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INSIDE: Complete Statewide Guide to *Events and Shows*

August 2005



Best of Nevada: North

Readers' 50 favorite attractions in Reno-Tahoe and rural Nevada

10 Tahoe Summer HOT SPOTS

The KINGS and I

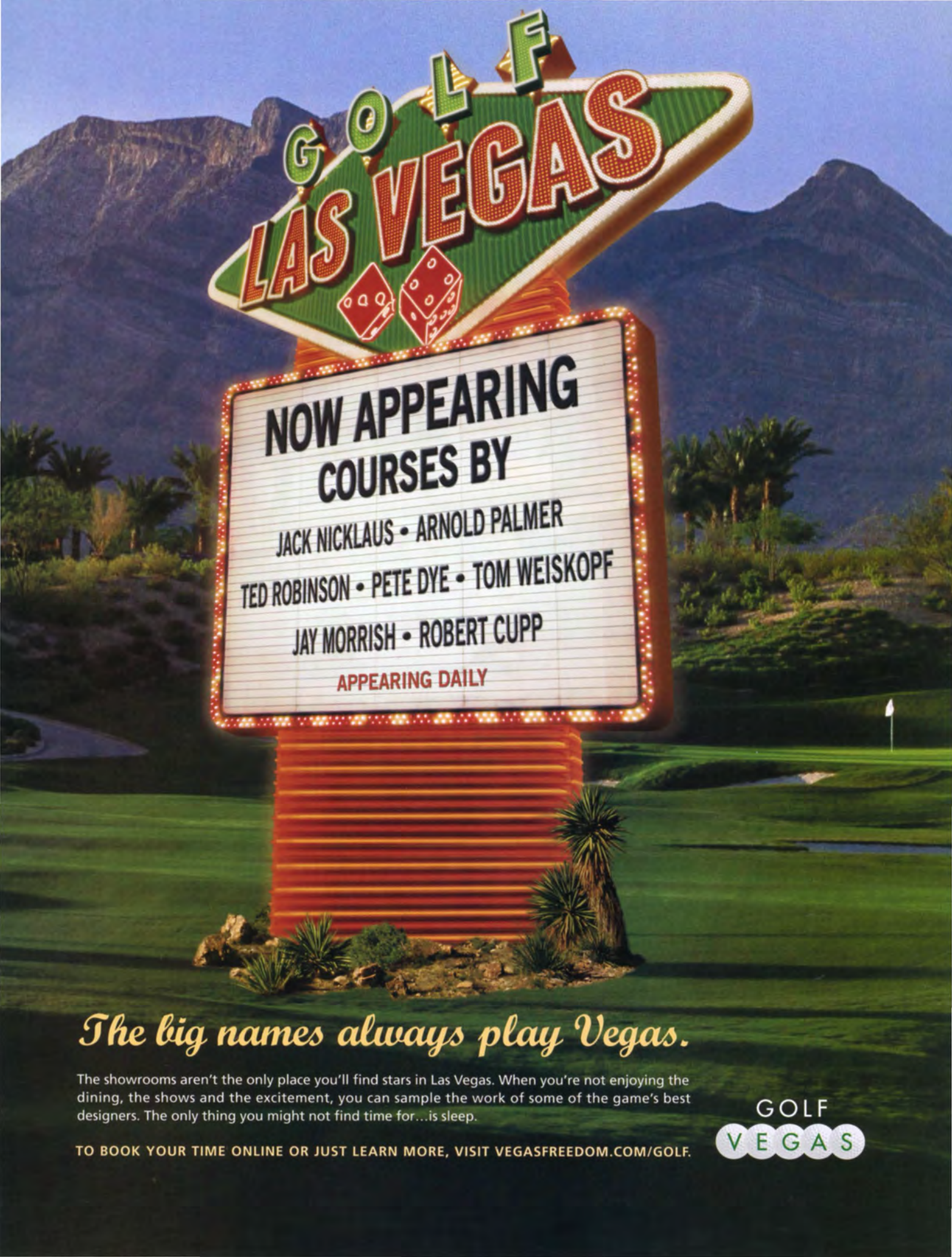
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On the Cover
Summer day at Lake Tahoe.
By Peter Spain

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Plus: 10 outdoor hot spots at Lake Tahoe.

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32 A Tale of Two Artists Adolph Gottlieb and Billie McGowan had the same goal in a 1939 contest: to put their murals on the post office wall. The winner can be seen in Yerington. **By Richard T. Stephens**


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PHOTOS: Larry Turner (top left), Richard Moreno (middle), Ira Gostin (bottom left), Craig Malburg (bottom right)



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PHOTOS: Chris Talbot (top), ILLUSTRATION: John Bardwell (middle)

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Publisher's Note/"Best of Nevada"

As a *Nevada Magazine* reader, chances are you think Nevada is the best, or close to it. We learned from our latest **"Best of Nevada"** poll, the magazine's eighth annual, that you and other readers also have strong opinions as to whether Lake Tahoe, Cirque du Soleil, and 100 other attractions are the state's best.



This year we received more "Best of Nevada" ballots than ever before. In several cases the voting was extremely close. For example, in the north, Reno's Peppermill and Atlantis were neck and neck in several hotel-casino categories, and fans of the National Automobile Museum and the Nevada Museum of Art exhibited almost equal measures of loyalty.

The Reno-Tahoe and rural winners appear in this issue's cover story, "Best of Nevada: North." The Las Vegas-area winners will be reviewed in "Best of Nevada: South" in the next issue, Sept/Oct '05.

Many thanks to the hundreds of readers who sent in "Best of Nevada" ballots. You're the best.

Richard Moreno
Publisher

Contributors

Three years ago, **Ira Gostin** began photographing Elvis impersonators in Las Vegas as a personal project. "I was following the advice of my portfolio coach to 'go out and shoot a story, not the normal corporate and advertising work I was doing," the Reno photographer recalls. "About that time a Harris Poll said that more than 17 million Americans had impersonated Elvis at some point in their lives." Gostin researched the impersonators and grew to like them ("some are great characters") and their effect on his work (see "All Shook Up"). He says, "The project helped me grow as a storytelling photographer."





When **Richard Stephens** began investigating the 1939 mural by the famous abstract expressionist Adolph Gottlieb that hangs in the Yerington post office, he uncovered "A Tale of Two Artists." Stephens, who teaches art and English at Beatty High School, says, "I wondered, 'What would a mural by an abstract expressionist look like?'" Material from the National Archives introduced Stephens to a less well known muralist, Willoise McGowan of Yerington. He says, "It was in that file that I discovered the real story—the ambitions of two talented artists with very different art philosophies."

Kim Pryor, who wrote this issue's "Trail Guides," says she always learns something new on ranger-led outings. "When I take a guided hike, the goal is not the destination. The goal is to learn more about the flora and fauna along the way," she says. The freelance writer lives near Kingsbury Grade at Lake Tahoe and is intrigued by the fauna—deer, bears, and birds—in her own back yard. The California ground squirrels raid her flowers, but their antics make her laugh. "They're really cool little creatures," she says. "I'll just hang my plants higher this year."





Lake Tahoe is easy to photograph because it's so beautiful, but you have to be in the right spot, says **Chris Talbot**, an international golf, travel, and resort photographer whose images of Tahoe boats and beaches appear in "Gallery." He says, "There are certain views of the lake we see all the time, but I strive to shoot from a position where nobody else has been." A longtime Nevada resident, Talbot lives in Incline Village with CJ and Biscuit, two golden retrievers, and a cat named Kitty. See www.talbotimages.com for his photographs of Lake Tahoe, China, Panama, and Costa Rica.

Letters

Carson Valley daze, a Nevada TV show, and **Hawthorne hosts**.

Kick in the Pants

Having attended Carson Valley Days a few times, I was struck by how the photo feature in the last issue, "Carson Valley Good Ol' Days" by Carolyn Fox, really captured the small-town feeling of the celebration.

My favorite photo is of the red-headed kid on the greased pole. I can feel the slipperiness of the grease and share his eagerness to grab the flag as Mom gives him a helpful push on the seat of his pants. I also like the rodeo photo. The calf's tail is a kick.

G.R. Moore
Santa Monica, CA

Outdoor Passages

I enjoyed Mary Johnson's story, "The Nevada Passage," in the May/June issue. I've visited all the outdoor settings where "The Nevada Passage" was filmed. Although I avoid big challenges like kayaking the Truckee River and sandboarding down Sand Mountain, I've boated on Lake Mead and hiked the easy parts of Red Rock. On the television show I'll be able to watch rock climbers bravely scramble over cliffs I've seen only at a distance.



Cowboys chase a calf in the Minden Ranch Rodeo held during Carson Valley Days.

Lisa Wood
Los Angeles, CA

Lisa, the one-hour The Nevada Passage *TV show will be broadcast in August and following months. Visit www.nevadapassage.com for air dates and cities. The event was initated by the Nevada Commission on Tourism.—Ed.*

Favorite Stop

I read in our local paper that the Defense Department has suggested the closing of the Army Ammunition Depot in Hawthorne. Even though I live in Washington State, I find this alarming. During several motorcycle trips to Nevada, Hawthorne has been a favorite stop for me. I would surely miss this town's friendly hosts if it were to become less than it is now.

It is my hope that someone can find a way to prevent this proposal from becoming a reality.

George Noggles
Pasco, WA

How to Submit Letters

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

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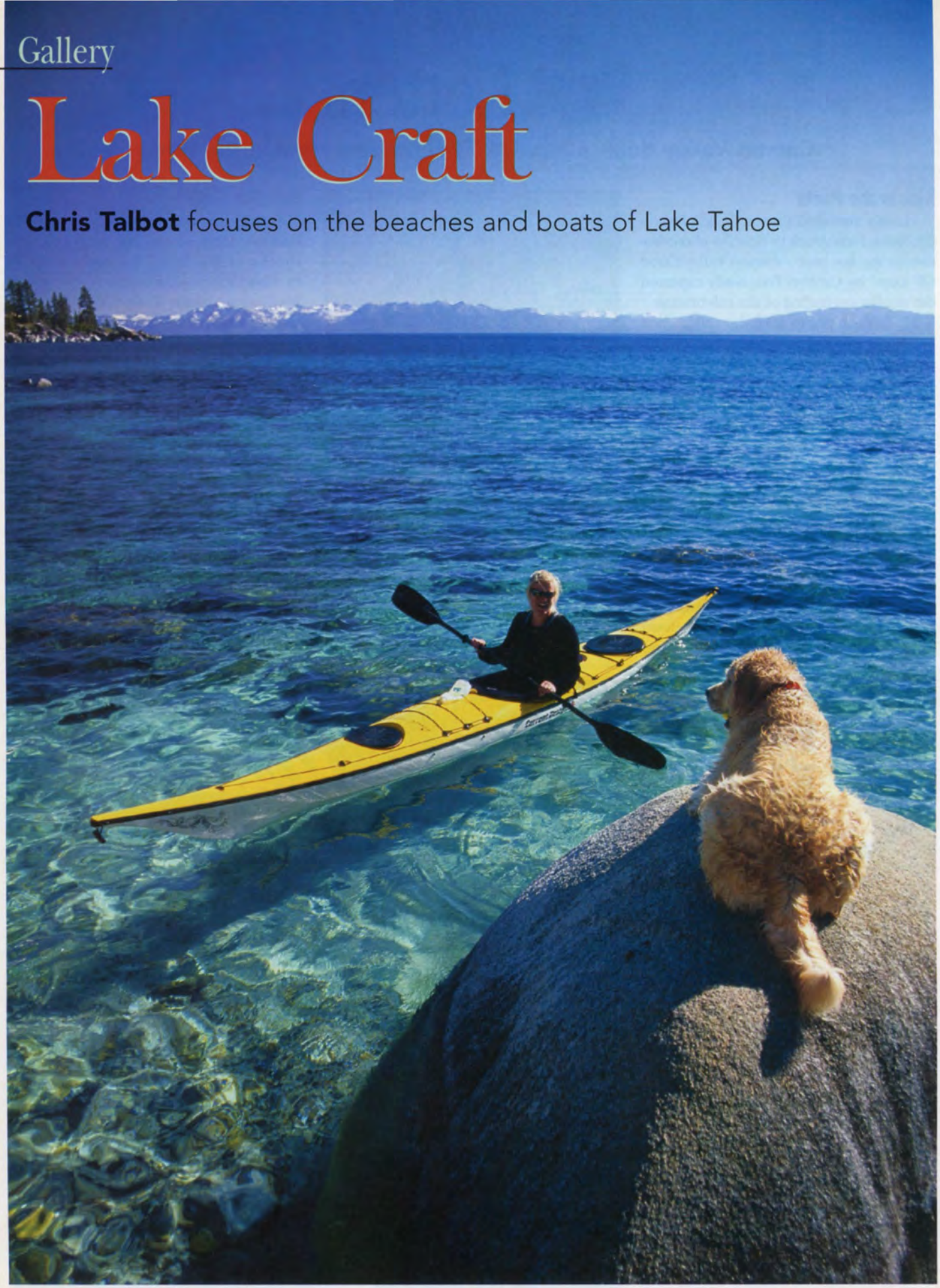
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PHOTO: Carolyn Fox

Lake Craft

Chris Talbot focuses on the beaches and boats of Lake Tahoe



In the summer Incline Village photographer **Chris Talbot** often finds subjects while walking his two golden retrievers, CJ and Biscuit, on Lake Tahoe beaches. They might see friends, like Wendy Lautner in her kayak (opposite page) pictured with CJ watching her from a warm granite boulder near Sand Harbor. Talbot also encounters the lake's boaters and their craft, like the waiting catamarans at Kings Beach (top right) and the *Thunderbird,* pride of the late Thunderbird Lodge owner George Whittell (see page 86), anchored on the West Shore (bottom right). "There are probably 100 different colors of blue in the lake," Talbot says. "When you get a catamaran with a red sail popping in the foreground, the blue lake in the background, and our sky being so blue, it makes for a very compelling photograph."—*Joyce Hollister*





Gone Fishin'

How I took the bait at three of **Austin's** aquatic attractions.

By Jim Andersen

Nevada is a Spanish word meaning "snow-covered." After living in Austin for 31 years, I can tell you the Spaniards were right—we get a lot of snow—but it doesn't seem to do much moisture-wise. A drive through Central Nevada, with all the dry lake beds and sagebrush, will prove that.

However, a careful look at a map will show there are indeed rivers, streams, and lakes in the middle of the state.

In the interests of people with undesert-like special interests, I have sought out the grandest of the Austin area's aquatic attractions. They are:

River

I never jumped across a river until I first visited Central Nevada. It never occurred to me to do so. Where I grew up in the Northwest, rivers were large, moving bodies of water. Jumping across a river would be like jumping across a cornfield.

Then one summer day I saw the



ILLUSTRATION: JOHN BARDWELL

Reese River—the official *Rand-McNally* Reese River—a few miles southwest of Austin. It was in a channel cut into the desert about 10 feet deep and 40 feet across. The channel itself was big enough to be called a river—had it contained a moving body of water larger than a folded newspaper—but the waterway within was clearly overstated.

I walked down to the official river and in just under a nanosecond joined the few individuals in history to have leapt across a river in a single bound. For good measure I planted my left foot on the west bank and rested my right foot on the east bank, thereby making my lower grinning teeth a genuine bridge.

Things like that just don't happen during the course of a normal life. As soon as I was able to sell my house in California, I quit my job and moved to Austin.

I loved Austin from the first time I set eyes on it. Part of the old mining town's charm was the sense of humor I found displayed there. Stuffed jackalopes stared out of trophy cases. Two-story buildings on Main Street had swinging staircases that could be retracted in case of flood. Trough-like gutters angled down from business roofs so cascades of rainwater could be directed onto the street, hardly noticeable to drivers of convertibles who parked beneath them in the innocent summer sunshine.

My favorite, though, was the sign at Vigus's Market that promised "Groceries, Meat, Ice, and Fishing Tackle."

Fishing tackle?

Oh, be still, my ribs. I'd been to the river. Fishing tackle?

I wasn't about to be fooled again. It took several weeks for the market's owners, Ed and Louise Vigus, to convince me that the fish hooks and salmon eggs displayed on their shelves weren't taking up space simply to give out-of-towners false visions of lunker trout.

Stream

Still, I was uneasy driving out to Big Creek with my fishing gear. I'd seen the sign when I first drove into Austin. "Big Creek 12," it declared, suggesting there was another, um, body of water 12 miles south of Highway 50 in the Toiyabe Mountains.

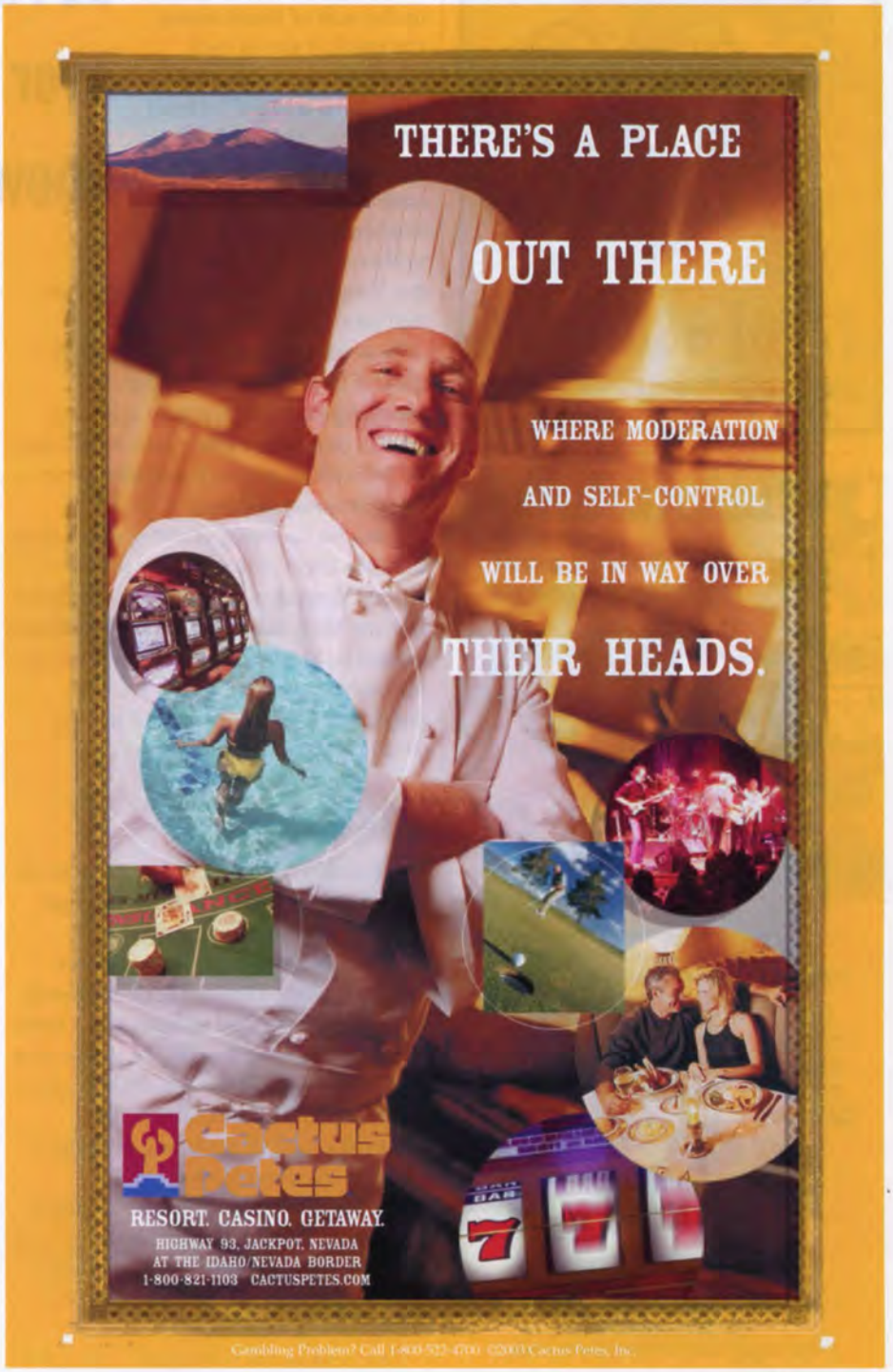
What if all the locals were waiting for me out there—in the empty desert—with their cameras?

I dismissed that idea as the silliest I'd ever had. After a quick stop to comb my hair and straighten my shirt, I continued on my fishing trip.

Big Creek turned out to be 12 miles south of Austin as advertised. Big Creek even turned out to be Big when compared to the river, although there was certainly no need for capital letters.

I wasn't sure how to go about fishing Big Creek. I had a spincasting outfit consisting of a six-foot rod and 250 feet of

The rod was twice as long as the creek was wide.



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four-pound test, and there wasn't enough room to use it all. The rod was twice as long as the creek was wide. The spincasting feature was useless—dangerous, even—and my 250 feet of line was excessive by about 240 feet. Add all the brush lining the creek, and it wasn't fishing as I had ever known.

I walked upstream until I found a wisp of a trail leading to a slight thinning in the wall of brush along the creek. I was in luck. Great fishing holes are often camouflaged by local fisherman. Although I couldn't see the creek, I could hear it, and yes, it sounded like a deep pool in there. I smiled, parted the brush as if it were a stage curtain, and plunged into the shadows.

Fishing Big Creek wasn't fishing as I had ever known.

In retrospect, plunging was a bad idea. If by chance there is no trail, plunging can Velcro you to a thorny thicket of roseless wild roses, and it can be difficult to get back out with everything you entered with.

I was lucky, losing nothing more than a canvas creel and at most a pint of blood. Mosquitoes accounted for about half my body mass. Luckily, the puffiness caused by the bites allowed me to keep my basic shape, so I didn't lose my pants, but I was sure uncomfortable shuffling back to the pickup.

Lake

Technically, Groves Lake is a reservoir, but water-challenged desert people don't make those distinctions. Impounded by a small dam, Groves Lake is a deep, circular body of mostly still water at the end of Kingston Creek that can't be spanned by the throw of a rock, and is therefore something where you could fall in and drown. That makes it a lake in my book, no matter what the dictionary says.

My first day at Groves Lake I caught an 18-inch German brown trout on red salmon eggs. A couple of other fishermen said it was a fluke, but I know a trout when I see one.

The reason for my success was that I am a skilled bobber fisherman. Groves Lake is ideally suited to bobber fishing because there is almost always a breeze, and you can walk all the way around the lake. This enables you to fish its entire length by positioning yourself where the wind will push your bobber in the direction you want it to go.

Of course, once your bobber is out in the middle, the hard work begins. Although modesty prevents me from boasting, I feel it would be appropriate, for instructional purposes, to include a couple of expert pointers.

First, cut a forked willow prop long enough so that after you install it on the shore, the tip of your rod will be supported at least five feet above the water. Any lower, and it's hard to see from a reclining position.

Second, be aware that cloud formations may become hypnotic, especially when your hands are clasped behind your head. If you're a really good bobber fisherman, you'll keep your priorities straight and keep dozing to an absolute minimum.

If you should actually catch a fish, remember that you still have to reel him in. And clean him. And cook him. And, well, I try not to dwell on it.

Be prepared, though. Things happen. Did I mention that the first time I fished Groves Lake I caught an 18-inch fluke?

Water is water, after all, whether it's forming a Pacific swell or a Reese River rivulet. Aquatic recreation is a matter of what you wish to get out of it. For us bobber fishermen, that ain't much. And the center of this great state offers the very pinnacle of that aspiration.

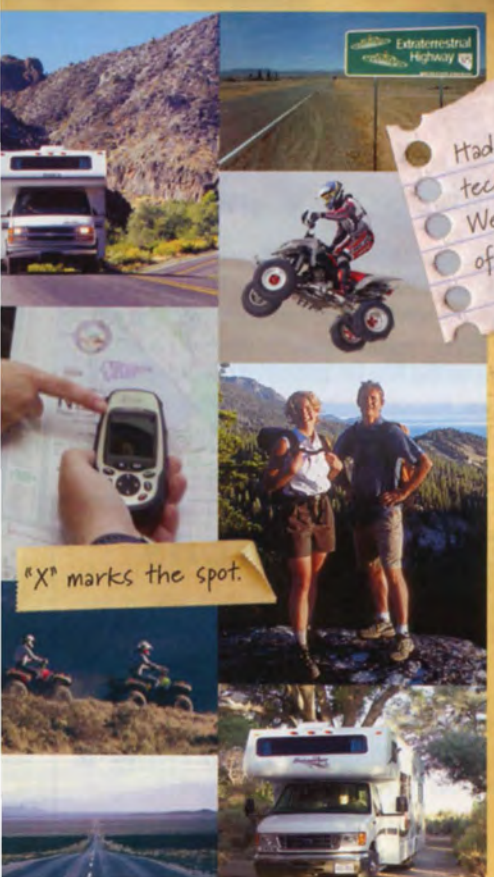
However, for those who follow maps with the expectation of dining on fish, I suggest you bring sunscreen, canteens, a good book, and a can of tuna.

Jim Andersen, the justice of the peace in Austin, still stalks unsuspecting trout in the Toiyabes and other ranges. For information on Central Nevada fishing holes contact the Nevada Department of Wildlife, www.ndow.org/fish/where, and the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, www.fs.fed.us/r4/htnf.

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Roadside Attractions

Mount Rose hike, **chocolate in Las Vegas,** and a **Carson City coin show.**



Visitors can gaze at the chocolate fountain (right) and sample cheesecake and carrot cake (pictured below) at Jean-Philippe Patisserie at Bellagio in Las Vegas.

Rivers of Chocolate



LAS VEGAS—Bellagio may be famous for its dancing water fountains on the Las Vegas Strip, but there's another fountain inside at the **Jean-Philippe Patisserie**. The store's glass-enclosed, 27-foot-tall chocolate fountain is straight out of Willy Wonka's factory. Six rivers of chocolate—three of dark, two of milk, and one of white—flow over dangling glass vessels. Guests aren't allowed to sample from the fountain, but there are plenty of sinful sweets elsewhere in the store. French pastry chef Jean-Philippe Maury has created desserts almost too beautiful to eat, from cheesecake wrapped in a white chocolate shell to glazed fruit tarts. The patisserie also has salads, sandwiches, and sugar-free treats. A retail section is stocked with candies, coffees, biscotti, jams, and jellies.

Jean-Philippe Patisserie is open daily in the Bellagio's Spa Tower. Call 702-693-8788 for details.—*Kristine McKenzie*

Surfing Nevada

Fans of Las Vegas can remember their Glitter City visit with a foot-tall miniature of the 1959 "Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas" sign. You can order one (right) for $39.95 plus shipping and handling at **www.thewelcometolvsign.com**. Proceeds go to the Nevada Cancer Institute.

The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority's Web site, **www.visitlasvegas.com**, is divided into five sections and offers tourists information and interactive maps, fun facts, special rates at resorts, and customized newsletters.

You can learn about Nevada caves and see photos of cave explorations at **www.guanopage.com**, the Web site operated by Southern Nevada Grotto, a caving organization.



Miniature Las Vegas sign.



Celebrity Couture

Stars like Jennifer Lopez and Sarah Jessica Parker wear **Nanette Lepore's** flirty and feminine dresses, jackets, skirts, and tops. Lepore recently opened a boutique at the Forum Shops at Caesars in Las Vegas. Nanette Lepore (702-893-9704) is open until midnight on weekends and until 11 p.m. on weekdays.

101 Attractions

In case you were wondering how many things you can do in Northern Nevada, it's 101, according to a new brochure published by the *Humboldt Sun* in Winnemucca and the *Battle Mountain Bugle*. You can order ***101 Things to Do in Northern Nevada*** by calling 775-623-5011.



A hiker pauses to admire the 360-degree view atop Mount Rose south of Reno.

The Summit's Rosy View

MOUNT ROSE—From the top of 10,776-foot **Mount Rose**, Lake Tahoe looks like a giant, shimmering pane of blue glass.

"It's a gorgeous view," says Steve Hale, trail manager for the U.S. Forest Service's Carson Ranger District. "The Mount Rose Trail is a really popular hike."

Last fall a new welcome plaza offered displays, picnic tables, restrooms, and access to both the Mount Rose and Tahoe Rim trails. In addition, Tahoe Rim Trail Association volunteers built two new trail sections, where bikers and hikers have their own paths. "The main reason we've built two trails is so we can accommodate more users there," Hale says. "If someone has a mountain bike, they have a place to ride. If someone wants to hike without running into a bike, they have a foot-travel-only designated trail."

The Mount Rose trailhead, located behind the welcome plaza, accessed off State Route 431 (the Mount Rose Highway), begins at 8,900 feet. The 11-mile round trip to the summit ascends nearly 2,000 vertical feet. Hale characterizes the trail as intermediate to difficult.

"The Mount Rose Summit is a spectacular destination, but the main thing is the experience and challenge of walking on the trail. It's a beautiful hike," Hale says. Call 775-882-2766 for more hiking information.—*Andy Bourelle*

Coin Show Comes to State Museum

The historic Coin Press No. 1 will strike medallions during the annual **Carson City Mint Coin Show** at the Nevada State Museum, formerly the U.S. Mint, on August 27-28. The grand prize in the raffle is an uncirculated Morgan "CC" mint mark silver dollar. Admission to the event is $5 adults, $3 seniors, and free to those under 18. Call Deborah Stevenson at 775-687-4810 ext. 237 for more information.



A young prospector pans for gold at the 2004 Carson City Mint Coin Show.

Paris in Vegas

A full-length, high-definition DVD of **"La Femme,"** a replica of the theater production "Crazy Horse" in Paris, is on sale at MGM Grand's Le Femme Theater. Shot in the French capital, the DVD costs $25. "La Femme" is performed nightly except Tuesdays at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. Call 800-929-1111 or 702-891-7777.



Beezy Tobiasson welcomes visitors to the restored Old Logandale School museum.

School Bells

Historic photos line the hallways of the 1930s-era **Logandale School**, 65 miles northeast of Las Vegas. The Old Logandale School Historical Museum and Cultural Society operates the school as a museum and community center 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Saturday. Virginia Lani "Beezy" Tobiasson and Patricia Ann Hall Scott, assisted by Georgia Bagshaw Hall, are writing a book, *St. Thomas and Kaolin, 1865-1938*, which outlines the history of the area and includes 300 historic photos. Call the museum in Logandale at 702-398-7272 for more information. Travelers can combine a trip to Logandale with a visit to the Lost City Museum in Overton, six miles south.

PHOTOS: Jon Gnass (top), Nevada State Museum (right), Chris Leedham (bottom)

Collectible Gaming Chips









By Howard W. Herz

Collecting is an American passion, and Nevada casinos have made their contribution in the form of the chips and tokens that clubs have issued over the 74-year life of the state's legal gambling industry. As substitutes for money in the casino, colorful chips (technically called checks) and tokens have the same attraction as coins, but they have the added lure of being historical artifacts.

Collecting checks and tokens was almost unheard of in the early 1960s, but by the late 1970s a few collectors were scouring Nevada casinos. In 1988 the **Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club** was formed. Today the club has about 3,000 members and hosts an annual national convention in Las Vegas, this year on August 3-6 at the Riviera (for information visit www.ccgtcc.com).

In less than two decades, interest in checks and tokens has exploded. Issues from the 1940s and 1950s have gone from costing a few bucks to several thousands of dollars. With famous Strip hotels commanding the top prices, many of the checks and tokens from Nevada's rural areas are still within the reach.

Although many casinos have gone coinless, the casinos have responded to collector enthusiasm by issuing limited-edition checks and tokens for just about any event you can imagine. On September 18 a million-dollar collection that features the unique Harrah's platinum gaming token (mintage of one) will be auctioned on eBay.

Howard W. "Howdy" Herz, the curator of Harvey's Resort Hotel's coin collections in the 1960s, is a gaming archaeologist living in Minden. He can be reached by email at chipmaster@chipmaster.com.

From top: A Dunes chip from 1950s Las Vegas; a 1940s chip featuring the "riding lesson," a cowboy teaching two divorcées about Western culture, by Reno-area artist Lew Hymers; Harold Smith on a $1,000 chip; and a $5 chip from the now-vanished Mapes Hotel in Reno.

Travel Briefs

"The Nevada Passage," the six-day, made-for-television adventure competition sponsored by the Nevada Commission on Tourism, will be aired on TV stations across the country from August through February. Twenty amateur athletes take part in sandboarding, kayaking, biking, snowshoeing, four-wheel driving, jet skiing, and rock climbing in footage filmed in May. Visit www.nevadapassage.com for details.

Scenic Airlines, known for its sightseeing tours of the Grand Canyon, now offers daily flights to Elko from Reno and North Las Vegas. Flights to Ely also are scheduled. For information call 800-634-6801 or visit www.scenicairlines.com.

Visitors can take guided tours of High Rock Canyon or ride mountain bikes in the backcountry near **Soldier Meadows Guest Ranch**, a family-owned working cattle ranch north of Gerlach. Guests also can ride off-road vehicles or hike. Call 530-279-4881 or visit www.soldiermeadows.com for information.

Thanks to a wet winter in the Sierra Nevada, the **Sand Harbor boat ramp** at Lake Tahoe reopened to boats on trailers in May. Since the middle of last summer only canoes and kayaks had been allowed to launch at the state park due to drought conditions. The ramp is expected to be open to motorboats until Labor Day ... The dam at **Beaver Dam State Park** east of Caliente was breached last spring and the reservoir drained as an emergency measure following a flood in January. State park officials have no plans to replace or repair the old earthen dam ... A new **Water Safety Center** opened at Lake Mead National Recreation Area. To sign up for boating classes and safety courses, visit www.ndow.org ... The Truckee Meadows Water Authority offers a **Truckee River Recreation Map** that points out dams, rapids, and access points. Call 775-834-8000 or visit www.tmh2o.com.

EXHIBITS NEWS

From Around the State

During Reno's Artown in July, special showings of Nevada artists' works are offered at two museums. The **2005 Nevada Triennial**, showing the work of 51 artists, including solo presentations by José Bellver of Pahrump, Robert Wysocki of Las Vegas, and Martin Holmes and Rebekah Bogard of Reno, is the featured exhibition at the Nevada Museum of Art through October 2. Call 775-329-3333 for more information.

At the Nevada Historical Society Museum, Wally Cuchine of Eureka shows **Wally's World: The Loneliest Art Collection in Nevada**, his personal assemblage of works by Nevada artists, until September 24. Call 775-688-1190 for more information.



"Unidentified, Nevada Desert" by Samuel Davis appears in the 2005 Nevada Triennial at the Nevada Museum of Art.

Also, visitors interested in seeing artists at work in their studios may join an **Artouring** presentation in the Reno-Tahoe area. Call 775-772-0844 or visit www.artouring.com for reservations.

Artifacts excavated from Chinese woodcutters' camps in the Sierra Nevada have been added to the Nevada State Railroad Museum exhibit **"Tireless and Unremitting: The Chinese and Nevada's Railroads."** The display examines the life of Chinese immigrants who cut wood for mines and railroads from the 1860s to the 1890s. Items include medicine bottles, pottery fragments, tools, and a replica log cabin. The museum, at U.S. 395 and Fairview in Carson City, is open daily. Call 775-687-6953 for details.

PHOTOS: Howard W. Herz (top), Nevada Museum of Art (bottom)



The Resort at Red Hawk.

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Best of Nevada 2005

Voted #1 by the readers of Nevada Magazine for the fourth consecutive year (and 5 of the last 7), is no easy feat. We want to thank all that have supported us and invite everyone to experience the Resort at Red Hawk. Beyond the greens you'll find a restaurant that's won the raves of the Wine Spectator, the never-ending presence of nature, and exquisite suites of immaculate detail. The choice is yours!

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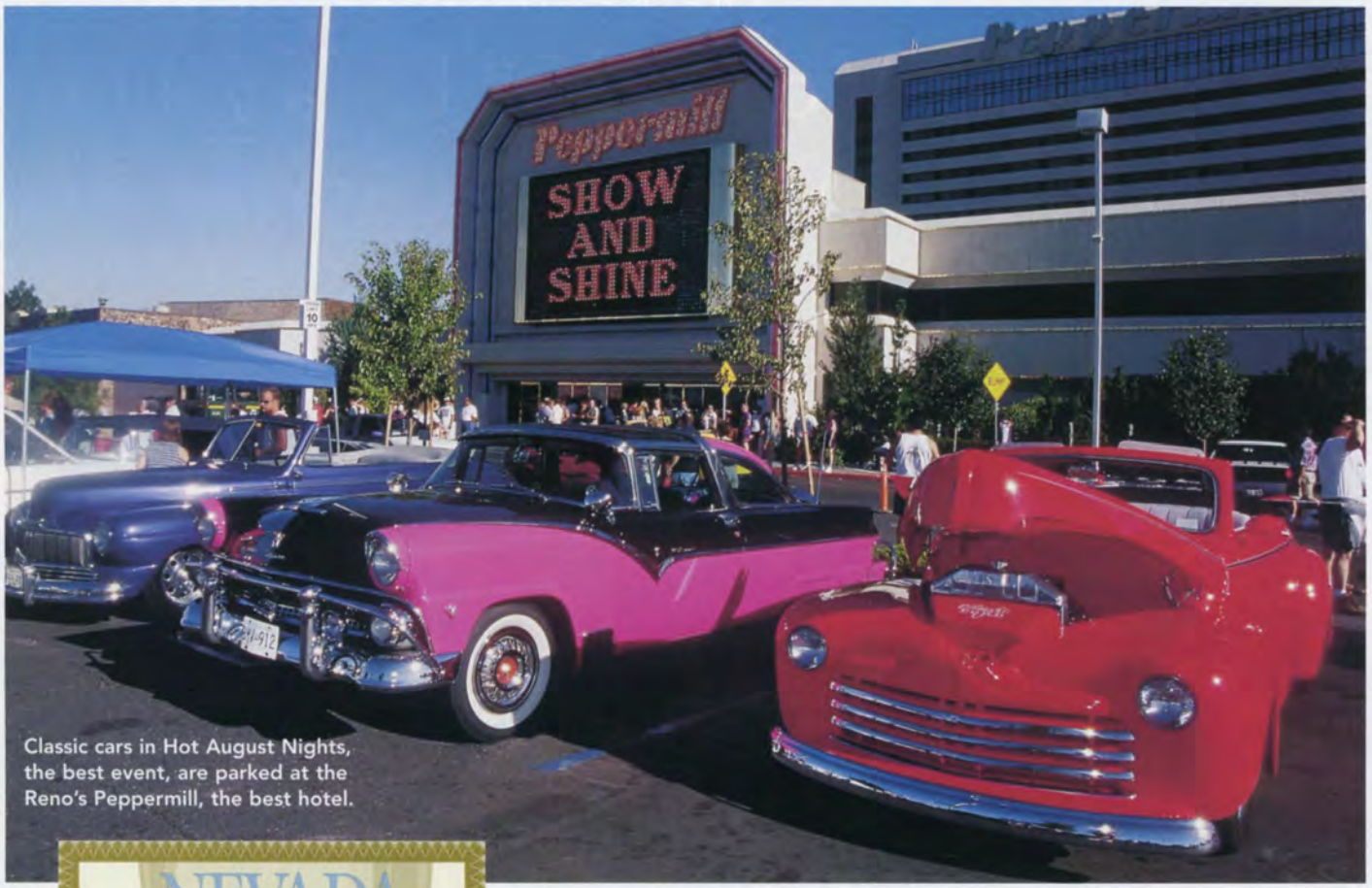
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Best of Nevada: North

Readers pick their Northern Nevada favorites in *Nevada Magazine's* eighth annual poll. **By Richard Moreno**



Classic cars in Hot August Nights, the best event, are parked at the Reno's Peppermill, the best hotel.

NEVADA MAGAZINE
Best of Nevada 2005

It's that time again, when some lucky hotels, restaurants, wedding chapels, brewpubs, and saloons can stand a little taller because they've been named Nevada's best by *Nevada Magazine's* readers. As we did last year, we'll reveal the "Best of Nevada" winners over two issues, announcing the "Best of Nevada: North" in this issue and the "Best of Nevada: South" in Sept/Oct '05. Readers cast their votes on official ballots found in the March/April issue.

There were a few surprises, a number of new names, and significantly closer votes than in previous years. The following are the northern winners of *Nevada Magazine's* eighth annual "Best of Nevada" readers' poll—including the top finishers in Reno and Sparks, Lake Tahoe, Carson City, and Carson Valley as well as the rural north.

PHOTO: Carolyn Fox



Reno's Atlantis was named friendliest casino.



Carson Valley Inn was rated number one.

Best Hotel/Resort

This was one of the most competitive categories as the **Peppermill**, a four-time winner, narrowly outpointed the Atlantis as best hotel/resort in the Reno-Sparks area. Other northern champs included repeat regional winners **Harrah's Lake Tahoe**, the **Carson Valley Inn**, the **Piñon Plaza** in Carson City, and Jackpot's **Cactus Petes**, named rural Nevada's best hotel/resort.

Friendliest Casino

Once again, there was a new, friendly face in this category. The **Atlantis** sneaked by the Peppermill in the vote for friendliest casino in Reno-Sparks. In Carson City, the **Carson Nugget** became a seven-time winner while the **Carson Valley Inn** earned the tip of the hat in Carson Valley. **Harrah's Lake Tahoe** was the most cheerful at the lake. Readers said **Cactus Petes** in Jackpot was the friendliest gambling hall in rural Nevada.



"Showgirls" was the winner in two categories.

Best Place to Gamble

The voting couldn't have been much tighter as the **Atlantis** edged perennial winner the Peppermill as Reno-Sparks' best place to gamble. The other area winners repeated. **Harrah's Lake Tahoe** earned a nod, as did the **Carson Valley Inn**. The **Carson Nugget** was named Carson City's top slots and table joint while **Cactus Petes** in Jackpot was the rurals' best bet.

Best Slot Club

For the second year the Reno Peppermill's **Passport** was voted the north's best slot club. In rural Nevada it was all Cactus Petes for its popular **Plateau Players Club**.

Best Entertainer

For the fourth time in the past five years, singer-jokester-musician **Danny Marona** was the man. Marona frequently appears at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks and at Cactus Petes in Jackpot.

Best New Show

What do you get when you mix singing, dancing, and gorgeous, tall, costumed women? You get the winner of the best new show—Greg Thompson's **"Showgirls,"** which recently appeared at Harrah's Reno and now presides at Harrah's Laughlin.

Best Comedy Club

The punch line here was the **Improv at Harrah's Reno**, voted the region's best comedy club.

Best Production Show

Love those sequins. Again, readers liked **"Showgirls,"** formerly at Harrah's Reno and now at Harrah's Laughlin.

Readers voted Reno as the friendliest town in the north for the fifth year in a row. Below: Virginia City visitors can tour attractions, such as the Castle, that recall the town's stature as a mining capital in the late 1800s. Virginia City again was named best historic community.

Best Magic Show

Although he appeared at Reno's Eldorado Hotel for only part of the year, magician **Darren Romeo**, the Siegfried and Roy protégé known as the "Voice of Magic," was the clear favorite with his unique mixture of magic and pop songs.

Best Thrill Ride

If free-falling on a giant swing suspended 180 feet above the ground is your idea of fun, then you'll agree with the readers who named the Reno Hilton's **Ultimate Rush** the area's best thrill ride.

Friendliest Town

Perhaps the "Biggest Little City in the World" slogan helps. For the fifth straight year **Reno** was voted friendliest town.

Best Historic Community

Once again **Virginia City**, with its C Street boardwalk and 19th-century homes, was voted the best historic community in the state.

Best Place to Take Kids

Some readers wrote that the best place to take children is to leave them at home, but many more voted for **Circus Circus** in Reno, noting its kid-friendly arcade and circus acts. In rural Nevada, **Virginia City** was the top kid pick for a sixth time.



PHOTOS: Larry Turner (top), Nevada Commission on Tourism (bottom)

Summer Fun at Tahoe

Here are 10 ways to enjoy the **"Best of Nevada"** lake. **By Joyce Hollister**

Lake Tahoe wins accolades every year in *Nevada Magazine's* "Best of Nevada" poll. Readers tell us that the lake is the best place to take kids, offers the best camping, and has the best state park in Northern Nevada. From the north shore to the south, here are 10 great ways to enjoy the Tahoe outdoors this summer.

Top Park: On the northeast shore, **Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park** preserves more than 13,000 acres of forest land and pristine beaches. Sand Harbor has one of the lake's outstanding beaches and is a popular spot for families to swim, launch boats, and picnic. At Spooner Lake you can rent mountain bikes or go fishing in a float tube. Fees vary. Call 775-831-0494 or visit www.parks.nv.gov.

The Bard Under the Stars: Sand Harbor's beach-side amphitheater hosts the **Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival** from July 14 to August 21. The festival is staging "Comedy of Errors" and "Macbeth," the first tragedy in its 33-year history. Playgoers can take a picnic dinner or buy salads, pasta, or sushi. Tickets cost $24-$69. Call 800-74-SHOWS or visit www.laketahoeshakespeare.com.

Legendary Lodge: You can see where a lion named Bill slept at George Whittell's **Thunderbird Lodge**, built in the 1930s on Tahoe's eastern shore. Tours visit the Card House, where the eccentric millionaire and his cronies played late-night poker (see "Tahoe's Great Estate," page 86). Reservations required. Call 775-832-8753 or visit www.thunderbirdlodge.org.

Hike the Rim: You can spend two weeks hiking the 165-mile **Tahoe Rim Trail**, or you can enjoy the forest trails and lake views on a day hike. Trailheads are located near Mount Rose, Spooner Summit, and Kingsbury Grade. Portions are open to mountain bikers and equestrians. Call the Tahoe Rim Trail Association, 775-298-0012; visit www.tahoerimtrail.org.

Big Beach: You will find everything under the sun at **Zephyr Cove Resort**—a mile-long beach, boat rentals, volleyball, a restaurant with an outdoor deck, camping, cabins, even parasailing. The Sunset Bar and Grill has music Thursday, Friday, and Sunday nights. The marina rents powerboats ($124-$164 per hour) with the first set of water skis free. Parasailing costs $54-$120. A shuttle operates daily from south shore hotels. The RV campground has 47 walk-in camp sites ($27), 10 drive-in sites ($33), and 93 RV spots ($51, reserve a year in advance). You can wash your sandy shorts in the RV park's laundry. Call 800-238-2463 or visit www.zephyrcove.com.

Lake Cruises: In summer the ***M.S. Dixie II*** paddlewheeler departs from Zephyr Cove daily on five cruises, including a sunset dinner-dance to Emerald Bay. Rates are $29-$57 for adults and $9-$31 for children. Call 800-238-2463 or visit www.laketahoecruises.com. The ***Woodwind II***, a 55-foot catamaran, also sails five times daily from Zephyr Cove. Rates are $26-$36 for adults and $12 for ages three to 12. For schedules call 888-867-6394 or visit www.sailwoodwind.com.

Dinner Theater: McAvoy Layne, Lake Tahoe's "ghost of Mark Twain," and his sidekick, saxophonist "Baron von" Remmel Wilson, created **"Nevada Story,"** a musical comedy. The dinner theater is presented on the Zephyr Cove Resort outdoor patio on Tuesday evenings, with cocktails at 5:30 and a family-style barbecue at 6:30. Call 800-238-2463.

Beach Time: After a dip in Tahoe's cold waters, swimmers can jump into the heated pool at **Round Hill Pines Beach and Marina**. There are boat rentals, parasailing, water-ski instruction, a deli, a bar, and horseshoes and volleyball on the beach. Parking costs $7 per day. Call 775-588-3055 or visit www.rhpbeach.com.



Families enjoy the beach at Zephyr Cove, one of Lake Tahoe's summer hot spots.

Lake Camping: Near Round Hill, three miles north of the Stateline casinos, **Nevada Beach** has a long, sandy beach and 54 campsites ($22-$24). The day-use fee is $5 per car. Pets are allowed on leashes. For camping reservations call 877-444-6777 or visit www.fs.fed.us/r5/ltbmu/recreation/camping/nvbeach.

Outdoor Concerts: The Eagles will land at the lake for the **Harveys Outdoor Concert Series**. Summer shows include Loggins and Messina on July 15, Journey on August 6, the Eagles on August 11 and 20 (sold out), Sammy Hagar on August 13, and Toby Keith on August 18. Visit www.harrahs.com for a schedule, www.ticketmaster.com for tickets.

Joyce Hollister is Nevada Magazine's *associate editor. For more Lake Tahoe vacation tips visit www.bluelaketahoe.com, www.gotahoe.com, and www.tahoechamber.org.*

PHOTO: Larry Angier

Best Places to Dine

Dining out is practically an Olympic sport in Nevada, so readers offered plenty of favorite places to eat. Those restaurants in Northern Nevada included:

Best Place for a Romantic Evening

North: **White Orchid**, Peppermill, Reno
Rural: **Plateau Room**, Cactus Petes, Jackpot

Best Buffet

Lake Tahoe: **Forest Buffet**, Harrah's Lake Tahoe
Reno-Sparks: **Island Buffet**, Peppermill, and **Toucan Charlie's**, Atlantis (multiple winners)
Rural: **Cactus Petes**, Jackpot

Best Gourmet Restaurant

Lake Tahoe: **The Summit**, Harrah's Lake Tahoe
Reno-Sparks: **Harrah's Steakhouse**
Rural: **Plateau Room,** Cactus Petes, Jackpot

Best Basque Restaurant

Statewide: **Louis' Basque Corner**, Reno

Best Italian Restaurant

North: **Romanza**, Peppermill, Reno





The Eldorado's Brew Brothers was voted best brewpub. Right: The Summit at Harrah's Lake Tahoe, a top gourmet pick.

Best Chinese Restaurant

North: **Palais de Jade**, Reno

Best Japanese Restaurant

North: **Ichiban Japanese Steakhouse and Sushi Bar**, Reno

Best Thai Restaurant

North: **Taste of Thai**, Reno

Best Mexican Restaurant

North: **Mi Casa Too**, Reno and Carson City

Best Hamburger

North: **Juicy's** and **Little Nugget Awful Awful**, Reno (multiple winners)

Best Seafood Restaurant

North: **Oceano**, Peppermill, Reno

Best Vegetarian Restaurant

North: **Pneumatic Diner**, Reno

Best Coffee Shop

North: **Peppermill Coffee Shop**, Reno

Best Brewpub

North: **Brew Brothers**, Eldorado, Reno

Best Saloon

North: **Brew Brothers**, Eldorado, Reno
Rural: **Bucket of Blood**, Virginia City

Best Special Event

Every year that we've counted "Best of Nevada" ballots, the best special event in the north has been **Hot August Nights**, Reno and Sparks' celebration of classic cars and music. So it is for an eighth year.

Best Golf Course

Golfers scored the **Resort at Red Hawk**, whose Lakes Course was designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr., as the Reno-Sparks area's best links for the fourth straight year.

Best State Park

Readers' favorites were **Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park** in the north and **Lahontan State Recreation Area**, located between Fallon and Silver Springs, in the rurals.

Best National Park/Public Lands

As they did last year, readers named **Great Basin National Park** their favorite national park/public lands in rural Nevada. They also voted the **Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest**—which includes vast forest areas around the state—the best in the north.

Best of Nevada: South

Next issue, you can learn about the Southern Nevada winners of the 2005 *Nevada Magazine* readers' poll in **"Best of Nevada: South,"** which will cover the Las Vegas, Mesquite, and Laughlin areas.

Best Campground

Lake Tahoe again was named the best place to sleep under the stars.

Best Place to Ski

The favorite slopes to schuss? Skiers lifted **Mt. Rose/Ski Tahoe** to the top.

Best Outdoor Adventure Place

When it came to outdoor adventure, *Nevada Magazine* readers praised **Lake Tahoe**, as always.

Best Place to Shop

No changes here. **Meadowood Mall** in Reno was the retail ruler in the north. Shop till you drop.

Best Museum

In a close vote the **National Automobile Museum (The Harrah Collection)** in Reno topped the Nevada Museum of Art as the north's best museum. The **Tonopah Historic Mining Park**, which added an underground-mine tour this year, was the best rural museum for a fourth year.

Best Bed & Breakfast

The winner of this new category was the historic **Bliss Mansion**, a restored bed and breakfast located across the street from the Governor's Mansion in Carson City.

Best Wedding Chapel

There appeared to be no shortage of places in Reno to get married as **Arch of Reno**, winner the past two years, tied with the **Chapel of the Bells**, which won in 2001 and 2002.

Best Place to Go Dancing

Nightclub devotees called the **BuBinga Lounge** in Reno's Eldorado Hotel the best place to put on your dancing shoes for the fifth straight year.

Best RV Park

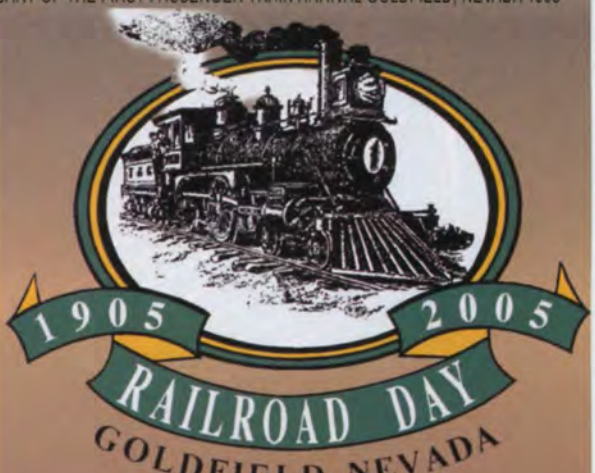
The best RV spot in the north was the **KOA Reno Hilton**, which offers almost as many services as you'll find inside the hotel.

Richard Moreno is Nevada's *publisher.*

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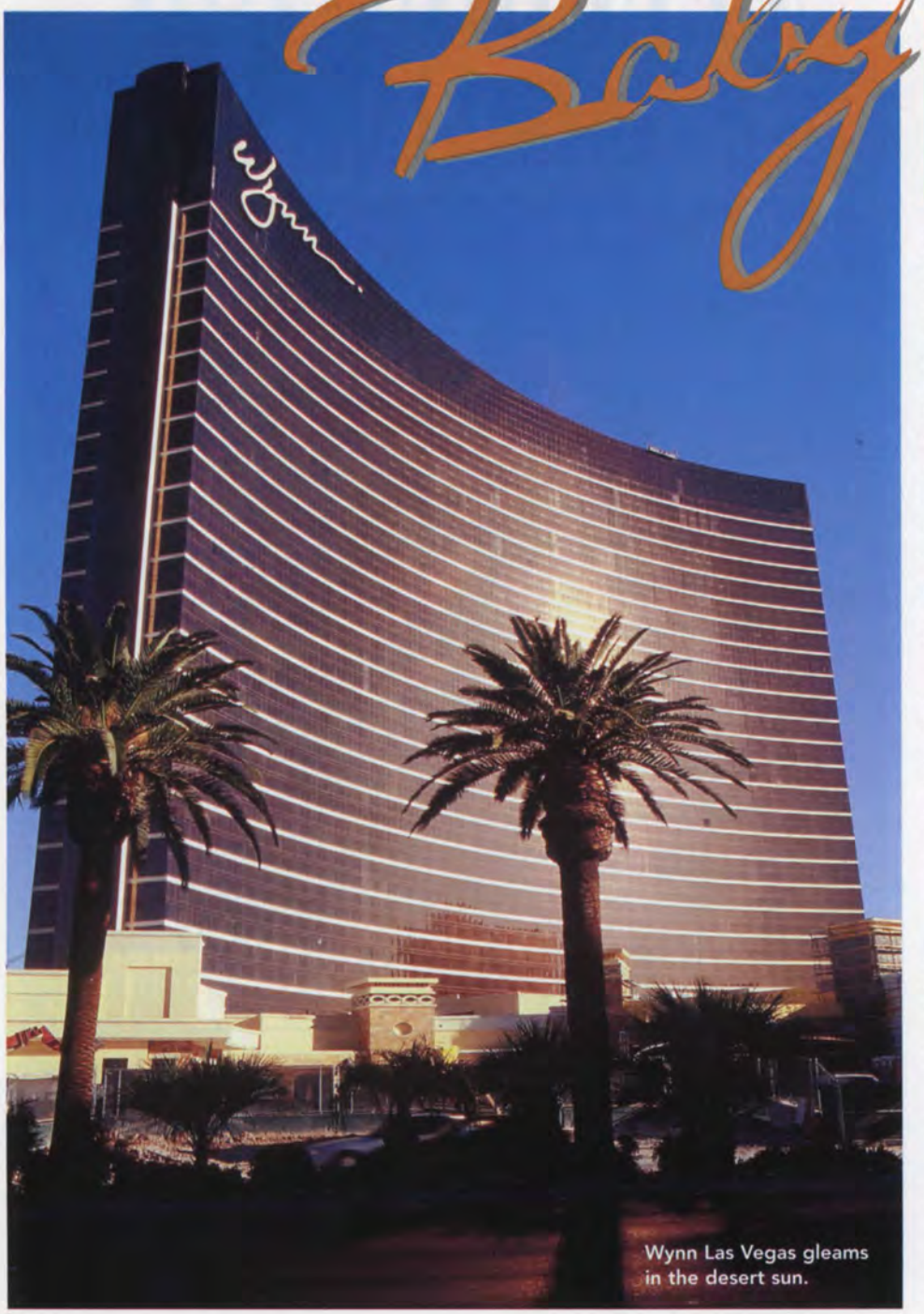
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Billion Dollar Baby

Discovering a mountain, restaurants, and other marvels in Steve Wynn's latest dream resort.

By Jack Bulavsky



Wynn Las Vegas gleams in the desert sun.

For his wife Elaine's birthday on April 28, Steve Wynn opened the 2,716-room Wynn Las Vegas. It cost him $2.7 billion.

That's a very nice birthday present, and one I had to see. The bronze tower of Wynn Las Vegas sits on 217 acres, on the site of the old Desert Inn, and dominates the northern skyline of Las Vegas Boulevard. Wynn, the creator of the Mirage and Bellagio, was opening the first megaresort on the Strip since the Venetian and Mandalay Bay were unveiled in 1999. So, 48 hours after the gala debut of Wynn Las Vegas, I walk into the front lobby.



Steve Wynn

The first thing I notice are the flowers. They rise from a floor of glass inlaid tiles depicting butterflies and geometric designs. Lining the passageway into the casino, the yellow, pink, and purple blooms hang from green-leafed trees native to South Africa, Hawaii, and Florida—trees that have no business being in the desert.

Then there's the light. Most casinos don't want their guests to know if it's day or night, but inside Wynn Las Vegas the light shines through skylights as if you were entering the Garden of Eden.

Past the lobby I turn right, coming to hotel registration, which occupies a separate space looking over the "Mountain" and the "Wall of Water." The Mountain is covered with pine trees, and for a moment I'm back on Kingsbury Grade at Lake Tahoe. The Wall is reminiscent of Niagara Falls.

PHOTOS: Craig Malburg (left), Las Vegas News Bureau (right)

Wynn Las Vegas originally was to be called Le Rêve (French for "the dream"), after a painting of the same name by Picasso.



Water rushes down into a lake where life-sized bronze statues stare at the Mountain and Wall in awe. Just like me.

Soon I find myself in front of the Maserati-Ferrari dealership. People are standing in line to admire cars while two security men carefully monitor admittance. This isn't a mini showroom with one or two automobiles. There are at least six that I can see, and each one shines a brilliant red or black.

It has been five years since Wynn left the Strip. He has taken that time to draw and redraw his latest masterpiece to ensure that every attention to detail has been met, just as he did when he opened the Mirage in 1989 and Bellagio in 1998. The guest rooms are said to be sumptuous. An associate who has stayed in the hotel describes elegant bathrooms, floor-to-ceiling windows with views of the Strip, European bed linens, and flat-screen televisions in the living rooms and bathrooms.

The hotel's 18-hole championship course, the Wynn Golf and Country Club, was designed by Wynn and Tom Fazio, a leading links architect. According to Fazio, the 7,042-yard course has the "distinctive, unique feeling of an urban environment similar to the Bel-Air Country Club in Los Angeles."

On my next visit I plan to see the Wynn Collection, a gallery that shows priceless artworks by Picasso, Renoir, Cézanne, and Van Gogh from Wynn's personal collection. Wynn originally planned to call the resort Le Rêve (French for "the dream"), after a painting by Picasso. Instead, the name was given to a show created by Franco Dragone, formerly of Cirque du Soleil. "Le Rêve" plays in a $70-million, 2,000-seat domed showroom. Later this year, "Avenue Q," the 2004 Tony Award winner for best Broadway musical, is scheduled to make its Las Vegas debut.



Chef Stephen Kalt devises Mediterranean dishes in his Corsa Cucina café (above). Fanciful chandeliers bring color as well as light into Wynn Las Vegas (above left).

Wynn planned the restaurants to be top drawer, too. He assembled a group of critically acclaimed chefs who will be in residence cooking for you and me. The roster includes Daniel Boulud, Philippe Rispoli, Paul Bartolotta, Takashi Yagihashi, and Alessandro Stratta, formerly of Renoir at the Mirage. The restaurants are scattered around the hotel. Several look into the casino, and others command a view of the Wall or the Mountain. Wynn even named a restaurant after himself. In Chinese, Wing Lei means "win" (a play on Wynn) or "forever prosperous."

During the hotel's opening, Wynn said building the property was an exercise. "You're always testing your potential, and, by definition, you should never be satisfied," he said. "You study what you've done to understand what you could have done better."

The opportunity to see what he can do better will come later this summer, when Wynn plans to break ground for the $1.4-billion Encore Tower next door to Wynn Las Vegas. The 20-acre development will have 2,000 suites, restaurants, casino areas, swimming pools, and a spa.

This must be another birthday gift for Elaine. Don't tell her.

Wynn Las Vegas Information

Summer room rates range from $179 to $1,150 per night at Wynn Las Vegas, 3131 Las Vegas Boulevard South. Call 888-320-WYNN or visit www.wynnlasvegas.com for reservations and information.

Jack Bulavsky is a freelance writer living in Henderson. His wife's birthday is January 10, and he thinks she'll appreciate the $7.95 oversized Hallmark card he plans to buy her.



Glass-tile flowers are embedded in the floor of the Wynn Las Vegas lobby.

PHOTOS: Donald Lytton

Cache Me *If You Can*



Armed with GPS units and trinkets, geocaching enthusiasts are joining the high-tech treasure hunt. **By Richard Moreno**

"Go a quarter mile east now, Dad," my 10-year-old daughter ordered. "Take a right. No, go left."

"Which is it? Right or left?" I asked, glancing at Julia as she stared intently at the screen of the cell phone-sized device in her hand.

"Left. I meant left. Sorry."

Left took us into the parking lot of a landscaping company. Water bubbled from rock fountains on display.

"Is this the place?" I asked.

"Not exactly," she said. "It's about a half mile to the north."

North was a large, sagebrush-covered hill. We were going to do some climbing in Reno's Huffaker Hills to find the geocache known as "Indiana Jones Fortress of Doom."

Julia and I were embarking on our first geocaching expedition. Recently, I had purchased a GPS (global positioning system) unit. This electronic device receives signals from satellites and locates geographic coordinates, usually to within 10 feet.

In recent years the sport of geocaching—a kind of high-tech treasure hunt—has attracted a growing number of enthusiasts. For those not yet addicted to the sport, it works like this: Geocachers hide a metal or plastic receptacle, known as a cache, filled with pens, pins, pliers, and other inexpensive trinkets. The cache hider gives it a funny name and posts the coordinates on www.geocaching.com, the official geocaching Web site, or on www.nevadageocaching.com. Cache hunters punch those coordinates into their GPS units and follow the electronic prompts to the site.

Geocaching traces its roots to May 1, 2000, when the federal government relaxed its regulations regarding the public use of global positioning satellites, which previously only the military could use. Within days of the announcement, the first cache was hidden near Portland, Oregon, and a sport was born.



Julia and Hank Moreno revisit the "Fortress of Doom" cache. Top: The author checks his GPS.

Although geocachers are casual by nature, there is an etiquette that all players follow. If you take something from the cache, you replace it with an item. There is also a logbook inside each cache to record the date of your find and other observations.

No one, of course, goes geocaching for the trinkets.

"We do it because it's fun. It's like a treasure hunt for grownups, children, and anyone," says Jean Barnes of Reno, who was introduced to the sport of geocaching by her daughter. "It's an excuse to get out into the fresh air."

Barnes' daughter, Rebecca Venis, has been an enthusiastic geocacher for four years. The Reno resident's first encounter

PHOTOS: Hank Moreno (top), Richard Moreno (middle)





Geocachers often hike in rugged terrain to uncover a wealth of trinkets, as Julia shows.

with a cache came by accident; she was snowshoeing at Lake Tahoe when she discovered one half-hidden in the snow. An avid hiker, Venis began reading about geocaching and decided it combined her passion for the outdoors with the challenge of a scavenger hunt. She laughs recalling the first time she and a friend went geocaching. They didn't have a GPS unit, so they tried to use a map. It took them more than four hours to find the cache.

"I've seen more terrain as a result of geocaching than I have hiking," Venis says. She has found caches around the world—one in the ancient ruins of the Coliseum in Rome. Venis, who has hidden five caches of her own, says, "For me, it's all about the thrill of the hunt."

She's right. The last time I found a cache, I didn't take anything. It was more satisfying to wander around, following prompts from my GPS, and discover a half-hidden coffee can filled with worthless treasures.

Veteran geocacher Dr. "Doc Webe" Webowitz, is a legend in geocaching circles. The Las Vegan estimates she has found more than 2,100 caches in the past five years and hidden another 160, mostly in the Silver State. She was a founder of the Nevada Geocaching Association as well as the www.nevadageocaching.com Web site.

"There are a number of reasons people enjoy geocaching," Doc Webe says. "It gets people outside, to places they'd never think of going except for geocaching. It's a family affair that everyone can do, and you can be physically challenged, even wheelchair-bound, and participate. It opens a whole new world."

> "For me, it's all about the **thrill of the hunt,**" Venis says.

Before my daughter and I took that first geocache outing in Huffaker Hills, we checked the Web site for caches within a mile of our Reno home. A dozen sites popped up on the screen. The cache names were intriguing—"I Can See Where I Used to Live From Here," "The Riddler's Lair," and "Indiana Jones Fortress of Doom."

Julia thought the "Indiana Jones" cache had the coolest name, so we decided to make that our first hunt. On the Web site we found a description of the "Fortress of Doom," the GPS coordinates, secret codes, and photos. Geocachers had made breathless comments like: "I got up early and found your cache at 6:15 before the snakes were up. Left a luggage lock & key set in exchange for the electronic football game…Cache on!! Abe."

After leaving our car in the landscapers' parking lot, we stood at the base of the hill. The GPS indicated that, yes, the "Fortress of Doom" was straight up, so we climbed through the sagebrush. The GPS pointed us up the hill. The terrain became rockier, dustier, and steeper. I wondered if the outing had been such a good idea. Julia complained the rocks hurt her feet, and I saw nothing that resembled the images on the Web site.

When we stopped to catch our breath, I spotted a wall of dark rocks in a semicircle near the top. It had to be the "Fortress of Doom." With renewed energy we scampered over the rocks to the stone walls. The GPS told us we were within five feet of the coordinates—but where was the cache?

We searched inside the crude rock walls. We climbed down a series of boulders and scanned the hillside. The view was spectacular, with the south Truckee Meadows spread out below and Mount Rose to the west.

My daughter sighed. After all our hard work, she feared we wouldn't find the cache. I turned to reassure her and noticed a plastic container in the rock wall behind her head.

It was the cache. We pulled out the box and opened it. Inside we found pens, toy cars, luggage locks, and other geegaws. Julia took a luggage lock and replaced it with a clip-on clock we had brought with us. I entered our names in the log. Mission accomplished.

Of course, not all of our geocaching adventures have been so successful. A few weeks later, Julia, my 17-year-old son, Hank, and I journeyed to another part of Huffaker Hills in south Reno to find a pair of caches.

We easily found the first, the "Reno High Roller" cache, a metal army canister tucked in the rocks. We took an extension cord and left a knock-off Swiss Army knife we bought at the Dollar Store.

The second cache, however, proved more elusive. Despite three sets of eyes and a GPS reading that said we were standing on top of it, we couldn't find the cache. But we're not giving up. We'll be back.

Richard Moreno is Nevada Magazine's *publisher. He plans to hide a geocache on a few acres of remote, worthless desert land he owns near Lovelock and call it, "Remote, Worthless Desert Land I Own Near Lovelock."*

GEOCACHING TIPS

Global Positioning Systems: GPS units cost between $90 and $700 and can be purchased at most sporting-goods and electronics stores. Manufacturers include Garmin, Lowrance, and Magellan.

Geocaching Web Sites: The best are www.geocaching.com and www.nevadageocaching.com. The former has a good beginner section.

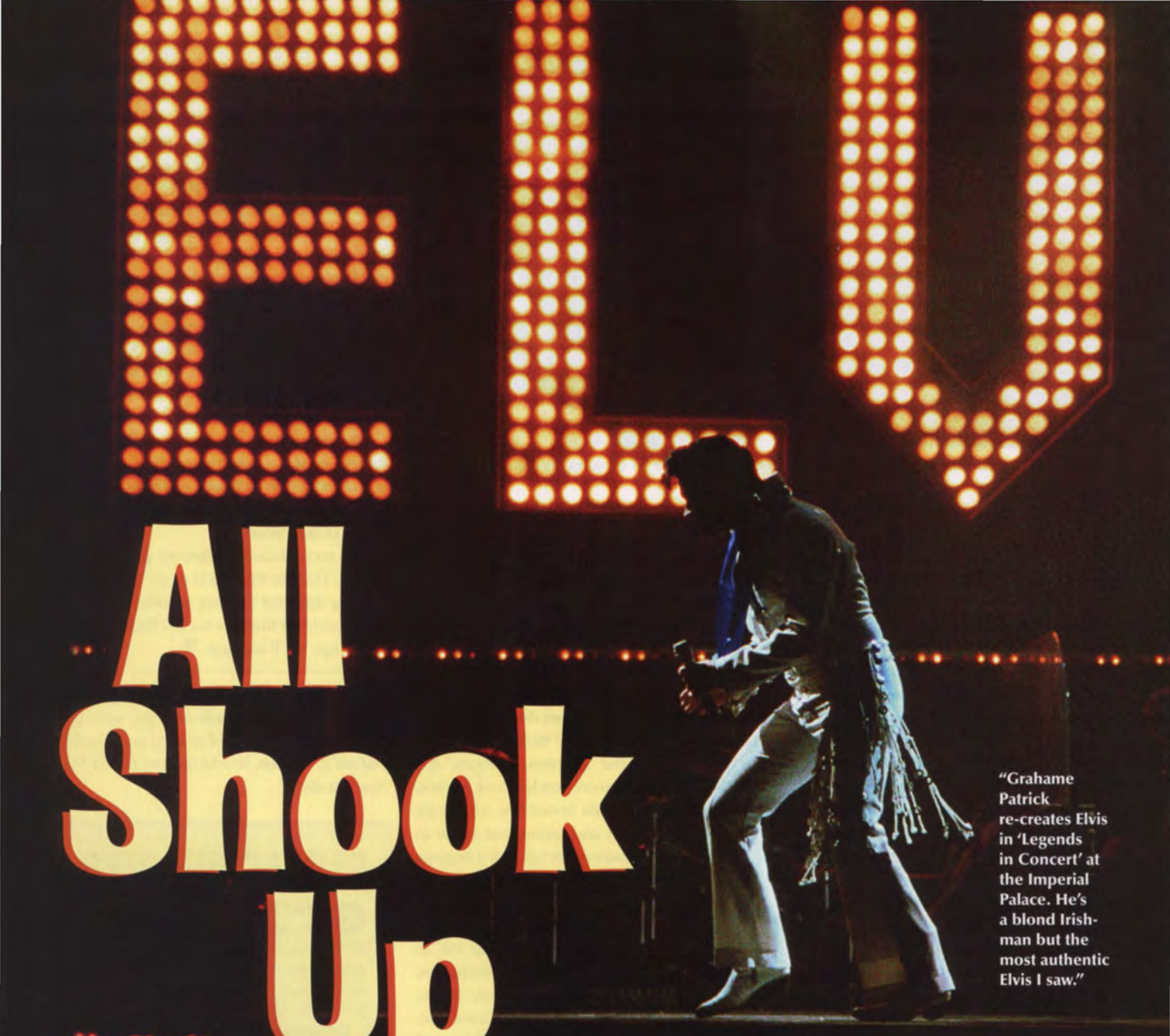
What to Bring: Geocachers should wear comfortable hiking boots or shoes, carry water, and bring along trinkets to leave in the caches. The cache's degree of difficulty usually is indicated in the Web-site description.

Information: The Nevada Commission on Tourism is a good source of basic information on geocaching. Call 775-687-4322 or visit www.travelnevada.com; Promotions Manager Margaret Ann Schneweis (margaretann@travelnevada.com) is the resident expert. NCOT maintains its own geocache, "Dash for the Cache" (GPS coordinates: 39° 09.973 N, 119° 45.989 W).

—*Richard Moreno*

PHOTOS: Richard Moreno

All Shook Up



"Grahame Patrick re-creates Elvis in 'Legends in Concert' at the Imperial Palace. He's a blond Irishman but the most authentic Elvis I saw."

Photographer **Ira Gostin** found that for these sideburned impersonators, Elvis hasn't left the building.

One night in 1986, Ira Gostin was cruising Las Vegas Boulevard on a photo shoot for the *Los Angeles Times* when he stopped to take a picture of a motel sign: "Elvis Slept Here." In 2002, the Reno photographer recalled that image of the King's perpetual presence when he began documenting the world of Elvis impersonators. He says, "On any given day there are 10 Elvi working in Las Vegas—and it's a whole variety of people." The project lasted two years. Gostin, 44, points out, "Photographers should be reinventing themselves"—not unlike his sideburned subjects.



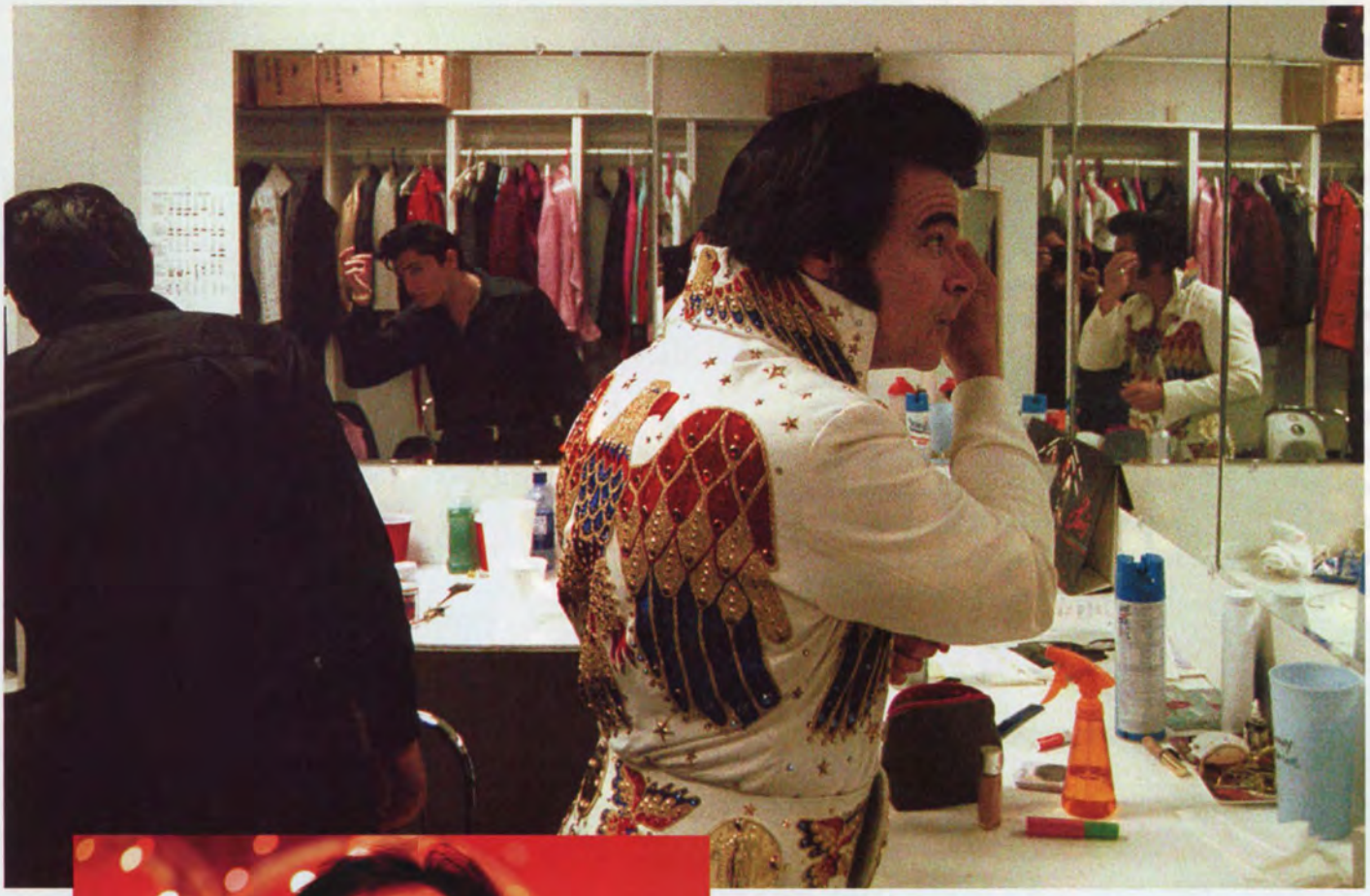


Top: "Grahame Patrick shows his moves during 'Legends in Concert.' He's now appearing in Berlin."

Right: "Sonny Boline gets all shook up at the Elvis-A-Rama Museum."

Left: "Elvis played for years in the big Las Vegas Hilton showroom. That's impersonator Trent Carlini on the taxi topper. He performs on the same Hilton stage as Elvis did."









Top: "I took this photo in the Elvis-A-Rama dressing room in Las Vegas. On the right is Sonny Boline, who has a great voice and is from Minnesota. You can see another Elvis, Justin Shander, in the mirror on the left."

Middle: "Pete 'Big Elvis' Vallee has his own show at the Barbary Coast. He's a nice guy who has a gorgeous voice and has found his niche."

Right: "I met Vinny Capri at last summer's pool party sponsored by Viva Las Vegas! An Elvis Presley Fan Club at a Vegas apartment complex."





Top: "Jesse Garon is one of the top independent Elvis impersonators. He drives a pink Caddy and has a re-creation of the Graceland gate at his house."

Right: "Elvis is staring from a fan's jacket as Amy Beth (right) looks on. I took this photo in the Westward Ho lobby during the 2003 Elvis Extravaganza convention."

A Tale of Two ARTISTS

Adolph Gottlieb and **Billie McGowan** had the same goal in a 1939 contest: to put their murals on the post office wall. **By Richard T. Stephens**

"Draw, Stranger!" That was a familiar challenge in the Hollywood version of the Old West, but in the real West the challenge to draw isn't necessarily followed by the smell of gun smoke.



The drawing done in 1939 by New Yorker Adolph Gottlieb and Yerington resident Billie McGowan did not involve a pair of Colt 45s. They reached, instead, for their art supplies. Their aim was not to settle a poker dispute but to win a commission in the Forty-Eight State Mural Competition, conducted by the Federal Works Agency to place regional art in post offices around the country.

The two artists never met face to face, but if they had, it would have taken no white hat and black hat to tell them apart. The contrast between them could hardly have been greater.

Willoise McGowan, better known as "Billie," tailored her mural to represent her hometown, Yerington, the small ranching community 80 miles southeast of Reno. Gottlieb, who never visited Yerington, originally designed his mural for a post office in Safford, Arizona. Like McGowan, Gottlieb was one of hundreds of artists submitting sketches in the national contest.

Gottlieb was artistically adventuresome and a modernist. Born in New York in 1903, he dropped out of high school and studied under John Sloan at the Art Students League. Then he worked his way to Europe on a tramp steamer.

"He jumped ship at Marseille and managed to get by on his wits and without a passport for some time," says Sanford Hirsch, executive director of the Adolph and Esther Gottlieb Foundation



Adolph Gottlieb poses in front of his painting "Spray" (1959), an example of his "Burst" period. Left: The local contender, Willoise "Billie" McGowan, grew up on a Mason Valley ranch.

PHOTOS: McGowan Family Collection (left), Marvin P. Lazarus © Adolph and Esther Gottlieb Foundation (right)





Adolph Gottlieb's mural hangs in the Yerington post office. Dedicated in 1939, the WPA-built P.O. on Main Street is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Gottlieb was a major figure in the development of modern art in America.

in New York. "He did this as a test of his commitment to become an artist."

While in Europe, Gottlieb soaked up the art scenes in Munich and Berlin and took part in sketch classes at the Académie de la Grande Chaumière in Paris. Back in the States, he studied at the Parsons School of Design, Cooper Union, and the Educational Alliance Art School.

Although admired by his colleagues as a student of art history and painting technique, Gottlieb was far from a traditional realist. He was a major figure in the development of what most people think of as "modern art" in America. A few years before the mural competition, he, along with Mark Rothko, had cofounded the group of "outsider" painters known simply as "The Ten." Most people remember Gottlieb for the graphically powerful abstractions of his "Burst" period—simple compositions consisting of soft-edged monochromatic circles suspended over masses of dark, rough-edged lines.

In contrast, McGowan was an artistic traditionalist and a thorough Westerner. She had come to Nevada at about the age of five, in 1905 or 1906, riding from Tennessee in a covered wagon driven by her father, Will R. Butner. A horse buyer, Butner had taken the job of running the Miller and Lux Ranch outside Yerington. She grew up among the cowboys on the ranch and even lived there after marriage in a house her husband, Terrance, a carpenter and cabinetmaker, built for their family.

Besides overseeing the ranch, McGowan's father wrote a folksy column for the Hearst newspapers, and her mother, Sofronia, was a painter, so it was natural for Willoise, their oldest child, to develop a love for both means of expression.

Instead of the hotbeds of modernity in which Gottlieb received his training, McGowan received her formal art instruction at the conservative University of Nevada in Reno. She occasionally worked as a commercial artist. While Billie and Terrance lived in San Francisco, where he built cabinets for Nob Hill mansions, she designed greeting cards and candy boxes for the Haas Candy Company. She later did artwork for a Reno newspaper.

McGowan was not without support in the mural contest, as evidenced by a letter from her friend and mentor, university art instructor Katherine Lewers, to Congressman James G. Scrugham. At his ranch Scrugham had hosted art camps conducted by Lewers. McGowan attended some of the camps.

"Dear Friend," Lewers wrote. "This is a plea for true art in the Yerington post office.

"Mrs. Willouise [sic] McGowan a young woman of very exceptional ability in Art is competing for the privilege of painting the mural in the Yerington post office and I am hoping I can enlist your influence in her behalf..

"Knowing that you have no liking for the Modernistic art which is flooding the country and degrading the true appreciation of God's creations, I am hoping that you will use your

PHOTOS: Richard T. Stephens



Billie McGowan (left) attends an art camp held by Katherine Lewers in Washoe Valley.

McGowan, a traditionalist painter, had come to Nevada at about the age of five in a covered wagon.

influence to have at least one post office mural true and harmonious and beautiful—just as beautiful as those in the Congressional Library.

"The people of Yerington are very justly proud of Mrs. McGowan's ability and would be greatly pleased to have a member of their own community paint their mural."

Lewers then described McGowan's mural—which featured figures representing Prosperity, Mining, and Agriculture—and noted, "The colors are very true and harmonious—not a taint of the low and lewd of Modernistic representations."

Although the Congressman forwarded the letter to W.E. Reynolds, commissioner of public buildings in the Federal Works Agency, there is no evidence it influenced the three judges, well-known artists Olin Dows, Edgar Miller, and Maurice Sterne.

Many factors might have influenced the judges' decision. Perhaps they wanted to break with the neoclassical style so typical of art in public buildings. McGowan's daughter, Pat Wirsching of Reno, doesn't remember her mother's reaction to the contest results. Wirsching says, "At least I don't remember anyone ever making a comment like 'those stupid judges' or anything like that."

When Gottlieb was declared a winner, he was assigned the Yerington post office instead of the one in Arizona he had anticipated. Edward R. Rowan, assistant chief of the Federal Works Agency's fine arts section, advised the artist of "the necessity of your carefully checking the subject matter to see if it is in every way appropriate for the Yerrington, Nevada Post Office." (That extra "r" has a way of sneaking into the town's name when nonresidents write it.)

Gottlieb, whose main experience with the desert Southwest was an eight-month residence in Tucson in 1937-1938, saw no need to adjust his subject matter.

"Although I have never been in Yerrington," he wrote, "I have lived in Arizona for a year and traveled extensively thruout the Southwest. The design I submitted was based upon notes and studies



The figures in McGowan's mural entry, later framed by her family, depicts Yerington-area themes—Mining, Prosperity, and Agriculture.

PHOTOS: McGowan Family Collection (top), Richard T. Stephens (bottom)

made during my stay there, and I have also made many easel paintings of Southwestern themes. I mention this to indicate that my material was obtained at first hand.

"I would like you to note that my design does not depict a specific place, but represents what is to my mind a typical scene in the Southwest.

"The topography of the entire section between California and the Rockies from the north of Nevada down thru Arizona is similar and consists of rugged mountains, plateaus, deserts, buttes, arid and semi-arid lands. The vegetation is also similar, consisting of cactus, sage brush, mesquite, etc.

"I have checked as carefully as possible, and have found nothing to indicate that Yerrington differs from the typical Southwestern town."

While the bleak, primitive landscape of Gottlieb's mural, which he titled "Homestead on the Prairie," does resemble desert areas within sight of Yerington, it hardly represents the green, agricultural heart of Mason Valley, where Yerington is the largest town and the Lyon County seat. Had the artist visited Yerington, he might have made adjustments, as when artist Philip von Saltza, whose design was also originally intended for Arizona, replaced saguaro cacti with cottonwood trees in his mural depicting wild horses after Schuyler, Nebraska, residents complained the cacti did not represent their area.

Gottlieb painted the mural in his apartment in Brooklyn. When it was finished, he was eager to have the work mounted and receive the final installment of the $740 payment (close to $10,000 in today's dollars) before an impending deadline.

"I would like to install the mural without delay," he wrote, "but frankly I am reluctant to undertake the trip to Yerington." Noting he had no experience in hanging murals, Gottlieb suggested employing someone local to do the job.

Thus, the job of hanging Gottlieb's mural fell to none other than Willoise McGowan. Perhaps she was grateful for the work in those economically hard times, but one has to wonder what went through McGowan's mind as she mounted this desolate scene on the very wall where she had envisioned her own representation of the bounty of her hometown. To her credit, she did a very professional job.

After the mural contest, the two artists followed different paths. Adolph Gottlieb became an important figure in American art. In 1943 he and Mark Rothko published a letter in *The New York Times* that was the first formal statement of the concerns and principles of Abstract Expressionism. Gottlieb, along with Rothko, John Graham, and George Constant, formed another group called the New York Artist Painters.

Gottlieb's work was exhibited in prestigious galleries and shows in the United States and abroad, and he won many awards. The Guggenheim Museum in New York purchased 12 of his works. He taught at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn and at UCLA. He and his wife, Esther, endured a fire in their apartment in 1966 that greatly disrupted their lives and Gottlieb's painting. Gottlieb, who suffered a stroke in 1970, was elected a member of the National Institute of Arts and Letters two years later.

"Gottlieb had fond memories of his time in Arizona," Sanford Hirsch says, "so much so that in 1973 he traveled to Phoenix to establish a studio there. Unfortunately, his health prevented him from staying." Hirsch adds, "He was a proudly independent, self-made man—the kind of person many Westerners appreciate."

Gottlieb, who died in 1974 at the age of 70, and his wife left a generous legacy. Today the Adolph and Esther Gottlieb Foundation provides grants to individual visual artists and emergency assistance to artists who are the victims of flood, fire, or other catastrophic events.

In 1940, Billie McGowan and her family moved from Yerington to Reno. She painted portraits and made greeting cards. She also wrote short stories and poems. In fact, her daughter, Pat Wirsching, says McGowan seemed to consider herself more of a writer than a painter.

Wirsching recalls that her mother had a great sense of humor and loved the company of other artists, but she usually preferred to be alone with her writing and her art.

Wirsching remembers how a friend, Lottie Milne, another free-spirited Irishwoman, prevailed upon McGowan to join a Reno women's organization, the Twentieth Century Club. To her surprise, McGowan was elected president. "She and Lottie used to sit and plan what they would do at the club meetings and just laugh and laugh," says Wirsching.

McGowan died in Reno in 1981 at the age of 82, her Yerington mural design long forgotten. Then, one day two years ago, her granddaughter Melanie was exploring the attic of the family home when she spotted a bundle. There it was, Billie McGowan's painting, rolled up and in almost perfect condition, allowing us to see the mural that might have been.

Richard T. Stephens is a Beatty artist, photographer, and teacher.

The Gottlieb Mural

Adolph Gottlieb's mural can be seen inside the post office on Main Street in Yerington. The post office is open around the clock. Window hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

"On the south wall we also have photographs showing the construction of the post office in 1939," says postal supervisor Lisa Smith. "People look up, and the mural's right there." Smith notes that the mural contains a clue in an annual scavenger hunt for Yerington schoolchildren, so at least one group of residents inspects the mural closely every year.

For information on the area's tourist attractions stop by or call Yerington City Hall, 102 South Main Street, 775-463-3511, or visit www.masonvalley.com. For details on the Adolph and Esther Gottlieb Foundation and on Gottlieb's life and art, visit www.gottliebfoundation.org.

Other New Deal Murals

Travelers can admire New Deal-sponsored murals in two other Nevada post offices.

In Lovelock, a mural painted by California artist Ejnar Hansen in 1940 depicts four desert prospectors in "The Uncovering of the Comstock Lode." Located at 390 Main Street, the Lovelock post office is a block from the town's historic round courthouse.

In Winnemucca, a 1942 mural by Polly Duncan titled "Cattle Round-Up" shows cowboys at work. Postmaster Marlo Hubbard says that when the post office moved to its present location, 850 Hanson Street, in the early 1990s, "they peeled the mural off the wall, restored it, and put it in a frame. The mural now hangs in our inside lobby."

Trail Guides

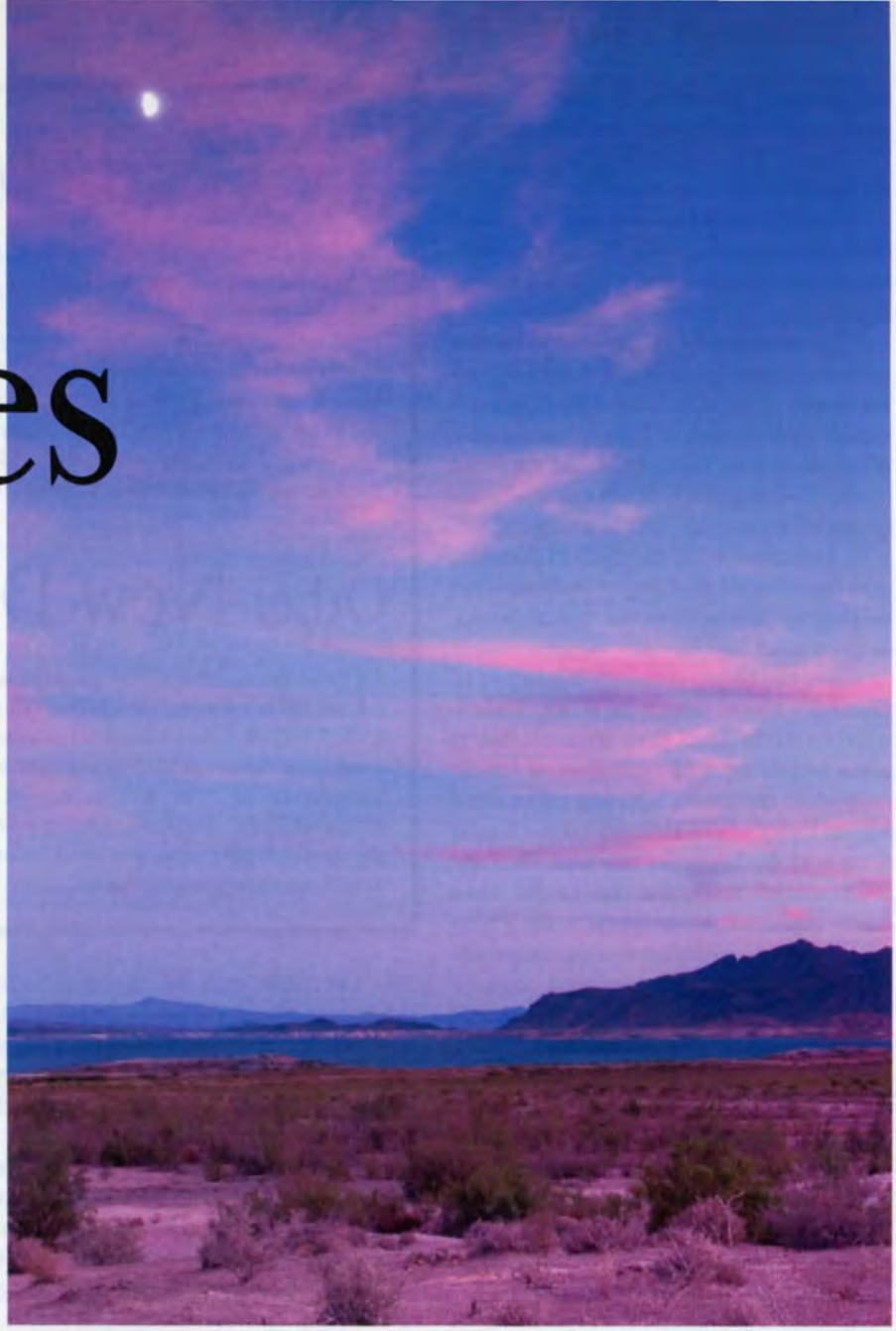
Park rangers take the lead while you go along for the hike

By Kim Pryor

I stood on the eastern slope of Mount Rose, my nose pressed against the bark of an evergreen tree. The ranger leading our hike asked us to identify the tree by its aroma. Several other hikers and I inhaled. It smelled vaguely like a bakery.

"That's the smell of the Jeffrey pine—you can smell that sweet scent of vanilla or butterscotch," the ranger, Colleen Wallace Barnum, explained.

From aromatic pines to animal tracks, I've learned a great deal on guided hikes like the one Wallace Barnum was leading in the mountains above Reno. Led by knowledgeable rangers or volunteers, guided hikes teach us intriguing facts about natural history and ecology. Kids usually are welcome, and the hikes satisfy their curiosity about the natural world. For singles like me, the excursions offer built-in walking partners.





Twilight descends on the Overton Arm of Lake Mead. The park's rangers conduct hikes all year. Left: Lake Mead ranger Michele Moore-Simmons talks to children.

"We've been on a lot of guided hikes," Janet Van Wieringen, a teacher from Washington State, told me on a hike at Lake Mead. "I wouldn't notice things along the trail if left on my own. I'd walk right over a lot of natural attractions."

I knew what she meant. By taking guided hikes at various parks I learned more about Nevada's natural history than I had during more than a decade living in the state.

PHOTOS: Craig Shanklin (top), Lake Mead National Recreation Area (bottom)

Lake Mead After Dark

Lake Mead was a blue shock of color against the brown desert rocks. Pink cotton-candy clouds drifted across the twilight sky. However, I was there to observe not the desert's evening colors but the blackness of its night.

Along with 28 other visitors I was beginning a two-hour, full-moon hike in the desert next to Lake Mead.

"The desert is a beautiful place, and often we drive right past it," said Scott Teodorski, a ranger with Lake Mead National Recreation Area, the huge parkland east of Las Vegas. "Tonight we're going to take a closer look."

> "The desert is a beautiful place, and often we drive right past it."

As we approached a dirt road, I glanced at the clouds smothering the darkened horizon. No moon.

We had walked 20 yards when Teodorski saw something scurry across the trail. A tarantula. With his flashlight, the ranger spotlighted a hole in the ground the size of a baseball, but the spider had disappeared. Still, we could see a gauzy white web that blocked the hole's entrance.

"Now, see this little critter right here?" The ranger shined his light on a harvester ant. "He doesn't know it, walking around at night, but he may very well find the web."

We walked up a dirt road. A volcanic cliff rose on our left. The night sky peeked through an oval window in the rock.

"If we time it just right, when the moon comes out, it will shine right through that hole," Teodorski said. However, the moon hid shyly behind the cloak of clouds.

At our next stop, Teodorski reminded us that the desert isn't as barren as it seems. For example, he said, several species of bats inhabit the Lake Mead area. He held up a bat skeleton enclosed in plexiglas to demonstrate how much the flying mammal looked like a miniature human with a ribcage and skull.

Later the ranger pointed his flashlight at round divots in the sandy road: marks from the hooves of bighorn sheep. "They're kind of like the Michael Jordan of the desert animals," he said. "They're in tiptop shape. If you look at bighorn sheep, they're just solid muscle."

Our hiking party climbed a hill. In the distance we could see the lights of the *Desert Princess* cruise ship twinkling on Lake Mead's obsidian-black surface. Teodorski described the building of Hoover Dam and its creation of Lake Mead in the 1930s.

Heading back, four of us were so involved in our conversation that we missed a turn. We could see our group's flashlights bobbing in the distance. We backtracked safely.

The moon's absence didn't disappoint me. I was amazed at all I had seen in the darkened desert.

"A lot of people don't realize the desert is as alive as it is," Teodorski told me after we had returned to the starting point. "Until they take these guided hikes, people can't believe there's that much out here."



Rangers often lead hikes to stands of ancient, gnarled bristlecones in Great Basin National Park. Hikers can continue on a trail to Nevada's only glacier.

PHOTO: Mark Vollmer

The Bristlecone Trail

On a cool morning in August, 16 hikers gathered near Wheeler Peak Campground in Great Basin National Park for a ranger-led, two-hour trek to the oldest living things on earth—bristlecone pines.

The Bristlecone Trail began at nearly 10,000 feet above sea level. Our leader, ranger Catherine Stanton, told us how to prepare for high-altitude hiking: wear good shoes, carry drinking water, and don't overdo it. Then we were on our way.

As we climbed, Stanton stopped in front of an evergreen and showed us how to identify the tree, an Englemann spruce. One clue: its flaky bark.

"I have a friend who calls the Englemann spruce the potato chip tree," she said. The kids in our group giggled.

When we stopped beside another evergreen, the ranger asked us, "What is it?"

A man guessed, "White pine?"

"It's not a white pine," Stanton said. "However, early settlers in the area thought it was, which is why we live in White Pine County. But there are no white pines anywhere in the area."

The white pine imposter was a limber pine, its identity revealed by the bristles of needles at the branches' ends. Because of the bristles, Stanton explained, many people also confuse limber pines with bristlecones.

"Up a little higher, we're going to see some of these limber pines that look gnarly," Stanton said. "They're going to be twisted and contorted. The gnarly, twisted shape that we think of as the bristlecone isn't genetic. It's due to environment."

We paused where the slope met a bristlecone grove. "What kills a bristlecone?" Stanton asked. We'd already learned that its dense bark makes it resistant to bugs and disease, one reason a bristlecone can live more than 3,000 years.

"Erosion," the ranger explained. When its roots are exposed, the bristlecone dies.

The twisted trunks on either side of our path formed a natural sculpture garden. Some bristlecones were reddish brown. Others had been bleached gray-white by the elements.

The ranger warned us we might smell a skunk if we traveled past the bristlecones. Surprisingly, the ugly smell emanates from a pretty, small



Hikers who are fit and prepared can explore the Mount Rose Wilderness between Reno and Lake Tahoe (above). Several scenic trails wind through nearby Galena Creek Park.

blue flower that is known as skunkweed or sky pilot.

As we dispersed to inspect the ancient pines on our own, Stanton told us, "The bristlecone was our goal for coming up here, but bristlecone pines don't exist by themselves. If the nutcracker wasn't planting the trees' seeds, the trees wouldn't be here. If the glacier hadn't delivered a nice pile of rocks, they wouldn't have a place to grow.

"It's really a community," the ranger continued. "And if you come up here just looking for the bristlecones, you're going to miss out on the larger picture."

Up Two Creeks

We gathered around the picnic tables at Galena Creek Park south of Reno, 13 hikers embarking on the longest of the guided hikes I had taken over the summer—9.2 miles round trip up the Jones Creek-White's Creek Loop Trail. The hike was not recommended for kids.

Our guides were park rangers Colleen Wallace Barnum and Jerry Buzzard. Although this hike is not conducted on a regular basis, hikers can get directions and take the loop trail on their own. Galena rangers lead a variety of shorter hikes each summer.

The trail led up Jones Creek Canyon. We entered the Mount Rose Wilderness and climbed a series of switchbacks overlooking a hillside of aspens painted with the first hint of fall gold.

Pausing on the second switchback, the two rangers told us about one of the park's most remarkable impersonators, the Stellar's jay. Wallace Barnum told us she'd watched a Stellar's jay scrutinize the squirrels hiding nuts underground. When the bird imitated the call of a red-tailed hawk, the wary squirrels scattered. The Stellar's jay then swooped down and stole the fleeing animals' caches.

Buzzard told us another Stellar's jay story. Alone in his office at Bowers Mansion Park in Washoe Valley, he heard the office door open, but when he turned around, the door was still closed. Puzzled, he saw a Stellar's jay sitting in a tree. "This Stellar's jay had learned how to imitate the creaking of the door," Buzzard explained.

On our next stop, we learned about the Washoe Indians, who once lived in this wilderness. Using props—a spear thrower called an atlatl, an antelope horn, pine nuts—Buzzard gave us a glimpse of the Washoes' dialects, food, and hunting weapons.

Reaching the top of the switchbacks, we'd gained 2,000 feet and stood on a ridge 8,200 feet above sea level. About 4,000 feet below us, to the south, Washoe Lake glimmered in the afternoon sun. In front of us, the shoulders of Mount Rose held up a blueberry-blue sky. To the north, Reno lay at our feet.

We admired the view while eating lunch. The rangers talked about Virginia City, tucked behind the mountains to the east, and about the mining town of Galena, destroyed by fire in 1867

As we followed the trail downhill, Wallace Barnum picked up a pine cone the size of a thimble. "The tiny little one is the male pine cone," she said.

"I never knew that was a male!" a woman said, gazing at the miniature male cones blanketing the sides of the path.

We traveled under a forest canopy. Buzzard pulled a wild onion out of the ground and passed it around. We each caught a whiff of the plant's pungent odor.

At trail's end, in the early evening, my legs ached. But I had learned some of the forest's secrets. Before today's hike, I'd never known that pines could smell like butterscotch.

Kim Pryor is a Lake Tahoe writer and hiker.

Guided Hikes

Nevada parks feature a variety of hikes led by rangers or volunteers. Young children are allowed on many treks; on others, only older children can accompany adults. Call for dates and details. Reservations may be required. Here is a sampling of sources on guided hikes in the state's parks:

Lake Mead National Recreation Area: Located 25 miles east of Las Vegas. Call 702-293-8906 or visit www.nps.gov/lame.

Great Basin National Park: 70 miles east of Ely. Call 775-234-7331 or visit www.nps.gov/grba.



A group follows a trail in the Bowl of Fire at Lake Mead.

Galena Creek Park: 18350 Mount Rose Highway, about 20 miles south of Reno. Call 775-849-2511 or visit www.washoecountyparks.com.

Spring Mountain Ranch State Park: 15 miles west of Las Vegas in Red Rock Canyon. Call 702-875-4141 or visit www.parks.nv.gov.

Cathedral Gorge State Park: Two miles northwest of Panaca. Call 775-728-4460 for information or visit www.parks.nv.gov.

Other Nevada State Parks: Many state parks offer ranger-led hikes. Visit www.parks.nv.gov.

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area: 13 miles west of Las Vegas. Call 702-363-1922 or visit www.redrockcanyonlv.org.

PHOTOS: Jon Gnass (top), Lake Mead National Recreation Area (bottom)

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Adult Area 51 Alien Sweatshirt & Tee



100% cotton, sleek black tee with white, florescent design of a hitchhiking alien on Nevada's Extraterrestrial Highway. Sizes M, L, XL, and XXL. #TET **$15.95** add $2.00 for XXL. Also available in a 50% cotton/50% poly, black sweatshirt in sizes M, L, XL, and XXL. #SET **$23.95** add $3.00 for XXL



Desert Bighorn Sheep
The Desert Bighorn shirts are 100% white cotton in sizes M, L, XL. #TRAM **$13.00** add $2.00 for XXL. Sweatshirts are white 50% cotton/50% poly in sizes M, L, XL, and XXL. #SRAM **$18.00** add $3.00 for XXL



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100% pre-shrunk cotton, light blue tee with drawing of mountain bluebirds, the state bird. Sizes S, M, L, XL, and XXL. #TBIRD **$13.00** add $2.00 for XXL



Wild Horses
100% cotton tee features front and back design of galloping Nevada mustangs. Sizes S, M, L, and XL, ash gray #THRS or beige #THRSB **$15.95** add $2.00 for XXL. Also available as a sweatshirt in sizes S, M, L, and XL, ash gray #SHRS or beige SHRSB **$24.95** add $3.00 for XXL



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Youth Wild Horses Tee 100% cotton, design front and back, ash gray tee #TCHRS or beige tee #TCHRSB, in youth sizes S, M, and L, **$11.50**. Also available as a sweatshirt, ash #SCHRS or beige #SCHRSB in sizes S, M, and L. **$17.95**
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REV.8/2004

Breakfast on the Road

Four morning spots on the **Loneliest Road** in America.



Jail Break in Ely

Breakfast is served 24 hours at the **Jailhouse Casino-Motel** coffee shop on U.S. 50 in Ely. The name comes from an antique iron jail door cemented into the motel's sidewalk on Fifth Street, where the county jail occupied a cellar-like space beneath Ely's first City Hall, built in 1908.

The dining conditions are much improved in today's Jailhouse. For instance, the breakfast skillets are cowboy-sized. The Santa Fe—chopped potatoes, onions, tomatoes, avocado, peppers, and cheese, topped with two eggs—sizzles in the hot iron pan ($7.25). Rib-eye steak and eggs costs $8.25, and the omelets start at $5.95.

The Jailhouse offers the usual roundup of pancakes, waffles, bacon, sausage, and eggs but adds a French flair with crepes ($6.75). Although the fillings—apple, peach, or strawberry—are prosaic, the crepes are chewy and light and acquire a dash of oo-la-la with mounds of whipped cream.

—Joyce Hollister

The Place: Jailhouse Casino-Motel, Aultman (U.S. 50) and Fifth streets, Ely, 800-841-5430 or 775-289-3033.

Other Breakfast Spots: Hotel Nevada, Holiday Inn, Silver State, Big J's.

After-Breakfast Attractions: Nevada Northern Railway Museum, historical murals, White Pine Public Museum, Great Basin National Park.



Paul, Lewis, and Rhoda Strite fry doughnuts and bake bread daily. The family operates the Pony Espresso Deli in Eureka.

Dulcimer Dining in Eureka

The Strites, a Mennonite family, own and operate the **Pony Espresso Deli** in Eureka. Besides serving good food, Paul Strite and his parents, Lewis and Rhoda, find time to chat with travelers about life in Eureka, a historic mining town on the Loneliest Road in America. Lewis occasionally serenades breakfasters on his mountain dulcimer.

Paul begins baking at 4 a.m., so you can have fresh turnovers and cinnamon buns with your cup of espresso when the café opens an hour later. The Strites cure their own meats and make the sausage they serve with home fries and eggs.

Big eaters at the Pony Espresso can try a three-inch-thick breakfast burrito that covers the plate. Breakfast costs $3.75 to $4.25. For a snack you can take along some buffalo jerky, also made by the family.

—Wilma LaRocca

The Place: Pony Espresso Deli, 101 Bullion Street, Eureka, 775-237-7663. The Pony Espresso is open 5 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily except Sunday.

Other Breakfast Spots: The Owl Club.

After-Breakfast Attractions: Eureka Opera House, Eureka County Courthouse, Eureka Sentinel Museum, cemeteries.

Austin's Egg Bonanza

Like Austin itself, the **Toiyabe Café** sits on Main Street between two centuries, represented by the ornate Episcopal Church to the east and the functional Pony Canyon Shell station to the west.

Mel, who often waits tables in the morning, is in the dining area, keeping his pencil patiently poised above the order pad as the customer fumbles for the right words. "An omelet. No, no. Maybe scrambled eggs. Hold it! Two eggs, over easy, I think."

It's a familiar scene.

The customer really isn't hard to please. It's just that Jenni Williams, who owns the place, has boiled the science of egg cookery down to an art, and she has managed to pass that art on to virtually every cook who's ever worked the morning shift at the Toiyabe.

If you enjoy eggs, it's a tough choice, like the signs on each end of the room; one points the way to the Beach, and the other promises Free Beer Tomorrow. Most folks want to check out the Beach but are afraid that if they leave they'll miss out on the Free Beer.

For my part, I believe I'll stick around, at least until the day after tomorrow.

"OK. The omelet."

Jim Andersen

The Place: Toiyabe Café, East Main Street, Austin, 775-964-2220. The Toiyabe

PHOTO: Joyce Hollister

is open daily from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Other Breakfast Spots: The International Hotel.

After-Breakfast Attractions: Austin's historic churches, Stokes Castle, Gridley Store Museum, shops, mountain-bike trails.

Train Fare in Fallon

Railroad buffs can almost hear the piercing toot of a steam whistle as they dig into their ham and eggs at the **Depot Casino and Diner** in Fallon. A Southern Pacific branch depot from 1907 to the 1960s, the building was moved twice before coming to rest at the corner of Tedford Lane and Highway 50 in 1987

Inside the Diner, train posters and drawings decorate the wainscoted walls, and signal lights and miniature trains line the shelves. As you sit in a high-back booth or at an oak table—made from the depot's original platform decking—you can contemplate the station signs that hang from

At the Depot, you have to ask for the one-pound ham steak with eggs because it's served only as a special.

the ceiling. The signs for old Nevada railroad stops like Bango, Weso, Metropolis, and Jackrabbit conjure images of dusty desert outposts.

At breakfast, the portions are generous. Some Fallonites favor the one-pound ham steak with eggs for $8.95 (you have to ask for it because it's served only as a special). Also popular at the Depot are the Conductor's Omelet ($6.95) and the Waffle Express ($7.95). The half portion of biscuits and gravy ($4.75) is filling, as it should be at an old railroad stop.

—Bernadette Francke

The Place: Depot Casino and Diner, 875 West Williams Street, Fallon, 775-423-3233. Open daily from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Other Breakfast Spots: Jerry's, Stockman's, Aniceta's at the Fallon Nugget, Heidi's at the Bonanza, Cock 'n Bull.

After-Breakfast Attractions: Churchill County Museum, Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge, birdwatching, Top Gun Raceway, Sand Mountain.

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Nevada Almanac

Results of the Nevada **Funny Stories** Contest and a liger

Telling Tales

Readers share their Nevada anecdotes.

The first-place tale in "Nevada Almanac's" **Nevada Funny Stories Contest** is often recounted at family gatherings, says **Beth Braun** of Reno. "We still laugh about it," says Braun, who asserts that her story, "Mustang Mixup," is absolutely true. "We came from Connecticut and didn't know anything about Nevada. We couldn't even find Reno-Sparks on the map."

Here are the contest's top four finishers.



Believe It or Not The **Sierra Safari Zoo** north of Reno is one of the few places in the world where you can see a liger, the progeny of a male lion and a female tiger. Hobbes, nearly 1,200 pounds, is mild mannered, but his roar can be heard seven miles away. Call 775-677-1101 or visit www.sierrasafarizoo.com for details.

Mustang Mixup

By Beth Braun, Reno

In March 2001 my sister, Heather, and I flew to Reno to visit our dad, who was handling our family's relocation from Connecticut. Since this was our first visit to Nevada, he wanted us to see everything. Given my sister's love of horses, he suggested we visit the wild-horse "mustang" ranches on Pyramid Highway.

First, we toured our future neighborhood and its model homes. We met a woman from a nearby church. When she asked about our plans for the rest of the day, my sister told her that we were going to visit the Mustang Ranch. Having no idea what we were implying, I piped in that "Dad has been here for a few months already, and he goes regularly."

We were a bit uncertain about the ranch's name. I said, "I can't remember if the one he goes to is actually named Mustang Ranch, but I guess they're all the same, given what it is." My sister added that Dad considered no visit to Nevada complete without a visit to the Mustang Ranch.

Flabbergasted, the churchwoman asked for our family's name and soon-to-be address and stormed off.

When our family moved in a couple of months later, we received many "Welcome to the Neighborhood" letters and invitations, but not one from that particular church.

Soon afterward we learned there's a big difference between the Mustang Ranch brothel and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's Wild Horse and Burro Center in Palomino Valley north of Sparks.

Desert Anaconda

By Doris W. Young, Kingsville, TX

While visiting the old cemetery in Tuscarora, my friends Leon and Nina and I were reading tombstones. All of a sudden Nina said, "Look over here. I found a snakeskin." Taking a step closer, I felt movement by my feet. I looked down to see the biggest snake I have ever seen in my life a-scooting right past me.

I let out a scream that could be heard from Salt Lake to Reno and froze as the 90-foot anaconda hid in a bush. My friends thought my reaction was the funniest thing, and they still laugh about it.

Leon took pictures that showed my 90-foot anaconda was really a five-foot gopher snake. But you will never convince me.

Not on the Payroll

By Nancy Johnson, Carson City

One year for our vacation we traveled around our home state, Nevada. After settling into a motel one night in Austin, we went to a restaurant for dinner. Several engineers, who were in town on a project, were the only other guests. While waiting for a server, I wandered the cafe, looking at pictures and artifacts. I accidentally walked into the kitchen. "Oops," I said, but a gravelly voice told me to come in.

An old cowboy was cooking. He said he was filling in for the regular cook, who had gone on a bender. He asked if I would serve some people for him. I said, "Sure."

Meanwhile, my husband was sitting at our table, wondering where I was. Imagine his surprise when he saw me coming out of the kitchen carrying a large tray of food. He thought I had found some dinner for us, but I walked right past him and served the table of engineers.

No, I wasn't put on the payroll, and yes, we did eat dinner, but where else could this have happened except in Nevada?

Map Gap?

By Pamela Eaton, Incline Village

I'm planning to take my grandsons on a back-road trip so they can see the less-traveled areas of our state. Sixteen-year-old Shane was studying a Nevada map and asked if I'd ever seen Jarbidge. When I asked him if he meant Jarbidge Gap, he said the map didn't say anything about a shopping mall.

Honorable mentions go to Adrienne Monique Allard of Altoona, PA; Rich McDrew of Walnut Creek, CA, Robert Birch of Searchlight; Katy Tahja of Comptche, CA, A. Briscoe of Austin; and Susan Clemente of Las Vegas.

PHOTO: Sierra Safari Zoo

Nevada Events & Shows

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

July/August 2005



More than **700** Great **EVENTS** and **SHOWS** Around the State

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Artist in Residence

After **30 years** of hotel hopping, **Barry Manilow** says he's happy playing exclusively at the **Las Vegas Hilton.**



Manilow was ready to take a chance on a long-running gig at the Las Vegas Hilton, where he sings hits like "Mandy" and "Could It Be Magic."

By Mike Weatherford

When Barry Manilow saw Celine Dion open her nontouring show at Caesars Palace on March 25, 2003, he remembers thinking, "Wouldn't it be nice if I could continue to make music and entertain audiences but didn't have to go on the road?"

The Las Vegas Hilton gave the ageless purveyor of soft pop that opportunity last February, signing "Manilow: Music and Passion" for at least 24 weeks through early 2006. The offer came at the end of a 2004 tour that Manilow declared would be his last. "Unlike Cher, I really meant it," he recalls.

"It was the road that had gotten to me," Manilow explains. "After 30 years of living out of suitcases, I just wanted my life back."

Initially, Manilow planned to take a private jet back and forth between Las Vegas and his home in Palm Springs, but the Hilton offered him the use of "this ridiculously extravagant" suite, he says.

"Who knows? Maybe I'll actually stay here for a couple of nights and fly home the other nights. Whatever it is, it's not living out of a suitcase."

Sitting in the guest area of the Hilton's two-room star dressing quarters, Manilow appears to be of suitably indeterminate years for a man of 59 (although some fans contend his record label shaved three years from his biography when "Mandy" hit the charts in 1974). His hair and leather jacket over T-shirt are a carefully attended style of casual, appropriate for someone who opens his Las Vegas shows with "Luck Be a Lady" and ends with a modern club remix of "Copacabana."

> "Vegas has become the **hippest,** youngest, most **energetic** and exciting city."

"Vegas has become the hippest, youngest, most energetic and exciting city in the country," he says. "I think it's kind of a combination of South Beach and New York right now."

The Brooklyn-born Manilow, who made his reputation as Bette Midler's musical director in the early 1970s, first played Vegas in 1976 as Helen Reddy's opening act at the original MGM Grand Hotel (now Bally's). His eight-song MGM set grew out of a featured spot he developed while touring with Midler.

"I was just one of the millions of acts that were coming through town," he says of that 1976 gig, although his third album, "Tryin' to Get the Feeling," was starting to break big. "Could It Be Magic" and "I Write the Songs" were hits, and he went on to headline at the Riviera, Desert Inn, and Hilton.

Manilow's new Hilton show reveals that he belongs as much to the down-front school of nightclub performers—complete with anecdotes and a little of the old soft shoe—as he does to the pop-star camp.

"I feel that the songs land more if I can bring them into my experiences or [the audience's] experiences instead of saying, 'Here's another one of my favorites,'" he



Celebrities like Debbie Reynolds often drop by to see Manilow. Offstage, he says, he doesn't play golf or have hobbies. "I don't do anything but make music."

says. "I've always kind of jumped off a cliff and been intimate with these strangers out there, and they seem to like it."

He says the show's theme—a salute to Las Vegas entertainers—and the original song "Here's to Las Vegas" came to him quickly. The song is one of those old-fashioned, "A Chorus Line"-style barnburners that builds from the basement, gathering momentum as it pays homage to "Elvis and Sammy, Dean and Jerry, and Frank—they're in our hearts."

"Music and Passion" also lets Manilow reminisce about his career. Some ideas and props are recycled from the autobiographical "Swing Street" shows he brought to the Hilton in the late '80s. Early on, he sings a "Mandy" duet with video of his younger self from the NBC-TV show *The Midnight Special*. Later, he visits a side stage decorated like a piano bar, which allows him to change the set list each night. Songs include fan favorites like "I Write the Songs," "Can't Smile Without You," and "Looks Like We Made It."

Then the "Copacabana" finale ends in a thumping remix, reminding us that the Manilow phenomenon spans several eras.

"I've figured out a way to keep making these songs fresh for myself without hurting the integrity of it for the audience," he says. "That's the trick. I'm an arranger—that's one of the things I loved doing. I'm always updating and making these songs more contemporary."

Manilow brightens when he talks about songwriting. "When I started off, the rule was that if you hit, you could probably ride for five or six years. Now, it's one [hit song] and out. It's fast food. It's now become fast music. They make one great record, and they can't top it, because it's not songwriting."

He has played with computers and drum machines. "But then I go to the piano and try to play it, and it's not a song. It's a great groove and could be a great-sounding record, but try to play those things on your guitar. That's sad, because the craft of songwriting is dying," he says. "The way to write a good song is without the machines. Then you put the machines to it and make it contemporary."

His instincts seem borne out by the sales of CD collections such as "Ultimate Manilow" and by his showgoing fans.

"I look out into the audience when they put the lights on. Of course, I see people who have grown up with me, but there's another generation out there, young, beautiful people.

"You'd think to them I'd be 'the old fart who sings "Mandy,"' but I don't get that," he says. "They're there every night. These young, beautiful people are having a ball."

> "I've always kind of jumped off a cliff and been intimate with these strangers out there, and they seem to like it."

Show Notes

Barry Manilow stars in "Manilow: Music and Passion" at the Las Vegas Hilton. Show times in the Hilton Theater are 9 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 7:30 and 10 p.m. Saturday (dark Sunday through Tuesday) on July 27-30, August 3-13, September 7-24, October 19-29, November 2-19, and December 14-17 Tickets cost $85, $115, and $145, not including tax or service charge; 60 stage-level seats are $225 per person. For information and tickets call 800-222-5361 or 702-732-5755 or visit www. lvhilton.com.

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

Manilow's Greatest Hits

Barry Manilow has recorded more than **40 albums.** His string of hit singles dates to the '70s:

"Mandy" (1974)
"Could It Be Magic" (1975)
"I Write the Songs" (1976)
"Tryin' to Get The Feeling Again" (1976)
"Looks Like We Made It" (1977)
"Copacabana" (1978)
"Ready to Take a Chance Again" (1978)
"Can't Smile Without You" (1978)
"Somewhere in the Night" (1979)
"I Made It Through the Rain" (1980)



Manilow plays the Riviera in the 1970s.



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Las Vegas

AREA EVENTS AND SHOWS

Fireworks, a carnival, and a free concert by the **Red Hot Chili Peppers** lead the parade of **Fourth of July** events in the Las Vegas area. The Boston Celtics, Sacramento Kings, and 14 other teams play in the **Las Vegas NBA Summer League** at UNLV's Cox Pavilion in July. **Robert Plant** performs at the Las Vegas Hilton while **James Brown** and **Michael McDonald** appear at the Aladdin. **Joan Rivers** takes a break from QVC to play the Stardust in August and September. Events and shows are subject to change, so call ahead to confirm.



Music director Harold Weller will lead the Las Vegas Philharmonic's world premiere of "Las Vegas Rhapsody" on July 4 in Summerlin.

Events

Americana Indian Show • July 1-3 • Craft show. Henderson Convention Center, Henderson, 928-526-9232.

Red Hot Chili Peppers • July 2 • Free concert, but tickets are needed for admission. Limited availability. Gold Lot, Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, www.vegasrocks100.com.

Leeboon, Lipoon: Everything in Life Has a Story • July 2 • African storytelling children's workshop. West Las Vegas Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

Rockets Over the River • July 2 and 4 • Musically choreographed fireworks above the Colorado River. Laughlin, 702-298-2214.

Celebration at MonteLago Village • July 4 • Fireworks, music, and barbecue. MonteLago Village, Lake Las Vegas, Henderson, 702-564-4766.

Star Spangled Spectacular • July 4 • Las Vegas Philharmonic's world premiere of "Las Vegas Rhapsody," patriotic music and marches, fireworks, and food and beverage vendors. Hills Park in Summerlin, Las Vegas, 702-258-5438.

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

Searchlight July Fourth Celebration • July 4 • Games, booths, parade, dunk tank. Searchlight Community Park, Searchlight, 702-297-1708.

"The Reluctant Dragon" • July 6 at Charleston Heights Center and July 8 at Reed Whipple Center • Tears of Joy Theatre puppets. Las Vegas, 702-229-6383 and 702-229-6211.

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.

Dixie Dooley Does Houdini • July 7 • Magic show. Winchester Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

Nelson Rangell Jazz Concert • July 7 • Outdoor performance by musician who plays multiple instruments. Free event, but ticket is required. Henderson Pavilion, Henderson, 702-267-2171.

"Sexual Perversity in Chicago" • July 8-10, 15-17 • Comedy follows four young people and their search for love. Little Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-651-4201.



Summer Cool-Off • July 9 • Free ice cream and lemonade, and a program about desert survival. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141.

Second Saturday Birthday Anniversary Party • July 9 • Las Vegas Natural History Museum marks its 14th birthday with science activities and experiments about fossils and dinosaurs. Las Vegas Natural History Museum, Las Vegas, 702-384-3466.



Fossils of feathered dinosaurs from China can be seen at the Las Vegas Natural History Museum.

World Music Concert • July 9 • Local talent showcase. Winchester Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

Petroglyphs • July 9 • Children learn about rock art and make a sample to take home. Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park, Las Vegas, 702-486-3511.

Three-Card Poker Tournament • July 11-13 • $499 entry includes three-night stay. Las Vegas Hilton, Las Vegas, 800-457-3307.

NBA Summer League • July 12-16 • Confirmed teams include the Boston Celtics, Los Angeles Clippers, New Orleans Hornets, Denver Nuggets, Golden State Warriors, Orlando Magic, Sacramento Kings, Dallas Mavericks, Chicago Bulls, New Jersey Nets, Phoenix Suns, Washington Wizards, Detroit Pistons, Cleveland Cavaliers, New York Knicks, and Portland Trail Blazers. Cox Pavilion, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

Red Grammer • July 13 at Charleston Heights Center and July 15 at Reed Whipple Center • Children's concert series features singer-songwriter. Las Vegas, 702-229-6383 and 702-229-6211.

Ken Levine and Jump, Jive, and Wail • July 15 • Lunch-time downtown concert. Lloyd D. George U.S. Courthouse, Las Vegas, 702-229-1087.

Poets' Corner • July 15 • Established and open-mike participants. West Las Vegas Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

Banana Slug String Band • July 20 at Charleston Heights Center and July 22 at Reed Whipple Center • Children's concert features puppets. Las Vegas, 702-229-6383 and 702-229-6211.

McCabe Family Dancers • July 21 • A Navajo family performs traditional Native American dances including fancy shawl, jingle-dress, and grass dances. Winchester Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

Golf Fest II • July 22-24 • Consumer golf show features free golf lessons and hitting cages, skill contests, and equipment vendors. Orleans Arena, Las Vegas, 858-586-1202, ext. 14.

Old Time Barn Dance • July 23 • Square, mixers, contras, waltzes, and polkas. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Sunset Spring Triathlon • July 24 • 800 meter swim, 15K bike, and 5K run. MonteLago Village, Lake Las Vegas, Henderson, 702-871-7756.

Eminem/50 Cent Anger Management 3 Tour • July 24 • Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

Prep High School Basketball Finals Tournament • July 25-26 • Winners of the Adidas Super 64 and The Main Event compete. Cox Pavilion, Las Vegas, 702-260-8605 for further details.

"Interrupting Vanessa" • July 27 at Charleston Heights Center and July 29 at Reed Whipple Center • Children's story about imaginary friends. Las Vegas, 702-229-6383 and 702-229-6211.

SCORE Las Vegas Terrible's Cup • July 28-30 • 750-horsepower, unlimited production trucks compete. Dirt Track, Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 818-225-8402.

Dance in the Desert Festival 2005 • July 29-30 • Regional choreographers and dance companies. Nicholas Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-651-4201.

NPC-USA Body Building • July 29-30 • Men's and women's competitions. Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

Lon Bronson Band • July 30 • Jazz concert. Nature Discovery Park, North Las Vegas, 702-633-2418.

Casino Chip and Gaming Token Collectors Club • Aug. 3-6 • Annual convention. Riviera, Las Vegas, for information www.ccgtcc.com.

Clowning Around! • Aug. 4 • Performance by Cirque du Soleil cast members. Winchester Center Theater, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

Joyce Coolins in Concert • Aug. 4 • Jazz guitarist. Concert is free, but ticket is required. Henderson Pavilion, Henderson, 702-267-4849.

Coin and Stamp Expo • Aug. 5-7 • Sahara, Las Vegas, 818-997-6496.

Michael Bolton • Aug. 6 • Outdoor concert. Reflection Bay, Lake Las Vegas, Henderson, 702-564-4766.



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Up to **$65 off**

Grand Canyon Above & Below the Rim Airplane Tour

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Reg. $254.99 ea. From $189.99 each person

• Aerial views of Hoover Dam, Colorado River & Lake Mead • Only tour to fly below the rim of the Grand Canyon • Land down at the inner gorge of the North Rim • Authentic cowboys & enjoy western lunch • Short van ride to the Canyon edge Optional "Ride the ATVs to the edge & back" (approx. $50 upgrade if desired) Stand right on the edge of the Mighty Canyon • Approx. 7 hours hotel to hotel

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

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Up to **$69 off** each

Grand Canyon Ultimate 4-Ways Tour

"Airplane - Helicopter - Bus - River boat Combo!"

Reg. $354 ea. Now from $284.99 each person

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

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Reg. $150 ea. Now from $119.99 each person

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

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www.looktours.com Void with any other offer. No Cash Value. Exp 12/31/05 Codes: NES HR2, HR3, HR4

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"Feel the wind in your hair!"

Reg. $179 ea. Now from $145.99 each person

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

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www.looktours.com Void with any other offer. No Cash Value. Exp 12/31/05 Code: NES O8



The Red, White, and Boom July Fourth takes place at Desert Breeze Park in Las Vegas.

Slot Tournament • Aug. 7-9 • First place $20,000. Imperial Palace, Las Vegas, 800-634-6441, ext. 2.

"Guys and Dolls" • Aug. 10-13, 17-20, 24-27 • Broadway musical presented under the stars. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-594-PLAY.

O.D. Gass Living History • Aug. 13 • Children learn about the pioneer rancher who was an 1860s resident. Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park, Las Vegas, 702-486-3511.

Concert Fantasy and Fantasy Petite • Aug. 17-18 • Fundraiser for Make-A-Wish Foundation of Southern Nevada features a family-oriented dance program. Aladdin Theatre for the Performing Arts, Las Vegas, 702-458-7575.

American Idol Tour Concert • Aug. 18 • Top 10 contestants from the 2005 TV show. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

Country Fair • Aug. 19-20 • Henderson Convention Center, Henderson, 702-873-3071.

Coming Events

San Gennaro Feast • Sept. 13-18 • Las Vegas, 702-286-4944.

Mexican Independence Day Festival • Sept. 18 • Las Vegas, 702-383-8395.

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

Green Day/Jimmy Eat World Concert Oct. 6 • Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

Vegas to Reno Off-Road Race • Oct. 6-8 • 702-457-5775.

U.S. Open Motorcycle Race • Oct. 7-9 • MGM Grand, Las Vegas, 800-929-1111.

Michelin Championship at Las Vegas • Oct. 12-16 • PGA golf, 702-242-3000.

Laughlin Dragon Boat Races • Oct. 15 • Laughlin, 800-4LAUGHLIN.

On Tour: The National Symphony Orchestra Celebrates Las Vegas • Oct. 26 • Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Los Angeles Lakers vs. Sacramento Kings • Oct. 28 • Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

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 • Las Vegas, 702-229-2005 for further air show information.

Mountain Man Rendezvous • Nov. 10-13 • Las Vegas, 702-875-4141.

Laughlin Team Roping Finals • Nov. 17-20 • Laughlin, 505-899-1870.

National Finals Rodeo • Dec. 2-11 • Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

Las Vegas Showdown College Basketball Tournament • Dec. 17 • Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

Las Vegas Bowl Football Game • Dec. 23 • Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

Ongoing Events

Historic Nevada Southern Railway Train Rides • Weekends • Seven-mile round trip lasts 45 minutes aboard 1911-era Pullman coaches. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Boulder City, 702-486-5933.

Spring Mountain Ranch Walking Tours • Daily • Guided 45-minute tour of the historic reservoir and Wilson Gravesite and the blacksmith shop and Sandstone Cabin, the second oldest buildings in the Las Vegas Valley. Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-875-4141.

Free Concerts • Tues.-Sat. • Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, 702-678-5777.

Poker Tournaments • Daily • Imperial Palace, Las Vegas, 702-744-3261.

Poker Tournaments • Daily • Golden Nugget, Las Vegas, 702-385-7111.

Poker Tournaments • Daily • Binion's, Las Vegas, 702-382-1600.

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.

Las Vegas Farmer's Market • Tuesdays thru July 19 at Garden Park. Wednesdays thru July 27 at Bruce Trent Park. Thursdays thru July 28 at Centennial Hills Park, Las Vegas, 702-562-CORN.

50-Year Photographic Survey of Canada and Its Provinces • Thru July 24 • Exhibition by George Hunter. Las Vegas Art Museum, Las Vegas, 702-360-8000.

Asian Art Now Exhibition • Thru July 24 • Artwork from Japan, Thailand, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Korea, China, Indonesia, Mongolia, and Hong Kong. Las Vegas Art Museum, Las Vegas, 702-360-8000.

Las Vegas: 1905-1950 • Thru Aug. 14 • Historic and contemporary photos of downtown Las Vegas. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211.

Viva the Centennial: City of 100 Murals • Thru Aug. 26 • Bridge Gallery, City Hall, Las Vegas, 702-229-4674.

Growing Up With the Berenstain Bears • Thru Aug. 28 • Interactive exhibit includes the famous tree house of Bear Country. Lied Discovery Children's Museum, Las Vegas, 702-382-KIDS.

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

Feathered Dinosaurs: Before and After Archaeopteryx X • Thru Oct. 14 • Exhibit features feathered-dinosaur fossils from China and answers questions about the relationship between birds and dinosaurs. Las Vegas Natural History Museum, Las Vegas, 702-384-3466.

Nevada Theatre Company • Thru Nov. • Two touring plays: "Three Ways Home: Nevada Becomes a State" and another



Art is airborne during the Las Vegas Centennial celebration. Fifty banners with city icons line Las Vegas Boulevard.



Linda Martin (back) and Linda Leeper ride in the Fourth of July parade in Searchlight. The event includes games, booths, and a dunk tank at the Searchlight Community Park.

centennial presentation about the birth of Las Vegas. Call for dates and locations, Las Vegas, 702-873-0191.

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

Las Vegas Aerial Gallery • Thru Dec. • 50 outdoor banners featuring centennial icons are displayed on Las Vegas Blvd. from Charleston to Mesquite. Las Vegas, 702-229-5431.

Whistle Stop to Windfall: 100 Years in Las Vegas • Thru 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.

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

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.

Las Vegas 51s Baseball • The Pacific Coast League team, a Triple-A affiliate of the Los Angeles Dodgers, plays June 30-July 3 vs. Portland Beavers, July 14-17 vs. Tucson Sidewinders, July 26-29 vs. New Orleans Zephyrs, July 30-Aug. 2 vs. Oklahoma Red Hawks, Aug. 12-15 vs. Tucson Sidewinders, Aug. 20-23 vs. Portland Beavers, Aug. 29-Sept. 1 vs. Tacoma Rainiers, Sept. 2-5 vs. Salt Lake Stingers. Cashman Field, Las Vegas, 702-386-7200.

Jerry Mitchler Exhibit • July 1-31 • Blind artist's works on display. Lost City Museum, Overton, 702-397-2193.

The District at Green Valley Ranch Free Outdoor Concerts • Gypsy Nights, July 1, jazz; Darrin Michaels, July 2, jazz; Island Tyme, July 8, jazz; David Van Such, July 9 and 30, jazz; Melanie Moore and Friends, July 15, jazz; Kim Styles Band, July 16, jazz; Rick Arroyo and the Latin Percussion Ensemble, July 22, jazz; Cat Daddy, July 23, rhythm and blues; Yacht Club, July 29, jazz; The Fab, Aug. 5, Beatles tribute band; and Fields of Gold, Aug. 8, Sting tribute band. The District at Green Valley Ranch, Henderson, 702-564-8595 for concert information.

Family Film Series • *Shark Tale*, July 7; *Peter Pan*, July 14; and *The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie*, July 21 • Bring a picnic and lawn chairs for the outdoor event. Jaycee Park, Las Vegas, 702-229-4614.

Animated Film Series • *Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius*, July 7; *Shrek*, July 14; *Shrek 2*, July 21; and *The Incredibles*, July 28 • East Las Vegas Community Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-1515.

Movies Al Fresco • *Spiderman 2*, July 7; *Shark Tale*, July 14; *Shrek 2*, July 21; *Ocean's Twelve*, July 28; *Something's Gotta Give*, Aug. 4; *Harry Potter 3*, Aug. 11; *Shall We Dance*, Aug. 18; *An American in Paris*, Aug. 25; and *Phantom of the Opera*, Sept. 1. • Free outdoor movies at 8pm on the Events Plaza. MonteLago Village, Lake Las Vegas, Henderson, 702-564-4766.

Thursday Night Street Wars • July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 1, 8, 15 • Alternative to illegal street racing. The Strip at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-632-8213.

Drag Races at the Bullring • July 15-16, Aug. 12-13, 19, Sept. 2-4, 10, 16-17, Oct. 1, 14-16, 20-23, 27-30, Nov. 4-6, 12-13, 24-27 • Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Jazz on the Lake • Brian Hughes, July 16; Michael Ward, Aug. 20; Jeanette Harris, Sept. 17; Blake Aaron, Oct. 15. Free evening outdoor concerts. Bring a blanket or chair. MonteLago Village, Lake Las Vegas, Henderson, 702-564-4766.

Las Vegas Art Museum Exhibitions • July 29-Sept. 23 • Carlos Alfonzo, Hispanic artist; Asian Joint Centennial Exhibition and NaXi Dongba Culture Museum; and Wing Fong Scroll Collection. Las Vegas Art Museum, Las Vegas, 702-360-8000.

Leigh Neibaur Exhibit • Aug. 1-31 • Pen and ink sketches. Lost City Museum, Overton, 702-397-2193.

Shows

BOULDER CITY

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

HENDERSON

Casino MonteLago at Lake Las Vegas • 702-564-4766: Fireworks, July 4.

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. Grand Events Center: Bill Engvall, July 30. Gipsy Kings, Aug. 20. Whiskey Beach: Entertainment TBA.

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

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

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

Sunset Station • 702-547-7777: Club Madrid: Psychic Marlene Lombardi, July 21. Dennis Wise "King for a Night, Aug. 13. Amphitheater: Willie Lonestar, Aug. 6. Mark Wills and Deana Carter, Aug. 12. Kenny Rogers, Sept. 9.

JEAN

Gold Strike Hotel • 702-477-5000 or 800-634-1359: Bands like Foreign Affair, Tropic Starr, and Carl Dell and the Hard Drive play nightly except Tues.

Nevada Landing • 702-387-5000 or 800-628-6682: Bands like Randy Anderson, Drew Baker, and Super Shock appear nightly except Wed.

LAS VEGAS

Aladdin • 702-785-5555 or 877-333-WISH: V Theatre at Desert Passage: "V," variety show. "X," adult revue, 10:30pm

PHOTO: Barnes F. Miller

nightly. "The Fab Four," Beatles tribute, dark Tues.-Wed. Call 702-932-1818. Aladdin Theater for the Performing Arts: Loggins and Messina, July 3. Journey, Aug. 5. James Brown and Michael McDonald, Aug. 26. 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: Bands play nightly in the Naughty Ladies Saloon. Karaoke 8:30pm-1:30am Mon. Jerry Tiffe plays 4-7pm Fri.

Arizona Charlie's East • 702-951-9000: Palace Grand Lounge: Bands play nightly except Mon.

Bally's • 702-739-4111 or 800-237-SHOW: Jubilee! Theater: "Jubilee!," dark Fri. Society of Seven with Lani Misalucha, 3pm Wed.-Thurs. and Sat.-Sun., 8pm Fri. Backstage Walking Tour at 2pm Mon., Wed., and Sat. Entertainment in the Indigo Lounge and Tequila Bar.

Barbary Coast • 702-737-7111: Barbary Coast Lounge: Pete Vallee as "Big Elvis, 3-6pm Tues.-Fri. "Dean's Lounge," starring Tom Stevens as Dean Martin, 8-11pm Tues. Karaoke, 9pm-2:30am Mon. Bands like In-10-City, Smith Brothers, and Elements perform Wed., Thurs., and Sun. in the lounge.

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

Bellagio • 888-987-6667: Cirque du Soleil's "O, indf., dark Mon.-Tues. Light Nightclub, 10:30pm-4am Thurs.-Sun. Caramel Bar, 5pm-4am. Musicians play in the Petrossian Lounge and Baccarat Bar. Fontana Room: Entertainment nightly. Tuscany Kitchen: Art of Cooking demonstrations, for reservations call 702-693-7155.

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



Comedienne and QVC star Joan Rivers brings her outspoken wit to the Stardust in Las Vegas August 31 to September 3.

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

Boulder Station • 702-432-7777 or 800-683-7777: The Railhead: Kansas, July 8. Robert Cray Band, Aug. 13. Morris Day and the Time, Sept. 17. Sammy Kershaw, Sept. 23. Billy Ray Cyrus, Oct. 7. Maynard Ferguson, Oct. 8. Brian Culbertson, Oct. 15. Kirk Whalum, Oct. 29. Paula Poundstone, Nov. 11. Diane Schuur, Nov. 12. Don Williams, Nov. 19. Night Ranger, Dec. 3. 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. "Hypnolarius, 9pm, Wed.-Sun. The Michael Johns Show, comedy-hypnotist, 11pm Sun., Wed.-Thurs.

Caesars Palace • 702-731-7333 or 800-445-4544: The Colosseum Showroom: Celine Dion stars in "A New Day...," July 1-3, 14-17, 20-24 (call 877-4-CELINE). "The Red Piano" starring Elton John, July 26-31, Oct. 4-9, 11-16, 18-23. Jerry Seinfeld, Aug. 12-13. Shadow Bar: Dancers perform nightly. DJ 8pm-2am Wed.-Sun. Entertainment also can be found in the Café Lago Restaurant, Terrazza Lounge, Cleopatra's Barge Nightclub, and Galleria Bar at Caesars Palace.

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

Excalibur Hotel • 702-597-7600: King Arthur's Arena: "Tournament of Kings, jousting-dinner show. Merlin's Theater: "Thunder From Down Under," all-male revue nightly except Thurs. Catch a Rising Star Comedy Club: Comedians perform at 10pm nightly and 7:30pm Thurs. Court Jesters Stage: Strolling entertainers, 10am-10pm daily. Minstrels Lounge: Live bands and dancing. Music in the Regales and Camelot restaurants.

Fitzgeralds • 702-388-2400 or 800-274-LUCK (U.S. outside Nevada): Fitzgeralds Showroom: Bobby Ruffin's Tribute to the Drifters, 5:15pm Thurs.-Mon. "Spirit of the King" starring Steve Connolly, 7:15pm Thurs.-Mon. Jun Polistico, Philippine singer, 9pm Thurs.-Mon. "From Russia With



Love, 10:30pm, with additional show at 8:30pm, Tues., male revue. 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. Frankie Valli appears on Knight's dark nights, June 28-July 2, Aug. 23-27, Sept. 20-24. George Wallace, comedian, performs 10pm Tues.-Sat. Second City Theater: "Second City," improv comedy sketches, 8pm daily except Wed., 10:30pm Fri.-Sat. "Second City Scriptless, 8pm Wed. Bands play in Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville. Flamingo Luau, dinner and outdoor performance of "Hot Lava, Polynesian revue, 8 and 9:30pm, Mon.-Fri., thru Sept. 2.

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: Royal Dixie Jazz Band, 1-6pm Mon.-Fri. Bands like San Fernando, Elements, and Front Page play nightly except Mon. Gold Coast Showroom: "Forever Plaid: A Heavenly Musical Hit, matinee 3pm Sun., dark Mon. Latin Breeze, Fri.-Sat. indf. Ballroom dancing with disk jockey Larry Taylor 7-10pm Mon. Dance lessons 6-7pm.

Golden Gate • 702-385-1906: Live piano 6pm-midnight.

Golden Nugget • 702-386-8100: Theatre Ballroom: Julio Iglesias, July 21-22. Lon Bronson's All-Star Band, 10pm Mon., midnight Sat. Bands play in the Show Bar Lounge.



The ever fashionable Rita Rudner quips nightly in the Cabaret Theatre at New York-New York in Las Vegas.

Music in the ZAX restaurant in the Las Vegas hotel-casino.

Golden Palm • 702-798-1111: Karaoke party, 10pm-4am.

Greek Isles • 702-737-5540: Star Theater: "Tribute to Frank, Sammy, Joey, and Dean, dark Fri. "The World's Greatest Magic Show," 6pm daily.

Hard Rock Hotel • 702-693-5066: The Joint: Mark Knopfler, July 21. Avril Lavigne, Aug. 12-13. Motley Crue, Oct. 7-9. "Beacher's Madhouse, Saturdays at 9pm thru July 9 and July 17, 24. Pink Taco: Yo Quiero Karaoko, 9:30pm Wed. Entertainment in Simon Kitchen and Bar and Body English Nightclub.

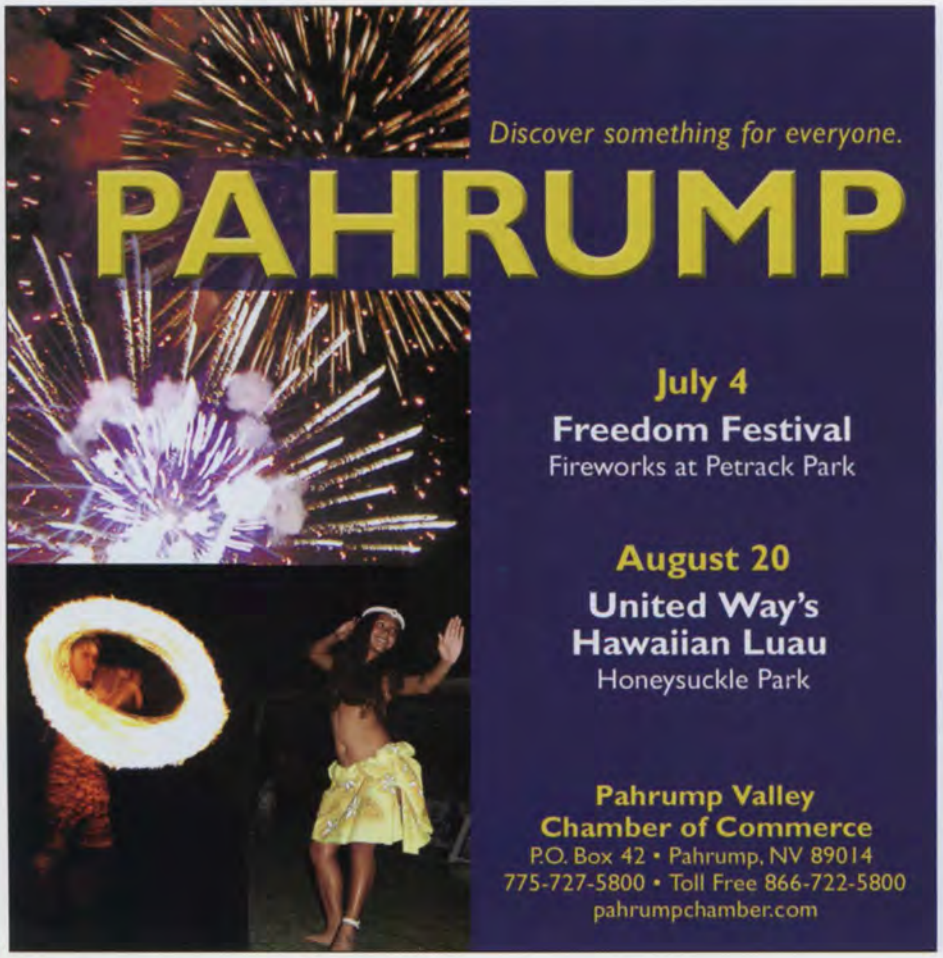
Harrah's Las Vegas • 702-369-5111 or 800-392-9002: Clint Holmes Theater: Clint Holmes, 7:30pm, dark Sun. "Skintight, adult revue plays at 10:30pm Mon.-Wed., dark Thurs., 10pm and midnight Fri., 10:30pm Sat., 7:30 and 10:30pm Sun. Mac King, comedy magic, 1 and 3pm, dark Sun.-Mon. Improv Theater: Comedy 8:30 and 10:30pm, dark Mon. Café Andreotti: Strolling musicians on Wed.-Sun. Range Restaurant: Jazz on Fri.-Sat. Piano Bar: TJ's All-Star Karaoke Party, 6-9pm nightly. Dueling Pianos, 9pm nightly. Entertainment daily in the Carnaval Court noon-3am.

Hofbräuhaus Las Vegas • 702-853-BEER. Bavarian bands play.

Imperial Palace • 702-794-3261: Imperial Theatre: "Legends in Concert, impersonator revue, 7:30 and 10pm, dark Sun. Casino Floor: Celebrity impersonators deal blackjack to gamblers. Entertainment nightly in the Kabuki Lounge. Tequila Joe's: Karaoke nightly. "Be a Legend" Amateur Celebrity Impersonator Karaoke Contest is held quarterly. Poolside: Imperial Hawaiian Luau, dinner and Polynesian entertainment, 6pm Tues. and Thurs.

JW Marriott Las Vegas • 702-869-2335: Plush Ultra Lounge and Supper Club: Music and dancing at the ultra lounge.

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





Lady Luck • 702-477-3000 or 800-523-9582: Lady Luck Showroom: "Ovation," variety show, 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: Johnny Mathis, July 2-3. Barry Manilow stars in "Manilow: Music and Passion," July 27-30, Aug. 3-6, 10-13, Sept. 7-10, 14-17, 21-24, Oct. 19-22, 26-29, Nov. 2-5, 16-19, Dec. 14-17. Wayne Newton, July 5-9, 12-16, 19-23, Aug. 16-20, 23-27. Donna Summer, Sept. 3-4. Clay Walker, Dec. 8-10. Hilton Center: Robert Plant, July 16. Shimmer Cabaret: Comedian David Brenner, July 10-16. The Crush, July 6-24, 10pm-2am, dark Mon.-Tues. Dance music 10pm Wed.-Sun. Pool Parties: Wed. and Sun., third floor pool deck.

Luxor • 702-262-4555: Luxor Theatre: "Blue Man Group: Live at Luxor," percussion theater. "Hairspray," Broadway musical opens late 2005. 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 featured in the IMAX theater, and tours are available at the King Tut's Museum in the Las Vegas Strip hotel-casino.

Mandalay Bay • 877-632-7400: Mandalay Bay Theatre: "Mamma Mia!, the Broadway musical based on the music of Abba, dark Fri. Mandalay Events Center: Judas Priest and Queensryche, July 9. Rascal Flatts and Blake Shelton, July 16. Championship Boxing: Million Dollar Lady: Christy Martin vs. Lucia Rijker, July 30. Toby Keith with Lee Ann Womack and Shooter Jennings, Aug. 19. Grand Sumo Tournament, Oct. 7-9, traditional competition features 50 sumo wrestlers in first U.S. event in 20 years. Professional Bull Riders 2005 World Finals, Oct. 28-30. Mandalay Beach: Lyle Lovett, July 2. Pat Benatar, July 15. Tears for Fears, July 16. Los Lonely Boys, July 29. B-52's, July 30. Boys II Men, Aug. 13. Reggae Beach Party with Yellowman, Aug. 26. The Doobie Brothers, Sept. 24. House of Blues: Whitesnake, July 1. Dave Attell/Dane Cook, July 2-3. Alkaline Trio with Rise Against, July 15. UFO, July 21. Dierks Bentley, July 29. Johnny Lang: The Acoustic Band Tour, Aug. 18. Al Green, Aug. 20. Taj Mahal with Johnny Clegg, Aug. 27. Richard Jeni, Sept. 17. Entertainment Mon., Thurs.-Sat. Karaoke, 11pm Mon. to live band. Gospel Brunch, 10am and 1pm Sun. Live music Thurs.-Sun. in the Courtyard. OBA lounge atop House of Blues open late nights Mon.-Fri. AM, after-hours club at Ivan Kane's Forty Deuce, DJs and a burlesque show. Bands play in the Orchid, Island, and Coral Reef lounges. Shark Reef at Mandalay Bay open daily. Socrates Café: Book discussions, 7pm Tues.



Anthony Cools, known as the "uncensored hypnotist," directs adult comedy in the Cools Theatre at Paris Las Vegas.

MGM Grand • 702-891-7777 or 800-929-1111: MGM Grand Garden Arena: Bernard Hopkins vs. Jermain Taylor, middleweight fight, July 16. MAXXIS U.S. Open, motorcycle race, Oct. 7-9. U2, Nov. 4-5. Paul McCartney, Nov. 25-26. KÀ Theatre: "KÀ, the newest Cirque du Soleil production, dark Wed.-Thurs. Hollywood Theatre: David Copperfield, thru July 13. Dennis Miller, July 14-18. Chris Isaak, July 19-27, dark July 24. David Copperfield, July 28-Aug. 10. Tom Jones, Aug. 11-24. David Copperfield, Aug. 25-Sept. 21. Carrot Top, Sept. 22-28. Howie Mandel, Sept. 29-Oct. 5 and Oct. 25-Nov. 9. Carrot Top, Nov. 10-16. David Copperfield, Nov. 17-30. Carrot Top, Dec. 1-21. La Femme Theatre: "La Femme, topless Crazy Horse production from Paris, dark Tues. Studio 54: Dancing Tues.-Sat. Entertainment in the Teatro Euro Bar except Wed., and the Tabu and Zuri lounges and Centrifuge Bar. Fashion show 10pm Wed. in Tabu. Teatro Euro Bar: DJs and silhouette shows every half-hour, dark Wed.

The Mirage • 702-792-7777: Danny Gans Theatre: Impressionist Danny Gans, dark Fri. and Mon. Jay Leno, July 22-23, 29-30. Dana Carvey, Sept. 2-4. Wayne Brady, Sept. 30-Oct. 1. Dana Carvey, Nov. 11-12. Wayne Brady, Nov. 24-25. Entertainment in the Ava and Onda (dark Tues.-Wed.) lounges and Baccarat Bar. Siegfried and Roy's Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat, hours are seasonal.

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 Wed.-Thurs. Cabaret Theatre: Comedienne Rita Rudner performs nightly. The Pub at Nine Fine Irishmen: Entertainment nightly. Coyote Ugly: Dance nightclub opens at 6pm. Dueling pianos play from 3-7pm Fri.-Sat. in the Bar at Times Square. Bands play in the Big Apple Bar. Manhattan Express Roller Coaster.

The Orleans • 800-ORLEANS: Orleans Showroom: Little River Band, July 7-10. Dion, July 14-17. Tony Danza/musical director Lenny LaCroix, July 21-24. Mrs. USA Pageant, July 25-28. "Will the Real Rich Little Please Stand Up?", July 29-31. Donny Osmond, Aug. 4-7. Tony Orlando, Aug. 11-14. Neil Sedaka, Aug. 16-21. Engelbert Humperdinck, Aug. 25-28. Air Supply, Sept. 1-4. Righteous Brother Bill Medley, featuring Darren and McKenna Medley, Sept. 9-11. Vicki Lawrence and Mama: A One Woman Show, Sept. 15-18. Bobby Vinton, Sept. 29-Oct. 2. Chris Botti, Oct. 13-16. Frankie Avalon and Bobby Rydell, Oct. 20-23. The Pointer Sisters, Oct. 27-30. Engelbert Humperdinck, Nov. 3-6. Burt Bacharach, Nov. 10-13. Debbie Reynolds, Nov. 17-20. Neil Sedaka, Nov. 22-27. Orleans Arena: Monster Truck Thunder and Fire Extravaganza, Aug. 19-20. Freestyle MotoX Championship, Sept. 23-24. Bourbon Street Cabaret: Performers such as Bruce Conte appear nightly except Mon. Brendan's Irish Pub: Entertainment nightly

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except Mon. Jazz on Tues., Blues Zydeco on Wed. Irish acoustic sing-a-long on Sun. "Rock This Town Live, tribute to Elvis, Buddy Holly, and Jerry Lee Lewis, Tues.

Palace Station • 702-367-2411 or 800-634-3101: Laugh Trax Comedy Club: Comedians perform Tues.-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, nightly except Thurs., matinee 2pm Sun. Cools Theater: Anthony Cools Experience, hypnotist. 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 nightly except Fri.

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: Scintas, musical revue, dark Thurs. "Erocktica," adult revue, 10pm, dark Thurs. Chippendales Theater: Ultimate Girls' Night Out. The 400-seat theater features private sky boxes, cocktail lounge, and the male revue "Chippendales: The Show," 8:30pm Thurs.-Sat. and 10:30pm Fri.-Sat., dark Wed. Club Rio Nightclub is open for late-night dancing Thurs.-Sat. Flirt Ultra Lounge opens 8:30pm weekdays, 10:30pm weekends, dark Wed. 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: Splash Theatre: "Splash," production show, dark Mon. La Cage Theatre (third floor): "An Evening at La Cage," celebrity female impersonators revue, 7:30pm, dark Tues. Mardi Gras Plaza (second level): "Crazy Girls" adult revue, dark Tues. "Riviera Comedy Club," 8:30 and 10:30pm nightly. Le Bistro Theatre: "Neil Diamond Tribute Starring Jay White," 7pm Sun.-Thurs. Dr. Scott Lewis: Outrageous Comedy Hypnotist, 9pm Mon.-Tues. "Barbra and Frank: The Concert That Never Was, impersonator show, 8:30pm Wed.-Sun. Le Bistro Theatre converts to Syn City, the Nightclub 10pm-4am Wed.-Sun.

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

Sahara • 702-737-2515: Sahara Theatre: "Tropical Passions, Latin revue, dark Tues. thru Aug. 15. Congo Room: Amazing Jonathan, bizarre magic, 10pm, dark Thurs. Coasters, Platters, and Drifters. Entertainment in the Casbar Lounge.

Sam's Town • 702-454-8048: Sam's Town Live: Dennis Bono, radio show with guest celebrities, thru Dec. 24. Roxy's Saloon: Bobby Kingston, thru July 3. Huck Daniels Revue, thru July 3. Mystic Falls Park: Laser and water show at 2, 6, 8, and 10pm.

Santa Fe Station • 702-658-4900: Chrome Showroom: Jack Wagner, July 22. Michael Lington, Sept. 10. Paul Taylor, Dec. 10. Memphis Championship Barbecue: Rocksicle, 10pm Sat.



Now at the Gold Coast, "Forever Plaid," a musical of 1950s and '60s songs, returns to Las Vegas after a six-year absence.

Silverton • 702-263-7777 or 800-588-7711: Showroom: Chris Cagle, July 8. Rick Springfield, July 9. Hootie and the Blowfish, July 16. Lover Boy, July 23. Mermaid Restaurant and Lounge: Mermaids perform hourly in a 117,000-gallon saltwater tank from 6-11pm. The Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World attraction features a 40,000-gallon freshwater aquarium.

Stardust • 702-732-6325: Stardust Theatre: Siegfried and Roy present "Havana Night Club: The Show," call for show times. George Carlin, Aug. 11-24. Joan Rivers, Aug. 31-Sept. 3. The Temptations and The Four Tops, Sept. 7-10. Tim Conway and Harvey Korman, Sept. 14-17. Chicago, Sept. 21-24. Ann-Margret, Sept. 28-Oct. 1. George Carlin, Oct. 6-19. Don Rickles, Oct. 20-23. Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme, Oct. 26-29. Tim Conway and Harvey Korman, Nov. 9-12. George Carlin, Nov. 17-30. Rick Thomas Show, magic production, 2 and 4pm. Starlight Lounge: Karaoke Mon. and Thurs.

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 play 10pm-3:30am Tues.-Sun. Michaelina Bellamy plays in the Top of the World Lounge thru Aug. 28, dark Mon.-Tues. Crazy Armadillos: Karaoke on Tues.-Wed. DJ Dance Party on Thurs.-Mon. Bands play Thurs.-Mon. Stratosphere Thrill Rides: Insanity, X Scream, Big Shot, and High Roller.

Suncoast • 702-636-7111: Suncoast Showroom: Franky Perez and the Highway Saints, Cuban-inspired music, 8-11pm Thurs. Doo-Wopp.com, 7:30pm Tues. Alter Ego, July 1. Spyro Gyra, July 8-9. The Lettermen, July 15-17. Collin Raye, July 22-24. James Darren, July 29-31. Connie Stevens, Aug. 5-7. Bob James, Aug. 12-13. Jack Jones, Aug. 19-21. The Bellamy Brothers, Aug. 26-28. Tower of Power, Sept. 2-4. Debbie Reynolds, Sept. 16-18. Rita Coolidge, Sept. 23-25. Rich Little, Sept. 30-Oct. 2. Michael Franks, Oct. 7-9. Roger Williams, Oct. 14-16. The Smothers Brothers, Oct. 21-23. Air Supply, Oct. 28-30. Vicki Lawrence and Mama, Nov. 4-6. Roy Clark, Nov. 18-20. Bill Acosta, Nov. 25-27. McKenna Medley, Dec. 3-4. Suncoast Lounge: Bands like Destination Unknown and In-10-City 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 6pm Tues.-Sat. 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 outside at 7, 8:30, 10, and 11:30pm.

Tropicana • 702-739-2411: Tiffany Theatre: "Les Folies Bergere, dark Sun. Dirk Arthur: Xtreme Magic, 2 and 4pm, Sat.-Thurs. Comedy Stop Theatre: "The Comedy Stop," stand-up comedy nightly. Celebration Lounge: Entertainment 8pm-1am Tues.-Sat. "Air Play," aerialists perform above the casino at 11am, 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9pm. Tower Pavilion: Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition, ship's memorabilia, 10am-10pm daily.

Venetian • 702-733-5000: Entertainment TBA. Gondola rides on the canal.

Westward Ho • 702-731-2900: Crown Room: Bands play.

Wynn Las Vegas • 702-770-7000: "Le Rêve," aquatic production, dark Tues.-Wed.

LAUGHLIN

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

Colorado Belle • 702-298-4000: Riverboat Ramblers Strolling Dixieland Band, Fri.-Sat. thru July.

Edgewater • 702-298-2453: Lounge: Bands play nightly.

Flamingo Laughlin • 702-298-5111 or 800-435-8469: Club Flamingo Showroom: The Comedy Stop, stand-up comedians thru Sept. 4. The Ballroom: Dave Mason, July 23.

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: "Rhinestone Cowgirls," musical revue, 8pm, thru Dec. 31, dark Sun. and Wed. "Showgirls," adult topless revue, 10pm, thru Dec. 31, 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 on Mon. American Heroes Museum of Memories: Memorabilia and speakers.

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

Riverside Resort • 702-298-2535 or 800-227-3849, ext. 616: Don's Celebrity Theatre: Superstars Live in Concert, July 5-Aug. 31. Gallagher, Sept. 2-4. Adventures in Parrotdice: Jimmy Buffett Tribute, Sept. 6-11. Christopher Cross, Sept. 20-25. Bellamy Brothers, Sept. 28-Oct. 2. Freddy Fender,

Oct. 4-9. Trent Carlini: The Dream King, Oct. 11-16. Ricky Van Shelton, Oct. 18-23. Smothers Brothers, Oct. 25-30. Mel Tillis, Nov. 1-6. Vicki Lawrence, Nov. 9-13. Charo, Nov. 15-20. "The Nutcracker," performed by the Anaheim Ballet, Dec. 22-23. Oak Ridge Boys, Feb. 21, 24-26. Entertainment in the Lightning Strikes Nightclub.

MESQUITE

CasaBlanca • 702-346-7529 or 800-459-7529: CasaBlanca Showroom: Kevin Stone, hypnotist, July 15-16. Kip Attaway, Aug. 5-6. Bellamy Brothers, Sept. 23. Lesley Gore, Oct. 15. Don Williams, Nov. 18. 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: Dwight Yoakam, July 2-3. Dave Mason, July 9. Sock Hop: Dancing, costume contest, car cruise and performance by Doo-Wopp.com, July 22. The Dells, Dramatics, and Rose Royce, July 23. Seals and Seals (Jim and Dan Seals), Aug. 6. "Cannerystock," Woodstock performers Ten Years After, Mountain, and the Family Stone Experience, Aug. 20. Sock Hop: Dancing, costume contest, car cruise and performance by Doo-Wopp.com, Aug. 26. The Whispers, Aug. 27. Pin-Ups Bar: Bands play nightly except Mon.

Fiesta Rancho • 702-631-7000: Club Tequila: Nazareth, Oct. 21. David Allan Coe, Nov. 11. Superstar Tributes, Fri. Comedy Live, Sat. Music in the Cabo Lounge. Skating in the Fiesta Ice Arena.

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

Texas Station • 702-631-1001: Dallas Events Center: Merle Haggard, July 1. Hal Ketchum and Montel Williams "Jam Against MS," July 16. Norman Brown's Summer Storm, Sept. 23. Johnny Rivers, Nov. 12. Foreigner, Nov. 26. The Armadillo: Kroakies Karaoke, Wed. Loveshack plays '80s music on Fri.-Sat. Sunday Swing with Jerry Tiffe, 4-8pm.

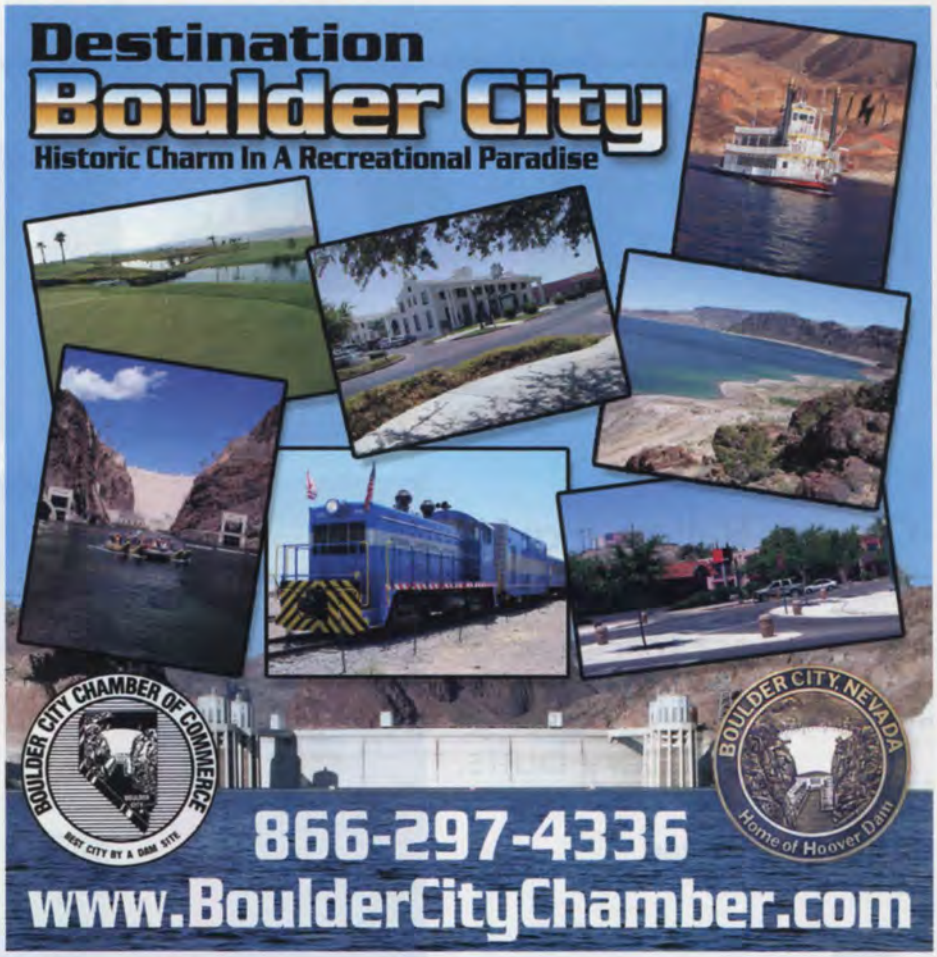
PRIMM

Buffalo Bill's Resort • 800-FUN-STOP: Star of the Desert Arena: Lee Greenwood and Crystal Gayle, July 9. Bands play weekends in the lounge. Funniez Comedy Club: Comedians Fri.-Sat.

Primm Valley • 800-FUN-STOP: Show Bar Lounge: Entertainment on weekends.

Whiskey Pete's • 800-FUN-STOP: Showroom: Ty Herndon, July 30. Whiskey Pete's Show Bar Lounge: Entertainment Fri.-Sun.

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How Green Is My Valley

Carson Valley, a quiet agricultural oasis, plays host to outdoor enthusiasts and history buffs.

By Joyce Hollister

All that stood between me and freefall was a yellow wicker basket the size of a bathtub. Below I could see Carson Valley's green alfalfa fields bisected by the Carson River and, in the distance, the mountains encircling deep-blue Lake Tahoe. After an hour of peaceful floating we landed with a light thump on a dirt road, where, as part of the deal, I helped fold up the balloon's brightly colored envelope.

Hot-air ballooning is just one of many activities that draw visitors to this quiet corner of Western Nevada where I live. Long noted for its dairies and cattle ranches, Carson Valley now is being discovered. Hiking trails lead into canyons where rustlers once hid horses, and wetlands beckon birders. Walking tours explore our historic towns. After a day of antiquing you can soak in a hot spring or dine at a Basque restaurant.

Carson Valley, named after trailblazer Kit Carson, has three principal towns. Genoa hugs the mountains on the west, and Minden and Gardnerville stand in the center of the valley. Carson City is six miles north, Lake Tahoe 18 miles west.

Although the valley has a population of nearly 45,000, its main attraction remains its rural character, says Skip Sayre, executive director of the Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Authority. "We are experiencing growth, but we're still largely agricultural. Scenic beauty and the lack of clutter are attractors for us," he says.

At an altitude of 4,700 feet, Carson Valley is



A hot-air balloon launches from Lampe Park in Gardnerville.

PHOTO: Jay Aldrich



This view of Genoa's downtown hasn't changed much since the late 19th century.

high desert, but because of the river the ranchland is green in the summer. Temperatures rarely reach above 100 and can drop as much as 50 degrees at night. Cool breezes sweep across the valley in late afternoon.

Oldest Town in the State

A scenic drive past cattle ranches takes you to **Genoa** and a replica of **Mormon Station**, the trading post established in 1851 by John Reese, who sold fresh vegetables at inflated prices to travelers. Now a state historic park, Mormon Station has a small log-cabin museum, lawns, and picnic tables. Across the street is the **Genoa Courthouse Museum**, built in 1865. The courthouse became a school when Genoa's status as county seat was transferred to Minden in 1916.

"Most tourists want to visit whatever is old," says Martha Williams, owner of Dake House Antiques in Genoa. "Once visitors hear Genoa is the oldest town in the state, they're absolutely fascinated."

Hungry visitors can find quick snacks or gourmet dishes in downtown Genoa. We take our out-of-town guests to the **Genoa Country Store** for sandwiches and triple-scoop ice cream cones. **Sugarplum Bakery and Treats** sells coffee, pastries, and lunch items. **La Ferme** prepares dinners in classic French style. The **Genoa Bar and Saloon** claims to be the oldest thirst parlor in the state. Two miles south, **David Walley's Resort, Hot Springs, and Spa** has a deli and the dinner house **DW's** as well as hot mineral pools.

A Planned Town

Rancher H.F. Dangberg Jr. inherited vast tracts of land from his German-immigrant father. In 1906 Dangberg founded his own town and named it Minden after a city near Dangberg Sr.'s birthplace. Today the Minden walking tour includes Minden Park, the former "Town Square" that Dangberg patterned after similar municipal spaces in Europe.

The **Minden Inn** (1917), designed as an elegant hotel by Reno architect Frederick DeLongchamps, today houses Douglas County offices. DeLongchamps also designed the **Douglas County Courthouse** (1916). The Minden Mercantile (1926) is now **Tumblewind Antiques**, and the first Farmers Bank of Carson Valley (1909) is **The Bank**, a coffee and sandwich shop.

I love to stroll through Minden and admire the 100-year-old homes with tall trees and well-maintained gardens. In recent years old-fashioned lampposts have been installed, sidewalks widened, and trees planted—many against the backdrop of the Sierra and the Pine Nut Range. "In Minden you can walk down any street and see a mountain," says town board chair Bob Hadfield. The town is planning a celebration of its centennial in 2006.

After your tour you can gamble, dance, and dine at the **Carson Valley Inn**. The resort's 24-hour coffee shop, **Katie's Country Kitchen**, serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The fine-dining **Michael's at the Inn** received the Distinguished Restaurants of America (DiRoNa) award in 2004. The CVI's hotel, motor lodge, and RV park fill quickly in the summer. If you have your sweetheart along, you two can get hitched in the inn's wedding chapel.

Minden has several restaurants. **Barone and Reed Food Company** serves lunch and dinner in a new building that sits flush with its next-door neighbor, the Farmers Bank of Carson Valley (1918). **Francisco's Mexican Restaurant** occupies what was the Heidelberg Saloon (1910). Just north of Minden proper the Ironwood Center has **Mandarin Gourmet** and the eight-screen **Ironwood Cinema**.



Walkable Main Street

Gardnerville celebrated its 125th birthday last year. Walking tour-goers can read the history of many downtown buildings on brass plaques installed for the celebration. The two-story brick **Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center**, formerly the Douglas County High School, has classic white columns and grand front steps. Also designed by Frederick DeLongchamps, the high school was awarded to Gardnerville by the 1915 Nevada Legislature to make up for the fact that Minden was made the county seat and given a fancy courthouse.

When looking at old photos of Gardnerville, I always marvel that the town looks much as it did a century ago. The main street's one- and two-story brick buildings are still in use as restaurants and shops. Nine antique stores are within walking distance of each other, says Jeannie Johnson, who owns Historian Inn and Old Town Antiques. "That helps travelers," she adds. "They can park in one place and bounce from store to store."

After exploring Gardnerville, you can reward yourself with a picon punch at one of the two downtown Basque restaurants, the **J.T. Basque Bar and Dining Room** and the **Overland Hotel**, where Basque sheepherders lived in the early 1900s. Soup, steak or chicken, salad, and French fries are served in the traditional family style or at individual tables. Prime rib is the specialty at **Sharkey's Casino**, which also has slots and table games. Across the street, **Nelson's** offers lunch five days a week and dinner and music on Thursday to Saturday nights.

Although Gardnerville has no century-old town square, it does have **Heritage Park**, where a gazebo is the site of special events. A half-mile south of town lies **Lampe Park** with big trees, lawns, and barbecue areas. Both parks are picnicker-friendly.



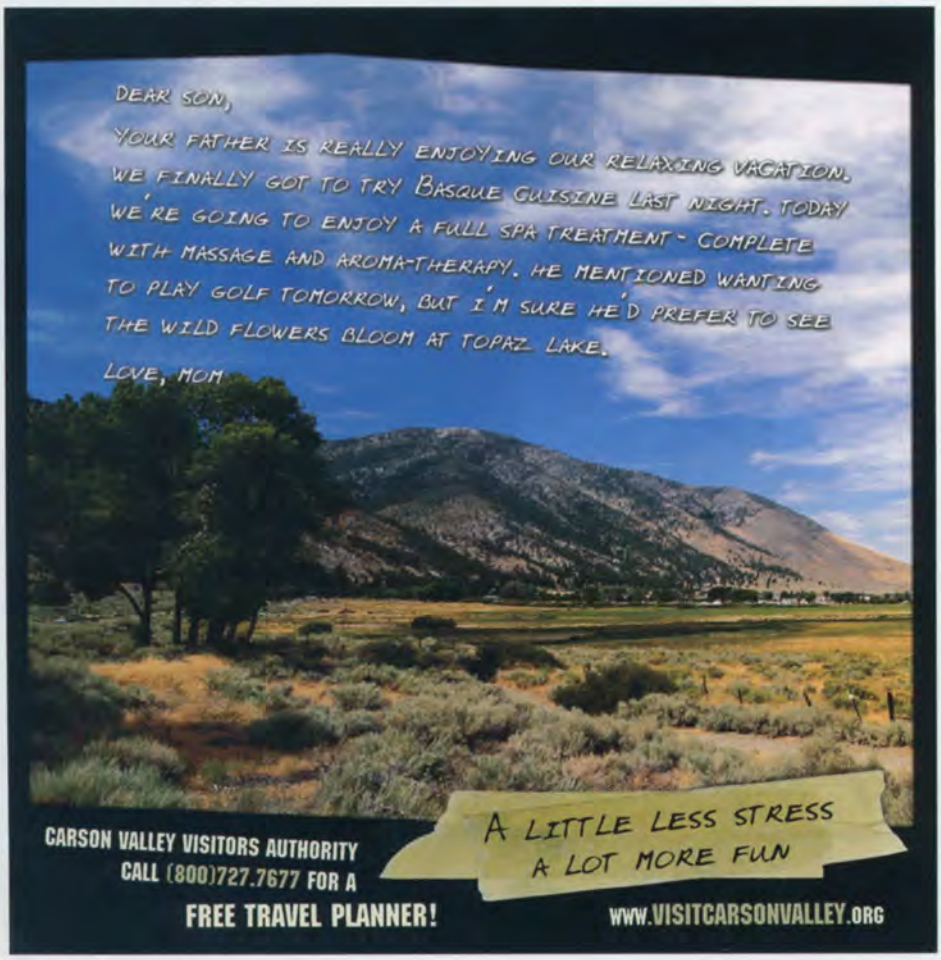
Danielle Campbell takes a walk in Minden.

Overnight Stays

Genoa has two bed and breakfast inns, the **Wild Rose Inn** (877-819-4224, 775-782-5697) and **Genoa House Inn** (775-782-7075). There are also the motel **Legend Country Inn** (775-783-0906) and **David Walley's Resort, Hot Springs, and Spa** (800-628-7831, 775-782-8155). The **Carson Valley Inn** in Minden has an RV park and mini market, motor lodge, and hotel (800-321-6983, 775-782-9711). The **Best Western Minden** takes pets on approval (866-441-1234). The **Silver City RV Resort** north of Minden has a store and pond for fishing (800-997-6393, 775-267-3359). The **Historian Inn** in Gardnerville has guest rooms and a beauty salon and spa (877-783-9910, 775-783-1175). Also in Gardnerville are the **Sierra Motel** (775-782-5145) and **Westerner Motel** (773-782-3602, 800-782-3602). At Topaz Lake, there is **Topaz Lodge and Casino** (800-962-0732, 775-266-3338).



Carson Valley Inn chef Gary Oien displays a lobster.



Outdoor Recreation

Carson Valley has four of the region's **Divine Nine** golf courses—**Genoa Lakes Golf Club**, a U.S. Open qualifying site; **Genoa Lakes Golf Resort**, the former Sierra Nevada Golf Ranch; **Sunridge Golf Club**, a championship course at the valley's north end; and, in Gardnerville, the **Carson Valley Golf Course**, which celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. Visit www.divinenine.com.

The fishing season at **Topaz Lake**, 23 miles south of Gardnerville, runs from January 1 to September 30. To fish the lake and the **Carson River**, you can purchase a short-term nonresident license beginning at $18. For information log onto www.ndow.org. If you want to see some really big fish, visit the **Lahontan National Fish Hatchery** (775-265-2425), five miles south of Gardnerville, where cutthroat trout are raised to be planted in Nevada lakes. You can boat and waterski on Topaz and raft, float, and kayak on the Carson River.

The **Faye-Luther Canyon Trail** can be used by hikers and horseback riders. Dogs are allowed. The trailhead has parking for horse trailers and can be accessed from Foothill Road (State Route 206) 4.6 miles south of Kingsbury Grade (State Route 207). Hikers will find the trailhead to **Horse Thief Canyon** four miles south of Woodfords, California, on State Route 88. For information on other Sierra trails, including mountain-bike tracks,

PHOTO: Joyce Hollister (top)





Rafters negotiate the Carson River in spring (above). Classic cars are displayed in Minden and Gardnerville during the Main Street Event.

campgrounds, and recreation areas, call the Carson Ranger District, 775-882-2766, or visit www.fs.fed.us/htnf.

Carson Valley Events

Special events are held throughout the year. Also see the Reno-Tahoe Area listings in this issue's "Nevada Events and Shows."

Farmer's Market: Wednesdays until Sept. 28, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Lampe Park, Gardnerville, 775-782-9828.

Free concerts: July 8 and 29, Aug. 26, 6:30 p.m., at Minden Park, 775-782-9828.

Free concerts: July 10, Aug. 21, Sept. 18, Genoa Town Park, 775-782-8696.

Alta Alpina Bicycle Race: July 30, Minden, 775-783-9834.

Genoa Renaissance Fair: Jousting, period food, and costumes, July 30-31, 775-782-4951.

Taste of Gardnerville: Aug. 6, 5-9 p.m., 775-265-6097 or 775-265-3344.

Main Street Event: Aug. 19-21, classic cars, Minden and Gardnerville, 775-267-1511.

Genoa Candy Dance: Sept. 24-25, arts and crafts, 775-782-8696.

Gardnerville Old Time Days: Sept. 30-Oct. 2, Civil War Reenactors, Heritage Park, 775-782-7134.

Eagles and Agriculture Tour: Feb. 2006, 775-782-8144, call for dates.

Minden Street Festival of the Arts: June 3-4, 2006, 775-782-2444.

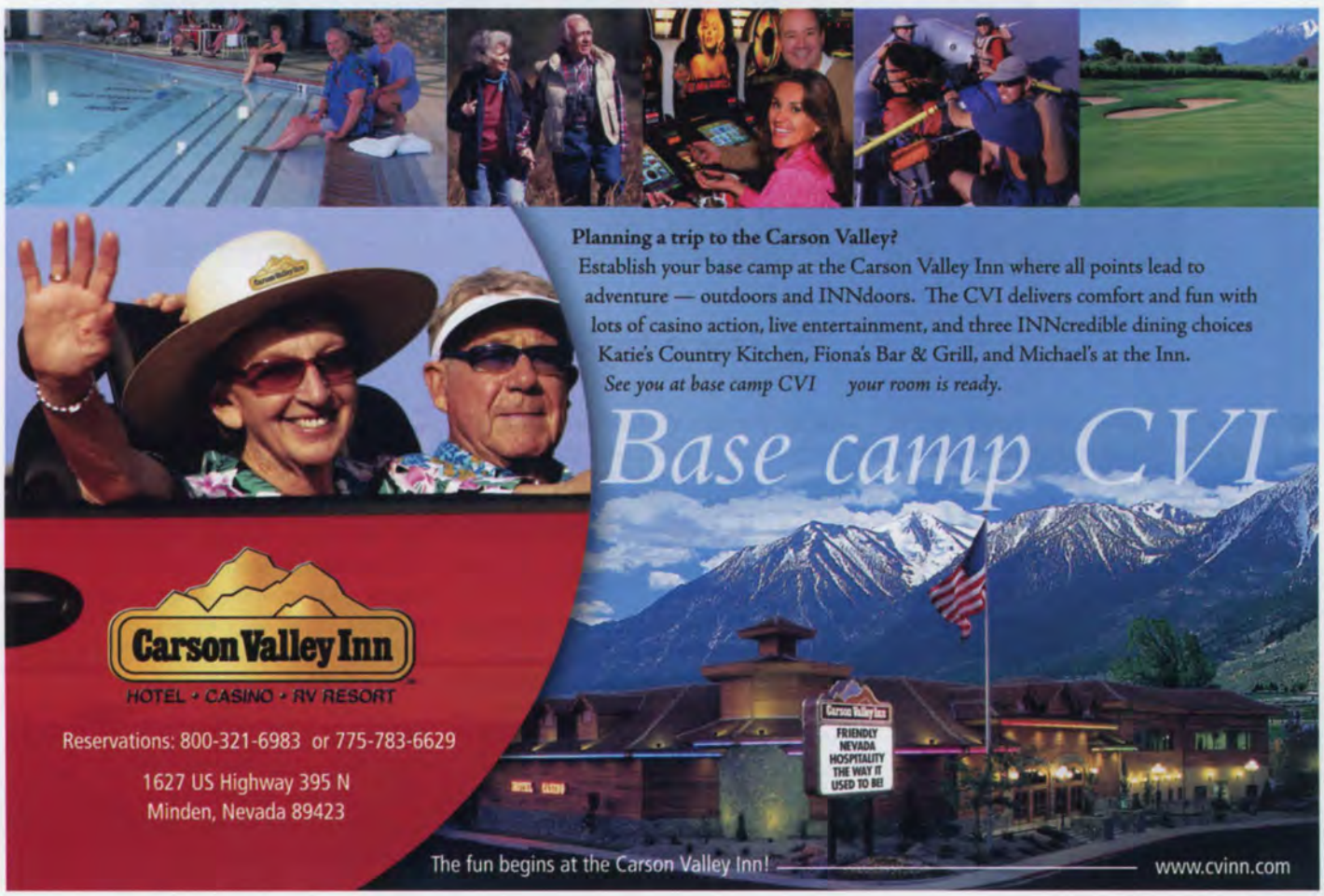
Carson Valley Days: June 9-11, 2006, parade, fair, and rodeo, 775-782-8144, or visit www.carsonvalleydays.org. You can find more event information by visiting the Web sites www.genoaevents.com, www.townofminden.com, and www.gardnerville-nv.gov.

Information

The Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Authority has information and walking-tour maps at www.visitcarsonvalley.org. Pick up the *Carson Valley Travel Planner* at 1513 U.S. 395 North, Gardnerville, NV 89410, or call 775-782-8144 or 800-727-7677

The visitors bureau can direct you to hot-air balloon companies, too.

Joyce Hollister, Nevada Magazine's *associate editor, lives in Genoa.*



If It's July, It Must Be Artown

Reno's annual **festival of the arts** celebrates its 10th year with music, movies, and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir



Pilobolus will perform at Artown.

By Joyce Hollister

Every July, downtown Reno rocks with **Artown**, the arts festival so jam-packed with events that it's hard to know where to begin.

"For an entire month, there's something to do every night," says Artown fan and Reno resident Kristina Lowe. "It's an eye-opening experience. You get to see all these performers and artists that most people don't ever see."

Lowe is one of the volunteers coordinating the more than 300 events offered at Artown, which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. Every day in July something cultural is scheduled: concerts, children's art and theater projects, dance performances, art shows, and films.

For the past decade Artown has brought major performers to Reno, but organizers also focus on local artists. "There are some extremely talented people here," says co-founder Mark Curtis. "We put them on the same stage as Baryshnikov and the San Francisco Ballet."

This year's major Artown acts range from choral groups to dance troupes.

The 360-member **Mormon Tabernacle Choir** will perform for the first time in Reno on July 2. The choir was formed in 1847 shortly after Brigham Young and his band of Mormon pioneers entered Salt Lake Valley.

Pilobolus, a dance troupe named after a fungus, is known for contortions, aerial dance, and a sense of humor. Described as "eye-popping, gymnastic, quirky, sexy, and unbelievable," Pilobolus performs July 7

The **Chieftains** have traveled the world for 40 years playing traditional Celtic music, but the Irish band also has shared stages with contemporary musicians, including the Rolling Stones in "The Rocky Road to Dublin." The Chieftains are scheduled for July 15.

Fifteen years ago **Ladysmith Black Mambazo** of South Africa accompanied Paul Simon on his "Graceland" album. This year the group won a Grammy for best traditional world music. Ladysmith performs July 13 in the Northern Nevada Food Bank's Food for the Soul World







The Asha Belly Dancers (above) will sponsor a drum and dance festival. Right, the Photography on the Lawn show. The Ahn Trio (lower right) plays Doors tunes.

Music Series. Other performers include **Firebird Balalaika**, the **Gospel Hummingbirds**, and the **Reno Jazz Orchestra** and featured musicians directed by **Wayne Wallace**, who has played with Count Basie and Ray Charles.

Other acts include the 10,000-watts-of-sound **Pink Floyd Laser Spectacular Extravaganza** and the **East Village Opera Company**, an 11-piece rock band with a string section billed as a "dose of culture with downtown cool."

Many events are aimed at children and teens to interest them in the arts, says festival director Beth MacMillan. "We're bringing in the **Ahn Trio**, three sisters who make classical music very hip and fun," she says. "They play everything from Piazzolla to the Doors." Teenagers can compete in **"Reno Idol,"** a festival knockoff of *American Idol* that will be judged by former *Idol* contestant Amanda Avilla of Las Vegas.

Artown began in 1996 as a way to bring people downtown. "Cities fortunate enough to have rivers running through them find that the rivers are magnets for cultural activities," says cofounder Tim Jones. "But ours wasn't. It was dark, and it was scary. It was Artown's goal to turn that around."

Over the past decade, Reno's Truckee River corridor has been transformed. "You see families walking along the redesigned river walkways," Jones says. "You see kayakers and rafters. You have a variety of new restaurants, new shops, new places to take the family." Jones coordinates the **Movies in the Park** series and the daily children's program, **Discover the Arts**.

Local performances include the Reno Philharmonic's **Pops on the River** and Nevada Opera's **Opera in Blue Jeans**. At the Asha Belly Dancers' **Drum, Dance, and Didgeridoo Festival**, you can do more than watch the show, says organizer Holly Johnson of Asha. "You can participate in the drum circle," Johnson says, "but first you might take a free playshop in belly dance, West African drum, didgeridoo, or fire spinning."

Harry Truman and Douglas MacArthur will debate under a tent in Rancho San Rafael Park July 18-21. They are among the eight historical characters in the **Great Basin Chautauqua's** "Head to Head: Great Confrontations of History." Each morning after the performances, Chautauqua fans can chat with their favorite characters over coffee at Sundance Bookstore.

Most events are held at Wingfield Park on the Truckee River and are free. Some activities held at other locations require admission fees, which range from $1 to $65 but generally hover around $10. Art is sold at local galleries and at the free-to-enter **Downtown Art Market**. A show and auction of local artists' work is called **Art Slaves** because the artists "are slaves to their day jobs so they can create at night," says coordinator Kristina Lowe.

The Nevada Museum of Art will show the **2005 Nevada Triennial**, a juried exhibition of Nevada artists that will remain at the museum until October 2. "We will have almost all Nevada artists' work in every gallery space in July," says Malena Satre, the museum's communications associate. "We're excited, as it's something we haven't done before."

For a complete list of art shows, events, and your personal Artown schedule, visit www.renoisartown.com.

Joyce Hollister is Nevada's *associate editor.*

PHOTOS: Kathie Hull (top left), Tom Bourke (top right), Arthur Elgort (middle)



Reno-Tahoe

AREA EVENTS AND SHOWS

Reno hosts more than 300 cultural events during **Artown** in July. The **Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival** takes place at Sand Harbor State Park. Golfing celebrities tee off during the **American Century Celebrity Golf Championship** at Stateline, and PGA stars compete in the **Reno-Tahoe Open.** The **Eagles, Sammy Hagar,** and **Toby Keith** present outdoor concerts at Harveys at Lake Tahoe. Call ahead to confirm dates.

Events

Artown • July 1-31 • Performing and visual arts, music, dance, theater, opera, children's workshops, movies, cowboy poetry, and historical walks. Many events are highlighted in this listing. Reno, 775-322-1538.

Na Lei Hulu • July 1 • Opening event for month-long Artown celebration features San Francisco's Na Lei Hulu I Ka We Ku, whose dance music ranges from Eminem to Tony Bennett. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-322-1538.

Carson City Fourth of July • July 1-4 • Carnival, midway games, arts, crafts, vendors, and fireworks. Mills Park, Carson City, 775-687-4680, ext. 4.

Kirkwood Fourth of July Barbecue • July 2 • Benefit for fire department. Kirkwood Mountain Resort, south of Lake Tahoe, 209-258-7377.

Fists and Fireworks: Samuel Peter vs. Taurus Sykes • July 2 • Heavyweight boxing. Reno Events Center, Reno, 775-787-8497.

Mormon Tabernacle Choir • July 2 • Concert. Lawlor Events Center, Reno, 800-225-2277.

Tune Up for Independence Day • July 3 • Concert featuring the Carson Valley Pops Orchestra. Picnic fare available; bring a chair and blanket. Minden Town Park, Minden, 775-265-2841.

Independence Day Celebration and Fireworks • July 3-4 • Ice-skating, swimming, hiking, and fireworks. The Village and High Camp, Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Star Spangled Sparks at the Marina • July 4 • Hot-air balloon tethered rides, milk carton boat regatta, Sparks Idol competition, games, arts, crafts, and vendors. Sparks Marina, Sparks, 775-358-1976.

Reno Celebrates America • July 4 • Rancho San Rafael Park, Reno, 800-FOR-RENO.

Pops in the Park • July 4 • Music and holiday events. Mormon Station State Historic Park, Genoa, 775-782-8696.

Star Spangled Fourth: Lights on the Lake • July 4 • Synchronized fireworks display visible from the South Shore. Stateline, Zephyr Cove, and Round Hill, Lake Tahoe, www.bluelaketahoe.com.

Sparkling Slots Slot Tournament • July 4-5 • $10,000 first place. Peppermill, Reno, 800-648-5555.

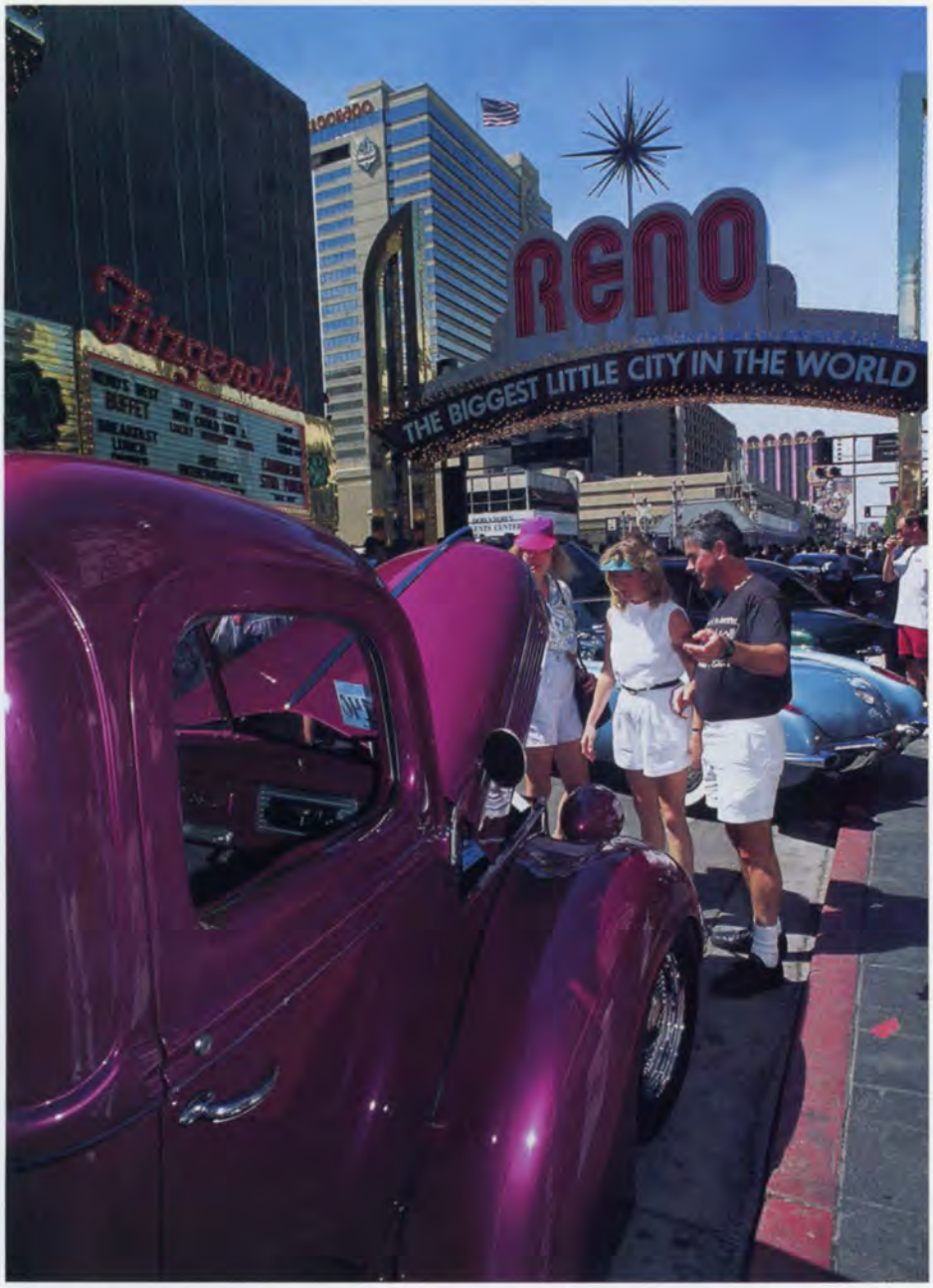
Dancing in the Park: Opus in Blu • July 5 • Lyrical, jazz, and hip-hop dance. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-827-2722.

Cribbage Tournament • July 5-7 • ACC sanctioned. Topaz Lodge, Topaz Lake, 775-266-3338, ext. 206.

"Ladies of the Corridor" • July 5, 8, 12, 15 • Comedy about aging women who live in a New York hotel. Reno and



Fireworks play over the skies above Lake Tahoe (above), Carson City, Reno, Sparks, and Squaw Valley during Fourth of July celebrations. Picnics and music also mark the holiday.



Hot cars, poodle skirts, rock music, and pink carnations turn the clock back to the '50s and '60s during Hot August Nights, July 30 to August 7 in Reno and Sparks.

Sparks public libraries, Reno and Sparks, 775-359-1323.

Exploring Nevada: Old Post Offices of Nevada • July 6 • Brown-bag lunch program led by Alicia Barber. Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 775-687-4810.

Gospel Hummingbirds Concert • July 6 • Traditional and contemporary gospel music. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-331-3663.

"Peter and the Wolf" • July 6-7 • Performance by members of the Reno Pops Orchestra. July 6 at Wingfield Park, July 7 at Bartley Ranch Regional Park, Reno, 775-784-1985.

Pilobolus • July 7 • American dance company known for mixing humor and invention. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 877-639-3728.

Artour Open Studios • July 7-10 • More than 30 artists open their studios. Maps available. North Lake Tahoe and Truckee, 530-581-2787.

Crazy Texas Gypsies • July 8 • Bring a blanket, folding chair, and picnic basket for the Summer Family Concert Series. Minden Park, Minden, 775-782-9828.

Reno-Tahoe Odyssey Relay Run Adventure • July 8-9 • 195-mile course starts in downtown Reno, along the Truckee River, through the Sierra Nevada, to Lake Tahoe and returns to Reno. Course begins and ends at 4,490 feet to a maximum elevation of 7,334. Reno and Lake Tahoe, www.visitrenotahoe.com.

Nevada Trophy 2005 • July 8-10 • Off-road, 4x4 experience that tests participants' navigational skills. Event has geocaching elements. Adventure route goes from Carson City to Lovelock and returns to Carson City. For information call 925-606-8301.

Death Ride • July 9 • Endurance cycling. Markleeville, California, 530-694-2475.

Pops on the River • July 9 • Gourmet picnic and concert by the Reno Philharmonic Orchestra. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-323-2030 for more Philharmonic concert information.

Lake Tahoe Festival of Fine Arts • July 9-10 • Outdoor fine art show featuring 100 artists, food, and entertainment. Middle School, South Lake Tahoe, 530-542-3632.

Concert on the Green • July 10 • Genoa Park, Genoa, 775-782-8696.

Turtle Island String Quartet • July 11 • Classical and contemporary American musical styles. Bartley Ranch Regional Park, Reno, 775-322-1538.

Beethoven's Wig With the Reno Philharmonic • July 11 • Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-322-1538.

InnerRhythms Dance Theatre • July 12 • Wingfield Park, Reno, 530-550-8464.

International Folkloric Ballet • July 12 • Free performance. Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 775-687-4810.

Expressions of Soul • July 12 • Hispanic poetry reading by Roy Chavez Alvarado. Workshop follows reading. Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 775-687-4810.

Bella Voce and Mile High Jazz Band • July 12 • New work based on Nevada poetry and stories of area settlers. Bartley Ranch Regional Park, Reno, 775-322-6090.

American Century Celebrity Golf Championship • July 12-17 • Celebrity golf tournament includes Michael Jordan, Donald Trump, Dennis Miller, John Elway, and Johnny Bench. Edgewood Tahoe, Stateline, 775-588-4591.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo Concert • July 13 • Grammy Award-winning South African band. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-331-3663.

The Chieftains • July 15 • Artown event. John Ascuaga's Nugget, 800-648-1177.

Opera in Blue Jeans • July 15-16 • Outdoor concert featuring selections from operas, operettas, and Broadway. July 15 at Bartley Ranch Regional Park and July 16 at Wingfield Park. Reno, 775-786-4046.

The Big Easy • July 15-17 • Cajun festival features food, music, dance, parades, and vendors. Victorian Square, Sparks, 775-358-4771.

Bluegrass on the Grass • July 16 • Concert at High Camp. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Ice Hot Cars • July 16 • Free family event includes displays of hot rods, custom cars, and motorcycles. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

Reno Basque Festival • July 16 • Music, dance, Basque food and drink, and games of strength and endurance. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-767-3577.

Wild Wild West Under the Stars • July 17 • Program features Bob Kredl and screening of the movie *The Wild Wild West*. Kredl supervised railroad operations for the film. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

A Celtic Summer's Eve • July 17 • Performance by Reno Irish Dance Company. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-829-7878.

Keno Classic • July 17-18 • Circus Circus, Reno, 775-329-0711.

Young Chautauqua • July 17-21 • Children portray historical figures. Rancho San Rafael Park, Reno, 775-784-6587.

John Ascuaga's Nugget Amateur Challenge • July 17-21 • Golf tournament with play at D'Andrea, LakeRidge, Red Hawk, Thunder Canyon, and Coyote Moon golf courses. Reno-Sparks, 800-803-6918.

Reno Chamber Orchestra • July 18 • Concert. Bartley Ranch Regional Park, Reno, 775-322-1538.

Beakman Live! • July 18 • Paul Zaloom, the wacky science guy. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-322-1538.

Great Basin Chautauqua • July 18-21 • Theme of great confrontations in American history features Harry Truman vs. Douglas MacArthur, Teddy Roosevelt vs. J.P. Morgan, and the Scopes Monkey Trial. Rancho San Rafael Park, Reno, 775-784-6587.

Dancing on the River • July 19 • Performance by Sierra Nevada Ballet. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-783-3223.

PHOTO: Carolyn Fox

We may have the loneliest road in America...

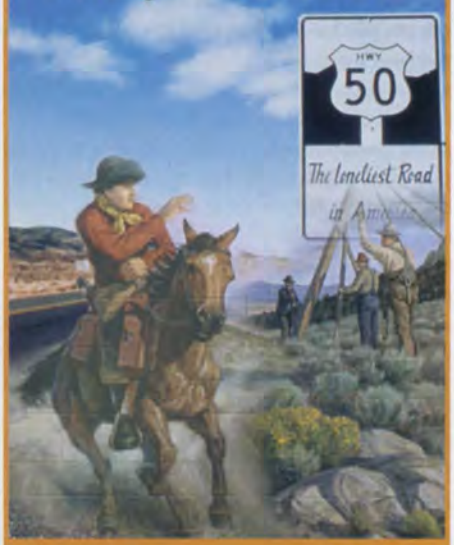


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There are colorful costumes, dance, and Cajun-style food during the Big Easy, July 15-17 at Victorian Square in Sparks. Musical headliners are Lavay Smith and the Red Hot Skillet Lickers and Charlie Musselwhite at the Silver Club.

Firebird Balalaika Concert • July 20 • Russian music. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-331-3663.

Biggest Little Plein Air Paintout • July 20-23 • Workshops and competition along the river. Reno, 775-852-2215.

All American Piano: Susan Olenwine • July 21 • Blues, ragtime, boogie-woogie, and jazz. Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 775-827-4589.

East Walker River Fishing Clinic • July 23 • Intermediate and experienced fly and spin anglers. Pre-registration, equipment, drinking water, and personal items required. No facilities are available. Rosaschi Ranch Bridge, Walker River, 775-688-1559.

Pink Floyd Laser Spectacular Extravaganza • July 23 • Reno Hilton, Reno, 775-789-3385.

Squaw Valley Art, Wine, and Music Festival • July 23-24 • Fine art, benefit wine tasting, music, and kids' activities. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Reno Celtic Celebration • July 23-24 • The heritage and cultures of Ireland, Scotland, Brittany, Wales, Isle of Mann, Cornwall, and Galicia. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-332-3336.

Carousel of Cards Blackjack Tournament • July 23-24 • Circus Circus, Reno, 775-329-0711.

Leave No Trace • July 23-24 • Workshop on environmental ethics and courtesy. Tahoe Rim Trail, Lake Tahoe, 775-298-0012.

Ahn Trio • July 24 • Cello, piano, and violin. Bartley Ranch Regional Park, Reno, 775-322-1538.

East Fork Gallery Anniversary Reception • July 24 • East Fork Gallery, Gardnerville, 775-782-7629.

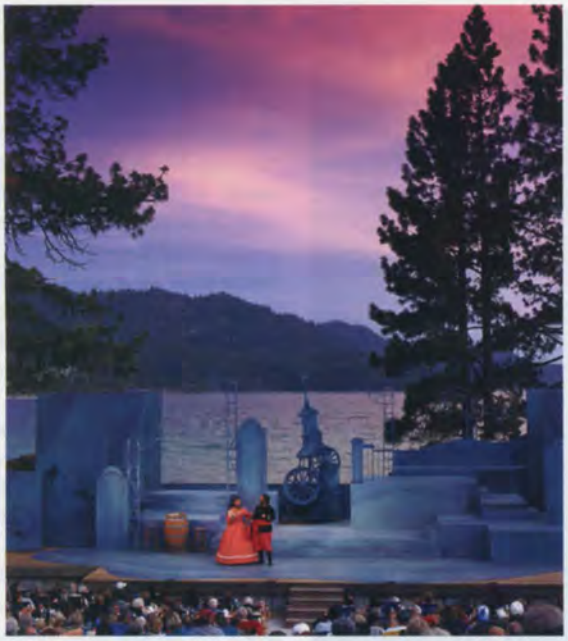
Fuller Brothers Concert • July 25 • Duets on a nine-foot grand piano. Bartley Ranch Regional Park, Reno, 775-322-1538.

"The Jungle Book" • July 25 • Missoula Children's Theater production. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-322-1538.

Royal Deal Video Poker Tournament • July 25 • Circus Circus, Reno, 775-329-0711.

Frances Humphrey Lecture Series: Sparks, Then and Now • July

PHOTO: Larry Turner



Sand Harbor provides the backdrop for the annual Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival July 14 to August 21.

"Macbeth" and the Bard

While Artown takes over Reno, the **Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival** lures fans of the Bard to Sand Harbor from July 14 to August 21. For the first time in its 33-year history the festival is offering a tragedy, "Macbeth," as well as a comedy, "Comedy of Errors."

"'Macbeth' is considered to be one of Shakespeare's top five masterpieces," says Catherine Atack, the festival director. "We wanted to pick a play that was faster-paced, action-packed, and had a lot of drama in the plot. 'Macbeth' is all of that."

The festival's plays must command the attention of the audience, Atack notes. "We have to compete with the natural surroundings at Sand Harbor. For instance, in 2003, the moon and Mars were closer together than they had ever been. In the latter part of the show, they starting coming up over the hill, and the eyes of the audience all turned to watch."

After polling audiences, organizers determined that festival-goers were ready for a tragedy. "We're going to break into the new schedule gently," Atack says, with 20 performances of "Comedy of Errors" and 14 of "Macbeth." "We don't want to ignore our audiences who have been coming for years and expect a comedy."

For tickets to the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival call 800-74-SHOWS or visit www.laketahoe shakespeare.com.—*Joyce Hollister*

26 • Free presentation by Neal Cobb and Jerry Fenwick marks the Sparks centennial. Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 775-687-4810.

Always Patsy Cline • July 28-29 • Tribute to the country star and her music featuring devoted fan Lee Ann Mathews. Bartley Ranch Regional Park, Reno, 775-322-1538.

Demonstration of Coin Press No. 1 • July 29 • Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 775-687-4810 for more information.

Mumbo Gumbo • July 29 • Bring your blanket, folding chair, and picnic-dinner basket for the outdoor Summer Family Concert Series. Minden Park, Minden, 775-782-9828.

Silver Dollar Car Classic • July 29-31 • Car show covers 150 years of automobile history. Street dance, show and shine, and poker run. Mills Park, Carson City, and Carson and C streets, Virginia City, 800-NEVADA-1.



Carson City and Virginia City

Northern Nevada's Sisters in History

Walk the blue line of the Kit Carson Trail through Carson City's large historic home district. Then drive the 16-mile Comstock Trail past the mines of Silver City to Gold Hill. It's just one more mile to colorful Virginia City. All part of a trip back to the 1870s, when Northern Nevada was one of the richest places on earth. For lodging and a booklet of special savings, visit our website or call today.

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800-718-SLVR
virginiacity-nv.org

CARSON CITY
800-NEVADA-1
visitcarsoncity.com

Coeur d'Alene Art Auction • July 30 • World's largest auction of fine Western, sporting, and wildlife art. Silver Legacy, Reno, 208-772-9009.

Latin Music Festival • July 30 • Manila Garden Restaurant, Reno, 775-746-2400.

Drum, Dance, and Didgeridoo Festival • July 30 • Ethnic dance, workshop, and children's crafts. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-848-7203.

Alta Alpina Bicycle Race • July 30 • Minden, 775-783-9834.

Car Show and Shine • July 30-31 • Benefit for a no-kill pet shelter includes a poker run. Open to classics, exotics, street rods, customs, and sports cars. Crystal Bay Club, Crystal Bay, lmarigold@earthlink.net.

Genoa Renaissance Fair • July 30-31 • Jousting, belly dancers, music, and food. Genoa, 775-782-4951.

Hot August Nights • July 30-Aug. 7 • Annual festival celebrates the music and cars of the '50s and '60s, car auctions, poker runs, drag races, and parades. Hotels and other city-wide locations, Reno and Sparks 775-353-2291 or 775-356-1956.

East Village Opera Company • July 31 • Artown's closing event features a band performing classic opera arias with rock and pop. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-322-1538.

Hot August Slot Tournament • July 31-Aug. 1 • Eldorado, Reno, 775-786-5700.

African Americans on the Comstock • Aug. 3 • Brown bag lunch and discussion. Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 775-687-4810.



"Darius Kuzmickas: Pinhole Camera Photographs" appears through July 31 at the Nevada Museum of Art. Above: "Pinhole 106."

Wooden Boat Week and Concours d'Elegance • Aug. 4-11 • Event includes parties, lakeside picnics, on-water boat parades and rallies, and a fashion show lunch. Tahoe Yacht Club, North Lake Tahoe, 530-581-4700.

August Backcountry Camp • Aug. 5-7 • Trail maintenance and overnight camp. Meals, water, and camping spot provided. Tahoe Rim Trail, Lake Tahoe, 775-298-0012.

Taste of Gardnerville • Aug. 6 • Music and tastings at restaurants and the Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center. Gardnerville, 775-265-6097.

Western Week and Rodeo • Aug. 6-14 • Wagon train rides, parade, barrel race, golf tournament, cowboy poetry and music, and PRCA rodeo. Rodeo Grounds, Truckee, 530-587-5555.

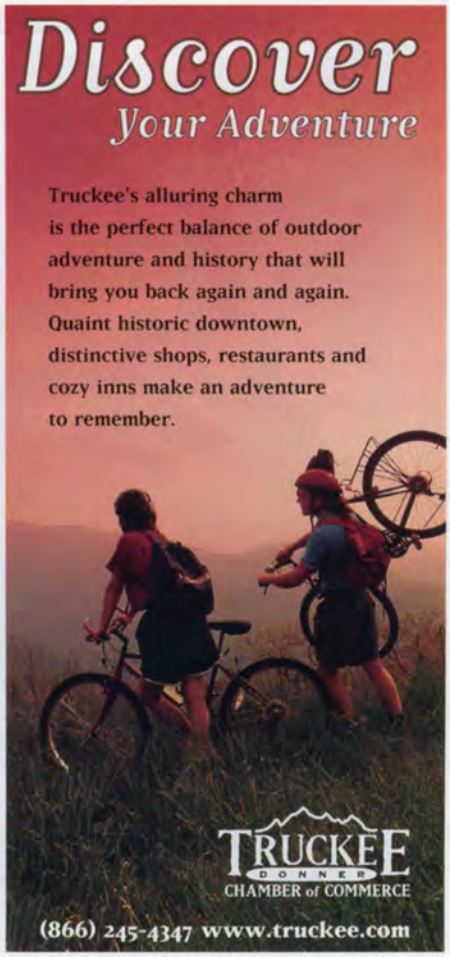
Movie in the Park: *The Great Locomotive Chase* • Aug. 13 • Disney film features the museum's locomotives *Inyo* and *Dayton*. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

Great Gatsby Festival and Tea • Aug. 13-14 • Antique cars and clothes, entertainment, games, and contests. Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 530-544-7383.

Reno-Tahoe Open • Aug. 17-21 • PGA Tour players compete for a $3-million purse on a Jack Nicklaus-designed course. Event includes a pro-am. Montreux Golf and Country Club, Reno, 775-322-3900.

Valley Cruisers Main Street Event • Aug. 19-21 • Street dance, barbecue, car show, vendors, and show and shine. CVIC Hall, Minden, and Lampe Park, Gardnerville, 775-267-1511.







"Sink and Frame, Eureka" by Larry Jacox appears in "Wally's World: The Loneliest Art Collection in Nevada" through September 24 at the Nevada Historical Society in Reno.

Wild Horse and Burro Expo • Aug. 19-21 • Show, mustang adoption, and entertainment. Reno Livestock Events Center, Reno, www.wildhorseandburroexpo.com.

Brews, Jazz, and Funk Fest • Aug. 20-21 • Microbrew sampling and funk bands. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Carson Valley Antique Tractor, Engine, and Farm Show • Aug. 20-21 • Museum of antique tractors, one-cylinder engines, farm and mining equipment from the late 1800s to 1940s. Event includes parades, food, displays, and vendors. Seven miles south of Carson City, 775-267-4816.

Concert on the Green • Aug. 21 • Genoa Park, Genoa, 775-782-8696.

Silver State Marathon • Aug. 21 • Annual half-marathon, 10K run, 10K walk, and post-race picnic sponsored by the Silver State Striders. Must register in advance. Bowers Mansion Park, Washoe Valley, www.silverstatestriders.com.

Frances Humphrey Lecture Series: Ghost Towns of Nevada • Aug. 23 • Speaker is historian Stanley Paher. Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 775-687-4810.

Nevada State Fair • Aug. 24-28 • Livestock, home arts, and horticulture competitions, vendors, legends dirt track races, concerts, dog-jumping championships, Nevada Championship Demolition Derby, carnival, and food booths. Livestock Events Center and Nevada State Fairgrounds, Reno, 775-688-5767.

Tahoe-Reno International Film Festival • Aug. 24-28 • Independent films, workshops, parties, and short script competition. Call for location, 775-298-0072.

Michael Powers Concert • Aug. 26 • Bring a blanket, folding chair, and picnic basket for the Summer Family Concert Series. Minden Park, Minden, 775-782-9828.

Blazing 7's Slot Tournament • Aug. 26-28 • Eldorado, Reno, 775-786-5700.

Carson City Mint Coin Show • Aug. 27-28 • Free appraisals, 30 dealers, gold panning, and kids' activities. Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 775-687-4810, ext. 237.

Burning Man 2005 • Aug. 29-Sept. 5 • Annual counterculture event draws about 25,000 people to a temporary Black Rock City, culminating in the burning of a 40-foot-tall effigy. Art theme is "Psyche: the Conscious, the Subconscious, and the Unconscious." Black Rock Desert, northeast of Gerlach, www.burningman.com.

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.

Monthly Classic Car Shows and Street Dances • Carson Nugget, Carson City, call for dates, 775-882-1626.

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.

Gaming Tournaments • Shootout hold' em, Mon.-Sat. Video poker on Thurs. $10 buy-in, no-limit Texas hold 'em on Tues., Wed., Thurs., Sun. Monthly $1,500 blackjack on the last Tues. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 877-783-7711.

Horizon Tournaments • Video poker Mon., slots Wed., blackjack Tues. and Thurs. Horizon, Stateline, 775-588-6211.

Nevada State Museum • On the last Friday of each month visitors can tour the anthropology, plant, and animal collections. Registration required. Carson City, 775-687-4810.

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

King of the Cowboys: A Salute to Roy Rogers • Thru July 17 • Memorabilia from the celluloid buckaroo. Sparks Heritage Museum, Sparks, 775-355-1144.

Darius Kuzmickas: Pinhole Camera Photographs • Thru July 31 • Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 775-329-3333.

Movies on the Lawn • Tuesdays thru Aug. 9 • Free movie, popcorn, and drinks at Jot Travis Student Union. University of Nevada, Reno, 775-784-4046 for more event information.



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Genoa Farmer's Market • Fridays thru Aug. 12 • Genoa Park, Genoa, 775-782-8696.

Throat: Jim Ziokovich and Joe Zuccarini • Thru Aug. 14 • Cloudscapes. Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 775-329-3333.

The Sagebrush Ocean: A Naturalist's Vision of the Great Basin • Thru Aug. 21 • Photographs by Stephen Trimble. Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 775-687-4810.

Carson City Farmer's Market • Wednesdays thru Aug. 24 (except July 20 and 27) • Fruits, vegetables, and vendors. Pony Express Pavilion, Carson City, 775-687-7410.

Sparks Hometowne Farmer's Market • Thursdays thru Aug. 25 (except Aug. 4) • Victorian Square, Sparks, 775-353-2291.

Valhalla Arts and Music Festival • Thru Aug. 30 • Fine arts exhibits, concerts, classic films, and plays. Tallac Historic Site, Lake Tahoe, 530-542-42166.

Wally's World: The Loneliest Art Collection in Nevada • Thru Sept. 24 • Eureka Opera House Director Wally Cuchine's collection features works by Craig Sheppard, Mary Lee Fulkerson, Jack Malotte, James Lawrence, Mary Chadwell, Jeff Nicholson, Jean LeGassick, Jim McCormick, Roy Powers, and Sidne Teske. A companion show will feature a photo exhibit by Steve Davis. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 775-688-1190.

Horizon Summer Craft Fairs • Thru Sept. 25 • Stateline, Lake Tahoe, 775-588-6211.

This Time It's Hudson • Thru Sept. 26 • Exhibit of Hudson cars illustrates the history of independent car makers. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

Gardnerville Farmer's Market • Wednesdays thru Sept. 28 • 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Lampe Park, Gardnerville, 775-782-9828.

DeSotos, Dames, and Dudes: Divorce Reno Style • Thru Oct. 3 • Exhibit traces the period when divorcees arrived en masse to take the cure. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.





Great controversies are the theme in the Great Basin Chautauqua, July 18-21 at Rancho San Rafael Park in Reno. General Douglas MacArthur (Neal Ferguson, left) squares off against Harry Truman, and Teddy Roosevelt (Clay Jenkinson, right) takes on J.P. Morgan.

Back to the '80s • Thru Oct. 31 • Exhibit marks the museum's 20th anniversary with memorabilia from the era that brought Cabbage Patch Dolls and Post-it Notes, and local artifacts such as Greg LeMond's Tour de France jersey. Sparks Heritage Museum, Sparks, 775-355-1144.

Shadows of the V&T: The Art of Loren Jahn • Thru Oct. • Pen-and-ink drawings of daily railroad operations. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

Locomotive Stories of the V&T • Thru Dec. • Exhibition of 16 models, photographs, and artifacts. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

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

Artown • July 1-31 • Performing and visual arts, music, dance, theater, opera, children's workshops, movies, cowboy poetry, and historical walks. Many events are highlighted in this listing. Reno, 775-322-1538.

Docent-Guided Tours • July 1-31 • National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

Discover the Arts • July 1-31 • Artown events for children 1-3 p.m. weekdays. Reno, 775-784-1985.

Rollin' on the River • July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 • Concert. Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-324-4440.

Jazz at the Sands • Sundays July 2-31 • Artown event. Poolside at the Sands Regency, Reno, 775-322-1538.

Historic Walking Tours of Reno • July 2, 3, 5, 7, 9, 12, 14, 16 19, 23, 24, 30 • Reno, 775-747-4478.

Tahoe Rim Trail • July 2-Oct. 15 • Work days on Tues. and Sat. to build and maintain the trail. July 3-Oct. 9, trailhead information days every other Sunday. Beginning July 15, staff-led hikes on Fri. Tahoe Rim Trail, Lake Tahoe, 775-298-0012.

Railroad Steam-Up • July 2-4, 16-17, 30-31, Aug. 13-14, 27-28



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• Rides on a train pulled by an 1881 steam locomotive. The train runs every 40 minutes. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

Watermelon Concerts on the Quad • July 6, John Philip Sousa's music; July 13, Big Swing music; July 20, music from Disney; July 27, Guitar Woody and the Boilers; Aug. 3, Heather Combs Band • Free concerts and watermelon. University of Nevada, Reno, 775-784-4046.

Movies in the Park • July 8, *The Iron Giant*; July 15, *Treasure of the Sierra Madre*; July 22, *Moonstruck*; July 29, *The Sound of Music* • Wingfield Park, Reno, 775-784-1985.

Third Street Summer Night Concert Series • July 8, Rick Hays Band, country; July 15, Fast Forward, rock; July 22, Deja Blues Band, blues; Aug 12, Hawaiian Luau; Aug. 19, Captain Deva, dance music; Aug. 26, Bad Intent; Sept. 9, Break Even, '60s and '70s rock; Sept. 16, Deja Blues Band, blues; Oct. 29, music after the Nevada Day Parade • Downtown, Carson City, 775-884-4411.

"As Bees Drown in Honey" • July 8-9, 14-17, 21-23, 28-30 • Comedy. Bruka Theatre, Reno, 775-323-3221.

Introduction to Fly Fishing • July 8-10, July 29-Aug. 1, Aug. 12-14 • Pre-registration required. Bring your own tackle; limited rods available. Minimum age is 10; fishing license required for 12 and older. Verdi Community Library and Wildlife Education Center, Verdi, 775-688-1559.

Motor Car Rides • July 9-10, 23-24, Aug. 6-7, 20-21• Fifteen-minute excursions aboard a 1926 diesel-powered rail car depart every half-hour. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

Incline Chamber Music • July 10, Argenta and Friends, string quartet and oboe; July 17, Eliason and Yoshida, French horn and piano; July 24, Argenta Trio, violin, cello, and piano; July 31, UNR Symphonic Choir and Reno Chamber Singers; Aug. 7, Stern and Nagano, violin and piano; Aug. 14, Trio Bella Nova, flute, cello, and piano • D.W. Reynolds Center, Incline Village, 775-831-2298.

Capital City Summer Music Series • July 10, 17, 24 31, Aug. 7, 14 • Bring a picnic dinner for a free concert. Legislature Lawn, Carson City, 775-687-7410.

The Work of Art Exhibition • July 11-Aug. 12 • Yearlong project represents visual and performing artists. Lecture and book signing, July 14. Sheppard Gallery, University of Nevada, Reno, 775-784-6658.

Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival • July 14-Aug. 21 • "Macbeth" and "The Comedy of Errors" are presented on the beach with Lake Tahoe as a backdrop. Sand Harbor State Park, Lake Tahoe, 800-747-4697.

Fine Arts Festival • July 16, Aug. 20 • Two-dimensional fine art and sculptural works. Kings Beach, North Lake Tahoe, 209-296-1195.

Nevada Triennial • July 16-Oct. 2 • Exhibition of artists, visual trends, and artwork created in Nevada. Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 775-329-3333.

Put the Pedal to the Metal • July 21-Aug. 21 • Exhibit of pedal cars ranging from miniature to full-size. Sparks Heritage Museum, Sparks, 775-355-1144.

Lake Tahoe Summer Music Festival • July 21, Brass Quintet at Squaw Valley; July 23, Gershwin by Taylor Eigsti at Tahoe Donner; July 28, Sacramento Banjo Band, Squaw Valley; July 30, Festival Orchestra performing Beethoven, Squaw Valley; Aug. 4, Fragment, Valerie Smith and Liberty Pike, Squaw Valley; Aug. 6, Festival Orchestra performing Mozart and Vivaldi, Squaw Valley; Aug. 11, Fifth Dimension, Squaw Valley; Festival Orchestra featuring Leonard Nimoy, Donner Lake. Lake Tahoe, 530-583-3101 for information.

"You Know You're a Nevadan If" • Aug. 26-Sept. 29 • Local artists' interpretations of being a Nevadan. Art Source Gallery, Reno, 775-828-3525.

Coming Events

Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off • Sept. 2-6 • Sparks, 800-648-1177.

Great Reno Balloon Race • Sept. 9-11 • 775-826-1181.

Virginia City Camel Races • Sept. 9-11 • 775-847-7500.

Tour de Tahoe Bike Big Blue • Sept. 10 • Stateline, Lake Tahoe, 800-565-2704.

National Championship Air Races • Sept. 14-18 • Reno, 775-972-6663.

Street Vibrations Motorcycle Festival • Sept. 21-25 • Reno, 775-329-7469.

Tahoe Big Blue Multi-Sport Adventure Race • Sept. 24 • Lake Tahoe, 510-644-1441.

Genoa Candy Dance Craft Fair • Sept. 24-25 • 775-782-8696.

Nissan Xterra USA Championship • Sept. 24-25 • Lake Tahoe, 877-751-8880.

Lake Tahoe Marathon • Oct. 5-9 • South Lake Tahoe, 530-544-7095.

"The Full Monty" • Oct. 14-16 • Broadway Comes to Reno, 800-714-5331.

Sparks Annual Turkey Trot • Nov. 25 • 775-353-7815.

"Thoroughly Modern Millie" • Dec. 2-4 • Broadway Comes to Reno, 800-714-5331.

Sparks Annual Hometowne Christmas Parade and Festival • Dec. 4 • 775-353-2291.







Shows

CARSON CITY

Carson Nugget • 775-882-1626 or 800-426-5239 (continental U.S. including Nevada): Nugget Show Lounge: Entertainers like Michael Mandella, David Proud, Tommy Bell, Band on the Run, Melissa Dru, the Motifs, and Madison Avenue appear Tues.-Sun. in the Nugget's lounge.

Carson Station • 775-883-0900: Bands play at the Carson City hotel-casino nightly except Mon.

Casino Fandango • 775-885-7000: Bands play in the Cabaret Lounge.

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

CARSON VALLEY

Carson Valley Inn • Minden, 775-782-9711 or 800-321-6983: Entertainment in the Shannon Ballroom. Cabaret Lounge:



Julio Iglesias sings at the Golden Nugget in Las Vegas on July 21-22 and at the Silver Legacy in Reno on July 23.

Bands play for dancing in the casino lounge, dark Mon.

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

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

RENO/SPARKS

Atlantis • 775-825-4700 or 800-723-6500: Grand Ballroom: Entertainment TBA. Bands play in the Center Stage Cabaret.

Boomtown • 775-345-6000: Sierra Ballroom: Sizzlin' Summer Nights Sock Hop with Dock Rock-It and the Radio Flyers, Aug. 5. Can-Can Theater and Dancehall: Bands appear Tues.-Sun.

Club Cal Neva • 775-323-1046 or 877-777-7303: Entertainment on Fri. and Sat.

Circus Circus • 775-329-0711: Circus Cabaret: Entertainment daily except Tues.-Wed. Free daily circus acts, 11am-10:30pm.

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

Eldorado • 775-786-5700, 800-648-5966 (U.S. outside Nevada) or 800-648-3024 (Canada): Eldorado Showroom:



"Smokey Joe's Café," Broadway musical, thru Sept. 4. Bands play nightly at the Brew Brothers microbrewery. Piano music in the Roxy Lounge. BuBinga Lounge: Dance to DJs and bands Tues.-Sat. Bands play in the Casino Cabaret Thurs.-Sat.

Fitzgeralds • 775-785-3300 or 800-648-5022 (U.S. outside Nevada): Bands perform nightly in the Fitz Showbar.

Golden Phoenix • 775-785-7100: Showroom: "Perfect 10," musical adult cabaret, Fri.-Mon.

Harrah's Reno • 775-788-2900 or 800-HARRAHS: "Bareback," musical revue, thru Jan., dark Tues. "Broadway Showstoppers," musical revue, thru Oct. 3, dark Tues. Improv Comedy Club, thru Oct. 3, dark Mon.-Tues. Bands play Fri.-Sat. in the Sapphire Lounge and Virg Nightclub. Summer Concert Series on the Plaza: Free concerts, 8-10pm Fri.-Sat.

John Ascuaga's Nugget • Sparks, 775-356-3304 or 800-648-1177: Celebrity Showroom: Ottmar Liebert and Luna Negra, July 2-3. Boz Scaggs, July 9. The Chieftains, July 15. Lou Rawls, July 21-23. Big Head Todd and the Monsters, July 29-30. Luis Bravo's "Forever Tango, Aug. 8-28, Wed.-Sun. John Hiatt and Shawn Colvin, Aug. 13. Sol'Jibe, Sept. 1. Collin Raye, Sept. 2. Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Sept. 9-10. Creedence Clearwater Revisited, Sept. 24. Ronnie Milsap, Sept. 30-Oct. 1. 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: Revolution: A Tribute to the Beatles, July 15.

The musical "Smokey Joe's Café" plays until September 4 at the Eldorado in Reno.

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Unauthorized Rolling Stones, Sept. 23. Cabaret Lounge: Bands play nightly. Piano music featuring Ron Perry or Dale Vernon nightly in the Steakhouse.

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

Reno Events Center • 800-687-8733: Fists and Fireworks: Samuel Peter vs. Taurus Sykes, heavyweight boxing, July 2.

Reno Hilton • 775-789-2285 or 800-648-3568 (U.S. outside Nevada): Outdoor Amphitheater: ZZ Top, Sept. 24. Bands play nightly in The Garage.

Sands Regency • 775-348-2200: Tequila Bar: Bands play Wed.-Sun. Comedians play in the Just For Laughs Comedy Club, dark Mon.-Tues. Poolside: Jazz on July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31.

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

Silver Club • Sparks, 775-358-4771 or 800-905-7774: Entertainment in the Casino Lounge. Special Event: Big Easy Festival features Lavay Smith and the Red Hot Skillet Lickers on July 15 and Charlie Musselwhite on July 16. Anna Maria's Italian Ristorante: Winemaker's Dinner, July 26, Clos des Chance Winery. Treana Winery, Aug. 30.

Silver Legacy • 775-329-4777 or 800-687-8733 (U.S., Canada, and Mexico): George Carlin, July 9. Julio Iglesias, July 23. Cheap Trick, Aug. 5-6. Tom Jones, Aug. 26-27. Trick Pony with Billy Dean, Sept. 2. Ted Nugent, Sept. 23-24. Rodney Carrington, Sept. 30-Oct. 1. Anne Murray, Oct. 21-22. Thunder From Down Under, Oct. 28-29. Engelbert Humperdinck, Nov. 11-12. Bill Engvall, Nov. 19. 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 from 9:30pm-12:30am Thurs.-Sat.

Caesars Tahoe • 775-588-3515 or 800-648-3353: Circus Maximus: Entertainment TBA. The Club Nero has dancing. Stone St. Bar and Grill: Monthly Girl Powder Concert Series, artist TBA.

Harrah's Lake Tahoe • 800-HARRAHS: South Shore Room: The Wallflowers, July 2. California Bar: Arthur Hervey, Wed.-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. "Lipstick," adult musical revue. Outdoor Arena: Loggins and Messina, July 15. The Eagles, Aug. 11. Sammy Hagar and the Wabos, Aug. 13. Toby Keith with Lee Ann Womack and introducing Shooter Jennings, Aug. 18. The Eagles, Aug. 20. Cabo Wabo Cantina Lounge: Bands play 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: Entertainment TBA.

Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe • Incline Village, 775-832-1234: Bands play in the Regency Grand Ballroom. Lone Eagle Restaurant: Music, Wed.-Sat. Casino Stage Bar: Pianist, Wed.-Sun.

Jim Kelley's Tahoe Nugget • Crystal Bay, 775-831-0455.

Tahoe Biltmore • Crystal Bay, 775-831-0660: Breeze Nightclub: Music nightly except Mon.

OLD-FASHIONED Labor Day

Pioche remembers its mining heritage during the Labor Day Centennial.





Visitors line Main Street to watch floats in the town's two parades (above). Sticky cotton candy is a treat during Pioche's Labor Day Celebration, September 2-5 (top).

By Ann Henderson

Once, there was no one to cheer the miners of Pioche. Guided by carbide lamps clipped to their hats, they drilled, set charges, and moved earth by hand from the dark tunnels of the teeming Treasure Hill mines. The miners had nicknames like High Pockets and Galloping Swede and labored in hopes of richer paydays.

One hundred years ago, the cheering began.

Las Vegas was less than four months old when Pioche, the rough-and-tumble county seat 175 miles to the north, honored the working man by staging Labor Day festivities in 1905. Miners paraded through Pioche and packed the town's watering holes.

Pioche residents will remember those miners on September 2-5 as they mark the 100th anniversary of their old-fashioned Labor Day Celebration. That weekend, Pioche's population of 700 will swell by half or more as visitors from California, Utah, and Nevada join parades, softball games, and a desert golf tournament. There will be lots of kids' activities—a cake walk, foot races, and a mad scramble for money in a haystack.

The mining contests demonstrate two important underground tasks—drilling and mucking. The winners earn cash prizes.

The drillers must be strong enough to heft a 50-pound mining drill and bore a hole as far as possible into a boulder. Competitors use two kinds of drills: jackleg, which one man can handle, and lyner, a two-man drill operated at a fixed angle. Jackleg drills are still used in construction, but lyner drilling is a lost art, notes Bill Lloyd, who has presided over the contests for the last 40 years. "With a lyner, miners had to probe the stopes at an incline, which was more dangerous because they were often working overhead," says Lloyd, who spent summer vacations working in the mines.

The mucking contests also are crowd pleasers. The object is to shovel a pile of sand in the shortest period of time. Muckers of all ages can enter. "Kids ages one through three get a medal just for participating," says mucking director Lee Decker.

"Women must tackle a big wheelbarrow, and men must fill an ore bucket that holds about a yard of sand. For the men, the average time is about one minute and 40 seconds. Others take four or five minutes," Decker says. "Some want to quit, but the crowd keeps them going."

Labor Day offers other tests of stamina and skill. The 10K fun

PHOTOS: Tim Fogliani



Lee Decker wrestles a jackleg drill while coordinator Bill Lloyd (right) tracks Decker's time.

Anglers will try to land a tagged trout worth $10,000 in the fishing derby.

run is a challenge for lowlanders not used to the 6,600-foot altitude. As many as 18 teams play in the softball tournament. Nearby, horseshoe pitchers aim for ringers. Meanwhile, there's free swimming for kids in the town pool.

The golf tournament takes place Saturday morning at the Lincoln County Golf Course. Built by residents one mile south of town, the course is a nine-hole mixture of desert and artificial turf. Tennis shoes are recommended; call 775-962-5206 to register. The $15 entry fee includes a T-shirt, says event coordinator Peggy Decker.

"We have scheduled two tee-off times, 7 and 9 a.m., which is enough for 18 teams," she says. "But if we get more interest, we'll add another round to the tournament."

Between events, visitors can explore Pioche's historical attractions. Dangling ore cars recall the tram system that carried ore from Number One Shaft to the mill in the valley below. The Boot Hill cemetery is more than 130 years old. The Million Dollar Courthouse, built in 1872, has a legacy of corruption and a creepy jail.

The Lincoln County Museum is jammed with historical artifacts, mineral specimens, and displays about Pioche's early reputation for lawlessness and rich ore. In 1872, Pioche's mineral production boomed at $5.4 million. In 1884 it busted to $4,073. The town and its mines flourished again during World Wars I and II and the Korean War.

Pioche's history is a draw for Labor Day celebrators like Jim Marsh, a Las Vegas auto dealer and casino owner. "I've been going to Pioche for 35 years and belong to the Masonic Lodge," he says. Marsh recently purchased Pioche's Alamo Club and renamed it the Bank Club. He says, "The Alamo was originally a Wells Fargo office and still has the original safe."

Area history is the topic of a Saturday slide program at Cathedral Gorge State Park, 11 miles south of Pioche. Park ranger Barbara Rohde says, "We'll start at 7:30 p.m. and finish in time for people to drive up the hill for the popular Electric Light Parade."

The Electric Light Parade at 9 p.m. features floats illuminated by just that—electric lights, which are powered by the cars and pickups pulling the floats townspeople have constructed. (A daytime version of the parade takes place at 10 a.m. on Monday, Labor Day, when the floats are joined by a band, horses, old cars, and fire engines.)

Each night the town's three saloons—the Overland Hotel, Bank Club, and Nevada Club—are standing room only, as partiers wait cheek-to-cheek for drinks and turns on the dance floor. Teens hang out at the Saturday night street dance.

Sunday's events include a fishing derby. Anglers will be casting in the reservoirs at Spring Valley and Echo Canyon state parks in hopes of landing a tagged trout worth $10,000. Tight-lipped derby officials say only that the prize trout may be in either reservoir.

Before the fireworks on Sunday night, local thespians will stage two Heritage Plays. "Tipsy Temperance Ladies," an original play, is based upon incidents from the town's past. The melodrama "Monster Soup, or That Thing in My Neck Is a Tooth" will elicit plenty of hissing and booing from the audience—just as it would have in the olden days.

This Labor Day, the hard-rock miners are gone, and mines like the Prince and Number One Shaft are silent, but Pioche and its residents remain true to the meaning of the holiday.

Ann Henderson, a native of Pioche, is Nevada Magazine's *events and entertainment editor.*

PIOCHE LABOR DAY

The residents of Pioche hold their 100th-anniversary **Labor Day Celebration** on September 2-5. For more information call the Overland Hotel, 775-962-5893, or visit www.piochenevada.com.



Pioche has one restaurant, the Silver Café, with another scheduled to open this summer. But "visitors won't go hungry," assures Labor Day Celebration chairwoman Candice Mortenson. The Masonic Lodge serves breakfast Saturday and Monday, dinners are offered in the park, and vendors sell barbecue, hamburgers, hot dogs, and corn on the cob. Mortenson adds, "The craft fair has become a big deal."

Although motel rooms are sold out a year in advance, RVers can park in town, and three state parks—Cathedral Gorge, Spring Valley, and Echo Canyon—have campgrounds.

PHOTO: Dick Decker



Rural Nevada

EVENTS AND SHOWS

Fairs, festivals, and **Independence Day** celebrations take place throughout rural Nevada this summer. The **National Basque Festival** and the **Running of the Bulls** return to Elko on the Fourth of July weekend, and Ely's historic train offers a fireworks excursion. **Chris LeDoux** plays the Red Lion in Elko, and **LeAnn Rimes** headlines at Cactus Petes in Jackpot. *Nevada Magazine* presents the following events and shows for July and August. Be sure to call ahead to confirm dates and details.

Events

Winnemucca Summer Cutting • July 1-3 • Cutting horse competition. Events Complex, Winnemucca, 775-849-1476.

National Basque Festival • July 1-4 • Cultural celebration has a parade, games of strength and endurance such as wood chopping and weight lifting, as well as handball, music, food, and dancing. During the Running of the Bulls, animals will be released on the street behind a group of runners. Fireworks on July 4 at the fairgrounds. Various locations, Elko, 800-248-3556 or 775-738-7135.

Independence Day Celebration • July 2 • Parade, picnic, horseshoes, and kids' games. Midas, 60 miles east of Winnemucca, friendsofmidas@yahoo.com.

The First Campers • July 2 • Slide program on people who have lived in Eastern Nevada for more than 10,000 years. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Jarbidge Fourth of July • July 2-3 • Parade, music, bingo, and barbecue. Community Hall and the Outdoor Inn, Jarbidge, 775-488-2311.

Goldfield Volunteer Firefighters 100th Anniversary • July 2-4 • Centennial is celebrated with a picnic, bands, and barbecue. Goldfield Park, Goldfield, 775-485-3207.

McDermitt Ranch Hand Rodeo • July 2-4 • Cowboys from Nevada, Oregon, and Idaho compete. Fairgrounds, McDermitt, 775-272-3241.

Hawthorne July Fourth Patriotic Celebration • July 2-9 • Bell ceremony on July 4 and barbecue and fireworks on July 5, rib and chili cook-offs, vendors, cowboy poetry, golf tournament, box derby, mud volleyball, street dance. Event includes reading of the Declaration of Independence at the Mineral County Museum. Liar's Race at Walker Lake. Citywide, Hawthorne, 775-945-5171.

Early Birds • July 3 • Ranger-led geology walk to explore the park's moonscape. Bring a canteen and camera. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Sunset at Steptoe Wine Train • July 3 • Train departs on a 7pm excursion with wine service for passengers. Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Ely, 775-289-2085.

Caliente Independence Day • July 3-4 • Parade, games, and fireworks. Downtown and City Park, Caliente, 775-726-3679.

Beatty Old Time Fourth of July • July 4 • Fireworks, parade, and games. Beatty Park, Beatty, 775-553-2424.

Lake of Fire • July 4 • Food, games, and fireworks. Spring Creek Marina, Spring Creek, 775-753-6295 for information.

Yerington Fourth of July • July 4 • Barbecue, crafts, and fireworks. Mountain View Park, Yerington, 775-463-1914.

Eureka Independence Day • July 4 • Parade, entertainment, and barbecue. City Park, Eureka, 775-237-5263.

Battle Mountain Community July Fourth Celebration • July 4 • Food, games, parade, and fireworks. Battle Mountain, 775-634-8245.

Austin Fourth of July • July 4 • Parade, street games, and entertainment. Austin, 775-964-2200.

Fernley Independence Day • July 4 • Parade and fireworks. Downtown and Out of Town Park. Fernley, 775-575-4459.

Wendover July Fourth • July 4 • Parade, annual Karl Sweat Run and Ride, games, crafts, food booths, and fireworks. City Park, Wendover, 775-664-3138.

Carlin Fourth of July • July 4 • Parade, games, family activities, picnic, and fireworks. City Park, Carlin, 775-754-6354.

Pahrump Fourth of July • July 4 • Fireworks at Petrack Park. Pahrump, 866-722-5800.

Fireworks and Barbecue Train • July 4 • Picnic followed by train ride to watch the fireworks. Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Ely, 775-289-2085 or 866-407-8326.

Winnemucca Family Fourth of July Celebration • July 4 • Games, food, face painting, dunk tank, and fireworks. City Park, Winnemucca, 775-623-5071.



Young dancers celebrate their heritage during the National Basque Festival July 1-4 in Elko. Festival activities include games of strength, ethnic food, and the Running of the Bulls.

Great Winneducka Duck Race • July 4 • 2,500 sunglass-wearing rubber ducks float the Humboldt River for prizes. Event includes food and music. Humboldt River, Winnemucca, 775-623-5071.

Cattlewomen Association Kiddie Parade • July 4 • Main Street, Lovelock, 775-273-7213.

Silver State International Rodeo • July 4-9 • 20th annual youth sports championship rodeo. Events include nine rodeo performances, queen contest, cutting, trade show, concessions, teen dances, mud volleyball, parade, and barbecue. Churchill County Fairgrounds, Fallon, 775-423-4674.

McMillin Nevada 1,000 • July 6-10 • Off-road race. Beatty, Goldfield, and Tonopah. Las Vegas, 702-457-5775.

19th Annual Safety Olympiad • July 7-9 • Elko Convention Center, Elko, 800-248-3556.

Silver State Stampede • July 7-9 • Pro rodeo. Elko County Fairgrounds, Elko, 775-738-7780.

White Pine 4 Wheelers Rally • July 8-10 • Rally includes a barbecue picnic and awards. Steptoe Park, Ely, 775-289-3371 and 775-293-0016.

Nevada Trophy 2005 • July 8-10 • Off-road, 4x4 experience that tests participants' navigational skills. Event has geocaching elements. Adventure route goes from Carson City to Lovelock and back to Carson City. 925-606-8301.

Just Deserts • July 9 • Slide program on the four desert

PHOTO: Cynthia A. Delaney

regions of North America. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

A Tour Through Time: Geologic Evolution of the Jarbidge Mountains • July 9 • Lecture and field trip by geologist John Bernt. Community Hall, Jarbidge, 775-488-2352.

Winnemucca Junior Rodeo • July 9-10 • Events Complex, Winnemucca, 800-962-2638.

Blackjack Tournament • July 10-11 • Peppermill, Wendover, 800-537-0207.

Two-Person Mixed Golf Scramble • July 11-12 • Toana Vista Golf Course, Wendover, 800-217-0049, ext. 6657.

Elko Gambler's Run Twin 50 • July 14-17 • Open-road race. Elko, 702-614-6108.

Nevada Indian Days All Indian Rodeo and Powwow • July 15-17 • National gathering features a rodeo and pageantry and regalia of traditional Native American powwow dancing. Churchill County Fairgrounds, Fallon, 775-427-2014.

44-Hour Softball Tournament • July 15-17 • More than 90 teams compete around the clock. Sports Complex, Winnemucca, 888-44HOURS.

Dueling Dutch Ovens • July 16 • Competition includes an appearance by the Pahranagat Kitchen Band. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Sherman Dinner and Auction • July 16 • Event celebrates the historic site. Sherman Station Visitor Center, Elko, 800-428-7143.

Steptoe Valley Flyer Heritage Train Ride • July 17 • Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Ely, 775-289-2085.

Senior Four-Man Scramble • July 18-19 • Toana Vista Golf Course, Wendover, 800-217-0049, ext. 6657.

Santa Fe Saloon Centennial Celebration • July 22-24 • Barbecue, bands, and gunfights. Santa Fe Saloon, Goldfield, 775-785-3431.

Pioneer Trees • July 23 • Slide program on the trees that were important to settlers. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Superior Livestock Auction • July 26-30 • Event includes golf tournaments and entertainment. Convention Center, Winnemucca, 208-343-9885.

Good Times Street Drags • July 29-30 • Drags on a public road. Traders Way, Winnemucca, 800-962-2638.

Fifties Fever • July 29-31 • Parade, street dances, poker run, concert by Papa Clutch and the Shifters, and a show and shine. Downtown, Winnemucca, 800-962-2638.

Nevada All-Around Working Cow Horse Championship • July 29-31 • Events Complex, Winnemucca, 775-329-4200.

Wells Fun Run Car Show and Shine • July 29-31 • Slow drags, burn-outs, drag races, cruise, street dance, and a poker run. Wells, 775-752-2236.

Lovelock Frontier Days • July 29-31 • Parade, food and craft vendors, kids' games, arm wrestling, amateur boxing, tractor pull, and weight carry. Pershing County Courthouse Park, Lovelock, 775-273-7213.

Street Fever Show and Shine • July 29-31 • Lovelock, 775-273-7213.

Onion Festival • July 29-31 • Concerts, antique car show, games, and vendors. Fairgrounds and downtown locations, Yerington, 775-463-2245.

Manhattan Volunteer Fire Department Barbecue • July 30 • Picnic and music. Fire Station, Manhattan, 775-487-2438.

Poetic License • July 30 • Lecture and writing workshop led by writer-teacher-poet Janet Koenen. Community Hall, Jarbidge, 775-488-2369.

Limousin Cattle Show • Aug. 4-7 • Western Regional Open Show. Events Complex, Winnemucca, 775-623-5071.

Nevada Motocross Championships • Aug. 5-6 • Churchill County Fairgrounds, Fallon, 775-240-2851.

Ely Shoshone Tribe Fandango • Aug. 5-7 • Handgame tournament, sand volleyball, basketball, Native American dancing, games, fun run-walk, parade, crafts, and food booths. Heritage Drive, Ely, 775-289-3013.

Miss Elko County Pageant • Aug. 6 • Elko Convention Center, Elko, 775-753-5005.

Nevada's Best Cow Dog Series • Aug. 6 • Working drills, moving and penning cattle. 7J Ranch, Caliente, 702-453-1311.

Jarbidge Days • Aug. 12-13 • Music, arts, crafts, games, and cowboy church. Community Hall and the Outdoor Inn, Jarbidge, 775-488-2311.

Bonneville Speed Week • Aug. 12-19 • Land speed-record attempts by hot rods, roadsters, belly tankers, and motorcycles. Bonneville Salt Flats, Wendover, 866-299-2489.

Dutch Oven Cooking • Aug. 13 • Cooking demonstration by Jack Bess. Community Hall, Jarbidge, 775-488-2381.

Sunset at Steptoe Wine Train • Aug. 13 • Train departs on a 7pm excursion with wine service for passengers. Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Ely, 775-289-2085.

Goldfield Days • Aug. 19-21 • Celebration marks the centennial of the arrival of the first passenger train to the mining town. Events include a land auction, food, drink, parade, kids' games, historical tours, music, and street dances. Goldfield, 775-485-3560 or 775-485-6387.

Lyon County Fair and Rodeo • Aug. 19-21 • Parade, kids day, carnival, tractor pull, dance, and demolition derby. Yerington, 775-463-2245.

United Way's Hawaiian Luau • Aug. 20 • Honeysuckle Park, Pahrump, 866-722-5800.

Overland Hotel's Sixth Annual Chili Cook-Off • Aug. 20 • Chili

Something for Everyone

Upcoming Events in Elko, Nevada

Silver State Stampede Rodeo
July 7th-9th

Ruby Mountain Youth Rodeo
August 20th-21st

Elko Senior Olympic Games
August 4th-7th

Morrodders Classic Car Show
September 9th-11th

Elko County Fair & Horseracing
August 27th-September 5th

Ruby Mtn Chamber Music Festival
September 12th-14th

Oktoberfest
September 24th

Ruby Mountain Balloon Festival
September 23rd-25th



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Bank robberies and other Old West skits will be part of the 100th anniversary of the first passenger train arriving in Goldfield during Goldfield Days, August 19-21.

and salsa cooks compete. Overland Hotel, Fallon, for information www.overlandhotel.com.

Moonlight Hike • Aug. 20 • Ranger-led evening walk. Bring a flashlight and wear closed-toe shoes. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Steptoe Valley Flyer Heritage Train Ride • Aug. 20 • Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Ely, 775-289-2085.

Carlin Show and Shine/Art in the Park • Aug. 20-21 • Classic cars, poker run, burn outs, slow drags, art and craft show, and food vendors. Carlin City Park, Carlin, 775-754-6354.

White Pine County Fair • Aug. 20-21 • Home arts, crafts, horseshoe tournament, and livestock sale. White Pine County Fairgrounds, Ely, 775-289-3074.

USTRC Northwest Regional Team Roping Finals • Aug. 25-28 • More than 2,000 teams compete. Events Complex, Winnemucca, 775-623-5071.

Nevada's Best Cow Dog Series • Aug. 26 • Working drills, moving and penning cattle during the Elko County Fair. Elko, 702-453-1311 for further cow dog event information.

Spirit of Wovoka Days Powwow • Aug. 26-28 • Celebration of the dance and vision of Wovoka, the Paiute Messiah. Native American dance, food, arts, and crafts. Softball Field, Yerington, 775-463-2245.

Makin' Hay • Aug. 27 • Slide program on hay production. Cathedral Gorge State Park, two miles northwest of Panaca, 775-728-4460.

Wendover Airfield Fly-in and Air Show • Aug. 27 • Aerobatic routines, jet demonstrations, and parachute jumpers. South Airport Apron, Wendover, 866-299-2489.

Elko County Fair • Aug. 27-Sept. 5 • Arts, crafts, and livestock exhibits, horse racing, and showmanship, snaffle bit, flower show, parade, and dance. Elko County Fairgrounds, Elko, 775-738-3616.

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.

Sturgeons Inn Tournaments • Bingo Tues. and Thurs., slot tournament Fri. Lovelock, 775-273-2971 or 888-234-6835.

Double Down Blackjack Tournaments • Friday • Play for championship event on Dec. 9. Peppermill, Wendover, 800-537-0207.

Saturday Night Fever Slot Tournament • 7pm, $10 buy-in. Saddle West, Pahrump, 800-433-3987.

Lamoille: An Artist's View • Thru Aug. 12 • Exhibit by local artists. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 775-738-3418.

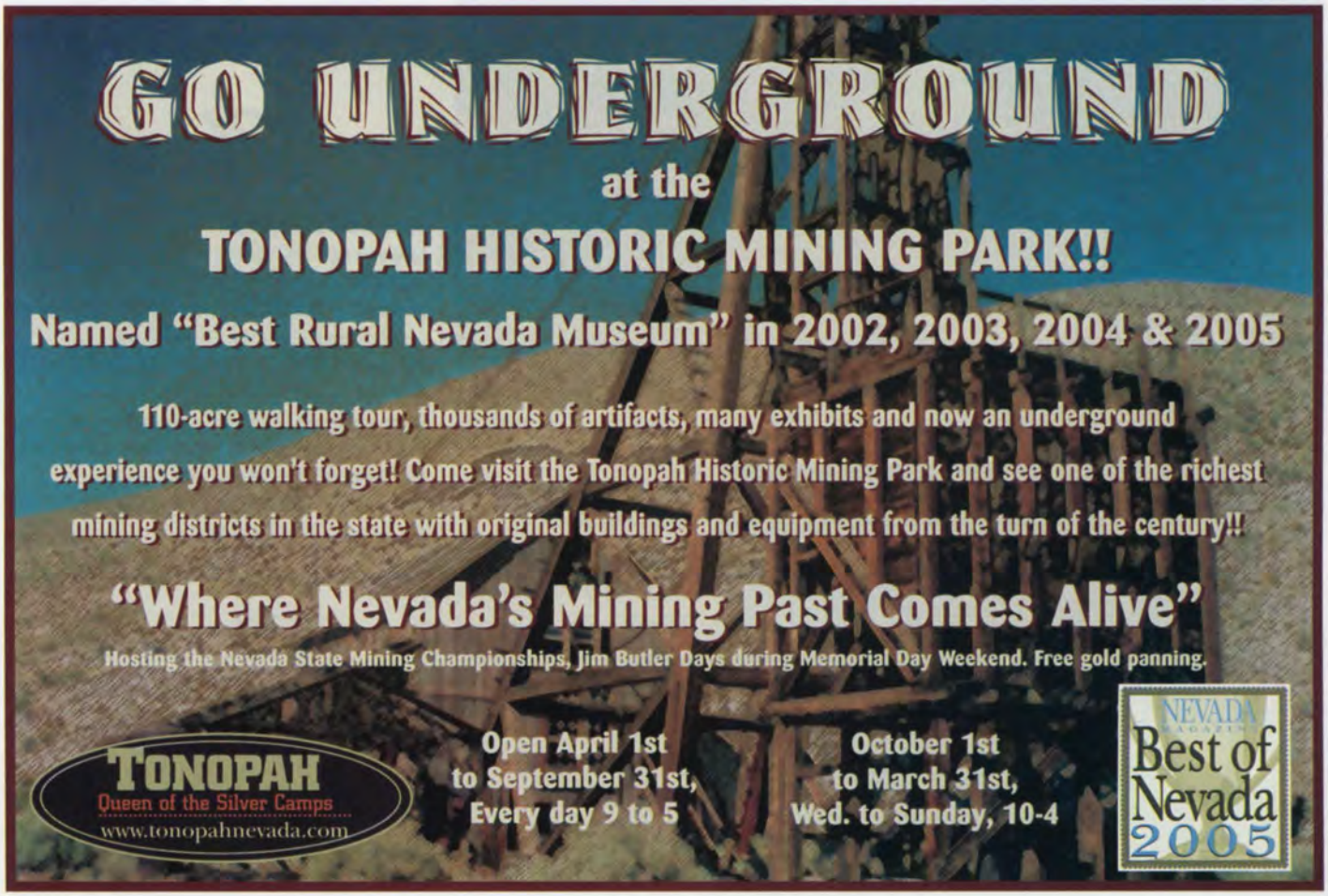


PHOTO: Jim Paulis

Fallon Farmer's Market • Tuesdays thru Aug. 30 • Vendors, entertainment, food, and kids activities 5-9pm. Maine St., Fallon, 775-423-4556.

Hidden Empire Insect Photo Exhibition • Thru Sept. 12 • Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 775-738-3418.

Hats Off to Elko Exhibit • Thru Sept. 12 • Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 775-738-3418.

Excursion Trains • Thru Sept. 30, daily. Oct., weekends • Steam and diesel locomotive train rides. Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Ely, 775-289-2085.

Winnemucca Regional Raceway Clay Track Racing • July 1, 15, 29, Aug. 12, 26, Sept. 2, 16, 30 • Winnemucca Raceway, Winnemucca, www.nevadaracing.com/winnemucca.

Battle Mountain Stock Car Racing • July 2, 16, 30, Aug. 13-14, 27, Sept. 4, 17-18 • Battle Mountain Raceway, Battle Mountain, 775-635-2784.

Top Gun Drag Racing • July 2, 16, Aug. 13, Sept. 2-4, 8, 11, 24, Oct. 30 • Top Gun Raceway, Fallon, 775-423-0223 for racing information.

Lahontan Oval Dirt Track Racing • July 4, 30, Aug. 13, 27, Sept. 4, 10, 24, Oct. 8-9, Nov. 12 • Lahontan Raceway, Fallon, 775-423-7483.

Hidden Cave Tours • July 9 and 23 • Guided tour of Hidden Cave archaeological site includes self-guided tour of Grimes Point petroglyph site. Churchill County Museum, Fallon. To confirm tour dates and for more information on Hidden Cave tours, 775-423-3677.

Stock Car Racing • July 9, 23, Aug. 6, 20, Sept. 2-3, 23-24 • Summit Raceway, Elko, 775-753-5936.

History in the Park • July 12, 19, 26, Aug. 9, 23 • Bring lawn chairs or blankets to hear speakers. City Park, behind the Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 775-738-3418.

Big and Beautiful • July 12-Aug. 23 • Exhibition by Virginia Dumas, Central Nevada artist and teacher. Bea Reynolds Memorial Gallery, Hawthorne Convention Center, Hawthorne, 775-945-3030.

Passing Through • Aug. 16-Oct. 12 • Richard Menzies' photo study of Great Basin residents. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 775-738-3418.

Howard Hickson Exhibit • Aug. 16-Oct. 12 • Digital imagery by the museum's director emeritus. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 775-738-3418.

Nevada Maze at Lattin Farms • Aug. 19-Oct. • Visitors can explore a cornfield maze. Fallon, 866-638-6293.

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- White Pine Historical Museum
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Coming Events

Winnemucca Labor Day Rodeo and Tri-County Fair and Carnival • Sept. 2-4 • 775-623-5071.

Pioche Centennial Labor Day • Sept. 2-5 • 775-962-5893.

Hearts of Gold Cantaloupe Festival • Sept. 2-5 • Fallon, 866-4FALLON.

Sunset at Steptoe Wine Train • Sept. 4 • Ely, 775-289-2085.

Race to the Angel • Sept. 10 • Joggers and mountain bikers. Wells, 775-752-3540.

Aviation in Winnemucca Air Show • Sept. 10-11 • 775-623-5071.

Pinenut Festival • Sept. 15-18 • Schurz, 775-773-2306.

Steptoe Valley Flyer Heritage Train Ride • Sept. 17 • Ely, 775-289-2085.

Bonneville World of Speed • Sept. 17-22 • Wendover, 866-299-2489.

Great Basin Cultural/Ruby Mountain Balloon Festival • Sept. 23-24 • Elko, 775-738-8493.

Harvest Dance • Sept. 24 • Jarbidge, 208-345-7735.

Nevada Day Parade • Oct. 28 • Elko, 775-738-7991.

National Finals Senior Pro Rodeo • Nov. 2-5 • Winnemucca, 775-623-5071.

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 is scheduled on Fri.

ELKO

Commercial Hotel • 775-738-3181: Bands play in the lounge.

Gold Country Casino • 800-621-1332: Music on weekends.

High Desert Inn • 775-738-8425: Comedy on Fri.

Red Lion • 775-738-2111 or 800-545-0044 (Western U.S. outside Nevada): Showroom: Chris LeDoux, July 9. Billy Dean

Nevada

EVENTS AND SHOWS

is a section of

NEVADA MAGAZINE

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Country star LeAnn Rimes will appear at Cactus Petes' amphitheater on August 7

and Trick Pony, Sept. 3. Red Lion Lounge: Bands play nightly.

Stockmen's Hotel • 775-738-5141 or 800-648-2345 (U.S. and Nevada): Bands play in the showroom. Running of the Bulls, part of the annual National Basque Festival, July 1.

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: Music in the Casino Lounge.

Joe's Tavern 775-945-2302.

JACKPOT

Barton's Club 93 • 775-755-2341.

Cactus Petes • 800-821-1103: Amphitheater: LeAnn Rimes, Aug. 7. Gala Showroom: Ricky Van Shelton, July 8-9. Sammy Kershaw, July 29-30. Danny Marona, Aug. 12-13. Lynn Anderson, Aug. 26-27. Little River Band, Sept. 2-3. Ricky Skaggs, Sept. 30-Oct. 1. Vicki Lawrence, Oct. 14-15. Marshall Tucker Band, Oct. 28-29. Don Williams, Nov. 4-5. Billy Dean, Nov. 18-19. Bands play in the Cabaret.

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

LOVELOCK

Sturgeons • 775-273-2971 and 888-234-6835: 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 like Chuy's Company, Smooth, and Amy Clawson play in the 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 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: Herb McQuay, July 7-9, 14-16, comedian. Bahama, July 21-23. Broxton, July 28-30, Aug. 4-6. Audioboxx, Aug. 11-13. What's Next, Aug. 18-20. Full House, Aug. 25-27.

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Holiday Inn Express • 775-625-3100.

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Tourism Agencies and 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 for more information.

102 Beatty Chamber of Commerce—Beatty, the Gateway to Death Valley National Park, has history, birdwatching, and Rhyolite. 866-736-3716, www.beattynevada.org.

103 Boulder City Chamber of Commerce—"The city that built Hoover Dam, golf, outdoor sports, and Lake Mead. 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. For information 800-727-7677 www.carsonvalleynv.org.

107 White Pine County Tourism and Recreation Board, Ely—Bristlecone pines, Great Basin National Park, fishing, hunting, camping, golf, 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. for more information.

109 Fallon Convention and Tourism Authority—Fallon is home to Navy's Top Gun flight school, Sand Mountain, and Lake Lahontan. 866-4FALLON, www.fallontourism.com.

110 Elko Convention and Visitors Authority—In Northeastern Nevada on Interstate 80, Elko has outdoor recreation, history, hotels, casinos. Convention Center has 50,000 square feet 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. for more information.

112 Nevada Commission on Tourism—Nevada's tourism authority guides the visitor to unlimited outdoor adventure and world-class resorts. 800-NEVADA-8, www.travelnevada.com.

116 Lander County Convention and Tourism Authority—Battle Mountain, on I-80, is famous for its *Washington Post* appellation, "Armpit of America." 775-635-1112, www.battlemountain.org.

117 Winnemucca Convention and Visitors Authority—Basque restaurants, outdoor adventure, history, events, nightlife, gaming, convention center. 800-962-2638, www.winnemucca.nv.us.

119 Pony Express Territory—The Pony Express Trail (1860-1861) parallels U.S. 50 (Loneliest Road in America) in Pony Express Territory. 866-4FALLON, www.ponyexpressnevada.com for vacation information.

120 Truckee-Donner Chamber of Commerce—North of Lake Tahoe, Sierra Nevada views, six world-class ski resorts, and Donner Memorial State Park. For information 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—The RSCVA has information on the Reno-Tahoe area—"America's Adventure Place." 800-FOR 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.

125 Goldfield Days—Celebration on August 19-21 includes activities and prizes. Goldfield Chamber of Commerce, on U.S. 95 south of Tonopah, Box 204, Goldfield, NV 89013, 775-485-3560.

129 Greater Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce—Five state parks, Pahranagat National 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, birdwatching, casinos, hotels, dining, and entertainment. 866-BZYCITY, www.westwendovercity.com for more information.

Hotels/Casinos

202 Carson Nugget, Carson City—Video/slot machines, table games, keno, bingo, restaurants, buffet, gift shop, entertainment. 800-426-5239, www.ccnugget.com.

203 Carson Valley Inn, Minden—Hotel, motor lodge, RV park, convention center, wedding chapel, pool, spa, gift shop, four restaurants, and casino. 800-321-6983, www.cvinn.com for more information.

207 Imperial Palace, Las Vegas—On the Las Vegas Strip, the hotel-casino has 2,700 rooms, 10 restaurants, "Legends in Concert. 888-777-7664, www.imperialpalace.com.

208 John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks—Off I-80, gaming, John's Club, eight restaurants, wedding chapel, pool, health club, convention facilities. 800-648-1177, www.janugget.com.

209 Peppermill, Reno—Gaming, seven restaurants, entertainment, pool, spa, salon, senior specials, conventions. 800-648-6992 (mention HNVMAG4), www.PeppermillReno.com.

215 Saddle West, Pahrump—Rooms and suites, restaurant, buffet, RV resort, golf packages, convention facilities, Players Club, and slot tournaments. 800-433-3987 www.saddlewest.com.

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.

229 Cactus Petes Resort, Jackpot—Hotel has 300 rooms and suites, live entertainment, five restaurants, 26,000 square feet of gaming. 800-821-1103, www.cactuspetes.com.

Golf

314 The Resort at Red Hawk, Reno/Sparks—Lakes Course by Robert Trent Jones Jr. offers championship golf to the public. Golf and accommodations packages. 866-GO-2-HAWK or www.TheResortAtRedHAWK.com/F1.

Lodging

402 Lake Tahoe Accommodations—Management for rental properties, rental homes, or condos near skiing, golf, and lake. 800-544-3234, www.laketahoeaccommodations.com.

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403 Bliss Mansion Bed and Breakfast, Carson City—Guests revisit the past, stay in suites with private baths, have gourmet breakfasts. Special parties and weddings. 775-887-8988, www.blissmansion.com.

Shows

506 "Tropical Passions," Sahara Hotel-Casino, Las Vegas—Exotic rhythms, dancers, and live orchestra nightly in the Sahara Showroom. Shows at 7pm, except Tues., plus 9:30pm on Fri. and Sat. Call 702-737-2515 for reservations, groups 702-737-2404, www.saharavegas.com.

Attractions, Galleries, Museums

602 Liberace Museum, Las Vegas—Museum features jewelry, wardrobe, and costumes worn by the late Liberace, car collection, and pianos. 702-798-5595, www.liberace.com.

603 Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Ely—Historic tourist train rides on 32 miles of track. Meetings on wheels for business and weddings. 866-40-STEAM, www.nnry.com.

605 Explore Tonopah—For a free *Tonopah Travel Guide*, call 775-482-9680 or write to Tonopah Development Corporation, P.O. Box 82, Tonopah, NV 89049.

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Events

703 Solitudes, Pioneer Territory—Death Valley, Boundary Peak, mining towns, seven state parks and wilderness areas, mountain biking, skiing, hiking. 800-357-8754, www.pioneerterritory.org.

704 Nevada's Cowboy Country—Lovelock to Wendover, hotels, casinos, gaming, outdoor adventure, ranches, rodeos, Basque culture, gold mines. 877-626-9268, www.cowboycountry.org.

714 Reno Air Races—The 42nd Reno National Championship Air Races and Air Show takes place September 14-18 with six classes of racing. Visit www.airrace.org for details. For Reno Air Races tickets call 775-787-8497 or visit www.ticketmaster.com.

Wedding Chapels

801 Viva Las Vegas Weddings and Viva Las Vegas Villas—Chapel and villas offer traditional, themed, Elvis weddings, limo, flowers, photos. 800-574-4450, www.vivalasvegasweddings.com.

Recreation

901 Lake Mead Cruises—On Lake Mead and near Hoover Dam, *Desert Princess* or *Desert Princess Too*, events, weddings. 702-293-6180, www.lakemeadcruises.com.

902 Tonopah Historic Mining Foundation—Tonopah Historic Mining Park is on site of Belle and Jim Butler's 1900 claim. Self-guided tours. 775-482-9274, www.tonopahnevada.org.

905 Nevada Department of Transportation Bicycle Safety—Information on safety and statewide events. Sells state bicycle jerseys. 775-888-RIDE, www.bicyclenevada.com.

911 Look Tours, Las Vegas—Grand Canyon, Hoover Dam by helicopter or airplane. Bus/van tours, horseback rides, riverboat combos. 800-LOOKTOURS, www.looktours.com.

Restaurants

1001 Louis' Basque Corner—Authentic Basque food served family style in downtown Reno, 301 E. Fourth St., since 1967 Open for dinner nightly and lunch Tues.-Sat. 775-323-7203 for more information.

Real Estate

1101 Liberty Realty Relocation Division—Relocate to Nevada with a team of specialists. For information on available homes, 800-296-1802, www.LibertyRelocationDivision.com.

1103 RE/MAX Ridge Realty, Koleen Peterson, Mesquite—Independent sales associate, call or email for information about homes in Mesquite. 702-499-7997 koleen@sisna.com for more information.

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.

Business Services

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The Wheel Story

When ***Wheel of Fortune*** rolled into Las Vegas, I took a spin

By Deborah Wall



As I walked across the stage in front of 1,500 *Wheel of Fortune* fans, my heart started pounding. After what seemed like an eternity, I reached the wheel, took a deep breath, and gave it a spin. The wheel was heavier than I expected, but after I put some muscle into it, the wheel whirled merrily just as it does for Pat Sajak, Vanna White, and more than 16 million television viewers in the U.S. every day.

I made the spin when the Wheel, as its fans call the show, rolled into Las Vegas last January. Film crews taped 15 shows over three days at the Las Vegas Hilton. Their visit gave me the chance to observe one of the many television shows filmed periodically in Glitter City.

Chatting with the crew before the show, I put my toughest question to Pat Sajak. Why is *Wheel of Fortune*, with perhaps the simplest format on American television, so enduringly popular? Sajak pointed out that its simplicity makes it attractive. "I defy you to walk by the TV when it's on," he said.



The author spins on *Wheel of Fortune's* glittering set at the Las Vegas Hilton. Top: Vanna White poses with a good answer.

I also had the chance to talk with Vanna White. The most famous letter-turner in the world seemed different from the Vanna we see on stage, if equally charming. She wore casual clothes and only a touch of makeup. Instead of a mostly silent beauty, I encountered a talkative and lively person.

Vanna said she enjoys Las Vegas. "I love the restaurants, the entertainment, and I especially like to gamble. Blackjack and craps, but nothing serious. I gamble for fun," she said. Had she played the Wheel of Fortune slot machine? "No," she replied with a big grin, "because what would I do if I won?"

While Pat, Vanna, and the contestants were on camera, more than 200 people worked behind the scenes. The producers brought 110 staff and crew members from California and hired another 100 locally. Despite the large staff, executive producer

PHOTOS: Wheel of Fortune

Harry Friedman told me, "each time we leave California, it's working without a net." And, sure enough, one big glitch did occur—on the first day the puzzle board went dark.

While the crew fixed the problem, Vanna talked to the audience. After three men yelled, "I love you, Vanna," and other showgoers asked her questions, mostly of a personal nature, Vanna responded gracefully. We learned that she has two young children who are unawed by her celebrity. She is single but has a boyfriend and may soon remarry. She told women asking about her wardrobe that she never wears the same gown or dress twice, at least on TV. The biggest change since she started the job in 1982, Vanna said, was that she no longer had to wear big hair and shoulder pads.

The puzzle board read, 'C_m_d_ _n D_n R_ckles.' This was a no-brainer, and Miller was ready.

Later I watched the featured local contestant, Kathleen Miller, a 27-year-old air force staff sergeant. Then at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, Miller previously was stationed at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas. She auditioned for the show when the *Wheelmobile*, a 32-foot Winnebago, visited Nellis last fall.

Miller was on a roll by halftime. She already had won a trip to Portugal, a $1,000 shopping spree, and more than $8,000 cash, and she quickly racked up another $19,000 in the "Proper Name" category.

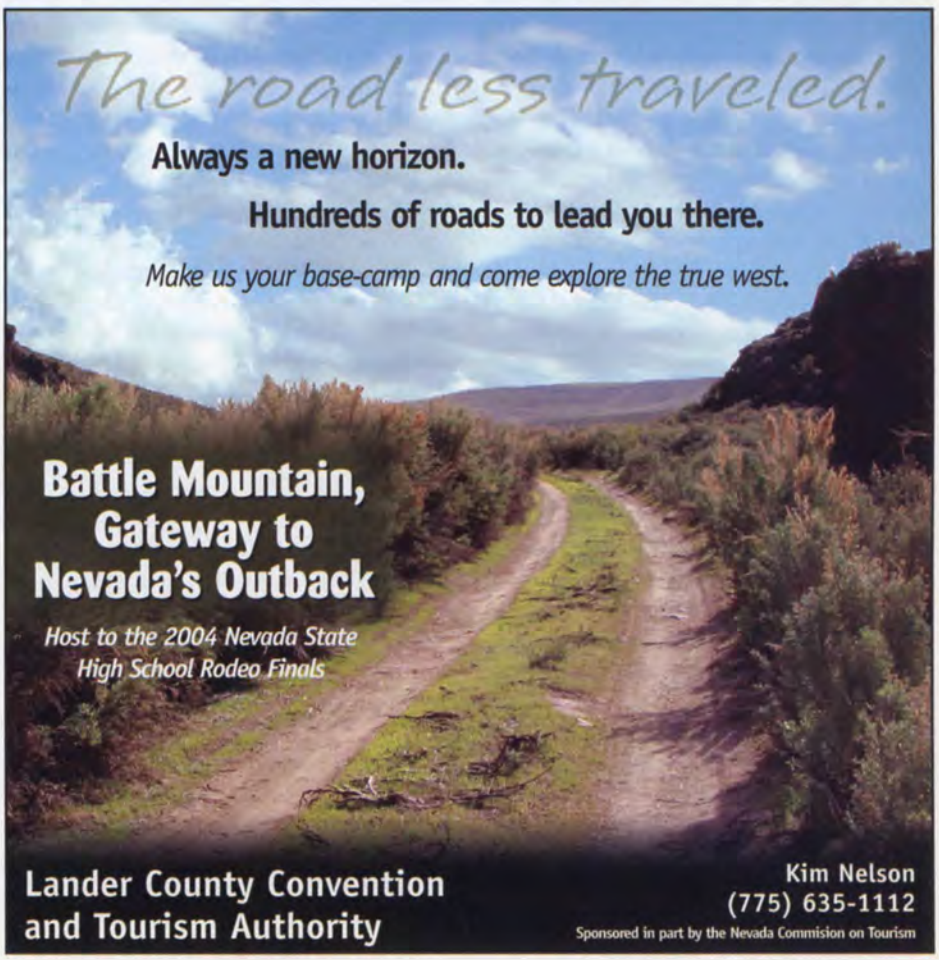
The puzzle board read, "C_m_d_ _n D_n R_ckles." This was a no-brainer, and Miller was ready. She shouted, "Comedian Don Ruckles!" The audience gasped. She was only one letter off, but it cost her $19,000. The next contestant correctly guessed, "Comedian Don Rickles."

After the show, I congratulated Miller on her performance and asked how it felt to come so close to winning the big money.

"I had a really good time—it was a good experience," Miller said cheerfully. She did not appear the least bit depressed. And to my surprise, neither was I.

Deborah Wall is a Boulder City resident and the author of Great Hikes: A Cerca Country Guide *(Stephens Press, 2004).*





Tahoe's Great Estate

Visitors can tour m lionaire playboy George Whittell's lakeside retreat.

By Wilma LaRocca





Thunderbird Lodge sits on Lake Tahoe's east shore (above). Visitors can take tours of the estate until October (right).

Fountains and a waterfall catch the summer breeze off Lake Tahoe and cool the flagstone walkways around the **Thunderbird Lodge**. Millionaire George Whittell Jr. built this retreat in the late 1930s on Tahoe's east shore. Today the lodge is a national historic site and open for tours—some arriving by boat.

When Whittell enlisted Reno architect Frederick DeLongchamps to design the lodge, the initial plan called for a one-story cottage. However, the plan changed. "George never engaged someone to build something and not get involved in the process," says Diane Kinney, president of the board of directors of the Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society. "George determined what he wanted along the way." DeLongchamps was flexible, and the cottage turned into a two-story mansion surrounded by walkways and buildings.

Whittell hired Native American stonemasons to build walls and patios, Italian ironworkers to forge artistic decorations, and Scandinavian wood workers to install balconies and exposed rafters. The result is an eclectic design with the Tudor and Adirondack-cabin influences that were fashionable at the time.

Heir to a San Francisco real-estate fortune, Whittell was an impulsive and eccentric homeowner. His *Thunderbird*, a mahogany craft with dual airplane engines, was the fastest yacht on the lake. He installed radio speakers and annoyed his neighbors by blaring music. Hidden microphones let him eavesdrop on guests and servants. He collected wild animals as pets. A lion named Bill was his favorite.

In 1936 Whittell controlled nearly one-third of the Lake Tahoe Basin. As he grew older and more reclusive, he abandoned a plan to build a hotel-casino at Sand Harbor. Instead, he left the land untouched. He donated vast tracts of the east shore that are now part of Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park and U.S. Forest Service lands. Kinney says, "There will be no development around here, and to me that's George Whittell's great legacy, whether by intention or accident."

The tours of the lodge visit the great room, bedrooms, servants' quarters, and the original kitchen. A stroll through a 600-foot tunnel leads to the Card House and the boathouse, summer home of the *Thunderbird*. The former cook and butler's house is now the Museum Store.

The nonprofit Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society is working to restore the property to its original condition. Conferences, parties, and weddings may be scheduled. Visit www.thunderbirdlodge.org for information.

Touring the Lodge

Reservations-only tours of the Thunderbird Lodge are conducted from May through October. Reservations should be made two weeks in advance, and tours are limited to 20 persons. Tour takers should note that the flagstone walkways are uneven in places, and some stairways are steep and don't have railings. Walking shoes are recommended.

To reach the lodge, tour takers must take either a shuttle bus or the *Tahoe* tour boat. Those taking the shuttle meet at the Incline Village/Crystal Bay Visitors Center. Tickets cost $25 adults, $10 children. Plan to arrive 30 minutes early. Call 800-GO-TAHOE for reservations.

The outing on the antique wooden motor yacht, the *Tahoe*, includes breakfast and lunch for $95 adults and $49 children. The *Tahoe* embarks from Tahoe Keys Marina on the south shore and the Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe on the north. Call Woodwind Cruises, 888-867-6394 or 775-588-1881, for details.

Wilma LaRocca, Nevada *staff writer, marveled at the Thunderbird Lodge's 1930s bathtub that can't be entered without a ladder.*

PHOTOS: Chris Talbot (top), Christy Fockler/Thunderbird Lodge Preservation Society (middle)

Where's the Beach?



ZEPHYR COVE BEACH AT LAKE TAHOE BY LARRY ANGIER

Nevada Magazine Readers Know

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Pool Games

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Swim Suits Hot players can cool off at two swim-up blackjack tables in the Tropicana Hotel's main pool this summer in Las Vegas. Players and observers can order mai tais, margaritas, and drinks like the Tropical Meltdown at the Tropics Bar. The pool is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and blackjack play begins at 11 a.m. For more information call 702-739-2222 or visit www.tropicanalv.com. The Trop has provided aquatic gaming since the mid-1980s.

Room and Bard

Two Reno-Tahoe area hotels are offering room-and-show packages for the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival, which plays at Sand Harbor July 14 to August 21. From Sunday to Thursday the **Cal-Neva Resort** in Crystal Bay has a one-night "Shakespeare Package" for $99 per person, which includes a room and one admission to the performance. A two-night weekend (Friday and Saturday) package includes dinner and breakfast for $289 per person. Packages at **John Ascuaga's Nugget** in Sparks begin at $99.99 per person and include transportation to Sand Harbor.

This year the festival will present its first tragedy, "Macbeth," as well as "Comedy of Errors." Call 800-74-SHOWS or visit www.laketahoeshakespeare.com for festival details. Call the Cal-Neva Resort (800-225-6382) or John Ascuaga's Nugget (775-356-3300 or 800-648-1177) for show packages.

Topless Pools

Visitors to Las Vegas who enjoy European-style, topless sunbathing have a choice of poolside retreats. Three hotels on the Strip—Caesars Palace, Mandalay Bay, and the Stratosphere—offer adult pools where women can get a golden glow with no tan lines. Guests (male and female) must be 21 or older. The pools, open daily, are generally admission-free and restricted to guests, although you might be admitted as a friend of a guest. Bring along your sunscreen but not your camera.

Topless sunbathers at **Caesars Palace** can mellow out in the company of like-minded adults at the Venus Pool, a fit-for-the-gods natatorium with green lawns, fountains, and marble statues. The poolside cabanas are equipped with refrigerators, TVs, and lounge chairs. 800-634-6661, 702-731-7110, www.caesarspalace.com.

Mandalay Bay's Moorea Beach Club is located on the 11-acre Mandalay Beach. The club's island-paradise theme encourages guests to relax or play in the pool with other top-free sunbathers. To beat the heat you can sip a South-Seas drink, or try the chilled towels. 877-632-7800, 702-632-7777 www.mandalaybay.com.

The Beach Club 25's secluded pool is perched on the 25th floor of the **Stratosphere's** World Tower with great views of Las Vegas. Besides sunbathing and swimming you can play table tennis or water volleyball or work out at the fitness center. Men pay $10 admission. 800-998-6937 702-380-7777 www.stratosphereho tel.com for information.—*Wilma LaRocca*

Connected in Laughlin

Colorado Belle guests can stay connected with the world outside Laughlin thanks to new Internet kiosks and wireless access located in an enclosed breezeway. Wireless laptop users and guests with BlackBerrys can use the "hotspot" for $9.99 for 24 hours. For details call 866-352-3553 or visit www.coloradobelle.com.

Puff-free Poker

Poker players at **Boomtown** can stare down their opponents more easily now that the casino's Poker Corral has gone smoke-free. The nonsmoking card room holds Texas hold 'em tournaments every Tuesday, Friday, and Sunday, and Poker Players 55 Club members can earn room, dining, and gift-shop discounts. Boomtown is seven miles west of Reno on Interstate 80. For information call 800-648-3790 or visit www.boomtownreno.com.

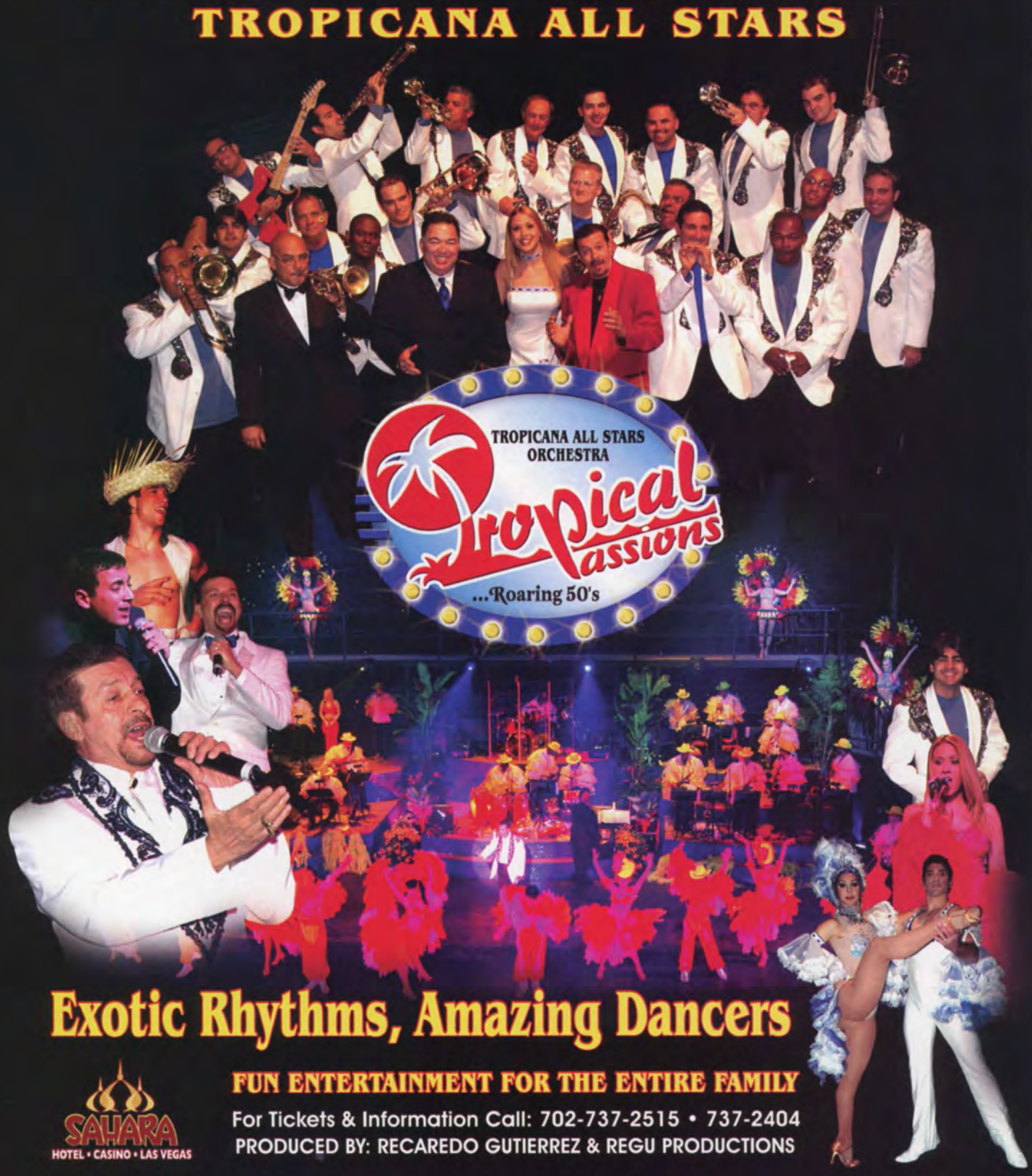
Hot Spa

Spa Vita di Lago at the Ritz-Carlton, Lake Las Vegas in Henderson was accorded four stars in the *2005 Mobil Travel Guide's America's Best Hotel and Resort Spas*. The Spa Vita di Lago has 24 treatment rooms, fitness facilities, and a salon. Room-and-spa packages are available. Call 702-567-4600 for spa reservations.

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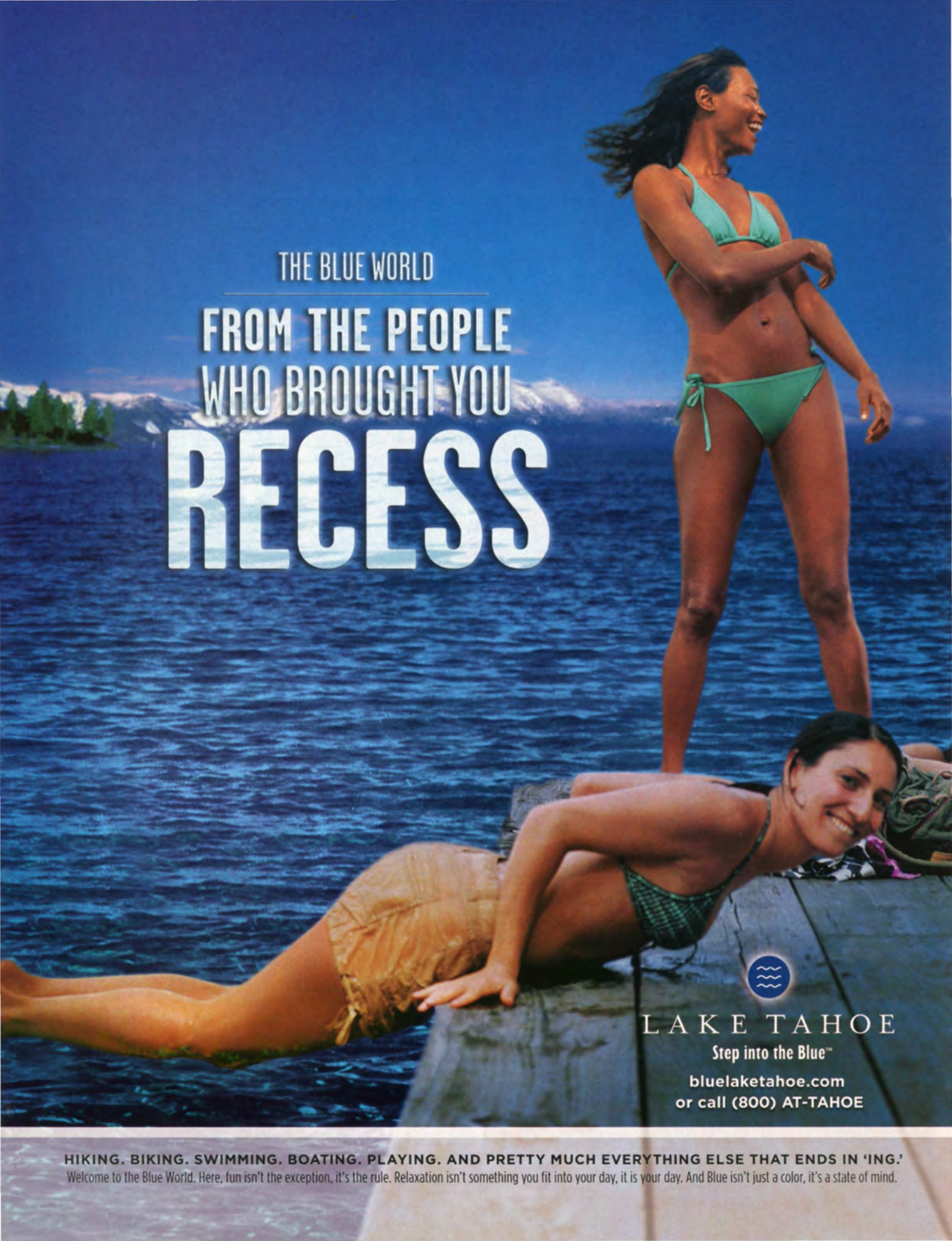
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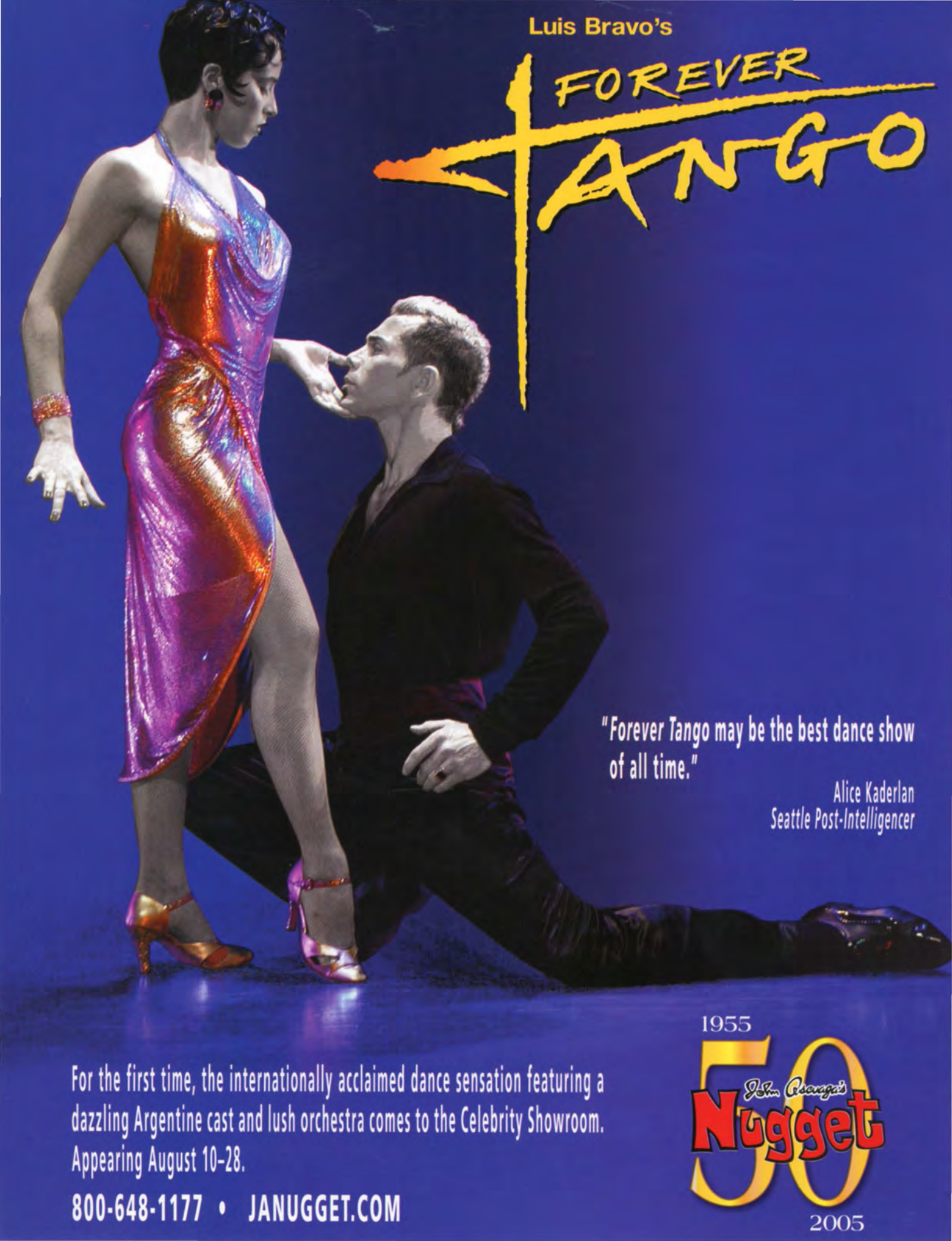
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