

# RURAL CONNECTIONS

## Celebrating our Volunteer Firefighters

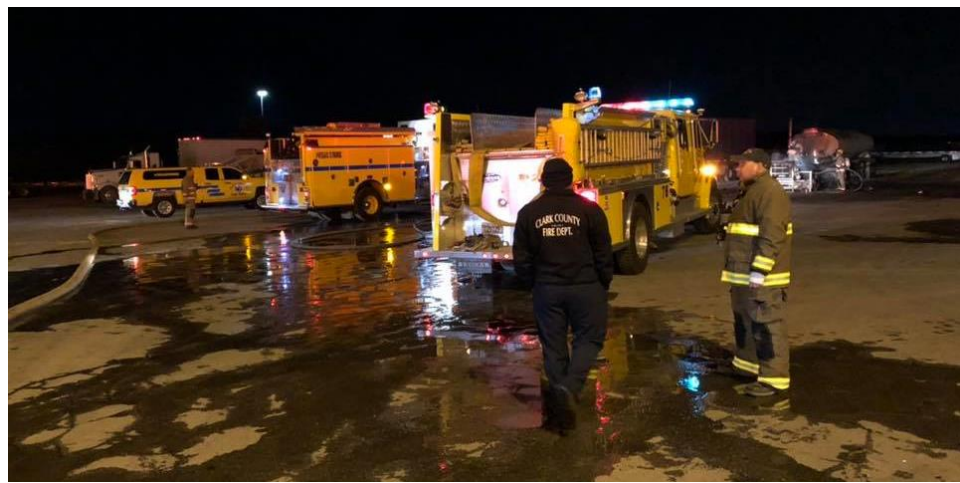
Benjamin Franklin created the first volunteer fire department in Philadelphia in 1736. After witnessing devastating fires as a child in his hometown of Boston and then as an adult in Philadelphia, he wanted to create “organizations that would battle all fires, regardless of whose property was burning.” Volunteer firefighters still comprise 70% of all firefighters in the United States. All of the rural communities in Clark County are protected by these hard-working, dedicated volunteers.

The Volunteers of today follow in the footsteps of notable Americans such as Thomas Jefferson, Samuel Adams, Paul Revere, Alexander Hamilton, James Buchanan and Millard Fillmore not only as volunteer firefighters, but also their commitment to serving their communities. On March 1<sup>st</sup> the Clark County Fire Department swore in 23 new Firefighters. This group included a record number of 6 volunteer firefighters from the rural division that persevered through the rigorous training to become paid Firefighters. They are, from left to right in the group photo, Tyler Teal (Cold Creek Stn. 82), Scott Brown (Sandy Valley Stn. 77), William Hsia (Blue Diamond Stn. 80), Thomas Newell (Indian Springs Stn. 83), Dylan Maderia (Blue Diamond Stn. 80), Cord Dinglasan (Cal-Nev-Ari Stn. 84) In February, former Sandy Valley VFD member and current Clark County Fire Fighter, Ray LeClair, was promoted from Firefighter to Engineer and Christian Aranaydo, current Sandy Valley VFD member, graduated from the most recent Metro academy.



# Goodsprings Volunteer Fire Department In Action

Volunteer Fire Departments don't just handle calls within their communities - they respond to emergencies in the surrounding area, too. For stations near major highways, this means that they deal with a wide variety of calls. That was the case when Goodsprings firefighters responded to a tractor trailer on fire at the Shell gas station in Jean on February 19. Assistant Chief Tom responded in the Squad and Chief Colleen and firefighter Trey responded in the Engine. Engine 78 provided water supply by laying 250' of 5" hose from a nearby hydrant to Engine 65 while Squad 78 provided traffic control around the site. Great job to everyone that responded!



# Sandy Valley Library March Activities

*St. Patrick's Day Craft*  
*3/16/19 1 pm*

**Lego Club**  
**Tuesday 3/19**  
**4 pm**



# Peace & Kindness Celebrated at Indian Spring School

The Indian Springs School took the spirit of Valentine's Day to a new level by celebrating Peace and Kindness for the entire week of February 11<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup>. Each day featured a special dress-up theme, students participated in the Kindness Rock Painting Project, and a "Pie in the Face" Fundraiser was held during lunch where students could give their Principal or Vice Principals a "sweet" surprise! After an assembly for secondary students by Metro Sgt. Matt Marlow, students met in small groups throughout the school to discuss bullying and kindness. At the end of the week, student Minnie Giarla was awarded a bike in recognition of her outstanding attitude during Peace and Kindness week – and throughout the year.





## Become A Junior Ranger at Corn Creek

Hey kids! – Want to earn your Junior Refuge Ranger badge? Join Ranger Drew for a guided walk at Corn Creek Visitor Center (Desert National Wildlife Refuge.) Along the way you will complete the requirements to be an official Junior Refuge Ranger. Sign up and come on out on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am. Don't forget to pack a jacket and bring some water and snacks. Program is designed for children ages 7-12. Parents or chaperones must attend with child. RSVP required. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/junior-refuge-ranger-guided-program-tickets-58340792882>

For directions and to learn more about the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, visit: <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Desert/> or find them on Facebook.



## Activities at the Indian Springs Community Center

*High Desert*  
SENIORS

*This is a Community Event  
All ages welcome!*

Is inviting the  
**Community of Indian Springs**  
to come up to the Community Center for there

**ICE  
CREAM  
SOCIAL**

**Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Scooping from 6:00pm-7:00pm**  
*Children under the age of 14 will need to be accompanied by an adult.*

This is a **FREE** event, donations greatly appreciated but not necessary.

FOR THE REAL  
*Coffee*  
**DRINKER**

*Wednesday  
Mornings  
Coffee Talk*

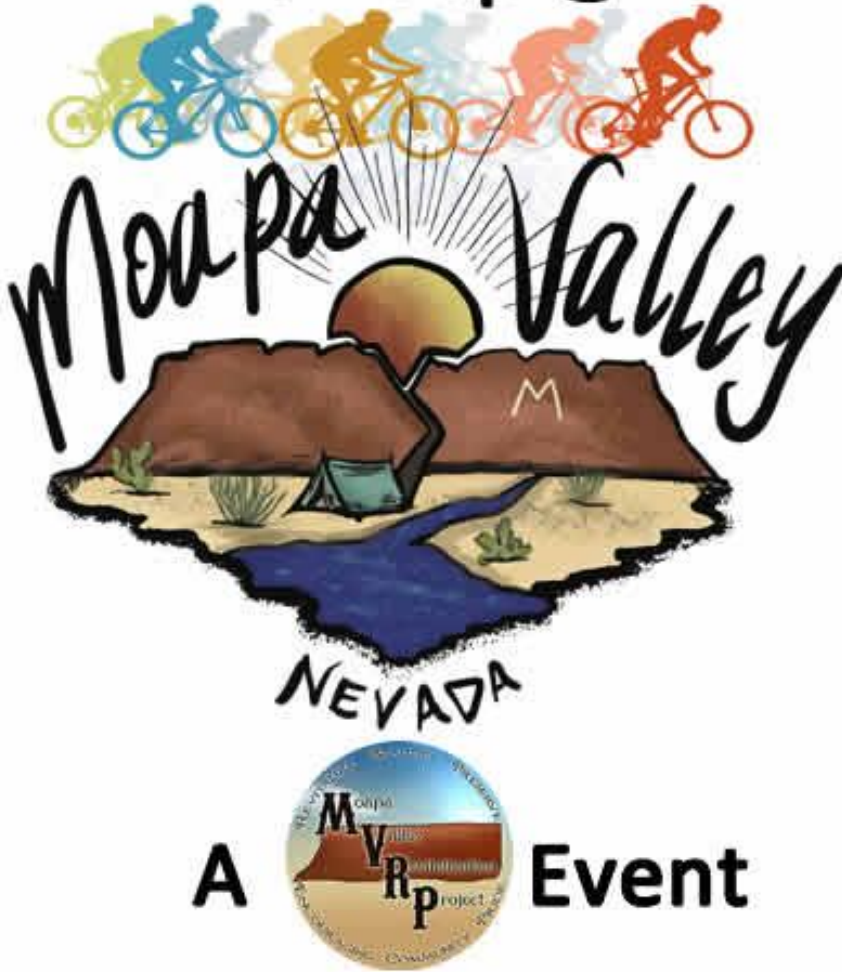
@ the  
*Indian Springs  
Community Center*

*Doors open at  
10:30 am  
& the coffee  
will be on.*

*Come up for  
some friendly  
conversation.*

# Come Ride “The Loop” in Moapa Valley

## The Loop @



The Loop at Moapa Valley is a free annual non-profit family-friendly bicycle event that takes locals and visitors on a tour of local arts and crafts, farms, cottage food producers, an animal sanctuary, community organizations, restaurants, food trucks, churches, and historical landmarks, during an easy scenic bike ride, from green pastures to sandy mesas in beautiful Moapa Valley, Nevada.

The ride runs continuously from 10 am to 6 pm. Visitors are invited to a free concert at 7 PM, courtesy of Moapa Valley Performing Arts Council.

The Loop is organized by Moapa Valley Revitalization Project, a non-profit with a goal to revitalize and develop tourism to the Moapa Valley. Stops are operated by local volunteers and organizations.

Participants need to bring their own bikes and plenty of water to stay hydrated. And, while the event is completely free, visitors are encouraged to bring some cash to enjoy any products, services or food for sale at any of the stops, as most of the stops only accept cash. A limited number of ATMs are available.

For more information find The Loop at Moapa Valley on Facebook.





## National Groundwater Awareness Week

In support of this year's National Groundwater Awareness Week, March 10 – March 16, the Nevada Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, (NDCNR) encourages all Nevadans to protect Nevada's groundwater, the primary drinking water source for about 90% of the State's public water systems.



Because Nevada residents rely on groundwater for drinking, irrigation, livestock, manufacturing, mining, and/or thermoelectric power, it is essential to ensure the quality of our groundwater resources. To help protect our groundwater from becoming contaminated with harmful germs, bacteria, viruses, and parasites, as well as chemicals, like those used in fertilizers and pesticides, here are a handful of helpful tips and resources:

- Always dispose of automotive fluids – like oil, gasoline, air conditioning coolant, and transmission, brake, and radiator fluids – at hazardous waste facilities.
- Take care of your septic system. Inspect it annually and pump it out regularly.
- Never pour hazardous household waste – like cleaning agents, prescription drugs, paint, solvents, and other chemicals we use in our homes – down any drain or dispose of them in the toilet. Use available disposal sites.
- Always follow label directions for use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers, and dispose of them at available disposal sites.

NDCNR's Division of Environmental Protection, (NDEP) works closely with Nevada communities and businesses to restore, protect, and prevent the degradation of our water resources. NDEP oversees the delivery of safe drinking water to the public, as well as provides funding and technical assistance for water quality improvement and protection projects, as well as local planning initiatives focused on water quality restoration.

Greg Lovato, Administrator of NDEP, emphasizes, "Access to clean water is essential to public health and to the survival of future generations. Nevadans can help protect this precious resource for themselves, the environment, and ultimately, a healthy and vibrant economy."





# Commissioner Naft and Staff Tour Southern District A

At the end of January, Commissioner Michael Naft and his staff took to the highway and headed south to visit the southern portion of Commission District A. Searchlight was their first stop where they enjoyed coffee and a tour of the Searchlight Senior Center. They learned about the history of the area when they visited the Searchlight Community Center which is also home to the Searchlight Library, History Museum, and Archives.

Back on the road, the crew headed to Laughlin for a luncheon with the Laughlin Town Advisory Board and the Laughlin Town Manager.

While visiting with the Laughlin Chamber of Commerce, the discussion covered subjects affecting the area including economic development and tourism.

The group ended the day touring the Laughlin Water Resource Center where 8 million gallons of water per day receives biological treatment utilizing modern technology and equipment.





# Connie Davis Annual 5K Walk and Roll

The 6th Annual Connie Davis 5k Walk & Roll was held on Saturday, March 2nd at the Pyramid Canyon day use area of North Reach Heritage Trails in Laughlin. Despite the morning being met with a mild downpour, over 540 participants registered to support the cause! Shortly after the walk began, the sun came out from behind the clouds. Participants enjoyed the cool sounds of Billy Kay while eating breakfast before the walk and a picnic lunch after the walk. Other activities included painting rocks for the Tree of Hope & Life Memorial Garden (with Bullhead City Rocks leading the way) and various local business information booths.

A trophy was presented to the largest team in participation – The Golden Nugget Laughlin, with 102 walkers. Anyone can create a team! Companies, organizations, neighbors and clubs are invited to gather their colleagues, family and friends to make this an awesome annual tradition! The “roll”, added to the name of the walk last year, emphasizes participation by those who are handicapped – whether they are assisted by someone else or rollin’ on their own!









# Sandy Valley Pet Awareness Fair

Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>

10 am to 3 pm

## Sandy Valley Senior Center

Everyone is invited! Information, activities and fun for anyone with pets or a love for animals!

Taco Lunch	Petting Zoo
Raffles	Lone Woof Rescue
Mojave Max	Pet CPR Demonstrations
Scavenger Hunt for kids with fun prizes	
Desert Divas for Dogs	
Rockstar Dogs	
And much more!	

Presentations/performances throughout the day including Rocky the Burro & Lemon the Wild Mustang, Al Marquis & Charlie, Ambassador Brody Therapy & Service Dog, and others

## Rocky's Road: Journey of an Orphaned Burro

Rocky is going to be making his first public appearance this month at the Pet Expo at the Sandy Valley Senior Center. He will be joined by Lemon, a rescued mustang, his rescuers, Dave & Tara Kilpatrick, and TIP trainer Brian Smith of Funny Farm Mustangs. If you are interested in adopted a wild horse or burro of your own, this is your chance to get more information.

In order to get ready for his big debut, Rocky has been learning some new skills like helping Dad put gas in Mom's truck when she forgets to stop at the gas station on the way home!

