

# RURAL CONNECTIONS

## USFS Fire Prevention Specialist Recognized

On Tuesday, August 1, Commissioner Larry Brown and the Clark County Board of County Commissioners presented a proclamation to Ray Johnson in honor of his receipt of the prestigious Bronze Smokey Bear Award. Mr. Johnson received the award in recognition of 24 years of educating the public about the dangers, causes, and prevention measures associated with wildland fire. Johnson has worked in fire prevention and fire information on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest for 18 years and six years with the National Park Service before that. He has visited over 50 Southern Nevada public schools in 2016 and 2017 to share fire safety and prevention messages, reaching around 8,000 first and second graders. Johnson has spoken to nearly 100,000 kids during his career. He has also conducted countless television, radio, and newspaper interviews and has worked with Spanish speaking media outlets to share the fire prevention message with the local Hispanic community.



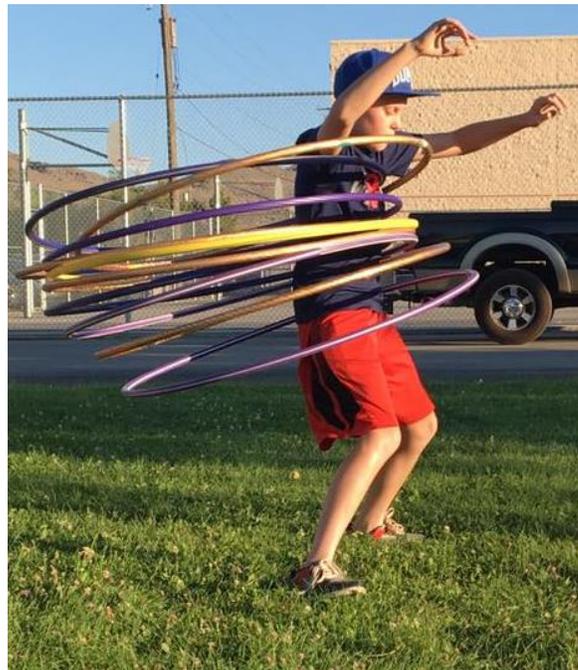
## Fire Danger Remains High in Spring Mountains



The Spring Mountains received more snow and rain during the past winter and spring seasons than in several years past, but fire danger is still a major concern. The Spring Mountains National Recreation Area, which includes the areas of Mt. Charleston, Lee Canyon, and Lovell Canyon, is currently in Stage I Fire Restrictions. These restrictions include:

- All campfires, charcoal grills, and stove fires (wood, charcoal and coal burning) are only allowed in designated campground/areas. Portable cooking stoves utilizing liquefied or bottle fuel sources continue to be allowed on public lands
- Smoking is only allowed in an enclosed vehicle, building, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is void of all flammable material, including vegetation.
- No welding equipment may be used including acetylene or open flame torches, except by permit.

# Indian Springs 4<sup>th</sup> of July: Floats, Food, Fun & Fireworks!!



## Events for August – Northwest

- **Tuesdays at the Indian Springs Community Center** – Knit, Stitch and Crochet: this is a great opportunity for knitters, crocheters and other fiber artists to gather and share their projects & talk over ideas, 10 am
- **Weekdays beginning August 14** – After School Safekey Program. A recreational program for children in grades K–6. Participants must be at least 5 years of age or in kindergarten, through 13 years of age at the start of the school year in order to participate. After school until 5:30 pm. Cost is \$6 per day per participant. For more information or to register your child, call 702–879–3890 or stop by the Safekey room which is located next to the elementary school playground.
- **Wednesdays at the Indian Springs Community Center** – Coffee Talk: The doors will be open and the coffee will be on, so stop by for some good conversation, 10:30 am
- **Thursdays at the Indian Springs Community Center** – The Pathway to Sobriety 12 Step Addiction Recovery Open Meeting, 6 to 7 pm, call 702–375–5758 for more information
- **Saturdays at Trucks Field** – Just for Fun Softball for all residents 18 and over, be at the field at 6:30 pm for team selection and the games start at 7:00 pm
- **Thursday, August 10** – Indian Springs TAB\* meeting at the Indian Springs Community Center, 6:30 pm
- **Saturday, August 12** – High Desert Seniors Pancake Breakfast at the Indian Springs Community Center, 8 to 10 am
- **Thursday, August 24** – Bingo at the Indian Springs Community Center, 7 to 9 pm
- **Thursday, August 31**– Mt. Charleston TAB\* meeting at the Mt. Charleston Library, 7 pm

\*TAB = Town Advisory Board

## Pancakes (and more!) at the Indian Springs Community Center

The High Desert Seniors in Indian Springs and are serving up breakfast at the Indian Springs Community Center on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday each month. Come one in for some great pancakes, sausage, and more. The smiles and friendly conversation are free!



# How Clark County's Rural Towns Got Their Names\* (with a little history thrown in there, too)

**Blue Diamond:** As a stop on the Old Spanish Trail, the area that is now the village of Blue Diamond was originally called Cottonwood for the Cottonwood Spring. The land was eventually purchased by the Blue Diamond Company where they built a "company town" for the miners that worked in their nearby gypsum mine. On July 1, 1942 the post office recorded the name as Blue Diamondville, but it was shortened to Blue Diamond on December 1<sup>st</sup> that same year.



**Mt. Charleston:** The community of Mt. Charleston is named for Charleston Peak, the 11,916 foot high mountain that is the backdrop for the community and the pinnacle of the Spring Mountains. Native Americans refer to the mountain as Nuvant, which has a prominent place in the mythology of the Chemehuevi and the Southern Paiutes. Officially named Charleston Peak by the Board of Geographic Names on February 2, 1891, Charleston Peak was also known as Timber Mount and Charleston Mountain. The name of Charleston was in commemoration of the city of Charleston, South Carolina.

**Nelson:** The area known as Nelson was originally called Eldorado in 1775 by the Spaniards who made the original discoveries of gold in the area. Later, gold and silver were re-discovered here around 1859 and the rush to the canyon began in 1861. Several mining camps were established including Nelson which was named for Charles Nelson, a camp leader who was slain in his home, along with four other people, in 1897 by the renegade Indian, Avote.

**Sandy Valley:** Straddling the Nevada/California state line, this area is called Sandy Valley on the Nevada side and Mesquite Valley on the California side. The name of Mesquite Valley was used in the 1850s by travelers along the Old Spanish Trail in reference to the large groves of mesquite trees in the area. The first town in the valley was founded in 1894 and named Sandy. Although other mining communities named Boss, Kingston, Lincoln City, Mandolin, Platina, and Ripley cropped up, most only lasted a few months and the name of Sandy stuck.

**Searchlight:** According to a 1907 Searchlight Bulletin newspaper article, there are several stories reported about the naming of Searchlight. The most popular is that Mr. G.F. Colton, while lighting his pipe with a Searchlight brand match saw some rocks which contained stringers of gold, staked that claim and named it Searchlight. Another version is that a couple of prospectors, Mr. G.F. Colton and his partner Mr. A.E. Gus Moore, were in the area and one said to the other, "That rock contains gold!" His partner supposedly said, "If there's gold in that rock, you would need a searchlight to find it!" A racier story is that searchlights were once used to guide patrons into the brothels in the area. However, at the time that the brothels were operating in the town, electricity had not yet been brought to the area. So, although it is a fun explanation, it just isn't plausible.



\*Editor's Note: This is the last article of this series - I sure hope you enjoyed it! If you are interested in learning more, I would highly suggest checking out the book "Nevada Place Names: A Geographical Dictionary" by Helen S. Carlson

# Patriotic Fun at the Sandy Valley 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade





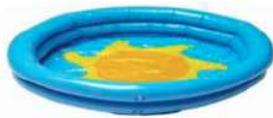
Save the Date for the

# Health &



# Happiness Expo

Saturday, August 19th



from 10-4

mini water park: pools, slip 'n' slide, & dunk tank



face-painting ~ kids activities

mini-presentations on Health, Safety, & Happiness ~  
Gunship Helicopter arriving at 10am!

## Special Guest Speakers:

Danny Efron, Brain Cancer Survivor & Mona Van Joseph,  
Licensed Intuitive



**THERE IS SUCH A THING AS A FREE LUNCH!**  
~ Attend Two or More Presentations & Get Lunch FREE ~

United Blood Services Blood Drive - 10:30am-2:30pm  
Health, Wellness & Safety Professionals in the areas of diet & nutrition, mental  
health, self-help, electrical safety, medical massage, gun safety, and more!

**\$25 per booth / \$35 for booth & lunch sponsorship**

contact: Gail Marie at (702)869-6416 or [happeningsmedia@gmail.com](mailto:happeningsmedia@gmail.com)

Keystone Enrichment Foundation ~ 115 North Miami Street, Sandy Valley, NV

## Events for August – Southwest

- **Mondays at the Keystone in Sandy Valley** – Free Low-Impact Yoga and Qigong, 9:30 am
- **Wednesdays at the Blue Diamond Library** – Blowin' off STEAM. Have fun with building sets! Ages 6 – 11, 3 pm
- **Thursdays at the Sandy Valley Community Center** – Yoga class, 7 – 8:30 pm
- **Tuesday, August 1** – American Legion Meeting at Keystone in Sandy Valley, 6:30 pm
- **Thursday, August 3** – Craft and Play at the Sandy Valley Community Center, Noon to 3 pm\*\*
- **Friday, August 4** – Potluck at the Sandy Valley Senior Center, 1 pm
- **Monday, August 7** – Coffee and Donuts at the Sandy Valley Senior Center, 8 – 10:30 am
- **Tuesday, August 8** – Sandy Valley CAC\* meeting at the SV Community Center, 7:30 pm
- **Saturday, August 12** – Keystone Foundation meeting at Keystone in Sandy Valley, 9 am
- **Saturday, August 12** – 4th Competition in the Sandy Valley Play Day Association Series, sign ups at 6 and ride starts at 7 at the Keystone Center
- **Thursday, August 17** – Movie & Game Night and Potluck at the Keystone in Sandy Valley, 5:30 pm
- **Saturday, August 19** – Sandy Valley Community Breakfast, 8 am to 10:30 am at the Senior Center, \$3.50 for the best pancakes & sausage or biscuits & gravy
- **Monday, August 21** – Coffee and Donuts at the Sandy Valley Senior Center, 8 – 10:30 am
- **Tuesday, August 29** – Goodsprings CAC\* meeting at the Goodsprings Community Center, 7:30 pm
- **Wednesday, August 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

## Yoga on the Meadow at Spring Mountain Ranch State Park

Stretch your body and relax your spirit in the shade of the breath-taking Red Rock Canyon escarpment. Trained yoga instructors lead classes for all ability levels on the green, grassy fields of Spring Mountain Ranch. Bring your own mat. There is no charge to participate.

**WHEN:** Thursdays and Saturdays at 10 a.m., and Sundays at 6 p.m.

**COST:** Entry to Spring Mountain State Park is \$9 per vehicle, with a \$2 discount for Nevada residents. There is no additional fee for this event.

**CONTACT:** David Low, 702-875-4141, [smr-interp@parks.nv.gov](mailto:smr-interp@parks.nv.gov)



## Start Planning Your Fun Fall Family Outings Now

Between surviving the hot, humid days of August and getting the kids ready for school, you might need a mental break. Let your mind wander to a cool autumn morning or the smell of pumpkin pie lingering in the air. There now, we see that smile sneaking across your face—you're in the zone! There's no better time than right now to plan a few fun fall trips!

An ideal start to the fall season is to attend a National Public Lands Day event on September 30th. Check for local options at this website: [www.neefusa.org/public-lands-day](http://www.neefusa.org/public-lands-day) or just plan to attend the Logandale Trails event in Moapa Valley. Here you and your family can help clean up public land, enjoy a lunch provided free to all volunteers and then spend a couple of hours frolicking in the sun-splashed sand dunes and red rocks of the trails system.

The next weekend, hurry over to Henderson for the huge "Get Outdoors Nevada" event. Here you will find all things outdoors and discover the unending amount of fun activities just waiting for you, your family, and friends. It is free to the public and more info can be found at: [www.getoutdoorsnevadaday.org](http://www.getoutdoorsnevadaday.org) You will definitely want to make this a yearly tradition.

In rapid succession, Moapa Valley hosts 3 unique events, all of them family-friendly, small-town fun! On October 14th, is the Moapa Valley Car Show, followed by a 3-day event, October 20th–22nd, the Fall Festival! A wonderful treat of non-stop blue-grass music, a huge 4-H corner filled with animals and fun, vendor booths and food, delicious food. A Sanctioned BBQ Cook-off Contest and a Rock and Gem Show round out the fun! Details are available at: [www.logandalefallfestival.com](http://www.logandalefallfestival.com) Finishing out the trifecta is the world-famous Pomegranate Festival! Come early! The pomegranates and jelly will go fast! But stay for all the fabulous homemade crafts and delights. This event is always the first Friday and Saturday of November, so mark that on your calendar right now!



All the Moapa Valley events can also be found at: [www.moapavalleychamber.com/events](http://www.moapavalleychamber.com/events) with additional information for rounding out your busy day in the country! If you have time, the Lost City Museum or Valley of Fire State Park are must-sees---so you may want to plan an extra day, just for them!



## Events for August – Northeast

- **Mondays at the Moapa Valley Library** – Alphabet Kids: Early literacy skills for ages 3–5 at 11:15 am; Computer Topics at 3 pm
- **Tuesdays at the Moapa Valley Library** – ABC Mousers: Computer time for ages 2–5 at 11:15 am; Anime Otaku Club at 2:30 pm; LEGO Club 4 pm
- **Wednesdays at the Moapa Valley Library** – Stay and Play for parents and children 0–5 at 11:15 am; Computer Class at 3 pm; Computer logic & Programming at 4:30 pm
- **Thursdays at the Moapa Valley Library** – Tiny Tots for ages 0–3 at 11:15 am; Discovery Lab exploration of science, 4 pm
- **Fridays at the Moapa Valley Library** – Move and Groove for ages 0–5 at 11:15 am; Teen Space at 2:30 pm
- **Saturdays at the Moapa Valley Library** – Game on at 12 noon; Crafternoon at 2 pm
- **Saturday, August 5** – English Language Discussion Group at the Moapa Valley Library, 10:15 am
- **Wednesday, August 9** – Moapa Valley TAB\* meeting at the Moapa Valley Community Center, 7 pm
- **Friday, August 12** – Recipe Swap at the Moapa Valley Library, 10:15 am
- **Saturday, August 19** – Shakespeare Reading Party at the Moapa Valley Library, 10:15 am
- **Tuesday, August 29** – Moapa TAB\* meeting at the Robinson Justice Court & Community Center, 7 pm
- **Thursday, August 31** – Bunkerville TAB\* meeting at the Bunkerville Community Center, 7 pm

\*TAB = Town Advisory Board



### Drip Irrigation Class

Saturday August 26, 9:00am to 12:00pm  
Cooperative Extension Bldg. A  
1897 N. Moapa Valley Blvd. Logandale, NV 89021



**This Free Class will teach you:**

- About all the components of a Drip System
- How to properly install a Drip System
- About the required maintenance for Drip Irrigation
- How to develop an irrigation schedule

Register at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) – search Drip Irrigation Class  
or contact Dianna Walker at (702)397-2604 ex.0 or [walkerd@unce.unr.edu](mailto:walkerd@unce.unr.edu)

Persons in need of special accommodations or assistance must call or notify Dianna Walker 702-397-2604 ex.0 at least three days prior to the scheduled event. An EEO/AA Institution.

# Astronomical Occurrences This August

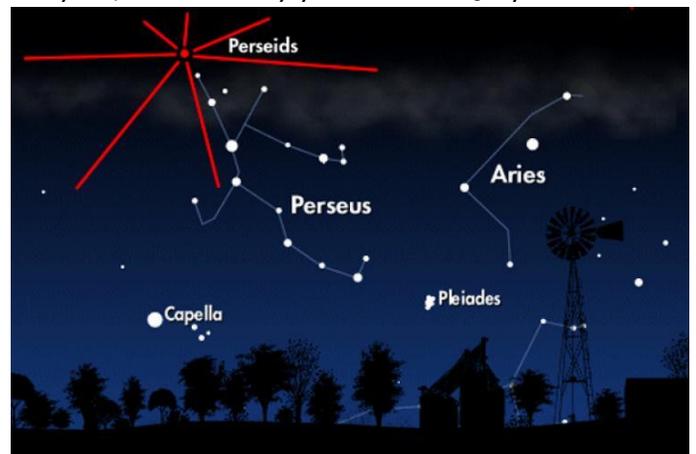
**Solar Eclipse** – On Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup> a solar eclipse will be visible across all of North America for 2 to 3 hours. Halfway through the event, anyone within a roughly 70-mile-wide path from Oregon to South Carolina will experience a total eclipse, when the moon completely blocks the sun for close to 3 minutes, turning day into night and making visible the otherwise hidden solar corona — the sun’s outer atmosphere — one of nature’s most awesome sights. Here in Southern Nevada we will see about a 70% partial eclipse around 10:25 am.

**Viewing the Eclipse** – It is never safe to look directly at the sun, but there are several cheap, easy, and safe ways to view the eclipse. You can purchase a filter or filter glasses...or use pinhole projection. You simply pass sunlight through a small opening (for example, a hole punched in an index card) and project an image of the Sun onto a nearby surface (another card, a wall, or the ground). You don't need any special equipment to do this! Just cross the outstretched, slightly open fingers of one hand over the outstretched, slightly open fingers of the other. Then, with your back to the Sun, look at your hands’ shadow on the ground. The little spaces between your fingers will project a grid of small images on the ground. If your observing site has trees, look at the shadows of leaves on the ground. During the partial solar eclipse, the tiny spaces between the leaves will act as pinhole projectors, dappling the ground with images of the crescent Sun!

For more information about the eclipse, including graphics like the one below, visit: <https://eclipse.aas.org/>



**Perseid Meteor Showers** – Made of tiny space debris from the comet Swift-Tuttle, the Perseids are named after the constellation Perseus. This is because the direction, or radiant, from which the shower seems to come in the sky lies in the same direction as the constellation Perseus, which can be found in the north-eastern part of the sky. The Perseid meteor shower, one of the brighter meteor showers of the year, occurs every year between July 17 and August 24. This year the peak is during the day on August 12<sup>th</sup>, so viewing should be the best during the nights of August 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. To watch meteor showers, all you need is clear skies and a pair of eyes. Find a place as far away as possible from artificial lights, sit or lie down, allow your eyes to adjust to the dark, and watch the sky. Watching meteors is a waiting game, so get comfortable. You can expect to see 40 to 50 meteors per hour.



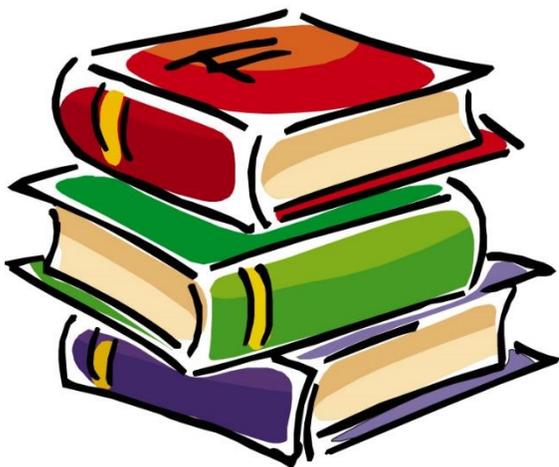
For more information, including a table that is updated daily for our location, visit:

<https://www.timeanddate.com/astronomy/meteor-shower/perseid.html>

## Events for August – Southeast

- **Wednesdays at the Laughlin Library** – Lego Club at 4 pm, Ages 5–11
- **Tuesdays at the Laughlin Library** – Club Tuesdays, a wide variety of crafts, art, games, stories, and STEM activities for ages 5–11, 4:30 pm
- **Sunday, August 6** – Movie Matinee, Lego Batman, at the Laughlin Library, 1:30 pm\*\*
- **Tuesday, August 8** – National Park Service presents “Underwater Explorers” program at the Laughlin Library, 4:00 pm, Ages 0–11\*\*
- **Tuesday, August 8** – Laughlin TAB\* Meeting at the Regional Gov. Center, 1:30 pm
- **Wednesday, August 9** – Searchlight TAB\* meeting at the Searchlight Community Center, 6 pm
- **Thursday, August 10** – Brown Bag Book Club at the Laughlin Library, 11 am\*\*
- **Saturday, August 12** – Children’s Craft at the Laughlin Library, Ages 5–11, 3 pm\*\*
- **Tuesday, August 15** – Back to School BINGO at the Laughlin Library, Ages 5–11, 4:30 pm\*\*
- **Wednesday, August 16** – Laughlin Master Gardeners at the Laughlin Library, 10 am\*\*
- **Tuesday, August 22** – Craft Club at the Laughlin Library, 4:30 pm\*\*
- **Thursday, August 24** – STEM: Wonderful World of Water at the Laughlin Library, Ages 5–11, 4 pm\*\*
- **Tuesday, August 29** – Art Club, Kool-Aid and Canvas, at the Laughlin Library for ages 5–11, 4:30 pm\*\*

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



LAUGHLIN LIBRARY IS HAVING A  
**SUMMER SIZZLING  
USED BOOK SALE**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23 10 A.M. – 6 P.M.  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 24 10 A.M. – 4 P.M.