

NEVADA

MAGAZINE

INSIDE:

The State's Most
Complete Guide
to **Events**
& **Shows**

February 2005

Winter Escapes

A wild winter triathlon in Elko

5 Romantic Getaways

MURDER in the
Red-Light District

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"I remember seeing one coyote sitting in a pouring rain, just scowling like it was someone's fault."

—Elko photographer Cynthia Delaney
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Wind whips the waters of Lake Tahoe in this view from Chimney Beach.

Photo by Peter Spain

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Coyotes and Characters

Carson Valley journalist **Linda Hiller** often reports on wildlife and the environment for newspapers and magazines. Hiller, who describes the adaptable ways of "The Wily Coyote" in this issue, has a zoology degree from the University of Washington and comes by her fascination with wildlife naturally.

"My dad, Wilmur Lamb, had coyotes for pets in the 1930s," Hiller says. Her father obtained pups that had been captured for bounty money, and he claimed he had learned to speak the coyote's language. "When we went to the zoo as a family, Dad had the ability to get coyotes, and sometimes wolves, howling by whistling a certain tone," she recalls.



Hiller's father with his pet coyotes.

"He'd stand there, hands casually in his pockets, whistling this tone until the coyotes were yapping and howling at a fevered pitch. People would run in from all other parts of the zoo to see what was going on, but by then we'd moved on to other exhibits, and Dad would be smiling."



Hiller



Kroger

Bill Kroger attended high school in Carson City and earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Nevada in Reno, but in the late 1960s he also got an education working summers and weekends as a dealer at Harrah's Reno. There, the future journalist met a memorable group of 10-cent craps players—the "Dime Spooks" he recalls in this issue.

"The collection of characters who would gather around the tables was quite something," Bill says. "Old John, the one I got to know best, had been a jockey in his youth. The dime spooks had amazing stories. Even though I suspected their tales were embellished, I was fascinated by them."

Later, Bill wrote for and edited newspapers in Reno and Sacramento and *Nation's Business* in Washington, D.C. After he and his wife, Wendy, moved to Oregon, he was hired by a new Indian casino. "I was about the only one with gaming experience because of my years at Harrah's. Before I knew it, they made me a shift supervisor, and I was in charge of the casino on weekends," says Bill, who is writing a book about Indian gaming and publishes newsletters. "I work at home. It's the best job I ever had."

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Letters

Showgirls, showboys, and a French connection.

Equal Time for Showboys

We just renewed our subscription to *Nevada Magazine*, so I guess that qualifies me for an age-old question. My husband ogles all the articles on showgirls, such as "A Salute to Showgirls" by Ann Henderson that appeared in the last issue. How about some "showboys" for me to ogle? There seem to be many articles on the female dancers but never on the guys.

Ann Zellmer

Lancaster, CA

Ann, thanks. We'll carefully consider ways to correct this imbalance in our coverage.—Ed.

"Fossilman" Honored

I would like to point out that in the Nov/Dec issue the name of Greg "Fossilman" Raymer, who won the 2004 World Series of Poker in Las Vegas, was misspelled. Greg is part of FARGO (Foxwoods Annual Recreational Gambling Outing), a group of poker players that gathers once a year at Foxwoods Casino in Connecticut. The enclosed commemorative FARGO chip features a photo of Greg by Jodi Shapiro. I expect this talented poker player will be honored by many more chips to come.

Andy Hughes

Nevada Casino Chips, Henderson



Free Ride in Reno

I enjoyed Richard Moreno's "Insider's Guide" on the "Rebirth in Reno" in the Sept/Oct '04 issue. As a resident of downtown Reno, I am proud of the positive changes to the area.

As marketing associate for the Regional Transportation Commission, I would like to point out the free shuttle service that "Sierra Spirit" provides in downtown Reno. The bright-yellow "Sierra Spirit" buses operate daily on a 10-minute frequency and stop at all major casinos, the Quad at the University of Nevada, the Truckee River Walk, the Nevada Museum of Art, and other downtown locations.

Meliss Garramone

Reno

C'est Formidable

I read with much interest Joyce Hollister's article, "The Tule Artist," in the July/August '04 issue. It is wonderful that people like Mike Williams, the Paiute decoy maker, perpetuate the customs and knowledge of their ancestors and that he is teaching this art to his son.

I searched in my French-English dictionary for the exact translation of the word "tule," and I couldn't find it. From the photos it seems to resemble wicker work. Is there another word for this material?

Dominique Charles

Bagneux, France

Dominique, another word for "tule" is "reed," also known in French as "roseau."—Ed.

Ely Revisited

When I was six years old, my mother and I left Ashland, Kentucky, bound for Ely, Nevada. My mother's sister was expecting her first child and asked us to come for the event. It was 1943, and the trip was a long one. We traveled by train as far as possible and then by Greyhound bus and finally by private car to Ely. Due to circumstances beyond our control, we stayed in Ely for almost a year.

I always wanted to see Ely one more time. My sister agreed to travel with me, and last August we arrived in Ely. It was a pleasant surprise to see that the town had not changed that much. It was easy to find the area where we had lived.

Having read "3 Great Small Hotels" by David W. Toll in the Sept/Oct '03 issue (and then corresponded online with David), we stayed at the Hotel Nevada. What a treat. Everyone was so nice and accommodating. We visited the Nevada Northern Railway Museum, rode the Ghost Train, and ate at the Jailhouse and at the Economy Drug Store counter.

We met a lot of the locals, who were so nice that my sister and I were ready to invest in some Ely real estate, but since we both had our husbands back in Ohio, we thought we'd better return home. Thanks to David Toll and *Nevada Magazine*, we had a wonderful time, and Ely was the same great place I remembered.

Stella Laffleur

Batavia, OH

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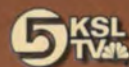
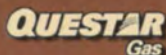
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Winter Falls

Storms give photographer **Gary Reese** a chance to shine

Snow and rain often fall in higher elevations in Southern Nevada, and when winter comes, photographer and biologist Gary Reese likes to be ready.

"Fresh snow makes a scene come alive," the Las Vegas resident says. "It is one of the few things on the ground that can match the brilliance of white clouds."

Reese says winter photography can turn the commonplace into the extraordinary with the right light, framing, and weather. Above, he found shelter in an icicle-draped

cavern behind Mary Jane Falls on Mount Charleston as a January storm cleared. The falls generally flow in spring. On the opposite page, El Niño conditions in 1998 created a waterfall in Icebox Canyon in Red Rock Canyon.

Reese has become a meteorologist of sorts. To get the best image he tries to be prepared before a storm lifts. "But in your excitement of watching a scene unfold before you," he says, "it is important to not trample the snow before you shoot it." —Joyce Hollister



People

A Yerington **quilter**, a Las Vegas **geocacher**, and Sarah Winnemucca's **sculptor**

Sarah and the Sculptor

When Benjamin Victor first considered entering the competition to choose the sculptor of the Sarah Winnemucca statue that would represent Nevada in the U.S. Capitol's Statuary Hall, he worried he'd be viewed as too young.

"I didn't think I stood much of a chance," says the 26-year-old Victor, an art student at Northern State University in South Dakota. However, his brother Simeon, a longtime Las Vegas resident, urged him to try. "Simeon told me, 'Put one foot in front of the other, and do it.'"

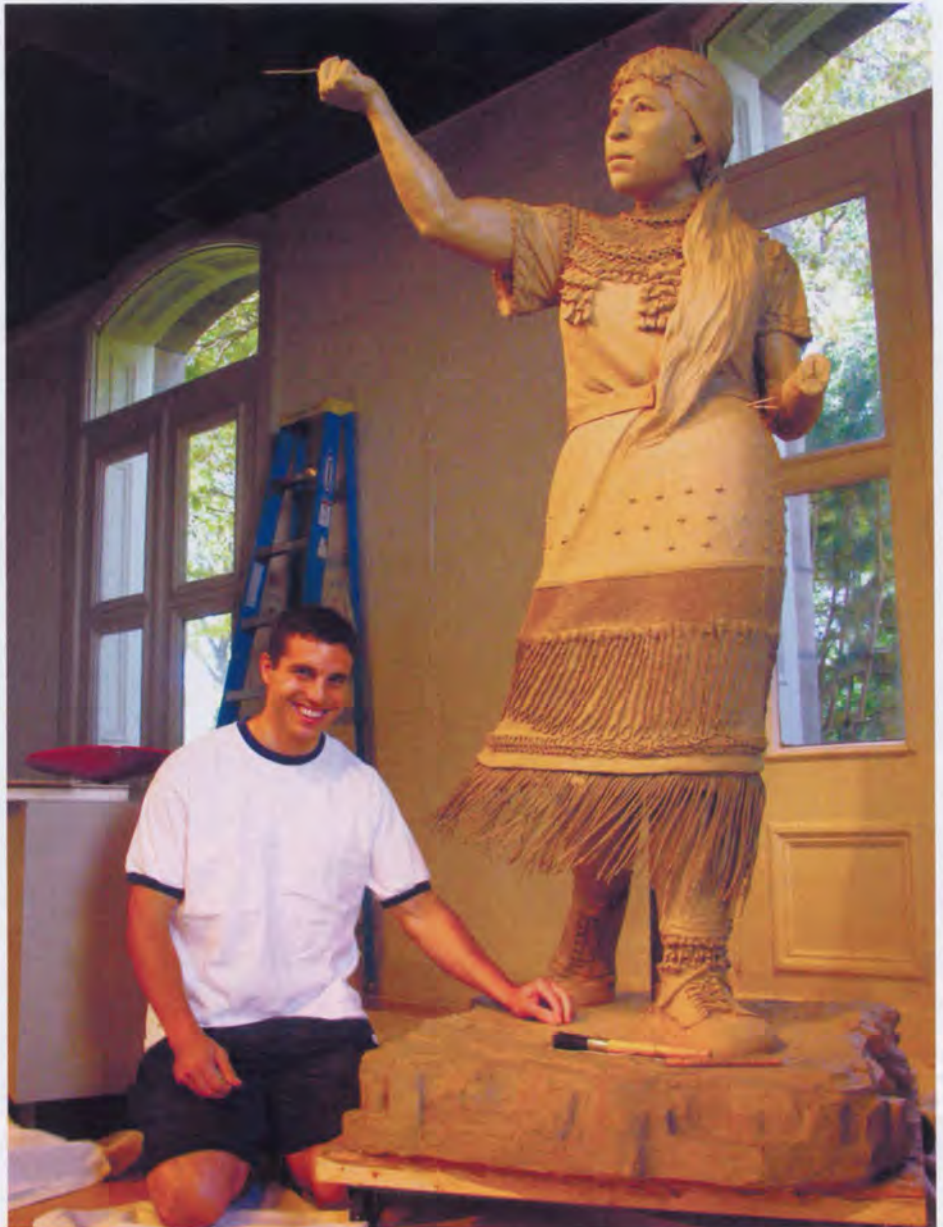
Simeon drove Victor to the February 2004 meeting of the Nevada Women's History Project's selection committee in Carson City, and his confidence in his brother was not misplaced. Victor's design was picked from a field of four finalists, and he won the \$140,000 commission.

Victor says he draws inspiration from 19th-century sculptors like Frédéric Bartholdi, creator of the Statue of Liberty, but it was Sarah Winnemucca herself who fired his imagination. Born in 1844 near Humboldt Lake, she was the first Native American woman to write a book, *Life Among the Piutes: Their Wrongs and Claims*, and started a school for native children. She gave passionate speeches about the plight of the Paiutes to raise money for trips to Washington, D.C., where she lobbied federal officials.

"When you read her book—and Sally Zanjani's book, *Sarah Winnemucca*—can you think of a tougher time to be a woman and a Native American?" Victor asks. "There were a lot of obstacles in her path, but despite the obstacles Sarah educated herself. She used her education and her ability to speak in public for the good of her people."

Victor's six-foot sculpture shows Sarah Winnemucca in the dress she wore on her lecture tours. She is taking a step forward and carrying a book that represents justice and education. Her right hand holds a shellflower, the English translation of her Paiute name, symbolizing peace. The fringe of her dress is blown by the wind, suggesting change.

"The angles flow in a spiral and guide



Benjamin Victor works on the clay figure of Sarah Winnemucca, later to be cast in bronze, at the Nevada State Library and Archives in Carson City. During the sculpting process last fall Victor talked to a steady stream of visitors about the statue.

your eye upward. It all merges into the eyes, which gaze into the flower," Victor says. "Sarah Winnemucca was very determined, and it shows in the intense black eyes that you see in her photos."

After winning the commission, the former Las Vegas learned that he is the youngest sculptor of a statue to be accepted into Statuary Hall. Victor says, "I just can't be more honored than that."

Statue Ceremonies: Benjamin Victor, his wife, Julie, their children, Audrey and

Caleb, and his brother, Simeon, plan to attend the unveiling of the bronze statue of Sarah Winnemucca at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., tentatively set for March 9. The other Nevada statue in Statuary Hall (each state is allowed two) depicts U.S. Senator Patrick McCarran.

A second full-sized Winnemucca statue will be installed at the State Capitol in Carson City on April 6. For more information visit www.nevadaculture.org or www.benjaminvictor.com.—Joyce Hollister

Country Quilter

In 1989, Robert Callaham asked his sister if she would make him a Double Wedding Ring quilt. She said, "You're kidding. Do it yourself." So he did.

When he took his partly completed project to a quilting store to ask for advice, Callaham—who had never made a quilt before—was offered a job. Now, 15 years later, he's a top quilt designer for *McCall's Quilting* and has six published books of quilt patterns to his credit. He's also a consultant to RJR, a leading quilt-fabric manufacturer in Torrance, California.

Fame came in 1997. As Callaham tells it, "I got a call from our marketing gal at RJR. She said, 'Robert, I'm in a bind. I need a country quilt in three weeks for the Las Vegas quilt show.'"

Callaham hadn't made any country-style



Robert Callaham poses in front of one of his quilts at his home in Yerington.

quilts, but he agreed to do one. "When I opened the box [of fabrics] she sent, I thought, 'These aren't bad. I can make a folk art quilt. It was the year we had the big flood. I was stuck in the house and got it made in the three weeks.'" Called "Grandma's Country Album," the pattern was an immediate hit with quilt makers and established Callaham's reputation.

Callaham has lived in rural Yerington since 1995. Two of his quilts, "Wilson Canyon Thistle Rose" and "Yerington Crossroads," have been inspired by his Mason Valley surroundings. Callaham still has the 100 or so quilts he has designed. "I can't sell them because each one has memories," he says. Callaham's quilts are seldom exhibited, except at the annual Yerington courthouse quilt exhibit in January and February.

Your only chance of owning a Callaham quilt is to take Callaham's classes at the Quilt House in Gardnerville or Windy Moon in Reno and make the quilt yourself. After all, that's what he did.

—Connie Emerson



Dr. Webe Webowitz is a geocaching enthusiast. She finds a cache near Las Vegas (right).



Q&A

The Cache Doctor

Dr. Webe Webowitz is an avid geocacher. Traveling the Southern Nevada countryside in her Jeep, the 50-something Las Vegan uses a Global Positioning System unit to find caches that other enthusiasts have noted on www.geocaching.com and other Web sites. Doc Webe ("Wee-bee"), as she is known to other geocachers, is a retired geneticist who moved from Southern California to Laughlin in 1990 and then to Las Vegas in 1994. Recently she spoke to Genoa writer Kurt Hildebrand about her passion for caches.

How did you get involved in geocaching?

I've always been kind of an entrepreneur. I co-owned a coffeehouse and a fast-food restaurant in Las Vegas. I also sold GPS units on eBay in 2001. Someone told me about www.geocaching.com, and I looked at the Web site and said to myself, "Well, let's take a look into this." One day I went out and found a geocache.

What's the attraction?

What else would you do to get out in the fresh outdoors? It's not like cycling, where you have to keep up with others. You can soar as fast as you want or dangle along as leisurely as you like. You can take moms and dads, best friends, grandparents. There are geocaches that are handicapped-accessible. Anywhere I go I know there are caches to be found.

And you can reach so much history. I've found old mines, cabins that very few people know about, old schoolhouses that have been abandoned and still have books in them. I've also seen wild burros and horses—sometimes the same animals year after year.

What was the most challenging cache?

It was a multiple cache in North Las Vegas in a sand canyon. I had to crawl back in amongst all these hoodoos and then into a sand cave to find the cache. I got very dirty and had to stretch, crawl, and "suck it in" to find the cache.

Any advice?

I've placed over 100 geocaches. A geocache has three basic items: a container, a logbook, and a trinket of some sort. For containers I like ammo cans, which are tough and waterproof. Glass containers shatter too easily and can turn a geocache into just another trash heap. Once you find someone's geocache, the idea is to write your name in the logbook and then trade what you've brought for what's in the cache.

I am working on a project with the Nevada Commission on Tourism to place geocaches in the visitor and welcome centers around the state. We have one in Primm that says, "Welcome to Nevada." I painted it blue and silver and then put a Nevada magnet and a decal with the www.geocaching.com logo on it.

What do people put in geocaches?

There have been geocaches destroyed by animals because someone included food items. Some people put in sunblock or candles. Those are items that are going to melt.

You can leave free things or items that you buy at the Dollar Store. This is a hobby for families, so caches should be stocked with that in mind. I've found calling cards with 10 minutes to an hour left on them. I've found music, CDs, DVDs, and VCR tapes. You never know what you're going to find. ♡

Star Stop



Penn Jillette installed a replica of a Peppermill booth in his Las Vegas home (above).

After 33 years, the **Peppermill** remains a Las Vegas original

By **Denise L. Williams**

Penn Jillette, the talkative half of the magical duo Penn and Teller, puts the attractions of the Peppermill Inn, a Las Vegas coffee shop and lounge, in a clear perspective.

"The Peppermill Inn serves big, funny food, and the waitresses wear short skirts," reports Jillette, a regular at the Strip establishment. He adds, "The Peppermill is great because it's not in a casino. There is no need to negotiate a maze of slot machines to enjoy a large, comfortable booth, great food, and attentive staff."

Celebrities like Jillette have found a haven in the round-the-clock coffee shop. Jillette can be spotted visiting actor-comedian Paul Provenza at all hours. Headliners Clint Holmes and Sheena Easton

and actors Danny DeVito and Jamie Foxx have been known to slip into a Peppermill booth.

"Carrot Top is my favorite customer," says Martha Montague, a Peppermill food server since the doors opened in 1972. "He's polite, funny, and a good tipper."

Swing-shift manager Mickey Van Hooser remembers the night the boy band 'NSync came in for a photo shoot. She says, "They had their picture taken with the sundaes they'd ordered. Later the table was memorialized with an 'NSync Sat Here' plaque embossed with the date. The table was given to day-shift bartender Denise Forbes' teenage daughter as a present."

Super-sized Penn Jillette, who stands six feet, six inches in his bare feet, loves

the Peppermill booths so much he had a replica custom-made for his home. He notes that the booth is authentic down to the wooden salt and pepper grinders and the raw sugar in jars.

Owners Nat Carasali and Bill Paganetti opened their first Peppermill in Reno in 1971. The next year they repeated the combination of food, décor, and fireside lounge at the Las Vegas location. The Reno establishment now has 1,000 rooms, gourmet restaurants, and a health club. The Peppermill also operates three properties in Wendover.

The Las Vegas Peppermill remains a smaller operation, but like the Reno hotel's coffee shop it serves good food in large portions. Specialties includes hot



Flames dance on water in the Fireside Lounge.



Bartender Denise Forbes serves a mai tai in the Peppermill's Fireside Lounge.

The Fireside is known for fancy drinks like Scorpions and mai tais that are garnished with enough fresh fruit for a small meal.

ceilings are mirrored, and neon lighting glows softly.

Fascinated by the fireplace, Jillette observes, "It's water, but it burns." The teetotaler admits he has ducked into the lounge to enjoy the atmosphere.

The lounge has undergone slight changes over the years, but the classics remain: cozy seating framed with silk flowers and plants, a long drink menu, and honey-roasted peanuts in glass jars. Flat-screen TVs broadcast music videos.

Gary Zbilski, a swing-shift bartender for 25 years, recalls a fishy prank. "My golf buddy, Ed Lobus, was the only one at the bar one night. When I went to fetch a bottle of whiskey, he poured a dozen goldfish in the fireplace pool. So the next

time Ed came into the lounge, I served him a scotch on the rocks with a goldfish swimming in it."

The Fireside is known for fancy drinks like the Blue Hawaiian and the Scorpion that are garnished with enough fresh fruit for a small meal. The cocktail servers wear low-cut black evening gowns with slits up the side. When the lounge first opened, the servers were expected to wear three-inch heels and negotiate the shag carpet. Now, the servers wear more comfortable shoes, and fewer customers wear fruit and umbrellas in their hair.

In true Vegas style, the Peppermill Inn is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at 2985 Las Vegas Boulevard South across the street from the Stardust Hotel. Call the coffee shop at 702-735-4177 and the lounge at 702-735-7635. Although a cup of coffee will cost you \$1.50 instead of the original 20 cents, the cup is big.

And don't worry about the scotch-on-the-rocks goldfish. He sobered up and is performing with Mac King in his comedy-magic show at Harrah's Las Vegas. The remaining goldfish were adopted by Peppermill staff. ♠

Denise L. Williams is a freelance writer who lives in Las Vegas.

Roadside Attractions

Shootouts at Red Rock, Stargazing in Tonopah, and new ski run at Mt. Rose.

HIGH NOON



Bartender and part-time gunslinger Martin Dominguez (above) greets visitors to the Bonnie Springs Old Nevada Saloon in true Western style. Left: Actors Will McClain (left), Curtis Balsinger, and Billy Miller prepare to reenact a high noon hanging for visitors.

RED ROCK CANYON—The Wild West is alive and kicking at **Bonnie Springs Old Nevada**, where cowboys, train rides, and a shooting gallery entertain visitors at this replica of an 1880s mining town.

The old Bonnie Springs Ranch has been a tourist attraction since 1952. In the early '70s, Al Levinson and Bonnie McCaugh built Old Nevada on the 115-acre ranch tucked in the foothills near Red

Rock Canyon. Actors in cowboy gear greet visitors and perform skits. A public “hanging” takes place at high noon. Guests stroll along a shady main street and stop in at shops, a restaurant, cactus garden, old-time photo store, and wax museum.

Children can feed birds, pigs, horses, and sheep. On weekends and holidays tourists can board a miniature train for a trip around the ranch. It wouldn't be

the Old West without horses, so the stable offers trail rides.

Bonnie Springs Old Nevada is open 365 days a year. Winter hours are 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., summer until 6 p.m. Admission is \$7 per car on weekdays and \$10 on weekends and holidays. The ranch (702-875-4191) is located 25 miles west of Las Vegas via I-15, Blue Diamond Road, and State Route 159.—*Kristine McKenzie*

The Vaquero Tradition

ELKO—“Buckaroo! The Hispanic Heritage of the High Desert” opens at the **Western Folklife Center** on January 17 coinciding with the 21st annual National Cowboy Poetry Gathering on January 22-29. The exhibit explores the 19th-century California *vaquero's* tradition of horsemanship that many Great Basin cowboys follow today.

“Buckaroo!” focuses on the Great Basin cattle-raising areas of Northern Nevada, Eastern Oregon, Eastern California, and Southern Idaho. The word “buckaroo” is an English variation of the Spanish *vaquero*, meaning someone who works with cattle. It makes sense to have the exhibit at the folklife center, communications coordinator Darcy Minter says, because “Elko is really the buckaroo capital of the West.”

Visitors will see spurs, bits, reatas (handbraided rawhide ropes, left), branding irons (right), saddles, hats, chaps, and other *vaquero*-influenced working gear and clothing. Old photographs of early-day ranchers are juxtaposed with those of modern ranching families. The exhibit is on loan from the High Desert Museum in Bend, Oregon through 2009.

The Nevada Arts Council helped bring the exhibit to the Western Folklife Center, located at 501 Railroad Street in Elko. An opening celebration is planned for January 27. Call 775-738-7508 or visit www.westernfolklife.org for information. See “Lassoed by Cowboy Poetry” in “Nevada Events and Shows” for National Cowboy Poetry Gathering details.—*Joyce Hollister*



Chinatown Remembered

CARSON CITY—The **Carson City Chinatown Marker**, a monument commemorating what once was Nevada's largest Chinatown, gives visitors a glimpse into the lives of Chinese citizens in the latter part of the 19th century.

Almost 1,000 Chinese owned property and worked a variety of jobs in the capital city during the 1870s and 1880s. The south-side neighborhood served as a communication and transportation center for Chinese living in the West. "Carson City's Chinatown became a commercial hub linking merchandise, workers, and information between California and other Chinatowns," University of Nevada, Las Vegas professor Sue Fawn Chung said at the dedication of the marker in October of 2003.

On the monument's plaque a 1907 fire insurance map outlines the community. Black-and-white pictures of shops and dwellings and text describe what life was like for Carson City's Chinese population. Featured is Yee



Faith Ann Hodorowicz (left), Ginny Mei Adams, AnnJi Hodorowicz, and Lisarah Simonson play games during the dedication of the Carson City Chinatown Marker.

Bong (1861-1941), who was born in Virginia City and worked on the railroads before opening a restaurant, which was popular in the 1920s.

Most of the Chinatown buildings were destroyed by fire in the 1950s. Today the Supreme Court, State Legislature,

State Library and Archives, a parking garage, and a parking lot cover most of where the Chinatown was located. The monument stands at the corner of Third and Stewart streets directly behind the Supreme Court building.

—Rebecca Loesch



Motorcycle Mania

Steve McQueen's 1923 Indian Big Chief motorcycle with its matching "princess" sidecar was recently added to the **Auto Collections at the Imperial Palace**, Las Vegas. McQueen hired restoration master Von Dutch to restore the bike, and the sidecar floorboard still bears the Von Dutch signature card. For information call 702-794-3114 or visit www.imperialpalace.com.

Top Shops

Mandalay Place, a collection of 41 upscale stores and restaurants, occupies a skybridge between Mandalay Bay and Luxor on the Las Vegas Strip. The stores include Urban Outfitters, Nike Golf, Samantha Chang, Le Paradis Fine Jewelry, the Chocolate Swan, and Italy's Fornarina. The Reading Room, an independent bookstore, has a section devoted to limited editions. Eateries include Giorgio Caffé and Ristorante, The Burger Bar, and 55 Degrees Wine + Design. Forty Deuce is a version of the popular LA nightclub. Shops are open 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday to Thursday and to midnight Friday and Saturday. Restaurant and nightclub hours vary. Call 702-632-9325 for information.



The Shoe Obsession is one of the stores at Mandalay Place.

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Travel Briefs

Wynn Art in Reno

Artworks by Pablo Picasso, Vincent van Gogh (right), and Claude Monet are on display at the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno until March 30. The 14 paintings are part of the **Stephen and Elaine Wynn Collection**, one of the nation's premier private art collections. The show includes works by Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Henri Matisse, Paul Gauguin, and Rembrandt van Rijn. Call 775-329-3333 or visit www.nevadaart.org for information.



Peasant Woman Against a Background of Wheat (1890).

Historic Honors

The 128-year-old **Lake Mansion**, listed on the national and state Registers of Historic Places, was moved from its previous location at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center to the corner of Court Street and Arlington Avenue in downtown Reno last July. Built in 1877 the mansion was owned by Reno's founder, Myron Lake, and was originally built near the Truckee River. For more information about the mansion and the building's restoration fund call VSA arts Gallery at 775-826-6100 or visit www.nv.vsarts.org.



The Lake Mansion was located at the Reno Convention Center until last July.

Hawthorne's U.S.O. Building and **Fallon's City Hall** were recently added to the State Register of Historic Places. The Hawthorne U.S.O. Building was built in 1942 to accommodate servicemen and civilian workers at the Naval Ammunition Depot. The building hosted dances, banquets, bands, movies, boxing matches, and meetings. The Fallon City Hall, which is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was built in 1931 in the Spanish Colonial style. Visit www.nevadaculture.org for more information.

Silver State RV Contest

Nevada Commission on Tourism offers its annual **RV Sweepstakes** until July 29. This year's theme is "Haulin' in Nevada," and the winner receives a HAULTENT camping trailer. Visit www.travelnevada.com/RV for details.

Death Valley Roads

Most of the roads to **Death Valley National Park** are now open following the repair of the damage incurred by flash floods last summer. California S.R. 190, which links Death Valley Junction and Furnace Creek, may reopen by February, says National Park Service Public Affairs Officer Terry Baldino. All other primary routes are open, although various smaller roads will be closed for several months. Visit www.nps.gov/deva for updates.

New Web Address

The Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority's Web site was revamped and given a new address, www.visitrenotahoe.com, in November. The site features improved navigation and a simplified home page, where visitors can quickly find information about the Reno-Tahoe area. Additions include an interactive map powered by The Map Network, a meetings and conventions facilities section, and a background-color selector.

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* LATE FEES WILL APPLY.

Stars Over Tonopah

Some of the darkest skies in the world are around **Tonopah**, where gazers can see 7,000 stars in one sitting. Because of light pollution, most city dwellers can only see 25 to 50 stars and miss the Milky Way altogether, says Jim Marble of the Nye County Natural Resource Office. The Web site www.tonopahstartrails.com includes travelers' advice and a map that guides visitors to good viewing spots on public



The Star Trails brochure has a map of where to see stars in and around Tonopah.

lands around the Central Nevada town, located midway between Las Vegas and Reno. You can pick up a Star Trails brochure at the Tonopah Convention and Visitors Authority, 301 Brougner Avenue, Tonopah, NV 89049-0408, or call 775-482-3558 for more star-gazing information.

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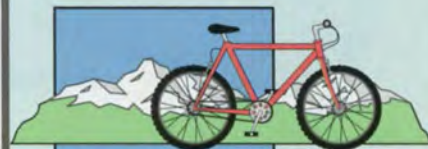
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T. Rex and Friends

Tyrannosaurus rex lowers its head and roars at visitors in the **Las Vegas Natural History Museum's** Prehistoric Life and Dinosaur Gallery. Four other animated giants, including a spike-headed Triceratops, and a diorama depict what life was like during the age of the dinosaurs. The gallery also features an ichthyosaur, the Nevada state fossil. In another popular gallery live sharks swim in a tank. The museum is located at 900 Las Vegas Boulevard North. Call 702-384-3466 or visit www.lvnhm.org for information.



The Tyrannosaurus rex roars at museum-goers.

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MADE IN NEVADA

Lake Tahoe Ski Shuttle

Visitors staying on Lake Tahoe's South Shore who want to ski on the North Shore can take the **Zephyr Cove Resort Winter Water-Ski Shuttle** on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. The \$99 pack-



Skiers can ride the *Tahoe Queen* from Zephyr Cove to North Shore ski areas.

age offers a round trip aboard the *Tahoe Queen* paddlewheeler, a Squaw Valley USA lift ticket, and an après-ski party that includes a band, drinks, and appetizers. Call 800-238-2463 or log on to www.zephyrcove.com for information.

Patty Cafferata's history of the ghost hotel in Nevada's last gold rush town.

THE GOLDFIELD HOTEL GEM OF THE DESERT

The book contains 40 pages, 32 photographs and illustrations and covers the history of the hotel and Goldfield, Nevada, from 1905 to 2004.

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Surfing Nevada

Travelers can learn about the Nevada Department of Transportation's Scenic Byways at nevadadot.com/pub_involvement/scenicbyways. Twenty routes located around the state are listed. Among them are the rural Angel Lake Road 12 miles southwest of Wells and America's first nighttime byway, the South Las Vegas Strip, a 4.5-mile urban excursion through neon lights and past an exploding volcano and dancing fountains.

Aw, Chute!



LAKE TAHOE

Skiers and snowboarders seeking steep slopes and expert terrain have a new place to go. **Mt. Rose-Ski Tahoe** has opened 200 acres called "The Chutes" that have long been off-limits.

"The Chutes is legendary, especially for locals," says Mike Pierce, the resort's marketing director. Covering 1,500 vertical feet, the Chutes includes 16 new trails—nine for experts (black diamond) and seven for advanced skiers (double black diamond).

For visitors not ready for such difficult terrain, Mt. Rose has another feature of interest: a new high-speed, six-passenger chair lift. Called the Blazing Zephyr, the lift will whisk skiers from the resort's 8,240-foot base to its 9,700-foot summit in three and a half minutes. The \$4 million project was Mt. Rose's most ambitious ever.

Mt. Rose has 43 trails covering about 1,200 acres of slopes. The ski resort is located on the Mount Rose Highway, 11 miles from Lake Tahoe's north shore and 25 miles from Reno. Call 800-SKI-ROSE or visit www.skirose.com for more information.—*Andy Bourelle*

Skiing Around the State

A Guide to Nevada and Tahoe Basin Ski Areas.

2004-2005 Downhill Skier's Guide

Area	Web Site	Phone	Top Elevation	Vertical Feet	Lifts	Rating Bg-Int-Adv	Lift Price Adult/Y/Child	Rentals Skis/Board
TAHOE BASIN								
Alpine Meadows	www.skialpine.com	530-583-4232	8,637	1,802	14	25-40-35	\$39/\$39/\$10	\$30/\$36†
Boreal	www.borealski.com	530-426-3666	7,700	500	9	30-55-15	\$36-\$10	\$30/\$34†
Diamond Peak	www.diamondpeak.com	775-831-3211	8,540	1,840	6	18-46-36	\$44/\$35/\$16	\$28/\$33
Donner Ski Ranch	www.donnerranch.com	530-426-3635	7,751	750	6	25-50-25	\$20/\$10#	\$18/\$28†#
Granlibakken	www.granlibakken.com	530-583-4242	6,480	280	1	50-50-0	\$18/\$10#	\$25/\$30#
Heavenly	www.skiheavenly.com	775-586-7000	10,040	3,500	29	20-45-35	\$65/\$54/\$32	\$30/\$33†
Homewood Mountain	www.skihomewood.com	530-525-2992	7,880	1,650	8	15-50-35	\$44/\$30/free	\$28/\$25†
Kirkwood	www.kirkwood.com	209-258-6000	9,800	2,000	12	15-50-35	\$59/\$47/\$13	\$28/\$25†
Mt. Rose/Ski Tahoe	www.skirose.com	775-849-0704	9,700	1,800	8	30-40-30	\$52/\$38/\$12	\$29/\$29†
Northstar-at-Tahoe	www.northstaratahoe.com	530-562-1010	8,600	2,200	17	25-50-25	\$61/\$51/\$21	\$36/\$39†
Sierra-at-Tahoe	www.sierratahoe.com	530-659-7453	8,852	2,212	10	25-50-25	\$54/\$44/\$13	\$33/\$37†
Soda Springs	www.skidasprings.com	530-426-1010	7,352	652	4	30-50-20	\$25/\$16/\$10	\$28/\$34
Squaw Valley USA	www.squaw.com	530-583-6955	9,050	2,850	33	25-45-30	\$62/\$31/\$5	\$32/\$38†
Sugar Bowl	www.sugarbowl.com	530-426-9000	8,383	1,500	13	17-43-40	\$59/\$44/\$15	\$33/\$39†
Tahoe Donner	www.skitahoeonner.com	530-587-9444	7,350	600	4	40-60-0	\$34/\$13	\$24/\$33†
AROUND THE STATE								
LV Ski/Snowboard	www.skilasvegas.com	702-385-2754	9,510	1,000	3	20-60-20	\$33/\$25	\$18/\$25†
Elko Snobowl		800-428-7143	7,000	670	2	20-60-20	\$20/\$15	\$15/\$15
Ruby Mountains (Elko)	www.helicopterskiing.com	775-753-6867				Ruby Mt. Heli-Skiing offers backcountry helicopter skiing; \$3,050 per person		

2004-2005 Cross-Country Skier's Guide

Area	Web Site	Phone	Trail (km)	Trail Fee Adult/Y/Child	Rental Adult/Y/Child	Lessons Adult/Y/Child	Day Lodge	
TAHOE BASIN								
Clair Tappaan Lodge	www.sierraclub.org	530-426-3632	14	\$7/\$3.50	\$13/\$9	\$14	✓	
Hope Valley	www.sorensensresort.com	530-694-2266	100	none	\$18/\$10	\$30	✓	
Kirkwood	www.kirkwood.com	209-258-7248	80	\$21/\$15/\$10	\$19/\$19	\$46/40/\$30*	✓	
Lake Tahoe Basin	www.fs.fed.us/ltbmu	530-543-2600	The U.S. Forest Service has brochures on many forest areas					
Northstar-at-Tahoe	www.northstaratahoe.com	530-562-1010	50	\$27/\$15	\$31/\$19	\$27/\$15	✓	
Royal Gorge	www.royalgorge.com	530-426-3871	330	\$28/\$15	\$19.50/\$10.50	\$55/\$29.50*	✓	
Spooner Lake	www.spoonerlake.com	775-749-5349	91	\$18.50/\$9/\$3	\$18.50/\$9/\$3	\$39/\$25*	✓	
Resort at Squaw Creek	www.squawcreek.com	530-583-6300	18	\$15/\$10	\$18/\$10	\$45*	✓	
Tahoe Donner	www.tdxc.net	530-587-9484	110	\$21	\$19/\$10	\$42*/\$20	✓	
AROUND THE STATE								
LV Ski and Snowboard (Mount Charleston)	www.fs.fed.us/htnf	702-385-2754 702-873-8800 (USFS)		The Ski Chalet offers x-country suggestions The U.S. Forest Service has info on camping and avalanche conditions				
Spring Valley (Eureka)	www.eurekacounty.com	775-237-5280		Ron Carrion at the Owl Club provides directions and information				
White Pine (Ely)	www.nv.blm.gov/ely www.fs.fed.us/htnf	775-289-1800 (BLM) 775-289-3031 (USFS)		Ward Mt. and Loop Trails info, available from the BLM and USFS				

* Includes trail pass, equipment, and lessons.

† Resort has a half pipe for snowboarders.

2003-2004 price.

All prices are subject to change. Call resorts for information about children's and seniors' programs.

Snow Zone



The Elko area offered our group of snowsporters a winter triathlon of heli-skiing, snowmobiling, and ice fishing.

Story by Tina Fixman, Photos by Jay Aldrich

As I stared down the steep, fog-cloaked slope, I repeated, "I can do this, I can do this," all the time wondering whether I should do this.

My husband, Jay Aldrich, and I were heli-skiing in the Ruby Mountains for the first time. Below us, five inches of new powder covered an open bowl. There we were—more than a dozen travel writers, ESPN broadcasters, extreme skiers from ski magazines, guides, and me, the oldest woman by 20 years, ready to ski. We already were well acquainted. The helicopter had taken us partway up the mountain, but because it couldn't drop us at the top in foggy conditions, we had rattled the rest of the way together inside a snowcat.

One by one we followed the guides downhill, allowing 100 feet between each

skier. After the first run we separated into those who could, those who would, and those who didn't belong in the Rubies. I fell into the second category: not graceful, a little flummoxed, but definitely capable of skiing those slopes. I wished I'd taken the guides' advice to use their phat skis, which were even phatter than mine.

So began our three-day tour last February of winter sports offered in and around Elko. Our assignment was to ski, snowmobile, ice fish, drink, eat, and report the experience. It turned out to be a great snowy escape with a Wednesday-through-Saturday itinerary that kept us on our toes and bundled in fleece and down except when we found a saloon with a good fire-place.

Both Jay and I are avid downhill skiers, and we had looked forward to heli-skiing.

Skiing, I committed only one bad faux pas, knocking Joe and Hannah over like bowling pins.



Looking over Lamoille Valley, a heli-skier kicks up fine powder (above). Left: The helicopter can move four or five skiers at a time, depending on their weight.

The night before, we had arrived at Red's Ranch in Lamoille. Joe and Francy Royer, owners of Ruby Mountain Helicopter Skiing, gave our group dinner, beds, and encouragement about the next day's outing.

In the morning, Joe Royer and his guides grew serious as they reviewed the risks of the mountain, use of the equipment, and dangers of boarding and leaving a helicopter when its propeller is running. Once on the mountain, the tone lightened somewhat. The guides shepherded us with great care, but we could see they're really a bunch of kids disguised as adults who live for the skiing and have found a way to make a living at it.

I committed only one bad faux pas on the hill when I ran over Joe, who acted as lead guide, and Hannah Nordhaus from



Because of fog, our group rides partway by snowcat (above). As the 'cat ascends the steep grades, skiers slide into each other and really get to know their comrades.



Ben French lands a big rainbow as Don Hughley watches.

Elko Outdoors

For more information on Elko-area recreation and attractions, contact the **Elko Convention and Visitors Authority**, 775-738-4091, 800-248-ELKO, or elkocva.com. The agency can send you a copy of its useful guidebook, *Adventure on the Edge: Elko Area Guide to Recreation on Public Lands in Nevada*.

Outdoor Sports: The adventurers' itinerary was organized last winter by the Elko Convention and Visitors Authority and the **Nevada Commission on Tourism** (800-NEVADA-8, www.travelnevada.com). Outdoor participants in the tour included: **Ruby Mountain Helicopter Skiing**, Lamoille, 775-753-6867, www.helicopterskiing.com. **Wildhorse State Recreation Area**, 775-758-6493, parks.nv.gov. **South Fork State Recreation Area**, 775-744-4346, parks.nv.gov. **Nevada Department of Wildlife**, Elko, 775-738-5332, www.ndow.org. **Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest**, Wells office, 775-752-3357, www.fs.fed.us/htnf. For snowmobile rentals contact **RV Rentals**, Elko, 775-753-3828.

Lodging and Meals: In Lamoille, **Red's Ranch**, 775-753-6281, **O'Carroll's Saloon**, 775-753-6451; and the **Pine Lodge**, 775-753-6363. In Elko, **Gold Country Inn**, 800-621-1332; **Red Lion Inn**, 800-545-0044; **Nevada Dinner House**, 775-738-8485; **Star Hotel**, 775-738-9925; and **Hilton Garden Inn**, 877-777-7307. In Wildhorse, **Dunn's Wildhorse Resort**, 775-758-9494.

Events: The state's biggest snowmobile event, **Snowmobile Rendezvous 2005**, takes place Jan. 14-16 with headquarters at the Elko Convention Center; call 800-248-3556. Ice anglers can enter the **Wildhorse Trout Derby** on Feb. 19-21 as well as the **Wildhorse Perch Derby** on March 12-13; call 775-758-9494.



Hooked on the Outdoors. I knocked them over like bowling pins. Not my greatest moment of the day, but no one had to be air-lifted off the mountain, and later that afternoon, over picon punches at O'Carroll's Saloon in Lamoille, Hannah and I were able to laugh off the experience.

We found ourselves in a different situation the next day when we were introduced to our next sport—snowmobiling. Fifteen minutes after we learned how to run our snowmobiles, the guides and experienced riders left several of us, including Hannah, Jay, and me, in the dust (actually, blowing snow).

Pulling up the rear, we came over a rise and saw nothing in the vast expanse of white except a fork in the track. Soon, a machine appeared, and the rider waved to us. We happily followed, gunning our engines as we zipped

across the snow and Wild Horse Reservoir between 30 and 70 miles per hour, the way you do when you realize no one is watching.

One rider went over a rise too fast, and his machine flew out from under him. Result: a slightly shaken rider and a cracked windshield.

Jay rolled his machine down a slope. The snowmobile tumbled several times, but fortunately he jumped off before the careening started.

Four of us got our machines stuck in deep snow trying to rescue Jay, who didn't need rescuing. I don't think we spent more than an hour digging them out. The sun was bright, the snow glistened, and we whooped it up and ran our machines faster than we should have. All in all, from the comments of our guides, it was a normal day of snowmobiling.





Melba Stager ice fishes South Fork Reservoir amid a multitude of holes and accompanying tackle (above). Left: Angler-journalist Allen Bonslett pauses before trying to catch up with the main group. The vast expanses of Elko County's winter desert offer excellent snowmobiling.

Après-sledding we gathered at the bar inside Wildhorse Resort. A rollicking good time ensued as we recounted the day's mishaps.

Throughout the trip, we looked forward to mealtime. Our post-skiing dinner had taken place amid the big-game trophies of the Pine Lodge in Lamoille. Following a night at Elko's Gold Country Inn, a buffet breakfast at the Red Lion Inn had fueled us for snowmobiling.

Returning to town from the snowmobile tracks at Wildhorse, we continued our sporting tour at the Nevada Dinner House, one of Elko's four Basque restaurants. Before a dinner of lamb, steak, and numerous side dishes, we were treated to a high-kicking performance by young Basque dancers. Then our group of athletes engaged in the precarious Basque wine dance, the *Godaleta Dantza*. The object was to jump on a glass of red wine, not spill a drop, and welcome the harvest.

Later Jay and I moseyed over to the Star Hotel to visit the owner, our friend Miguel

Leonis. Since four participants could spot a good time 'way off, they followed us into the Star, as did loud music, cigars, and more wine.

During breakfast at the Hilton Garden Inn in Elko we again noticed a curious trend. After the first day of skiing we had lost some skiers. Then, several veteran sled

When a fishing pole started bouncing, polka music blared across the ice.

drivers disappeared following the second day's snowmobiling adventure.

Thus, as we began our day of ice fishing at South Fork State Recreation Area, we were down to three die-hard "I want to see and do everything possible" participants—

Jay, myself, and the group's one fanatical fisherman, Allen Bonslett of *Fish Sniffer* magazine. Our guides were Jerry and Melba Stager of High/Five Outfitters and locals Don Hughley and Ben French. Soon several staff members of the Nevada Department of Wildlife joined us at South Fork, the only reservoir in the state dedicated not to municipal water storage but solely to recreation.

Standing on the frozen reservoir, which is fed by the South Fork of the Humboldt River, we learned the proper way to ice fish. When a pole started bouncing, Jerry pressed the button on his cassette tape, and polka music blared across the ice. As each fish was landed, everyone took a warming shot of Triple Sec. I think this ritual originated in Wisconsin, as did our guides.

Those who left early missed a beautiful day of comradeship and polka. As Jay and I drove home on I-80, we realized that we had enjoyed not just the activities but the real people of the West we had met—humorous, instant friends, sharing the outdoor spirit in Elko's snow country. ▽

Tina Fixman and her husband, photographer Jay Aldrich, live in Minden and ski whenever they can.

Murder in the Red-Light District

In 1908 Rhyolite, dance-hall denizen Isabel Heskett paid the ultimate price for the fast life.

By Robin Flinchum

In the ghost town of Rhyolite, near the old train depot, two unidentified graves lie fenced by rusted chicken wire and festooned with fading silk flowers.

Legend has it that one of these graves holds the body of Isabel Heskett, a prostitute killed by her lover in the most infamous murder ever committed in this short-lived boomtown. Some people say Isabel was buried at this spot, far from the town cemetery, because the good women of Rhyolite refused to have her interred in consecrated ground.

But that is lot of hooley. By the time of Isabel's death in January 1908, Rhyolite was a cosmopolitan city of several thousand people with a thriving, legally sanctioned red-light district. While the socially prominent ladies of Rhyolite may have disapproved, they were far too busy organizing whist clubs and raising funds for a new school to waste time ostracizing a young woman who had already paid the



Fred Skinner was photographed at the Nevada State Prison in 1908.

Isabel, like many women who worked in the red-light district, had a major weakness. His name was Fred Skinner.

ultimate price for her poor choices.

Isabel Heskett, born Sarah "Sadie" Isabella Peterman in a small Nebraska town, was just 20 years old when she arrived in Rhyolite in December 1907. She was a slim, dark-haired girl whose beauty and brains were often mentioned by the *Tonopah Daily Bonanza* and the *Rhyolite Herald* after her death, but she was also, a *Bonanza* reporter said, "as hardened a denizen of the red-light district as ever came to Rhyolite." Known by many names, in Rhyolite she called herself Norma. After working a brief stint in the Adobe Dance Hall on Amargosa Street, she managed to buy a half interest in the Mission Bar next door. Throwing in with another dance-hall girl known as Skidoo Lil, she opened her new business on January 1, 1908, and might have even made a success of the venture given time.

But Isabel, like many women who worked in the red-light districts of the boomtowns, had a major weakness. His name, or at least his alias at the time, was Fred Skinner. He was a stocky, unprepossessing man with a gold front tooth,

according to a prison record he'd acquired after serving 18 months for manslaughter in Butte, Montana. But the lovely Isabel was captivated by his charm. She had abandoned her husband, a gambler named C.C. Heskett, and fled her Colorado home with Fred in July 1907.

The couple had headed for Nevada, surfacing in Manhattan, 50 miles north of Tonopah, in October. Isabel was calling herself Mona Bell and working as a



Flowers adorn the supposed Rhyolite gravesite of Isabel Heskett, who was murdered in 1908.



In Rhyolite, Isabel worked at the Adobe Dance Hall, the white building at the intersection (center). Next door (right) stood the Mission Bar, where Isabel and Fred argued the night she was killed. The red-light district was across the street (in red). Fred was held in the jail (lower right), which still stands.



Buildings in Rhyolite's red-light district, circa late 1920s. The house on the right remains standing.

prostitute out of a room that opened into the Parlor Saloon. Mother Levy, the proprietress, later testified that Fred doted on Isabel and often slept in the room next to hers while she worked, but Levy also noted that he was abusive to the girl.

In early November 1907 A.G. Cable, a miner who'd just spent the night with Isabel, sat down in the lobby of a Manhattan hotel and shot himself in the head. Isabel and Fred were arrested and charged with robbery when another miner said Cable killed himself because

Isabel had stolen his last \$400. Although the pair eventually were cleared of the charges, sentiment ran high against them. During the trial Fred grew impatient with postponements ordered by District Court Judge J.K. Chambers and punched him in the jaw, earning himself a 60-day jail sentence. While Fred served his time, Isabel moved 140 miles south to Rhyolite.

"Surely we have been happy enough to make up for a few unpleasant days," Isabel wrote her boyfriend in jail. "The sun, you know, can't always shine. We

must take the sunny days with thankfulness and the rainy days our due." She added, "If I can get any other work when I get into a new town it's no more tenderloin for mine. It doesn't pay."

But apparently it did pay. Isabel found employment at the Adobe Dance Hall and soon became known in the tenderloin. "She drank and smoked and swore like a pirate," a *Tonopah Daily Bonanza* reporter later recalled, and "her vocabulary of profanity was picturesque to the limit."

Fred was released in early December and joined Isabel in Rhyolite. On January 3, 1908, a miner named Bion Demmings witnessed an altercation between them at the Mission Bar in which Fred beat her mercilessly and called her such foul names that Demmings later was unwilling to repeat them in front of a female court reporter. When the episode was over, Isabel kissed Fred goodnight and left the bar.

That night, Demmings walked home with Fred. When they stopped at the couple's rented cottage on Main Street, Isabel came to the door in her white cotton nightdress. It was the last time anyone other than



The Red Front Saloon in Manhattan, the town where Isabel Heskett worked before moving to Rhyolite, was a well-kept example of the era's night spots.

**“I shot Norma,
and Norma
shot me,” Fred
yelled. “I
want to make
a confession!”**

Fred would see her alive. Inside, the two settled down to drink and talk. Later, Fred claimed he told Isabel that he wanted to leave and return to the wife he'd left behind in Colorado.

Isabel went wild at this, Fred said. She attacked him, but he pushed her away. She reached for a pistol on the nightstand and shot him twice before he wrested it away from her. When she turned to grab another pistol on a shelf above the bed, he said, the only way to stop her was to shoot her first. He fired three shots, hitting Isabel in the neck and back and killing her instantly. Then, in his underwear, with blood streaming from his chest, he ran out of the house and down the street. There he met Rhyolite night watchman Harry O'Brien.

“I shot Norma, and Norma shot me,” Fred yelled. “I want to make a confession!”

But after he calmed down, sobered up, and realized that his wounds were

superficial, Fred changed his mind about the confession.

Isabel's corpse was removed to Bacigalupi's Undertaking Parlor, where a multitude of bruises and cuts found on her body indicated she had been beaten on more than one occasion. Outraged citizens suggested that a lynching might be in order. The sheriff quickly moved Fred to Beatty and then to Tonopah for safekeeping.

During Fred's murder trial in Tonopah prosecuting attorneys read the letter Isabel had written him in jail. “Dearest,” she wrote, “you should try to brace up and trust me. I wouldn't have gone this far if I hadn't intended to stick to you...No matter what anyone thinks of you I know you to be truly good.”

Chief prosecutor Pat McCarran, who would become a powerful U.S. Senator from Nevada, easily led a willing jury to the conclusion that Fred was guilty as charged. In late March, Fred was sentenced to life in prison—a term many thought too lenient—and transported to the Carson City penitentiary.

On appeal, the sentence was reduced to 50 years, and Fred was paroled in 1923. He was arrested for bootlegging in Las Vegas in 1936 and spent another two years in prison.

And the remains of Isabel “Sadie” Heskett? Shortly after the murder, C.C. Heskett arrived in Rhyolite to collect the body of his wife and escort her back to her family in Seattle. Isabel was buried in mid-January in the Peterman family plot at the Crown Hill Cemetery in Ballard, Washington.

The last known trace of Fred Skinner,

Isabel's letter to Fred, who was in jail in Manhattan for punching a district court judge.

a brief mention in his sister's 1961 obituary when he was about 82 years old, showed him to be living in Vancouver, Washington, less than 200 miles from Isabel's gravesite.

So, who is buried in that grave by the Rhyolite depot? No one, according to Kari Coughlin, Rhyolite historian and cofounder of the Friends of Rhyolite. Coughlin says an old-timer revealed to her that Mrs. Hershel Heisler, the last owner of Rhyolite in the 1960s, created the graves as a tourist attraction. ▣

Robin Flinchum is a freelance journalist living in Tecopa, California. She is writing a book about the women who worked in the red-light districts of Death Valley mining camps.

Rhyolite Today

Rhyolite is a ghost town, and its picturesque ruins make it a favorite of photographers and history buffs. You can trod the same streets as Isabel Heskett and other fortune seekers did in the early 1900s, past the ruins of the **Cook Bank Building**, the railroad depot, and the **Rhyolite Bottle House**, built with 30,000 bottles in 1906. Another attraction is the **Goldwell Open Air Museum** (www.goldwellmuseum.org) where avant-garde sculptures stand near the town's entrance.

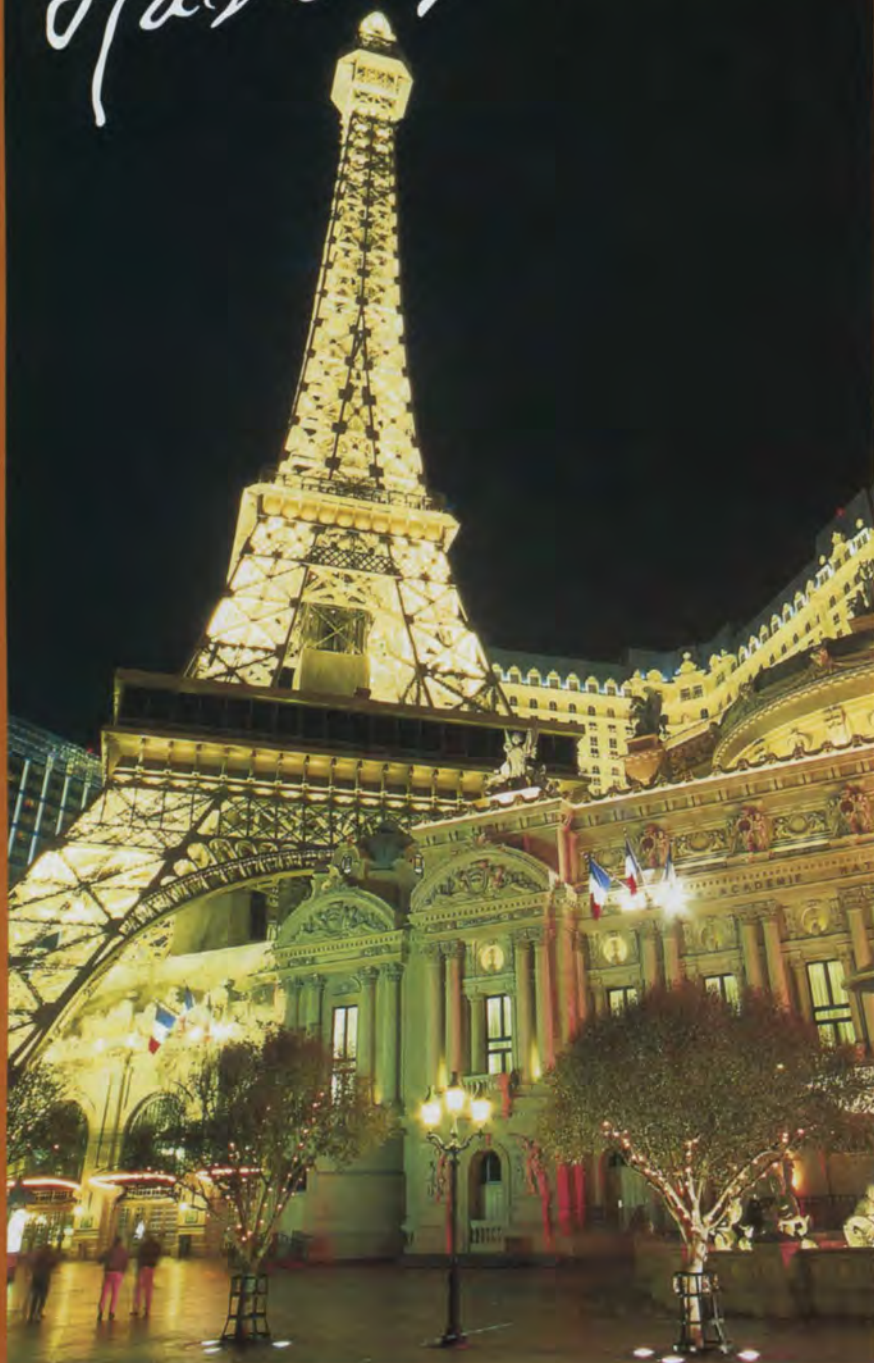
Rhyolite is located four miles west of **Beatty** and 120 miles northwest of **Las Vegas** via U.S.

95 and State Route 374. Rhyolite is managed by the **Bureau of Land Management** (Tonopah office, 775-482-7800). A volunteer Web site (rhyolitesite.com) includes a tour of Rhyolite historical sites. For area information contact the **Beatty Chamber of Commerce** (775-553-2424, www.beattynevada.org) or the **Beatty Museum and Historical Society** (775-553-2303). Beatty has bike and hiking trails and birdwatching areas. Seven miles west of Rhyolite is **Death Valley National Park** (760-786-3243). The park's Furnace Creek headquarters and visitor center are 41 miles south.



Isabel Heskett, born Sarah “Sadie” Isabella Peterman, was buried in the Crown Hill Cemetery (above) in Ballard, Washington, by her husband, C.C. Heskett.

We'll Always
Have Paris



These five **romantic** Nevada **getaways** offer Valentine-style vacations.

By **Wilma LaRocca**

This winter, couples under Cupid's spell will find many ways to enjoy a romantic Valentine-style Nevada escape. You and your sweetheart can relax in a snow-covered Lake Tahoe cabin or in a suite high above the Strip. From south to north, here are five getaways with the right atmosphere for romance.

Paris Las Vegas

Couples who stay at a certain Las Vegas resort can say, "We'll always have Paris." Inside Paris Las Vegas, lovers stroll the cobblestone streets of Le Boulevard and watch the bakers at JJ's Boulangerie create French pastries. The 2,900-room Strip hotel has a Las Vegas version of the Paris Opera—not to mention the Arc de Triomphe and the Champs Elysées. Couples can say "I do" atop the 50-story Eiffel Tower.

The 11th-floor Eiffel Tower Restaurant serves gourmet French dishes. At Le Provençal, the wait staff dresses in French peasant garb and performs French and Italian songs. For lunch, if you love French onion soup and quiche, you can dine on the patio at Mon Ami Gabi.

Paris offers a number of vacation packages. The "We Will Rock You" packages for the hotel's Queen musical (\$339-\$399) include lodging and two show tickets. "Passport to Paris" (\$95-\$120) includes lodging and discounts for the hotel-casino's spa, restaurants, and Eiffel Tower.

Paris Las Vegas, 3655 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 702-946-7000, 877-796-2096, www.parishv.com. Rooms \$129-\$179. Eiffel Tower rides \$9.

The Eiffel Tower at Paris Las Vegas is a half-sized replica of the City of Love landmark.



Couples can enjoy views of mountains and Lake Tahoe from a balcony at the Cal Neva.

Boulder Dam Hotel

While Las Vegas tends to implode older hotels, Boulder City has revived a grand old inn, the Boulder Dam Hotel. As you sit in the lobby, you can imagine you're in the company of James Cagney or Shirley Temple, two of the celebrities who stayed here. The lobby looks much as it did in 1933, when the Dutch-Colonial-style hotel opened.

Boulder City holds an unusual distinction—it's the only town in Nevada where gambling is outlawed. Built to house Hoover Dam workers, Boulder City was the first federal planned community. Downtown has restaurants, antique shops, and art galleries. The dam, Lake Mead, and Las Vegas are close by.

The hotel operates like a bed and breakfast. Each room and suite has a bath, TV, and phone and is furnished 1930s style. Breakfast is served in the hotel's restaurant, Matteo's. The hotel also houses the Hoover Dam Museum.

Boulder Dam Hotel Bed and Breakfast, 1305 Arizona Street, Boulder City, 702-293-3510, www.boulderdamhotel.com. Rooms \$89-\$159. Restaurant, art gallery, shops.

Cal Neva Resort

Since 1926 the Cal Neva Resort has served as a High Sierra retreat for newlyweds and not-so newlyweds. After strolling the grounds tucked above Lake Tahoe's north shore, you can have a

massage and retire to your chalet's fireplace. In winter you can go skiing. In summer you can swim all the way from Nevada to California—in the hotel's outdoor pool, which sits on the state line. You and your betrothed can get married in both states, too.

The most famous of the Cal Neva's owners was Frank Sinatra, who owned a share in the resort in the early 1960s and entertained guests such as Ava Gardner and Marilyn Monroe. At the Circle Bar you can turn back the clock to 1962 and imagine Frank standing there, martini in hand, on top of the world.

Cal Neva Resort, Crystal Bay, 775-832-4000, 800-CAL-NEVA, www.calnevaresort.com. The Cal Neva has 200 lake-view rooms, cabins (\$89-\$149), chalets (\$219-\$289), and a number of "Romance Packages."

Eureka Inns

In the 1880s, at the height of its lead- and silver-mining boom, Eureka boasted two mining companies, more than 100 saloons, numerous gambling halls, an opera house, and five fire companies. Today you won't find a supermarket or chain store in this well-preserved town 242 miles east of Reno. Downtown is so quiet that an occasional deer wanders across Main Street (U.S. 50).

To help appreciate Eureka's romantic charm, you can obtain a walking-tour brochure and visit the county courthouse, the Eureka Opera House, Eureka

Sentinel Museum, and Ruby Hill Mine.

The Best Western Inn offers an unhurried atmosphere and a hot pool. Management also rents rooms in the restored 1880s Jackson House, which has Victorian furnishings.

Mealtime in Eureka presents several choices. Breakfast at the Pony Espresso Café, operated by a Mennonite family, features Lewis Strite's home-cured bacon and sausage. The Owl Club has a popular bar and restaurant, where the dinner menu includes steaks, lamb chops, and seafood.

Best Western Inn, 251 Main Street, Eureka, 775-237-5247, www.co.eureka.nv.us. Room \$79; Jackson House Hotel room \$79, suite \$119.

David Walley's Resort

Romance can be a steamy affair at David Walley's Resort, Hot Springs, and Spa, 15 miles south of Carson City. You can pamper yourself in the six natural mineral pools and spas, where the temperature runs from 98 to 104 degrees. After a soak, the steam room beckons. Then you can have a massage or work out in the fitness center.

This Carson Valley resort, built in 1862, has tennis courts and nearby golf. South Lake Tahoe's slopes are 13 miles away. Three miles north, Genoa's antique shops and historic buildings invite you to imagine village life in pioneer days.

Back at Walley's, the Deli serves breakfast and lunch. For dinner the DW Restaurant serves lamb, veal, steaks, pasta, wild game, and seafood. For exotic appetites, Chef Sean Piacentini prepares Cajun-style rattlesnake and Australian kangaroo and ostrich. "We get our wild game from all over the world," says food and beverage manager Howard Jachens. "Would you believe that our wild boar comes from Southern California?"

David Walley's Resort, Hot Springs, and Spa, 2001 Foothill Road, Genoa, 775-782-8155, 800-628-7831, www.davidwalleys.com. Small rustic cabin \$90, hotel room \$150-\$160, one-bedroom suite \$235-\$245.

Wilma LaRocca is a staff writer for Nevada Magazine. She and her husband, Tom, like to explore historic sites around Nevada.

The Wily Coyote

Highly adaptive and intelligent, coyotes have thrived in both rural and urban Nevada.

By Linda Hiller

The coyotes are howling in Jacks Valley tonight. Most evenings in Northern Nevada their choir practice begins long after the sun is down. We call it the “coyote chorus.”

“Hey, listen,” my husband, Jeff, might say. Then we’ll fall silent, and off in the distance the varied “Yip, yip, yeooow” will emerge. We try to imagine the coyotes out there in the dark. Are they howling at the moon? Did they just kill a rabbit—or the neighbor’s cat?

Coyotes thrive in the Silver State, inspiring our admiration and reverence as well as loathing and fear. Perhaps we are fascinated with coyotes because we have so much in common. Coyotes are smart and cunning, and so are we. Coyotes love chicken, beef, and lamb, and so do we.

Before Europeans arrived in North America, coyotes lived only west of the Mississippi River. But as wolf populations declined, coyotes moved east into the wolves’ territory and now are found in every state except Hawaii.

Why did the coyote flourish where the wolf failed? Wolves depend on an elaborate social system and gather to hunt large prey. Coyotes on the other hand can hunt alone and will eat almost anything, from berries to bugs.

That creative intelligence is the key to the coyote’s success, says Thomas Hall, a



former assistant state director for the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Wildlife Services in Reno and now based in Fort Collins, Colorado. Hall dealt with Nevada coyotes for more than 20 years as a wildlife biologist, primarily helping farmers and ranchers minimize livestock losses.

“Coyotes are highly adaptable, brilliant

animals, and I have nothing but respect for them,” Hall says. “It makes them the toughest to control, though.”

Ranchers can legally remove or kill coyotes that threaten their livestock, Hall says, but some ranchers have discovered that guard animals like llamas, donkeys, and dogs will effectively repel the wily canines.

Dave Hussman, a fourth-generation Carson Valley rancher, uses llamas to guard his sheep. The first year, he says, he lost only four lambs, down from 47 the previous year.

"We used to figure losing about 50 percent of the lambs to coyotes," he says. "Now, after using the llamas for several years, we lose about one lamb a year, which is a significant drop. And we still see coyotes all the time."

When Hussman first employed his two llamas, both barren females, he was unsure exactly what they did to repel the coyotes. Then he witnessed an encounter.

"One morning real early we looked out, and there was a coyote trying to cut out

an older ewe," he says. "One llama got the sheep and herded them into a corner, and the other llama was up there with the coyote, with her head down, and she was butting at the coyote and kicking at it with her front feet, not letting it get by her. Eventually she just wore the coyote down."

Most ranchers and farmers don't mind having a few coyotes around to keep the rodents under control as long as they leave the livestock alone. Still, it's a delicate balancing act.

Jim Greil grew up on the farm he now operates in Washoe Valley. He taught in the agriculture department at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo for 17 years and worked as an

agronomist for several large farms in the San Joaquin Valley for five years before returning to Nevada. He remembers a time in the 1950s, when, he says, government trapping and poisoning nearly annihilated the coyote.

"We were almost overrun with rabbits and other rodents after that," he says. "I remember shooting up to a dozen rabbits each night just to keep up. There was little feed for livestock and deer, and it was virtually impossible to raise hay." Greil says that after the coyotes returned to Washoe Valley, the rodent and rabbit problem diminished to "a manageable level."

Academics and laymen who study the coyote agree that this is a species worth examining. The coyote (*Canis latrans*, or "barking dog") is one of eight members of the dog family, including the gray wolf, red wolf, jackal, and domestic dog. Desert coyotes weigh 20 to 30 pounds, while mountain coyotes are darker and larger, weighing up to 50 pounds. Coyotes usually mate for life. In early spring, the female gives birth to up to five pups in a den. Her mate will often bring food to her while she's birthing or nursing.

Coyotes are great athletes—leaping as far as 14 feet and sprinting 40 mph for short distances. Tagged animals have been recorded traveling up to 400 miles. They are mostly solitary hunters, sometimes teaming up to hunt larger prey. When the young offspring become mobile,

"People who feed the coyotes are doing them more harm than good. A fed coyote is a dead coyote."



This coyote was photographed in the desert near Las Vegas. Once found only west of the Mississippi, coyotes now live in every state except Hawaii.



Kathi and Dave Hussman of Gardnerville rely upon two female llamas to guard their sheep. Thanks to the long-necked nannies, the Hussmans lose only about one lamb a year to coyotes.

Where's the Lift?



Nevada Magazine Readers Know

Skiers and boarders can find lifts to suit every speed and gear preference at winter resorts at Lake Tahoe, Mount Charleston, and Elko. Snowsporters also will find great places to heli-ski, ice skate, or simply relax in the lodge wearing their hand-knit snowflake sweaters.

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NEVADA MAGAZINE

the family travels and hunts together.

Coyotes are omnivores and will eat rabbits, rodents, reptiles, carrion, fruit, and insects in the wild. In human-populated areas, they may also eat pets, livestock, and garbage. In rural Nevada, coyotes have been known to chew on irrigation pipes made of polyvinyl chloride.

"It's the weirdest thing—they like to chew on those PVC pipes, as do bears," Hall says. "I'd love to know what is in there that these animals are attracted to."

Coyotes also are common in Southern Nevada, where the bulk of Nevada's 2.2 million people live. In Las Vegas, the perennially "fastest growing city in the U.S.," coyotes fall under the jurisdiction of Darren Williams, a wildlife biologist with USDA-Wildlife Services. The animals par-

In rural Nevada,
coyotes have been
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pipes made
of polyvinyl chloride.

ticularly like the area's golf courses and greenbelts, he says.

"We have two big problems with urban coyotes," Williams says. "First, people who feed the coyotes are doing them more harm than good. When coyotes get habituated to humans, that's when I get called. I always say, 'A fed coyote is a dead coyote.'" One day Williams was called to a Las Vegas gravel business where employees had been feeding coyotes on their lunch hour. A weekend jogger was approached by a coyote, and when no food was offered, the coyote advanced. The jogger turned and ran, and the coyote chased him and bit him in the leg.

"We always say it's not the person feeding the coyote who's going to get bitten," Williams says.

Disease is the second problem. "I am constantly monitoring disease factors," Williams says. "People don't realize that coyotes can carry external and internal parasites, several viruses including bubonic plague, and other diseases that can be transmitted to them or their pets."



Washoe Valley rancher Jim Greil says he learned that coyotes help control rabbits.

Elko wildlife photographer Cynthia Delaney has seen coyotes in many situations. "I think coyotes are incredible—scavengers and scoundrels, no doubt—but survivors," she says. "I remember seeing one coyote sitting in a pouring rain, just scowling like it was someone's fault."

Delaney has seen coyotes jumping up and down on the ground "like Mexican jumping beans." She says, "It turns out they

were pouncing on grasshoppers and scarfing them down like hot cakes."

Besides nighttime serenades, coyotes have entertained my husband and me many times near our Carson Valley home. Once we saw some splashing among the tall grasses at a small pond where we always stop and look for water birds. It turned out to be a coyote jumping and splashing on the shore. Then we saw a huge carp churning tall roostertails of water. Finally, the coyote managed to grab the fish, which was nearly as big as he was, and pull it ashore, where he stared at his prize.

The coyote would walk away into the tall grass and attempt to sneak up on the fish, but at the carp's slightest movement the coyote would jump straight up in the air. We left after an hour, and the coyote was still hopping.

I bet he had something to howl about that night. ♡

Linda Hiller lives in Carson Valley and contributes to the Reno Gazette-Journal, the Nevada Appeal, The Record-Courier, and Reno Magazine. A zoologist as well as a journalist, she teaches bird identification at Western Nevada Community College.

Living With Coyotes

Coyotes are fascinating creatures, but for their safety—and ours—it's best to keep a respectful distance, whether in the wild or at home. Here are a few tips from wildlife experts.

When you are camping, do not leave children younger than 10 unsupervised.

If you're hiking, never run from predators, including coyotes. Face them, make noise, and make yourself bigger. Back away, but do not run. Don't let children and pets run ahead or behind the adult group.

Keep food and garbage secured at home as well as in camp.

Don't feed wildlife.

—Linda Hiller

Tales of Cagey Coyotes

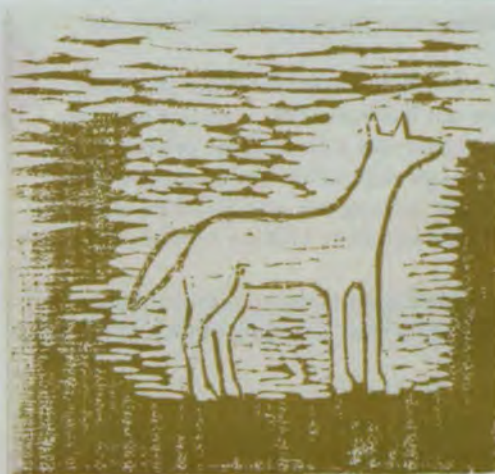
The coyote often figures in traditional Native American stories and in the popular literature of the West.

Nevada Indian tribes feature coyotes in a great number of their folk tales, several of which explain the natives' beginnings. The Western Shoshones were among the first people to inhabit the desert and mountains of what is now Eastern Nevada. In 1965, the chief of the Western Shoshone Indian Nation, Frank Temoke Sr., a native of Ruby Valley, wrote of their origins:

"Our legends tell us how we were brought to this land by the Coyote. We know that we are the first people upon this continent and the true owners. And like the Coyote also we have been subject to much violence since the coming of the white man upon our lands."

Many Washoe and Paiute tribal stories also include the coyote, who frequently gets into trouble. In one tale, the coyote carries a large basket containing the forefathers of the many bands that are to inhabit various areas. The coyote is unable to quell his curiosity before reaching his destination and peeks under the lid, releasing much of the contents and thus changing the future.

In *Roughing It* (1872), Mark Twain wrote about the first time he saw a coyote during his three-week stagecoach journey



Schurz artist Melvin Brown created this image of the coyote, the subject of Native American tales.



Mark Twain came to respect the coyote.

in 1861 from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Carson City. Twain described the coyote as having "a long, slim, sick and sorry-looking skeleton with a despairing expression of forsakenness and misery." He is so spiritless and cowardly that even while his exposed teeth are pretending a threat, the rest of his face is apologizing for it."

However, over time Twain and his traveling companions changed their tune.

He wrote, "We soon learned to recognize the sharp, vicious bark of the coyote as it came across the murky plain at night to disturb our dreams among the mail-sacks; and remembering his forlorn aspect and his hard fortune, made shift to wish him the blessed novelty of a long day's good luck and a limitless larder the morrow."—Linda Hiller

Dime Spooks

A group of old-timers taught me about friendship and loyalty at a Harrah's Reno craps table.

By Bill Kroger

I owe my cousin. He was a shift supervisor at Harrah's Reno, which gave him pull when I needed it. It was 1967 and I was fresh out of the army. Each June Harrah's would hire a dozen college students to deal craps. No experience was necessary because the casino would conduct training for two weeks, with pay, before sending the graduates onto the casino floor. The 12 spots in the class were highly coveted, and you needed pull to get in. My cousin came through for me.

When our basic training was completed, I was assigned an experienced dealer who would supervise me for two days. My sponsor, Tony, was a dark-haired man in his 30s who seemed to know all the women blackjack dealers. Over coffee Tony told me he had gone through Harrah's summer craps school six years earlier, had earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Nevada, Reno, and then decided to deal full-time.

Our table would be a 10-cent craps game in the front of the casino. This table was the scourge of the experienced dealers but the busiest game in the house, with a betting limit that started at 10 cents and went up to \$1,000.

After coffee Tony and I slowly walked toward the game, past busy blackjack tables and clanging slot machines. When we reached the front of the casino, all I could hear was a din and the pounding of my heart. You couldn't even see our craps table—only a sea of screaming men, crammed together and moving one way and then another, like wheat undulating in a Midwestern field. I felt my stomach flip and fought the urge to run.

"God, every dime spook in town must be here," Tony muttered to me. "They must have heard the new class is coming out tonight. This is going to be hell!"

Hell? It was, and it lasted for eight hours and showed me how much I didn't know about dealing craps. Still, I managed to get through the shift. During a coffee break I asked Tony about the players he called dime spooks.

"It's what we call the old bums who live here," he said. "They play dime craps during the day, maybe risking a dollar, and get all the free drinks they want. They sleep in the lounges, when they aren't being roused by the security guards, and eat in the cafeterias. It's cheap and warm and dry. They've built up quite a clan. In fact, there must be 20 or 30 of them now, and we'd be a lot better off if they'd go somewhere else."

Dime spooks—it was something new to me.

By the end of the first week I was feeling

I discovered that the regular dealers at this table, including me, were part of the dime spooks' coterie.





more confident, as were my classmates. The dime spooks were there every day, and a group of more interesting people you would not find anywhere. One, who called himself Charles—not Charley but Charles—had an eye that looked askew, and it was hard to look at him without staring off in the direction his walleye was aimed. Another spook called Corky popped his finger out of his mouth every time the dice rolled. It was an irritating sound at first, but you got used to it.

This collection of men generally was flamboyant in dress, even though their clothes were worn and patched. One day I had to suppress a laugh when Charles appeared in an old tan wool suit with cuffed,

get too close to them, or you'll stink like they do. I wish to hell they'd go away."

In September, I started classes at the university and went from full time at Harrah's to part time, but I found myself looking forward to the weekends when I could join the dime spooks and their extended, close-knit family. They knew everything about each other, so if you had a question about one, you could ask any of them and get the same answer. They loved to laugh and play small jokes on each other, sometimes allowing us dealers to get in on the prank.

After a few more months of dealing, I learned that Old John had been a boxer

of. He told me he had been married several times, had gone through hundreds of thousands of dollars, and had two kids back East whom he hadn't seen for years. At 80 or so years of age, he told me he was alone but had his memories, his fellow dime spooks, and his fun at Harrah's, and he said it was enough, that he thanked God every day for his wonderful life.

Old John would invest no more than \$5 a day and usually a lot less, all of it in 10-cent chips. Usually he walked away a winner by a dollar or two at the end of what he called his "shift." When he left, he always put a dime chip on the line as a bet for the dealers and called out in a loud voice, "For the boys, for your wonderful service and friendship." There were no female craps dealers then, so the term "boys" often was used by customers when referring to a craps crew. Old John explained that he spoke loudly when placing these bets to help educate other players about the importance of taking care of their dealers. If his bet won, we would put all of 20 cents in our drawer, but it was his reference to our friendship that bound me to him. How could I not care for this old man?

One afternoon, after a losing day, he told me under his breath that his winnings were important, that they allowed him to eat dinner. This made me want to help, a notion I struggled with because I kept thinking about Tony's warning to not encourage the dime spooks because they were "bums." But I found myself watching out for Old John. I would discover him in the evenings after my shift, nodding off in a tucked-away lounge chair, and I would watch for a moment to make sure he was breathing. One day I asked another dime spook if John was getting enough food, and the man retorted, "Of course he is! If he can't afford it, we'll take care of him!" I didn't ask the question again.

No one but Old John used his box, and dime spooks and dealers alike would defend that sacred cow.

baggy trousers, a Hawaiian shirt, and a brown tie with a hula girl painted on it. He looked as if he had stepped out of a 1930s movie.

All the dime spooks were freshly shaved and clean every day, and two of them—Silver Joe with his slicked-back silver hair and a tall man we called Long Tom—always wore pressed suits, starched white shirts, and ties. None of the spooks was visibly drunk, ever, even though they took the free drinks Harrah's offered players.

Then there was Old John, a tiny, wizened, white-haired, ancient man who was just tall enough to peer over the rim of the table but not enough to see the layout and place bets, so Harrah's kept a small box labeled "Old John" under the table so he could stand on it while he played. No one but Old John used the box, and dime spooks and dealers alike would defend that sacred cow. He was crippled and walked with the aid of a cane, and when he came up to the craps game at about 10 o'clock every morning, the first thing you'd see was his cane hooking over the rim, and those nearby would shout, "Old John's here. Get the box!"

I discovered during the summer that the regular dealers at this table, including me, were part of the dime spooks' coterie, that without the bantering their days wouldn't be complete, and I accepted the role gladly. In fact, it was fun to go to work, in large part because of the dime spooks, and when I mentioned this to Tony, he looked at me as if I were crazy.

"They're just bums," he retorted. "Don't

and a respected jockey in his youth, that Silver Joe had been published in *The Saturday Evening Post* when he lived in New York City, and that Corky had been a hero in the Battle of Anzio during World War II. Corky had been wounded several times, but you'd never know it to look at him, except for his popping fetish, which one of the spooks told me was the result of his being shell-shocked from that ordeal.

All of these old men were single, divorced, or widowed. Several hadn't seen their children in years. Many of them lived in a rooming house a few blocks from the casino. Their group was like a club, with the membership requirements being longevity of years, having very few assets, and being alone. I felt sorry for them until one of them got sick, because all the others visited him in the hospital and later at his room when he was recuperating, taking him food and magazines and spending time with him. They looked out for each other.

Old John was the one I really grew to like. On weekends he would move his box near the second dealer's spot so he could chat with me when we weren't so busy, and I was told by several other dime spooks that it truly was an honor since he had not moved his box for at least five years. Old John told delightful stories about running numbers for New York mobsters after he had been hurt in a horse-riding accident and couldn't be a jockey anymore. His descriptions of the high life—the elegant parties, the best booze, the gorgeous women—were what a young man dreams

Christmas and New Year's were busy at Harrah's and allowed me to work full time for a few weeks, but my life seemed caught in a time trap: go to classes, study Sunday night through Thursday, take Friday night off, work at Harrah's over the weekend. I got involved with things other than dime spooks, and whenever Old John told me one of his stories, I found he had told it to me before. Even though I feigned attention, I had difficulty showing interest, which John soon realized and stopped moving his box close to me. It stung a little.

One Saturday in February, Old John didn't show up, and my dealing crew, including me, didn't notice until the next

When he left, Old John always put a dime chip on the line as a bet for the dealers.

day, when he didn't show up again. We asked where he was and were told, "He's sick." I wondered if I should visit him in his room, but I was busy and let the idea slip. The next Saturday, I learned that Old John had been taken to the hospital. Again I thought about visiting him after shift, but I had a date that night and put it off until Sunday. I felt guilty that I hadn't paid more attention to his retelling his stories. Besides, I was concerned for him.

When I came to work the next morning, the dime spooks were subdued, and I feared the worst. They told me Old John had passed away during the night, comfortably and in his sleep.

My feelings were different than I would have expected. Certainly, there was sorrow for this old man and for his family of dime spooks at losing one of their own, but there was more than that: a sense that something major in this microcosm of life, this tiny world within a world at Harrah's, was changing, like a river that changes course during a flood, never to return to its original path.

Old John's funeral was set for Wednesday afternoon at a nearby church, and the dime spooks got permission to take Old John's box from under the craps table to use at the ceremony. The hole it left was huge, and there was no bantering during our Sunday shift.

On Wednesday, I went to the church and was surprised to see I was the only Harrah's employee in attendance, but all the dime spooks I knew were there, plus others, perhaps 30 in all. Old John's box was on a draped pedestal next to his casket and filled with flowers, and the priest said the old man's friends wanted the box to be buried with him "so he could see to play heavenly dice." Neither of Old John's children was there. Many of the spooks told stories about their friend, stories I had heard several times from John, but with someone else telling the tales, they were fresh again, and we all laughed. Toward the end of the service, that strange feeling I'd had earlier returned and nagged at me, telling me the dime spooks' armor had been breached with the old man's passing, that the pro-

tective barrier around their club was damaged. It was a feeling I didn't like at all.

In the weeks that followed, life at the 10-cent table at Harrah's returned to normal, with the stories and jokes, and we often talked about Old John. We retold his tales, which made it seem he still was with us, and every day I dealt, at about ten o'clock, I found myself waiting for Old John's cane to hook over the rim of the table so someone could shout to get his box.

During the next summer the minimum betting limit on all craps games was raised to a quarter, which shut down the dime spooks, and they disappeared as if they'd been swept away by a 15-cent tornado. The day the higher limit went into effect was the day I saw no more of them at Harrah's. Of course, I'd see them in the few other casinos where dime games continued, but those places were not the class act that Harrah's considered itself to be. It was the passing of an era.

Recently I visited Harrah's again and was surprised to see how large it had grown, covering several blocks. In the center of the casino was a pit with six craps games grouped in a circle, and I was drawn by the banter of the croupier calling for a good roll of the dice. When I pulled

out my wallet, I was startled to see the minimum bet was considerably more than a dime, but I cashed a 20 and began to play, remembering my dime spook days.

My playing lasted all of 10 minutes, and I actually won a little. As I turned to leave, I put a \$5 chip on the line and said loudly, "For the boys, for your wonderful service and friendship."

The woman dealer gave me a puzzled look but smiled. "For the boys," she shouted to the others, and they all thanked me for the bet.

I headed toward the cashier's cage to cash in my meager winnings, thinking about the dime spooks. My pity for them, for their poverty and loneliness, was gone, and in its place was the knowledge that they had good lives because they had each other, and no one could ask for more. I felt honored to have been a part of their clan, if only for a short while, and as I continued toward the cashier, I whispered to Old John that I had played a bet for him, "for the boys." ♣

Bill Kroger, who grew up in Carson City, is a former Reno and Sacramento newspaper editor and public affairs director of the American Council on Education in Washington, D.C. He lives near Portland, Oregon.

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Colorful Equations

Jay Jacobson has a story to tell—with the help of fractal geometry.



String of Pearls (top): "As I was preparing fractal bubbles for an underwater scene, my wife, Brenda, said that the bubbles looked like pearls. So I created a string of pearls and combined it with fractal gems."

Fractal Dragon (left): "In Fractal Land, dragons are household pets. This dragon lives at the royal palace. The queen likes to dress him in silly little gold outfits."

To Las Vegas artist **Jay Jacobson**, Fractal Land is a real place, and he wants to tell its story.

The computer artist is creating an art book called *Adventures in Fractal Land*, the first-person account of a traveler in a fantastic world filled with multicolored trees, futuristic skyways, bejeweled dragons, and a cyclone that could have been designed by Tiffany.

"I'm inspired by the need to tell a story, and the story is

ruled by fractal geometry," Jacobson says. Mathematicians use fractal geometry to describe natural phenomena, such as complicated weather patterns and river systems. Not surprisingly, Jacobson calls his digital artwork "Fractalism."

A former professional photographer, Jacobson often uses photos as a basis for his images. The resemblance to abstract painting is coincidental. "Painting has a finite degree of detail governed by a brushstroke. Fractal art is an infinitely



regressive mathematical form,” he explains. “It’s almost like when you put two mirrors opposite each other—the image seems to be infinite.”

Jacobson and his wife, art historian Brenda Jenner, were longtime visitors to Las Vegas before moving there from Oregon two years ago. They were drawn to the community because it is open to new art forms, Jacobson says. His fractal art prints are exhibited and sold at Art Encounter in Las Vegas. His images can be seen at www.fractalism.com or www.artencounter.com.

Publication of *Adventures in Fractal Land* is still a ways off. “Just when I think I’ve got it, it goes in a different direction,” Jacobson says. But one thing is certain, he adds. “The trees aren’t green in Fractal Land.”—*Joyce Hollister*



Pixie Dust (top): “I worked for the Walt Disney Company for nine years. The Fractal Fairy Princess idea came to me as I watched Tinker Bell flying around in *Peter Pan*.”

The Paint Tree (left): “A fractal tree continues to branch forever, beyond the limits of our ability to perceive further divisions.”

Vegas, Baby

We discovered that with a few minor adjustments we could enjoy a vacation in Glitter City with our baby.

By Robyn Kurth

Our son, Alex, became an experienced traveler from a very early age, completing his first round-trip flight when he was two-and-a-half months old. My husband, Greg, and I learned how to unload and load the stroller through airport security, encourage our son to suck his pacifier or bottle-feed during takeoff and landing, and perform rapid diaper changes between connecting flights.

So I was hardly concerned when Greg suggested that four-month-old Alex and I accompany him to the Flamingo Hotel-Casino in Las Vegas, where Greg would attend a weekend conference for Parents Anonymous, a national nonprofit organization that advocates policies which strengthen and support families.

Then it occurred to me: Las Vegas with a baby? What are we going to do all weekend with an infant in Glitter City? We were living minutes away from Orlando, Florida, the most kid-friendly travel destination in the country, and now we were headed to the Adult Disneyland. This was going to be a challenge.

I considered how the trip would alter Alex's daily routine. We'd have to deal with a time difference (three hours), a climate change (steam heat versus dry heat), and an obvious change in scenery (a quiet gated apartment complex versus a resort-hotel with a noisy casino).

And what would Alex and I do? As I surfed the Internet, using the key words "kids in Las Vegas," I realized the city did



have many activities for children—as long as they were children old enough to walk, talk, and demonstrate a preference for a particular water park or roller-coaster ride.

There seemed to be few options for the diaper crowd. Lounging by the pool in 95-degree weather was not a good idea for a child too young to wear even baby sunscreen. Gambling was out—no one under 21 is allowed to loiter in a casino. The shows were not feasible—although Gladys Knight was performing at our hotel, I did not expect to see any Pips or pipsqueaks there.

Nevertheless, we decided to take our baby to Vegas. After a relatively stress-free, nonstop flight from Orlando to McCarran International, we rented a car and drove 45 minutes southeast of the city to Hoover Dam with few complaints from Alex. Hoover Dam straddles the Nevada-Arizona border as well as the Pacific and Mountain time zones, so we were either three hours

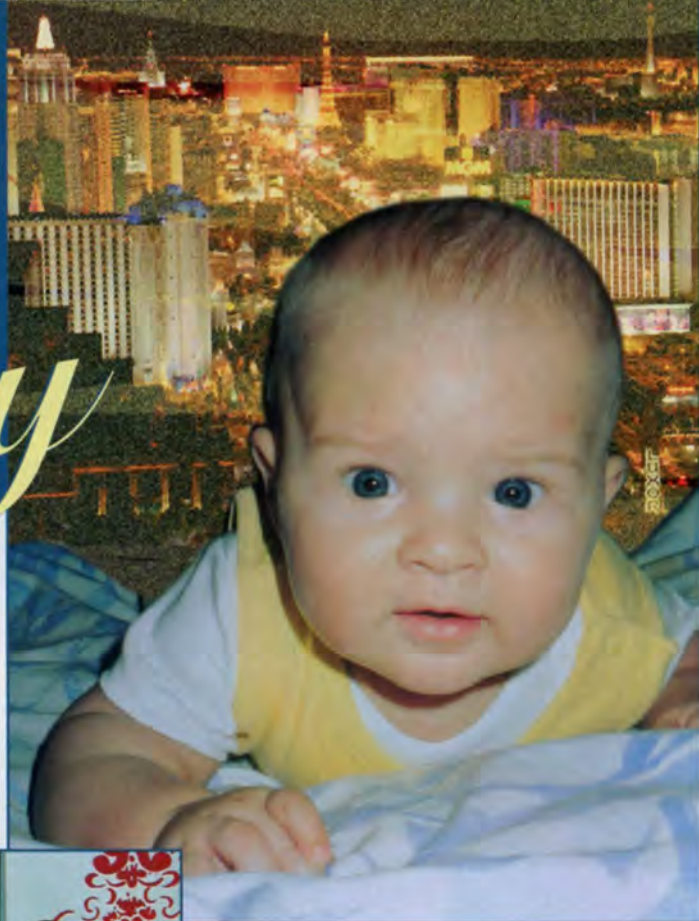
or two hours off our son's schedule, depending on where we were standing.

We returned to the Strip and had a sumptuous buffet dinner at the Flamingo. Las Vegas is famous for the all-you-can-eat buffets, which is a boon for busy parents who can't wait too long to be served. The next day we enjoyed the buffet at Paris, where rich French pastries stood side-by-

Casino security stared at me, just in case I was considering blowing the milk money in a slot machine.

side with sugar-free desserts that looked—and tasted—indistinguishable from their glucose-infused counterparts.

We found that traveling with an infant in Las Vegas draws a reaction. In restaurants, waitresses showered Alex with attention. In elevators, hotel guests told me how much Alex reminded them of their own children or grandchildren. In casino areas, security personnel stared at me if I stood in one place for more than 30 seconds, just in case I was considering blow-





Above: Alex Kurth hangs out at Hoover Dam with mother Robyn. Right: Alex and his father, Greg, on the Strip. Opposite page: Alex smiles for the camera (top) and enjoys a family dinner at the Venetian.



ing all of the milk (and diaper) money in a slot machine with a baby strapped to my chest. One afternoon I went to an exhibition of exquisite Fabergé artwork at the Bellagio's Gallery of Fine Art. With Alex peacefully dozing in his little pouch, he attracted as much attention as the art.

The Forum Shops next to Caesars Palace offered an elegant change of pace for a shopper. Designed to look like a Roman marketplace, it made me wonder if Julius Caesar would have preferred Gucci over Versace. I watched the Forum Shops' "sky" change from day to night over the course of an hour. The 50,000-gallon tropical-fish aquarium in the center of the mall was particularly intriguing to my little shopping companion.

Farther down the Strip at the Venetian, brand-name stores and upscale boutiques line Las Vegas' version of Venice's Grand Canal. Where else but Venice—I mean, Vegas—could you find several Elvis impersonators waiting in line to take a gondola ride? We decided to stroll over to the Venetian's recreation of St. Mark's Square. While I swayed with Alex in his infant carrier, he enjoyed the sounds of a string quartet while Greg and I reminisced about our own Italian honeymoon in the real Piazza di San Marco.

The light-and-sound show at Bellagio's outdoor fountain was another source of family-friendly entertainment. Instead of paying \$200 a ticket to watch Celine Dion perform in concert at Caesars, we watched the water dance in time to Celine's "My Heart Will Go On," the love theme from the movie *Titanic*. (Let's be honest, that's the song avid moviegoers paid \$200 to hear in the first place.)

All in all, we learned that vacationing with a small infant in Las Vegas is no different from traveling to any other tourist area once we focused on what we could do instead of what we couldn't. Sightseeing, shopping, and dining were all fair game, even if sunbathing, gambling, and live shows were not.

In fact, one of our most memorable

Kids in Vegas

Parents with children in tow can find many family-friendly attractions, hotels, and shows in Las Vegas. Roller coasters, events, circus acts, animal habitats, and arcades are listed at www.lasvegaskids.net and www.kidsinvegas.com. The two Web sites also point parents to child care services and dining spots that will please the pickiest of eaters.

experiences in Sin City had nothing to do with megaresorts, restaurants, or other tourist attractions. On the last evening of our mini vacation, Alex rolled himself over for the first time without assistance in our hotel bed. Even though Alex could have easily accomplished this milestone in our own home, we can always say that he absolutely flipped for Vegas. ♥

Robyn Kurth is a freelance writer living in Orlando, Florida. This year her son, Alex, will be getting a new traveling companion in the form of a baby brother or sister.

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Nevada Almanac

Nevada Trivia and results of the "Nevada TV Shows Contest."

Don't Turn That Dial

Readers honor **Vega\$** and other favorite Nevada television shows.

When **Sheila Lincicome** and Denny, her husband of 39 years, watch the *World Series of Poker* broadcasts from Binion's Horseshoe in Las Vegas, tears come to her eyes. The couple from Philo, Illinois, try to visit Glitter City at least once a year.

"We love Las Vegas," Lincicome says. "We used to stay in one of the hotel-casinos on the Strip, but now that our son lives in Summerlin, we have access to a car. We see more of the city, and we've also visited places like Red Rock Canyon."

Lincicome is the first-place winner in our recent "Nevada TV Shows Contest." She and second-place winner **Kathy Pearce** of Wilson, New York, each submitted the names of 21 Nevada-related TV shows. Lincicome earned the top rating by men-



Robert Urich (left) welcomed Muhammad Ali and Clifton Davis to **Vega\$**.

week Tanna drove his red '57 Thunderbird through the garage door of a converted warehouse and stepped out of the driver's seat into his living room.

Pearce remembers that **Vega\$** featured numerous celebrities, from Muhammad Ali and Minnesota Fats to Lola Falana and Wayne Newton. "It was always interesting to see who the guest stars would be," Pearce says. "The acting may not have been the best or the scripts the most well-written, but I always enjoyed the personalities of the cast and the interactions between each other."

Randy Cornelius of Tampa, Florida, is the third-place winner. Of the 19 TV shows he submitted, Cornelius says *Reno 911!* is his favorite, citing its "absolutely hilarious deadpan comedy." Cornelius says, "The show demonstrates the insanity of law enforcement and the diversity of crazy people on both sides of the law. I was in law enforcement for 13 years, and these are the things you remember."

Runners-up are **Nancy O'Connor** of Broad Channel, New York, and **Cheryl Pimentel** of Las Vegas. Both women have the same two favorite shows, *CSI*, whose plot centers on the inner workings of a Las Vegas crime lab, and *Las Vegas*, which stars James Caan as a casino surveillance boss. None of the newer shows impressed honorable-mention winner **Jim Park** of San



James Caan plays the boss of a casino surveillance team in the current *Las Vegas*.

Jose, California, who prefers the all-time Nevada classic Western, *Bonanza*.

Several Nevada-related shows are filmed in the Silver State, but most are shot on sound stages. Nevadaphiles don't care. Most of us think Nevada is a state of mind, anyway.—*Joyce Hollister*

The contest's **10** most-noted Nevada TV shows

- 1 **Vega\$** (1978-81)
- 2 **Bonanza** (1959-73)
- 3 **CSI** (2000-Present)
- 4 **Push, Nevada** (2002-03)
- 5 **Harts of the West** (1993-94)
- 6 **State Trooper** (1956-59)
- 7 **Reno 911!** (2003-Present)
- 8 **Las Vegas** (2003-Present)
- 9 **X-Files** (1993-2002)
- 10 **High Mountain Rangers** (1988)

tioning six other series that had at least one Nevada episode.

In the contest readers were asked to name as many Nevada TV shows as they could. The most frequently noted was **Vega\$** (1978-81) with Robert Urich as Dan Tanna, the suave private investigator. Each

Readers are asked to e-mail Joyce Hollister, Nevada's associate editor, at jhollister@nevadamagazine.com with their favorite Nevada TV shows for an upcoming feature.

Nevada Trivia

Q What was the first movie theater in Nevada?

A The Vitagraph Theater in Reno opened in 1903 and was the state's first movie house.

Q What famed Western artist-writer was once arrested in Nevada for cattle rustling and spent time in the Nevada State Prison?

A Will James, author of several books, including *Cow Country* and *Smoky the Cowhorse*, was convicted of cattle rustling near Ely in 1914 and served a year in the state prison in Carson City.

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

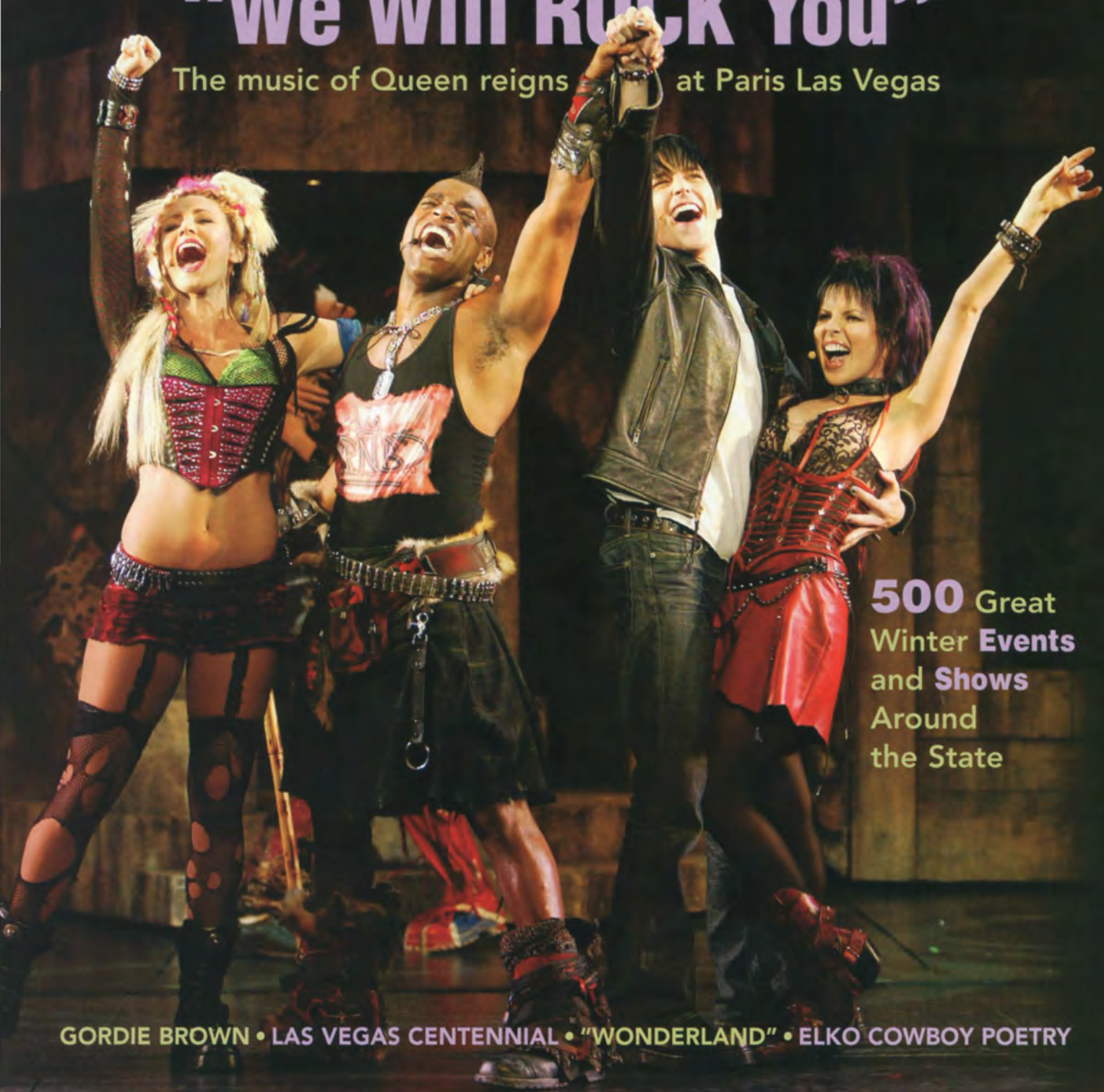
NEVADA *Events & Shows*

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

January/February 2005

"We Will ROCK You"

The music of Queen reigns at Paris Las Vegas



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Crazy Little Thing Called Queen

“We Will Rock You” presents a classic rock rhapsody at Paris Las Vegas.

By Mike Weatherford

The thumping chant of “We will we will rock you” has been heard in sports stadiums since 1977. So should it be any surprise to hear it from a theater stage?

“We Will Rock You,” the musical that bypassed Broadway to open at Paris Las Vegas last fall, features the music of Queen, the highly theatrical British group that produced such big-sound hits as “Bohemian Rhapsody” and “We Are the Champions.”

Perhaps it’s the natural order that Las Vegas productions would get in tune with the baby-boomer stars, like Jimmy Buffett, Rod Stewart, and the Eagles, who replaced the Rat Pack-style crooners as the Strip’s big draws.

“We Will Rock You” takes the logical next step. It makes a nightly attraction of a thin “book” musical that delivers some fondly remembered rock tunes



Rebels hide underground, embracing fragments of a buried rock culture as they await their savior.

and builds to a climactic, arena-concert finale. And it does that with great vitality.

The way was led by "Mamma Mia!," which has played for the last two years at Mandalay Bay. The Abba show demonstrated how a pop songbook could be woven into an old-fashioned Broadway musical. The producers of the Queen project felt compelled to follow suit, drafting British comedian and playwright Ben Elton to connect the songs with a satirical story line. Both musicals were launched in London before moving to the United

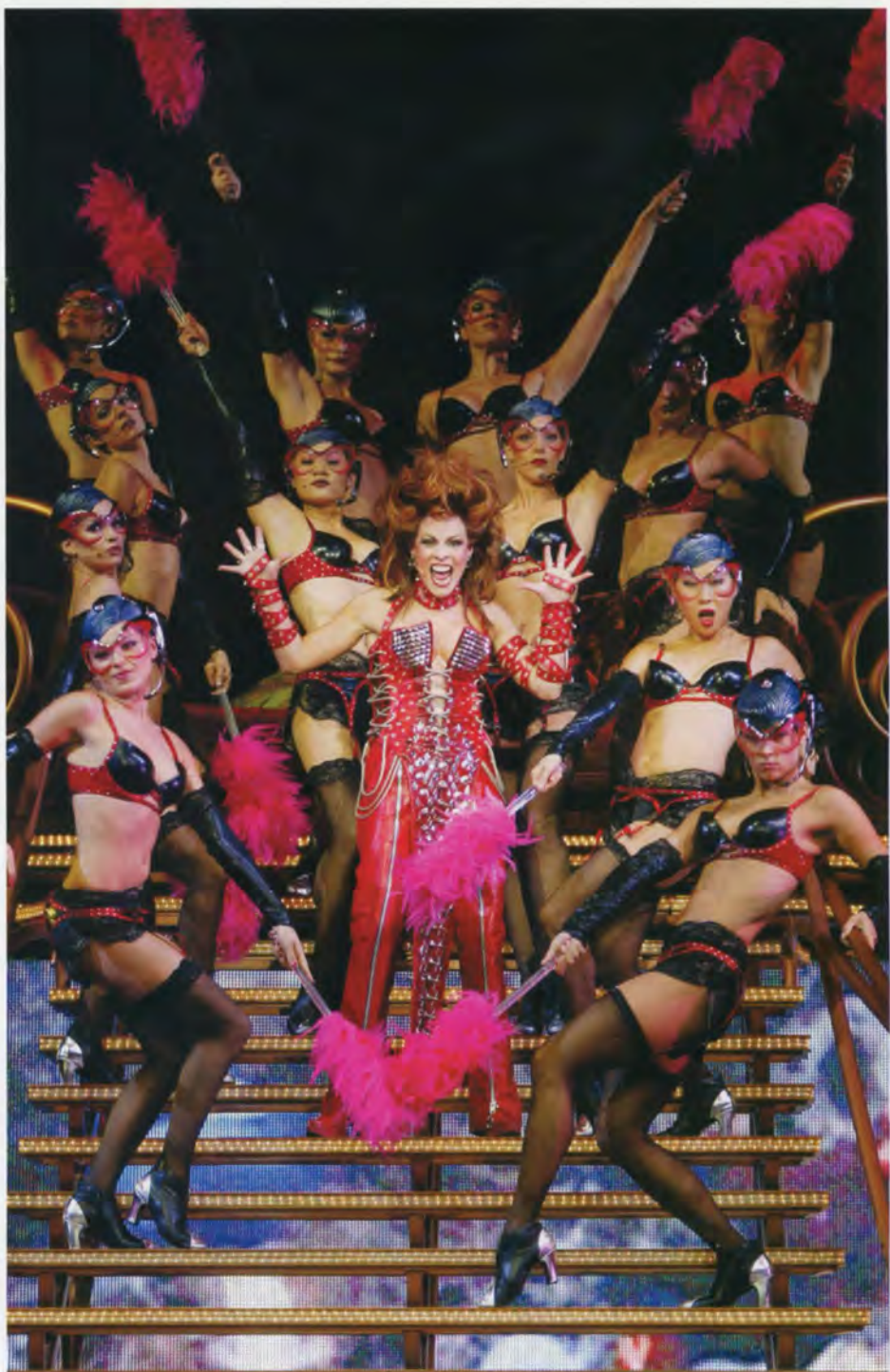
"We Will Rock You" builds to an arena-concert finale. And it does that with great vitality.

States. "Rock You" made its U.S. debut at Paris Las Vegas last September, with Elton taking over the director's chair from Christopher Renshaw and customizing the script by adding Vegas jokes.

Under Elton's guidance, "We Will Rock You" is a futuristic satire of society and music. Many gags involve current pop-culture targets such as Britney Spears and Celine Dion and the fact that the bohemian rebels of the future confuse their pop-music history, often adopting names that have nothing to do with their gender or race. The audience laughs at punchlines beyond the characters' grasp: "Who was the real Slim Shady?" "Who let the dogs out?" The young hero is vexed, unaware of the legacies of Eminem and Baha Men.

Trading on familiar sci-fi themes, Elton's dystopia is *American Idol* carried to extremes. A timeline on an overhead screen reminds us that in 2000 "Simon Cowell [began] cloning rock stars." By 2040 it projects, "All musical instruments are banned," by the omnipresent GlobalSoft Corporation. "Rock is dead."

Individual thought is likewise suppressed by the Killer Queen (Patti Russo), who fears "three chords and the truth"



A Vegas-style production number, complete with a bevy of showgirls, backs the Killer Queen, played by Patti Russo. Her edict has banned all music and musical instruments.

might give rise to rebellious notions in a pre-fab consumer society. But the rebels are already hiding in an underground "Heartbreak Hotel" and embracing fragments of a buried rock culture as they await their savior.

Their hero turns out to be a stammering outcast named Galileo (alternately played by Tony Vincent and Jason Wooten), who flees with a punk-rock girl he calls Scaramouche (Aspen Miller and Kacie Sheik). Both names are drawn from Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody," the mock-

operatic 1976 hit that no doubt gave Queen guitarist Brian May and drummer Roger Taylor—who helped produce the show—the notion that their songbook could work as a rocking stage production.

Queen was indeed a versatile band, embracing everything from fist-pumping rock to English music-hall cabaret. Its only consistency was the sweeping voice of its singer, Freddie Mercury, who died of AIDS complications in 1991. Mercury's voice united everything from the soaring gospel of "Somebody to Love" to the

jaunty swing of "Crazy Little Thing Called Love."

This diverse collection of songs turns out to be a useful tool shed. "Radio Ga Ga" and "One Voice" are bent to suit Elton's satiric thesis. "You're My Best Friend" provides an old-fashioned love song for the two leads. And how better to dismiss an ineffective field general (scenery-chewing Rich Hebert) than "Another One Bites The Dust"?

The Broadway-quality production is enhanced by colorful, fluid set design by Mark Fisher, who has staged big rock tours for U2 and the Rolling Stones. An eight-piece band, though unseen for most of the show, delivers the Queen songs with a versatile yet authoritative credibility.

The story runs out of gas by the time an old hippie named Pops (Douglas Crawford) gives the young saviors a motorcycle ride to the gates of Graceland in search of a buried "axe" that will save the music. The jokes are mostly juvenile or repetitive, the villains cartoonish, and the dialogue almost always delivered with pumped-up urgency.

But it's the songs people come for. By the end, the plot is largely abandoned in favor of a concert-style finale on an arena-rock set.



Ty Taylor plays a character who confuses his rock history and calls himself "Britney."

And that's just as well. If "We Will Rock You" is to have long-term support on the Strip, it most likely will come from classic rockers and not Broadway traditionalists. For them, the message is indeed a sincere one about the purity of rock and the

loyalty to the larger-than-life bands that played it before music became just another commodity to market alongside video games. The energetic singing of the young cast gives the Queen songs life beyond the ballpark. The performance quality of the music lingers long after the jokes are forgotten.

And what about "Bohemian Rhapsody"? Well, it's an encore. The most famous Queen song is the one that doesn't quite fit. It should have been the signpost for the rest of the production: minimum talking, maximum rocking. And don't forget your lighter.

Show Notes

"We Will Rock You" plays in Le Théâtre des Arts at Paris Las Vegas nightly except Thursday. Show times are 8:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday; 7 and 10:30 p.m. on Saturday; and 2 and 8:30 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets cost \$53, \$80.50, \$97 and \$113.50, including tax. Drinks are extra. Call 702-946-4567 or 800-237-SHOW or visit www.parislasvegas.com.

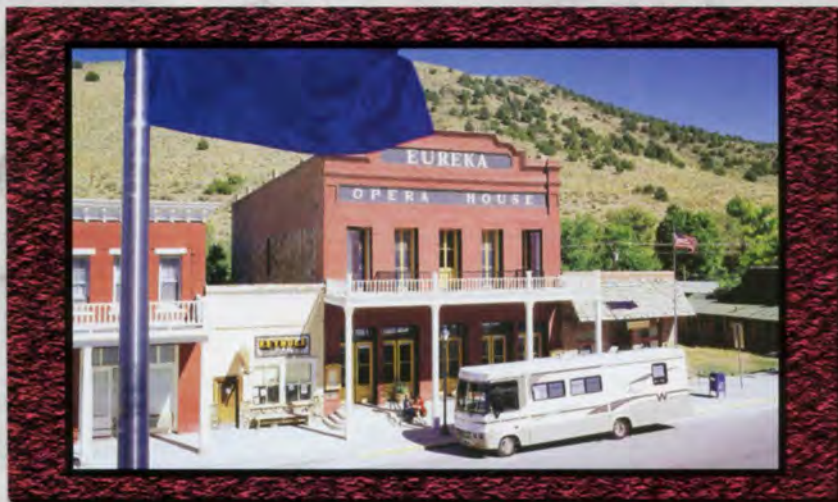
Mike Weatherford is an entertainment columnist for the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

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Las Vegas

AREA EVENTS AND SHOWS

Las Vegas' Centennial Celebration (1905-2005) begins on New Year's Eve, when fireworks, light cannons, and a street party kick off the city's year-long 100th birthday festivities. *Nevada Magazine* presents the following events scheduled in Southern Nevada during the city's centennial year. Call ahead to confirm dates and details of events or visit www.lasvegas2005.org for centennial event information.

Events

"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 midnight fireworks. Las Vegas, 702-229-2005.

Cloudburst New Year's Eve Celebration • Dec. 31 • Party is held 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 (\$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, 6pm-1am. Games, crafts, movie, and pizza. Registration in person by Dec. 29. Brinley Community School, Las Vegas, 702-646-9046.

Moe • Dec. 31-Jan. 1 • Concert at Cox Pavilion. Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

Brass Roots Quintet • Jan 3 • Ticket is required for free concert. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211.

Itzhak Perlman • Jan. 6 • Famed violinist performs solo recital with pianist Janet Guggenheim. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Laughlin Winter Break • Jan. 7-13 • Festival for the 50-plus age group features dancing, gaming tournament, cooking demonstrations, exercise classes, and entertainment. Citywide, Laughlin, 480-926-5547.



Las Vegas launches its centennial celebration with a spectacular show on New Year's Eve.

Studio Straight Ahead Jazz Series • Jan. 8 • Concert. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211.

Calvin Brooks • Jan. 9 • Jazz guitar concert. Black Mountain Recreation Center, Henderson, 702-267-5819.

Miss Mesquite Scholarship Pageant • Jan. 12 • Location TBA, Mesquite, 702-346-5295.

Las Vegas Jewish Film Festival • Jan. 13, 15-16 • Foreign films and U.S. films. Suncoast Theaters, Las Vegas, 702-794-0090.

Laughlin SCORE Desert Challenge • Jan. 13-16 • Off-road race features 16 classes of race cars and exotic trucks on an 11-mile loop. Other events include a Pit Crew Competition and the Laughlin Leap, a high jump for race cars. Events Park, Laughlin, 800-227-5245.

Studio All-Blues Band • Jan. 15 • Billy Ray Charles Blues Band performs. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211.

"Guard Duty in the Army" • Jan. 15 • Living-history program has costumed soldiers available to answer questions. Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park, Las Vegas, 702-486-3511.

Scottish Heritage Celebration • Jan. 15 • Festival includes music, dance, piping, children's activities, haggis tasting,

and sale of Scottish items and food. Rainbow Library, Las Vegas, 702-223-8040.

Sweet and Lowdown • Jan. 15 • K.T. Sullivan and Mark Nadler perform the music of George Gershwin. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Jewish Arts Festival • Jan. 16 • Arts and crafts display and sale. Suncoast, Las Vegas, 702-794-0090.

Good Times Band • Jan. 16 • Music of the '40s-'60s. Whitney Ranch Recreation Center, Henderson, 702-267-5819.

Calvin Brooks Quartet • Jan. 16 • Music in the theater, photo exhibit by Carol Bellmyre in the gallery. Winchester Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-313-6778.

Mark Nadler: Pianist/Comedian • Jan. 18 • Program ranges from ballads to dance. Virgin Valley High School Auditorium, Mesquite, 702-346-5295.

Downtown Cultural Series: Lee Hughes • Jan. 21 • Bring a sack lunch for an outdoor concert featuring arias and Broadway show tunes. Lloyd D. George U.S. Courthouse, Las Vegas, 702-229-1087.

Poets' Corner • Jan. 21 • Forum for established and beginning poets. West Las Vegas Arts Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800 for additional information.



Ann-Margret will be honored as Woman of the Year on January 22 at the Nevada Ballet Theatre's Black and White Ball.

Nevada Ballet Theatre Black and White Ball • Jan. 22 • Fundraiser honors Ann-Margret as Woman of the Year. Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, 702-243-2623, ext. 230.

An Evening with Golda Meir • Jan. 23 • Actress Renee Taylor portrays the former Israeli prime minister. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

International Food and Folklife Festival • Jan. 23 • Entertainment and food. Clark County Government Center, Las Vegas, www.lasvegas2005.org.

The Dummkopsf • Jan. 23 • Comedy show band. Whitney Ranch Recreation Center, Henderson, 702-267-5819 for more information.

National Acrobats of Taiwan • Jan. 25 • Troupe uses fireworks, death-dangles, and hoops of fire and knives. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Mesquite Team Roping • Jan. 27-30 • Mesquite Fairgrounds, Mesquite, 208-238-0954.

Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra • Jan. 28 • Juilliard faculty violinist Cho-Liang Lin is featured soloist. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 702-895-ARTS.

Nitro Blast-Off • Jan. 28-30 • NHRA POWERade Drag Racing preseason testing featuring Sportsman and Sport Compact series. The Strip, Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Las Vegas Marathon, Half Marathon, and 5K • Jan. 29-30 • 39th annual event attracts about 12,000 runners. Headquarters at the Luxor and Excalibur, Las Vegas, 702-240-2722.

Las Vegas Wind Quintet • Jan. 30 • Tickets required for free concert. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211.

Nextel NASCAR Open Practice • Jan. 31, Feb. 1-3 • Team practice is a free public event from 9am-4pm. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Nitro Blast-Off • Feb. 4-6 • NHRA POWERade Drag Racing preseason testing featuring pro and sportsman categories. The Strip, Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Klezmerica • Feb. 6 • Concert featuring six-piece Klezmer band. Clark County Library, Las Vegas, 702-794-0090.

Super Bowl Parties • Feb. 6 • Casinos hold parties with food and drink specials and appearances by former NFL players before the big game.

February Symphonic Romance Concert • Feb. 6 • Henderson Civic Symphony performance. Valley View Recreation

Center, Henderson, 702-267-5819 for event information. **"Jekyll and Hyde"** • Feb. 8-13 • Las Vegas Broadway series. Cashman Theatre, Las Vegas, 702-798-5090.

Virgin Valley Theatre Group • Feb. 10-12, 17-19 • A selection of one-act plays and original works. Mesquite Campus Theatre, Mesquite, 702-346-2902.

Vietnam Traveling Wall • Feb. 10-13 • Exhibit will be open 24 hours a day. Mesquite Recreation Center, Mesquite, 702-346-1286.

"Taming of the Shrew" • Feb. 11-12 • Presentation by Utah Shakespearean Company. Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-651-5483.

"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.

"A Man for All Seasons" • Feb. 11-13, 17-20 • Drama chronicles the turbulent final years of Sir Thomas More and his disagreements with King Henry VIII. Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Stardusters Sweetheart Ball • Feb. 12 • 34th annual event features square and round dancing. Johnson Junior High School, Las Vegas, 702-451-1288.

Victoria Burnett • Feb. 12 • Storyteller specializes in the cultural history of African Americans. Black Mountain Recreation Center, Henderson, 702-267-5819.

Valentine's Day Cruise • Feb. 12 • Dinner-dance cruise on Lake Mead aboard the *Desert Princess* paddlewheeler. Boulder Basin, Hemenway Harbor, Boulder City, 702-298-6180.

Open Test 'n' Tune Bracket Gambler • Feb. 12-13 • Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Nevada Jazz Orchestra • Feb. 13 • Barry Ross conducts

the 17-piece ensemble. Winchester Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-313-6778.

Lieto in Concert • Feb. 15 • Performance by St. George, Utah, choir. Virgin Valley High School Auditorium, Mesquite, 702-346-5295.

St. Petersburg State Ballet Theatre • Feb. 16 • Three ballets from Sergei Diaghilev's "Russian Season. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

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

Montana Skies and Robin Spielberg • Feb. 19 • Cello-guitar and piano concert. Black Mountain Recreation Center, Henderson, 702-267-5819.

The Development, Effectiveness, and Future of the Rifle Musket • Feb. 19 • Living-history program features costumed soldiers. Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park, Las Vegas, 702-486-3511.

Atomic Testing Museum • Feb. 20 • Grand opening. 755 E. Flamingo, Las Vegas, 702-794-5151.

PSCA Test 'n' Tune • Feb. 25 • Midnight Mayhem, 9pm-2am. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

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

"Love's Labor's Lost" • Feb. 25-27 and March 2-6 • Shakespeare's tale of four boys who decide to improve themselves by living a monastic lifestyle. Black Box Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

"The Rope" • Feb. 25-27 and March 3-6 • Eugene O'Neill's play about a dysfunctional family.



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Off-roaders will race on an 11-mile loop during the Laughlin Desert Challenge on June 13-16.

Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-652-5483.

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

Mesquite Area Chamber of Commerce 10-Miler • Feb. 26 • Race through city streets. Mesquite, 702-346-2902.

PSCA Pro Street Mean Machine Super Show • Feb. 26-27 • Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Centennial and Coming Events

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.

World Series of Poker • March 12-22 • Rio, Las Vegas, 877-367-9767.

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

"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.

LPGA Takefujii Classic • April 11-16 • Top women golfers compete in four events. Las Vegas Country Club, Las Vegas, 702-898-4653.

NHRA SummitRacing.com Nationals • April 14-17 • Drag racing. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 800-644-4444.

"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. Riviera, Las Vegas, 734-5110.

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

Helldorado Days Western Village • May 6-15 • Livery stable, general store, entertainment, food vendors, whiskerino contest, and kangaroo court. Main Street Station parking lot, Las Vegas, 702-281-0687.

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. North Las Vegas Airport, North Las Vegas, www.lasvegas2005.org.

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

Las Vegas' 100th Birthday Celebration • May 14 • Three Helldorado parades downtown including Kiddies, Old Timers, and Hotel and Casino parades. Fourth and Fremont streets, Las Vegas, www.lasvegas2005.org.

Happy Birthday, Las Vegas • May 15 • Re-creation of the 1905 land auction at Main Street Station. The world's largest birthday cake weighing more than 130,000 pounds, and a street party at Fremont Street Experience. Downtown, Las Vegas, www.lasvegas2005.org.

Nevada Passage • May 19-24 • Made-for-television adventure race takes place in statewide rural and urban areas, www.travelnevada.com.

"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.

Once Upon 100 Weddings • June 9 • 100 couples will be wed on the Fremont Street Experience mall to celebrate Las Vegas' centennial. Downtown, Las Vegas, visit the Web site www.lasvegas2005.org.

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.

Interfaith Choir • June 15-16 • Centennial event. Cashman Theatre, Las Vegas, www.lasvegas2005.org.

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. Location TBA. www.lasvegas2005.org.

Centennial Birthday Bash: Las Vegas Style • July 2 • Fourth of July party with headliners. Entertainers and location TBA,

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www.lasvegas2005.org for more centennial events details.
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.
"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.
San Gennaro Feast • Sept. 13-18 • Italian food, music, artists, craftsmen, 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, TPC Canyons, and Southern Highlands, Las Vegas, 702-242-3000.
NHRA ACDelco Las Vegas Nationals • Oct. 20-23 • Drag racing. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.
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.

Ongoing Events

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.
Free Concerts • Tues.-Sat. at the Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, 702-678-5777.
Africa: The Source • Permanent exhibit of traditional and contemporary African art. Left of Center Art Gallery, Las Vegas, 702-647-7378.
CasaBlanca Gaming Tournaments • Keno on Wed. and Sat. Slots on Sun. CasaBlanca, Mesquite, 800-459-PLAY.
Oasis Gaming Tournaments • Keno on Mon., Fri., and Sun. Blackjack on Mon. 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.
Poker Tournaments • Daily. Golden Nugget, Las Vegas, 702-385-7111.
Gift of Lights • Thru Jan. 2 • Drive-thru display of more than 50 holiday scenes lit by six million lights and set to music.

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More than 12,000 runners will gather for Las Vegas Marathon events on January 29-30.

Sunset Park, Henderson, 800-788-9627 for information.

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

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

Cool Stuff • Thru Jan. 9 • A sanitation kit from the Sands Hotel's bomb shelter and a watch from Al Capone are

among the items that tell the story of Las Vegas. Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Las Vegas, 702-486-5205.

Neon Las Vegas Photographs • Thru Jan. 11 • Images of historic and current neon signs. Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Las Vegas, 702-486-5205.

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

Celebrate the Season, 1920-1940 • Thru Jan. 16 • Scenes and

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

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.

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

Figure, Pattern, Space • Thru Jan. 29 • Exhibit by Las Vegas artists Chad Brown, Danielle Kelly, and Julie Madden. The Contemporary Arts Collective Gallery, Las Vegas, 702-382-3886.

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

Pixelgraphic: Orit Ben-Shitri • Thru Feb. 6 • Paintings explore the social effects of technology. Reed Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211.

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.

Las Vegas Aerial Gallery • Thru April 30 • Works by 10 local artists are featured on a street banner display from Charleston Blvd. to Mesquite Ave. Las Vegas, 702-229-5431.

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.

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.

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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. Riviera, Las Vegas, 702-734-5110.

UNLV Women's Basketball • The Lady Rebels play 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. Cox Pavilion, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

Las Vegas Wranglers • The West Coast Hockey League team plays 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 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 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. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

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.

Cloud's Jamboree Rock, Gem, and Mineral Show • Jan. 7-Feb. 8 • Outdoor show on Jan. 7-Feb. 8. Indoor show on Jan. 14-30. Riverside, Edgewater, Flamingo, Ramada Express, and Avi hotels. Laughlin, 800-227-3849.

American Veterans Program • Speakers recount military experiences at the American Heroes Museum. 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.

Moving Pictures: Susanne Forestieri • Jan. 14-March 13 • Oil paintings by Las Vegas figurative artist. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Photography: Las Vegas Now and Then • Jan. 21-March 20 • Marjorie Barrick Museum, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-3381.
Creative Convictions II • Jan. 28-April 15 • Exhibit celebrates Black History Month. Bridge Gallery, City Hall, Las Vegas, 702-229-4674.

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.

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.

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.



Guest cellist Daniel Gaisford performs February 26 with the Las Vegas Philharmonic at UNLV's Artemus Ham Hall.

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.

36th Annual World Series of Poker • June 2-July 15 • Play will be held at the Rio June 2-July 13 and conclude at Binion's Horseshoe July 14-15. Rio and Binion's Horseshoe, Las Vegas, 877-367-9767.

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. Floating ice rink on the lake, Mon.-Fri. 3-9pm, Sat.-Sun. noon-9pm, thru Jan. 17. Special events: TBA

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

Green Valley Ranch • 702-617-7777: Jazz Club: Entertainment Fri.-Sat. El Viento: New Year's Eve in New York, \$60 in advance. Estancia: New Year's Eve Party with J2K, \$60 advance. Grand Events Center: Train, Jan. 1. Smokey Robinson, March 19.

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: Jonathan and Music Magic, Dec. 31, \$39.95 advance. 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. Entertainment, party favors, champagne, and balloon drop on New Year's Eve.

Nevada Landing • 702-387-5000 or 800-628-6682: Bands appear nightly except Wed. Entertainment, party favors, champagne, and balloon drop on New Year's Eve.

LAS VEGAS

Aladdin • 877-333-WISH: V Theatre at Desert Passage: "V," variety show. "X," adult revue, 10:30pm nightly. "The Fab Four," Beatles tribute, dark Tues.-Wed. Call 702-932-1818. Aladdin Theater for the Performing Arts: Lionel Richie, Dec. 31. Steve Wyrick Theater: Magician Steve Wyrick, dark Tues. Sinbad's Lounge: Bands play nightly. 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: Checkmates, thru Jan. 1. Greg Peterson, Jan. 4-16. Smooth, Jan. 18-29. Vision, Feb. 1-5. Randy Anderson, Feb. 8-19.



Comedienne Rita Rudner offers wacky observations on the human condition during her long-running engagement at New York-New York on the Strip.

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: Martin Kohl, Dec. 30-Jan. 8. Bands play daily except Mon. **Bally's** • 702-739-4111 or 800-237-SHOW: Jubilee! Theater: "Jubilee!," dark Fri. Society of Seven with Lani Misalucha, 3pm Sat.-Thurs. Backstage Walking Tour at 2pm Mon., Wed., and Sat. Entertainment in the Indigo Lounge.

Barbary Coast • 702-737-7111: Barbary Coast Lounge: Pete Vallee as "Big Elvis," 3-6pm Tues.-Fri. Bands like The Klique play Wed.-Sat. in the lounge. Karaoke, 9pm-2:30am after Mon. night football.

The Beach Nightclub • 702-610-5237: "Laughs at the Beach," touring stand-up comedians, 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.

Binion's Horseshoe • 702-382-1600: Benny's Bullpen: Vinnie Favorito, stand-up comedy, thru March 5, dark Sun.-Mon.

and Dec. 31. "Honky Tonk Cowgirls," tribute revue, thru Feb. 28, dark Wed. and Dec. 31.

Boardwalk Casino • 702-735-2400: Lighthouse Lounge: Spectrum, Motown sound, indf., dark Mon. Purple Reign, a tribute to Prince, dark Sun.-Mon. G. G. Girls, Sun.-Mon. **Boulder Station** • 702-432-7777 or 800-683-7777: The Railhead: Yellow Brick Road, Dec. 31, \$29.95 advance. Night Ranger, Feb. 5. Dave Mason, Feb. 19. Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers, March 4. Keiko Matsui, April 2. Mel Tillis, April 9. Jerry Tiffe plays 2-4pm Thurs. KIXX: Shooting Stars Karaoke, Thurs.-Sat.

Bourbon Street • 702-737-7200: Big Easy Showroom: "Spotlight," starring magician Will Roya, 7pm, dark Fri. The Michael Johns Show, comedy-hypnotist, 11pm Sun.-Thurs.

Caesars Palace • 702-731-7333 or 800-445-4544: The Colosseum Showroom: Celine Dion stars in "A New Day...," Dec. 31-Feb. 6, March 3-27, April 14-May 29, dark Mon.-Tues. (call 877-4-CELINE). "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. New Year's Eve, 8:30pm, \$55 inclusive. 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, 5:15pm 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. Bands play daily 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. and Sat. "Second City Scriptless," 8 and 10:30pm Wed., 10:30pm Tues., Fri., and Sun. Bands play in Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville.

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

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

Gold Coast • 702-367-7111 or 888-402-6278 (U.S. outside Nevada): Lounge: Kinda Dixie Jazz Band, noon-6pm

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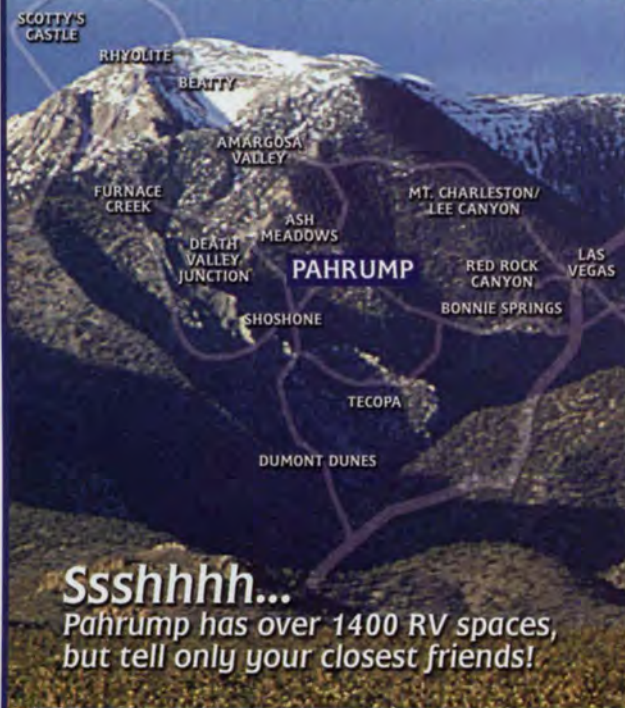
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- Pahrump Station RV Park:** 775-727-5100; 62 spaces
- Preferred RV Resort:** 775-727-6429; 275 spaces
- RV Ranch Resort:** 775-727-2371; 10 spaces
- Rosemary's RV Park:** 775-727-4488; 40 spaces
- Saddle West Hotel, Casino & RV Resort:** 800-433-3987; 80 spaces
- Seibt Desert Retreat:** 877-4RV-PADS; 230 spaces (membership)
- Seven Palms RV Park:** 775-727-6091; 59 spaces
- Shadow Mountain Scenic Park:** 775-751-3217; 14 spaces
- Shoshone RV Park:** 760-852-4569; 20 spaces
- Terrible's Lakeside Casino & RV Park:** 888-558-LAKE; 159 spaces
- West Gate RV Park:** 775-727-9996; 44 spaces
- Western Horizons RV Resort:** 775-751-7805; 196 spaces (membership)

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Mon-Fri. Bands like San Fernando play nightly except Mon. Gold Coast Showroom: "Forever Plaid: A Heavenly Musical Hit," dark Fri., starts Jan. 15. 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: Aaron Lewis, Jan. 8-9. Regis Philbin, Jan. 14-15. Downtown Gordie Brown, 7:30pm Sun-Mon., 7:30 and 9:30pm Tues., Fri-Sat, 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 party, 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: Velvet Revolver, Dec. 31, \$134.50-\$264. 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. Piano Bar: Dueling Piano Twins, sing-along piano performances. T.J.'s All-Star Karaoke Party. Carnival Court: Flair bartenders. Bands appear daily. Jazz in the Range Steakhouse Lounge 5:30-10:30pm Fri-Sat.

Hofbräuhaus Las Vegas • 702-853-BEER. New Year's Eve: Cocktails, dinner, wine, bands, soup buffet, champagne toast, \$199. Almfetzer plays thru Jan. 17. Hofbraushow, Jan. 18-Feb. 28. Bavarian bands play daily.

Imperial Palace • 702-794-3261: Imperial Theatre: "Legends in Concert," impersonator revue, 7:30 and 10:30pm, 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.

Krave Nightclub (Desert Passage at the Aladdin) • 702-836-0833: "The Fashionistas," adult musical, dark Sun.

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: Tropicana All Stars: Tropical Passions, Cuba's Roaring '50s, Dec. 29-Jan. 1. Shimmer Cabaret: Comedian David Brenner in concert, 8pm thru March 31, dark Thurs. Aussie Angels, 10pm, dark Tues. 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 nightly in Nefertiti's Lounge and Ra Nightclub. Movies are offered in the IMAX theater, and tours are available at the replica of King Tut's Museum.



David Copperfield, known for involving audience members in his illusions, will be a showroom mainstay at the MGM Grand during 2005, beginning with shows on New Year's Eve.

Mandalay Bay • 877-632-7400: Mandalay Bay Theatre: "Mamma Mia!," the Broadway musical based on the music of Abba, dark Fri. Matinee Sat-Sun. at 5pm. Mandalay Events Center: Tim McGraw, Feb. 4. House of Blues: An Evening with Joe Satriani, Dec. 29. Alanis Morissette, Dec. 31. Lewis Black w/ John Bowman, Jan. 14-15. Dance music, Fri.-Sun. Karaoke, 11pm Mon. 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. Socrates Café in Mandalay Place: Book discussions, 7pm Tues.

MGM Grand • 702-891-7777 or 800-929-1111: EFX Theatre: "KÀ," the new Cirque du Soleil show, open for preview performances thru Feb. 2, 7 and 10:30pm, dark Wed.-Thurs. Hollywood Theatre: David Copperfield, thru Jan. 5. New Year's Eve show times are 1:30, 4, 7, and 10:30pm. Tickets for afternoon, \$97, \$150 evening. Additional dates for Copperfield include Feb. 18-March 2, March 17-April 13, May 19-June 1, June 30-July 13, July 28-Aug. 10, Aug. 25-Sept. 21, Nov. 17-30. MGM Grand Garden Arena: George Strait, Feb. 5. 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 performs in his own showroom, dark Fri. and Mon. Entertainment also is found in the Ava and Onda lounges and Baccarat Bar.

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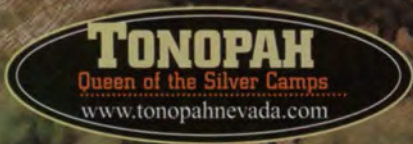
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The cast of the Cuban revue "Havana Night Club," playing through January 11 at the Stardust, asked for U.S. asylum in November.

Monte Carlo • 702-730-7000: Lance Burton Theatre: "Lance Burton, Master Magician," dark Sun.-Mon. Top 40, disco, country, and classic-rock dance music nightly in the Monte Carlo Pub and Brewery. 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. Cabaret Theatre: Comedienne Rita Rudner performs nightly except Dec. 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: New Year's Eve: Connie Stevens/Ken Peplowski: The Kingdom of Swing, with vocalist Lee Gibson. Little Richard, Jan. 5-9, dark Jan. 7. Lou Rawls, Jan. 13-16. Tower of Power, Jan. 21-23. Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, Jan. 27-30. Engelbert Humperdinck, Feb. 2-5. Burt Bacharach, Feb. 10-13. Peter, Paul, and Mary, Feb. 18-20. Grant Griffin in Concert, March 8. Bill Engvall, March 17-20. Debbie Reynolds, March 17-20. Neil Sedaka, March 29-April 3. Vicki Lawrence and Mama: A Two-Woman Show, April 7-10. Desert Chorale, April 11. Bobby Vinton, April 14-17. The Smothers Brothers, April 21-24. Gordon Lightfoot, April 28-May 1. Engelbert Humperdinck, May 5-8. Little Richard, May 11-15, dark May 13. Burt Bacharach, May 19-22. Air Supply, May 26-29. Andy Williams, June 1-5. Frankie Avalon and Bobby Rydell, June 9-12. Neil Sedaka, June 14-19. Dion, July 14-17. Frankie Valli, Aug. 4-7. Tony Orlando, Aug. 11-14. Orleans Arena: Harlem Globetrotters, Feb. 16-17. Mariachi USA Festival, Feb. 20. Bourbon Street

Cabaret: Performers like Bruce Conte appear nightly except Mon. Brendan's Irish Pub: Bands play nightly except Mon. Jazz on Tues., Blues Zydeco on Wed. Irish acoustic sing-a-long on Sun. "Rock This Town Live," tribute to Elvis, Buddy Holly, and Jerry Lee Lewis, Tues.

Palace Station • 702-367-2411 or 800-634-3101: Sound Trax: New Year's Eve: Gypsy Blue, \$25 advance. 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: Celebrity Sunday Brunch, 10:30am-2:30pm. Guest celebrities drop in to entertain. Larry G. Jones, singing comedy-impressionist, 6pm Sat.-Thurs.

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 opened in December and features private sky boxes, cocktail lounge, 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 upstairs in the high-rise Voodoo Lounge. I-Bar Ultra Lounge: Opens daily at noon with beverage entertainers.

Riviera • 702-794-9301: Riviera Royale Pavilion: Glenn Williams Band and the Gene White Orchestra, 8pm. Tickets are \$155.50, which includes dinner and unlimited drinks. Top of the Riv Ballroom: DJ plays 10pm-2am. Tickets are \$105.50, which includes unlimited drinks and hors d'oeuvres. Splash Theatre: "Splash," production show, dark thru Feb. 1. La Cage Theatre (third floor): "An Evening at La Cage," celebrity female impersonators revue, 8pm, dark Tues. "The Amazing Johnathan, bizarre magic, 10pm, dark Thurs. and Dec. 31. Mardi Gras Plaza (second level): "Crazy Girls" adult revue, dark Tues. and Dec. 31. "Riviera Comedy Club," 8:30 and 10:30pm nightly. New Year's Eve: Michael McDonald, Tracy Esposito, and Tom Clarke, 10:30pm. Tickets are \$49.99, which includes unlimited drinks. 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. and Wed. Dr. Scott Lewis: Outrageous Comedy Hypnotist, 10pm Mon. "The Escape," starring Dixie Dooley, 8:30 Thurs.-Sat. "An Evening with Marilyn starring Roxanna Bonilla-Giannini, 7pm Fri.-Sat.

Royal Resort • 702-339-5200: Cosmo's Ristorante: "Dinner With Mama," interactive dinner theater, 7pm Mon.-Thurs. **Sahara** • 702-737-2515: Sahara Theatre: Entertainment TBA. Congo Room: Coasters, Platters, and Drifters. Bands play in the Casbar Lounge.

Sam's Town • 702-454-8048: Events Center: TBA. Sam's Town Live: Dennis Bono, radio show with guest celebrities, Jan.

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Expect rockin' soul when Lou Rawls headlines January 13-16 at the Orleans in Las Vegas.

8, 22, 29, Feb. 5. Entertainment in Roxy's Saloon. 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: Showroom: Loveshack, Dec. 31, \$39.95 advance. Al Stewart, Feb. 5. Marion Meadows, Feb. 12. Stanley Clarke, Feb. 26. B. J. Thomas, March 18.

Memphis Championship Barbecue: Rocksicle, 10pm Sat.

Silverton • 702-263-7777 or 800-588-7711: Showroom: Rick Springfield, Dec. 31. Hootie and the Blowfish, Jan. 8. Herman's Hermits, Jan. 15. Eddie Money, Jan. 21. A Ring of Their Own: Women's Boxing, Jan. 29. Slaughter, Feb. 26. Mermaid Restaurant and Lounge: Mermaids perform hourly in a 117,000-gallon saltwater tank from 6-11pm. Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World, a new attraction that opened in November, features a 40,000-gallon freshwater aquarium, waterfall, trout stream, an archery range, 32-foot rock climbing wall, and a sporting goods retail section that includes a NASCAR section.

Stardust • 702-617-5577 or 888-217-9565: Wayne Newton Theatre: The Temptations and Sonny Turner, Dec. 30-Jan. 1. Siegfried and Roy present "Havana Night Club—The Show," Cuban production show, thru Jan. 11. Ba-Da-Bing Room: "Ba-Da-Bing," interactive dinner show, 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 Front Page, Forward Motion, and Stinger 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: Suncoast Ballroom: Vincent Falcone Orchestra, Dec. 31. Showroom: Paul Revere and the Raiders and McKenna Medley, Dec. 29-31. Norman Brown, Jan. 7-8. Rich Little, Jan. 14-16. The Smothers Brothers, Jan. 21-23. The Four Freshmen, Jan. 28-30. Lesley Gore, Feb. 4-5. Franz Harary, Feb. 11-13. Vicki Lawrence and Mama, Feb. 18-20. Chuck Mangione, Feb. 25-26. Air Supply, March 4-6. Ragus Irish Show, March 11-13. Sergio Mendes, March 18-20. Bill Acosta, April 1-3. Chris Botti, April 8-9. Aga-Boom, April 15-17. The Osmond Brothers, April 22-24. Debbie Reynolds, April 29-May 1. David Sanborn, May 6-8. Sha Na Na, May 13-15. Tony Orlando, May 20-22. Southern Fried Chicks, May 27-29. Paul Williams, June 3-5. Carol Lawrence, June 10-12. Larry Carlton, June 17-19. Ramsey Lewis, June 25-26. Spyro Gyra, July 8-9. The Lettermen, July 15-17. Connie Stevens, Aug. 5-7. Bob James, Aug. 12-13. Suncoast Lounge: Bands like 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. Entertainment in the Mist and Breeze lounges. Tangerine Nightclub opens at 4pm Wed.-Sun. and features burlesque performances in the speakeasy style. The 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

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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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4pm daily except Sun. Tropics Lounge: "The Tropicana Bird Show," 11:30am, 1:30, and 2:30pm except Thurs. "T. Fox and the Fox City Show," dark Sun.-Tues. Comedy Stop Theatre: "The Comedy Stop, stand-up comedy nightly. Celebration Lounge: Entertainment nightly. "Air Play," acrobats perform above the casino at 11am, 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9pm. Venetian • 702-733-5000: Entertainment TBA.

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

Wild West Gambling Hall • 702-740-0000.

Westin Casuarina • 866-837-4215: Westin Theatre: "Forbidden Vegas," satirical musical revue, dark Wed.

LAUGHLIN

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

Colorado Belle • 702-298-4000: Dixieland band strolls on D Deck, Dec. 28-Jan. 1.



Paul Revere and the Raiders perform "Kicks" and other hits at the Suncoast in Las Vegas on New Year's Eve.

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

Flamingo Laughlin • 702-298-5111 or 800-435-8469: Flamingo Ballroom: Entertainment TBA. 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. "Rhinestone Cowgirls," musical revue, 8pm, Jan. 17-Sept. 30, dark Sun. and Wed. "Showgirls," adult topless revue, 10pm, Jan. 17-Sept. 30, dark Sun.-Wed.

Ramada Express • 702-298-4200 or 800-243-6846: Pavilion Theatre: Entertainment TBA. Caboose Lounge: Bands play nightly except Mon. Karaoke Madness is scheduled on

Mon. American Heroes Museum of Memories: Memorabilia and speakers program, and patriotic show.

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: 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. Collin Raye, March 8-13. "Ragus,

March 15-20, Irish dance spectacular. Ricky Van Shelton, Oct. 18-23. Smothers Brothers, Oct. 25-30. Entertainment in the Lightning Strikes Nightclub.

MESQUITE

CasaBlanca • 702-346-7529 or 800-459-7529: CasaBlanca

Showroom: "Revolution: A Tribute to the Beatles," Dec. 31. Sha Na Na, Jan.

15. Hypnotist Hamilton, Jan. 21-22. Hypnotist Michael Mezmer, March 25-

26. Comedy Club: Weekends when no performers are scheduled. 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: Detroit All Stars Band, Jan. 1-2, band

includes four members of the Detroit Police Department. "Celebration of

the King," Jan. 7-8. The Fab, Beatles Tribute, Jan. 14-15. Limey Bar Stewards,

Jan. 21-22. "Divas! The Concert," Jan. 28-29. Marshall Tucker Band, March

11. David Lee Murphy, March 12. Artie Shaw Orchestra, March 25-26. Survivor,

April 16. Pin-Ups Bar: Bands play nightly except Mon.

Fiesta Rancho • 702-631-7000: Club

Tequila: 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: 6-Five-0, Dec. 31, \$39.95 advance. Charley Pride, Jan. 22. Oak Ridge

Boys, Feb. 18. The Armadillo: Lickitty Splitt, Dec. 31, \$25 advance. Krokies 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: Comedians Fri.-Sat. Primm Valley • 800-FUN-STOP: Show Bar Lounge:

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

Lounge: Entertainment Fri.-Sun.



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Nevada insider

The inside scoop on Nevada places of interest.

River City

Laughlin shows it's more than a vacation bargain with events, gourmet rooms, outlet shopping, and river cruises.

By Richard Moreno

In the beginning, **Laughlin** made its name by offering visitors inexpensive food and rooms. Tourists flocked to the little town on the Colorado River to enjoy the Riverside Resort's 98-cent all-you-can-eat fried-chicken dinner and a nice, clean room that often cost less than \$15.

These days, Laughlin, located 95 miles southeast of Las Vegas, has outgrown the need for gimmicks as more than four million tourists visit the "Nevada Riviera" each year. While they still find plenty of bargains, Laughlin has evolved into a full-service resort community with golf courses, hotel-casinos, first-class rooms and suites, gourmet dining, a microbrewery, a shopping mall, and big-name entertainment.

Throughout the year, Laughlin hosts many special events, ranging from rodeos to dragon-boat races to the giant River Run motorcycle rally.

Tourists also are attracted by Laughlin's climate. The weather is hot in the summer but pleasantly mild the rest of the year. The town's two seasons attract two distinct types of visitors. In winter, the place is jammed with "snowbirds"—RVers who migrate south to warmer climes and then return north in spring. In summer, Laughlin's rooms fill with water-sports enthusiasts, lured by the chance to play on the Colorado River.

Laughlin Discovered: By any standard, Laughlin is a new community. Originally known as South Pointe, because it was near the southernmost tip of Nevada, the town was established in the 1940s when a small motel and bar opened to serve gold and silver prospectors as well as workers building nearby Davis Dam.

In 1964, Don Laughlin, owner of the 101 Club in North Las Vegas, happened to fly over the area and saw its potential as a gaming destination. He bought the eight-room motel and bar, renamed it



Laughlin hotel-casinos line the Colorado River near the southern tip of Nevada. Top: Cruising the river at Big Bend of the Colorado State Recreation Area.

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The Laughlin River Run lures thousands of Harley-riding vacationers in April. Top: The Horizon Outlet Center has movies and 55 stores.

the **Riverside Resort**, and began offering limitless chicken dinners, a dozen slot machines, and two blackjack tables. Because he and his family needed somewhere to live, only four of the motel rooms were available for guests.

Don Laughlin's little motel has grown. Today, the Riverside has more than 1,400 rooms along with a six-screen movie complex, a half-dozen restaurants, a 34-lane bowling alley, and an auto museum featuring about 70 classic cars.

Beyond Bargains: The adage "success breeds competition" has held true in Laughlin. There are now eight other major resorts offering nearly 10,000 rooms as well as restaurants, meeting areas, cruise boats, and even a small-scale train.

"One of our main attributes has been affordability all through the years. The hotels have been able to maintain that," notes Meg McDaniel, regional sales manager of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority office in Laughlin.

Visitors who cruise **Casino Drive**—where nearly all the resorts line the river—will see signs promoting such meal deals as a \$3.99 cheese lasagna dinner at the **Ramada Express** and a \$5.99 steak and pasta dinner at the **Flamingo Laughlin**. The **Pioneer** has offered the Six-Shooter Breakfast consisting of two eggs, two pieces of bacon, two sausages, hash browns, and toast or biscuit—all for \$3.50. The town has even gained an **In-N-Out Burger**, luring fans of the legendary So-Cal hamburger chain.

The biggest change in Laughlin has been the continual upgrading of the resorts, McDaniel says. In recent years, **Harrah's Laughlin** completed a \$6-million remodeling of its **Fresh Market Buffet** and revamping of its steakhouse. The **River Palms** renovated its south tower, and the **Golden Nugget** opened the **Deck**, Laughlin's only open-air restaurant that sits right on the river.

"We offer a great product," McDaniel says. As a local, she has learned one of the real bargains in Laughlin is that nearly every resort has an upscale restaurant or room that serves gourmet dishes at a fraction of the cost they would be in hotels in bigger cities. Popular gourmet rooms include **Orleans** at the **Colorado Belle**, **Alta Villa** at the **Flamingo Laughlin**, **Granny's** at the **Pioneer**, the **Steakhouse** and **Passagio Italian Gardens** at the **Ramada Express**, **Madeleine's Lodge** at the **River Palms**, the **Gourmet Room** at the **Riverside**, and the **Range Steakhouse** at **Harrah's**.

Several cruise boats and river yachts offer tours on the Colorado.

Laughlin (a multi-year winner in *Nevada Magazine's* annual "Best of Nevada" readers' poll),

McDaniel says Laughlin, which has grown from 100 full-time residents in 1972 to its current population of about 8,000, has also experienced an explosion in non-gaming attractions and amenities. This year, work began on the **Laughlin Bay Marina**, a privately owned marina on the Colorado River that will have 110 slips and four boat launches. Laughlin has two 18-hole championship golf courses, the **Emerald River Golf Club** (702-298-0061) and **Mojave Resort Golf Club** (702-535-4653). A host of companies lease personal watercraft and speedboats for use on the wide waters of the Colorado.

Shoppers and movie fans can check out the **Horizon Outlet Center**, home to a nine-screen theater and 55 discount outlet stores selling national brands such as Bass Shoes, Van Heusen, Reebok, and Izod.

River City: One of Laughlin's best attributes is the **Colorado River**. This channel of water separates Laughlin from its sister community of Bullhead City, Arizona, and offers a pleasant backdrop for the resorts, which are linked by a landscaped river walk. Many of the hotel-casinos have riverside dining rooms. In front of the **Colorado Belle**, you'll find an arbor where you can admire several varieties of koi and feed them food pellets (25 cents a handful).

River taxis, a reminder of Laughlin's early days, pull up to docks beside nearly every casino. Before the construction of the Laughlin Bridge in 1987 the shortest way to travel between the hotels and Bullhead City and Laughlin was by water taxi. While no longer free, the taxis, which stop about every 10 minutes, are fun and fairly inexpensive—\$3 per person one way or \$6 round trip.

Several cruise boats and sightseeing yachts offer tours of the river between the hotels and Davis Dam. Some trips go as far south as the London Bridge at Lake Havasu City. The **Laughlin Visitor Center** (800-4LAUGHLIN, www.visitlaughlin.com) has information on river tours.

Outdoor Recreation: **Big Bend of the Colorado State Recreation Area** (702-298-1859) is located five miles south of Laughlin's casino row. The 2,335-acre park has a boat launch and nearly two miles of shoreline and riparian areas that are home



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Laughlin Insider Tips

The **Riverside's Auto Collection** displays dozens of rare, collectible cars such as a 1952 Muntz Jet and a 1915 Ford Speedster.

At the **Ramada Express**, the **American Heroes Museum** offers a patriotic multimedia show, armed forces tributes, and a speakers bureau that hosts talks by veterans. Ramada visitors can take a ride through the property and parking lot on **Old No. 7**, the Gambling Train of Laughlin. Free rides on the scaled-down train are available 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday to Wednesday.

Guests of **Harrah's Laughlin** will find a unique

private beach on the river, complete with umbrellas, tables, beach chairs, towels, beverage service, and personal watercraft rentals.

Popular Laughlin nightspots include **Tarzan's** at the **Golden Nugget**, a jungle-theme nightclub inside a 30-foot glass atrium. Tarzan's serves exotic cocktails like the Jungle Fever, made with vodka, rum, and cranberry, orange, and pineapple juices. The **Loser's Lounge** at the Riverside has walls lined with photos of the *Hindenburg*, Richard Nixon, and other newsmakers.

Laughlin has a microbrewery—the **Colorado**

Belle's Boiler Room Brewpub, which opened in 1997. With its industrial-nautical décor, the Boiler Room has live music as well as wood-fired pizza ovens. House specialties include Herb Seasoned Salmon and Drunkard Rib Eye Steak. Also, you can watch the staff brew ales and beers. Each month, the brewery produces about 13,000 gallons of beer, ranging from a tasty amber ale to a hearty stout. An Insider tip: Check out the Boiler Room on "Thirsty Thursdays," when between 4 and 7 p.m. you can order a 16-ounce glass of any handcrafted beer for 75 cents.—*Richard Moreno*



The River Palms, one of seven Laughlin hotels with 1,000-plus rooms.

to ducks, herons, geese, hawks, and coots. Shady ramadas offer tables and grills for picnicking.

Seven miles west of Laughlin, it's a brief hike from the parking lot to the ancient Indian petroglyphs etched on the walls of **Grapevine Canyon**. Wildlife such as bighorn sheep and coyotes are often seen in the area. Water and sunscreen are recommended.

Lake Mohave, eight miles north of Laughlin, is part of **Lake Mead National Recreation Area** and popular with fishermen, swimmers, and boaters. Houseboats are rented by companies such as **Forever Resorts** (800-255-5561) and **Seven Crown Resorts** (800-752-9669). **Katherine's Landing** and **Cottonwood Cove** offer restaurants, lodging, camping, and marinas.

Airport: The **Laughlin/Bullhead City International Airport**, located in Bullhead City, Arizona, a mile east of Laughlin's casino row, recently completed a \$2-million expansion that doubled passenger capacity. Airlines serving Laughlin include **Allegiant Airlines** (800-315-9113), **SkyQuest Charters** (702-298-2535), **Sun Country Airlines** (800-800-6557), **Sun West Airlines** (877-938-1171), and **Western Express Airlines** (928-754-3020). Free shuttle service is available from the airport to all Laughlin hotel-casinos (928-754-2134).

Special Events in 2005: See the "Nevada Events and Shows" section for more information on Laughlin events throughout the year.

Winter Break, a Fort Lauderdale-style week for

seniors, will be held January 7-13. Off-road racers compete in the **Laughlin Desert Challenge** January 13-16. Motorcyclists race in the **Kawasaki Team Green Laughlin U.S. Hare Scrambles** on March 4-6. The **Laughlin River Stampede** brings PRCA rodeo to town March 30-April 3. The **Laughlin River Run**, a giant Harley-Davidson motorcycle rally, takes place April 20-24.

In May, teams compete in the **Laughlin Mile Dragon Boat Challenge**. **Laughlin River Days** presents speedboat races in June. Fireworks highlight **Rockets Over the River** on July Fourth. In October, **Viva! Laughlin** celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month.

Laughlin Resorts: Call the hotels individually or dial 800-4LAUGHLIN for townwide room reservations.

Riverside Resort: 1,405 rooms, 702-298-2535, 800-227-3849, www.riversideresort.com.

Flamingo Laughlin: 1,900 rooms, 702-298-5111, 800-352-6464, www.flamingolaughlin.com.

Ramada Express: 1,500 rooms, 702-298-4200, 888-888-8695, 800-243-6846, www.ramadaexpress.com.

Edgewater: 1,420 rooms, 702-298-2453, 800-67-RIVER, www.edgewater-casino.com.

Colorado Belle: 1,201 rooms, 702-298-4000, 800-47-RIVER, www.coloradobelle.com.

Pioneer: 414 rooms, 702-298-2442, 800-634-3469, www.pioneerlaughlin.com.

Golden Nugget: 300 rooms, 702-298-7111, 800-237-1739, www.gnlaughlin.com.

River Palms: 1,003 rooms, 702-298-2242, 877-RVR-PALM, www.river-palms.com.

Harrah's Laughlin: 1,600 rooms, 702-298-4600, 800-HARRAHS, www.harrahs.com.

Bayshore Inn: 100-room motel, 702-299-9010.

Avi: 300 rooms, 10 miles south of casino row, 702-535-5555, 800-AVI-2WIN, www.avicasino.com.

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

Richard Moreno is Nevada's publisher. He was a big fan of Don Laughlin's 98-cent fried-chicken dinner.



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Tea Time

“Wonderland” at Harrah’s Reno gives Alice’s story a comedic twist. **By Joyce Hollister**

A grinning Cheshire cat and a hookah-smoking caterpillar give the illusion that “Wonderland” at Harrah’s Reno closely follows *Alice in Wonderland*.

Producer and star Larry Wilson uses the Lewis Carroll children’s book as a starting point for this 75-minute show packed with comedy, dance, and rock ‘n’ roll. With songs by Steppenwolf, Jimi Hendrix, and others as a musical backdrop, the psychedelic flavor of the 1960s and early ‘70s offers an additional clue to the show’s premise: “Nothing is as it seems.”

“It came to me,” Wilson says, “that everybody knows the original story of *Alice in Wonderland*, even if they haven’t read the book or seen the Disney version in a few years. We took *Alice* and turned the story

The rubber-bodied Flying Cavettis climb the walls and each other.

on its head. We’re reinventing it, and there are no rules.”

And anything can happen. One night, Wilson, who acts as the show’s emcee, returned to the stage after a complicated dance number, saying, “Boy, I can’t top that.” A big black-leather-clad Harley enthusiast in the audience boomed, “I can.” The biker climbed on stage and pirouetted, lifting his tattooed arms in the air. Wilson, laughing, called to the stagehands in the wings, “Do we have a standard con-



The Flying Cavettis: Cy Platt sits on his brother Cheetah’s back in “Cirque du So Lame.”

tract we can give him?" Someone tossed Wilson a roll of toilet paper.

There is no *Alice in Wonderland* equivalent to the Flying Cavettis, a pair of characters invented by Wilson and expanded by actors Cheetah Platt and Cy Platt. Known as Linguini and Lamborghini, the two rubber-bodied brothers climb each other's shoulders and the walls of the set wearing pink flamingo costumes in a sly imitation of "Cirque du Soleil." They sport leotards and weird masks when they stuff Wilson inside the Cheshire Cat Piñata of Death and smack it with a giant hammer. Before the show starts, the two wear waiters' outfits and mingle in the Sammy's Showroom audience with hilarious results.

Following the show's rule that there are no rules, *Alice's* tea party is converted into *Tea Time*, a TV game show. Dressed as a cowboy and a cow from Fernley, Linguini and Lamborghini are joined onstage by a hapless member of the audience. After answering a question correctly, the innocent contestant eats his prize, a Ding Dong. Then—*Alice*-like—he disappears, thanks to an illusion created by set-builder Craig Dickens.

Comedy and dance are the strongest features of "Wonderland." Wilson carefully crafts the buildups to his jokes and frequently catches the audience off guard. The dance troupe, which includes Sari Anna, Christian Casas, Gina Gral, Lindsay Janisse, Angel May Reed, Lauren Schmidt, and Sarah Jessica Shell, does a first-rate job with the choreography designed by J.T. Horenstein, whose credits include *Cirque du Soleil* and various Broadway productions. Because of the show's fast pace and whirling dance numbers, the cast of 10 feels like a cast of 100.

Wilson advises showgoers to leave their preconceived notions of live theater at the door. "We want to overload your circuits to the point that you give up trying to figure out what's real and what's not real," he says. "Then you just let go and have fun."

Show Notes

"Wonderland" plays in Sammy's Showroom at Harrah's Reno at 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday and at 9 p.m. on Saturday (dark Wednesday) through June 2005. Tickets cost \$39.95. "Showgirls," an adult revue, presents late shows six nights a week. Call Harrah's Reno box office at 775-788-2900 or visit www.harrah.com or www.wonderlandlive.com.

Joyce Hollister is Nevada's associate editor.

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Reno-Tahoe

AREA EVENTS AND SHOWS

New Year's Eve parties in Reno and Carson City and at Lake Tahoe begin the winter season. In Reno, "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" appears at the Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts and "Amadeus" at the Bruka Theatre. Snowmobilers gather for **Sled Fest 2005** at Lake Tahoe and the Reno-Sparks Convention Center.

Events

Nevada Chamber Music Festival • Dec. 28-31 • Featured musicians for the eight-concert program includes Grammy Award-nominated violinist James Buswell, pianist Pascal Roge, cellist Alexander Ivashkin, Reno's Argenta Ensemble, and members of the Cleveland Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and San Antonio Symphony. St. Rose of Lima Church and Nightingale Hall, UNR, Reno, 775-348-9413.

New Year's Eve Celebration • Dec. 31 • Party and fireworks. Silver Legacy, Reno, 800-687-8733.

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.

Black Diamond Wine Exchange Tasting • Jan. 1 • Reynolds Family Wines. The Village at Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-584-0105.

Baba Jamal • Jan. 7 • Storyteller uses music, rhythm, and rhyme. Cal Neva Resort, Crystal Bay, Lake Tahoe, 530-546-4602.

"Macbeth" • Jan. 7-15 • Find out what evil lurks at the Carson City Community Center, Carson City, 775-283-1684.

Elvis Day/Chutes Grand Opening Party • Jan. 8 • More Kings than you can count at the opening of the new Chutes area at the Tahoe ski resort. Mt. Rose-Ski Tahoe, Reno, 800-SKI-ROSE.

Peanut Butter and Rail Jam • Jan. 8 • Youth event for all ages. Free PB&J sandwiches and hot dogs. Sierra-at-Tahoe Snowsports Resort, Lake Tahoe, 530-659-7453.

Tahoe Winter Blue Adventure Race • Jan. 8-9 • Skiing in un-groomed backcountry areas. Northstar-at-Tahoe, Lake Tahoe, 530-562-1010.

FIS Race to the Cup Snowboard Races • Jan. 8-9 • Parallel GS and slalom races. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Mile High Jazz Band • Jan. 11 • Big-band concert. Comma Coffee, Carson City, 775-883-2662.

Chinese Woodcutters' Camp • Jan. 12 • U.S. Forest Service presents a program on 19th-century woodcutters. Nevada



The X Games Qualifier for skiercross and boardercross is January 14-16 at Sugar Bowl.

State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

Squaw Valley Challenge #2 • Jan. 13 • Recreational race open to skiers and snowboarders. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Winter X-Games Qualifier • Jan. 14-16 • International skiercross and boardercross skiers compete. Sugar Bowl Ski Resort, Lake Tahoe, 530-426-9000.

\$20,000 Hilton Bowl Slot Tournament • Jan. 14-16 • \$100 entry. Reno Hilton, Reno, 888-547-2081.

Reno Chamber Orchestra • Jan. 15 • Classical guitarist Angel Romero guests. Nightingale Concert Hall, UNR, Reno, 775-348-9413.

Winter Wine and All That Jazz • Jan. 15 • Wines, foods, music, and silent auction. Carson Nugget Ballroom, Carson City, 775-883-7477.

NCSA College Races • Jan. 15-16 • Western college skiers compete on slalom and giant slalom courses. Squaw Valley USA, Olympic Valley, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Antique Show and Sale • Jan. 15-16 • Benefits the Carson Valley Pops Orchestra. Town Hall, Genoa, 775-782-4951.

Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration • Jan. 17 • Dinner and guest speaker. Program and location TBA, Sparks, 775-329-8990.

Full Moon Snowshoe and Nordic Tour • Jan. 21 • Family event. Northstar-at-Tahoe, Lake Tahoe, 530-562-2475.

Mah Jong Tournament • Jan. 21-23 • \$100 entry. Reno Hilton, Reno, 888-547-2081.

Masters Ski Races • Jan. 21-23 • Giant slalom and slalom events. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-581-7188 for event details.

"Honk, Jr." • Jan. 21-30 • Comedy presented by the BAC Stage Kids. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 775-883-1976.

Next X Snow Search • Jan. 22 • "Star Search" for kids under 13. Heavenly, Lake Tahoe, 775-586-7000.

Champagne Gala • Jan. 22 • Nevada Opera concert features mezzo-soprano Jennifer Larmore. Optional pre-event dinner. Reno Hilton, Reno, 775-786-4046.

USASA Superpipe • Jan. 22 • Event for amateurs. Northstar-at-Tahoe, Lake Tahoe, 530-562-1010.

Chinese New Year Plaza Party • Jan. 22 • Celebrate the year



Pablo Picasso painted "Le Rêve" (The Dream) in oil on canvas in 1932 (above). "Le Rêve" is one of 14 paintings from the Steve and Elaine Wynn Collection that appear through March 30 at the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno.

of the Green Rooster. Northstar-at-Tahoe, Lake Tahoe, 530-562-1010.

Overland Cup • Jan. 22-23, 28-29 • Skiers match race-course times with a partner. Mt. Rose-Ski Tahoe, Reno, 800-SKI-ROSE.

USASA Giant Slalom • Jan. 23 • Amateur snowboarders compete. Northstar-at-Tahoe, Lake Tahoe, 530-562-1010.

Sawmill 15K Nordic Race • Jan. 23 • Northstar-at-Tahoe, Lake Tahoe, 530-562-2475.

Kinder Cup Challenge • Jan. 23 • Ski races for kids six and under. Heavenly, Lake Tahoe, 775-586-7000.

Reno Philharmonic Orchestra • Jan. 23 and 25 • Concert program features music by Strauss, Liszt, and Ginastera. Guest pianist James Winn. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-323-6393.

"The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" • Jan. 28-30 • Broadway Comes to Reno with Miss Mona and the girls. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 800-714-5331.

The Main Event: U.S. Open Qualifier • Jan. 29 • Pro and amateur snowboarders compete in a slopestyle contest. Sierra-at-Tahoe Snowsports Resort, Lake Tahoe, 530-659-7453.

Squaw Valley Challenge #3 • Feb. 3 • Recreational race open to skiers and snowboarders. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Jeep King of the Mountain • Feb. 4-5 • Skiers and snowboarders compete. Spectator seating available. Heavenly, Lake Tahoe, 775-586-7000.

"Amadeus" • Feb. 4-5, 10-12, 17-19, 24-26, March 3-4, 10-12 • Mozart and the confrontation between mediocrity and genius. Bruka Theatre, Reno, 775-323-3221.

Olympic Heritage Festival • Feb. 4-6 • Event celebrates Squaw Valley's Olympic heritage with past Olympians, torch-light-

ing ceremony and parade, and a classic ski race. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Slide-X • Feb. 5 • Snowboard bordercross races. Mt. Rose-Ski Tahoe, Reno, 800-SKI-ROSE.

Mardi Gras Plaza Party • Feb. 5 • Cajun food specials and music. Northstar-at-Tahoe, Lake Tahoe, 530-562-1010.

Snowbomb.com Sick and Twisted Superpipe • Feb. 5 • Pro and amateur athletes compete for cash and prizes. Sierra-at-Tahoe Snowsports Resort, Lake Tahoe, 530-659-7453.

Snowbomb.com Sick and Twisted Jib Fest Contest • Feb. 6 • Northstar-at-Tahoe, Lake Tahoe, 530-562-1010.

Barton Hospital Snowsports Week • Feb. 7-10 • Benefit offers \$30 advance purchase lift tickets. Sierra-at-Tahoe Snowsports Resort, Lake Tahoe, 530-659-7453.

Jazz Sampler for Sweethearts • Feb. 8 • Love themes played by the Mile High Jazz Band. Comma Coffee, Carson City, 775-883-2662.

Super Bowl Game • Feb. 8 • Casinos host viewing parties with food and drink specials, such as \$1 beer and hot dogs. Some include cheerleaders and pro football players signing autographs.

Monthly Wednesday Evening Program on Railroad • Feb. 9 • Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

Sled Fest 2005 • Feb. 10-13 • Snowmobile festival. Events at Lake Tahoe region, trade show at Reno-Sparks Convention Center. Reno and Lake Tahoe, 800-FOR-RENO.

Silvia Martins and Friends • Feb. 11 • Modern dance. Cal Neva Resort, Crystal Bay, Lake Tahoe, 530-546-4602.

Brew Ha Ha • Feb. 11 • Charity event features regional microbreweries. John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 775-356-3304 (tickets 775-329-2787).

Vans Tahoe Snow Cup • Feb. 11-13 • International field competes for cash prizes. Northstar-at-Tahoe, Lake Tahoe, 530-562-1010.

Far West Ski Association J3 Super-G Races • Feb. 11-13 • Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-581-7188.

Winter Challenge Horse Handicapping Tournament • Feb. 11-13 • Reno Hilton, Reno, 888-547-2081.

\$25,000 Let-It-Ride Tournament • Feb. 11-13 • \$100 entry. Reno Hilton, Reno, 888-547-2081.

A Note-Able Evening of Romance • Feb. 12 • Valentine's dance, champagne, chocolate, and singer Cami Thompson with a 12-piece string band. Benefits the Note-Ables' musical and performing arts activities for people with disabilities. Atlantis Resort, Reno, 775-843-9516.

Slide Back '80s Retro Ski Party • Feb. 12 • Wear your favorite '80s fashions

for the Most Fashionable Contest. Mt. Rose-Ski Tahoe, Reno, 800-SKI-ROSE.

American Freeski Tour • Feb. 12-13 • International field of freeskiers compete in superpipe and slopestyle events. Sugar Bowl Ski Resort, Lake Tahoe, 530-426-9000.

Valentine's Dinner and Ice Skating at High Camp • Feb. 12-14 • Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-581-7275.

Kinder Cup Challenge • Feb. 13 • Ski races for kids six and under. Heavenly, Lake Tahoe, 775-586-7000.

Valentine Sweetheart Race • Feb. 14 • Prizes are up for grabs in this holiday race. Heavenly, Lake Tahoe, 775-586-7000.

"Where the Love?" • Feb. 14 • Valentine's Day scavenger hunt. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Valentine's Day Couples Race • Feb. 14 • Northstar-at-Tahoe, Lake Tahoe, 530-562-1010.

Squaw Valley Challenge #4 • Feb. 17 • Recreational race open to skiers and snowboarders. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Side Street Strutters • Feb. 17 • Jazz concert presented by the Washoe County Concert Association. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-786-7300.

"Lone Star" and "Laundry and Bourbon" • Feb. 18-20, 25-27, March 4-5 • "Lone Star," comedic antics of two good ole boys on Saturday night. "Laundry and Bourbon," a comedy about three small-town wives discontented with their marriages.

Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 775-883-1976 ext. 102.

Heavenly Village Rail Jam Series • Feb. 19 • Night competition uses a rail jam on wheels. Heavenly, Lake Tahoe, 775-586-7000.

The Western Wind • Feb. 24 • A cappella ensemble performs program that ranges from medieval to early American folk music. Nightingale Concert Hall, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6847.

Ben and Jerry's Full Moon Snowshoe and Nordic Tour • Feb. 25 • Northstar-at-Tahoe, Lake Tahoe, 530-562-2475.



The performing pooches of J.R. Johns' Best Friends show off at Circus Circus Reno.

Eagles and Agriculture Carson Valley Tour and Workshop • Feb. 25-27 • Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce offers a narrated motorcoach tour of Carson Valley ranches to view bald eagles followed by a luncheon at the Carson Valley Inn. Presentation by a falconer at the Carson Valley Inn on Feb. 25. Tickets \$25, reservations required. Carson Valley, 775-782-8144 or 800-727-7677.

"Epicene or The Silent Woman" • Feb. 25-26, March 2-6 • A man is driven mad by liberated women. Redfield Studio Theatre, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6847.

Snowbomb Sick and Twisted Rail Slide • Feb. 26 • Freestyle competition on rails. Heavenly, Lake Tahoe, 775-586-7000 for more information.

Winter Carnival Plaza Party • Feb. 26 • Games, food, drink special, music, and a snowman-building contest. Northstar-at-Tahoe, Lake Tahoe, 530-562-1010.

Carson City Symphony • Feb. 27 • Guest soloist Jennifer Tibben-Lemdkke. Carson City Community Center, Carson City, 775-883-4154.

Ongoing Events

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., limit Texas hold 'em on Wed., no limit Texas hold 'em on Sun.-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 for details.

Video Poker Tournaments • Thurs. \$10 buy-in. \$1,500 monthly blackjack tournament on last Tues. 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.

Wine Walk • Third Saturday at 2pm. Free wine tasting at participating merchants with the purchase of a map and glass for \$10. Riverwalk Arts District, Downtown, Reno, 775-337-1717.

Gift of Lights • Thru 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, 775-329-0474.

enLIGHTEN • Thru Jan. 6 • Exhibition by Wild Women, 10 regional artists. Wilbur D. May Museum, San Rafael Regional Park, Reno, 775-785-5961.

The Energy Within • Thru Jan. 7 • Themed art competition. Riverside Artist Lofts, Reno, 775-329-ARTS.

Rosemary Rogers-deSoto • Thru Jan. 28 • Basket-making exhibition. Nevada Arts Council, Carson City, 775-687-6680.

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.

Hortense "Kay" Tinkham • Thru March 31 • Paintings showcase Northern Nevada railroading. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

Tireless and Unremitting: The Chinese and Nevada's Railroads • Thru Jan. 2006 • Explores the relationship of Chinese immigrants with the railroad and other aspects of their culture and daily life in Nevada. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

UNR Men's Basketball • The Wolf Pack plays 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.

Karaoke Gong Show at Bar One • Jan. 1-2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Feb. 5-6, 13, 20, 27 • Contest 4:30-7pm. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-1588.

Accessorize: A Century of Men's and Women's Fashion Accessories • Jan. 5-Feb. 28 • Hats, shoes, gloves, ties, purses, and jewelry from turn-of-the-century. Sparks Heritage Museum, Sparks, 775-355-1144.

UNR Women's Basketball • The Lady Wolf Pack plays 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.

Expression Session Friday Night Jam • Jan. 7, 18, Feb. 4, 18 • Snowboarders and skiers of all ages and skill levels compete for comic prizes. Boreal Mountain Resort, Lake Tahoe, 530-426-3666.

Hacienda de La Sierra • Jan. 7, Feb. 4, March 18 • Ski party with music and prizes. Incline Village, 775-832-1606.

After 9/11: Messages From the World and Images From Ground Zero • Jan. 8-March 30 • Commemorative exhibition of letters, poems, paintings, quilts, and photos. Carson Valley



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

Paty Wickman • Jan. 17-Feb. 18 • Large-scale figurative paintings and drawings. Sheppard Gallery, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6658 for information.

"Silver Key" Pittman: Nevada's Frontier Statesman • Jan. 21-May 23 • Exhibition on the life and career of Nevada's long-time U.S. senator. Known as the "Voice of Silver" because of his focus on the price of silver. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 775-688-1190.

Last Tracks • Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26 • Wine tasting and appetizers at Snowflake Lodge followed by a sunset run on Saturdays. Diamond Peak Ski Resort, Lake Tahoe, 775-832-1177.

Peter Goin • Feb. 4-March 25 • Photography exhibition by Reno documentary photographer. Nevada Arts Council, Carson City, 775-687-6680.

Coming Events

North Lake Tahoe Snow Festival Winter Carnival • March 4-13 • North Lake Tahoe, 530-583-7167.

Dummy Downhill Race • March 5 • Mt. Rose-Ski Tahoe, Reno, 800-SKI-ROSE.

Lake Tahoe Winterfest Gay and Lesbian Ski Week • March 6-13 • South Lake Tahoe, 877-777-4950.

Cowboy Poetry and Jubilee • March 12 • Carson City, 775-883-1532.

Sparks Centennial Ball • March 12 • Sparks, www.sparks100.org.

John Ascuaga's Nugget's 50th Anniversary Party • March 12 • Sparks, 775-356-3304.



Argenta members Phillip Ruder (left), James Winn, and John Lenz perform during the New Year's holiday at the Nevada Chamber Music Festival at the University of Nevada in Reno.

Sparks 100th Anniversary Ceremony • March 15 • Sparks, www.sparks100.org.

"The Merry Widow" • March 18, 20 • Nevada Opera, Reno, 775-786-4046.

California Gold Rush USSA Ski Championship • March 20 • Lake Tahoe, 530-426-3871.

Forum Youngblood Snowboarder Slopestyle Series Finals •

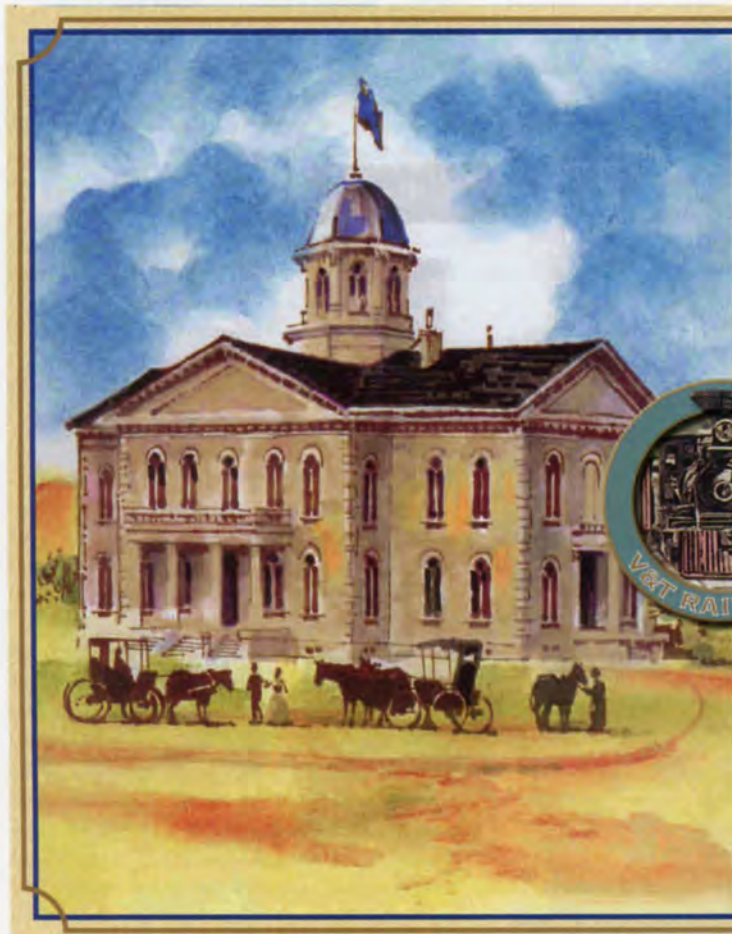
March 26 • Lake Tahoe, 530-659-7453 for information.

"42nd Street" • April 1-3 • Reno, 800-714-5331.

"Stomp" • April 15-17 • Reno, 775-714-5331.

World Series of Poker • April 26-May 10 • Harveys Lake Tahoe, 877-367-9767.

Reno Chamber Orchestra Concerto Competition with Guest Narrator Leonard Nimoy • April 30 • Reno, 775-348-9413.



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Big, Bad, and Bald

Carson Valley offers eagle watching and ranch tour

Birdwatchers will flock to Carson Valley on February 25-27 for the annual **Eagles and Agriculture Carson Valley Tour and Workshop**. Ranchers, whose cows give birth in winter, allow tour-goers on their property to see bald eagles alight in fields to feast on afterbirth every calving season.

"On each tour bus a bird expert and an agriculturist will explain how agriculture and wildlife support each other," says USDA conservation and development coordinator Dan Kaffer. "Over the last two years we have seen more than 100 eagles and raptors in three hours of bird-watching, including 12 different species of birds of prey."



Bald eagles are viewed during the Eagles and Agriculture Carson Valley Tour in February.

On the evening of Friday, February 25, a reception (\$20) will be held at the Carson Valley Inn, where visitors can see a live peregrine falcon and hear from eagle and hawk experts. Appetizers and desserts will be served. An owl prowl (\$30) begins at 8 p.m. The bus tour (\$45) takes place on Saturday morning, February 26, followed by a luncheon buffet.

A photo workshop (\$45) is planned Saturday evening with wildlife photogra-

pher Robin Wilson. The workshop includes a guided field shoot on Sunday, February 27. Photographers may enter the event's annual photo contest (best eagle photo wins \$200, best of any bird of prey \$50). A canoe/kayak trip (\$50) on the Carson River is also planned for Sunday.

For information call the Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce at 800-727-7677 or e-mail info@carsonvalleynv.org. Reservations are required.—*Joyce Hollister*

"Mark Twain Tonight" Starring Hal Holbrook • May 7 • Reno, 800-714-5331.

Reno River Festival • May 12-15 • Truckee River Whitewater Park, Reno, 800-FOR-RENO.

Nevada Passage • May 19-24 • Made-for-television adventure race. Statewide rural and urban areas, www.travelnevada.com.

Rhythm and Rawhide: Reno Philharmonic Orchestra with Ian Tyson • May 21 • Reno, 775-323-2850.

Reno Rodeo • June 16-25 • Reno, 800-225-2277.

Star Spangled Sparks Fireworks • July 4 • Sparks, www.sparks100.org.

Nevada State Fair • Aug. 24-28 • Reno, 775-688-5767.

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

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

RENO/SPARKS

Atlantis • 775-825-4700 or 800-723-6500: Grand Ballroom: Winter Wine and Ski Expo, Jan. 20, wine and brew tasting, food from Reno and Tahoe restaurants, and a silent auction benefit the Jimmie Huega Multiple Sclerosis Center (tickets 888-551-7007). Bands play in the Center Stage Cabaret. Dancing in the Atlantis Nightclub.

Boomtown • 775-345-6000: 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. Big Easy Bourbon Street Ball, Dec. 31.

City Center Pavilion • 888-288-1833: Entertainment TBA.

Eldorado • 775-786-5700, 800-648-5966 (U.S. outside Nevada) or 800-648-3024 (Canada): Eldorado Showroom: Jim Belushi and the Sacred Hearts, Dec. 30. Mickey Thomas and Friends, Dec. 31. Siegfried and Roy present Darren Roman: "The Voice of Magic," Jan. 2-Feb. 27. Bands like Left of Centre and Steel Breeze play nightly at the Brew Brothers microbrewery. Piano music in the Roxy Lounge. BuBinga Lounge: Dance to DJs and bands Tues.-Sat. Bands like Laurie Thomas and the Trick, Carlos Driggs Band, X-Force, and Nathan Owens Motown and Soul Revue 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: TBA.

Harrah's Reno • 775-788-2900 or 800-HARRAHS: Sammy's Showroom: "Wonderland," production show, 8pm Thurs.-Fri. and Sun.-Tues., 9pm Sat., dark Wed. "Showgirls," adult revue, indf., 10:30pm Thurs.-Fri. and Sun.-Mon., 11:30pm Sat., and 8pm Wed., dark Tues. Bands play Fri.-Sat. in the Sapphire Lounge and the Virg Nightclub.

John Ascuaga's Nugget • Sparks, 775-356-3304 or 800-648-1177: Rose Ballroom: John Ascuaga's Nugget's 50th Anniversary Party, March 12. Celebrity Showroom: Delbert McClinton, Dec. 31. "Sheep Dip," Jan. 14-15, satirical fundraiser pokes fun of local people and events. Austin Lounge Lizards, Jan. 17-18. Tower of Power, Jan. 28-29. Todd Snider and the Nervous Wrecks, Feb. 4-5. Harry James Orchestra, Feb. 9. Brew Ha Ha, Feb. 11, charity event features regional microbreweries (tickets 775-329-2787). Danny Marona, Feb. 11-13. The Royal Swing Orchestra: A Tribute to Benny Goodman, Feb. 16. The Pied Pipers and

Shows

CARSON CITY

Carson Nugget • 775-882-1626 or 800-426-5239 (continental U.S. including Nevada): New Year's Eve Party: Music, prime rib buffet, and free champagne. Super Bowl Party, Feb. 8. Sweetheart's Dance, Feb. 14. Nugget Show Lounge: Entertainers like the Motifs, Band on the Run, and Off Our Rockers appear Tues.-Sun.

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

Casino Fandango • 775-885-7000: Bands play in the Cabaret Lounge. Hindsight performs New Year's Eve.

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

CARSON VALLEY

Carson Valley Inn • Minden, 775-782-9711 or 800-321-6983: Cabaret Lounge: Kid and Nic Show, Dec. 28-Jan. 9. Bands play for dancing, dark Mon.



Soap star Susan Lucci performs with Regis Philbin January 22 at the Silver Legacy.

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the Clambake 7, Feb. 23. Les Brown and the Band of Renown, March 2. Stan Kenton and the Legends of Swing, March 9. The Four Freshmen, March 16. 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 Lonnie Lawless, American Made, and Bad Moon Rising play nightly. Piano music featuring Ron Perry or Dale Vernon nightly in the Steakhouse. White Orchid Restaurant: Winemaker's Dinner, Feb. 21.

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: Entertainment TBA. Bands play nightly in The Garage.

Sands Regency • 775-348-2200: Tequila Bar: Bands like John Dawson Band play Wed.-Sun. Comedians perform in the Just For Laughs Comedy Club, dark Mon.-Tues. Special Events: Reno Blues Society Mardi Gras Concert, Feb. 5. ACC Cribbage Tournament, Feb. 10-13.

Siena • 775-337-6260: Lexie's Lounge: Jammin' With the Siena Jazz Ensemble Tues.-Sat. Corky Bennett performs Tues.-Sun.

Silver Club • Sparks, 775-358-4771 or 800-905-7774: Entertainment in the Casino Lounge.

Silver Legacy • 775-329-4777 or 800-687-8733 (U.S., Canada, and Mexico): Grande Exposition Hall: Laurie Thomas and the Trick, Dec. 31, party includes fireworks inside the dome. Aaron Lewis, Jan. 7. Wayne Brady, Jan. 15-16. Regis Philbin and Susan Lucci, Jan. 22. Bill Cosby, Feb. 20. B.B. King, Feb. 26. 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: Sinbad, Dec. 31-Jan. 1. The Club Nero has dancing.

Harrah's Lake Tahoe • 800-HARRAHS: South Shore Room: Queensryche, Feb. 12. Creedence Clearwater Revisited, Feb. 19-20. 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. Cabo Wabo Cantina Lounge: Bands like Dane Rinehart Band in after-hours nightclub setting.

Lake Tahoe Horizon • 775-588-6211 or 800-322-7723: Golden Cabaret: "Fusion," comedy-magic revue. 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: Silvia Martins and Friends, Feb. 11, modern dance (tickets 530-546-4602).

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.

Lassoed by Cowboy Poetry

Well versed in Elko's Western allure, we make an annual road trip to the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering.

By Myram Borders

As a resident of Las Vegas, I live in a city of world-class shopping and superstar concerts. Las Vegas is a make-believe, feel-good place where almost anything goes. But every year in late January I board a plane for Reno, join my friends in a car headed east, and drive most of the day to reach the Elko Convention Center in time for the opening show of the **National Cowboy Poetry Gathering**.

The highway winds past endless snow-covered mountain ranges, lonely ranches, wild horses, and small towns. The Big Sky far outshines the lights of Las Vegas. The smile of a friendly clerk behind the counter of a tiny store in a remote Nevada town is more winning than the plastic greeting of a tip-hungry Las Vegas maitre d'.

My traveling companions are Chris Chrystal of Carson City and her sister Lois Janule of Hampton, Virginia. Our car is loaded with Western boots, cowboy hats, Levi's, scarves, and lots of precious silver and turquoise extras. The trappings are a must in order to fit in with the other "cowgirls" at Cowboy Poetry. From the car stereo Willie Nelson, Ian Tyson, and the Sons of the San Joaquin sing of life on the range.

Soon we reach the Stockmen's Hotel in Elko, a half-century-old landmark where everyone wants to stay. The Stockmen's is the place real cowboys usually gather for after-hours fun. The only way you can get a room at the Stockmen's during Cowboy Poetry is to be on "the list." One year, miraculously, our names appeared on the list, and we've had a room ever since. A clerk once told me your name moves to the permanent list only if one of the regulars dies.

At the Stockmen's we unload our luggage and Western gear onto a cart and head for the front door. Hey, there's a big guy with a big hat—a real live cowboy. He's holding the door



Corb Lund of British Columbia presents "song stories" at this year's National Cowboy Poetry Gathering.

open. He's offering to help with the bags. My goodness, he doesn't even want a tip.

Lois flies to Nevada from Virginia every year. Last year in Elko she spent a fortune acquiring Western gear at the J.M. Capriola store and CDs and souvenirs in the convention center gift shop. Lois even cornered Ian Tyson, who hesitantly agreed to give his autograph after we saw one of his standing-ovation, boot-stomping performances at the Western Folklife Center.

We have learned that the wise Cowboy Poetry fan orders tickets four months in advance to see the top performers on several Elko stages. Ian will be back this year. So will Waddie Mitchell, Tom Russell, Chris Isaacs, Sourdough Slim, Don Edwards, Bill Hearne, and Bimbo Cheney.

They are all superstars in the cowboy world. Their laments recall the good times and hard times and fun times of a cowboy's lonely life and the loyalty of his strong and brave steed. They swagger, brag, tip their giant hats, and politely allow ladies to lead the way. They make you laugh, sing, dance, and occasionally weep.

Then there are the unofficial late-night gatherings of cowboys that last into the pre-dawn hours. The trick is finding those jam sessions. Strangers are always welcome. No tickets are required, so my friends and I just follow the sound of guitars and the res-



Properly attired, Lois Janule (left), Chris Chrystal, and the author attend a Western art show during Cowboy Poetry in Elko.

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Nevada
Photography by Joseph Royer

onant voices of cowboy poets and singers.

Cowboy Poetry includes musical workshops, cooking classes, and special guests. This year *llanero* musicians and poets from Colombia will attend. Their instruments include the maracas, *cuatro* (guitar), harp, and string bass.

Last year I watched some cowboys from Mongolia demonstrate cooking vegetables inside an animal that appeared to be a muskrat. It took hours but tasted pretty good. They also demonstrated an unusual way of singing—their voices sounded like a string instrument.

Besides the music, poetry, and shopping, Cowboy Poetry offers us the chance to relive "how it used to be." Maybe the cowboys could show those fancy chefs in my hometown how cooking is really done. Maybe the cowboys could share some of their grace and manners with folks in the big city.

Dream on. "How it used to be" is gone except for once a year when my friends and I journey to Elko.

Myram Borders is the former Las Vegas bureau manager for United Press International and a past manager of the Las Vegas News Bureau. This will be her fifth year attending the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering.

The Poetry Gathering

The 21st National Cowboy Poetry Gathering takes place January 22-29 in Elko. Most of the poetry and music events are scheduled for the Western Folklife Center and the Elko Convention Center. Special guests will include *llanero* poets and musicians from Colombia. Single-day passes cost \$15, and all-gathering passes are \$45. Some shows require additional tickets. Contact the Western Folklife Center at 888-880-5885 (ticket orders only), 775-738-7508 (in Elko or outside the U.S.), or visit the Web site www.westernfolklife.org.

During the gathering Michael Martin Murphey will play at the Stockmen's Hotel on January 27-29; call 800-648-2345 or 775-738-5141. The Red Lion Inn usually features Western musicians; call 800-545-0044 or 775-738-2111.

Located on Interstate 80, Elko is 295 miles east of Reno, 230 miles west of Salt Lake City, and 255 miles south of Boise. It's best to reserve lodging well in advance, but rooms usually can be found during the gathering. For room information contact the Elko Convention and Visitors Authority at 800-248-3556, 775-738-4091, or www.elkocva.com.



Rural Nevada

EVENTS AND SHOWS

The **National Cowboy Poetry Gathering** has been drawing an international audience to Elko for more than 20 years. Also, snow sculptors compete at the **White Pine Fire and Ice Show** at Cave Lake near Ely. *Nevada Magazine* presents the following rural events and shows for January and February. Please call ahead to confirm dates and details.

Events

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 • 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.

Todd Green • Jan. 7 • Musician plays string, flute, and percussion instruments. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 775-237-6006.

Snowmobile Rendezvous 2005 • Jan. 14-16 • State's biggest snowmobile event presents trails and events in Elko County, rated by *SuperTrax Int'l Magazine* as one of the world's top 10 areas for snowmobile adventure. Merritt Mountain/Sunflower Flats Recreation Trail with headquarters at the Elko Convention Center, Elko, 800-248-3556.

Oberanak Basque Club Winter Fest • Jan. 15 • Basque food



Snowmobilers will ride the wild country during Elko's Snowmobile Rendezvous 2005 on January 14-16. Elko County recently was named one of the world's top 10 snowmobile areas by SuperTrax Int'l Magazine. Also, Reno-Tahoe hosts Sled Fest 2005 on February 10-13.

and dancing. Civic Center, Battle Mountain, 775-635-2878.

White Pine Fire and Ice Show • Jan. 15-17 • Snow- and ice-sculpting competition, fireworks on Jan. 16, and cross-country skiing, sledging, and ice skating. Cave Lake State Park, 15 miles south of Ely, 775-289-8877.

Old Shepherders Party • Jan. 21 • Second annual gathering of old-time shepherders at the Border Inn includes a barbecue and storytelling. Border Inn, seven miles north of Baker on the Nevada-Utah border, 775-234-7300.

National Cowboy Poetry Gathering • Jan. 22-29 • 21st annual

event includes workshops, cow camp Dutch-oven cooking, saddle songs, poetry, and jam sessions. Exhibits feature art, jewelry, and photographs. Performers include Waddie Mitchell, Ian Tyson, Chris Isaacs, Sourdough Slim, Jesse Ballantyne, Don Edwards, and newcomer Corb Lund. Western Folklife Center and Elko Convention Center, Elko, 888-880-5885.

Grey de Lisle • Feb. 3 • Gospel and country singer-songwriter. Barkley Theatre, Fallon, 775-423-1440.

Winter Steam Spectacular Photo Shoot • Feb. 4-6 • A ride on steam engine No. 93 offers unique photo opportunities. Cost is \$375 for weekend. Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Ely, 775-289-2085.

Eagles Crab Feed • Feb. 5 • Annual fundraising dinner and auction. Community Center, Lovelock, 775-273-2195 for information.

Super Bowl Parties • Feb. 6 • Casinos hold parties with food and drink specials to watch the big game.

Nevada Northern Railway and Heber Valley Railroad Photo Shoot • Feb. 11-16 • Photography event takes place in two locations, Ely's historic railroad and the Heber Valley Railroad in Utah. Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Ely, 775-289-2085.

Shrimp and Crab Feed • Feb. 12 • All-you-can-eat dinner benefits the Lions Eye Foundation and features Dave Stamey in "A Tribute to the American Cowboy." Convention Center, Fallon, 775-867-4700.

"Anansi the Spider" • Feb. 18 • Tears of Joy Puppet Theatre presentation. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 775-237-6006.

TS Gun Show • Feb. 18-20 • Elko Convention Center, Elko, 530-934-7230.

Wildhorse Trout Derby • Feb. 19-21 • Ice fishing for cash

prizes. Wildhorse Reservoir, Wildhorse, 775-758-9494.

Halleck Bar Party • Feb. 25 • Annual event celebrates historic Halleck. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 775-738-3418.

Habib Koite and Bamada • Feb. 26 • West African pop star combines rock and classical guitar. Barkley Theatre, Fallon, 775-423-1440.

Wildhorse Perch Derby • March 12-13 • Ice fishing for cash prizes. Wildhorse Reservoir, Wildhorse, 775-758-9494.

Ongoing Events

Goldfield Historical Firehouse and Museum • Antique equipment displayed on 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.

La Vida Es un Sueno • Thru Jan. 10 • Juried show by Elko County Art Club. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 775-777-7955.

Lori Epperson Expressions • Jan. 4-Feb. 15 • Glass mosaics and three-dimensional birds created from chicken wire and other found materials. Hawthorne Community Convention Center, Hawthorne, 775-945-3030.

Hidden Cave Tours • Jan. 8, 22, Feb. 12, 26, March 12, 26 • 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.

Quilting Creations • March 1-April 12 • Projects by inventive designers of all ages. Hawthorne Community Convention Center, Hawthorne, 775-945-3030.

Coming Events

Pick of the Remuda Sale and Trade Show • March 4-5 • Winnemucca, 775-625-1302.

Ranch Hand Rodeo • March 5-6 • Winnemucca, 775-623-5071.

"Swingin' the Benny Goodman Songbook" • March 11 • Jazz musicians Terry Blaine, Mark Shane, and Allen Vachie in concert. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 775-237-6006.

Shooting the West Photography Seminar • March 11-13 • Workshops and guest speakers. Winnemucca, 775-623-5071.

Nevada Passage • May 19-24 • Made-for-television adventure race. Statewide rural and urban areas, www.travelnevada.com.

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 Tues.-Sun.

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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: Bands play nightly.
Stockmen's Hotel • 775-738-5141 or 800-648-2345 (U.S. and Nevada): Showroom: Michael Martin Murphey, Jan. 27-29. Bands play Tues.-Sun. Cowboy jam sessions upstairs Jan. 27-29 during the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering.

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: 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: Joe Diffie, Dec. 31-Jan. 1. The Lettermen, Jan. 14-15. Rich Little, Feb. 11-12. Louise Mandrell, Feb. 25-26. Ray Price, March 11-12. Gary Puckett, April 8-9. .38 Special, April 22-23. Ronnie Milsap, May 13-14. Bands like The Larkins play in the Cabaret.
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: Entertainment in the Club West Nightclub.
Terrible's Lakeside • 775-751-7770.
Terrible's Town Casino • 775-751-7777.

SILVER SPRINGS

Silver Springs Nugget • 775-577-4263.

TONOPAH

Banc Club • 775-482-5409: Bands play Thurs.-Sat.
Tonopah Station Ramada Inn • 775-482-9777: Bands play on weekends.

WENDOVER

Montego Bay • 775-664-9100: Bands play in the Casino Lounge.
Peppermill • 775-664-2255 or 800-648-9660 (U.S. outside Nevada): Entertainers appear in the Casino Lounge.
Rainbow Casino • 775-664-4000: Bands play in the Casino Lounge.
Red Garter • 775-664-2111 or 800-982-2111 (U.S. outside Nevada).
State Line Nugget • 775-664-2221.

WINNEMUCCA

Winners Hotel • 775-623-2511: Winners Lounge: Rock 'n' Horse, Dec. 30-Jan. 8. Power Light Band, Jan. 13-15. Memphis Exchange, Jan. 20-22. Dan Bauer Band, Jan. 27-29. Palmore Brothers Band, Feb. 3-5. Octane, Feb. 10-12. Swift Kick, Feb. 17-19, 24-26.
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.

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



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Tourism Agencies/Chambers of Commerce

- 101 Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce**—High desert region, U.S. 50 (Loneliest Road in America), history, mountain biking, hunting. 775-964-2200, www.mountainsage.org.
- 102 Beatty Chamber of Commerce**—Beatty, the Gateway to Death Valley National Park, 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.
- 105 Carson City Convention and Visitors Bureau/Seniors Strike Silver Cards**—Discounts on lodging, meals, museums, recreation, gaming. 800-NEVADA-1, www.visitcarsoncity.com.
- 106 Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Authority**—Genoa, Minden-Gardnerville, and Topaz Lake make up the Carson Valley. 800-727-7677, www.carsonvalleyrv.org for information.
- 107 White Pine County Tourism and Recreation Board, Ely**—Bristlecone pines, Great Basin National Park, fishing, hunting, Nevada Northern Railway. 800-HY6-9350, www.elynevada.net.
- 108 Eureka Opera House**—Built in 1880 and restored in 1993, the Eureka Opera House is located on U.S. 50 (Loneliest Road in America). 775-237-6006, www.co.eureka.nv.us.
- 109 Fallon Convention and Tourism Authority**—Fallon is home to Navy's Top Gun flight school, Sand Mountain, Lake Lahontan. 866-4FALLON, www.fallontourism.com.
- 110 Elko Convention and Visitors Authority**—In Northeastern Nevada on Interstate 80, outdoor recreation, history, hotels, casinos, and meetings. Convention Center has 50,000 sq. ft. of meeting space. Free Meeting Planner Guide. 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.
- 112 Nevada Commission on Tourism**—Nevada's tourism authority guides the visitor to unlimited outdoor adventure and world-class resorts. 800-NEVADA-8, www.travelnevada.com.
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- 119 Pony Express Territory**—Pony Express Trail (1860-1861) parallels U.S. 50 (Loneliest Road in America) through Pony Express Territory. 866-4FALLON, www.ponyexpressnevada.com.
- 120 Truckee-Donner Chamber of Commerce**—North of Lake Tahoe, Sierra Nevada views, six world-class ski resorts, and Donner Memorial State Park. 866-245-4347, www.truckee.com.
- 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 on Reno-Tahoe. 888-HIT-RENO, www.visitrenotahoe.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.

132 Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority—Official guide to Tahoe hotels, cabins, lodging, rates, reservations, and vacation packages, Nevada and California. 800-AT-TAHOE, www.virtualtahoe.com.

133 City of West Wendover—Swimming, golfing, horseback riding, fishing, bird watching, casinos, hotels, dining, and entertainment. 866-BZYCITY, www.westwendovercity.com.

Hotels/Casinos

201 Caesars Tahoe, Lake Tahoe—Rooms at Caesars Tahoe overlook Lake Tahoe. South Shore resort offers a spa, wedding chapel, shops, six restaurants, nightclub, and showroom. The casino features slots, video, and table games, race and sports book, and the Emperors Club gaming membership card. 866-866-9226, www.caesars.com.

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.cvin.com.

207 Imperial Palace, Las Vegas—On the Las Vegas Strip, the hotel-casino has 2,700 rooms, 10 restaurants, "Legends in Concert." 888-777-7664, www.imperialpalace.com.

208 John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks—Off I-80, gaming, John's Club, eight restaurants, wedding chapel, pool, health club, convention facilities. 800-648-1177, www.jannugget.com.

209 Peppermill, Reno—Gaming, seven restaurants, entertainment, pool, spa, salon, senior specials, conventions. 800-648-6992 (mention HNV MAG4), www.PeppermillReno.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.

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240 Riverside Resort, Laughlin—Hotel-casino, 1,404 rooms, RV park, six restaurants, convention space, Sun Country Airlines packages, gaming. 800-227-3849, www.riversideresort.com.

254 Cal Neva Resort, Lake Tahoe—Resort on Tahoe's north shore has 200 rooms, cabins, chalets, casino, wedding and honeymoon facilities, spa, and meeting and convention space. 800-CAL-NEVA, www.calnevaresort.com.

Golf

301 Golf Mesquite, Nevada—Five 18-hole courses and one nine-hole course; also courses in St. George, Utah. Golf-hotel packages. 866-720-7111, www.golffmesquitenevada.com.

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402 Lake Tahoe Accommodations—Management for rental properties, rental homes, or condominiums near skiing, golf, and lake. 800-544-3234, www.laketahoeaccommodations.com.

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Attractions, Galleries, Museums

602 Liberace Museum, Las Vegas—Museum features jewelry, wardrobe, and costumes worn by the late Liberace, custom-car collection, and pianos. 702-798-5595, www.liberace.com.

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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.

Events

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.

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902 Tonopah Historic Mining Foundation—Tonopah Historic Mining Park is on site of Belle and Jim Butler's 1900 claim. Self-guided tours. 775-482-9274, www.tonopahnvada.org for additional park information.

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911 Look Tours, Las Vegas—Tours of Grand Canyon, Hoover Dam by helicopter or airplane. Bus/van tours, horseback rides, riverboat combos. 800-LOOKTOURS, www.looktours.com for further tour information.

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1103 HomeGate Realty of Nevada, Sparks—Visit the office or Web site to check for featured homes, help with choosing the right property, and buying and selling in today's market. 775-284-HOME, www.homegatesparks.com.

Retail Shopping

1203 Gamblers General Store, Las Vegas—Casino products, antique slots, books, chips, roulette wheels, tables, sold in store and online. 800-322-2447, www.gamblersgeneralstore.com.

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.

Reservations

1301 Hotels.com—Internet site for hotel, suite, and vacation rental reservations. Packages include hotel, air, rental cars, and group travel. 800-2-HOTELS, www.Hotels.com.

Business Services

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Lakeside Skating

Lake Las Vegas on the outskirts of Henderson is an oasis of hotels, million-dollar homes, golf courses, and the trendy, cobblestoned MonteLago Village. One of the resort's latest attractions is a floating stage that is positioned lakeside for special events. Last fall the Beach Boys performed on the stage while concert-goers sat on the beach.

This winter the stage became an ice rink. Olympic skater Nancy Kerrigan was a guest at the November opening. The rink offers skating from 3 to 9 p.m. weekdays and noon to 9 p.m. Saturday and Sunday through January 17. The per-hour

cost is \$11 adults and \$8 children. Skate rentals cost \$4. If you're cold, you can warm up at Starbucks with a cup of coffee or hot chocolate. Non-skaters can watch the action while sipping a glass of wine on the patio of Sunset and Vines or dining at the new Luna Rossa Italian restaurant.

Swanky Dishes

Dishes Buffet, a new eatery at Treasure Island on the Las Vegas Strip, has roving food carts, hand-tossed salads, and exhibition stations featuring different ethnic menus daily. On Friday and Saturday, Dishes serves additional "swanky" dishes like lobster ravioli, crab legs, and soufflés. Prices are \$12



In Las Vegas, Peter Max has opened the first gallery devoted entirely to his art at the newly expanded Forum Shops at Caesars. The Art of Peter Max shows more than 100 works ranging from \$1,500 to \$150,000. Above: "Asia," an acrylic on canvas.

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breakfast, \$15 lunch, \$20 dinner, and \$26 for the upscale buffet menu on weekends; for information call 702-894-7111 or visit www.treasureisland.com.

Spa Therapy

A number of Reno-Tahoe hotels have spa packages designed to soothe and smooth during the ski season. At Incline Village, the **Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe** offers a Mid-Week Stillwater Spa Rejuvenation with a one-night stay, two spa treatments, \$50 retail credit, Sierra Café breakfast coupon for two, and use of the fitness center and heated pool. The \$259 per-person price is based on double occupancy. Ski packages from \$145 to \$525 also are available; call 800-233-1234 for details.

Just a Splash

The martini was invented in San Francisco and perfected in New York, but one of its most savory incarnations can be found in Reno.

Scores of variations on this simple yet strangely appealing drink are served in the lounge at Roxy, the upscale restaurant on the **Eldorado Hotel's** second floor. True,

Roxy has received a *Wine Spectator* award because of its list of 350 wines, but martini lovers will go right to the drink menu. You can order the standard gin or vodka with dry vermouth or cause a stir in your group by requesting a Godiva Chocolate martini or a Long Island-tini.

Servers weave past tables and sofas carrying trays laden with tall martini glasses and the kind of aluminum shakers that William Powell and Myrna Loy used in *The Thin Man*. Setting glasses before you and your companions, the server will pour each drink from its assigned shaker. Sometimes the glass is so full that you'll need to lean over and sip the potential overflow.

Holding your glass gently by the stem, you may sink back in your sofa and listen to the piano player and singer. Other patrons are sitting at tables and in a semicircle at the piano bar. The music of Porter and Gershwin floats through the lounge. Everyone applauds politely after each number. During the pause you can raise your hand to ask for another martini, if you wish, with just a splash of vermouth.

Roxy is open nightly at the Eldorado. Music at the piano bar begins at 4:30, and the restaurant opens at 5:30. For details call 775-786-5700 or 800-648-5966 or visit www.eldoradorenno.com.—*The Editors*

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Mission Accomplished

A 1923 train depot is featured on a tour of **historic Caliente**.

By **Joyce Hollister**

Trains still rumble through **Caliente**, the Southeastern Nevada community that served as a Union Pacific division point for the first half of the 20th century. Today, visitors can explore Caliente's restored Mission-style depot during a walking tour of the historic railroad town.

Tracks separate residential neighborhoods from the depot, which once housed a hotel, restaurant, and telegraph office. The picturesque U.P. station was built in 1923 with a tile roof. The original station had burned after its wood roof was set ablaze by embers escaping from steam locomotives.

The area was known as Dutch Flat in the 1870s and later as Culverwell, the name of the rancher who purchased the Jackman Ranch in 1874. Located 149 miles north of Las Vegas, the town was laid out in 1901 and named Calientes (Spanish for "hot") after the hot springs in the area, but postal authorities dropped the "s" when the post office opened on August 3 of that year. In the 1930s Caliente's population was about 5,000. Today, nearly 1,000 residents live in the town.

The depot now is occupied by the Caliente Chamber of Commerce, city offices, the library, the Community College of Southern Nevada, an art gallery, and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. Tourists may visit from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday. Outside, you can view a boxcar painted



The Caliente Mission-style depot (above) has a tile roof that was designed to protect against fiery embers from steam locomotives. The Caliente Union Pacific Band (left) was directed by Frank Wilcox and played in the Rose Bowl Parade in 1930, the year this photo was taken in front of the depot.

Smith, the site manager for the college.

A *Lincoln County Driving and Walking Tours* brochure features nearby attractions like the scenic Rainbow Canyon drive, numerous state parks, the old mining town of Pioche, and the Extraterrestrial Highway near Rachel. The guide can be obtained at the chamber office in the depot and at Caliente businesses. The Bureau of Land Management office (1400 Front Street, 775-726-4100) has information on outdoor activities. Call the Caliente Chamber of Commerce, 775-726-3129, or visit www.lincolncountynevada.com for information. ▣

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

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Gordie Brown

An impressionistic **singer, yes.** A Nevada **outdoorsman, no.**

When Gordie Brown performs at the Golden Nugget in Las Vegas, he zips through his singing impressions and one-liners like a roadrunner on speed. Backed by a seven-piece band, he spoofs musical targets ranging from Frank Sinatra to Meat Loaf. Brown appeared for two years at Harrah's Reno before opening his Golden Nugget show last summer. Today, Brown and his wife, Lori, live in Las Vegas with their four children, Dryden, Jordan, Madison, and Presley. After 17 years of hard work, Brown finds himself an overnight Nevada success story.

Growing up in Montreal, I always had big dreams of being an entertainer in Las Vegas. While other kids were listening to Led Zeppelin, Aerosmith, and Styx, I was captivated by the music of Johnny Mathis and Engelbert Humperdinck. I was probably the only kid in the neighborhood whose parents never told him, "Hey, turn that down."

I idolized performers like Rich Little and Paul Anka. So in 1987 I decided to take a break from my career as a political cartoonist at the *Ottawa Sunday Herald* to pursue my dreams. I packed my Ford Tempo with all of my possessions and set out for Sin City. I was so eager to get there that I didn't even think about the Canadian border crossing. When the border patrol asked where I was going, I told them, "On vacation." They questioned the need for a TV and toaster, but I was finally on my way.

Once I made it to Vegas, it took me about five months to get a job at the Landmark doing a 15-minute act with "Melinda, the First Lady of Magic." I had saved about \$3,500, which I lived off sparingly during that time. The first person I had given my audition tape to was the entertainment director at Bourbon Street,



Former political cartoonist Gordie Brown points to the influences of Rich Little and Paul Anka on his career.

who passed it on to Melinda. I don't know why it took them five months to actually watch my tape, but as soon as they did, I was hired. I've never been out of work since.

Working in Las Vegas opened other doors for me. When I found out my idol, Paul Anka, was performing downtown at the Golden Nugget, I was more determined than ever to meet him. One night after work, I showed up at the Golden Nugget and firmly told security that Paul was expecting me. Surprisingly, it worked. I had the chance to see him perform and then go backstage to his dressing room. The first thing Paul said when he entered

the room was, "Are you the guy who keeps sending me flowers?" I replied, "So you got 'em?" I suppose I was an overzealous fan. Today, I probably would be called a stalker. But it must have worked because eventually Paul hired me to join his national tour.

Living in Nevada has been an adventure. Reno was a great home. I have always loved the outdoors, so I figured Reno would be the perfect opportunity to try to be a real outdoorsman. The plan never really worked. I tried biking but landed in a bush. For days I tried fishing, but the only thing I caught was a cold.

Being in Vegas is amazing. I like to hang out at Stefano's at the Golden Nugget and the Stirling Club inside Turnberry Place with Clint Holmes, who headlines at Harrah's Las Vegas. Vegas has it all, including strippers and gamblers. What more can a family man ask for?

In 17 years I've gone from performing 15 minutes with Melinda to my own show at Harrah's Reno to headlining at the Golden Nugget, which really is a dream come true. The theater and dressing room where I originally snuck in to meet Paul Anka are the ones I now use. And Paul, to this day, has not sent me any flowers.

Show Notes

Gordie Brown performs nightly except Wednesday and Thursday in the Ballroom Theatre at the Golden Nugget in downtown Las Vegas. Show time is 7:30 p.m., with a second show at 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday. Tickets cost \$60.50, which doesn't include beverages. Call 702-385-7111 or 800-634-3403 or visit www.goldennugget.com. ♣



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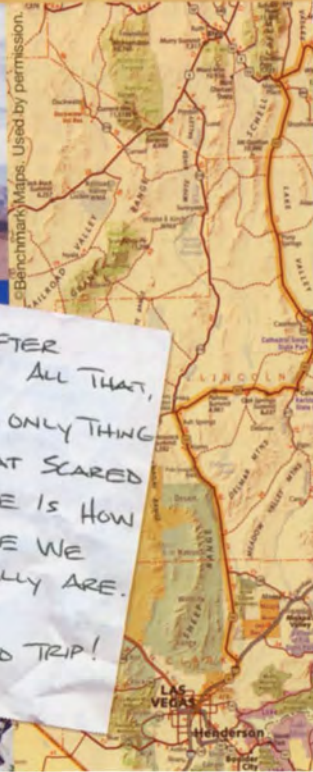
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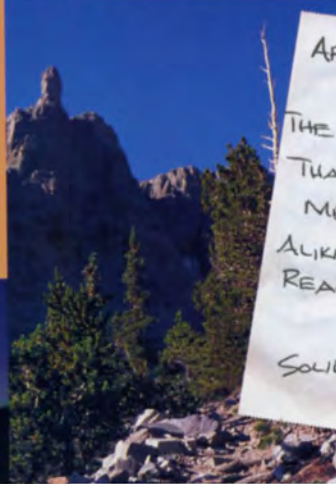
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