NEVADA

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2008

MAGAZINE



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Cover: The Las Vegas Monorail train (foreground) streaks by in the city that shines like no other.
Photo by studiojinc.com



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—Peter F. Drucker, American educator and writer



As fall turns to winter and the pace of life slows, we tend to think about the ways we will "improve" next year—exercise more, eat better, subscribe to Nevada's official state magazine—whatever it might be. That's what we're doing at *Nevada Magazine*, anyway: devising a plan to better our product and enhance your reading experience.

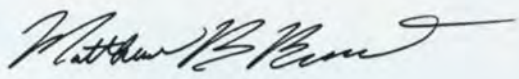
But before we present a more polished *Nevada Magazine* in January/February 2009, it's appropriate to take a moment to reflect. After all, if a new year signifies a time for resolution, then it follows that the end of the year be about reflection.

I've been an editor here for more than two years. As our loyal subscribers know, the magazine underwent a significant makeover starting with our March/April 2007 issue. Since then, we've paid close attention to readers' feedback concerning their likes and dislikes. We've also formed our own opinions about what is (and isn't) working. The last 22 months have provided us with valuable insight, and the result will be a refreshing start to 2009, our 73rd year!

It's hard to ignore the ways we've evolved beyond the print magazine since I started in August 2006. We've revamped our Web site, NevadaMagazine.com, which won two awards this year. The site allows users to comment on stories and has online-exclusive material and extended Events & Shows listings. Our parent agency, Nevada Commission on Tourism, has also introduced a new look to their domain, TravelNevada.com. In addition to a wealth of Nevada information, including free downloadable guides, photo galleries, and videos, their site offers a blog—Blog.TravelNevada.com. Our staff has participated heavily in the blog, accessible from our site as well. We're also making it a priority to be present at more events around Nevada. Look for a *Nevada Magazine* booth near you.

As you take time to reflect this holiday season, we know you'll also be thinking about those holiday gifts you need to buy. Two of our Las Vegas stories in this issue touch on that theme (or, you can always combine a *Nevada Magazine* gift sub with a 2009 Nevada Historical Calendar). We also spotlight three intriguing Nevada authors, cover a unique snow-sculpting event on a frozen lake near Ely, and visit a handful of Nevada border towns.

As if we need to remind you, welcome to Nevada.



Matthew B. Brown, Editor

CONTRIBUTORS



KATE SILVER

Kate Silver is a "freelance monorail rider" from Las Vegas. While riding the rail for this issue's story she discovered an overlooked function of the train: decision-making. "It's replaced my Magic 8-Ball when it comes to my passivity in life," Silver says. "If I have a question I head to the nearest monorail station. If the southbound train arrives first the answer is 'yes.' North means 'no.'" Silver's work has also appeared in *People*, *Playboy*, and *Spirit* magazines, and she co-authored *Pauline Frommer's Las Vegas* (2007).

■ PG. 10



JAY ALDRICH

Freelance photographer Jay Aldrich says the stucco interior of the straw-bale house in "House of Straw" created the ideal lighting for his photos. "The thick white walls reflect the window light and increase it inside the rooms," he says. "I consider architectural photography enjoyable, but this house was especially engaging." Aldrich—see more of his work in *Your Nevada*—began his 32-year career in Carson Valley as a news photographer. He and his wife, Tina Fixman, live in Minden.

■ PGS. 38 & 88



PATRICIA COOPER-SMITH

Carson City's Patricia "Patti" Cooper-Smith is a freelance writer whose interests range from literature and creative writing to outdoor sports and rural Nevada. She has contributed to local magazines, newspapers, and *Online Nevada Encyclopedia* and helped edit *Literary Nevada: Writings from the Silver State* (2008). Cooper-Smith, who wrote about three Nevada authors in this issue, is working on a Nevada-based thriller and has an enduring love for literature. "I never got over reading all of Jane Austen when I was 13," she says.

■ PG. 50



STATE OF NEVADA

GREAT NEVADA PICTURE HUNT

Las Vegas Photographer Wins Readers' Choice Photo Contest

Congratulations to Janice Philips, our 2008 Readers' Choice Photo Contest winner. Her photo, "Steam Ahead," is of the Nevada Northern Railway's Steptoe Valley Flyer. From 1910 to 1941, steam locomotive 40 traveled the rail route from East Ely to Cobre. The railway offers regular and themed rides—the schedule varies depending on the season. **nnry.com**, 866-40STEAM

A close second was Kippy S. Lanker's "Carson Valley Winter Wonderland." Readers voted on five photos at **nevadamagazine.com** in August and September. Thanks to all who participated.



BASEBALL

Aces It Is for Reno's New Triple-A Team

Fans will be cheering for the Reno Aces when the region's first Triple-A baseball team takes the field in its new downtown ballpark on April 17, the expected date of the home opener. The team name, the winner of a contest in which more than 3,500 entries were submitted between May 5 and June 1, was announced in September. The Aces will play in the 16-team Pacific Coast League along with the Las Vegas 51s. **renoaces.com**, **lv51.com**



BUSINESS

Seizing the Moment

Moment, Nevada's only homegrown ski manufacturer, opened shop in Reno about five years ago. The entire operation, from design and construction to sales and paperwork, is based in the Biggest Little City, giving Moment complete control over its product line. "A ski design can be conceived on Monday, and we can have a prototype ready for rider testing the following weekend," says owner Casey Hakansson. That testing is streamlined thanks to more than a dozen world-class Lake Tahoe ski resorts within about an hour's drive of Reno. "We enjoy making skis," Hakansson says. "We enjoy riding them even more." **momentskis.com**, 775-527-1595



Minus 5 Ice lounge, Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS

Three Quirky Sin City Sojourns

Stars and Stripes Air Tours has logged more than 140,000 flights over the Las Vegas Strip, Boulder City, Hoover Dam, and Grand Canyon National Park. You can take a scenic, full-day tour over desert vistas or see the nighttime glamour and sparkle of the Strip from an unparalleled vantage. Theater-style seating allows an unhindered view, and personal headsets ensure that you won't miss a word of the informative audio narrations. **lvhelicopters.com**, 888-779-0800

This summer, Segway of Las Vegas introduced guided tours of Fremont Street, the city's historic downtown district. Customers ride their own two-wheeled, self-balancing Segway Personal Transporters, following operation lessons, for 90 minutes with stops at hotels and other points of interest along the way. "Every person I've seen aboard a Segway for the first time cannot stop smiling," says co-owner Patrick Hughes. **segwayoflasvegas.com**, 702-897-8957



The first ice lounge in the nation opened at Mandalay Place earlier this year. New Zealand-based Minus 5 is a lounge where everything—from the bar and walls to the chairs and glasses—is made from ice. The 1,200-square-foot establishment is kept at 23 degrees (minus five Celsius) and is recreated every six to eight weeks. "We take enormous pride in the quality of our product and the uniqueness of this experience," says president and founder of Minus 5, Craig Ling. The $30 admission includes winter parkas, gloves, booties, and a drink. **minus5experience.com**, 702-632-7714

NEVADA NEWS

✦ Carson City's **Stewart Indian School** introduced its audio "Talking" Trail in September. Via cell phone, visitors can access recorded messages from alumni and employees about their personal experiences at the historic school. stewartindianschool.com, 775-687-8333

✦ **Nevada Land Conservancy** has marked its 10th anniversary in a big way. By partnering with the Bureau of Land Management, more than 17,000 acres within the Granite Range in northern Washoe County are now protected and public thanks to the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act. nvlc.org, 775-851-5180

✦ Are you feeling overwhelmed professionally and can't get to everything you need to do? Let **Las Vegas' Affluent Lifestyle Concierge** take care of it—or at least some of it. The two-tiered company caters to locals and visitors. For locals, it can be anything from picking up a prescription to planning a party, and for visitors the service will even find a translator. livealc.com, 888-379-6329

✦ An 18-month project to restore the former home of Depression-era divorce-granting judge, **George A. Bartlett**, began in October in Tonopah. Plans are for the house to become a bed-and-breakfast and a community meeting center. tonopahchamberofcommerce.com, 775-482-3859

NEVADA NEWS

✦ **Golden Nugget Hotel & Casino**, in downtown Las Vegas, will host the 2009 season of NBC's "Poker After Dark." Much of the show's fifth season will be filmed in the property's newest events center, The Grand, October 26 to November 5. Check your local listings for the season premiere on December 29. nbcsports.msnbc.com

✦ **"Chronicles of the Comstock,"** a new blog that discusses historical topics pertaining to Virginia City and the Great Basin, is managed by Northern Nevada author and historian Dennis Cassinelli. A new article appears every Sunday. web.mac.com/denniscassinelli.com

✦ The Sportsbook Bar & Grill at **The Palazzo Las Vegas** opened in September with a Strip-view outdoor patio and 70-plus TVs. The fan-favorite menu includes sliders, burgers, pizzas, and nachos. Also in September, SUSHISAMBA and its nightclub, SUGARCANE, debuted inside The Shoppes at The Palazzo. palazzolasvegas.com, 702-414-1000

✦ Las Vegas' **Binion's Gambling Hall & Hotel** opened Benny's Bullpen Sports Bar & Cigar Lounge in September. Located next to Binion's new race and sports book, Benny's Bullpen features a full-service bar, a fine selection of cigars, 10 plasma TVs, and video poker. binions.com, 702-878-2452



SKI RESORT

Diamond (not) in the Rough

The $4-million renovation of the base lodge at Diamond Peak Ski Resort in Incline Village is scheduled for a November 1 completion. Improvements include:

- New food counter, siding, carpet, and new restrooms in the Loft Bar
- A 300-square-foot banquet room
- Outside deck with a stairway that leads to the bottom of the lodge
- Expanded rental and repair shop
- Raised loft ceilings with skylights
- Heated paving stones on upper deck

diamondpeak.com, 775-832-1177

BASKETBALL

Old Name, Same Game

After nearly three decades without a professional basketball team, Reno has again been passed the "rock." The Reno Bighorns, whose mascot is a throwback to the city's two former pro-basketball teams, will play in the NBA Development League. Team owner David Kahn thinks the name is a good fit. "Bighorns was by far the number-one choice of our fans [during a March naming contest] and, we think, it's a name that is synonymous with the region," he says. The Bighorns will open the season at the Reno Events Center on November 29 against the Bakersfield Jam. **renobighorns.com**, 775-284-2622

RENO BIGHORNS



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riding the rail

Choose your own Las Vegas adventure, or let the Monorail do it for you

BY KATE SILVER

My carbon footprint is the size of a Sasquatch's, and something's got to give. So I've planned an entire day revolving around the Las Vegas Monorail. The train runs along a four-mile stretch on the east side of Las Vegas Boulevard from the MGM Grand to the Sahara, with seven stops along the way.







PHOTOS: RANDA BISHOP (TOP RIGHT AND BOTTOM MIDDLE); KIM HAMMER (BOTTOM RIGHT)



The Las Vegas Monorail whisks passengers along the east side of the Strip at 50 mph. The Monorail Company is working on a proposed extension to McCarran International Airport.

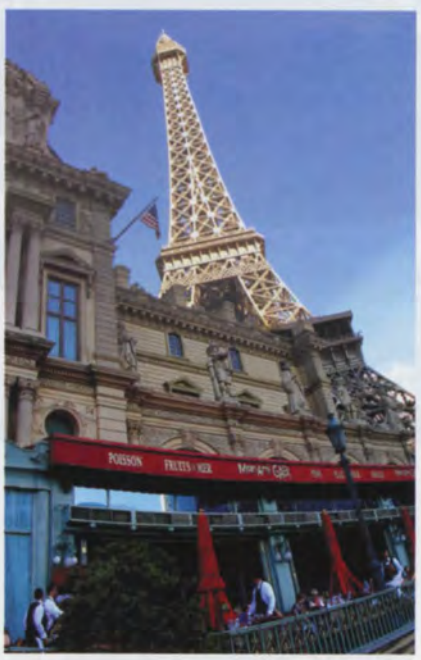
The $5 ticket (for a single ride; $12 for an Unlimited Ride Day Pass) opens up a world of adventure, while saving my weary feet—and helping the planet. "The Las Vegas Monorail addresses the need for progressive transit options by providing a fully electric, zero-emission service that is used by about 25,000 people every day," says Ingrid Reisman, vice president of corporate communications for the Las Vegas Monorail Company. "As a community, we must take advantage of every opportunity to alleviate increasing congestion and the resulting pollution."

I have big plans to maximize my monorail experience, from shopping to shows and even showgirls. But first things first: breakfast. I duck into the Rainforest Café at the MGM Grand. My server is dressed as a safari guide and tells me to enjoy my adventure—one that includes not only bacon and eggs, but rumbling thunderstorms, a 10,000-gallon arched aquarium, and a mushroom-shaped bar. Surrounded by lush trees and plants, I may as well be in the Amazon. Fortunately, though, the jaguar here is animatronic. Butterflies, zebras, and frogs peek out from the leaves as I devour my bounteous breakfast. It's just the sustenance I need before heading back out to the jungle of a different sort: Las Vegas.

After purchasing my ticket at an

automated machine in the MGM Grand monorail stop, I wait for less than two minutes before the train comes racing into the station. Traveling at speeds of up to 50 mph, it carries me along the backside of the Strip resorts. As the car rumbles along, I feel as though I'm on a Las Vegas tour, catching a glimpse of the construction of CityCenter, the 76-acre, $8-billion project that's being built by MGM Mirage and Dubai World. Once finished in late 2009, the complex will be a mix of shopping, resorts, and gaming, meaning even more entertainment close to the monorail. After just a few minutes the train stops at Bally's. It's 10:45—just in time for my 11 a.m. backstage tour of the long-running show "Jubilee!"

A showgirl leads an entourage of curiosity seekers behind the scenes and explains that there are 100 different sets and backdrops and nine to 11 costume



The Forum Shops at Caesars (left) and the Eiffel Tower Experience (above) are accessible from the Las Vegas Monorail. But, be warned: Paris Las Vegas is a much shorter walk than Caesars.

PHOTOS: WILLIAM LANE

COMMENT ON THIS STORY AT NEVADAMAGAZINE.COM

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MORE FUN ON THE RAILS

Yeah, it's nice to be transported around Las Vegas via a leisurely monorail ride, but—for those seeking a more thrilling rail romp—there are a bevy of roller coasters in Southern Nevada.

Speed—The Ride
Starts at the NASCAR Café (inside the Sahara)
Speed: Up to 70 mph
Single ride: $10
saharavegas.com, 702-737-2111

The Roller Coaster at New York-New York
Via Coney Island Emporium
Speed: Up to 67 mph
Single ride (shown below): $14
nynyhotelcasino.com, 800-689-1797

Canyon Blaster
Inside The Adventure Dome Theme Park, next to Circus Circus
Speed: Up to 55 mph
All-day pass: $24.95
adventuredome.com, 702-794-3939

The Desperado
In Primm, 43 miles south of Las Vegas
Speed: Up to 80 mph
Admission: $8
primmvalleyresorts.com, 702-679-7433





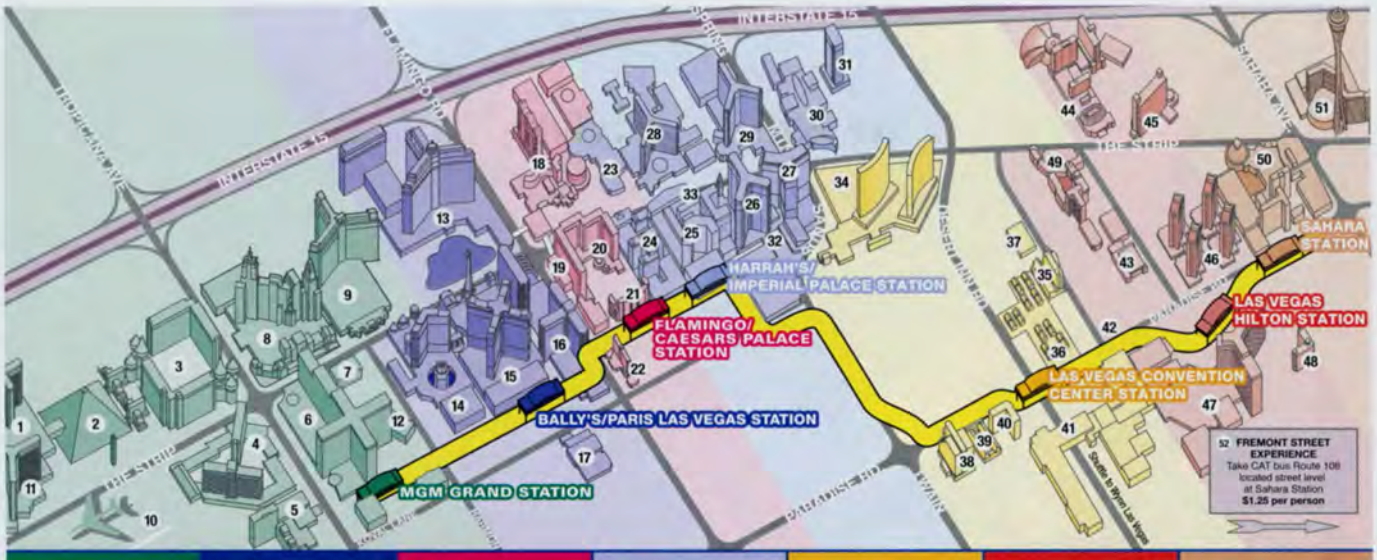
changes per cast member per show. In other words, if you're in the audience, don't blink! She goes on to detail some juicy "Jubilee!" facts. From the performers' 35-pound headdresses to the five different feathers used, the tour gives memorable insight into the showgirl, a Vegas icon.

After the tour, I pass through the casino's walkway to Paris Las Vegas and the Eiffel Tower Experience. At 460 feet, the observation deck provides some of the best views of Las Vegas. In the daytime you can see all the way to the edge of the valley. At night, you get a spectacular bird's-eye view of the Bellagio fountain show, combined with the twinkling lights of the Strip. The tower is half the size of the French original, but just as romantic.

"Be sure to check your seat. Rumor has it that Howie Mandel scours for lost chips after the show. Children under five ride for free. Adults acting like children pay extra."

—LAS VEGAS MONORAIL AUDIO FEED

Gazing up and down the Strip puts me in the mood for shopping. The rail ride to Flamingo Las Vegas/Caesars Palace turns out to be an educational one. An audio feed of informative tidbits notes that 6,000 people move to Las Vegas each month. It goes on to say that there are 20 different nightclubs within reach of the monorail, and enlivening the statistics is a sardonic slice of humor. "Be sure to check your seat. Rumor has it that Howie Mandel scours for lost chips after the show," and "Children under five ride for free. Adults acting like children pay extra." Passengers exchange amused glances as we pull into the station near the Flamingo,



MGM GRAND STATION

Access to:
1-Mandalay Bay
Mandalay Bay Convention Center
2-Luxor
3-Excalibur
4-Tropicana
5-Hooters Casino Hotel
6-MGM Grand
Fashion Outlets of Las Vegas Shoppers' Shuttle
7-Showcase Mall
8-New York-New York
9-Monte Carlo
10-McCarran Int'l Airport
11-Four Seasons
12-Marriott's Grand Chateau

BALLY'S/ PARIS LAS VEGAS STATION

Access to:
13-Bellagio
14-Planet Hollywood
Miracle Mile Shops at Planet Hollywood
15-Paris Las Vegas
16-Bally's Las Vegas
17-Ellis Island

FLAMINGO/ CAESARS PALACE STATION

Access to:
18-Caesars Palace
19-Bill's Gamblin' Hall & Saloon
20-Flamingo Las Vegas
21-Hilton Grand Vacations
22-Westin Casuarina
Battista's Hole in the Wall Restaurant

HARRAH'S/ IMPERIAL PALACE STATION

Access to:
23-Forum Shops at Caesars
24-Imperial Palace Hotel & Casino
25-Harrah's Las Vegas
Rio *(via Harrah's Shuttle)*
26-The Venetian/Grand Canal Shoppes
27-The Palazzo/Barneys New York
28-Mirage Las Vegas
29-TI *(Treasure Island)*
30-Fashion Show
31-Trump International Hotel & Tower Las Vegas
32-Sands Expo
33-Casino Royale

LAS VEGAS CONVENTION CENTER STATION

Access to:
34-Wynn Las Vegas
(via Wynn Shuttle, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.)
35-Marriott-Residence Inn
36-Courtyard by Marriott
37-Greek Isles
38-Embassy Suites
39-Best Western Mardi Gras
40-Renaissance Las Vegas
41-Las Vegas Convention Center
42-Visitor Information Center

LAS VEGAS HILTON STATION

Access to:
43-Marriott Suites
44-Circus Circus
45-Hilton Grand Vacations *(on Strip)*
46-Turnberry Place *(Stirling Club)*
47-Las Vegas Hilton
48-Hilton Grand Vacations *(at Las Vegas Hilton)*
49-Riviera

SAHARA STATION

Access to:
50-Sahara Hotel & Casino
Sahara NASCAR Cafe
51-Stratosphere
52-Fremont Street Experience
(via CAT bus Route 108)

across Las Vegas Boulevard from The Forum Shops at Caesars.

This is a shopping destination that would have made Cleopatra swoon, with more than 160 shops (everything from Anthropologie to Valentino to Gucci to the Gap) and a wealth of restaurants (Joe's Seafood, Prime Steak, & Stone Crab; The Palm Las Vegas; Sushi Roku; Spago; Planet Hollywood, and more). Even nonshoppers love the Forum Shops, where a fountain comes to life and chronicles the fall of Atlantis, and Roman gladiators wander the property posing for photos with visitors under the sky-like ceilings. There is a lot to take in, and after a few hours my shopper's appetite rears its head. Cheesecake Factory slays it, thanks to a Chinese chicken salad and a decadent slice of caramel pecan turtle cheesecake.

Sated, I take a walk back to the monorail, giving me time to consider my options. I narrow them down to two: I can join the fanilows at "Ultimate Manilow: The Hits" at the Las Vegas Hilton, or I can take the monorail back to the MGM Grand and see "Kâ." The Cirque du Soleil show details a journey of separated twins searching for one another.

Hmm. It's so hard to pass on a Cirque show, with its unrivaled acrobatics, choreography, and whimsical genius. But where else can I hear "Mandy" live? Maybe I should toss a coin, I think. No, wait. I'll leave it up to the monorail. If the northbound train arrives first, I'll see Manilow. Southbound, "Kâ."

My decision is made within minutes. The southbound train roars into the station. "Kâ" it is. And I don't regret it for one spell-binding minute. Even the planet's happy.

CONTACTS

Las Vegas Monorail Company
3960 Howard Hughes Pkwy., Ste. 750, Las Vegas
lvmonorail.com
702-699-8200

Rainforest Café
3799 Las Vegas Blvd. S., Las Vegas
mgmgrand.com
rainforestcafe.com
702-891-8580

Eiffel Tower Experience
3655 Las Vegas Blvd. S., Las Vegas
parislasvegas.com
877-603-4386

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3570 Las Vegas Blvd. S., Las Vegas
harrahs.com
forumshops.com
866-227-5938



these stores won't bore

Here s how to make crossing off this year's holiday gift list less tedious, Vegas style.

BY ROGER NAYLOR

Do you have someone on your holiday shopping list that always gives you fits? Two words: Vegas, baby. Among the Las Vegas retail scene, there's an amazing selection of only-in-this-town stores where you can find a unique gift for just about anybody. Here are a few.

Man does not live for zoot suits alone, yet Valentino and Beverly Parker have managed a successful business for 20 years at Valentino's Zootsuit Connection. These days, zoots are only a small portion of the bold, dramatic, and colorful apparel that flies out of this vintage clothing and specialty store.

The Parkers, both former fashion models, have amassed a stunning collection of high-quality men's and women's vintage garments and accessories, such as smoking jackets, tuxedos, gabardine shirts, topcoats, evening gowns, purses, shoes, and hats. They also carry lines of new clothing with a retro look. "People want a return to glamour," Valentino says. "They come here to liven up their wardrobe or grab that signature piece for a special occasion. We have people attending concerts, reunions, or celebrat-

PHOTO: RICK MORTENSEN







ing a wedding anniversary who want outfits from the year they were married."

■ ■ ■

Gamblers General Store is part mega-mart, part museum, and a complete paradise for anyone who's uttered the phrase, "All in." This sprawling 8,000-square-foot facility is the world's largest gambling superstore, stocked with gaming tables, roulette wheels, antique and current slot machines, retired casino cards, dice, chips, vintage signs, posters, and a library of books.

The popularity of televised poker tournaments has created a whole new customer base for Gamblers General Store. "Poker doesn't seem intimidating since it's in people's living rooms, so now families are playing together," says a Gamblers employee. "They buy the equipment and create a little haven in the den or basement. Kids love it because they think they invented a whole new game, and parents love it because they know where the kids are."

■ ■ ■

Secretly, every man older than 35 believes his mother squandered a fortune when she threw out his old baseball cards and comic books. Now they can be reclaimed because somehow they all, it seems, ended up at Dreamwell Comics, a warehouse of childhood treasures. And judging by the reasonable prices, your stack of Archie Comics probably wouldn't have purchased a tropical island anyway. Maybe it's time to lighten up on mom.

Don and Tim Karter have been operating the family-friendly Dreamwell Comics for 21 years, so in the unlikely event you're looking for something they don't have, they'll know how to track it down. They also carry the newest comic titles, collectibles, cards, and an army of action figures.



Zoot suits are not the only fashionable pieces of apparel sold at Valentino's Zootsuit Connection (top three photos). Gamblers General Store is stocked with tables (opposite page) and chips (left), among other gaming-related merchandise. Both stores are located in Las Vegas.

PHOTOS: RANDA BISHOP (BOTTOM); RICK MORTENSEN (REST)





On one hand, there are action figures hewn from muscle and sinew and on the other are figures looking sharp and decked out in sequined crushed velvet. Say hello to the Barry Manilow Bobblehead, available at The Manilow Store inside the Las Vegas Hilton. This is ground zero for all things Manilow. While videos of the pop superstar play on the monitors you can browse among the clothing, jewelry, CDs, commemorative plates, cologne, scented candles, wine, pillowcases, nightshirts, and "Fanilow in Training" T-shirts for toddlers.

As a bonus, the place is loaded with great stocking stuffers. They've got Manilow mints, sun block, cell phone charms, pet collars, pens, golf balls, flip books, and Manilow Ticket Fund piggy banks.

Now, if those hard-to-please folks on your list like their gifts as much as you enjoyed shopping for them, everybody has happy holidays.



Antique slot machines, such as the vintage model shown from the Golden Nugget (top left), are on display at Gamblers General Store. A plethora of Barry Manilow Bobbleheads (top) are available at The Manilow Store inside the Hilton. At left, owners Tim and Don Karter peruse a couple of the many comics on display at Dreamwell Comics. These unique stores are in Las Vegas.

PHOTOS: RANDA BISHOP (FAR LEFT); RICK MORTENSEN (TOP & BOTTOM)

CONTACTS

Valentino's Zootsuit Connection
906 S. 6th St., Ste. 103, Las Vegas
valentinoszootsuitconnection.com
702-383-9555

Gamblers General Store
800 S. Main St., Las Vegas
gamblersgeneralstore.com
800-322-2447

Dreamwell Comics
5706 W. Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas
702-870-1268

The Manilow Store
3000 Paradise Rd., Las Vegas
lvhilton.com
702-732-5149

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LAUGHLIN DESERT CHALLENGE

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Nevada. There might not be universal agreement about how to pronounce it, but there is one common denominator concerning the Silver State—crossing its border practically guarantees a good time. Gaming, shows, bright lights, seemingly endless and undiscovered terrain...Nevada has whatever form of entertainment you're looking for. Following, we cover a mixture of towns that border Arizona, California, Idaho, Oregon, and Utah.

COMMENT ON THIS STORY AT NEVADAMAGAZINE.COM



NORTH LAKE TAHOE



SAND HARBOR, LAKE TAHOE

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE TO NORTH LAKE TAHOE

Whether to start from the south or north might be the toughest decision you make during your time on the east side of Lake Tahoe. Starting in the south at Stateline on U.S. 50, you're in the heart of Tahoe's version of the Strip. Four major resort-casinos (Harrah's, Harveys, Horizon, and MontBleu) provide all the comforts of Nevada: world-class dining and entertainment and gaming galore. For a more low-key experience, check out Bill's and Lakeside Inn.

One-half block west of the state line is the Heavenly Lake Tahoe Gondola. The eight-passenger cabins take guests more than two miles up the mountain in 12 minutes while they enjoy views of Lake Tahoe. The gondola accesses the Heavenly Flyer, a ZipRider experience, at Adventure Peak. Open year-round, the high-speed thrill ride has a vertical drop of 525 feet and is the longest ZipRider in the lower 48 states. On the ground, there are nine Heavenly Sports shops in a village atmosphere (*skiheavenly.com*).

In the warm months, Edgewood-Tahoe Golf Course, home of the annual American Century Celebrity Golf Championship, is worth a play if you have the time. Legendary architect George Fazio designed the course.

As you head north on U.S. 50—a State Scenic Byway—you will be overwhelmed with the beautiful views and possibilities for adventure. Lake Tahoe Cruises and Zephyr Cove Resort offer cruises, snowmobiling, aqua ski shuttles, and more. The *M.S. Dixie II* and *Tahoe Queen*—she just turned 25 and is newly renovated—run regularly (*zephyrcove.com*).

Continuing north, Spooner Lake (make sure you turn left on State Route 28), is popular for picnicking, hiking, mountain biking, fishing, and cross-country skiing. Another beautiful small mountain lake, Marlette, can be hiked to from Spooner. Two of the more popular trails in this area are the Flume Trail and the Tahoe Rim Trail along the crest of the Carson Range. Lake Tahoe-Nevada State Park (*parks.nv.gov*) offers a multitude of areas for visitors to enjoy. Sand Harbor is the most popular, with sandy beaches, a boat launch, picnicking, and group-use facilities. During July and August, you can catch the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival at Sand Harbor.

Named for the Great Incline Tramway built by loggers in 1878, Incline Village (13 miles north of the U.S. 50/S.R. 28 junction) is where some of the country's wealthiest people have built mountain retreats. This community features some of Tahoe's most inviting beaches, and the Thomas J. Long Foundation Education Center, inside the Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences, is worth a visit if you want to explore the science behind green living. Winter sees snow lovers trooping to Diamond Peak (inside the city limits) and Mt. Rose Ski Tahoe—via S.R. 431 toward Reno. The Thunderbird Lodge, former home of millionaire George Whittell Jr., is open for tours (by land or water) from June through September.

Finally, Crystal Bay, like Stateline, accentuates the concept of a border town. You can swim from one state to the other in Cal Neva's swimming pool. The resort's Indian Room, a popular meeting place, also splits both states. Frank Sinatra, Marilyn Monroe, Jack Kennedy, and Sam Giancana played here in the '60s. Crystal Bay has four energetic casinos with lodging, dining, and live entertainment.

—Information courtesy of visiting laketahoe.com and other listed sites

LAKE TAHOE
Max. elevation: **6,229 ft.**
Avg. snowfall: **300"-500"**
Ski trails: **182**
Jan./July avg. high: **41°/79°**
Web site: **visitinglaketahoe.com**
Phone: **800-AT-TAHOE** (south), **888-434-1262** (north)

LAUGHLIN

The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, in conjunction with the Laughlin Visitors Bureau, recently introduced its new campaign for Laughlin, a Southern Nevada border town: "Laughlin. It's Like You Own the Place." About 90 miles south of Las Vegas off S.R. 163, the town's re-energized brand and renewed vision emphasize the VIP treatment, convenience, and affordability that guests experience in Laughlin, separated from Arizona by the Colorado River.

A getaway to Laughlin combines the excitement of a casino destination with the beauty, ambiance, and recreation of the Colorado River. From riding the waves on jet skis to relaxing in a poolside cabana, the town has become a popular retreat for snowbirds who want to escape the harsh winters in northern states. Winter Break, January 9-15 (aimed at the over-50 crowd), is a weeklong series of events, including a bowling tournament, car rally, wine tasting, and Polar Bear Club dip in the river.

Named for Don Laughlin, who purchased a motel and bar (now the Riverside Resort) in the area in 1964, the town boasts nine hotel-casinos with more than 10,000 rooms. The Riverside Resort's 34-lane bowling center features glow-in-the-dark "cosmic bowling." At the same casino, more than 70 classic and rare cars, trucks, and motorcycles are on display in the Riverside Resort Classic Auto Showrooms. At the Aquarius Casino Resort, each of the 1,907 hotel rooms are nearly renovated to be more spacious and offer additional top-of-the-line amenities, including granite countertops and cherry wood vanities.





Situated on the shore of the Colorado River five miles south of Laughlin at Nevada's southern tip is Big Bend State Recreation Area. The park, operational during daylight hours only, offers dramatic views of the river and surrounding mountains. Popular activities are picnicking, boating, fishing, and swimming. Another outdoorsmen's paradise is the Lake Mohave/Lake Mead National Recreation Area. A few miles north of Laughlin's casino row, Lake Mohave's 200 miles of shoreline is etched with hundreds of coves and secluded areas. The lake is rich in wildlife and offers an abundance of recreational opportunities such as fishing, boating, waterskiing, swimming, scuba diving, camping, and hiking. Many of these activities can be enjoyed all year round due to the area's warm climate. Lake Mead, formed by the Hoover Dam, is the country's largest manmade lake, with 550 miles of shoreline. Lakes Mead and Mohave comprise the Lake Mead National Recreation Area and are operated by the National Park Service.

Laughlin has become one of the leading special events destinations in the southwest. Laughlin's River Stampede PRCA Rodeo, Xtreme Bulls event, and SCORE International Off-Road Racing offer something for every adventurous spectator. For shoppers, the Preferred Outlets of Laughlin, with more than 60 merchants, is a must-do, and when your feet get tired, you can catch a movie at Stadium 9 Cinemas. If you're good on the links, there are five championship courses in the area.—*Information courtesy of visitlaughlin.com*

LAUGHLIN
Established: **1968**
Population: **7,076**
Elevation: **535 ft.**
Jan./July avg. high: **63°/108°**
Web site: **visitlaughlin.com**
Phone: **800-4-LAUGHLIN**



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WEST WENDOVER



Straddling the Nevada-Utah line, Wendover emerged in the early 1900s as a railroad stop for steam locomotives refilling with water before the long, dry trek across the Bonneville Salt Flats. Wendover actually encompasses two municipalities bisected by the Nevada-Utah border. The original settlement was in Utah, but the Nevada side, officially West Wendover, has become the irresistible, action-packed little brother.

During World War II, the Wendover Air Field was established as an Army Air Corps Base. It was subsequently selected as the headquarters for the top-secret mission in which America dropped atomic bombs on Japan. Wendover's isolation provided the ideal locale for a mission requiring such secrecy, and the area became home to more than 20,000 soldiers. After the war and the base's eventual decommissioning, Wendover slipped into relative obscurity, becoming a dusty stop for weary travelers along U.S. 40, or the "Victory Highway."

Wendover might still be a wide spot in the road had Bill Smith not decided in the 1930s to renovate a gas station and motel (today the Wendover Nugget) on the Nevada side and throw in a few slot machines. As gaming became a more accepted and popular form of entertainment, the Salt Lake Valley's growing population looked west, and people soon discovered a place less than two hours away to try their luck. The community on the Nevada side has exploded from an unincorporated township so small the 1980 Census didn't bother to count it to today's town of more than 5,500 residents.

Wendover's five resort-casinos sport all of the amenities—from pools and health spas to elaborate buffets and nightlife—Nevada visitors have come to expect. The most recent entertainment addition, the $19-million, 1,000-seat Peppermill Concert Hall, promises "Vegas Entertainment—Only Closer." Wayne Newton, Willie Nelson, Jay Leno, Bill Cosby, and Bill Engvall have performed at the venue since its opening.

Even if it's mostly green felt and cabarets that attract visitors to West Wendover, those who venture beyond its neon-shrouded hotels will find an area rich in history and outdoor recreation. Efforts are underway to restore the historic airfield, which already has a museum, and the town's visitor center is replete with exhibits on local history, geography, and events.

Hikers can take to the recently opened Leppy Hills Trail System, offering spectacular views of the surrounding valley and nearby salt flats. The flats also provide a science lesson—you can observe the curvature of the earth. A popular vista west of town provides an unobstructed view of Interstate-80 traversing the perfectly flat, salt-encrusted plain. In an optical illusion, cars approaching Wendover actually appear to be going uphill. Each summer, a number of motor sports events are held at Bonneville Speedway, an area of the Bonneville Salt Flats. Numerous land speed records have been set there.

The Wendover area is a prime flyway for migratory birds. The nearby Goshute Mountain Watchable Wildlife Area is the premier spot for viewing up to 18 species. Also south of town is spring-fed Blue Lake—its deep warm water has made it a renowned destination for scuba divers.
—KURT MARKO

WEST WENDOVER
Established: **1906 (Wendover)**
Population: **5,500-plus**
Elevation: **4,255 ft.**
Jan./July avg. high: **35°/91°**
Web site: **westwendovercity.com**
Phone: **775-664-3138**

PHOTO: TERRY CYNAR





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JACKPOT

Perhaps nowhere is the convergence of frontier ethos and vacation getaway more apparent than the little burg of Jackpot. South of the Idaho border on U.S. 93, its modest founding sprang from entrepreneurs seeking a new start after Idaho outlawed gaming in 1953. Jackpot's progenitor, Peter Piersanti, opened a small gas station with slot machines, founding the eponymous establishment, Cactus Petes, that's become synonymous with the town ever since. Piersanti, who named the unincorporated town, hit a jackpot himself, as the town has grown into a gaming, recreation, and entertainment destination for Southern Idaho and beyond.

Today, Jackpot is anchored by the 300-room Cactus Petes resort and casino, which features all the amenities tourists expect in a Four-Diamond destination, from A-list entertainment and newly remodeled rooms to a lush pool area and candlelit dining room. Jackpot's four other casino-motels ensure that everyone from the weary traveler to the fun-seeking cowboy is sure to find an appealing spot. For those hauling their own accommodations, the town offers an RV park with full hook-ups, and the airport, with a 6,000-foot runway, makes for a convenient fly-in overnighter.

Jackpot is often packed on weekends with folks from Boise to Idaho Falls streaming down like a caravan for Nevada-style entertainment. Yet Jackpot isn't just a slot palace for turnaround buses, it's also a worthy hangout for sportsmen. Nearby Salmon Falls Creek Reservoir, accessible just a few miles north off U.S. 93, is renowned as one of the best walleye fisheries in the region and also is home to a variety of other species, including trout, Chinook and Kokanee salmon, perch, crappie, channel catfish, and smallmouth bass. The open range around Jackpot also is a favorite of hunters—conventional and bow—out for everything from big game, such as deer, antelope, and elk, to upland birds.

Jackpot's mile-high elevation means that summer afternoons aren't as sizzling as elsewhere in Nevada, with nights bordering on chilly and mornings pleasantly mild—ideal conditions for enjoying a round of golf. Jackpot's 18-hole course, an island of emerald turf and evergreens amidst the surrounding native sage and grasses, yields a layout that's challenging, yet not overwhelming for the novice.

Those same temperate summer evenings provide ideal conditions for concerts at Cactus Petes' outdoor amphitheater. As the sun dips beneath the western hills, music lovers can enjoy the sounds of major entertainers from country stars like Willie Nelson and Tanya Tucker to classic rock bands like Foreigner and ZZ Top. During the chillier months the acts move indoors to Cactus Petes' intimate Gala Showroom, where even the cheap seats feel like being stage-side.

The plateaus around Jackpot may look like scenes from a spaghetti western, but those majestic vistas provide a backdrop to one of the most popular border towns in Northern Nevada. Vacationers looking for a break from the more crowded tourist destinations will find its western hospitality and rich entertainment options a winning combination.

—KURT MARKO

JACKPOT
Established: **1954**
Population: **144**
Elevation: **5,240 ft.**
Jan./July avg. high: **38°/85°**
Web site: **jackpot-nevada.net**
Phone: **775-755-2229**

STOP AT BOOMTOWN CASINO HOTEL ON YOUR WAY TO RENO

As you make your way on Interstate 80 East into Reno, one of the first signs that you've entered the gaming mecca of Nevada is Boomtown Casino Hotel. Plans are in the works to upgrade some of the property's 318 guest rooms. Dining options vary from Cassidy's Steakhouse, The Sundance Café, and Silver Screen Buffet. Children will enjoy the Fun Center, with an arcade featuring more than 30,000 square feet of exciting games, including a climbing wall, flight simulator, and antique carousel. The 3D Motion Theater, the first in the world to be all-digital, has booming sound effects produced by Dolby Digital. boomtownreno.com, 800-648-3790

PHOTO: KURT MARKO



PHOTO: GARY A. REESE

McDERMITT

Located on U.S. 95 near the southern edge of Oregon, this pleasant little town has always been an outpost. Born as a cavalry station during a time of turmoil between settlers and American Indians, the town was named for Colonel McDermitt, the commander of the fort who lost his life in a scuffle with the indigenous residents.

Both the town and the nearby reservation bear McDermitt's name, and the place is an amalgam of Indian culture and cowboy history. It is appropriate, then, that McDermitt's biggest annual events are the Indian Rodeo in June and the Ranch Hand Rodeo, known as the Twin States Stampede, in July. The Twin States Stampede has been held annually for more than 100 years, making it the longest running rodeo in Nevada. Other events such as sack races, egg races, and a tug of war are held after the rodeo. A street dance carries on until the early morning hours.

The rest of the time, though, McDermitt, which straddles the Nevada-Oregon border, enjoys a peaceful serenity punctuated by quiet events at the McDermitt Community Hall. The venue is available for hosting events. With room for more than 100 people, it has been used for small business meetings, conventions, and family reunions.

Like many rural Nevada towns, the still-unincorporated McDermitt enjoyed its share of mining success. Gold, silver, and mercury have all been pulled from its soil, but ranching has always been its mainstay, and sprawling cattle operations abound in the vicinity. The old McDermitt jail, built in 1890, is shown by appointment, and people are allowed inside for pictures. One original Fort McDermitt building survives on the nearby reservation and still is used for occasional get-togethers.—*Information courtesy of cowboycountry.org*

McDERMITT
Established: **1860**
Population: **269**
Elevation: **4,424 ft.**
Jan./July avg. high: **39°/89°**
Web site: **cowboycountry.org**
Phone: **877-626-9269, ext. 650**









FLIGHTLINE BRINGS ECO-ADVENTURE TO BOULDER CITY

Just a short drive west from the Nevada-Arizona border on U.S. 93 is Boulder City, a town that is quickly becoming one of Southern Nevada's top adventure destinations. The hub of outdoor thrills in the area is Bootleg Canyon, known for its vast expanse of mountain-biking trails. Now, Bootleg Canyon Flightlines is offering another wild ride for residents and tourists. The zipline ride soars up to 50 mph above more than one mile of desert terrain on Red Mountain. You can fly together, side by side, or up to four at a time. An added bonus: This no-trace aerial trail system does not create any carbon emissions, making Bootleg Canyon Flightlines not only one of Nevada's newest, but also greenest, tourist attractions.

CONTACT

Bootleg Canyon Flightlines
bootlegcanyonflightlines.com
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NEVADA ONLINE Read about Nevada Commission on Tourism's David Lusvardi's wild ride on Bootleg Canyon Flightlines at **blog.travelnevada.com.** Lusvardi is pictured above with NCOT colleague Connie Mancillas.

PHOTOS: ALAN O'NEILL/OUTSIDE LAS VEGAS FOUNDATION

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ghosts of christmas past

Friends find holiday cheer in Nevada s nearly-ghost towns



BY TOM STRAKA | PHOTOS BY BOB WYNN

Ghost towns can have the illusion of being dreary places. The highlight can be a lonely cemetery, and usually not a creature is stirring, not even a mouse. But last Christmas season my friend, Las Vegas photographer Bob Wynn, and I found out otherwise. I traveled from my home state of South Carolina to meet Wynn in Nevada, and we set out to explore a handful of almost-ghost towns. The best part of "ghost-towning" is finding relics of the past. We figured the holidays would bring out the best in these townsfolk, and what better place to visit but the local bar?



Good stories and cheery folks were the rule. All the watering holes we visited had fascinating tales. Cherry Creek's saloon started as the Star Bar, Golconda's saloon was originally a railroad building, the Bucket of Blood in Virginia City has a world-class Tiffany chandelier collection, and Gold Hill has ghosts. Christmas decorations varied from simple to grand. The sparkling lights, crackling fireplaces, and friendly crowds created the festive atmosphere we were hoping for; the beer was just an extra treat.





Top: The **Paradise Valley Saloon** was built in 1910 and serves about 300 locals. Above left: You can only feast on lobster tail in big cities? Not true if you find yourself at **Midas Saloon & Dinner House** in Golconda. Festive décor greets visitors to **The Original Bucket of Blood Saloon** in Virginia City (above right) last Christmas.







Friends Bob Wynn and Tom Straka sit in Virginia City's **Original Bucket of Blood Saloon** (above) during their 2007 holiday tour of rural Nevada bars. A few miles away, the **Gold Hill Hotel & Saloon** (left) offers drinks, restaurant-style meals, and a cozy place to stay—ghosts included. Top: Hundreds of dollar bills decorate the ceiling of the bar housed in the nearly 150-year-old Gold Hill building. Not pictured: Straka and Wynn also visited the Cherry Creek Barrel Saloon, north of Ely.

CONTACTS

The Original Bucket of Blood Saloon
1 S. C St., Virginia City
775-847-0322
bucketofbloodsaloonvc.com

Gold Hill Hotel & Saloon
Hwy. 342, Virginia City
775-847-0111
goldhillhotel.net

Paradise Valley Saloon
95 S. Main St.,
Paradise Valley
775-578-3090

Midas Saloon & Dinner House
100 Main St., Golconda
775-529-0203



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Jean-Philippe Patisserie's Yule Log

# of chocolate

A sweet-tooth tour of Las Vegas that will tickle your taste buds

BY ROGER NAYLOR

You can follow your heart or be led around by the nose, but no part of the anatomy provides such a strong navigational signal as the sweet tooth. Fortunately, visitors to the Las Vegas Strip have plenty of opportunities to indulge that insatiable incisor, and perhaps do some holiday shopping at the same time.



NEVADA ONLINE

Jean Philippe Pâtisserie's chocolate fountain (right) is officially the largest in the world as certified by Guinness World Records. Read more, including a listing of more chocolate-themed venues around Nevada, at **nevadamagazine.com**.





DID YOU KNOW...

All four of the chocolate shops mentioned in the story ship their products, in case you can't see these sugary creations in person. Refer to contact information on opposite page to make orders.

When it comes to temptations, Jean-Philippe Pâtisserie in Bellagio shows no mercy. The world's largest chocolate fountain sits in the doorway, like an enormous Wonka-esque shill, luring passersby. Plus, the place opens at 7 a.m. so you can visit for a breakfast that will put cocoa cereal to shame.

Sure, you'll tell yourself it's just to grab a delicious ham and cheese croissant, but even you're not fooled. You'll chase the croissant with a sweet crepe stuffed with Nutella and whipped cream, maybe a scoop of tiramisu gelato, then order a slice of white chocolate cheesecake and a box of rose macaroons to go. Now *that's* the Breakfast of (Chocolate) Champions.

World Pastry Competition champion Jean-Philippe Maury is the guiding force behind this European-style shop that serves sandwiches and salads, in addition to exquisite desserts. Everything is made fresh in the kitchen below the store. Café tables arranged around a circular bar provide an undisturbed view of every handcrafted morsel.

Bacon and chocolate? How can something that sounds so wrong taste so right? "It sounds weird, but you bite into creamy chocolate, and suddenly there's a crunch of salty, smoky bacon that's just incredible," says customer Jenny Gavin of Tucson as she peruses the offerings at Vosges Haut-Chocolat in the Forum Shops at Caesars Palace.

Gavin also purchases a box of signature truffles, the collection that started it all for owner and founder Katrina Markoff when she paired her divine chocolate with such exotic ingredients as wasabi, ginger, candied violet flowers, Hungarian paprika, and fennel. The result is a roller coaster ride for your taste buds.

While the salon has a distinctively upscale feel, the gracious staff is quick to offer free samples of the yummy and sometimes surprising selections. Open your mind and your mouth will quickly follow.

Walking into the Chocolate Swan at Mandalay Bay transports you into a different era. Classic creations—each defined by lavish craftsmanship—fill the display case of this family-owned business. Delicacies such as Death by Chocolate, carrot cake, English toffee, hand-rolled truffles, chocolate éclairs the size of yule logs, and silky smooth frozen custard tempt customers.

PHOTOS: RICK MORTENSEN (TOP; OPPOSITE PAGE: TOP & BOTTOM LEFT)













Top to bottom: Jean-Philippe Maury, master pâtisserie chef, Jean-Philippe Pâtisserie; Katrina Markoff, owner and founder, Vosges Haut-Chocolat; Mary Basta, owner and pastry chef, Chocolate Swan; and Jin Caldwell, pastry chef, Ethel's Chocolate Lounge

CONTACTS

Jean-Philippe Pâtisserie
3600 Las Vegas Blvd. S.,
Las Vegas
702-693-8788
bellagio.com

Vosges Haut-Chocolat
3500 Las Vegas Blvd. S.,
Las Vegas
702-836-9866
vosgeschocolate.com

Chocolate Swan
3950 Las Vegas Blvd. S.,
Las Vegas
702-632-9366
chocolateswan.com

Ethel's Chocolate Lounge
3200 Las Vegas Blvd. S.,
Las Vegas
702-796-6662
ethelschocolate.com



DREAMING OF A CHOCOLATE CHRISTMAS

While Las Vegans seldom experience a white Christmas, chocolate Christmases are guaranteed and just a short drive away. For the 15th consecutive year, Ethel M Chocolate Factory and Botanical Cactus Gardens raises the ante on festivity. Ethel M swaddles its three acres of desert plants in a half-million twinkling lights, brings in carolers, creates a collection of seasonal favorites, and passes out free samples.

It's all part of "Chocolate Wonderland," and it's free to the public. The event takes place from November 19 to January 1 from 5 to 10 p.m. daily. On Fridays and Saturdays, Santa Claus will be on hand.

CONTACT

Ethel M Chocolate Factory
and Botanical Cactus Gardens
2 Cactus Garden Dr., Henderson
13 miles from Las Vegas
800-471-0352, 800-680-0150
ethelschocolate.com

Mary and Robert Basta operated the Chocolate Swan in Elm Grove, Wisconsin for two decades before being wooed by Mandalay Bay. They make everything from scratch using only the finest ingredients. According to Robert, it's the only way they know. "It's not about the sugar or the sweetness, it's the intensity of flavors that makes our products stand out," he says. "So you don't have to go overboard. Even a few bites can be extremely satisfying."

Note to guys: forget flowers and candlelight dinners. To truly impress that special someone, take her to Ethel's Chocolate Lounge in Fashion Show Mall for fondue. Relax on plush sofas, sip frothy cocoa drinks, and stare into each other's eyes while the staff attends to your every chocolate craving. Congratulations. For less than you'd spend on popcorn and a movie, you just secured a reputation as a genuine romantic icon.

Each artisan piece of chocolate is handmade at nearby Ethel M Chocolate Factory. The savory confections are grouped by families, such as the American Pop Collection, featuring childhood favorites like apple pie, cinna-swirl, and peanut butter and jelly. Ethel's also produces a line of holiday treats that include cranberry, gingerbread, and egg nog. And when it comes to stocking stuffers, nothing beats Ethel's sinfully addictive pecan brittle.



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a house of straw

With the help of friends a Minden woman raises the walls for her eco-friendly home

BY JOYCE HOLLISTER





PHOTOS: JOYCE MARSHALL



Constance Alexander wakes up every morning at 5. In winter, she switches on the electric baseboard heat—but not for long. After the sun comes up and begins to shine through her south-facing windows, she flicks the heat off. She may not need to turn it on again until the next morning.

Alexander's straw-bale, all-electric home in Minden is warmed courtesy of Nevada's consistent winter sun, and her house's thick stucco-finished walls hold the heat for hours. Alexander only pays for power from January to May. During the rest of the year, 14 solar panels on the roof generate electricity to run her lights and appliances, and the power company banks the excess in a process known as net metering.

When it's cold, Constance Alexander likes to sit on the deep windowsill in her living room and read (above). The window faces south, and the low-angled sun heats up the tiles. Opposite page: Matts Myhrman, wearing a hat in the lower left photo, directed the wall raising of Alexander's post-and-beam straw-bale house in 1996. About 50 friends helped (top and lower right).

PHOTO: JAY ALDRICH

COMMENT ON THIS STORY AT NEVADAMAGAZINE.COM





Humans have built naturally temperature-controlled homes for millennia—think mud huts and packed-earth dwellings. More recent builders have used straw bales for their effective insulation, and many high-end, custom homes feature straw walls. Above: Constance Alexander designed her modest 924-square-foot house. Right: A Solatube directs sunlight into her kitchen, which has pine cabinets and countertops made of renewable materials.

In summer, Alexander's routine is reversed. At 5 a.m. she opens her windows, letting in the cool high-desert air, and closes them as the temperature rises. The walls and the tile-covered concrete floors keep the house no more than 76 degrees the rest of the day, even if it's 100 outside. "This kind of house is ideal for Nevada because of the temperature extremes here," she says.

Alexander's straw-bale home was the result of years of study and a little help from her friends. She had been researching how to build a house for most of her life. "Literally," the retired Carson Valley librarian says, "I was in the eighth grade when I drew my first floor plans."

It wasn't until the gas crisis of the 1970s, however, that she focused her attention on what is known today as green building. Because of the rising cost of fuel, pioneering eco-builders developed ways to heat and cool houses as naturally as possible while also conserving natural resources.

Alexander spent about two decades investigating environmentally friendly construction techniques. After taking workshops and reading several *Sunset* publications on passive-solar technology, Alexander settled on straw as her building material. "About 1992 I started really looking into how much square footage I needed, what I didn't need, and how much it would take to be comfortable but not use up the world's resources," Alexander says.

She designed a compact 924-square-foot rectangular house, and a friend and colleague, Christy Tews, drew the floor plans on a computer. An engineer checked the final drawings, and Douglas County gave her its first building permit for a straw-bale house.

On a spring day in 1996, about 50

PHOTOS: JAY ALDRICH





Kuan Yin, the Buddhist goddess of compassion (left), presides over a side garden at Alexander's home. The lattice fence provides a backdrop for the statue and screens her covered porch, which is a pleasant spot to sit in the summer. Above: The light reflecting from the stucco walls creates serene surroundings for the Buddhist sitting group that Alexander hosts once a week. Living green has become a lifestyle for the retired Carson Valley librarian.

of her friends helped stack the walls of straw, which were custom-baled to uniform size by John Ritter, a Yerington farmer. The wall-raising volunteers were divided into teams, with a captain for each wall. Matts Myhrman, an innovator in straw-bale construction whom Alexander met at a workshop, oversaw the work. "To me, one of the best aspects of the house is the fact that it was built by friends," she says.

The foundation, framing, roof, and interior work were directed by Mike McCormick, a local contractor who had never worked on a straw-bale house but was game to try. The construction took about four months.

The house has an L-shaped living-dining area with a kitchen, one bedroom (which Alexander shares with an elderly dog and a cat), a bathroom with tiled shower, and a large walk-in closet. A solarium with a six-foot, south-facing sliding door connects the major living spaces. Heat builds up in the solarium and funnels into other parts of the house. Alexander's art collection and murals painted by a friend decorate the stucco walls.

Because straw bales, and thus the walls, are two feet wide, the deep windowsills create space for plants and books. Alexander finds that in winter the porcelain-tiled window seat is a toasty spot to read. The covered patio on the north side of the house offers a shady place to sit in the summer.

Alexander's commitment to ecologically oriented living extends to her use of mostly natural and recycled materials. The pine kitchen cabinets have countertops made of Trespa, a renewable product. She has a toilet that uses three-quarters of a gallon to flush (most modern low-flow toilets use 1.6 gallons),



Alexander works at her desk in the solarium. The winter sun pours through the sliding doors at left. The door into the living room and windows in the walls between the living and kitchen areas circulate warm air.

a low-energy refrigerator and low-water-use washer, on-demand water heater, and no dryer—she hangs her laundry outside. Solatubes direct sunlight from the roof through reflective tubes to illuminate the windowless bathroom and closet.

McCormick, Alexander's contractor, has spent the last several years in the standard construction industry, but he is looking into building his own straw-bale home now, for two reasons. "I love the idea of using the easily replenishable bales with their high insulation value, and I love the unique design opportunities afforded by the bales," he says.

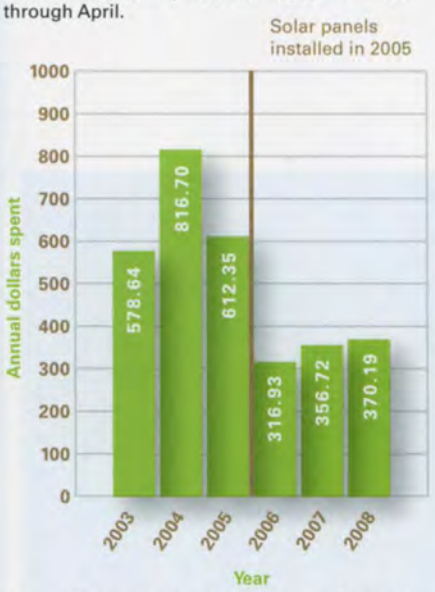
Straw-bale and other eco-friendly construction materials and techniques have improved over the dozen years since Alexander built her house. And she readily admits to making mistakes—she wishes, for instance, she had installed a woodstove and a deeper roof overhang to block the summer sun. "I know a lot more now," she says.

Alexander will take advantage of her new knowledge next year when she builds another straw-bale house near Grass Valley, California, home of McCormick and his wife, Toni, who have become Alexander's close friends.

The 380-square-foot dwelling will make an even smaller imprint on the planet, Alexander is pleased to note.

Electric bills annually

From January to May, Constance Alexander pays for electricity to help heat her house December through April.



Alexander pays nothing from June to December because she generates more electricity than she uses, which in turn banks enough to pay for her November heating bill.



HOW ALEXANDER LIVES GREEN

- Solar heat & electricity
  - —Solar panels (above)
  - —Solarium
  - —Solatubes
- Straw-bale walls
- Renewable Trespa countertops
- Low-flow toilet (.75 gallons/flush)
- Low-energy refrigerator & low-water-use washer
- No gas or dryer used
- Cloth shopping bags
- Buys mostly organic food

WORTH A CLICK

Nevada green-building resources

sunrisenevada.org

sigba.org

Solar-energy & straw-bale construction

findsolar.com

sustainableguide.com

thelaststraw.org

strawbale.com

PHOTOS: JAY ALDRICH


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NOTABLE NEVADAN

Q&A with Willy Vlautin

Author and rocker imparts his past in his books and music.

BY CALEB CAGE

COMMENT ON THIS STORY AT NEVADAMAGAZINE.COM



In 1996, the now-defunct *No Depression* magazine announced that Willy Vlautin, co-founder of the Richmond Fontaine band, had "relocated to Portland from the musical wasteland of Reno, Nevada." Although the Reno native has not returned to the Biggest Little City to live, the Northern Nevada burg is far from a wasteland to Vlautin given how it has shaped his career.

More than a decade after he left Nevada, Vlautin's music has received high acclaim for its unique alternative-country sound, and his back-to-back novels, *The Motel Life* and *Northline*, have been honored for their simple and gravelly depictions of people surviving challenging conditions. He writes his songs and novels almost exclusively about Nevada and the conflicted relationship that his characters have with Reno and the surrounding landscape.

Vlautin, who spoke with Caleb Cage in July, is a 2007 recipient of the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame Silver Pen Award, granted to successful mid-career writers.

Q Your music and writing are based largely on Reno and the outlying desert, so why did you move to Portland?

A I played in bands in Reno until I was almost 27 [the mid-'90s], but there wasn't really a market for the kind of music I was playing—depressing country and folk songs didn't seem to pack in the crowds. A large part of the reason I stayed in Reno was because the writing teachers at UNR were so nice to me. I played every dive bar in Reno for years, and it was the same five people showing up. I had to move somewhere, and I wanted to stay in the West.

Q What sort of people influenced your writings and songs about Reno and the rest of the state?

A My biggest writing influences have always been guys like Raymond Carver, Larry Brown, Jim Thompson, and William Kennedy. Kennedy embraces Albany, New York to the point that Albany becomes its own character. When I was working on *The Motel Life* and *Northline* I was hoping to do the same with Reno. What inspired me about Nevada was just living there—and as a kid driving around and camping. My mom was a Basque food fanatic, so we'd hit all the Basque restaurants in Northern Nevada, and both my dad and stepdad loved to drive around in the desert. Both would go on about how nice it was, so that rubbed off on me. And then when I turned 21, I fell in love with Reno and the bar/gambling culture.

Q What surprised you most the last time you visited the Biggest Little City?

A I come back so often that it's hard to say. I guess just the growth. The major difference between now and when I left is downtown Reno. It's made a huge comeback. When I left it was on the slide. It felt a lot rougher.

Q Rural Nevada plays a significant role in your writing and music. Do you have a favorite place to go when you are by yourself or when you are touring the state?

A If I had the time and the dough I'd spend most of my year driving around Northern Nevada. It's my favorite area. I've always liked the Black Rock Desert. Jarbidge is a great area, too. My band plays in Winnemucca once in a while, and it's always a great time. Another great area is outside of Belmont—the Monitor Range is really something.

Q What kinds of reactions do you get from people when they hear you describe Reno in your music and books?

A Most of the Reno residents I've met said they thought I hit the rougher side of Reno pretty well. I hope so. I wasted enough years in bars, so I hope I'd at least get that right. In the first two novels I was interested in a certain side of Reno, but the city is more than motels and bars.

Q What's your favorite line about Reno or Nevada in a book or song not written by you?

A Any time someone mentions Reno or a town in Nevada, that's great. But right now the one that comes to mind is by Tom Waits. "I'm driving all the way to Reno on the wrong side of the road." That's a cool line.

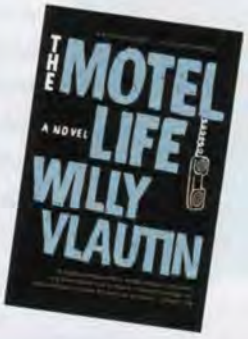
Q I hear *The Motel Life* has been optioned for a movie.

A Actually both novels have been optioned for movies. If they'll be made I don't know. I don't know much about that world. I just know I liked both of the guys who bought the books. Guillermo Arriaga bought *The Motel Life,* and a guy from New York, Jeff Sharp, bought *Northline.*

Q Are you planning any more books about Reno?

A I hope to write at least one more novel set in the area and also a book of short stories. Reno's always a great inspiration. When I'm having a hard time figuring out a story, sometimes I come back to Reno and sit in the downtown library for a week or so. That place has never let me down.





WORTH A READ

Northline
and *The Motel Life*
by Willy Vlautin,
Harper Perennial

NEVADA ONLINE

For more of the interview with Willy Vlautin, visit **nevadamagazine.com**.

SNAPSHOTS



COMPETITOR

Natalie Kaufman

Henderson

Her knife-hand strike can mutilate a 10-inch board, but she will never hear the sound of the crack. First-degree black belt Natalie Kaufman was born profoundly deaf as a result of Waardenburg Syndrome, an inherited disorder usually characterized by some degree of hearing loss. She is dependent on a cochlear implant, a hearing device that sends signals to her brain. But it hasn't discouraged her for a minute—not even during the few moments that it took her to earn the world title at the American Taekwondo Association World Championships, held in Little Rock, Arkansas in June. Kaufman competed against women of her age group and rank in forms, a series of Taekwondo moves consisting of blocks, strikes, and kicks. The 22-year-old UNLV graduate student brought the trophy back to her Henderson home and celebrated a great achievement in her life. "More than anything else, Taekwondo has given me focus and made me a better person," Kaufman says. Visit **ataonline.com** or **martinsata.com** for more information.—MARISA FINETTI



MOSAICIST

Eileen Gay

Sparks

Eileen Gay's artwork doesn't need a gallery, it creates its own. Some of her mosaics are scattered around the Reno area and available for viewing. "In The Chips—Fate, Luck, & Magic," a set of three stacks of giant poker chips, sits in the heart of Reno gaming on Virginia Street near the Reno Arch and the Reno ReTRAC project. At the Washoe County Library Main Branch, also in downtown Reno, her mosaic, "Let Your Mind Soar—Read," is the centerpiece to the main lobby's fountain. The Nevada Arts Council Jackpot Grant funded the piece. "Call of the Panther," a 14-foot double-sided sculpture (below) commissioned by the City of Reno as part of its Public Art Series, was recently awarded the Juror's Award by the Society of American Mosaic Artists. The sculpture can be viewed at Panther Valley Park in north Reno. **mosaicsbyeileen.com**

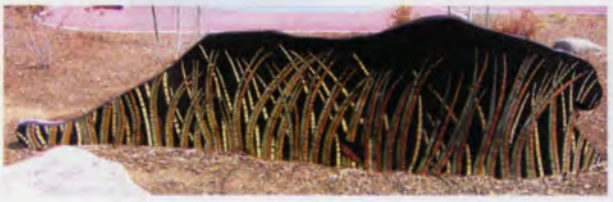




PHOTO: CRAIG FINETTI (TOP)

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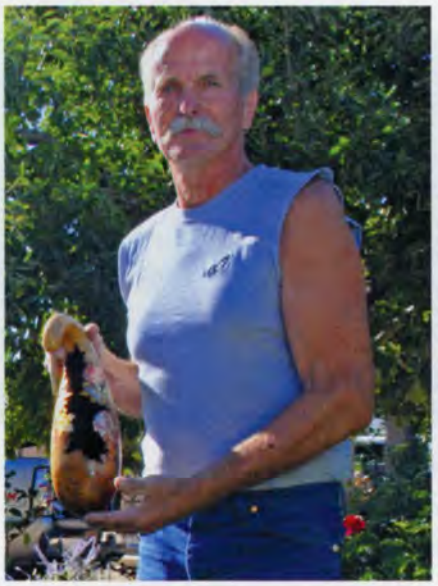


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Clint Appelt

Reno



After 48 years, Reno horseshoer Clint Appelt has pretty much hung up his farrier's equipment and switched to artists' tools. He carves gourds, enhancing his Western and contemporary themes with inlaid glass and gold leaf. More than a year ago, Yevon Logan of the Great Basin Basketmakers taught Appelt how to weave rope baskets, and he is becoming known around the Reno gallery scene for his baskets trimmed with Indian trade beads, feathers, horsehair, and Tonopah turquoise. Appelt only uses rope from Nevada ranchers and cowboys. Horse owners provide mane and tail hair from their favorite steeds to incorporate into baskets, wall mirrors, and clocks. His work can be seen at the Nevada Museum of Art gift shop, Wildflower Village in Reno, and Rogers Cowboy Supply in Sparks. **clintappelt@gmail.com**, 775-677-1498

—JOYCE HOLLISTER

DESSERT KING

Greg Hoch

Minden

"You never see an upset customer with ice cream," says Greg Hoch, founder of Tahoe Creamery. "You see the best of everybody." The Hoch family has a 60-year legacy built around the frozen treat. In 2000, Hoch brought that tradition from Shady Glen Dairy Farm in Manchester, Connecticut to Northern Nevada. Since then, his Minden plant has expanded to include scoop shops in Sparks and at the University of Nevada, Reno, and a mobile shop that makes appearances at local events. A third Nevada shop and expansion over the Sierra into Sacramento are planned for 2009.



Hoch attributes much of Tahoe Creamery's success to the lessons he learned working with his father in Connecticut. "My father, William Hoch, did extensive work with recipes and ingredients," he says. "A lot of what we do at Tahoe Creamery we owe to him." **tahoecreamery.com**

ENTREPRENEUR

Ted Gottlieb

Lake Tahoe

In 21 years, Ted Gottlieb has turned a simple, yet ingenious, idea into a worldwide gaming phenomenon called Win Cards. Designed to assist casinos in introducing new players to live games, the plastic cards are handheld with easy-to-use dials that help gamblers make decisions while playing blackjack, craps, roulette, and baccarat. Gottlieb, president of Gaming International, which produces Win Cards, came up with the idea while working as a dealer at Sahara Tahoe in the 1970s and '80s. "I started wondering what could be done to improve the ways in which casinos familiarize their customers in the basics of how to play," Gottlieb says. During Gaming International's two decades, more than 10 million Win Cards have been sold to 165 casinos across the United States and throughout the world. The cards are available in English, Spanish, French, and Italian. **wincards.com**, 775-588-4222



HONORS

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Tommy Armour III, PGA Tour champion and record holder; Louis Redden, successful amateur golfer; Jerry Roberts, legendary Las Vegas PGA of America professional; Eric Dutt, successful amateur player and course operator.

A ceremony to honor the inductees was held October 14 at the TPC Summerlin clubhouse in Las Vegas. **lasvegasgolfhof.com**, 702-270-9630

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PHOTOS BY JOSEPH ROYER



Colorful memories throughout the winter season.



Winter months in Lincoln County provide many refreshing experiences. The cool air signals upcoming holidays, old-fashioned craft fairs, Christmas tree cuttings and nostalgic small-town celebrations. For those experiencing "cabin fever," hiking a mountain trail covered in fresh snow just might be the remedy. And of course there's a hot cup of cocoa or apple cider to end the day. Visit Lincoln County to experience all these wonderful winter traditions.

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CALIENTE

Caliente is the only incorporated community in Lincoln County. For more than 40 years, Caliente was one of the major division points on the railroad line. Evidence of its historical roots can be seen in the mission-style Caliente Railroad station.



nevada on their minds

Three authors whose Silver State connections are revealed in their work.

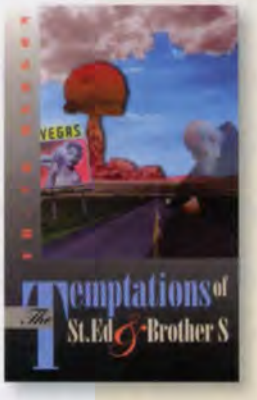
BY PATRICIA COOPER-SMITH



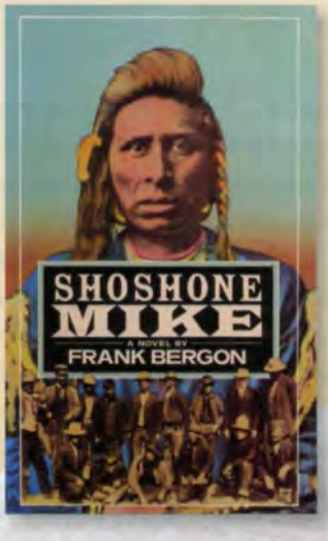
For some writers, Nevada—specifically its land and people—is at the heart of their work. Whether Nevada-born, residents, or living elsewhere, these writers embrace Nevada and use memory and personal experience to tell stories that entertain, provoke, and delight readers. Following is a look at three intriguing Nevada authors: Frank Bergon, Phyllis Barber, and H. Lee Barnes. All bring their history with Nevada alive in their writing.

Ely-born Frank Bergon draws on his Nevada-Basque heritage in *Shoshone Mike* (1987), *The Temptations of St. Ed & Brother S* (1993), and *Wild Game* (1995). Bergon spent nearly 10 years researching and writing *Shoshone Mike*. That experience "gave me my first sense of a landscape with a history," says the New York resident. In the process, he "fell in love with Nevada all over again." The massacre of Shoshone Mike and his family occurred in 1911 near Battle Mountain. "That's the year my mother was born and where my Basque grandparents settled," Bergon says.





The Temptations of St. Ed & Brother S and *Wild Game* came out of Bergon's decade of research. Set in the 1990s, *St. Ed & Brother S* chronicles the conflict between two monks and the federal government over the construction of a nuclear waste dump in the Nevada desert. Bergon takes the reader on a tour of south central Nevada, where the spiritual energy of the monastery and nuclear policy collide. In *Wild Game*, Bergon fictionalizes the 1981 killing of two Idaho game wardens by self-styled mountain man Claude Dallas. Set in the High Rock Canyon of the Black Rock Desert northeast of Reno, this thriller also confronts the issue of open space and government control of public lands.

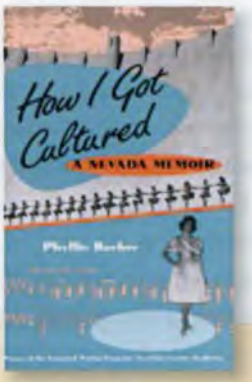


Bergon and his large Basque family are deeply rooted in Nevada. He remembers, "As a child, I often visited my grandmother in Battle Mountain, where she ran the Midway Hotel into her 80s." In 1998, Bergon was inducted into the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame. He teaches at New York's Vassar College and is working on a novel set in California's San Joaquin Valley. Fittingly, the main characters are Basque, and one is from Nevada.

In Phyllis Barber's pithy *How I Got Cultured: A Nevada Memoir* (1992), she remembers her Mormon childhood in Boulder City and Las Vegas. Barber's description of above-ground nuclear testing is chilling as told by an innocent child. After watching the nuclear mushroom cloud, young Phyllis says, "I thought it would last longer. Won't they do it again?" Her father assures her, "Nobody can get us now." Barber's short stories in *The School of Love* (1990) and *Parting the Veil: Stories from a Mormon Imagination* (1999) are plain-spoken and filled with people yearning for something beyond the bone-white desert and struggling to raise families and make

ends meet. Barber defines "parting the veil" as the space "between heaven and earth." In her story *Wild Sage*, that space, often laced with threads of doubt and superstition, is what Barber calls the "soft side of God."

Coming soon is *Raw Edges*, a new memoir that continues Barber's story of Southern Nevada life. She describes it as "a coming-of-age-in-middle-age book." Barber says, "Nevada is one of the layers of my skin, and I feel its pull on me when I'm contemplating what to write next." In 2005, Barber was inducted into the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame. She lives in Denver and is working on a book of essays covering her travels to places where, she says, "I have connected with people seeking the divine."





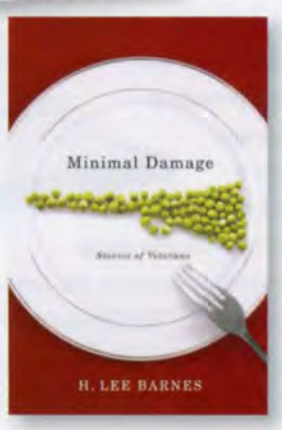
After watching the nuclear mushroom cloud, young Phyllis says, "I thought it would last longer. Won't they do it again?" Her father assures her, "Nobody can get us now."

– PHYLLIS BARBER'S *HOW I GOT CULTURED: A NEVADA MEMOIR*

H. Lee Barnes, from Las Vegas, is a workingman's writer whose characters come out of his past as a Vietnam vet, deputy sheriff, narcotics agent, private investigator, construction worker, and casino employee. He arrived in Las Vegas after serving in the war and never left. Barnes' novel, *The Lucky* (2003), is old Vegas. Willy Bobbins, the sometimes good-hearted gangster who owns The Lucky casino, is an icon from Nevada's early gaming era. Barnes calls Bobbins, who runs The Lucky as a benevolent dictator, a "maverick gambler spirit." *The Lucky* is an old-fashioned story where being good can be bad and being bad is sometimes good. Barnes says that "Nevada in the 1960s, '70s, and '80s was a stopover place; it took a different kind of person to stay." Or, as a character in *The Lucky* says, "People seek Las Vegas when they don't have a home."



The characters who run through *The Lucky* and Barnes' short stories are "different" people; they grab the reader and hang on. Barnes' stories shift from Vietnam to Nevada, using elements from both of his experiences. His characters, often fractured by war, find refuge in the Silver State. Pate, the protagonist of Barnes' novella *Snake Boy*, is a drug-addled Vietnam vet who becomes trapped by a traveling evangelical circus headed for Pyramid Lake. Snake Boy's charges are 12 large rattlesnakes, each named after an apostle. Sin, redemption, and hypocrisy are constant companions.



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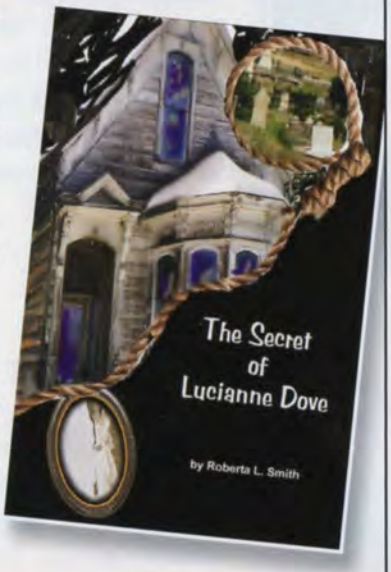
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Barnes has rewritten *Snake Boy* into a screenplay and is negotiating his film rights.

Barnes teaches English and creative writing at the College of Southern Nevada. He is writing a short story collection "about people who love in quirky ways." The working title is *Love, sort of.*

Memory is a powerful magnet, pulling each of us back to the place where an event occurred. In a writer's hand, memory, coupled with a new way of looking at a character or event, becomes a creative tool. The small town, the odd relative, or the stranger-than-fiction news story become something else, something that surprises or returns you to your own experience. These are Nevada writers—each has a personal experience with Nevada. Not surprisingly, Nevada is inside the writing.

WORTH A CLICK

Nevada Writers Hall of Fame
library.unr.edu/friends/hallfame

Online Nevada Encyclopedia
onlinenevada.org

Nevada Travel Bookstore
nevadatravel.net/bookstore

ABOUT the AUTHORS



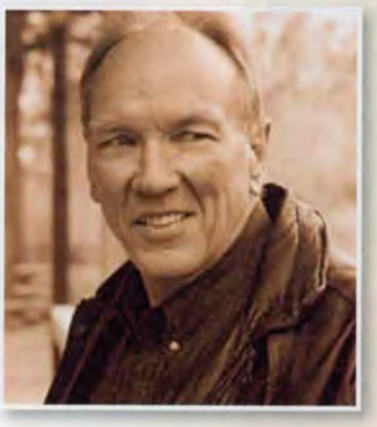
Frank BERGON

Fiction writer, editor, & literary critic
Residence: Highland, New York
Born: Ely (1943)
Of interest: *Shoshone Mike* (1987), *The Wilderness Reader* (1980)
Induction into Nevada Writers Hall of Fame: 1998



Phyllis BARBER

Memoirist & short-story writer
Residence: Denver
Born: Henderson (1943)
Of interest: *How I Got Cultured: A Nevada Memoir* (1992), *School of Love* (1990)
Induction into Nevada Writers Hall of Fame: 2005



H. Lee BARNES

Fiction & short-story writer
Residence: Las Vegas
Born: Moscow, Idaho (1944)
Of interest: *The Lucky* (2003), *Minimal Damage: Stories of Veterans* (2007)
Finalist: Western Writers of America Fiction Award

battle-born books

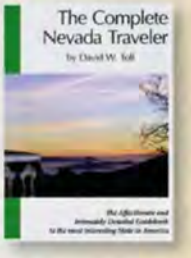
Give the gift of Silver State literature this year

Historic Photos of Las Vegas, text and captions by Jeff Burbank. Turner Publishing, turnerpublishing.com, 615-255-2665. 216 pages, 200 b&w photos. Watch Las Vegas grow from its meager beginnings as a scattering of tents called Ragtown, to its mob-run days as Glitter Gultch, into the modern mega-resort juggernaut that is the largest American city to be developed entirely within the 20th century. Would Sin City by any other name conjure images of one of the world's premier travel destinations? Maybe not, but it's interesting to know how it got there.



Historic Photos of Reno, text and captions by Donnelyn Curtis. Turner Publishing, turnerpublishing.com, 615-255-2665. 216 pages, 200 b&w photos. The Biggest Little City has come a long way since its days as a tiny settlement at Lake's Crossing on the Truckee River. Follow the city through its early years of loose gambling regulations, prize fighting, and easy divorce to its emergence as a tourist destination and urban center. There will be a book signing with Curtis on November 8 at Sundance Bookstore in Reno.

The Complete Nevada Traveler, by David Toll. Gold Hill Publishing, nevadatravel.net, 775-847-0222. 256 pages, 250 b&w photos. Don't let the "traveler" in the title fool you. This guide, now in its 15th edition, could even teach most native Nevadans a thing or two. From Alamo to Zephyr Cove and everything between, this is the definitive guide to the Silver State. The book also includes a listing of visitors centers and chambers of commerce to help you plan your next Nevada getaway.



Literary Nevada: Writings from the Silver State, edited by Cheryll Glotfelty. University of Nevada Press, unpress.nevada.edu, 775-784-6573. 896 pages, 35 b&w photos. This state anthology contains more than 200 writings ranging from Native American legends, explorer and emigrant diaries, and writings from the Comstock Lode and other mining boomtowns. Works from well-known Nevada writers such as Mark Twain and Robert Laxalt, atomic testing, rural and urban life, and cowboy poetry are also featured.



Mines, Minerals & Mustangs: Nevada's Living Legends—Wild Horses and Dreams of Gold, by John and Jeannette Kerr. Focal Impressions, jjkerr.com. 176 pages, 149 color photos. Nevada explorers John and Jeannette Kerr take readers along as they visit Nevada's unique places and observe one of the state's symbolic animals. The photographer-geologist duo shares their experiences following wild mustangs, hunting for ghost towns and abandoned mines, and meeting fascinating Nevadans.



Golf Las Vegas: The Ultimate Guide, by Ken Van Vechten. Huntington Press, huntingtonpress.com, 702-252-0655. 240 pages. With nearly 60 golf resorts in the Las Vegas area, finding the one for you could seem like a daunting task. Luckily, Van Vechten will guide you through the process. Find everything you need to know, including all the basics expected in any golf guide, such as par, rating, and slope of holes; when to go; plus places to stay and eat—all told by an experienced Las Vegas golfer.



Visit individual Web sites or call for prices. For more Nevada book reviews, visit **nevadamagazine.com**.



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Nevada on Parade

December 4-7 is a magical kickoff to the holiday season in Nevada. Check out *Nevada Magazine's* Holiday Events Guide starting on page 72. Not only will you find information on traditional "Nutcracker" productions, but also more than a dozen cities hosting night parades and festivals, beginning with the Silver and Snowflake Festival of Lights in Carson City on December 4. From decorated boats and yachts on Lake Mead to inventive floats in Gardnerville and Minden, bright lights will glitter in the night skies.

Highly Recommended

The Holiday Ice Spectacular!, playing November 21-January 4 at the Eldorado in Reno, has world-class skaters, festive costumes, athletic performances, classic music, and attractive pricing that will make for welcome entertainment. Tickets start at $28.95 for adults and $19.95 for children and seniors. Dinner and show packages begin at $36.95. 800-648-5966, **eldoradoreno.com**





Learn to Ski, Cheap

If you have $25, you can learn to ski or snowboard at nine Lake Tahoe ski resorts, December 13-14. Included in the deal are an all-day beginner lift ticket, group lesson, and gear rental. Participating resorts are Alpine Meadows, Boreal, Diamond Peak, Granlibakken, Homewood, Mt. Rose-Ski Tahoe, Northstar-at-Tahoe, Squaw Valley USA, and Sugar Bowl. Some restrictions, such as weather, might require rescheduling. **gotahoenorth.com**

PHOTO: JAY ALDRICH (TOP LEFT)

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North Pole Bound

Nevada's three Santa trains located in Ely, Boulder City, and Carson City offer perfect holiday scrapbook memories for kids lucky enough to ride the historic rolling stock during November and December. In Ely, November 28-December 30, passengers will enjoy hot chocolate and cookies and visit with Santa (866-40-STEAM, **nnry.com**). In Boulder City, Mrs. Claus joins the Jolly Old Elf to greet riders on December 6-7 and 13-14. (702-486-5933, **nevadasouthern.com**). Santa manages the two-places-at-one-time routine, December 13-14, when he hosts Carson City children aboard restored V&T railcars at the Nevada State Railroad Museum (775-687-6953, **nevadaculture.org**).



How the Pioneers Lived

The tough ol' days will be reenacted during the Mountain Men Rendezvous, November 8-9 at Spring Mountain Ranch State Park in Las Vegas. Expect primitive camps, authentic clothing, tomahawk-, knife-, and lance-throwing competitions, black-powder rifles, and blacksmithing demonstrations. 702-875-4141 **parks.nv.gov**



You Can Hear a Feather Drop

Native American Powwows are fascinating cultural celebrations that everyone should experience at least once in their life. The Pahrump Social Powwow, November 21-23, is one of the Silver State's largest winter events. Participants dance a variety of styles such as fancy or jingle dances. A powwow does have rules: no alcohol and no photos without permission. Also, be silent and respectful if an eagle feather, which is sacred to American Indians, drops to the ground. The music and dancing stops until the retrieval ceremony is finished. 775-727-5800, **pahrumpchamber.com**



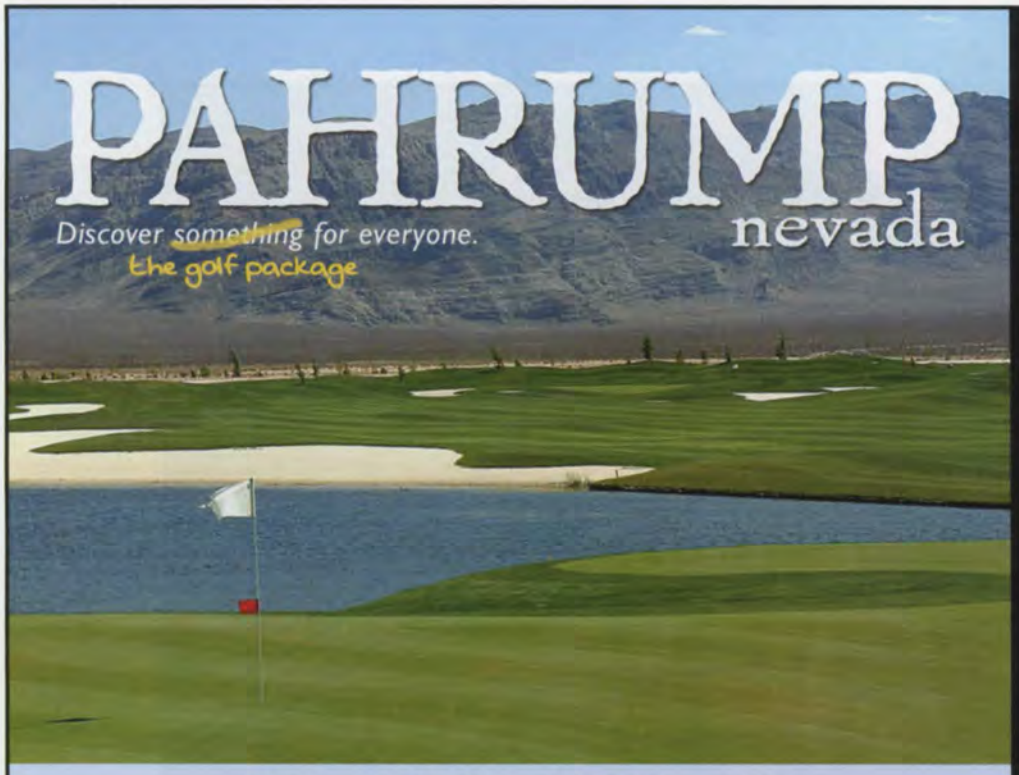
Intergalactic Party

Wearing formal attire to a New Year's Eve party is expected, but dressing as your favorite alien may seem odd—and fun. The Sci-Fi Café's Black and White Ball in Las Vegas, which will be hosted by costumed actors, offers a dinner buffet and dancing. There is a separate supervised party for kids and plenty of parking for spacecraft. Bring your autograph book; science fiction celebrities may attend. Tickets are $175 adults, $50 children, and advance purchase is required. There's also a Halloween Costume Ball on October 31. 702-460-5552, **thescificafe.com**

Living Right: Ideas From the Pros

When the TV crew from *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* denies you and Home Depot no longer offers inspiration, check out the St. George Parade of Homes, February 13-22. Nearly two dozen homes in the Utah city, located 36 miles northeast of Mesquite, will showcase the latest architectural exterior trends (think green living) and handcrafted interior design. Strollers and carriages are not permitted in the houses, and visitors will be asked to remove their shoes during the tours. 435-674-1400, **paradehomes.com**

PHOTO: GARY A. REESE (TOP LEFT)



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messages from the great beyond

Psychic John Edward explores the spiritual world in Vegas

BY ANN HENDERSON

Believers and the curious will fill the Flamingo Las Vegas showroom on December 6 to hear from psychic medium John Edward, hoping they will be chosen to receive messages from those who have "crossed over to the other side." For more than 20 years, Edward has used his books, television shows, and live appearances to—as he contends—help connect people with spirits, cope with unresolved issues, and offer assurances that life continues after death.

After watching Edward's TV shows and listening to him answer callers on CNN's *Larry King Live*, I was fascinated. I even admit to visiting a psychic once upon a time, an experience that was factual enough to creep me out a bit. When I saw Edward in action at the Flamingo during a recent show, I expected to be entertained, but also hoped for the "big answer." I thought, "Is this guy the real deal?"

Exploring life's tragedies doesn't sync with the usual glitz and glamour you find in the entertainment capital of the world, so why Vegas? "People travel from all over the world to come to my events," Edward says during a recent telephone interview. He views Southern Nevada as an accessible, easy-to-reach hub and says Vegas makes his show more of an "entertainment experience."

"It's an energetic kind of communication. It's not like I see [dead] people." —John Edward

He's not concerned if his group readings are perceived as show biz. "I don't really care what people think," he says. "*Crossing Over* was on the Sci-Fi Channel, and I've [also] worked close to Broadway, but it has not rubbed off. No one has nominated me for a Tony." Edward has the same nonchalant manner on stage. Dressed in Levi's and a casual shirt, the psychic's only prop is a microphone. He wanders freely, calling on people to participate in a reading. "It's an energetic kind of communication," he says. "It's not like I see [dead] people."

Sometimes showgoers get emotional in response to what they are hearing, as was the case when I attended. You could hear the gasp when details emerged about an audience member's friend who was murdered by his father. A high school football coach was obviously under duress and attending the show at his wife's urging. He and Edward argued at length about a picture on the wall of the coach's office in order to establish whether the psychic was tuned into the coach. Edward also spent considerable time pursuing a connection to the *RMS Titanic*. He says he can't move on until he resolves such nagging questions and delivers the message.

During our interview, the psychic recalls a reading in 1990 when he told a woman her ex-husband had died in a car wreck. She argued that it was not possible and that he was very much alive. The exchange became confrontational, but Edward later received an apologetic letter. The man's family had not notified her about the accident.

Edward believes everyone has psychic abilities that can be honed through awareness, but kids come naturally equipped. "All kids under 12 are open to intuition," he says. "My six-year-old son, Justin, has done some amazing things. Neither my son nor my wife knew my mother, who was called Princess by her grandfather." On the anniversary of her passing, Edward says, Justin felt her presence, smiled, and said "Princess" for no apparent reason. As far as his own mortality goes, Edward says the process of dying isn't appealing. "It doesn't entice me, but I don't worry about it," he says. "Also, I don't dwell on it."

Edward is an exceptional motivational speaker, and the show is fascinating, but I wanted more out of our phone conversation. I asked him if he would validate something personal in my life so that I could report that in my experience he is the real deal. Citing journalistic reasons, Edward said, "Absolutely not." It wasn't the answer I was looking for, but I haven't lost interest in the great beyond.

EDWARD ON GAM NG

Does his psychic ability give him an inside track in Vegas casinos? "I do like to indulge in table games," Edward says. "I'm a fan of craps, roulette, and blackjack, but do not follow me. I'm no help. As soon as someone recognizes me, the energy will change and a player will throw a seven. It's not scientifically documented, but it has become a joke among my family and friends."

SHOW NOTES

Psychic John Edward performs December 6 in the Flamingo Las Vegas showroom. Show time is 11 a.m., and tickets are $182.65, which includes tax. 702-733-3333, **harrahs.com**

COMMENT ON THIS STORY AT NEVADAMAGAZINE.COM

LAS VEGAS AREA

november/december

Nevada Magazine's guide to Southern Nevada entertainment and events featured in hotels and casinos. Information on headliners performing at other venues can be found in Events or on nevadamagazine.com. All performances take place in Las Vegas unless otherwise noted. Call ahead to confirm details.

Bally's Las Vegas

ONGOING

Jubilee!, production show
702-739-4111
harrahs.com

Bellagio

ONGOING

Cirque du Soleil's "O," dark Mon.-Tues., Dec. 8-23
702-796-9999
cirquedusoleil.com

Boulder Station

HEADLINERS

Tracy Lawrence, Nov. 15
Delbert McClinton, Nov. 21
Euge Groove, Nov. 22
Sawyer Brown, Dec. 5
Merle Haggard, Dec. 6
702-432-7777
stationcasinos.com

Caesars Palace

ONGOING

Elton John: The Red Piano, Oct. 29-Nov. 1, 3, 6-9
888-435-8665
Bette Midler: The Showgirl Must Go On, Nov. 11-Dec. 31
877-723-8836

HEADLINERS/ SPECIAL EVENTS

The Comedy Festival, Nov. 20-22
Jerry Seinfeld, Nov. 21-22
702-474-4000
harrahs.com

Eastside Cannery

HEADLINERS

The Hipsters, Nov. 7-8
Randy Anderson, Nov. 14-15
Jeneane Marie, Nov. 21-22



NEVADA ONLINE

For more shows in the Silver State, visit nevadamagazine.com.



Patti LaBelle, Buffalo Bill's Resort, Primm

The Fab, Nov. 28-29
Johnny Potash: Tribute to Charlie Daniels, Dec. 5-6
The Black Hats, Dec. 12-13
Goodfellas, Dec. 26-27
702-856-5100
cannerycasinos.com

Excalibur Hotel

ONGOING

Tournament of Kings, dark Tues. (8:30pm show dark Nov. 6, 13, 20, 24)
Thunder From Down Under, male revue
Louie Anderson
702-597-7600
excalibur.com

Flamingo Las Vegas

HEADLINERS

Donny & Marie, Nov. 1-Jan. 3
Psychic John Edward, Dec. 6

ONGOING

"X," burlesque, adult revue
Comedian George Wallace
Vinnie Favorito, adult comedy
702-733-3333
harrahs.com

Golden Nugget

HEADLINERS

Miranda Lambert, Dec. 5-6
Pat Green, Dec. 7-8
Ronnie Milsap, 9-10
The Charlie Daniels Band, 11-12
702-386-8100
goldennugget.com

Hard Rock Hotel

HEADLINERS

The Blackest of the Black Tour w/Danzig & Dimmu Borgir, Nov. 4
Hyper Crush, Nov. 4
Mudvayne, Nov. 12
Blues Traveler, Nov. 14
Alanis Morissette, Nov. 15
Day of the New, Nov. 22
The Australian Pink Floyd Show, Nov. 30
702-474-4000
ticketmaster.com

Harrah's Las Vegas

ONGOING

Rita Rudner
Mac King, magic
Improv Theater
702-369-5222
harrahs.com

Imperial Palace

ONGOING

Legends in Concert, tribute revue
702-794-3261
imperialpalace.com

Las Vegas Hilton

HEADLINERS

Barry Manilow, Nov. 1-Dec. 30
George Lopez, Nov. 7-8
Gino Vannelli, Nov. 9
Terry Fator, ventriloquist, Nov. 16-18, Dec. 21-22
Tony Bennett, Nov. 28-29
Brooks & Dunn, Dec. 5-7
John Rich & Cowboy Troy, Dec. 10-11
Gretchen Wilson, Dec. 12-13

ONGOING

"Menopause: The Musical"
Laugh Out Loud w/The Scintas
702-732-5755
lvhilton.com

Luxor

ONGOING

Criss Angel: Believe, Cirque du Soleil, dark Nov. 11
Comedian Carrot Top, dark Oct. 29-Nov. 3
"Fantasy," adult revue
702-262-4400
luxor.com

Mandalay Bay

HEADLINERS/ SPECIAL EVENTS

"Final Impact," five-bout boxing event, Nov. 1
Kathy Griffin, Nov. 14
Vicente Fernandez, Nov. 29

HOUSE OF BLUES

The Faint, Nov. 2
Rise Against w/Alkaline Trio, Thrice, Gaslight Anthem, Nov. 4-5
Joe Satriani w/Mountain featuring Lesley Werst & Corky Laing, Nov. 10
Dragonforce w/Turisas & Powerglove, Nov. 11
Café Tacvba, Nov. 12
NBC's *Last Comic Standing* Live Tour, Nov. 14
Face to Face, Nov. 15
Underoath w/Saosin, The Devil Wears Prada, & The Famine, Nov. 18
Matisyahu w/Flobots & Chester French, Nov. 22
In Flames w/All That Remains, Gojira, & 36 Crazyfists, Nov. 23
The Sisters of Mercy, Nov. 28
Bell Biv Devoe, Nov. 29
Five Finger Death Punch w/In This Moment, Another Black Day, Dec. 3
Gary Allan, Dec. 11
Girl Talk w/Dan Deacon, Dec. 29

ONGOING

"Mamma Mia!," Broadway musical, thru Jan. 4
702-632-7580
mandalaybay.com

MGM Grand

HEADLINERS/ SPECIAL EVENTS

Tom Jones, Oct. 30-Nov. 12
Rodney Carrington, Oct. 31-Nov. 9, Dec. 8-13
Madonna, Nov. 8-9
Wayne Newton, Nov. 13-19
UFC 91: Couture vs. Lesnar, Nov. 15
David Copperfield, Nov. 20-Dec. 7, Dec. 14-Jan. 12
Ricky Hatton vs. Paulie Malignaggi, world title fight, Nov. 22
Jonas Brothers, Nov. 29
David Copperfield, Dec. 14-Jan. 12

ONGOING

"KÀ," Cirque du Soleil production, dark Sun.-Mon., Nov. 4
cirquedusoleil.com
"Crazy Horse Paris," adult revue
702-632-7580
mgmgrand.com

The Mirage

HEADLINERS

Ray Romano & Kevin James, Nov. 7-8
Howie Mandel, Nov. 14-15
Jay Leno, Nov. 21-22, Dec. 12-13
Ron White, Dec. 5-6

ONGOING

"Love," Cirque du Soleil production, dark Tues.-Wed., Dec. 2-17
cirquedusoleil.com
Danny Gans, impersonator, thru Nov. 22
702-792-7777
mirage.com

Monte Carlo

ONGOING

Magician Lance Burton
702-730-7160
montecarlo.com

New York-New York

ONGOING

"Zumanity," adult production, dark Mon.-Thurs., Dec. 1-16
702-740-6969
cirquedusoleil.com

The Orleans

HEADLINERS/ SPECIAL EVENTS

Engelbert Humperdinck, Oct. 30-Nov. 2
Fabulous Festival, Nov. 1
The Smothers Brothers, Nov. 6-9
Neil Sedaka, Nov. 13-16
Bill Maher, Nov. 21-23
Maxxis EnduroCross, Nov. 22
Las Vegas Invitational Basketball Tournament, Nov. 28-29
Jo Dee Messina, Dec. 12-14
Larry The Cable Guy, Dec. 13
Paul Anka, Dec. 19-21
Las Vegas Classic Basketball Tournament, Dec. 22-23
Imelda Papin, Dec. 27
800-ORLEANS
orleanscasino.com



Impersonator Danny Gans, The Mirage

The Palazzo Resort

ONGOING

"Jersey Boys," Broadway musical, dark Wed.
702-414-9000
venetiantickets.com

The Palms

HEADLINERS

Hinder, Oct. 30
Maxwell, Oct. 31
Hendrix Tour w/Buddy Guy, Jonny Lang, Nov. 1
Jason Mraz, Nov. 15
OneRepublic, Nov. 16
Oasis, Dec. 6
702-942-7777
palms.com

Paris Las Vegas

ONGOING

Hypnotist Anthony Cools, adult material
877-374-7469
parislasvegas.com

Planet Hollywood Hotel/Casino

HEADLINERS/ SPECIAL EVENTS

Hypnomagician Keith Barry, Oct. 28-Nov. 27
Wanda Sykes, Nov. 14-15
David Spade, Nov. 28-29
planethollywoodresort.com

ONGOING

Stomp Out Loud, dance & percussion
702-785-5000
stomponline.com

V THEATER AT PLANET HOLLYWOOD

ONGOING

Scarlett, Princess of Magic
Fab Four Live, Beatles tribute show
"V," variety show
Gregory Popovich Pet Comedy Show
"Point Break Live!" interactive play
Stripper 101, dance classes
702-932-1818
varietytheater.com

Rio All-Suite Hotel

ONGOING

Penn and Teller, comedy-magic show
Chippendales: The Show, male revue
Tony n' Tina's Wedding, dinner theater
702-252-7776
harrahs.com

Riviera
ONGOING
Ice—Direct from Russia
An Evening at La Cage, impersonators
Crazy Girls, adult revue
Riviera Comedy Club
Soprano's Last Supper, interactive dinner show
Neil Diamond Tribute, w/Jay White
Hypnotist Dr. Scott Lewis, Mon.
Barbra & Frank: The Concert That Never Was
An Evening with Dean & Friends
702-794-9433
rivierahotel.com

Santa Fe Station
HEADLINERS
Hiroshima, Nov. 1
Dave Mason, Nov. 7
Atomic Punks, Nov. 8
Alter'd Ego, Nov. 15
L.A. Guns, Dec. 6
702-547-5300
stationcasinos.com

South Point
HEADLINERS/ SPECIAL EVENTS
Blenheim Equisports, Oct. 30-Nov. 2
Billy Childers, Oct. 31-Nov. 1
Sha Na Na, Oct. 31-Nov. 2
Broadband, Nov. 7-8
James Darren, Nov. 7-8
M & M in "Let's Dance," romantic comedy, Nov. 9
Southern Nevada Aussie Club ASCA Nationals, Nov. 7-15
PBR Bull Riders Dinner & Awards Ceremony, Nov. 9
The Lettermen, Nov. 14-16
Roy Clark, Nov. 21-23
The Kingston Trio, Nov. 28-30
Benny Binion Bucking Horse & Bull Sale, Dec. 4-5
Double Dollar Livestock Performance, Ranch, & Trail Horse Sale, Dec. 6-9



NEVADA ONLINE

For more shows in the Silver State, visit nevadamagazine.com.



Larry the Cable Guy, The Orleans

World Series of Team Roping, Dec. 11-14
702-796-7111
southpointcasino.com

Stratosphere
ONGOING
American Superstars, tribute revue
Bite, revue
American Storm, male revue
702-382-4446
stratospherehotel.com

Suncoast
HEADLINERS
"My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish, & I'm in Therapy," starring Steve Solomon, Nov. 7-9
Variety Live!, Nov. 14-16
The Association, Nov. 21-23
Brandon Bennett: Elvis My Way, Nov. 28-30
Magic Show, Dec. 12-14
Clint Holmes & Friends, Dec. 19-21
Hotel California, Dec. 26-28
702-636-7111
suncoastcasino.com

Treasure Island
HEADLINERS
Bill Engvall, Dec. 11-12
treasureisland.com
ONGOING
"Mystère," dark Thurs.-Fri., Nov. 5, Dec. 24
702-894-7111
cirquedusoleil.com

Tropicana
ONGOING
Les Folies Bergere, production show
Extreme Magic w/Dirk Arthur
The Comedy Stop
702-739-2411
tropicanalv.com

Venetian
ONGOING
"Phantom: The Las Vegas Spectacular"
phantomlasvegas.com
Blue Man Group, percussion theater
Comedian Wayne Brady, Nov. 1-3, 5-10, 13-17, 20-24, 27-Dec. 1, 4-8, 11-14, 26-30
702-414-9000
venetian.com

Wynn Las Vegas
ONGOING
"Le Rêve," dark Tues.-Wed.
702-770-7000
wynnlasvegas.com

Green Valley Ranch
Henderson
HEADLINERS
The Fixx, Nov. 7
Chris Botti, Nov. 28
Tommy Shaw from Styx & Jack Blades from Night Ranger, Dec. 5
Sully Erna, Dec. 12
702-547-5300
stationcasinos.com

Sunset Station
Henderson
HEADLINERS
Mark Wills, Nov. 1
Y&T, Nov. 7
702-547-5300
stationcasinos.com

Colorado Belle
Laughlin
Lounge entertainment
702-298-4000
coloradobelle.com

Edgewater
Laughlin
Lounge entertainment
702-298-2453
edgewater-casino.com

Golden Nugget
Laughlin
DJ Sun.-Thurs.
702-298-7111
goldennugget.com

Harrah's
Laughlin
HEADLINERS
Louie Anderson, Nov. 1-3
Rich Little, Nov. 15-18
702-298-8510
harrahslaughlin.com

Riverside Resort
Laughlin
HEADLINERS
Riders in The Sky, Oct. 28-Nov. 2
Jon Reep, Nov. 4-9
Roy Clark, Nov. 12-16
Big Band Dance: Rusty Orchestra, Nov. 17
Vicki Lawrence & Mama, Nov. 19-23
The Lettermen, Nov. 25-30
The Kingston Trio, Dec. 2-7
Mel Tillis, Dec. 27-Jan. 1
702-298-2535
riversideresort.com

Tropicana Express
Laughlin
HEADLINERS
Little Anthony & the Imperials, Nov. 28-29
Chubby Checker & The Wildcats, Dec. 29-30
888-888-8695
tropicanax.com

Cannery
North Las Vegas
HEADLINERS
Black Diamond: Kiss Tribute Band, Oct. 31-Nov. 1
The Fab, Nov. 7
The Comets, Nov. 8
Roslyn Kind, Nov. 14-15
Jumping Jack Flash: Tribute to The Rolling Stones, Nov. 21-22
Benny Goodman Orchestra w/Tribute to the Andrew sisters, Nov. 28-27
702-507-5700
cannerycasinos.com

Texas Station
North Las Vegas
HEADLINERS
Don McLean, Nov. 14
702-547-5300
stationcasinos.com

Buffalo Bill's Resort
Primm
HEADLINERS
Patti LaBelle, Nov. 1
The B-52's, Nov. 12
Lee Ann Womack, Nov. 15
Dwight Yoakam, Nov. 22
Three Dog Night, Dec. 6
800-FUN-STOP
primmvalleyresorts.com












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NEVADA MAGAZINE



HOME ON THE RANGE

At the intersection of I-80 and U.S. 93, the Central Pacific RR founded Wells, Nevada in 1869. On the Old California Trail, the cow town connected mines and ranches to the railhead and packed Front St. saloons with gamblers, railroaders, cowboys, and bull-whackers. Today, plaques on 19th century buildings tell how that kept Wells lively.

Get the Walking Tour booklet at the Emigrant Trail Interpretive and Visitor Center at 6th St. and Lake Ave. which tells the California Trail, Wells, and Metropolis Ghost Town stories. Our golf course, airport, Angel Lake, and nearby ATV/motorcycle trails make this a great outdoor place to stay and play.

WELLS NEVADA

Visit WellsNevada.com or call (775) 752-3540.

RENO TAHOE/RURAL AREA

november/december

Nevada Magazine's guide to Northern Nevada and rural entertainment and events featured in hotels and casinos. Information on headliners performing at other venues can be found in Events or on nevadamagazine.com. All performances take place in Reno unless otherwise noted. Call ahead to confirm details.

reno-tahoe

Carson Nugget
Carson City
Lounge entertainment
775-882-1626
ccnugget.com

Carson Valley Inn
Minden

HEADLINERS/ SPECIAL EVENTS
The Fake Four, Oct. 28-Nov. 2
Power Play, Nov. 4-9
Rhymers Rodeer Cowboy Poetry, Nov. 7-8
Sidro's Armada, Nov. 11-16
Hotel California: Tribute to the Eagles, Nov. 18-23
$1,500 Blackjack Tournament, Nov. 25
Room to Move, Nov. 25-30
Blackjack Tournament of Champions, Dec. 9
The Robeys, Dec. 9-14
Mack & Tom, Dec. 16-21
M8Trix, Dec. 23-28
Shake, Rattle, & Roll, Dec. 29-Jan. 4
775-782-9711
cvinn.com

Atlantis
Lounge entertainment
775-824-4467
atlantiscasino.com

Circus Circus
Circus acts daily
775-329-0711
circusreno.com

Eldorado
"Aphelion," thru Nov. 14, Cirque-style revue
Holiday Ice Spectacular, Nov. 21-Jan. 4
"Toxic Audio," Jan. 20-Feb. 22
"Menopause, The Musical," Feb. 25-May 10
775-786-5700
eldoradoreno.com

Fitzgeralds
Lounge entertainment
775-785-3300
fitzgeraldsreno.com

Grand Sierra Resort

HEADLINERS/ SPECIAL EVENTS
Yakov Smirnoff, Oct. 29
Jagermeister Music Tour w/Hinder, Nov. 1
Fantasies in Chocolate, Nov. 1
Missy Higgins w/Joshua Radin, Nov. 8
James Van Praagh, Nov. 22
Terry Fator, Nov. 28-29
City Ballet of San Diego Russian "Nutcracker," Dec. 20
Joel McHale, Dec. 27
775-789-2285
grandsierraresort.com

Harrah's Reno

HEADLINERS
Greg London's ICONS, impersonators, thru Nov. 29
Monkey King, martial arts show, Dec. 3-21
775-786-3232
harrahs.com

John Ascuaga's Nugget
Sparks

HEADLINERS/ SPECIAL EVENTS
Fishbone, Oct. 30
Morris Day & The Time, Nov. 1
Leo Lottke, Nov. 6
Debbie Reynolds, Nov. 14-15
Dylan for Dollars Benefit, Nov. 21
Medeski, Martin, & Wood, Nov. 22
Australian Pink Floyd, Nov. 28-29
Hal Ketchum, Dec. 6
775-356-3300
janugget.com

Peppermill
Lounge entertainment
775-826-2121
peppermillreno.com

Reno Ballroom
Entertainment TBA
800-687-8733
silverlegacyreno.com

Reno Events Center

HEADLINERS
Neil Young w/Death Cab For Cutie & Everest, Nov. 1
Elite XC, Mixed Martial Arts, Nov. 8
Trans-Siberian Orchestra, Nov. 14
Gaither Homecoming, Nov. 17
Sam Hui, Nov. 27
800-687-8733
silverlegacyreno.com

Silver Legacy

HEADLINERS/ SPECIAL EVENTS
The Lili Claire Foundation's Dinner/Concert w/John Ondrasik of Five for Fighting w/Stephen Bishop, Nov. 8
Joe Satriani U.S. Tour, w/ Mountain featuring Leslie West & Corky Laing, Nov. 14
Margaret Cho, Nov. 22
The Temptations & The Four Tops, Nov. 29
Cheech & Chong, Dec. 19
Bret Michaels, Dec. 20

ONGOING
Catch a Rising Star Comedy Club
800-MUST-SEE
silverlegacyreno.com



Bret Michaels, Silver Legacy and Wendover's Peppermill

NEVADA ONLINE

For more shows in the Silver State, visit nevadamagazine.com.

Harrah's Lake Tahoe
Stateline
Headliners
The Smothers Brothers, Oct. 31-Nov. 1
Blue Öyster Cult, Nov. 8
Jose Feliciano, Nov. 15
Los Lonely Boys, Nov. 22
The Tubes, Nov. 28
Abbacadabra: The Ultimate ABBA Concert, Nov. 29
Air Supply, Dec. 6
The Tommy Castro Band, Dec. 13
Leon Russell, Dec. 20
Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, Dec. 26-27
Foghat, Dec. 29
800-HARRAHS
harrahs.com

Harveys
Stateline
ONGOING
The Improv, comedy
775-588-2411
harrahs.com

Horizon
Stateline
ONGOING
Carnival Cabaret starring Gypsy, impersonators
800-683-8266
HEADLINERS
The Grass Roots, Nov. 15
775-588-6211
ticketmaster.com

MontBleu Resort
Stateline
EntertainmentTBA
775-588-3515
montbleuresort.com


Margaret Cho, Silver Legacy

Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe
Incline Village
Lounge entertainment
775-832-1234
laketahoe.hyatt.com

Crystal Bay Club
Crystal Bay
Lounge entertainment
775-833-6333
crystalbaycasino.com

Tahoe Biltmore
Crystal Bay
Lounge entertainment
775-831-0660
tahoebiltmore.com

rural nevada

Longstreet Inn
Amargosa Valley
Lounge entertainment
775-372-1777

Stagecoach Casino
Beatty
Lounge entertainment
775-553-2419
stagecoachhotelcasino.com

Commercial Hotel
Elko
Lounge entertainment
800-648-2345, ext. 498
commercialcasino.com

Stockmen's Hotel
Elko
HEADLINERS/ SPECIAL EVENTS
Andy Wilkinson, Jan. 31-Feb. 2
Kenny Walton Gear show, Jan. 31-Feb. 2
National Cowboy Poetry Gathering events, Jan. 26-Feb. 3
800-648-2345, ext. 498
stockmenscasinos.com

El Capitan
Hawthorne
Lounge entertainment
775-945-3322
elcapitanresortcasino.com

Cactus Petes
Jackpot
HEADLINERS
Ray Price, Oct. 31-Nov. 1
Sawyer Brown, Nov. 7-8
The 1964 Tribute, Nov. 21-22
Disco Inferno: '70s Variety Show, Dec. 31


Hotel California: Tribute to the Eagles, Carson Valley Inn, Minden

800-821-1103
ameristarcasinos.com

Sturgeons Casino & Hotel
Lovelock
Entertainment on special occasions
775-273-2971

Pahrump Nugget
Pahrump
Lounge entertainment
775-751-6500
pahrumpnugget.com

Saddle West Hotel
Pahrump
Entertainment during special events
775-727-1111
saddlewest.com

Tonopah Station Ramada Inn
Tonopah
Bands during special events
775-482-9777
Email: tonopahsta@frontiernet.net

Peppermill
Wendover
HEADLINERS
Carlos Mencia, Oct. 31
Bill Engvall, Nov. 1
Roy Clark, Nov. 7
Bellamy Brothers, Nov. 8
Lee Ann Womack, Nov. 14
Sammy Kershaw, Nov. 15
Smash Mouth, Nov. 21
The Guess Who, Nov. 22
Wynonna Judd Christmas Show, Nov. 28-29
Triple Threat Tour: Blackhawk, Little Texas, & Restless Heart, Dec. 5
Sawyer Brown, Dec. 6
Tanya Tucker Christmas Show, Dec. 12
Gary Allan, Dec. 13
Bret Michaels, Dec. 19
Mark Chesnutt, Dec. 20
775-664-2255
wendoverfun.com

Winners Casino
Winnemucca
Lounge entertainment
775-623-2511
winnerscasino.com

Model T
Winnemucca
Bands during special events
775-623-2588
modelt.com

Casino West
Yerington
Lounge entertainment
775-463-2481

Dini's Lucky Club
Yerington
Lounge entertainment
775-463-2868
dinisluckyclub.net



EVENT
White Pine Fire and Ice Show
Jan. 16-18, 2009

CONTACT
Cave Lake State Park
parks.nv.gov/cl.htm
775-728-4460

GETTING THERE
From U.S. 93 (also 50 and 6) in Ely, head south about eight miles to State Route 486 (Steptoe Creek Road) and turn left. Continue for seven miles and turn right into Lake View Campground.

WORTH A CLICK
Watch videos and read Charlie Johnston's blog about the 2008 White Pine Fire and Ice show at **blog.travelnevada.com**.







EARTH, ICE, AND FIRE



Hundreds flock to frozen lake near Ely to view unique sculptures

PHOTOS AND STORY BY CHARLIE JOHNSTON

In Nevada, art has been known to take many—often peculiar—forms. Maybe the most unusual are the sculptures at the annual White Pine Fire and Ice Show near Ely. In 2003, an Ely resident built a large trout out of snow on the frozen surface of the popular ice-fishing destination, Cave Lake, 15 miles south of Ely. The fish drew so many curious visitors that it gave Cave Lake State Park Supervisor Steve Gray and other park employees an idea. Two years later the snow-sculpting competition was born. They've since added fireworks to give further incentive for locals and tourists to check out the festivities.

Dedicated competitors, fortified with layer upon layer of polar fleece, down, and wool, will brave the sub-freezing temperatures January 16-18 to let their imaginations—and a few snowballs—soar. This year's festival saw such creative designs as a miner inspecting a gold nugget, "The Prospector," a snow man swimming away from approaching shark fins, "Shark Bait," and a fairy tale bear sleeping in a sleigh bed, "Bear in Mind It's Sleepy Time a.k.a. The Hibernator," which took first, second, and third places respectively. Perhaps what makes the sculptures of Fire and Ice so incredible is that their creators know their work—masterpieces that require painstaking hours of toil—will, like the frozen canvas they sit upon, disappear. Wind, snow, climbing mercury, even the sculptures' own weight, means many of them won't last a week.

Spectators aren't forgotten. The 2008 festival, which was named to the American Bus Association's Top 100 Events in North America list, included a two-lane snow bowling alley, one-hole tennis ball golf course, music, and food prepared and sold by the area's only microbrewery, White Pine Brewing Company. The 2009 festival is also on the ABA's top-100 list.

When night falls on the final day—about 6 p.m.—the fireworks begin. As pyrotechnics are customarily a summer delight, few people have experienced them in winter. The cold, dry air makes the colors more vibrant than summer displays. The "pops," "booms," and "sizzles" from the fireworks bounce off the canyon walls and the frozen lake in a cacophony of echoes, and the reflections on the snow and ice lend a surreal glow to the production. It's enough to make you forget that you can barely feel your hands and feet.

COMMENT ON THIS STORY AT NEVADAMAGAZINE.COM

2008 Guide to Nevada Holiday Events

From Nevada Day through New Year's Eve, follow *Nevada Magazine's* guide to holiday events in the Silver State.

Festivities are arranged by date and alphabetical by location. Call ahead to confirm details.

November

Nevada Days
Carson City
Oct. 30-Nov. 2
Statehood celebration
775-687-0680
visitcarsoncity.com

Nevada Day Powwow
Carson City
Oct. 31-Nov. 2
visitrenotahoe.com

Nevada Day Parade
Carson City
Nov. 1
775-882-2600
visitcarsoncity.com

Civil War Reenactment
Las Vegas
Nov. 1-2
Nevada Day event
702-875-4141
parks.nv.gov

Patriot Party at the Fremont Street Experience
Las Vegas
Nov. 7-9
Veterans Day event
702-678-5600
vegasexperience.com

NEVADA ONLINE

For more events in the Silver State, visit nevadamagazine.com.

Boulder City Winter Arts Festival
Boulder City
Nov. 8-9
702-293-2138
bouldercityartguild.org



Veterans Day Parade, statewide

Veterans Day Parade
Elko
Nov. 11
775-738-5398
elkocva.com

Veterans Day Parade
Las Vegas
Nov. 11
702-678-5600
vegasexperience.com

Holiday Celebration on Ice
Las Vegas
Nov. 11
Production show
800-ORLEANS
orleanscasino.com



Bellagio Holiday Botanical Garden, Las Vegas, December 7-January 3

Veterans Day Parade
Virginia City
Nov. 11
775-847-4768
visitvirginiacitynv.com

Trans-Siberian Orchestra
Reno
Nov. 14
800-687-8733
silverlegacyreno.com

Holiday Celebration & Animation
Henderson
Nov. 14-Dec. 21
702-564-4799
montelagovillage.com

The Gift of Lights
Las Vegas
Nov. 14-Jan. 4
Drive-thru holiday light festival
702-451-0344
Email: maa4events@aol.com

Ice Skating at MonteLago Village
Henderson
Nov. 15-Feb. 20
702-564-4766
hendersonlive.com

Holiday Concert featuring Bruce Ewing
Las Vegas
Nov. 16
"Phantom, Las Vegas Spectacular" cast member
1:30 & 3pm
Liberace Museum
702-798-5595
liberace.org

Ethel M Chocolate Wonderland
Henderson
Nov. 19-Jan. 1
Holiday decorations in cactus garden
800-680-0150
ethelschocolate.com


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THE BLUE WORLD.
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PACK LIGHT AND STAY LONG.
800-AT TAHOE
LAKE TAHOE
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BLUELAKETAHOE.COM

Trans-Siberian Orchestra
Las Vegas
Nov. 20
702-474-4000
mgmgrand.com

Valhalla Holiday Faire
Lake Tahoe
Nov. 21-23
Arts, crafts, & entertainment
530-541-4521
valhallatahoe.com

Holiday Ice Spectacular
Reno
Nov. 21-Jan. 4
775-786-5700
eldoradoreno.com

Kiwanis Turkey Bingo
Minden
Nov. 22
775-265-2205
visitcarsonvalley.org

Christmas Bazaar
Tonopah
Nov. 22
775-482-3365
tonopahchamberofcommerce.com

Holiday Bazaar
Wells
Nov. 22
775-752-3540
elkocva.com

Perdiz Thanksgiving Turkey Shoot
Eureka
Nov. 22-23
775-237-7027
co.eureka.nv.us

Magical Forest
Las Vegas
Nov. 22-Dec. 30
Wonderland of lights & decorations
702-259-3741
opportunityvillage.org

Festival of Trees
Carson City
Nov. 24-Dec. 5
Trees, wreaths, & baskets
775-684-3314
nevadaculture.org

Las Vegas Bracket Nationals
Las Vegas
Nov. 26-30
Drag racing, Thanksgiving Eve "Wildest Wednesday" includes nostalgia drag racing & motorcycle stunt team
702-632-8213
lvms.com

Turkey Trot
Sparks
Nov. 27
Fun run/walk on Thanksgiving morning
775-353-2376
sparksrec.com

Thanksgiving Dinner
Nov. 27
Hotels & restaurants offer special holiday menus. See showguide listing or nevadamagazine.com for hotel phone numbers & addresses.

Polar Express Trains
Ely
Nov. 28, Dec. 5-7, 12-14, 19-23, 27-30
Excursions aboard historic train with Santa
775-289-2085
nnry.com

Thanksgiving Weekend Steam-Up
Carson City
Nov. 28-29
Historic train
775-687-6953
visitcarsoncity.com





Turkey Trot, Sparks, November 27

Holiday Jazz Fest
Incline Village
Nov. 28-29
775-832-1234
omegaevents.com

Wynonna Judd Christmas Show
Wendover
Nov. 28-29
775-664-2255
wendoverfun.com

"The Nutcracker"
Carson City
Nov. 28-30
775-882-2916
pinkertondance.com

Sights, Sounds, & Smells of Christmas
Ely
Nov. 28-Dec. 5
Parade, candy cane lane, Festival of Trees, crafts, & music
800-496-9350
elynevada.net

Winter Lights Festival
Las Vegas
Fri.-Sat., Nov. 28-Dec. 24, 26-30
702-833-8344
springspreserve.org

December to Remember
Las Vegas
Nov. 28-Jan. 5
Cultural holiday celebration at Las Vegas Natural History Museum, Old Mormon Fort, Lied Discovery Children's Museum, Neon Museum, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas Library, & Cashman Center
702-384-3466
lvnhm.org

Relay for Life Christmas Craft Bazaar
Elko
Nov. 29
775-738-8489
elkocva.com

Holiday Fashion Show
Ely
Nov. 29
Charity event
800-496-9350

Christmas in the Sierra Concert
Virginia City
Nov. 29
Comstock Cowboys perform
775-847-0433
pipersoperahouse.com

Festival of Lights
Lake Tahoe
Nov. 29-Dec. 24
530-583-6985
squaw.com

CARSON CITY INVITES YOU for the HOLIDAYS



Board the steam train Thanksgiving Weekend at the Nevada State Railroad Museum. Join Santa onboard December 13-14. Take the Victorian Christmas Tour of historic homes with live music and refreshments. Revel in the Victorian charm of the Nevada capital's downtown, offering great dining and lodging. Contact us to find out more at **visitcarsoncity.com/events** or call **1-800-NEVADA-1.**

CARSON CITY
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU
1900 S Carson St , Suite 100
next to Nevada State Railroad Museum

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- Top Gun Raceway: NHRA drags
- Rattlesnake Raceway: IMCA dirt track
- Fallon Farmers Market all summer long
- Spring Wings Bird Festival
- Octane Fest Motor Sports Week
- Silver State International and Senior Pro Rodeos
- Oasis Stampede Mule & Donkey Show
- Hearts of Gold Cantaloupe Festival
- Desert Oasis Music Festival

Surrounded by wetlands, Fallon is a birding paradise. Enjoy the outdoors, old west history, a farmers market and great special events all year long in our small town that will feel like home.

Hometown Christmas
Dec. 5-6

Fallon
FALLON CONVENTION AND TOURISM AUTHORITY

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December

Festival of Trees
Elko
Dec. 1-3
Trees, wreaths, & stockings auctioned
775-738-4091
elkocva.com

Christmas on the Comstock
Virginia City
Dec. 1-25
775-847-4386
visitvirginiacitynv.com

Tuesday Afternoon at the Bijou: Holiday Tales
Las Vegas
The Man Who Came to Dinner, Dec. 2
The Three Godfathers, Dec. 9
A Christmas Wish, Dec. 16
702-507-3459
lvccld.org

Christmas Kick-Off
Gardnerville
Dec. 3
775-782-7134
gardnerville-nv.gov

Silver & Snowflake Festival of Lights
Carson City
Dec. 4
775-887-1294
visitcarsoncity.com

Christmas Tree Lighting
Boulder City
Dec. 5
702-293-2034
boulder-city-chamber.com

Centennial Christmas Tree Lighting
Fallon
Dec. 5
Santa & caroling
775-423-5105
fallontourism.com

Caroling, Tree-lighting, & Christmas Faire
Genoa
Dec. 5
775-782-8696
visitcarsonvalley.org

Community Christmas Bazaar
Hawthorne
Dec. 5
775-945-3030

Mariachi Holiday Concert
Las Vegas
Dec. 5
702-507-3459
lvccld.org

Hometown Christmas
Fallon
Dec. 5-6
866-423-2544
fallontourism.com

Pahrump Pum Pum Festival
Pahrump
Dec. 5-6
Parade, food, & entertainment
866-722-5800
pahrumpchamber.com

A Hawaiian Christmas
Las Vegas
Dec. 5-7
Showroom production
702-636-711
suncoastcasino.com

Electric Night Parade & Santa's Picture Party
Boulder City
Dec. 6
702-293-2034
boulder-city-chamber.com



Wynonna Judd Christmas Show, Wendover, November 28-29

Lake Mead Parade of Lights
Boulder City
Dec. 6
Boats decorated for the holidays
702-373-4406
lmboa.org

Snowflake Festival
Elko
Dec. 6
775-778-9600
Email: hayleys@frontiernet.net

Christmas Crafters Festival & Parade of Lights
Ely
Dec. 6
800-496-9350
elynevada.net

Holiday Village Artist Showcase
Ely
Dec. 6
775-289-8877
elynevada.net

Emblem Club Craft Fair
Fallon
Dec. 6
775-867-3476
fallontourism.com

Parade of Lights
Gardnerville/Minden
Dec. 6
775-782-8144
visitcarsonvalley.org

Holiday Gala
Gardnerville
Dec. 6
Gallery of trees, gingerbread houses, cookie walk, & Santa
775-782-2555
historicnevada.org

Valhalla Holiday Gala
Lake Tahoe
Dec. 6
530-541-4521
valhallatahoe.com

Great Santa Race at the Fremont Street Experience
Las Vegas
Dec. 6
Runners dress in Santa suits
702-678-5600
vegasexperience.com



Fantasies in Gingerbread, Gardnerville, December 6-13

NEVADA MAGAZINE

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401 N. Carson St.
Carson City, NV 89701-4291

nevadamagazine.com

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David Benoit's "A Charlie Brown's Christmas"
Las Vegas
Dec. 6
702-895-ARTS
pac.unlv.edu

Holiday Dance Concert
Las Vegas
Dec. 6
702-507-3459
lvccld.org

Hometowne Christmas
Sparks
Dec. 6
Parade, Santa, arts, cultural displays, & tree-lighting
775-353-2291
sparksrec.com

Christmas Stroll & Community Tree Lighting
Tonopah
Dec. 6
775-482-3859
tonopahchamberofcommerce.com

Parties of the Year Celebration
Virginia City
Dec. 6
Victorian Christmas
775-847-0975
fourthwardschool.org

Parade of Lights
Virginia City
Dec. 6
775-847-4768
visitvirginiacitynv.com

Christmas Faire & Café
Genoa
Dec. 6-7
775-782-8696
visitcarsonvalley.org

Santa Train
Boulder City
Dec. 6-7, 13-14
Santa & Mrs. Claus & toy train exhibit
702-486-5933
nevadaculture.org

Santa's Workshop Children's Tea
Henderson
Dec. 6-7, 13-14, 20-21
702-567-4700
ritzcarlton.com



"The Nutcracker" ballet, Reno, December 12-14

Holiday Tea
Henderson
Dec. 6-7, 13-14, 20-21
702-567-4700
ritzcarlton.com

Fantasies in Gingerbread
Gardnerville
Dec. 6-13
775-782-2555
historicnevada.org

Holiday Gala
Gardnerville
Dec. 7
775-782-2555
visitcarsonvalley.org

Lee Greenwood: A Tennessee Christmas
Las Vegas
Dec. 7
800-ORLEANS
orleanscasino.com

Bellagio Holiday Botanical Garden
Las Vegas
Dec. 7-Jan. 3
702-693-7111
mgmmirage.com

Tree Lighting Ceremony at Fremont Street Experience
Las Vegas
Dec. 9
702-687-5600
vegasexperience.com

Holiday Choral Concert
Reno
Dec. 9
775-784-4278
unr.edu/arts

Winter Choral Concert
North Las Vegas
Dec. 11
702-651-5483
csn.edu/pac

WINTERFEST 2008
Henderson
Dec. 11-13
Parade, music, ice skating, & "A Christmas Carol"
702-564-4766
hendersonlive.com

Luminaria
Boulder City
Dec. 12
702-293-2034
boulder-city-chamber.com

Brian Culbertson: A Soulful Christmas
Las Vegas
Dec. 12
Showroom performance
702-432-7777
stationcasinos.com

Tanya Tucker Christmas Show
Wendover
Dec. 12
Concert
775-664-2255
wendoverfun.com

"The Nutcracker"
Boulder City
Dec. 12-14
702-293-2034
boulder-city-chamber.com

"The Nutcracker"
Reno
Dec. 12-14
A.V.A. Ballet Theatre & The Reno Philharmonic
775-762-5165
avaballet.com

Christmas in the Sierra Concert
Genoa
Dec. 13
775-782-8696
visitcarsonvalley.org

A Christmas Celebration
Las Vegas
Dec. 13
Las Vegas Philharmonic
702-895-2787
lvphil.com

Tanya Tucker: Tucker Family Christmas Show
Las Vegas
Dec. 13
702-586-5100
cannerycasinos.com

Christmas at Spring Mountain Ranch
Las Vegas
Dec. 13
Hot chocolate, music, & Santa
702-875-4141
parks.nv.gov

Ride the Rails w/Santa
Carson City
Dec. 13-14
Historic train
775-687-6953
visitcarsoncity.com

Black Nativity Musical
Las Vegas
Dec. 13-14
702-994-2964
visitlasvegas.com

Victorian Home Christmas Tour
Carson City
Dec. 14
775-687-7410
visitcarsoncity.com

Holiday Treat Concert: Carson City Symphony
Carson City
Dec. 14
775-687-7410
visitcarsoncity.com

Nevada Chamber Symphony: Home for the Holidays
Las Vegas
Dec. 14
702-507-3459
lvccld.org

David Copperfield
Las Vegas
Dec. 14-Jan. 12



This winter, the loneliest road will be a little less lonely.

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Austin
Dec. 16 Live Nativity, Light Judging Contest, Turkey Raffle
Call 775.964.2200

Fallon
Dec. 5 Christmas Tree Lighting
Call 775.423.5105

Dec. 6 Chamber of Commerce Hometown Christmas
Call 775.423.2544

Dec. 31 New Year's Eve Fireworks
Call 775.423.5105

Ely
Nov. 28 Dec. 5 Sights, Sounds, and Smells of Christmas
Call 800.496.9350

Nov. 28 Dec. 30 Polar Express Train Rides to the North Pole
Call 866.407.8326

Dec. 6 Holiday Village Artist Showcase
Call 775.289.8877

Eureka
Nov. 22 & 23 Perdiz Thanksgiving Turkey Shoot
Call 775.237.7027

Fernley
Nov. 20 Jan. 8 "Voces Latinas" Traveling Art Exhibit
Call 775.784.9800

In the middle of Nevada, "hot tubbing" has a new meaning.



The town of Austin is located in the middle of rural Nevada, a vast stretch of country with beautiful panoramic scenery. While exploring this magnificent wide-open space, travelers can take time out to soak in the warm, soothing waters of Spencer Hot Springs. These natural springs give hot tubbing an entirely new meaning.

Back in town, the historic Main Street of Austin is a great place to visit old west businesses, past and present. There's also dining, and for an overnight stay, comfortable and friendly motels.

Austin, Nevada: where adventurous souls meet.





Austin
~nevada~

The Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce
775.964.2200
AustinNevada.com

702-632-7580
mgmgrand.com

The Forgotten Carols Production
Las Vegas
Dec. 15
801-231-8872
visitlasvegas.com

Holidays in Austin
Austin
Dec. 16
Live Nativity, light-judging contest, & turkey raffle
775-964-2200
austinnevada.com

Santa at the Northeastern Nevada Museum
Elko
Dec. 16-23
775-738-3418
elkocva.com

Snow God's Party
Lake Tahoe
Dec. 17
Benefit for Squaw Valley Avalanche Awareness Fund
530-581-7260
squaw.com

"The Nutcracker"
Las Vegas
Dec. 17-21, 23-28
Nevada Ballet Theatre
702-895-ARTS
nevadaballet.com

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy: A Christmas Concert
Henderson
Dec. 19
702-617-7777
visitlasvegas.com

Annie Meadows Christmas Concert
Henderson
Dec. 20
702-567-4700
ritzcarlton.com

City Ballet of San Diego Russian "Nutcracker"
Reno
Dec. 20
775-789-2285
grandsierraresort.com

Menorah Ceremony at Fremont Street Experience
Las Vegas
Dec. 21
702-678-5600
vegasexperience.com



Santa Train, Boulder City, December 6-7 and December 13-14

Christmas Carolers in The Village
Lake Tahoe
Dec. 21-25
530-583-6985
squaw.com

Christmas Torchlight Parade
Lake Tahoe
Dec. 24
Ski event
530-583-6985
squaw.com

Mel Tillis
Laughlin
New Year's Eve concert
Dec. 27-Jan. 1
800-227-3849
riversideresort.com

Nevada Chamber Music Festival
Reno
Dec. 28-31
Seven-concert series featuring world-renowned musicians. Includes New Year's celebration.
775-348-9413
renochamberorchestra.org

How the Grouch Stole Christmas
Reno
Dec. 29
Concert
clubunderground-reno.com

Countdown in Downtown Fireworks
Elko
Dec. 31
775-738-5141
elkocva.com

New Year's Eve Fireworks
Fallon
Dec. 31
775-423-5105
fallontourism.com

New Year's Eve Bash
Gold Hill
Dec. 31
775-847-0111
goldhillhotel.net

Fireworks & Ice Skating
Henderson
Dec. 31
702-564-4799
montelagovillage.com

Disco Inferno: '70s Variety Show
Jackpot
Dec. 31
Showroom performance
800-821-1103
ameristarcasinos.com

Gold & Silver New Year's Eve Party
Lake Tahoe
Dec. 31
All-age party w/cable car ride, dinner, & entertainment
530-583-6985
squaw.com

New Year's Eve Celebration at Fremont Street Experience
Las Vegas
Dec. 31
702-678-5600
vegasexperience.com

Big Band Dance: Colvin Rampton Orchestra
Laughlin
Dec. 31
702-298-2535
riversideresort.com

Sha Na Na
North Las Vegas
Dec. 31
Showroom performance
702-617-5550
cannerycasinos.com

That's Italian: Dick Cantina, Frankie Randall, Pete Barbutti, Vinnie Falcone, Jerry Vale
North Las Vegas
Dec. 31
Showroom performance
702-586-5100
cannerycasinos.com

New Year's Eve Celebrations
Dec. 31
Casino parties & fireworks
See showguide listing or nevadamagazine.com for phone numbers & Web addresses.

Winnemucca | Elko | Wendover Lovelock | Wells | Carlin | Jackpot | McDermitt | Battle Mountain | Jarbidge





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LAS VEGAS AREA

november/december

Nevada Magazine's guide to Southern Nevada events. All listings are in Las Vegas unless otherwise noted. Call ahead to confirm details.

ONGOING

Second Sundays At Liberace Museum
Music in the tradition of Mr. Showmanship
702-798-5595
liberace.org

Third Thursday Arts Walk
Henderson
Monthly
702-267-4849
hendersonlive.com

Train Excursion Rides
Boulder City
Sat.-Sun.
Restored Pullman Coaches
702-486-5933
nevadaculture.org

Las Vegas Farmers' Market
Thru Nov. 28 at Springs Preserve
702-562-CORN
lasvegasfarmersmarket.com

NOVEMBER

ACDelco Las Vegas NHRA Nationals
Oct. 29-Nov. 1
Drag racing
702-644-4444
lvms.com

"Shenandoah"
Oct. 31-Nov. 2, 7-9
702-651-LIVE
csn.edu/pac

2008 PBR World Finals
Oct. 31-Nov. 9
Bull riders
702-739-FANS
unlvtickets.com



NEVADA ONLINE

For more events in the Silver State, visit nevadamagazine.com.



National Finals Rodeo, December 4-13

Bright Lights City Cruise at the Fremont Street Experience
Nov. 1
Ford car show
702-678-5600
vegasexperience.com

Native American Festival
Nov. 1
702-507-3459
lvccld.org

Speed Spectacular at the Bullring
Nov. 1
702-644-4444
lvms.com

Day of the Dead
Nov. 1-2
Mexican holiday honors the dead & celebrates the living
702-455-8175
co.clark.nv.us

Montreal Guitar Trio
Nov. 4
Music from different cultures
702-895-ARTS
pac.unlv.edu

NOTBAD Film Series: Comic Effect
Stardust, Nov. 4
Persepolis, Nov. 18
History of Violence, Nov. 25
702-228-5431
lasvegasnevada.gov

Las Vegas Book Festival
Nov. 6-8
Authors, comics expo, children's literature festival, & poetry launch
An Evening w/Neil Gaiman, Nov. 6
Comic Book Festival, Nov. 8
Batman: Gotham Nights, Nov. 8
Iron Man, Nov. 8
David Hajdu: How the Great Comic Books Scare Changed America, Nov. 8
An Evening w/Michael Chabon, Nov. 8
702-229-5431
lasvegasnevada.gov

Odyssey Las Vegas
Nov. 6-9
Culinary, wine, & art charity event
702-257-2345
odysseylifestyle.com

Pomegranate Arts Festival
Logandale
Nov. 7-8
Foods & fine arts
702-397-6444
moapavalley.com

International Powwow
Nov. 7-9
Dance & drumming demos, food, crafts, & processions
702-455-8175
co.clark.nv.us

Wendy's 3-Tour Challenge
Henderson
Nov. 7-11
Charity golf tournament
wendys3tour.com

"How the Other Half Loves"
Nov. 7-23
Marital comedy
702-362-7996
lvlt.org

Desert Dash Heat Wave III
Nov. 8
Urban race thru Las Vegas
702-499-5652
desertdash.org

PHOTO: LAS VEGAS NEWS BUREAU



Death Valley '49er Days
November 7th through 11th, 2008





Welcome the wagon train and desert trail riders as they arrive after days out on the back country desert trails. ■ Western art show ■ Photography and craft exhibits ■ Musicians ■ Cowboy poetry ■ Campfires ■ Fiddle, mandolin, banjo and guitar competitions ■ Death Valley '49ers Golf Tournament ■ Museums ■ Pioneer costume contest ■ Horseshoe contest ■ Breakfasts with historians, artists, authors and musicians ■ Sing-alongs ■ Gold panning contest ■ 4x4 Tours ■ Video and slide presentations ■ Oratories Stay in Beatty while attending the '49ers encampment. Located 7 miles from Death Valley, 38 miles from Furnace Creek and 98 miles from Las Vegas. Stay and Play - Reasonable Room & RV Rates. **Come share the adventure. Beatty, Nevada.**

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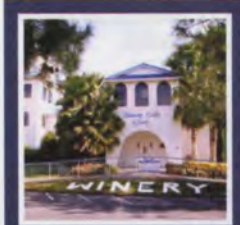
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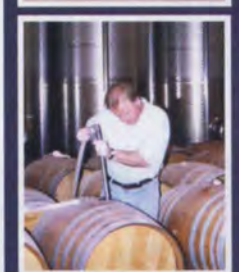


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Strut Your Mutt
Nov. 8
Contests, booths,
& vet services
702-455-8175
co.clark.nv.us

Mountain Man Rendezvous
Nov. 8-9
Primitive camps, black
powder, archery, tomahawk,
knife, & lance demos
702-875-4141
parks.nv.gov

Winterfest Art Show
Boulder City
Nov. 8-9
702-293-2034
boulder-city-chamber.com

**Silverman Nevada Full &
Half-Distance Triathlon**
Henderson/Lake Mead
Nov. 9
702-267-2171
hendersonlive.com

Choreographers' Showcase
Nov. 9, 16
Nevada Ballet Theatre
& Cirque du Soleil
702-895-ARTS
nevadaballet.com

**Firefighter Challenge
World Finals**
Nov. 11-16
702-678-5600
vegasexperience.com

UNLV Jazz Concert
Nov. 12
702-507-3459
lvccld.org

**Best of Red Mountain
Music Co.**
Nov. 13
405-842-3277
visitlasvegas.com

"Shear Madness"
Opens Nov. 14
Interactive who-dun-it,
dark Mon.
Longest running play
in theater history
shearmadnesslv.com
vendini.com

Las Vegas Philharmonic
Nov. 15
The Magic of Scheherazade
702-895-2787
lvphil.com

**Song & Dance Ensemble
of West Africa**
Nov. 19
702-895-ARTS
pac.unlv.edu

**Derrick Suwaima Davis
& Ryon Polequaptewa**
Nov. 20
Native American dance
702-507-3459
lvccld.org

Arctic Tale
Nov. 21-22
National Geographic film
702-822-8344
springspreserve.org

**Best of Broadway Dance
& Gymnastics**
Nov. 23
702-228-1340
visitlasvegas.com

**Las Vegas Invitational
Basketball Tournament**
Nov. 28-29
702-365-7111
visitlasvegas.com



Choreographers' Showcase, November 9 and 16

**Motor Trend International
Auto Show**
Nov. 28-30
702-892-0711
autoshowlv.com

Ballet Folklorico Izel
Nov. 29
Mexican folk dancing
702-507-3459
lvccld.org

Cruzade w/Nicky Cruz
Nov. 29
702-314-1332
visitlasvegas.com

DECEMBER

Downtown Hoedown
Dec. 3
Rodeo-themed event
702-678-5600
visitlasvegas.com

**Henderson FABTECH
Desert Classic**
Henderson
Dec. 4-7
Off-road race
702-267-2171
hendersonlive.com

National Finals Rodeo
Dec. 4-13
702-739-FANS
unlvtickets.com

Las Vegas Marathon
Dec. 7
702-731-1052
lvmarathon.com

UNLV Jazz Concert
Dec. 10
702-507-3459
lvccld.org

Las Vegas Bowl Buffet Bowl
Dec. 18
702-678-5600
vegasexperience.com

Las Vegas Bowl Pep Rally
Dec. 19
702-678-5600
vegasexperience.com

Pioneer Las Vegas Bowl
Dec. 20
College football
702-895-3761
unlvtickets.com



Strut Your Mutt, November 8

NEVADA EVENTS

Your Nevada events
can be considered
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Nevada Magazine.
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nevadamagazine.com.

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NEVADA MAGAZINE

RENO TAHOE/RURAL AREA

november/december

Nevada Magazine's guide to Northern Nevada and rural events. All listings are in Reno unless otherwise noted. Call ahead to confirm details.

reno-tahoe

ONGOING

Carson Valley Art Association
Second Saturday
Carson Valley art tours
775-782-5606
visitcarsonvalley.org

Beebe & Clegg on the Comstock
Virginia City
Thru April
Railroad photography & history exhibit
775-847-0419
nevadaculture.org

The Art of Nature: Sharon Schafer Exhibit
Carson City
Nov. 1-Dec. 31
775-687-4810
visitcarsoncity.com

Capital Views, Photography, & History
Carson City
Dec. 1-Jan. 2
775-721-7936
visitcarsoncity.com

NOVEMBER

Reno Chamber Orchestra
Nov. 1-2
Concert
775-348-9413
renochamberorchestra.org

Canadian Fall in the Sierra
Virginia City
Nov. 7
Gourmet dinner



NEVADA ONLINE

For more events in the Silver State, visit nevadamagazine.com.



See this issue's Holiday Events Guide starting on page 72 for festivities around the state, including Sparks' Hometowne Christmas (above).

775-847-0975
fourthwardschool.org

Rhymers Rodeer
Minden
Nov. 7-8
775-783-6679
cvinn.com

"I Say Nevada!"
Carson City
Nov. 7-23
Original musical
775-883-1976
visitcarsoncity.com

Delta Wires Concert
Carson City
Nov. 8
775-883-1976
visitcarsoncity.com

Austin Lounge Lizards Concert
Virginia City
Nov. 8
775-847-0433
pipersoperahouse.com

"South Pacific"
Carson City
Weekends, Nov. 8-23
775-445-4249
wnc.edu

"The Sunshine Boys"
Virginia City
Nov. 13, 20, Dec. 4, 11, 18
Comedy
775-847-0433
pipersoperahouse.com

Mark Twain's 173rd Birthday Dinner
Gold Hill
Nov. 14
775-847-0111
goldhillhotel.net

Midori & Abramovic
Nov. 15
Violin & piano
775-784-4278
unr.edu/arts

Star Gazing: The Milky Way
Virginia City
Nov. 15
775-847-0975
fourthwardschool.org

"Much Ado About Nothing"
Nov. 19-22
775-784-4278
unr.edu/arts

"H.M.S. Pinafore"
Nov. 21-22
Nevada Chamber Orchestra
775-784-4278
unr.edu/arts

DECEMBER

Awakening & Awareness
Dec. 2
Wind ensemble concert
775-784-4278
unr.edu/arts

Argenta Trio Concert
Dec. 5
"Global Warming"
775-784-4278
unr.edu/arts

Cirque Dreams: Jungle Fantasy
Dec. 5-7
800-714-5331
pioneercenter.com

Snowshoe Race
Lake Tahoe
Dec. 20
530-562-2475
northstarattahoe.com

Nevada Chamber Music Festival
Dec. 28-31

Seven-concert series featuring world-renowned musicians
Special New Year's Eve celebration
775-348-9413
renochamberorchestra.org

rural nevada

ONGOING

Excursion Trains
Ely
Weekends in November
Ride aboard historic train
775-289-2085
nnry.com

Top Gun Raceway Drag Racing
Fallon
Thru Nov.
775-423-0223
fallontourism.com

Fallon Trap Club
Fallon
Thru Dec.
Trap shooting
775-427-4556
fallontourism.com

Kaleidoscope of Color
Elko
Thru Dec.
Abstract art by Jean Hart
775-753-6930

Cityscape by Eunkang Koh & Violence & Desire by Mick Sheldon
Fallon
Thru Dec. 14
Art exhibits
775-423-1440
Email: charts@phonewave.net

Voces Latinas
Fernley
Nov. 20-Jan. 8
Traveling art exhibit
775-781-9800
ponyexpressnevada.com

Sierra Java Exhibit
Elko
Jan. 1-31
Gary Carrillo watercolors & pastels
775-738-5762

NOVEMBER

National Finals Senior Pro Rodeo
Winnemucca
Oct. 29-Nov. 1
800-962-2638
winnemucca.com

Beatty Days
Beatty
Oct. 31-Nov. 2
Historical celebration, chili cook-off, music, bed races, parade & wagon rides
775-553-2424
beattynevada.org

Lightwood Duo
Eureka
Nov. 7
Guitar & clarinet
775-237-6006
co.eureka.nv.us

Wrangler Team Roping
Winnemucca
Nov. 7-9
800-962-2638
winnemucca.com

Death Valley '49er Days
Beatty
Nov. 7-11
866-736-3716
beattynevada.org

Chukar Tournament & Feed
Battle Mountain
Nov. 8
Prize money
775-635-1112
battlemountaintourism.com

Museum Birthday Ball
Elko
Nov. 8
Northeastern Nevada Museum
775-738-3418
elkocva.com

Rattlesnake Raceway Dirt Track Racing
Fallon
Nov. 8
775-423-7483
fallontourism.com

A Night at the Museum
Elko
Nov. 11, Dec. 9
Northeastern Nevada Museum
775-738-3418
elkocva.com



Cirque Dreams: Jungle Fantasy, Pioneer Center, Reno

Chariot Races
Wells
Nov. 14-16
775-752-3540
elkocva.com

Grimes Point Tour
Fallon
Nov. 15
Archeological site
775-323-6723
Email: info@nevadarockart.org

GWAR
Nov. 18
Concert
775-826-4119
newoasisreno.com

Johanna Burton
Fallon
Nov. 21
Reading by art historian & critic
775-423-1440
Email: charts@phonewave.net

Pahrump Competition Powwow & Rodeo
Pahrump
Nov. 21-23
775-727-5800
pahrumpchamber.com

Ruby Mountain Symphony Concert
Elko
Nov. 22
775-738-4187
elkocva.com

The Ghost of Mark Twain
Hawthorne
Nov. 22
McAvoy Lane, impersonator
775-945-5854
mineralcountytourism.com

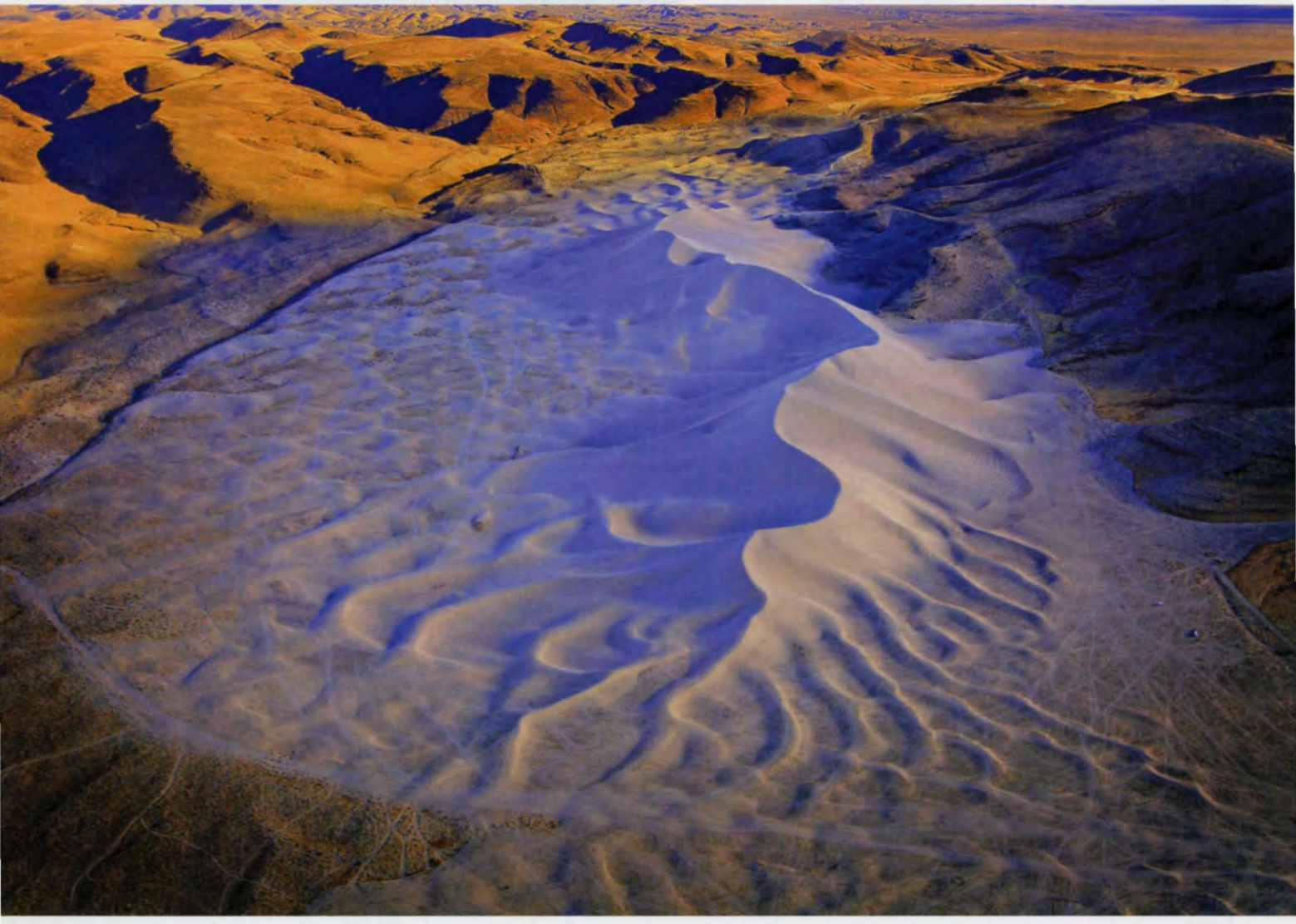
Fall Art Show
Tonopah
Nov. 22
775-482-3859
tonopahchamberofcommerce.com

Corvette Track Days
Pahrump
Nov. 22-23
Training course
800-391-6891
springmountainmotorsports.com

Del Tha Funky Homosapien
Nov. 29
Concert
clubunderground-reno.com

DECEMBER

Birding at Pahranagat
Alamo
Dec. 6
Transportation via motorcoach
Email: michelle.baker@unlv.edu



BIRD'S-EYE BOUNTY

"The sun had just set on Sand Mountain," says Minden photographer Jay Aldrich, who snapped this photo last November. "And the light sand glowed blue in the shade." Aldrich was returning home from an aerial shoot in eastern Nevada when he got an unexpected opportunity to look down on this geographical marvel east of Fallon. "The helicopter pilot, John Kelly of El Aero Services, instinctively circled the mountain without any prompting from me," Aldrich recalls.

jayaldrich.com, elaero.com

PHOTO BY JAY ALDRICH

Share Your Nevada

Send your favorite Nevada images to tony@nevadamagazine.com, subject line "Your Nevada," for possible publication.



Pyramid Lake, Nevada

There's more to Nevada than fabulous Las Vegas and legendary performers like Wayne Newton. Unearth the state's Paiute roots at the Pyramid Lake Museum. Ride aboard Ely's steam-era Ghost Train. Get a taste of Basque culture in Elko. Or bask in the starlight beneath Tonopah's dark skies. It's *your* show.

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