



RURAL CONNECTIONS

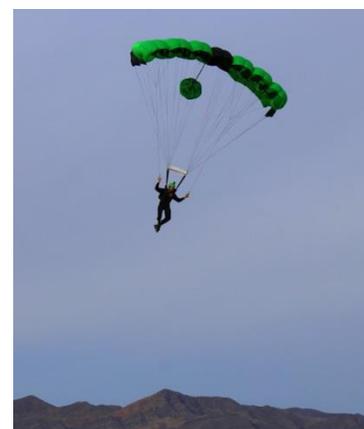
Sandy Valley VFD to host 15th Annual Balloon Fest, Pancake Breakfast and Public Safety Exhibition

The Sandy Valley Volunteer Fire Department will be hosting their 15th Annual Balloon Fest on Saturday, February 21st. Not only can attendees take a hot air balloon ride, they can also have a delicious pancake breakfast, buy raffle tickets for some great prizes, get their faces painted and view safety demonstrations by local organizations. It is a great family event and all proceeds benefit the Sandy Valley Volunteer Fire Department. Balloons lift off at 7 a.m. Balloon rides are \$50 per person and tickets are available on a first come, first served basis on the day of the event. Breakfast is \$6.00 per person and \$3.00 for kids under 10. Raffle tickets are \$1.00 and the prizes include Hay, Show Tickets, Room Comps, Dining Certificates, Apparel, Gift Baskets, Homemade Items and more.

The safety exhibition will include a United Blood Services blood drive from 9 am to 1 pm, an electrical safety demonstration from Valley Electric at 9 am, tours inside a Mercy Air Helicopter at 10 am and children's IDs by the Sandy Valley Masonic Lodge.

To get to the event: Take the I-15 south to Exit 12 (Jean). Exit to the right/west heading towards Goodsprings. After 7 miles, turn left on Sandy Valley Rd. Follow the road 13 miles through the pass and turn right on Cherokee. Follow the turn to the left onto Quartz. Turn right on Miami at the sign for the Keystone Center. Look for the balloons. Please note that there is no gas available in Sandy Valley.

For more information contact Electra Smith at 702-370-6297.



Events for January – Southwest

- **Wednesdays** – Adult/teen basketball at the Sandy Valley School Gym, 6:30 – 8:30 pm**
- **Every Wednesday** – Sewing/craft group at the Goodsprings Community Center, 4 pm
- **Saturday, February 7** – Keystone Computer & Tech Club computer class – “Fun With Computers – Basics” at the Keystone Center in Sandy Valley, 1 pm to 4 pm
- **Tuesday, February 10** – Sandy Mesquite Valley Dev. Assoc. meeting at the SV Community Ctr, 6:30 pm
- **Tuesday, February 10** – Sandy Valley CAC* meeting at the SV Community Center, 7:30 pm
- **Wednesday, February 11** – Mountain Springs CAC* meeting at the Mtn Springs Fire Station, 6:30 pm
- **Thursday, February 12** – Valentine’s Day Craft & Party, 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm at the SV Community Center
- **Saturday, February 14** – Come share Valentine’s Day with some furry critters! Jackson the Red Rock Burro and Carson Blue the Mustang will be at the Red Rock Canyon Visitor’s Center from 10 am to 1 pm
- **Saturday, February 21** – 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
- **Tuesday, February 24** – Goodsprings CAC* meeting at the Goodsprings Community Center, 7 pm
- **Wednesday, February 25** – Red Rock CAC* meeting at the Blue Diamond Library, 7 pm
- **Thursday, February 26** – Movie Night at the Sandy Valley Community Center, 5:30 pm

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

Wildflower hike at Red Rock Canyon

Join the Red Rock Interpretive Association on Saturday, February 28th for the first wildflower hike of the season. This picturesque hike includes colorful rock formations, springs, birds, reptiles, many plants, and a good opportunity to hike and absorb the view. Easy to moderate. 3 miles. Ages 10+. Limited space/registration required. For more information or to register, please call (702) 515-5367.





Happy Valentines Day



Here's some trivia to get you ready for Valentine's Day on the 14th!

15% of U.S. women send themselves flowers on Valentine's Day and about 3% of pet owners will give Valentine's Day gifts to their pets.

During the late 1800s, obscene St. Valentine's Day cards became popular, despite the Victorian era being otherwise very prudish. As the numbers of racy valentines grew, several countries banned the practice of exchanging Valentine's Day cards. During this period, Chicago's post office rejected more than 25,000 cards on the grounds that they were so indecent, they were not fit to be carried through the U.S. mail.

In the Middle Ages, young men and women drew names from a bowl to see who their valentines would be. They would wear these names on their sleeves for one week. To wear your heart on your sleeve now means that it is easy for other people to know how you are feeling.

Only the U.S., Canada, Mexico, France, Australia and the U.K. celebrate Valentine's Day.

Some people used to believe that if a woman saw a robin flying overhead on Valentine's Day, it meant she would marry a sailor. If she saw a sparrow, she would marry a poor man and be very happy. If she saw a goldfinch, she would marry a millionaire.

Teachers will receive the most Valentine's Day cards, followed by children, mothers, wives, and then, sweethearts. Children ages 6 to 10 exchange more than 650 million Valentine's cards with teachers, classmates, and family members.

During the 17th century hopeful maidens ate a hard-boiled egg and pinned five bay leaves to their pillows before going to sleep on Valentine's eve. It was believed this would make her dream of her future husband.

The Italian city of Verona, where Shakespeare's lovers Romeo and Juliet lived, receives about 1,000 letters addressed to Juliet every Valentine's Day.

Wearing a wedding ring on the fourth finger of the left hand dates back to ancient Egypt, where it was believed that the vein of love ran from this finger directly to the heart.

Indian Springs Residents receive awards

The Indian Springs Volunteer Fire Department gave awards to local residents Matt Pinkerton and Teresa Hazel at their annual holiday dinner. Matt is a long-time member of the VFD, former VFD Chief and member of the Indian Springs TAB. Teresa Hazel works for Clark County Parks and Recreation and organizes the events and activities at the Community Center. They are both vital members of the community and very deserving of their awards. Congrats to Matt and Teresa!!



Mountain Residents share Coffee with a Cop

Mount Charleston residents gathered at the Mt. Charleston Lodge on the evening of January 22nd for Coffee with a Cop. Metro Sgt. Andy Legrow fielded a wide variety of questions, although most of the discussion was about the large amount of traffic and visitors that came up to the mountain to enjoy the snow over the holidays. The parking, gridlocked traffic and trash left behind create frustration for the residents that call Kyle and Lee Canyons their home. Sgt. Legrow was joined in fielding the group's questions by 2 of his Metro Officers and representatives from the Metro Volunteer Program (MVPs), Nevada Department of Transportation, Nevada Highway Patrol and County Commissioner Brown's Office.



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 or 702-455-0341

Events for January – Northwest

- **Tuesdays** – Bring Your Own Project at the Indian Springs Community Center, bring your craft project, couponing or anything else you need to work on, 5–7 pm**
- **Tuesdays** – Teen Night at the Indian Springs Community Center. Teens have access to the Wii on the big screen TV, pool table, air hockey, basketball game, card and board games, 6–9 pm. Ages 13–19**
- **Wednesdays** – Coffee Talk social time at the Indian Springs Community Center, 10:30 am**
- **Thursday, February 5** – Game night at the Indian Springs Community Center, 16 years and older, come hang out with your friends and make some new ones, play games, chat, read or relax, 7–9 pm
- **Wednesday, February 11** – Kids Craft at the Indian Springs Community Center, We will be making a wonderful Valentine’s Day craft & enjoying a snack. Space is limited to 20 so please reserve your child’s space. This is for elementary aged children; younger children will need adult assistance. 3:30 pm Cost \$1**
- **Thursday, February 12** – Indian Springs TAB* Meeting at the Indian Springs Community Center, 7:00 pm
- **Saturday, February 14** – High Desert Seniors Valentine’s Day themed Potluck at the Indian Springs Community Center, 3–5 pm
- **Thursday, February 19** – BINGO at the Indian Springs Community Center, 7 – 9 pm, Age 18 & older**
- **Saturday, February 21** – Boulder City Train museum trip. 8 am to 4 pm. For info call 702–879–0833
- **Thursday, February 26** – Mt. Charleston TAB* meeting at the Mt. Charleston Library, 7 pm

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

Call for volunteers to clean up Lee Meadows

Help the US Forest Service & Go Mt. Charleston by picking up litter around the popular Lee Meadows in the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area (Mt. Charleston area). Your efforts will help improve forest habitat and clean up a popular recreation area. We will be picking up litter on Saturday, February 7th and 21st from 9am to Noon. Litter pick up supplies will be provided. Individuals, families, and groups are encouraged to participate.



Registration is required; to register or to find out more information, please contact us at volunteer@gomtcharleston.com or 702–515–5408.

Upcoming Safety Day at Logandale Trails

“Safety Day” at Logandale Trails (February 28th, 2015) is a family friendly activity as well as a perfect event for your 4-H class, scout troop, etc. Plans include a fun four hours of safety tips and quick classes, a short hike, several activities, and lunch—all for free! Just show up at 8 AM at the main trailhead, dress for a morning outdoors—layered clothing, shoes instead of sandals, sunscreen, etc.—and expect to have some fun and learn some ready-to-use safety information. Brief presentations include ‘Be Safe While Hiking’, ‘What Should I Have In My Pockets’, ‘What Should My Family Have In Their Vehicle’, and ‘Prickly Plants and Dangerous Critters’, plus several quick introductory workshops about ‘Tread Lightly’ and ‘Leave No Trace’. Attendees will acquire useful information about how to stay safe and how to take care of our public lands. A short hike will illustrate some of the safety tips just learned and then lunch and a presentation of Safety Day Certificates will wrap up the event around noon—with plenty of time left in your Saturday for more fun!

For more information, please contact Elise McAllister at picorg@mvdsl.com or 702-219-2033, or look for Logandale Trails on Facebook.

Directions to Logandale Trails: Take I-15 north to Exit 93 (approximately 1 hour from most Vegas locations); turn south on Moapa Valley Blvd (or State Route 169) and proceed south until you pass the US Post Office (right side of the road). Just past the post office is Liston Road; turn right on Liston and proceed west. At the end of Liston Road, turn right onto the dirt road that runs parallel to the railroad tracks (this is Pioneer Road); cross the tracks and continue on this main dirt road for several miles until you reach the main trailhead (evidenced by restrooms, picnic tables, etc.). Signage along the route will also provide direction.

Article & photos contributed by Elise McAllister



Events for January – Northeast

- **Wednesday, February 11** – Moapa Valley TAB* meeting at the Moapa Valley Community Center, 7 pm
- **Tuesday, February 24** – Moapa TAB* mtg at the Robinson Justice Court & Community Ctr, 7 pm
- **Thursday, February 26** – Bunkerville TAB meeting at the Bunkerville Community Center, 7 pm

*TAB = Town Advisory Board

Tame & Blake featured at The Lost City Museum

The Lost City Museum presents the work of artists Jo Tame and Dot Blake in “The Faces of our Land” in February. The show features colorfully painted gourds, pencil sketches and watercolor paintings of ancient petroglyphs.

Tame’s paintings have a unique and abstract background style designed to mirror natural rock formations in the nearby mountains. Blake specializes in painted gourds and lifelike pencil sketches of Native Americans and the local scenery. The artists are residents of Moapa Valley and say they love the desert and the rich history left behind by people of the past.

The Lost City Museum actively engages people in understanding and celebrating Nevada’s natural and cultural heritage. One of seven museums managed by the Nevada Division of Museums and History, an agency of the Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, it is open daily 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$5, children and members enter free. The museum is at 721 S. Moapa Valley Blvd. in Overton. Take Interstate 15 to exit 93. Access is also available from Lake Mead National Recreation Area or the Valley of Fire State Park.



Interesting Chapters in Clark County's History...

The United States Camel Corps

As America expanded westward in the mid-19th century, the majority of the land encountered was arid, rocky and unforgiving. Transporting supplies to Army posts was nearly impossible using horses and mules that could only carry relatively small loads and could travel only short distances without food and water. Jefferson Davis, the Secretary of War, thought that camels would be a perfect solution to these challenges presented by the "Great American Desert." They could carry loads up to four times heavier than horses or mules, could subsist on little water and feed and were used to the dry, hot conditions. With \$30,000 appropriated by the 33rd Congress, Army Major Henry C. Wayne and Navy Lieutenant D.D. Porter were dispatched to the Mediterranean to purchase camels to bring back to the U.S for military use. After two separate trips, they ended up with a total of 77 camels based at Camp Verde, Texas. For a while, no one was sure how to put the camels to the best use. Their smell frightened the horses and many of the soldiers were afraid of the large, unusual animals.

In 1857, Lt. Edward F. Beale was charged with the task of establishing a wagon route from Fort Defiance, New Mexico to San Francisco along the 35th parallel. As a part of this project, he was ordered to make use of 25 of the camels. Along with the camels came two camel drivers - "Greek" George Allen and Syrian Hadji Ali, whose name was "Americanized" to Hi Jolly. Although the camels proved to be extremely useful, the Camel Corps was quickly forgotten as the Civil War began. Beale continued to use the camels in his work as the Surveyor General of California and Nevada. By 1865 all of the remaining camels owned by the government that had not been sold to zoos, circuses or mining companies were set free in the desert. For years afterwards, camel sightings were reported throughout the southwest. A marker along Highway 163 outside of Laughlin commemorates this interesting episode in American history.



Nevada Historical Marker 104 near Laughlin



The Only Known Photo of an Army Camel



Hi Jolly's Tomb in Quartzite, Arizona

Events for January – Southeast

- **Mondays – Thursdays** – Open recreation at the Searchlight Youth Center, 3:15 – 5:15 pm
- **Mondays** – BINGO at the Slim Kidwell Community Center in Cal–Nev–Ari, 6 pm
- **Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays** – Activities at the Searchlight Senior Center: Walking at 9 am, Resistance Training at 10 am, Computer Classes by appointment
- **Thursdays** – Yoga class at the Searchlight Community Center, 5 – 6 pm
- **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
- **Wednesday, February 4** – Laughlin Senior Center’s Bowling Field Trip to Strike Zone
- **Saturday, February 7** – Card BINGO at the Laughlin Senior Center, 11:30 am
- **Saturday, February 7** – Kids crafts at the Laughlin Library, Ages 5–11, 3–5 pm**
- **Tuesday, February 10** – Laughlin Senior Center’s Valentine’s Luncheon at Mama’s Pizzeria
- **Tuesday, February 10** – Laughlin Town Advisory Board Meeting at the Regional Gov. Center, 1:30 pm
- **Wednesday, February 11** – Searchlight TAB meeting at the Searchlight Community Center, 6 pm
- **Wednesday, February 11** – Laughlin Senior Center’s Field Trip to Premium Outlet Mall and Aquarium at Silverton Hotel
- **Sunday, February 15** – Family movie matinee at the Laughlin Library, 1:30–3:30 pm**
- **Wednesday, February 18** – Laughlin Senior Center’s Field Trip to the Bellagio’s Conservatory
- **Friday, February 20** – Laughlin Sr Ctr – Mexican Train Dominoes at 11:30 am, Movie Matinee at 2 pm
- **Friday, February 13** – Rob Chilcoat, Curator of the Kingman Army Airfield Museum, will discuss the interesting history of the historical Army airfield, at the Laughlin Library, 2 – 3:30 pm

**For more information call the Laughlin Library at 702–507–6300

Register to compete in the Laughlin Senior Games



From March 10 through March 16, 2015, Laughlin will host the 11th annual Senior Games, which promote health, fun and friendly, Olympic-style competition within the senior community. Events include bowling, swimming, couples and line dancing, poker, tennis, track & field, golf, horseshoes, river races, table tennis, bocce, bridge, and many more! All events are open to anyone 50 years and older wishing to participate. In the past, participants have come from the local area and as far away as Alaska and West Virginia. This event is not a state, regional or national qualifier. Registration closes on February 20th. For more information or to register call 702–298–3413.

Stuffed Animals Had a Fun Sleepover at the Laughlin Library

On Tuesday, January 6th, a group of stuffed animals got to accompany their owners to the Laughlin Library for story time and then stay for a slumber party in the library. Below are some pictures of the fun times they had when the library was closed for the night!



Giddy Up! Trail riding now available in Laughlin

Come experience the adventure and scenic beauty of riding a horse along the Colorado River in the Lake Mead National Recreation Area in Laughlin, Nevada! Wranglers from Pot-A-Gold Stables will guide you on a one-of-a-kind spectacular tour where you can ride along the river with historic Davis Dam as your backdrop and ride atop desert ridgelines to see gorgeous views of Nevada, Arizona, the Laughlin Resorts and Lake Mohave.



Pot-A-Gold Stables is now open and taking reservations to provide an experienced horse perfectly matched to every rider and riding level allowing you and your family or friends to sit back, relax and relive The West the way it was meant to be - on Horseback. Or, you may opt for a riverside carriage/wagon ride if you'd like more of a "soft-adventure". The stables are operating on the Equestrian Trailhead in the Colorado River Heritage Greenway Park and Trails. Just take State Hwy 163 to Laughlin and follow the signs to Pyramid Canyon Park and Trails toward Davis Dam and you can't miss it!



For reservations or more information call (702) 701-1227 or visit <http://potagoldstables.com>