



## Sandy Valley Youth Shine at Little Britches Rodeo Finals

Near the end of July, young rodeo competitors from all over the United States traveled to Pueblo, Colorado for the Little Britches Rodeo National Finals. Seven of those competitors were from Sandy Valley: Blake and Brilynn Bentley, Hunter Gonzales, Emmy Jory, Shaylee Sharples, Ty Snook and Dixie Timberlake. They competed in bull riding, ribbon roping, team roping, break-away roping, barrels, poles, trails, goat tying and flags. At 6 years old, Dixie Timberlake was the youngest of the group and this was her first year in Little Britches. For Ty Snook and Hunter Gonzales, this was their final year of Little Britches competition. All of these young people worked and trained throughout the year to make it to the finals. Congratulations to all of them and best of luck in the future!



Emmy Jory



Blake Bentley



Ty Snook



Shaylee Sharples

### Sandy Valley Youth Shine at Little Britches Rodeo Finals...cont. from page 1



Dixie Timberlake



Hunter Gonzales



Brilynn Bentley



Hunter Gonzales, Shaylee Sharples & Dixie Timberlake

## Sandy Valley VFD Recruitment Open House



Did you know that the first Volunteer Fire Department was founded by Benjamin Franklin in Philadelphia in 1736? That tradition of service to the community is still alive in the Volunteer Fire Departments that serve Clark County's Rural Communities, including Sandy Valley. They are always in need of volunteers to serve. If you are interested, or just want to know more about what Volunteer Firefighters do, stop by the Sandy Valley Volunteer Fire Department on Saturday, September 19th from 1 - 5 pm. Light refreshments will be served. If you have any questions, contact Electra Smith at 702-723-1350.

## Events for September – Southwest

- **Every Wednesday** – Sewing/craft group at the Goodsprings Community Center, 4 pm
- **Every Wednesday** – Adult/Teen basketball at the Sandy Valley School Gym, 6:30 pm
- **Every Friday** – Crafts at the SV Senior Center. Working on projects for the Holiday Bazaar. 1 pm
- **Friday, September 4** – Sandy Valley Senior Center Potluck and General Meeting, 1:00 pm
- **Mondays, September 7 & 21** – Coffee and Donuts at the Sandy Valley Senior Center, 8 to 10:30 am
- **Tuesday, September 8** – Sandy Mesquite Valley Dev. Assoc. meeting at the SV Community Ctr, 6:30 pm
- **Tuesday, September 8** – Sandy Valley CAC\* meeting at the SV Community Center, 7:30 pm
- **Wednesday, September 9** – Mountain Springs CAC\* meeting at the Mtn Springs Fire Station, 6:30 pm
- **Saturdays, September 12 & 26** – Quilting at the SV Senior Center, come work on those projects. Sewing machine, irons and ironing boards and cutting mats will be available.
- **Tuesday, September 15** – Free Flu Shots for all ages at the SV Volunteer Fire Dept. Sponsored by the SVVFD, CCFD & Helping Kids Clinic. There is no cost, but please bring your cards if you have insurance. 3 – 5 pm
- **Saturday, September 19** – Everyone is welcome at the Sandy Valley Senior Center Pancake Breakfast, 8 to 10:30 am, \$3.50 for the best pancakes and sausage or biscuits and gravy
- **Saturday, September 19** – Hunters Education class at the Sandy Valley Community Center, bring completed work book, \$5 and lunch, 9 am\*\*
- **Saturday, September 26** – Sandy Valley Farmer's Market and Swap Meet at the Keystone, 10 am to 2 pm, for more information: [thesccg@gmail.com](mailto:thesccg@gmail.com) or call Kat at 702-813-4140 or Amanda at 702-723-8054
- **Tuesday, September 29** – Goodsprings CAC\* meeting at the Goodsprings Community Center, 7 pm
- **Wednesday, September 30** – Red Rock CAC\* meeting at the Blue Diamond Library, 7 pm

\*CAC = Citizens Advisory Council    \*\*Contact Shawna at 702-723-5040 for more information

## Commissioner Kirkpatrick to host Lunch & Learn



Clark County Commissioner Marilyn Kirkpatrick was appointed to the Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2015, by Gov. Brian Sandoval to replace Commissioner Tom Collins. Commissioner Kirkpatrick will represent District B through the remainder of the four-year term that ends December 2016.

Commissioner Kirkpatrick was serving in the capacity of Assemblywoman for Nevada's Legislative District 1 when she was tapped to join the seven-member County board. She was first elected to the Nevada Legislature in 2004 and served five regular and seven special sessions in Carson City. In 2011, she was the only member of the Assembly to chair two committees: Government Affairs and Taxation. In 2013, she was elected Speaker of the Assembly. She also served as a member of the Commerce and Labor and Legislative Operations and Elections committees.

A native Nevadan, Commissioner Kirkpatrick grew up in Clark County and graduated from Western High School. She went on to attend Krolack Business School and the Community College of Southern Nevada. Commissioner Kirkpatrick and her husband, Michael have six children and six grandchildren.

On Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm, Commissioner Kirkpatrick will host a "Lunch and Learn" community meeting at the Moapa Valley Community Center. This event will provide an open forum for Moapa Valley residents to get to know the new Commissioner, ask questions and discuss issues. It will also give the Commissioner an opportunity to learn more about the concerns of the Moapa Valley community. Catering will be provided by Sugars Home Plate Restaurant.



## Moapa Valley's "Little Sign That Could"

Last November, members of the Moapa Valley Revitalization Project (MVRP) noticed that the "Welcome to Overton" sign had become old and neglected. It was covered by weeds and not very welcoming. The group cleared the weeds and decorated the sign just in time for Veteran's Day. When December rolled around, they decided to decorate it for the holiday season. The holiday decorations led to the idea to post on Facebook and invite community members to sign up for future months. The response was overwhelming! Within days, every month in 2015 had been claimed by businesses, organizations, homeowner's associations, and private individuals clamoring for their preferred month! Three months for 2016 have recently been requested by groups and individuals wanting 1st choice for the new year! And, as if that all weren't exciting enough - there is even more to come. A local scout will be installing curbing, rock columns and reflective paint for his Eagle Project. This has all stirred a real sense of pride in the community as locals and tourists alike are seen taking 'photo ops' in front of the well-tended and cleverly decorated sign. It has also furthered the resolve of the MVRP to continue the mission of revitalizing Moapa Valley - including planning a community clean-up before the next Veteran's Day parade and many other improvements in the year to come.

### Thanks to the 2015 Participants:

January - MVRP /Shelly Benkman  
 February - Rey of Light Photography  
 March - Town & Country Mobile Estates  
 April - Kathi Cooper & Shelly Benkman  
 May - Cal's Auto Repair  
 June - LDS Over 40 Singles  
 July - Robbins Nest/VFW  
 August - Senior Center Thrift Store  
 September - Lost City Museum  
 October - Ashley Thornton (Breast Cancer Awareness)  
 November -AmberLee Gollahon  
 December - Karen Alsum Insurance



Photos courtesy of the Moapa Valley Revitalization Project

## Busy Season to begin at Logandale Trails

September 12, 2015 officially marks the beginning of the 'busy season' at Logandale Trails! While the temperatures may still seem summer-like, fall is coming to the desert and outdoor recreationalists can't wait!

"We wanted to host a clean-up of the Logandale Trails System BEFORE the crowds start to arrive", Dustin Nelson, Board member of Partners In Conservation stated. "This way folks will pull into tidy campsites and will see beautiful scenery instead of empty water bottles alongside the trails. And even though visitors take great care of this area, we can always find some trash to pick up!"

And thus the importance of September 12th--clean-up day at LTS! Volunteers will start arriving at 7 am, but organizers know everyone is busy and "coming by for even an hour or two is greatly appreciated" emphasized Nelson. "We'll be set up at the main trailhead with some breakfast snacks, gloves, trash bags—all the clean-up essentials and then about 10:30, we'll thank all the volunteers with lunch and a T-shirt and rumor has it, a couple of door prizes will be raffled off too," Nelson continued. "We believe you can never thank volunteers enough so we try to show our appreciation every way we can."

Most of the tasks scheduled include picking up trash along the trails, cleaning out campfire rings, using magnets to sweep campsites and trailheads for nails, and pulling weeds---a general tidying up of the place.

"We like to end our events early enough so that folks can have some fun, too, so we encourage everyone to load their motorized toys, grab their camera, or take the kids on a hike afterwards" Dustin said, "At our last event, we took the kids to play in the sand and it was a great way to mix family fun with doing some volunteer work."

For more information, please email [lsinfo@mvdsl.com](mailto:lsinfo@mvdsl.com), call 702-219-2033, or check their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Logandale-Trails/340542706122492?ref=hl> for the latest details. Directions are simple: Take the Moapa Valley Blvd (exit 93 if coming from the Vegas area) and travel south about 5 miles; turn west (or right) on Liston Avenue which is immediately south of the post office. After a half a mile, the pavement ends and turn north (or right) onto a good dirt road, follow it over the railroad tracks (stop and look both ways first), and continue to follow the dirt road for a couple of miles to the main trailhead. A video of directions with an intro to the area is on the Facebook page which provides a great visual to follow. Personal attention is given to every volunteer, so don't hesitate to call or email for answers to your questions or for last minute directions!

*Article and photos courtesy of Elise McAllister*



## Events for September – Northeast

- **Mondays (9/14, 9/21, 9/28) at the Moapa Valley Library** – ABC Kids: nursery rhymes, songs, dances and stories for ages 3–5, 11:15 am; Read with Me! Readers of all skill levels welcome for one-on-one, no pressure reading practice with our Teen Volunteers for ages 4 and up, 4 pm
- **Tuesdays at the Moapa Valley Library** – Circle Time: interactive songs, fingerplays and had rhymes for ages 0–18 months, 11:15 am; Computer basics: learn the concepts of computer use at 3 pm\*\*
- **Tuesdays (9/8, 9/15, 9/22, 9/29) and Wednesdays (9/14, 9/21, 9/28) at the Moapa Valley Library** – Tutoring and homework help for grades K through college: free assistance with homework in any subject as well as writing essays, resumes and applications, 2:30 to 4:30 pm
- **Wednesdays at the Moapa Valley Library** – Computer topics: learn about aspects of computer use at 11 am; Software, Internet & email Topics at 3 pm; Computer Logic – learn more about programming, game design & more at 4:30 pm\*\*
- **Thursdays at the Moapa Valley Library** – Tiny Tots: Fingerplays, songs, hand rhymes and stories. Ages 18–36 months at 11:15 am ; LEGO Quest: complete a challenge using the LEGOs provided for ages 8+ at 4 to 5:15 pm\*\*
- **Fridays at the Moapa Valley Library** – Handicrafters; join crafting companions to share your knowledge and creativity, 10 am to 12 pm; Teen Space: Play games, watch movies and be creative, bring your own snacks, from 1:30 to 3 pm, Grades 6 and up; Story Hour: Drop off the kids after school for a variety of stories, jokes, science experiments and more. Ages 5–12. 4 pm \*\*
- **Saturdays at the Moapa Valley Library** – Game on: a game group for anyone who likes games, focused on preteen and teen play 12 – 1:30 pm; Crafternoon: youth and adults welcome to make a new craft every week at 2 – 3 pm\*\*
- **Wednesday, September 9** – Moapa Valley TAB\* meeting at the Moapa Valley Community Center, 7 pm
- **Saturday, September 12** – English language discussion group: non-native speakers meet in a no-stress environment for practice speaking English, 10:15 am\*\*
- **Saturday, September 19** – Cover 2 Cover Book Club: fun discussion about a different book every month complete with treats & beverages at the Moapa Valley Library, 10:15 am\*\*
- **Tuesday, September 29** – Moapa TAB\* meeting at the Robinson Justice Court & Community Center, 7 pm
- **Thursday, October 1** – Bunkerville TAB\* meeting at the Bunkerville Community Center, 7 pm

\*TAB = Town Advisory Board \*\*For details call 702-397-2690 \*\*\*For details call 702-864-2438

If you would like to receive Rural Connections or would like to contribute community events, articles or photos, please contact Meggan Holzer at [meggan@clarkcountynv.gov](mailto:meggan@clarkcountynv.gov) or 702-455-0341

## Wilderness nonprofit seeks citizen scientists to study Mt. Charleston springs

Conservation nonprofit Friends of Nevada Wilderness wants you to study the 200-plus springs scattered around Mount Charleston. Although that's how Las Vegans generally refer to the range a half-hour northwest of the city — Mount Charleston — its official name is the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area, Jose Witt, Southern Nevada manager for the Friends of Nevada Wilderness, points out. The name is a reminder that water bubbling to the surface at spots throughout the mountains supports the ecosystem flourishing there.

Despite their importance, however, these springs have been neglected when it comes to scientific study. Building on a well-established initiative of the Springs Stewardship Institute, based in Flagstaff, Arizona, and extending similar work already done in Northern Nevada by Friends of Nevada Wilderness, Witt has launched a volunteer citizen-scientist program inviting amateur botanists, geologists and others to conduct field research on the Spring Mountains' springs.

A day-long training prepares volunteers for the job. Witt describes the experience: "You schedule a time to pick up monitoring equipment — we're flexible on times and locations — and we'll find the area or spring you're interested in going to. Then, we give you the GPS data or waypoints to get there, and you'll head out. Most people will take a buddy, go out and monitor the springs and either meet with us at the end of the day or give us a call when they get back and let us know they're safe. While they're at the spring, they'll spend maybe an hour, hour and a half, checking water temperature, pH levels, flow rates, that kind of thing, while writing it all down and taking photos. If they're interested, they can also record plants and birds they see."

Support comes from fees collected from the Mount Charleston license plate program will help to pay for training and to reimburse volunteers for mileage. Witt says 15 people have signed on so far, and there's no limit to the number that are welcome.

After citizen scientists hand it over to Friends of Nevada Wilderness, the data will go to the Forest Service for its use. The information will also become part of an international database maintained by the Springs Stewardship Institute. This means that it may be used locally — for instance, to restore springs that have been trampled by invasive species, such as wild horses — or more broadly, such as in climate change models. "The Forest Service doesn't have much good data about the springs," Witt says. "In 2011, the SSI did some monitoring, but basically, it's a database with potential information and little else. We felt this was a good way to attract a different type of volunteer, one who may not want to go out with a big group and swing tools, but might be interested in a more solitary, skilled activity."

Although Witt says he's expecting a lot of interest during summer months, when Las Vegans enjoy getting up to the cool, mountain air, his hope is for the program to continue throughout the year and into the future. Ongoing data that shows trends at as many sites as possible would be the most useful

Those interested in participating can call the Southern Nevada office of Friends of Nevada Wilderness at (702) 515-5417.

*Note: this article was written by Heidi Keyser and originally appeared on the Desert Companion Blog: <http://knpr.org/dc-blog/wilderness-nonprofit-seeks-citizen-scientists-study-mt-charleston-springs> It has been reprinted here with the generous permission of Desert Companion, [www.desertcompanion.vegas](http://www.desertcompanion.vegas)*



## Parks & Rec Summer Camp Fun in Indian Springs

As you can see from their smiling faces, kids in Indian Springs had a great summer attending the Clark County Parks and Rec Summer Day Camp at the Indian Springs Community Center. Activities included crafts, games and days at the pool.



## Events for September – Northwest

- **Wednesdays** – Coffee Talk at the Indian Springs Community Center, 10:30 am\*\*
- **Tuesdays** – Take a break at the Indian Springs Community Center. Bring your own craft project, come play cards, or just get out of the house and come hang out ...Kids are welcome with a parent/adult.
- **Wednesdays** – Knitting & Crochet group at the Mt. Charleston library, 12 pm
- **Thursday, September 10** – Indian Springs TAB\* Meeting at the Indian Springs Community Center, 7:00 pm
- **Saturday, September 12** – High Desert Seniors Welcome Back BBQ at the Indian Springs Community Center, 3 – 5 pm
- **Wednesday, September 16** – Kids craft at the Indian Springs Community Center. Come make novelty foam hands to help show off your school spirit and enjoy a snack! Space is limited to 19, so please call or come in to reserve your child's place. This is for elementary aged children, younger children are welcome. However, an adult will need to stay and assist them., 3 pm, Cost \$1
- **Thursday, September 24** – BINGO at the Indian Springs Community Center, 7 – 9 pm, Age 18 & older\*\*
- **Thursday, October 1** – Mt. Charleston TAB\* meeting at the Mt. Charleston Library, 7 pm

\*TAB = Town Advisory Board \*\*For information, contact Teresa Hazel at 702-879-3890

## Events for september – Southeast

- **Mondays** – BINGO at the Slim Kidwell Community Center in Cal–Nev–Ari, 6 pm
- **Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays** –Searchlight Senior Center: Walking at 9 am, Resistance Training at 10 am
- **Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays** – Activities at the Searchlight Community Center including exercise with the Wii, Genealogy, Card Making, Scrapbooking or bring your ideas to share, 8 am – noon
- **Thursdays** – Yoga class at the Searchlight Community Center, 5 – 6 pm
- **Thursday, September 3** – Brown Bag Book Club at the Laughlin Library, 11 am\*\*
- **Thursday, September 3** – Board Game Night at the Laughlin Library, 3 – 4:30 pm\*\*
- **Friday, September 4** – Dementia: Hiding Inside – Alzheimers Association Education Conference, 10:30 am
- **Tuesday, September 8** – Laughlin TAB Board Meeting at the Regional Gov. Center, 1:30 pm
- **Wednesday, September 9** – Searchlight TAB meeting at the Searchlight Community Center, 6 pm
- **Friday, September 11 & 25** – Movie Matinee at the Laughlin Library, 2 pm\*\*
- **Thursday, September 17** – Pirate Day celebration at the Laughlin Library, 4:30 pm, ages 5–11\*\*
- **Saturday, September 19** – Children’s Craft at the Laughlin Library, 3 pm, Ages 5–11\*\*

\*TAB = Town Advisory Board \*\*For more information call the Laughlin Library at 702-507-4060

## Landscape Photography Exhibit at the Laughlin Library Gallery

A collection of the landscape photography by Renee McCarley will be exhibited at the Laughlin Library Gallery from Sunday, September 20 through Saturday, December 5. On her website Renee states “I graduated from the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point in 2004 with a Bachelors Degree in Fine Arts. From the first roll of film I shot 15 years ago, I have always loved capturing the beauty of the world around us. I also love to restore other's cherished memories that have been damaged so they may be enjoyed for generations to come.” To see more of her work visit <https://reneemccarleyphoto.smugmug.com/>

