

RURAL CONNECTIONS

Student Artwork Depicts “Where I Live”

In 2017, the Nevada Housing Division hosted its 21st Annual “Where I Live” art contest in association with the Clark County School–Community Partnership Program. The program encourages students to create works of art that depict where they currently live or a place they would like to call home. It allows students a creative outlet to express the sentiment of what home means to them. From over 2,500 submissions from more than 18 schools, 4 students from Indian Springs Elementary School had their artwork chosen to be included in the Artist Reception and Award Presentation held at the Venetian Hotel on December 7th. Congratulations to 2nd Grader Gia Guerino, 4th Grader Kymber Guerino, 5th Graders Jonas Dederich and Nova Partlow, and Art Teacher A. Gail Trower–Coll.



Indian Springs ES & MS Recognized as Shining Stars

In October, Indian Springs Elementary School and Middle School achieved the status of “Shining Stars Schools,” a designation awarded by the Nevada Department of Education. Per the NDE website, Shining Stars Schools “have significantly outperformed the State in serving ALL kids, with an emphasis on closing the opportunity gap. These high poverty, high performing schools set the bar for what we believe is possible for each Rising Star School.” Indian Springs is one of only 25 elementary schools in Nevada to receive this recognition, but Indian Springs Middle School is the only Middle School in the entire state to earn this honor.



Events for January – 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. Participants must be at least 5 years of age or in kindergarten, through 13 years of age at the start of the school year in order to participate. After school until 5:30 pm. Cost is \$6 per day per participant. For more information or to register your child, call 702–879–3890 or stop by the Safekey room located 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, January 11** – Indian Springs TAB* meeting at the Indian Springs Community Center, 6:30 pm
- **Thursday, January 25** – BINGO at the Indian Springs Community Center, 18+, 7 to 9 pm
- **Thursday, February 1** – Mt. Charleston TAB meeting at the Mt. Charleston Library, 7 pm

*TAB = Town Advisory Board

Winter Bird & Nature Walks at Corn Creek

Join birder and naturalist, Jeanne Tinsman, on January 13th at 8:30 am for an exploration of Corn Creek. While birds will certainly be observed and identified on the walk, natural history topics of interest will also be discussed. Bring your curiosity and a pair of binoculars along on this slow wander of the trails. This walk is best suited for adults and older children. To get to Corn Creek, take US–95 North. 6 miles past the Snow Mountain exit, at mile marker 101, turn right on Corn Creek Road. Continue down the paved road 4 miles to the Visitor Center on your left. RSVP required through Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bird-nature-walks-tickets-38589610564>



Santa and Special Helpers Visited Sandy Valley School

On the afternoon of December 12th, all of the students from the Sandy Valley and Goodsprings Schools gathered in the festively decorated Sandy Valley School gym. Excitement was in the air as Principal Dawna Alexander and other CCSD staff addressed the crowd, but the room erupted with squeals of delight when Santa made his appearance. The man in red made sure that all of the kids had been good students and then made them promise to listen to their teachers in the year ahead before revealing a huge pile of gifts. Each student in kindergarten through 5th grade received a gift, ranging from hotwheels to tablets to drones, along with brand new shoes and socks. All of this was made possible by the generosity of Bob and Sandy Ellis.

The Ellises have been giving back to underprivileged kids at schools in Clark and Lincoln counties for 13 years. This year, the couple spent over \$200,000 on 5,200 pairs of shoes, 11,000 pairs of socks and 4,850 toys. Their generosity isn't limited to Christmas presents. Rancho High School, Bob's alma mater has received many donations including a \$50,000 donation to help homeless students. The Ellises have also donated to the Henderson Libraries Foundation, UNLV and Nevada State College, focusing on educational programs. In 2015 they were named Distinguished Nevadans by the Nevada System of Higher Education and they will have a new school named in their honor that will open in the 2018-19 school year.

After witnessing the joy on the faces of the children in Sandy Valley, it is pretty clear why the Ellises continue to do this year after year.



Events for January – Southwest

- **Monday, January 15** – Craft class at the Sandy Valley Community Center – 18 and over, 6:30 pm, \$4 per project
- **Tuesday, January 9** – Sandy Mesquite Development Association meeting at the Sandy Valley Community Center, 6:30 pm
- **Tuesday, January 9** – Sandy Valley CAC* meeting at the Sandy Valley Community Center, 7:30 pm
- **Wednesday, January 10** – Mountain Springs CAC Meeting at the Mountain Springs Fire Station, 6 pm
- **Saturday, January 20** – Sandy Valley Community Breakfast, 8 am to 10:30 am at the Senior Center, \$4.00 for the best pancakes & sausage or biscuits & gravy
- **Saturday, January 20** – Indoor yard sale at the Sandy Valley Senior Center, 8 am to 4 pm
- **Tuesday, January 30** – Goodsprings CAC* meeting at the Goodsprings Community Center, 7:30 pm
- **Wednesday, January 31** – Red Rock CAC* meeting at the Blue Diamond Library, 7 pm

*CAC = Citizens Advisory Council

Holiday Tradition Continues at the Goodsprings School

On Tuesday, December 12th, the Goodsprings School presented their Christmas Program to a standing room only crowd. The program included some history and facts about Nevada and Goodsprings and even included information from “Abe Lincoln” and “Joseph Good,” for whom the town is named. The students sang several Christmas songs and the audience joined in on “Home Means Nevada.” After the show, Santa arrived with gifts for all of the children of the town – even those too young to attend school yet. This is a tradition that dates back 104 years to when the one-room school was first built in 1913. In reading old newspapers and other historical accounts of the town, one finds many references to the annual Christmas program and gift giving at the school. The Goodsprings Historical Society and the school’s teacher work together to keep this tradition alive.

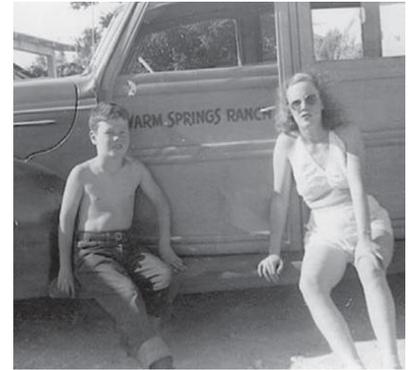


Historic Warm Springs Natural Area Opens to the Public



Located approximately seven miles northwest of the town of Moapa, the Warm Springs Natural Area has quite a long and interesting history. Early Southern Paiutes used the area for farming crops that included corn (maize), squash, beans and gourds. Later, as Mormons were settling in other parts of the lower Muddy River area, Texas outlaw Alexander Dry was hiding in the Warm Springs area. He was raising stolen cattle, which made him the first cattle rancher at the site. Mormon settlers eventually settled in the Warm Springs Area building corrals, irrigation canals, fences and homes. Evidence of these settlements can be found throughout the area.

After years of being divided into the Home Ranch and the Baldwin Ranch, the two were combined into one large property named Warm Springs Ranch in 1950. In 1971, the property was purchased by Howard Hughes. Showgirls from the Las Vegas strip visited the springs to sun themselves and relax under palm-thatched cabanas, while area residents swam in the natural spring pools. Throughout these ownership changes, the ranching and farming on the site continued. After Hughes' death, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints purchased the ranch, but later sold all but a 72-acre recreational area surrounding the largest spring.



When the property became available in 2005, SNWA recognized the area's conservation value and in 2007 acquired the 1,220-acre parcel. The site was renamed the Warm Springs Natural Area and is now used to manage/protect water resources in the Muddy River and Coyote Spring Valley, protect the habitat of the endangered Moapa dace, and advance SNWA's goal of fostering responsible environmental stewardship.

On December 2nd, area residents, officials from the Southern Nevada Water Authority, and other dignitaries gathered to commemorate the grand opening of the Warm Springs Natural Area to the public. Visitors can enjoy the unique beauty of the area with a walk along the 2/3-mile trail, get a panoramic view of the natural area and the surrounding desert from the overlook, and learn about the human and natural history of the area at several informational kiosks. The area will be open daily from 8 am to 5 pm from September through May. For directions and to learn even more about this unique part of Southern Nevada, visit: <http://warmspringsnv.org/>



Events for January – 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, January 10** – Moapa Valley TAB* meeting at the Moapa Valley Community Center, 7 pm
- **Tuesday, January 30** – Moapa TAB* meeting at the Robinson Justice Court & Community Center, 7 pm
- **Thursday, January 31** – Bunkerville TAB* meeting at the Bunkerville Community Center, 7 pm

*TAB = Town Advisory Board

NDOT Introduces New Design for Highway Mile Markers

To some, mile marker signs may just seem like a good way to note the passing of distance on long trips, but they are actually an important tool. First responders, emergency crews, and many others use mile markers as a way to communicate locations for accidents, events, and people in need of assistance. This is especially important on long stretches of road in rural areas with fewer landmarks for reference. NDOT has designed new mile marker signs that are larger and easier to read. In addition to the mile number, the new signs also indicate the route number and County in which they are located – see the list of abbreviations below. Old signs have been replaced over the last 2 years and will continue to be installed/replaced as roadway construction projects are completed.

County Mile Marker Abbreviations

CC – Carson City	EU – Eureka	NY – Nye
CH – Churchill	HU – Humboldt	PE – Pershing
CL – Clark	LA – Lander	ST – Storey
DO – Douglas	LN – Lincoln	WA – Washoe
EL – Elko	LY – Lyon	WP – White Pine
ES – Esmeralda	MI – Mineral	



Old Milemarker

New Milemarker

Rocky's Road: Journey of an Orphaned Burro

On Thursday afternoon, November 9th, I received a call from Tabby Romero, BLM's Wild Horse & Burro Specialist. She had just found out about a baby burro that had been orphaned near Goodsprings and was looking for an emergency foster home. I was already planning to pick up 2 of our grandkids later that afternoon to spend the long weekend with us, so I thought it would be fun for them to get to spend some time with a baby burro. Since we had an extra horse stall, I said that we would take the baby "just for a few days."

As it was beginning to get dark, the grandkids and I arrived at Dave and Tara Kilpatrick's house. As volunteers for the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro program, Dave and Tara have been documenting the herds of burros and wild horses in the area for years. They had received a call from the workers at the quarry near Goodsprings that there was a baby burro in need of help. For several years, the workers at the quarry had also been keeping an eye on the herd that consisted of several males (jacks) and one female (jenny). Jacks can be very aggressive and territorial in the wild. In past years they had killed the female's foals and had also killed some of the foals from the neighboring wild horse herd. This year, they had killed the jenny, leaving behind her very young foal. It was estimated that he was 6 to 8 weeks old and he was just as furry and cute as can be.

We brought the baby home and he was immediately welcomed by our 3 dogs. We had adopted one of our dogs, Purdy, in May just after she had weaned a litter of puppies. She stepped in and started mothering the little foal right away – even licking the formula off of his muzzle during feeding time. Throughout the weekend the little guy ate well, his energy increased, and he enjoyed snuggles from many visitors. He had been given the name Freddie in honor of the quarry worker that found him, but that just didn't seem to fit. After much discussion, we decided to name him Rocky. He refused to take a bottle or drink out of a bucket. We tried a variety of different bottles and nipples, but he would not go for any of them. So, we used a large, plastic horse dosing syringe to squirt the formula into his mouth for his feedings 3 times a day.

By the end of that long weekend, we had fallen completely in love with the little guy and decided to adopt him. He has already brought so much joy into our lives, as well as introducing us to Tara and Dave. They come to visit him regularly and have shared a wealth of information with us about his mom and her history. Next month I will share that beautiful and heartbreaking story with you along with more information about Rocky and his journey.

