty Blake; Nov. 4, aircraft mechanic Dean Baker, Col. USAF (ret.); Nov. 9, Vietnam counter-insurgency, counter-guerilla warfare officer Bob Worthington; Nov. 11, Vietnam, Operation Desert Storm, and Persian Gulf War veteran Major William Mimiaga; Nov. 13, 108th Army Band Concert; Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor survivor Leo Stewart; Dec. 9, war hero Dave Kerzie, a former test pilot who completed 186 combat missions in Vietnam and is a recipient of two Distinguished Flying Crosses and 10 air medals; Dec. 14, former WAC and author Clarice Fortgang Pollard; Dec. 28 and Jan. 20, Pearl Harbor survivor Robert Hefner; Feb. 1, U.S. Army Railway Service authority Dave Kaufman; Feb. 22, George MacDonald, son of missionaries who were held in a Philippine prison camp; March 8, Dave Kaufman, author and expert on military heraldry and insignia. Ramada Express, Laughlin, 702-298-4200.

Las Vegas Wranglers • The West Coast Hockey League team plays Nov. 2 vs. Long Beach Ice Dogs, Nov. 5-6 vs. Toledo Storm, Nov. 9 vs. Alaska Aces, Nov. 12 vs. Victoria Salmon Kings, Nov. 13 vs. Toledo Storm, Nov. 19-20 vs. Idaho Steelheads, Dec. 14 vs. Greenville Grrrowl, Dec. 16 vs. Bakersfield Condors, Dec. 17 vs. Long Beach Ice Dogs, Dec. 20 vs. Fresno Falcons (midnight game), Dec. 26 and Jan. 4 vs. San Diego Gulls, Jan. 7-8 vs. Peoria Rivermen, Jan. 10 vs. Fresno Falcons, Jan. 13, 29, 31 vs. Victoria Salmon Kings, Feb. 8 vs. Long Beach Ice Dogs, Feb. 11-12 vs. Idaho Steelheads, Feb. 18-19 vs. Long Beach Ice Dogs, March 15 vs. Bakersfield Condors, March 18 and March 29 vs. Fresno Falcons, April 1 vs. Victoria Salmon Kings, April 2 vs. Bakersfield Condors, April 5, 8, 9 vs. Alaska Aces. Orleans Arena, Las Vegas, 702-461-PUCK.

UNLV Men's Basketball • The Runnin' Rebels play Nov. 5 vs. L.A. Stars, Nov. 17 vs. EA Sports All-Stars, Nov. 23 vs. St. Mary's, Nov. 26 vs. Oregon State, Dec. 4 vs. the UNR Wolf Pack, Dec. 21 vs. Gardner-Webb, Dec. 22 vs. Florida Atlantic, Dec. 29 vs. Texas-Pan American, Jan. 5 vs. Fort Lewis, Jan. 15 vs. San Diego State, Jan. 22 vs. Colorado State, Jan. 24 vs. Wyoming, Feb. 5 vs. BYU, Feb. 7 vs. Utah, Feb. 9 vs. Missouri, Feb. 26 vs. Air Force, Feb. 28 vs. New Mexico. Las Vegas Showdown on Dec. 18 features Oklahoma State, Georgia Tech, Gonzaga, and the Runnin' Rebels. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS for further game information.

Triptych: Color Photographs by Haya Gil-Lubin • Nov. 12-Jan. 7 • Exhibition of camera-less photographs. Winchester Gallery, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

UNLV Women's Basketball • The Lady Rebels play Nov. 5 vs. West Coast All-Stars, Nov. 19 vs. UCF, Dec. 22 vs. the UNR Lady Wolf Pack, Dec. 30 vs. Central Connecticut State, Jan. 2 vs. Canisius, Jan. 8 vs. High Point, Jan. 13 vs. Northern Colorado, Jan. 27 vs. New Mexico, Jan. 29 vs. Air Force, Feb. 12 vs. San Diego State, Feb. 17 vs. Colorado State, Feb. 19 vs. Wyoming, March 3 vs. BYU, March 5 vs. Utah. Basketball Tournaments: Lady Rebel Shootout on Nov. 27-28 features the Lady Rebels, Villanova, North Carolina, and Texas-Arlington. Duel in the Desert on Dec. 18-19 is an eight-team tournament that includes the Lady Rebels, Virginia Tech, Western Michigan, Texas Tech, Arkansas State, Northern Arizona, Iowa State, and Eastern Kentucky. Cox Pavilion, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

Gift of Lights • Nov. 12-Jan. 2 • Drive-thru display of more than 50 holiday scenes lit by six million lights and set to music. Sunset Park, Henderson, 800-788-9627.

Autocross • Nov. 13-14, 28, Dec. 12 • Competitive amateur driving event open to all drivers with a valid driver's license. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 775-727-1936.



The Temptations (above) and Sonny Turner's Platters will sing at the Stardust for New Year's.

SPART IV: The Colour of Man • Nov. 17-Jan. 15 • Wood sculptures by S. LaMont Waithe Sr. West Las Vegas Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

The Nuclear West • Nov. 19-Jan. 9 • Landscape photographs from the permanent collection of the Nevada Museum of Art's "The Altered Landscape." Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Celebrate the Season, 1920-1940 • Nov. 20-Jan. 16 • Exhibit

displays scenes and decorations of holiday seasons of the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression. Clark County Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.

Magical Forest Winter Wonderland • Nov. 24-Dec. 30 • View thousands of lights, trees, holiday decorations, and ride the Magical Forest Express train or the Enchanted Carousel. Opportunity Village, Las Vegas, 702-225-TREE.

Through My Father's Eyes • Jan. 29-March 13 • Smithsonian exhibition features photographs by Filipino-American Ricardo Ocreto Alvarado. Las Vegas Art Museum, Las Vegas, 702-360-8080.

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, Jan. 22. Gary Puckett, Feb. 12. Thom Kaz and the Rock 'n' Roll Hypnosis Show, 10pm Fri.

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. Aladdin Theater for the Performing Arts: Entertainment TBA. Steve Wyrick Theater: Magician Steve Wyrick, dark Tues. Fashionistas Showroom: "The Fashionistas," adult musical revue, dark Sun. Sinbad's Lounge: Bands such as Destiny, Rhythm Nation, Exotique, and San Fernando Band play. 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: Klass One, thru Nov. 6. Fahrenheit, Nov. 9-13. Six-Five-0, Nov. 16-20. Checkmates, Nov. 24-27. Jump, Jive, and Wail, Dec. 13-19. Checkmates, Dec. 21-Jan. 1. Greg Peterson, Jan. 4-16. Smooth, Jan. 18-29. Vision, Feb. 1-5. Randy Anderson, Feb. 8-19. Fahrenheit, Feb. 22-26. Checkmates, March 1-12. Karaoke 8:30pm-1:30am Mon. Jerry Tiffe's Band plays 4-7pm Fri.

Arizona Charlie's East • 702-951-9000: Palace Grand Lounge: Randy Anderson, Thru Nov. 7. Checkmates, Nov. 9-21. Perfect Choice, Nov. 23-28. Randy Anderson, Nov. 30-Dec. 12. Checkmates, Dec. 14-19. Greg Peterson, Dec. 21-26. 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

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Barbary Coast • 702-737-7111: Barbary Coast Lounge: Pete Vallee as "Big Elvis," 3-6pm Tues.-Fri. Bands like Smith Brothers, San Fernando Band, and Elements play Wed.-Sat. in the lounge. Karaoke, 9pm-2:30am Mon.

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

Bellagio • 888-987-6667: Cirque du Soleil's "O," indf., dark Mon.-Tues. New Year's Eve: Shows at 4:30 and 7:30pm; ticket prices for 7:30 show are \$118.50, \$124, \$150, \$175. 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.

Binion's Horseshoe • 702-382-1600: "Honky Tonk Cowgirls," tribute revue, dark Wed.

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: The Tubes, Nov. 5. Don Williams, Nov. 6. Gerry and the Pacemakers, Nov. 12. Paula Poundstone, Nov. 13. Mark Wills, Nov. 19. Strunz and Farah, Nov. 20. Latino Comedy Night hosted by Rick Martinez, Nov. 27. Terri Clark, Dec. 3-4. Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers, March 4. Keiko Matsui, April 2. 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, 7pm, dark Fri. The Michael Johns Show, comedy-hypnotist, 11pm Sun.-Thurs.



Engelbert Humperdinck, who has been singing for more than 30 years, will appear at the Orleans in Las Vegas November 4-7.

Caesars Palace • 702-731-7333 or 800-445-4544: The Colosseum Showroom: Celine Dion stars in "A New Day...," Nov. 3-7, 10-14, 17-21, 24-28, Dec. 1-5, 8-12, 28-31, dark Mon.-Tues. (call 877-4-CELINE). Jerry Seinfeld, Dec. 26-27. "The Red Piano" starring Elton John, Feb. 8-9, 11-13, 15-16, 18-20, 22-23, 25-26, March 29-30, April 1-3, 5-6, 8-10. 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. Jun Polistico, Philippine singer, 9pm Thurs.-Mon. Wild Billy Tucker, comedian, 10:30pm Thurs.-Mon. (Shows have a one-drink minimum per person; must be 21 for Wild Billy Tucker.) Bobby Ruffin's Tribute to the Drifters, 7:15 and 9:15pm Tues.-Wed. Derek James and the Speaks Brothers 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. "Bottoms Up," comedy revue, 2 and 4pm, dark Sun. George Wallace, comedian, performs Tues.-Sat. Second City Theater: "Second City," improv comedy sketches, 8pm Thurs.-Tues, 10:30pm Thurs.-Sat. and Mon. "Second City Scriptless," 8 and 10:30pm Wed., 10:30pm Tues. and Sun. Bands play in Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville.

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Four Queens • 702-385-4011 or 800-634-6045 for information.
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 Mon.-Fri. Bands like Front Page and Elements play nightly except Mon. Gold Coast Showroom: Friday Nite Fight, Nov. 5, live boxing. "Honky Tonk Angels Christmas Show," date TBA. Karaoke Party, 8pm Wed.-Thurs. Latin Breeze, Fri.-Sat. and Mon., 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: Tony Bennett, Nov. 4-6. Randy Travis, Dec. 3-5. Downtown 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., "Hypnosis Zone," 11pm Tues.-Fri. Haunted Vegas Tour, 9pm Sat.-Mon., 90-minute guided tour includes the show "Shock."

Hard Rock Hotel • 702-693-5066: The Joint: Entertainment TBA. 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. Carnival Court: Bands appear daily. Jazz in the Range Steakhouse Lounge 5:30-10:30pm Fri.-Sat.

Hofbräuhaus 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 5:30pm-1am in the Kabuki Lounge. Tequila Joe's: Karaoke, nightly. "Be a Legend" Amateur Celebrity Impersonator Karaoke Contest is held monthly.

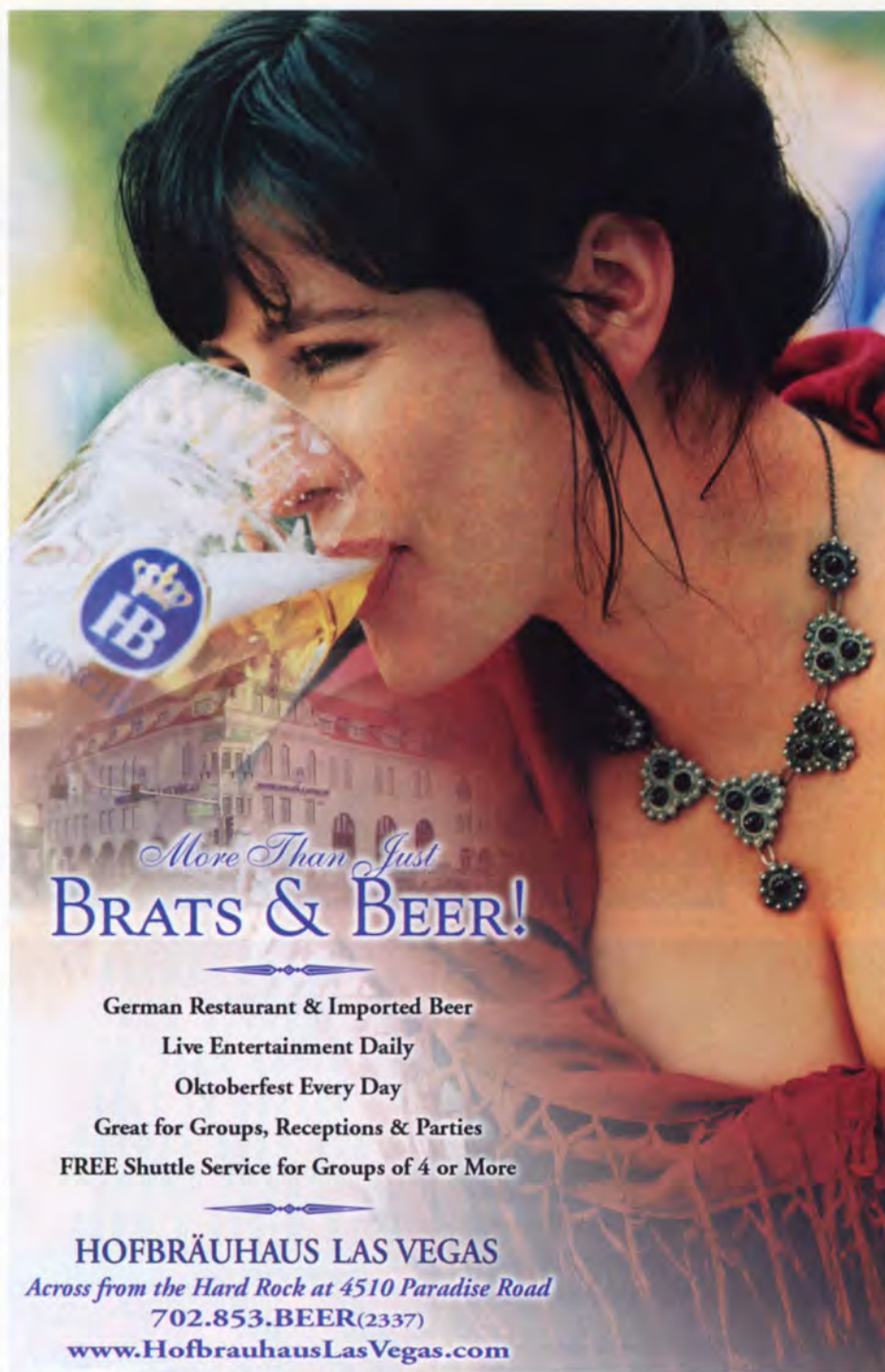
JW Marriott Las Vegas • 702-869-2335: Plush Ultra Lounge and Supper Club: Opens 5pm weeknights, noon weekends. Music and dancing.

Key Largo • 702-733-7777: Sand Bar Lounge: Entertainment nightly 8pm-2am.

Lady Luck • 702-477-3000 or 800-523-9582: Lady Luck Showroom: "Ovation, variety show featuring numerous acts, 7 and 9pm, dark Tues. Lucky Louie's Lounge: Bands play Thurs.-Sun.

Las Vegas Hilton • 702-732-5755 or 800-222-5361: Hilton Theater: Doobie Brothers, Nov. 5-6. Etta James, Nov. 12-13. Brad Paisley and Pat Green, Dec. 3-5. Shimmer Cabaret: Comedian David Brenner in concert, 8pm thru March 31, dark Thurs. Dance music 10pm Wed.-Sun. Entertainment in the Benihana Lounge.

Luxor • 702-262-4555: Luxor Theatre: "Blue Man Group: Live at Luxor," percussion theater. Pharaoh's Theater: "Midnight Fantasy," production show, dark Mon. Steakhouse Lounge: Piano entertainer. Performers play



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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. Larry the Cable Guy, Dec. 3. Ron White, Dec. 10. Mandalay Events Center: An Evening With Yanni, Nov. 6. Andre Bocelli and the Las Vegas Philharmonic, Nov. 13. Juan Gabriel, Nov. 14. The Rematch: Winky Wright vs. Shane Mosley II, Nov. 20. Chinese Concert, Nov. 26. Vincente Fernandez, Nov. 27. House of Blues: Bela Fleck and the Flecktones, Nov. 7. Wynonna, Nov. 13. The Faint, Nov. 16. Jagermeister Music Tour, Dec. 15. 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.-Fri. Bands play in the Orchid, Island, and Coral Reef lounges. Shark Reef at Mandalay Bay open daily. Foundation Room: "Las Vegas Mindbending" starring Jason Scott, dark Sun. and Tues.

MGM Grand • 702-891-7777 or 800-929-1111: EFX Theatre: KÅ, the new Cirque du Soleil show, opens for preview performances Nov. 26-Feb. 2. One show nightly from Nov. 26-Dec. 7; two shows 7 and 10:30pm Dec. 10-Feb. 2, dark Wed.-Thurs. Hollywood Theatre: George Carlin, Oct. 28-Nov. 3. Paul Anka, Nov. 4-10. Carrot Top, Dec. 2-22. MGM Grand Garden Arena: Sarah Brightman, Nov. 20. Bette Midler, Nov. 26. 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.

The Mirage • 702-792-7777: Danny Gans Theatre: Impressionist Danny Gans, dark Fri. and Mon. and Nov. 14, 25, Dec. 24-27, 30. Jay Leno, Nov. 5-6. Ray Romano and Brad Garrett, Nov. 12-13. David Spade, Nov. 26-27. 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. and Dec. 5-25. Top 40, disco, country, and classic-rock dance music nightly in the Monte Carlo Pub and Brewery. The Club @ The Pub: Late night bands and DJs play beginning at 11pm.

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. and Dec. 1-15. Cabaret Theatre: Comedienne Rita Rudner performs nightly except Nov. 2, 14, 18, 21, 24, 28, 29, Dec. 6, 9, 12-17, 26, 30-31. The Pub at Nine Fine Irishmen: Entertainment nightly. 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. Bands play in the Big Apple Bar. Manhattan Express Roller Coaster opens daily at 10am.

The Orleans • 800-ORLEANS: Orleans Showroom: 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: Enduro Cross, motorcycle event, Nov. 27. LDS Music Festival, Dec. 4. Harlem Globetrotters, Feb. 16-17. Bourbon Street Cabaret: Performers appear nightly except Mon. Brendan's Irish Pub: Bands play like Elements, the



Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Famer Etta James serves gospel and jazz with blues overtones at the Las Vegas Hilton.

Klique, and Smith Brothers 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. Thom Kaz and the Rock 'n' Roll Hypnosis Show, 7:30pm Mon., 10pm Thurs. "Lippin' to the Hits," celebrity tribute show, 3:30pm Wed.-Sat. Jack's Irish Pub: Entertainers perform nightly.

The Palms • 702-942-7777: Entertainment in Rain, ghostbar, and the Lounge.

Paris Las Vegas • 800-237-SHOW: Theatre des Arts: "We Will Rock You," 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 in the lounge from 8pm-midnight Fri.-Sat. Round Bar: Entertainment nightly.

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. Chippendales Theater: Ultimate Girls' Night Out is a new \$7-million complex dedicated to women. The 400-seat theater opens in December and features private sky boxes, cocktail lounge, retail area, and the male revue "Chippendales: The Show." 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. I-Bar Ultra Lounge: Opens daily at noon with beverage entertainers and video displays.

Riviera • 702-794-9301: Splash Theatre: "Splash," production

show starring magician Dirk Arthur, 7 and 9:30pm; 7pm show Sat. is covered and open to families, dark Sun.-Mon. 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 Tues. "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. "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 Cavanaugh, 8:30pm Mon. Dr. Scott Lewis: Outrageous Comedy Hypnotist, 10pm Mon. "The Escape," starring Dixie Dooley, 8:30 Thurs.-Sat.

Royal Resort • 702-339-5200: Cosmo's Ristorante: "Dinner With Mama," interactive dinner theater, 7pm Mon.-Thurs.

Sahara • 702-737-2515: Sahara Theatre: "Saturday Night Fever," Broadway musical, dark Thurs. Congo Room: Coasters, Platters, and Drifters. Entertainment in the 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: Entertainment TBA. Bands play nightly.

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Stardust • 702-617-5577 or 888-217-9565: Wayne Newton Theatre: Wayne Newton, Oct. 23-Nov. 14. Tim Conway and Harvey Korman with Louise DuArt, Nov. 17-20. B.B. King, Nov. 26-28. Bill Engvall, Dec. 3-4 and 9-11. The Temptations and Sonny Turner's Platters, Dec. 30-Jan. 1. 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. "Bite," topless revue featuring evil vampires, 10:30pm, dark Thurs. "Viva Las Vegas," musical revue, 2 and 4pm daily except Sun. Outdoor Events Center: Entertainment TBA. Images Lounge: Huck Daniels performs 10pm-2am Mon. Bands like Next Movement and Neon Cowgirls play 10pm-3:30am Tues.-Sun. 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 Thurs.-Mon.

Suncoast • 702-636-7111: Showroom: 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 like Hotyme, San Fernando, and Elements 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. and Nov. 28-30. 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 7, 8:30, 10, and 11:30pm outside.

Tropicana • 702-739-2411: Tiffany Theatre: "Les Folies Bergere," dark Sun. "The Magic of Rick Thomas," 2 and 4pm daily except Sun. Tropicans Lounge: "The Tropicana Bird Show," 11:30am, 1:30, and 2:30pm except Thurs. "T. Fox and the Fox City Show," dark Sun.-Tues. Comedy Stop Theatre: "The Comedy Stop," stand-up comedy nightly. Celebration Lounge: Entertainment nightly. "Air Play," acrobats perform above the casino at 11am, 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9pm.

Venetian • 702-733-5000: Entertainment TBA.

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

Wild West Gambling Hall • 702-740-0000.

Westin Casuarina • 866-837-4215: Westin Theatre: "Divas," musical revue, 8pm nightly. "Exposed," adult revue, 10pm nightly. Both shows run thru Nov. 6.

LAUGHLIN

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

Colorado Belle • 702-298-4000: Dixieland band strolls on D Deck Fri.-Sat. in Nov. and Dec. 3-18, 28-Jan. 1. Holiday Festival, Dec. 4-11 featuring Santa and two of his reindeer. Christmas Caroling at the Belle, Dec. 11.

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

Flamingo Laughlin • 702-298-5111 or 800-435-8469: Flamingo Ballroom: Bill Engvall, Nov. 20. The Lettermen, Nov. 26-28. Club Flamingo Showroom: "The Really Big Shew," variety show, 7 and 9pm, dark Fri., thru April.

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. "Set For Life," prize awards event, Dec. 11. Nine random drawings culled since September. Top prize is \$2 million in annual installments of \$100,000 for 20 years.

Pioneer • 800-634-3469.

Ramada Express • 702-298-4200 or 800-243-6846: Pavilion Theatre: 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: 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, dark Dec. 14-15. Debbie Reynolds, Dec. 28-31. "Happy Birthday to the King," Elvis tribute show, Jan. 3-9. "Ozark Jubilee," Jan. 11-15. Charlie Prose, Jan. 16-Feb. 3. Smothers Brothers, Feb. 15-20. Oak Ridge Boys, Feb. 22-27. Mel Tillis, March 1-6. "Ragus," March 15-20, Irish dance spectacular. Collin Raye, April 5-10. Ricky Van Shelton, Oct. 18-23. Entertainment in the Lightning Strikes Nightclub.

MESQUITE

CasaBlanca • 702-346-7529 or 800-459-7529: CasaBlanca Showroom: Mel Tillis, Nov. 6. Australia's "Thunder From Down Under," Dec. 2. "Revolution: A Tribute to the Beatles," Dec. 31. Hypnotist Michael Mezmer, March 25-26. Comedy Club: Weekends when no performers are scheduled except Dec. 10-11, 17. Entertainers appear 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 play nightly except Mon.

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

NORTH LAS VEGAS

Cannery • 702-507-5700: The Club: Peace Frog: A Tribute to the Doors, Nov. 5-6. Rockabilly Rat Rod Reunion: Riptones, Paul Glaxay, and The Galaxies, Nov. 19-20. Rusty Davis Orchestra: Fall Harvest Dance, Nov. 26-27. Pin-Ups Bar: Bands play nightly except Mon.

Fiesta Rancho • 702-631-7000: Club Tequila: David Allan Coe, Dec. 17. "M"...Mariachi Passion and Tradition, 7pm Sun. Superstar Tributes, Fri. Comedy Live, Sat. Music in the Cabo Lounge. Skating in Fiesta Ice Arena.

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

Texas Station • 702-631-1001: Dallas Events Center: Charley Pride, Jan. 22. The Armadillo: Krookies 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: Entertainment TBA. 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, Wed.-Sat. Whiskey Pete's Show Bar Lounge: Entertainment Fri.-Sun.

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Las Vegas Centennial Events

Las Vegas will celebrate its 100th birthday in 2005 with a year-long party beginning New Year's Eve. Following is a calendar of events scheduled during the centennial year. For further information call ahead for dates and details or visit www.lasvegas2005.org.

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, 18 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141.

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.

Las Vegas News Bureau Photography • Thru Feb. 6 • Photos document the history of Las Vegas. Summerlin Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3659.

Community Roots: The History of West Las Vegas • Thru March 19 • Weekly workshops focus on pioneers in West Las Vegas history. West Las Vegas Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

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

"Contact" • Dec. 30-Jan. 2 • Las Vegas Broadway series. Cashman Theatre, Las Vegas, 702-798-5090.

First Night Boulder City • Dec. 31 • Nonalcoholic, family New Year's Eve afternoon celebration features music, giant puppets, food, and evening fireworks. First Night is the first party of the Las Vegas Centennial. Citywide, Boulder City, 702-294-1499.

America's Party and Centennial Kick-Off New Year's Eve • Dec. 31 • Historical video projected from Las Vegas hotels and casinos, with a soundtrack written by singer Clint Holmes and performed by entertainers. The Strip and downtown will be illuminated by more than 200 light cannons. More lights follow the midnight fireworks display. Las Vegas, 702-229-2005.

Cloudburst New Year's Eve Celebration • Dec. 31 • Party under the 10-story-high Cloud at the Fashion Show Mall. Event is limited to 5,000 attendees and will take place on two levels with two different prices, \$59.95 and \$99.95. Fashion Show Mall, Las Vegas, www.thefashionshow.com.

New Year's Night Out • Dec. 31 • For ages three to 15 from 6pm-1am. Games, crafts, movie, and pizza. Registration in person by Dec. 29. Brinley Community School, Las Vegas, 702-646-9046.

Celebrity Display and Photo Op • Jan.-May 31 • The gold lamé jacket and a car owned by Liberace, the first entertainer to perform at the Riviera on April 20, 1955, will be on display for photo opportunities. The exhibition is part of the

Riviera's 50th anniversary party to be held April 17-24.

Whistle Stop to Windfall: 100 Years in Las Vegas • Jan. 5-Jan. 2, 2006 • Exhibit traces the story of what made Las Vegas unique, its changing face (from tent houses to casinos), residents, and colorful characters. Clark County Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.

Nevada Theatre Company • Feb.-Nov. 2005 • Two touring plays: "Three Ways Home: Nevada Becomes a State" and another centennial presentation about the birth of Las Vegas. Call for dates and locations, 702-873-0191.

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

"Jekyll and Hyde" • Feb. 8-13 • Las Vegas Broadway series. Cashman Theatre, Las Vegas, 702-798-5090.

"Las Vegas Days of Old" • Feb. 11-13, 17-20 • Tales and anecdotes presented by the Rainbow Company Theatre. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6553.

Super Class World Championships • Feb. 18-20 • B&M Hedman Series drag racing. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 800-644-4444.

"Romeo and Juliet" • Feb. 25-27 • Nevada Ballet Theatre presentation. Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Music of the Spheres • Feb. 26 • Las Vegas Philharmonic with guest cellist Daniel Gaisford. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

NASCAR Weekend • March 11-13 • Race blowout includes the Sam's Town 300 NASCAR Busch and UAW-Daimler Chrysler 400 NASCAR Nextel Cup series races. For the first time, three-day pit passes are available on a first-come basis. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 800-644-4444.

Las Vegas Centennial Celebration Exhibition • March 18-May 22 • Art pieces from Las Vegas casinos and resident artists. Las Vegas Art Museum, Las Vegas, 702-360-8080.

Monster Jam World Finals • March 19 • Sam Boyd Stadium, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

Spring Festival • March 20 • Family picnic sponsored by the Mexican Patriotic Committee. Freedom Park, Las Vegas, 702-383-8395.

Interfaith Choir • April TBA • Concert reflects the religious groups that settled in Las Vegas. 702-229-2005.

"Joplin! And More: Classic Crossings II" • April 2-3 • Nevada Ballet Theatre presentation. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

"Rites of Passage" • April 8-10, 14-17 • Local students present observations and experiences in words, movement, and drama. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6553.

A World in Harmony • April 9 • Las Vegas Philharmonic with violinist Chee Yun. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

LPGA Takefujii Classic • April 11-16 • Las Vegas Country Club, Las Vegas, 702-898-4653.

NHRA SummitRacing.com Nationals • April 14-17 • Drag rac-



ing. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

"The Graduate" • April 19-24 • Las Vegas Broadway series. Cashman Theatre, Las Vegas, 702-798-5090.

Riviera's 50th Anniversary Party • April 17-24 • Celebrities, tournaments, and special events commemorate the resort's opening in April 1955.

Budweiser World Cup Finals • April 20-24 • Dressage and jumping event. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

Folk Life Festival • May TBA • Food, demonstrations, music, dancing, and crafts of the valley's ethnic groups. Las Vegas, 702-229-2005.

THQ/AMA Supercross • May 7 • Sam Boyd Stadium, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

Antique Air Show Parade • May 7 • More than 100 airplanes fly over the Las Vegas Strip. Event features a fly-in of an antique Jenny aircraft to commemorate the first commercial flight into Las Vegas. 702-229-2005.

On the Town • May 7 • Las Vegas Philharmonic with tenor Mark Thomsen and baritone Anton Belov. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Cinco de Mayo Festival • May 8 • Family picnic features food, music, contests, and entertainment. Freedom Park, Las Vegas, 702-383-8395.

"Rodeo" • May 13-15 • Nevada Ballet Theatre presentation. Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Downtown Post Office Grand Re-Opening • May 14 • Tours and oral-history lectures are planned. Las Vegas, 702-229-6712.

Las Vegas' 100th Birthday Celebration • May 15 • Three Helldorado parades downtown including Kiddies, Old Timers, and Hotel and Casino parades. Re-creation of the 1905 land auction, the world's largest birthday cake weighing more than 130,000 pounds, and a street party. Downtown, Las Vegas, 702-229-2005.

"Tapestry" • May 27 • The Nevada Youth Alliance begins more than 40 performances of an original centennial musical. Nicholas Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, plus additional locations, 702-393-6163.

The 24-Hour Show: Making a Living in Las Vegas • June-Jan. 2006 • Multimedia exhibit explores the lives of casino and entertainment workers. Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Las Vegas, 702-486-5205.

"Bridge of Terabithia" • June 3-5, 9-12 • Based on Newbery Medal novel about a fantasy kingdom. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6553.

"Suessical" • June 8-11, 15-18, 22-25 • Tony Award-winning musical presented under the stars. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 18 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-594-PLAY.

CineVegas 2005 • June 10-18 • Film festival features actors and films that have a Las Vegas theme and will explore the city's impact on the movie industry in the last 100 years. Also, a national contest is under way to choose the "Five Favorite Vegas Movies of all Time. Brenden Theatres,

Palms Casino, Las Vegas, 702-229-6712 for festival details.

The Mormon Celebration • June 15-18 • 150th anniversary of the founding of the Old Mormon Fort features a rededication ceremony, concerts, fireworks, and a 200-person outdoor pageant on the "Trail of Hope" and the establishment of the Mormon foothold in Las Vegas. 702-229-2005.

Las Vegas Founders Junior Golf Championship • June 20-23 • Location TBA, Las Vegas, 702-242-3000.

The McMillin Nevada "1,000" • July 6-10 • A 1,000-mile Best in the Desert off-road race begins July 6 with registration at the Suncoast in Las Vegas. The four-day race in Central Nevada will be staged around Beatty, Goldfield, and Tonopah. Las Vegas, 702-641-2431.

"Once Upon a Mattress" • July 13-16, 20-23, 27-30 • Broadway musical presented under the stars. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 18 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-594-PLAY.

"Guys and Dolls" • Aug. 10-13, 17-20, 24-27 • Broadway musical presented under the stars. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 18 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-594-PLAY.

Once Upon 100 Weddings • Sept. 8 • A nationwide search for 100 couples in February and March will end in a ceremony under the canopy at the Fremont Street Experience. Las Vegas, 702-229-2005.

San Gennaro Feast • Sept. 13-18 • Italian food, music, artists, craftsman, and carnival. Boca Park, Las Vegas, 702-286-4944.

Mexican Independence Day Festival • Sept. 18 • 194th anniversary event features music, food, and entertainment. Freedom Park, Las Vegas, 702-383-8395.

NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series • Sept. 24 • Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 800-644-4444.

Sparks and Las Vegas Black Tie 50/50 Ball • Oct. TBA • Held in conjunction with the Nevada League of Cities meeting Oct. 11-16. Dinner will celebrate the Sparks and Las Vegas centennial celebrations. Golden Nugget, Las Vegas, 702-229-2005.

Las Vegas Invitational • Oct. 12-16 • PGA Tour event. TPC Summerlin, Las Vegas, 702-242-3000.

NHRA ACDelco Las Vegas Nationals • Oct. 20-23 • Drag racing. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Las Vegas Founders Women's Collegiate Showdown • Oct. 30-Nov. 2 • Golf tournament. Anthem Country Club, Henderson, 702-242-3000.

Professional Bull Riders • Nov. 3-6 • Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

Aviation Nation Nellis Air Force Base Air Show • Nov. 10-12 • Air races, demonstrations, static displays. Nellis Air Force Base, Las Vegas, 702-229-2005.

National Finals Rodeo • Dec. 2-11 • Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

Las Vegas Showdown • Dec. 17 • UNLV basketball games. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

Las Vegas Bowl • Dec. 23 • College football game. Sam Boyd Stadium, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.



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'Tis the Season



Santa and tree lightings start the holidays in Reno, Sparks, and Carson City.

By Joyce Hollister

Twinkling lights, candy-bearing Santa Clauses, and a Model T-driving dog are part of the more than 30 holiday celebrations in Northern Nevada.

The Red Hot Bell Peppers bell choir will ring in the holiday season at the **Silver and Snowflakes Holiday Tree Lighting** in Carson City December 2. Governor Kenny Guinn and his wife, Dema, will throw the switches on two Christmas trees on the Capitol grounds at 5 p.m. One of the trees, a Colorado blue spruce, was planted in 1876.

Beauregard, the golden retriever who "drives" owner Bill Williamson's 1926 Model T, will chauffeur Santa to the celebration. You can take your own candle or flashlight to walk in the candlelight procession from the Capitol to the lighting of the Carson City Christmas tree a few blocks away.

Events include an open house and refreshments at city hall. Downtown businesses will offer refreshments and stay open for shopping. Call the Carson City Convention and Visitors Bureau at 800-NEVADA-1 or visit www.visitcarsoncity.com for information.

Visitors on the **Victorian Christmas**



Susan Ballew will be a docent on a Victorian Christmas tour in Carson City December 5. Tickets are available at the Roberts House Museum. Top left: Anne-Marie White (left) and Samantha Ferla performed in the bell choir at the 2003 Capitol tree lighting.

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At Reno's Gift of Lights you will see more than 100 animated holiday displays.

A self-guided tour December 5 can admire 10 historic homes decorated for the holidays. Costumed docents from the Carson City Historical Society will give histories of the houses, and local musicians will entertain.

A harpist and violin trio will play at the Bliss Mansion, which was built in 1879 for Lake Tahoe railroad and lumber magnate Duane Bliss. The Brougher-Bath Mansion features a two-story circular porch and stained-glass windows. In the 1930s, Carson City postmaster Ernest Bath could see the post office from this home, which was built by Wilson

Brougher, a state senator, in 1903-04.

The Victorian Christmas tour will be held from 1 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, December 5. For tickets call 775-882-1805. Tickets also can be purchased at the Roberts House Museum or the Carson City Convention and Visitors Bureau. Price is \$15 adults, \$12 seniors and ages 13 to 18, \$5 for six to 12, and free for five and under. For tour information visit www.carson-city.org.

Kids will press their noses to family-car windows during Reno's second annual **Gift of Lights, a Holiday Drive-thru Spectacular**. The event at Idlewild Park runs from November 19 to January 2. At its inauguration last year, the Gift of Lights drew 45,000 people.

More than 100 life-sized holiday displays with animated reindeer, snowmen, Santa Clauses, candy canes, and toys—all made of lights—line the route through the park.

Businesses and agencies sponsor the scenes, and hot chocolate and cider will



Santa grins from his float in the Sparks Hometowne Christmas Parade.

be sold by youths in the Reno Enrichment Program, a project sponsored by the city.

As you drive through the park, you can listen to Ho-Ho-Ho Radio, a special

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broadcast of holiday music. The cost is \$10 per car, but you can receive \$2 off for donating a bag of nonperishable food items. Call 702-451-0344 or visit www.reno-sparkschamber.org for information.

Sparks Hometowne Christmas on December 4 launches the city's centennial celebration. The day's events begin at 11:30 a.m. in Victorian Square. Artists and craftspeople will sell Christmas gifts, and vendors will dispense hot chili and hot chocolate.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will lead the 1 p.m. parade, which includes floats, marching bands, horse-drawn vehicles,

St. Nick joins the kids on December 21-24 during Mt. Rose-Ski Tahoe's Santa on Skis.

and antique cars. Officials will light the community Christmas tree at 5 p.m.

Employees of the Sparks Parks and Recreation Department begin preparing the square in mid-November, says spokesperson Ann Louhela. "It takes that long just to get the lights and decorations up," she says. "We have a dedicated staff—they treat the square like it's their own backyard." Call 775-353-2291 or visit www.reno-sparkschamber.org for information.

At Lake Tahoe, skiers can join other holiday-makers in the Squaw Valley **Christmas Eve Torchlight Parade**. Call 530-583-6985 for details. Santa skis with kids on December 21-24 during Mt. Rose-Ski Tahoe's **Santa on Skis**. Call 800-SKI-TAHOE. See listings for other seasonal events around the Silver State. ❏

Joyce Hollister is Nevada's Magazine's associate editor.

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Reno-Tahoe

AREA EVENTS AND SHOWS

Winter is Reno's season to sparkle with holiday decorations and events such as the Sparks Hometowne Christmas, Carson City's Victorian Christmas Tour, and the opening of Lake Tahoe ski resorts. The Russian circus-style production "Taganai" plays at the Eldorado and "Wonderland" at Harrah's Reno. The Moscow Ballet's Great Russian "Nutcracker" appears at the Reno Hilton. Nevada Magazine presents these events and shows for November and December. Please call ahead to confirm dates and details.



Tower of Power brings its horns and distinctive East Bay soul sound to the South Shore Room at Harrah's Lake Tahoe on November 26-27

Events

Nevada Day Celebration • Oct. 28-31 • Admission Day festivities include Nevada's largest parade on Sat., Oct. 30. Also, carnival at Mills Park through Oct. 31, music and arts show, beard contest, and train steam-up. The clay sculpture of Sarah Winnemucca, Nevada's second statue to be installed at Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol (in spring 2005), will be displayed at the State Library and Archives during the celebration. Carson City, 800-NVDAY4U.

Nevada Day on the Comstock • Oct. 30-31 • Dress Victorian or Western for Grand Ball at Piper's Opera House on Sat. Ghost Train tours on Sat. and Sun. Virginia City, ball 775-847-0433 and train tour 775-847-0311.

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

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

Booksale Bonanza • Nov. 1-8 • Friends of the Washoe County Library's annual sale of more than 50,000 used books and audiovisual items. Call for location, Reno, 775-327-8360.

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.

National Automobile Museum 15th Anniversary • Nov. 5 • Free admission marks the museum's milestone. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

Fantasies in Chocolate • Nov. 5 • Chocolate delicacies from more than 30 vendors. John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 800-648-1177.

"Turandot" • Nov. 5 and 7 • Nevada Opera's presentation of Puccini's work. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-786-4060.

Rhymers Rodeer at the Carson Valley Inn • Nov. 5-6 • Music, poetry, humor, and satire led by McAvoy Layne as Mark Twain. Scheduled cowboy poets at the annual event include Joe Harrington and Jim King, poet and musician Ron Scofield, and the Rush Creek Trio. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-783-6625.

Keno Tournament • Nov. 5-6 • Silver Legacy, Reno, 800-687-8733.

"Carousel" • Nov. 6-7, 12-14, 19-21 • Western Nevada Musical Theatre Company's presentation of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical. Community Center, Carson City, 775-445-4249.

Meet the Winemaker Dinner • Nov. 8 • Merryvale Vineyards is featured vintner. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-783-7711.

Jazz and Poetry • Nov. 9 • Big-band jazz. Comma Coffee, Carson City, 775-883-4154.

V&T Rephotographic Survey • Nov. 10 • Illustrated talk comparing photographed scenes along the V&T Railroad in the 19th and 20th centuries. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

Veteran's Day Parade • Nov. 11 • C Street, Virginia City, 775-847-0311.

Pray for Snow Party • Nov. 11 • Events include a snow-calling contest. Rockwater Bar and Grille, South Lake Tahoe, 530-659-7453.

Fall Dance Festival • Nov. 12 • Guest artist Jon Lehrer of the Gus Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago, plus Sonya Delwaide and the Mills College Repertory Dance Company. Nightingale Hall, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6847.

"Footloose" • Nov. 12-13, 17-21 • Nevada Repertory Company musical. Redfield Prescendum Theatre, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6847.

"Ruthless! The Musical" • Nov. 12-13, 18-21, 26-27, Dec. 2-4, 9-11, 16-19 • Show-business play. Bruka Theatre, Reno, 775-323-3221.

\$25,000 Let It Ride Tournament • Nov. 12-15 • \$100 entry. Reno Hilton, Reno, 888-547-2081.

Reno Philharmonic • Nov. 14 • Cellist Alisa Weierstein. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-323-6393.



On Christmas Eve a torchlight parade and fireworks are held at Squaw Valley ski resort at Lake Tahoe (above). Cowboy poet Randy Pollard (right) appears at the Carson Valley Inn's Rhymers Rodeo November 5-6.

American Brass Quintet • Nov. 18 • Nightingale Hall, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6847.

Artists Repertory Theatre • Nov. 18 • Nevada Tour presents the documentary film *A Dream in Hanoi*. Location TBA, Reno, 775-329-ARTS.

Argenta • Nov. 19 • Faculty group performs Brahms and Schubert. Nightingale Hall, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6847.

John Ascuaga's Nugget Classic/UNR Women's Basketball Tournament • Nov. 19-20 • The Lady Wolf Pack with Cal State Fullerton, Colorado, and Loyola Marymount. Lawlor Events Center, UNR, Reno, 775-784-4500.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" • Nov. 19-20 • Artists Repertory Theatre's Nevada Tour featuring the Central Dramatic Company of Vietnam. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-329-ARTS.

Valhalla Holiday Faire: A Dickens Experience • Nov. 19-21 • Crafts, music, and wines. Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 888-632-5859.

Gift of Lights • Nov. 19-Jan. 2 • Drive-thru holiday display of more than 100 life-sized holiday scenes. Donate a bag of nonperishable food items and receive a \$2 discount off the \$10 per car admission. Idlewild Park, Reno, 702-451-0344.

Foam Fest • Nov. 20 • Benefit for Tahoe Adaptive Ski School features microbrews

from more than 20 breweries. Tahoe Biltmore, Crystal Bay, 530-581-4161.

Jim Thorpe Classic/UNR Men's Basketball Tournament • Nov. 20-21 • The Wolf Pack tourney features Georgia State, Southern Mississippi, and Colorado-Colorado Springs. Lawlor Events Center, Reno, 775-784-4500.

Turkey Bingo • Nov. 21 • CVIC Hall, Minden, 800-727-7677.

Turkey Trot • Nov. 25 • Sixth annual fun run-walk on Thanksgiving morning. Sparks Marina Park, Sparks, 775-353-7815.

Full Moon Snowshoe Trek • Nov. 26 • Kirkwood Cross-Country Ski Area, south of Lake Tahoe, 209-258-7248.

Thanksgiving Weekend Steam-Up • Nov. 26-27 • Ride on train pulled by an 1882 steam locomotive. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

"The Graduate" • Nov. 26-28 • Morgan Fairchild portrays Mrs. Robinson in the play about the seduction of a college grad. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 800-714-5331.

"The Nutcracker" • Nov. 26-28 • Pinkerton Ballet theater presentation. Community Center, Carson City, 775-882-2916.

Mah Jong Tournament • Nov. 27 • \$100 entry. Reno Hilton, Reno, 888-547-2081.

"The Gondoliers" • Nov. 29-30 • Musical about a drunken gondolier who forgets which of the two boys in his household is a prince. Nightingale Hall, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6847.

\$1,500 Blackjack Tournament • Nov. 30 • \$25 entry. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-783-7711.

Holiday Choral Concert • Dec. 1 • Includes Nevada Chamber Choir, Concert Choir, dancers, and guest instrumentalists. Saint Rose of Lima Catholic Church, Reno, 775-784-6847.

University Orchestra • Dec. 2 • Nightingale Hall, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6847.

Silver and Snowflakes Holiday Tree Lighting • Dec. 2 • Carols, bells, Santa, and lighting of two Christmas trees. Capitol Grounds, Carson City, 775-887-1294.

Christmas in Genoa • Dec. 3 • Carols, Santa, tree lighting, and refreshments. Genoa, 800-727-7677.

Lighting of the Minden Gazebo and Tree • Dec. 3 • Music and refreshments. Minden Park, Minden, 800-727-7677.

\$25,000 Three Card Poker Tournament • Dec. 3-6 • Reno Hilton, Reno, 888-547-2081.

Parade of Lights • Dec. 4 • Minden and Gardnerville, 800-727-7677.

Valhalla Holiday Gala • Dec. 4 • Champagne, dinner, and dancing. Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 888-632-5859.

Sparks Hometowne Christmas • Dec. 4 • Art, crafts, and chili before the 1pm parade. Community tree lighting at 5pm. Victorian Square, Sparks, 775-353-2291 for more information.

Christmas Parade of Lights • Dec. 4 • Parade begins at dusk. C Street, Virginia City, 775-847-0311.

Christmas on the Comstock • Dec. 4 • Holiday cheer and shopping following the parade of lights. Historic Fourth Ward School, Virginia City, 775-847-0975 for event information.

Christmas Faire • Dec. 4-5 • Arts, crafts, and Santa Claus. Main Street, Genoa, 775-782-8696 for more event information.

"The Nutcracker" • Dec. 4-5 • Piper's Opera House, Virginia City, 775-847-0433.

Learn to Ski or Ride for \$20 • Dec. 4-5 • Beginner lift ticket, lessons, and gear rental for \$20. Choice of eight resorts. Lake Tahoe, 800-GO-NORTH.

Holiday Open House • Dec. 5 • Cookie walk and community trees. Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Gardnerville, 800-727-7677.

Victorian Christmas • Dec. 5 • Self-guided tour of mansions dressed in their holiday best. Historic District, Carson City, 775-882-1805.

Meet the Winemaker • Dec. 6 • Steele Wines is featured vintner. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-783-7711.

University Wind Ensemble • Dec. 7 • Nightingale Hall, Reno, 775-784-6847.

Railroad Lecture and Discussion • Dec. 8 • Monthly program's discussion on railroad history TBA. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

Frosty the Blues Man • Dec. 9 • Holiday concert. Comma Coffee, Carson City, 775-883-2662.

Player's Party VII Slot Tournament • Dec. 10-11 • Silver Club, Sparks, 775-358-4771.

\$20,000 Holiday Slot Tournament • Dec. 10-12 • Reno Hilton, Reno, 888-547-2081.

Christmas Concert • Dec. 11 • Carson Valley Pops, CVIC Hall, Minden, 775-265-2841.

Gingerbread Social and Auction • Dec. 11 • Contestants make houses and objects from gingerbread and candies. Creations will be auctioned. Delta Saloon, Virginia City, 775-847-0311 for more event information.

Holiday Slot Tournament • Dec. 11-12 • Silver Legacy, Reno, 800-687-8733.



UNR's Wolf Pack plays Kansas before a hometown crowd at Lawlor Events Center.

Santa Claus Train • Dec. 11-12 • Train ride pulled by an 1882 steam locomotive. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

Holiday Treat Concert • Dec. 12 • Carson City Symphony and Carson Chamber Singers perform. Community Center, Carson City, 775-883-4154 for concert information.

Santa Lucia Festival • Dec. 13 • Swedish food celebration. Piper's Opera House, Virginia City, 775-847-0433.

Dodge Holiday Classic/UNR Men's Basketball Tournament • Dec. 17-18 • The Wolf Pack with Idaho State, Eastern Illinois, and Florida Atlantic. Lawlor Events Center, Reno, 775-784-4500.

Pai Gow Poker Tournament • Dec. 17-19 • \$100 entry. Reno Hilton, Reno, 888-547-2081.

Christmas in the Sierra Concert • Dec. 18 • David John and the Comstock Cowboys perform. Main Street, Genoa, 775-782-8696.

Sick and Twisted Slopestyle Contest • Dec. 18 • Snowbomb contest series. Boreal Mountain Resort, Lake Tahoe, 530-426-3666.

Sierra-at-Tahoe Holiday Festival • Dec. 21-24 • Music, Santa, choirs, and music. Sierra-at-Tahoe Ski Area, South Lake Tahoe, 530-659-6453.

Northstar-at-Tahoe Holiday Festival • Dec. 22-25 • Santa, music. Northstar-at-Tahoe Ski Area, Lake Tahoe, 530-562-1010.


Christmas Eve Torchlight Parade • Dec. 24 • Skiers snake down the mountain bearing torches. Squaw Valley ski resort, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Full Moon Snowshoe Trek • Dec. 26 • Kirkwood Cross-Country Ski Area, south of Lake Tahoe, 209-258-7248.

Gala New Year's Eve Party • Dec. 31 • Music, special buffet, free champagne, and party favors. Carson Nugget, Carson City, 775-882-1626.

New Year's Eve Party • Dec. 31 • Torchlight parade, feast, and fireworks in the Village Plaza. Kirkwood Resort, south of Lake Tahoe, 209-258-6000.



New Year's Eve Celebration • Dec. 31 • Party and fireworks. Silver Legacy, Reno, 800-687-8733.



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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. and Sun., pai gow poker on Wed., Texas hold 'em on Wed.-Thurs., slots on Thurs., keno on Sun. Peppermill, Reno, 775-689-7114.

Siena Gaming Tournaments • Blackjack on Mon., video poker on 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 • Visitors can take a behind-the-scenes tour on the last Friday of each month. Tour covers the anthropology, plant, and animal collections. Advance registration is required. Carson City, 775-687-4810.

Lynn Kirby Exhibition • Thru Nov. 5 • Video exhibition. Sheppard Fine Arts Gallery, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6658.

Have Paint...Will Travel • Thru Nov. 13 • Paintings by Dan MacInnis. Silver State Gallery, Reno, 775-324-2323.

Western Landscapes Exhibition • Thru Nov. 20 • Paintings by Gene Speck. Silver State Gallery, Reno, 775-324-2323.

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

Basque Tree Carving Exhibition • Thru Nov. 30 • Carson Valley



Morgan Fairchild plays Mrs. Robinson in the Broadway hit, "The Graduate," appearing November 26-28 in Reno.

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.

enlightEN • Thru Jan. 6 • Exhibition by Wild Women, 10 regional artists. Wilbur D. May Museum, Reno, 775-785-5961.

Vintage Racers: Fast and Furious • Thru March 21 • Race cars from 1910-1920. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

The Wynn Collection • Thru March 30 • Fourteen paintings from the Steve and Elaine Wynn collection. Includes works by Picasso, Monet, Matisse, and Rembrandt. Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 775-329-3333.

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.

Tribute to Veterans • Nov. 1-30 • Documents, uniforms, and pictures. Sparks Heritage Museum, Sparks, 775-355-1144.

Holiday Art Mart • Nov. 3-Dec. 18 • Arts, crafts, gifts, and ornaments created by local artists. VSA arts of Nevada Gallery, Reno, 775-826-6100.

UNR Men's Basketball • The Wolf Pack plays Nov. 4 vs. Dominican University, Nov. 13 vs. Seattle Pacific University. The Wolf Pack plays Nov. 20-21 in the Jim Thorpe Classic featuring Georgia State, Southern Mississippi, and Colorado-Colorado Springs. Dec. 4 vs. UNLV, Dec. 11 vs. Pacific. The Wolf Pack plays Dec. 17-18 in the Dodge Holiday Classic with Idaho State, Eastern Illinois, and Florida Atlantic. Dec. 30 vs. San Jose State, Jan. 1 vs. Hawaii, Jan. 13 vs. UTEP, Jan. 15 vs. Boise State, Jan. 29 vs. Fresno State, Feb. 3 vs. SMU, Feb. 5 vs. Louisiana Tech, Feb. 17 vs. Rice, Feb. 19 on ESPN Bracket Buster, Feb. 21 vs. Tulsa. The Western Athletic Conference Tournament is March 8-12. Lawlor Events Center, UNR, Reno, 775-784-4500.

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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



UNR Football • The Wolf Pack plays Nov. 6 vs. San Jose State, Nov. 27 vs. Boise State. Mackay Stadium, UNR, Reno, 775-784-4500.

UNR Women's Basketball • The Lady Wolf Pack plays Nov. 6 in Bay Area Pro-Am, Nov. 13 vs. Chico State. The Lady Wolf Pack plays Nov. 19-20 in the John Ascuaga's Nugget Classic against Cal State Fullerton, Colorado, and Loyola Marymount. Dec. 7 vs. San Diego State, Dec. 16 vs. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, Dec. 22 vs. UNLV, Jan. 6 vs. Louisiana Tech, Jan. 8 vs. SMU, Jan. 20 vs. Tulsa, Jan. 22 vs. Rice, Jan. 29 vs. Fresno State, Feb. 10 vs. Boise State, March 3 vs. Hawaii Manoa, March 5 vs. San Jose State. The West Coast Athletic Conference Tournament is March 8-12. Lawlor Events Center, UNR, Reno, 775-784-4500.

Painter Enrique Chagoya • Nov. 15-Dec. 17 • Subjects range from pre-Columbian mythology to American pop culture. Sheppard Gallery, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6847.

The Energy Within • Nov. 15-Jan. 7 • Themed competition dealing with such topics as natural resources. Riverside Artist Lofts, Reno, 775-329-ARTS.

Christmas on the Comstock • Dec. 1-25 • Historic buildings are decorated for the holidays. Virginia City, 775-847-0311.

Hometown Christmas • Dec. 1-31 • Artifacts and pictures. Sparks Heritage Museum, Sparks, 775-355-1144.

Last Tracks • Jan. 30-March 26 • Wine tasting and appetizers at Snowflake Lodge followed by a sunset run on Saturdays. Diamond Peak Ski Resort, Lake Tahoe, 775-832-1177.

Coming Events

"The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" • Jan. 28-30 • Reno, 800-714-5331.

"Amadeus" • Feb.-March • Reno, 775-323-3221 for details.

"42nd Street" • April 1-3 • Reno, 800-714-5331.

Reno Chamber Orchestra Concerto Competition with Guest Narrator Leonard Nimoy • April 30 • Reno, 775-348-9413.

"Mark Twain Tonight!" Starring Hal Holbrook • May 7 • Reno, 800-714-5331.

Reno River Festival • May 12-15 • Reno, 800-FOR-RENO.

Shows

CARSON CITY

Carson Nugget • 775-882-1626 or 800-426-5239 (continental U.S. including Nevada): Nugget Show Lounge: Entertainers appear Tues.-Sun.

Carson Station • 775-883-0900: Bands like Stew Stewart, Steppen Stonz, Midnight Riders, and American Made play nightly except Mon.

Casino Fandango • 775-885-7000: Bands play in the Cabaret Lounge.

Piñon Plaza • 775-885-9000: Sports Book Lounge: Bands like Amy Clawson, Rob Hanna, and the Midnight Riders play Wed.-Sun.

CARSON VALLEY

Carson Valley Inn • Minden, 775-782-9711 or 800-321-6983: Cabaret Lounge: Louie Fontaine, Nov. 2-7. Shabang, Nov. 9-14. Hotel California tribute, Nov. 16-21. Ballroom: Rhymers Rodeer, Nov. 5-6, cowboy poetry.

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:

Entertainment TBA. Bands play in the Center Stage Cabaret. Dancing is offered in the Atlantis Nightclub.

Boomtown • 775-345-6000: Convention Center: Hot Club of Cowtown, Nov. 18. Can-Can Theater and Dancehall: Bands 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: Benefit screening of Warren Miller's latest ski and snowboard film, *Impact*, Dec. 3-4.

Eldorado • 775-786-5700, 800-648-5966 (U.S. outside Nevada) or 800-648-3024 (Canada): Eldorado Showroom: "Taganai," a Russian Cirque-style production show, Sept. 10-Nov. 27, 3pm Sunday matinee, dark Mon. "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: "Hypnotariious 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.-Tues., 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.

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Eureka Opera House, 775-237-6006, P.O. Box 284, Eureka, Nevada 89316

John Ascuaga's Nugget • Sparks, 775-356-3304 or 800-648-1177: Rose Ballroom: Entertainment TBA. Celebrity Showroom: Teton Gravity Research Film Festival, sports films, Nov. 4. Boney Jones, Nov. 5-6. The Lettermen, Nov. 11-13. Bands play in the Casino Cabaret and Trader Dick's. Flamenco guitarist Thurs. and jazz Fri.-Sat. in Restaurante Orozko.

Peppermill • 775-826-2121 or 800-648-6992: Tahoe Grand Showroom: Entertainment TBA. Cabaret Lounge: Bands like Slapback, Steel Breeze, the Cheaters, and Madison Avenue 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): Hilton Theater: Moscow Ballet's Great Russian "Nutcracker," Nov. 10. 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 Nov. 10-14. The Happy Hypnotist, Mon.-Tues.

Siena • 775-337-6260: Lexie's Lounge: Jammin' With the Siena Jazz Ensemble Tues.-Sat. Corky Bennett performs Tues.-Sun. in Lexie's Lounge.

Silver Club • Sparks, 775-358-4771 or 800-905-7774: Casino Lounge: Hindsight, Nov. 4-6, Palmores, Nov. 11-13. Heartache Tonight, Nov. 18-20. Petty Theft, Nov. 25-27.

Silver Legacy • 775-329-4777 or 800-687-8733 (U.S., Canada,



Hotel California plays Eagles songs at the Carson Valley Inn.

and Mexico): Grande Exposition Hall: John Michael Montgomery, Nov. 6. Laurie Thomas and the Trick, Dec. 31, party includes fireworks. Wayne Brady, Jan. 15-16. Bill Cosby, Feb. 20. 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 play 9:30pm-12:30am Thurs.-Sat. **Caesars Tahoe** • 775-588-3515 or 800-648-3353: Circus Maximus: Neville Brothers, Nov. 6. "The Sound of Music," Nov. 19-21. KC and the Sunshine Band, Nov. 27. Adventure Film Festival, Dec. 18. The Club Nero has music for dancing.

Harrah's Lake Tahoe • 800-HARRAHS: South Shore Room: Tower of Power, Nov. 26-27. 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. 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: Music nightly except Mon.

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- Nevada Motocross Championships, Aug. 20-21
- Overland Hotel's 4th Annual Chili Cook-Off, Aug. 21
- Hearts O'Gold Cantaloupe Festival, Sept. 3-6
- Fallon Senior Pro Rodeo, Sept. 24-26
- 7th Annual Stockhorse Spectacular, Oct. 7-10
- 5th Annual Reining Futurities, Oct. 7-10
- Fallon Harvest Days & Nevada State Picnic, Oct. 7-9
- Waterfowl Hunting Season, Begins in Oct.
- WNCC Collegiate Rodeo, Oct. 22-23
- Christmas Tree Lighting, Dec. 3
- Fallon Chamber of Commerce Hometown Christmas, Dec. 4
- New Year's Eve Fire Works, Dec. 31
- Spring Wings Bird Festival, May 13-15, 2005
- Silver State International Rodeo, July 1-4, 2005
- Nevada Indian Days Rodeo & Pow Wow, July 15-17, 2005

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A Down-Home New Year's Eve

Nevada's small towns will ring in 2005
till the cows come home.

By David Moore

Folks in rural Nevada celebrate New Year's Eve the old-fashioned way. This December 31, residents and visitors throughout the cow counties will dance, toast with champagne, and try to remember the words to "Auld Lang Syne."

Longtime Hawthorne resident Mildred Pierce recalls another New Year's Eve tradition. "We used to go outside and bang pots and pans at midnight," she says.

Most of her fellow Hawthornites will leave the pans at home and make noise in clubs, homes, and even churches. Downtown, partiers gather at the El Capitan Casino or at Joe's Tavern—or both, since the two establishments are across the street from each other. The Cliff House on Walker Lake draws a crowd. Family groups move from house to house for a progressive dinner and then congregate at the First Baptist Church for dessert, games, and prayer as 12 o'clock approaches.

Celebrants also will gather in Battle Mountain, Lovelock, Yerington, Tonopah, and Pioche to toast the arrival of 2005. In Winnemucca, the Winners and other clubs will be hopping. Fallon residents will watch fireworks at the fairgrounds, and some will attempt to fulfill their first resolution the next morning by joining the town's New Year's Day Fun Run.

In Eureka, the volunteer fire department holds its annual New Year's Eve Ball at the Eureka Opera House. The party may date back as far as the opera house, which opened in 1881.

"The ball has been a tradition for



Joe Diffie will sing "Prop Me Up Beside the Jukebox (If I Die)" and other hits on New Year's Eve at Cactus Petes in Jackpot.

Cookbooks from
the 1800s inspire
Austin's five-course
Victorian dinner.

decades," says fire chief Mike Rebaleati, who also is the Eureka County recorder. "We've looked at old photos, and they indicate it dates back to the 1880s. Of course, in the old days they made it more formal." Besides a deejay, the non-black-tie affair features a popular raffle. Prizes often include a chainsaw, half a beef, and other valuable supplies for the Central Nevada winter.

Ely's volunteer fire department also throws a dance each December 31. The ball takes place at the Bristlecone Convention Center with a band, decorations, and noise-making.

Austin will have a truly old-fashioned holiday—a High Victorian New Year's Eve. All guests will dress in costume, with elaborate hats and vests, as if they had stepped from the pages of an 1870s *Harper's Weekly*. Jan Morrison, owner of the Main Street Shops in Austin, held a test run last year. "I sent invitations to family and friends, and we had 82 people show up," she says. This year the event is open to the public. A highlight will be the five-course Victorian dinner.

"We found the recipes in cookbooks and newspapers from the 1800s," Morrison says. "Last year we had five different types of paté, including deer and elk. We had pinenut-encrusted lamb, sage-and-garlic-rubbed game hen, beef stew, lobster bisque, oysters, and bread pudding with cream brandy sauce." The event will include a gentlemen's smoker and a women's tea. Morrison anticipates an admission fee of \$25 to benefit the restoration of St. Augustine's, the state's

oldest Catholic church (1866), as an arts and cultural center.

Midnight strikes twice at the Border Inn, seven miles north of Baker. The motel-restaurant near Great Basin National Park straddles the Nevada-Utah border and the Pacific and Mountain time zones.

"We do two New Year's Eves," owner Denys Koyle explains. "First we do it on Utah time and then on Nevada time an hour later. We pour champagne, and everyone has a good time."

During Elko's Countdown in Downtown, pyrotechnicians begin shooting waves of fireworks from the Stockmen's Hotel at midnight. The display gives a colorful moment's pause to partiers gathered at the Stockmen's, Red Lion, and other clubs.

Each New Year's in Jackpot, Cactus Petes presents a big-name country singer in the Gala Showroom. Last year it was Lee Greenwood; in 2002 Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers performed. This year's headliner is balladeer Joe Diffie, who will sing such hits as "Bigger Than the Beatles" and "John Deere Green."

The Saddle West Casino in Pahrump hosts a dinner and dance in the Old West Showroom. Ryley Young, the hotel-casino's director of operations, says, "In the past we've done jazz, country, nightclub—something different every year." This year guests will shake it to the sounds of Laurence T. and the Funk Daddy Band, a Las Vegas group, after dessert.

Each of Wendover's five casinos celebrates with music, party hats, and leis. Last year the Rainbow had a dance band in its convention center. For slot-starved residents of Salt Lake City, Le Bus offers a New Year's tour to Wendover, so nobody has to drive home.

Kerrie Supanich of the Wendover Tourism and Convention Bureau points out that Wendover operates on Utah time. "We do celebrate New Year's on Mountain time." She adds, "If you wanted to celebrate twice, you could drive to Wells. It's 59 miles away—you might make it in time."

If you make the dash on Interstate 80 to Wells—be sure to watch for deer at Pequop Summit—you will find the action reaching a crescendo at the Four Way Casino. In the lounge you can join the folks already sipping champagne and dancing to a country band.

If you wish, you can go outside and bang some pots and pans, too. ♣

David Moore is editor of Nevada Magazine.



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Rural Nevada

EVENTS AND SHOWS

Shakespeare, a rodeo, a powwow, and New Year's Eve events enliven rural Nevada this winter. The world champion will be determined at the **Senior National Finals Rodeo** in Winnemucca, and the **Central Dramatic Company of Vietnam** makes a cultural stop in Elko. **Trick Pony** and **Joe Diffie** headline at Cactus Petes in Jackpot. *Nevada Magazine* presents the following events and shows for November and December. Be sure to call ahead to confirm dates and details.

Events

Blackjack Tournament • Nov. 1 • Peppermill, Wendover, 775-664-2255.

Senior National Finals Rodeo • Nov. 1-6 • More than 300 contestants compete for the title of senior world champion in bareback, saddle-bronc, and bull riding, barrel racing, calf roping, steer wrestling, and team roping. Events Center, Winnemucca, 800-962-2638.

Blackjack Tournament • Nov. 5-7 • Cactus Petes, Jackpot, 800-821-1103.

Men of Worth • Nov. 12 • Irish and Scottish folk music. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 775-237-6006.

Artists Repertory Theatre • Nov. 12 • Nevada Tour presents the documentary film *A Dream in Hanoi*. Great Basin College, Elko, 775-329-ARTS.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" • Nov. 13 • Artists Repertory Theatre's Nevada Tour featuring the Central Dramatic Company of Vietnam. Great Basin College, Elko, 775-329-ARTS.

Christmas Bazaar • Nov. 13 • Food, crafts, and music. Wendover Community Building, Wendover, 775-665-2393.

"Around the World in 80 Minutes" • Nov. 13 • Ruby Mountain Symphony concert. Convention Center, Elko, 775-738-4187.

Artists Repertory Theatre • Nov. 15 • Nevada Tour presents the documentary film *A Dream in Hanoi*. Humboldt County Library, Winnemucca, 775-329-ARTS.

\$10,000 Poker Tournament • Nov. 17-21 • Rainbow, Wendover, 775-664-4000.

Desert Spirit Powwow • Nov. 19-21 • Native American dances, entertainment, and vendor booths. Petrack Park, Pahrump, 775-727-5107.

Mini Stock Car Nationals • Nov. 20 • Pahrump Speedway, Pahrump, 775-727-7172.

Keno Tournament • Nov. 21-22 • Peppermill, Wendover, 775-664-2255.

Sights, Sounds, and Smells of Christmas • Nov. 26-Dec. 4 • Festival features daily events including a Cowboy Country Christmas Dance, Nov. 27. Decorated tree auction, Dec. 3. Christmas craft bazaar and the Parade of Lights, Dec. 4. Bristlecone Convention Center, Ely, 775-289-3720.

Festival of Trees • Nov. 29-Dec. 2 • Charity event features silent auction of trees, wreaths, gingerbread houses, and centerpieces. Convention Center, Elko, 775-738-4091.

Holiday Lighting Ceremony • Dec. 2-3 • Lighting of the Menorah and Nativity scene at City Hall on Dec. 2. Holiday lights, entertainment, and Santa on Dec. 3 at West



Native Americans perform traditional dances at the Desert Spirit Powwow in Pahrump.

Wendover Tourism and Convention Bureau, Wendover, 775-664-3138.

Poker Tournament • Dec. 2-5 • Cactus Petes, Jackpot, 800-821-1103.

Christmas Tree Lighting • Dec. 3 • Choir, hot chocolate, and Santa. Maine Street, Fallon, 775-423-4556.

Boar's Head Feast • Dec. 3 • Sixth annual winter solstice cel-

ebration with feasting, music, and theater. Advance tickets required. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 775-237-6006.

Blackjack Tournament • Dec. 3-4 • Rainbow, Wendover, 775-664-4000.

Home Town Christmas • Dec. 4 • Crafts, food, and entertainment. Maine Street, Fallon, 775-423-2544.

Christmas in the Nighttime Skies • Dec. 4 • Fireworks and a



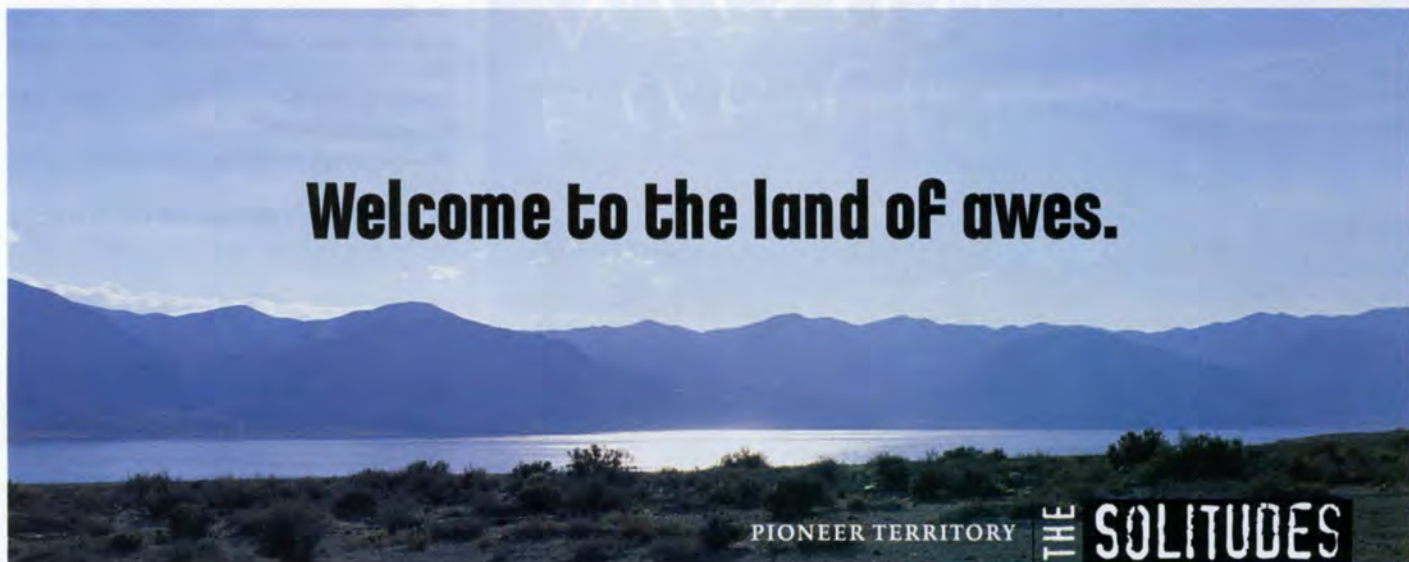
Elko art lovers will gather to critique paintings at the 28th annual Nurses' Christmas Bazaar on December 4-5. The arts and crafts extravaganza is held at the Elko Convention Center.

chili feast. Kimberly Nursery, Elko, 775-738-8011 for details.
Nurses' Christmas Bazaar • Dec. 4-5 • Fundraiser arts and crafts sale. Convention Center, Elko, 775-753-2216.
Community Christmas Sing • Dec. 8 • Choirs from area churches perform. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Stakehouse, Ely, 775-289-3720.
Slot Tournament • Dec. 10-11 • Rainbow, Wendover, 775-664-4000 for tournament information.

Craps Tournament • Dec. 17-18 • Peppermill, Wendover, 775-664-2255.
Forever Christmas • Dec. 19 • White Pine Community Choir concert. Community Center, Ely, 775-289-3720.
Austin High Victorian New Year's Eve • Dec. 30-31 • Guests wear period dress at second annual event. Hat making, gun collection, gentlemen's and women's social events, and multicourse Victorian dinner to benefit St. Augustine's

Church restoration and cultural center. Main Street Shops, Austin, 775-964-1100.
The Countdown in Downtown • Dec. 31 • Family-oriented events include fireworks at the Stockmen's Hotel. Elko, 800-248-3556 or 800-648-2345.
Winnemucca New Year's Eve • Dec. 31 • Casino festivities. Winnemucca, 800-962-2638.
Eureka Firemen's New Year's Eve Ball • Dec. 31 • Volunteer fire department hosts music, dancing, and raffle. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 775-237-5263.
Hawthorne New Year's Eve • Dec. 31 • Parties at casinos, family night at the First Baptist Church. Hawthorne, 775-945-2507.
Ely Volunteer Fire Department New Year's Party • Dec. 31 • Music and dancing. Bristlecone Convention Center, Ely, 800-HY6-9350.
Border Inn New Year's • Dec. 31 • Residents and visitors will celebrate the new year twice, on Utah and then Nevada time. Border Inn, seven miles north of Baker, 775-234-7300.
Wells New Year's • Dec. 31 • Music, hats, and noisemakers. Four Way Casino, Wells, 775-752-3344.
Saddle West Dinner-Dance • Dec. 31 • After dinner guests will dance to Laurence T. and the Funk Daddy Band. Old West Showroom, Saddle West Casino, Pahrump, 775-727-1111.
Wendover New Year's Eve • Dec. 31 • Festivities in the town's casinos take place on Mountain Time. Wendover, 866-299-2489.
Joe Diffie New Year's Show • Dec. 31-Jan. 1 • The country singer appears at Cactus Petes. Jackpot, 800-821-1103.
Fallon New Year's • Dec. 31-Jan. 1 • Fireworks at the fairgrounds, 775-423-4556. Also a fun run on New Year's Day in Fallon, 775-423-7733.

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Ongoing Events

- Goldfield Historical Firehouse and Museum • Antique equipment on display weekends. Goldfield, 775-485-6303.
- Eye Opener Slot Tournament • 9am-noon 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. 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.
- 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.
- La Vida es un Sueno • Thru Jan. 10 • Juried show by Elko County Art Club. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 775-777-7955.
- Hidden Cave Tours • 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.
- Mary Ann Bonjorni • Nov. 1-30 • Mixed-media exhibition. Western Nevada Community College, Fallon, 775-423-1440.

Coming Events

- Snowmobile Rendezvous • Jan. 15-17 • Elko, 775-738-4091.
- National Cowboy Poetry Gathering • Jan. 22-29 • Elko, 888-880-5885.
- Elko Bighorns Annual Crabfest • Feb. 5 • Elko, 775-777-9494.
- Ranch Hand Rodeo • March 5-6 • Winnemucca, 775-623-5071.
- Shooting the West Photography Seminar • March 11-13 • Winnemucca, 775-623-5071.
- Winnemucca Basque Festival • June 11 • Winnemucca, 775-623-5071.
- The McMillin Nevada "1,000" • July 6-10 • Beatty, Goldfield, and Tonopah. Las Vegas, 702-641-2431.

Shows

- AMARGOSA VALLEY**
Longstreet Inn • 775-372-1777: Weekend entertainment.
- BEATTY**
Stagecoach • 775-553-2419 or 800-4-BIGWIN (U.S. outside Nevada): Bands play in the lounge Fri.-Sat.
Exchange Club • 775-553-2368: Karaoke on Fri.
- ELKO**
Commercial Hotel • 775-738-3181: Bands play nightly.
Gold Country Casino • 800-621-1332: Music on weekends.
High Desert Inn • 775-738-8425: Comedy on Fri.
Red Lion • 775-738-2111 or 800-545-0044 (Western U.S. outside Nevada): Red Lion Lounge: Radio Rage, Nov. 3-14. Left of Centre, Nov. 17-28. Steel Breeze, Dec. 1-5. Radio Rage, Dec. 15-19.
Stockmen's Hotel • 775-738-5141 or 800-648-2345 (U.S. and Nevada): Bands appear in the showroom.
- ELY**
Hotel Nevada • 775-289-6665.

FALLON

Bonanza Inn • 775-423-6031.
Fallon Nugget • 775-423-3111.
Stockman's Casino and Holiday Inn Express • 775-423-2117.

HAWTHORNE

El Capitan • 775-945-3322: Casino Lounge: Heartnote, Nov. 2-6. Robeys, Nov. 9-13. Steve Lord Duo, Nov. 16-20. Johnson Twins, Nov. 23-27. Cutups, Dec. 7-11. Dan Bauer Band, Dec. 28-Jan. 1.
Joe's Tavern • 775-945-2302.

JACKPOT

Barton's Club 93 • 775-755-2341.
Cactus Petes • 800-821-1103: Gala Showroom: Trick Pony, Nov. 5-6. Danny Marona, Nov. 12-13. Joe Diffie, Dec. 31-Jan. 1.
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: Funniez Comedy Club, Thurs., thru Dec. 2. Rex Allen Jr. Show, Nov. 24. Ivory Johnson Show, Nov. 27.
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 weekends.

WENDOVER

Montego Bay • 775-664-9100: Casino Lounge: Tineta and Electric Avenue, Nov. 2-14. Chazz, Nov. 16-28. Touch of Silk, Nov. 30-Dec. 12. Clifton James and the Edge, Dec. 14-26.
Peppermill • 775-664-2255 or 800-648-9660 (U.S. outside Nevada): Casino Lounge: Smooth, Nov. 2-24. Sidro's Armada, Nov. 16-28. Heartache Tonight, Nov. 30-Dec. 12. The Fortune, Dec. 14-26.
Rainbow Casino • 775-664-4000: Casino Lounge: Tony Vee, thru Nov. 7. Jimmy Carslake, Nov. 9-21. Shake, Rattle, and Roll, Nov. 23-Dec. 5. True to Life, Dec. 7-19.
Red Garter • 775-664-2111 or 800-982-2111 (U.S. outside Nev.).

State Line Nugget • 775-664-2221.

WINNEMUCCA

Winners Hotel • 775-623-2511: Winners Lounge: Full House, Nov. 1-6. Audiobox, Nov. 11-13. Bahama, Nov. 18-20. Broxton, Dec. 2-4. Audiobox, Dec. 9-11 and 16-18. Rock 'n' Horse, Dec. 30-Jan. 1.

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.

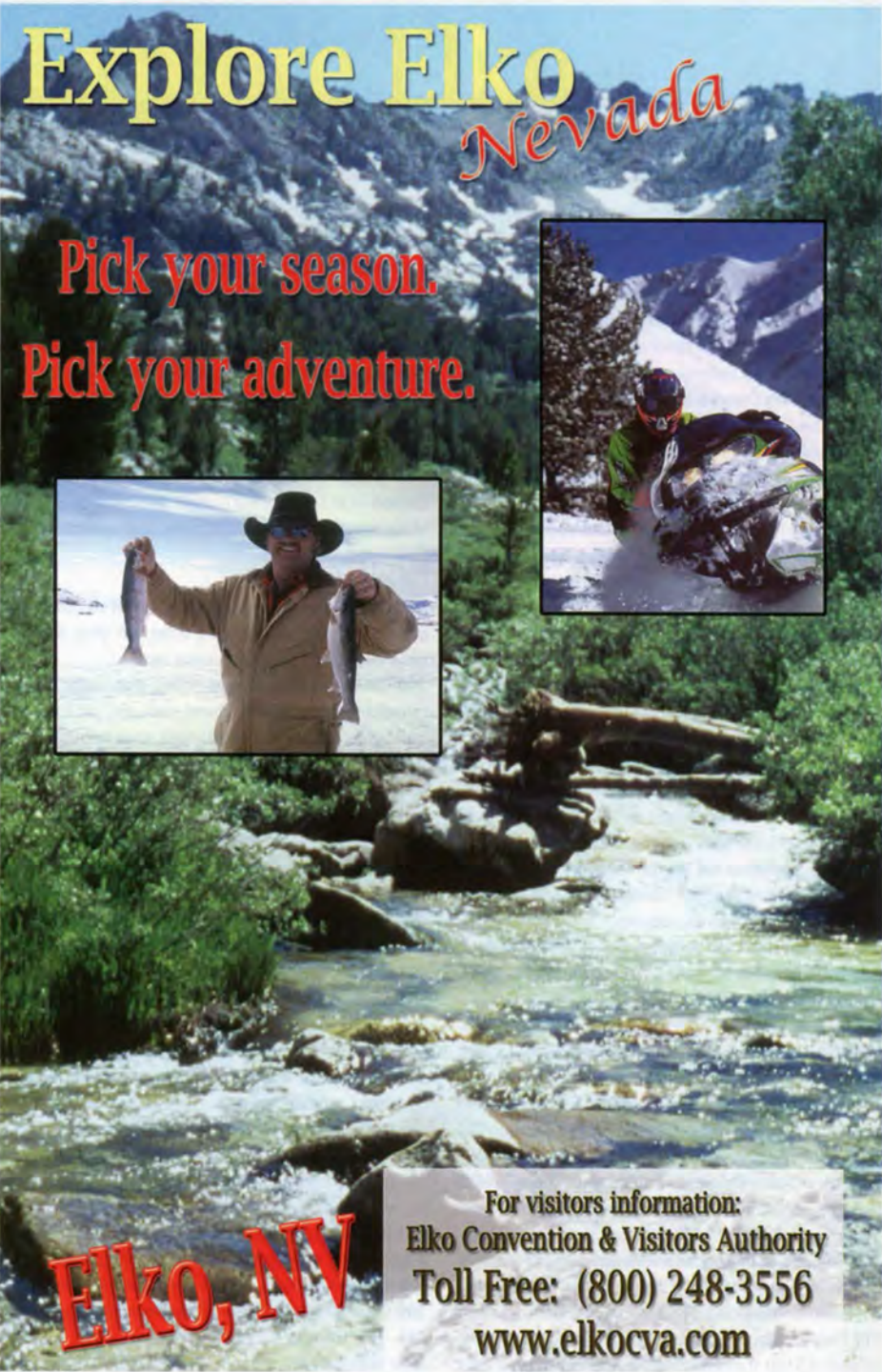
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- 101 Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce**—High desert region, U.S. 50 (Loneliest Road in America), history, mountain biking, hunting. 775-964-2200, www.mountainsage.org.
- 102 Beatty Chamber of Commerce**—Beatty, the Gateway to Death Valley National Park, celebrated its centennial in fall 2004. 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 has "Divine 9" golf courses, lodging, and gaming. 800-NEVADA-1, 775-687-7410, www.visitcarsoncity.com.
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- 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, 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.
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- 121 Lyon County Information Center**—Yerington, Fernley, Dayton, and other areas offer mountain biking, hiking, hunting, fishing, wildlife. 775-463-2245, www.masonvalleychamber.com.
- 122 Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority**—Information on 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, Pahrnatag Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, ghost towns, mining camps. 775-962-5271, www.lincolncountynevada.com.

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133 City of West Wendover—Swimming, golfing, horseback riding, fishing, 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.moapavalley.com.

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.

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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.

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222 Carson Station and Piñon Plaza Casino-Resorts, Carson City—Best Western, Carson Station has 92 rooms. 800-501-2929, www.carsonstation.com. Piñon Plaza has 148 rooms, 70 RV spaces. 877-519-5569, www.pinonplaza.com.

255 Royal Resort Hotel, Las Vegas—Suites with separate bedrooms, hospitality suites, meeting space, pool. 800-634-6118 (mention NEVADA Magazine), royalhotelvegas.com.

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Lodging

402 Lake Tahoe Accommodations—Management for rental

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Shows

503 "Thunder From Down Under," Excalibur, Las Vegas—Australia's male revue appears nightly, dark Thursdays. 800-933-1324, www.thunderfromdownunder.com.

504 "V: The Ultimate Variety Show," Desert Passage, Aladdin Resort, Las Vegas—Magic, special effects, stunts—a family show, nightly. 866-504-0044, www.vtheshow.com.

505 Catch A Rising Star, Silver Legacy, Reno—Comedy club open nightly, dark Mondays. 800-687-8733, www.silverlegacy.com, www.catcharisingstar.com.

512 Brian Evans, Las Vegas—Brian Evans is considered to be one of this generation's new Sinatra-style crooners. For show dates, visit www.brianevansonline.com. E-mail Brian at evansvegas@aol.com.

513 The Platters, The Coasters & The Drifters, Sahara, Las Vegas—Top groups from the '50s and '60s appear in the Congo Room. 702-737-2515, 888-696-2121, www.saharavegas.com.

514 "The Tribute to Frank, Sammy, Joey, & Dean," Greek Isles Casino, Las Vegas—A night of one-liners, cocktails, and songs from the Rat Pack days. ShowTime Marketing, 702-822-6262 for show information.

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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.

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.

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703 Pioneer Territory—Death Valley, Boundary Peak, mining towns, seven state parks and wilderness areas, mountain biking, skiing, hiking. 800-357-8754, www.pioneerterritory.org.

704 Nevada's Cowboy Country—Lovelock to Wendover, hotels, casinos, gaming, outdoor adventure, ranches, rodeos, Basque culture, gold mines. 877-626-9268, www.cowboycountry.org for information.

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801 Viva Las Vegas Weddings and Viva Las Vegas Villas—Chapel and villas offer traditional, themed, Elvis weddings, limo, flowers, photos. 800-574-4450, www.vivalasvegasweddings.com.

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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.

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912 Rebel Adventure Tours, Las Vegas—Valley of Fire ATV tours, 4x4s, white-water rafting, Hummers, jet ski, helicopter, horseback. 800-817-6789, www.rebeladventuretours.com.

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1102 Parade of Homes—15th annual event sponsored by the Southern Utah Home Builders Association previews 25 St. George-area homes and a home show with 100 exhibitors on February 18-27, 2005. 435-674-1400, www.paradehome.com.

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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.

1205 University of Nevada Press, Reno—For the Press' large selection of Nevada-interest subjects, visit www.nvbooks.nevada.edu/ or call 877-682-6657 for a catalog.

1212 Argenta Earth and Fire Co., Virginia City—Native Nevadan potter Mimi Patrick's stoneware and porcelain pottery. 775-847-7466, www.nevpotter.com, nevpotter@earthlink.net.

1213 Killer Salsa, Panchitas, Inc.—Nevada-made Killer Salsa can be ordered online at www.killersalsa.com. Visit the site for recipes or call 775-782-0048.

1214 Fourth Ward School Gift Shop, Virginia City—On December 4, gift shop celebrates a Victorian holiday. 775-847-0975 for a calendar of events, www.fourthwardschool.com.

1215 Nevada State Museum Medallion/Store, Carson City—Native American jewelry, books, T-shirts, and coins. Carson Mint Silver Medallions: 775-687-4810 ext. 234, 244.

1216 Southgate Coins, Reno—New book on the Carson City Mint, *The Mint on Carson Street*, by Rusty Goe. 5032 S. Virginia, Reno, NV 89503, 775-322-4455, www.southgatecoins.com.

1217 Liberty Belle Books, Reno—*Slot Machines: America's Favorite Gaming Device*, 6th edition, by Marshall Fey. 4250 S. Virginia St., Reno, NV 89502 or at bookstores.

1218 Lost City Museum Gift Shop, Overton—The museum gift shop has Native American crafts, jewelry, and books. Open daily, 721 S. Moapa Valley Blvd., Overton, 702-397-2193.

1221 Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Ely—The ultimate holiday train gift—operate a steam or diesel locomotive out on the mainline. 775-289-2085, www.nnry.com.

1222 HAULTENT Expedition Trailers, Fallon—Tough, simple, lightweight tent campers designed and manufactured in Nevada. www.haultent.com, 775-867-3268.

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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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Cultural Flavors

Mexican dining and Hawaiian shopping.

Pass the Lime

There are two things my friends know about me: I'm a religious person, and I love tequila. Little did I know that I would find my house of worship at **Isla Mexican Kitchen and Tequila Bar** at Treasure Island.

Amidst the delicious and innovative creations of Mexico City-born Chef Richard Sandoval stands a wall of tequilas overseen by the restaurant's "tequila goddess," Diosa Tequila. Wearing a black corset and long sarong, Diosa Tequila models and mingles with her parishioners as she delivers margaritas and other tequila creations. The house specialty, margarita del sol, is prepared with fresh lime and orange juice. Other tequila favorites are pineapple mojito, sangria, and Mexican cucumber martini.

Praise the Lord and pass the lime!

In the meantime, Sandoval, who made a name for him-



Margaritas are frosty at Isla Mexican Kitchen and Tequila Bar.

self with his Maya restaurants in New York City and San Francisco and later with Tamayo in Denver, is creating new flavors from old recipes. Meatballs, which his grandmother made for him as a young boy, are served with chipotle tomato sauce. His chile relleno is a poblano chile with beef, veal, raisins, dried cherries, and almonds served with a sweet and spicy tomato sauce. Other featured entrées are grilled spiced chicken breast with corn dumplings, crispy red snapper with cactus salad, and rock shrimp and wild mushroom tacos. There are also enchiladas, tamales, and burritos.

Even traditional guacamole has a new taste. Avocado and a variety of ingredients are loaded on a guacamole cart, where the delicate green concoction is prepared tableside. The

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guacamole is combined with spiced pumpkin seeds, lobster and passion fruit, or habañero chiles and mint.

Fresh tortillas and tortilla chips are made in the kitchen's tortilla oven and brought to the table with three tasty salsas.

Back to my religion. No other spirit conjures up as many legends or rituals as tequila. Isla's tequila goddess says that, according to mythology, the agave plant was the incarnation of the goddess Mayahuel, also known as the goddess of alcohol. From spreading it on crops for good fortune to honoring deceased relatives by sprinkling it on graves, tequila has always been more than a simple drink in Mexican culture.

Say amen and please pass the salt.

The 180-seat Isla is open daily at Treasure Island from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Call 702-894-7111 for information.—*Jack Bularsky*

Aloha Mall



Hawaiian Marketplace on the Strip.

A statue of King Kamehameha greets shoppers at the **Hawaiian Marketplace**, a breezy slice of the Pacific on the Las Vegas Strip.

The \$175-million pedestrian mall, modeled after the International Marketplace in Honolulu, brings together Polynesian shops, customs, and dance. Paving made of crushed blue glass mimics the ocean. Replicas of banyan trees provide cover for animatronic birds that tell Hawaiian folk tales. Entertainment includes a live bird show and hula and Tahitian dancers, who will gladly teach you some moves.

"We wanted to create an international marketplace that was warm, friendly, and inviting," says Las Vegas developer Brent Torino, "so we looked to the Polynesian culture."

The Hawaiian Marketplace, located between the Aladdin and the MGM Grand, is open from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. Live entertainment runs every hour from noon to 11 p.m. Winter hours may vary. Call 702-795-2247 or visit www.hawaiianmarketplacelv.com for details.—*Jennifer Prosser*

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The Old Fort

Mormon missionaries established what is now a Nevada state park on Las Vegas Creek in 1855. **By Jennifer Prosser**

Long before Las Vegas earned a reputation as America's "Sin City," it was religion that brought the first non-natives to settle in the Las Vegas Valley. In 1855 Mormon missionaries established a compound at what is now Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park. The park, three blocks north of the downtown casinos, is the site of Nevada's oldest building.

In 1844, explorer John C. Fremont passed through the valley and created the first reliable map of the Old Spanish Trail. Later, emigrants and traders traveling between Utah and Southern California followed Fremont's map through Southern Nevada, where they could rejuvenate themselves at the spring called "Las Vegas," Spanish for "the meadows."

Mormon leaders recognized the spring's potential. Elder Amasa Lyman wrote in 1851, "The Vegas [sic] is a Beautiful spring branch of Good Water

Park rangers grow early-day crops like squash and corn that visitors can sample.

Capable of Carrying a Mill or 2 & Good Grass & Land for Tillage Enough for at least 50 inhabitants."

Four years later the LDS missionaries arrived at Las Vegas, building an adobe fort and preparing to teach the native Paiutes "the arts and sciences of civilized life." But after three trying years, the last of the colonists had returned to Utah.



A replica of the 1855 compound is part of Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park.

Today at the park, panels detail the fort's history and explain the roles that Fremont and ranch owners Octavius Decatur Gass and Helen Stewart played in shaping the city. Also displayed are artifacts such as a spinning wheel, plow, and bricks from Stewart's ranch house, which occupied the site beginning in 1882 and later was demolished.

Time and weather have worn away most of the original adobe structure, and the southern portion is the only surviving piece of the fort. After serving as part of the Stewart Ranch through the early 1900s, the building was used by U.S. Bureau of Reclamation engineers testing concrete for Hoover Dam in the 1920s. In the 1930s the Daughters of Utah Pioneers assisted in preserving the site. It was acquired by the city of Las Vegas in 1971 and the state in 1991. The Old Mormon Fort was designated a state historic park in 1995.

The park features a replica of the 150-by-150-foot original fort, showing its bastions and soldiers' quarters. Park rangers

grow a living-history garden of early-day crops such as squash, Indian corn, cotton, watermelon, pumpkins, tomatoes, and peppers. Visitors are welcome to sample the produce. A new visitor center, which will have a larger museum and an expanded collection of relics found on the site, will open in spring 2005 during Las Vegas' centennial celebration.

The fort staff also offers living-history and children's events throughout the year. A candle-making program is scheduled on November 13. "The Ordnance Sergeant and His Role in the Army," a demonstration in period uniforms, is on November 20. On December 18, children can make pioneer ornaments and help decorate the park's Christmas tree.

Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park is located near Cashman Field at Las Vegas Boulevard and Washington Avenue. Admission costs \$3 for adults and \$2 for ages six to 12. Call 702-486-3511 or visit www.parks.nv.gov.

Jennifer Prosser is a Las Vegas writer.

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Rita Rudner

The comedienne speaks on **family ties** and **Vegas shopping**.

Each night on stage, Rita Rudner offers her slyly pointed views on men, shopping, showgirls, and life in general at New York-New York on the Las Vegas Strip. The comedienne and actress, a former Broadway dancer, collaborated on the script for the movie *Peter's Friends* with her husband, Martin Bergman. Ever since she began her long-term Cabaret Theatre gig in 2001, Rudner has been pondering the nuances of Nevada living.

There are many wonderful cities in which to live in America, but I have to admit that after residing in Las Vegas, every place else is just beige.

It's been three years since my dog, my husband, and I relocated to Las Vegas and two and a half years since we adopted a baby to complete our family package. Then my father sold his house in Miami and moved next door to us. Six months ago my in-laws said goodbye to freezing winters in England and set up house in Summerlin. It's no wonder Las Vegas is the fastest growing city in America. It's all to do with my family.

The amazing thing is that the city satisfies all of our needs. My husband and I have jobs in show business that don't require us to travel. My daughter attends gymboree. My in-laws can exist peacefully in Summerlin and come to the Strip when they're feeling rowdy. My father has cable. Everybody's happy.

"How can you stand the heat there?" is a question any Las Vegan will hear from friends living elsewhere. Yes, I'll admit sometimes in the summer you know how bacon feels in a pan, but in January I call my friends in New York from the golf course and ask them how many layers they're wearing. After three years I'm used to my freezing friends hanging up on me.

The food here has evolved from all-you-can-eat buffets to concoctions that are almost too pretty to eat. When my appetizer arrived at Picasso's the other night, I didn't know whether to chew it or frame it.

The shopping is now world-class, and I do feel I had a lot to do with that. It's not a coincidence that the Fashion Show Mall



Rudner is the author of *Naked Beneath My Clothes* and the novel *Tickled Pink*.

opened its expansion as I arrived in town. The new outlet mall downtown quickly followed, and now the extra Forum Shops are about to debut. They know I'm here, and they know that I need them.

Of all my family now in Vegas, I think I am the happiest. I spent years traveling to concerts across America. Now I stay in one place, and the audience gets on the plane.

I spend all day with my baby. For evenings when I'm performing—since this is Las Vegas—I've hired a Rita Rudner impersonator to baby-sit. He's so good, it's like I'm home all the time.

Show Notes

Rita Rudner performs nightly in the Cabaret Theatre at New York-New York in Las Vegas. Show times are 8 p.m. Sunday to Thursday and 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday; dark nights vary. Tickets cost \$63.50, including tax. A dinner-show package costs \$98.50. Call 800-693-6763 or 702-740-6969 or visit www.nynyhotelcasino.com for reservations. Rudner's own Web site is www.ritafunny.com.

"Las Vegas

is the only place in the world where, as the sun goes down, it gets lighter."

"I love that Vegas is 24-seven. It's the only place in the world where at 3 a.m. you can hear someone say, I'm going to lunch."

"Las Vegas is the only place in the world where a performer gets to see her name on a big marquee...with food."

"Breasts are more than a body part in Vegas. They're entertainment. I went for a mammogram here, and there was a two-drink minimum."

"I don't like to advertise my age because I'm over 40, and in Vegas they implode things that are over 40."

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