

February 2018

RURAL CONNECTIONS

SVVFD Balloonfest Returns to Sandy Valley

The balloons are back and this year they will be lifting off from a new location at Peace Park in Sandy Valley. If you have ever wanted to ride in a hot air balloon or just want to spend some time out in the country, this is your chance. Balloon rides begin at 7 am and are on a first come, first served basis. The event will also include a pancake breakfast at the Senior Center, a blood drive at the Community Center, safety displays, raffles, and more. To get to Peace Park, head south on the 15 and exit to the right at Jean. Head west for about 7 miles and turn left on Sandy Valley Road. The road will turn and take you west through a mountain pass. At the bottom of the hill, turn right on Cherokee, which will turn to the left and become Quartz. Follow Quartz west until it ends. Peace Park and all of the festivities will be on your right.



16th  Annual
Sandy Valley
Firefighter BalloonFest
Saturday
February 3, 2018
7 am

Balloon Rides: \$50.00 per person....first come, first serve while tickets last!!

Pancake Breakfast: \$6 per person, \$3 for kids under 10

Safety Demonstrations, Blood Drive, Raffles and More!

**For Information Call: Electra Smith 702-370-6297/702-723-1350
or Christine Brown 702-538-2794**

Events for February – Southwest

- **Wednesdays at the Sandy Valley School Gym** – Volleyball 4:30 to 6:30 pm, Basketball 6:30 to 8:30 pm
- **Saturday, February 3** – BINGO at the Keystone Center in Sandy Valley, 6 pm
- **Tuesday, February 13** – Sandy Valley CAC* meeting at the Sandy Valley Community Center, 7:30 pm
- **Thursday, February 15** – Women’s Yoga Circle at the Sandy Valley Community Center, 7–8 pm, \$6
- **Saturday, February 17** – Sandy Valley Community Breakfast, 8 am to 10:30 am at the Senior Center, \$4.00 for the best pancakes & sausage or biscuits & gravy
- **Monday, February 19** – Craft class at the Sandy Valley Community Center – 18 and over, 6:30 pm, look for more information on the Sandy Valley community Facebook pages
- **Thursday, February 22** – Women’s Yoga Circle at the Sandy Valley Community Center, 7–8 pm, \$6
- **Monday, February 26** – Adult/Teen Sewing Class at the Sandy Valley Community Center, 6:30 pm
- **Tuesday, February 27** – New Voting Machine Demonstration by Clark County Election Department at the Goodsprings Community Center, 6:30 to 7:30 pm
- **Tuesday, February 27** – Goodsprings CAC* meeting at the Goodsprings Community Center, 7:30 pm
- **Wednesday, February 28** – New Voting Machine Demonstration by Clark County Election Department at the Blue Diamond Library, 5 to 7 pm
- **Wednesday, February 28** – Red Rock CAC* meeting at the Blue Diamond Library, 7 pm

*CAC = Citizens Advisory Council

Secretary of the Interior Visits Clark County

On Friday, January 26th, Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke, joined with representatives from BLM, Metro, Clark County, NRA, Back Country Horsemen, and several other groups and agencies to help clean up a shooting area along South Las Vegas Blvd. – even driving one of the front end loaders to deposit piles of debris into the dumpsters on site. The Secretary learned about the partnership that has been formed between the local groups to make recreational shooting safer in Southern Nevada while also keeping public lands open for all to enjoy.



Events for February – Northwest

- **Tuesdays at the Indian Springs Community Center** – Knit, Stitch and Crochet is a great opportunity for knitters, crocheters and other fiber artists to gather and share their projects & talk over ideas, 10 am
- **Weekdays at Indian Spring Elementary School** – After School Safekey Program. A recreational program for children in grades K–6. After school until 5:30 pm. Cost is \$6 per day per participant. For more information, call 702–879–3890 or stop by the Safekey room 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
- **Thursday, February 8** – Registration for Indian Springs Youth Baseball, contact Jessy Fannin for more information at 702–672–7343, try outs will be held on February 25th
- **Saturday, February 10** – High Desert Seniors Potluck at the Indian Springs Community Center, 2–4 pm
- **Thursday, February 15** – Indian Springs TAB* meeting at the Indian Springs Community Center, 6:30 pm
- **Friday, February 22** – Valentine Kids Craft at the Indian Springs Community Center, 3 pm, \$1
- **Thursday, February 22** – BINGO at the Indian Springs Community Center, 18+, 7 to 9 pm
- **Saturday, February 24** – High Desert Senior Pancake breakfast at the Indian Springs Community Center, 9 – 11 am
- **Thursday, March 1** – Mt. Charleston TAB meeting at the Mt. Charleston Library, 7 pm

*TAB = Town Advisory Board

Happy Gingerbread House Builders at the Indian Springs Community Center



Some Facts about Chocolate just in time for Valentine's Day

- *There is a correlation between the amount of chocolate a country consumes on average and the number of Nobel Laureates that country has produced.*
- *A jewel thief made off with \$28 million dollars of gems in 2007 because he was able to gain the trust of the guards working the bank in Antwerp, Belgium, by repeatedly offering them chocolate.*
- *The Nazis plotted to assassinate Winston Churchill with an exploding bar of chocolate.*
- *The scientific name for the tree that chocolate comes from, Theobroma cacao, means "food of the gods."*
- *The Aztec emperor Montezuma II drank more than 50 cups of chocolate every day.*
- *Hershey's Kisses got their name from the kissing sound the machine that deposits the chocolate on the conveyor belt makes.*
- *The inventor of the chocolate chip cookie, Ruth Wakefield, sold her cookie recipe to Nestle in exchange for a lifetime supply of chocolate.*
- *In 1947 hundreds of Canadian kids went on strike and boycotted chocolate after the price of a chocolate bar jumped from 5 to 8 cents.*
- *German chocolate cake has nothing to do with Germany. It's named after its inventor, Sam German.*
- *A 2004 study in London found that 70% of people would reveal their passwords in exchange for a chocolate bar.*
- *The first chocolate bar was invented in 1847 by Joseph Fry.*
- *The blood in Psycho's famous shower scene was actually chocolate syrup.*



Events for February – Northeast

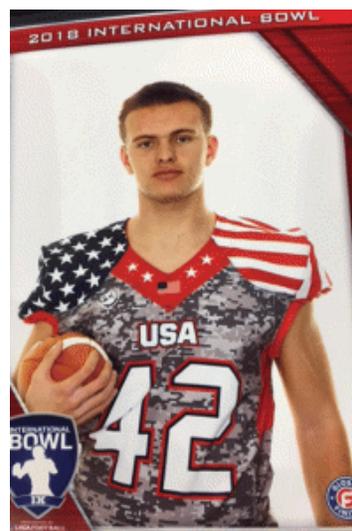
- **Mondays at the Moapa Valley Library** – ABC Kids, Ages 3–5, 11:15 am; Computer Topics, 3 pm; Hands on Computer Help, 4 pm
- **Tuesdays at the Moapa Valley Library** – ABC Mousers, Ages 2–5, 11:15 am; Anime Otaku Club, 2:30 pm; LEGO Club, Ages 6–11, 4 pm
- **Wednesdays at the Moapa Valley Library** – Computer Class, 3 pm; Computer Logic & Programming, 4:30 pm
- **Wednesdays and Thursdays at the Moapa Valley Library** – Stay and Play, Ages 0–5, 11:15 am; Homework Hangout, 3 pm
- **Thursdays at the Moapa Valley Library** – Tiny Tots, Ages 0–3, 4 pm; Discovery Lab, Ages 6–11, 4 pm
- **Fridays at the Moapa Valley Library** – Friday Fun Time, Ages 0–5, 11:15 am; Move & Groove, Ages 0–5, 11:15 am; Teen Space, 2:30 pm
- **Saturdays at the Moapa Valley Library** – Game On, 12 pm; Crafternoon, 2 pm
- **Wednesday, February 14** – Moapa Valley TAB* meeting at the Moapa Valley Community Center, 7 pm
- **Tuesday, February 27** – Moapa TAB* meeting at the Robinson Justice Court & Community Center, 7 pm
- **Thursday, March 1** – Bunkerville TAB* meeting at the Bunkerville Community Center, 7 pm

*TAB = Town Advisory Board

Moapa Valley Players Chosen for International Bowl

The International Bowl, held annually in Arlington Texas, is a series of twelve games showcasing top players from the United States, Canada, Japan, Mexico and the Nordic nations. This year, Moapa Valley offensive lineman Kaleb Frankford and tight end Derek Reese, both juniors at Moapa Valley High School, were two of the nationally acclaimed players to make the trip down to the Lone Star State.

Although the two were on different teams, they both got to play on the field at AT&T Stadium, home of the Dallas Cowboys. Kaleb played for the Under 17 Stars team that was victorious over a talented team from Ontario, Canada. Derek's Under 18 National Team also played against a Canadian team. Even though they weren't able to pull out a win, it was still a great experience. These talented Pirates were able to partake in unique opportunity in the offseason, and made the most of it. They represented their small town of Moapa Valley and proudly sported the nation's colors on one of the grandest high school football stages well.



Events for February – Southeast

- **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
- **Wednesdays at the Laughlin Library** – Lego Club, Ages 5–11, 4 pm
- **Friday, February 2** – Asbestos Meeting at the Laughlin Library, Brenda Buck, Rodney Metcalf, and Jean Pfau will discuss the naturally occurring asbestos minerals in the Laughlin area, 2 pm
- **Tuesday, February 13** – Laughlin TAB* Meeting at the Regional Government Center, 1:30 pm
- **Tuesday, February 13** – My Little Pony: The Movie at the Laughlin Library, ages 5–11, 4:30 pm
- **Wednesday, February 14** – Searchlight TAB* meeting at the Searchlight Community Center, 6 pm
- **Tuesday, February 20** – STEM Club at the Laughlin Library, learn how to make real butter in a jar, Ages 5–11, 4:30 pm
- **Saturday, February 24** – 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

Stuffed Animal Sleepover at the Laughlin Library

The stuffed animals were up to their usual hijinks when they spent the night at the Laughlin Library on Tuesday, January 16th. The librarians were quite surprised when they came in the next day to discover all of the messes they made.



Rocky's Road: Journey of an Orphaned Burro

This is part 2 of an on-going series. When Rocky joined our herd in November, we knew that he had been left orphaned because his mom had been killed by the male burros in the herd. We didn't know that we were embarking on a new chapter in the beautiful and heartbreaking story of his mom, Jenny.

As Wild Horse and Burro Program Volunteers, Dave and Tara Kilpatrick have been documenting the wild horse herd near Goodsprings for many years. On April 2, 2006, the Kilpatricks came across Mama and Dawn, two mares that they knew. However, with them was a young Jenny. She was the first female burro that they had seen in this area of the Red Rock Herd Management Area. Jenny forged a strong bond with Feather, a palomino horse in the herd.

Over the next couple of years, Jenny continued to live with "Mama's band." She was at ease with the group and even played with the horses and foals. In June of 2009, Jenny had her first foal, a little boy named Cactus Jack (3rd photo down) Over the next 6 years, Jenny went on to have 3 more foals: Joshua Jack, Yucca Jack, and Mojave Jack. Throughout this time, Jenny remained the only female burro in the area and she dealt with the aggressive behavior that is not uncommon among adult jacks in the wild. At least one of her foals was killed by the jacks, as well as foals from the wild horses.

In July 2017, the Kilpatricks saw that Jenny was pregnant again. The next time they saw her was on a hillside on October 27th with her foal that appeared to be one week old. Less than 2 weeks later, on November 9th, Tara received a call from workers at the Las Vegas Rock quarry about an orphaned foal whose mom had died the day before. In coordination with Tabby Romero, BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Specialist, Tara and Dave loaded the little guy into their vehicle and took him to their home in Sandy Valley. Later that day he came to our place where he has found his forever home.

Rocky continues to grow like a weed. He turned 3 months old on January 20th. When we are home he gets free range of our entire property. He loves to visit with the horses, check out the chickens and goats, and nuzzle on our dog Purdy. But, his favorite activity with "helping" us with chores around the ranch. As you can imagine, his "help" can make even simple tasks into quite an adventure. Like most young animals (and human babies, too) Rocky likes to nibble and experience things using his mouth. We are working on getting him to bite things like alfalfa cubes rather than our butts and elbows! He is getting really good at his "hee-haw" and greets us with a hearty bray when we get home at night. He was weaned off of formula last week and seems to be having no problem filling his belly with alfalfa.

Next month, I will share more about the Wild Horse and Burro Volunteer program and how you can get involved.

