

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

May 3, 2023

## **Winner of the Mojave Max Emergence Contest Announced Today**

Today, the Clark County Desert Conservation Program announced the winner of the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Mojave Max Emergence Contest. The winner is 5<sup>th</sup> grader Edin C. from Richard J. Rundle Elementary School. Edin's guess on Mojave Max's emergence date and time was closest to the actual date and time he emerged. Edin guessed Max would emerge on April 24, 2023, at 3:14 p.m. and Max officially emerged from his burrow on April 24, 2023, at 3:40 p.m. (this is the latest date Mojave Max has ever emerged). Of the 4,583 guesses submitted by students throughout Clark County, twenty-three of them were on the correct date of April 24, 2023.

The Mojave Max team, which includes local television personality Nate Tannenbaum, staff from Get Outdoors Nevada and staff from the Clark County Desert Conservation Program, surprised Edin and his class today with the announcement.

As the winning student, Edin will receive several prizes including a year-long family membership to the Springs Preserve, an "America the Beautiful" year-long family pass to National Parks and Federal Recreation areas and a laptop computer. Edin's teacher will receive a laptop computer as well. Edin's entire class received Olympic-style medals, T-shirts, and a trophy for the school. They will also be going on a field trip to the Springs Preserve to meet the live Mojave Max desert tortoise and have a pizza party while they are there.

As part of the Desert Conservation Program's 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Mojave Max Emergence Contest, elementary school students from Clark County studied Mojave Desert weather, temperatures, and conditions to scientifically estimate when they believed Mojave Max would emerge from his burrow in 2023. Their guesses were entered at MojaveMax.com. The latest Max has emerged prior to this year was April 17, 2012, at 12:41 p.m. His earliest emergence was Feb. 14, 2005, at 11:55 a.m.

"This marks the 23<sup>rd</sup> year of the Mojave Max Emergence Contest. Through the years, Mojave Max has helped teach tens of thousands of Clark County school children about our fragile Mojave Desert, furthering our mission to engage our community in respecting, protecting, and enjoying the desert ecosystem." said Department of Environment and Sustainability Director Marci Henson. "We want to congratulate Edin for winning this year's contest and we look forward to providing children a greater appreciation for this beautiful desert we call home."

Mojave Max is a live desert tortoise who calls the Las Vegas Springs Preserve his home. Like other Southern Nevada reptiles, he enters a burrow to brumate (the reptilian form of hibernation) every winter and emerges every spring. Mojave Max's emergence marks the beginning of spring-like weather in Southern Nevada. Warmer temperatures, longer daylight hours and his own internal clock are factors known to contribute to his emergence.

**Cont.**



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## **Winner of the Mojave Max Emergence Contest Announced Today (cont.)**

The Emergence Contest has taken place every year since 2000. The contest will open again in the fall after Mojave Max begins his brumation, and students will be able to enter their guesses for his 2024 emergence.

Questions about the live Mojave Max tortoise should be directed to Tom Bradley with the Las Vegas Springs Preserve at 702-822-8365.

Questions about the Mojave Max education program should be directed to Audrie Locke with the Clark County Desert Conservation Program at (725) 270-4286. More information is available at [www.ClarkCountyNV.gov](http://www.ClarkCountyNV.gov) or [www.MojaveMax.com](http://www.MojaveMax.com).

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## **About the Department of Environment and Sustainability**

The Department of Environment and Sustainability is the air pollution control agency, regional Endangered Species Act compliance program, and sustainability office for all of Clark County, Nevada. Established as the Department of Air Quality by the Clark County Commission in 2001, it was renamed in 2020 and is comprised of two divisions: Air Quality and Desert Conservation Program. Through these two divisions, DES is ensuring the air we share meets healthful, regulatory standards, administering the County's Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and addressing climate change through the All-In Clark County initiative.

## **About Clark County**

Clark County is a dynamic and innovative organization dedicated to providing top-quality service with integrity, respect, and accountability. With jurisdiction over the world-famous Las Vegas Strip and covering an area the size of New Jersey, Clark is the nation's 11th-largest county and provides extensive regional services to 2.3 million citizens and 45.6 million visitors a year (2019). Included are the nation's 8th-busiest airport, air quality compliance, social services and the state's largest public hospital, University Medical Center. The County also provides municipal services that are traditionally provided by cities to 1 million residents in the unincorporated area. Those include fire protection, roads and other public works, parks and recreation, and planning and development.