

Las Vegas Girls' Night Out • Extreme Floods • Cordon Bleu Café

# NEVADA

MAGAZINE

February 2006

**INSIDE:**  
Complete  
Statewide  
Guide to  
**Events  
and  
Shows**

## Are You a Survivor?

**20** great ways to explore  
the **Loneliest Road**  
in America

**Celebrities  
Say 'I Do'**  
in Vegas

**Buckaroo  
Roundup**  
in Elko

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## AUSTIN

Once one of Nevada's most prosperous mining camps, Austin is a popular mountain biking area and also the gateway to the Toiyabe Crest Trail. The town's historic buildings include churches erected in the 1860s and 1870s, Stokes Castle, an unusual, three-story tower built in 1897 and Gridley Store, constructed in 1863.



## EUREKA

A mid-19th century lead and silver mining center, Eureka is one of Nevada's best-preserved mining camps with dozens of historical sites. The Eureka Opera House was built in 1880 and is now used as a convention center and cultural art center. The original Eureka Courthouse, built in 1879, is still in use, and the Eureka Sentinel Museum and local cemeteries are both points of great interest.



## ELY

One of eastern Nevada's recreation hubs, Ely began as a mining and railway community. Nearby attractions include Cave Lake State Park, popular for fishing, camping, hiking and biking, and the Schell Creek Range, known for its hunting. Take a ride on the Nevada Northern Railway, an early 20th century shortline railroad that once served local copper mines.



## BAKER

Located at the eastern edge of Highway 50 in Nevada, Baker serves as the entrance to Great Basin National Park, where you'll find Lehman Caves and their amazing limestone formations. The park's Wheeler Peak is home to the only glacier in the Great Basin, as well as two alpine lakes and several groves of Bristlecone Pines, some as old as 4,000 years.



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## Publisher's Note/Farewell

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It's funny, but while *Nevada Magazine* does a good job of spreading the word about the state's best attractions and special events, we rarely share anything about our staff with readers.

Case in point is the magazine's editor, Dave Moore. For most of the past 28 years, Dave has been the person most responsible for assigning and editing the wonderful stories that appear in *Nevada Magazine*. He also has served as a walking editorial index (he can recall the issue when just about any story has appeared in the magazine), as well as staff writer, chief copy editor, and editorial compass. One of his gifts is the ability to tighten, focus, and improve stories. Over the years, he has nurtured and encouraged countless new writers as well as sharpened the works of more experienced scribes. His modest, humble demeanor has allowed him to work well with every magazine contributor and extract the very best from each.

So, it is with mixed emotions that I announce that Dave is retiring from *Nevada Magazine*. While he has certainly earned the right to say goodbye to the deadlines and daily grind of the magazine world, I speak for all of the magazine staff in saying

that we wish it weren't so. For nearly three decades, Dave has been at the heart of *Nevada Magazine*. His knowledge of the state is vast, and his talents as editor unsurpassed. It has truly been a pleasure being able to work with Dave for so many years. He will be greatly missed.

Starting next issue, Joyce Hollister will be the new editor of *Nevada Magazine*. Joyce, who has served as our associate editor for the last four years, is a veteran Nevada journalist and member of the Nevada Newspaper Hall of Fame. I am confident that Joyce will not only maintain the high standards established by her predecessor but she will also impart her own editorial vision.

Richard Moreno, Publisher



Rich Moreno

Dave Moore

## Contributors



**Mark McLaughlin**, a Lake Tahoe photographer and author, loves history and the weather. He writes about both in books and in newspaper and magazine articles such as "Tales of Flood and Guts," this issue's look at some of Nevada's most devastating floods. "My love of snowstorms, skiing, and the dynamics of the mountain climate is what drew me here nearly 30 years ago," the Philadelphia native says. Recently McLaughlin researched the story of Reno skiers who joined the 10th Mountain Division in World War II. His fifth history book, *Snowbound*, is set in the High Sierra.

When entertainment reporter **Lyn Collier** set out to research Las Vegas' male revues for "Girls' Night Out," she and three pals joined the crowds of screaming women at "Thunder From Down Under," "Chippendales," and "American Storm," where male dancers flex their rippling muscles and peel off their clothes. Her friends, Collier says, began giggling like junior high schoolers. One of them frequently yelled, "Take it off, boys!" Collier, a copy editor for View newspapers in Las Vegas, was more restrained. "After 'Thunder,'" she says, "I packed earplugs."

Twenty-five friends and family members joined **Susan Marg** and her husband, James C. Simmons, when they renewed their vows at the Viva Las Vegas Wedding Chapel in 2003. "An Elvis impersonator led the ceremony and serenaded us with 'The Hawaiian Wedding Song,'" Marg says. The Del Mar, California, writer describes celebrity weddings in "My Famous Valentine," an excerpt from her book, *Las Vegas Weddings: A Brief History, Celebrity Gossip, Everything Elvis, and the Complete Chapel Guide*. More Sin City quips and quotes will follow in her next book, *Everyone's Talking About Las Vegas*.





# Letters

Cool **Vegas**, a Nevada **golfing** tour, and searching for **photo tips**.

## So Cool

My girlfriends and I recall lots of good times dancing at the Club Rio in the mid-1990s. Although we didn't know we were part of a new trend in Las Vegas, as described by Mike Weatherford in last issue's "So Hot, So Cool, So Vegas," we did think we were pretty hot stuff. Even now, older and wiser, we enjoy a girlfriends' weekend jaunt to Vegas occasionally.

**Janet W. Davis**  
Los Angeles

## A Photographer's Request

It would be nice if *Nevada's* photo features, such as "Let It Snow" in the last issue, would give the camera settings that the photographers used on their pictures. That way the rest of us less-talented folks could learn a bit from their experience.

**Larry Polmateer**  
Mesquite

## Mark Your Calendar

I enjoy *Nevada Magazine's* Historical Calendar. Just one minor detail: The October 2005 page shows the office of the Sunset Telephone Company in Sparks and is dated 1905. Looking at the hairdos of the operators and the sleeveless dress of the operator on the right, I would think the photo had to be from the 1920s. Pre-World War I women wore their hair pinned up, and they dressed in long skirts and blouses. I also noted the venting system of the stove. It apparently wasn't part of the plans when the building was built.

But I love the calendar—keep up the good work.

**Fred C. Buck**  
Reno

*Fred, thanks for your letter. We checked with the City of Sparks and learned the photograph was not dated. However, the reference to "faster than flight" on the poster in the photo should have tipped us off. While the Wright Brothers' first sustained flight took place in 1903, air service was not yet common in 1905.—Ed.*

## Tee Times

A couple of years ago I wrote a letter about playing the Lincoln County Golf Course, which I had read about in *Nevada Magazine*. Because the Pioche course has no grass, you hit the ball off carpet mats.



This photo of Sunset Telephone operators in Sparks may have been taken in the 1920s.

For our Nevada golfing vacation last August, we visited the Walker Lake Golf Course in Hawthorne, where we enjoyed the small-town Mayberry feel. On Saturday night, the residents pulled up lawn chairs to the town's only red light to watch the cars go by. The Walker Lake Golf Course was a surprise located inside the Army Ammunition Depot. After

being cleared by security, we found a beautiful nine-hole golf course. Many trees lined the fairways, and at the 19th hole the locals made friendly conversation. Then we traveled south to Pahrump, a growing town with several golf courses and even a Wal-Mart. We took advantage of the Pahrump Nugget's golf and room package and played Willow Creek, which was a long course, yet forgiving off the tee because of its wide fairways. Willow Creek also had a wonderful 19th hole.

Next summer we'll be back, checking out other Nevada golf courses.

**Nicholas Novosel**  
Los Angeles

**How to Submit Letters:** Readers are encouraged to send their comments on stories and photos in the magazine. Please write "Letters to the Editor," Nevada Magazine, 401 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701-4291; fax 775-687-6159; e-mail [jhollister@nevadamagazine.com](mailto:jhollister@nevadamagazine.com).



# Buckaroo Blast

Photographer  
**Charlie Ekburg**  
follows the  
crowd at the  
National  
Cowboy  
Poetry  
Gathering  
in Elko.





Pedro Marquez, a poet-musician from Santa Fe, New Mexico, entertains Elko schoolchildren in the G Three Bar Theater during the 2004 National Cowboy Poetry Gathering.

Charlie Ekborg won't be wearing a cowboy hat to the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering on January 22-February 4 in Elko, but he will be carrying a couple of cameras as he mingles with the buckaroo crowd at the Western Folklife Center and the Elko Convention Center.

"The people at the gathering are very animated," says Ekborg, a Cowboy Poetry regular. "I like to anticipate things and make sure I'm ready when the moment is there."

A geologist and 30-year resident of the Elko area, Ekborg helped locate gold deposits for some of the big Newmont mines in Northeastern Nevada. He and his wife, Sandy, live in Spring Creek and operate Sweet Light Photography ([www.sweetlightphotography.com](http://www.sweetlightphotography.com)). This January he'll be back at the folklife center's Pioneer Saloon, looking for subjects. "The entertainers congregate there, and so do the fans," Ekborg says. "It's a lot of cowboy hats." ▀



Left: Chris "Prairie Flower" Stevenson and Cactus Bob Cole, members of Sourdough Slim and the Saddle Pals, play in the Pioneer Saloon. Right: Merlin Rupp stands in the bar with an armful of handmade ropes.

# Out of the Bleu

Las Vegas culinary

students serve lunch and dinner at **Le Cordon Bleu**. By Joan Patterson



A blue entranceway greets visitors to Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts Las Vegas. Right: Chef Heinz Lauer (left) and students Alan Minson and Kahealani Gorai.



Ten miles northwest of the Las Vegas Strip stands a suburban office park whose mirrored glass and stucco exterior could be plopped down in any Southwestern city.

However, one building cuts through its generic surroundings like a sharp knife through goose liver. As you stand beneath the blue entranceway and smell the roasting garlic and freshly baked bread, you realize this is no dentist's office—this is bliss. The building houses **Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts**, and the aromas come from Café Bleu, where chefs-in-waiting prepare and serve meals to everyone from tourists off the beaten path to locals doing lunch in crisp business wear.

Diners sit before linen tablecloths and choose dishes that could easily come from hotels on that world-famous boulevard to the southeast: pan-roasted salmon on French lentils, crab and spinach cassoulet, and lavender-roasted rack of lamb. Even the sandwiches have a gourmet flair. The

Croque Monsieur is a classic French grilled ham and gruyère creation drizzled with Mornay sauce. Caramelized onion mayonnaise and crisp Yukon Gold chips give the Café Bleu Beef Slider a special *je ne sais crois*.

The student-run restaurant is the public face of Le Cordon Bleu. The world-famous school settled in Sin City two years ago, and for those who have watched Vegas' culinary scene evolve in the past 10 years, the move makes sense.

"Las Vegas is becoming the food capital of the world," says Heinz Lauer, the school's executive chef. "The caliber of incredible chefs that we have in this town is just phenomenal."

Many students at Le Cordon Bleu take advantage of the city's growing culinary opportunities after they graduate. Recently, Kahealani Gorai, a six-year Las Vegas resident, chopped spinach and garlic for stuffed ravioli in a Culinary II class. As a child growing up in Hawaii, she

"I decided to make a **career change** from high heels to **steel-toed boots.**"

cooked for her three older brothers while her mom was at work. Now, at 37 the former flight attendant hopes to turn her love of cooking into a new life.

"I was with United for 17 years. I saw what was going on with the airlines and decided maybe my job wasn't so secure," Gorai says. "I decided to make a career change from high heels to steel-toed boots," she says, referring to the students' footwear of choice.

Nearby, Alan Minson, a bearded man in his late 40s, hunches over a shiny steel table tying string around a piece of top round for *brijole*, an Italian simmered meat dish. Minson says he quit his job

of 20 years as a parts manager for a farm equipment company and came to Vegas to become a chef, even though there's a Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Austin, Texas, not far from his home.

"Where the school is speaks for itself. They have nice restaurants in Austin, but it's just not like here," says Minson, who will return home to his wife and teen-age son when he finishes the school's 15-month program this spring.



Students can watch chefs demonstrate techniques on overhead plasma screens.

Along with the 125-seat café, Le Cordon Bleu has classrooms, six production kitchens, and four demonstration kitchens. Instructors are filmed by overhead cameras, so every slice and dice is broadcast, live, on plasma television screens, giving students a bird's-eye view of the cooking techniques.

Of course, it all comes down to the food, and food is everywhere—from the linen-covered tables of Café Bleu to the popcorn machine in the lobby.

Diane Richardson, an admissions officer, walked by one of the kitchens during a recent tour and saw a group of students eating their freshly-made gourmet pizzas. She broke into a wide grin.

"You know what I had yesterday for lunch?" Richardson says. "Salmon in champagne sauce, chicken marsala, and veal in raspberry sauce. And I get to do this every day."

## Bon Appétit

**C**afé Bleu offers classic, vegetarian, and heart-smart dishes with prices ranging from \$4 to \$11. The café is open Tuesday to Friday for lunch and dinner inside Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts Las Vegas, 1451 Center Crossing Road ([www.vegasculinary.com](http://www.vegasculinary.com)). For reservations call 702-851-5322.

*Joan Patterson is a Las Vegas freelance writer. Her story "Swinging With the Mary Kay Trio" appeared in May/June 2005.*

# Halibut au Bleu

Students at Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts Las Vegas study Pacific Rim cooking as well as classic French and Italian cuisine. Following is a fish dish prepared at the school.



## Steamed Halibut with Vegetables, Soba Noodles, and Asian Broth

- 6 halibut fillets, 4 ounces each
- 6 nori (dried seaweed for sushi) cut in strips, 1 inch wide
- 1/4 cup carrot, cut into thin strips
- 1/4 cup leek, cut into thin strips
- 1/4 cup zucchini, green only, cut into thin strips
- 1/4 cup yellow squash, yellow only, cut into thin strips
- 4 shiitake mushrooms, stemmed, thinly sliced
- 1 soba noodle bundle, cooked al dente and cooled
- 2 green onions, cut fine on a bias
- 2 tablespoons ginger, minced finely
- 2 tablespoons garlic, minced finely
- 6 ounces sake
- 6 ounces soy sauce

- 12 ounces fish stock (or diluted clam juice)
- 1 teaspoon sesame oil
- 3 ounces sugar

Wrap nori around the fish's middle, like a black belt. Keep chilled. Make soy liquid by combining ginger, garlic, green onion, sake, fish stock, soy, sesame, and sugar. Mix the vegetables with soba noodles and pour the soy liquid over it. Place in an oven-proof dish with the fish on top. Tightly cover with foil or a lid. Place in a 400-degree oven for about 10 minutes depending on thickness of fish. Do this just before serving. Serve in a deep, wide-rimmed bowl with vegetables on the bottom and liquid on top and around the dish. Top with fish.

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# People

An Austin **promoter** and a Las Vegas **star maker**



Elizabeth Rassiga wears a taffeta gown and a hat with bird feathers as she stands in front of her Austin summer home, the former Mollinilli House, built in 1864 (above). Right: Two women and a child pose at the house in 1898.

"I now know people who lived 140 years ago."



## Austin Advocate

**E**lizabeth Rassiga remembers her first encounter with Austin's residents of yesteryear. Standing at the gate of her summer home in Austin were two women from the 1890s, each holding the hand of a child.

"It hit me—that's them," she says.

Ghosts? No. Rassiga was looking at an old photograph of her Austin house at the University of Nevada, Reno's special collections library. "It was magic for me," the Reno resident recalls, "kind of like falling in love with a place and time and people."

Collecting evidence of Austin's past has been Rassiga's passion ever since. Her gumshoeing has taken her to libraries and museums in Nevada, California, Utah,

Washington, New Hampshire, Minnesota, and Washington, D.C. She has obtained old diaries, furniture, bottles, and even breast pumps. Her vintage clothing collection features petticoats and hoop skirts. She even wears some of it on special occasions like the Austin Historical Society's annual dinner in December.

Rassiga now is using diaries, letters, and journals she has researched to write what she calls "biographies" of the town's pioneers. She says, "I now know people who lived 140 years ago."

She commissioned Reno artist Erik Holland to create paintings of Austin's historic buildings, which she has turned into a series of greeting cards called, "Where's Austin, Nevada?" Available in Austin shops and at the Sierra Arts Gallery and the

Nevada Museum of Art store in Reno, the cards are "little billboards and cookie crumbs leading to Austin," she says.

Rassiga hopes to see you in Austin soon. If you go, bring a change of clothes for the 19th century. She may want you to meet some old friends.—*Dana Magliari*

## Flowers Power

**A** decisive moment in **Kim Flowers'** life came when she was 12 years old and went to live in Las Vegas with her uncle, Joe Louis, aka the "Brown Bomber." The former heavyweight champ gave Flowers a stable home and introduced her to show business. He often told her stories of his friendship with singer Billie Holiday and other jazz greats.



Kim Flowers, the first African American woman to open a John Robert Powers talent academy, was a dancer and line captain in "Jubilee!" at Bally's.

Entertainers like Frank Sinatra and Diana Ross were frequent guests at their home.

"When my uncle embraced me as his daughter, my life changed forever," Flowers says. "He taught me some valuable things. You have to value your work, and you have to be good at it."

**"Being in 'Jubilee!' gave me the discipline to perform at a top level, and then I started traveling the world."**

Flowers, who graduated from Bishop Gorman High School, attended the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and went on to a long career as a model, actor, singer, dancer, and manager. Her first professional contract was as a dancer and line captain in "Jubilee!" at Bally's. Flowers says, "Being in 'Jubilee!' gave me the discipline to perform at a top level, and then I started traveling the world."

Flowers found that many would-be entertainers didn't know how to break into show business, so in 1996 she opened a John Robert Powers talent academy in Las Vegas. She has since acquired three others, in Reno, Pasadena, California, and

Jacksonville, Florida. In 2004 she won Powers "Owner of the Year" and "School of the Year" awards.

Flowers trains adult and youth actors, singers, and models, and as a personal manager she connects them to agents in Los Angeles and New York. She emphasizes dedication and self-discipline.

"I can tell a model what it will take to be successful," she laughs, "but I don't get to go home with her to see if she's eating chips and pasta."

Several of Flowers' students have found initial success in Hollywood. Last year Becca Gardner, a student at the Reno academy, played Jennifer Lopez's daughter in *An Unfinished Life*, which co-starred Robert Redford and Morgan Freeman. Tyler Steelman of Reno was cast in the upcoming film *Beowulf* starring Angelina Jolie and John Malkovich. Conner Rayburn of Las Vegas portrays Jim Belushi's son in ABC's *According to Jim*. Flowers also manages the career of her teenage daughter, Chanel.

Flowers plans to open a larger Las Vegas office in May. "I didn't know that helping others also would turn out to be so incredible for me," she says. "At 45, it's like, 'What do you do with the second half of your life?'" —*Joyce Hollister* ♥

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# Roadside Attractions

Ice cream in Las Vegas, **Rhyolite's** Pink Lady, and Tahoe snowmobiling.



## Big Enough to Share

**A**shley Sands (left), Liz Casis, and Megan Briggs of Henderson dig into a Giant Messy Sundae at **Sammy's Woodfired Pizza**. The dessert is a gooey mixture of vanilla ice cream, chocolate sauce, whipped cream, and nuts spilling out of an over-sized tulip dish. Besides sundaes and pizza, you can order the eatery's new tapas, including coconut shrimp skewers and pan-fried pork dumplings. Sammy's has two locations, 6500 West Sahara Avenue in Las Vegas (702-227-6000) and 4300 East Sunset Road in Henderson (702-450-6664).

## Pioneer's Nugget

CARSON CITY—The thumb-sized gold nugget that led to Nevada's first gold rush is on permanent display in the Nevada State Museum. Discovered on June 1, 1850, by Mormon pioneer John Orr, the .68-ounce nugget is exhibited in the history gallery.



Orr was on his way to California when the wagon train he was traveling with stopped in Carson Valley to wait for snow to clear from mountain passes. He and several others passed the time by prospecting in

The gold nugget found in Gold Canyon in 1850 is on display at the Nevada State Museum.

a canyon near present-day Dayton, where William Prows had earlier discovered gold flakes. Orr idly poked his butcher knife into a creek, breaking off a piece of a rock that had covered the nugget. The nugget proved to be worth \$8.25, a large sum for the time.

The Nevada State Museum occupies the former U.S. Mint in downtown Carson City. Call 775-687-4810 or visit [www.nevada.culture.org](http://www.nevada.culture.org) for hours and admission fees.

## Hot Cars

Picture yourself in a Ferrari. Really. At **Exotic Cars of Caesars Palace**, you can have your photo taken in one of the Italian sports cars. Visitors are admitted free to the two-tiered showroom, where luxury cars such as Ferraris, Porsches, Shelby Cobras, and Lamborghinis are displayed. The dealership in the Forum Shops at Caesars on the Las Vegas Strip is open daily. Call 702-732-4314 for car-fancier information.



## Shepherders Gathering

**D**enyse Koyle, who has owned the Border Inn on U.S. 50 at the Nevada-Utah border for 30 years, remembers winters when shepherders were her only customers on Friday and Saturday nights. To thank them and to preserve their stories of herding sheep in Northeastern Nevada and Western Utah, Koyle hosts the annual **Old Shepherders Party** on January 20. Call 775-234-7300 for information.

# Ski Capers

This winter, Lake Tahoe's ski resorts will hold not only serious races and freestyle events but also funny fashion shows, ski duels between valentines, and chefs cooking and serving while they ski to the finish line. Here is a sampling of light-hearted events for skiers and boarders.

**Mt. Rose-Ski Tahoe** has three goofy dress-up events. The first is **Ski With Elvis Day** on January 7. To help celebrate Elvis Presley's birthday (January 8), staff members appear in jumpsuits and high-collar capes as they issue lift tickets and fit skis. Skiers and boarders can dress like the King, too. Elvis appears everywhere, sometimes wearing chrome shades and sideburns.

To prepare for Mt. Rose's third annual **Slide Back '80s Retro Ski Party** on February 11, some girls will squeeze into hot-pink stretch pants and feather their hair as a salute to the decade of Madonna and Michael Jackson, New Coke and Cabbage Patch Dolls. Contestants can win up to \$500 in ski clothing (775-849-0704).

Valentine's Day sweetheart races offer prizes and friendly competition at several resorts on February 14. **Northstar's** free **Valentine's Fun Race** is for intermediate and advanced skiers. Entry is free with the price of a lift ticket (530-562-1010). At **Heavenly's** annual **Sweetheart Race** couples can race each other or in the name of a beloved (775-586-7000). The **Valentine's Day Race** at **Diamond Peak** keeps couples happy with two-for-the-price-of-one lift tickets (775-832-1177).

On March 8 at **Northstar** local chefs and their assistants compete in the **Great Chef's Race**, an all-day event that combines racing and cooking. Each four-person team must have at least one female member or a man in drag. The top prize is the coveted Chef's Knife (530-562-1010).—*Wilma LaRocca*



# Skiing Around the State

A Guide to Nevada and Tahoe Basin Ski Areas.

## 2005-2006 Downhill Skier's Guide

| Area                    | Web Site                 | Phone        | Top Elevation | Vertical Feet | Lifts | Rating Bg-Int-Adv | Lift Price Adult/Y/Child | Rentals Skis/Board  |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|-------|-------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <b>TAHOE BASIN</b>      |                          |              |               |               |       |                   |                          |   |
| Alpine Meadows          | www.skialpine.com        | 530-583-4232 | 8,637         | 1,802         | 14    | 25-40-35          | \$41/\$39/\$15           | \$32/\$38   |
| Boreal                  | www.borealski.com        | 530-426-3666 | 7,700         | 500           | 9     | 30-55-15          | \$38-\$10                | \$32/\$35   |
| Diamond Peak            | www.diamondpeak.com      | 775-831-3211 | 8,540         | 1,840         | 6     | 18-46-36          | \$46/\$36/\$17           | \$30/\$34   |
| Donner Ski Ranch        | www.donnerskiranch.com   | 530-426-3635 | 7,751         | 750           | 6     | 25-50-25          | \$25/\$20/\$8            | \$27/\$32   |
| Granlibakken            | www.granlibakken.com     | 530-583-4242 | 6,480         | 280           | 1     | 50-50-0           | \$20/\$12                | \$22/\$17/\$4   |
| Heavenly                | www.skiheavenly.com      | 775-586-7000 | 10,067        | 3,500         | 30    | 20-45-35          | \$70/\$58/\$36           | \$30/\$33   |
| Homewood Mountain       | www.skihomewood.com      | 530-525-2992 | 7,880         | 1,650         | 8     | 15-50-35          | \$44/\$30/free           | \$28/\$35   |
| Kirkwood                | www.kirkwood.com         | 209-258-6000 | 9,800         | 2,000         | 12    | 15-50-35          | \$61/\$49/\$13           | \$31/\$37   |
| Mt. Rose/Ski Tahoe      | www.skirose.com          | 775-849-0704 | 9,700         | 1,800         | 8     | 20-30-50          | \$54/\$38/\$12           | \$32/\$32   |
| Northstar-at-Tahoe      | www.northstarattahoe.com | 530-562-1010 | 8,610         | 2,280         | 17    | 25-50-25          | \$61/\$51/\$21           | \$36/\$39   |
| Sierra-at-Tahoe         | www.sierraattahoe.com    | 530-659-7453 | 8,852         | 2,212         | 11    | 25-50-25          | \$57/\$44/\$13           | \$33/\$37   |
| Soda Springs            | www.skisodasprings.com   | 530-426-1010 | 7,352         | 652           | 4     | 30-50-20          | \$25/\$16/\$10           | \$30/\$35   |
| Squaw Valley USA        | www.squaw.com            | 530-583-6955 | 9,050         | 2,850         | 33    | 25-45-30          | \$65/\$49/\$5            | \$32/\$38   |
| Sugar Bowl              | www.sugarbowl.com        | 530-426-9000 | 8,383         | 1,500         | 13    | 17-43-40          | \$46/\$46/\$15           | \$33/\$39   |
| Tahoe Donner            | www.tahoedonner.com      | 530-587-9444 | 7,350         | 600           | 4     | 40-60-0           | \$34/\$13                | \$24/\$33†  |
| <b>AROUND THE STATE</b> |                          |              |               |               |       |                   |                          |   |
| LV Ski/Snowboard        | www.skilasvegas.com      | 702-385-2754 | 9,310         | 1,000         | 3     | 20-60-20          | \$38/\$25                | \$25/\$25   |
| Elko Snobowl            |                          | 800-428-7143 | 7,000         | 670           | 2     | 20-60-20          | \$20/\$15                | \$23/\$20   |
| Ruby Mountains (Elko)   | www.helicopterskiing.com | 775-753-6867 |               |               |       |                   |                          | Ruby Mt. Heli-Skiing offers backcountry helicopter skiing; \$3,300 per person |

## 2005-2006 Cross-Country Skier's Guide

| Area                                    | Web Site                                 | Phone                                     | Trail (km)   | Trail Fee Adult/Y/Child | Rental Adult/Y/Child  | Lessons Adult/Y/Child | Day Lodge |
|---|--|---|--|-------------------------|---|-----------------------|-----------|
| <b>TAHOE BASIN</b>                      |  |   |  |                         |   |                       |           |
| Clair Tappaan Lodge                     | www.sierraclub.org                       | 530-426-3632                              | 14   | \$7/\$3.50              | \$13/\$9  | \$14                  | ✓         |
| Hope Valley                             | www.sorensensresort.com                  | 530-694-2266                              | 100  | none                    | \$18/\$10   | \$30                  | ✓         |
| Kirkwood                                | www.kirkwood.com                         | 209-258-7248                              | 80   | \$21/\$17/\$8           | \$21/\$10   | \$46/40/\$30*         | ✓         |
| Lake Tahoe Basin                        | www.r5.fs.fed.us/lbmu                    | 530-543-2600                              | The U.S. Forest Service has brochures on many forest areas |                         |   |                       |           |
| Northstar-at-Tahoe                      | www.northstarattahoe.com                 | 530-562-1010                              | 50   | \$27/\$15               | \$31/\$19   | \$31/\$19             | ✓         |
| Royal Gorge                             | www.royalgorge.com                       | 530-426-3871                              | 330  | \$28/\$15               | \$19.50/\$10.50   | \$55/\$29.50*         | ✓         |
| Spooner Lake                            | www.spoonerlake.com                      | 775-749-5349                              | 91   | \$21/\$9                | \$19/\$9/\$3  | \$44.50*              | ✓         |
| Resort at Squaw Creek                   | www.squawcreek.com                       | 530-583-6300                              | 18   | \$18/\$10               | \$18/\$10   | \$45*                 | ✓         |
| Tahoe Donner                            | www.tdxc.net                             | 530-587-9484                              | 115  | \$21                    | \$19/\$10   | \$44/\$30*            | ✓         |
| <b>AROUND THE STATE</b>                 |  |   |  |                         |   |                       |           |
| LV Ski and Snowboard (Mount Charleston) | www.fs.fed.us/hnrf                       | 702-385-2754<br>702-873-8800 (USFS)       |  |                         | The Ski Chalet offers x-country suggestions<br>The U.S. Forest Service has info on camping and avalanche conditions |                       |           |
| Spring Valley (Eureka)                  | www.eurekacounty.com                     | 775-237-5280                              |  |                         | Ron Carrion at the Owl Club provides directions and information   |                       |           |
| White Pine (Ely)                        | www.nv.blm.gov/ely<br>www.fs.fed.us/hnrf | 775-289-1800 (BLM)<br>775-289-3031 (USFS) |  |                         | Ward Mt. and Loop Trails info. available from the BLM and USFS  |                       |           |

\*Includes trail pass, equipment, and lessons.

†Resort information is for 2004-2005.

All prices are subject to change.

Call resorts for information about children's and seniors' programs.

## Ski-Doo Views

On a clear day you can see forever—or at least the entire Lake Tahoe Basin—from one of the stops on 60 miles of High Sierra trails that are groomed by the staff at **Zephyr Cove Snowmobile Center**.

Guides give riders a 15-minute lesson on how to operate a Ski-Doo snowmobile before leading a group tour up to 9,000 feet near Spooner Summit. "Snowmobiling is a great opportunity for nonskiers to see the lake," says Chris Burke, Zephyr Cove's general manager of recreation. "You gain and lose elevation on the ride. It can be pretty exhilarating." Riders must be 15 to ride singly and five to ride with an adult. Prices range from \$99 to \$145, and jackets, gloves, and skiers' bib overalls are available for rent. Call 800-23-TAHOE or visit [www.laketahoesnowmobiles.com](http://www.laketahoesnowmobiles.com) for information.



## Reviving the *Reveille*

Austin residents and history lovers Jan Morrison and Lynda Seymour, the publisher and editor of the *Reese River Reveille*, have revived the Austin newspaper. The *Reveille* was first issued in 1863 and was Nevada's longest continuously published paper when it closed in 1993. The resurrected periodical prints local news, snippets from century-old issues, Nevada book reviews, and health tips. "We invite people whose ancestors were part of Austin's history to get in touch with us," Seymour says. "We have introduced some folks to relatives they never knew they had." To subscribe to the *Reese River Reveille* (\$14, six issues per year), call 775-964-1055.



## In the Pink

Women from the **Goldwell Open Air Museum** nonprofit group recently restored the luster of "Lady Desert: The Venus of Nevada," also known as the Pink Lady. In 1992 Belgian artist Dr. Hugo Heyrman created the sculpture for the outdoor museum in Rhyolite, four miles west of Beatty. Her colors had become faded and shabby, says Suzanne Hackett-Morgan, a project organizer, so Pink Lady Paint Party members scrubbed and repainted the concrete figure following recommendations from the Sculpture Conservation Studio in Los Angeles. For information about the museum and art workshops this spring visit [www.goldwellmuseum.org](http://www.goldwellmuseum.org).

Volunteers soaked in Bailey's Hot Springs after repainting the Pink Lady sculpture at the Goldwell Open Air Museum at Rhyolite.



## EXHIBIT NEWS

A roulette wheel made in Paris and other gaming artifacts discovered in an old Reno warehouse are on display at the Nevada Historical Society's museum in Reno. The items are part of the "**Fitzgerald's Hoard**," a collection of early-to mid-20th-century gaming artifacts assembled by casino owner Lincoln Fitzgerald, who was associated with the Nevada Club and Fitzgerald's in Reno and the Nevada Lodge at Lake Tahoe's north shore.



The roulette wheel in the display was slated for Fitzgerald's Club but was never used, says Shery Hayes-Zorn, the museum's registrar. The exhibit includes gaming and drink tokens, coins, dice, and dice cups. Santa Barbara antiques dealer Ronald J. Gillio purchased the "Fitzgerald's Hoard" in late 2003 and donated about 600 items from the collection to the historical society last summer. The society is located at 1650 North Virginia Street. Call 775-688-1190 for more information.

"**Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition**" has been extended to January 31 at the Tropicana in Las Vegas. Hundreds of items recovered from the wreck of the *Titanic*, which struck a North Atlantic iceberg and sank April 15, 1912, tell the tale of the ill-fated maiden voyage of the largest and most elegant passenger ship of its time.

Among the artifacts are a felt bowler hat, the ship's whistles, and glassware etched with the logo of the White Star Line. The exhibition is open daily. To reserve tickets (\$16.95 adults) call 702-739-2411.

# Nevada Magazine's 70th Anniversary

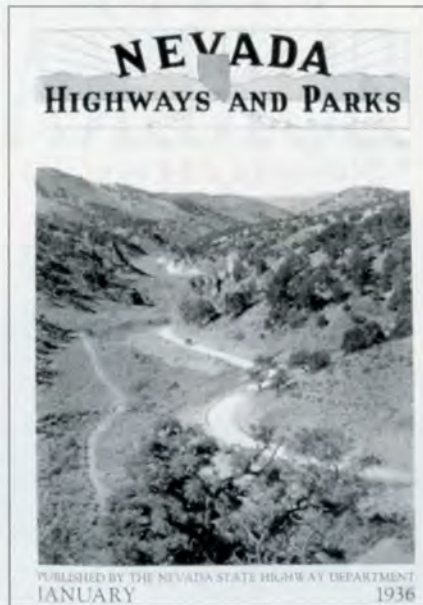
This magazine was created 70 years ago to show motorists that traveling the Silver State was a worthwhile adventure

**T**his January, *Nevada Magazine* celebrates its 70th anniversary. The magazine you hold in your hands began in 1936 as a digest-size, 20-page bulletin called *Nevada Highways and Parks*. It was published by the state highway department to let readers know "about Nevada's highways and parks, abundant natural scenic places...and the real western, friendly spirit of its people."

*Nevada Highways and Parks* appeared at a pivotal time in the state's history. Casino bosses like Bill Harrah and Pappy Smith were about to revolutionize the gambling business. Legislators had established a state park system in 1935. Hoover Dam was completed, creating Lake Mead and Boulder City and putting Las Vegas in the spotlight. Hollywood stars married, divorced, and vacationed in Reno, Las Vegas, and Elko, generating publicity for those towns.

Still, the magazine's initial focus was roads, roads, and more roads. The founding editor, Fred Greulich, was a former telegrapher who keyed reports of the sinking of the *Titanic*. He loved the minutiae of mining and road building, which was accelerated by New Deal highway projects.

The first cover, Jan/Feb 1936,



showed a Model A chugging over Carroll Summit on old U.S. 50 (also see "America's 'Loneliest' Road Trip," page 22) Greulich wrote that "the Reno-Las Vegas highway. . .is now almost completely oil-surfaced throughout its entire length." The fledgling magazine, which suspended publication for five years after 1940 because of World War II, expressed constant (and prescient) optimism about this frontier state's future as a tourist destination.—David Moore

### Nevada Makes Scenic Desert Safe

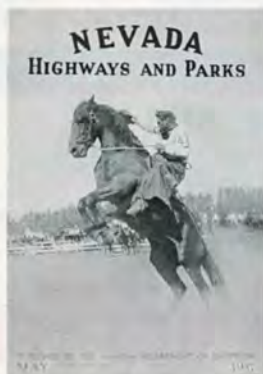
"To Nevadans, who can remember that it was a lengthy adventure, punctuated with dust, jolts, blowouts, and laborious pumping, to traverse 50 miles of typical desert road in those days [1917], it is hard to realize that the entire State may now be crossed swiftly and safely in the space of a few hours."—Jan/Feb 1936

### Boulder Dam Spans Rio Colorado

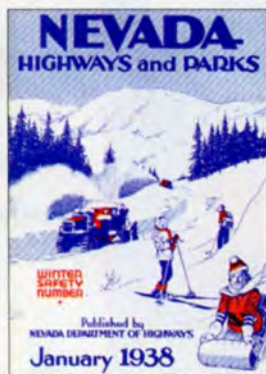
"Ol' Man Colorado River must be amazed at the impudence of humans in throwing Boulder [Hoover] Dam across his pathway. A wall of concrete, 726 feet high, has blocked the river for the first time."—Dec 1936

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May/June 1937



January/February 1938



March/April 1940



**Then**  
1936

**&**

**Now**  
2006

|                              |                            |                    |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Nevada Highways and Parks    | Name                       | Nevada Magazine    |
| 100,000                      | States population          | 2,600,000          |
| Reno                         | Biggest city               | Las Vegas          |
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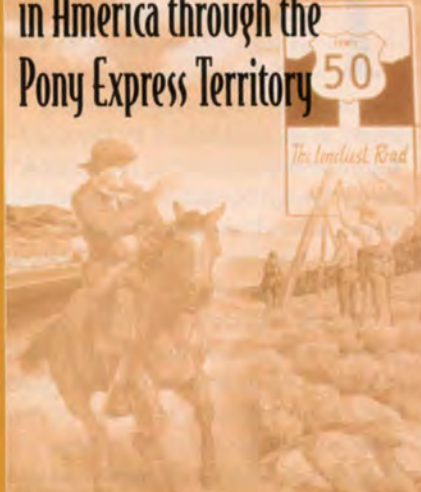
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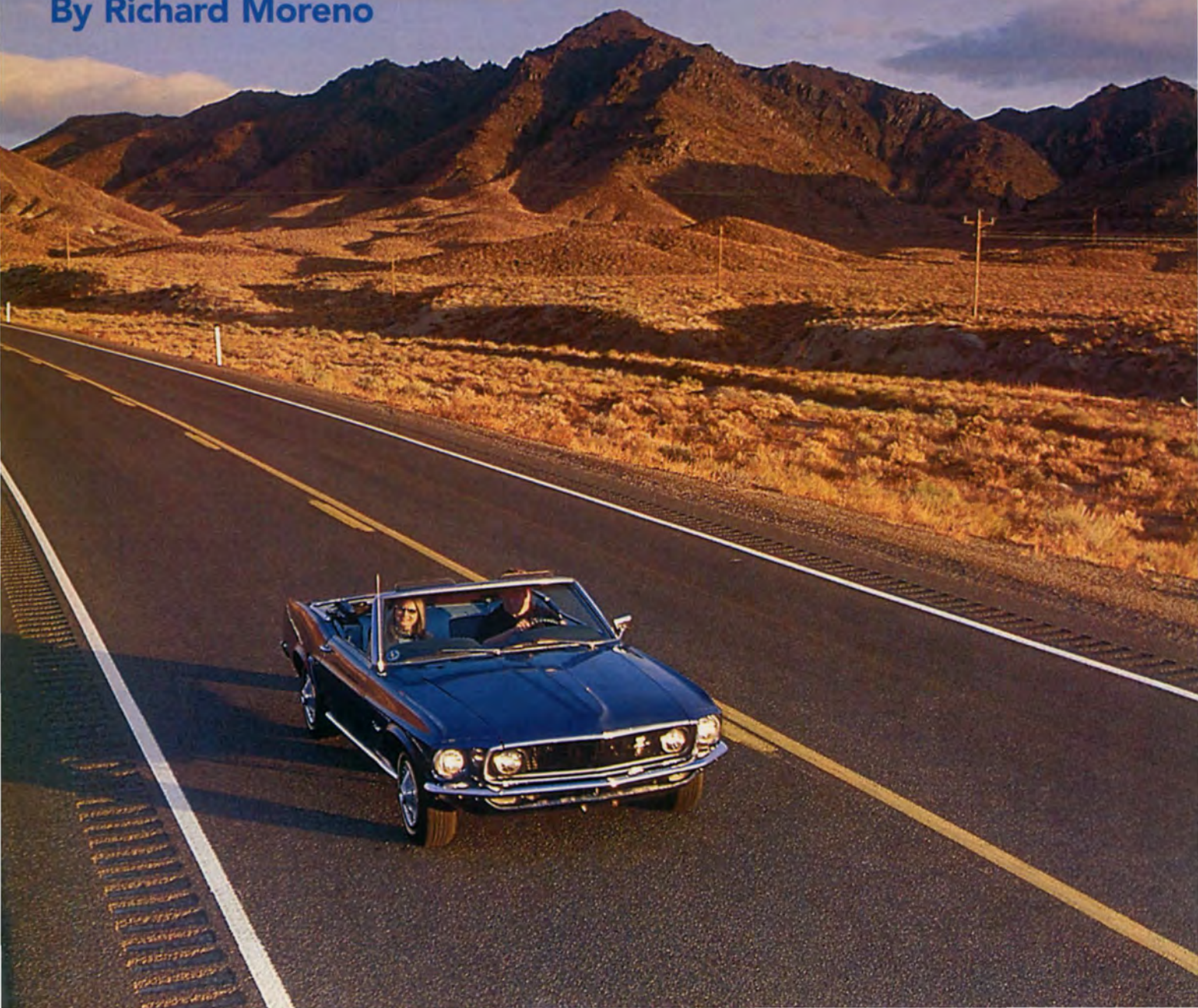
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# America's Loneliest Road Trip

Are you a survivor? Here are **20** unusual things to do to mark the **20th anniversary** of the *Loneliest Road in America*.

By Richard Moreno



A couple of years ago, I was driving through a snowstorm on U.S. 50 east of Austin and encountered an unusual sight. Parked to one side of the road was a small airplane. The pilot had encountered rough weather and landed on the highway to wait out the storm.

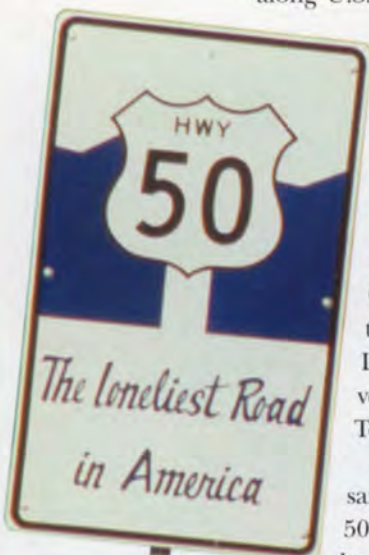
No wonder it's called the Loneliest Road in America.

It was 20 years ago that *Life* magazine designated Highway 50 across Central Nevada America's loneliest route. In its July 1986 issue, *Life* quoted an unnamed American Automobile Association representative, who said, "It's totally empty. There are no points of interest. We don't recommend it."

*Life* added: "The 287-mile stretch of U.S. 50 running from Ely to Fernly (sic), Nev., passes nine towns, two abandoned mining camps, a few gas pumps and the occasional coyote. 'We warn all motorists not to drive there,' says the AAA rep, 'unless they're confident of their survival skills.'"

As a veteran of many trips across the state on U.S. 50, I can say that it *is* lonely in places. The highway intersects Nevada's sparsely populated midsection and passes through some of the more remote communities in the state. In fact, if you take the populations of all the towns along the route—Fernley, Fallon, Austin, Eureka, and Ely—and added them together, you'd still have only about 27,000 people stretched across nearly 300 miles of wide, open landscape.

The *Life* story has proven a promotional bonanza for the folks along U.S. 50. A tongue-in-cheek *Highway*

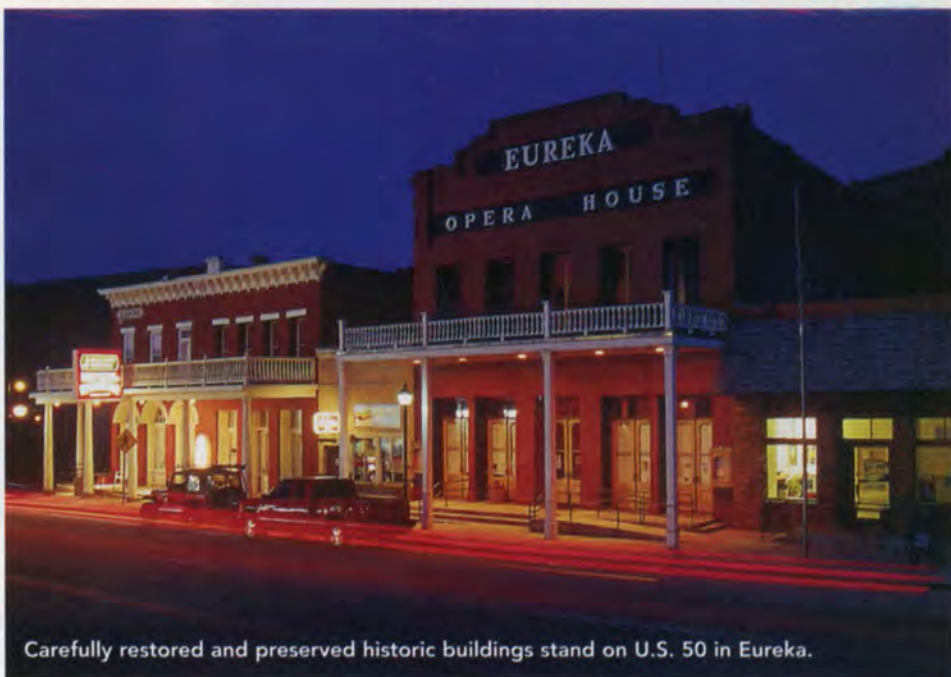


*50 Survival Guide*, available from the Nevada Commission on Tourism, challenges travelers to make the journey. Additionally, several Highway 50 communities have adopted the "Loneliest Road" theme. In Fallon, you can visit the Churchill County Museum, promoted as the "Loneliest Museum on the Loneliest Road," while Eureka advertises that it is "the Loneliest Town on the Loneliest Road."

So, in honor of the 20th anniversary of *Life* magazine's slam on U.S. 50, here are 20 quirky, shouldn't-be-missed things to do and places to

see while surviving a journey on the Loneliest Road in America.

**Ride OATBRAN.** This challenging six-day, 428-mile bicycle trip, held in September, is not for beginners. OATBRAN (One Awesome Tour Bike Ride Across Nevada) starts at Lake Tahoe, follows



Carefully restored and preserved historic buildings stand on U.S. 50 in Eureka.

U.S. 50 across the state, and concludes near Great Basin National Park in Eastern Nevada. Fortunately, the return trip is by bus. *TGFT Productions*, 800-565-2704, [www.bikethewest.com](http://www.bikethewest.com).

## 2 Grab a bite at Mary and Moe's Wigwam in Fernley.

From the outside the Wigwam appears to be a typical diner serving American and Mexican cuisine, but inside it's a virtual museum of Native American artifacts and artwork. Original owners Mary and Moe Royels collected and displayed more than 500 arrowheads, baskets, cradleboards, and other Native American objects. And the food? It's delicious. 225 West Main Street, Fernley, 775-575-2573.

## 3 Explore Fallon.

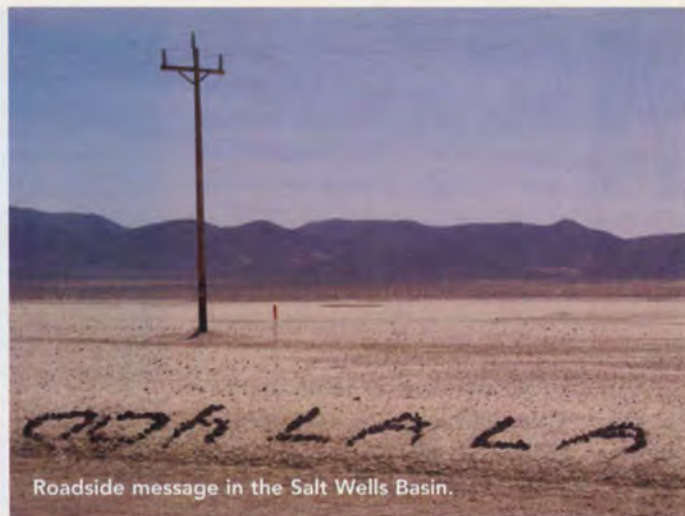
Founded in 1903, Fallon is one of the few true farming towns in Nevada. Check out downtown Fallon, which has restaurants, shops, and other businesses, including a 1940s-style movie theater. The Churchill County Courthouse, built in 1903, is the only wooden hall of justice in the state. An interesting fact: Fallon's main street is spelled Maine Street because one of the town's founders, State Senator Warren W. Williams, was born in Maine. *Fallon Convention and Tourism Authority*, 775-423-4556, [www.fallontourism.com](http://www.fallontourism.com).



OATBRAN cyclists pedal east on the Loneliest Road.



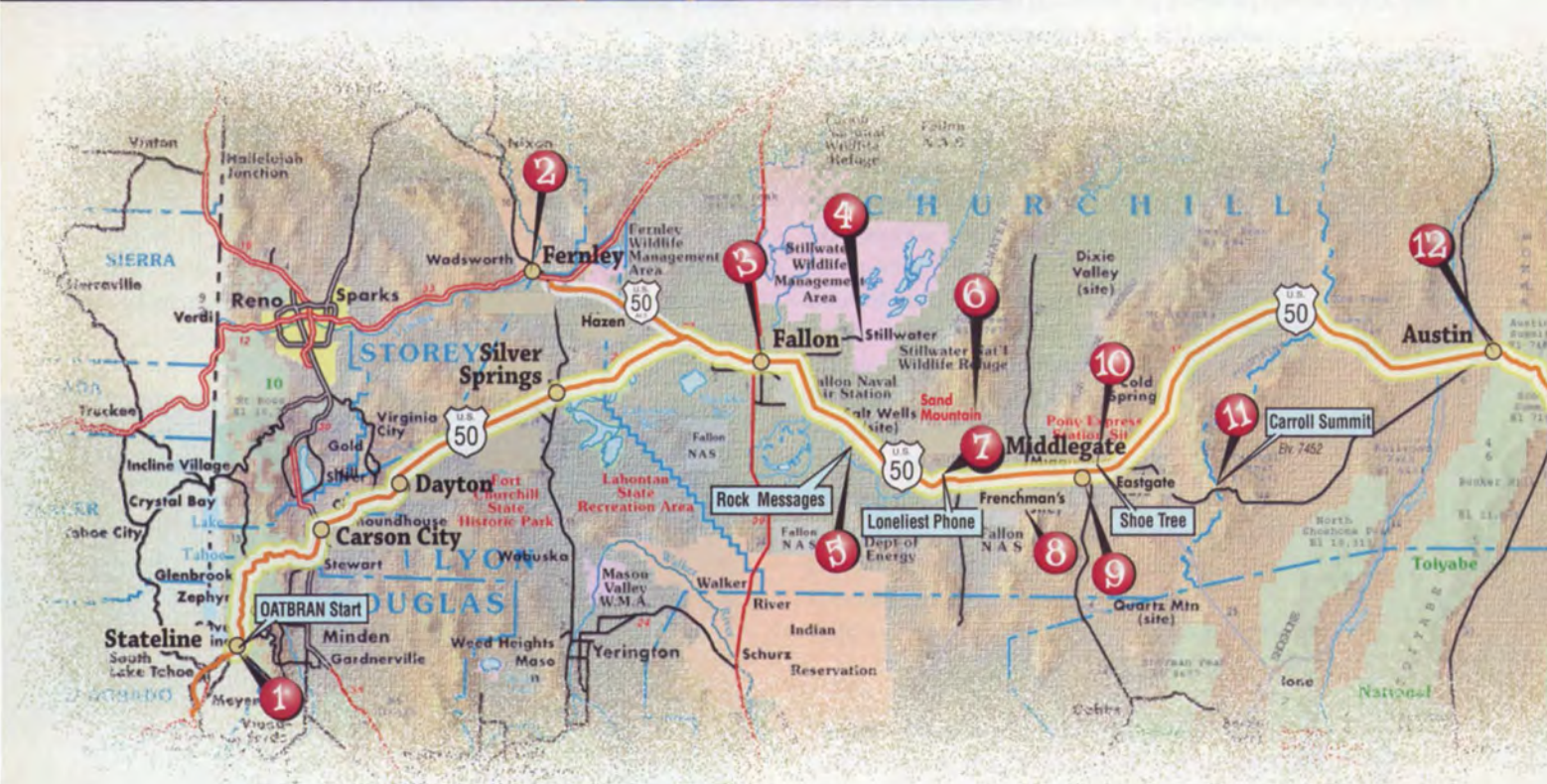
Birdwatchers may spot the long-billed dowitcher (right) at the Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge.



Roadside message in the Salt Wells Basin.

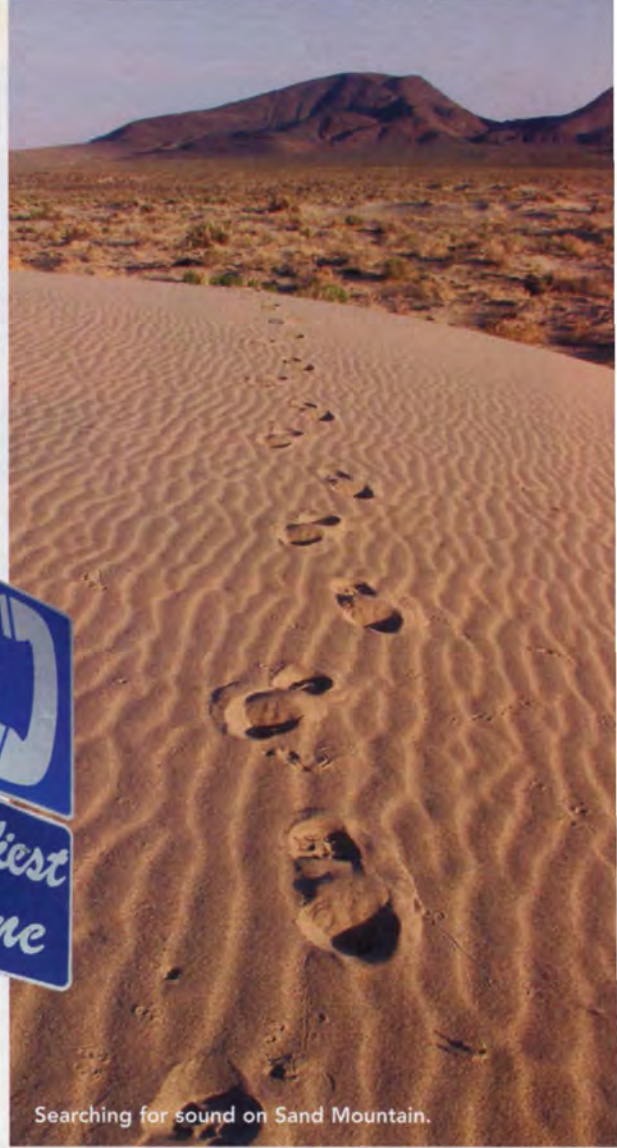
**4 See a long-billed dowitcher at Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge.** Fourteen miles northeast of Fallon via State Route 116, Stillwater is home to more than 260 species of resident and migratory birds, from bald eagles to tundra swans. It's one of the best bird-watching places in the state. *Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge*, 775-423-5128, [www.fws.gov/stillwater](http://www.fws.gov/stillwater).

**5 Proclaim your love in rocks.** For many years in the Salt Wells Basin, travelers have stopped by the side of Highway 50 and spelled out brief messages of everlasting affection or deep meaning by using the red rocks that litter the white alkali flats. Most messages are of the "Joe Loves Mary" variety, but feel free to get creative.





The phone may be lonely, but it works.



Searching for sound on Sand Mountain.

**6 Run down the side of Sand Mountain.** Be sure to listen for the “zoop” sound made by your feet sinking into the sand on “Singing Sand Mountain,” one of the few acoustical sand dunes in the world. Hums, booms, and other noises have been recorded at the 600-foot-high mound. The sounds are apparently the result of friction between the dry sand particles when they are disturbed. *U.S. Bureau of Land Management, 775-885-6000.*

**7 Place a call from the Loneliest Phone in America.** Near the entrance to Sand Mountain, a small blue sign indicates that the solar-powered phone beside the road is the official “Loneliest Phone on the Loneliest Road in America.” You can call a friend or loved one from the comfort of this small, round, red pay phone—just to say you did.





Soup's on at colorful Middlegate Station.



Old U.S. 50 winds over Carroll Summit.

**8 Dodge planes at Frenchman's Flat.** Ominous signs warn motorists to "Watch for Low Flying Aircraft" on this broad stretch of U.S. 50. Here the road intersects a restricted area of the Fallon Naval Air Station, home of the "Top Gun" pilot-training school. For years, I've heard of navy pilots buzzing cars but suspect it's a rural myth. I hope.

**9 Take a break at Middlegate Station.** This rustic tavern is one of the few places between Fallon and Austin offering something cold or hot to drink. With its dark interior and cluttered walls, the bar is a Highway 50 original. But the owners are friendly, the drinks are satisfying, and, for anyone traveling on the Loneliest Road in America, the company is welcome. *Middlegate Station, 775-423-7134.*

**10 Toss your shoes in the Shoe Tree.** During the past decade, hundreds of travelers have stopped at a 70-foot-tall cottonwood two miles east of Middlegate to throw their shoes onto its limbs. Locals say the custom started in the early 1990s, when two bickering newlyweds threw their shoes in the tree. Spotting the hanging footwear, other travelers followed suit, and a Shoe Tree sprouted in the desert.

**11 Take a side trip over Carroll Summit.** This 58-mile detour follows U.S. 50's former route through the Desatoya Mountains between Middlegate and Austin. Several decades ago, highway planners decided that a more-northern route would be less likely to close due to winter snow, so the highway was rerouted to its present configuration. Still, Old U.S. 50 remains a scenic alternative. Plus, it's even lonelier than the Loneliest Road. It sees an estimated 45 cars per day in both directions—or a mere 1.875 cars per hour.



**12 Listen for the dulcet tones of the bell at St. George's Episcopal Church.** St. George's, erected in Austin in 1878, is one of three historic churches standing in the former mining town. It is the only Austin church still used regularly—services are

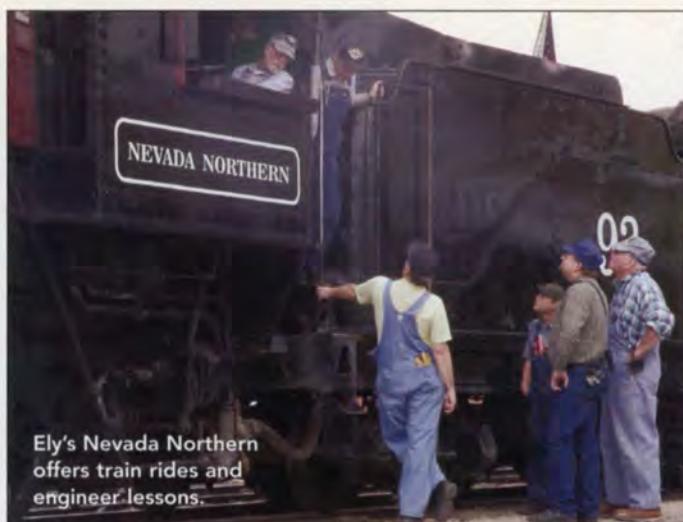
held every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.—and the only one in which the bell-tower rope hangs in the men's room. Now you know for whom the bell tolls. *St. George's Episcopal Church, 156 Main Street, Austin.*

**13 Decipher the petroglyphs at Hickison Summit.** OK, this may be hard to do because even the experts aren't sure how to interpret these prehistoric Native American rock carvings. However, Hickison Summit, 24 miles east of Austin, is worth a stop. Not only does the site have a great many petroglyphs, including some animal designs and fertility symbols, but it also has shaded picnic tables and public restrooms. The latter make Hickison a Highway 50 rarity. *U.S. Bureau of Land Management, 775-885-6000.*



**14 Take a walking tour of Eureka.** One of Nevada's best-preserved 19th-century mining towns, Eureka contains more than two dozen historic structures, ranging from the Eureka Courthouse, built in 1880, to the Jackson House, a two-story brick hotel erected in 1877. Pick up a copy of Eureka's walking tour brochure at the restored Eureka Opera House, constructed in 1880 and now a community events center. *Eureka Opera House, 775-237-6006, www.co.eureka.nv.us.*

**15 Admire Ely's historical murals.** Since 1999, Ely residents have commissioned muralists to transform the blank walls of more than 20 buildings into colorful works of art. Most of the scenes depict historical events or places such as the



Ely's Nevada Northern offers train rides and engineer lessons.

nearby Liberty Pit copper mine, a Basque sheep camp, and an old-time blacksmith shop. *Ely Renaissance Society*, [www.greatbasinheritage.org/elymurals.htm](http://www.greatbasinheritage.org/elymurals.htm).

**16 Play engineer on the Nevada Northern Railway.** The Nevada Northern Railway in East Ely is celebrating its centennial this year, and you can operate the vintage equipment of this historic short line that once freighted copper ore. For \$200 to \$550 an hour, depending on the locomotive, you can complete an instructional course and go for a spin. A Casey Jones hat is optional. *Nevada Northern Railway Museum*, 866-407-8326, [www.nnry.com](http://www.nnry.com).

**17 Spend a night in a yurt near the Ward Charcoal Ovens.** A couple of years ago, Nevada State Parks erected a yurt, a round fabric tent with a wood-lattice frame and plywood floor, in a remote area of the park. The yurt is the traditional dwelling of the nomadic people who live on the steppes of Central Asia. Reservations are required. *Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Park*, 775-289-1693, [www.parks.nv.gov](http://www.parks.nv.gov).

**18 Give a wave to the Permanent Wave Society.** In the late 1990s, a few Baker residents began decorating the fence posts on the road between their hamlet and Great Basin National Park. The roadside art ranges from a painted mannequin head with a cowboy hat to a waving glove (the society's namesake). To date, several dozen unique artistic efforts have appeared along the five-mile straightaway.

Permanent Wave Society art near Baker.

PHOTOS: Scott T. Smith (top left), Carolyn Fox (top right, bottom left), Chris Talbot (bottom right)



A frequently seen sign of survival.

**19 Find the oldest living bristlecone pine in Great Basin National Park.** In fact, the world's oldest living bristlecone—about 5,000 years old—was cut down on Wheeler Peak in the 1960s. Fortunately, hikers in the park's Bristlecone Grove can see trees that are nearly as ancient. *Great Basin National Park*, 775-234-7331, [www.nps.gov/grba](http://www.nps.gov/grba).

**20 Stop at the Border Inn.** Straddling the Nevada-Utah border, the Border Inn is a true bi-state business. The restaurant, bar, pool table, and slots are on one side of the state line, and the motel rooms are on the other. Thus you can eat in Nevada and sleep in Utah. *Border Inn*, 775-234-7300.

Completing all 20 of these activities will entitle you to proclaim that you're a Highway 50 survivor. Welcome to the club. ♣

*Richard Moreno is Nevada Magazine's publisher and the creator of the original Highway 50 Survival Kit. He continues to discover new things about the Loneliest Road in America.*

## "Loneliest" Essentials

When traveling the Loneliest Road, it's always wise to fill up your tank, carry water and a few CDs, and bring a spirit of adventure.

You can pick up the 20th-anniversary edition of the *Official Highway 50 Survival Guide* from the Nevada Commission on Tourism (401 North Carson Street in Carson City, 800-NEVADA-8, or [www.travelnevada.com/nvmag](http://www.travelnevada.com/nvmag)). While traveling through U.S. 50 towns watch for signs saying, "Validate Your Highway 50 Survival Guide Here." When you have collected validations from each U.S. 50 community—Fernley, Fallon, Austin, Eureka, and Ely—you can receive an official Highway 50 Survivor certificate.

Another interesting guidebook is *Traveling America's Loneliest Road: A Geologic and Natural History Tour Through Nevada Along U.S. Highway 50* by Joseph V. Tingley and Kris Ann Pizarro (Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, \$21.95). The guide is available in bookstores or through the Nevada Magazine Gift Shop at [www.nevadamagazine.com](http://www.nevadamagazine.com). The online gift shop also carries the official "I Survived the Loneliest Road in America" T-shirt.



# My Famous Valentine

When celebrities fall under cupid's spell, they often say "I do" in Las Vegas. Here are stars who found wedded bliss in Glitter City—and some who didn't.

**By Susan Marg**

**T**hrough the decades, celebrity weddings have propelled Las Vegas' popularity as a marriage mecca. Each tells a tale about eternal love or marriage disaster, dashed hopes or dreams come true.

The parade of stars across the desert began in 1930 with the wedding of William Boyd, better known to fans of early Westerns as Hopalong Cassidy. For his fourth, but not his last, marriage, he took a day off work, chartered a plane for the wedding party, and exchanged vows in a room in the National Hotel. More recently, weddings of entertainers such as



Joanne Woodward and Paul Newman wed at El Rancho Vegas.

Britney Spears have provided fodder for fan magazines and talk shows.

Following is a Valentine's Day tribute to celebrity brides and grooms who took their vows in Las Vegas.

### Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward

Little is known about the 1958 nuptials of Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward. This is hardly surprising since one of Hollywood's most enduring couples is also one of its most private. What is surprising is that their wedding took place Hollywood-style on the Las Vegas Strip.

Paul, 33, and Joanne, 28, became husband and wife at El Rancho Vegas. The stars of *The Long, Hot Summer* exchanged vows in front of Eydie Gorme, Sophie Tucker, and comedian Joe E. Lewis, who were performing at the hotel.



Britney Spears had a very brief Vegas marriage.

Arising before dawn, **Elvis and Priscilla** flew to Las Vegas and arrived at the city clerk's office at 7 a.m.

### Elvis Presley and Priscilla Beaulieu

Elvis called her "Baby," "Cilla," and "Little Girl," but on May 1, 1967 Priscilla Beaulieu was introduced to the world as Mrs. Elvis Presley. She was 21. Elvis was 32.

To keep the wedding as private as Elvis' popularity allowed, the couple had stayed at their Palm Springs retreat the previous night. Arising before dawn, they flew to Las Vegas, arrived at the city clerk's office at seven in the morning to get their marriage license, and then rushed to dress for the 9 a.m. ceremony.

Priscilla wore a floor-length gown of white silk chiffon that she had designed herself. It was topped with a three-foot tulle veil held in place by a rhinestone crown. The newspapers described the bride as a brunette beauty despite the heavy, Cleopatra-style makeup she wore at Elvis' behest. Elvis wore a black brocade silk tuxedo and Western boots.

The eight-minute nuptials took place in a private suite at the Aladdin Hotel in front of a few friends and family. Nevada Supreme Court Justice David Zenoff presided. Afterward the newlyweds were joined by 100 guests at an elaborate breakfast banquet that included Southern fried chicken, lobster, oysters Rockefeller, and champagne. Together, Elvis and Priscilla cut the six-tiered wedding cake.

The following February their daughter, Lisa Marie, was born,

and in 1969, Elvis began his Las Vegas comeback at the International. Although they divorced in 1973, Elvis and Priscilla remained close until his death four years later.

### Michael Caine and Shakira Baksh

Michael Caine always had fond feelings for Las Vegas. The British actor first visited the Rat Pack's playground in 1966 as the guest of his friend Nancy Sinatra. They stayed at the Sands and had ringside seats with Mia Farrow and Yul Brynner at her father Frank's show in the Copa Room.

Several years later Michael, 40, was a movie star and living the London bachelor's life when he fell madly in love with Shakira Baksh, 26, after spotting her in a TV commercial for Maxwell House coffee. A mutual acquaintance gave him her telephone number, and she agreed to go out with him. They dated and then moved in together. When she became pregnant, they decided to get married. Las Vegas would be perfect, they felt, for a simple wedding ceremony with a few close friends and no fuss. They just needed an excuse to visit Nevada before the baby arrived.

As luck would have it, *Sleuth*, Michael's picture with Laurence Olivier, was ready for release, and the studio wanted him to go to America to publicize it.

On January 8, 1973, Michael and Shakira flew from L.A. to Las Vegas. Their friend Dennis Selinger accompanied them; he would give the bride away and was paying for the wedding as a gift. The



Priscilla and Elvis cut the cake at the Aladdin.



Michael Caine fell in love with Shakira Baksh after seeing her on TV.

## Michael and Shakira signed up for extras—Polaroids, an audio recording, and orchids.

couple selected the Candlelight Wedding Chapel, which Michael nicknamed the Little Chapel on the Green for the Astroturf encircling the establishment.

Waiting for the justice of the peace, they signed up for extras—Polaroids, an audio recording, and orchids for the bride and groom. After all, it was Dennis' treat. Finally, they said their vows. After dinner and a cabaret show, they returned to Los Angeles. The couple's married life continues to this day.

### *Bette Midler and Martin von Haselberg*

"Oh, nev-air, nev-air!" summed up Bette Midler's views on marriage for nearly 40 years. Then she met commodity broker-performance artist Martin von Haselberg, better known to his audience as Harry Kipper of the Kipper Brothers. One Saturday night he proposed, she accepted, and they took off for Las Vegas.

The four-hour drive from Los Angeles was a lark. Arriving at two in the morning, they got their marriage license. Then they checked into Caesars Palace and changed



Bette Midler, here appearing at an event in Las Vegas, wed Martin von Haselberg after a mad dash from L.A.

clothes. Bette brought a dress she had worn to a movie premiere. Martin wore a plain black suit.

The next stop was the Candlelight Wedding Chapel. With a tape of "Juliet of the Spirits" playing in the background, a minister who moonlighted as an Elvis impersonator joined the two as man and wife. The date was December 16, 1984.

On the ride back to L.A., the couple's high spirits dissipated. Although they had dated for two months, they did not know each other that well.

Bette later admitted, "For the first couple of weeks after we got married it was 'Uh-oh, what did we do?' There were some rough spots, but we did our talking, we did our compromising. Fortunately, we liked what we got to know."

In 2000 the union was immortalized in the situation comedy *Bette*. Although the program was taken off the air after one season, the couple plays on.

### *Jon Bon Jovi and Dorothea Hurly*

Like other young couples in love, Jon Bon Jovi and Dorothea Hurly, both 28, decided to get married in Las Vegas. The childhood sweethearts had dated for 10 years. Because of Jon's high regard for Elvis, they selected the Graceland Wedding Chapel and arrived there by taxi one night in May 1989. The groom wore black leather, and so did the bride.

Jon, the hard-playing lead man of the band bearing his name, keeps returning to the Elvis-themed chapel. He arranged the wedding of a crew member at Graceland, flying in the 25-guest wedding party and dressing everyone from grandmothers to babies in Elvis costumes. On Jon and Dorothea's 10th anniversary, Jon was best man at his brother's wedding there. The next year, during the group's "One Wild

## For the wedding Dennis Rodman was decked out in what appeared to be a police uniform.

Night" tour, Jon and guitarist Richie Sambora serenaded 75 couples in a group marriage ceremony at Graceland. Now if only those newlyweds can keep it going as long as Jon and Dorothea.

### *Dennis Rodman and Carmen Electra*

Basketball player Dennis Rodman liked gambling and drinking, and he particu-



When Andre Agassi married Steffi Graf, their mothers witnessed the match.

larly liked gambling and drinking in Las Vegas. So it was no surprise that his surprise wedding to buxom *Baywatch* babe Carmen Electra, 26, on November 14, 1998, took place at the Little Chapel of the Flowers on Las Vegas Boulevard.

The multi-tattooed, bejeweled NBA star, 37 was decked out in what appeared to be a police uniform. Carmen wore a dark-colored pantsuit. In a playful moment before the ceremony, he carried her piggyback into the chapel.

Upon hearing the news, Dennis' agent, Dwight Manley, denounced the legitimacy of the union. "From what I can determine, it's not legal," he was quoted as saying. "It sounds like he was deeply intoxicated." Dennis rebounded, insisting, "I love Carmen and am proud to be married to her."

Still, it was a marriage that one suspected was not going to last as long as the news it generated. In a year it was over.

## Angelina Jolie and Billy Bob Thornton

The couple took the \$189 Beginner's Package at the Little Church of the West for their wedding on May 5, 2000. The bride carried red and white roses and walked down the aisle as "Here Comes the Bride" played over the chapel's sound system.

Afterward she posed with her new husband, sporting his trademark baseball

cap, for a wedding portrait. At the end of the ceremony, "Unchained Melody" was played. There was one witness.

The pair were not following a movie script, as they had in *Pushing Tin* the previous year. For Oscar winners Angelina Jolie, 24, and actor-director Billy Bob Thornton, 44, it was the real thing. "I'm madly in love with this man," Jolie said, "and will be till the day I die." The marriage, her second and his fifth, was over in two years.

## Andre Agassi and Steffi Graf

When hometown boy Andre Agassi, 31, married Steffi Graf, 32, he did so as quickly and privately as possible. Although they had made statements that they would not wed until they had recovered from the birth of their child, expected in December, the ceremony was held on Monday afternoon, October 22, 2001, at the couple's Las Vegas home.

Other than the fact that Andre was seen rushing around town that morning, lining up the judge and tying up loose ends, no details of the event got out to the press. Only their mothers were present when the two tennis stars said, "I do." Today Andre and Steffi live in Las Vegas with their son, Jaden Gil, and daughter, Jaz Elle, and are active in the Andre Agassi Charitable Foundation.

## Britney Spears and Jason Allen Alexander

New Year's Eve weekend in Las Vegas began innocently enough for 22-year-old Britney Spears. Britney, her older brother, Brian, and an entourage of friends, dancers, and bodyguards checked into the Palms Hotel on Wednesday, December 31, 2003. They booked several rooms, including a \$5,000-a-night penthouse and the \$10,000-a-night "Real World" Suite. They ate at the Nine Steakhouse before visiting the ghostbar and Rain. Tired, Britney retired early.

The next night it was back to Rain. Enter Jason Allen Alexander, 22, a good ol' boy from Britney's hometown, Kentwood, Louisiana. He seems like a nice guy, and nice-looking, too. The couple left the club together at about two in the morning.

Friday evening they enjoyed dining, danc-

ing, and quiet conversation while looking at the city lights. "It was real pretty, a beautiful night," Jason said later. "We were looking at each other, and it was, like, let's go do something wild and crazy. Let's go get married." So they did.

First they had to go to the courthouse for a marriage license. The Palms bellman, doubling as chauffeur of the hotel's lime-green courtesy limo, drove the two-some. Finally, at 5:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 3, at A Little White Chapel, the couple, young and undaunted, said, "I do." The bride wore a crop top, torn jeans, and white baseball cap. The bellman escorted her down the aisle.

Then it was over—except for the fallout. Lynne Spears, Britney's mom, flew to Vegas immediately. On Monday, a district court judge determined that the couple

## Angelina Jolie and Billy Bob Thornton took the \$189 Beginner's Package for their Las Vegas nuptials.

did not "have a meeting of the minds," and the union was annulled.

Britney quickly rebounded. She married Kevin Federlin on September 18, 2004, in a surprise ceremony in Studio City, California. A year later she gave birth to their son, Sean. In December the three appeared together on the cover of *People* magazine, smiling and optimistic about the future. ♡

Susan Marg lives in Del Mar, California. The preceding feature is adapted from her book *Las Vegas Weddings: A Brief History, Celebrity Gossip, Everything Elvis, and the Complete Chapel Guide*, published in 2005 by Harper Collins. *Las Vegas Weddings* (289 pages, b&w photos, \$13.95 paper, ISBN 0-06-072619-9) is available in bookstores and from the publisher, Harper Collins, 10 East 53rd Street, New York, NY 10022, [www.harpercollins.com](http://www.harpercollins.com).



# Tales of Flood and Guts

By Mark McLaughlin



Central Pacific crews attempt to dig out a locomotive stranded west of Winnemucca by a washout on the Humboldt River in 1901.

**These 10 Nevada floods, and the people who endured them, remind us of nature's humbling power.**

**T**he Silver State is a land of extremes. Although it is one of the driest states in the union, floods have ravaged every region of Nevada in nearly every month of the year.

These desert deluges have a variety of causes—torrential rain, rapidly melting snowpack, and isolated thunderstorms that create flash floods. As we know from Hurricane Katrina last summer, nothing can match a flood in power and destruction. Floods also produce human stories of tragedy, heroism, and even humor in the face of calamity.

Nevada was still a territory when the harsh winter of 1861-1862 turned its western valleys into a quagmire. Storms dumped two feet of snow in the Carson Valley the week before Christmas. On Christmas Day, a shift in the jet stream began a deluge that lasted through

January. The raging Carson River turned the Carson Valley into a muddy lake and reopened a channel leading to the Carson Sink near Fallon, bypassing Carson Lake and hastening the lake's disappearance.

"We have had one of the most severe winters ever known," Uriah Allen wrote in a letter from Carson City, dated February 22, 1862. "Not so cold, but from December 1 to February 1 it stormed almost incessantly. It is impossible to estimate the amount of property destroyed in this Territory besides a great loss of human life—all the bridges upon the rivers were washed away."

The Carson area was flooded again during the breakup of the infamous "White Winter" of 1889-1890. When a warm wind, or Chinook, melted the deep snow in late January, Western Nevada rivers went on a rampage. An ice jam on the Carson River's East Fork sent a wall of ice, logs, and cord-

wood into the Carson Valley. Ranchers had to dynamite the ice near Gardnerville to open the river channel.

More blizzards were followed by warming temperatures. On March 4, a dam burst near Genoa, flooding the county courthouse and routing townspeople out of their beds. By April the Carson River was one mile wide in places.

Other rivers, such as the Truckee and the Humboldt, also became torrents during the floods of that era. In 1901 the Humboldt washed out the Central Pacific Railroad line near Winnemucca, causing a major derailment.

**L**as Vegas residents were marking their second winter on December 1, 1906, when the young railroad town was covered by an unusual sight—snow. The storm caused horse-drawn stages to arrive in town hours late. One old-time

prospector told the *Las Vegas Age* that he had seen such a snow only two or three times in the past 40 years.

Then disaster struck in February. Rain-fed floods washed out the tracks of the San Pedro, Los Angeles, and Salt Lake Railroad in the Meadow Valley Wash near

**Flooding caused food shortages. The *Las Vegas Age* said, "The last ham and eggs were eaten yesterday, and the chickens in town are hiding in the sage brush."**

Caliente, isolating Las Vegas from the east. Soon the town was cut off from the south when track was washed away near Barstow.

As food became scarce, Las Vegas farmers sold their old cows and oxen for meat. The saloons ran out of beer, forcing customers to drink locally distilled whiskey. On March 7 the *Age* noted, "The last ham and eggs were eaten yesterday, and the chickens in town are hiding in the sage brush."

Meanwhile, the same moist air mass had created the worst flooding in Western Nevada history. In Reno, crowds watched from the Virginia Street Bridge as the Truckee River inundated the downtown district. Scores of small buildings were swept away, and the low-lying Chinese neighborhood suffered great damage.

Twenty miles upriver, another drama played out near the California state line, where backed-up water was eroding the railroad tracks. Truckee road supervisor Samuel Cupples discovered that a paper company had neglected to open a vent in its hydroelectric dam. Facing down the mill's shotgun-wielding superintendent, Cupples dynamited the dam. Seconds later a mighty surge of water headed toward Reno, sweeping away bridges and ripping out gas lines. Whole houses were caught in the rampage.

During the floods Reno rancher John Kleppe evacuated his home, but a few days later he returned on a raft. Looking for his prized hunting dog, Kleppe paddled into his house. He found the dog hungry but happy, perched on the family piano as it floated in the living room.



A Harper's Illustrated drawing dramatized the plight of residents who were forced to flee their homes during the 1861-1862 floods in Western Nevada.

Another flood-related rescue took place in 1910 in the Meadow Valley Wash south of Caliente on the beleaguered Salt Lake line. This time floodwaters carried away most of a train. One flat car was seen more than 10 miles from the tracks. The eyewitnesses thought it was a steamship sailing across the country.

As the flood bore down on the little station at Elgin, the wife of section foreman John Schrader was giving birth. Several railroad men carried her to high ground. They built a fire and a small shelter while a group of women helped deliver a baby boy. The *Clark County Review* reported, "Despite the distressing and dangerous circumstances, and the fact that they were obliged to be out in the storm all night, both mother and baby are progressing nicely. This was Nature's atonement."

A less happy ending occurred on August 11, 1941, amid heavy thunderstorms that soaked much of Nevada. One-

half mile of Western Pacific track washed out near Beowawe, causing 40 cars on a freight train to derail. Floodwaters rushed across U.S. 40.

That day Fred Bishop and his wife were traveling east on U.S. 40 on their way to Chicago. Bishop, a veteran Western Pacific train agent, had acted as a weather observer at Sulphur, a lonely posting west of Winnemucca, for more than a quarter century.

When the Bishops encountered the muddy flow crossing the highway near Beowawe, they stopped and got out of the car. Tragically, Bishop was standing only a few feet from his wife when a surge of water caught him.

Mrs. Bishop saw her husband swallowed by the torrent. She told a reporter, "As I got to high ground, he waved 'Goodbye, dear, and that was the last I saw of him.'" Bishop's battered body was discovered the next day, five miles away.

## Christmas furloughs were cancelled, and hundreds of airmen with radios, jeeps, and trucks joined National Guard troops in sandbagging and policing Reno streets.

**I**t was called the “Storm of the Century.” For 10 days during the Christmas season in 1955, a series of storms from Hawaii poured wet snow and rain on the Sierra and Northern Nevada. Officials said there was no cause for alarm, but Reno business people remembered the Thanksgiving flood of 1950, which had

heavily damaged the city, and they swung into action. Volunteers and National Guardsmen stacked walls of sandbags on the riverbank and in store entrances. Contractors supplied cranes to clear log-jams and debris in the Truckee River. Parking meters were removed from the five downtown bridges.

Sure enough, two days before Christmas more than two inches of rain pounded Reno in 24 hours. Upstream, nearly every power plant and bridge was destroyed. Wet snow pulled down power lines, severing communication with California.

Logs jammed against bridge supports, and four feet of water flowed into Reno’s downtown district. Many residents fled, although not before hanging gifts high in their Christmas trees. At Stead Air Force Base north of Reno, Christmas furloughs were cancelled, and hundreds of airmen with radios, jeeps, and trucks joined National Guard troops in sandbagging and policing the streets.

Finally, on Christmas Eve, cold air from the Gulf of Alaska turned the rain to snow, and the river began to recede. Overnight the swirling flakes descended on Reno’s flood-ravaged streets, covering everything with a beautiful mantle of snow. Reno residents awoke to their first white Christmas in years.

**C**alifornia-bound pioneers called it the “Humbog River,” and Mark Twain was no kinder when he described it as “the poorest excuse for a river I’ve ever seen.” Twain may have enjoyed poking fun at the Humboldt River, but he probably never saw the river in its fury.

Storms in January 1962 dumped heavy snow on Northeastern Nevada. As temperatures fell to their lowest levels in decades, the ground froze to an unusual depth. Rains came in February, but the water could not penetrate the frozen soil, causing serious flooding in Humboldt River towns such as Winnemucca, Battle Mountain, and Elko.

Battle Mountain suffered the most. On February 12, the Reese River overflowed and sent three feet of water into the town. As business owners stacked sandbags, citizens complained that the Southern Pacific’s raised track bed was keeping the floodwaters from draining.

A few Battle Mountain residents took matters into their own hands and set off dynamite under the tracks. Said one, “It was only a matter of time before people had to get mad enough to blast.” Next, the state highway department cut a gap in U.S. 40 to allow Reese River backwater to drain into the Humboldt. SP crews tried to seal one of the breaches with sandbags, but angry citizens blasted it open again.

To avoid violence, a Reno district court judge issued a restraining order against the Southern Pacific, preventing it from interfering with flood mitigation efforts for 15 days. As the water drained away, so did the tension between the community and the railroad.

**I**n Southern Nevada severe mountain thunderstorms can cause flash floods. Within an hour of a heavy rain, runoff may roar down normally dry canyons into desert communities like Las Vegas.

On July 3, 1975, an intense thunderstorm swelled the dry washes draining into the city. The Strip was inundated, and two men lost their lives in the flooding. At the Caesars Palace parking lot about 400 cars were damaged or destroyed. Delbert Ball, a visitor from Fort Worth, Texas, said,

## Gone in a Flash

**F**lash floods—the bane of campers and hikers in the Southwest—can strike with no warning. On September 14, 1974, a distant thunderstorm sent a wall of water 40 feet high roaring down Eldorado Canyon. The flash flood killed nine people and wiped out Nelson’s Landing, a popular marina on Lake Mohave about 35 miles southeast of Las Vegas.

The normally dry canyon turned deadly after an intense hail- and rainstorm dumped three inches of rain in just 30 minutes in the mountains up-canyon. The muddy torrent hit Nelson’s Landing at 4 p.m., crushing the restaurant, grocery store, and bar in about five seconds.

Bernie Daniels, a tourist from Glendale, California, remembered, “Heavy hail fell for 15 minutes. Then there was a solid gush. It had to be 30 or 40 feet high.”

Daniels had hustled his wife and dog to high ground when he saw two women hanging onto a building while the water swirled around them. The quick-thinking Daniels grabbed a garden hose, tossed it to the terrified women, and pulled the pair to safety.

The National Weather Service had detected the thunderstorm by radar and issued a flash flood alert for the Eldorado area at 3 p.m., but the flood struck the resort half an hour before the warning was received. Ironically, not one weather station in Nevada recorded any precipitation that day. To keep such a disaster from happening again, the resort was never rebuilt.—*Mark McLaughlin*



The Nelson’s Landing store was smashed by the 1974 flash flood. Nine people were killed, and cars and half the boat dock were swept into Lake Mohave.



A Nevada State Journal photo shows the swollen Truckee River invading the Mapes Hotel and other downtown Reno buildings in the Christmas 1955 flood. Right: Workers clear sandbags and debris in front of the Mapes as the floodwaters recede.

"I went to my room at 5 p.m., and when I came out at 5:30, cars were under water."

Just as Las Vegas must contend with flash floods periodically, Reno residents watch the Truckee River carefully during winter and spring. The 1997 New Year's flood—which covered downtown streets—was yet another reminder of how quickly disaster can strike.

Whenever the Truckee threatens to spill over its banks, Reno citizens of a

**Whenever the Truckee threatens to spill over its banks, Reno citizens of a certain age may recall the 1955 flood.**

certain age may recall the weather bureau notice before the 1955 flood that "no menacing storms appear on the weather maps and a series of storms appear unlikely." Even in a desert state, it's best to be ready for the next flood. ♡

*Mark McLaughlin is a weather historian and author who lives at Carnelian Bay, Lake Tahoe. More of his storm stories and his books can be found at [www.thestormking.com](http://www.thestormking.com).*

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PHOTO COURTESY: RSTVA

# Easy Gliders

By Wilma LaRocca

Here are 13 places to lace up the ice skates and try your own Olympic double axels.

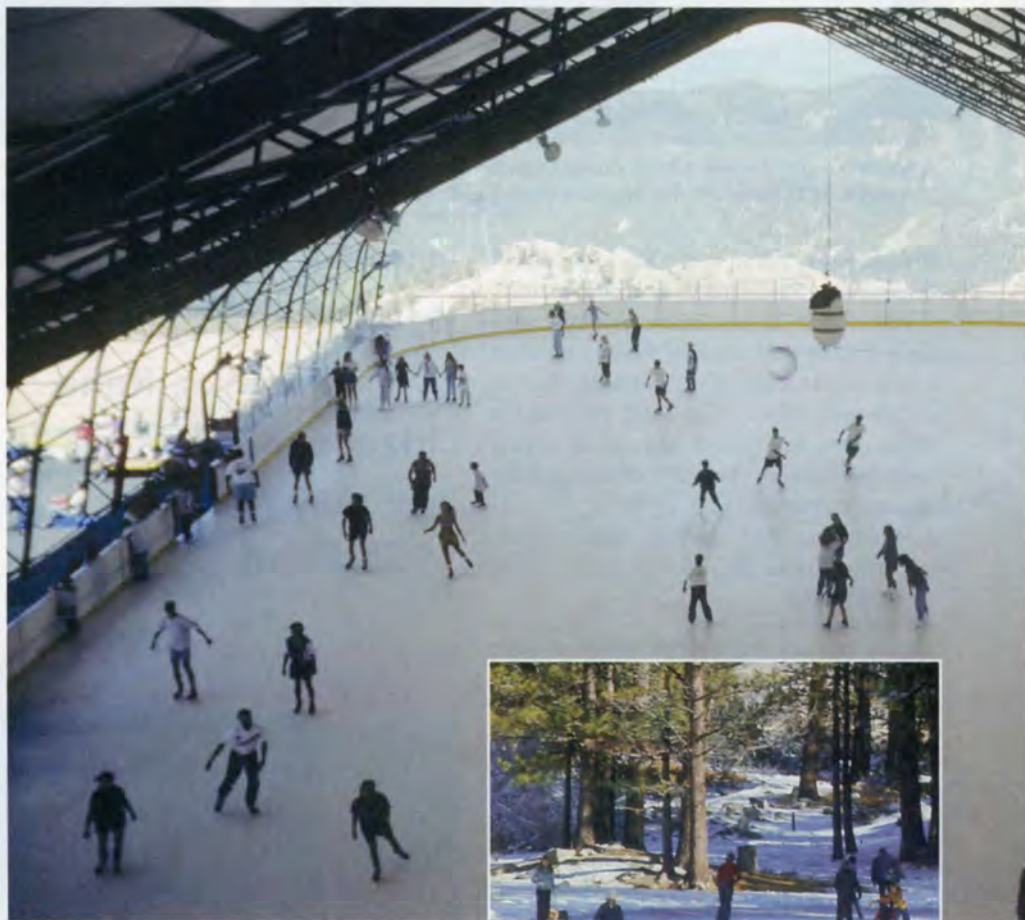
In this era of extreme winter sports, freestyle skiing and glacier climbing get the glory. But consider an invigorating sport that combines long, graceful glides with gravity-defying acrobatics. A sport that recalls the Winter Olympics' highest-rated events and joyous Stanley Cup celebrations by gap-toothed hockey stars.

Consider ice skating, a sport that even beginners can enjoy. Want to learn to perform a swizzle or a teapot? You can take a lesson at most rinks—or just lace up your skates and create your own routines.

Nevada may be a desert state, but you'll find at least 13 places to go skating in Las Vegas, Reno, Tahoe, and rural Nevada. The following skater's guide notes prices for adults. Prices and hours are subject to change. Call ahead for details on lessons, private parties, and public skating. Las Vegas' indoor rinks are open all year long.

When Olympic gold medalist Brian Boitano presents his "Brian Boitano Skating Spectacular" each December at Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas, he holds practice sessions at the **Athletic Arts Academy**. Recreational skaters can use the indoor rink, too, on Friday evening and Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Skaters of all abilities can take private and group lessons. Skating costs \$6, skate rental \$2. 📍 6150 Annie Oakley Drive, off East Russell Road, in Las Vegas. For information call 702-450-2787 or visit [www.athleticartsacademy.com](http://www.athleticartsacademy.com).

The public skates each afternoon at one of the two rinks at **Las Vegas Ice Center**.



Skaters cruise the open-air rink at Squaw Valley's Olympic Ice Pavilion. Right: Ice time at Davis Creek Park in Washoe Valley.

Students and figure skaters use the south rink while hockey teams chase pucks on the north. Instructors offer lessons (\$10) on edge control, backward skating, and footwork. Hockey and figure-skating packages are available (\$110 to \$290). The center is the home practice ice for the Las Vegas Wranglers (who play at the Orleans, which has no public skating) and for former Olympic figure skater Surya Bonaly of France. This season the arena hosts USA Hockey Pacific region youth tournaments. Skating costs \$6, skate rental \$2. 📍 9295 West Flamingo Road, Las Vegas. Call 702-320-7777 or visit [www.lasvegasice.com](http://www.lasvegasice.com).

Each winter, the **MonteLago Village Ice Rink** at Lake Las Vegas opens on a floating stage near the Ritz-Carlton and upscale



boutiques at the posh Henderson resort. Skating costs \$15 per hour, including skate rental. 📍 *Lake Las Vegas is 17 miles east of the Strip. Call 702-564-4766.*

Hockey and figure skating are mainstays of the **SoBe Ice Arena at the Fiesta Rancho**. Part of the Fiesta Rancho hotel-casino, the NHL-regulation rink hosts UNLV's first-year Rebel hockey team and adult and youth hockey leagues. A pro

shop carries figure-skating and hockey apparel. Usually two public-skate sessions are held daily except Monday, including Friday and Saturday nights. Pick-up hockey games are scheduled. Skating costs \$6, skate rental \$2.50. The Sunday Special from 1 to 3 p.m. lets you skate for \$5, which includes skate rental. Instructors offer an eight-week Learn to Skate course

day and a quarter on Washington's. **▲**10 North Virginia Street, Reno. Call 775-334-2262 or visit [www.renoicerink.com](http://www.renoicerink.com).

When it freezes over, the pond at **Davis Creek Regional Park** turns into a scene from a Norman Rockwell painting. Skaters hold hands as they glide over the ice, their breath frozen in the air, and nonskaters watch from log benches beneath tall pines.

"In the 1800s the pond provided ice for the Virginia City mines," says Washoe County park ranger John Keesee. He adds, "We put floodlights in the trees so we can light up the place on weekends. We also set up a fire ring." The ice must be four inches thick for skating, so call ahead. Skating is free, but there are no skate rentals. **▲**Old U.S. 395 near Bowers Mansion in Washoe Valley, 20 miles south of Reno. Call 775-849-0684 or visit [www.co.washoe.nv.us/parks](http://www.co.washoe.nv.us/parks).

**Northstar-at-Tahoe's** rink in the New Village, which was slated to debut in December, offers year-round public skating on ice in winter and on a synthetic surface in summer. Winter skaters can use the fire pits and a s'mores kiosk near the 900-square-foot rink. There is a skate-rental charge, but skating is free. **▲**1000 Northstar Drive, off Highway 267 between Kings Beach and Truckee, California. For details call 800-GO-NORTH or visit [www.northstaratahove.com](http://www.northstaratahove.com).

Most snowsporters go to Squaw Valley USA to ski or snowboard, but some prefer to skate at the **Olympic Ice Pavilion**. You can

reach the rink via the resort's Cable Car, riding 2,000 vertical feet up to High Camp, elevation 8,200 feet, where you'll find restaurants, a museum, a pool (opens in March), and a snowtubing area. The rink overlooks Lake Tahoe's north end. Skating hours are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. until April 9 and 11 to 4 until May 31. The Cable Car ride and skating, including skate rental, cost \$24, or \$15 after 4 p.m.

**▲**Five miles north of Tahoe City, California. Call 530-583-6985 or visit [www.squaw.com](http://www.squaw.com).

The **Resort at Squaw Creek Ice Rink** offers a scenic North Tahoe setting near the Squaw Valley ski slopes. The outdoor rink is open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., with half-hour breaks between two-hour sessions. Skating costs \$10, skate rental \$5.

**▲**400 Squaw Creek Road in Olympic Valley, California. For information call 800-327-3353 or visit [www.squawcreek.com](http://www.squawcreek.com).

At South Lake Tahoe, skaters will find the **Heavenly Village Ice Rink** near the Marriott, two blocks west of the Stateline casinos. The rink is part of the Shops at Heavenly, which houses stores, eateries, a kids' arcade, and a movie theater. The Heavenly gondola is nearby. Call for skating prices and hours. **▲**Call 530-541-2727 or visit [www.theshopsatheavenly.com](http://www.theshopsatheavenly.com).

The **South Tahoe Ice Arena** draws a local crowd. "Our figure-skating club meets every week," says receptionist Lourdes Sweet. "In the evening we have disco with lights, and on weekends we have hockey games and tournaments." The city-operated rink offers public skating year-round. Skating costs \$7.50, skate rental \$2. **▲**1176 Rufus Allen Boulevard, South Lake Tahoe. Call 530-542-6262 or visit [www.recreationintahoe.com](http://www.recreationintahoe.com).

To take a spin on the ice at **Cave Lake State Park** near Ely, you can bring your own skates or rent a pair at Sportsworld in Ely. At 7,350 feet, the reservoir in the Schell Creek Range attracts ice fishermen and Nordic skiers as well as skaters in winter. Park ranger Steve Gray says, "The ice usually is about 25 inches thick and can be fairly clear if it freezes fast." Gray grooms the ice. "We flood the surface to fill in the cracks and use the snow to build a berm around a 70-by-40-yard area," he says. "If anyone knows of a cheap Zamboni, let me know." On January 14-15 the park hosts the White Pine Fire and Ice Show, a snow- and ice-sculpting festival. The park has a \$4 vehicle fee. Sportsworld (775-289-8886) rents skates for \$5 per day and other winter sports equipment. **▲**Success Summit Road, 15 miles southeast of Ely off U.S. 50-6-93. For skating information call 775-728-4460 or visit [www.parks.nv.gov](http://www.parks.nv.gov).

**Wild Horse State Recreation Area** is known for its ice fishing, but if conditions are right, you can skate on the reservoir 62 miles north of Elko. Park ranger Andrew Bass acknowledges the reservoir can see temperatures of 20 below zero. Still, he notes, "If the sun is shining and there's no wind, the temperature is no problem." Bass makes a special, only-in-Nevada offer: "Get some skaters together, maybe for a hockey match. Give me a couple of days' notice, and I'll clear the snow and flood the area with water, and you'll have your own private rink." There is a \$4 vehicle fee. **▲**Wild Horse is located 62 miles north of Elko on State Route 225. Call 775-758-6493 or visit [www.parks.nv.gov](http://www.parks.nv.gov). **▼**

Wilma LaRocca, a Nevada staff writer, grew up skating on frozen ponds in rural Illinois.



**You can reach the rink via the Squaw Cable Car, riding 2,000 vertical feet up to High Camp.**

(\$120). **▲**2400 North Rancho Drive, 10 miles north of the Strip, in Las Vegas. Call 702-647-RINK, or 702-638-3785 for groups, or visit [www.rancho.fiestacasino.com](http://www.rancho.fiestacasino.com).

While all rinks in the Las Vegas area are indoors, nearly all Northern Nevada skating surfaces are outdoors.

For several years, skaters have carved figure eights at a temporary rink on the old Mapes Hotel grounds in Reno. This winter, a permanent **Rink on the River** has opened at the site, located next to the Truckee River and three blocks from most downtown hotels. The city-run rink's first season, which began at Thanksgiving, will last until February 26, weather permitting. Public skating takes place daily from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m. and evenings Wednesday to Sunday; call for a schedule. Skating costs \$5, skate rental \$2. The skate rental will cost a penny on Lincoln's birth-

# Made in Minden

A violin maker,  
a bird lover,  
and a coffee taster  
practice their crafts  
in Carson Valley.



Nelle O'Neill displays patterns, tools, and two completed instruments.

## Music Maker

By Joyce Hollister

A slight woman with twinkly dark eyes, Nelle O'Neill looks like the kindly music teacher she's been for more than 35 years. But now in her early 70s, she is becoming known across the country for her fine stringed instruments.

O'Neill handcrafts violins and violas in her Minden home workshop. She and her husband, John, both retired public-school teachers, moved to Minden in 1992 and opened the Carson Valley Violin School. Although they still give private lessons and direct two orchestras, O'Neill spends more

of her time creating violins and violas following a style that dates to the 1700s in Cremona, Italy.

Before she begins work, O'Neill consults with her customers. "I like to involve them in the selection of wood and the style of the instrument," O'Neill says. "Certain kinds of wood produce a very bright, solo-type of instrument as opposed to one that is more mellow. For a viola, you choose a different wood than you do for a violin."

Almost every step is done by hand. O'Neill carves each instrument's top, bottom, ribs, and neck. After gluing the instrument together, she painstakingly coats it with thin layers of varnish. She makes three or four instruments a year.

O'Neill has earned several first- and second-place awards from the Violin Makers Association of America, and the recognition has brought her clients. At around \$5,000, her violins and violas are moderately priced, and she's not in it for the money.

"I enjoy being able to provide players with a good-sounding instrument at a reasonable cost," O'Neill says. "The satisfaction you get from doing something you're really passionate about is a priceless commodity."

*Joyce Hollister is Nevada's associate editor. For more information about Nelle O'Neill's instruments visit [www.music-foodforthebrain.com](http://www.music-foodforthebrain.com).*

## Birdman of Minden

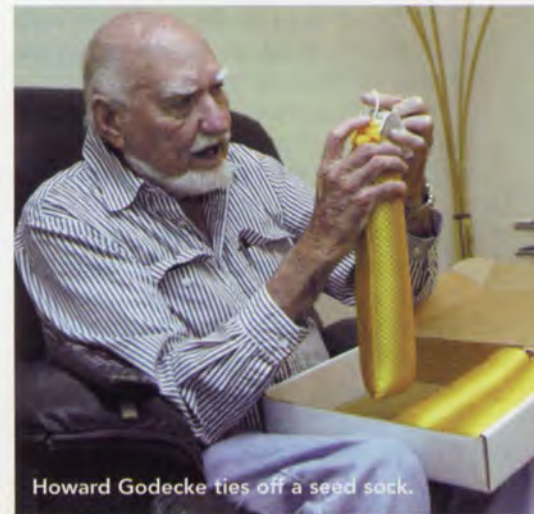
By Linda Hiller

When he was a boy growing up on a Minden farm, Howard Godecke learned to tell the seasons by the arrival of the birds. His mother, Esther, was a bird fancier, and she would point out the different species as they migrated in and out of the Carson Valley.

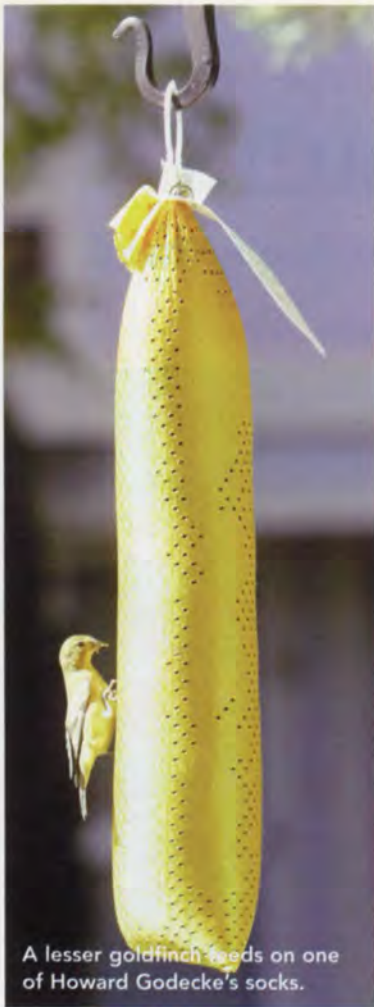
Western bluebirds became Howard's favorites because they arrived just as summer began. "When I would see my first bluebird, I would squeal with delight," says Godecke, now 82. "I knew that summer vacation was not long off."



Nelle O'Neill in her workshop.



Howard Godecke ties off a seed sock.



A lesser goldfinch feeds on one of Howard Godecke's socks.



Doug Langworthy tastes dozens of glasses of coffee every morning at the Starbucks plant.

Godecke lived in California for many years but returned to Minden in the 1980s to care for his aging parents. Soon, he noticed that the bird world had changed.

"I didn't see as many chickadees as before, and the bluebirds and smaller songbirds seemed to be in shorter supply," he says. "I began to experiment with different bird seeds to see what would bring them in to feed in our yard."

After determining that his backyard birds preferred black oil sunflower seeds and Niger thistle, Godecke invented a mesh seed feeder that allowed the smaller songbirds to feed away from larger, more aggressive birds while isolating them from each other's droppings. He formed the Songbird Survival Project to save his mother's favorites, the songbirds, and he now sells his trademarked yellow Seedsox in feed and pet stores in all 50 states.

"My mother has been gone for a long time, but she did get to see this business start," Godecke says. "I know she would be proud of how it has grown."

*Linda Hiller is a Carson Valley writer who teaches bird identification.*

## Coffee Cupper

By Joyce Hollister

Wielding a soup spoon, Doug Langworthy breaks through the crust sitting on the top of a glass of coffee brewed cowboy style—boiling water poured on fine grounds without a filter. Langworthy leans down to smell the steam that wafts upward. Then he pushes aside the crust with his spoon, dips into the hot liquid, and noisily slurps a mouthful. He swishes the coffee around and spits it out.

Like a winetaster, Langworthy is judging the coffee's taste, aroma, and body. It's called cupping, and as a green-coffee spe-

cialist he repeats the process more than 100 times a day at the Carson Valley Starbucks roasting plant in Minden. The facility roasts, packages, and ships coffee all over the Southwestern U.S., and Langworthy is in charge of coffee quality control.

"Pretty much my morning is spent cupping and sampling coffee from every single shipment to the plant," he says. He rejects any beans that are not up to par. He also tastes random samples from the roasters. In the afternoon, Langworthy's on the computer, comparing his findings with those of the Starbucks coffee buyers in Switzerland.

Langworthy says coffee flavors are unique to the country where the beans are grown. "Coffees from Ethiopia tend to be very bright and have very clean flower aromas and lemony flavors. The coffee from Indonesia is big-bodied and earthy. Just like wine, where coffee comes from plays a big part in its flavor profile."

Langworthy says he doesn't get caffeine jitters when he cups the coffee because he spits it out. He laughs. "I can imagine what my wife would say if I drank 100 cups of coffee a day." ▾

*Doug Langworthy says customers can contact their local Starbucks outlets, which occasionally offer community coffee education programs.*



Langworthy sniffs the wafting steam.

## Made in Nevada

You can learn about other products made in the Silver State at [www.madeinnv.com](http://www.madeinnv.com), the official "Made in Nevada" Web site of the Nevada Commission on Economic Development. The site has information on items such as handmade scented candles and herbal soaps and specialty foods like ice cream and salsa.



Another Minden product.

# Great Basin Painters

Nevada artists **Jeff Nicholson**, **Jean LeGassick**, and **Ron Arthaud** stage a show in Carson City.



**"Eulogy for a Cadillac"** (oil, 36" x 50") by Jeff Nicholson: "I've often been attracted to certain automobiles. I observed this Cadillac for years in my hometown of Silver City and knew that one day I would paint it. As it took shape on canvas, I found myself wishing cars could talk."

Three well-known Nevada artists—Jeff Nicholson and Jean LeGassick of Silver City and Ron Arthaud of Tuscarora—will be featured in the "Great Basin Gallery 20th Anniversary Exhibition" in Carson City from February 16 to May 26. The Capital City Arts Initiative will present the show in its Courthouse Gallery, four blocks east of the Capitol at 885 East Musser Street.

The three artists are mainstays of the Great Basin Gallery, which Nicholson and co-owner Rick Davis founded in 1986. For more information on the exhibition visit [www.arts-initiative.org](http://www.arts-initiative.org) or the Great Basin Gallery at 110 South Curry Street

(775-882-8505, [www.greatbasin-gallery.com](http://www.greatbasin-gallery.com)). An opening reception at the Courthouse Gallery, at 5 p.m. on Thursday, February 16, will include refreshments and a chance to meet the artists.

**Jeff Nicholson** has been painting the life and landscape of Nevada for more than 30 years. "I've drawn inspiration from Maynard Dixon, Robert Caples, Craig Sheppard, and other artists who painted Nevada," says Nicholson, who attended the University of Nevada, Reno.

**Jean LeGassick's** favorite subjects are the landscapes of Nevada and the Sierra.



"I'm a plein-air painter," she says, "so I paint on location, out there in whatever weather Mother Nature dishes out. There is nothing more exciting for me than to hike, snowshoe, or mule pack into an area and paint."

**Ron Arthaud** teaches at Great Basin College in Elko, at St. Mary's Art Center in Virginia City, at California's Mendocino Art Center, and in Appelle and Soreze, France. He has lived throughout the West and in Europe and now enjoys the quiet life in Tuscarora with his wife, jeweler Gail Rappa, and newborn son Theo. ▣



**"Emerging From Shadow"**  
(oil, 10" x 12")

by Jean LeGassick:

"This rocky outcropping is in the Virginia Range near my home. It has become for me like Monet's haystacks were for him—it even looks like a haystack. I hike up there to paint it in all different weather and moods. This one is from summer, with the morning light just raking over the tops of the hills."



LeGassick

**"Buried"**  
(oil, 14" x 16")  
by Ron Arthaud:

"I painted this during the late morning in the middle of a very snowy Tuscarora winter. It is about the quality of clear winter sunlight and the oddness of what the snow had done to a normal old fence. There's also the melancholy and calm of a place where people once lived but is now mostly forgotten."



Arthaud

# Warm Weather Vacations

Finding winter fun in the sun in Laughlin  
By Sharon Carter



This winter, vacationers seeking refuge from the snowbound north will find mild weather, room bargains, and agreeable tee times in Southern Nevada's southernmost border town.

Winter in **Laughlin** means sunny days, moderate temperatures, and an outdoor season that resembles spring or fall in northern climes. Ninety-five miles south of Las Vegas, the casino town on the Colorado River has weather typical of the Mojave Desert's lower elevations.

Here on the Nevada Riviera, winter visitors can find good deals during special events. **Winter Break**, a Fort Lauderdale-style getaway for seniors, takes place January 6-12. Immediately afterward, off-road race drivers and fans gather for the **Laughlin Desert Challenge**, staged by the SCORE off-road group on January 12-15.

Several of Laughlin's 10 hotel-casinos offer room packages for the events. The **Flamingo Laughlin's** \$159 SCORE Package includes a three-night stay and tickets to the Desert Challenge. The Flamingo also

has a Room-Buffer Package with one night's lodging and two buffets for \$29 midweek (800-709-6854).

Some packages are tied to entertainment. At the **Riverside Resort** you can reserve a two-night stay with two show tickets (800-227-3849). When Vicki Lawrence stars in her "Two-Woman Show" February 8-12, the midweek price is \$123, weekend \$184. Prices are similar for the Smothers Brothers (February 14-19) and the Oak Ridge Boys (February 21-26).

Deals also are offered by the **Ramada Express** (888-888-8695), **Edgewater** (800-67-RIVER), **Colorado Belle** (800-47-RIVER), **Pioneer** (800-634-3469), **Golden Nugget** (800-237-1739), **River Palms** (877-RVR-PALM), **Harrah's Laughlin** (800-HARRAHS), and **Avi** (800-AVI-2WIN).

Golfers can arrange play-and-stay packages. On the Nevada side of the river is the **Mojave Resort Golf Club** (702-535-4653). Packages include play at the new **Laughlin Ranch Golf Club** (866-684-4653) and other links across the river in Bullhead City, Arizona.

Shoppers can visit the **Horizon Outlet Center** (702-298-4497). The mall has more than 50 outlet stores and a movie-plex. Other winter attractions include boat cruises on the Colorado River, hiking, and ghost-town exploring. The **Grapevine Canyon** petroglyph area is west of Laughlin (ask for directions).

The **Laughlin Visitor Center** has information on hotels, restaurants, cruises, and other attractions. Phone 702-298-3321 or 800-4-LAUGHLIN, visit [www.visitlaughlin.com](http://www.visitlaughlin.com), or write 1555 Casino Drive, Laughlin, NV 89029 for information.



Sharon Carter often travels in Southern Nevada.

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At the **Flamingo Laughlin**

**Golf Package** \$169\* Plus tax

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**Flamingo Laughlin Golf Package includes:**

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# NEVADA *Events & Shows*

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

January/February 2006

## Girls' Night Out

The men of "Thunder From Down Under," "Chippendales," and "American Storm" rock the ladies

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# Girls' Night Out

Las Vegas Area

Female showgoers cheer as **male dancers** bare nearly all in "Thunder From Down Under," "Chippendales," and "American Storm" in Las Vegas.

By Lyn Collier

**A**waiting the first dancer of the evening, the patrons whisper excitedly as tension mounts in the darkened showroom. The showgoers are ready for one of Sin City's world-famous adult attractions—a bevy of topless dancers.

The spotlights come on, and the music starts. The audience goes wild, clapping and cheering lustily as the emcee takes the stage. A white-haired, grandmotherly type delivers a piercing, two-fingered whistle. "Bring it on, boys!" she yells.



FLEX TIME: A dancer in "Thunder From Down Under" at the Excalibur.

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**DANCE MEN:** The "Chippendales" choreography raises the temperature at the Rio All-Suite Hotel. "Chips" has its own showroom.

There are no showgirls tonight on this stage. The audience members—virtually all of them women—have come to the Excalibur to see Australia's best hunks bare it all down to their G-strings in "Thunder From Down Under."

"Thunder" is one of three male revues that have stepped beyond their bawdy nightclub tradition and found homes as Las Vegas showroom headliners. The other two are "Chippendales: The Show" at the Rio All-Suite Hotel and "American Storm" at the Riviera. The shows' traveling

The closer the guy gets to revealing his **G-string**, the louder the **screams**.

casts appear regularly in Reno, Mesquite, and Laughlin, and on March 6, "Chippendales" begins a several-month run at Harrah's Reno.

The shows are popular with rowdy females (and a few tag-along males) attending bachelorette and birthday parties or on girls' nights out. The women cheer the well-built dancers, who tease with smiles and winks as they peel off their costumes—exposing six- and 12-pack abs—to thumping rock music. The closer the

stripper gets to revealing his G-string, the louder the screams. It is a crazy scene, but leave your dollar bills at home—tipping is not allowed. Nightclubs may allow patrons to place money in dancers' costumes, but not Nevada showrooms.

"Thunder From Down Under" rolled

into Las Vegas in 2002. The brainchild of Billy Cross, a former Australian bricklayer and rugby player, "Thunder" has played year-round to full houses. Audience members range from 21-year-olds to women four times that age, and they are not shy about expressing their enthusiasm.

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# Where's the Lift?



MOUNT ROSE, NEVADA MAGAZINE, APRIL 1948



AB-SOLUTELY: A "Thunder" dancer in action.

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Sometimes the otherwise well-mannered ladies try to grab the performers.

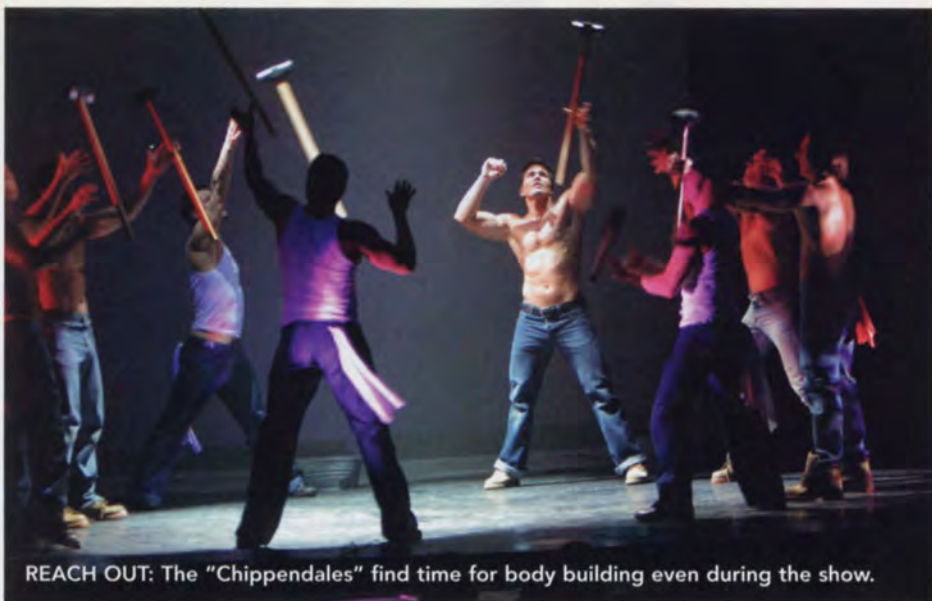
"Long, sharp fingernails can be quite dangerous," says Matthew "Matty" Fardell, "Thunder" company manager and a popular performer. He notes the show has other unexpected moments.

"At the end of the evening our emcee brings an audience member on stage for a dance," Fardell explains. "One night he chose a woman who was about 90, and she happened to be with her husband, who was around the same age. When he figured out what was happening, he came on stage and threw up his fists, ready to take on this big young guy.

"We all had a laugh at the time, but afterwards we realized that here's this older gentleman ready to defend his wife's honor after all these years. It was quite touching to realize that chivalry isn't dead."

Other lively scenes unfold nightly at the Rio All-Suite Hotel. The Rio's swanky new Chippendales Theatre, complete with Sky Lounge, houses "Chippendales: The Show."

The Chippendale dancers have appeared at the Rio for four years. Billed as the "ultimate girl's night out," the show



REACH OUT: The "Chippendales" find time for body building even during the show.

uses seductive sets, music, and lighting to simulate a journey accompanied by Latin rhythms, hip-hop, and Broadway songs. The 12-member cast isn't shy about shaking it in the aisles and giving women lap dances. The guys also comb the audience for unsuspecting victims to bring on stage for sexually suggestive skits.

After the show the nightclub-style theater transforms into a dance floor. More post-show partying follows in the Flirt Lounge, where patrons sometimes can mingle with Chippendale dancers at the bar.

Female tastes helped shape the show and showroom, according to Kevin

Denberg, Chippendale's corporate vice president in New York. He says, "We wanted to create a place women could feel beautiful and let their hair down and have a good time."

While "Chippendales" and "Thunder From Down Under" are household names, "American Storm" is seeking its

The 12-member "Chippendales" cast isn't shy about shaking it in the aisles and giving women lap dances.

own exposure after making its Riviera debut last summer. Created by Billy Cross and "Thunder" producer Adam Steck, the show had an unusual casting call:



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# Show Notes

Las Vegas' three male showroom revues offer sculpted dancers, pulsating music, and screaming female fans; earplugs may be advised. Prices, which are subject to change, include tax. Drinks are extra. Call ahead for reservations.

**"Thunder From Down Under":** Merlin's Theatre, Excalibur. Show times are 8 p.m. Sun.-Wed. and 8 and 10:30 p.m. Fri.-Sat. (dark Thurs.). Tickets cost \$43.95 and \$53.95 for limited VIP seating. Guests must be at least 18 years of age, and an

adult must accompany those 18 to 20. Call 702-597-7600 or 800-933-1334 or visit [www.excalibur.com](http://www.excalibur.com).

**"Chippendales: The Show":** Chippendales Theatre, Rio All-Suite Hotel. Show times are 8:30 p.m. Thurs.-Tues. (dark Wed.), with an additional 10:30 p.m. show on Fri.-Sat. Prices are \$41.95, \$52.95, \$57.95, and \$85.50 for the Sky Lounge. Dancers sometimes mingle with patrons in the Flirt Lounge after the show. Showgoers must be 18 or older. Call 702-

777-7776 or 888-746-7784 or visit [www.playrio.com](http://www.playrio.com) for reservations.

**"American Storm":** Le Bistro Theatre, Riviera Hotel. Show times are 10:30 p.m. nightly except Mon. Prices are \$58.95 and \$69.95 for a line pass and preferred seating. "American Storm" dancers sometimes mingle with patrons in the

Syn City Nightclub on Fri.-Sat. Guests must be at least 18 years of age, and an adult must accompany those 18 to 20. Call 702-794-9433 or 877-892-7469 or visit [www.rivierahotel.com](http://www.rivierahotel.com).

**"Chippendales" Coming to Reno:** On March 6, "Chippendales" begins a run of three months or more in Sammy's Showroom at Harrah's Reno. Show time is 9 p.m. (dark Tues.-Wed.). For ticket prices and other information call 775-786-3232 or 800-HARRAHS or visit [www.harrahs.com](http://www.harrahs.com).

Prospective dancers had to win approval on the VH1 reality show *StripSearch*.

"American Storm" is similar to its brother production. With a cast of seven, "Storm" offers well-cut beefcake and lots of cartwheels while the up-and-coming

performers develop their stage presence in Le Bistro Theatre. A few smoldering numbers feature the guys dressed in black overcoats, but "Storm" dancers generally have a boy-next-door appeal. The dancers sometimes meet audience members after

the showroom converts to the Syn City Nightclub on Friday and Saturday.

All three shows have the same objective—offer the women a good time as the men flex and peel their clothes off—but there are some differences. Aficionados note that the dancers in "Thunder From Down Under" tend to tease, using fantasy to fuel a woman's imagination. In "American Storm," the new guys on the block are just plain cute. "Chippendales" is more of a production show, and its dancers often are more blatantly sexual.

"Chippendales" also is the only one of the three male revues with a singer. He's Brian Cheatham, who moved to Las Vegas from Dallas and joined the cast when the Rio show opened.

"I was so thankful that I got in the show the day after I moved here," Cheatham recalls. The 28-year-old works out five times a week to keep his body lean and muscular. When not performing, he likes to go club-hopping on the Strip.

Being a singer, however, does not put Cheatham out of the reach of screaming women. "I'm being grabbed like there is no tomorrow," the Texan says, "but I grin and bear it." ▀

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Lyn Collier is a Las Vegas writer.

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# Las Vegas

AREA EVENTS AND SHOWS

Cultural events dominate the Las Vegas scene this winter. The University of Nevada, Las Vegas hosts the **Budapest Festival Orchestra** and the **Russian National Ballet**. The Utah Shakespearean Festival performs "Hamlet" in Mesquite. On the Strip, **Celine Dion** continues in "A New Day." at Caesars Palace, **Wayne Newton** headlines at the Flamingo Las Vegas, and the Broadway musical "**Hairspray**" opens at the Luxor. Call ahead to confirm details.

## Events

### Las Vegas Philharmonic New Year's Eve Ball Weekend Getaway

• Dec. 30-31 • Black-tie affair includes room, champagne reception, golf, jewelry show, cocktail party, dinner, Viennese waltzes played by the Las Vegas Philharmonic Salon Orchestra, dancing to Walt Boenig's big-band orchestra, and fireworks, \$1,200 per couple. Ritz-Carlton, Lake Las Vegas, Henderson, 800-241-3333.

**New Year's Eve at the Fremont Street Experience** • Dec. 31 • Cheap Trick, Gin Blossoms, and Spin Doctors, plus countdown and New Year's Eve light and sound show. Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, 702-678-5777.

**First Night** • Dec. 31 • Nonalcoholic celebration of the arts. Historic Old Town, Boulder City, 702-293-2034.

**\$25,000 Ring in the New Year Video Poker Tournament** • Jan. 1-3 • \$199 entry fee. Las Vegas Hilton, Las Vegas, 702-732-5111.

**Moutin Reunion Quartet** • Jan. 3 • Las Vegas Jazz Society concert. Whitney Library Concert Hall, Las Vegas, 702-313-6778.

**First Friday in the Arts District** • Jan. 6 • Cultural block party, Main St. and Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas, 702-229-1087.

**Laughlin Winter Break** • Jan. 6-12 • Festival for the 50-plus age group features dancing, gaming tournament, cooking demonstrations, exercise classes, and entertainment. Citywide, Laughlin, 480-926-5547.

**Santos Reyes Festival: Three Kings Day** • Jan. 7 • Latin American cultural celebration. East Las Vegas Community Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-1515.

**Astronomy Program** • Jan. 7 • Las Vegas Astronomical Society telescope workshop. Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, 13 miles west of Las Vegas, 702-515-5350.

**Mark Nadler in a Nutshell** • Jan. 8 • Musical comedy performance. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

**Michael Londra** • Jan. 11 • Member of the Irish Step Dancers who performed in the Broadway edition of "River Dance." Virgin Valley High School, Mesquite, 702-346-2787.

**Budapest Festival Orchestra** • Jan. 11 • Featuring violinist W. Renaud Capucon. Artemus Ham Hall, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

**Laughlin SCORE Desert Challenge** • Jan. 12-15 • Off-road competition features race cars and exotic trucks on an 11-mile loop. Other events include a pit crew competition and the popular Laughlin Leap, a high-jump for cars. Events Park, Laughlin, 800-227-5245.



The Las Vegas Gladiators of the Arena Football League play indoors at the Thomas and Mack Center. The team's home games begin February 6 against the San Jose SaberCats.



The Las Vegas Strip and the downtown Fremont Street Experience become party central on New Year's Eve when the city welcomes 2006.

**Brass Roots Quartet Concert** • Jan. 14 • Reed Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211.

**Second Saturday in the Cultural Corridor** • Jan. 14 • Programs at participating venues including Lied Discovery Children's Museum, Las Vegas Natural History Museum, Neon Museum boneyard, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, and Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park. Las Vegas, 702-229-4631.

**Las Vegas Philharmonic** • Jan. 14 • Family concert. Artemus Ham Hall, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

**Watoto Book Club** • Jan. 14, 28 • Club for ages 10-16 based on an African-American curriculum. West Las Vegas Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

**Guitar Society of Las Vegas Concert** • Jan. 15 • Black Mountain Recreation Center, Henderson, 702-267-5819.

**Arnie Webster Combo** • Jan. 20 • Bring a lunch for an outdoor noon concert. Lloyd D. George U.S. Courthouse, Las Vegas, 702-229-1087.

**Poets' Corner** • Jan. 20 • Forum for established and open mike participants. West Las Vegas Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

**Nitro Blast-Off** • Jan. 20-22 • Preseason drag racing test session. The Strip at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

**\$30,000 Cabin Fever Slot Tournament** • Jan. 20-22 • \$199 entry fee. Las Vegas Hilton, Las Vegas, 702-732-5111.

**Eric Morales vs. Manny Pacquiao** • Jan. 21 • World Boxing Council International super featherweight title fight. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

**Nevada Jazz Orchestra** • Jan. 22 • Las Vegas Jazz Society concert. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

**Blusoul Jazz Band Concert** • Jan. 22 • Black Mountain Recreation Center, Henderson, 702-267-5819.

**\$100,000 Pai Gow Poker Tournament** • Jan. 26-28 • \$499 entry fee. Las Vegas Hilton, Las Vegas, 702-732-5111.

**Black and White Ball: Tickled Pink** • Jan. 28 • Nevada Ballet Theatre event honoring comedienne Rita Rudner. Wynn

Las Vegas, 702-243-2623 for more performance details.

**Old Time Barn Dance** • Jan. 28 • Squares, mixers, contras, waltzes, and polkas. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

**Las Vegas Wind Quintet Concert** • Jan. 29 • Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211.

**P.D.Q. Bach: The Vegas Years** • Jan. 29 • Comic interpretation of Bach's music. Artemus Ham Hall, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

**\$22,000 Golf Tournament** • Jan. 29-31 • Play at Mojave Resort course. Edgewater/Colorado Belle, Laughlin, 877-480-2747.

**Ten Minute Play Festival** • Feb. 1-5 • Student playwrights. Paul Harris Theatre, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

**Mozart to Glenn Miller** • Feb. 3-4 • Nevada Ballet Theatre presentation. Artemus Ham Hall, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

**Henderson Civic Symphony** • Feb. 5 • Valley View Recreation Center, Henderson, 702-267-5819.

**Starduster Sweetheart Ball** • Feb. 11 • Square and round dances. Dula Gym, Las Vegas, 702-348-4906.

**Valentine's Day Cruise** • Feb. 11 • Dinner-dance cruise on Lake Mead aboard the *Desert Princess* paddlewheeler. Boulder Basin, Hemenway Harbor, Boulder City, 702-293-6180.

**The Shapiro Project** • Feb. 12 •

Las Vegas Jazz Society jazz guitarist Eugene Shapiro. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 775-455-7340.

**Valentine's Day Dance** • Feb. 14 • Gene White Octet performs. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

**"Sleeping Beauty"** • Feb. 14 • Performed by the Russian National Ballet. Artemus Ham Hall, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

**"Hamlet"** • Feb. 17 • Presentation by Utah Shakespearean Festival company. Virgin Valley High School, Mesquite, 702-346-2787.

**PSCA Winter Nationals** • Feb. 17-19 • Drag racing at The Strip at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

**Ailey II** • Feb. 18 • Dance showcase. Artemus Ham Hall, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

**Happy Birthday Amadeus!**

**The Mozart Experience** • Feb. 25 • Las Vegas Philharmonic featuring flutist Richard Soule and harpist Kim De Libero. Artemus Ham Hall, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

**Salsa Dance** • Feb. 25 • Joe Torres and his Big Band perform. East Las Vegas Community Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-1515.

**The Pipes, Drums, and Highland Dancers of the 1st Battalion** • Feb. 26 • Performance by the Black



**TV host Regis Philbin will headline at the Golden Nugget January 20-21 in Las Vegas.**

Watch and the Band of the Welsh Guards. Artemus Ham Hall, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

**Laura Taylor Quartet** • Feb. 26 • Las Vegas Jazz Society concert. Whitney Library Concert Hall, Las Vegas, 702-313-6778 for further concert information.

## Ongoing Events

**The 24-Hour Show: Working 'Round the Clock in Las Vegas** • Interactive permanent exhibit profiles the lives of casino workers—from cooks to wig stylists. Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Las Vegas, 702-486-5205 for museum information.

**Las Vegas Farmer's Market** • Tues. at Gardens Park at Summerlin, Wed. at Bruce Trent Park, Thurs. at Centennial Hills Park, Las Vegas, 702-562-2676.

**North Las Vegas Farmer's Market** • Thursdays • City Hall Courtyard, North Las Vegas, 702-208-1074.

**Rock Art Tours** • Second Sat. of the month thru May • Guided tours by the Nevada Rock Art Foundation to view ancient petroglyphs. Free tour includes an optional stop at the Lost City Museum in Overton, which has a \$2 admission. Valley of Fire State Park, 60 miles northeast of Las Vegas via I-15. Reservations required, 702-804-6723.

**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.

**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.



The lives of entertainers and casino workers are explored in "The 24-Hour Show: Working 'Round the Clock in Las Vegas" at the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society.

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.

**Gift of Lights** • Thru Jan. 1 • Seven million lights will be displayed in the fifth annual drive-thru holiday festival. Sunset Park, Las Vegas, 702-451-0344.

**Celebration of Lights** • Thru Jan. 1 • Holiday decorations. Ramada Express, Laughlin, 800-243-6846.

**Whistle Stop to Windfall: 100 Years in Las Vegas** • Thru Jan. 2 • 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.

**Chocolate Wonderland** • Thru Jan. 2 • Ethel M Chocolates' annual lighting display of the cactus garden. Ethel M Chocolates, Henderson, 800-4-ETHELM.

**The Western Addiction** • Thru Jan. 6 • Paintings by Suzanne Hackett-Morgan examine the decline of the cowboy. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, 702-455-7340.

**Secret Words: Recent Works by Jacklyn St. Aubyn** • Thru Jan. 8 • Small-scale still life paintings. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

**Heritage Street Holidays** • Thru Jan. 15 • Restored historic homes decorated in vintage trim from the 1920s-1950s. Tour includes a gift of period recipes. Clark County Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.

**Jane Marquez Exhibition** • Thru Jan. 28 • Pastels and acrylics. Boulder Dam Hotel, Boulder City, 702-293-2138 for art show information.

**Ice Skating at MonteLago Village** • Thru Feb. 14 • Floating ice rink docked at the village shopping area. MonteLago Village, Lake Las Vegas, Henderson, 702-564-4766.

**Allegorical Amalgamations** • Thru Feb. 19 • Sculpture exhibition. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

**Beakman's World on Tour** • Thru Feb. • Hands-on exhibit for children has displays about the rain forest, outer space, dinosaurs, and the human body. Las Vegas Natural History Museum, Las Vegas, 702-384-3466.

**Keepers of the Flame** • Thru March 4 • Alternative journey through the history of Las Vegas. West Las Vegas Arts Center and Left of Center Art Gallery, Las Vegas, 702-647-7378.

**UNLV Women's Basketball** • The Lady Rebels play Dec. 31 vs. Lamar, Jan. 5 vs. Wyoming, Jan. 14 vs. San Diego State, Jan. 21 vs. Utah, Feb. 2 vs. TCU, Feb. 11 vs. BYU, Feb. 18 vs. Colorado State, Feb. 25 vs. Air Force, March 2 vs. New Mexico. Cox Pavilion, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

**UNLV Men's Basketball** • The Runnin' Rebels play Dec. 31 vs. Southern Utah, Jan. 11 vs. BYU, Jan. 18 vs. Colorado State, Jan. 25 vs. Air Force, Jan. 28 vs. New Mexico, Feb. 4 vs.



The Las Vegas Wranglers of the East Coast Hockey League face the Utah Grizzlies, Phoenix Roadrunners, San Diego Gulls, and other Western teams at the Orleans Arena.

Wyoming, Feb. 16 vs. San Diego State, Feb. 22 vs. Utah, March 4 vs. TCU. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

**Lost City Museum Art Exhibition** • Jan. 1-31 • Works by Jo Tane and Betty Halverson. Lost City Museum, Overton, 702-397-6832.

**Las Vegas Wranglers** • The East Coast Hockey League team plays Jan. 3 vs. Reading Royals, Jan. 6 vs. Phoenix Roadrunners, Jan. 7 vs. Stockton Thunder, Jan. 10 vs. San Diego Gulls, Jan. 13 vs. Fresno Falcons, Jan. 14 vs. Phoenix Roadrunners, Feb. 7, 10, and 14 vs. Texas Wildcatters, Feb. 17 vs. Fresno Falcons, Feb. 18 vs. Utah Grizzlies, Feb. 21 vs. Victoria Salmon Kings, Feb. 24-25 vs. Idaho Steelheads, March 17-18, 21 vs. Alaska Aces, March 24 vs. Bakersfield Condors, March 25 vs. Utah Grizzlies, March 28 vs. Stockton Thunder, March 31 vs. San Diego Gulls, April 7 vs. Long Beach Ice Dogs, April 8 vs. Phoenix Roadrunners. Orleans Arena, Las Vegas, 702-471-7825.

**"Loot"** • Jan. 13-29 • British farce. Las Vegas Little Theatre, Las Vegas, 702-362-7996.

**Recovered Views: African American Portraits, 1912-1925** • Jan. 14-March 12 • John Johnson photo exhibit. Clark County Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.

**"The Dining Room"** • Jan. 19-22, 26-28 • Interaction among members of a well-to-do household. Campus Theatre, Mesquite, 702-682-6485.

**Print Exhibit** • Jan. 20-April 1 • Works by nationally recognized printmakers. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-228-6383.

**Drag Racing** • Jan. 27-29, Feb. 3-5, 10-12 • The Strip at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

**Barbara Yoerg Photo Exhibition** • Feb. 1-28 • Lost City



The "Beakman's World on Tour" children's exhibit can be viewed through February at the Las Vegas Natural History Museum.

Museum, Overton, 702-397-2193 for museum information.  
**Las Vegas Gladiators** • Arena Football League team plays Feb. 6 vs. San Jose SaberCats, March 5 vs. Philadelphia Soul, March 10 vs. Grand Rapids Rampage, March 17 vs. Arizona Rattlers, April 2 vs. Los Angeles Avengers, April 8 vs. Nashville Kats, April 29 vs. Utah Blaze. AFL playoffs, May

20-21, 27-28, June 3-4, Arena Bowl XX, June 11, Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 702-731-4977.

**"Inherit the Wind"** • Feb. 10-12, 16-19 • Drama about Scopes Monkey Trial. Judy Bayley Theatre, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

**"Snowshoes Across the Sierra"** • Feb. 10-12 16-19 • Musical about Genoa's legendary 19th-century mail carrier, Snowshoe Thompson. Rainbow Company presentation at Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211.

**"Thirst and Fog"** • Feb. 17-19, 24-26 • Two one-act plays about survival in a lifeboat. Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-651-LIVE.

**"On Golden Pond"** • Feb. 17-March 5 • Broadway drama. Las Vegas Little Theatre, Las Vegas, 702-362-7996.

**"Intimate Apparel"** • Feb. 24-26, March 1-5, 8-12 • Struggles of an African-American seamstress. Black Box Theatre, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

## Coming Events

**Kawasaki Team Green Laughlin U.S. Hare Scrambles Off-Road Motorcycle Race** • March 3-5 • Laughlin, 702-457-5775.

**"Snow Queen"** • March 10 • BYU ballet company, Mesquite, 702-346-2787.

**NASCAR Weekend** • March 10-12 • Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

**St. Patrick's Day Celebration** • March 16-20 • Henderson, 702-267-2171.

**"A Midsummer Night's Dream," Nevada Ballet Theatre** • March 17-19 • Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

**Clark County Fair and Rodeo** • April 6-9 • Logandale, 702-398-3247 for event information.





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Dragon Boat Festival • April 15-17 • Lake Las Vegas, Henderson, 702-267-2171.  
 2006 MiniMotoSX • May 5 • Las Vegas, 702-284-7777.  
 ArtFest of Henderson • May 5-7 • 702-267-2171.  
 2006 World Series of Poker • June 25-Aug. 10 • Las Vegas, www.worldseriesofpoker.com.

# 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.  
 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: Smokey Robinson, Feb. 11. Bill Engvall, Oct. 21. The District at Green Valley Ranch Outdoor Events, 702-564-8595: Menorah lighting and festivities, Dec. 27.

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

Joker's Wild • 702-564-8100: Free entertainment Fri.-Sat.  
 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, Feb. 9, April 6. Al Stewart, March 25.

## JEAN

Gold Strike Hotel • 702-477-5000 or 800-634-1359: Cheryl Justice Band, Dec. 28-31.



Country star George Strait performs February 4 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

Nevada Landing • 702-387-5000 or 800-628-6682: Entertainment in the casino lounge.

## LAS VEGAS

Aladdin • 702-785-5555 or 877-333-WISH: Aladdin Theater for the Performing Arts: Kenny Loggins and the Pointer Sisters, Dec. 30. Kanye West, Dec. 31. Miss America Pageant, Jan. 21. "Beauty and the Beast," Feb. 1-5. Aladdin Showroom: Dan Band, Dec. 30-31. V Theatre at Desert

Passage: Fab Four, dark Fri. "V," variety show. "X," adult revue. Call 702-932-1818. Steve Wyrick Entertainment Complex: Steve Wyrick Magic Show and Triq Lounge open in early 2006. Entertainment in Sinbad's and Curve. Krave Nightclub: 702-836-0833: "The Fashionistas," adult musical, dark Sun. The Aladdin will become Planet Hollywood in late 2006.

Arizona Charlie's • 702-258-5200: Naughty Ladies Saloon: Greg Peterson, Dec. 27-Dec. 31. Karaoke 8:30pm-1:30am Mon. Jerry Tiffe plays 4-7pm Fri.

Arizona Charlie's East • 702-951-9000: Palace Grand Lounge: Checkmates, Dec. 27-Jan. 1.

Bally's • 702-739-4111 or 800-237-SHOW: Jubilee! Theater: "Jubilee!," dark 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," 9-6pm Mon.-Thurs. Bands perform Tues.-Sat.

Bellagio • 888-987-6667: Cirque du Soleil's "O," indf., dark Mon.-Tues. and Feb. 19. Entertainment in Light, Caramel, Petrossian, Baccarat, and Fontana lounges and bars.

Binion's • 702-382-1600: Benny's Bullpen: Music TBA.

Boulder Station • 702-432-7777 or 800-683-7777: The Railhead: Kenny Rankin, Jan. 14. Keith Anderson, Jan. 20. B.J. Thomas, Jan. 21. Strunz and Farah, Jan. 28. Howard Jones, Feb. 3. Gary Puckett, Feb. 10. Dave Mason, Feb. 24. Brian Culbertson, Feb. 25. Wayman Tisdale, March 18. Jerry Tiffe plays 2-4pm Thurs. KIXX: Shooting Stars Karaoke, Thurs.-Sat.

Caesars Palace • 702-731-7333 or 800-445-4544: The Colosseum Showroom: Celine Dion stars in "A New

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**Longstreet Hotel-Casino-RV Park** (Amargosa Valley): 866-713-5100; 51 spaces  
**Pahrump Station RV Park:** 775-727-5100; 62 spaces  
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**RV Ranch Resort:** 775-727-2371; 10 spaces  
**Rosemary's RV Park:** 775-727-4488; 40 spaces  
**Saddle West Hotel, Casino & RV Resort:** 800-433-3987; 80 spaces  
**Seibt Desert Retreat:** 877-4RV-PADS; 230 spaces (membership)  
**Seven Palms RV Park:** 775-727-6091; 59 spaces  
**Shadow Mountain Scenic Park:** 775-751-3217; 14 spaces  
**Shoshone RV Park:** 760-852-4569; 20 spaces  
**Terrible's Lakeside Casino & RV Park:** 888-558-LAKE; 159 spaces  
**West Gate RV Park:** 775-727-9996; 44 spaces  
**Western Horizons RV Resort:** 775-751-7805; 196 spaces (membership)

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Day... Jan. 5-8, 11-15, 18-22, 25-29, Feb. 22-26 (call 877-4-CELINE). "The Red Piano" starring Elton John, Jan. 31-Feb. 1, 3-5, 7, 10-12, 14-15, 17-19, March 28-29, 31, April 1-2, 4-5, 7-9 (888-4-ELTON). Entertainment in the Shadow Bar, Café Lago Restaurant, Terrazza Lounge, Cleopatra's Barge Nightclub, and Galleria Bar.

**Circus Circus** • 702-734-0410 or 800-444-CIRCUS: Free circus acts 11am-11pm weekdays, 11am-midnight on weekends. AdventureDome Theme Park, 12pm-6pm.

**Excalibur Hotel** • 702-597-7600: King Arthur's Arena: "Tournament of Kings, jousting-dinner show, daily. Merlin's Theatre: "Thunder From Down Under," all-male revue, dark Thurs. Minstrels Lounge: Live bands.

**Fitzgeralds** • 702-388-2400 or 800-274-LUCK (U.S. outside Nevada): Fitzgeralds Main Showroom: "The Rockin' Ass Show," starring Steve Connolly, Spirit of the King, 7pm, Thurs.-Mon. Larry G. Jones: The Man of 1,002 Voices, im-

**Golden Gate** • 702-385-1906: Piano 6pm-midnight.

**Golden Nugget** • 702-386-8100: Theatre Ballroom: Gordie Brown, musical impressionist, thru March 31, dark Wed.-Thurs. and Jan. 1-3. Regis Philbin appears Jan. 20-21. Entertainment in the Oasis Lounge and ZAX Restaurant.

**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," daily.

**Hard Rock Hotel** • 702-693-5066: The Joint: TBA. Entertainment in Pink Taco, Simon Kitchen and Bar, and Body English Nightclub.

**Harrah's Las Vegas** • 702-369-5111 or 800-392-9002: Clint Holmes Theater: Clint Holmes, dark Sun. "Skintight," adult revue, dark Thurs. Mac King, comedy magic, 1 and 3pm, dark Sun.-Mon. Improv Theater: Comedy, dark Mon. Entertainment in Range Steakhouse, the Piano Bar, and Carnival Court.



The Luxor on the Las Vegas Strip features cheesecake on its entertainment menu thanks to the ladies of "Fantasy," the hotel's nightly adult musical revue.

personator-comedian, 9pm, dark Tues.-Wed. Bands play daily on the First Floor Stage.

**Flamingo Las Vegas** • 702-733-3333 or 800-221-7299: Flamingo Showroom: Wayne Newton, 7:30pm, dark Sun. George Wallace, comedian, indf., performs 10pm Tues.-Sat. Second City Theater: "Second City," improv comedy sketches, 8pm daily except Wed., 10:30pm Sat.-Sun. Bands play in Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville.

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

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

**Gold Coast** • 702-367-7111 or 888-402-6278 (U.S. outside Nevada): Lounge: Royal Dixie Jazz Band, 1-6pm Mon.-Fri. Bands play nightly except Mon. Gold Coast Showroom: "Forever Plaid," 7:30pm Tues.-Sun., matinee 3pm Sun., dark Mon. Latin Breeze, Fri.-Sat. indf. Ballroom dancing with disk jockey Larry Taylor 7-10pm Mon. Dance lessons 6-7pm at the Gold Coast.

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

**Hooters Hotel and Casino** • 702-739-9000: Entertainment in Pete and Shorty's Lounge. The former San Remo remains open until it officially becomes Hooters in early Feb.

**Imperial Palace** • 702-794-3261: Imperial Theatre: "Legends in Concert, impersonator revue, dark Sun. Casino Floor: Celebrity impersonators deal blackjack to gamblers. Entertainment in the Kabuki Lounge and Tequila Joe's. The "Be a Legend" Amateur Celebrity Impersonator Karaoke Contest is held quarterly.

**JW Marriott Las Vegas** • 702-869-2335: Plush Ultra Lounge and Supper Club: Music and dancing.

**Lady Luck** • 702-477-3000 or 800-523-9582: Entertainment at the downtown hotel is located off-property at the Celebrity Nightclub, 3rd and Ogden streets. Performers TBA.

**Las Vegas Hilton** • 702-732-5755 or 800-222-5361: Hilton Theater: Barry Manilow stars in "Manilow: Music and Passion, Jan. 11-14, 18-21, Feb. 15-18, 22-25, March 1-4, 15-18, 22-25, 29-April 1,

Michael Bublé, Feb. 10-12, 14. Johnny Mathis, May 12-13, Nov. 24-25. Shimmer Cabaret: Delisco, the singer, plays thru Jan. 14. "Menopause, The Musical, comedy opens Feb. 1, dark Fri. Frankie Moreno Band, Wed.-Sun. Bands play nightly except Mon.-Tues.

**Luxor** • 702-262-4555: Luxor Theater: Dame Edna: A Dame in the Desert, Dec. 31. "Hairspray," Broadway musical opens Feb. 17, dark Wed. Atrium Theater: Carrot Top, comedy, dark Tues. "Fantasy," production show, dark Thurs. Entertainment in Nefertiti's, Ante Room, and Ra lounges and clubs. Movies are featured in the IMAX theater, and tours are available at the King Tut's Museum.

**Mandalay Bay** • 877-632-7400: Mandalay Bay Theatre: "Mamma Mia!, the Broadway musical based on the music of Abba, dark Fri. and Jan. 1. Mandalay Events Center: Black Eyed Peas, Dec. 30. INXS, Jan. 28. House of Blues: Goo Goo Dolls, Dec. 31. Social Distortion, Jan. 14-15. An Evening With Juanes, Feb. 14. STYX, March 4. Gospel Brunch, 10am and 1pm Sun. Entertainment in Ivan Kane's

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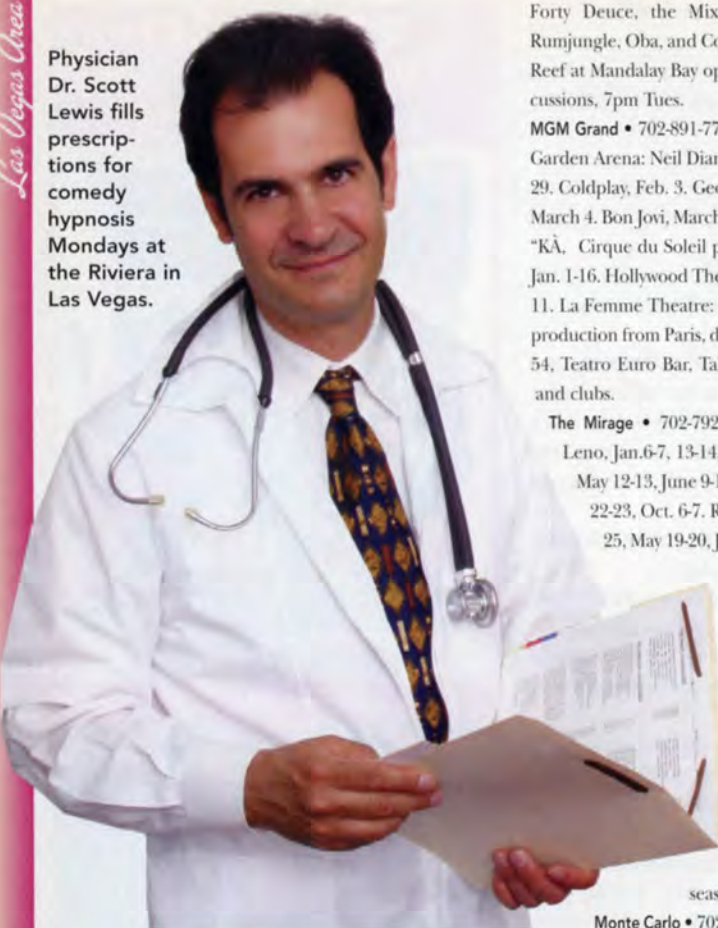
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**MGM Grand** • 702-891-7777 or 800-929-1111: MGM Grand Garden Arena: Neil Diamond, Dec. 30. Paula Tsui, Jan. 28-29. Goldplay, Feb. 3. George Strait, Feb. 4. Rolling Stones, March 4. Bon Jovi, March 11. Billy Joel, April 8. KÀ Theatre: "KÀ. Cirque du Soleil production, dark Wed.-Thurs. and Jan. 1-16. Hollywood Theatre: David Copperfield, thru Jan. 11. La Femme Theatre: "La Femme, topless Crazy Horse production from Paris, dark Tues. Entertainment in Studio 54, Teatro Euro Bar, Tabu, Zuri, and Centrifuge lounges and clubs.

**The Mirage** • 702-792-7777: Danny Gans Theatre: Jay Leno, Jan.6-7, 13-14, 27-28, March 3-4, 31, April 1, 21, May 12-13, June 9-10, July 7-8, 21-22, Aug. 11-12, Sept. 22-23, Oct. 6-7. Ray Romano, Jan. 20-21, March 24-25, May 19-20, June 23-24, Sept. 29-Oct. 1, Oct. 13-15, Nov. 10-12. Brad Garrett, Feb. 17-18, April 14-15. David Spade, Feb. 24-25, June 2-3, Sept. 1-2, Nov. 3-4. Kevin James, March 10-11, May 26-28, Aug. 4-5, Oct. 20-21. Impressionist Danny Gans will return Feb. 7. There also is entertainment in the Ava and Onda lounges. Siegfried and Roy's Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat: Hours are seasonal at the outdoor attractions.

**Monte Carlo** • 702-730-7000: Lance Burton Theatre:

"Lance Burton, Master Magician, dark Sun.-Mon. Entertainment in the Monte Carlo Pub and Brewery and Houdini Lounge.

**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: The Broadway Theatre: "Zumanity," adult Cirque du Soleil production, 7:30 and 10:30pm, dark Wed.-Thurs. and Feb. 5 and 21. Cabaret Theatre: Comedienne Rita Rudner performs nightly. Entertainment in The Pub at Nine Fine Irishmen, Coyote Ugly, the Bar at Times Square, and Big Apple Bar lounges and clubs. Manhattan Express Roller Coaster, 11am-11pm Sun.-Thurs., 10:30pm-midnight Fri.-Sat.

**The Orleans** • 800-ORLEANS: The Orleans Showroom: Jim Stafford, Jan. 5-8. Tower of Power, Jan. 13-15. Tony Orlando/The Lefty Brothers Band, and Sammy Shore, Jan. 26-29. Engelbert Humperdinck, Feb. 1-4. Everly Brothers, Feb. 8-12. Neil Sedaka, Feb. 15-19. Smothers Brothers and Yo Yo Ma, Feb. 23-26. Donny Osmond, March 2-5. Bill Engvall, March 9-12. Dionne Warwick, March 16-19. Burt Bacharach, March 23-26. Chris Botti, March 30-April 2. Steven Wright, April 6-9. Boyz to Men, April 20-23. Englebert Humperdinck, April 27-30. Grand Ballroom: Guy Lombardo's Royal Canadians featuring Al Pierson and Keaton Douglas, Dec. 31. Orleans Arena: Tiesto in Concert, Dec. 31. 2006 MiniMoto SX, May 5. Entertainment is offered in the Bourbon Street Cabaret and Brendan's Irish Pub.

**Palace Station** • 702-367-2411 or 800-634-3101: Jack's Irish

# Go Back ... Way Back!

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Magician Lance Burton entertains showgoers at the Monte Carlo in a production packed with big-budget illusions and attractive dancers.

Pub: Entertainers perform nightly at the Palace Station pub. **The Palms** • 702-942-7777: Entertainment in Rain, ghostbar, and the Lounge.

**Paris Las Vegas** • 800-237-SHOW: Theatre des Arts: Entertainment. Entertainment in Le Cabaret, Napoleon's, and Risqué lounges and clubs, and the Ah Sin Restaurant. Eiffel Tower rides 10am-1am daily.

**The Plaza** • 800-634-6575: Plaza Theatre: Champagne Sunday Brunch, 10:30am-2:30pm. Guest celebrities drop in to entertain. Comedy Zone, comedians perform at 8pm nightly. Benny Baker, adult comic, dark Thurs.-Fri. Collin Foster, magic, dark Mon. Curtis Adams: Magic That Rocks, dark Mon. Bands perform in the Omaha Lounge nightly.

**Rampart Casino at the Resort at Summerlin** • 877-869-8777: Entertainment in Addison's Lounge and the Round Bar.

**Rio All-Suite Hotel** • 702-252-7776 or 800-PLAYRIO: Samba Theater: Penn and Teller, comedy-magic show, dark Tues. and Dec. 31. Scinta Showroom: The Scintas, musical revue, dark Thurs. and Dec. 31. Ronn Lucas, comedian-ventriloquist, 3pm, dark Fri. and Jan. 1-6. Chippendales Theater: Ultimate Girl's Night Out. "Chippendales: The Show," dark Wed. Club Rio: "Erocktica Live! Sex, Sweat, and Rock 'n' Roll," dark Tues. Entertainment in Club Rio, VooDoo, Flirt, I-Bar Ultra, and Bikinis lounges and clubs. 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 4, 6, 8, and 10pm Sun.-Thurs., with additional shows scheduled at 7 and 9pm on Fri.-Sat.

**Riviera** • 702-794-9301: Splash Theatre: "Splash," production show, dark Mon, covered shows Tues.-Thurs. La Cage Theatre (third floor): "Love is a Pain, musical about divorced couples continuing to live under the same roof. "An Evening at La Cage," celebrity female impersonators revue, dark Tues. Mardi Gras Plaza (second level): "Crazy Girls" adult revue, dark Tues. "Riviera Comedy Club, nightly. Le Bistro Theatre: "Neil Diamond Tribute Starring Jay White," Sun.-Thurs. Dr. Scott Lewis: Outrageous Comedy Hypnotist, Mon. "Barbra and Frank: The Concert

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Photography by Joseph Royer



That Never Was," impersonator show, Wed.-Sun. "American Storm," male revue, dark Mon. Le Bistro Theatre converts to Syn City, the Nightclub 10pm-4am Wed.-Sun.

**Sahara** • 702-737-2515: Sahara Theater: "Buck Wild, country variety show, 9pm topless, dark Sun. Congo Room: Amazing Jonathan, bizarre magic, 10pm, dark Thurs. Coasters, Platters, and Drifters 7:30 p.m. nightly. Entertainment in the Casbar Lounge.

**Sam's Town** • 702-456-7777 or 800-897-8696: Sam's Town Live: Entertainment TBA. Music in Roxy's Saloon. Mystic Falls Park: Laser and water show at 2, 6, 8, and 10pm.

**Santa Fe Station** • 702-658-4900: Chrome Showroom: Ray Price, Feb. 9. Memphis Championship Barbecue: Rocksicle, 10pm Sat.

**Silverton** • 702-263-7777 or 800-588-7711: Showroom: Hootie and the Blowfish, Dec. 31. Mermaid Restaurant and Lounge: Mermaids perform in a 117,000-gallon saltwater tank hourly from 6 to 11pm.

**Stardust** • 702-732-6325: Stardust Theatre: Siegfried and Roy present "Havana Night Club, Cuban revue, thru Feb. 4. Four Tops and Shirley Alston Reeves, Dec. 30-Jan. 1. Rick Thomas Show, magic production, 2 and 4pm. Hypnotic Lounge: "Hypnosis Gone Wild, adult show nightly. Starlight Lounge: Karaoke Mon. and Fri.

**Stratosphere** • 702-382-4446 or 800-99-TOWER: Theater of the Stars Showroom: "American Superstars," impersonator revue, dark Thurs. "Viva Las Vegas, musical revue, 2 and 4pm daily except Sun. Outdoor Events Center: Entertainment TBA. Entertainment in Images, Top of the World, and Crazy Armadillos lounges and clubs. Stratosphere Thrill Rides: Insanity, X Scream, Big Shot, and High Roller.

**Suncoast** • 702-636-7111: Suncoast Showroom: Righteous Brother Bill Medley/McKenna Medley, Dec. 29-31. Vincent Falcone Orchestra/Frankie Randall, Dec. 31. Jeff Lorber, Jan. 6-8. Paul Revere and the Raiders, Jan. 13-15. Rich Little, Jan. 20-22. Sergio Mendes, Jan. 27-29. Jacqui Naylor, Feb. 3-4. Debbie Reynolds, Feb. 10-12. Four Freshmen, Feb. 17-19. James Darren, Feb. 24-26. Glen Campbell, March 3-5. Ragus: The Irish Dance Show, March 10-12. Bill Acosta, March 17-19. Roger Williams, March 24-26. Ricky Van Shelton, March 31-April 2. Entertainment in the Suncoast Lounge.

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

**Treasure Island (TI)** • 702-894-7111: Cirque du Soleil in "Mystère, dark Mon.-Tues. and Jan. 2-17. Entertainment in Tangerine, Mist, and Breeze lounges and clubs. "The Sirens of TI" pirate show is performed outside at 5:30, 7, 8:30, 10:30pm.

**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. Entertainment in the Celebration and Tropics lounges. "Air Play," aerialists per-

Nevada

EVENTS AND SHOWS

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NEVADA

MAGAZINE

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Impersonators of stars such as early rock 'n' roller Jerry Lee Lewis pay tribute to TV-show host Ed Sullivan in "A Really Big Shew" through April at the Flamingo Laughlin.

form above the casino at 11am, 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9pm. Tower Pavilion: Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition, ship's memorabilia, 10am-10pm daily thru Jan. 31.

**Venetian** • 702-733-5000: Blue Man Group Theatre: "Blue Man Group, percussion theater, nightly. "Phantom of the Opera" to open in the spring. Gondola rides on the canal.

**Wynn Las Vegas** • 702-770-7000: "Le Rêve, aquatic production, Sat-Wed. Avenue Q Theater: "Avenue Q, Tony Award-winning musical, dark Wed.

**LAUGHLIN**

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

**Colorado Belle** • 702-298-4000: Entertainment TBA.

**Edgewater** • 702-298-2453: Lounge: Bands play nightly.  
**Flamingo Laughlin** • 702-298-5111 or 800-435-8469: Club Flamingo Showroom: "A Really Big Shew," tribute to Ed Sullivan, thru April. The Ballroom: Bobby Goldsboro, March 11. Flamingo Laughlin Outdoor Amphitheater: Engelbert Humperdinck, April 15. REO Speedwagon, April 28-29. Clint Black, May 20.

**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: "Rhythm and Flair," dance styles revue. "Strip!" adult revue, dark Sun. and Wed. thru May.

**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 on military topics.

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

**Riverside Resort** • 702-298-2535 or 800-227-3849, ext. 616: Don's Celebrity Theatre: Debbie Reynolds, Dec. 27-31. New Year's Eve Dance with Babe Swing, Dec. 31. Happy Birthday to the King, Jan. 3-8. Carl Hurley, Jan. 9-14. Charlie Prose, Jan. 15-Feb. 2. Ozark Jubilee, Feb. 3-7. Vicki Lawrence, Feb. 8-12. Smothers Brothers, Feb. 14-19. Oak

Ridge Boys, Feb. 21-26. Roy Clark, Feb. 28-March 5. Glen Campbell, March 7-12. Ragus: Irish Dance Spectacular, March 14-19. Ricky Van Shelton, March 21-26. Entertainment in the Lightning Strikes Nightclub.

**MESQUITE**

**CasaBlanca** • 702-346-7529 or 800-459-7529: CasaBlanca Showroom: Hotel California, Dec. 31. Comedy Club:

Weekends when no performers are scheduled. Entertainment in the Skydome Lounge.

**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: Celebration of the King's Life, Jan. 6-7. Black Diamond, Jan. 13-14. The Buckingham, Jan. 21. Next Movement, Jan. 26-28. Twist and Shout: Tribute to the Beatles, Feb. 17-18. Brett Butler, Feb. 25. Entertainment in the Pin-Ups Bar.

**Fiesta Rancho** • 702-631-7000: Entertainment in Club Tequila and 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: George Jones, Feb. 11. The Oak Ridge Boys, March 3. 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: Entertainment TBA. Bands play weekends in Buffalo Bill's Stagebar. Funniez Comedy Club: Comedians Fri-Sat.

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

**Whiskey Pete's** • 800-FUN-STOP: Entertainment in Whiskey Pete's Show Bar Lounge.

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# Warm Art-ed Shows

Reno and Carson City museums offer intriguing exhibitions in nice, warm galleries this winter **By Joyce Hollister**

**T**wo girls float on their backs in a hot spring on the Black Rock Desert north of Reno. With their eyes closed and arms outstretched, the pair convey pure watery bliss.

The image is part of the current **"Black Rock"** exhibition at the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno. The show is one of many offered at Reno and Carson City museums this winter. In this cold, blustery season, such shows give us a reason to take refuge in a heated gallery and warm up to fine-art photography, classic European race cars, and 19th-century saloon artifacts.

"Black Rock" features photographs by UNR art professor Peter Goin and text and maps by geography professor Paul F. Starrs. Appearing until February 12 at the art museum (775-329-3333, [www.nevadaart.org](http://www.nevadaart.org)) the show is based on their coffee-table book of the same name.

"We love the fact that we're able to highlight two Nevadans, both of whom work at the University of Nevada, Reno," says Malena Satre, the museum's communications associate. "We're able, using their maps and photos, to go into greater depth into the Black Rock country to show there's more to Black Rock than the Burning Man event. There is variety in the environment and landscape."

Photos of the cracked playa and whirling funnel clouds delineate the Black Rock's stark beauty. "But you can't do an exhibit like this without images of Burning Man," Satre allows.

One photo shows a festival celebrant called Buster seated on a hay bale wearing only a coat of mud.

The art museum hosts four other shows in January and February. Frescoes buried in ash from the same Mount Vesuvius eruption that destroyed Pompeii in 79 A.D. make up **"In Stabiano: Exploring the Ancient Seaside Villas of the Roman Elite"** (until January 22). **"Joseph Zirker: Translucent Transformations"** (also until January 22) highlights the large, colorful



"Children Floating at Soldier Meadows Hot Springs" hangs in "Black Rock" at the Nevada Museum of Art. Below: "Celestial Centerpiece" gleams in the "American Silver" exhibit.



works of Zirker, a Bay Area printmaker. Russian religious painting is discussed in **"Tradition in Transition: Russian Icons in the Age of the Romans"** (February 4-April 27). Silver cocktail shakers and tea sets are among the items in

**"Modernism in American Silver: 20th Century Design"** (February 18-May 14) at the museum.

A little known French photographer's work transports us to the first days of auto racing in **"Speed and Light: Early Racing Photography of Henri Meurisse"** at the National Automobile Museum, The Harrah Collection (775-333-9300, [www.automobilemuseum.org](http://www.automobilemuseum.org)) in

Reno through March 6. You can almost hear the motor purring inside the restored 1914 Mercedes-Benz race car that stands in the center of the gallery. The cars featured in the show's 30 black-and-white photos—dating from 1903 to 1914—seem to kick up clouds of dust as they roar along twisting country roads.

Meurisse photographed the era's great European races for French newspapers and magazines. After he died in 1935, his files were sold at auction. The auto museum owns 945 of Meurisse's glass negatives, and for this exhibit Reno Color Lab produced archival prints using the original plates.

"The negatives age over time, like good wine," says museum curator Denise Sins. "They pick up a richness of tone that you don't get in modern photography." In choosing images for the show, Sins worked with Oceanside, California, auto-racing



You can almost hear the motor purring inside the restored 1914 Mercedes-Benz race car that stands in the gallery.

historian Gary Doyle, who will give a lecture and sign copies of his book, *Ralph DePalma, Gentleman Champion*, on February 23 at the auto museum.

Collector George Wingard of Eugene, Oregon, loaned the restored Mercedes-Benz that won the 1914 Grand Prix in Lyons. The car was driven by Christian Lautenschlager, a German who so infuriated the French by winning in 1908 that they suspended the Grand Prix until 1912. "The French got their panties in a bunch," laughs Sins. But the German racer had the last laugh. In that 1914 race Lautenschlager and his Mercedes-driving countrymen finished in the top three places.

A photo in the show depicts a sneering Lautenschlager and his mechanics.

Another exhibit at the automobile museum offers more than a dozen unique or discontinued vehicles. "Orphan Cars: Detours From Destiny" will be on

This bottle from a Virginia City saloon appears in "Havens in a Heartless World" at the Nevada State Museum.



Owner George Wingard still races the 1914 Mercedes-Benz that won that year's French Grand Prix (top left). The car is on loan to the National Automobile Museum. Appearing at the Nevada Museum of Art are "Obelus" by Joseph Zirker (top right) and the Russian icon "Iverskaia Mother of God" (left).

display through April 26. The autos include a three-wheeled 1957 BMW Isetta Two Seater Bubble Car and a 1939 American Bantam Woodie, a smaller version of the wood-paneled station wagon.

The world's oldest Tabasco bottle and a bottle of "Dr. Wonser's Indian Root Bitters"—recovered from an artifact thief who ended up behind bars—are highlights of "Havens in a Heartless World," slated to open in January and run through April at the Nevada State Museum (775-687-4810, [www.nevadaculture.org](http://www.nevadaculture.org)) in Carson City.

"These are the best of the best of approximately 300,000 artifacts that were recovered from the excavations of four Virginia City saloons," says Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer Ron James. The sites included the Boston Saloon, Piper's Old Corner Bar, and an Irish pub. The fourth saloon was unusual in that it had an indoor shooting gallery. Presumably, the saloon's patrons avoided bullets by closely bellying up to the bar.

The Boston Saloon, owned by African

Americans, had the best food, crystal, and plates, James says, and its excavation was featured four times on CNN. Human DNA extracted from a pipestem found there revealed that a woman had smoked it. Other saloon artifacts on display will include fancy buttons, a stone cribbage board, toys, and a pottery water filter dating to 1863. (Before a pipeline was built from the Lake Tahoe area in 1873, Virginia City's water was undrinkable.)

Hollywood films populate 19th-century Western saloons with flouncy floozies and trigger-happy outlaws, but the artifacts paint a different picture. Virginia City saloons were like today's pizza parlors, James explains.

"You went to the saloon with your family on a Friday night in 1880. You bought a meal and had a beer. The kids had soft drinks and played marbles on the floor. Almost never was anyone shot—except maybe at the shooting gallery." ▣

Joyce Hollister, Nevada Magazine's associate editor, kept warm at the Musée du Louvre during her student days in Paris.





# Reno-Tahoe

## AREA EVENTS AND SHOWS

Skiers and boarders will compete on the slopes and half-pipes of **Lake Tahoe** resorts such as **Heavenly**, **Mt. Rose-Ski Tahoe**, and **Northstar**. This winter's cultural calendar includes Nevada Opera's performance of "**Pirates of Penzance**" at the Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts in Reno. **Brooks and Dunn** appear at the Silver Legacy, and **Robert Earl Keen** and **Todd Snider** play John Ascuaga's Nugget.



New Year's revelers at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks can dine and dance to Big City Revue, the San Francisco party band.

## Events

**Blue Year's Eve on Blue Avenue** • Dec. 31 • A specially created pedestrian-friendly mall between the South Shore casinos offers strolling Dickens' carolers, live entertainment, access to Harrah's, Harveys, MontBleu (Caesars Tahoe), and Horizon properties, and a countdown at midnight. Stateline, Lake Tahoe, 800-AT-TAHOE.

**Reno-Tahoe New Year's Eve** • Dec. 31 • Area casinos offer parties with music, food, drink, and party favors to welcome 2006. Several Lake Tahoe ski areas also plan parades, fireworks, and music. For information call the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority, 800-FOR-RENO, or the Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority, 530-544-5050.

**Say "No" to Football** • Jan. 1 • Fishing season opens on

Sunday. Topaz Lake, south of Gardnerville, 775-688-1500.

**Whistlin' Billy—Snow Days** • Jan. 4-5 • Children's story time adventure featuring *The Legend of Whistlin' Billy*. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

**Winterfest Keno Tournament** • Jan. 6-7 • Atlantis, Reno, 888-551-7007.

**Next X Snow Search** • Jan. 7 • *Sports Illustrated for Kids* holds an audition for the All-American athlete under the age of 13. Heavenly Mountain Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 775-586-7000.

**Volcom Peanut Butter and Rail Jam** • Jan. 7 • Open to snowboarders of all ages. Free PB&J sandwiches, hot dogs, and sodas for competitors. Sierra-at-Tahoe Snowsports Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 530-577-4760.

**Ski With Elvis Day** • Jan. 7 • Skiers dress like Elvis to honor his birthday. Mt. Rose-Ski Tahoe, Reno, 775-849-0704.

**USASA Boardercross and Slopestyle Competition** • Jan. 7-8 • Boardercross on Jan. 7; slopestyle on Jan. 8. Boreal Mountain Resort, Donner Summit, 530-426-3666.

**United States Amateur Snowboard Competition** • Jan. 7-8 • Slalom on Jan. 7; giant slalom on Jan. 8. Sierra-at-Tahoe Snowsports Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 530-577-4760.

**Pinball Rally: Superpipe Event** • Jan. 8 • Freestyle competition, Northstar-at-Tahoe, North Lake Tahoe, 530-562-1010.

**Blackjack Tournament** • Jan. 8-9 • Atlantis, Reno, 888-551-7007.

**High Noon at the Historical Society** • Jan. 9 • Viewing of the video *Gathering the Cowboy Arts* followed by a discussion led by cowboy historian Griff Durham. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 775-688-1190.

**Jazz in January** • Jan. 10 • Mile High Jazz Band concert. Comma Coffee, Carson City, 775-883-2626.



Skiers are ready to start the Sawmill 15K Cross-Country Race, held January 22 at Northstar.

**A Chinese Character in Nevada** • Jan. 11 • Monthly Wednesday Event Program by Katie Pollock explores the Chinese experience in Nevada during the 1800s. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

**\$20,000 Hilton Bowl Slot Tournament** • Jan. 13-15 • \$100 entry fee. Reno Hilton, 888-547-2081.

**Winter X-Jam** • Jan. 13-15 • Ski and boardercross competition to qualify for X Games. Sugar Bowl, North Lake Tahoe, 530-426-9000.

**Reno Chamber Orchestra** • Jan. 14-15 • Guest artist is violinist Jennifer Frautschi. Nightingale Hall, University of Nevada, Reno, 775-348-9413.

**Dreamin' of Cash Slot Tournament** • Jan. 15-16 • Atlantis, Reno, 888-551-7007.

**Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration** • Jan. 16 • Dinner and guest speaker. Reno Hilton, 775-329-8990.

**Brew Ha Ha** • Jan. 20 • Charity event features regional microbreweries. John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 775-356-3304.

**Full Moon Snowshoe and Nordic Tour** • Jan. 21 • Bonfire, hot chocolate, and s'mores. Northstar-at-Tahoe, North Lake Tahoe, 530-562-1010.

**Shut Up and Snowskate** • Jan. 21 • Competition on snowskates. Sierra-at-Tahoe Snowsports Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 530-577-4760.

**United States Amateur Snowboard Competition** • Jan. 21-22 • Northstar-at-Tahoe, North Lake Tahoe, 530-562-1010, and Sierra-at-Tahoe Snowsports Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 530-577-4760.

**Far West Freestyle** • Jan. 21-22, 28-29 • Moguls, big air, half-pipe, and slopestyle competitions. Heavenly Mountain Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 775-586-7000.

**Sawmill 15K Cross-Country Race** • Jan. 22 • Open to skiers of all ages and ability levels. Northstar-at-Tahoe, North Lake Tahoe, 530-543-3132.

**"Biglittlesings"** • Jan. 26 • Imago Theatre's fantasy starring hitchhiking rabbits and giant caterpillars. Nightingale Hall, University of Nevada, Reno, 775-784-4046.

**Heavenly Jackpot Rail Jam Series** • Jan. 27 • The best tricks win cash prizes in this nighttime event. Heavenly Mountain Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 775-586-7000.

**Masters Slalom and Giant Slalom Race** • Jan. 27-29 • Squaw Valley USA, North Lake Tahoe, 530-581-7188.

**Mah Jong Tournament** • Jan. 27-29 • Reno Hilton, Reno, 888-547-2081 for further event information.

**Chinese New Year Party** • Jan. 29 • Food and drink specials, lion dancers, martial arts demonstrations. Northstar-at-Tahoe, North Lake Tahoe, 530-562-1010.

**Pinball Rally: Superpipe Event** • Jan. 29 • Freestyle competition. Northstar-at-Tahoe, North Lake Tahoe, 530-562-1010.

**Kinder Cup Challenge** • Jan. 29 • Three-race series open to

Gilbert and Sullivan's comedy-adventure. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 775-786-4046.

**Far West Ski Association J4/J5 Giant Slalom** • Feb. 3-5 • Squaw Valley USA, North Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

**Pinball Rally: Superpipe Event** • Feb. 5 • Freestyle competition. Northstar-at-Tahoe, North Lake Tahoe, 530-562-1010.

**Carnival of Crab** • Feb. 8 • All-you-can-eat crab feed, carnival games, entertainment, and live and silent auctions. Fundraiser for Nevada State Fair. Reno Livestock Events Center, Reno, 775-688-5767.

**Railroad Rhythms** • Feb. 8 • Monthly Wednesday Evening Program features an evening of railroad songs by the Little Toots, local third grade children. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

**Heavenly Jackpot Rail Jam Series** • Feb. 10 • The best tricks win cash prizes in this nighttime event. Heavenly Mountain Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 775-586-7000.

**"Frozen"** • Feb. 10-11, 16-18, 23-26 • Drama follows grief, revenge, forgiveness, and bearing the unbearable. Bruka Theatre, Reno, 775-323-3221.

**Let It Ride Tournament** • Feb. 10-12 • \$100 entry fee. Reno Hilton, 888-547-2081.

**Snowbomb Sick and Twisted Competition** • Feb. 11 • Amateur freestyle. Diamond Peak, Incline Village, 775-832-1120.

**Slide Back** • Feb. 11 • Loud '80s clothing welcome for the annual retro ski party. Mt. Rose-Ski Tahoe, Reno, 775-849-0704.

**United States Amateur Snowboard Competition** • Feb. 11-12 • Superpipe event on Feb. 11; giant slalom on Feb. 12. Northstar-at-Tahoe, North Lake Tahoe, 530-562-1010.

**United States Amateur Snowboard Competition** • Feb. 11-12 • Boardercross event on Feb. 11; slopestyle on Feb. 12. Sierra-



Flocks of binocular-carrying humans will tour Carson Valley ranches during Eagles and Agriculture on February 24-26. The event is based at the Carson Valley Inn in Minden.

ages six and under. Heavenly Mountain Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 775-586-7000.

**Quarterback Slot Tournament** • Jan. 29-30 • Atlantis, Reno, 888-551-7007.

**Google Dual Slalom** • Feb. 1-2 • Squaw Valley USA, North Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

**North American Halfpipe Freestyle** • Feb. 2-4 • Competition features Northern California amateur skiers. Boreal Mountain Resort, Donner Summit, 530-426-3666.

**"Pirates of Penzance"** • Feb. 3-4 • Nevada Opera performs

at-Tahoe Snowsports Resort, South Lake Tahoe, for more information call 530-577-4760.

**Far East Association J3 Super-G Races** • Feb. 11-13 • Squaw Valley USA, North Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

**Kinder Cup Challenge** • Feb. 12 • Three-race series open to ages six and under. Heavenly Mountain Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 775-586-7000.

**Cupid's Pick Keno Tournament** • Feb. 12-13 • Atlantis, Reno, 888-551-7007.

**High Noon at the Historical Society** • Feb. 13 • Viewing of the

video *African-Americans on the Comstock* followed by a discussion led by UNR professor Donald Hardesty. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 775-688-1190 for information.

**Snowsports Week** • Feb. 13-16 • All-day lift tickets for \$25 each. Fundraiser for Barton Hospital Foundation. Sierra-at-Tahoe, South Lake Tahoe, tickets 530-543-5614.

**Jazz Sampler for Sweethearts** • Feb. 14 • Mile High Jazz Band concert. Comma Coffee, Carson City, 775-883-4154.

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

**Valentine Sweetheart Race** • Feb. 14 • Fun ski race for prizes. Heavenly Mountain Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 775-586-7000.

**Valentine's Day Couples Race** • Feb. 14 • Fun race open to intermediate to advanced skiers and riders. Northstar-at-Tahoe, North Lake Tahoe, 530-562-1010.

**eighth blackbird concert** • Feb. 15 • Sextet performs Pierrot Lunaire based on the poems of Albert Giraud. Nightingale Hall, University of Nevada, Reno, 775-784-4046.

**"One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest"** • Feb. 17-19, 24-26, March 3-4 • A con man chooses a short sentence in a mental institution rather than prison. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 775-883-1976.

**United States Amateur Snowboard Competition** • Feb. 18-19 • Superpipe event on Feb. 18; boardercross on Feb. 19. Sierra-at-Tahoe Snowsports Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 530-577-4760.

**Love of the RWB Slot Tournament** • Feb. 20-21 • Atlantis, Reno, 888-551-7007.

**Full Moon Snowshoe and Nordic Tour** • Feb. 24 • Bonfire, hot chocolate, and s'mores. Northstar-at-Tahoe, North Lake Tahoe, 530-562-1010.



**Violinist Jennifer Frautschi performs with the Reno Chamber Orchestra January 14-15 at the University of Nevada, Reno.**

**Heavenly Jackpot Rail Jam Series** • Feb. 24 • The best tricks win cash prizes in this nighttime event. Heavenly Mountain Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 775-586-7000.

**Eagles and Agriculture** • Feb. 24-26 • Birds of prey are the topics of programs, discussions, and group tours. Event includes an opening reception. Space is limited. For event reservations 800-727-7677. Host hotel, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 775-782-8144.

**Jeep King of the Mountain** • Feb. 24-26 • Ski and board competition. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

**Texas Hold 'Em Tournament** • Feb. 24-26 • Atlantis, Reno, 888-551-7007.

**Reno Chamber Orchestra** • Feb. 25 • Guest performer cellist Zuill Bailey. Nightingale Hall, University of Nevada, Reno, 775-348-9413.

**USASA Halfpipe and Slopestyle Competition** • Feb. 25-26 • Boardercross on Feb. 25; slopestyle on Feb. 26. Boreal Mountain Resort, Donner Summit, 530-426-3666.

**United States Amateur Snowboard Competition** • Feb. 25-26 • Slopestyle event on Feb. 25; superpipe on Feb. 26. Sierra-at-Tahoe Snowsports Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 530-577-4760.

**Winter Trails Day and Clinic** • Feb. 25-26 • On Feb. 25 a free snowshoe demo day and on Feb. 26 a training clinic to prepare for the Echo to Kirkwood Tour and Race on March 11. Kirkwood Cross Country Ski Center, Kirkwood, south of Lake Tahoe, 209-258-7248.

**Mardi Gras Party** • Feb. 25-28 • Music, Cajun food specials, and kids' activities. Northstar-at-Tahoe, North Lake Tahoe, 530-562-1010.

**Symphony Concert** • Feb. 26 • Guest performer flutist Boglarka Kiss. Community Center, Carson City, 775-883-4154.

**Ascent: The Winter Party at Lake Tahoe** • Feb. 26-March 5 • Gay and lesbian ski carnival. Call for locations, 866-228-3228.

## Ongoing Events

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

**Gaming Tournaments** • Texas hold 'em daily at noon; 7-card stud hi/lo on Mon., Wed., Fri; traditional 7-card stud on



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Tues., Thurs., and Sat.-Sun. Atlantis, Reno, 775-825-4700.

**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.

**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. No-limit \$10 buy-in Texas hold 'em on



A butterfly soars in "Biglittlethings," the Imago Theatre fantasy appearing January 26 at UNR's Nightingale Hall.

Tues., Wed., Thurs., and Sun. Monthly \$1,500 blackjack on the last Tues. Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 877-783-7711.

**Gaming Tournaments** • Video poker Mon. Slots Wed. Blackjack Tues. and Thurs. Horizon, Stateline, 775-588-6211.

**No-Limit Texas Hold 'Em** • Daily, \$25 buy-in. Eldorado, Reno, 775-786-5700.

**Nevada State Museum Tours** • Visitors can take behind-the-scenes tours of the anthropology, plant, and animal collections on the last Friday of each month. 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. Drawings are held at different stores each month. River Walk Arts District, Downtown, Reno, 775-337-1717.

**In Stabiano: Exploring the Ancient Seaside Villas of the Roman Elite** • Thru Jan. 22 • Exhibition of 73 artworks and artifacts recovered from ancient Roman villas. Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 775-329-3333.

**Joseph Zierker: Translucent Transformations** • Thru Jan. 22 • Exhibition of monotype prints by the San Francisco artist.

Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 775-329-3333 for details.

**Tireless and Unremitting: The Chinese and Nevada's Railroads** • Thru Jan. • 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.

**Black Rock** • Thru Feb. 12 • Exhibition is based on *Black Rock*, the book by Peter Goin and Paul F. Starrs. Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 775-329-3333.

**Docent Guided Tours** • Thru Feb. 28 • More than 200 vehicles, antiques, period street scenes. National Automobile

Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

**The Artwork of Robert Cinkel** • Thru Feb. 28 • Exhibition of the Reno artist's "Museum" and "Truckee River" series. National Automobile Museum, 775-333-9300.

**Speed and Light: Early Racing Photography of Henri Meurisse** • Thru March 6 • Photos of European races from 1903 to 1914. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

**Shadows of the V&T: The Art of Loren Jahn** • Thru March • Pen-and-ink drawings of daily railroad operations. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

**Orphan Cars: Detours from Destiny** • Thru April 26 • Cars with non-traditional style and design. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

**UNR Men's Basketball** • The Wolf Pack plays Dec. 29 vs. Louisiana-Lafayette, Jan. 12 vs. Idaho, Jan. 14 vs. Boise State, Jan. 28 vs. Hawaii, Feb. 9 vs. Louisiana Tech, Feb. 13 vs. New Mexico State, Feb. 18 vs. team TBA for the Bracket Busters game, March 2 vs. San Jose State,

March 4 vs. Fresno State. The Western Athletic Conference Tournament is March 7-11. Lawlor Events Center, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6900.

**UNR Women's Basketball** • The Lady Wolf Pack plays Dec. 31 vs. USEF, Jan. 5 vs. Hawaii, Jan. 7 vs. San Jose State, Jan. 19 vs. Utah Valley State, Jan. 21 vs. Utah State, Jan. 26 vs. Boise State, Feb. 2 vs. Louisiana Tech, Feb. 4 vs. New Mexico State, Feb. 16 vs. Fresno State, Feb. 18 vs. Idaho. The Western Athletic Conference Tournament is March 7-11. Lawlor Events Center, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6900.

**Roy Curtis Exhibition** • Jan. 2-May 31 • Photos by Reno photographer. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 775-688-1190.

**Squaw Valley Challenge Series** • Jan. 5, 19, Feb. 2, 16 • Recreational ski race for skiers, snowboarders, and telemarkers. Squaw Valley USA, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

**Friday Night Expression Sessions** • Jan. 6, 20, Feb. 10, 17, March 3, 17 • Competition format varies. Boreal Mountain Resort, Donner Summit, 530-426-3666.

**An Archeological Dig Through Women's Purses** • Jan. 17-May 14 • Exhibition compares what women carried through the years. Sparks Heritage Museum, Sparks, 775-355-1144.

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Photo by Robin Wilson.

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- Feb. 4-April 27 • Russian religious paintings. Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 775-329-3333.
- American Jibber Rail Jam Series** • Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26 • Local riders compete. Ski event includes laser lights, fire drums, music. Sierra-at-Tahoe Snowsports Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 530-577-4760.
- Last Tracks** • Feb. 11, 18, 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25 • Appetizers and wine-tasting served before the last run of the day down freshly-groomed snow. Diamond Peak, Incline Village, 775-832-1177.
- Great Basin Gallery's 20th Anniversary Exhibition** • Feb. 16-May 26 • Featured Nevada artists are Jeff Nicholson, Jean LeGassick, and Ron Arthaud. Capital City Arts Initiative Courthouse Gallery, Carson City, [www.arts-initiative.org](http://www.arts-initiative.org).
- Modernism in American Silver: 20th Century Design** • Feb. 18-May 14 • Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 775-329-3333.

## Coming Events

- North Lake Tahoe Snow Festival** • March 3-12 • 530-583-7167.
- Cowboy Poetry and Jubilee** • March 11 • Carson City, 775-883-1532.
- "Cats" • March 17-19 • Reno, 800-840-0457.
- Reno Chamber Orchestra** • March 25 • 775-348-9413.
- "The Magic Flute" • April 7 and 9 • Reno, 775-786-4046.
- "Oklahoma" • April 21-23 • Reno, 800-840-0457.
- Reno River Festival** • May 12-15 • Reno, 800-FOR-RENO.
- Reno Rodeo** • June 16-24 • 800-FOR-RENO.
- Hot August Nights** • July 29-Aug. 6 • Reno, 800-FOR-RENO.

## Shows

### CARSON CITY

- Carson Nugget** • 775-882-1626 or 800-426-5239 (continental U.S. including Nevada): Entertainers appear in the Nugget Show Lounge. David Proud will perform on New Year's Eve.
- Carson Station** • 775-883-0900: Bands play nightly except Mon.
- Casino Fandango** • 775-885-7000: Bands play in the lounge.
- Piñon Plaza** • 775-885-9000: Sports Book Lounge: Bands play Wed.-Sun. Big Tiny Little and Retroactive perform New Year's Eve.

### CARSON VALLEY

- Carson Valley Inn** • Minden, 775-782-9711 or 800-321-6983: Entertainment in the Shannon Ballroom. Cabaret Lounge: 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: Elvis Presley Birthday Bash Concert, Jan. 6. The Four Tops,

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**Singer Chris Isaak kicks off the new year with hits like "Life Will Go On" and "Baby Did a Bad Thing" on January 1 at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks.**

Jan. 14-15. Concert, Feb. 17-19, entertainer TBA. Bands play in the cabaret.

**Boomtown** • 775-345-6000: Can-Can Theater and Dancehall: Bands appear Tues.-Sun.

**Club Cal Neva** • 775-323-1046 or 877-777-7303: Entertainment on Fri. and Sat.

**Circus Circus** • 775-329-0711: Circus Cabaret: Entertainment except Tues.-Wed. Free daily circus acts, 11am-10:30pm.

**Eldorado** • 775-786-5700, 800-648-5966 (U.S. outside Nevada) or 800-648-3024 (Canada): Eldorado Showroom: "Chun Yi: The Legend of Kung Fu," martial arts production, thru Jan. 1, dark Mon. Dennis DeYoung: The Music of Styx, Jan. 1. "Balagan," Jan. 13-April 2, Cirque-style production, dark Mon. Entertainment in the Brew Brothers microbrewery, Roxy, BuBinga, and Casino Cabaret.

**Fitzgeralds** • 775-785-3300 or 800-648-5022 (U.S. outside Nevada): Bands perform nightly in the Fitz Showbar.

**Harrah's Reno** • 775-786-3232 or 800-HARRAHS: "Bareback, musical revue, thru Jan., dark Tues. "Broadway Showstoppers, musical revue, thru Jan. 29, dark Tues. "Chippendales, male revue, March 13. Bands play Fri.-Sat. in the Sapphire Lounge.

**John Ascuaga's Nugget** • Sparks, 775-356-3304 or 800-648-1177: Rose Ballroom: New Year's Eve Party: Four-course dinner and dancing to Big City Revue. Chris Isaak, Jan. 1. Burt Bacharach, Feb. 18. Hootie and the Blowfish, March 3-4. Celebrity Showroom: Robert Earl Keen, Dec. 31. Comstock Cowboys, Jan. 7. Celebrating the King: Elvis the Musical featuring Elvis' co-stars, entourage, and friends, Jan. 13-14. Koko Taylor, Jan. 15. Mickey Gilley, Jan. 19-21. Glen Campbell, Feb. 3-4. Todd Snider and the Nervous Wrecks, Feb. 10-11. Craig Chaquico, Feb. 24-25. Guy Lombardo Orchestra, March 1. Royal Swing Orchestra tribute to Frank Sinatra, March 8. Roy Clark, March 9-11. Cab Calloway Orchestra, March 15. Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, March 22. Special Event: Brew Ha Ha, charity event featuring microbreweries, Jan. 20. Sheep Dip, annual political roast, Jan. 26-27. Bands play in the Casino Cabaret and Trader Dick's. Jazz on Wed., wine-tasting Thurs. in

Restaurante Orozko Lounge inside John Ascuaga's Nugget. **Peppermill** • 775-826-2121 or 800-648-6992: Tahoe Grand Showroom: Entertainment TBA. Entertainment in the Cabaret Lounge and the Steakhouse Restaurant.

**Rail City Casino** • Sparks, 775-359-9440: Side Track Lounge: Bands play on weekends.

**Reno Events Center** • 800-687-8733: Paul Anka, Dec. 30.

**Reno Hilton** • 775-789-2285 or 800-648-3568 (U.S. outside Nevada): Hilton Theater: New Year's Eve Party, Dec. 31. 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.

**Siena** • 775-337-6260: Lexie's Lounge: Jammin' With the

Siena Jazz Ensemble Tues.-Sat. Corky Bennett appears in the lounge Tues.-Sun.

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

**Silver Legacy** • 775-329-4777 or 800-687-8733 (U.S., Canada, and Mexico): Grande Exposition Hall: B.B. King, Dec. 27. Aaron Lewis, Jan. 13. George Jones, Feb. 19. Brooks and Dunn, Feb. 23. Music in the Rum Bullions Island Bar. Comedians perform in 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.

**Harrah's Lake Tahoe** • 800-HARRAHS: South Shore Room: Kenny Loggins, Dec. 28. Entertainment in the California Bar, Casino Center Stage, and Altitude Nightclub.

**Harveys** • 775-588-2411 or 800-553-1022 ext. 2883: Harveys Cabaret: "Dancin' in the Streets, dark Mon.-Tues. Comedians perform in The Improv. Entertainment in the Cabo Wabo Cantina Lounge.

**Horizon** • 775-588-6211 or 800-322-7723: Golden Cabaret: "Fusion 2, comedy-magic revue, thru Jan. 31. Bands play in the Aspen Lounge.

**Lakeside Inn** • 775-588-7777: In the Tavern: Karaoke with Psycho Attitude, thru Jan. 1, 11pm-3am Fri.

**MontBleu Resort (formerly Caesars Tahoe)** • 775-588-3515 or 800-648-3353: Entertainment in the Club Nero and Cleo's Lounge.

**NORTH LAKE TAHOE**

**Cal-Neva Resort** • Crystal Bay, 775-832-4000 or 800-225-6382. Showroom: Entertainment TBA.

**Crystal Bay Club** • 775-831-0512: Entertainment TBA in the casino showroom.

**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.

**Jim Kelley's Tahoe Nugget** • Crystal Bay, 775-831-0455.

**Tahoe Biltmore** • Crystal Bay, 775-831-0660: Breeze Nightclub: Music nightly except Mon.



**The Four Tops sing "Reach Out" and "Can't Help Myself" January 14-15 at the Atlantis.**

# Boom Town Festival

Moments in Nevada's past come to light during the Southern Nevada **Boom Town History** Event. **By Robin Flinchum**



The 1905 opening of the Montgomery Hotel in Beatty was cause for celebration (above). Below: Shorty Harris kicked off the gold rush that established Rhyolite, a topic at the Boom Town History Event.

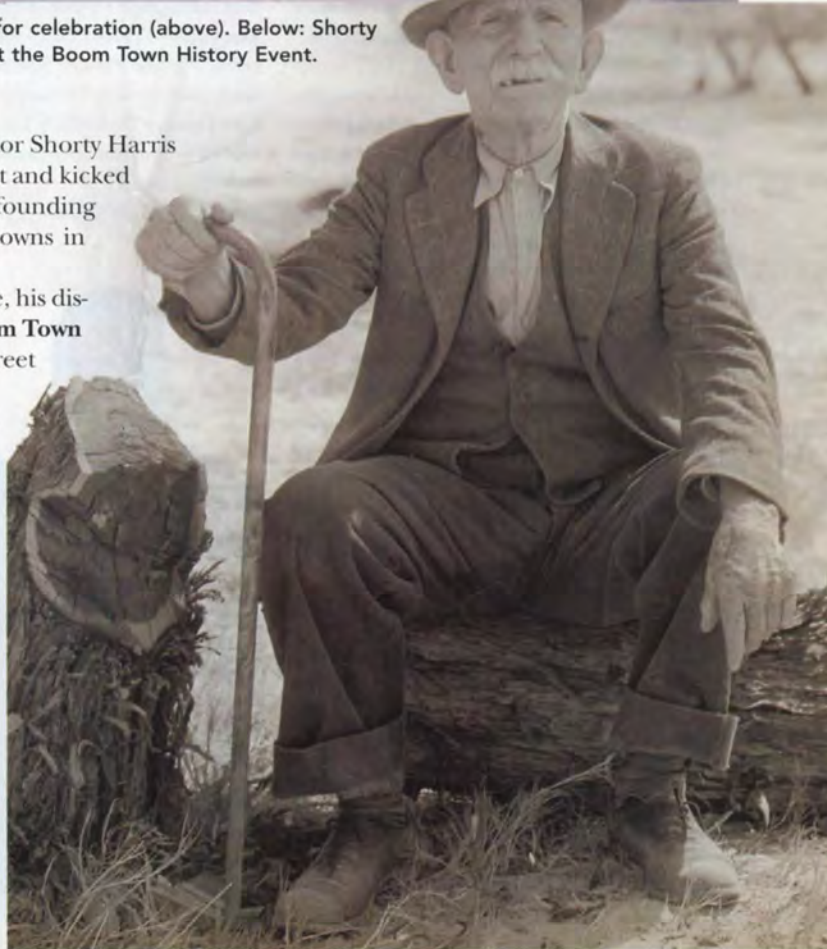
It was a little over 100 years ago that ne'er-do-well prospector Shorty Harris picked up a piece of green rock in the empty Nevada desert and kicked off a mining stampede. Harris' discovery led to the founding of Rhyolite, now one of the most-photographed ghost towns in the United States.

Although Harris could little have imagined such an outcome, his discoveries would also lead to the first-ever **Southern Nevada Boom Town History Event**, which will take place February 3-5 at the Longstreet Inn in Amargosa Valley.

"This decade has seen the centennials of Nevada towns like Las Vegas, Goldfield, Tonopah, Beatty, and Rhyolite, so it seemed like the perfect time to establish a venue to celebrate their histories," says Kari Coughlin, a conference organizer. The February event will include themed dinners, like the miner's boardinghouse spread on Friday night, and living-history re-enactments, Coughlin says. Attendees are encouraged to come in period dress.

From the brothels of the red-light districts to the mine workings, history buffs will have a chance to slip through the window of time and look back at life in the camps that shaped Southern Nevada's past and present.

Award-winning Nevada historians and authors, including Nevada Writers Hall of Fame inductee Sally



Zanjani of Reno, will focus on the boom years of 1905-1909—during which most of the area's mining camps sprang to life. Experts will present stories such as May Bradford Shockley's adventures as the first woman mining surveyor in the Silver State (and the mother of a Nobel Prize-winning engineer) and the rowdy times of Shotgun Kitty Tubb, a rancher, madam, and short-order cook who operated a roadhouse in Death Valley Junction.

Attendees can take two scheduled field trips. Before the event, a limited-space tour will visit an operating brothel in Pahrump. During the bus ride from Amargosa Valley, Allen Metscher of the Central Nevada Museum in Tonopah will tell stories of red-light districts in Nevada's historic mining towns.

During the weekend, a caravan will visit a working mine in Amargosa Valley as well as Fairbanks Springs in the Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. There, E Clampus Vitus will erect a plaque

Field trips will visit a **brothel, a mine,** and the Ash Meadows National **Wildlife Refuge.**

in memory of Dad Fairbanks, a Death Valley pioneer who left Las Vegas in 1905 because he could see the town would never amount to much.

**Event Note**

**T**he Southern Nevada Boom Town History Event takes place February 3-5 at the Longstreet Inn in Amargosa Valley, 92 miles northwest of Las Vegas via U.S. 95. The conference fee of \$60 includes two themed dinners, two lunches, snacks, and a post-event publication of the papers presented. Similar events are planned during the next three years to highlight other regions of the state. Registration information is available at [www.nvboomtown.death-valley.us](http://www.nvboomtown.death-valley.us) or by calling Pat Houser at 775-751-2250 or 775-291-8518. Special conference room rates are available at the Longstreet Inn; for reservations call 775-372-1777

*Robin Flinchum is a freelance writer living in the Death Valley desert. She is especially interested in women's history.*

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# Rural Nevada

## EVENTS AND SHOWS

**B**uckaroos and snowmobilers gather in Elko during the **National Cowboy Poetry Gathering**, January 28-February 4, and **Snowmobile Rendezvous Week**, February 15-22. The **Southern Nevada Boom Town History Event** takes place February 3-5 in Amargosa Valley. Western singer **Michael Martin Murphey** headlines at the Stockmen's in Elko while **Paul Revere and the Raiders** rock Cactus Petes in Jackpot. Please call ahead to confirm dates and details.

## Events

**The Countdown in Downtown** • Dec. 31 • Family-oriented New Year's events include fireworks. Elko, 775-738-1240.

**Winnemucca New Year's Eve** • Dec. 31 • Casino festivities. Winnemucca, 800-962-2638.

**Wendover New Year's Eve** • Dec. 31 • Festivities in the town's casinos take place on Mountain Time. Wendover, 866-299-2489.

**Ely Volunteer Fire Department New Year's Party** • Dec. 31 • Music and dancing. Bristlecone Convention Center, Ely, 800-HY6-9350.

**Eureka Firemen's New Year's Eve Ball** • Dec. 31 • Volunteer fire department in this Central Nevada town hosts music and

dancing. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 775-237-5263.

**Fallon New Year's** • Dec. 31 • Fireworks at the fairgrounds, 775-423-4556. Fun run on New Year's Day, 775-423-7733.

**Hawthorne's New Year's Eve** • Dec. 31 • Parties at casinos. Hawthorne, 775-945-2507.

**Border Inn New Year's** • Dec. 31 • Residents and visitors will celebrate the new year twice, on Utah and Nevada time. Border Inn, seven miles north of Baker, 775-234-7300.

**Wells New Year's** • Dec. 31 • Music, hats, and noisemakers. Four Way Casino, Wells, 775-752-3344.

**White Pine Fire and Ice Show** • Jan. 14-15 • Snow- and ice-sculpting competition, fireworks, cross-country skiing, sledding, and ice skating. Cave Lake State Park, 15 miles south of Ely, 775-289-8877.

**Old Shepherders Party** • Jan. 20 • Hal Cannon of the

Western Folklife Center in Elko will be among the guests at the third annual gathering of old-time shearers at the Border Inn. The event includes a barbecue and storytelling. Border Inn, seven miles north of Baker on the Nevada-Utah border, 775-234-7300.

**Brad Richter** • Jan. 27 • Classical guitar concert. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 775-237-6006.

**Rotary Ice Fishing Derby** • Jan. 28 • Cave Lake State Park, 15 miles south of Ely, 775-289-8877.

**National Cowboy Poetry Gathering** • Jan. 28-Feb. 4 • Prestigious event draws an international crowd for workshops, cooking demonstrations, saddle songs, poetry, and jam sessions. Exhibits feature art, jewelry, and photographs. Performers include Baxter Black, Ian Tyson, Nevada Slim, Sourdough Slim, Riders in the Sky, Michael Martin

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The comedy troupe Chicago City Limits, New York City's longest-running improv-theater ensemble, performs February 10 at the Barkley Theater in Fallon's Oats Park.

Murphey, Stetson Mangum, Waddie Mitchell, and Cowboy Celtic. Events take place at the Western Folklife Center, Elko Convention Center, and Commercial and Stockmen's hotels, Elko, 888-880-5885.

**Jam Sessions** • Feb. 2-4 • Musicians gather upstairs during the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering, Stockmen's Hotel,

Elko, 800-648-2345, ext. 498 for more jam session details.

**Cowboy Gear Show** • Feb. 2-4 • More than 20 artisans display crafts, artwork, and trappings. Commercial Hotel, Elko, 800-648-2345, ext. 498.

**Elko Crab Crack** • Feb. 3 • Elks Lodge, Ely, 775-289-8877.

**Southern Nevada Boom Town History Event** • Feb. 3-5 • Lesser-

known historical figures and moments between 1905 and 1909 that changed Southern Nevada. Topics include mining schemes, brothels, the Nevada Test Site, and remarkable people. Presenters, who are well known to *Nevada Magazine* readers, include Sally Zanjani, Phillip Earl, and Robin Flinchum. Longstreet Inn and Casino, Amargosa Valley, 775-751-2250 or 775-291-8518.

**Nevada Northern Railway Photo Shoot** • Feb. 3-5, 10-12 • You can photograph steam locomotives, built in 1909 and 1910, pulling vintage freight and passenger cars. Camera subjects include rail yards, mines, ghost towns, mountains, and valleys. Event includes a demonstration by a 1907 wrecking crane and a rotary snowplow. Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Ely, 775-289-2085.

**Chicago City Limits** • Feb. 10 • Comedy ensemble. Oats Park's Barkley Theater, Fallon, 775-423-1440.

**Shrimp and Crab Feed** • Feb. 11 • All-you-can-eat dinner benefits the Lions Eye Foundation. Convention Center, Fallon, 775-867-4700.

**Valentine's Day Sweetheart Ball and Dinner** • Feb. 14 • Stockmen's and Commercial hotels, Elko, 800-648-2345, ext. 498.

**Snowmobile Rendezvous Week** • Feb. 15-22 • State's biggest snowmobile gathering presents trails and events in Elko County, including the Rimshaw Hill Climb (Feb. 17-18) and Snowmobile Hill Cross (Feb. 18-19) races. Spectators can ride during High Country Trail Ride Adventures (Feb. 15-22). Merritt Mountain-Sunflower Flats Recreation Trail with headquarters at the Elko Convention Center, Elko, 800-248-3556.

**John Reischman and the Jaybirds** • Feb. 17 • Bluegrass-style vocal concert. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 775-237-6006.

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# 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.

**Nevada Artists** • Permanent exhibit of works by such artists as Cliff Segerblom, Sharon Rhodes, Don Farmer, and Mildred Byers. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 775-738-3418.

**Saturday Night Fever Slot Tournament** • 7pm, \$10 buy-in. Saddle West, Pahrump, 800-433-3987.

**Larry Bute Exhibition** • Thru March 6 • Western art. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 775-738-3418.

**Amly Hartell and Larry Turner Exhibition** • Thru March 7 • Polaroid transfers and photographs. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 775-738-3418.

**"Between Fences"** • Jan. 13-Feb. 17 • Interactive Smithsonian traveling exhibition that explores the fence—its history, symbolism, and impact on politics, industry, and daily lives. Portions of a local companion exhibit, "Mason Valley: The Freedom Fence, will be included. The Freedom Fence featured more than 2,500 bandanas, which last fall were tied on a two-mile barbed wire fence to honor soldiers. Lyon County Central Library, Yerington, 775-463-6645, ext. 11.

**Hidden Cave Tours** • Jan. 14, 21, Feb. 11, 25, March 11, 25 • Guided tour of Hidden Cave archaeological site includes self-guided tour of Grimes Point petroglyph site. Meet at Churchill County Museum, Fallon. To confirm tour dates, call the Bureau of Land Management, 775-885-6000.



Mason Valley's "Freedom Fence" exhibit and a Smithsonian show appear in Yerington.

**Sunset at Steptoe Wine Trains** • May 28, June 11, July 3, Aug. 13, Sept. 4 • Wine and hors d'oeuvres. Also, special Steptoe Valley Flyer passenger train rides pulled by steam locomotive, June 18, July 17, Aug. 20, Sept. 17. Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Ely, 775-289-2085.

# Coming Events

**Ranch Hand Rodeo** • March 4-5 • Winnemucca, 775-623-5071.

**Shooting the West Photography Seminar** • March 10-12 • Winnemucca, 775-623-4941.

**Elko ATV Jamboree** • May 17-20 • Elko, 775-753-0550.

**Winnemucca Basque Festival** • June 10-11 • Winnemucca, 775-623-5071.

**Jarbidge Days** • Aug. 11-13 • Jarbidge, 775-488-2311.



Classical guitarist Brad Richter performs January 27 at the Eureka Opera House.

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# Shows

## AMARGOSA VALLEY

Longstreet Inn • 775-372-1777: Weekend entertainment.

## BEATTY

Stagecoach • 775-553-2419 or 800-4-BIGWIN (U.S. outside Nevada): Bands play in the lounge Fri.-Sat.

Exchange Club • 775-553-2368: Karaoke is scheduled on Fri.

## ELKO

Commercial Hotel • 800-648-2345, ext. 498: Entertainers like Class Action, Sexy Lady, and Frisco 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: Bands play nightly.

Stockmen's Hotel • 800-648-2345, ext. 498 (U.S. and Nevada): Showroom: Michael Martin Murphey, Feb. 2-4. Bands like Midnight Riders, Atomika, Rain, Octane, River Town, and Cashin Mason play in the showroom.

## ELY

Hotel Nevada • 775-289-6665.

## FALLON

Bonanza Inn • 775-423-6031.

Fallon Nugget • 775-423-3111.

Stockman's Casino and Holiday Inn Express • 775-423-2117.

## HAWTHORNE

El Capitan • 775-945-3322: Music in the Casino Lounge.

Joe's Tavern • 775-945-2302.

## JACKPOT

Barton's Club 93 • 775-755-2341.

Cactus Petes • 800-821-1103: Gala Showroom: Paul Revere and the Raiders, Feb. 10-11. 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 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.

State Line Nugget • 775-664-2221.

## WINNEMUCCA

Winners Hotel • 775-623-2511: Bands appear in the lounge.

Model T • 775-623-2588: Bands Thurs.-Sat., karaoke Wed.

Holiday Inn Express • 775-625-3100.

Sundance Casino • 775-623-3336.

Red Lion • 800-633-6435.

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# “Wild” Nights

Plus belly dancing and women’s poker

By Ann Henderson

## The “Wild” Side

When “Buck Wild” opened at the Sahara in August, the country-western revue did not flow as smoothly as it should. When I saw it three months later, the kinks had been worked out, and I can now recommend “Buck Wild” as a high-energy production in the old Las Vegas



Cowboys and cowgirls scoot their boots in the Sahara’s country-western romp, “Buck Wild.”

tradition. A six-piece band, not canned music, backs up the three singers and eight dancers. Remember the TV show *Hee Haw*? Pop-up skits of the same kind of corny, country humor are interspersed throughout the revue.

In one bit, topless showgirls “wash” a replica of the *General Lee*, the ‘69 orange

Dodge Charger from the *Dukes of Hazzard*. When three male volunteers kneel on the stage to be saddled and ridden by scantily clad female performers, they don’t appear to mind at all.

Las Vegas shows are known for their variety acts. “Buck Wild” has L.D. Miller, a 12-year-old harmonica prodigy, who sings

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and plays a bluesy "Fever." Comedian Tiny Bubbles draws a caricature of an audience member, and then the picture starts singing "Somewhere Out There." You know there is a trick involved, but the bit is fun. Nathan Burton, a redneck magician, does the disappearing-girl illusion, but in keeping with the country theme she's confined to a huge six-pack of Bud Light. Russ Hendricks gets his fiddle smoking during "The Devil Went Down to Georgia." Also appearing is one of my favorite variety acts, juggler Wally Eastwood, who punctuates his self-deprecating humor with giggles.

Between the slapstick moments, T.J. Weaver, the show's host, singer, and guitar player, gets the audience rolling with Tim McGraw and Garth Brooks songs, including "Friends in Low Places."

**Show Notes:** "Buck Wild" plays nightly except Sunday in the Sahara Theater at the Sahara Hotel in Las Vegas. Show time is 9 p.m. Tickets are \$61.95 general and \$72.95 for VIP seating, including tax. A dinner package that features the hotel's buffet is available for an additional \$7. For more information call 702-737-2515.



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orful sight in their regalia and trappings. Bring your money—the souvenir shop is larger than the bar.

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## Ladies' Poker

The Atlantis in Reno caters to women with its "Ladies Only" weekly no-limit Texas hold 'em poker tournament. Held Thursdays at 6:30 p.m., the tourney has a \$30 buy-in and \$5 entry.

The Atlantis seeks to appeal to wine lovers' palates in the MonteVigna Italian Ristorante, which has wine tastings that feature six wine flights, each offering two ounces of three or four different wines. The wines are grouped by grape, region or origin, and style.

## Ski Deal

The Carson Valley Inn in Minden has a Ski Inn-Vite package that includes a two-night stay and a lift ticket at Kirkwood for \$95 per person, double occupancy, Sunday through Thursday. The price is \$109 for Friday and Saturday arrivals. ❏

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

## IT'S MAGIC

Mac King, who performs afternoons at Harrah's Las Vegas, has written a book and created a comic strip. Now he has devised Mac King's Magic in a Minute Suitcase O'Magic, which contains more than 50 tricks and a how-to video. The kit is available at [www.mac kingshow.com](http://www.mac kingshow.com).



## NASCAR Tribute

The late Dale Earnhardt Sr., the seven-time NASCAR Winston Cup champion, is honored in the new interactive exhibit, "Speed," in Madame Tussauds at the Venetian in Las Vegas. The \$200,000 wax figure of Earnhardt, who died in a crash on the final lap of the 2001 Daytona 500, stands in a Victory Lane setting.

## Hog Sighting

There's a new hot spot for people-watching in Las Vegas—Hogs and Heifers, a biker bar on Third Street, one block north of the Fremont Street Experience. Motorcycle dudes and dudettes are a col-



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**103 Boulder City Chamber of Commerce**—"The city that built Hoover Dam, golf, outdoor sports, and Lake Mead. 866-297-4336, [www.bouldercitychamber.com](http://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](http://www.visitcarsoncity.com).

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**106 Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Authority**—Genoa, Minden-Gardnerville, and Topaz Lake make up the Carson Valley. 800-727-7677, [www.carsonvalleynv.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.co.eureka.nv.us).

**109 Fallon Convention and Tourism Authority**—Fallon is home to the Navy's Top Gun flight school, Sand Mountain, and Lake Lahontan. 866-4FALLON, [www.fallontourism.com](http://www.fallontourism.com).

**110 Elko Convention and Visitors Authority**—In North-eastern 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](http://www.elkocva.com).

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**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](http://www.travelnevada.com) for more information.

**116 Lander County Convention and Tourism Authority**—Battle Mountain, on I-80, is famous for its *Washington Post* appellation, "Armpit of America." For Battle Mountain information 775-635-1112, [www.battlemountain.org](http://www.battlemountain.org).

**117 Winnemucca Convention and Visitors Authority**—Basque restaurants, outdoor adventure, history, events, nightlife, gaming, convention center. For information 800-962-2638, [www.winnemucca.nv.us](http://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. For additional information call 888-359-9449, visit online at [www.ponyexpressnevada.com](http://www.ponyexpressnevada.com).

**122 Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority**—Information on restaurants, shopping, entertainment, events, gaming, lodging, golf. 877-VISIT-LV, [www.vegasfreedom.com](http://www.vegasfreedom.com) for more information.

**124 Pahrump Valley Chamber of Commerce**—Pahrump has outdoor activities, events, hotel-casinos, Pahrump Valley Winery, RV parks. 866-722-5800, [www.pahrumpchamber.com](http://www.pahrumpchamber.com) for more information.

**129 Greater Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce**—Five state parks, Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge, ghost towns, mining camps. 775-962-5271, [www.lincolncountynevada.com](http://www.lincolncountynevada.com) for more information.

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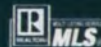
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# "Hairspray" and Hooters

What's new in Nevada entertainment.

By Richard Moreno

**NEW KID IN TOWN:** Welcome to the first "Neon Newsbeat" column spotlighting what's happening in Nevada's entertainment industry. Without further ado **Carrot Top**, the red-haired comedian famous for his goofy AT&T ads—he did more than 50 spots during the past four years—recently signed a three-year deal with the **Luxor** in Las Vegas. He's currently appearing six nights a week (no show on Tuesdays) and twice on Saturdays in the Atrium Theater. Meanwhile, the popular **Blue Man Group** has completed its move from the Luxor to the **Venetian**.

**DESERT BUNNIES:** Glitter City is gaining a **Playboy Club** (the first to open since 1984) when the **Palms** debuts its new Fantasy Tower in May. The Palms' \$60-million expansion will have a 2,200-seat showroom and include the recently opened Hardwood Suite, a 10,000-square-foot high-roller party room with a regulation-size, indoor basketball court, electronic scoreboard, locker room, and dance floor that can be yours for a mere \$50,000 a night.

**MGM Grand** has confirmed that its Grand Garden Arena will host the **Rolling Stones'** "A Bigger Bang Tour" on March 4. "A Bigger Bang" is the title of the group's latest album. The Hotel San Remo in Las Vegas is being transformed into **Hooters Casino Hotel**. In addition to squads of scantily clad Hooters Girls, the resort will have a Hooters Beach Club and a Dan Marino Fine Foods and Spirits Restaurant. The transformation is scheduled to be complete in February.

**BROADWAY WEST?:** The Las Vegas Strip is the new Great White Way. Following the success of "**Mamma Mia!**" at **Mandalay Bay** (more than 1,000 performances to date) and "**Avenue Q**" at **Wynn Las Vegas**, "**Hairspray**," with original star Harvey Fierstein, opens in February at the **Luxor**. Next up is Andrew Lloyd Webber's "**Phantom of the Opera**," which opens this spring in a new \$40-million theater at the **Venetian**. Wynn has also snagged 2005 Tony winner "**Spamalot**" to start in early 2007 in the hotel's new \$50-million Spamalot Experience and Grail Theatre.

**SOUTHERN SHORTS:** **Bon Jovi** performs at the **MGM Grand** on March 11. **Billy Joel** plays the MGM on April 8. **Jay Leno** hits the **Mirage's** Danny Gans Theatre for 26 perfor-



"Hairspray," the Broadway musical based on John Water's 1988 movie, moves into the Luxor.

mances in 2006, including shows on January 6-7, 13-14, and 27-28. **Ray Romano** is there January 20-21.

**NORTHLAND NEWS:** Of course, not everything that happens in Nevada stays in Las Vegas. Reno's **Eldorado Hotel Casino** will have "**Balagan**," a Russian-flavored, Cirque-style extravaganza, in its showroom until April 2. Developed by the producers of "Taganai," which previously had a nice run at the Eldo, "Balagan" (Russian for "Marketplace Circus") combines exotic music, stylized dance, athleticism, and humor. At the Big Blue, Caesars Tahoe is no more. The longtime Lake Tahoe resort has new owners and a new name: **MontBleu Resort Casino and Spa**. The Stateline hotel will remain open while owners change all the signs, remodel restaurants, and revamp the casino and nightclub.

**A GRAND IDEA:** One of NoNev's largest resorts, the venerable Reno Hilton, has been sold for a reported \$150 million. The new owners plan to

pour nearly \$2 billion into the property, to be called the **Grand Sierra Resort**. Word on the street is that the renovated hotel-casino may include a giant lake, possibly a **Hard Rock Hotel's** **Beachers' Madhouse**, condos, and a water park.

**CONDO-MONIUM:** The Golden Phoenix joins the former Sundowner and Comstock hotels as the latest downtown Reno gaming joint to convert to residential condominiums. New owner L-3 Development will change the resort's name to **The Montage** and expects to open the 384-unit project by June of 2007.

**NORTHERN SHORTS:** **Glen Campbell**, with daughter **Debby Campbell** as special guest, plays **John Ascuaga's Nugget** in Sparks on February 3-4. **Hootie and the Blowfish** hit the Nugget stage March 3-4.

**AU REVOIR:** Oldie but goodie heard on a Southwest flight from Las Vegas as it landed in the Biggest Little City. "Let's give a big hand to a young man who is celebrating his 18th birthday today," the perky flight attendant said. The passengers clapped loudly. "And this is a particularly special day because it's his first time flying." The passengers clapped louder. "So don't forget to congratulate the captain as you exit." Groans. 🐉

Richard Moreno is Nevada Magazine's publisher.

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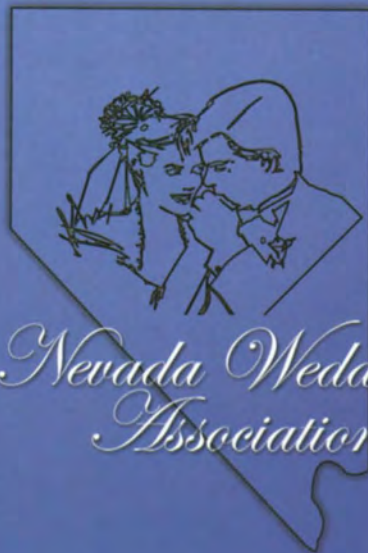
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