

# Oasis Bordello Museum hosts high society tea

## Will offer teas in summer months

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WALLACE — Channeling the spirit of the high society of the old western Wallace and catching a glimpse of times gone by was the goal Monday evening at the Oasis Bordello museum.

The museum was the site of a high tea Monday evening. Several members of the Silver Valley business community were invited to partake in a formal tea party including home-brewed teas and homemade snacks, cookies and desserts.

Michelle Mayfield, owner of the Oasis Bordello Museum, and Sherrie Holman, who once owned a tea shop in Wallace called Notions, Potions and Brews, organized the event.

The two decided about a month ago to try an idea out that would incorporate the charismatic and historical atmosphere of the museum and it would be a fun way to get people together, they said.

"We wanted to add something new," Holman said. "We wanted to give it an interesting spark, the valley needs it."

Mayfield and Holman did all the preparation of food and Holman mixed and brewed the teas served at the high tea. Their fare ranged from meat trays to cucumber sandwiches and curry egg salad sandwiches to an array of desserts.

Tables were set in fine china and accented with red and black garters, red roses and red light bulbs.

The duo wants to begin offering tea parties for locals and tourists alike.

The teas will be held at the museum and will be offered everyday between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. The women would like to start offering the teas around July 15, Holman said.

A variety of options will be available for the teas. There will be a menu of choices for the teas and food available. There will also be four options for the



— Photo by ERIKA KIRSCH

Jack Mayfield, owner of the Oasis Bordello Museum in Wallace, entertains a crowd enjoying a high tea at the museum. He told many amusing stories to guests on Monday evening including Ed Eckel, left, and his wife Dora.

tea parties available.

Patrons may request just a pot of tea, which will be \$2 per person and includes a refill; a pot of tea with a refill and cookies will be \$3.50; tea with cookies, lemon curd and other dessert options will be \$4.95 per person; if a high tea is desired Mayfield and Holman request a reserva-

tion with one week advance notice and it will include a choice of food items, teas and desserts.

The price for the high tea will start at \$12.95 per person and increase depending on the items chosen.

The Oasis Bordello Museum offers an ideal backdrop for such a venue as tea parties.

The bordello officially closed its doors in January 1988 and all the women working at the time left all their belongings in the color-coded rooms.

The lobby, now gift shop, of the museum will be the location of the tea parties and offers a glimpse of the colorful past of a western mining town.