

RURAL CONNECTIONS

Holiday Celebrations Fun For All In Indian Springs

On December 23rd, Indian Springs residents were treated to a lighted holiday parade held by the Indian Springs Volunteer Fire Department Station 83. Starting at 5:30 pm, the parade wound its way through town and ended up at the Community Center. Parade participants and town residents gathered to enjoy hot cocoa, cookies and crafts presented by Indian Springs Parks & Rec. Of course, the main attraction was Santa! The young and young-at-heart got to tell Santa their Christmas wishes – even a couple of 4-legged residents got to share in the festivities!



IS Parks and Recreation Holiday Movies and Crafts

As they do every month, Indian Springs Parks and Recreation staff hosted kids crafts in November & December, but these months the crafts were holiday themed. The kids also got to have fun watching a holiday movie at the Community Center.



Santa Delivers Presents with Lights and Sirens

Since our desert is home to more burros and jackrabbits than reindeer, Santa had to get a little creative this year. The Volunteer Fire Fighters at Clark County Fire Station 83 were happy to help Santa deliver presents to the children in Indian Springs. Santa rode in the fire engine and was escorted on his route by department personnel and emergency vehicles. For a small donation, Santa and his VFD elves delivered wrapped and labeled gifts that the parents supplied. With all of the excited kids and happy parents, this is sure to become an annual fundraiser for Station 83.



Events for January – 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
- **Thursday, January 14** – Indian Springs TAB* Meeting at the Indian Springs Community Center, 7:00 pm
- **Thursday, January 28** – Mt. Charleston TAB* Meeting at the Mt. Charleston Library, 6:00 pm (Note: the meeting will begin at 6 pm to allow additional time for the License Plate Grant presentations)

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

Winter Recreation in Mt. Charleston & Lee Canyon

Lee Canyon (Hwy 156) is your best option. Open places include Lee Meadows, Sawmill Picnic Area, Bristlecone Trail for snowshoe hiking and various pullouts on Lee Canyon Road (Hwy 156) & Deer Creek Highway (Hwy 158). Roadside parking is **prohibited** between Lee Meadows and the Ski Resort in Lee Canyon (Hwy 156). Roadside parking is **prohibited** in Kyle Canyon (Hwy 157), except in designated areas, past the intersection of Hwy 157 and Deer Creek Hwy (Hwy 158).

Snow Play Safety Tips

- ❄ Consider wearing a helmet while sledding
- ❄ Make sure paths are clean and weather is good
- ❄ Never sled near roads or vehicles
- ❄ Avoid dangerous objects like large rocks and trees
- ❄ Be aware of others so you don't run into them! Sleds can reach speeds of up to 20 mph
- ❄ No sledding in areas with less than 12 inches of snow
- ❄ No snow play on private or "closed" areas

Information courtesy of www.gomtcharleston.com

Holiday Fun at the Sandy Valley Community Center

On December 1st, Sandy Valley Parks and Recreation and the Sandy Valley Library hosted a Christmas party at the Sandy Valley Community Center. Although only 15 to 20 people were expected, 67 people showed up to join in the fun! Party goers decorated cookies, made candy sleighs, and twisted candy cane ornaments – all while enjoying delicious hot cocoa! All of the kids got to sit on Santa’s lap and got to take home a goodie bag and some photos. Santa stuck around for the present drawing and got to see the smiles on their faces as they opened their gifts. Everyone had a fun filled evening. Special thanks to the very kind-hearted Santa, Sky and Keera from the Sandy Valley School Student Council and all of the parents that helped out.



Sandy Valley’s Ornament Decorating Contest

Sandy Valley 4-H and Santa’s Sleigh teamed up again this year to present the Sandy Valley Ornament Decorating Contest on Saturday, December 19th. Kids between 0 and 19 were invited to participate. There were 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each of 3 age categories. Santa, who had a remarkable resemblance to one of the valley’s Metro Officers/Volunteer Firefighters, handed out prizes to the proud winners.



Events for January – 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.**
- **Tuesday, January 12** – Sandy Mesquite Valley Dev. Assoc. meeting at the SV Community Ctr, 6:30 pm
- **Tuesday, January 12** – Sandy Valley CAC* meeting at the SV Community Center, 7:30 pm
- **Wednesday, January 13** – Mountain Springs CAC* meeting at the Mtn. Springs Fire Station, 6:30 pm
- **Saturday, January 16** – 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, January 16** – Texas Hold ‘Em Poker at the Sandy Valley Senior Center, potluck at 5 pm and cards dealt at 6. \$5
- **Tuesday, January 26** – Goodsprings CAC meeting, Goodsprings Community Center, 7:30 pm
- **Wednesday, January 27** – Red Rock CAC meeting, Blue Diamond Library, 7 pm

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

Mystery Holiday Decorations along Sandy Valley Road

Editorial – Every year, near the beginning of December, mysterious holiday decorations show up along Sandy Valley Road and through Columbia Pass. Mostly they are various colors of shiny garland wrapped around Joshua trees near the edge of the road, but right near the top of the pass stands Santa. The first time I saw him I was quite surprised – I just wasn’t expecting to see the big papier mache guy there! But, now I look forward to seeing him each year – he is a sign that the holiday season has begun. I don’t know who puts the decorations up – and I don’t think I want to know. The mystery is part of what makes it so special – and yet another wonderful thing about rural Clark County.



Enjoy With Some Outdoor Fun in Northeast Clark County

Although most of Clark County won't have a white Christmas, our mild winter weather and sunny days are great for getting out and exploring our area.

Kick off 2016 with a First Day Hike at **Valley of Fire State Park** on January 1st. Rangers will lead 2 hikes: one from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm and another from 1 pm to 3 pm. Meet at the east entrance of the park (drive through Moapa Valley and enjoy breakfast at a local cafe) and tell staff at the gate you are attending a First Day Guided Hike and they will provide you with further instructions. The hikes are not difficult and are suitable for the entire family. Rangers suggest bringing appropriate footwear, sun screen, sunglasses, and water. It is also a good idea to dress in layers. Staff will pass on interesting geological and historical information as you hike and the scenery is stunning, so don't forget your camera! You can find more information and additional activities on the State Parks website: <http://parks.nv.gov/calendar/>



The **Moapa Wildlife Refuge**, administered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, is open Friday through Sunday, from sunrise to sunset. The Refuge closes in the summer, due to the extreme heat. There is no entrance fee and a lovely picnic area awaits visitors with plenty of tables, so bring a picnic and enjoy this oasis in the desert.

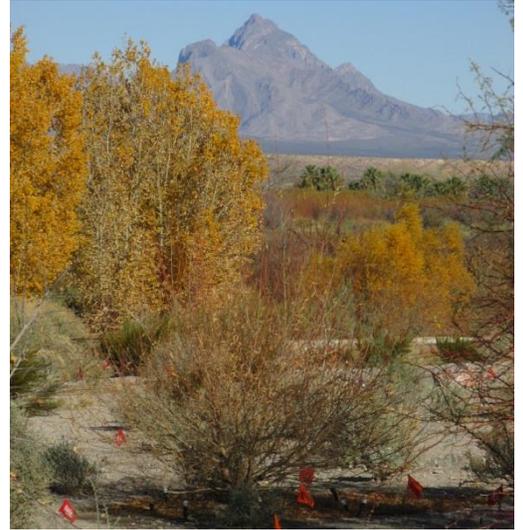
http://www.fws.gov/refuge/moapa_valley/ has a video about the Refuge and clear directions from the Las Vegas area. Be sure to check out the Fish Viewing Station as this is a unique opportunity to look 'inside' a stream. Here one can see the endangered Moapa Dace, the reason this refuge was created. Other fish live here too and children, in particular, love to stand on the benches and watch the minnow-sized fish dart about. There are interpretive signs throughout the tiny refuge that provide all kinds of delightful facts. Several hiking trails wander through the oasis and one climbs the gravel hill behind the streams. This kid-friendly hike is not too strenuous and at the top is a panoramic view of the oasis and surrounding desert. Birds and small mammals live here too, so don't be surprised to see rabbits, quail, hawks, or roadrunners—and who knows what else! Everyone loves the oasis!



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Across the street from the Refuge is the **Warm Springs Natural Area**. It contains more than two dozen springs, which form the headwaters of the Muddy River and was formerly known as the Warm Springs Ranch. The 1,220-acre property provides habitat for 28 listed and sensitive species. Hiking trails, restrooms, and a parking area are currently under construction so the area is not open for public use now, but will be soon. Check out http://www.snwa.com/env/wsna_purposes.html within the next few months to verify that it is open. Similar to the Refuge, this Natural Area has been designed to protect the Moapa Dace and other threatened or sensitive species while also providing families another outdoor experience in the Moapa Valley area. Admission will also be free, so the Warm Springs Natural Area will soon provide another fresh-air, low-cost, healthy and fun family activity.



Another option for hiking and exploring is the **Arrow Canyon Wilderness Area**. Located on the south side of Highway 168 between I-15 and US 93, the area is characterized by several striking geologic features including cliffs, washes, bajadas and canyons. Although you can experience the area from several different points, one of the most interesting spots is Arrow Canyon. Stretching several miles long, the canyon is so deep and narrow that sunlight rarely reaches the bottom in places, with sheer walls 200 to 300 feet high and a mere 18 feet apart at its narrowest. Within the canyon hikers can find petroglyph panels, caves, and interesting geologic formations. Large, red-spined barrel cacti decorate the walls of the canyon. Many different animals also call the canyon their home including lizards, snakes and small mammals.

To access Arrow Canyon, take Highway 168 east from Interstate 15 at Moapa, NV. After approximately 11 miles, turn left onto a well-maintained dirt road leading south, marked by a tall but simple entrance made of telephone poles and flanked by a short length of white fence on either side. Sign posts just inside the entrance to the road identify this Designated Route to the canyon. Continue on this road, following the posts. Approximately 0.5 miles off Highway 168, there is parking just past the fenced municipal well for those without 4-wheel drive capability. Beyond this point, the road continues approximately 1.5 miles further, ending with a vehicle barricade and additional parking. There are private residences along the route – please respect their privacy. Keep in mind that this is a slot canyon and has the potential for flash floods. Beware of traveling in the canyon if there is any rain in the area.



Events for January – 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** – Computer topics: learn about aspects of computer use at 11 am; Software, Internet & email Topics at 3 pm; Computer Logic 4:30 pm **
- **Thursdays at the Moapa Valley Library** – Tiny Tots: Fingerplays, songs, and stories. Ages 18–36 months at 11:15 am ; LEGO Quest: complete a challenge with LEGOs provided for ages 8+, 4 pm**
- **Fridays at the Moapa Valley Library** – Handicrafters; join crafting companions to share your knowledge and creativity, 10 am; Teen Space: Play games, watch movies and be creative, bring your own snacks, from 1:30 pm, Grades 6 –12; 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 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**
- **Wednesday, January 13** – Moapa Valley TAB* meeting at the Moapa Valley Community Center, 7 pm
- **Tuesday, January 26** – Moapa TAB* meeting at the Robinson Justice Court & Community Center, 7 pm
- **Thursday, January 28** – Bunkerville TAB* meeting at the Bunkerville Community Center, 7 pm

*TAB = Town Advisory Board **For details call 702–397–2690 ***Except Monday, January, 17th

Some Interesting Facts about January...

January is named after the Roman god Janus, who was always shown as having two heads. He looked back to the last year and forward to the new one. The Roman New Year festival was called the Calends, and people decorated their homes and gave each other gifts.

January in the Northern Hemisphere is the seasonal equivalent to July in the Southern Hemisphere and vice versa.

Leap years exempted, January always begins on the same day as October. In leap years, January always begins on the same day as April and July.

The Chinese floral emblem of January is the plum blossom.

January is National Soup Month in the United States.

Events for January – 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, January 12** – Laughlin TAB Meeting at the Regional Gov. Center, 1:30 pm
- **Wednesday, January 13** – Searchlight TAB meeting at the Searchlight Community Center, 6 pm
- **Wednesday, January 13** – Join the Nevada Master Gardeners at the Laughlin Library to learn about gardening in our challenging desert environment. 10:30 am
- **Thursday, January 14** – Brown Bag Book Club at the Laughlin Library, 11 am
- **Wednesday, January 20** – Murder muster play rehearsal at the Laughlin Library. Volunteer to help with the *Mardi Gras Murder* production in March. 2 pm
- **Saturday, January 23** – A Visit with Author Laura McBride at the Laughlin Library. Laura McBride, local author of *We Are Called to Rise*, will discuss how her novel challenges us to think about our responsibilities to each other and reminds us that no matter how cruel life can be in a given moment, it is ultimately beautiful to live. A book signing will follow the talk. This project is made possible by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and a grant from the Nevada Humanities.
- **Tuesday, January 26** – Laughlin resident Margaret Soto Perry will share her lifetime experiences growing up in the Tri–State area. Co–sponsored by the Colorado River Museum and Historical Society. Laughlin Library, 1:30 pm
- **Wednesday, January 27** – A mime presentation by Steve Rothschild of the International Al Jolson Society, an introduction to Al Jolson and film clips. Laughlin Library, 2 pm
- **Saturday, January 30** – Children’s craft at the Laughlin library, ages 5–11, 3 pm**

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