SEE INSIDE FOR THE UNION'S HOLIDAY POEM AND COLORING CONTEST!

Holidays in Nevada County



2026

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What's Inside?

Nevada Union High School Choir Performs Two Madrigal Shows and a Holiday Concert... 3

'Victorian' Secret: Nevada City to host low-key Christmas event for locals.....5

Holiday Schedule of Events.....7

Celebrate the Season with "Holiday Glow!".....13

"Happy Holidays" Concerts Featuring Soprano Carrie Hennessey and Tenor Matt Hidalgo..... 15

Holiday Poem Contest.....16

Nevada Union Dance Community Debuts an Original "Nutcracker".....18

Holiday Coloring Contest.....19

On the cover | A past Sierra Master Chorale & Orchestra performance. Photo by Valle Visions Photography.

Holidays in **Nevada County**

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THE UNION
www.TheUnion.com
Great People Connecting Communities

Published by The Union
464 Sutton Way, Grass Valley, CA 95945
Phone: 530-477-4248



Submitted photo | All Choirs Perform for the Annual Holiday Winter Concert

Nevada Union High School Choir Performs Two Madrigal Shows and a Holiday Concert

BY NEVADA UNION CHOIR BOOSTERS

The Nevada Union High School Choir, under the direction of Conor Jamison, is excited to announce two popular holiday performances that will spread the spirit of the season and showcase the incredible talent of the students. The performances include the Annual Madrigal Chamber Choir performance on Friday, December 4, and Saturday, December 5, followed by the All Choirs Holiday Concert on Thursday, December 10. Both events are sure to captivate audiences with festive music and cheer.

2026 ROYAL MADRIGAL—TWO TYPES OF PERFORMANCES FRIDAY IS APPETIZERS AND DESSERTS ($25) & SATURDAY IS TRADITIONAL DINNER FEAST ($50)

Join us for a one-of-a-kind experience at the **40th Annual Madrigal**, a beloved tradition for Nevada County residents. The Madrigal is a festive blend of music, history, comedy, and immersive theater, complete with hand-crafted costumes and enchanting performances from the elite student Chamber Choir. The students' voices and energy always bring the warmth and magic of the season, transcending the winter



Submitted photo | From the 2025 Madrigal: The King, Queen, and Royal Court members of the Nevada Union Chamber Choir



Continued from pg. 3

cold and darkness. This year, the Choir has two types of performances; on Friday, a lower cost ($25) Appetizer and Dessert event will be offered, with the full traditional feast offered on Saturday ($50). Menus are on the website. Both performances will serve the Famous Wassail drink that everyone knows and loves!

EVENT DETAILS

- **When**: Friday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m., Appetizers and Dessert Performance and Saturday, December 5 at 5:00 p.m., Traditional Dinner Feast
- **Where**: St. Joseph's Cultural Center, 410 S. Church Street, Grass Valley
- **Tickets**: $25 per person for the Friday Appetizer and Dessert show (with Wassail), $50 per person, for Saturday, including dinner, entertainment, and Wassail. Tickets are available for purchase in advance at NUChoir.org. No seats will be sold at the event. Additional wine purchases are available for cash only at the event. This popular event often sells out, so be sure to secure your tickets early. Ticket sales end on Friday, November 27.

ALL CHOIRS HOLIDAY CONCERT

On **Thursday, December 10**, the entire Nevada Union Choir of every level will come together for a heartwarming **Holiday Concert** featuring classic Christmas songs and festive holiday favorites. This concert reflects the entire semester of learning, and all choir levels will take the stage to celebrate the winter season with a variety of traditional and contemporary music. The choir's holiday performances have become a cherished tradition in the area, bringing joy and festive spirit year after year.

As part of this annual tradition, alumni choir members are invited to join the current students on stage for the beloved closing song, "May the Lord Bless You and Keep You," creating a beautiful moment of connection and celebration. If you and your family were once a Choir member, you are always part of the Choir Family!

EVENT DETAILS

- **When**: Thursday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Where**: Baggett Theatre, Nevada Union High School, 11761 Ridge Rd., Grass Valley
- **Tickets**: $15 for adults, $5 for students/kids. Tickets are available for purchase in advance or at the door at NUChoir.org.

ABOUT THE NEVADA UNION HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR

The Nevada Union High School Choir is known for its exceptional music education and the dedication of its students. This is a program with an enduring legacy; it has impacted generations of Nevada County students and families. The choir's performances offer a wonderful opportunity to experience the talent of tomorrow's musicians, as they share their voices and passion for music with the community. The students and director feel and react to you in the audience- though all is practiced, it is live and real. Not curated on social media, phones, or internet! These youth are tomorrow's adults who never forget these memorable moments, and the bonds of the Choir last a lifetime!

For more information and to purchase tickets for both events, please visit NUChoir.org. For more updates throughout the year on our Spring performances, follow us on Instagram or Facebook!

CONTACT

Nevada Union Choir Boosters
admin@nuchoir.org
NUChoir.org

KNOW AND GO
MADRIGAL DINNER PERFORMANCES

- **What**: 2026 Royal Madrigal Dinner
- **When**: Friday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 5 at 5:00 p.m.
- **Where**: St. Joseph's Cultural Center, 410 S. Church Street, Grass Valley
- **Tickets**: $25 for Friday's Appetizers and Desserts, $50 for Saturday's Full Feast. Pre-sale tickets only. (Wine extra on-site, cash.)
- **More Info**: NUChoir.org

HOLIDAY CONCERT

- **What**: All Choirs Holiday Concert
- **When**: Thursday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Where**: Baggett Theatre, Nevada Union High School, 11761 Ridge Rd., Grass Valley
- **Tickets**: $15 adults, $5 students/kids. Refreshments will be available to purchase for cash.
- **More Info**: NUChoir.org



‘Victorian’ Secret: Nevada City to host low-key Christmas event for locals

BY JENNIFER NOBLES, STAFF WRITER FOR THE UNION

It can’t really be deemed a secret, but Nevada City Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Lynn Skrukrud said the upcoming Hometown Christmas event is one meant for locals.

The first-year Hometown Christmas will offer locals a smaller, community-focused holiday event and shopping opportunity aside from the behemoth that has become Victorian Christmas, drawing visitors from all over the nation.

Don’t you worry—there will be food vendors as well as the hot mulled wine being served by the Nevada City Veterans of Foreign Wars.

“It’s essentially a miniature version of Victorian Christmas for our local community,” said Skrukrud, who added that the event will not be listed on the Nevada City Chamber of Commerce’s website or calendar. Every effort is being made to keep the event small and to serve locals who may have opted to stay home during Victorian Christmas for various reasons.

“We’ve been hearing a demand for it from both our local residents and our local businesses,” said Skrukrud. “We’ve been hearing from locals that Victorian Christmas is just too crowded, and that they’re not seeing familiar faces that they know anymore. At the same time we hear from our local businesses that they really want to encourage our communities to come downtown and see their shops when they’re decorated for the holidays before they’ve been sort of ravaged by all of the holiday shopping and things like that.”

Hometown Christmas is a realistic salve to those worries, said Skrukrud, and is very intentional in its timing. The event will be held December 2, a few days before the annual Victorian Christmas launches on Sunday, December 6, and continuing on Wednesdays and Sundays through December 20.

“This is really our solution, to create a new event that’s geared towards locals,” said Skrukrud. “It’s the Wednesday before Victorian Christmas–very intentionally—before the peak holiday season comes. It’ll be a great opportunity for locals to get together, see those friendly faces they know and maybe haven’t seen for a while, and get... all the favorites of Victorian Christmas.”

Santa Claus will be in attendance, and the hot mulled wine will complement the roasted chestnuts quite nicely. Everyone who attends the event will be given a passport with which they can collect stamps from the stores they shop in town that evening; upon turning in the passport, one would be entered into a drawing for a giveaway from local downtown merchants. The more purchases made, the more chances to win.



Photo by Annita Kasparian | Folks enjoy the slower pace and smaller crowds of the mid-week Victorian Christmas event held on a Wednesday last year. The Nevada City Chamber of Commerce is at once publicizing its Dec. 2 Hometown Christmas event while also trying to keep it local. Regular Victorian Christmas events will take place Sundays and Wednesdays from December 6–20.

Skrukrud said that the only roadway closed for the event will be Spring Street, which is a first, she added.

“We haven’t closed Spring Street for one of our events; it’ll be Spring Street from the corner of (South) Pine to the Miner’s Foundry that will be closed; just one small block that’s closed, and we have some great businesses on that block like the toy shop, Mountain Pastimes, Nevada City Winery, and then the brewery. There will be some

Continued on pg. 6

Continued from pg. 5

seating and gathering areas there. And then a lot of the shops will be staying open late, so you can come downtown, enjoy your hot mulled wine, pop into a shop, and do some of your holiday shopping while you're there."

Skrukrud said that while it's nearly impossible to keep the community event under wraps while still publicizing, the Chamber is hopeful that the Hometown Christmas celebration will remind locals of the roots of the Victorian Christmas tradition while showing merchants love before the real storm of Christmas shopping begins.

The event will also serve as the first community tree-lighting ceremony in Robinson Plaza, just prior to the 4:30 p.m. event kick-off.

"We've always just in the past plugged the tree in as we finish decorating it, but we'll actually be doing an official ceremony as part of the event too," Skrukrud said. "It's just a great opportunity to come to town, see your friends and your neighbors, and at the same time support our local shops who really rely on our local community to be there. It's a great chance to get your holiday shopping done, check off some gifts off of your list, and have a good local evening out."

Hometown Christmas will take place Wednesday, December 2 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Spring Street in Nevada City and on neighboring streets.

Nevada County Economic Development Office: Supporting Local Business Success

Nevada County's Economic Development Office is here to help local businesses start, grow and thrive. Whether you're opening your doors for the first time, expanding operations or exploring new opportunities, our office provides resources and connections to make it happen.

We work one-on-one with entrepreneurs and small business owners to navigate local regulations, identify funding opportunities, connect with workforce training, explore site options and access business planning assistance. Through partnerships with local economic organizations, chambers, regional agencies and others, we ensure that businesses have access to the tools and expertise they need to succeed.

Our mission is simple: to strengthen Nevada County's economy by supporting the people who make it unique - our small business community. From Truckee to Penn Valley, Grass Valley to Nevada City, down the South County corridor and in every community in between, we're proud to help businesses of all sizes build a vibrant and sustainable future.

For more information, email kimberly. parker@nevadacountyca.gov or call (530) 470-2795.

Together, let's ensure Nevada County is thriving and growing, one small business at a time.

NEVADA COUNTY CALIFORNIA



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musicinthemountains.org
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Holiday Schedule of Events

11TH ANNUAL PUBLIC MENORAH LIGHTING
December 8, at 4:00 PM
Come celebrate at the Miners Foundry featuring the largest Menorah in Nevada County, with entertainment for children and adults. There will be plenty of dreidels, donuts and latkes for all. All are welcome, no charge.
jewishgv.com

15TH ANNUAL NEVADA CITY WINTER CRAFT FAIR
November 29, 10:00 AM–5:00 PM
Kick off your holiday shopping at the 15th Annual Nevada City Winter Craft Fair! The Miners Foundry welcomes an incredible collection of local makers, designers, and artisans for a day celebrating creativity and handmade treasures. Browse unique gifts, home décor, apparel, bath and body products, stationery, artwork, delicious treats, and more. Whether you're checking names off your gift list, or finding a little something for yourself, it's a wonderful opportunity to shop small, support local artists, and discover something truly special. Tickets are $7, ages 12 and under are free:
https://minersfoundry.org/

FOUNDRY SINGS 'HOLLY JOLLY' HOLIDAY SINGALONG
December 3, at 6:00 PM
Raise your voice and join the chorus! This holiday edition of The Foundry Sings invites everyone to take part in a joyful evening of Christmas carols beneath the soaring rafters of the Miners Foundry's historic Stone Hall. Part community choir, part festive singalong, this beloved gathering makes YOU the star of the show. No need to be a professional singer! Just bring your voice, your holiday spirit, and a love for making music together. Find more upcoming events and holiday celebrations at minersfoundry.org/all-events.

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS AT THE MINERS FOUNDRY
December 6, 13 & 20, 1:30–6:00 PM
December 9 & 16, 5:00–9:00 PM
Step inside the Miners Foundry during Nevada City's beloved Victorian Christmas celebrations! Warm up within the beautiful historic stone walls of Stone Hall, enjoy live piano music by renowned local musician Ludi Hinrichs, and sip a seasonal cocktail, hot buttered rum, beer, or wine from the full bar. Whether you're taking a break from strolling the festive streets or gathering with friends for a holiday toast, the Foundry is a welcoming place to soak up the spirit of the season. This year, there's an extra special surprise: Santa Claus is coming to the Miners Foundry for the very first time!

Hometown Christmas! Nevada City Chamber of Commerce

Don't Miss Something New This Holiday Season:

Join us Wednesday, December 2, from 4:30 to 8:30pm for Hometown Christmas, a brand-new event: a smaller, less crowded version of Victorian Christmas created for our local community.

The evening begins with the Tree Lighting at 4:30pm at Robinson's Plaza. Spring Street will close for one block, from Pine Street to the Miners Foundry, where you'll find all your Victorian Christmas favorites: chestnuts roasting on an open fire, hot mulled wine, photos with Santa, costumed carolers, and a small selection of local vendors.

Shops and restaurants will stay open late for holiday shopping, and everyone can pick up a shopping passport at participating locations. Collect stamps as you shop throughout downtown and enter to win giveaways. The more businesses you visit, the more chances you have to win prizes.

Warm up by the open fire and enjoy free hot roasted chestnuts. This is a wonderful chance to see friendly faces, run into neighbors, get your holiday shopping done, and be rewarded for supporting local businesses. Downtown will sparkle with festive holiday cheer. Help us spread the word: we're sharing this event by word of mouth, so please tell all your friends, family, and neighbors!

NEVADA CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



THE POPS CHORALE PRESENTS: CANDLELIGHT CAROLS AT THE MINERS FOUNDRY
December 19 & 20, 7:30 PM
December 20, at 5:30 PM
Step into the warmth and wonder of the holiday season with Candlelight Carols, an intimate evening of timeless Christmas music illuminated by the soft glow of candlelight. Experience beloved carols, inspiring choral works, and beautiful orchestral favorites that capture the joy, peace, and hope of the season. Featuring select voices of the acclaimed Pops Chorale with small chamber orchestra.

MARTINIS & MISTLETOE AT THE MINERS FOUNDRY
December 5, 7:00 PM
Martinis & Mistletoe offers swing, jazz standards, WWII era music, and dancing at the Miners Foundry, where history and community come together. This special evening includes Christmas Classics and invites you to gather in the warmth of the historic Stone Hall, share stories, and relive musical memories that resonate with the timeless spirit of the Foundry. General admission and Cabaret tables are available. Info at minersfoundry.org

58TH ANNUAL CORNISH CHRISTMAS 2026
Friday Nights, November 27, December 4, 11, & 18, 6:00 PM–9:00 PM
Step into the warmth and wonder of an Old-Fashioned Christmas Street Faire, where the charm of a bygone era comes alive under twinkling lights and festive decorations. Stroll through streets lined with stalls brimming with handcrafted gifts, seasonal treats, and local treasures. Downtown Grass Valley. downtowngrassvalley.com

FIRST NEVADA CITY HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS
Wednesday, December 2, 4:30 PM–8:30 PM
The first-year Hometown Christmas offers locals a miniature version of Victorian Christmas. Santa Claus, food vendors, the hot mulled wine from the VFW, and roasted chestnuts are available. This is a charming little street fair featuring a curated selection of local vendors, a fire pit, seasonal treats, and plenty of holiday cheer. "Passports" for collecting stamps from purchases at stores enter each person into a drawing for a giveaway from local downtown merchants. The more purchases made, the more chances to win. The event occurs on a closed Spring St., between Pine and Bridge. There will also be a Christmas Tree lighting ceremony in Robinson Plaza just before the event starts.

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS
Sundays, December 6, 13, & 20, 1:30 PM–6:00 PM
Wednesdays, December 9 & 16, 5:00 PM–9:00 PM
The aroma of roasted chestnuts fills the air, along with cries of street vendors hawking their wares and lamp-lit streets filled with Christmas treasures. It's the one and only

Continued on pg. 10



Mimi Simmons - Century 21 Cornerstone Realty

Dear Nevada County Friends and Neighbors

As the holiday season approaches, we are reminded of how blessed we are to call Nevada County home. Beyond its natural beauty and charming towns, it's the wonderful people, generous hearts, and strong sense of community that make this place so special.

This season, we encourage you to cherish time with loved ones, support our local businesses, and share a little kindness with those around you. Even the smallest gestures can make a meaningful difference.

From our Team Simmons family to yours, thank you for the friendships, trust, and support that mean so much to us.

May your homes be filled with laughter, your hearts with gratitude, and your holidays with love.

Wishing you a beautiful and blessed holiday season!

With heartfelt appreciation,
Mimi Simmons, Holli Navo,
Tammy Andreozzi and
Hillary Baldo

MIMI SIMMONS
Team Simmons

CENTURY 21
Cornerstone Realty

101 Boulder Street, Nevada City | (530)265-7940 www.Mimisimmons.com

Continued from pg. 9

Victorian Christmas! Welcome the holiday season in Nevada City. It's a magical setting of hilly streets with authentic gas lamps, wandering carolers dressed in Victorian attire, and visitors sharing holiday cheer and good tidings. This annual family tradition has been held since 1978 and takes place two Wednesday evenings and three Sunday afternoons in December. There are holiday activities for all ages including live entertainment, yuletide treats, and libations like Mulled Wine from the VFW, or seasonal cocktails or hot buttered rum while warming up at Miners Foundry, and don't forget Father Christmas! Downtown Nevada City, nevadacitychamber.com

PENN VALLEY CHRISTMAS IN WESTERN GATEWAY PARK

December 5, 4:00–8:00 PM

The Penn Valley Area Chamber of Commerce invites the community to celebrate the holiday season at its Christmas tree lighting. Enjoy holiday treats, hot chocolate, s'mores, fire pits, children's games and music. Bring a camp chair, your coat, or blankets to stay warm. Donations are being collected of canned food, or pantry items for the Nevada County Food Bank.

COUNTRY CHRISTMAS FAIRE

November 27 & 28, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
November 29, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Visitors to the Country Christmas Faire at Nevada County Fairgrounds will enjoy musical entertainment, a gingerbread house, holiday exhibit displays, a community bonfire, and wagon rides. There are also delicious food and beverage booths. Our large exhibit buildings are filled with thousands of handcrafted items and gifts, giving shoppers a chance to start their holiday shopping and purchase unique quality handmade items created by more than 100 talented artisans. Santa is available for visitors each day in the Chapel from 10 AM to 5 PM on Friday and Saturday, and 10 AM to 4 PM on Sunday. Bring your camera for that special photo. nevadacountyfair.com

NEVADA UNION BAND ANNUAL WINTER CONCERT

December 3, 7:00–8:30 PM

This festive performance will feature the school's Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and Jazz Band, showcasing the talents of student musicians across the program. Audiences can look forward to a diverse selection of music, highlighting a range of styles with a special focus on holiday favorites that capture the warmth and joy of the season. Tickets are $15 for general admission and $5 for students/children. All ages are invited to attend. Don Baggett Theatre, Nevada Union High School, Grass Valley

NEVADA UNION'S MADRIGAL DINNER 2026

December 4, 7:00 PM, Appetizers & Dessert
December 5, 5:00 PM, Traditional Dinner

Hear ye! Hear ye! Lords and Ladies of the 21st Century. You are hereby invited, nay, commanded, to enjoy Royal Entertainment as honoured guests at the Feast of Christmas. Ye shall enjoy the finest food and drink all His Majesty's stores have to offer and be entertained by the finest musicians and actors the realm has ever seen. Not one will be allowed to leave without a full belly and a joyous heart. The King himself has commanded it! Tickets: $25 Appetizer/Dessert-Friday, $50.00 Traditional Dinner-Saturday. St Joseph's Cultural Center, Grass Valley. Advance tickets only at nuchoir.org/madrigaldinner

NEVADA UNION CHOIR ANNUAL HOLIDAY CONCERT

December 10, 7:00 PM

This much-anticipated event showcases the talent and dedication of Nevada Union's outstanding choir students. The concert will feature performances from all of the school's choir ensembles, with a program focused on holiday music from a variety of traditions and styles. Tickets are available for purchase online at nuchoir.org or before the performance at the door. Admission is $15 for general seating and $5 for students and children. It will be held at the Don Baggett Theatre, Nevada Union High School, Grass Valley. nuchoir.org

HOLIDAY EXPRESS—MUSICAL COMEDY REVUE, OFF BROAD STREET THEATER

November 28, December 4, 5, 11, 12, 18 & 19, 7:00 PM
November 29, December 6, 12, & 20, 2:00 PM

Suitable for all ages, this show bringing holiday cheer, has comedy sketches and music from The Bee Gees, America, CCR, Fleetwood Mac, Billy Ido, Madonna, ABBA, Air Supply, Gloria Estefan and others. Sing and laugh your way through. https://www.offbroadstreet.com/calendar.htm

A VERY SWINGIN' BASIE CHRISTMAS

December 18, 8:00 PM

The Count Basie Orchestra has defined big band jazz for nearly 90 years, carrying forward the legacy of jazz icon Count Basie while continuing to perform around the world. Joining the orchestra is Grammy Award-winning vocalist Carmen Bradford, whose powerhouse voice and deep roots in jazz make every performance unforgettable. Together, they'll deliver an evening of swing, holiday favorites, and timeless American music. Presented by The Center for the Arts. https://thecenterforthearts.org/events/

CHRISTMAS ON THE TAHOE NATIONAL FOREST

December 5, 10:00 AM

Join the Tahoe National Forest for its fourth annual "Christmas on the Tahoe!". Community members are invited to stop by to purchase Christmas tree permits and browse the shop for unique gifts. Junior Snow Ranger activities will be available for children with the opportunity to earn prizes. 631 Coyote St., Nevada City

HOLIDAYS AT EMPIRE MINE

December 5, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Enjoy festive music, chestnut roasting, candle dipping and tin punching, historic children's games, mine yard demonstrations, visit Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus and more on the festively decorated historic grounds of Empire Mine State Historic Park! Entry is $5 per person; age

5 and under are free. Holidays at Empire Mine is a heartwarming way to celebrate the season—filled with community, history, and cheer that lasts well beyond the day.

35TH ANNUAL NEVADA COUNTY TOY RUN
December 12, Kickstands up at noon
through the streets of downtown Nevada City, over to downtown Grass Valley, and onto the Nevada County Fairgrounds! Once at the Nevada County Fairgrounds (1228 McCourtney Rd, Grass Valley, CA), the bikes will unload new unwrapped toys, gifts and food for the local families in need. Bikers meet at the Eric Rood Center (950 Maidu Ave, Nevada City) nevadacountytoyrun.com

MARINE CORPS RESERVE TOYS FOR TOTS
Collections October 1–December 11
Distribution December 12
You will find donation boxes across the City of Grass Valley. The mission of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community in which the campaign is conducted. The deadline for families to sign up to receive toys is December 1. Details on how to register or make monetary donations go to: grass-valley-ca.toysfortots.org

HOLT'S BALLET PRESENTS:
"CLARA & THE NUTCRACKER"
December 4 & 5, 7:00 PM
December 5 & 6, 1:00 PM
Holt Ballet Conservatory's "Clara and The Nutcracker" brings to life the complete classical repertoire from original productions of "The Nutcracker", with a reimagined spectacle that has endeared Director Holt to dance audiences for over two decades. Center for the Arts, Grass Valley. Ticket information at: holtballetconservatory.org/clara-and-the-nutcracker- tickets/

CENTER STAGE GRASS VALLEY PRESENTS:
"NEVADA COUNTY NUTCRACKER"
December 18, 6:00 PM
December 19, 2:00 & 6:00 PM
December 20, 2:00 PM
Welcome to our 22nd annual production of the "Nevada County Nutcracker"! This is a wonderful seasonal holiday ballet. Come enjoy an evening out and support our local community of dancers. Don Baggett Theatre, Nevada Union, Grass Valley. Ticket information at: centerstagegrassvalley.org/nutcracker/

MUSIC IN THE MOUNTAINS
December 12, 7:00 PM
December 13, 2:00 PM
Join in for a joyous musical celebration for the whole family as orchestra, choir, and children's voices come together to perform cherished holiday classics. From timeless melodies to heartwarming moments, this concert

Continued on pg. 12

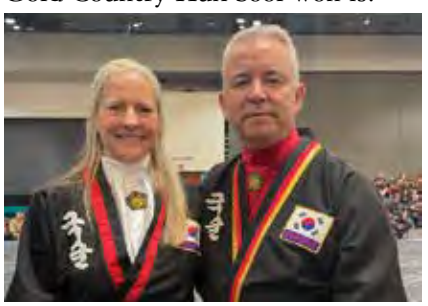


Gold Country Kuk Sool Won

Gold Country Kuk Sool Won is owned and operated by husband and wife team, Tony and Lila Reyna. Now in its 32nd year of business in Nevada County, Gold Country Kuk Sool Won is truly a family martial arts school with current students ranging in age from 3-80. Gold Country Kuk Sool Won has 400 students with over 58 active Black Belts.

Kuk Sool won is a comprehensive Korean martial art. The motto at Gold Country Kuk Sool won is: etiquette, patience and practice. We believe if you have good etiquette, are patient and work hard, then there are few things you won't be able to accomplish in life. The success of Gold Country Kuk Sool won is from the positive family atmosphere and the mutual respect that has made an impact in our lives and in the community as well.

In today's fast paced world many families are seeking a way to slow down and spend quality time together. There are few activities that families and couple can do together and receive the same physical and mental benefits as in Kuk Sool Won. The classes' high energy and positive atmosphere helps students reach their full potential while allowing them to progress at their own pace.



GOLD COUNTRY KUK SOOL WON
127 Argall Way, Nevada City | (530) 478-1412
www.goldcountrykuksoolwon.com

Continued from pg. 11

captures the magic, joy, and togetherness that define the holiday season. https://www.musicinthemountains.org/concerts-and-events

SIERRA MASTER CHORALE & ORCHESTRA CONCERTS
December 19, 7:30 PM
December 20, 2:00 PM
Let it glow! Joyful voices. Brilliant holiday music. Sing-along favorites. Celebrate "Holiday Glow!" with Alison Skinner, the Conductor and the SMC & Orchestra in a festive holiday concert full of joyful choral harmonies and vibrant orchestral works. Including celebratory works by Whitacre, Bruckner, Vaughan Williams, and more... this spirited program blends traditional favorites with hidden gems. https://www.inconcertsierra.org/

NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH AT MINERS FOUNDRY
December 31, 7:00 PM
Say farewell to 2026 and welcome the new year with a night of music, dancing, and celebration at the Miners Foundry! Presented in collaboration with Paul Emery Music, this year's annual New Year's Eve Bash features local legends Brothers and Beyond, an offshoot of the locally renowned band, Band Beyond Description! Special guests Bob Mora and Third Degree set the stage for an unforgettable evening. Raise a glass, gather your friends, and dance your way into 2027 with a community tradition that just keeps getting better! minersfoundry.org/all-events

NEVADA UNION DANCE COMMUNITY DEBUTS AN ORIGINAL NUTCRACKER
December 11 & 12, at 7:00 PM
December 12, at 2:00 PM
Nevada Union Dance Community will celebrate a milestone this holiday season with its first production of "The Nutcracker", featuring original choreography, classical ballet and a fresh interpretation of the beloved holiday story. This version includes Clara participating more actively where her journey celebrates curiosity, openness, courage and the transformative power of human connection. Baggett Theatre on the Nevada Union campus. Tickets and info at nudanceco.org

LEGACY PRESENTS: "LITTLE WOMEN" AT THE NEVADA THEATRE
December 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, & 26, at 7:30 PM
December 10 & 17, at 7:00 PM
Matinees December 6, 13, 20, 24 & 27, at 2:00 PM
This enchanting production, directed by the visionary Sands Hall, promises to capture your heart with exceptional performances bringing the poignancy of each character's journey. Revisit or discover anew the story by Louisa May Alcott, and the joy and trials woven into the fabric of the March family amidst the backdrop of 19th-century America. Seize this chance to warm your heart this holiday season! Tickets at legacyproductions.thundertix.com/events/272841






Michelle Erskine

Celebrate Small Business Saturday in Nevada County!

SHOP LOCAL

On Saturday, November 28, show your support for the heart of Nevada County—our small businesses! From unique boutiques and artisan crafts to cozy cafes and chic eateries, our local businesses offer one-of-a-kind treasures you won't find anywhere else.

Find the perfect gift while enjoying a day filled with holiday cheer, exclusive discounts, and a chance to support our passionate local business owners.

Every purchase strengthens our local economy. Let's make a big impact by shopping small!

NEVADA COUNTY CALIFORNIA

Celebrate the Season with "Holiday Glow!"

The holidays are here, and InConcert Sierra celebrates the season with "Holiday Glow!" featuring the Sierra Master Chorale & Orchestra under the direction of Alison Skinner. This festive concert takes place Saturday, December 19, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 20, at 2 p.m.

Brimming with joyful voices, brilliant orchestral music, and beloved holiday traditions, "Holiday Glow!" promises a heartwarming musical celebration with something for everyone. From the grandeur of Bach and Bruckner to the shimmering beauty of Eric Whitacre and the exuberant rhythms of a gospel-inspired finale, this festive program blends familiar favorites with delightful musical discoveries.

Baritone Eric Howe will be featured as soloist in Ralph Vaughan Williams' "Fantasia on Christmas Carols," a beautiful and evocative work that weaves traditional English carols into a rich tapestry of choral and orchestral sound. Later in the program, tenor Jon Kelly will bring infectious energy to the lively, gospel-inspired "Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child," arranged by Mark Hayes.



Valle Visions Photography | 2025 Sierra Master Chorale performance with audience.

The concert opens with the brilliance of J.S. Bach's "Magnificat", also includes Anton Bruckner's setting of the "Magnificat" text, and Johann Herbeck's beautiful "Pueri Concinite." Following intermission, the orchestra takes center stage with Vaughan Williams' beloved "Fantasia on Greensleeves," a lush and graceful interpretation of the familiar English melody.

The second half offers an enchanting variety of musical colors and traditions. Composer Eric Whitacre's "Glow" captures the quiet wonder of winter with its luminous harmonies, while Judith Clurman's

Continued on pg. 14

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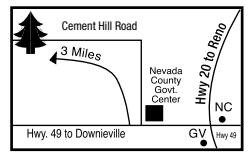

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GARDEN AND GIFT SHOPPE
Penn Valley, California

Continued from pg. 13

"Chanukah Joy and Peace" and Michael Isaacson's "Light the Legend" bring the warmth and spirit of Hanukkah to the celebration.

And what would a holiday concert be without a little audience participation? Concertgoers will have the opportunity to raise their voices alongside the chorale and orchestra in favorite sing-alongs, including "Joy to the World," "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," and "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas." The program builds to a rousing finale with a stunning and moving arrangement of the beloved holiday classic "O Holy Night."

With glorious harmonies, the rich sound of InConcert Sierra's professional orchestra, and plenty of opportunities to share in the joy of music, "Holiday Glow!" is a perfect way to celebrate the season with family and friends.

Adding to the festivities, the second annual holiday "Sweet Treat Raffle" offers concertgoers the chance to win delicious baked goods from local bakeries and homemade holiday goodies, perfect for sharing at holiday gatherings or savoring at home.

Founded in 1946, InConcert Sierra celebrates 80 years of bringing exceptional classical and choral music to Nevada County. Through world-class performances, the Sierra Master Chorale & Orchestra, as well as engaging educational and community outreach programs, InConcert Sierra enriches the cultural life of the region by sharing extraordinary musical experiences in a warm, welcoming environment.



Valle Visions Photography | 2025 Sierra Master Chorale singalong.

Know and Go

- **What**: "Holiday Glow!" — Sierra Master Chorale & Orchestra
- **When**: Saturday, December 19 at 7:30 p.m. & Sunday, December 20 at 2 p.m.
- **Location**: Seventh-day Adventist Church, 12889 Osborne Hill Road, Grass Valley, CA
- **Tickets**: $50 general admission; $5 for youth ages 18 and under. Available online at: https://www.simpletix.com/e/sierra-master-chorale-and-orchestra-holida-tickets-267403, by calling 530-273-3990; or at the door as available

LeGacy Presents

Since August 2007, LeGacy Presents has been bringing the magic of live theatre to Nevada County, featuring local actors and musicians. Founded by family members Sue LeGate-Halford and Alvis LeGate, LeGacy began its journey with an ambitious production of Aaron Sorkin's "A Few Good Men".

"We had three weeks to build, rehearse, perform and strike the show. It was whirlwind! Our local Marine Corps ran a "boot camp", and our cast was so incredibly committed, and we actually did not lose money!"..says LeGate-Halford. "It was the beginning of a company literally built on sweat. We're proud to still be here!"

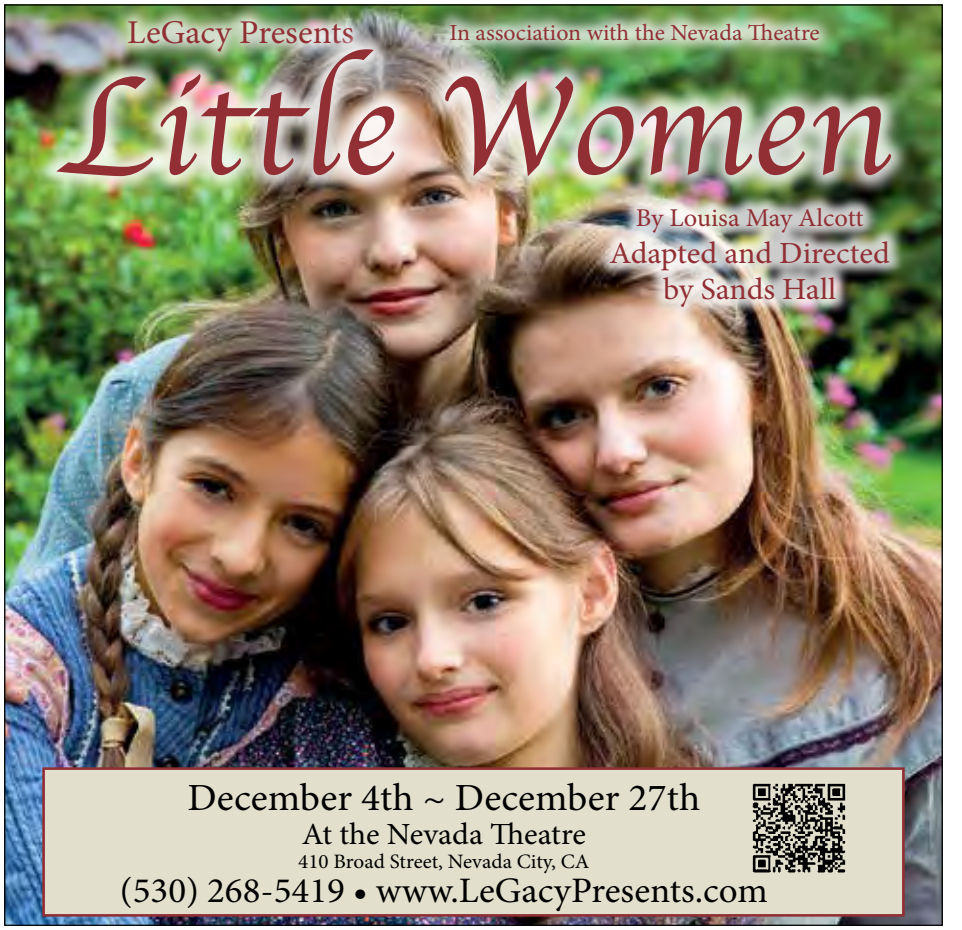
"We have also been blessed to have been able to offer many benefits for a variety of non-profits, and matinees for the local schools at a nominal charge.. really important for the kids!"

November 28th will bring the "Divas of Rock and Pop" to the Nevada Theatre...a new group featuring the voices of rock and pop legends for one night only. December will bring the annual family holiday show in the form of Little Women, the Louisa May Alcott classic, adapted and directed by Sands Hall. A special benefit night performance on December 10th of Little Women will be held to support Tom Fitzsimmons, the well known KNCO radio personality as he fights cancer.

2027 will bring a special 20th anniversary offering....Gary Wright's play EVERMORE will be produced in September, exactly 20 years after its debut for the Foothill Theatre Company.

For tickets to all shows and information visit LEGACY PRESENTS or call (530) 268 5419

NevadaTheater 401 Broad St., Nevada City | (530) 268-5419 **www.legacypresents.com/index.html**



“Happy Holidays” Concerts Featuring Soprano Carrie Hennessey and Tenor Matt Hidalgo

Music in the Mountains (MIM) invites the community to gather for a joyous musical celebration of the season at its annual “Happy Holidays” concerts, Saturday, Dec. 12, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 13, at 2 p.m. at The Center for the Arts in Grass Valley.

The MIM Chorus and MIM Orchestra will be joined by two acclaimed Northern California voices: soprano Carrie Hennessey, a favorite of MIM audiences, and tenor Matt Hidalgo, under the batons of Ryan Murray and Ariel May.

A Program Full of Heart and Tradition

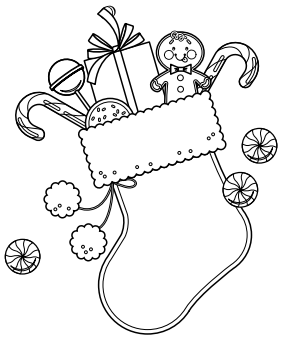
Each December, families, longtime patrons and first-time concert-goers come together at the Happy Holidays concerts, one of Nevada County’s most cherished seasonal traditions. The program includes well-known favorites, a stirring rendition of “Rejoice Greatly” featuring

Continued on pg. 16





My Holiday Poem



For 3rd, 4th & 5th graders. Write a holiday poem or holiday short story and submit to The Union by 3:00 pm Friday, December 18. Poem/short story can not be longer than space provided. Selected Poems will be featured in The Union on Wednesday, December 23.

Submitted By:_____

Grade: _____

Address: _____

Phone:_____

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Mail to: The Union Holiday Poem Contest, 464 Sutton Way, Grass Valley, CA 95945. Or scan and email to llund@theunion.com. For more information call 530-477-4278

Continued from pg. 15

Hennessey and an audience favorite holiday sing-along, all of which are sure to get you and your whole family into the holiday spirit.

Celebrated Guest Artists

Carrie Hennessey is known for her soaring voice and richly nuanced characters onstage. A familiar presence at MIM, she is a member of the Sacramento-based Rogue Music Project and performed at this year's SummerFest. Hennessey has sung with the Grand Rapids Symphony, Pacific Symphony, Duluth Symphony and Houston Symphony, and at venues across Europe. Her debut in the title role of Janácek's "Káťa Kabanová" with West Edge Opera earned praise from the San Francisco Chronicle for its "wondrous blend of silvery tone and sinuous phrasing."

Matt Hidalgo is a light and agile tenor who performs regularly as a soloist throughout the Sacramento region, Nevada, and the Bay Area, and sings as an extra chorus member with San Francisco Opera. A competition winner skilled in oratorio, opera and concert music, Hidalgo has performed works by Bach, Mozart, Handel, Haydn, Monteverdi and Saint-Saëns, as well as Benjamin Britten's "Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings." He made his operatic debut with Sacramento Opera in 2015.

Reserve Early

These popular Happy Holidays concerts sell out almost every year, and early ticket reservations are highly recommended.

Know and Go

- **What**: Music in the Mountains "Happy Holidays" Concerts
- **When**: Saturday, Dec. 12, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 13, at 2 p.m.
- **Where**: The Center for the Arts, 314 W. Main St., Grass Valley
- **Tickets**: musicinthemountains.org $15 - $67, free for kids

About Music in the Mountains

Founded in 1982, Music in the Mountains is dedicated to bringing world-class classical music to Nevada County through high-quality musical performances with professional musicians from all over the globe, youth education programs and community engagement. From orchestral concerts and chamber music to choral performances and educational outreach, MIM fosters a vibrant musical culture in the Sierra foothills. Learn more at musicinthemountains.org.

Continued on pg. 17

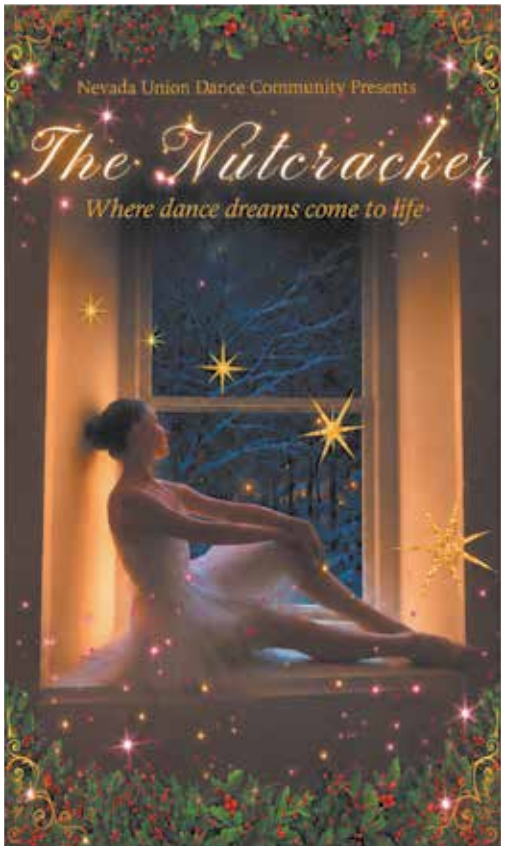
Continued from pg. 16



Carrie Hennessey



Matt Hidalgo



Nevada Union Dance Community Presents

THE NUTCRACKER

An Original Reimagining of the Holiday Classic

Experience the magic of classical ballet, imaginative choreography inspired by diverse dance traditions, stunning costumes, and enchanting storytelling - featuring local dancers alongside professional guest artists.

Friday, Dec. 11 at 7PM
Saturday, Dec. 12 at 2PM & 7PM

DON BAGGETT THEATRE
Grass Valley, California

Tickets: $20 in advance or $25 at the door
All seating is reserved.

For tickets & more information, visit:
nudanceco.org

Come celebrate the beginning of a new tradition in Nevada County!



Nevada Union Dance Community Debuts an Original "Nutcracker"

Nevada Union Dance Community will celebrate a milestone this holiday season with its first full-length production of "The Nutcracker", featuring original choreography, classical ballet and a fresh interpretation of the beloved holiday story.

Performances are scheduled for Friday, December 11, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, December 12, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Don Baggett Theatre at Nevada Union High School, 11761 Ridge Road, Grass Valley. The box office opens two hours before each performance.

Under the artistic direction of Tsal'gyur Starbuck, a former soloist with San Francisco Ballet, this production combines the traditions of classical ballet with choreography inspired by a variety of dance styles. Starbuck is joined by choreographers Lauren Duchene, Elizabeth Castañeda and Karen Attix, each bringing distinct artistic backgrounds to the production.

The ballet features original choreography throughout, including a dramatic Battle Scene incorporating dancers from Nevada Union High School's Advanced Dance program and a varsity cheer sequence choreographed by Daisy Mitchell. Other highlights include a Classical Spanish dance, a Fosse-inspired musical theater number, an Arabian dance blending modern movement and classical ballet, and a distinctive Chinese Butterfly Tea.

At the heart of this reimagining is Clara, a young girl discovering her courage, strength and capacity for kindness. When her Nutcracker comes to life and transforms into a Prince, the two journey through an enchanted winter forest into the Land of Sweets. Unlike traditional interpretations in which Clara primarily watches the second-act dances, this Clara actively engages with the characters she meets, discovering new friendships and experiences along the way. Her journey celebrates curiosity, openness, courage and the transformative power of human connection.

The production also reflects the growing school's commitment to developing well-rounded dancers. Lead students train six days a week, studying classical ballet, pointe work, conditioning, cross-training and injury prevention. Starbuck works alongside Youth Division Director Duchene and physical therapist Roxanna Cohen to create an environment emphasizing technical excellence, artistry and thoughtful physical preparation.

Equally important is the school's commitment to fostering kindness, respect and a sense of belonging. Students of varying ages and experience levels are learning not only the discipline and traditions of ballet but also the value of encouraging one another and growing together.

The production represents months of collaboration among dancers, teachers, families and community volunteers. In addition, the Nevada Union Choir program will welcome audiences with Christmas carols outside the theater and in the lobby.



Sugar Plum Fairy Sorcha Tate

For Nevada Union Dance Community, this inaugural Nutcracker is more than a performance. It is a celebration of local talent, artistic collaboration and the beginning of a new community tradition. The school hopes its production will become a cherished holiday event in Nevada County for years to come.

Know and Go

- **What**: Nevada Union Dance Community presents "The Nutcracker"
- **When**: Friday, December 11, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.; Saturday, December 12, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- **Where**: Don Baggett Theatre at Nevada Union High School, 11761 Ridge Road, Grass Valley, California
- **Tickets**: $20 in advance | $25 at the door. All seating is reserved.
- **Purchase tickets**: https://nevadaunionhsvapa.ludus.com/200550971 Advance ticket purchases are encouraged. Audiences of all ages are invited to experience the magic of this original production and celebrate the beginning of a new holiday tradition in Nevada County.
- **Contact**: Courtney Wadman, NUHS Dance Director, cwadman@njuhsd.com, office phone (530) 273-4431 ext 2103, or Jen Legge, Visual and Performing Arts Secretary, jlegge@njuhsd.com.

Holiday Coloring Contest



For kindergartner, 1st & 2nd graders. Color and submit by 3:00 pm, Friday, December 18. First, Second & Third place winners will receive a gift card to Ben Franklin and will be featured in The Union on Wednesday, December 23.

Submitted By: _____

Grade: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

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Mail to: The Union Holiday Coloring Contest, 464 Sutton Way, Grass Valley, CA 95945.
Or scan and email to llund@theunion.com. For more information call 530-477-4278


Santa's Shopping List
• 3 tubs protein powder for Dasher
• 2 dozen gift cards and bottles of organic wine for Dancer
• 18 dozen deviled eggs from the Deli for Prancer
• 16 lbs cocktail shrimp and not-too-sweet cocktail sauce for Vixen
• 6 kilos dino kale and BriarPatch Caesar dressing for Comet
• 23 bars high quality socially responsibly sourced 77% dark chocolate bars for Cupid
• 0.5 kilo multi-colored baby carrots for Donner (ask for a sample first!)
• 5 kilos of winter citrus for Blitzen (for homemade limoncello!)
• 4 jars maraschino cherries for Rudolf (I do love a theme!)
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