

The reno gay page

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Peavine Mountain Media

The XXVI Ducal House readies to stepdown *Biggest Little Whorehouse in Reno* is theme

Ducal Ball 2010 will be held at the Ramada Reno Hotel Casino on Saturday January 26 ending the reign of the Silver Dollar Court's (SDC) XXVI Grand Duke Cowboy John and Grand Duchess Lillian.

The SDC Ducal House, part of the local social and philanthropic organization, was created by Empress VI Terry Taylor to assist the Empress and Emperor as well as being another fund raising generator for the organization that has raised

more than one million dollar in its 34 year history, one dollar at a time.

During the past year, Cowboy John and Lillian have raised funds for local charities and attend Coronations and Ducal Balls out of town, representing the Silver Dollar Court and Reno on the International Court Council (ICC) Circuit.

The weekend long event celebrating the XXVI Ducal House gets underway at the Ten99 Club at 8pm on Friday Janu-

ary 15 with the In-town/Out-of-town Show. A buffet is planned from 8pm followed by the show at 9pm. Tickets will be available at the door at \$10.00.

Saturday starts with Hospitality from 11am to 3pm. Protocol can be turned in between 12noon and 2pm at the Ramada.

Ducal Ball 2010, *The Biggest Little Whorehouse in Reno*, as its theme, is set for 6pm sharp with doors at 5pm at the Ramada Reno Ball Room. Tickets are available at the door at \$25.00.

To conclude the Ball, the newly elected Grand Duke and Grand Duchess will be announced. There is one candidate running for each office on a Yes/No vote. Voting is Tuesday January 12 at 2580 Wrondele Suite E.

Sunday concludes with Victory Brunch donated by the members of the community at the Ten99 at 11am. The brunch welcomes the newly elected Grand Duke and Grand Duchess. Tickets are available at the door for \$10.00.

Sisters to hold brown box bingo

The New Face of Charity in Reno, The Biggest Little Sisters, a mission of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, is hosting a Taco Feed and Brown Box Bingo fund raiser at the Patio on Sunday January 24 at 1pm.

Novice Sister Idrink Alot and the six other novice Sisters of the mission will host the event featuring an all you can eat Taco Bar at \$5.00 followed by 10 games of Brown Box Bingo. Cards are 50 cents each game.

Since forming the newest

charity organization affiliated with the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence in Reno, the group has participated in Coronation, The AIDS Candlelight Memorial, Reno Gay Pride, The AIDS Walk and held a winter coat drive for those in need collecting some 475 coats during the drive.

The Sisters say they exist to help anyone in need. If you'd like to know more about the Sisters, as most people refer to them, visit their website at renosbiggestlittlesisters.org.

Rare young female ligar added to Sierra Safari Zoo



The new eight month old ligar walks around the large animal compound at Sierra Safari Zoo getting to know the other animals and learning her way.

Sierra Safari Zoo, located on US 395 just off the Red Rock Rd. exit north of Reno has a new addition to its family, an

eight month old female ligar (a cross between a tiger and lion).

Zoo officials have not named the ligar and are holding a con-

test to name her.

Hobbs, a ligar was the zoo's second exotic animal, became the face of the zoo until his death from cancer in 2007. Many regular zoo goers had watch the male ligar grow from a baby to a 1200 pound adult.

There are at present only 20 ligars in zoos in the US, zoo officials said

The Zoo opened in August 1990 and has made a name for itself in the community, but many are still unaware that Reno does have a zoo.

Currently the zoo is in the middle of its Winter Food Drive to feed the animals while the zoo is closed for the winter. The zoo operates daily April 1 to October 31 annually, having



Closet Ball 2009 Queen Vanity Case and Closet Ball King 2009 Landin Enu will make their final walk to end their year long reign at the event of the year.

King and Queen set to end reign At Closet Ball 2010 when date set

Reno's annual Closet Ball, one of the most fun events of the year, has not set a date as of press time according to Producer Jack-E. At present a venue to hold the event is being

sought and a date will be announced when found.

Closet Ball is where one changes from the sex they were born to the opposite sex -- and the transformation takes place in just one hour.

The annual event raises funds for the Silver Dollar Court and is put on by *Divas on The Run*, a local ensemble who for the past five years have raised money for the Court, The Residence Program and the AIDS Walk.

Last year, those attending at one point had to find their own chair to sit in as the room was full.

There are four simple rules at the event which is open to anyone in the community.

The rules are: you pay the \$25.00 entry fee: you can't have done serious drag, other than Halloween; you must be 21 and finally you must have fun.

If you win your only responsibility is to return to step down.

Annually the event draws a huge crowd to see a great show put on by the Divas and members of the community as well as the contestants and the transformations.

Each contestants whether male or female has a drag queen sponsor, who dresses them and does makeup. The transformation from one sex to the other must be done at the event. There is a timekeeper.

Contestants first meet the audience as the sex they were born and then return as their new persona. A panel of judges scores each contestant on the transformation from one sex to the other.

Reno's Closet Ball was begun by Terry Moll 32 years ago after traveling to San Fernando Valley and seeing Empress Missy put on her Closet Ball.

"We can do this." Terry said and the rest is history.

Jack-E has been producing the event for over 20 years.

Contestants can pick up an entry form at any of the local gay bars near the poster promoting the event.

Gay bars are in a state of change: Reno's changing too

Are gay bars still gay?

Well if you start looking around times have greatly changed in this past decade with more acceptance of gays in larger metropolitan areas. What were strictly gays bars have become very mixed and Reno is no exception to this rule.

The Ten99 and The Five Star Saloon changed hands and are owned by straight couples. Both said they did not plan to change the "gay bars" in any way, all they have done is increased business by welcoming another segment into the bar.

At the Ten99 their are alternative lifestyle nights opening the bar to swingers etc.

At the Five Star, they have

joined the Riverwalk District Association and are part of the monthly wine walks and other events, bringing in new customers.

The Patio, long known as a gathering place and welcoming to all, has become very mixed, especially on Karaoke nights.

Tronix and Neutron, local dance clubs, draw gays and straights alike on weekends. During the week both bars cater to the Latin community.

The community has seen other bars come and go in the past two decades. Gone are Faces at South Lake Tahoe; Shouts; The Alley Club; Bar West; The New Bar West; Reflections; The Blue Cactus and the Quest. The Cadillac Lounge was downtown closed and reopened on East Fourth.

According to inside sources all the gay bars in Reno have been hurt by the economy and have been managing to stay

solvent but figuring out new ways to attract more people.

Reno has long only had the gay bars to go out to for entertainment. A Rainbow Place, a gay and lesbian community center, hoped to change that but the community never really supported it and it has folded.

Several social organizations have developed. Spectrum Northern Nevada being the most active, offers several different groups for people to meet in. Spectrum started because some people wanted a gay community outside of the bars.

Another reason bars have been declining is people don't go out drinking like they used to.

So to survive gay bars are becoming bars where people gather, not necessarily just gays.

But its not only in Reno. Gay bars in cities like New York, Orlando, Los Angeles, Chicago,

St. Louis etc are changing.

Being gay is much more accepted these days than in the past. Before gay bars were seedy and under lit places where many times people never knew someone's name or if they did only a first name.

Today most people know first and last names, have dinner with each other, socialize etc.

But Reno still basically only has its bars for gay social interaction, with limited exception.

Will Reno's gay bars survive? Definitely there may not be as many.

Many from outside Reno are surprised we have six or seven bars at any given time with a population of 400,000. Boise where the population is 600,000 has three gay bars and Anchorage with 400,000 has only two gay bars.

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