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NEVADA

MAGAZINE

February 2007

POST-SNOW HANGOUTS

Après-ski in the
Reno-Tahoe area

GREAT BASIN HIKES

Exploring Nevada's National Park



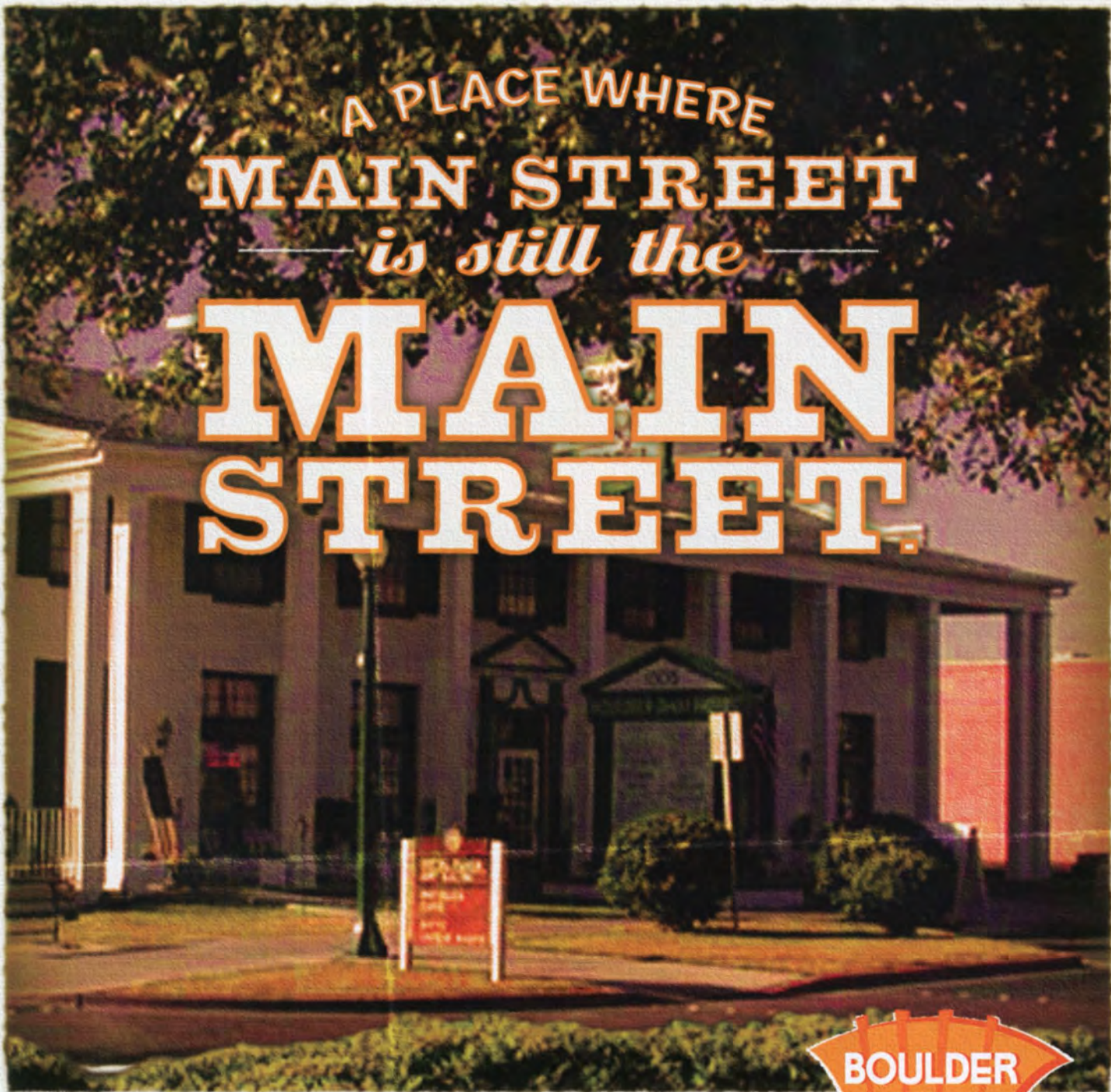
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A boarder sheds snow as he catches air at Lake Tahoe. **Photo by Corey Rich**
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Editor's Note



In this issue of *Nevada Magazine*, we visit several of our writers' and photographers' favorite Silver State places, the natural wonders and urban attractions that they visit over and over again.

Tina Fixman and Jay Aldrich of Minden describe the hike to the summit of Wheeler Peak in their Great Basin National Park 20th anniversary story. Kris Vagner of Reno polled her skiing and boarding friends to find out where they like to hang out after a day on the slopes in the Reno, Lake Tahoe, and Carson City areas.

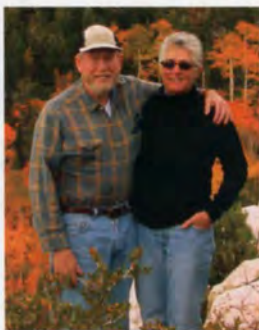
We didn't stick to Nevada residents, however. Lorraine DarConte of Tucson shares her unique photographer's view of Las Vegas, and Cottonwood, Arizona, writer Roger Naylor reminisces about classic films made on the White Domes Trail at Valley of Fire.

We want to note that we recently added to the magazine's staff. Former newspaper editor and writer Matthew B. Brown of Reno is our new associate editor. With 17 years in the creative field, Matt Smith of Gardnerville has taken over the art director's position. Incline Village resident Deb Dudley (formerly Deb Darby), longtime publisher of numerous magazines and visitor guides, is the magazine's publisher.

We are confident that these new staff members will share their considerable energy, talent, and love for Nevada with the magazine's readers.

Joyce Hollister
Editor

Contributors



Jay Aldrich and Tina Fixman note their favorite Great Basin hikes in "Nevada's Great Unknown" beginning on page 16. In 1981, when Great Basin National Park was still Lehman Caves National Monument, the husband and wife team took a cave tour during a family trip to Colorado. "We were curious about the area and discovered there was much more to it than we thought," Aldrich, a longtime *Nevada* photographer, says. Avid hikers and skiers, Fixman and Aldrich visit the park every year and recently spent more time in the Baker Creek area. "We were just amazed," Aldrich says. "I thought, 'Wow, here's another wonderful place.'"

What photographer Lorraine DarConte loves about Las Vegas is the sense of being somewhere else. "If you block out the ever-present ding-ding-ding of the slot machines and blaring horns from passing cars, you can pretend for a moment that you are strolling along a chic *rue* in Paris," she says. DarConte holds a master's degree in communication arts and has exhibited at prestigious galleries in New York City and Tucson. "As a New Yorker living in Arizona, I enjoy walking across the Brooklyn Bridge at New York-New York in Las Vegas and getting up close and personal with Lady Liberty," she says. "And the pizza and hard pretzels aren't bad, either."



Roger Naylor believes Nevada contains more unknown scenic areas than any other Western state. Valley of Fire State Park, where his story "Lights, Camera..." is set, is a perfect example. "First time I visited, a buddy and I were traveling from Utah," he says. "We knew nothing about the park. But years later, on a trip that included Zion and Bryce national parks, Valley of Fire was our most vivid memory. The place just grabs you." What Naylor liked about writing his story was the chance to combine two passions, hiking and western movies. He lives in Cottonwood, Arizona, with his wife, Michele.

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Letters

Winter Break in Laughlin, the first Nye County seat, and calendar girls.

Teacher, Teacher

I have enjoyed the Nevada Historical Calendar for many years and always search the photos for someone I know. This year I was thrilled to find my aunts Deanie (Geraldine in the caption) and Elsa (Elsie) Clayton in the picture for January 2007. They are hiking in the snow on Mount Charleston in 1921. Geraldine went to normal school at the University of Nevada. She got married the same year as the picture and moved to California. Elsa's first job was at a one-room school in Clover Valley in Elko County. She moved to Coalinga, California, where she taught elementary grades until retirement.

Cecilia Clayton Cluff
Shafter, CA

Setting the Record Straight

I was quite surprised to read that Belmont was the original seat of Nye County in the caption to Marty Shelton's



George Summerville (left), sisters Elsie and Geraldine Clayton, and Walter Homan appear in the 2007 Nevada Historical Calendar.

photo of Belmont's Highbridge Mill in last issue's "Ghost Towns and Mining Camps." Many longtime Nevadans can tell you that lone held that honor from 1864 to 1867 when the county seat was moved to Belmont.

Unfortunately, there was a fire about that time and most county records were destroyed, including the town plat.

For more information, you can visit www.ghosttowns.com/states/nv/ione.

Rita M. Lumos

Virginia City Highlands

Rita, thanks for your correction. Due to an editing error, the word "original" was substituted for "early-day."—Ed.

Laughlin Memories

As I was reading last issue's "Inside Laughlin," I was pleasantly surprised to see a photograph of my girlfriend, Donna Greenway.

As members of the Red Hat Society, the Rosie Red Hats chapter of Wellington, Donna and I went to the Senior Winter Break in Laughlin in 2004. Donna said she wanted to participate in the Polar Bear Dip, so I was there to cheer her on and hold the towel for her when she came out of the very cold Colorado River.

Janice Roberts
Gardnerville

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OUT & about

Indoor skydiving in Las Vegas, pressing coins in Carson City, and Elko snowmobiling.

FIELD TRIP



Western Folklife Center gift shop employee JoAnn Sliger poses for a picture in the western-themed Elko store.

Souvenirs and Art in Elko

If Elko's annual National Cowboy Poetry Gathering, January 27 to February 3, doesn't satisfy your western appetite, you can take a keepsake of the event home. The **Western Folklife Center** gift shop has books, CDs, and DVDs of the artists' works, including Kendall Nelson's *Gathering Remnants* DVD (\$25) and the center's own *Why the Cowboy Sings* DVD (\$20).

Local photographer Susan Zerga captures the awe-inspiring scenery of Northeastern Nevada in an image of Lamoille Canyon. Prints are available in sizes to fit any space or budget. Other gift-shop offerings include Texas-sized Cowboy Bandages (\$8), horseshoe hearts (\$20), and numerous cookbooks on Dutch-oven, Pueblo Indian, and other western-style dishes.

The Western Folklife Center gift shop and Wiegand Gallery, at 501 Railroad Street in Elko, are open Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. (10:30 a.m. Tuesday) to 5:30 p.m. (5 p.m. Saturday), closed Sunday. Call 775-738-7508 or visit www.westernfolklife.org for more information.—*Charlie Johnston*



An artist's rendering of the newly-renovated Wiegand Gallery.

IN SHORT

Wiegand Gallery gets a makeover

The \$1-million renovation of the Western Folklife Center's Wiegand Gallery is scheduled for completion in time for the 2007 National Cowboy Poetry Gathering. The gallery features the exhibit, "Buckaroo! The Hispanic Heritage of the High Desert."

Pioneer Hotel packs a punch

The Western Folklife Center's most-visited attraction is the old Pioneer Hotel's bar. Recently refinished in mahogany and Brazilian cherry, the turn-of-the-20th century watering hole is the place to mingle with cowboy poets over a Picon punch—the unofficial cocktail of the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering.

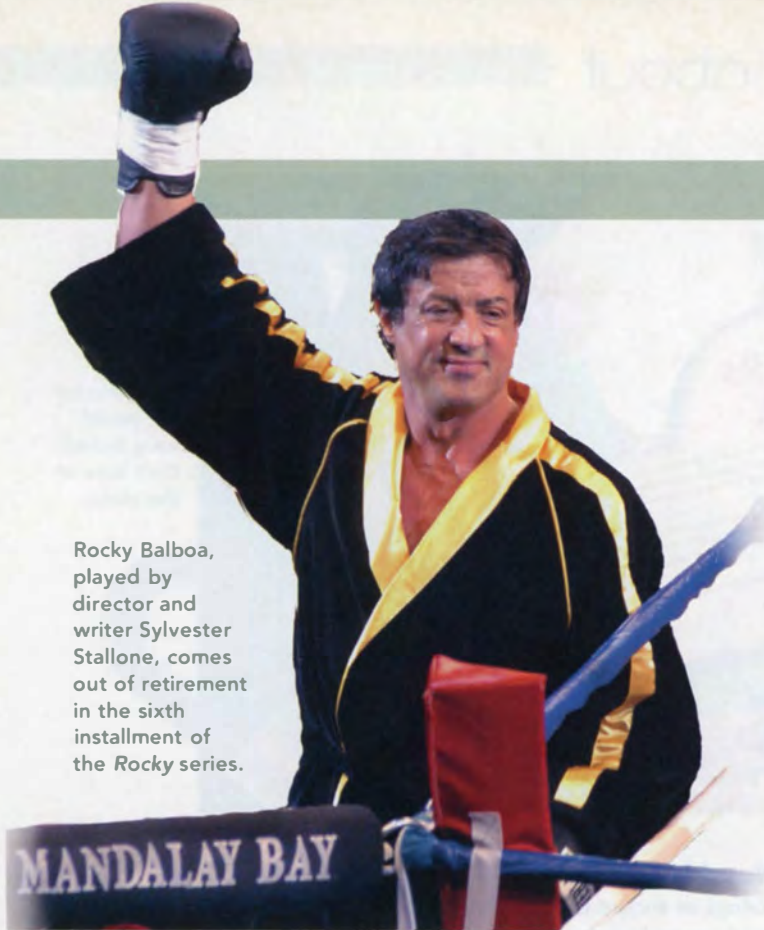
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- ◆ Red Lion Inn
- ◆ Stockmen's Hotel

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A quick pick-me-up

Cowboy Joe Coffee at 376 5th Street has the right stuff to fight Elko's morning chill in an eclectic Berkeley-meets-Old West atmosphere. Look for the coffee cup wearing a cowboy hat.



Rocky Balboa, played by director and writer Sylvester Stallone, comes out of retirement in the sixth installment of the Rocky series.

AT THE MOVIES

Dramatic Rocky Balboa Scenes Filmed in Las Vegas

Las Vegas residents and visitors had a chance to be in the movies in December 2005 when Sylvester Stallone and crew filmed the climatic scenes for **Rocky Balboa** at Mandalay Bay. The film, scheduled for release on December 22, 2006, tells the comeback story of Rocky Balboa—played by Stallone—after the death of his wife, Adrian. During the filming in Vegas, Stallone worked with professional boxer Antonio Tarver, who plays his opponent, Mason “The Line” Dixon. Burt Young plays Rocky’s longtime coach, Paulie. Four alternative endings were filmed so participants won’t know who wins the fight until the movie premieres.—*Merrie Leininger*

EVENTS

Miss America Is Back at the Aladdin

Atlantic City no longer has a place in the lyrics of Wayne Bernie’s “There She Is, Miss America.” For the second consecutive year, the **Miss America Pageant** will be held at the Aladdin (soon to be Planet Hollywood) in Las Vegas. The five-day event kicks off on January 25 with the swimsuit, talent, and evening wear competitions and features a live, two-hour telecast of the pageant on CMT. For tickets call 877-333-9474 or 775-785-5000 or visit www.ticketmaster.com.—*Charlie Johnston*



PEOPLE

Danny Marona Signs Off

After entertaining crowds for half a century, **Danny Marona** is saying farewell. “I can’t begin to tell you how thrilled I am to have had such a great career,” Marona says.

Despite 50 years in entertainment and numerous Entertainer of the Year awards from Nevada Magazine, Marona hasn’t let fame go to his head. He credits his wife, Sherry, and family with keeping his feet on the ground. “When I was a kid, my mother would slap me in the back of the head if I gloated about something,” Marona says with a chuckle.

Marona will say goodbye to fans on February 18 in a sold-out show at the Eldorado in downtown Reno. His final show will include the songs and comedy routines fans have most requested over the years.

Marona is happy to make his last performance in the biggest little city. “The Reno-Tahoe area has been fantastic to me,” he says.—*Charlie Johnston*



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OUT & about

HOLIDAYS



Couples from around the world have locked their love at the plaza.

All You Need is Lovelock

Lovelock brings an ancient Chinese tradition to the Silver State. For thousands of years, Chinese from the Yangtze River to the Great Wall have symbolized their love by adorning fences with simple metal locks. Nevada's aptly-named town is the perfect home for the **Lovers Lock** tradition, which celebrates its first anniversary on Valentine's Day, February 14.

Lovers can purchase their locks at any number of participating businesses in town and officially lock their love at the Lovers Lock Plaza, which is located behind the Pershing County Courthouse at 400 Main Street.

The locks include notecards for lovers to share their stories, and the Lovelock Chamber posts the stories on its Web site. Lovelock is 93 miles east of Reno on I-80.

Visit www.loverslock.com for more information.—Charlie Johnston

HANG OUT

Relaxing at Reno's Record Street Café

Known for its funky, artsy atmosphere and fresh, made-to-order food, **Record Street Café** is a favorite hangout of Reno's young professionals, professors, and university students.

Sean O'Hair had been coming to the café for a long time when he decided to buy it more than a year and a half ago. "I really liked the place, and I've been known to make spontaneous decisions," he laughs.

Record Street's menu offers items such as a black-bean burrito, a panini sandwich, and a southwest turkey sandwich. Drinks include fresh-ground coffee, espresso,

smoothies, juice, and wine. Entrées cost from \$7 to \$9, and all sandwich orders include a fresh salad.

Customers can relax outside on the patio or browse the paintings and photographs that cover the brick walls indoors. Exhibits change quarterly. Record Street offers a mix of reggae, underground rap, hip hop, and indie rock music.

Record Street Café, located at 945 Record Street in Reno, is open daily except Sunday. Call 775-329-7227 or visit www.myspace.com/recordstreetcafe.

—Elizabeth Hogue

QUICK HITS



Come Alive on U.S. 95

You can drop your line in Walker Lake or park your spaceship and search for intelligent life in Rachel on the Nevada Silver Trail. The U.S. 95 promotion gives motorists the chance to learn about the interesting—and sometimes quirky—stops on and around the highway.

Narrated by Reno television personality John Tyson, the *Come Alive on U.S. 95* audio CD will keep you company on the road and help you explore rural Nevada. Visit www.SilverStateTrails.com for more information.

Sierra Front Trail Guide

The Sierra Front Recreation Coalition offers information about trails from Truckee to Minden and everything in between including a trail linking Reno to the Tahoe Rim Trail. Visit www.sierrafront.org for more information.

Latino Heritage in Reno

The Nevada Museum of Art presents the exhibit, "Voces Latinas: Works on Paper from 1921-present," through March 18. Voces Latinas (Spanish for "Latino voices") showcases artworks by 17 artists who represent the range of creative expression within the Latino community.

ADVENTURES

Hit the Snow in Elko and Lake Tahoe

Elko is becoming one of Nevada's top destinations for **snowmobiling**. From Wild Horse Reservoir south to Lamoille Canyon, snowmobile enthusiasts can ride on hundreds of acres of unspoiled wilderness and abundant snow. Visit www.elkocva.com/snowmobileadventures.shtml for trail information.

Over Presidents' Day weekend, February 17-19, the Elko Snobowl hosts the Snowmobile Rendezvous (at right in 2005). The three-day event includes trail rides open to the public, a Rocky Mountain Snowmobile Hill Climb Association event, and the third annual Snowmobile Hill Cross. Tickets cost \$5 per day or \$12 for all three days for adults and \$3 and \$7 for children. Children younger than six are admitted free. For information, including event registration, call 800-248-3556 or 775-738-4091 or visit www.elkocva.com/snowmobiling.shtml.



The **Snowmobile Center at Zephyr Cove** offers Lakeview and Sierra Summit snowmobiling tours. The two-hour Lakeview Tour (single rider, \$109; double, \$149) takes riders along 9,000-foot ridge lines, and the three-hour Sierra Summit Tour (single, \$179; double, \$239) includes a picnic lunch. Riders must be 15 to ride alone and five to ride with an adult, and equipment is available to rent. Call 800-23-TAHOE or 775-589-4908 or visit www.laketahoesnowmobiles.com for more information.

—Charlie Johnston

EXHIBIT

Artifacts on Display in Virginia City

The saloon is an icon appreciated throughout Nevada, and Virginia City's **Comstock History Center** is a place where history lovers can revisit the Old West. "Havens in a Heartless World—Virginia City Saloons and the Archeology of the Wild West" is on display through the end of March. The exhibit shows saloons as social centers, not just places where ruffians gathered for deadly gunfights.

Visitors can see the world's oldest bottle with a Tabasco sauce imprint (circa 1870, right). Artifacts, photographs, lithographs, and documents are used to tell the story of the Comstock saloons. The exhibit is open Thursday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and by appointment at the Comstock History Center at 20 North E Street in Virginia City. For more information call the Department of Cultural Affairs at 775-687-8323.

—Matthew B. Brown



LISTEN AND LEARN

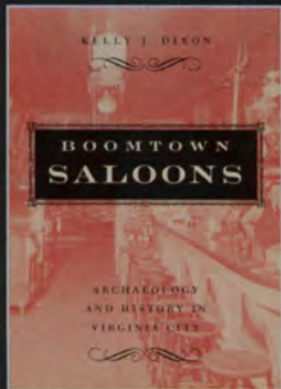


Heritage Tour
 The combined efforts of the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority, the Reno-Tahoe Territory, and the Nevada Commission on Tourism present *The Northern Nevada Heritage Corridor Driving Guide to Boom or Bust*. This booklet highlights historic Comstock sites as well as others that were crucial to the survival of Virginia City. You can log on to www.visitrenotahoe.com/heritage or www.renotahoe.com for more information.



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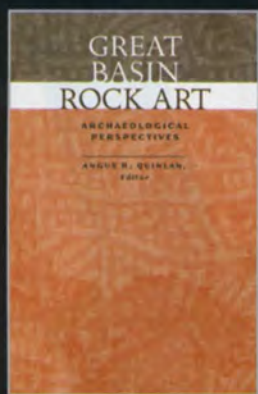
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Boomtown Saloons
 Archaeology and History in Virginia City

New in paperback
 Kelly J. Dixon \$21.95

The image of Old West saloons as sites of violence and raucous entertainment has been perpetuated by film and legend. This book reveals how the excavation of four historic saloon sites in Virginia City, one of the West's most important boomtowns, shows that there is much more to the story.



Great Basin Rock Art
 Archeological Perspectives

New in February 2007
 Angus R. Quinlan \$39.95

This is essential reading for anyone interested in the petroglyphs of the American West and in the history of the Great Basin and its original peoples. The Great Basin is especially rich in rock art, but until recently North American archaeologists have largely ignored these most visible monuments left by early Native Americans and have given little attention to the terrain surrounding them. Until now.

ADVENTURES

Freefalling in Las Vegas

You don't have to jump out of a plane to freefall—at least not in Las Vegas. At **Flyaway Indoor Skydiving**, America's first vertical wind tunnel, participants experience a freefall into a column of air with wind speeds reaching 120 mph.

The wind tunnel was designed so people can capture the true sensation of freefalling, says Brad Hess, marketing manager for Flyaway. Participants are protected from the tunnel walls by soft padding. The training classes accommodate up to 10 people, start every 30 minutes, and last about 15 or 20 minutes. For a single flight, the cost is \$70 per person and \$35 for a second flight on the same day. A five-flight coaching package with one-on-one expert coaching is \$250 per person.

Flyaway Indoor Skydiving is located at 200 Convention Center Drive. Hours are 9:45 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Call 702-731-4768 or visit www.flyawayindoorskydiving.com for more information or to inquire about group rates.—Candice Lai

The State of the West
 University of Nevada Press

GET AWAY

Spring Mountain Ranch Reverie

Buildings erected in the 19th century are rare in Southern Nevada, but a handful can be seen at **Spring Mountain Ranch State Park** in Red Rock Canyon, 15 miles west of Las Vegas. The ranch originally was an 1830s campsite for travelers on the Old Spanish Trail. The blacksmith shop, the oldest building, dates to the 1860s (or possibly earlier). Other ranch relics are the Wilson sandstone cabin (1860s), the Wilson cemetery and bunkhouse (1920s), a hay and horse barn and corral (1940s), and the main ranch house (1948).

Ranch owners included radio star Chet Lauck (Lum of *Lum and Abner*), actress Vera Krupp (wife of the German industrialist Baron Alfred Krupp), millionaire Howard Hughes, and Las Vegas car dealer Fletcher Jones Sr., who sold the ranch to the state for a park in 1974.

Visitors can walk through old buildings and hike scenic trails. Each spring and fall, living-history enactors discuss the lives of early settlers. This summer, the outdoor



Spring Mountain Ranch State Park is located a short drive west of Las Vegas.

Super Summer Theater will present "Forbidden Planet" and "Bells Are Ringing."

The park can be reached via West Charleston Boulevard or Blue Diamond

Road. The entrance fee is \$5 per vehicle, and tours are offered. For more information call the park office at 702-875-4141 or visit www.parks.nv.gov.—Bob Barnes



Chief coiner Ken Hopple goes to work on Coin Press No. 1 at the Nevada State Museum in Carson City. Visitors can purchase brass medallions for \$5, silver-clad medallions for \$10, and silver medallions from \$30 to \$60. The "Spirit of the West" medallion, which commemorates the Nevada state quarter, costs \$10.

FIELD TRIP

Nevada State Museum Coins Are Im-press-ive

One of Carson City's oldest residents is still hard at work after 137 years. In 1869 the Carson City Mint took possession of its first **coin press** made in Philadelphia. The 12,000-pound, steam-powered press stamped 100 coins per minute until 1893 when the mint—now the Nevada State Museum—closed.

The press was moved back to Philadelphia and in 1930 was converted to operate on electric power. In 1945 it made the journey west once again to the San Francisco Mint as Coin Press No. 5. In 1955 the old press was due to be scrapped.

Through the efforts of Judge Clark J. Guild the condemned press was purchased by the State of Nevada for \$225. In 1964, during a coin shortage, No. 1 came out of retirement and spent the next three years striking coins in Denver. When it returned to Carson City in 1967 it was again put on display and has remained there ever since.

Visitors can see Coin Press No. 1 strike medallions the last Friday of every month at 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m. at the museum, located at 600 North Carson Street in Carson City. Call 775-687-4810.—Charlie Johnston

Looks Matter

Circus Circus chef **Kevin Massey** has an eye for tasty food.

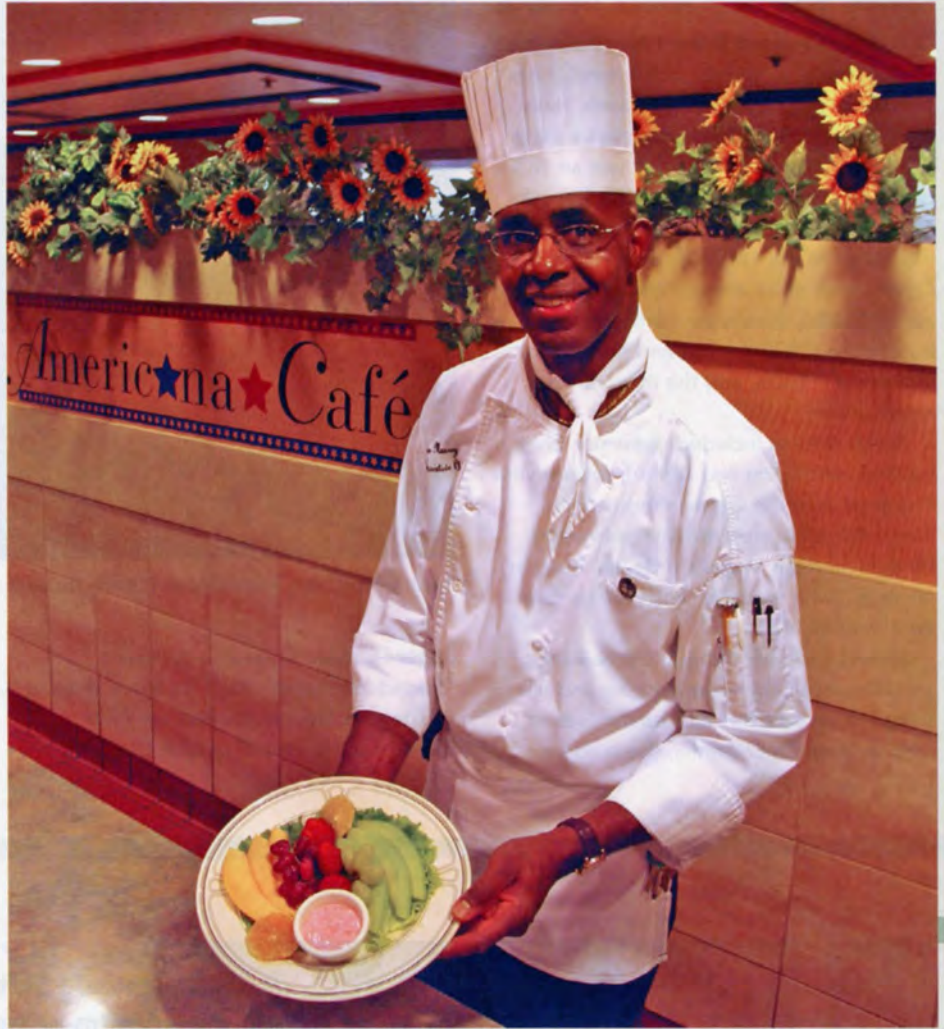
By **Matthew B. Brown**

Kevin Massey has been cooking for more than 30 years, and he believes that presentation is important to appreciating food. “The saying, ‘People eat with their eyes’ is still true,” says Massey, Circus Circus Reno’s assistant executive chef. “They’ll taste it because it looks good.”

The 52-year-old Carson City resident has followed this rule throughout his career, but he also knows the payoff for the diner—and the chef—is the taste. “To me it’s rewarding to see people enjoy something you cook,” Massey says. He has reaped that reward in the Reno-Tahoe area since September 1976 when he became assistant chef at Harveys Lake Tahoe’s Sage Room Steak House. Since then, he also has worked at the defunct Reno Ramada, Caesars Tahoe (now MontBleu), John Ascuaga’s Nugget in Sparks, and Holiday Retirement Corporation in Carson City.

His specialty is *garde manger*—French for a cook who prepares cold foods—but Massey can serve a hot, hearty soup just as well as he can produce a fresh-fruit platter with dipping sauces (see recipes). “I’ve been in the business so long I can do it all,” he says. Massey misses the dying arts of homemade pâtés, terrines, and *chaud-froid* (literally “hot-cold”), a long process in which a cream sauce or mayonnaise is mixed with gelatin, chilled, and used to coat cold cooked poultry or seafood. The meat is then decorated and put on display.

Massey supervises chefs at Circus’ two main restaurants—The Steakhouse at Circus and Americana Café—and oversees operations at Bonici Brothers, Courtyard Buffet, Kokopelli’s Sushi, and Main Street Deli. Steakhouse diners can order appetizers such as sautéed shrimp scampi and oysters Rockefeller and two types of spinach salad for \$8, lobster bisque for \$9, entrées ranging from a \$16 smoked salmon to a \$49 surf and turf



Circus Circus Reno’s Assistant Executive Chef Kevin Massey poses at Americana Café.

(petite filet or New York steak and one lobster tail), with crème brûlée and German chocolate or New York cheesecake desserts for \$5. Also on the menu are numerous premium cocktails from \$5 to \$10.

Breakfast is served 24 hours at Americana Café with steak and eggs the high-end meal at \$13.95. From 11 to 1 a.m., diners can feast on Asian-American and Mexican-American specialties and “Mom’s Classics” like roast turkey. The cost of entrées averages about \$8. On occasion, Massey and Circus Circus Executive Chef Darrin McKillip cook for special guests in The Steakhouse, but their primary duty is to make sure the six restaurants are running efficiently.

Born in Chicago and reared in Los Angeles, Massey earned an associate of arts degree in culinary arts from Los Angeles Trade Tech College in 1974 while working at the Los Angeles Music Center’s

Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. There, he served celebrities like Cesar Romero and tennis player Billie Jean King at the Academy Awards dinner.

The toque blanche doesn’t fall far from the tree—at least in Massey’s family. His twin daughters, April and Kendra, 16, have taken up cooking. “They said they wanted to be doctors, but their big thing is culinary arts in high school,” says Massey, who has been married to his wife, Adalberta, for 17 years. The couple recently saw their daughters off to Johnson & Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island, for a field trip with their Carson High culinary arts teacher. The Masseys also have a 15-year-old son, Kevin Jr.

Matthew B. Brown is Nevada Magazine’s associate editor. For more information about Circus Circus Reno’s restaurants, call 800-648-5010 or 775-329-0711 or visit www.circusreno.com.

A FRUIT DRESSING TRIFECTA



Circus Circus Reno chef Kevin Massey offers three sauces in which you can dip melon and fruit such as strawberries, grapes, pineapple, and oranges.

Honey Lime Dressing

Blend together 1/2 cup honey, 1/4 teaspoon of finely-shredded lime peel, 1/4 cup lime juice, 1/4 teaspoon of salt, and 1/4 teaspoon of ground mace. Gradually add 3/4 cup of vegetable oil, beating with a mixer or rotary beater until thickened. Beat in one drop of green food coloring, cover and chill. Makes 1-1/2 cups.

Spicy Nectar Dressing

Blend together one cup of sour cream, 1/2 cup of apricot nectar or spreadable apricot jam, 1/2 cup salad oil, three tablespoons of sugar, 1/2 teaspoon of ground cinnamon, 1/2 teaspoon of paprika, and a pinch of salt. Beat all ingredients together until smooth, cover and chill. Makes 1-3/4 cups.

Strawberry Cheese Dressing

Beat together three ounces of softened cream cheese, 1/2 cup fresh or thawed frozen strawberries, one tablespoon of sugar, one tablespoon of lemon juice, and a pinch of salt. Gradually add 1/2 cup of salad oil, beating until thickened. Make sure cream cheese is completely incorporated into the mixture (no lumps). Beat in one drop of red food coloring, cover, and chill. Makes 1-1/3 cups.

MORSELS

Vino's Opens at the Cannery in Las Vegas

Vino's Italian Ristorante and Deli at the Cannery in Las Vegas offers Italian favorites like home-made lasagna Bolognese and panini sandwiches. The new restaurant is open Sunday through Tuesday and closed Wednesday and Thursday. The deli is open daily, 702-507-5700.



Sushi on the Strip

RA Sushi Bar in the Fashion Show Mall on the Strip is slicing rolls and spinning tunes. Events like Tokyo Tuesday and '80s Thursday blur the line between restaurant and hip nightclub. Try a Scallop Dynamite Roll, one of six new offerings, while listening to local DJs, 702-696-0008.



Boomtown Burger Special

Two all-beef patties and nearly a pound of fries for \$3.99 are all the reason needed to head to Verdi to take advantage of the Boomtown burger special. Sign up for a free Bonus Club card to get the special price; call for details, 775-345-6000.



NEVADA'S GREAT UNKNOWN

Minden couple explores one of our least-visited national parks.

Fall comes to Wheeler Peak Campground.
Opposite page: Aspens turn orange near
Stella Lake (left) and at Baker Creek (right).



They visit Great Basin's rocky glaciers, tall peaks, and ancient pines.

"I love this place!" Jay exclaims as we descend the Bristlecone-Glacier Trail in the cold autumn twilight. With its ancient forest and high rock mountains, Great Basin National Park dazzles our senses at every turn.

Near the Nevada-Utah border 65 miles east of Ely, Great Basin is a seven-hour drive from our home in Minden. For Jay and me, going to the park is an annual pilgrimage. We first visited the region in 1981, with our three-month-old son, Jazz, strapped in a baby backpack. At that time it was known as Lehman Caves National Monument, created in 1922. On October 27, 1986, Great Basin opened as Nevada's only national park. Twenty years later it remains one of the most isolated and least-visited national parks in America.

BY TINA FIXMAN ■ PHOTOS BY JAY ALDRICH

One hiker says, "This is the best place no one knows about."

Great Basin offers both higher- and lower-altitude trails and campsites, with the Cirque and Wheeler Peak starting at nearly 10,000 feet, and below that, an area that encompasses Baker Creek, Lehman Creek, and Lehman Caves. Each season brings its own varied nuances: wildflowers in spring and summer, snow in winter, and glorious colors in fall.

We usually arrive in late September, seeking the best autumn color. We stay at Wheeler Peak Campground, which sits at the end of the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive, 12 miles from the entrance of the park. At 9,886 feet, the campground has stunning views of Jeff Davis and Wheeler peaks on each end of the Cirque. The Cirque is a natural amphitheater hollowed out of rock during an alpine glaciation period thousands of years ago.

Last year we arrived in mid-October, just missing the gold and red aspen trees and finding four inches of snow. This made for a refreshing experience, although Jay's feet got awfully wet on one of our hikes. The Cirque, rising almost 5,000 feet above the desert floor, has a microclimate of its own. It is not unusual to have snowstorms at any time of year.

Although we're keen on hiking, we've ascended 13,063-foot Wheeler Peak just once, and we're unlikely to do it again. The shortest route begins at the Summit Trailhead on the west side of the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive near the campground. The 8.6-mile round trip on the Summit Trail takes six to seven hours if you are moving at a leisurely pace and stopping to savor the views and admire the aspen, mountain mahogany, and lichen-covered boulders. Usually the only creatures on the trail are ravens and chipmunks. The hike is not for the faint-hearted, as much of the trail is on loose rock, and the wind can be ferocious. The thin air at this altitude takes its toll. Hikers should take plenty of water and wear layered clothing, and in the fall, as daylight savings ends and darkness comes early, allow plenty of time for this hike.

Two less-strenuous trails are the short Alpine Lakes Loop Trail to see Stella and Teresa lakes (an easy circuit of 2.7 miles), and the Bristlecone-Glacier Trail (a moderate 4.6-mile round trip). The latter is one of our faves because it takes you through a grove of 4,000-year-old bristlecone trees—some of which pre-date the pyramids of Egypt—to an enormous rocky mass called a moraine. From the moraine we proceed into the heart of the

Cirque. At the bottom of the towering rock walls lies a rock glacier, one of several in the park.

Although our hearts lie at the top, we find plenty to do at the lower elevations. A mile from the park entrance on Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive are Upper and Lower Lehman Creek campgrounds, which have paved roads throughout. The campgrounds at Baker Creek (including a group campground) can be reached on a gravel road near the park entrance. Last October at the lower altitude of Baker Creek camp we found our beloved aspen were still in full color, heightened by a misty fog.

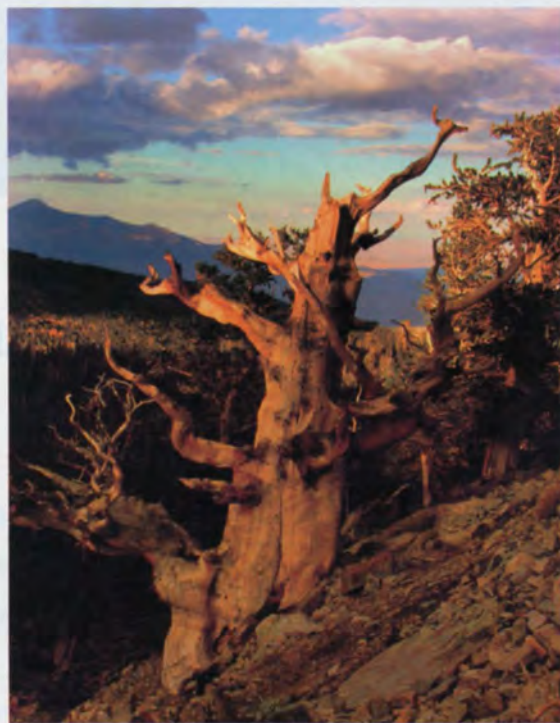
For the camper who enjoys a good night's sleep, these lower campgrounds are warmer and more sheltered than Wheeler Peak Campground with its whistling winds. The babbling Baker Creek can lull you to sleep.

The strenuous 6.8-mile round-trip Lehman Creek Trail begins at the Upper campground and leads to Wheeler Peak Campground (it also connects to the Summit Trail and other trails in the Cirque), passing through varying habitats. You may see deer and occasionally a marmot or coyote among the manzanita and serviceberry. The last mile and a half is steep.

The moderate 3.1-mile Baker Creek Loop Trail begins at the end of Baker Creek Road. There are side trails to Johnson Lake and the historic Johnson Lake Mine, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and dates to 1910. These hikes are strenuous.

One remote spot we've visited twice is Lexington Arch. Composed of limestone, the arch is a rare formation, as most arches in the U.S. are sandstone. Reaching the trailhead takes a little effort, but the views along the trail—and of the six-story arch—make it worthwhile. On both our hikes we were the only people in the area.

Lexington Arch is 30 miles south of the main park entrance. You must exit the park at Baker, drive south on Nevada State Route 487 into Utah, follow Utah State Route 21 through the town of Garrison, then turn back into Nevada and the park (see map on page 21). The turnoff is the first dirt road just south of Pruess Lake on the right, clearly marked with signs. The unpaved road leading to the trailhead and parking lot is only suitable for vehicles with high clearance, as you will ford a creek or two, depending on runoff.





Hiker Steve Nussbaum of Portland, Oregon, originally from New York, often flies to Salt Lake City and rents a car to drive to Great Basin (top). We met him at Stella Lake. "This is the best place no one knows about. It's just phenomenal!" he says. Clockwise from top right: aspens shrouded in mist near Baker Creek; looking up to the Cirque from the bristlecone grove on Summit Trail; curious deer near Lehman Creek Campground; the view from the Mather Overlook on the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive. Opposite page: a venerable bristlecone pine overlooks the Snake Range and Snake Valley.

On our hikes to Lexington Arch we're the only people on the trail.



Ranger Bryan Petrtyl leads a tour in the Grand Palace at Lehman Caves (top). Right: Tina Fixman at Lexington Arch.



The first time we hiked to Lexington Arch, with Jazz and our daughter, Abby, in 1994, there were no signs, and the trail was a long slog straight up an old creek bed. Now marked and rerouted, the moderate, 3.4-mile round-trip trail has a switch-backed portion that gains elevation quickly, giving hikers good views of the arch.

For Great Basin visitors with not much time to spend, Lehman Caves—actually one cave with several rooms—is convenient. Just off U.S. 50, you can pause for a 60-minute or 90-minute tour. There is an assisted tour of the cave's first room for the disabled.

The cave is a self-contained limestone and marble ecosystem created over millions of years by seeping water, first during a wet period that formed underground streams, and then during a drier period that drained the cave's rooms. Cracks in the rock allowed rivulets of water to form calcium carbonate stalactites, stalagmites, and formations that resemble draperies, columns, and shields.

Last year the cave's lighting system was switched from warm incandescent to cool LED lights. This lessens the growth of algae on the stone. With the new lights many of the walls have a pinkish glow closer to the cave's true color.

It's been more than two decades since our first visit to the cave, and each year we return, we are still astonished at the beauty and serenity of Great Basin National Park.

Getting There

Great Basin National Park is a day's drive on U.S. 50 from Reno (385 miles) or via U.S. 93 and U.S. 50 from Las Vegas (286 miles). The turnoff to the park is 29 miles east on U.S. 50 from the U.S. 50/93 junction. Baker is five miles south of U.S. 50 on State Route 487. The park entrance is six miles west of Baker on S.R. 488.

The nightly camping fee is \$12. Several campgrounds and trails are available only from early summer through fall. The visitor center and Lehman Caves are open all year except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Call 775-234-7331 or visit www.nps.gov/grba, where you can download *The Bristlecone*, the park's official newspaper. 📄

Tina Fixman, a horticulturalist and writer, and Jay Aldrich, a longtime Nevada Magazine photographer, collaborated on the Jan/Feb '05 issue's "Snow Zone" about winter activities in Elko.

New Visitor Center Opens

Great Basin National Park has a new visitor center in Baker. This winter, displays include an exhibit on sheep-herding and ranching—on loan from the Western Folklife Center in Elko—and a photo gallery.

The first of the new permanent exhibits coming this summer will feature a life-size bristlecone pine model and a slice of Prometheus, the tree that gave its life to science. Cut down in 1964 to determine its age by counting growth rings, Prometheus was 4,900 years old.—Tina Fixman

- Fixman and ranger Melissa Renfro at the new visitor center, where hikers can find guide-books and maps. An exhibit of posters celebrates the park's 20th anniversary.



LAS VEGAS' GOLDEN GLOW

PHOTOGRAPHER LORRAINE DARCONTE of Tucson visits Las Vegas a couple of times a year. "There is so much to look at and photograph in this glittering city," she says. DarConte calls this photo of a golden MGM Grand sculpture one of her best Vegas images. "I took the shot from far below, on the street," says the 50-year-old New York native. "Photographing your subject from unexpected angles adds an element of surprise."







"I LOVE THAT VEGAS has turned into mini theme parks, and I love all the fountains and sculptures that enhance each hotel," DarConte says. The gorilla, like most of the artwork at Circus Circus, is made of rough plaster. The photo's composition and color give it a rich feel. "The statue's very kitsch," she says, "but thanks to the stormy sky, the low angle I shot from, and the sepia tone I added, the image is very foreboding. It takes on a different life."



ABOVE: The trick to photographing Las Vegas is to look up, down, around, and sideways, DarConte says. The Treasure Island mermaid, for example, is situated high above and to the left of the hotel's main entrance. "I think a lot of people never see her," she says. "You have to stop and take a good, long look." DarConte used black and white film, then colored the image in Photoshop. ABOVE RIGHT: Many Las Vegas resorts have replicated classic art and architecture. "It's like being transported to another place, like Europe," DarConte says. "Paris is one of my favorite cities, and I enjoy the Las Vegas version almost as much as the original." She colored this image of Paris Las Vegas to make the photo look as if it were taken at the turn of the 20th century. BOTTOM RIGHT: "Shot at the right angle, the statues at Caesars Palace are bold and magnificent," DarConte says.



The After Ski Life



Reno-Tahoe area snowsporters reveal
their favorite après-ski hangouts.

By Kris Vagner

If speeding down the slopes leaves you longing for more fun, the Reno-Tahoe area has all the right venues for *après-ski*—French for relaxing after a day on the mountain. Whether your idea of the perfect après-ski spot is a slope-side lodge, a funky coffeehouse, or a sleek, new dinner spot, the best way to find it is to follow the people who live and play in Reno, Lake Tahoe, and Carson City.

Below, local skiers and snowboarders tell us about eight of their favorite places.



Outdoor fires warm skiers at Marriott's, the Hyatt Regency, and other spots at Tahoe. Opposite page: A boarder at Heavenly.

LAKE TAHOE

DEL SOUL, MONTBLEU RESORT CASINO AND SPA Skiers can get a hearty bite of nouveau-Mex as they transition to an evening of casino nightlife at del Soul inside MontBleu Resort Casino and Spa (formerly Caesars Tahoe) on the South Shore. The restaurant reflects the new resort's classy, cosmopolitan style but is laid back enough for ski clothes. Del Soul stocks 28 tequilas, servers whip up fresh guacamole tableside, and you can have your starters made to suit your taste. Live salsa music complements the "flight of salsa," a minibuffet of spicy samples. The bright red dining room overlooks the bar area, which looks down on the casino floor—for a double dose of people-watching.

- **Location:** 55 Highway 50, Stateline
- **Contact:** 888-829-7630, www.montbleuresort.com

LONE EAGLE GRILL, HYATT REGENCY LAKE TAHOE The main attraction at this spacious lodge is its close-up view of North Lake Tahoe. Patrons watch the logs burn in the two-story fireplaces and order pan-seared elk or buffalo tenderloin from the creative continental menu. A sommelier can help you navigate the long wine list. A selection of rare varieties includes a few bottles from the only 200 cases made in Napa County by master vintner Philip Togni (\$179 per bottle).

On Saturdays, guitarist Luke Stevenson plays acoustic pop à la John Denver, and he'll take requests. Although the lake-side outdoor deck doesn't offer full service during winter, the fire pits are always roaring, and skiers who haven't had enough snow are welcome to take their bar beverages outside.

- **Location:** 111 Country Club Drive, Incline Village
- **Contact:** 775-832-1234, www.laketahohyatt.com

TIMBERS, MT. ROSE-SKI TAHOE Many locals don't wait until the lifts close—the après-ski party starts between runs, right at the lodge. At Mt. Rose-Ski Tahoe, Timbers, a no-frills sports lounge,



Timbers at Mt. Rose offers Great Basin brews.

is often standing-room-only by 3:30 p.m. on weekends. It's not unusual to see a beer connoisseur in ski pants sitting on the arm of a friend's chair eating curly fries from the cafeteria next

door and drinking an Icky on draft—for the uninitiated, that's Great Basin Brewery's Ichthyosaur IPA, a regional favorite named for our state fossil.

- **Location:** 22222 Mt. Rose Highway
- **Contact:** 800-SKI-ROSE, www.mtrose.com



Audria Glanton serves tacos at Stew's brew pub in Carson City.

CARSON CITY

STEW'S SPORTATORIUM This comfortable brew pub is a good bet for families, especially when mom, dad, and kids have different ideas of the ideal après-ski activity. Sports fans can catch a game in the bar. Diners who'd rather socialize can opt for a seat without televised interference, and kids and teens can head to the pool table in the arcade.

The brew master crafts a revolving selection of about seven beers. This winter's special brews include silky oatmeal stout and a light Munich helles lager. Down-home meals like the meatloaf sandwich happily coexist with eclectic pub fare. The generously portioned Asian chicken salad and tomato artichoke linguine get good reviews.

- **Location:** 302 North Carson Street, Carson City
- **Contact:** 775-882-7787

COMMA COFFEE Remember the days before coffeehouses started specializing in getting you and your triple-soy-non-fat-latte in and out the door at assembly-line speed? At Comma Coffee in downtown Carson City, patrons linger in comfortable stuffed chairs, and a day of snowboarding transitions easily into an evening of live jazz, folk, or acoustic music.

With antique light fixtures, a patterned tin ceiling, and clumps of framed pictures on texture-painted walls, this old-style coffeehouse mixes the organized funkiness of a Haight-Ashbury café with comfortable Nevada spaciousness. The arty, laid-back ambience is kid- and adult-friendly. You can snack on hearty sandwiches or sip hot coffee



Comma Coffee in Carson City offers coffee drinks, wine, and music.

drinks, bottled juices, wine, or beer. For event listings, visit www.commacoffee.com or www.myspace.com/commacoffee.

- **Location:** 312 South Carson Street, Carson City
- **Contact:** 775-883-2662, www.commacoffee.com

GENOA

DAVID WALLEY'S HOT SPRINGS In 1862, David Walley, a New Yorker who moved West in search of fortune, bought this geothermal hot spot two miles south of Genoa, where he offered a 50-cent bath under a tent. Since then, the amenities at this foothill hideaway have evolved from rustic to comfortably indulgent. If it's warm enough, wander through landscaped grounds. If it's chilly, soak in one of seven warm-to-hot pools while catching a view of the snow-capped Sierra Nevada, then head indoors for a steam bath or massage. When hunger sets in, diners will find slow-cooked prime rib, wild boar, and a mile-long wine list at DW's Dinner House. Tired skiers can even stay the night.

- **Location:** 2001 Foothill Road, Genoa
- **Contact:** 775-782-8155, www.davidwalleys.com



David Walley's Hot Springs in Genoa boasts seven different pools.

RENO

BULLY'S You can catch up on game scores and grab some hot wings at any of the area's eight Bully's locations, but this one, right off Mount Rose Highway, is on the way back from Tahoe to all points east. It's a good stop for Carson and Reno snowsporters to part ways for the day and a logical meeting point for those who carpool up the mountain. Big-screen TVs and well-prepared bar-food staples like burgers and fries appeal to grown-ups, and a small arcade keeps kids entertained.

- **Location:** 18156 Wedge Parkway, Reno
- **Contact:** 775-851-7400, www.bullyssportsbar.com

CIAO Ciao's Northern Italian food with a California attitude has been getting great reviews since this sleek fusion restaurant opened in a former transmission garage in south Reno less than a year ago. Crispy wood-fired pizzas compete with the menu's more sophisticated fare. The 13-page wine list specializes in unusual Italian varieties. Ciao's friendly sommeliers are among the most knowledgeable in town. For skiers and boarders who gain a second wind after dinner, Ciao becomes a metropolitan night club by evening, hosting a lineup of world and fusion bands.

- **Location:** 7111 South Virginia Street, Reno
- **Contact:** 775-851-9463 (WINE), www.ciaoreno.com

Kris Vugner is a Reno freelance writer.



HOT TAHOE HANGOUTS

The Lake Tahoe area offers a seemingly endless supply of après-ski spots.

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE AREA

HEAVENLY: Corner of Wildwood and Saddle, South Lake Tahoe, CA. The California Bar and Black Diamond Cantina. 775-586-7000, www.skiheavenly.com.

MARRIOTT'S TIMBER LODGE: 4100 Lake Tahoe Boulevard, South Lake Tahoe, CA. Fire and Ice. 530-542-6600, www.marriott.com.

LAKE TAHOE CRUISES: 900 Ski Run Boulevard, South Lake Tahoe, CA. The *Tahoe Queen* is the world's only aquatic ski shuttle. Packages include an onboard après-ski party with live music. 800-238-2463, www.laketahoecruises.com.

KIRKWOOD: 1501 Kirkwood Meadows Road, Kirkwood, CA. Off the Wall Bar and Grill and Bub's Sports Bar and Grill. 209-258-6000, www.kirkwood.com.

NORTH LAKE TAHOE AREA

DIAMOND PEAK: 1210 Ski Way, Incline Village, NV. Crosby's and Hacienda de La Sierra. 775-832-1177 www.diamondpeak.com.

NORTHSTAR-AT-TAHOE: 100 Northstar Drive, Truckee, CA. Timbercreek Restaurant and Bar. 530-562-8800, www.northstarat-tahoe.com.

SQUAW VALLEY: 1960 Squaw Valley Road, Olympic Valley, CA. Olympic House restaurants and bars and Bar North at High Camp. 530-583-6985, www.squaw.com.



SKIING

Around the State

A Guide to Nevada and Tahoe Basin Ski Areas

2006-2007 Downhill Skier's Guide

Area	Web Site	Phone	Top Elevation	Vertical Feet	Lifts	Rating Bg-Int-Adv	Lift Price Adult/Y/Child	Rentals Skis/Board
TAHOE BASIN								
Alpine Meadows	www.skialpine.com	530-583-4232	8,637	1,802	13	25-40-35	\$46/\$39/\$15	\$34/\$40
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.donnerranch.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	\$27/\$27/free	\$29/\$35
Kirkwood	www.kirkwood.com	209-258-6000	9,800	2,000	12	15-50-35	\$67/\$54/\$14	\$35/\$38
Mt. Rose/Ski Tahoe	www.skirose.com	775-849-0704	9,700	1,800	8	20-30-50	\$58/\$38/\$12	\$35/\$35
Northstar-at-Tahoe	www.northstaratahое.com	530-562-1010	8,600	2,200	17	25-50-25	\$69/\$59/\$24	\$39/\$39
Sierra-at-Tahoe	www.sierratatahое.com	530-659-7453	8,852	2,212	10	25-50-25	\$61/\$51/\$15	\$36/\$37
Soda Springs	www.skisodasprings.com	530-426-1010	7,352	652	4	30-50-20	\$25/\$16/\$10	\$32/\$35
Squaw Valley USA	www.squaw.com	530-583-6955	9,050	2,850	33	25-45-30	\$69/\$52/\$5	\$34/\$40
Sugar Bowl	www.sugarbowl.com	530-426-9000	8,383	1,500	13	17-43-40	\$50/\$50/\$15	\$35/\$39
Tahoe Donner	www.skitaheedonner.com	530-587-9444	7,350	600	4	40-60-0	\$34/\$13	\$24/\$33

AROUND THE STATE								
LV Ski/Snowboard	www.skilasvegas.com	702-385-2754	9,310	1,000	3	20-60-20	\$45/\$25	\$35/\$35
Elko Snobowl		800-428-7143	7,000	670	2	20-60-20	\$20/\$15	\$20/\$20
Ruby Mountains (Elko)	www.helicopterskiing.com	775-753-6867	Ruby Mt. Heli-Skiing offers backcountry helicopter skiing; \$3,500 per person					

2006-2007 Cross-Country Skier's Guide

Area	Web Site	Phone	Trail (km)	Trail Fee Adult/Y/Child	Rental Adult/Y/Child	Lessons Adult/Y/Child	Day Lodge
TAHOE BASIN							
Clair Tappaan Lodge	www.sierraclub.org	530-426-3632	14	\$7/\$3.50	\$13/\$9	\$14	✓
Hope Valley	www.sorensensresort.com	530-694-2266	100	none	\$16/\$10	\$45*	✓
Kirkwood	www.kirkwood.com	209-258-7248	80	\$22/\$17/\$8	\$22/\$10	\$48/40/\$25	✓
Lake Tahoe Basin	www.fs.fed.us/tbmu	530-543-2600	The U.S. Forest Service has brochures on many forest areas				
Northstar-at-Tahoe	www.northstaratahое.com	800-GO-NORTH	50	\$27/\$15	\$31/\$19	\$31/\$19	✓
Royal Gorge	www.royalgorge.com	530-426-3871	330	\$29/\$16/free	\$21/\$12	\$48/\$25*	✓
Spooner Lake	www.spoonerlake.com	775-749-5349	91	\$21/\$10/free	\$19/\$10/\$5	\$44*	✓
Resort at Squaw Creek	www.squawcreek.com	530-583-6300	18	\$22/\$17/\$8	\$22/\$10	\$48/\$40/\$25	✓
Tahoe Donner	www.tdxc.net	530-587-9484	115	\$21/free	\$19/\$10	\$44/\$30*	✓
AROUND THE STATE							
LV Ski and Snowboard (Mount Charleston)	www.fs.fed.us/html	702-385-2754 702-873-8800	The Ski Chalet offers cross-country suggestions The U.S. Forest Service has info on camping and avalanche conditions				
Spring Valley (Eureka)	www.eurekacounty.com	775-237-5280	Ron Carrion at the Owl Club provides directions and information				
White Pine (Ely)	www.nv.blm.gov/ely www.fs.fed.us/html	775-289-1800 (BLM) 775-289-3031 (USFS)	Ward Mt. and Loop Trails info available from the BLM and USFS				

*Includes trail pass, equipment, and lessons.

All prices are subject to change.

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



Las Vegas Ski and Snowboard Resort is a 47-mile drive from downtown Las Vegas.


Ski Nevada

Elko is known for its cowboy poets and rich Western heritage, but cowboy boots aren't the only shoes Elkoites wear. Ski boots are the footwear of choice at the **Elko Snobowl**, six miles northwest of town. Elko Snobowl gets locals on the slopes without their having to drive hundreds of miles. The ski area is operated by volunteers and is open week-ends when snow conditions allow. Call 775-777-7707 for automated snow conditions or 800-428-7143 for more information.

Nevada's only other downhill ski destination outside the Tahoe area is the **Las Vegas Ski and Snowboard Resort** on Mount Charleston. The resort hosts a number of special events in late winter and early spring, including half-pipe competitions and slope-style races. Call 702-385-2754 or visit www.skilasvegas.com for dates and information.

For skiers who think a little more horizontally, the Ski Chalet at Las Vegas Ski and Snowboard offers cross-country skiing suggestions. The U.S. Forest Service, 702-873-8800, provides information on camping and avalanche conditions in the Mt. Charleston backcountry.

—Charlie Johnston



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In the 1940s and '50s, Sky Tavern ski resort welcomed film stars and socialites.

Highway crews plow the road to Sky Tavern following the big storm of Christmas 1951
Opposite page: Gary and Rocky Cooper arrive at the resort in 1946. Top right: Keston and Carlisle Ramsey and Ruth and George Tett at Christmas dinner in the 1950s.
Bottom right: Sky Tavern's entrance today.

BY MARK McLAUGHLIN



Tales From the Tavern

On their way from Reno to Lake Tahoe on Mount Rose Highway, skiers and snowboarders zip past the old Sky Tavern ski area, blind to the legacy of the former resort. Few of them are aware that “the Tavern” represents the best of what the early-day ski community was all about.

Opened in 1945, Sky Tavern boasts a rich and colorful history, one that includes appearances by Hollywood stars, sports celebrities, and some of the most noted contributors to U.S. skiing. Reno residents and avid skiers Keston and Carlisle Ramsey opened the resort to promote the sport they loved.

Today, Kes is a spry 98-year-old living in Reno with Carlisle, 96, his wife of 77 years. In the spring of 1945, Robinson Neeman sold his Mount Rose Bowl to the Ramseys. Kes converted a small cabin into a rustic, four-story, 21-room hotel with a coffee shop and bar. They christened the resort Sky Tavern and opened for business in December. The *Nevada State Journal* proclaimed it a second Sun Valley, Idaho.

World War II had just ended, and America's rich and famous were ready to take up skiing. Sky Tavern boasted a hotel and was less than 20 miles from Reno's

Ingrid Bergman found the Tavern experience exhilarating. Kes helped Bergman's husband, Peter Lindstrom, a Norwegian skier and jumper, build a small ski jump. Actor Gary Cooper didn't ski, claiming he had a bum hip. He preferred hunting jackrabbits with Kes in the flats below the mountain.

"We had all the big shots that first year. Joe DiMaggio, Rita Hayworth, Robert Stack, and others," Kes recalls. "[Pioneer radio journalist] Lowell Thomas skied here several times and made one of his famous national broadcasts live from Sky Tavern."



Ski instructor Sigi Engl (second from left) and his wife pose with Rocky and Gary Cooper.

Hubbard Field airport, making it a short hop for celebrities living in Southern California.

Sky Tavern had an elaborate T-bar lift, three rope tows, challenging downhill runs, and two full-time employees. The lodge offered hearty meals, cocktails, dancing to a jukebox, and as an added Nevada-style attraction, a small gambling operation run by Bill Harrah. The resort had no electricity—power was supplied by a gasoline generator—and all-day tickets cost \$2.50. It was a far cry from today's mega resorts, but at the time no other Western ski area offered anything close.

Movie stars, San Francisco socialites, and famous personalities flocked to the slopes. Celebrities like Edward Teller, the father of the hydrogen bomb, and actress

Once when Cooper and his wife were expected for one of their frequent visits, Carlisle realized that the hotel was nearly out of toilet paper.

She called her neighbor Frank Leonard at the Galena Creek Ranger Station and asked him to send some up. Leonard took a few rolls out to the highway and flagged down the first car he saw. He told the driver that the paper was needed for the Coopers' room at the Sky Tavern. As Carlisle tells it, when "Coop" arrived, he leaned on the lodge's registration desk, put down several rolls of bathroom tissue, and drawled, "I hear y'all need this."

Kes hired noted Sun Valley ski instructor Hal Coddling to teach the junior ski team. Coddling had studied the most advanced techniques under expert instruc-

tors in Europe. The Ramseys raised their sons, Bob and Allan, on the slopes, and under Coddling's masterful eye, they developed into top competitors.

The rewards of owning a successful resort were great, but it wasn't always easy. Kes kept busy repairing equipment and digging out after blizzards buried the rope tows. Carlisle dealt with the constant problems of running a winter hostelry with staff frequently isolated by heavy snow.

Severe winter storms tested the Ramseys' resolve and endurance as well as the patience of guests occasionally stranded at the resort. For the most part, however, the celebrities who visited the Sky Tavern were great sports. In December 1951, DiMaggio rented a small cabin as a Christmas present for his ex-wife Dorothy and their son, Joe Jr. DiMaggio had bad knees and didn't ski, but he hoped that a peaceful weekend in the mountains would help reconcile their differences. On Christmas Eve a powerful Pacific cold front barreled into the Sierra, snapping power lines and closing roads.

DiMaggio and 70 other Sky Tavern guests and staff were marooned by 20-foot snowdrifts covering the highway, making national news. Food was plentiful, but it took four days for the rotary plow to churn through the massive drifts. When the road finally was cleared, "Joltin' Joe" told a swarm of reporters, "After what I've seen the last few days, I'm convinced skiers are worse than baseball fans. Some of them were sleeping in their cars waiting for the road to be opened. They just don't quit."

Over time, larger and more modern ski resorts opened around Lake Tahoe—upstart places like Squaw Valley in 1949 and Heavenly Valley in 1955. Only a mile up the road, with steeper and more challenging terrain, the Reno Ski Bowl began running chairlifts in 1953 on the Slide Mountain side of today's Mount Rose ski area. The new resorts siphoned off the Tavern's elite clientele.

In 1959, the Ramseys sold the Tavern, and in 1968 Reno bought the property for a children's ski school. Sky Tavern, once a chic, destination resort, is now home to a volunteer-based, nonprofit program that has allowed three generations of Nevada youngsters to acquire a love of skiing and winter sports. ❧

Mark McLaughlin is a weather historian living at Carnelian Bay, Lake Tahoe.

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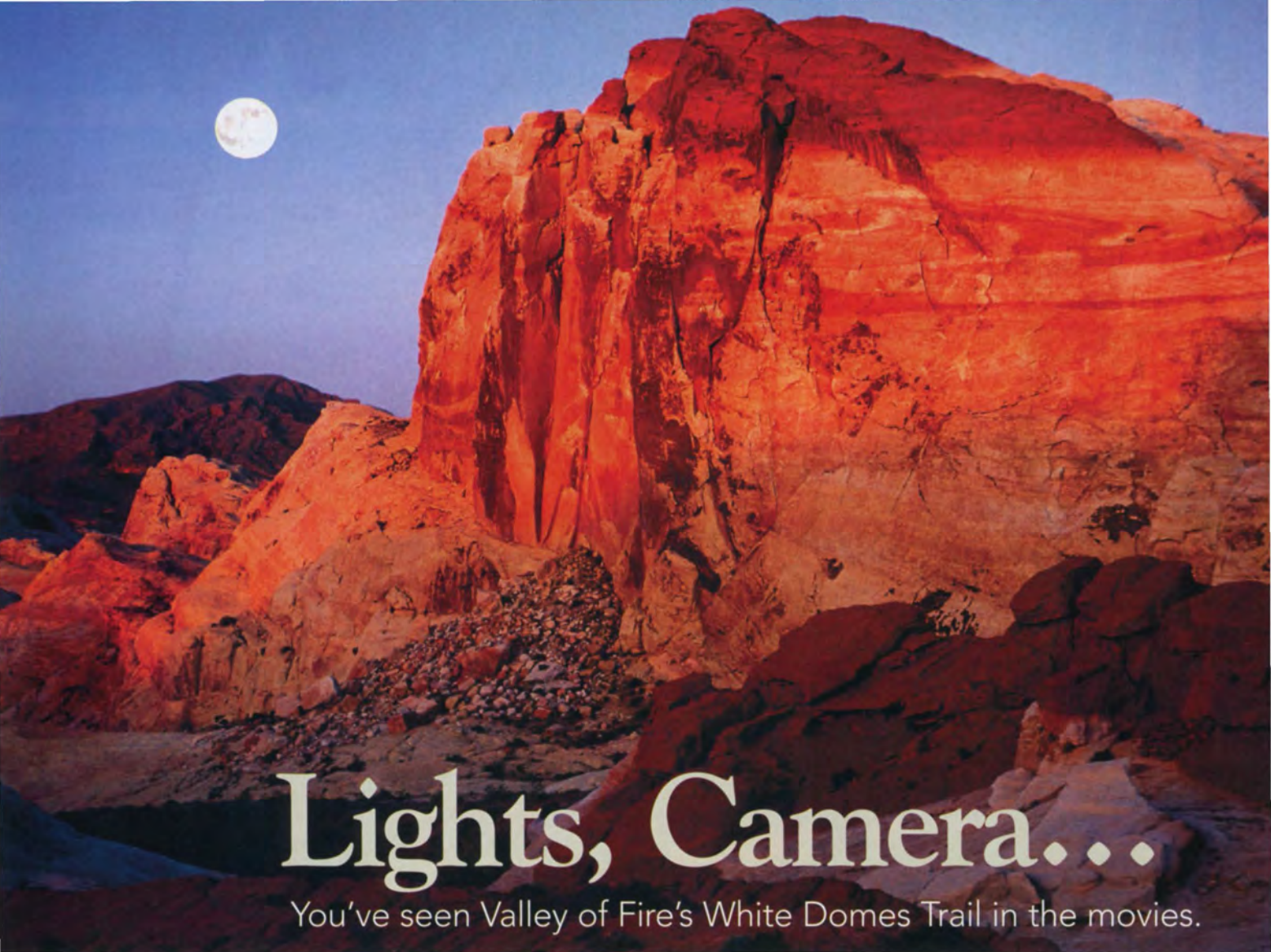
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Lights, Camera...

You've seen Valley of Fire's White Domes Trail in the movies.

Valley of Fire's flame-colored stone gleams at twilight.

By Roger Naylor

On your first visit to Valley of Fire State Park you may experience a flash of *déjà vu*, that weird, tingly feeling that you've somehow seen it before. Blame it on Hollywood. Film and commercial crews have visited so often, petroglyphs of boom mikes wouldn't seem out of place.

Captain Kirk died and Bugs Bunny cracked wise here. The Lone Ranger rode through, as did the *American Idol* contestants. Elvis shimmied in the summer sun. Advertisers have peddled motor oil, blue jeans, hamburgers, and virtually every make of automobile against the

backdrop of the park, a landscape so vivid and alive it becomes a character itself.

Which explains why I made the hour-plus drive from Las Vegas. I wanted to hunker where Burt Lancaster hunkered and sprawl where Lee Marvin sprawled. My boots churned up the same sand churned by Woody Strode's

boots as I hiked the White Domes Trail. The trail is only a mile-and-a-quarter loop, but on it I traveled across four decades.

From the parking lot at the end of a scenic drive, the trail immediately slices between two large sandstone domes and descends a series of steps into a narrow stone-wrapped gully.

WHEN YOU GO

Valley of Fire State Park is located 55 miles northeast of Las Vegas via Interstate 15 on Exit 75. Entrance fee is \$6 per vehicle. The park has a visitor center with many interpretive displays. Campsites are available for an additional fee. Scenic drives, picnic areas, and short hiking trails provide access to the park's astonishing scenery. For more information call 702-397-2088, email vof@mvdsl.com, or visit www.parks.nv.gov.



The Professionals stars Lee Marvin (left), Claudia Cardinale, Robert Ryan, and Woody Strode.

Here a couple of crumbling rock walls remains, remnants of a movie set from the greatest western ever made, *The Professionals*. The film also stars Jack Palance, Ralph Bellamy, and Claudia Cardinale.

As soon as I touched my fingers to the wall, I was transported. No longer a middle-aged man with creaky knees, I was a 10-year-old boy sitting in a dark theater, clutching a Tootsie Roll, spellbound by what unfolded on the screen.

For a wide-eyed kid, *The Professionals* had everything required of classic cinema: gunfights, dynamite, galloping horses, more gunfights, and Cardinale's lovely shape. Hubba-hubba! For a good chunk of the morning, I crouched near the wall soaking in the views. I replayed scenes from the movie over and over in my head, wondering why they don't make movies like that anymore. Finally I pushed onward.

The tumbled chaos of sandstone cliffs rising from the desert floor gives Valley of Fire

its name. Reds and oranges, muted at midday, roar to life in the late afternoon slant of sun. Formations throughout the park seem to go up in flames, reminding visitors that no matter how many times Valley of Fire has appeared on their televisions, they've never really seen it before. Not like this.

Beyond the site of the movie set, the trail drops into a small wash and turns right, entering one of the true treasures of the desert, a slot canyon, with soaring, curving walls. This isn't one of the claustrophobia-inducing slots that are best navigated gut-sucked and sideways. Generally about eight feet wide, the wash ambles comfortably through the water-carved chamber while providing an intricate look at the textured whorls, waves, and curls of the sandstone. During thunderstorms, a torrent of water several feet high can churn through this small space.

Exiting the confines of the slot canyon, the trail climbs out

of the wash and across an open expanse. The convoluted and crumpled formations that define the park are actually ancient sand dunes dating back 150 million years. Sand turned to stone is being worn back to sand.

If you hike this trail, don't get so mesmerized by the long-distance views that you forget to keep a close eye. This stretch of trail resembles a lizard pool hall, with chuckwallas, whiptails, and desert iguanas lounging about. The trail gently ascends a few red rocks then curves back to the parking lot.

Near the trail's end I caught a whiff of something achingly sweet. Most hikers would attribute the fragrance to some rare desert bloom, but in this otherworldly place where anything seems possible, I believe I caught the scent of Cardinale's long-lingering perfume.

Hubba-hubba. ♡

Roger Naylor is a Cottonwood, Arizona, freelance writer.



The *Stalking Moon* crew prepares to shoot a scene.

Movies filmed at Valley of Fire

(A partial list)

- Domino* (2005)
- Looney Tunes: Back in Action* (2003)
- America's Sweethearts* (2001)
- Broken Arrow* (1996)
- Star Trek: Generations* (1994)
- The Ballad of Cable Hogue* (1970)
- Stalking Moon* (1968)
- One Million Years B.C.* (1966)
- The Professionals* (1966)
- Viva Las Vegas* (1964)



Jim Fennelson and Oliver Hardy act in a comedy-western film.

WHITE DOMES TRAIL

Trailhead: At the parking area at the end of White Domes Road.

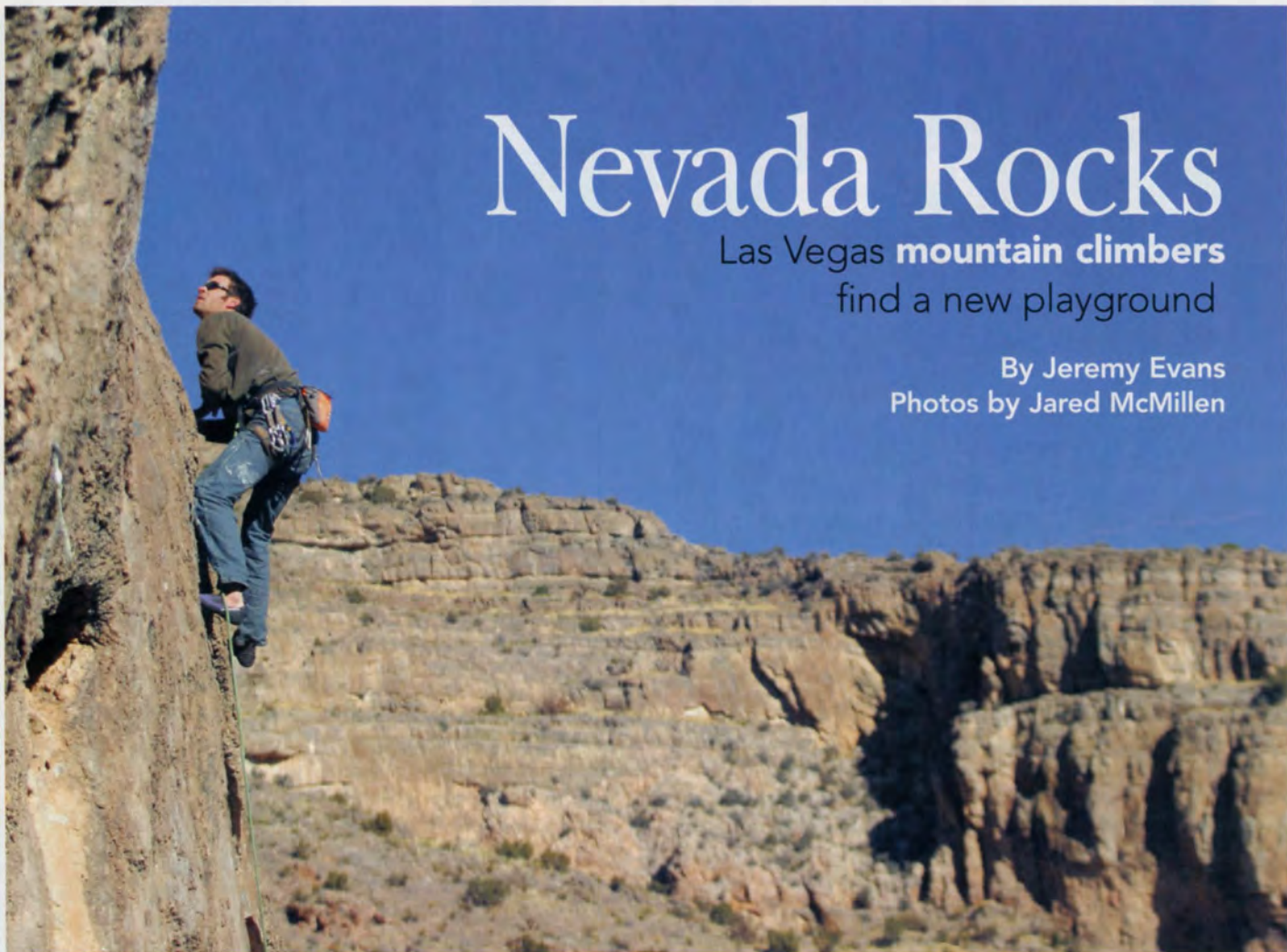
Length: 1.25 miles

Difficulty: Moderate

Nevada Rocks

Las Vegas mountain climbers
find a new playground

By Jeremy Evans
Photos by Jared McMillen



From the end of a dirt road, we walk along a faint trail that hugs the side of a canyon. As we ascend, a slit appears in the distance.

Once through the slit, the earth opens up into an enormous, hollow limestone sphere several hundred feet deep. When the sun shines just right, metallic bolts with dangling carabiners shimmer against the cave's roof.

I was told what to expect inside the cave, but it isn't until this moment that I understand what I am looking at: a developing paradise for climbers. What makes it so surreal is that this cave is in Nevada, rarely considered among climbers as a haven for new scaling areas.

There are five of us this December day:

Brian McCray and Keith Wentz, both of Las Vegas; Scott Morley of Jackson Hole, Wyoming; Las Vegas-based photographer

**"There is more rock
in Nevada than you
can climb in a lifetime."**

Jared McMillen; and myself. When we enter the cave, we scatter, eager to explore on our own.

Keith discovered the cave in 1999. Prior to that, Keith, who honed his climbing skills in Washington as a teenager, spent

only his winters in Las Vegas. The weather was agreeable, and the rock was superb. Eventually his winters in Las Vegas grew longer, and he made a permanent home in the city.

Keith had been exploring the Nevada desert for years, searching for new places to climb, when he came across the cave north of Pahrnagat Valley in Lincoln County. He knew he had found something special.

"There is more rock in Nevada than you can climb in a lifetime," Keith tells me. "I've been all around the West, and this is the place. This cave is the most impressive formation out here."

Keith needed a partner to help cultivate the cave's climbing potential.

POPULAR NEVADA CLIMBING SPOTS

Although the cave in Lincoln County isn't ready for climbing, Nevada still offers ample opportunities for climbers to rope up and "on belay." From granite faces in the Lake Tahoe region to bouldering at Lamoille Canyon and Red Rock, climbers can find plenty to quench their appetites for rock in the Silver State. Belay on.

RED ROCK CANYON CONSERVATION AREA

Overview: One of the largest rock climbing areas in the world, Red Rock is a sandstone paradise near Las Vegas with routes for all skill levels.

Recommended reading: *Red Rock Canyon: A Climbing Guide*, by Roxanna Brock and Jared McMillen, Mountaineers Books, 2005, 447 pages, \$34.95, paperback (ISBN 0-89886-486-0).

LAMOILLE CANYON

Overview: Gouged by glaciers covering the Ruby Mountains thousands of years ago, Lamoille Canyon is a true gem near Elko. Most of the rock is limestone, and climbs range in skill level from beginner to expert.

Recommended reading: *Lamoille Canyon: A Climbers Guide to Lamoille Canyon and the Surrounding Areas*, by Jim Wise, Ken Hurst, and Bob Hicken, self-published, 2006, www.Nevada-rock-climbing.com, \$13.50, paperback.

LAKE TAHOE

Overview: The granite of the Sierra Nevada is a short drive from Reno and Tahoe. Emerald Bay's 90-foot Wall is an ideal spot for top-roping, and the 600-foot Lover's Leap on U.S. 50 at Strawberry offers multi-pitch routes.

Recommended reading: *South Lake Tahoe Climbing*, by Chris McNamara, Supertopo, 2004, 184 pages, \$24.95, paperback (ISBN 0-96723-917-6).



Keith Wentz explores the vast climbing cave in Lincoln County he discovered in 1999 (above). He and his rock-climbing partner, Brian McKay, are developing routes in the stadium-sized cavern and writing a guidebook. Right: Brian climbs rock in a remote Nevada valley. Opposite page: Keith works his way up a sheer face.



He decided that there was no better prospect than Brian, who had landed in Las Vegas much the same way Keith had.

Since they discovered the cave, the pair has established 40 climbing routes and predict at least 40 more problems—a climbing term for potential routes. They also have developed numerous climbing areas in the surrounding mountains including Upper Crust, Valley View, and The Canyon, giving the routes names like Pandemonium, Sonic Boom, and—in homage to Keith's favorite musician—Johnny Cashed-Out.

"Putting up routes is an art form," Brian says. "It's kind of cave-manish compared to painting, but there is a lot of intuition involved. The rock tells you how it wants to be climbed."

Although the cave isn't ready for general use, Keith and Brian are working on a guidebook that they say should bring

more climbers to the area. "There are still hundreds of hours of work to be done in this cave alone," Brian says. "There will always be fewer climbers who do this [pioneer new routes]. It's just easier to climb in known spots." ▀

Jeremy Evans is a writer for the Tahoe Daily Tribune in South Lake Tahoe. He is an avid climber, mountain biker, and snowboarder.

A Place of Peace

Actor Tony Curtis and his wife, Jill, care for unwanted horses on their Sandy Valley ranch

By Nick Thomas

While his trademark jet-black wavy hair has faded to silver-gray, and he's not quite the lean, agile actor who portrayed the athletic illusionist Harry Houdini in 1953, there's no mistaking the innate charm and charisma of actor Tony Curtis, who can still claim a legion of devoted fans.

Far from settling into inactive obscurity, the 81-year-old Curtis remarried in 1998 and moved to Las Vegas with his wife, 35-year-old Jill Vandenberg, who Curtis says keeps him young. He threw himself into his longtime avocations, painting and photography.

Three years ago, Tony took on another role, one for which he credits his wife. Jill wanted to start a horse rescue group. "As I researched possibilities, I was horrified to learn that tens of thousands of unwanted American horses are slaughtered each year for human consumption in Asia and Europe," says Jill, a lifetime horse rider and trainer.

So she approached her husband with an idea. "We were driving in the car one evening, and Jill told me she wanted to save some of those horses," recalls Tony. "I told her, 'Let's go do it.'"

Despite the demands of Hollywood over the years, Tony had juggled a second career as an artist, channeling his creative energy onto canvas as well as through the camera. "I usually had a chair and desk on my movie sets and drew during breaks between scenes," he says. His paintings, known for their bold, colorful patterns and swirls, fetch between \$25,000 and \$40,000.

As a result of the Curtises' personal and financial commitment—including raising funds by selling many of Tony's paintings—more than 200 horses have been rescued.



Tony Curtis shares a moment with a horse at Shiloh, the ranch in Sandy Valley where Curtis and his wife Jill (right) care for rescued horses. Shiloh means "a place of peace" in Hebrew.

Tony Curtis created a horse-themed giclée print (right) especially for Nevada Magazine readers. The print is a montage of several images on 24-by-36-inch canvases using archival quality inks. Each is hand-signed.

The cost is \$1,950, and proceeds go to the Shiloh Horse Rescue and Sanctuary. For more information contact Tony Curtis Studios at 702-736-1787 or visit www.tonycurtis.com.



"We go to auctions and outbid the 'killer buyers,'" Jill says. Many of the rescued horses have been adopted out to families in Nevada, while others will live out the remainder of their lives on the Curtises' Sandy Valley ranch the couple named Shiloh.

"It seemed an appropriate name," Jill says, "because it means a 'place of peace' in Hebrew."

A year ago, Shiloh was a dusty, rocky plot of land in the Sandy Valley basin. But in six months, with the help of volunteers, Tony and Jill had wells dug and erected fencing, barns, stables, and corals to create a new home for animals in need.

Tony is no stranger to horses, having ridden in many films, often performing his own stunts. "Being a Jewish kid from New York City, the studios didn't think I'd be able to ride at first," Tony says. "So I'd go to the studio stables when no one was around, get a horse, and practice."

It's that dedication to his acting profession that Tony now applies to the Shiloh horse sanctuary. "It picks up my spirits to see the good work done here," he says. ▀

Nick Thomas is a freelance writer who teaches at Auburn University in Montgomery, Alabama. To view the art of Tony Curtis and learn more about Shiloh, visit www.tonycurtis.com or call Tony Curtis Studios at 702-736-1787.

THE MANY ROLES OF TONY CURTIS

According to Tony Curtis, movie-star status rarely came quickly in Hollywood's early years. "When I started over 50 years ago, my agent told me I would have to do 30 films before the world would know who Tony Curtis was," says Tony, who began his acting career in 1949.

Fortunately, Tony was blessed with picture-perfect good looks, an intriguing raspy New York accent, and plenty of raw talent, all of which helped the boy from the Bronx climb relatively quickly through the studio ranks and into the hearts of millions of fans in just a few years.

The veteran actor takes great pride in his body of work that includes such classics as *Some Like it Hot*, *The Boston Strangler*, *Houdini*, *The Defiant Ones*, *Spartacus*, and *The Sweet Smell of Success*—some 150 movie and TV roles in all. Tony's daughters, Jamie Lee Curtis and Kelly Curtis, also are actors.—Nick Thomas

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Flying Saucer Clouds

“Lennies” take their dinner-plate shape thanks to Nevada’s mountains.

By Peter B. Mires



Lennies pile up over Carson Valley, an agricultural area that lies east of the Sierra Nevada, the mountain range that creates these clouds.

I’ve had my head in the clouds ever since my parents bought me my first weather book when I was 10. I’ve long admired Eric Sloane’s cloud paintings, and not a day goes by when I don’t look up to assess the atmosphere. But there’s one type of cloud that I never saw until I moved to Northern Nevada 15 years ago, *Altostratus lenticularis*.

The astonishing thing about these clouds is that they don’t appear to move. Normal clouds move ever so slightly on a calm day or quickly on a windy day. Even the wispy strings of evaporating precipitation called *virga* sweep the Nevada horizon like giant atmospheric tentacles. But *lenticularis*, or “lennies” as they are called by veteran cloud spotters, hover like the quintessential UFOs they resemble.

Lennies also are unique in the way they form. Most clouds occur when warm and cold fronts collide or when air at ground

level is warmed and rises by convection. Lennies are ripples of air forced upward by a topographic barrier like the Sierra Nevada. These lens-shaped—hence the

No wonder the so-called UFO “sightings” are more frequent above and immediately downwind of mountains.

name—flying saucer-like clouds are mountain clouds. No wonder the so-called UFO “sightings” are more frequent above and immediately downwind of mountains.

Lennies are common on the leeward side of the Sierra. They occur here when the wind over the mountains is wave-like

and sometimes quite turbulent—airline pilots avoid lennies, but updraft-seeking glider pilots love them. Like a great whale breaching the ocean surface and returning to the deep, the wave’s updraft and downdraft undulate above and below a zone where water vapor condenses into a cloud. Sometimes alternating layers of moist and dry air create a pile of lennies, one on top of another like a stack of dinner plates.

I live on the East Coast now, teach geography and meteorology to college students, and haven’t had the pleasure of seeing a lennie for too long. I visit Nevada from time to time, and I always hope that my next trip to the Silver State includes a flying saucer sighting. ♥

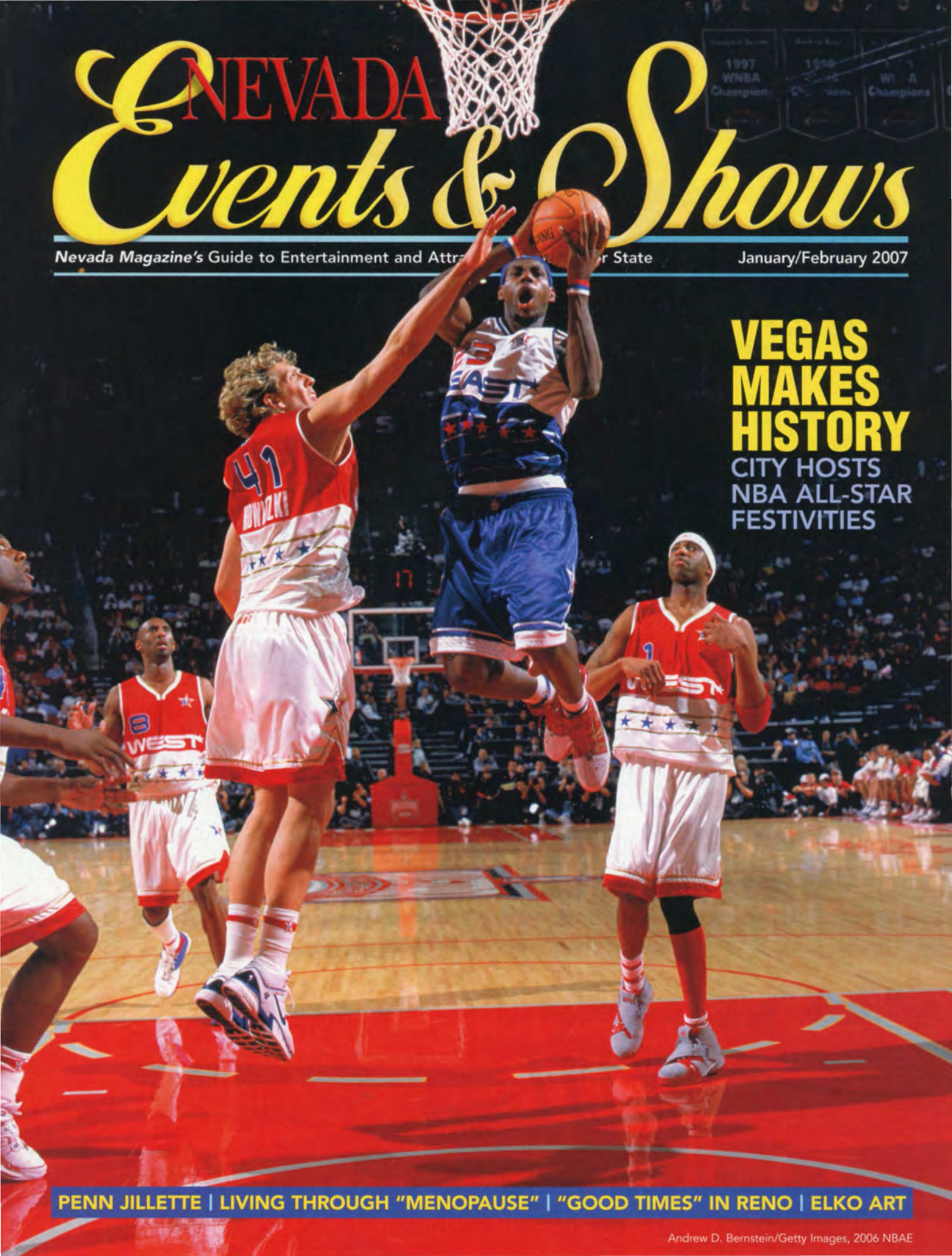
Peter B. Mires, a former Carson City resident and cloud enthusiast, teaches at the University of Delaware.

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Las Vegas Hoop-la

NBA All-Star excitement envelopes Nevada's entertainment capital

By Matthew B. Brown

For the first time in its 56-year history, the NBA All-Star festivities will be held in a city without an NBA team, and Las Vegas is relishing its role as official host.

"The city is alive with activities and excitement," says Rossi Ralenkotter, president and CEO of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, the host organization for NBA All-Star 2007. "The all-star experience will be one of the hottest tickets around."

For Las Vegas, the buzz isn't so much centered around the game as it is the basketball atmosphere. Tickets to the February 18 game at Thomas and Mack Center are difficult to acquire, but there are plenty of ways to get into the action.

The NBA All-Star Jam Session, essentially a basketball theme park, will accompany the game for the 14th year. The Mandalay Bay Convention Center will be transformed into a 400,000-square-foot playground where fans can test their shooting skills, compete in on-court skill

NBA ALL-STAR 2007



The Thomas and Mack Center welcomes the NBA All-Star Rookie Challenge on Friday, February 16, followed by All-Star Saturday on February 17 and the 56th NBA All-Star game on February 18 at 5 p.m. The three events will air on TNT, but tickets are not made available to the public by the NBA or the venue. Visit www.nba.com for information on All-Star voting. Fans have until January 21 to vote online. All-Star starters will be announced on January 25, and reserves will be announced on February 1





Top: The Las Vegas Monorail Company transformed one of its four-car trains into a moving NBA All-Star 2007 logo.

Left: Kobe Bryant, No. 8 of the Western Conference, looks to pass against Ben Wallace (near right), LeBron James (23), and Dwyane Wade (3) of the Eastern Conference during the NBA All-Star Game at Toyota Center on February 19, 2006 in Houston. The East won, 122-120. The West's Elton Brand (far right) looks on.

Opposite Page: Shaquille O'Neal (left) of the East is guarded by the West's Yao Ming at the 2006 NBA All-Star Game.

challenges, compare their hand and shoe sizes with their favorite players, and collect autographs from former and current NBA and WNBA stars. Youngsters can slam dunk and drain 3-pointers at the Kids' Zone. Also, on Center Court, fans can watch the NBA All-Star Celebrity Game on February 16 and the East and West squads practice on February 17. More than 120,000 people attended Jam Session 2006 in Houston.

Several hotel-casinos are planning special screenings of the game (the Tuscany

Hotel will air it on a giant projection screen in the Piazza Lounge). One of the Las Vegas Monorail trains has been transformed into a traveling NBA All-Star logo. The train's interior gives passengers a sense of what it's like to be an NBA player, with a 3-D hoop and painted hardwood floors that simulate standing on the free-throw line. Also, the All-Star event has raised speculation that Las Vegas is next in line for an NBA franchise, especially since the league picked the city to host its largest marketing and promotional event.

NBA officials chose Las Vegas because of the city's reputation as a popular travel destination. "It's a great city for entertainment, and NBA All-Star is a great way to experience the passion and excitement of the NBA, so we think it's a great fit," says Gail Hunter, NBA vice president of events and attractions. ▣

Matthew B. Brown is Nevada's associate editor. For NBA All-Star 2007 updates, visit www.lvcva.com (search "NBA"), www.nba.com, or visittlasvegas.com/vegas/features/nba/index.jsp.

WHEN YOU GO

All three events at Mandalay Bay Convention Center

NBA All-Star Jam Session

DATE	TIME
Thursday, February 15	4-10 p.m.
Friday, February 16	4-10 p.m.
Saturday, February 17	9 a.m.-10 p.m.
Sunday, February 18	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Monday, February 19	9 a.m.-5 p.m.

(Tickets on sale January 16)

TICKETS	COST
Adults	\$20
Children (3-12)	\$12
Senior Citizens	\$12
Military (with ID)	\$12
Children (2 and younger)	Free

*NBA All-Star Jam Session tickets do not include entry to the NBA All-Star Practice or the NBA All-Star Celebrity Game. Each requires a separate ticket, sold separately.

*NBA All-Star Celebrity Game

DATE	TIME
Friday, February 16	4 p.m.

TICKETS	COST
(on sale January 3)	
General Admission	\$25

*NBA All-Star Practice

DATE	TIME
Saturday, February 17	TBD

TICKETS	COST
(on sale December 27)	
General Admission	\$35

To Order Tickets

PHONE: 877-632-7400 or 702-632-7580
 WEB: www.ticketmaster.com

Surviving the Change

"Menopause, The Musical" at the Las Vegas Hilton is just the **right medicine.**

By Ann Henderson

One of womankind's most puzzling afflictions is getting big laughs at the Las Vegas Hilton. "Menopause, The Musical," packs the Shimmer Cabaret with an audience of 40-something-plus females who are on the verge of "the change," in the throes of coping, or who have survived. Showgoers might recognize characters in their own lives, such as the loving family matriarch who periodically becomes a raging witch, then moans, "I feel like such a lunatic."

The stars skewer feelings of lunacy and other menopausal maladies when they sing parodies of 28 pop songs from the 1960s through the 1980s. The show, full of self-deprecating humor, is exaggerated fun.

The story follows four women who meet at a lingerie clearance rack in Bloomingdale's and form a sisterhood. They include the sophisticated Power Woman trying to remain competitive in the business world; Earth Mother, a former flower child still living in the '60s; the naïve, matronly Iowa Housewife visiting New York City; and the aging Soap Star. Each actress has impressive show business credentials and a powerful singing voice.

The women commiserate about weight gain to the country tune, "Lookin' for Love in All the Wrong Places," which becomes their ode to food. "I'm packin' on pounds where I didn't have spaces," they lament. "Don't know where it started or where it will end. I turn to a milkshake and I call it friend."

The performers are also adept at physical comedy. Over lunch, the foursome deals with trying to read menus without bifocals. Earth Mother props the menu in her sandal and extends her leg.

Influenced by the more liberated members of the group, Mrs. Iowa starts to loosen up, entertaining ideas of how to entice a husband more interested in his workshop than sex. In the lingerie de-



The four stars of "Menopause, The Musical" discover "Beauty is Only Skin Deep."

partment she tries on a sheer, one-piece black teddy. It is way, way too small, but she is game. Her struggles are a "10" on the laughmeter.

The characters sing, "Wish we all could be sane and normal," to Brian Wilson's "California Girls." Mrs. Iowa said her doc-

Dressed in sparkling evening gowns, the cast sings "Tidied up my point of view" and strut their "New Attitude."

tor prescribed Prozac "to reduce the urge to kill."

Over the play's 90 minutes, the women come to the realization that "Beauty is Only Skin Deep," and roll into the finale. Dressed in sparkling evening gowns, they sing "Tidied up my point of view" and strut their "New Attitude."

Did the scattering of men in the audience get it? Judging by their smiles, I'd say, you bet. Before the show, a woman in front of me whipped off her jacket and started fanning her flushed cheeks with a folded cocktail napkin. A man seated three tables away bought a souvenir Menopause fan and presented it to the hot-flash victim. ▣

Ann Henderson is Nevada Magazine's entertainment and events editor. She is currently reading the book, *Life Begins at 40*.

SHOW NOTES

"Menopause, The Musical" plays daily in the Shimmer Cabaret. Tickets are \$49.50, plus tax and service charge. Showtimes are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 7 p.m., Wednesday at 2 and 7 p.m., Saturday at 4 and 7 p.m., and Sunday at 2, 4, 5, and 7 p.m. For information call 702-732-5755 or visit www.lvhilton.com.

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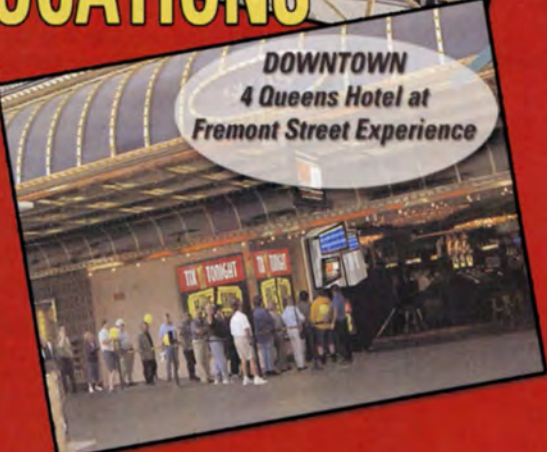
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- Breakfast & lunch rides available from \$99.99 per person

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www.looktours.com Void with any other offer. No Cash Value. Exp 6/30/07 Codes: NES HR2, HR3, HR4

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A “Good Time” at Harrah’s

Reno show reflects an era when **Elvis** and **polka dots** defined cool

By Matthew B. Brown

Early in producer Greg Thompson’s tribute to 1950s cheeseburger-and-fries rock ‘n’ roll, the lovable yet nerdy Squiggy belts out, “I just have to say this is the coolest high school in America.” It’s an appropriate summation of Good Times High School, the opening setting in Harrah’s Reno’s “Let the Good Times Roll.”

Thompson’s latest revue is an energetic mix of song and dance that takes showgoers through Squiggy’s transformation from a timid geek—backward red hat, taped eyeglasses, and a white T-shirt tucked into his jeans held up by black suspenders—into the King, Elvis Presley. Squiggy, played by Brian Mills, dons a shiny, gold suit at the show’s climax and sings classics like “Jailhouse Rock” while shaking his hips in front of a huge, lit-up “ELVIS” sign. Squiggy’s role reversal is complete when he proclaims to the audience, “You like me, you really like me.”

Squiggy woos the female lead, Chico, with his bashful style before his metamorphosis into Elvis. Alana Holland is the powerful voice behind the spunky brunette, Chico. She is ultimately won over by Squiggy—as is the audience. Tim Tenhumberg, the only other male performer, plays Squiggy’s opposite, Bobby, an ultra-cool jock who is introduced to the audience as the prototype greaser—slicked-back hair, white muscle shirt, and tight jeans. Bobby gives Squiggy a lesson on how to be hip. “You gotta be a football player or a rock ‘n’ roller. Get your head out of those books,” he says. Rounding out the singing cast is Chelsea Thompson’s character Susie,

WHEN YOU GO

“Let the Good Times Roll” appears nightly except Tuesday in Sammy’s Showroom at Harrah’s Reno through July 7. Tickets cost \$29.95 or \$34.95 for VIP. Call 775-788-2900 or visit www.harrahreno.com.

a free-spirited blonde who is attracted to Bobby’s macho persona.

The foursome takes the audience through a whirlwind of classic songs, harmonizing on Grease hits like “Summer Lovin’” and “Born to Hand Jive” and other well-knowns like “Tutti Frutti” and “Rock Around the Clock.” There also are a couple of high-energy medleys, and Squiggy and Chico both have solos dedicated to Elvis. A cheerleading scene is one of numerous routines performed by the six female dancers. “Chelsea’s a really experienced dancer—all the girls are,” Tenhumberg says.

Audience involvement plays a big part. About three-quarters through a recent show, devoted fan Bobby Kann was whisked out of the crowd by the flock of sexy female performers. They dressed him in a black stroker cap and leather jacket and dark sunglasses while singing Alisha’s Attic’s “He’s a Rebel.” Kann, a self-professed “hooper” (dancer) who performed on Broadway with Carol Channing and Nancy Walker, says he loves the nostalgic feeling he gets from the show. “I’m 83 years old, and to a lot of people



Chelsea Thompson belts out rock ‘n’ roll classics as Susie in “Let the Good Times Roll,” showing at Harrah’s Reno through July.

much younger than me it brings back to the old days,” says the Concord, California, resident who danced in “Gentlemen Prefer Blondes” from 1949 to 1951 and has seen numerous “Good Times” shows.

Although it’s a family revue, Thompson did not make the women’s attire true to the conservative ‘50s. Short shorts, short skirts, and even a yellow polka-dot bikini make an appearance. The show is as humorous as it is entertaining, with a number of one-liners—Squiggy complains, “Gas just went up to 23 cents a gallon”—and impromptu jokes. After Tenhumberg pulls a woman out of the audience, he says, “Is this your husband, or are you on a business trip?” During a drive-in scene, Squiggy pulls the stuffing out of Susie’s bra, one of the show’s many surprises. ▀

Matthew B. Brown is Nevada Magazine’s associate editor.

Art Among the Ruins

Nolan Preece sees beauty in the Nevada “outback” and old buildings.

By Merrie Leininger

Water-stained and peeling walls in a century-old hospital inspired Reno photographer Nolan Preece’s abstract-looking close-ups of abandoned buildings and black-and-white Nevada scenes on display at the Northeastern Nevada Museum in Elko. His exhibit, “Nevada Landscapes and Walls,” runs from January 6 to April 1.

Preece saw beauty in decay when he was documenting the interior of the St. Mary Louise Hospital in Virginia City before it was remodeled and transformed into the St. Mary’s Art Center beginning in 2000.

“The hospital had a lot of old peeling wallpaper, and when I started looking at it, I became interested,” Preece says. “Some of it was there 100 years ago. I wanted to document the building as it was.”

The Truckee Meadows Community College photography instructor jokes he was “doomed” to be an artist because his artist parents encouraged his creative impulses while raising him in Vernal, Utah. Preece has memories of developing his first photo in his father’s darkroom when he was five.

“I remember I’d have to develop prints on my toes and stretch up to reach,” he says.

In addition to searching for patterns in lonely old buildings in the Nevada “outback,” as he calls it, for his historical and landscape photos, Preece also makes ghostly intaglio prints etched on copper plates and “chemograms” that he paints with photo-developing chemicals.

Preece says his work reflects a different way of looking at the world.

“I still see things the way I did as a child. We never had TV, and I was always making things, making art, and I had hobbies like rock collecting,” Preece says. “When you’re young, you see a lot more—odd shapes and different things—you overlook as an adult.”

Merrie Leininger is assistant calendar editor at the Reno Gazette-Journal.



Above: “Fence Line,” a silver gelatin print by photographer Nolan Preece (left), is on display at Elko’s Northeastern Nevada Museum from January 6 to April 1.

GETTING THERE

The Northeastern Nevada Museum, located at 1515 Idaho Street in Elko, is open Tuesday to Sunday. Admission is \$5 adults, \$3 students/seniors, free on the last Sunday of the month. 775-738-3418, www.museum-elko.us.

Elko Is Cooking Cowboy Poetry

The food, good times, and love of the land that are a central part of ranching life are celebrated during the 23rd annual National Cowboy Poetry Gathering, January 27-February 3, in Elko.

The event is the first and largest of the cowboy poetry gatherings in the United States. In addition to performances of poetry and song by more than 60 artists, there will be tours of area ranches, cooking workshops conducted by ranching families, and a writers' discussion on sustaining the land. Impromptu jam sessions at local hotels are crowd pleasers as are the displays of Western gear and fine art.

The hundreds of cowboys and cowgirls who attend each year include international participants. This year Patrick and



Cowboy Paul Zarzyski, whose recent book is *Wolf Tracks on the Welcome Mat*, has performed many times at the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko.

Estelle Laurent, fourth-generation ranchers called gardians from the Camargue region of southern France, will be at the event. Accompanying them will be the Gitano family, gypsy musicians whose music is an integral part of gardian life.

The National Cowboy Poetry Gathering started in 1985. Musicians and poets from 15 Western states and two Canadian provinces are expected, including Don Edwards, Glenn Ohrlin, and NPR commentator Baxter Black.

Many programs and events sell out, so it's best to purchase tickets well in advance.

—Merrie Leininger



Wylie Gustafson of Wylie and the Wild West.

SHOW NOTES

National Cowboy Poetry Gathering

LOCATION: Western Folklife Center, Elko.

DATES: January 27-February 3.

EVENTS: Shows, dinner theater, workshops, exhibits, silent auction.

CONTACTS: www.westernfolklife.org or 775-340-4240.

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NEVADA

Events & Shows

Nevada Magazine's complete guide to activities and entertainment. Call ahead to confirm details.

Las Vegas

AREA EVENTS AND SHOWS



Fireworks light up the Las Vegas Strip on New Year's Eve, and partiers gather for the light-and-sound show at Fremont Street Experience.

Events

New Year's Eve Celebration • Dec. 31 • Casino parties, fireworks, countdowns on the Strip, and Fremont Street Experience. Las Vegas, 702-678-5600.

Ritz-Carlton New Year's Eve Celebration • Dec. 31 • Chocolate fountain, hot chocolate, food, heated outdoor dance area. Florentine Garden, Ritz-Carlton, Lake Las Vegas, Henderson, 702-567-4700.

Laughlin New Year's Eve • Dec. 31 • Entertainment, party favors, and balloon-drops are planned at several hotels. Laughlin, 800-4LAUGHLIN.

Lunch with History • Jan. 5 • Bring your own lunch for a presentation on Las Vegas history. Old Mormon Fort State Historic Park, Las Vegas, 702-486-3511.

Winter Break • Jan. 5-11 • Festival for the 50-plus age group has a dance contest, fitness activities, entertainment, battle of the bands, talent show, classic cars, and "speed dating" for singles followed by a senior prom. Various venues,

Laughlin, 800-4LAUGHLIN for more event information.

Santos Reyes Festival • Jan. 6 • Celebrates the Latin American tradition honoring the arrival of the three kings and their gifts. East Las Vegas Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-1515.

Emmanuel's Gift • Jan. 6 • African-American Perspectives on Film features Oprah Winfrey narrating the story of a disabled boy abandoned by his father. West Las Vegas Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4000.

Keith Knight at Coffee Shop Sunday • Jan. 7 • Concert features

bluegrass, Appalachian stomp, and Chicago ragtime. Valley View Center, Henderson, 702-267-2171.

Jerry Lopez and the Fat City Horns • Jan. 7 • Las Vegas Jazz Society concert. Summerlin Performing Arts Center, Las Vegas, www.vegassjazzsociety.org.

Dynamic Trombone Quartet • Jan. 7 • Classical to country. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211.

Riverside Resort International Gem and Jewelry Show • Jan. 12-21 • Sixth annual exhibit and sale. Riverside Resort, Laughlin, 800-227-3849.

"Peter and the Wolf" • Jan. 13 • Las Vegas Philharmonic presents all the traditional favorites and Borodin's Polovtsian Dances. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-2787.

Winter Art Festival • Jan. 13-14 • Exhibition by 40 local artists. Creekside Golf Club, Boulder City, 702-293-2138.

Red, White, and Blue Balloon Festival • Jan. 13-14 • Benefit for military families from Nellis Air Force Base will feature 25 specialty and 40 race balloons. Event includes two balloon glows, tether rides, music, remote-control balloons, food, vendor village. Sam Boyd Stadium, Las Vegas, 760-777-8081.

Dan and Irene Avalon at Coffee Shop Sunday • Jan. 14 • Island music. Whitney Center, Henderson, 702-267-2171.

Las Vegas Wind Quintet • Jan. 14 • Classical music. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Cheetah Girls in Concert • Jan. 14 • Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

Laughlin SCORE Desert Challenge • Jan. 18-21 • Off-road competition features race cars and exotic trucks on an 11-mile loop. Other events include a pit crew contest and the popular Laughlin Leap, a high-jump for cars. Events Park, Laughlin, 800-227-5245.

The Poets' Corner • Jan. 19 • Readings. West Las Vegas Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

Sixth Annual Nitro Blast-Off • Jan. 19-21 • Invitational professional drag racers' test session. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Soldiers of the Old Fort • Jan. 20 • Presentation about a soldier's life in 1860s Las Vegas at 10am, and Disaster Survival in the City at 1pm. Old Mormon Fort State Historic Park, Las Vegas, 702-486-3511.

Tony Scodwell Big Band • Jan. 21 • Featuring vocalist Lisa Mayer. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Nevada Jazz Orchestra • Jan. 21 • Las Vegas Jazz Society concert. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, www.vegassjazzsociety.org.

Sid Hausman at Coffee Shop Sunday • Jan. 21 • Cowboy balladeer. Black Mountain Center, Henderson, 702-267-2171.



The Gospel Hummingbirds perform R&B inspirational music February 3 in Henderson.

Las Vegas Civil War Roundtable • Jan. 24 • Free admission to the discussion on the Civil War. Old Mormon Fort State Historic Park, Las Vegas, 702-486-3511.

Las Vegas Snowball Spectacular • Jan. 26-28 • NHRA Pacific Division Sportsman National Open and car show. Cannery is host hotel. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

An Afternoon with Lindell Blake • Jan. 27 • One-man music and dance performance. West Las Vegas Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

Nevada Ballet Theatre Black and White Ball • Jan. 27 • Fund-raiser honors Paula Abdul as woman of the year. Wynn Las Vegas, Las Vegas, 702-243-2623, ext. 225.

Bella Rumore • Jan. 28 • Quintet performs classical and rock music. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211.

Old Time Barn Dance • Jan. 27 • Square, mixers, contras, waltzes, polkas. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Jewish Film Series • Jan. 30 • *Kozak*, the story of a physician who ran a home for Jewish orphans in the Warsaw Ghetto. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

From Tchaikovsky to Gershwin • Feb. 2-3 • Nevada Ballet Theatre per-

forms "Allegro Brillante," "Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux," "Tarantella," and "Who Cares?," a tribute to Broadway through Gershwin's music. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Last Chance Professional Test Session • Feb. 2-4 • Pontiac Pro Stock Showdown, Feb. 3. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Gospel Hummingbirds • Feb. 3 • Inspirational music coupled with urban rhythm and blues. Black Mountain Center, Henderson, 702-267-2171.

Lunch with History • Feb. 3 • Bring your own lunch for a presentation on Las Vegas history. Old Mormon Fort State Historic Park, Las Vegas, 702-486-3511.

Jewish Film Series • Feb. 6 • *Voyages*, three women in Poland, Paris, and Tel Aviv at the crossroads of life. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" • Feb. 9-10 • Touring production of the Bard's play. Nicholas Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 702-651-LIVE.

Colorado River Bluegrass Festival • Feb. 9-11 • Entertainment, vendors. Davis Camp on the Colorado River, Laughlin, www.coloradoriverbluegrass.com.

Las Vegas Mass Choir • Feb. 11 • Gospel concert. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

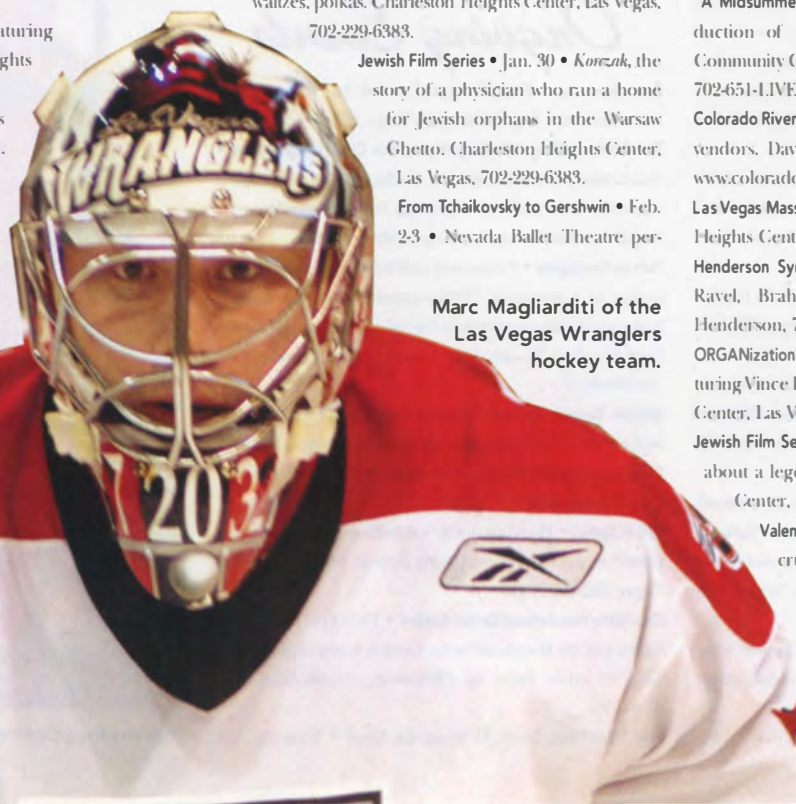
Henderson Symphony Orchestra • Feb. 11 • Selections by Ravel, Brahms, and Dvorak. Valley View Center, Henderson, 702-267-2171.

ORGANization! • Feb. 11 • Las Vegas Jazz Society concert featuring Vince Falcone, Joe Lano, Tommy Check. Winchester Center, Las Vegas, www.vegassjazzsociety.org.

Jewish Film Series • Feb. 13 • *The Komediant*, documentary about a legendary theatrical family. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Valentine's Day Cruise • Feb. 14 • Dinner-dance, cruise on Lake Mead aboard the *Desert Princess* paddlewheeler. Boulder Basin, Hemmenway Harbor, Boulder City, 702-293-6180.

NBA All-Star 2007 events • Feb. 15-19 • NBA All-Star Jam Session, Feb. 15-19; NBA All-Star Celebrity Game, Feb. 16; NBA All-Star Practice, Feb. 17. Fans can



Marc Magliarditi of the Las Vegas Wranglers hockey team.



The fiendish Amazing Johnathan offers bizarre comedy-magic at the Sahara.

obtain autographs. Mandalay Bay Convention Center, 877-632-7400 or 702-632-7580, www.ticketmaster.com.

NBA All-Star 2007 • Feb. 16-18 • NBA All-Star Rookie Challenge, Feb. 16; All-Star Saturday featuring 3-point shootout, slam-dunk contest, and skills challenge, Feb. 17; 56th NBA All-Star Game, Feb. 18. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, www.lvcva.com, www.nba.com, 702-895-FANS.

Masterworks III • Feb. 17 • Las Vegas Philharmonic concert features guest pianist Stewart Goodyear and selections from Mozart and Rachmaninoff. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-2787.

Soldiers of the Old Fort • Feb. 17 • Presentation about a soldier's life in 1860s Las Vegas at 10am, and Disaster Survival in the City at 1pm. Old Mormon Fort State Historic Park, Las Vegas, 702-486-3511.

Pacific Street Car Association Winternationals • Feb. 17-18 • Drag racing. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

"The Jungle Book" • Performed by Missoula Children's Theater on Feb. 17 at Henderson Multigenerational Center and Feb. 24 at Valley View Center, Henderson, 702-267-2171.

Jewish Film Series • Feb. 20 • *Anne Frank Remembered*, Academy Award-winning documentary sheds new light on the Jewish teenager whose diary made her a symbol of the Holocaust. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Hit and Run Bluegrass Concert • Feb. 24 • Traditional bluegrass with contemporary influences. East Las Vegas Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-1515.

Wailin' Jennys • Feb. 25 • Blues and Celtic folk music sung

in three-part harmony. Charleston Heights Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6383.

Las Vegas Civil War Roundtable • Feb. 28 • Free admission to the discussion on the Civil War. Old Mormon Fort State Historic Park, Las Vegas, 702-486-3511.

Ongoing Events

Free Concerts • Tues.-Sat. on 1st and 3rd street stages. Fremont Street Experience, Las Vegas, 702-678-5777.

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.

Turn on the Lights! • Permanent exhibit includes a walk-thru replica of a generator, 1940s equipment, memorabilia, a home model that reveals how electricity reaches residences from the dam. Hoover Dam Visitor Center, Boulder City, 702-494-2517.

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.

Gift of Lights • Thru Jan. 1 • Seven million lights will be displayed in the drive-thru holiday festival. Sunset Park, Las Vegas, 702-451-1641.

Chocolate Wonderland Cactus Garden • Thru Jan. 1 • Holiday lighting of the Botanical Cactus Garden features more than 500,000 lights. Ethel M Chocolates, Henderson, 800-438-4356.

East Coast-West Coast: All About the Towns • Thru Jan. 7 •

Black and white photos by Rochelle Hecker. Summerlin Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3760.

A December to Remember • Thru Jan. 7 • Multi-cultural winter celebration includes history, holiday decorations. Cultural Corridor, Las Vegas Natural History Museum, Las Vegas, 702-384-DINO.

Floating Ice Skating Rink • Thru Jan. 10 • MonteLago Village, Lake Las Vegas, Henderson, 866-399-2753.

Heritage Street Holidays • Thru Jan. 15 • Holiday traditions from the '40s to the '60s. Clark County Museum, Henderson, 702-455-7955.

"Common Ground" • Thru Jan. 26 • Exhibit explores the theme of neighborhoods and community. Left of Center Gallery, Las Vegas, 702-647-7378.

Light at Night and Colors of Life • Thru Feb. 4 • Photographs by Sebastien Coin. Sunrise Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3900.

"Jazz Mystique" • Thru Feb. 20 • Jazz musician Dr. Gene Redden incorporates musical themes in his paintings. West Las Vegas Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-4800.

Robert Mapplethorpe and the Classical Tradition • Thru Feb. • Exhibition of the artist's photographs and mannerist prints. Guggenheim Hermitage Museum, Venetian, Las Vegas, 702-414-4240.

Randi Chaplin Exhibition • Thru March 5 • Las Vegas artists. Las Vegas Art Museum, Las Vegas, 702-360-8000.

Meditations on Nature: Macro Photography by David Lancaster • Thru March 12 • Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Las Vegas, 702-486-5205, ext. 227.

Frank Gehry Designs Exhibition • Thru March 15 • Architectural designs. Las Vegas Art Museum, Las Vegas, 702-360-8000.



Rita Rudner performs at Harrah's Las Vegas.



From waltz to jive, professional dance teams celebrate "Simply Ballroom" at the Golden Nugget.

Ansel Adams: America • Thru May • Exhibition of 50 works by the American photographer. Bellagio, Las Vegas, 888-987-6667.

Ancient Petroglyph Tours • Second Sat. of the month thru May • Tour covers more than 100 panels of 800- to 2,000-year-old petroglyphs. Reservations required, Valley of Fire State Park, 55 miles northeast of Las Vegas via I-15,

Overton, 702-894-6723 for further event 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.

Las Vegas Wranglers ECHL Professional Hockey Team • Plays Jan. 1 vs. Long Beach Ice Dogs, Jan. 5 vs. Bakerfield Condors, Jan. 12 vs. Long Beach Ice Dogs, Jan. 26-27 vs.

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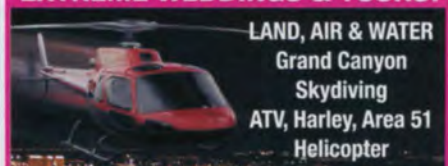
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 Nevada Mineral Display, Humphrey's Wildlife Exhibit, and
 Buckaroo Hall of Fame. Just up the road...see the Blackrock
 Mammoth Exhibit at the Humboldt County Museum.

Idaho Steelheads, Jan. 30 vs. Fresno Falcons, Feb. 2-3 and 6 vs. Toledo Storm, Feb. 13 vs. Alaska Aces, Feb. 27 vs. Idaho Steelheads, March 2-3 vs. Phoenix Roadrunners, March 6 vs. Idaho Steelheads, March 9-10 vs. Texas Wildcatters, March 13 vs. Fresno Falcons, March 16 vs. Phoenix Roadrunners, March 27 vs. Bakerfield Condors, March 30-31 vs. Alaska Aces, April 3 vs. Long Beach Ice Dogs, April 6-7 vs. Stockton Thunder. Orleans Arena, Las Vegas, 702-471-7825.

"Gas Stations of America" • Jan. 2-31 • Exhibition of paintings by Dale Cox. Lost City Museum, Overton, 702-397-2193.

Altered Landscapes • Jan. 2-Feb. 23 • Images address environmental issues. Marjorie Barrick Museum, UNLV, 702-895-3381.

UNLV Men's Basketball • The Runnin' Rebels play Jan. 3 vs. Utah, Jan. 13 vs. BYU, Jan. 23 vs. San Diego State, Jan. 27 vs. New Mexico, Feb. 7 vs. TCU, Feb. 10 vs. Wyoming, Feb. 20 vs. Air Force, March 3 vs. Colorado State. Mountain West Tournament, March 6-10. Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

UNLV Women's Basketball • The Lady Rebels play Jan. 6 vs. San Diego State, Jan. 11 vs. Wyoming, Jan. 13 vs. Utah, Feb. 1 vs. Colorado State, Feb. 3 vs. TCU, Feb. 21 vs. BYU, Feb. 25 vs. Air Force, March 1 vs. New Mexico. Mountain West Conference Tournament, March 6-10. Cox Pavilion, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

"Familiar Places" • Jan. 9-March 4 • Photographs of Southern Nevada by Chris Pflum. Summerlin Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3860.

Mythology Series • Jan. 18-Feb. 25 • African-American painter Albert Yabo Stewart uses African stories for inspiration. Clark County Library, Las Vegas, Clark County Library, Las Vegas, 702-507-3400.



At Guggenheim Las Vegas in the Venetian through February, Robert Mapplethorpe's "Thomas," 1987 Gelatin-silver print, A.P.1/2. Guggenheim Museum, New York, gift. Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation 93.4304.

Ten-Minute Play Festival • Jan. 31, Feb. 1-4 • Original works. Paul Harris Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Janet Trobough Exhibition • Feb. 1-28 • Watercolors and mixed media. Lost City Museum, Overton, 702-397-2193.

"Pippin" • Feb. 2-18 • Tony Award-winning coming-of-age musical about Charlemagne's oldest son. Stage Door production, Las Vegas Little Theatre, Las Vegas, 702-581-5008.

"The Glass Menagerie" • Feb. 9-11, 15-18 • Actress Sandy Duncan stars as Amanda in Tennessee Williams' classic. Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

"Trails of Old Nevada" • Feb. 9-11, 15-18 • Original script, family musical presented by Rainbow Company. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 702-229-6211.

"The Runner Stumbles" • Feb. 16-March 4 • A priest becomes the suspect when a nun dies mysteriously. Las Vegas Little Theatre, Las Vegas, 702-362-7996.

"Mother Courage and Her Children" • Feb. 23-25, 28-March 4, 7-11 • A woman tries to survive with her three children during the Thirty Years War. Black Box Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Coming Events

NASAR Weekend • March 9-11 • Las Vegas, 702-644-4444.

Monster Jam World Finals • March 24 • Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

Laughlin River Stampede Rodeo • March 29-April 1 • Visit www.honeycuttrotodeo.com.

Vegas Champ Car Grand Prix • April 6-8 • Las Vegas, 702-944-8661, www.vegasgrandprix.com.

FEI World Cup Jumping and Dressage • April 18-22 • Las Vegas, 702-895-FANS.

Bellagio World Poker Tour Championship • April 21-27 • Las Vegas, www.worldpokertour.com.

Laughlin River Run • April 25-29 • www.laughlinriverun.com.

Maxxis MiniMoto SX 2007 • May 4 • Las Vegas, 702-895-FANS.

AMP'd Mobile World Supercross GP/AMA Supercross Series • May 5 • Las Vegas, 702-739-FANS.

Nevada Ballet Theatre's "Peter Pan" • May 11-13 • Las Vegas, 702-895-ARTS.

Cinevegas Film Festival • June 8-16 • Las Vegas, 888-8VEGAS8.

Shows

BOULDER CITY

Hacienda • 702-293-5000 or 800-245-6380: Between Boulder City and Hoover Dam. Karaoke, Wed., music Thurs.-Sun.

HENDERSON

Green Valley Ranch • 702-617-7777: Lounge entertainment in Hank's Fine Steak and Martini Lounge. The District at Green Valley Ranch Outdoor Events: 702-564-8595; Cadillac Through the Years, 1915-present models, Feb. 11.

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

Joker's Wild • 702-564-8100: Free entertainment is offered 8pm-1:40am Fri.-Sat.

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

Sunset Station • 702-547-7777: Liquid Roots and Bonafide, Dec. 31. Paula Poundstone, Feb. 23. Al Stewart, March 24.



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JEAN

Gold Strike Hotel • 702-477-5000 or 800-463-1359: Bands play daily.

Nevada Landing • 702-387-5000 or 800-628-6682: Weekend entertainment.

LAS VEGAS

Aladdin • 702-785-5555 or 877-333-WISH: Miss America Pageant, Jan. 29, live broadcast. V Theatre at Miracle Mile Shops: Fab Four, dark Fri. "V," variety show, nightly. "X Girls: The Show," adult revue, dark Fri. Magician Nathan Burton, 2pm, Sat.-Thurs. "Popovich Pet Comedy Show," 3:30pm, dark Fri. Call 702-932-1818. Steve Wyrick Entertainment Complex 702-650-5081: "Real Magic" starring Steve Wyrick. Ventriloquist Ronn Lucas, 3pm, singer Martin Niviera, 5pm, "Defending the Caveman," one-man comedy play, 10:30pm. Harmon Theater 702-836-0836: "Hypnosis Gone Wild," with Michael Johns and Terry Stokes, nightly. "The Fashionistas," adult musical, dark Sun.-Mon. Funny Business Comedy Club, nightly. "Soprano's Last Supper," 6pm dinner and spoof show, dark Wed. The Aladdin will become Planet Hollywood in spring 2007.

Arizona Charlie's • 702-258-5200: Entertainment in Naughty Ladies Lounge. Karaoke, Mon. Jerry Tiffe plays 4-7pm Fri. **Arizona Charlie's East** • 702-951-9000: Bands play nightly.

Bally's • 702-739-4111 or 800-237-SHOW: "Jubilee!," production show, dark Fri. "Price is Right," game show, 2:30pm Tues.-Sat., 7:30 and 10:30pm Fri.

Barbary Coast • 702-737-7111: Pete Vallee as "Big Elvis," 3 and 6pm Mon.-Thurs. Bands perform Tues.-Sat.

Bellagio • 888-987-6667: Cirque du Soleil's "O," indf., dark Mon.-Tues., Jan. 21, Feb. 11, and additional performance Jan. 16.

Binion's • 702-382-1600: Bands Fri.-Sat.

Boulder Station • 702-432-7777 or 800-683-7777: Dennis Wise, Elvis Tribute, Jan. 6. Johnny Gill, Jan. 13. Strunz and Farah, Jan. 19. BJ Thomas, Jan. 20. Howard Jones, Jan. 26. Fuge Groove, Feb. 2. Little River Band, Feb. 3. Gary Puckett, Feb. 9. Wayman Tisdale, Feb. 16-17. Terri Clark, Feb. 24. Loverboy, March 10. Blue Oyster Cult, March 24. The Gatlin Brothers, March 30. Jerry Tiffe plays 2-4pm Thurs. Yellow Brick Road, Fri.-Sat. Noche Nortena: Banda Tierra Sagrada, Sun. and Wed.

Caesars Palace • 702-731-7333 or 800-445-4544: Celine Dion stars in "A New Day...." Jan. 4-7, 11-14, 17-21, 24-28, Feb. 22-25, 28 (call 877-1-CELINE). Elton John in "The Red Piano," Jan. 30-Feb. 11, 13, 17, March 27-28, 30-April 1, April 3-4, 6 888-4ELTONJ.

California • 702-385-1222: Entertainment TBA.

Circus Circus • 702-734-0410 or 800-444-CIRCUS: Free circus acts daily.

Excalibur Hotel • 702-597-7600: "Tournament of Kings," jousting dinner-show, dark Tues. "Thunder From Down Under," all-male revue, nightly. Louie Anderson: "Larger Than Life," dark Fri.

Fitzgeralds • 702-388-2400 or 800-274-LUCK (U.S. outside Nevada): Breck Wall's "Bottoms Up," comedy revue, 7pm, Thurs.-Mon. Larry G. Jones: "The Man of 1,002 Voices," impersonator-comedian, 9pm, Thurs.-Mon. "Spirit of the King," starring Steve Connolly, 10:30pm, Thurs.-Mon. Michael Colyar's Comedy Extravaganza, Wed.

Flamingo Las Vegas • 702-733-3333 or 800-221-7299: George Wallace, comedian, indf., 10pm, dark Sun.-Mon. Toni Braxton: "Revealed," thru August, 7pm, dark Sun.-Mon. Second City Theater: "Second City," improv comedy



Comical characters and mischievous fairies create chaos in Shakespeare's "A Midsummer's Night's Dream" playing February 9-10 at the Community College of Southern Nevada.

sketches, dark Wed. Society of Seven with Lani, 3pm thru Jan. 1, dark Mon.-Tues.

Four Seasons • 702-632-5000: Piano daily during Traditional Afternoon High Tea in the Verandah Restaurant.

Gold Coast • 702-367-7111 or 888-402-6278: "Forever Plaid," comedy musical, dark Jan., reopens Feb., date TBA. Grand Ballroom: Marty Allen and Karon Kate Blackwell, Dec. 31. Bands play nightly in the lounge except Mon. Gold Coast

Ballroom dancing with disk jockey Larry Taylor 7-10pm Mon. Dance lessons 6-7pm.

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




Golden Nugget • 702-386-8100: "Simply Ballroom," celebration of dance, thru Jan. 14, dark Fri. "Cover Girls," variety show with three-dimensional imagery, dark Sun.




Golden Palm • 702-798-1111: Karaoke party at 8:30pm.


Greek Isles • 702-737-5540: "Tribute to Frank, Sammy, Joey,

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and Dean, Sat.-Thurs., dark Dec. 31-Jan. 7. "The World's Greatest Magic Show," Sat.-Thurs., dark Jan. 1-21. Karaoke, Thurs.-Tues.

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

Harrah's Las Vegas • 702-369-5111 or 800-392-9002: Comedienne Rita Rudner, Jan. 15-20, 22-23, 25-27, 29, 31-Feb. 1, 3, 5-6, 8-10, 12-13, 15-24, 26-March 3, 5-6, 8-9, 12-17, 19-31, April 1-14, 16, 18-21, 23-28. Wayne Newton, Dec. 31. Mac King, comedy magic, 1 and 3pm, dark Sun.-Mon. Improv Theater: Comedy, dark Mon.

Hofbräuhaus Las Vegas • 702-853-BEER. Bavarian bands. **Hooters Hotel and Casino** • 702-739-9000: Entertainment in 13 Club, Martini Bar, Porch Dogs, Casino Center Stage.

Imperial Palace • 702-794-3261: "Legends in Concert, celebrity tribute revue, dark Sun. New Year's Eve, 7:30 and 10pm shows. Casino Floor: Celebrity impersonators deal blackjack to gamblers. Karaoke, next to sports bar, nightly. **JW Marriott Las Vegas** • 702-869-2335: Music and dancing.

Las Vegas Hilton • 702-732-5755 or 800-222-5361: Barry Manilow stars in "Manilow: Music and Passion," Feb. 13-17, 21-24. "Menopause: The Musical," matinees play on Wed., Sat.-Sun.

Liberace Museum • 702-798-5595, ext. 13: "A Musical Tribute to Liberace: The Showmanship Years," starring Wes Winters, 1pm Tues-Wed., Sat.

Luxor • 702-262-4555: The Beach Boys, Dec. 31. Go-Go's, Jan. 26-27. Carrot Top, comedy, dark Tues. "Fantasy," production show, dark Thurs.

Mandalay Bay • 877-632-7400: Van Morrison, Dec. 30. "Mamma Mia!" the Broadway musical based on the music



Red, White, and Blue Balloon Festival, January 13-14, benefits Las Vegas military families.

of Abba, dark Fri. House of Blues: Josh Blue, Jan. 12. Rev. Horton Heat w/Jason Brown and the Legendary Shack Shakers, Jan. 13. Jodeci, Jan. 26. Kevin Nealon, Jan. 27. Jeremy Camp, March 30. House of Blues Music Hall: The Spazmatics, 11pm Fri. Gospel Brunch, 10am and 1pm Sun.

MGM Grand • 702-891-7777 or 800-929-1111: "KÀ, Cirque du Soleil production, dark Sun.-Mon. and Jan. 7-22. David Copperfield, thru Jan. 3. Justin Timberlake, Jan. 11. George Strait, Feb. 3. Josh Groban, April 7. "La Femme, topless Crazy Horse production from Paris, dark Tues.

The Mirage • 702-792-7777: "Love, Cirque du Soleil production set to Beatles music, dark Tues.-Wed. and Jan. 18, Feb. 11-12. Danny Gans, dark Sun.-Mon. and Thurs., 8pm New Year's Eve. Jay Leno, Jan. 5-6, 12-13, Feb. 2-3, 16-18, March 2-3, 24, 30-31, April 13-14, 27-28. Kevin James, Feb. 2-3. Brad Garrett, Feb. 23-24. David Spade, March 2-3, Aug. 17-18. Ray Romano, March 9-10, May 4-5, June 22-23.

Monte Carlo • 702-730-7000: "Lance Burton, Master Magician, dark Sun.-Mon.

New Frontier • 702-794-8200: Mud wrestling, Tues.-Wed. Dance lessons, Thurs.-Sun. Bikini bull riding, Thurs.-Sat. Line dancing 9pm.

New York-New York • 702-740-6969 or 800-693-6763: "Zumanity," adult Cirque du Soleil production, 7:30 and 10:30pm, dark Mon.-Tues. and Feb. 4, 21

O'Sheas • 702-733-3333: "Buckle Up," Vinnie Favorito comedy show, dark Sun.-Mon.

The Orleans • 800-ORLEANS: Grand Ballroom: Vincent Falcone Orchestra featuring Laura Taylor, Dec. 31. The Magic of Rick Thomas, Jan. 2-6, 8-13, 15-20, 25-27 at 2 and 4pm. Tony Orlando, Jan. 11-14. Frankie Avalon and Bobby Rydell, Jan. 18-21. Etta James, Jan. 26-28. The Magic of Rick Thomas, Feb. 1-3, 5-8, 10, 12-14, 23-24, 26-27, 2 and 4pm. Damon Wayans, Feb. 2-3. Tower of Power, Feb. 9-11. Glen Campbell with Debby Campbell, Feb. 22-25. Neil Sedaka, Feb. 28-March 4. The Magic of Rick Thomas, March 1-3, 5-10, 12-14, 16-17, 19-24, 26-28, 30-31 at 2 and 4pm. Bill

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R&B singer Etta James headlines January 26-28 at The Orleans in Las Vegas.

Engvall, March 8-11. Donny Osmond, March 15-18. Sinbad, March 23-25. Jon Lovitz, March 30-April 1. The Magic of Rick Thomas, April 2-4, 6-7, 9-11, 13-14, 16-21, 23-25, 27-28, 30, at 2 and 4pm. Dennis Miller, April 6-8. The Temptations, April 12-15. Craig Ferguson, April 20-22. Comedian Richard Marx, April 27-29. Orleans Arena: Disney on Ice, Jan. 17-21. Jamz Cheer and Dance, Feb. 8-11. Harlem Globetrotters, Feb. 14. "Doodlebops Live!, children's show, March 5. Speedway Ice Racing, March 17. Mini Motor SX, May 4. Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey, June 21-24.

Palace Station • 702-367-2411 or 800-634-3101: Earl Turner, cabaret performer, Thurs.-Sun.

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

Paris Las Vegas • 800-237-SHOW: "The Producers, Broadway musical comedy starring David Hasselhoff begins Jan. 31. Anthony Cools, the Uncensored Hypnotist, indf., dark Wed.

The Plaza • 800-634-6575: "Shag with a Twist," retro-musical revue, Thurs.-Mon. Bands perform in the Omaha Lounge Tues.-Sun.

Rampart Casino at the Resort at Summerlin • 877-869-8777: Entertainment TBA.

Red Rock Station • 702-797-7777: Zowie Bowie, Dec. 31. Entertainers perform in the T-Bones Chophouse and Lounge.

Rio All-Suite Hotel • 702-252-7776 or 800-PLAYRIO: Penn and Teller, comedy-magic show, dark Tues. "Chippendales: The Show," dark Wed. Club Rio: "Erocktica Live! Sex, Sweat, and Rock 'n' Roll," dark Tues. "Tony n' Tina's Wedding," interactive dinner theater, nightly. Club 3121: Prince, Fri.-Sat., guest headliners, Wed., Latin Libido Night, Thurs. Call 702-777-7776.

Riviera • 702-794-9301: Grand Ballroom: Sha Na Na and The Tokens, Dec. 31. Fab Forever: A Musical History Tour, dark Thurs.-Fri. "Riv It Up," Tues., Thurs., Sat.-Sun. "An Evening at La Cage, celebrity female impersonators revue, dark Tues. "Crazy Girls" adult revue, dark Tues. Riviera Comedy Club, nightly. "Neil Diamond Tribute Starring Jay White, Sun.-Thurs. Dr. Scott Lewis: Outrageous Comedy Hypnotist, Mon. "Barbra and Frank: The Concert That Never Was, tribute show, Tues.-Sun. "American Storm, male revue, dark Mon.

Sahara • 702-737-2515: The Scintas, musical revue, indf., dark Sun.-Mon. Amazing Johnathan, bizarre magic, dark Thurs. Platters, Drifters, and Coasters, nightly.

Sam's Town • 702-456-7777 or 800-897-8696: Music in Roxy's Saloon. Radio Show with Dennis Bono, 2pm Thursdays thru Dec. 31.

Santa Fe Station • 702-658-4900: Moving Pictures, Dec. 31. Kenny Rankin, Jan. 27. Kevin Eubanks, Feb. 20. Lee Ritenour, March 3. Ty Herndon, March 24. Candy Duller, March 30. Brian Culbertson, April 13.

Silverton • 702-263-7777 or 800-588-7711: Hootie and the Blowfish, Dec. 31.

Stratosphere • 702-382-4446 or 800-99-TOWER: "American Superstars," tribute revue, dark Thurs. "Viva Las Vegas, musical revue, 2 and 4pm daily except Sun.

Suncoast • 702-636-7111: Susan Anton, Dec. 31. Juice

Newton, Jan. 5-7. Rich Little, Jan. 12-14. Vicki Lawrence, Jan. 26-28. Jazz guitarist Larry Carlton, Feb. 2-3. Petula Clark, Feb. 9-11. Joe Piscopo, Feb. 16-19. The Smothers Brothers, Feb. 23-25. Air Supply, March 2-4. Ragus, the Irish Dance Show, March 9-11. Gino Vannelli, March 23-25. Trent Carlini, March 30-April 1. Grand Ballroom: Guy Lombardo's Royal Canadians, Dec. 31.

Terrible's • 702-733-7000: Bands play nightly.

Treasure Island (TI) • 702-894-7111: Cirque du Soleil in "Mystère, dark Mon.-Tues. and Jan. 4-19, 31-Feb. 1, 4. Matinee 4:30pm Sun. "The Sirens of TI" pirate show is performed nightly outside the hotel.

Tropicana • 702-739-2411: "Les Folies Bergere," dark Sun. Dirk Arthur: Xtreme Magic, 2 and 4pm, Sat.-Thurs., thru Jan. 2. Comedy Stop Theatre: "The Comedy Stop," nightly.

Venetian • 702-733-5000: "Blue Man Group," percussion the-

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NVM



Stewart Goodyear is the guest pianist for the Las Vegas Philharmonic concert February 17 at UNLV. The performance will feature selections from Mozart and Rachmaninoff.

ater, nightly. "Phantom: the Las Vegas Spectacular," Broadway musical, dark Wed. Comedian Gordie Brown, dark Wed.-Thurs.

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

LAUGHLIN

Aquarius Resort (formerly Flamingo Laughlin) • 702-298-5111 or

800-435-8469: New Year's Eve: Balloon drop, party favors, champagne, bands.

Avi Hotel • 702-535-5555: Bands play Fri.-Sat.

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

Edgewater • 702-298-2453: Entertainment TBA.

Golden Nugget Laughlin • 702-298-7111 or 800-237-1739: DJs play top-40 music Thurs-Sat.

Harrah's Laughlin • 702-298-4600 or 800-417-8700: "Frank, Sammy, and Dean: Rat Pack Tribute," Jan. 6-17.

Ramada Express • 702-298-4200 or 800-243-6846: Caboose Lounge: Bands play nightly except Mon. Karaoke Madness on Mon.

River Palms • 702-298-2242 or 800-835-7904: Bands Wed.-Sun.

Riverside Resort • 702-298-2535 or 800-227-3849, ext. 616: Charo, Dec. 31. Happy Birthday to the King, Jan. 3-8. Carl Hurley, Jan. 9-14. The Rat Pack, Jan. 16-28, dark Jan. 22. Ozark Jubilee with Doofus Doolittle, Jan. 30-Feb. 4. The Smothers Brothers, Feb. 13-18. Oak Ridge Boys, Feb. 20-25. Glen Campbell, Feb. 27-March 4. Roy Clark, March 6-11. Collin Raye, March 20-25. Trent Carlini: The Dream King, April 3-8. Boyz II Men, May 26-27.

MESQUITE

CasaBlanca • 702-346-7529 or 800-459-7529: Blues Brothers Tribute Show, Dec. 31. Comedy Club, weekends when no performers are scheduled. Entertainment in the Skydome Lounge.

Eureka Casino Hotel • 702-346-4646: Bands play Tues.-Sun.

Oasis • 702-346-5232 or 800-621-0187: 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, dark Mon.

NORTH LAS VEGAS

Cannery • 702-507-5700: Celebration of the King's Life featuring Johnny Fortumo, The Stamps Quartet, and friends of Elvis, Jan. 5-6. Twist and Shout: Tribute to the Beatles, Jan. 12-13. Doo-Wopp.com, Jan. 19. Hal Ketchum, Jan. 20.

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Keith Knight performs the Appalachian stomp, bluegrass, and ragtime on January 7 at Valley View Center in Henderson.

Peace Frog: Tribute to the Doors, Jan. 26-27. The Fab, Feb. 9. The Comets, Feb. 10. Rev. Bill and the Soul Believers, Feb. 16. David Brenner, Feb. 17. Vival! Tribute to Santana, March 2-3. Confederate Railroad, March 9. Rattle and Hum: Tribute to U2, March 16-17. The Freddy Eckstine Experience, March 23-24. TG Sheppard and Exile, April 7. The Fabulous Thunderbirds, April 14. Pure Aloha Festival and Concert, April 20-22.

Fiesta Rancho • 702-631-7000: Conjunto Pena Blanca and Banda Tierra Sagrada, Dec. 31. Entertainment in Club Tequila.

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

Texas Station • 702-631-1001: Frankie Moreno, Dec. 31. Keith Sweat, Feb. 10. Oak Ridge Boys, Feb. 16. Soul Jam 2007 with The Stylistics, The Emotions, Harold Melvin's Blue Notes, The Delfonics, Cuba Gooding Sr. and Jimmie J.J. Walker, March 9. Isaac Hayes, April 28. Krookies Karaoke, Wed. Swing with Jerry Tiffe, 4-8pm.

PRIMM

Buffalo Bill's Resort • 800-FUN-STOP: 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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Reno-Tahoe

AREA EVENTS AND SHOWS



Aga-Boom, a sophisticated experimental theater, plays *MontBleu* at South Lake Tahoe on New Year's Eve. The lead performers are former Cirque du Soleil clowns and are adept at mime and physical comedy. The troupe first appeared in Nevada in 2002 at a Las Vegas library.

Events

Nevada Chamber Music Festival • Dec. 28-31 • Internationally renowned musicians perform. Nightingale Hall, UNR, Reno, 775-348-9413.

New Year's Eve Fire and Ice Party • Dec. 31 • Fireworks, music, entertainment, food, drinks. Northstar-at-Tahoe Ski Resort, Truckee, 530-550-2623.

Reno-Tahoe New Year's Eve • Dec. 31 • Area casinos welcome 2007 with parties featuring music, food, drink, countdowns, and party favors. 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.

Full-Moon Snowshoe Tour • Jan. 3 • Northstar-at-Tahoe, North Lake Tahoe, 530-562-2475.

Amber Rubarth Concert • Jan. 5 • Music and cocktails. Sierra Arts Gallery, Reno, 775-329-2787.

Elvis Day • Jan. 6 • Skiers dress like the King to honor his birthday. Mt. Rose-Ski Tahoe, Reno, 775-849-0704.

Volcom Peanut Butter and Rail Jam • Jan. 6 • Snowboard competition in jam format. Complimentary peanut butter and

jam sandwiches, sodas, hot dogs, prizes. Sierra-at-Tahoe Snowsports Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 530-577-4760.

Jazz in January • Jan. 9 • Mile High Jazz Band. Comma Coffee, Carson City, 775-883-4154.

The Southern Pacific Railroad and the History of the West, Part I • Jan. 10 • Presentation and discussion. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

X-Games Qualifier • Jan. 11-14 • Ski and boardercross competition. Sugar Bowl Ski Resort, North Lake Tahoe, 530-426-9000.

Shut Up and Snowskate • Jan. 13 • Open to the first 50 competitors. Sierra-at-Tahoe Snowsports Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 530-577-4670.

Antique Show, Sale, and Appraisal • Jan. 13-14 • Genoa Town Hall, Genoa, 775-782-4951.

Family Games • Jan. 14 • Obstacle course, ring toss, three-legged race, ski-pole spin team competition. Sierra-at-Tahoe Snowsports Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 530-577-4760.

Reno-Tahoe Winter Wine and Ski Expo • Jan. 18 • Event involves regional restaurants, wineries, microbreweries, and ski resorts in a fund-raiser for the Jimmie Heuga's Vertical Express for MS. Atlantis, Reno, 888-551-7007.

Sierra Arts 12th Annual Brew Ha Ha Festival • Jan. 19 • Charity

event features regional microbreweries. John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 775-329-2787.

Carson High Jazz Extravaganza • Jan. 19 • Big bands and combos. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 775-883-4154.

Masters Slalom and Giant Slalom Races • Jan. 19-21 • Squaw Valley USA, North Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Jeep Terrain Park Challenge • Jan. 20 • Ski and snowboard competition. Sugar Bowl Ski Resort, North Lake Tahoe, 530-426-9000.

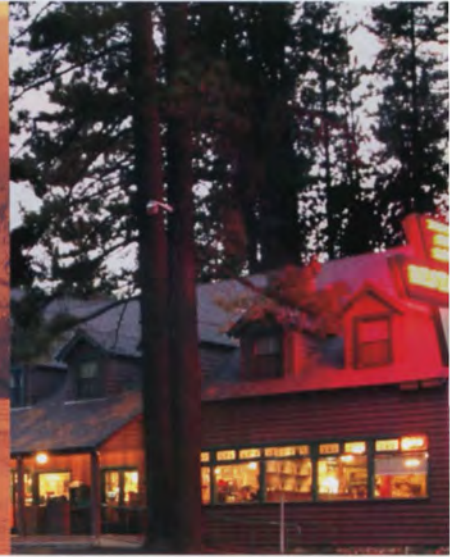
Hot Dog: The Movie • Jan. 20 • Party celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Squaw Valley cult-classic ski film with themed events, competitions, dance. Squaw Valley USA, North Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

USASA Slope Style Event • Jan. 20 • Amateur snowboard race open to the public. Northstar-at-Tahoe, North Lake Tahoe, 530-587-5216.

USASA Slalom • Jan. 20 • Open to amateurs of all ages. Sierra-at-Tahoe Snowsports Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 530-577-4760.

Reno Chamber Orchestra Concerts • Jan. 20-21 • Cellist Alexander Ivashkin performs Shostakovich's "Cello Concerto No. 2." Nightingale Hall, UNR, Reno, 775-348-9413.

more wows



Lake Tahoe skiing is world-famous. But, may we suggest some equally awesome off-slope experiences? Like the world's only aqua ski shuttle with après-ski party, a sightseeing cruise to spectacular Emerald Bay, or a dinner dance cruise. All on board Mississippi-style paddlewheelers.

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Skiers compete for \$10,000 in cash and prizes from February 26 to March 4 during rail jam and telemark events at the Tahoe Freeheel Open at Alpine Meadows.

USASA Giant Slalom • Jan. 21 • Open to amateurs of all ages. Sierra-at-Tahoe Snowsports Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 530-577-4760.

USASA Superpipe Event • Jan. 21 • Amateur competition open to the public. Northstar-at-Tahoe, North Lake Tahoe, 530-587-5216.

Sawmill 15K Cross-Country Race • Jan. 21 • Open to skiers of all ages and ability levels. Northstar-at-Tahoe, North Lake Tahoe, 530-562-2475.

High Noon at the Historical Society • Jan. 22 • "Treasures of the Mint" video presentation and discussion. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 775-688-1191, ext. 223.

South Lake Tahoe Gay and Lesbian Ski Week • Jan. 24-28 • Twenty-four-hour dance parties, skiing competitions, nightly entertainment. South Lake Tahoe venues, 800-288-2463.

"Return to Whistlestop" • Jan. 26-28 • Melodrama. Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Gardnerville, 775-782-2555.

J3 Giant Slalom Race • Jan. 26-28 • Far West Association competition. Squaw Valley USA, North Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Happy Days Dance • Jan. 27 • Refreshments and entertainment. CIVIC Hall, Minden, 775-265-1566.

Elks Crab Feed • Feb. 2 • \$30 per person. St. Gall Catholic Church, Gardnerville, 775-782-3416.

Full-Moon Snowshoe Tour • Feb. 2 • Northstar-at-Tahoe, North Lake Tahoe, 530-562-2475.

Super Bowl party • Feb. 4 • Ski in the morning, then watch the game. Northstar-at-Tahoe, 530-562-2475, and Squaw Valley USA, 530-583-6985. North Lake Tahoe.

Snowbomb Sick and Twisted Contest • Feb. 4 • Amateur ski and snowboard slopesstyle competition. Diamond Peak, Incline Village, 775-832-1120.

American Chamber Players • Feb. 8 • Concert includes masterpieces and newly commissioned American works. Nightingale Hall, UNR, Reno, 775-784-4ART.

From Longboards to Olympics • Feb. 8 • Slide show and stories about the days of Snowshoe Thompson and longboard ski racing leading up to the 1960 Winter Olympics. Squaw Valley USA, North Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

USASA Giant Slalom Race • Feb. 10 • Amateur snowboard event open to the public. Northstar-at-Tahoe, North Lake Tahoe, 530-587-5216.

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USASA Boardercross Competition • Feb. 10 • Open to amateurs of all ages. Sierra-at-Tahoe Snowsports Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 530-577-4760.

Valentine's Day Father-Daughter Sweetheart Dance • Feb. 10 • DJ, refreshments, photo keepsakes. St. Gall Community Center, Gardnerville, 775-782-9828.

USASA Superpipe Competition • Feb. 11 • Amateur event open to the public. Northstar-at-Tahoe, North Lake Tahoe, 530-587-5216.

USASA Slopestyle Competition • Feb. 11 • Open to amateurs of all ages. Sierra-at-Tahoe Snowsports Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 530-577-4760.

Snowsports Week • Feb. 12-15 • Fund-raiser for Barton Memorial Hospital features all-day tickets for \$25. Sierra-at-Tahoe Snowsports Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 530-577-4760.

Jazz Sampler for Sweethearts • Feb. 13 • Mile High Jazz Band concert. Comma Coffee, Carson City, 775-883-4154.

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

Valentine's Day Race • Feb. 14 • Fun race for couples. Northstar-at-Tahoe, North Lake Tahoe, 530-562-2475.

Where's the Love? • Feb. 14 • Scavenger hunt for prizes. Squaw Valley USA, North Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

Kate Cotter and Grace • Feb. 16 • Valentine's cocktails and concert performance. Sierra Arts Gallery, Reno, 775-329-2787.

Argenta in Concert • Feb. 16 • "Quartet for Piano and Strings, Op. 47," featuring Nancy Ellis on viola. Nightingale Hall, UNR, Reno, 775-784-4ART.

USASA Superpipe Competition • Feb. 17 • Open to amateurs

of all ages. Sierra-at-Tahoe Snowsports Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 530-577-4760.

President's Day Treasure Hunt • Feb. 18 • Family event for prizes. Sierra-at-Tahoe Snowsports Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 530-577-4760.

USASA Boardercross Competition • Feb. 18 • Open to amateurs of all ages. Sierra-at-Tahoe Snowsports Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 530-577-4760 for more details.

Carnival of Crab • Feb. 21 • Benefit includes dinner, no-host bar, entertainment, live and silent auction. Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall, Reno, 775-688-5767.

The Southern Pacific Railroad and the History of the West, Part II • Feb. 21 • Presentation and discussion. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

Eagles and Agriculture • Feb. 23-25 • View birds of prey that visit the Carson Valley during the winter calving season. Events and workshops include bus tour to ranches, buffet lunch, Owl Prowl Tour, photo workshop, raft-canoë trip on the Carson River. Carson Valley and Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 800-727-7677.

USASA Slopestyle Competition • Feb. 24 • Open to amateurs of all ages. Sierra-at-Tahoe Snowsports Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 530-577-4760.

USASA Superpipe Competition • Feb. 25 • Open to amateurs of all ages. Sierra-at-Tahoe Snowsports Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 530-577-4760.

Night of the Arts and Oscars • Feb. 25 • Sierra Arts' black-tie fund-raiser. Peppermill, Reno, 775-329-2787.

Pinball Rally • Feb. 25 • Freestyle superpipe competition. Northstar-at-Tahoe, North Lake Tahoe, 530-562-2475.

Oscar Night • Feb. 25 • Dinner and Academy Awards viewing benefits the Tahoe Arts Project. MontBleu, Stateline, 530-544-5050.

Carson City Symphony Concert • Feb. 25 • Guest soloist guitarist Ana Vidovic. Community Center, Carson City, 775-883-4154.

High Noon at the Historical Society • Feb. 26 • "Traditional Arts in Nevada" video presentation and discussion. Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 775-688-1191, ext. 223.

Tahoe Freeheel Open • Feb. 26-March 4 • Celebration of the mountain-action-sports lifestyle includes a filmmaker's shootout, rail jam, and telemark extreme competition for \$10,000 in cash and prizes. Alpine Meadows, Lake Tahoe, 970-668-0216.

Ongoing Events

Nevada Railroads in the 20th Century • Rotating exhibits of models, artifacts, photographs. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

Locomotive Stories of the V&T • Models, photographs, and artifacts document stories about the Virginia and Truckee Railroad. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.

Still a World Apart: Visual Profiles of Contemporary Railroaders • Photo exhibit from the Center for Railroad Art and Photography. Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 775-687-6953.



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Nevada State Museum Tours • 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.

Growers' Market • Saturdays • Indoor display of seasonal produce and specialty goods from regional farms. Shoppers Square Center, Reno, 775-351-2551.

Wine Walk on the River Walk • Third Saturday at 2pm. Wine tasting and snacks at participating merchants with the purchase of a map and glass for \$15. River Walk Arts District, Downtown, Reno, 775-348-8862.

James McNeill Whistler: Selected Works from the Hunterian Art Gallery • Thru Jan. 7 • Whistler's painting and graphic production from 1858-1896 are detailed in 129 paintings, etchings, lithographs, and artifacts including Qing Dynasty and Kangxi Period porcelain. Nevada Museum of Art,

Reno, for more event information call 775-329-3333.

iViva la Revolution! • Thru Jan. 14 • Bilingual exhibit on the Mexican Revolution. Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 775-687-8323.

Corianne Mangus Exhibition • thru Jan. 26 • Acrylics. South Valley's Library, Reno, 775-329-2787.

Julie Rodriguez-Jones Exhibition • Thru Feb. 2 • Digital air brushing. Northwest Reno Library, Reno, 775-329-2787.

"Print as Print" • Thru Feb. 7 • Group exhibition featuring international artists who attended the Canadian School for Non-Toxic Printmaking. Western Nevada Community College, Carson City, 775-445-3000.

Joyce Major Exhibition • Thru Feb. 9 • Watercolors. Metro Gallery, Reno, 775-329-2787.

Rebekah Bogard • Thru Feb. 16 • Earthenware sculptures of animals. Sheppard Gallery, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6658.



Boarders compete at Diamond Peak's Snowbomb Sick and Twisted event February 4.

The Art and Architecture of Frederick J. Delongchamps • Thru Feb. 16 • Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 775-688-1191, ext. 223 for information.

Reno Ice Rink • Thru Feb. weather permitting. • Outdoor rink, downtown Reno, 775-334-6268 for information.

Havens in a Heartless World: Virginia City Saloons and the Archeology of the Wild West • Thru March • Artifacts such as the world's oldest Tabasco bottle, photographs, lithographs, and documents tell the story of the Comstock saloons. Comstock History Center, Virginia City, 775-687-8323.

Hot Rods: Cool on Four Wheels • Thru April • Exhibition on the cars that were built for speed and to attract attention. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

Last Tracks • Saturdays thru April 14 • Wine-tasting and appetizers before making the last run of the day on freshly groomed snow. Diamond Peak, Incline Village, 775-832-1177.

Time Capsule: The Back Roads of Northern Nevada • Thru May • Photo exhibit by Robert Cinkel is a visual timeline of structures and landmarks still standing. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 775-333-9300.

Topaz Lake Fishing Derby • Jan. 1-April 15 • Tagged fish worth \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1,000 are waiting for anglers age 21 and older. Weekly cash prize for largest trout two pounds or more. Topaz Lake, south of Gardnerville, 775-266-3338.

Tahoe Rim Trail Snowshoe Hikes • Jan.-April • Guided hikes, varied distances. Lake Tahoe, 775-298-0012.

Patagonia's Lake Tahoe Adventure Lecture Series • **Corey Rich:** "My Favorite Place," photographer, Jan. 3. **Lynn Hill:** "Grace Under Pressure," mountain climber, Jan. 10. **Eric Perlman:** "Masters of Stone," Lake Tahoe filmmaker, Jan. 17. **Niobe Burden and Dave Nettle:** "Ski Mountaineering Hut-Style," backcountry ski experience, Jan. 24. **Todd Offenbacher:** "Alpinism Around the World," mountain climber, Jan. 31. **Mike Libeck:** "The Big and Remote Walls," mountain climber, Feb. 7. **Dan and Janine Patitucci:** "The Alpine Experience, Americas, Europe," Feb. 14. **Alison Gannett:** "Global Cooling Tour, Ski Adventure Show," environmental presentation, Feb. 21. **Dave Nettle:** "The Hummingbird

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Comedian Bill Cosby spins family yarns on February 17 at the Silver Legacy.

Ridge, mountain climbing, Feb. 28. Squaw Valley USA, North Lake Tahoe, 530-583-6985.

UNR Men's Basketball • The Wolf Pack plays Jan. 6 vs. Idaho, Jan. 8 vs. Boise State, Jan. 18 vs. Fresno State, Jan. 25 vs. Louisiana Tech, Jan. 27 vs. Utah State, Feb. 3 vs. Hawaii, Feb. 14 vs. San Jose State, March 3 vs. New Mexico State. Lawlor Events Center, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6000.

UNR Women's Basketball • The Lady Wolf Pack plays Jan. 11 vs. Hawaii, Jan. 13 vs. San Jose State, Jan. 20 vs. New Mexico State, Feb. 1 vs. Louisiana Tech, Feb. 8 vs. Fresno State, Feb. 22 vs. Idaho, Feb. 24 vs. Boise State, March 1 vs. Utah State. Lawlor Events Center, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6900.

Yari Ostovny Exhibition • Feb. 5-March 30 • Oil paintings. Northwest Reno Library, Reno, 775-329-2787.

Trish Reynolds Exhibition • Feb. 12-April 6 • Nature photography. Metro Gallery, Reno, 775-329-2787.

Slot Machines: The Fey Collection • Feb. 15-Jan. 2008 Exhibit features 28 historic mechanical gaming machines dating from 1895-1937, including two Liberty Bell slot machines, plus the Klondike, Little Chief, Silver Dollar, Three Cadets. Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 775-687-4810.

"The Fix" • Feb. 16-17, 23-25, March 2-3 • Political comedy. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 775-883-1976.

One Way Street • Feb. 26-April 6 • Exhibition reflects Walter Benjamin's view of language, architecture, and the times. Sheppard Fine Arts Gallery, UNR, Reno, 775-784-6658.

Coming Events

Snow Festival • March 2-11 • North Lake Tahoe, 530-583-7167.

WinterFest South Lake Tahoe Gay Ski Week • March 4-11 • 877-777-4950.

Vishten in Concert • March 8 • Reno, 775-784-4ART.
"Blackjack Bottom" • March 9-10 • Minden, 775-782-3670.

World Poker Challenge • March 26-29 • Reno, www.worldpokertour.com.

Diamond Peak Dummy Downhill • April 1 • Incline Village, 775-832-1120.

Gunbarrel 25 Bump Run • April 7 • Heavenly Mountain Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 775-586-7000.

Reno Jazz Festival • April 26-28 • 775-784-4046.
"Cyrano de Bergerac" • April 27-May 6 • Reno, 800-225-2277.

Marathon de Mayo Nevada Wide Open Music Marathon • May 5-6 • Reno, 775-825-1727.

Reno River Festival • May 10-13 • 800-FOR-RENO.
Arts in Bloom • May 13 • Sparks, 775-353-2291.

America's Most Beautiful Bike Ride • June 3 • Lake Tahoe, 800-565-2704.

Reno Rodeo • June 15-23 • 775-329-3877.

Carson Valley Eagles and Agriculture February 21-25, 2007

Tours & Workshops

Chartered Bus Tour - Wed. Feb. 21

Birds of Prey Lecture/Reception - Fri. Feb. 23

Chartered Bus Tour/Lunch - Sat. Feb. 24

Owl Prowl - Sat. Feb. 24

Photo Workshop - Sat. Feb. 24 & Sun. Feb. 25

Carson River Raft/Canoe Trip - Sun. Feb. 25

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Shows

CARSON CITY

Carson Nugget • 775-882-1626 or 800-426-5239 (continental U.S. including Nevada): Entertainers in the lounge.
 Carson Station • 775-883-0900: Lounge entertainment.
 Casino Fandango • 775-885-7000: Bands play in the lounge.
 Piñon Plaza • 775-885-9000: Sports Book Lounge: Bands play Wed.-Sun.

CARSON VALLEY

Carson Valley Inn • Minden, 775-782-9711 or 800-321-6983: Shake, Rattle, and Roll, Dec. 31.
 Sharkey's Nugget • Gardnerville, 775-782-3133: TBA.
 Topaz Lodge • Topaz Lake, 775-266-3339: Bands play Fri.-Sat.

RENO/SPARKS

Atlantis • 775-825-4700 or 800-723-6500: Mike Albert and the Big E. Band, tribute to Elvis Presley, featuring the Jordanaires, Jan. 5. Bands play in the lounge.
 Boomtown • 775-345-6000: Lounge entertainment.
 Circus Circus • 775-329-0711: Cabaret: Entertainment except Tues.-Wed. Free daily circus acts, 11am-10:30pm.
 Eldorado • 775-786-5700, 800-648-5966: Lou Gramm of Foreigner, Dec. 30-31. 12 Irish Tenors, Jan. 10-March 17. New Year's Bash in BuBinga Lounge, Dec. 31.
 Fitzgeralds • 775-785-3300 or 800-648-5022: Music Wed.-Sun.
 Grand Sierra Resort (formerly Reno Hilton) • 775-789-2285 or 800-648-3568: The Temptations, Jan. 12. Art Garfunkel, Jan. 13. Bands play nightly in The Garage.
 Harrah's Reno • 775-786-3232 or 800-HARRAHS: Sammy's Showroom: "Rock My Ride," 10pm. "Let the Good Times

Roll," family musical revue, 7:30pm. Both shows dark Tues.
 John Ascuaga's Nugget • Sparks, 775-356-3304 or 800-648-1177: Cracker, Dec. 31. Comstock Cowboys, Jan. 6. Morris Day and The Time, Jan. 13. Joan Rivers, Jan. 19-20. Brew Ha Ha fund-raiser, Jan. 19. Sheep Dip, Jan. 26-27, community satire. Uncle Kracker, Feb. 2-3. Gin Blossoms, Feb. 10. Peter Cetera, Feb. 17. Todd Snider, Feb. 23-24. Craig Chaquico, March 2-3. The Lettermen, March 8-10. Eddie Money, March 16-17. Del McCoury, March 24.
 Peppermill • 775-826-2121 or 800-648-6992: Entertainment in the Cabaret Lounge and the Steak House restaurant.
 Reno Events Center • 800-687-8733: Gums N' Roses, Jan. 13.
 Sands Regency • 775-348-2200: Bands play Wed.-Sun. Just For Laughs Comedy Club, dark Mon.
 Siena • 775-337-6260: Jammin' With the Siena Jazz Ensemble Tues.-Thurs.
 Silver Legacy • 775-329-4777 or 800-687-8733: Cedric the Entertainer, Dec. 30. "Rock the Dome" casino-wide party, Dec. 31. Aaron Lewis, Jan. 12. Bill Cosby, Feb. 17. George Carlin, March 3. Comedians perform in the Catch a Rising Star Comedy Club, dark Mon.

STATELINE, LAKE TAHOE

Bill's Lake Tahoe • 775-588-2455: Bands play Fri.-Sat.
 Harrah's Lake Tahoe • 800-HARRAHS: David Spade, Dec. 28. Frank Sinatra Jr. "Sinatra Sings Sinatra," Jan. 19-20.
 Harveys • 775-588-2411 or 800-553-1022 ext. 2883: "Debbie Loves Dallas: The Musical," adult revue, dark Mon. The Improv, dark Mon. Entertainment in the Cabo Wabo Cantina.
 Horizon • 775-588-6211 or 800-322-7723: The Chipper Lowell Experience, variety show, dark Tues.
 Lakeside Inn • 775-588-7777: Karaoke Wed.-Fri.
 MontBleu Resort (formerly Caesars Tahoe) • 775-588-3515 or 800-648-3353: Aga-Boom, Dec. 26-Dec. 31. New Year's Eve Blu Ball, Dec. 31. E-40, Jan. 19. Tech N9ne, Jan. 31. Howie Mandel, Feb. 3. Chelsea Handler, March 10.
NORTH LAKE TAHOE
 Cal-Neva Resort • Crystal Bay, 775-832-4000 or 800-225-6382: Bands on Sat.
 Crystal Bay Club • 775-831-0512: Entertainment TBA.
 Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe • Incline Village, 775-832-1234: Bands in the Regency Grand Ballroom, Lone Eagle Restaurant, and Casino Stage Bar.
 Tahoe Biltmore • Crystal Bay, 775-831-0660: TBA.

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Frank Sinatra Jr. performs his father's music January 19-20 at Harrah's Lake Tahoe.



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Rural Nevada

EVENTS AND SHOWS



Sourdough Slim dons his trademark 10-gallon hat when he entertains during the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering, January 27-February 3, in Elko. The accordion-playing, yodeling, lariat-twirling cowhand has delighted audiences from rural Nevada to Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center.

Events

The Countdown in Downtown • Dec. 31 • Family-oriented event includes 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 • Casino festivities 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, 800-496-9350.

Eureka Firemen's New Year's Eve Ball • Dec. 31 • Volunteer fire department hosts music and dancing. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 775-237-5263.

Fallon New Year's Eve • Dec. 31 • Fireworks at the fairgrounds, with a fun run on New Year's Day. Fallon, 775-423-7733.

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.

Band Concert • Jan. 12 • Bob Rudd Community Center, Pahrump, 775-727-5800.

White Pine Fire and Ice Show • Jan. 13-15 • Ice-sculpting competition, ice fishing and skating, sledding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, fireworks. Cave Lake State Park, 15 miles south of Ely, 775-289-8877.

Old Sheepherder's Party • Jan. 19-20 • Annual gathering of old-time sheepherders at the Border Inn includes dinner, storytelling, and a sheepherder's ball. Border Inn, seven miles north of Baker on the Nevada-Utah border, 775-234-7300.

Missoula Children's Theater • Jan. 20 • Pahrump Valley High School, 775-727-5800.

Ana Moura Concert • Jan. 27 • Performer sings fado, the music of Portugal. Barkley Theatre, Fallon, 775-423-1440.

Rotary Ice Fishing Derby • Jan. 27 • Cave Lake State Park, 15 miles south of Ely, 775-289-8877.

National Cowboy Poetry Gathering • Jan. 27-Feb. 3 • Event draws an international crowd for workshops, music, dance, poetry, jam sessions, and cooking demonstrations. Performers include Baxter Black, Don Edwards, Jill Jones and the Lone Star Chorale, Waddie Mitchell, Michael

Nevada
EVENTS AND SHOWS

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Winter excursion rides aboard trains pulled by historic engines at the Nevada Northern Railway Museum in Ely attract photographers and railroaders.

Martin Murphey, Georgie Sicking, Ian Tyson, and Wylie and the Wild West. Events take place at the Western Folklife Center, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko Convention Center, and Commercial and Stockmen's hotels. Elko, 888-880-5885.

Western Artists' Exhibit • Jan. 27-Feb. 3 • Sculpture by Jeff Wolf, restored antique furniture by Harriette Allison, photographs by Con Haulfman, oil paintings by cowboy, Western artist, and singer-songwriter Dyrk Godby, watercolors from Mark Kohler, and pen-and-ink drawings by Kenny Walton. Opening reception on Feb. 2 features music by Julie Parker Frank, Stampede, and Johnny U and Cowboy Country. Northern Nevada Museum, Elko, 775-738-3418.

Gardians of the Camargue: The French Buckaroo Tradition • Jan. 27-Feb. 3 • Photos and paintings illustrate the lives of French cowboys. Western Folklife Center, Elko, 888-880-5885 for information.

Winter Steam Spectacular • Feb. 2-4, 9-11 • Photo shoots of steam locomotives and cars in a winter setting. Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Ely, 775-289-2085.

The American Chamber Music Players • Feb. 9 • Concert. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 775-237-6006. **Grand Canyon Professional Rodeo** • Feb. 9-10 • McCullough Arena, Pahrump, 775-727-5800.

Valentine's Day Dance • Feb. 10 • Exhibition Hall, Winnemucca, 775-623-5071.

Nevada Boomtown Living-History Conference • Feb. 15-19 •

Stories from Central Nevada from north of Beatty to Highway 50 from 1900-1915. Conference topics include the 42-round Gans-Nelson fight, early aviation, hero Big Bill Murphy, mining scams, and Baba, the mail-order bride. Event also includes reenactors, workshops, field trips, and presentations by Nevada historians. Longstreet

Singer Ana Moura performs fado, the music of Portugal, during her concert January 27 at the Barkley Theatre in Fallon.



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Inn, Amargosa Valley, 775-751-2250 for more information.

Simon Shaheen and Qantara Concert • Feb. 17 • Fusion of Arab, jazz, Western, classical, and Latin American music. Barkley Theatre, Fallon, 775-423-1440.

Wildhorse Trout Derby • Feb. 17-19 • Dunn's Wildhorse Resort, Elko, 775-758-6471.

Snowmobile Rendezvous • State's biggest snowmobile gathering presents trails and events in Elko County, including adventure rides (Feb. 17), the Rimshaw Hill Climb (Feb. 17-18), Snowmobile Hill Cross (Feb. 19). Snobowl, six miles north of Elko, 800-971-4089.

Mattie Gras • Feb. 23 • Eighth annual party celebrates Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday). Mattie's Bar and Grill, Elko, 775-753-3877.

High Desert Wrestling Challenge • Feb. 23-25 • Events Center, Winnemucca, 775-623-5071.

Ongoing Events

Lehman Cave Tours • Daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day. Hundreds of rare shield formations, more than any other cave, that have been formed over thousands and millions of years. Great Basin National Park, 64 miles southeast of Ely, six miles west of Baker, 775-234-7331.

Nevada Northern Railway Museum • Ongoing tours of historic operating railroad equipment, shops, buildings. Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Ely, 775-289-2085.

Buckaroo! The Hispanic Heritage of the High Desert • Permanent exhibit of historic and contemporary imagery and artifacts, including photos by Kurt Markus and



Snowmobile competitors hit the skids February 17-19 during the annual Snowmobile Rendezvous in Elko. Events include adventure rides, a hill climb, and a hill cross. Challenging terrain and spectacular scenery enhance Elko's reputation as one of the best snowmobile areas in the country.

Charles A. Blakeslee, Western Folklife Center, Elko, 888-880-5885.

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 for information.

Winter Train Rides • Sat.-Sun. in Jan. • Excursion rides aboard cars pulled by historic engines. Nevada Northern

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Railway Museum, Elv, 775-289-2085 for more information.
The Portuguese in Mason Valley • Thru Feb. 1 • Changing exhibit includes handcrafts from Portugal, the Azore Islands, and local Portuguese descendants. Lyon County Museum, Yerington, 775-463-6576.
Nolan Preece: Nevada Photographs • Thru March 1 • Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 775-738-3418.
Hidden Cave Tours • Jan. 13, 27, Feb. 10, 24, March 10, 24 • Guided tour of Hidden Cave archaeological site includes self-guided tour of Grimes Point petroglyph area. Meet at Churchill County Museum, Fallon. To confirm tour dates call the Bureau of Land Management, 775-885-6000.
"Nonsense" • Feb. 9-10, 16-17 • Performance by Pahrump Arts Council. Call for location, Pahrump, 775-727-5800.
Fiber Art Show • Feb. 11, 17, 18 • Bob Rudd Community Center, Pahrump, 775-727-5800.

Coming Events

Utah Shakespearean Festival's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" • March 2 • Eureka, 775-237-6006.
Ranch Hand Rodeo • March 3-4 • Winnemucca • 775-623-5071.
Halleck Bar Party • March 9 • Elko, 775-738-3418.
Shooting the West Photography Seminar • March 15-18 • Winnemucca, 775-623-5071.
Cinco de Mayo Festival • May 5 • Winnemucca, 775-623-5071.
ATV Jamboree • May 14-19 • Elko, 800-248-3558.
Run-A-Mucca Motorcycle Rally • May 25-27 • Winnemucca, 775-623-5071.
Mule Race Show and Draft Horse Challenge • June 1-3 • Winnemucca, 775-623-5071.
'Round Nevada Classic Car Tour • June 4-9 • www.nevada-rides.com.
Fifties Fever Car Show • July 27-29 • Winnemucca, 775-623-5071.



Simon Shaheen and Qantara perform a fusion of Arab, jazz, Western, classical, and Latin American music during their concert February 17 at the Barkley Theatre in Fallon.



On February 9 the American Chamber Music Players will perform at the Eureka Opera House in Eureka. The ensemble's program will range from traditional works to new pieces.

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Tri-County Fair and Stampede • Aug. 31-Sept. 2 • Winnemucca, 775-623-5071 for event details.

Shows

AMARGOSA VALLEY

Longstreet Inn • 775-372-1777: Weekend entertainment in the lounge.

BEATTY

Stagecoach • 775-553-2419 or 800-4-BIGWIN (U.S. outside Nevada): Bands Wed.-Sat.

ELKO

Commercial Hotel • 800-648-2345, ext. 498: Kari and Jerry, Dec. 26-31, Jan. 2-9. Super Bowl party, Feb. 4.

High Desert Inn • 775-738-8425: Karaoke, Thurs.

Red Lion • 775-738-2111 or 800-545-0044: Entertainment in the lounge.

Stockmen's Hotel • 800-648-2345, ext. 498: Midnight Riders, Dec. 26-31, Jan. 2-7. Michael Martin Murphey, Feb. 1-3. Super Bowl party, Feb. 4.

HAWTHORNE

El Capitan • 775-945-3322: Bands play Wed.-Sun.

JACKPOT

Cactus Petes • 800-821-1103: Gala Showroom: 3-DVA, Dec. 31.

Horseshu Casino • 775-755-2321: Bands play Thurs.-Sun.

LOVELOCK

Sturgeons • 775-273-2971 and 888-234-6835: Center Club Showroom: Bands and karaoke featured on weekends.

PAHRUMP

Pahrump Nugget • 775-751-6500: Bands play Thurs.-Sun.

Saddle West Hotel, Casino, and RV Park • 775-727-1111: Entertainment on Dec. 29-30. New Year's Eve, entertainment, giveaways.

TONOPAH

Tonopah Station Ramada Inn • 775-482-9777: Bands play during special-event weekends.

WENDOVER

Montego Bay • 775-664-9100: Bands play Tues.-Sun.

Peppermill • 775-664-2255 or 800-648-9660: Concert Hall: Sawyer Brown, Jan. 19. Gordon Lightfoot, Jan. 26. Mel Tillis/Roy Clark, Feb. 9. REO Speedwagon, Feb. 23. Bands play nightly in the lounge.

Rainbow Casino • 775-664-4000: Bands play in the lounge.

State Line Nugget • 775-664-2221: Karaoke weekends.

WINNEMUCCA

Winners Hotel • 775-623-2511: Karaoke Mon., comedy Thurs., bands play Thurs.-Sun.

Model T • 775-623-2588: Bands during special events, karaoke Wed.

YERINGTON

Casino West • 775-463-2481: Weekend music.

Dini's Lucky Club • 775-463-2868: Music during special events.

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 EVENTS AND SHOWS

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Nevada Welcomes the Super Bowl and NBA All-Stars



This is a great time of year for bettors and nonbettors. For bettors, the NFL season is winding down, and the current playoff games test what we have learned over the past four months. For nonbettors it is time to start planning a party for Super Bowl XLII, which is February 4 at Dolphin Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida.

While some 80,000 fans will gather to watch the game down south, thousands of us are going to party right here in Nevada. And not just for one day, as the entire week leading up to Super Bowl Sunday is similar to the week preceding New Year's Eve. There are parties everywhere, with all kinds of food and beverages and opportunities to bet on a variety of wacky "proposition" bets—such as which player will score the first touchdown, if there is a field goal in the second quarter, or whether the quarterback will throw an interception before halftime.

Super Bowl weekend is the biggest betting weekend in the state, and according to last year's state gaming numbers, the state took in \$80 million. A portion of the take was mine.

Ten days later, the international sports spotlight focuses on Las Vegas as the greatest basketball players in the world check into the city for the 56th annual NBA All-Star game, February 18, at the Thomas and Mack Center. This is the first time the NBA All-Star Game will be played in a non-NBA city and on a college campus (UNLV). As a result, NBA Commissioner David Stern is not allowing wagering on the outcome of the game in the state.

But that doesn't matter. What does matter is you can participate in a series of city-wide celebrations that begin February 15 and see Shaquille O'Neal, Kobe Bryant, Elton Brand, Carmelo Anthony, and a host of other very tall men walk along the Strip.

Games People Play

Progressive Purse: Arizona Charlie's Boulder in Las Vegas offers a Thursday Winner's Rollover Purse blackjack tournament. To qualify, players must use their rewards card and earn a minimum of 100 points or play live blackjack for two hours at a \$5 minimum bet. The casino will add



IGT's Wheel of Fortune Super Spin game.

\$100 each week until a player wins the tournament.

Super Size: The Imperial Palace in Las Vegas became the latest casino to add the penny progressive Wheel of Fortune Special Edition Super Spin. This giant slot is the latest version of the all-time most popular themed slot machine. It puts nine players

around the wheel in comfy extra-wide seats.

The Super Spin is found throughout Las Vegas and at Harrah's Lake Tahoe and Harveys Lake Tahoe. After the jackpot hits, it will reset at \$1.5 million.

Invite from John

There is no entry fee to enter the \$1,000 Wednesday slot tournament at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks. Open to John's Club members, the competition takes place hourly from 2 to 7 p.m. First prize is \$300, and a total of 50 prizes are given out. John's Club cards track gamblers' play, help qualify them for VIP treatment, and are free for the asking.

Jack Bulavsky is a Henderson writer and sporting gent whose gaming column is a regular Nevada Magazine feature. You can reach him at editor@nevadamagazine.com.

Does your idea of getting away require an ATV and a GPS?



If you answered yes to the question above, Lincoln County must be added to your "places to explore" list. Its high mountain desert terrain is a virtual paradise for many adventure sports including ATV or Jeep Tours, mountain biking, backpacking, trekking, hiking, horse riding, orienteering, geocaching, cross country skiing and snowshoeing. This is definitely a place to release ones inhibitions, with ghost towns and native rock art sites a reminder of past adventurers. To find out more about navigating your way through Lincoln County, visit www.lincolncountynevada.com/adventure.html

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Q&A Carrot Top

The zany **king of prop comedy** calls Las Vegas home, makes a rocket scientist proud, and says amen to the hair gods.

Mixing quick-witted humor with trunks full of gadgets, Carrot Top is one of the most energetic and inventive comedians in Las Vegas. But the 39-year-old Florida native knows he might not have reached the same level of success if he hadn't been "blessed" with the fiery red mop of hair that is his trademark. "Every night I go to bed and pray, 'God, let me keep my hair,'" he says—and, yes, it's his *real* hair. Born Scott Thompson in Cocoa Beach, he earned a marketing degree from Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, where his prop-comedy career began at a college talent show.

Thompson, a Strip staple who performs six nights a week at the Luxor, recently bought a house in Las Vegas and says he is adjusting well to life in Nevada. A day after appearing on the *Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson*, Thompson talked to *Nevada Magazine's* associate editor, Matthew B. Brown, in November.

Q How did the prop-comedy act evolve?

A Back in the day there'd be 10 comics or more in a night and by the time you got onstage, all the topics had been discussed, and everybody kind of seemed the same. Even if the material was a little different, it was just another guy standing there telling his story. So I had one or two little visual things I thought were funny, and when I put them in the show, they really worked well. I used to say, "It's like show and tell, but with liquor."

Q How do you derive new material?

A A lot of times it's based on current events. So if there's something happening in the news like the elections or Britney Spears getting a divorce or—you name it, Willie Nelson getting busted for pot, it always gives you some ammo. On the other side I'll do observational stuff. Like last night I was leaving the Luxor, and I see that Nick Lachey is coming, and the

name of his tour is, "What's Left of Me." It's like, oh please... like his life has crumbled, but that should be Michael Jackson's tour name. I'll try that tonight and the crowd will probably boo and moan. I'll say, "That was just for me apparently," and move on.

Q What do you like about Las Vegas?

A There's so much to do. It's a 24-hour city. The accessibility to Los Angeles is important to entertainers. I just went to L.A. and back yesterday to do a TV show, so that was convenient for me. Just the fact that I can go do a show and then come back to my house at night and get in my own bed—that's something I've never done. I've always been on a bus, or in hotels or airplanes.

Q You're a five-time Best Comedian winner in the Nevada Magazine readers' poll.

A There's still a recount in Florida. We don't know yet.



Q Well, this is Nevada, so there's no recounts. But we were pretty thrilled when you showed the award on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*. How did that go?

A It was great. It was one of those things where he was kind of ripping me a little bit because he was like, "The best ever. Wow. Well I'm the best in the United States of America. You're the best in Nevada." But he also said, "You have to feel pretty honored to get that," and I said,

SHOW NOTES

Carrot Top performs nightly except Tuesday at the Luxor in Las Vegas. Show time is 8 p.m. except on Saturday (7 and 9 p.m.). Tickets to the 18-and-older show start at \$49.95 plus tax and service fee. Call 800-557-7428 or 702-262-4400 or visit www.luxor.com/entertainment. For group specials for 10 or more people, call 702-822-6262 or 1-877-27-SHOWS. For dinner-and-show package information, call 702-262-4264.

"Absolutely." There's so many people that are out there doing their thing, and for someone to dig what I do is always nice. I've been doing it for about 18 years, so it's nice when people take notice.

Q I read that your father is a rocket scientist. How does he feel about your career of choice?

A Well, early on he was concerned like any parent would be. He would say, "Going into comedy? What? You're not funny at home." But now that I've had some success I think he's thrilled to death. He works at NASA, and he'd be like, "Why don't you get a real job," and I'd be like, "This is a real job."

Q Who are some of your biggest influences?

A I liked George Carlin growing up, the Marx Brothers, Jonathan Winters, Robin Williams, [and] Eddie Murphy. Pryor was a little bit ahead of my time, but I did watch a little Richard Pryor. There's so many comics. What's so great about comedy is that you can go down to the Strip and see Dennis Miller, then go see me, then go see Louie [Anderson], and you're going to get all different kinds of comedy and different takes on what's funny. It's just like music. It's great to have choices. That's why if someone tries to give me a hard time, "Oh, Carrot Top and his props," if anything at least I'm doing something different. At the end of the day, either you're a fan or not, but at least I'm doing something kind of clever.

Q So that is your real hair?

A Absolutely. I just had someone the other day that thought it was a wig. I said, "Don't you think I'd choose a better wig?"

Q What do you have against the name Scott Thompson?

A I don't have anything against it. I love my name. When I first started there was another comedian called Scott Thompson from Canada from *Kids in the Hall*. The Carrot Top thing was just something that kind of happened and it stuck. It was a blessing and a curse—it got too late to turn back. And so I'm Carrot Top for life.

For an extended interview, visit www.nevada.com.

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Penn Jillette

A **Las Vegas** State of Mind.

Penn Jillette is a big man, both in stature and in the business of magic. Since 1975, Jillette's outgoing personality has been the perfect foil for Teller, his much-smaller, silent, and deadpan partner. The two men are controversial and irreverent, spreading their talents among movies, radio shows, Broadway, television, and their current long-term gig at the Rio in Las Vegas. On stage they reveal the secrets of their tricks before making the actual revelation an illusion. From the duo's warped minds came Showtime's six-time Emmy Award-nominated program Penn & Teller: BS, which exposes, he says, the "frauds and fakes behind such topics as talking to the dead, alien abductions, and feng shui."

Here, Jillette describes the culture shock of moving to Las Vegas from New York City and leaving such institutions as CBGB, which reigned for 31 years as the Big Apple's punk nightclub before it closed in October. He also reflects on casino mogul Steve Wynn's accidental jab that put a hole in his \$139-million Picasso painting, Le Rêve.



Magician Penn Jillette offers his intellectual take on pizza, Krispy Kremes, and "stupid-pricey Picasso paintings."

In the early '90s I lived in New York City, did magic on Broadway, and played bass guitar at CBGB. I did Howard Stern's show. I hung out at nose-ring sidewalk espresso joints, ate bagels and slices, and went to the Brooklyn Academy of Music for shows that were too smart for me to understand.

Goddamn, I was New York City.

NYC's 1960s Andy Warhol cool was answered with Vegas Rat Pack cool. But by the early '90s Vegas was... well... Telling NYC groovesters that I was thinking of doing a show in Vegas was like telling a bunch of your SoHo painter peers that you were changing your subject matter to Elvis with sweaty sequins, and your medium would be day-glo paint on velvet. Vegas followed you around the room.

To hipsters, Vegas in the '90s was ironic. Fly in, pretend to smoke cigars, see non-jiggly breasts adorned with feathers, and laugh at (not with) George Burns impersonations. There weren't any postcards of John Lennon wearing a "Las Vegas" T-shirt.

Right after I moved to Las Vegas, I went to see Elvis Costello at the Beacon Theater in New York. We joked backstage for a while and as I was leaving, I said, "See you in Vegas." Elvis laughed and

**There weren't
any postcards of
John Lennon
wearing a
"Las Vegas" T-shirt.**

said, "I don't think I'll be playing Vegas. They only like the dead Elvis out there." The tide had already turned; Elvis just didn't know it yet. The Blue Man Group had opened in the desert with some added neon, and we had a Krispy Kreme Doughnut shop before NYC did.

The next time I talked to the live and kicking Elvis, it was in Vegas after his

first of many gigs here. It was sold out. Lou Reed and Debbie Harry play Vegas. Bob Dylan is here all the time and even played a casino opening. We have great restaurants, and the pizza and bagels are getting better. We have the Killers on the charts with an album named after a classic casino, and CBGB may move here. To thrill Warhol, we have an art gallery right inside a goofy water-show casino. To top it all off, we have zillionaires putting their elbows through stupid-pricey Picasso paintings in a way that would thrill Marcel Duchamp. Even the Big Apple never got that avant-garde.

Now, goddamn it, I'm Vegas and proud of it. ♣

SHOW NOTES

Penn and Teller appear nightly except Tuesday at the Rio in Las Vegas. Show time is 9 p.m. Tickets are \$60 and \$75, plus tax. Call 702-777-7776, 888-746-7784, or visit www.RioLasVegas.com.



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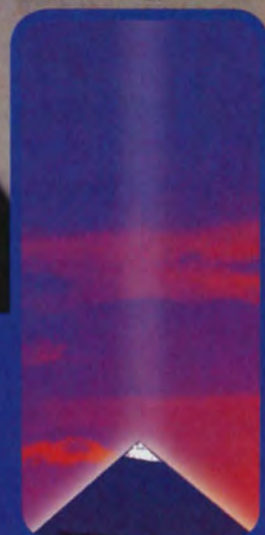
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Nevada Travel Update

News & Views
Nevada Travel Update is designed to keep travel agents, tour operators, and meeting planners up to date on tourism and travel news of the Silver State.

Tourism Industry News • January/February 2007

The Imperial Palace

When Harrah's purchased the Imperial Palace in Las Vegas in December 2005, consideration was given to imploding the Asian-themed center-Strip property and replacing it with a megaresort. Any decision on the hotel-casino's future has been postponed, however, and the Imperial Palace is accepting bookings through December 2008, according to Jackie Brett, director of advertising and public relations.

The 2,640-room hotel is known for its "Dealertainers," blackjack dealers dressed as Elvis, Cher, Stevie Wonder, Bette Midler, and other celebrities. Daily from noon to 4 a.m.—to 5 a.m. on weekends—the dealers parade through the casino and give mini-musical performances before taking their places at the gaming tables to play blackjack with intrigued gamblers. Periodically they will step up to the microphone to perform.

ENTERTAINMENT: "Legends in Concert," a celebrity tribute unveiled in 1983, is still popular with visitors. An ever-changing lineup of look- and sound-alike performers, backed by musicians, pay tribute to legendary and popular entertainers such as Bobby Darin, Britney Spears, Garth Brooks, Sting, the Temptations, and Elvis. The Nnomiya Lounge on the fifth-floor dining plaza offers piano entertainment nightly except Tuesday and Wednesday, and the Karaoke Club hosts performers nightly.

The Imperial Palace also is known for The Auto Collection, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary. More than 250 antique, classic, muscle, famous, infamous, and historically

FAST FACTS:

The Imperial Palace has 40,000 square feet of meeting space, an outdoor swimming pool, The Spa with separate facilities for men and women, and a 75,000-square-foot casino.



"Dealertainers" dressed as celebrities play blackjack with gamblers at the Imperial Palace.

significant vehicles—valued at more than \$100 million—are on display and for sale.

DINING: Restaurants include Embers, a steakhouse; Fireside for Southwestern cuisine; Ming's with its Mandarin and Cantonese menu; Emperor's Buffet; Cockeyed Clam, a casual seafood eatery; and Teahouse, a 24-hour coffee shop. Imperial Palace guests also can obtain refreshments at the Pizza and Burger palaces and Betty's Diner/Cyber Café.

INFORMATION: The Imperial Palace has rack rates ranging from \$59 to \$229, commissionable at 10 percent. Group rates are available through the sales office. For information, call 800-634-6441 or visit www.imperialpalace.com.—Ann Henderson

Dear Travel Professional,

"Nevada Travel Update," the tourism-industry newsletter, appears in the opening pages of *Nevada Magazine* for your convenience. As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions.

Ann Henderson, Editor, *Nevada Travel Update*
ann@nevadamagazine.com

At a Glance

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What's New

THE LATEST INFORMATION ON TRAVEL AROUND THE SILVER STATE

LAS VEGAS TERRITORY

Expansion is Finished

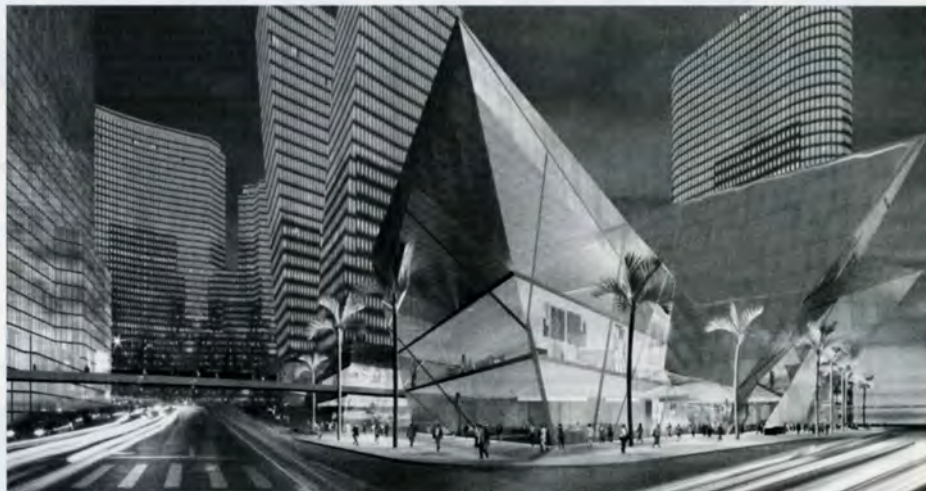
The Cannery in North Las Vegas completed a \$45-million expansion in October that includes a five-story covered garage, an additional 15,000 square feet of casino space, a 96,400-square-foot, 14-screen Galaxy Movie Theatre, Vino's Italian Ristorante and Deli, bingo and poker rooms, and a race and sports book.

Cannery Heads East

Construction begins in January on the **Eastside Cannery** on the site of the former Nevada Palace in Las Vegas. Cannery Casino Resorts, which owns the 40s- and '50s-themed Cannery on Craig Road and the chic Rampart Casino located within the JW Marriott Resort in Summerlin, has purchased the Boulder Highway property. The Eastside Cannery will feature a 307-room hotel, 65,000 square feet of casino floor, six restaurants, a 200-seat entertainment lounge, 20,000 square feet of meeting space, a 430-seat bingo room, and a 150-seat race and sports book.

Attention, Movie Buffs

Dates for the annual **CineVegas Film Festival** have been set for June 8-16 at the Brenden Theatres in the Palms. The Las Vegas event has



Visitors to the Bellagio can see a model of the \$7-billion CityCenter project, which is slated to be completed in 2009.

been one of the fastest-growing fests and features celebrity honorees, panel discussions, parties, and world movie premieres. Actor Dennis Hopper will continue to serve as chairman.

Check Out the Condos

Visitors to Las Vegas can see how the \$7-billion **CityCenter** project will look when it is completed in 2009. A model room and Presentation Center at the Bellagio is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., featuring a detailed model of the 18-million-square-foot hotel-condominium complex that will be located between the Bellagio and Monte Carlo. CityCenter will have approximately 1,543 residential units with price tags ranging from \$600,000 to \$8 million-plus. Other elements include a 60-story, 4,000-room hotel tower, two 400-room, nongaming high-end hotels, and 500,000 square feet of retail, dining, and entertainment.

Sweetheart Deal

A sleek new design and sophisticated entertainment are promised when renovations of the **Flamingo Las Vegas'** 636 rooms are completed in February. Oversized white vinyl headboards, posh carpet, and modern furniture are accented with the hotel's Flamingo pink. During check-in a custom CD of rock songs to play on in-room entertainment systems will be given to Flamingo guests.

Asian Connection

Korean Air launched service to Nevada in September, connecting Las Vegas with more than 80 cities in South Korea, China, India, Japan, Aus-

tralia, and Southeast Asia. The service provided by Korean Air is viewed as a key to the city's goal of attracting 43 million annual visitors by 2009. The airline operates three weekly round-trip flights between Las Vegas and Seoul using 301-seat Boeing 777-200 aircraft. McCarran Airport is the fifth-busiest airport in the U.S.

MAXjet Arrives in Nevada

MAXjet Airways has launched twice-weekly service, on Monday and Thursday, between Las Vegas and London Stansted. Business class fares on the non-stop schedule were quoted at \$1,999 roundtrip.

Riding the Rails

Officials of the **Las Vegas Monorail** are laying plans to expand the current four-mile route from the Sahara to MGM Grand to include McCarran International Airport. Various alignments are also being studied to incorporate the hotels on the west side of the Strip. The expansion has a projected 2011 completion date and is seen not only as a way to serve more than 44 million passengers who travel through the airport yearly but also to reduce automobile emissions in the city.

Grand Canyon Experience

Ramada Express Laughlin and **Grand Canyon West** have a cultural-adventure Spirit Package, which includes shuttle service to three viewing areas on the west rim, photo opportunities with Hualapai Tribe members in native dress, a wagon ride, and a barbecue or cowboy cook-

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Restaurante Orozko at John Ascuaga's Nugget

out. Other options such as horseback rides are available for a fee. Visitors also will have access to the new Skywalk, a cantilever-shaped glass bridge suspended 4,000 feet above the Colorado River. Prices, which include accommodations at the Ramada Express in Laughlin, are \$80 for a one-night package and \$100 for a two-night stay, mid-week, plus tax and fees. Add \$17 per person for weekends. Visitors are responsible for their own transportation between Laughlin and Grand Canyon West, which is 120 miles east of Las Vegas. For booking and commission information about the Grand Canyon package, email Darias@ramadaexpress.com.

New Event for Race Fans

Professional Champ Car drivers will negotiate their open-wheel racers through downtown city streets during the inaugural **Vegas Grand Prix**, April 6-8. The road-racing event's schedule so far includes a rock concert, boxing match, and celebrity poker tournament. The weekend will be the series opener for the 2007 Champ Car World Series.

RENO-TAHOE TERRITORY

Divine Nine Time

Bookings are being accepted now for customized golf packages at the **Carson Valley Inn** in Minden. Groups ranging in size from 12 to more than 100 can play at all of the area's Divine Nine courses, as well as Edgewood Tahoe, Thunder Canyon, and other Reno and Tahoe courses. For more information call 866-284-7766, ext. 2.

Drive into History

Visitors to Reno-Tahoe can take a self-guided tour, "**Northern Nevada Heritage Corridor Driving Guide to Boom or Bust**," that highlights the historical significance of Reno, Virginia City, Carson Valley, Carson City, and Spooner Summit at Lake Tahoe. The tour responds to travel trends from Travel Industry Association of America that show 35.3 million adults say a specific art, cultural, or heritage event or activity influenced their destination choice, says Mary Ann McAuliffe, arts and culture manager for the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority. The "Boom or Bust" driving instructions and commentary can be downloaded at www.VisitRenoTahoe.com/heritage, or by calling 800-FOR-RENO.

Windy City Bound

Southwest Airlines has increased Reno to Chicago Midway service from Saturday-only to daily nonstop flights. The 132-seat Boeing 737-700 departs Midway at 10:20 a.m. and arrives at 12:50 p.m. in Reno. Passengers leave Reno at 1:20 p.m. and arrive in Chicago at 5:30 p.m. Fifty percent of Reno's air service is provided by Southwest.

I daho-born John Ascuaga honored his Basque roots when he opened **Restaurante Orozko** at the Nugget seven years ago. The 81-year-old founder of the Sparks hotel-casino named the restaurant after the Pyrenees Mountains town of Orozko, Spain, that his father, Jose, and mother, Maria, left in 1914 to come to America. "Mr. Ascuaga always wanted a cuisine to remind him of the old country and his heritage," says Dave Brody, executive vice president of food and beverage for John Ascuaga's Nugget. "We look at this as one of our gems."

The romantic décor reflects Ascuaga's Spanish background. The spacious lounge has a welcoming red-brick ceiling, while diners sit at tables covered in white cloths under a sky-like burst of violet. Christmas tree lights sparkle and are a cheery addition to chandeliers and other soft lighting. Pillars faced with rock from Ascuaga's Jacks Valley ranch convey an old-world feel.

Groups can be accommodated in the Pyrenees Room, which holds up to 60 people, and the Family Alcove Room, designed for intimate parties of eight to 18. Groups can choose from two pre-set menus at \$35.95 and \$39.95 per person. Both menus feature jumbo shrimp and sautéed mushroom appetizers, a Caesar salad, and Orozko Basque cake for dessert. Entrées for the \$39.95 menu include a choice between filet mignon, lamb chops, or seafood fettuccine, while the other menu offers prime rib, herb-crusted salmon, or rotelle pasta with lemon-peppered chicken.

Restaurant manager Jamie Crossley says the menus are just a guideline, however, and that any custom arrangement can be worked out for an extra fee. In fact, Orozko will cater to just about any group's request—"We're willing to do anything and everything," Brody says—for up to 200



The Basque-themed **Restaurante Orozko** at John Ascuaga's Nugget welcomes groups.

people. On occasion, Orozko will allow a crowd to buyout the restaurant for a special event, including on Monday and Tuesday when it's normally closed. Also, about six high-end wine dinners are held in the lounge each year, and a buffet is another group option.

Individual diners can choose from 13 different tapas (small-plate appetizers) ranging in price from \$6 to \$11 and house specialties such as Basque creamy garlic soup, the Orozko salad, veal osso bucco, and seafood zarzuela. The Maine lobster costs \$39.50, but all other entrées are \$20 to \$30. "It's hearty and healthy Mediterranean food, and we've added our own twist," Brody says.

INFORMATION: The **Restaurante Orozko**, located on the first floor of John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, opens at 5 p.m. on Wednesday to Sunday. Each night there is a special theme in the lounge: Live Jazz Night Wednesdays; Wine Tasting Thursdays; Ultimate Martini Bar Fridays; Sangria Night Saturdays; and Premium Beer Night Sundays. For reservations and information call 800-843-2427 or visit www.janugget.com.—*Matthew B. Brown*

GROUP DINING: Many Nevada restaurants have private dining facilities that cater to convention, business, wedding, and reunion events. *Travel Update* staff visited and judged the food, service, and décor of the eateries profiled.

NASCAR Weekend

Weddings, hot cars, and the Neon Garage.

Your clients need to book early for NASCAR weekend, March 9-11, at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway. More than 300,000 racing fans are expected for three days of speed, thrills, and partying. They will also be among the first to see the multimillion-dollar improvements to the 1.5-mile super speedway.

The construction project increased the track's banking from 12 to 20 degrees, which allows for more side-by-side racing; moved the pit road 275 feet closer to the grandstands, giving fans a better view of the crews in action; elevated the backstretch; and added the pride of the speedway, the Neon Garage.

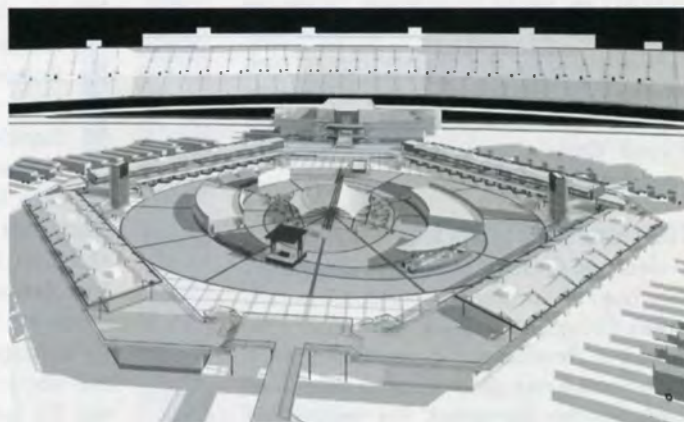
NEON GARAGE: In the two-level, four-building complex arranged in the shape of a diamond, fans will see NASCAR teams work on their cars. From the second floor they will look down directly into the garage stalls and on the lower level watch through windows as mechanics work feverishly.

Action in the center of the Neon Garage will revolve around a sports bar with big screens showing the race, concession stands, and entertainment. It's also where you'll find the most exclusive wedding chapel in Las Vegas.

RACE TO THE ALTAR: Each year on Pole Day (Friday) of NASCAR weekend, 24 people can vow eternal love among the cars, crowd, and big rigs that haul the cars.

"We limit the weddings to 12 couples," says wedding coordinator Jayne Pugh. "It's on a first-come, first-served basis." Otherwise, couples are put on a waiting list.

The ceremony is performed by the speedway chaplain, Kenny Farmer. Wedding attire ranges from white-lace traditional to NASCAR-chic, and in the past bouquets have been made of checkered flags and miniature race cars, Pugh says. A one-day access pass to the Neon Garage is required, plus it is requested the couple give the chaplain a \$100 donation, which then is presented to the Las Vegas chapter of Speedway Children's Charities.



Fans can watch teams working on their race cars in the new Neon Garage at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway, which will unveil major improvements during NASCAR weekend, March 9-11.

RACE PACKAGES: Commissions on event packages listed with National Reservations Bureau are six percent at its nine participating hotels, which include THEhotel at Mandalay Bay, Mandalay Bay, Golden Nugget, Aladdin, Sahara, Hooters, Desert Rose (formerly Hawthorn Suites), Riviera, and Circus Circus.

Desert Rose is priced from \$499 to \$949 and THEhotel at Mandalay Bay ranges from \$999 to \$1,209. Beginning prices include Sunday-only race tickets, and all packages offer four-day, three-night accommodations. Rates are per person and based on double occupancy. Those who buy the deluxe package get prime seating on the Richard Petty Terrace, which has a private concourse with restrooms, concessions, and elevators and a complete view of the speedway and the new pit road.

Package amenities at THEhotel at Mandalay Bay include two tickets each to Saturday's Busch Series race, Sunday's Nextel Cup race, motor coach transportation both days, free beer and soda on the coach ride, and preferred bus parking close to gates. The Desert Rose package adds two tickets to Friday's Pole Day. For information call 888-734-6228. Visit www.lvms.com for information on other hotels offering race packages.

Pit passes sold out in early October, so purchasing a Jackpot Pass, which allows entry to the interactive Neon Garage and the pit area, is the only way for fans to gain pit access. Jackpot Passes sell from \$199 to \$275 and are an add-on item to race packages. For a fee, spectators can add air transportation on Saturday and Sunday aboard a Maverick Helicopter.

EVENTS NOTES: Qualifying and practice sessions for the Nextel Cup Series is planned for March 9, the Sam's Town 300 NASCAR Busch Series is March 10, and the UAW-DaimlerChrysler 400 NASCAR Nextel Cup Series is March 11. For more information call 800-644-4444 or visit www.lvms.com.—Ann Henderson



Twelve couples will be married in exclusive ceremonies on Pole Day (Friday) of NASCAR weekend, the only time weddings are allowed at the speedway.