

ROCKOn

MAGAZINE



AN INTERVIEW WITH

JEFF FOXWORTHY

Jeff Foxworthy



HOT AUGUST NIGHTS

Est. 1986

*Interview with
Executive Director Deny Dotson*

ISSUE 75

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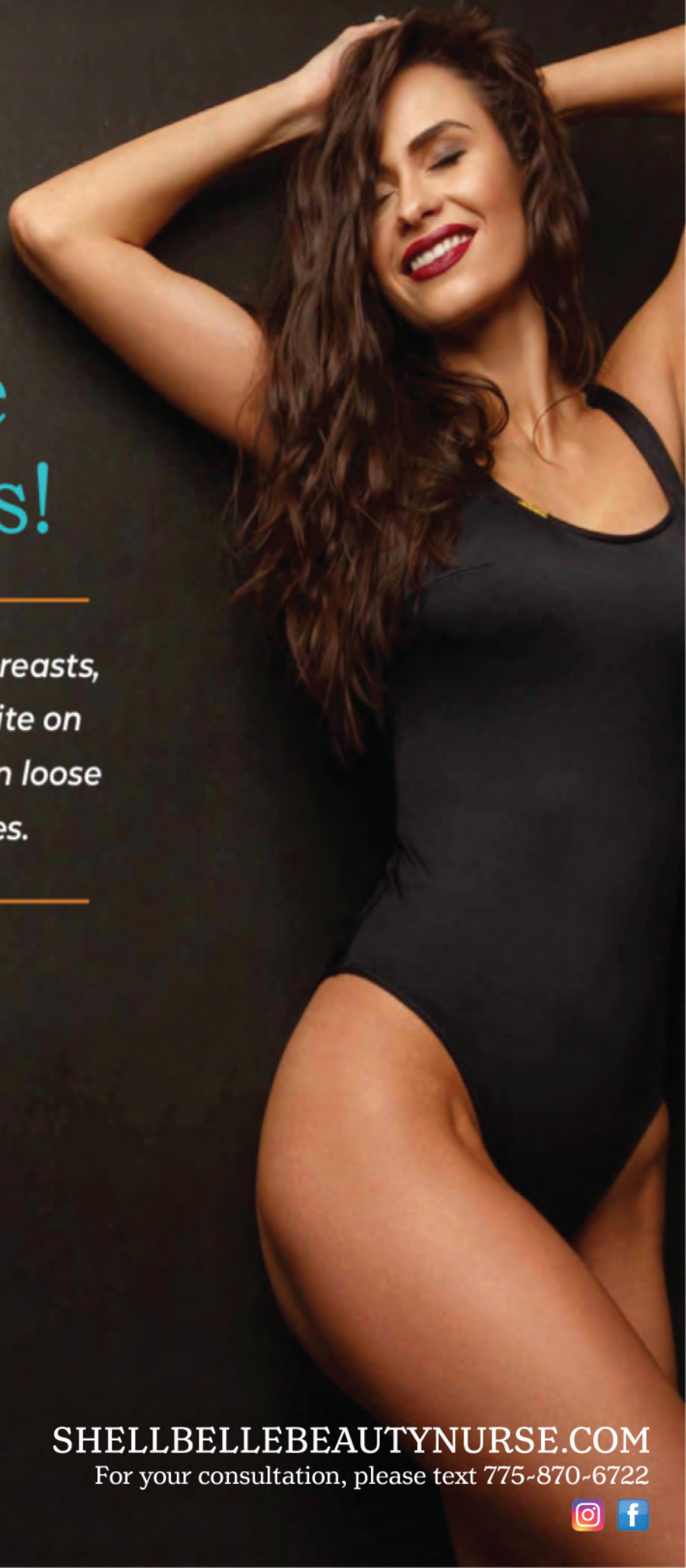
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Spotlight: Reno's Belleville Wine Bar Nico Gourdon pairs unique and delicious cuisine with hand-selected wine list

By Bill Kopp

Nico Gourdon opened Belleville Wine Bar in 2023 with the goal of bringing something different and special to Reno. With an expertly curated wine list and a superb menu designed by a top chef, Belleville Wine Bar has carved out a unique niche in the Reno area. Rock On caught Nico in a rare quiet moment between conversations with patrons at the popular and elegant wine bar.



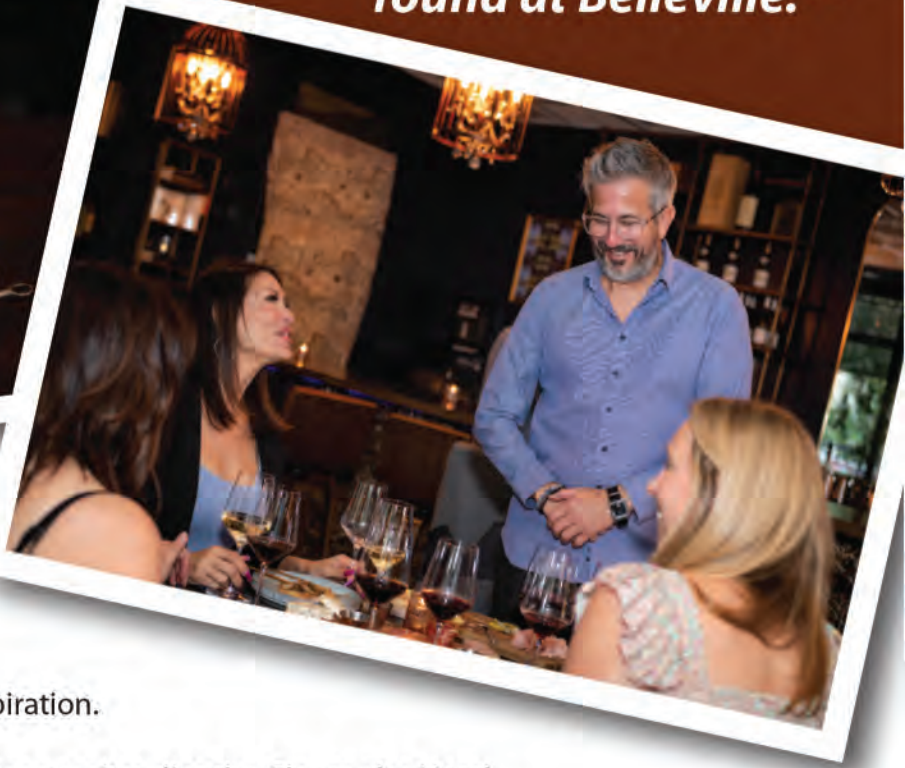
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“You can come to Belleville after yoga with your yoga pants, you can show up with your girlfriend and wear Louboutin and have a party, and everything in between.”





“This wine can only be found at Belleville.”



What inspired you to open Belleville Wine Bar?

The idea for Belleville came from many years of inspiration.

I worked for 38 years in four countries. At age 27 I was a maitre d' at the Gleneagles Hotel in Scotland, which at the time was one of the top ten hotels in the world. There you had the opportunity to pass an exam for five-star service. They awarded that to me, which basically gave me a passport to work anywhere. When I was living in Los Angeles, I was working in Santa Monica in an Italian restaurant. Benoit Rablat from Paris was my roommate; he was working at Mozza – Mario Batali's and Nancy Silverton's place – in Los Angeles. One morning we were talking: "How cool it would be, you and me doing something together? Pouring wine on a Saturday night with [people] five deep at the bar?" Sometime after that, Benoit and his girlfriend Sandy Sanchez – who was also working at Mozza, and is now his wife – moved to Miami, opened two restaurants and a wine store. La Fresa Francesa, Silverlake Bistro, and Normandy Gourmandy Neighborhood Food and Wine Emporium, all of which can be found in Florida.

I moved to Reno five years ago because my daughter lives here; and I was tired of being far away from her. Since moving here, I've been getting to know Reno, enjoying the experience of people with food and wine. And at Belleville we always love the pairing; it's very strong in France and all of Europe to push the experience to the next level, having wine and food together.

Chef Benoit designed the menu for Belleville, and Sandy designed the place. And I took care of the wine list! So Belleville is really a group effort of three people.

What part of the Southern California experience did you hope to bring to Reno with Belleville Wine Bar?

I believe that what Reno was missing a place for women to go to drink wine: a place for them. A place that would feature wines that are not overpowering, not over-jammy, not over-sweet, not over-rich, not over-anything. And food portions that are not too big, but that can be shared.

I tell my customers, "You can come to Belleville after yoga with your yoga pants, you can show up with your girlfriend and wear Louboutin and have a party, and everything in between." And 80% of my clients are women!



How do you select the wines that you feature?

Really, I have no rules. It's all from the heart. When I choose a wine, I must see myself talking about it, and I must be able to enjoy it. It must make sense and fit the concept of Belleville. It must be a wine not found in the store or anywhere else locally. I take people on a journey for wine. And for myself: because as we go on that journey, I discover new things, too. That makes the whole experience exciting for me and for the customer.

How extensive of a wine selection do you have?

We have about 20 wines by the glass, give or take, depending on availability. And we have about 70 to 75 wines by the bottle. That's not quite enough for me; that list will expand. But right now, I have domestic, French, Italian wines; I have a couple from Germany, and from Spain. For one of our events, we had some Chardonnay from South Africa. Soon we're going to bring some Mexican wine from Baja California. Eventually I want to get some Greek wine, too.

I have a Malbec from Argentina right now, by the glass. But it is not your typical Malbec from Argentina. It has a little bit more elegance and subtlety; it's a little more sophisticated. So anything goes, as long as it is not a palate killer.

How often do your wine selections change?

At Belleville, there's not a rule where I'm going to say, "Okay, every three months I need to change 20 wines," or anything like that. There is wine that the people love right away, like one from Languedoc-Roussillon; that's a wine that maybe 90% of the people didn't know about, but they fell in love with it. So when there is a huge interest in some wine, that wine will become a staple for Belleville's list, and I will keep it.

And I rotate selections, of course. I'm always going to be conscious about what works best during winter and summer. And I keep selections for people who like wine with a little bit more body, a little bit more tannin.

We also have our own Belleville private-label wine. It's made in collaboration with the Couch Family Vineyard in Santa Clara, Central Coast California. The wine is a Cabernet Sauvignon/Cabernet Franc, an old world, Left Bank Bordeaux style. This wine can only be found at Belleville.



But we also put focus on making sure that all the wine that we have can be paired with the food in different combinations. You can come today to Belleville and you can ask me, "What would be the best wine with this dish?" And I'm going to tell you, "You should have that." But tomorrow I'm going to change my mind: it's going to be a different one!

Does the menu change as well?

Yes. Because we opened just ten months ago, there's a lot of trying different things right now. But all the dishes are a huge success. Benoit designed the menu, but I've added a couple of things here and there because I love cooking as well.

For a food and drink event coming up from the third of June through the fourteenth, we're having a prix fixe menu. Benoit is coming up with a cold lettuce and fresh herb soup with hazelnut; we will pair that with a Chardonnay from Mexico. And I'm making an heirloom tomato tart with a French puff pastry and goat cheese cream. We're going to pair that with a rosé from Provence, from a winery that's ten minutes from where I grew up.

I make my own apple tart, using my mom's recipe. I cook apples in Pommeau de Normandie, a brandy of calvados. So things at Belleville have a personal touch. You can know that they're not going to be on the menu anywhere else in Reno. I know they're going to love that dish, and we can create an experience with the wine.

Also, I recently started seafood happy hour every other Sunday. And that has become the biggest thing now at Belleville. It's one to eight p.m., so it's a huge happy hour, just for seafood! I get Spanish sardines. We do smoked salmon tartine, we do crab deviled eggs. I make a French shrimp bisque from scratch; it's a three-day process. People who have lobster bisque at the casinos, when they go to Belleville, they find very different things.

Birds are part of the motif of Belleville Wine Bar. What's the significance of that?

It's a tribute to Oiseaux, birds. All over the place are the blue mountain birds from Lake Tahoe. And that's why we call it Belleville, which means "beautiful town" in French.

What's your favorite thing about owning the wine bar?

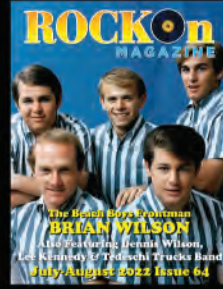
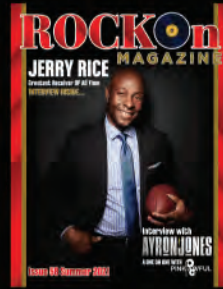
I can express myself, and I can share my experience. It's really so much fun to give to people!

Photos by Tony Contini



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Winter Light: For the Love of Music By Daena Smith

Steve Roberts and Tammie Lee are longtime musicians. Steve's fascination started at thirteen, when the drummer from Kool & The Gang began showing him how to play the drums. The band practiced in the basement of his family's home in Hillside, New Jersey. Tammie began singing at age 17 in a band that Steve played drums in.

Their love affair with each other and music ignited when Tammie saw Steve hanging out at the jukebox at the community pool in Hillside, where all the kids went during the sultry heat of east coast summers. Too shy to introduce herself to Steve—she was all of nine years old—her cousin made the introductions. Soon after, Steve, all of thirteen himself, and Tammie started spending their free time with each other exploring their one square mile town.

Drumming became Steve's second passion. He took lessons, bought his own drum set before turning eighteen, and played in a band called Heat during High school. Heat won the junior achievement award. But as many bands do, the members departed after graduation to earn a living, playing music when they could.

Steve was not deterred. His friends would encourage his talent by frequently asking him to play different songs. After high school, Steve joined The Flying Dogs. Eventually, they were noticed and scheduled to go on tour with SuperTramp in the 70's. But the band had to acquiesce, as both their guitarist and drummer were hurt on the job and couldn't play. Though it was a let down, Steve didn't stop playing music. He did, however, follow his first passion, the light of his life, deciding to leave Hillside when he got a call from the girl he loved, Tammie.

You two met when you were very young. When did you start playing music together?

Steve: I was in the band The Flying Dogs. Tammie would come in and sing with the band. She sang so beautifully that I wanted to put a band together with her. Then Tammie moved from Hillside to San Francisco with her sister, and I followed her. I came out with the guitarist from The Flying Dogs because the band broke up after we made our only album American Dream in 1977. We lived together in San Francisco, where we met several members of different professional bands.

What happened in San Francisco?

Tammie: We met David Gans with Band Magazine after moving to San Francisco. He put together a Grateful Dead tribute band called The Reptiles, which we joined. That was in 1979. In the 80's, we were in Haight Ashbury. David was part of the Grateful Dead family. He was always interviewing them and wrote books on the band, which is how he and the band became good friends. One time, David was playing with Phil Lesh, the bass player from The Grateful Dead, and he invited us to their show at The Fillmore in San Francisco, so I got to sing back-up with Phil Lesh and Steve played drums.

What else happened while you were in San Francisco in the 80's?

Steve: There was a lot going on in the 80's. I joined a band called The Heaters. Tammie came along when we would practice, and people started calling her Grace Slick's little sister. We rehearsed in the same place where the Doobie Brothers were down the hallway. They said if they ever needed a Doobie Sister it would be Tammie. I also met Commander Cody and His Lost Planet Airmen (Hot Rod Lincoln).

Tammie: We started a jam session on Sunday at Crown and Anchor in Alameda. It was musicians who hadn't become famous yet like Brad Gillis, the guitar player for Night Ranger, and Danny Chauncey, who is the guitar player for 38 Special. These were all people that we were friends with and jammed every Sunday with. Brad Gillis was just like us, a musician who was playing around. He did have his band in a garage: Night Ranger wasn't out playing, but they would jam in the garage and write songs together and stuff. Brad Gills went on tour with Ozzy Osbourne when Randy Roads died. Ozzy is the person who helped Brad Gillis get Night Ranger going.

What happened after San Francisco?

Tammie: After the earthquake in 1989, we moved to Florida. We moved all around the country to places like Reno, South Lake Tahoe, and Oregon.

Steve: When we were in South Lake Tahoe, I played in a band called Uncle Funkle. We played funk music for over two thousand shows around Tahoe, but that was without Tammie.

What about you, Steve? Were you in other bands?

Steve: I kept getting offers from all different bands. I was in seven different bands at one time in the Bay Area. Unfortunately, none of them became famous.



I did come up with the drum part for 867-5309 / Jenny by Tommy TuTone. Tommy liked the way I played drums, so he had his drummer listen to the part I played for the song. When we moved to Florida, I played with Les Dudek; he was Steve Miller's guitar player.

Tammie: We were also in a Pink Floyd tribute band in Florida called the Wall of Echoes.

Steve: That was really fun. I loved playing the music of Pink Floyd. It is such a good feeling to play music that you love. You feel it more than you do when you're just playing a song.

Why did you move around the country so much?

Tammie: Well, I was working. One of us had to have a full-time job because you can't do anything without a viable income. So I decided to be the one to work, and Steve could do music full-time. I was a sales manager for resorts, and I booked weddings and parties and things like that. I also got to work for Disney World in Florida for eight years during the mid 2000's, which was something I always wanted to do. I'm a Disney kid.

You have a new band called Winter Light, so how did that happen?

Tammie: We came back to Reno in 2013. We met Paul Anthony in 2014. The band has had different members over the years. We were called Psychedelic Six. Then Steve wanted to start playing bass instead of drums. When we found Buddy Tucker in 2022—he became our drummer—then we changed the name to Winter Light.



What music do you enjoy playing together? And who's in the band?

Steve: I play bass and sing. Paul Anthony is on guitar and on vocals; Buddy Tucker is our drummer and also sings lead vocals, and Randy Theobald is our keyboardist who joined us last year. Tammie Lee is our female lead vocalist. We play just about anything that we like. It's such a good feeling to play music that you love.

Tammie: That's what we do in Winter Light. We play everything from rock, country, psychedelic music, but it's all music that everyone in the band can feel with our heart. If you sing a song you don't like then you can't sing it with feeling.

What's your line-up for the next few months?

Tammie: We're playing the 3rd Annual Reno Battleborn VFW Post Summer Music Festival on May 25th. On June 9th we're at The Grove, and on June 21st we'll play Food Truck Friday. In July in Berkeley, we're doing a reunion of The Reptiles, a Grateful Dead tribute band.

****For more information on Where and When for Winter Light, please check out their website: <https://winterlightband.org/>**



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Jeff Foxworthy's Stand-up Comedy: a Celebration of Shared Experience

by Bill Kopp

Today, five-time Grammy nominee Jeff Foxworthy is a household name. Three of his 1990s-era stand-up comedy albums went Platinum; he's appeared in music videos by "Weird" Al Yankovic, Alan Jackson and others. As an actor (*The Jeff Foxworthy Show*) and presenter (*Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?*) he became a familiar face on television. He's worked in film, too (*Blue Collar Comedy Tour: The Movie*). For four decades he has brought his stand-up comedy to live audiences all over the world.

But in 1984 he was (really) a 9-to-5, blue-collar worker in midtown Atlanta, doing maintenance and repair of mainframe computers for industry giant IBM. Yet at the urging of his co-workers, one evening he visited popular comedy club the Punchline, entering a stand-up competition. When Foxworthy won first place at the Great Southeastern Laugh-off, his comedy career began in earnest.





How do you develop new material, and how do you work it into your set?

To this day, if I have an idea or a group of ideas, I always go down to a local club. I've never found another way to do it.

But I don't want to go on a Saturday, because Saturday audiences laugh at everything. I want to go on a Tuesday night when there's 30 or 40 people in there. Because they'll be honest with you. If you throw something out and nobody laughs, it's like, "Did I not explain that right, or did I not?" And they're like, "No, it's just not funny."

That's part of what makes stand-up such a fascinating thing to me: I've been doing it 40 years, and I still can't tell you what people are going to laugh at, and what they're not going to laugh at. Sometimes I go in with a thought or a premise and I think, "Oh, this is hilarious!" And you throw it out there, and... nothing. Crickets.

And sometimes I think, "Well, this [joke] is kind of stupid." And you throw it out there and people are beating the tables and laughing. And you're like, really? But that's what makes it so fun. It's kind of like being with a woman that you can't quite figure out: That's what keeps her interesting. And stand-up is kind of the same way.

Do you find that if something works somewhere that it'll pretty much work everywhere?

Well, I think sometimes audiences' experiences are different. I remember real early on, I was at the Punchline in Atlanta, and I was watching a comic from New York. They were doing all this material about the subway, and it just wasn't working very well. And they came offstage and they said, "Oh, these people in Atlanta are stupid!" And I said, "Well, they're really not. We don't have subways, so they don't know what you're talking about. No more than I could go up to New York City and talk about bass fishing or bow hunting." We don't have that shared experience. When I'm thinking about things to talk about on stage, in the back of my mind, I always have that [memory].

I got bitten by a copperhead about six months ago. And my thought was, "I've got to get a bit out of this." A, to pay for the antivenom, but B, because it is an unusual thing; you need to talk about it. I think a lot of people have the thoughts that stand-up comedians have, but they don't do anything with them. They have the thought, and then they go on with the rest of their day. Whereas comics grab it and go, "Yeah, why do we do that?" Or, "Has anybody else thought this was weird?"

To me, one of the favorite responses is for somebody to come back after the show and say, "Oh, my gosh, I've done that," or "I've said that," or "I've thought that." You made them laugh at themselves, kind of.

That's the great thing about art and entertainment, when you can make something that connects and resonates with people.

Yeah, I 100% agree. I don't know how the people on the outside view comedians, but I think some people probably think, "Oh, they're just a bunch of silly idiots." Well, comedians are kind of fascinated because by nature, they're curious people. Most of them are really well-read, and they deep-dive on things.



At the end of the day, you're studying people. I think no matter which side of the political spectrum you're on, we probably agree on 85% of the things: what we want out of life, what we worry about, whatever. And we hit a point where all we do is argue about the 15% that we're different on instead of celebrating the 85% that we have in common.

I think we may be headed out of it now, but we've been in a period where people have to be right. And if they have to be right, that means you have to be wrong. And nobody wants to have that conversation, so both sides end up defensive. And the truth of the matter is, we're all wrong about something, and we're all wrong about a lot of somethings. Because nobody has life figured out.

We kind of lost that ability to laugh at ourselves. But if we would all land there, I think we'd eliminate a lot of this yelling at each other. And at the end of the day, we don't have to agree on everything. And you don't have to decapitate somebody if they don't agree with you.

If you hadn't entered that competition at the Punchline back in '84, what do you think you'd be doing today?

Wow. Nobody's ever asked me that.

I don't know. I think if I had stayed in the corporate world, I would have been miserable. And I've thought about that. Would I have quit that and gone and done something creative? I think I probably would have; I love to draw and paint. That's something people don't know about me.

And then I thought, "Well, maybe I would have ended up in advertising or something," because that's where you get to be creative and be funny. I think I could have done that. But I might have ended up taking care of somebody else's farm, and been totally happy doing that.

Had you remained with IBM, you'd be long since retired. Do you foresee yourself retiring from the stage at any point?



I guess at some point you have to. Even when I was starting out, I would sometimes watch old comedians and think, "Oh, I remember when they used to be funny." I would always tell my wife, "Tell me when I'm not funny anymore; I don't want to embarrass myself like that."

And she would always say, "Well, if you'll just listen, you'll know." So now I listen because I don't want to stay too long at the dance.

But it's like the other night when we were sold out. You get to the end and everybody stands, and you're like, "Well, I guess I got a few more shows in me, right?" I still enjoy it when those lights go down and they shine that flashlight on the floor. I'm over the airline travel and I'm over the hotel rooms, but when I'm out there, it's just fun. These people paid money to hear what I have to say, and that's quite humbling.

Somebody asked me not long ago, "What do you think when you're about to walk out onstage?" And I said, "I'm about to go talk to my friends." Which is probably kind of a weird thought, but that's what I think.

Jeff Foxworthy will appear at the Nugget Casino Resort in Sparks, NV on June 14.



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HOT AUGUST NIGHTS

Est. 1986

ROCKOn
MAGAZINE

*Interview with
Executive Director Deny Dotson*

Classic Cars and Rock-n-Roll with a Cause: Hot August Nights Offers More than a Week-Long Event in August

By Daena Smith

In 1986 at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center a rock-n-roll event was held to help fill the void in tourism for the month of August. One night of music and dancing ignited a decades long phenomenon for Reno known as Hot August Nights. Over the last forty years, Hot August Nights has grown so much that the event has spread into Virginia City and Sparks because no one venue can handle the number of cars, concerts, and people HAN brings to the Biggest Little City. A classic car extravaganza, Hot August Nights hosts car aficionados from all over the country. They come to Reno proudly displaying their one of a kind classic vehicles for spectators and other car enthusiasts to gush over. While the owners of the vehicles love the crowd's approval, the real testament of their endeavors is to be recognized by the judges: those individuals who determine which classic car has outdone all others in their respective category. It's a race to the finish line to see which entrants have outdone all others at the awards show on August 11th at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center.

Young and Old Celebrate Rock-n-Roll and Classic Cars

Deny Dotson is the Executive Director for Hot August Nights, a lover of rock music, classic cars, and Reno, he explains why Hot August Nights continues to hold such an attraction for people:

"The demographic for Hot August Nights is not aging and going away. It's actually expanding and growing into multiple generations. Families with second and third generations have grandpa's car, and they are proud to show it off during the event," states Deny. Handling approximately 5500 cars, Deny shares that HAN's directors and its board work with five hundred volunteers, as well as a variety of vendors and sponsors to put on the week-long event that spans three cities.

Deny explains, "We don't have the space for 5500 cars at one venue, so we work with partners to spread out the vehicles, people, parking, and activities. We want everyone to have a good time, find a place to park, and make sure the classic cars can move easily without their owners worrying about overheating."



Music Line-Up for 2024

"We have a fabulous line-up of music this year at the Nugget Events Center," shares Deny. "WAR will kick us off on Wednesday night. On Thursday night, it's Hotel California, which is an Eagles tribute band. The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band plays Friday night, and on Saturday night Blood, Sweat and Tears is coming."

Not only will there be a great music line-up at the Nugget, Grand Sierra Resorts will also have Starship featuring Micky Thomas and Night Ranger, plus Kraig Parker as Elvis, Tommy James & The Shondells, and a Bob Seager and the Silver Bullet Band tribute band named, Turn the Page.

"We get to celebrate the history of our community, rock-n-roll, and classic cars over seven venues. Families can enjoy activities around town. It's a cool, laid-back event," states Deny.

Hot August Nights: More than Just a Car Show

The week of Hot August Nights is composed of seven venues including auctions, swap meets, show and shines, and of course, the free concerts. For the event to encompass the number of locations and handle the influx of tourists, as well as the fifty-five hundred entrants,

HAN management relies on its volunteers, as the event would be hard pressed to succeed without them. "They deserve much of the credit for creating seamless structure between the multiple venues," states Deny.

Although the majority of the volunteers work the first week of August at the main event, many of them contribute their time year round via the Hot August Night Foundation.

Created in 2007 to support at-risk youth locally in Northern Nevada, the HAN Foundation hosts the Classics and Cocktails fundraiser in April. Working closely with local schools that lack funding, as well as the Boys and Girls Club of Nevada, the HAN Foundation provides much needed clothes, shoes and other items. Did you know that the HAN Foundation also holds Christmas drives to take kids Christmas shopping? The HAN Foundation also participates in the Christmas Parade for Sparks every year. The majority of HAN volunteers work year round doing multiple things to help kids in our community. Some knit sweaters and others hold give-aways for at-risk youth. To support their volunteers, the HAN Foundation hosts bbqs and other gatherings to thank those who spend their time helping others.



If you'd like to volunteer and be a part of it all, please check out <https://hotaugustnights.net/volunteer-member/>.

Rewards and Trophies on August 11th

At the end of the week-long event, HAN holds an awards show at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center. Sponsors choose their favorites, as do the HAN volunteers, and the judges themselves have their own picks. Awards are given for best custom, best stock, best truck, and the like. The overall grand champion will be featured for the following year in HAN's marketing, including their website and on apparel, so millions of eyes will see the 2024 Grand Champion. Deny explains, "We've had winners in different categories since 1986, but the structure of the awards has been a little different. The current format started in 2023 with the Grand Champion."



Hot August Nights begins August 2, 2024, in Virginia City. Please visit <https://hotaugustnights.net/> to review information for registering a vehicle to volunteering to be a part of HAN's Foundation or to see if there's any positions left for volunteering at the main event.

Ashley McBryde: Girl Going Places

by Bill Kopp

Country-rock singer/songwriter Ashley McBryde was born in 1983 in Arkansas and raised near Saddle and Mammoth Spring, Arkansas. With a population of less than 1000 persons, Mammoth Spring is nearly the same distance – about 140 miles – from Springfield, Missouri; Memphis, Tennessee and Little Rock, Arkansas. The nearest Interstate highway is some 75 miles to its southeast. Located just down the road from Mammoth Spring, unincorporated Saddle is so tiny that census figures aren't even available.

In other words, Ashley McBryde comes from rural America. And the heartfelt, street-level lyrics of her original songs reflect that unalloyed background. She's less slick than many of her Nashville contemporaries; that is likely one of the secrets to her success as both a concert draw and a recording artist. She doesn't steer completely clear of cliché; doing that would place her outside the framework of today's country music scene. But there's a welcome authenticity to her music, one that makes listening a rewarding experience.

McBryde self-released her self-titled debut long-player in 2006, not long after attending Arkansas State University.



ASHLEY McBRYDE





Girl Going Nowhere was nominated at the 61st Annual Grammy Awards for Best Country Album; the award went to Kacey Musgraves' Golden Hour. But McBryde was nominated twice at that year's Academy of Country Music (ACM) Awards: Female Artist of the Year and New Female Artist of the Year. She took home the trophy for the latter. That same year McBryde won New Artist of the Year at the Country Music Association (CMA) Awards.

The history of popular music is littered with tales of the so-called "sophomore slump." The thinking goes like this: an artist has his or her entire life to come up with good songs for their debut album on a major label. If it's at all successful and they get an opportunity to make a second record, they usually have but a few months to create new material. And against the backdrop of a touring schedule in promotion of their first record, that challenge is only increased.

But when she returned in 2020 with *Never Will*, McBryde went against that trend. Achieving widespread critical acclaim, the record – featuring 11 songs, all but one of which was co-written by McBryde – was named among the year's best by Billboard, Rolling Stone, Spin, Stereogum and music trade publication Variety. Yet McBryde didn't need those accolades to boost her confidence; she hit the road in support of the album on her *One Night Standards* Tour in January of that year, more than two months before the album even hit the shelves.

The tour was named after the lead-off single from *Never Will*. Released the previous September, "One Night Standards" showcases McBryde's wit and sassy style; it's the tale of a woman in a hotel room with a man, with her laying out the ground rules for a one-night stand.

The single soared to the #11 spot on Billboard's country airplay chart, and climbed all the way to the #1 position on Canada's country chart.

Never Will's second single was released in October 2020, by which time most concert tours had been curtailed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. But even from their armchairs, the critics and public alike showered praise upon "Martha Divine," a tale of a young woman upset upon realizing that her mother's boyfriend is being unfaithful. In her first-person approach to the lyrics, McBryde makes it clear that she's not prepared to be a passive bystander, and sets out to right the egregious wrong.

That forced absence from the touring circuit led McBryde to record and rush-release an EP (extended play) titled Never Will: Live from a Distance. Recorded live, albeit without an audience, McBryde and her band – guitarists Chris Harris and Mark Helmkamp, Christian Sancho on bass and drummer Quinn Hill – run through six of the second album's songs, presenting them in the arrangements concertgoers would have witnessed had the tour been allowed to continue. To promote the May 2021 EP release, McBryde and her band premiered a live concert on her YouTube channel.

In every single year after her debut release, McBryde has been honored by multiple nominations and/or rewards in recognition of her artistry. Between 2020 and 2023, McBryde scored a staggering 26 nominations, variously from the ACM, CMA and The Recording Academy (Grammys). She earned five trophies from among that lot; her most recent and prestigious award came in February 2023 when "Never Wanted to Be That Girl," a duet with Carly Pearce, won the Grammy Award for Best Country Duo/Group Performance.





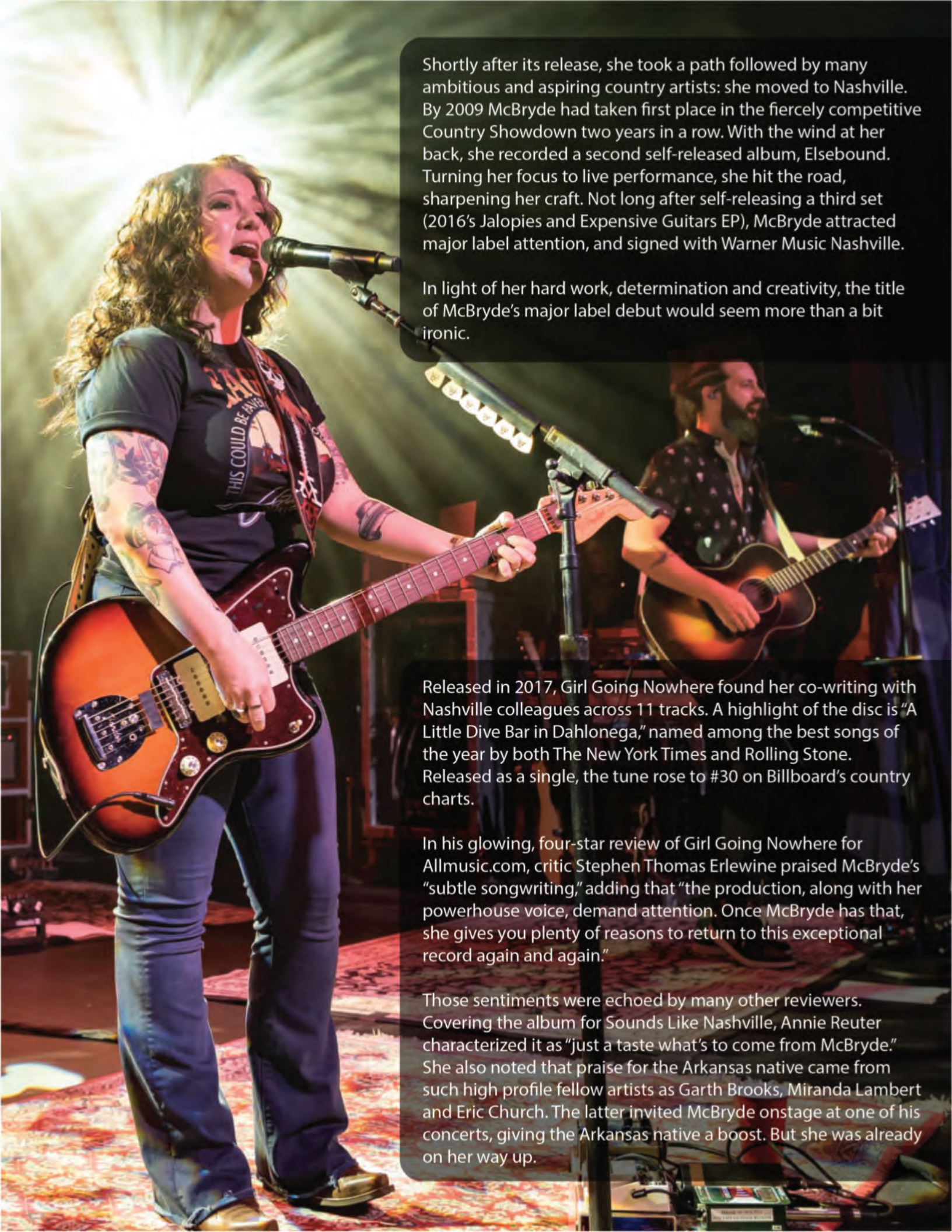
The pair beat out the illustrious duo of Robert Plant and Alison Kraus, frequent nominees Brothers Osborne and even country icons Dolly Parton and Reba McEntire.

And McBryde's creative ambitions are seemingly without bounds. With well-earned critical and commercial momentum, she had quietly been working on not one, but two new albums. She delivered both to her label at the same time, and *Lindeville* was released in September 2022. Leading a six-person songwriting team that included fellow critics' darling Brandy Clark, McBryde crafted a work of the sort more commonly associated with the world of rock: a concept album.

The record's 13 songs are an interwoven collection of wry vignettes and character studies, suffused with wit and humor. Exploring the spectrum of human emotions, *Lindeville* represents the latest in an unbroken string of creative triumphs from the young woman from Arkansas. And with another album already completed and waiting in the wings, the future looks brighter than ever for Ashley McBryde.



www.ashleymcbryde.com



Shortly after its release, she took a path followed by many ambitious and aspiring country artists: she moved to Nashville. By 2009 McBryde had taken first place in the fiercely competitive Country Showdown two years in a row. With the wind at her back, she recorded a second self-released album, *Elsebound*. Turning her focus to live performance, she hit the road, sharpening her craft. Not long after self-releasing a third set (2016's *Jalopies and Expensive Guitars EP*), McBryde attracted major label attention, and signed with Warner Music Nashville.

In light of her hard work, determination and creativity, the title of McBryde's major label debut would seem more than a bit ironic.

Released in 2017, *Girl Going Nowhere* found her co-writing with Nashville colleagues across 11 tracks. A highlight of the disc is "A Little Dive Bar in Dhalonega," named among the best songs of the year by both *The New York Times* and *Rolling Stone*. Released as a single, the tune rose to #30 on Billboard's country charts.

In his glowing, four-star review of *Girl Going Nowhere* for *Allmusic.com*, critic Stephen Thomas Erlewine praised McBryde's "subtle songwriting," adding that "the production, along with her powerhouse voice, demand attention. Once McBryde has that, she gives you plenty of reasons to return to this exceptional record again and again."

Those sentiments were echoed by many other reviewers. Covering the album for *Sounds Like Nashville*, Annie Reuter characterized it as "just a taste what's to come from McBryde." She also noted that praise for the Arkansas native came from such high profile fellow artists as Garth Brooks, Miranda Lambert and Eric Church. The latter invited McBryde onstage at one of his concerts, giving the Arkansas native a boost. But she was already on her way up.

FOREVER GONE BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN

TOBY KEITH

July 8th 1961 - February 5th 2024

Toby Keith Covell is an American country music singer, songwriter, record producer, actor, and businessman. Keith released his chart-topping debut single, "Should've Been a Cowboy", in 1993. During the 1990s, Keith released his first four studio albums, each earning gold or higher certification.



RICHARD LEWIS

June 29th, 1947 - February 27th 2024

Richard Philip Lewis was an American stand-up comedian, actor, and writer who became prominent in the 1980s and known for his dark, neurotic, and self-deprecating humor.



MATHEW PERRY

August 16, 1969 - October 28, 2023

Matthew Langford Perry was an American and Canadian actor. He gained international fame for starring as Chandler Bing on the NBC television sitcom Friends. Perry also appeared on Ally McBeal and received Primetime Emmy Award nominations for performances in The West Wing and The Ron Clark Story.



CARL WEATHERS

January 14th 1948 - February 1st 2024

Carl Weathers was an American actor, director, and gridiron football linebacker. His roles included boxer Apollo Creed in the first four Rocky films, Colonel Al Dillon in Predator, Chubbs Peterson in Happy Gilmore, and Combat Carl in the Toy Story franchise.



ANGUS CLOUD

July 10th, 1998 - July 31st 2023

Conor Angus Cloud Hickey was an American actor. He was best known for portraying Fezco in the HBO drama series Euphoria. He also had minor roles in the independent films North Hollywood and The Line and appeared in music videos by Noah Cyrus, Juice Wrld, Becky G, and Karol G.



DAVID SOUL

August 28th, 1943 - January 4th 2024

David Soul was an American-British actor and singer. His career spanned five decades, and he rose to prominence for portraying Detective Kenneth "Hutch" Hutchinson in the American television series Starsky & Hutch from 1975 to 1979.



DICKEY BETTS

December 12th, 1943 - April 18th 2024

Forrest Richard Betts was an American guitarist, singer, songwriter, composer and founding member of the Allman Brothers Band. He assumed sole lead guitar duties during the peak of the group's commercial success in the mid-1970s and was the writer and singer on the Allmans' hit single "Ramblin' Man". Betts was inducted with the band into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1995.



Louis Cameron Gossett Jr.

May 27, 1936 - March 29, 2024

was an American actor. He made his stage debut at the age of 17. Shortly thereafter, he successfully auditioned for the Broadway play Take a Giant Step. Gossett continued acting onstage in critically acclaimed plays including A Raisin in the Sun (1959), The Blacks (1961), Tambourines to Glory (1963), and The Zulu and the Zayda (1965). In 1977, Gossett appeared in the popular miniseries Roots, for which he won Outstanding Lead Actor for a Single Appearance in a Drama or Comedy Series at the Emmy Awards.



Glynis Johns

October 5, 1923 - January 4, 2024

Glynis Margaret Payne Johns was a British actress. In a career spanning seven decades on stage and screen, Johns appeared in more than 60 films and 30 plays. She received various accolades throughout her career, including a Tony Award and a Drama Desk Award as well as nominations for an Academy Award, a Golden Globe Award, and a Laurence Olivier Award. She was one of the last surviving stars from the Golden Age of Hollywood and classical years of British cinema.





Annual Events 2024

JANUARY

Brew HaHa

FEBRUARY

Reno Onsie Crawl

Home and Garden Show

MARCH

Snowfest - Lake Tahoe Winter
Carnival

APRIL

Reno Jazz Festival

MAY

Cinco de Mayo Festival

Reno River Festival

JUNE

Street Vibrations Spring Rally

Great El Dorado BBQ, Brews & Blues

Reno Rodeo

Carson Valley Days

JULY

Artown

Star Spangled Sparks

Biggest Little Wing Fest

Taste of Downtown - Carson City

AUGUST

Hot August Nights

Northern Nevada Dragon Boat
Festival

Burning Man Festival

SEPTEMBER

Best in the West Nugget Rib
Cook-Off

Virginia City International
Camel Races

Great Reno Balloon Races

Street Vibrations Fall Rally

Genoa Candy Dance Faire

OCTOBER

Great Italian Festival

Nevada Day Celebration and
Parade

NOVEMBER

Crafts for Christmas

DECEMBER

Reno Santa Pub Crawl

Sparks Hometown Christmas

Christmas on the Comstock

39 North Pole Village

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