



IGRA to kick-off 50 years of Gay Rodeo in Reno

Gay Rodeo will return for the fourth time to the Biggest Little City in the World on October 10-12, 2025 along with GayDays Reno, it was announced on November 17. The IGRA will be hosting the kick-off to 50 years of Gay Rodeo and the Reno Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority has also entered an agreement with GayDays for events the same time.

The 50th anniversary Rodeo, which will be the World Finals event for 2025 will start the celebration of 50 years will be held at the Livestock Events Center. According to an interview on the local NBC station, KRNV Gay Rodeo Archivist, Roger Bergmann, said that they were trying to build interest for the 50th anniversary kick-off.

The Silver Dollar Court, under the leadership of Emperor I Phil Ragsdale and Empress I Keith Ann in 1976, created the first Gay Rodeo in the world as a fund raiser for muscular dystrophy, giving birth to gay rodeo and



An IGRA patch promoting 50 years

hosting the event until 1984. Following the success of the first gay rodeo at the then Washoe County Fairgrounds in the present day Reno Rodeo arena, Ragsdale created the Comstock Gay Rodeo Association (CGRA) by 1979.

Several reasons caused the ending of the Reno National Gay Rodeo in 1984, Some said the spread of AIDS at the time was the major contributing factor which was not the case. The lo-

cal rodeo failed due to debt owing over \$7,000 to the Washoe County Fair board. a debt still not paid.

Reno has seen three incarnations of Gay Rodeo over the last 48 years. The CGRA ran from 1976-1984. There was the gay rodeo that wasn't, when Reno had been selected to host the 2nd International Gay Rodeo Finals in 1988 with the Silver State Gay Rodeo Association. The third was the High Sierra Rodeo Association, which formed in 2002 and hosted the Comstock Stampede in 2004 and 2005. The highlight of that association was the 30th Anniversary Rodeo Livestock Events Center in 2006.

IGRA officials, who spoke to

therenogaypage, said IGRA will be putting on the event, but there will also be fund raising done locally. IGRA is working locally with the RSCVA and the Silver Dollar Court (SDC) on the 50th anniversary event.

The SDC will begin its 50th year in June 2025.

Reno's Mayor Hillary Schieve, a strong and vocal supporter of the LGBTQ community, has also been involved with the planned celebration.

A group from Orlando called GayDays has committed with the RSCVA to host some kind of event(s) at the same time as the 50th anniversary kick-off. No further GayDays details were available.

Rodeo Returns see page 2

The late Empress Jack-E Honored Her annual Gala will continue

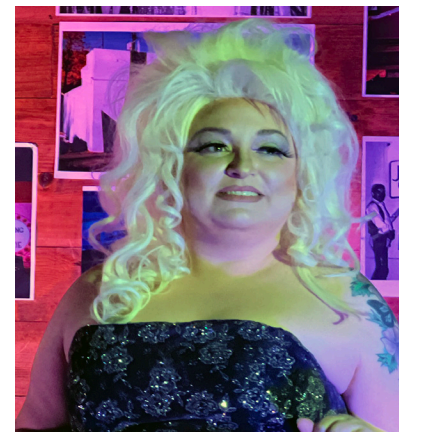


It was a packed house at the Chapel Tavern (the old Ten99 Club)

The Empress Jack-E Gala raised \$4800, for the local youth shelter, Eddy House (90%) and the Silver Dollar Court Board Fund (10%) so far.

It was a special night, as the Reno community came together to honor its Grand Dame, The Empress Jack-E (a four time elected Empress), who passed away in May. She started an annual benefit for the Residence Program in 1990 to help those in the LGBT community with AIDS stay in their homes.

"I will do this as long as there is a need," Jack-E used to tell people.



SDC Reigning Empress Chelsea

And for 25 years there was always a need. The last Annual Jack-E AIDS Benefit Gala was in 2019 before the pause for Covid.

Fifteen entertainers took to the stage, featuring a wide variety of numbers and a Cher impersonator, Chanel, that brought the house down.

The current reigning Empress Chelsea Towers-Jar had been working with Jack-E to take over the event. Following Jack-E's passing she took the reigns and honored her by naming the event the Empress Jack-E Annual Gala.



Empress Chanel as Cher

Jack-E Gala page 2

IGRA Archive a must see



The Archives Exhibit at Circus Circus

Ephemera is defined as vintage printed or written items which originally served some

specific purpose and were not expected to be retained or pre-

Ephemera page 2

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Peavine Mountain Media
The local GLBT news and information source for northern Nevada and the eastern Sierra



The Reno National Gay Rodeo flag presented during Grand Entry

Tahoe Pride to host Friendsgiving



Lake Tahoe Pride, the social organization at the southend of Lake Tahoe, is teaming up with the Lake Tahoe Community College Equity and Wellness Staff and the Ally Club to host a Friendsgiving at the college on Saturday December 2 from 1- 4 pm.

Those participating are asked to bring a dish to share. There will be the potluck, games, a raffle, food, fun and importantly, community.

The gathering will be held in the Board/Aspen Room in the Main building (1 College Drive) of the college campus.

Lake Tahoe Pride established a scholarship program at the south shore's only college several years ago. The scholarship is presented annually.

For more information about Lake Tahoe Pride you can visit their facebook page: [Lake Tahoe Pride](#).

The holidays bring NGMC concert



Hug High Theater, December 8-9

With the holidays starting, the Nevada Gay Men's Chorus is gearing up of its annual Holiday Concert to be held at Hug High School's theater, Friday, December 8 and Saturday, the 9th. The show starts at 7:30 pm.

Tickets to the live or virtual performance are available at the chorus website: [nevadagmc.org](#).

Tickets are \$25 general admission; \$20 for Seniors and \$10 for students with proper id.

Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door.

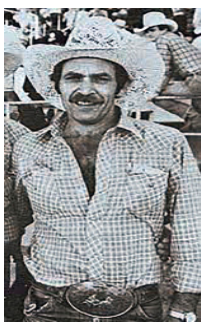
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Rodeo returns



As many as 10,000 attend Reno Gay Rodeo



Emperor Phil Ragsdale and Empress Keith Ann



from page 1
With the ending of the last rodeo association in northern Nevada, the community has had little interest in bringing rodeo back.

therenogaypage asked many members of the community about participating as a volunteer or attending. Most said they would attend. There was little expressed interest in volunteering. One of the biggest reasons is the Reno gay community is now well mixed and scattered amongst the

community and not restricted to simply gay bars.

At one time Reno had 15 gay bars. Today it has three: Carls-The Saloon, 5 Star and the new Bellacxs (the old Visions/Tronix/Splash).

While the International Gay Rodeo Association (IGRA) will only be 40 years old in 2025, they include the history of the Reno National Gay Rodeo (1976-1984) to bring it to 50 years.



Getting ready or GGrand Entry at a Reno Rodeo

Jack-E Gala

from page 1
In fact, she arranged to have the event at the Chapel Tavern (formerly the Ten99 Club). The bar itself is no longer a gay bar but brought many memories to those in attendance. And keeping with tradition there was a raffle and silent auction.

Donations for the event were also taken via a QR code which can be found in this story below and will be accepted through the end of December.

"If these walls could talk," MC Pandora told the crowd, "We'd be in a lot of trouble!"

The night was not billed as a Celebration of Life, but a night to remember and honor, for Charity and to bring the community together, having fun and raising money for those in need. Something the Empress Jack-E instilled in everybody she worked with.

During the night Harleigh Ashley St, James took to the stage, overcoming her nerves, and talked about the Trans community, its issues and paused for a moment of silence to remember all the Trans lives lost. She did a great job reminding people all of us still are fighting for equality.

The Residence program, at its height, had over 20 people it served each month. Funds were always needed for the program and the

community would rally when the call went out. One time over \$50,000 was raised in a weekend for the program. The program has been discontinued as there was only one resident remaining.



Donna does "I am who I am" (right) Scotty



Harleigh Ashley St. James



Empress Rocky Winebago



Empress Pandora



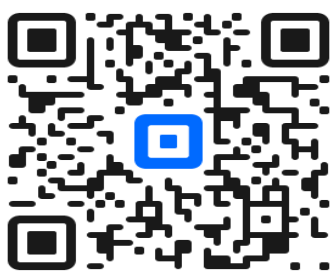
Empress Felicia Jewel Halston



Empress Shania Taint



Empress Nikki Vuiton



The donation QR code



All that was left of Victor Victoria after her performance

Archives Emphemera

from page 1
served, but which are now cherished.

The IGRA (international Gay Rodeo Association), through is Gay and Lesbian Rodeo Heritage Foundation, brought two car loads of items to their annual convention at Circus Reno and put on a three-day free display to the public.

Roger Bergman, who lives in Las Vegas is the IGRA Archives director, was in town with the display to talk to anyone who was interested in gay rodeo history.

"I spoke with a local couple who came to the

exhibit out of curiosity and were so impressed they said the would be attending the 50 year anniversary kick-off rodeo in October 2025."

Bergman said wherever they take the exhibit, it impresses people and educates them on the impact of gay rodeo in the western culture and heritage. The Archives tries to take a display to two or three rodeos a year.

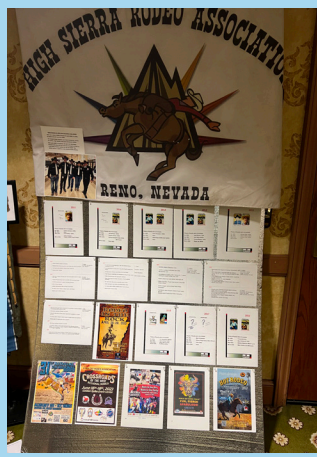
The foundation works with the Gene Autry Museum and with ONE Gay and Lesbian Collection at the USC libraries. Each has a collection of Historic Gay Rodeo items.

There is the 38 years of IGRA history and many things from the 10 years of Reno National Gay Rodeo that have been saved and collected. The local history was recently increased with the loan of several collections of photographs from Phil Ragsdale now on loan to the Archives to be scanned. Robert Douglas loaned the items.

The collection is impressive and well worth seeing. The display will return to Reno for the 50th Anniversary kick-off in October 2025, according to Bergmann.

You can visit GayRodeoHistory.org to view many bits of ephemera that has been collected.

They are always looking for more to add to the collection.



Rodeo History and HSRA



The Finals Rodeo in Reno that wasn't in 1988



Horsemanship saddle



They call them th skittles shirts so you know who is doing what at a rodeo



Event winners receive belt buckles at rodeos



The Reno National Gay Rodeo, where it all started in 1976