

Grapevine News



COLORADO RIVER HISTORICAL
SOCIETY MUSEUM

Avi Kwa Ame National Monument



The desert mountains and valleys are marked by the history of more than 10,000 years of human habitation from ancient petroglyphs, rock shelters and artifacts, to more recent evidence of trade routes, historic mining and military training during World War II. The beauty of the desert and mountains can be enjoyed by taking a popular drive involving a well-marked and well-maintained gravel road that departs Hwy 163 about two miles west of Laughlin and leads to the base of Spirit Mountain. Here the approximate twelve-mile road makes a sharp turn to the west and leads down to Hwy 95, south of Searchlight, NV. The area is known as Christmas Tree Pass for the many junipers and pinyons growing among the rocky ridges of the Newberry Mountains.

Shortly after leaving Hwy 163, one passes Grapevine Canyon on the left. The canyon walls and rocks are covered with petroglyphs and furnish evidence of inhabitants from AD 1100. The Mojave Desert seems barren and desolate, but a walk through the canyon offers another perspective. A freshwater spring flows

out of the canyon in non-drought years. This desert spring provides life-giving water to a wide assortment of plants and animals. The presence of the water and the abundance of plants and animals may have drawn early humans to this area as well. The relatively lush plant growth in the canyon is in sharp contrast to the stark hillsides. This extra moisture from the small spring allows plants to grow here that could not survive on drier slopes. Cottonwood, grapevines, cattails, and rushes grow in the canyon. The presence of a spring and the variety of water-loving plants draw Desert Bighorn sheep and other animal into the canyon.

President Biden declared this area a national monument in March of this year. It becomes the fourth such monument in Nevada. In remarks at a conservation summit in Washington, D.C. the president called the landscape "...a place of reverence. It's a place of spirituality. It's a place of healing. And now it will be recognized for the significance it holds and be preserved forever," he said. "For the Tribal Nations that trace their creation to Avi Kwa Ame" Biden's proclamation stated, "the power and significance of this place reside not just in the mountain itself, but radiate across the valley and mountain ranges of the surrounding desert landscape containing the landmarks and spiritually important locations that are linked by oral traditions and beliefs."

Also known as Spirit Mountain, the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument reaches from the Newberry Mountains in the east to the New York, Castle and Piute mountains in the west. These lands feature peaks, canyons, natural springs, unique grasslands and forests of ancient Joshua trees. Along with this natural beauty

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there are many examples of rock art and various cultural sites.

Spirit Mountain lies on the eastern boundary of the monument and is the highest point in the Newberry Mountain range, reaching over five thousand feet. Earlier, in the 1990's, this area was designated as a cultural property on the National Register of Historic Places. However, this did not prevent such attempts as installing wind farms and other commercial developments. With the new status as a national monument, such efforts are prevented.

This new designation permanently protects a landscape that is sacred to the Yuman-speaking tribes, including the Mojave, Hualapai, Yavapai, Havasupai, Quechan, Maricopa, Pai Pai, Hatchidhoma, Cocopah, Kumeyaay as well as the Southern Paiute and the Hopi. The area is considered the site of creation for the above tribes. Avi Kwa Ame serves as a place to gather sacred medicines and a meeting place to trade with other tribes. It is also part of the Salt Song Trail for the Southern Paiute tribes, which tells the traditional life cycle of their people.

Perhaps as important is the ecological significance as it provides protection to wildlife such as the Desert Bighorn Sheep, the desert tortoise, Joshua Tree forests, and 28 species of native grasses. It is an important birding area with a large collection of eagles. At night the dark skies are equally valued for the opportunity to stargaze and study the heavens.

The designation as a national monument will facilitate a wide-range of opportunities for recreation including hiking, hunting, off-road travel, and camping. In 2021, Nevada's growing outdoor recreation economy contributed nearly \$5 billion to the state's economy and supported more than 50,000 jobs.



PRESIDENTS CORNER

Hi, Happy June

So many special things going on at the Museum. First of all, we are going to be having our grand opening Friday June 23rd of the Educational Garden from 9:30 to 11:00 and it's going to be great with refreshments, tours, and news media. This is a long time coming and all the people with the museum and associated with it have way over done all of their special work to make the completion of this possible.

Things have calmed down just a little bit our new hours for the summer are from 10:00 to 2:00 of course Tuesday to Saturday and last entrance at 1:00.

Wanted to say thank you to all of our volunteers that have dedicated themselves to our Museum. A lot of them have left as they are snowbirds, and hope that they enjoy their summer and we get to see them again and the fall. Please come back.

Another wonderful thing happening at the Museum is starting on July the 10th we will be working with Parks and Recreation Department of Bullhead City and will be having children from 8:00 to 10:00 possibly 60 which will be broken up in groups. We will have several docents teachers and parents that will be helping with this project and the Educational Garden will be the focus of their event. Many projects that day will be done, such as scavenger hunts, gold panning, painting rocks learning about the museum and the Little Red School House, and some of the local history. We are hoping to continue these programs through the summer and also in the fall, working with the Bullhead City School City Elementary School district to do some further programs with the Museum. We are so excited to be able to do these programs with the children.

Also, and I don't know if everybody knows but we presented to the city council of Bullhead City what we needed as another building for our archival things in the museum and they have matched our money which we had \$130,000 and they have matched with their \$130,000 so now we can build another building. The excitement goes on!

The hard work and dedication of all involved with our Museum, volunteers, sponsors, businesses, the city have made all this possible. I am so proud to be the president of the Colorado River historical society and Museum because of all these actions.

If you need any questions answered or have suggestions or would like to become a volunteer or sponsor please call me anytime at 928-219-2582

Sincerely,
Karole Finkelstein, President

WORD PUZZLE

Avi Kwa Ame

T N O U S Z X I P P S V L U B
 S J E V W M Q I M H A A G L E
 T S F W Q D N S P V C Y E T L
 A P Y G B Y E Y Q I K S O N I
 R R I Z O E L M G M A K M E E
 G I O N Z G R O G L Q M G M F
 A N S C O W L R T G C R F U S
 Z G T R K O X D Y C A G N N P
 E S T F C Y N J Y P C B G O U
 T E P E T R A D E S B U T M B
 P S M R A F U V S Y E L L A V
 T R A D I T I O N A L L N K M
 U M P Z W N M V T B B W G B Q
 R C J Q E Q C L E Y R W K A L
 C O N S E R V A T I O N G W E

BELIEFS
 CONSERVATION
 EAGLES
 ECOLOGICAL
 FARMS
 FIVE

GRAPEVINE
 MONUMENT
 NEWBERRY
 PETROGLYPHS
 PINYONS
 ROCKY

SALT
 SPRINGS
 STARGAZE
 TRADE
 TRADITIONAL
 VALLEYS

May2023 puzzle answers: Davis Camp

J V S B A E R P L O X J G N M
 L Y O S Z I J A I O H O M E S
 N A O Z M U S R M H S S X W U
 T Q B P E Y Y K U A X S R W L
 J P I H C A E B N T D E C G P
 J F L T C E J O R P G A H D R
 U I A R A P V G L N A F U A U
 A L S M H M L Q A Z U U R V S
 E P O O T A A R P N A U C I S
 R G L P V L F L D O G Z H S V
 U B O O T V Z I C I L X M C S
 B M M B X N N P K E V X A J I
 A E U R F G O Q S N R M R P P
 R G J P H R P C O E P Q X T O
 I A F S T A T I O N F D E K J

EVENTS CALENDAR

All events are at the museum unless otherwise stated

Our last event with the Fort Mojave Youth Dance Group was a great hit. What a great program they have. We all learned so much. Not only did we get to see some of the Mojave traditional dances and hear their songs, we also learned about the clothing the dancers wore. We learned a lot of the family structure of the Mojave in the current day and got a lesson on a traditional game they played.



Seek peek at the upcoming Fall Event Season



Debbie Miller-Marschke does a full costume presentation of Olive Oatman, covering her life from the time the family left Illinois on a wagon train, to the massacre that took almost her entire family's lives near Yuma, her captivity by the Apache and Mojave tribes, her life among the Mojave in the Mohave Valley and Needles area, her return to Ft. Yuma, and finally her later life.

COMMITTEES UPDATES

From The Desk of Our Curator:

The Collection's Committee is pleased to welcome the addition of two new members. Volunteers Ellen Duke and Pat Herzig have generously agreed to join the committee in our efforts to preserve the museum artifacts and archival documents. They have already been busy in the archives sorting our collection of documents and newspapers and placing them in protective sleeves. Thank you, Ellen and Pat.

Seeking Donations for Our Collection

We are looking for any artifact that is pertinent to our Tri-state area. This includes, but is not limited to, photographs, family histories, military activity, Davis Dam, Native Americans, steamboats, ranching, fossils, explorers, highways, historical maps, churches and service clubs, businesses, and mining.

◆ We cannot accept an artifact with stipulations on it such as it must be displayed in a particular way or time period.

◆ We do not accept loans.

Give us a call at the museum if you have an artifact or historical item you would like us to consider.

We are actively seeking local historic photographs and Mohave Valley Daily Newspapers before 2010.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Colorado River Historical Society Museum is seeking volunteers.

If you enjoy history and want to learn more about the area, the society needs you. This is a chance to meet area visitors from all over the world and form friendships with a wonderful group of volunteers.

Many of our volunteers are part-time residents and retirees.

Hours are flexible and duties are as easy or challenging as you would like.

Examples of the types of volunteer we need:

Docent

Handyman

Gardener

Data Entry

GIFT SHOP NEWS

Featured Item:

Great Route 66 puzzles.

Available in the gift shop now.

Cruisin' Cafe - \$15.00

Vintage Cars & Trucks \$17.00



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Reminder, all memberships expired at the end of the year (Dec 31st 2022). If you haven't had a chance to renew for the year of 2023, now is the time.

Since we have an all-volunteer staff that oversees the operations of the museum, all the monies collected from membership fees go directly to the costs of the operation of the museum (other than staffing), new display items, and future expansion of the museum. We have 2 more phases left of the museum to build so the more we can expand our membership and fundraising efforts, the sooner we can get this additional space added.

Thank you again for all your support!

MUSEUM PROJECT - EDUCATION GARDEN

The time is finally here. Come join us to welcome our new displays outside. We have native plants, interesting information and an amphitheater that will sit over 50 people comfortably.



**COLORADO RIVER
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
MUSEUM
1239

Grand Opening
& Joint Ribbon Cutting

**Join the Laughlin & Bullhead Area Chamber's
of Commerce for the Grand Opening of
the Educational Gardens for the Museum.**

Friday, June 23rd, 2023

Colorado River Museum
Grand Opening & Joint Ribbon Cutting
Friday, June 23rd, 2023
9:30am – 11:00am
1239 Hwy 95, Bullhead City, AZ
(Museum at Community park)

**Enjoy light refreshments & join us
for a tour of the educational garden.**

For more information contact
Laurie Thompson
(909) 936-0345





**COLORADO RIVER
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MUSEUM**

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Web: coloradriverhistoricalsociety.org/
Hours of Operations:
Tuesday—Saturday 10:00am - 2:00pm
(last admittance 1:00pm)

Grapevine News Editor - Laurie Thompson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Karole Finkelstein – President
- Ralph Patterson – Vice-President
- Ellen Brown – Secretary
- Carla Lucas – Treasurer
- Laurie Thompson – Director
- Robbie Adams – Director
- Denise Vallon – Director
- Barbara Brandt - Director
- Jim Lucas – Director

Mission Statement

The mission of The Colorado River Historical Society shall be to operate a museum to promote interest and knowledge concerning the history of the Lower Colorado River area, most specifically the Tri-state area.

***** MUSEUM FUNDRAISER *****

The historical society is currently in the midst of a fundraising effort, the monies of which will be used for construction of the next phase of the museum. This addition will store our archives and collections not presently displayed in the museum.

These items are currently stored at the Davis Camp site. Mohave County has generously renewed our lease on that building for an additional year, expiring in July 2023. We are in need of a new home for these artifacts, which require multiple storage racks. The Historical Society also stores various other supplies and tools in this facility.

In the coming months the museum’s fundraising Committee will be using a variety of methods to raise money for our building fund. In the meantime if you are interested in assisting us with a donation it would be highly appreciated. Your contribution may be tax deductible, please confirm with your tax consultant.

It takes a village and we are counting on you to help us make this a reality.

