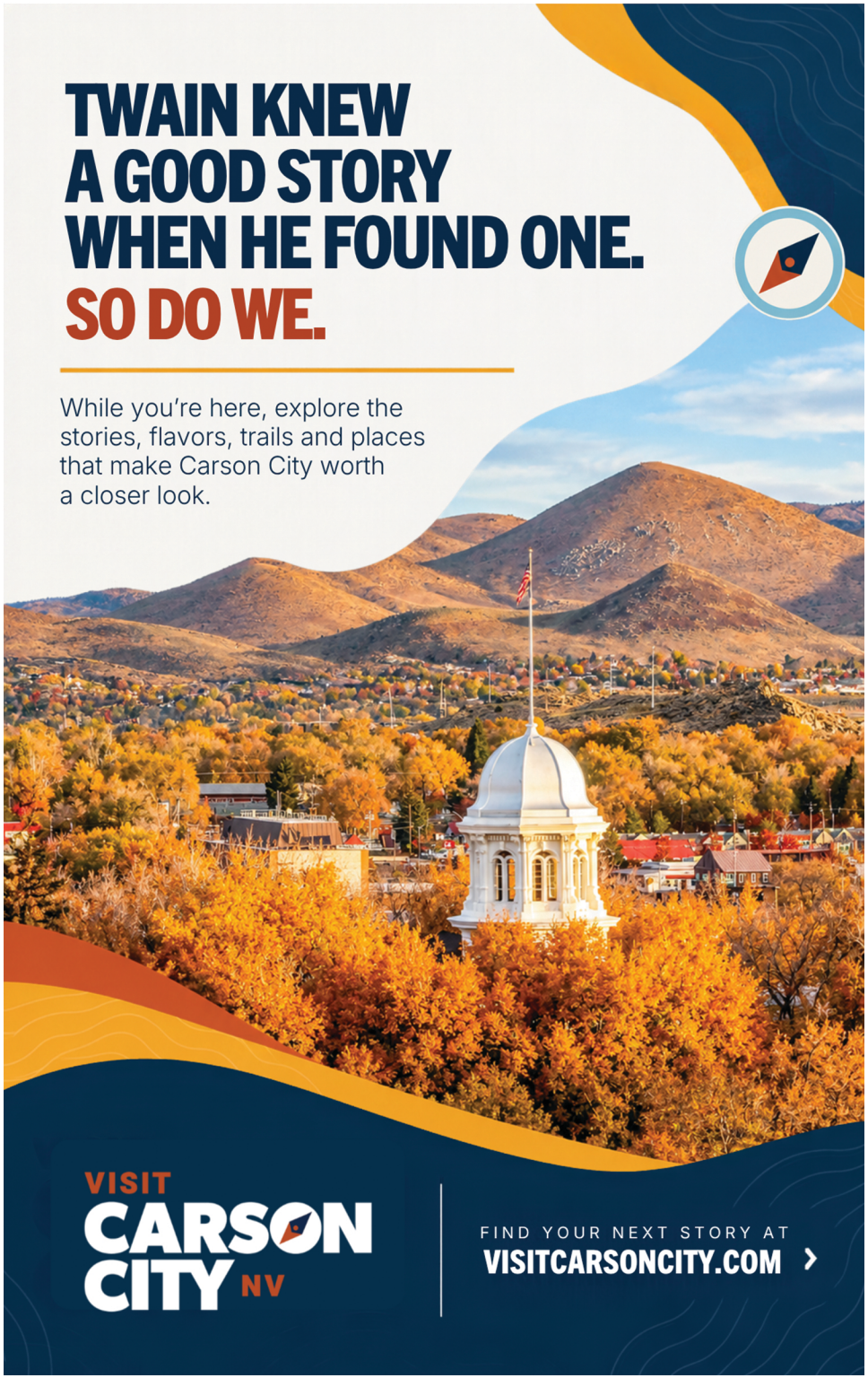


OCTOBER 13-17 2026 | OFFICIAL PROGRAM

Mark Twain Days

LITERARY FESTIVAL

BAC BREWERY ARTS CENTER
VISIT CARSON CITY NV
NEVADA ARTS COUNCIL
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS arts.gov
CARSON CITY DOWNTOWN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
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Carson City

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OCTOBER 14 2026 | 7PM | BREWERY ARTS CENTER

PICON PUNCH OFF

TICKET INCLUDES 1 SAMPLE FROM EACH COMPETITOR, A BASQUE STYLE MEAL, & LIVE MUSIC FROM MERCEDES MENDIVE

$50 | 21+ | TICKETS AT BREWERYARTS.ORG

OCTOBER 17 2026 | 7PM | BAC PERFORMANCE HALL

LOUD AS FOLK

FEATURING

THE SUGAR THIEVES



$20 | ALL AGES | TICKETS AT BREWERYARTS.ORG



Brad McMullen
Nevada State Folklorist

As Nevada's state folklorist there are two questions I get asked more frequently than any other - "That's a real job?" and "What are Nevada's folk arts and customs?". The answer to the first one is easy, but the second is a much longer conversation. If you heard my talk at last year's Mark Twain Days, you know I consider the tall tale one of our signature folk arts, and there are obvious traditions like the correct way to pronounce Nevada and celebrate Nevada Day. Traditional foods and drinks like the all-you-eat buffet and the picon punch also make the list and shared experiences driving desert roads and neon highways late at night help define residents of the Silver State as a single folk group.

Folk and traditional arts and beliefs are defined by doing them in community with others. We're all Nevadans based on our addresses and where we lay our heads down at night, regardless of which corner of the state you call home. But I think there's one thing that underlines the different folk practices that we share as Nevadans, as well as those that continue to be practiced in all the other communities that call Nevada home, like whether occupational like cowboys, ski bums, and hotel housekeepers or ethnic like the Basques, Hawaiians, and Washoe. And that is a spirit of generosity and welcome.

While folk arts are all about community, the folk arts Nevadans have chosen to practice often seem particularly community driven. Our state drink is the picon punch, a Basque American mixed drink. It's not something that Basque shepherds brought over with them from the Basque country, but rather something they adopted in the Basque boarding houses that sprouted all over the state as

FESTIVAL LOCATIONS

BREWERY ARTS CENTER
449 W. KING ST

BUB'S BOOK STORE
110 S CURRY ST

EASTGATE DEPOT
4650 EASTGATE SIDING RD

MCFADDEN PLAZA
223 W 3RD STREET

NASHVILLE SOCIAL CLUB
1105 S CARSON ST

NEVADA STATE LIBRARY
100 N STEWART ST

NEVADA STATE MUSEUM
600 N CARSON ST

NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM
2180 S CARSON ST

THE FOX BREWERY & PUB
310 S CARSON STREET

SATURDAY| OCTOBER 17

11a-2p | FREE | Downtown Corridor

Downtown Passport

Pick up your passport from the BAC booth at the vendor fair or Carson Jewelry & Loan, then enjoy a stroll through downtown collecting stamps from participating business. When you're finished, return your entry page where you got it and get entered into a drawing to win 1 of 10 prizes.

7p | $25 | BAC Performance Hall

Live Music | The Sugar Thieves | Kat Heart

Loud As Folk and For The Song present an evening honoring traditional American music.

Find more events including author talks and audio walks by visiting bubsbookstore.com



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Est. 2026

CARSON CITY DOWNTOWN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

they moved here. Whether they arrived as shepherds in the north or to play jai-alai in the south, all but the first bascos were able to find community here in Nevada. Some of that was through finding people with shared traditions like dance and music from the Basque country back home, but it was also the new traditions they were making here in the US, like the picon. It was a new drink for a new land, and a way to welcome people to a new community and new location. And now, as the state drink, it does that for all Nevadans, whether they live here permanently or are just Nevadans for a weekend.

Nevada's economy is unique in how many of its residents work in the service industry, and we have traditions that reflect that, like housekeeping welcoming guests with towel animals or toilet paper flowers. People come back to Nevada because we are good at making people feel welcome here (even as their wallet gets emptier andemptier). The most fantastic vacation spot can be ruined by one bad interaction, and Nevadans go out of their way to make sure everyone has a good time. Maybe that is because of how many Nevadans moved here, came to the Silver State and fell in love with a place and a people and stayed, but you do not get that without the people born and raised here.

That spirit of welcome goes back to the early days of the Nevada Territory. The tall tales (or quaints, as they called them) documented by Mark Twain, Dan DeQuille, and other journalists of the era, as well as the other stories they published in their newspapers and books help demonstrate how that spirit pervaded the territory in its early days. In both Roughing It and in his autobiography Mark Twain included a number of stories that demonstrate early Nevadan's spirit of welcome. Interested in hearing more? Then come to hear my talk "Mark Twain and the Nevada Spirit of Welcome" at 12pm on Thursday October 15th in the Mark Twain Reading Room at the Nevada State Library.

TUESDAY | OCTOBER 13

6pm | Free | BAC Exhibition Hall
Poetry Open Mic with Spoken Views Collective
Hosted by Poet Laureate Emeritus Jesse James Ziegler

WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 14

7pm | $50 | BAC Ballroom
Picon Punch Off | Cocktail Competition
Ticket includes one sample from each competitor, a basque style meal, and live music from Mercedes Mendive

THURSDAY | OCTOBER 15

12pm | Free | Nevada State Library
Nevada State Folklorist | Brad McMullen

2pm | Free | Departs From Nevada State Museum
Kit Carson Trail Walking Tour
Follow Dan Neverett through the historic west side visting sites including the Orion Clemens House where Twain hung his hat while in Carson City

FRIDAY | OCTOBER 16

4pm | $70 | Departs From Eastgate Depot
V&T Railway Twain Train
Enjoy libations, live entertainment, and locomotives

7:30pm | $30 | Nashville Social Club
The Delta Wires
A high voltage night of horns, harmonica, and electrified blues from one of the Bay Area's most iconic bands

SATURDAY| OCTOBER 17

9a-4:30p | $15 - $25 | Nevada State Railroad Museum
Fall Harvest Train
Steam train rides, handcar rides, pumpkin patch, and more

10a-4p | FREE | Downtown Corridor
DBA Downtown Treasure Hunt Mystery
Follow clues, complete challenges, and solve the mystery
Get the clues at downtowncarson.org/mark-twain-days

11a-4p | FREE | Curry Street (from 2nd St to 4th St)
Vendor Fair
Artists, authors, wagon rides, and a hands on experience to make your own jumping frog with Ogres-Holm Pottery

11a-4p | FREE | 3rd Street Stage/McFadden Plaza
Live Music
Hosted by Poet Laureate Emeritus Jesse James Ziegler
11:30a: Grandpa Rabbit
12:30p: Christian Macnamara
1:30p: Aaron Acquafondata
2:30p: Carson Street Ragtime Band

11a-4p | FREE | Bub's Bookstore
Pop-up | Desert Winds Rare & Exotic Books
Browse and purchase books you may never see again

11a-3p | FREE | The Fox Brewery & Pub
Have A Beer With Julia Bulette
Chautauquan Kim Harris portrays famed Virgina City madam and friend of Twain in this interactive experience
Make sure to try Twain's namesake beer: Langhorne Lager