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Looking Beyond Local
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The Week of July 31, 2026

Great Reno Balloon Races To Celebrate 45th Anniversary



Story and Photos By Tony Erquiaga

As the calendar ticks to the start of August, one of the biggest events in the Reno area is coming up soon.

The Great Reno Ballon Race is celebrating is 45th anniversary from Sept. 10-13 at Rancho San Rafael.

Media members got a sneak peak of the annual event last week, with ability to go up in one of the balloons.

The mission of The Great Reno Balloon Race is to provide a premier, safe, family-oriented/tourist-attractive, visually dramatic event that celebrates the joy of flight while remaining free to the public.

Great Basin Sun editor Tony Erquiaga had the opportunity to go up in Split Tail, piloted by Lewin Williams Sr., from Reno. Williams is a regular at the Reno Ballon Races and has been a pilot for 32 years.

The Great Reno Balloon Race is the world's largest free hot-air ballooning event. During four days in early September, you can look up into the Reno skies and see a rainbow of hot air balloons soaring about. From its humble beginnings in 1982 with just 20 balloons, The Great Reno Balloon Race has taken flight with up to 100 balloons each year. The idea was to create an event that would keep visitors in town the weekend between the State Fair and the Reno Air Races and 44 years later, it is known as a world-renowned, and locally, a beloved community tradition.

Taking place just a few miles north of downtown Reno at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park, the event enchants both young and old with its vibrant colors and inspiring music.

The Great Reno Balloon Race has won many awards over the years, including 'Best Special Event in Reno' and 'Best Special Event in Northern Nevada.' With an average of 150,000+ spectators attending the event each year, the number of lives touched by the beautiful spectacle continues to rise just like the balloons themselves.

The Great Reno Balloon Race 2026
September 10–13

Thursday, September 10
3:30 a.m. – Gates open to Rancho San Rafael Regional Park
5:00 a.m. – Super Glow Show
5:30 a.m. – Dawn Patrol
6:45 a.m. – National Anthem – Alana Ridge
7:00 a.m. – Mass Ascension Launch
8:00 a.m. – Tethering Activities
9:30 a.m. – E.L. Cord Foundation Tissue Paper Balloon Launch
4:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – Shopping along Balloon Boulevard



Friday, September 11
3:30 a.m. – Gates open to Rancho San Rafael Regional Park
5:00 a.m. – Super Glow Show
5:30 a.m. – Dawn Patrol
6:45 a.m. – National Anthem
7:00 a.m. – Mass Ascension Launch
8:00 a.m. – Tethering Activities
9:30 a.m. – E.L. Cord Foundation Tissue Paper Balloon Launch
4:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – Shopping along Balloon Boulevard

Saturday, September 12
Paint The Park Pink – Wear Your Best Pink!
3:30 a.m. – Gates open to Rancho San Rafael Regional Park
5:00 a.m. – Super Glow Show
5:30 a.m. – Dawn Patrol, *presented by Swizzle*
6:45 a.m. – National Anthem – Nick Sorrentino
7:00 a.m. – Mass Ascension Launch
8:00 a.m. – Tethering Activities
4:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.- Shopping along Balloon Boulevard

Sunday, September 13
3:30 a.m. – Gates open to Rancho San Rafael Regional Park
5:00 a.m. – Super Glow Show
5:30 a.m. – Dawn Patrol
6:45 a.m. – National Anthem – Jessica Pauletto
7:00 a.m. – Mass Ascension Launch
8:00 a.m. – Tethering Activities
4:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.- Shopping along Balloon Boulevard

EVENT LOCATION
Rancho San Rafael Regional Park
1595 N. Sierra St.
Reno, Nevada







Supercharge Nevada Launches Career Resource

By Sydney Trainor

On July 21, Nevada Tech Hub announced a partnership with Nevadaworks to launch a new website, called "Supercharge Nevada". This new resource is designed to help job seekers find careers and training opportunities in Nevada's "lithium loop". According to Nevada Tech Hub, "SuperchargeNV.com is the gateway to a career in Nevada's growing battery and critical minerals economy."

The "lithium loop" refers to Nevada's growing economy for lithium battery supply chain. According to superchargenv.com, it "refers to a system where every step in making and recycling lithium batteries and energy storage systems – from mining and processing raw materials to building batteries and end of life recycling – happens right here in Nevada."

The new website launches as Nevada's advanced energy industry continues to grow, with demand for skilled workers expected to increase over the next decade. As the state expands its battery manufacturing, critical minerals, grid modernization and related construction industries, employers are expected to need more technicians, engineers, logistics specialists, equipment operators and skilled trades workers to support new and existing projects.

"This initiative helps connect Nevada's workforce with the state's economic growth and diversification," Dick Bartholet, Regional Innovation Officer for Nevada Tech Hub, said. "As the lithium loop expands and more companies need trained employees, we need clear pathways that help job seekers understand the opportunities that lie ahead and find the training they need to pursue them."

SuperchargeNV.com gives users a centralized place to learn about Nevada's advanced energy industry and explore career opportunities across every stage of the lithium supply chain. Visitors can browse career categories such as construction, mining & extraction, processing & refinement, research, innovation & supply chain, advanced manufacturing, and recycling. Each category also includes a list of current job opportunities across different companies, where job seekers can explore and apply to a variety of job listings.

In addition to career information, SuperchargeNV.com allows users to search for training programs relevant to their career interests. The site also features resources for employers and training providers. Additionally, "Nevadaworks Navigators" provide resources such as childcare, transportation, relocation assistance, and more. According to the website, the goal is to help both new job seekers and experienced workers find the education, training and resources needed to build careers in Nevada's expanding advanced energy economy.

According to SuperchargeNV.com, the state of Nevada offers several advantages that have helped make it a leader in the nation's growing battery industry. Nevada is home to abundant lithium resources, battery manufacturing facilities and battery recycling operations. The website also points to other factors, such as Nevada's established infrastructure, rapidly growing economy, and no state income tax, as reasons that the state continues to attract both businesses and workers to its expanding advanced energy industry.

"Supercharge Nevada is about making opportunity in Nevada's growing lithium loop job market more visible and accessible," Milt Stewart, CEO of Nevadaworks, said. "We know the jobs are here, and more are on the way. This platform helps educate Nevadans about those opportunities and provides a roadmap and resources for getting started."

The website is led by Nevadaworks with support from Nevada Tech Hub. Other partners include the Nevada Department of Employment, Training, and Rehabilitation (DETR), and EmployNV.

Nevadaworks serves as the workforce development board for Northern Nevada, helping connect job seekers with education, training and employment opportunities across a 13-county region. The organization administers federal workforce funding and works with both individuals and employers to develop in-demand job skills, strengthen the regional workforce and help businesses find qualified employees.

Nevada Tech Hub, led by the University of Nevada, Reno, brings together government agencies, businesses, educational institutions and nonprofit organizations to strengthen the state's lithium and critical minerals industry. One of 31 federally designated Tech Hubs in the nation, the initiative aims to build a complete "lithium loop" by supporting every stage of the supply chain, from mineral extraction and processing to battery manufacturing and recycling, while encouraging innovation and creating high-quality jobs across Nevada.



Photo Courtesy SuperchargeNV.com

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ACROSS RURAL NEVADA

How This Mom Got Smart on Illegal Vapes

By Michelle Santo

Manufacturers are deliberately targeting our youth with illicit and dangerous vapes, both across the country, and in our own backyard. As parents and grandparents, we need to do more to bring awareness to this alarming situation. It's happening all around Nevada, and rural communities are just as vulnerable as our bigger cities.

I watched an interview with the head of The Tobacco Law Enforcement Network, Rich Marianos, on Nevada Newsmakers, an interview that I believe every parent and grandparent should watch. The Tobacco Law Enforcement Network is a national organization working to stop illicit vapes from reaching our kids. Marianos stated that, "eight out of ten of these products are illegal contraband and have no business in commerce." This terrified me!

Marianos continued on to say that law enforcement agencies across the country are uncovering smoke shops and vape stores that serve as gateways to an international criminal network. Investigators routinely discover illegal drug trafficking, money laundering, tax evasion, and the sale of unregulated products smuggled from overseas. Many of these operations have direct ties to Mexican cartels, Chinese smugglers, and other foreign criminal syndicates exploiting gaps in federal enforcement.

These are stores that you may walk by every day, or that your kids and grandkids enter.

The Tobacco Law Enforcement Network has launched two websites designed to educate parents, educators, and law enforcement about the illicit activity happening inside smoke shops throughout the country.

The first is www.BehindSmokeShopdoors.com, which provides users with a virtual walkthrough experience that reveals the hidden criminal enterprises operating behind the counters of these ubiquitous neighborhood storefronts.

The second is an information hub, www.BlackMarketBrief.com, which tracks criminal activity at smoke shops around the country and records key metrics including arrests and drug seizures.

The interview prompted me to begin researching this issue more. I wanted to see how rampant this issue is and how close to home it is. I discovered stories about the issue in South Lake Tahoe which discussed how vaping has been a growing issue in our area schools. The reality that vapes are also being found in our middle and elementary schools is even more troubling.

Last year, vape pens were confiscated at Minden's Douglas High School, which contained THC, ecstasy, fentanyl, and other drugs. Thankfully, these were discovered before kids used them, as even small amounts of fentanyl can be fatal.

Parents need to be aware of the threats that illicit vapes and the stores that sell them illegally possess. There are legitimate businesses and shops of course, and the websites I listed above can help you understand the difference between those operating legally and those engaged in nefarious operations.

As a grandmother of three, and with family in law enforcement, our family is talking about the issue of vapes with the children, as every family should!

Keeping our kids safe is getting tougher, and it takes all of us stepping up. I'm grateful we have organizations like The Tobacco Law Enforcement Network working to raise awareness and push these dangerous products off store shelves. Because when it comes to protecting our children, we cannot afford to look the other way.

Michelle Santo is a Nevada native who lives in rural Washoe County.

Lombardo Announces Rural Investments, Job Growth

By Sydney Trainor

On July 9, Governor Joe Lombardo announced that $3,099,545 has been awarded to 7 projects in Nevada through Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED).

"We're proud to work alongside communities across rural Nevada to ensure these CDBG dollars are invested where they'll have the greatest local impact," said GOED's CDBG Program Administrator Jessica Sanders. "Every award represents a community's vision for its future and our commitment to helping make that vision a reality."

The largest award, $750,000, will help rebuild the Serpa Sewer Lift Station in Fallon, while the City of Ely will receive $603,750 to upgrade its wastewater treatment plant. Lovelock was awarded $500,000 for sewer improvements, and Elko County will receive $513,120 to replace the Tuscarora water tank. Esmeralda County received two grants totaling $657,675, including $557,675 for the Goldfield Community Center, and $100,000 to complete a water seal project at the Goldfield Firehouse. Nye County was awarded $75,000 to update the environmental review for the Pahrump Fairgrounds.

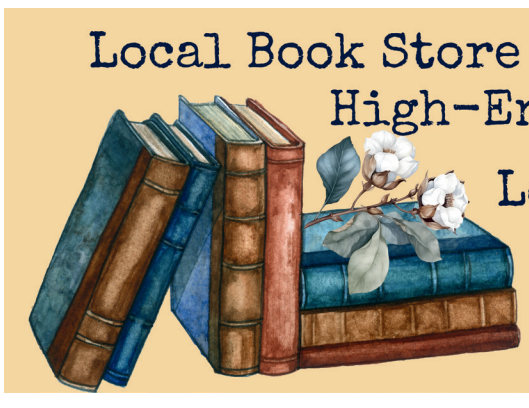
"Strong communities start with reliable infrastructure," said Governor Joe Lombardo. "These investments will deliver critical upgrades to water systems, public facilities, and community resources across rural Nevada. By partnering with local governments, we're making sure communities have the tools they need to grow, attract investment, and serve residents for years to come."

One week after the CDBG funds were announced, on July 16, Lombardo announced that over 100,000 jobs have been created in Nevada since the start of his administration in December 2022.

According to the Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR), Nevada has added 100,800 seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs since December 2022, bringing the state's total to 1,614,100 jobs. Research from UNLV's Center for Business and Economic Research shows Nevada as leading the nation in post-pandemic small business growth, while WalletHub ranked Nevada as the seventh best state to start a business in 2025.

"Nevada is gaining national attention, consistently ranking as one of the best states for business while growing wages for hardworking Nevadans," continued Governor Lombardo. "More and more companies are looking to Nevada to build and expand because they know our state values innovation, rewards investment, and welcomes opportunity. We will continue creating the conditions for businesses to succeed, jobs to grow, and families to thrive so that Nevada remains the premier destination for economic growth and prosperity for generations to come."




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EVENTS

Farm-to-Fork Mixer and Dinner to Bring Together Northern Nevada Agriculture Community

Staff Report

Northern Nevada farmers, ranchers and food business owners will have an opportunity to connect, share ideas and explore new business partnerships during the 2026 Farm-to-Fork Mixer and Dinner on Aug. 8 in Minden.

The event will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Park Home Ranch, 1452 State Route 88, and is hosted by University of Nevada, Reno Extension in partnership with the Nevada Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program.

The mixer follows a two-day tour of farms and ranches in Reno and Gardnerville for participants in Extension's 2026 Beginning Farmer & Rancher Program. The tour introduces aspiring and early-stage producers to established agricultural operations while offering hands-on learning and networking opportunities.

Organizers say the Aug. 8 mixer is designed to bring together beginning farmers, small-scale producers, food entrepreneurs, chefs, investors, supply chain providers and community advocates to strengthen relationships within Nevada's food and agriculture industries.

Registration for the two-day tour is $100 and includes lunches, admission to the mixer and the Farm-to-Fork Dinner. Those wishing to attend only the dinner may purchase tickets for $75 through the event's Eventbrite page.

The Extension also will host a free grant-writing workshop from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 26 at the University's Main Station Farm Science Center in Reno. The workshop is intended for farmers, food processors, cooperatives, food hubs and value-added food businesses seeking guidance on applying for grants available through the Nevada Department of Agriculture, the Animal Industry Division and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

A similar Farm-to-Market networking event is scheduled for Aug. 21 in Las Vegas, along with a companion grant-writing workshop on Aug. 12.

For more information, contact Kaley Chapin at kaleys@unr.edu or (702) 467-2668, or Staci Emm at emms@unr.edu or (775) 475-4227.



Goldfield Days Returns



Photo Courtesy: Beautiful Goldfield, Nevada Facebook page

By Jesse Bell

Goldfield Days returns July 31 through August 2, bringing three days of entertainment, community traditions, and small-town charm to one of Nevada's most historic communities.

The annual celebration showcases Goldfield's mining heritage and enduring community spirit with a weekend full of activities in the heart of downtown. Visitors can enjoy everything from a poker walk and horseshoe tournament to the popular mucking contest, along with a parade, street dance, vendor fair, raffles, and tours of historic buildings.

Built around Goldfield's boomtown history and the people who continue to preserve its unique character, the event offers a true rural Nevada experience. Whether exploring the town's historic streets, competing in contests, or browsing local vendors, attendees will find plenty to see and do throughout the weekend.

One of the event's signature attractions is the Esmeralda County Land Auction, traditionally held Saturday afternoon in the parking lot behind the courthouse. The auction continues to draw visitors from across the region each year.

A full schedule of events will be available on the Goldfield Days Facebook page, where attendees can also find updates and additional event information.

Classical Tahoe's 15th Anniversary Season Enters Final Week With Concerts Through August 9

By Jesse Bell

Classical Tahoe is entering the final stretch of its 15th anniversary season, with several performances still scheduled through Aug. 9 at venues around North Lake Tahoe.

The festival, which opened July 11, has featured more than 70 musicians performing orchestral, jazz and chamber music as part of its America 250-themed season. Early performances included the Brubeck Jazz Summit, intimate chamber music concerts and a variety of educational programs, drawing strong audiences throughout the summer.

"We're grateful for the support our community has shown the festival and for the enthusiasm surrounding this summer's performances," said David Pratt, executive director of Classical Tahoe. "That support makes it possible for us to continue bringing exceptional artists and unique musical experiences to North Lake Tahoe."

The festival's remaining performances begin Friday, Aug. 1, with Passion and Spirit, an orchestral program exploring American musical traditions and spirituals through works by Verdi, Puccini, Florence Price and traditional spirituals performed by the Classical Tahoe Orchestra.

Also on Aug. 1, the Family Concert and Music Maker's Faire will welcome families for an afternoon of live performances featuring local student musicians alongside Classical Tahoe ensembles. The event also includes instrument demonstrations and hands-on music and science activities presented in partnership with The Discovery.

On Saturday, Aug. 2, the Ron and Maureen Ashley Oasis Chamber Music Series concludes with New World, Old World, featuring Leonard Bernstein's Suite from "West Side Story" arranged for brass quintet alongside works celebrating musical traditions from Europe and America.

Internationally acclaimed harpist Emmanuel Ceysson will take the stage Aug. 7 during Classical Continuum, a program celebrating the evolution of classical music through works spanning multiple eras.

The festival concludes Aug. 9, bringing to a close five weeks of performances celebrating Classical Tahoe's 2026 season.

Founded in 2012, Classical Tahoe presents professional orchestral, chamber and jazz performances featuring musicians from some of the nation's premier ensembles, including the Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic and Philadelphia Orchestra. The organization also offers educational programming through the Classical Tahoe Music Institute.

Tickets remain available for select performances during the festival's final week. For a complete schedule and ticket information, visit classicaltahoe.org.



Photo Courtesy The Nevada Arts Council

SPORTS

Nevada Engineering Team to Compete in National Military Drone Challenge



Engineering students, left to right, Christopher-Jerrell Mengu, Cash Walker, Owen Kirpes and Matthew Goecker, will represent Nevada at the DARPA Lift Challenge. The team's faculty advisor is Electrical Engineering Associate Professor Hao Xu.

Staff Report

A team of engineering students and faculty from the University of Nevada, Reno will represent the Silver State next month in a national Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) competition aimed at advancing heavy-lift drone technology.

The five-member Nevada Engineering team is one of 124 teams invited to compete in the DARPA Lift Challenge, scheduled for Aug. 2-9 at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force in Dayton, Ohio. It is the only team from Nevada selected for the competition, which will award a total of $6.5 million in prize money.

Led by electrical engineering professor Hao Xu, the team, known as Tactical Intelligent Transport for Autonomous Aerial Logistics (TITAN), has spent the past several months designing and building a specialized drone capable of carrying more than three times its own weight.

The DARPA Lift Challenge is designed to encourage innovation in heavy-lift unmanned aircraft. Competitors were tasked with developing drones weighing less than 55 pounds that can transport payloads exceeding four times the aircraft's weight over a five-nautical-mile course.

The Nevada team's six-arm drone features 12 propellers and a lightweight carbon fiber and aluminum frame. According to the team's final design paper, the aircraft can generate 444 pounds of total thrust while carrying approximately 3.27 pounds of payload for every pound of aircraft weight.

Undergraduate students Owen Kirpes, an aerospace engineering major, and Cash Walker, a mechanical engineering major, are joined on the team by graduate students Matthew Goecker and Christopher-Jerrell Mengu, both pursuing degrees in electrical engineering. Since February, the group has worked to complete its competition aircraft and is also building a backup drone in case of mechanical issues during the event.

"I've been working with them in the past few months on the project," Xu said. "This team is very good. They're working very collectively. This team is very efficient."

Each member brings a specialized role to the project. Kirpes led development of the drone's frame and propulsion system. Goecker designed the wing system and helped optimize its aerodynamic performance. Mengu developed the aircraft's electrical systems, including redundant backup power designed to improve reliability.

Walker, an FAA-certified drone pilot, serves as the team's flight director and systems designer. During competition, he will oversee the autonomous flight plan, monitor the aircraft's performance and ensure compliance with FAA regulations.

The competition course requires each drone to fly autonomously along a 1,000-foot route, traveling back and forth 15 times while carrying its payload at a predetermined altitude.

Development of the TITAN drone has cost an estimated $50,000. Funding was provided by the Bean Space Foundation and the Department of Defense's CREDIT+ research center. The team also partnered with the Nevada UAS Test Site to conduct flight testing.

While the prize money is significant, Xu said the opportunity to compete alongside leading universities, startups and small businesses may prove just as valuable.

"There's going to be a lot of interesting opportunity and fruitful discussion among national partners for us to boost Nevada drone R&D and workforce development," Xu said.

Nevada athletics announces 2026 Hall of Fame class



Provided to GBS

RENO — Nevada announced its six-member Class of 2026 which will be inducted into the Nevada Athletics Hall of Fame this October.

The Class of 2026 features one team and five student athletes. The 2008 Softball Team, recognized as one of the best Wolf Pack teams of all-time, will be joined by current Wolf Pack diving coach and 2020 Olympic Bronze Medalist Krysta Palmer (Swimming & Diving, 2012-16), 2004 Doc Martie Award winner and 1,000-Point scorer Garry Hill-Thomas (Men's Basketball, 2000-04), one of the Wolf Pack's all-time leading rushers and All-WAC selection Luke Lippincott (Football, 2004-09), two-time selection to the All-Big West First Team and Big West champion Mike Rockwood (Football, 1994-95), and 2002 Giant Slalom NCAA Champion and two-time All-American Tommi Viirret (Skiing, 2001-04).

2026 Nevada Athletics Hall of Fame Class

2008 Nevada Softball Team

Went 44-18 overall and 16-2 in WAC play ... The 44 wins remains the program record ... Captured the WAC regular season title ... Earned bid to the UCLA Regional, going 2-2 and reaching the regional title game, with both losses coming to No. 3 UCLA ... Head coach Michelle Gardner was named NFCA West Region Coach of the Year and WAC Coach of the Year ... Picked up eight wins over Top-25 teams including a historic 1-0 victory over No. 1 Arizona on February 17 ... Twice played the No. 1 team in the country, going 1-1 (beating Arizona, losing to Alabama March 1) ... Boasted the WAC Player of the Year in Vanessa Briones ... Claimed six of the 13 spots on the All-WAC First Team ... Noelle Micka was named to the NFCA All-America Second Team ... Had three players named to NFCA All-Region Teams (Micka to the First Team, Briones and Katie Holverson to the Second Team) ... At the time, the team finished the regular season with program records in batting average (.3115), runs (310), hits (529), doubles (101), home runs (43), RBIs (290), total bases (779), walks (182), slugging (.459), on-base percentage (.388), stolen bases (56).

Garry Hill-Thomas - Men's Basketball (2000-04)

Played 124 games (105 starts) over four seasons for the Wolf Pack ... Nevada's 2003-04 Doc Martie Award winner, given annually to the top male senior student-athlete ... Scored 1,340 career points, averaging 10.8 points over 27.3 minutes per game ... Part of 2003-04 team which went 25-9 overall, defeated Michigan State then Gonzaga to reach the Sweet 16 and captured the program's first WAC regular season and tournament titles ... Named to 2004 All-WAC Defensive Team ... Played four NBA D-League seasons for the Roanoke Dazzle (2004-05), Fort Worth Flyers (2005-06), Utah Flash (2007-08) and Reno Bighorns (2008-09) ... Also played professionally in the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, New Zealand and Australia in 2006-07 ... Part of the Wolf Pack Men's Basketball coaching staff from 2013-15.

Luke Lippincott – Football (2004-09)

Nevada's 2009-10 Doc Martie Award recipient as the top male senior student-athlete ... Earned first-team All-WAC honors and won the Golden Helmet Award as the team's Most Valuable Player in 2008 ... Finished his career ranked fifth at Nevada with 3,014 rushing yards and sixth with 34 rushing touchdowns ... Entering the 2026 season he remains in Nevada's career top 10 in rushing yards (10th), rushing touchdowns (eighth), touchdowns scored (39, seventh), and still holds the eighth-best single-season rushing total (1,420 yards in 2007) ... Led the WAC in rushing with 109.2 yards per game in 2008 ... Made NCAA history when he reached 1,000 rushing yards in 2009, making Nevada the only school in the history of college football to have three 1,000-yard rushers in the same season ... He joined fellow Nevada Athletics Hall of Famers Colin Kaepernick and Vai Taua in that trio ... Tallied 1,034 rushing yards in 2009, his second career 1,000-yard season ... Was the recipient of the Humanitarian Award at the 2008 Roady's Humanitarian Bowl for his community service efforts.

Krysta Palmer – Women's Swimming & Diving (2012-16)

Nevada's 2015-16 Ruth Russell Award recipient as the top female senior student-athlete ... 2020 Olympic Bronze Medalist (3-Meter Springboard) ... Three-time All-America Honorable Mention (3-Meter Springboard in 2015; 1-Meter Springboard and Platform in 2016) ... Three top-10 finishes at NCAA Championships: Ninth on 1-Meter (2016), 10th on 3-Meter (2015) and 10th on Platform (2016) ... Two-time Mountain West Diver of the Year (2015-16) ... Four-time Mountain West champion, sweeping all three events in 2015 and winning on Platform in 2016 ... Nine-time All-Mountain West ... Still holds the Mountain West all-time records in 1-Meter Springboard six-dive score (364.12) and platform five-dive score (368.10) while ranking second in 3-Meter Springboard six-dive score (415.58).

Michael Rockwood – Football (1994-95)

Named to All-Big West First Team each of his two seasons with the Wolf Pack (1994-95) ... Part of two Nevada Big West champion teams (1994-95) ... Starting offensive tackle for Nevada's top-ranked offense ... Won the team's Basalite Big Blocker Award three times in 1994 and four times in 1995 ... Claimed to have never given up a sack in his two years at Nevada ... Served as team captain in 1995 ... Helped lead Nevada to Las Vegas Bowl appearance in 1995... Called "one of the best, if not the best to ever play at Nevada" by head coach Chris Ault ... Came to Nevada after two seasons at Riverside Community College ... After his time at Nevada, signed with the Buffalo Bills practice squad in 1996 and 1997 ... Was on the active roster in 1997 and 1998 before suffering a career-ending neck.

Tommi Viirret – Skiing (2001-04)

2002 NCAA Giant Slalom champion ... Two-time All-American (2002, 2004) in Giant Slalom ... Nevada Skiing finished in the top 10 nationally in each of his seasons at Nevada, with a sixth-place finish in 2002 ... Between his college, national and international career, Viirret had 41 podium finishes, including 15 gold medals.

