

RURAL CONNECTIONS

Metro Officer Henry Hoffman Receives Proclamation

On Tuesday, May 18, 2015, Metro Officers Jeff Snook and Henry Hoffman responded to investigate a report of a burglary at a vacant residence in Sandy Valley. The owners of the property had located garbage within the house that did not belong to them and were burning the paper items in a burn barrel. While the items were burning, an explosion erupted from the barrel, and Officer Snook was engulfed in flames. Officer Hoffman immediately ran over and took Snook to the ground to extinguish the debris that was on fire on his face and head. Hoffman then controlled and maintained an airway as he loaded Snook into his vehicle. Hoffman radioed for a medical helicopter and EMS. He then drove to the ball field and rendered care until the emergency responder



arrived. According to a fellow officer "Without Hoffman's intervention and quick thinking, Snook would have had injuries, rehab and even disability. Hoffman reacted like a true hero and ended up saving Snook's life. With the time and distance to a burn center or even just to get help on the scene would have been too late had Hoffman not been there." Snook was transported to the UMC Trauma Center and has made a full recovery.

Tuesday, March 16th, 2016 was declared Officer Henry Hoffman Day by the Board of County Commissioners in recognition of his part in saving the life of Officer Jeff Snook. Family, friends and co-workers were on hand as Officer Hoffman received a proclamation and the entire unit was honored for the work they do every day to keep our community safe. This unit of Rural Resident Officers, led by Sgt. Dan Newberry, consists of eight officers that cover over 2,600 square miles of southwestern Clark County. Their area stretches from Primm on the California state line, all the way up to Red Rock and over to the Nye County line on the back side of the Spring Mountain. They serve multiple communities including Sandy Valley, Goodsprings, Blue Diamond, and Mountain Springs. They do all traffic enforcement and crash investigations as well as their own crime scene investigations and processing. In addition to their regular duties and the community activities they participate in, many of them are also volunteer fire fighters and EMTs.

Events for March – Southwest

- **Every Wednesday** – Sewing/craft group at the Goodsprings Community Center, 4 pm
- **Every Wednesday** – Adult/Teen basketball from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the Sandy Valley School Gym, \$2.00. People are welcome to come walk around the gym, too.**
- **Friday, March 4** – Sandy Valley Seniors General Meeting and Potluck, menu will include corned beef, potatoes and cabbage. Sandy Valley Senior Center, 1 pm
- **Mondays, March 7 & 21** – Coffee and donuts at the Sandy Valley Senior Center, 8 to 10:30 am
- **Tuesday, March 8** – Sandy Mesquite Valley Dev. Assoc. meeting at the SV Community Center, 6:30 pm
- **Tuesday, March 8** – Sandy Valley CAC* meeting at the SV Community Center, 7:30 pm
- **Tuesday, March 8** – Managing New Seasons: Medication Management, Blue Diamond Library, 3 pm
- **Saturday, March 19** – Everyone is welcome at the Sandy Valley Community Breakfast, 8 to 10:30 am at the Senior Center, \$3.50 for the best pancakes and sausage or biscuits and gravy
- **Saturday, March 19** – Texas Hold Em at the Sandy Valley Senior Center. Food will be served at 5 and cards dealt at 6. Dinner will be Irish Sundaes (baked potatoes). Bring a topping to share or a donation.
- **Tuesday, March 29** – Goodsprings CAC meeting, Goodsprings Community Center, 7:30 pm
- **Wednesday, March 30** – Red Rock CAC meeting, Blue Diamond Library, 7 pm

Thank You Dinner for Sandy Valley Community and VFD

The Sandy Valley Senior Center put on a special dinner for Valentine's Day. It was an opportunity for the Senior Center to thank both the Sandy Valley community for their support throughout the year and the Sandy Valley Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) for all they do. A fireman's boot was also put out the collect donations for the VFD to show appreciation for their hard work and to help them continue with the excellent service they provide to the community.



March Events at Spring Mountain Ranch State Park

Paint With A Ranger – Have you ever wanted to capture the beautiful sights of Red Rock on paper? Well, here's your chance! On Saturday, March 5th from 1 to 3 pm Spring Mountain Ranch will present a ranger-guided program that will give you the opportunity to go for a walk, find a quiet spot and make a memory on paper. Staff will offer basic painting instruction and all the watercolor supplies you need to get started. If you have your own painting supplies, you are welcome to bring them. This program is recommended for children ages seven and up. All participants are asked to wear



closed-toed shoes, sunscreen, and a hat, and to bring water. Unlike most hikes at Spring Mountain Ranch, this one can only accommodate a limited number of participants, so please call 702-875-4141 to reserve your spot. Group sign-ups will be limited to three people. There is no charge to participate, but entry into the park is \$9.00 per vehicle with a \$2.00 discount for Nevada residents.

Yoga on the Meadow – Stretch your body and relax your spirit in breathtaking Red Rock Canyon. Trained yoga instructors will lead classes for all ability levels on the green, grassy fields of Spring Mountain Ranch State Park. Bring your own mat. Classes will be held throughout the month of March on Tuesdays from 11 am to 1 pm and Saturdays from 10 am to 12 pm and 2 pm to 4 pm. There is no charge to participate, but entry into the park is \$9.00 per vehicle with a \$2.00 discount for Nevada residents.



Spring Mountain Ranch State Park is located at 6375 Nevada Hwy 159. From the intersection of the I-215 and Charleston, head west on Charleston for 11 miles. The road will curve around to the south and the entrance to the park will be on your right. From Blue Diamond Road, head west and turn right(north) on State Hwy 159. The entrance will be five miles ahead on your left.

Early Spring Cleaning at Logandale Trails

In 2012, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the agency responsible for management of Logandale Trails, installed traffic counters and subsequently determined that the area averaged almost 170,000 visitors a year. Logandale Trails is the busiest, by far, of BLM managed land in Clark County with 7.97 visitors per acre. The next 'busiest' area had visitor volume of only 1.70 per acre. Thus, one might expect a bit of litter and trash to accumulate. During the most recent Spring Cleaning held on Saturday, February 20 participants commented 'it's hard to find trash' and 'we went everywhere, but didn't even get one full bag'.

Those statements were music to Elise McAllister's ears; she is the administrator for Partners In Conservation (PIC) which has an Assistance Agreement with the BLM to take care of Logandale Trails. "We had 110-125 people show up to help with our spring cleaning!" she enthused. "The largest attendance yet—with many families participating. It was so rewarding to hear parents state they wanted their children to learn the importance of volunteering and of taking care of our public land."

Cleanups at Logandale Trails follow an informal schedule where attendees show up, enjoy donuts (literally made only an hour or two earlier by Lin's Market) and hot cocoa, juice, or coffee while they visit a bit. Then families or groups of friends decide the trail or area they want to focus on, sign in, grab gloves, trash bags, water, etc. and head out for a few hours of volunteer work and fun. This cleanup followed that same routine with everyone coming back to the main trailhead around 11 am, depositing their trash bags and odd finds of vehicle parts, ice chest lids, and the occasional shoe (or bowling ball) with those finding the oddest bits of trash attaining celebrity status as the crowd wonders 'How did THAT get out here?'

Picking up trash and being outdoors perks up the appetite and PIC always strives to have plenty of food on hand. "We don't want anyone to ever leave one of our events hungry," said Bonnie Leavitt with PIC, "feeding folks is the least we can do after they spend their Saturday helping us." The Moapa Valley Rotary Club cooked burgers and hot dogs with chips, fruit, and cookies rounding out the meal. As a special thank-you, PIC handed out a collectible Logandale Trails flag featuring local artist Joan Day's rendering of a big horn sheep to all participants.

For more information, please email Itsinfo@mvdsl.com, call 702-219-2033, or check their Facebook page for the latest details.

Story and photos courtesy of Elise McAllister



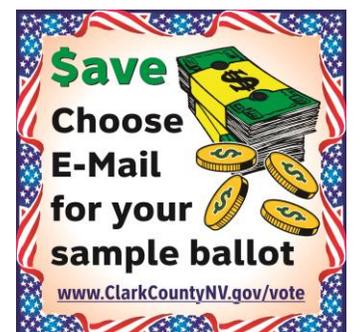
Events for March – Northeast

- **Mondays 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 rhymes for ages 0–18 months, 11:15 am; Computer basics: learn the concepts of computer use, 3 pm**
- **Mondays and Tuesdays at the Moapa Valley Library** – Tutoring/homework help for grades K – college: free assistance with homework in any subject as well as writing essays, resumes & applications, 2:30 pm
- **Wednesdays at the Moapa Valley Library** – Hands on computer help at 11 am; Computer Topics at 3 pm; Computer Logic 4:30 pm **
- **Thursdays at the Moapa Valley Library** – Tiny Tots, ages 18–36 months at 11:15 am**
- **Fridays at the Moapa Valley Library** – Handicrafters; join other crafters to share knowledge & creativity, 10 am; Teen Space: Play games, watch movies and more, bring your own snacks, from 1:30 pm, Grades 6 –12; Story Hour: Drop off the kids for a variety of stories, science experiments and more. Ages 5–12. 4 pm **
- **Saturdays at the Moapa Valley Library** – Game on: a group for anyone who likes games, focused on preteen and teen play 12 pm; Crafternoon: youth & adults can make a new craft every week at 2 pm**
- **Tuesday, March 8** – Paper collage on canvas at the Bunkerville Library, 3:30 pm
- **Wednesday, March 9** – Moapa Valley TAB* meeting at the Moapa Valley Community Center, 7 pm
- **Saturday, March 12** – English language discussion group at the Moapa Valley Library, 10:15 am
- **Tuesday, March 29** – Moapa TAB* meeting at the Robinson Justice Court & Community Center, 7 pm
- **Thursday, March 31** – Bunkerville TAB* meeting at the Bunkerville Community Center, 7 pm

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

Choose To Get Your Sample Ballot By Email

Clark County voters have the opportunity to help save taxpayers more than \$1.5 million by choosing to receive their sample ballot by email instead of through the regular mail. Every election year, Clark County spends more than \$1.5 million and uses more than 50 tons of paper and other resources to print and mail sample ballots. But thanks to a recent change to state law, voters can now choose to receive their sample ballots by email and save County taxpayers' money and more than 1,000 trees. To choose to receive your sample ballot by email, go the Election Department website at www.ClarkCountyNV.gov/vote and enter your name and other information in the Registered Voter Services box in the middle of the page. After you log in, click on the drop down arrow under "Voter Services" and select "Request My Sample Ballot Electronically (Go Green)," enter your e-mail address, and then click "Save."



HOME AT LAST™ Homebuyer Programs

Multiple Down Payment Assistance Options • Generous Qualifying Requirements • Mortgage Tax Credit Benefits



Home at Last™ ACCESSDOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE:

Home at Last™ Access Down Payment Assistance is Nevada Rural Housing Authority's most inclusive home financing program to date. The grant can be paired with FHA, VA, USDA Rural Development and Fannie Mae's HFA Preferred conventional loan programs. The Access program offers **down payment assistance grants** with the following features and requirements:

Features:

- Available to Both First-Time & Non-First-Time Homebuyers
- Multiple Non-Repayable Grant Options
- Use for Down Payment/Closing Costs
- FHA, VA, USDA & Conventional Loan Options
- Competitive Low Interest Mortgage Rates
- Program Area—State of Nevada*
- Income Limited to \$95,500
- Buyer Must Meet Minimum Credit Score & Loan Requirements

*Cities with populations less than 150,000

Home at Last™ MTC PROGRAM:

The Nevada Rural Housing Authority's Home at Last™ Mortgage Tax Credit (MTC) program offers qualified first-time buyers a **federal income tax credit equal to 30% or 20% of the interest paid on their mortgage loan**. It provides the credit on mortgage interest every year the buyer lives in the home for the life of the loan, plus the homeowner can still claim the remaining interest as a tax deduction.

Program At-A-Glance:

- Federal income tax credit equal to either 30% or 20% of the interest paid on the mortgage loan (30% rate has a maximum \$2,000 tax credit per year, 20% rate has no limit on the tax credit per year)
- Savings estimated at \$2,000 a year (\$166 a month) per household
- Savings continue each year based on actual interest paid on the home
- No asset limits for homebuyers

DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE CAN BE COMBINED WITH MORTGAGE TAX CREDIT PROGRAM FOR QUALIFYING BORROWERS



*"We Specialize in Making
Dreams Come True!"*



Ph: 702.992.7215 | E-mail: Melanie@nvrural.org or Joel@nvrural.org

Events for February – 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, 4–7 pm
- **Tuesday, March 1** – Youth Baseball Registration for ages 3–13 at the Indian Springs Community Center, 6:30 – 8 pm, \$40.00 per child. Tryouts on Saturday, March 12th starting at 1 pm. The season opens on Saturday, April 2nd. For information contact Jessy Fannin at 702–672–7343 or Toni Nichlos at 702–373–2261
- **Saturday, March 12**– High Desert Seniors potluck at the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, 3–5 pm
- **Thursday, March 10** – Indian Springs TAB* Meeting at the Indian Springs Community Center, 7:00 pm
- **Saturday, March 19** – Indian Springs Seniors trip to the Sandy Valley Senior Center for pancake breakfast followed by an optional tour of the historic mining town of Goodsprings. Group will leave from the Indian Springs Community Center no later than 6 am. Sign up sheet is at the Community Center – ask Teresa.
- **Thursday, March 31** – BINGO at the Indian Springs Community Center, 7 pm
- **Thursday, March 31** – Mt. Charleston TAB* Meeting at the Mt. Charleston Library, 7pm

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

Indian Springs Student's Sculpture Displayed at Springs Preserve

Hannah Prine, a Senior at Indian Springs High School was awarded an Honorable Mention out of the hundreds of entries accepted throughout Southern Nevada in the Scholastic Art and Writing Competition held on January 31st. Her papier mache sculpture, titled Hollowed Soul, was inspired by a character in the manga (a style of Japanese comics) books that Hannah enjoys reading. With encouragement from her art teacher, Gail Coll, she started the project during her junior year and worked on it for over 300 hours. The sculpture, along with other entries from the competition, will be on display at the Springs Preserve until April 3rd. Congratulations, Hannah!



Smiling Faces and Good Times at the February 19th Daddy/Daughter & Mother/Son Dance at Indian Springs School



Crafty February Fun With Indian Springs Parks & Recreation



Mt. Charleston VFD Welcomes New Equipment to the Mountain

Two shiny new vehicles have been put into the service of the Mt. Charleston Volunteer Fire Department. Squad 281, which was purchased through a grant from the Mt. Charleston License Plate Fund Grants, will be housed at the Lee Canyon Station. Engine 81 will be housed at the Station in Kyle Canyon.



Master Gardeners Offer Spring Planting Workshops and Tours

Landscape Insects Hands-on Workshop – Spend the day with Joy Paterson, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension’s Lyon County Extension Educator, on Thursday, March 3, as she answers questions about insects and identifies ways to reduce pests in the most effective and least toxic methods. If you garden and want to know about pests in your garden, this is the workshop for you. Participants will roam the gardens and collect insects, then bring them into the classroom to learn more about them. Two sessions of “Know Nevada Insects: Common Garden Pests and Beneficial Arthropods” will be offered to the public free of charge. There is a limit of 20 persons per session. The first workshop runs 8 a.m.–noon and is open to adults only. The second workshop is 1–5 p.m. and is open to both children and adults. Children ages 10 and over may attend the afternoon session, only if accompanied by an adult. The workshop will take place at Cooperative Extension’s Demonstration and Test Gardens located at 8050 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, Nev. Pre-registration is required by calling the Master Gardener Help Desk at 702-257-5555.



Garden Tours – Take a walk on a special themed garden tour this spring with the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension’s Master Gardeners. The garden tours, to be held at the Cooperative Extension’s Demonstration and Test Gardens, are offered on three Saturdays this spring. The tours will kick off on March 19 with a “Spring has Sprung” featuring an introduction to spring gardening. On April 9, Master Gardeners will discuss “April Flowers” and on May 7, the garden tours wrap up with “Hot Summer Colors/Preparing For Summer.” All tours start at 10 a.m. and are free to the public. Use the west side gate to meet in the courtyard of the Cooperative Extension’s Lifelong Learning Center located at 8050 Paradise Road. Participants should come dressed and prepared for being outdoors. Plant lists will be provided.

The Master Gardeners continue to offer weekly tours of the entire Demonstration and Test Gardens each Friday at 10 a.m. The gardens contain over 1000 species of desert appropriate landscape plants. For the weekly tours, meet in the front Reception area near the Master Gardener Help Desk. The grounds are also open for self-guided walks weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information call or email the Master Gardener Help Desk at lvmastergardeners@unce.unr.edu or 702-257-5555 or visit the Master Gardener Facebook page.

Events for March – 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
- **Tuesday, March 1** – Acclaimed new York classical guitarist Peter Fletcher returns to perform selections from his catalog of eight CDs, Laughlin Library, 2 pm
- **Tuesday, March 8** – Laughlin TAB Meeting at the Regional Gov. Center, 1:30 pm
- **Wednesday, March 9** – Searchlight TAB meeting at the Searchlight Community Center, 6 pm
- **Wednesday, March 9** – University of Nevada Cooperative Extension will answer your questions about gardening in our challenging environment, Laughlin Library, 10:30 am
- **Thursday, March 10** – Brown Bag Book Club at the Laughlin library, 11 am
- **Saturday, March 12** – Mardi Gras Murder, solve a murder mystery after hours at the Laughlin library, 7 pm, call 702–507–4063 to reserve your spot
- **Sunday, March 20** – Movie Matinee at the Laughlin Library, 1:30 pm
- **Tuesday, March 22** – Mad Science Egg Drop. Put on your lab coar and design a safe container to protect your egg. Laughlin Library 4:30 pm
- **Wednesday, March 23** – Managing New Seasons: Medication Management, Laughlin Library, 2 pm

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

Laughlin Chamber Sponsors Laughlin/Bullhead 5K Cancer Walk

Please join us for our 3rd annual 5k Cancer Walk on Saturday, March 5th starting at 9 am! Your \$20 entree fee includes a t-shirt (while sizes/supplies last), and an amazing morning of exercise and camaraderie! Last year, there were over 200 participants. This year, the participant goal is 300! Invite your friends, family, and coworkers to this fun and worthwhile event and make it an annual tradition! Funds raised are donated to The River Fund, Inc., Cancer Connection. Donations are also accepted. Please make donation checks payable to Laughlin Chamber of Commerce and indicate it is for the Cancer Connection. For more information, please call the Laughlin Chamber of Commerce at (702)298–2214, ext. 0, or visit their website at laughlinchamber.org.



Volunteers Needed to “Weed Out” Intruders

Gather up your friends and community groups!! Volunteers are needed to remove invasive fountaingrass at Big Bend of the Colorado State Recreation Area on March 19, 2016 from 9:30 am to noon. Tools and refreshments will be provided; volunteers are asked to bring their own work gloves. The Fountaingrass Control Initiative is a campaign to stop the spread of green fountaingrass listed as a noxious weed in Southern Nevada. This invasive plant was formerly used in ornamental landscapes, but its wind-blown seeds are spreading into roadsides, natural environments and agricultural areas, particularly around Laughlin and the shorelines along the Colorado River. Once established, fountaingrass impacts wildlife habitat, decreases agricultural production, and increases fire danger. The Southern Nevada Cooperative Weed Management Area, a partnership of landowners, organizations, and federal, state and local agencies (including Nevada State Parks), brings a coordinated approach to address weeds that threaten natural environments and agriculture. Come learn about this noxious weed and the free plant exchange program available, if you'd like to replace the fountaingrass on your property with a different plant species. For more information contact Johnny Jones, Arid Lands Restoration Specialist, Great Basin Institute/U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Las Vegas, NV, 702-515-5457 office, j3jones@blm.gov



National Park Service for a BioBlitz in Laughlin!

On Saturday, March 19, 2016, from 10 am to 12 pm will be the Lake Mead National Recreation Area's first ever BioBlitz! A bioblitz is an event where teams of volunteer scientists, families, students, teachers, and other community members work together to find and identify as many species of plants, animals, and other organisms as possible. Join a National Park Service Ranger at Pyramid Canyon Park in Laughlin from 10 am – 12 pm to have fun learning about the plants and animals that live along the Colorado River! You will be able to use binoculars, cameras, and smartphones with the iNaturalist “app” to document the many species you will encounter.



For more information about the event see the flyer on the next page or visit the National Park Service website at <http://www.nature.nps.gov/biology/biodiversity/bioblitz.cfm> To sign up in advance, please call Elizabeth Skinner, Park Ranger, National Park Service, Mohave District Interpretation and Education Outreach at 702-293-8659 or email elizabeth_skinner@nps.gov





Saturday, March 19, 2016

What is a Bio Blitz: A Bio Blitz is a one day event to count and identify plant and animal species found within Lake Mead National Recreation Area. Scientist and trained volunteers will lead the Bio Blitz with the assistance of citizen scientist like you. Reserve your spot today! Get Involved!

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.



Boulder Beach – Water Safety Center

For more information and to register call (702) 293-8714 or email Nancy_Bernard@nps.gov

Volunteer Orientation (required) at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12 p.m., or 1 p.m.
Group Discovery Walk (optional) at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.,
12:30 p.m., or 1:30 p.m.

Community Discovery area from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Pyramid Canyon Park – Laughlin, NV

For more information and to register email Elizabeth_Skinner@nps.gov.

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 pm **Night Sky Hike – Boulder Basin area**

For more information and to register call (702) 293-8990

What to bring: Backpack, good hiking shoes, hat, sunscreen, dress in layers, bag lunch, water, binoculars, camera and field guides.

How to register: Volunteers are needed to assist with the counting and identifying of plants and animals. Pre-registration is required. To register, contact Nancy Bernard at (702) 293-8714 or Nancy_Bernard@nps.gov.

For **general information** about the day, contact Heather Whitesides at (702) 293-8659 or Heather_Whitesides@nps.gov.

FIND YOUR **PARK**

2016
National Park Service.
CENTENNIAL

Lake Mead National Recreation Area

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Lake Mead National Recreation Area

