

# Chuckwalla Valley Voice

MAY 2012

Don't forget  
Mother's  
Day



May 13th!  
At A Glance

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## We shall adapt

Julie Smiley

Gathering inspiration from an article in the Smithsonian by Bil Gilbert titled "Lizards that take to the desert like ducks to water" it occurred to me that much like the lizard of the Sonoran Desert us locals have found what biol-

ogists call "special fields" and "modes of endeavor niches". Rather than compete for territory, the desert lizard locates in unique places where they don't have to vie with others who have similar appetites. They chose to avoid

rather than engage in battle. Basically they find an environment no one else wants and adapt to it. And in our own way, that is exactly what we have done.

The first time a person who isn't adapted

Cont. on pg. 2

## Library Continues to offer quality programs

The Lake Tamarisk Friends of the Library and Libraries nationwide set aside one day a year to celebrate the importance of literacy for children of all linguistic and cultural backgrounds. The day is called "Dia de los Niño's/El dia de los Libros" which translates to Day of the Child/day of the book. This year's event at the Lake Tamarisk

included a slide show presentation of Nancy Olyer's trip to Ethiopia. Next Asia, Gage, Talia and Matty entertained us with a play about Beatrice who through the kindness of strangers was given a goat to nourish her and her family. The money they made selling the goat milk provided an in-

come which allowed Beatrice to go to school.

The days activities ended with the biggest piñata I have ever seen and America's staple....hot dogs, nachos and ice cream. What a treat!

(you can view pics on the blog [www.cvvoice.com](http://www.cvvoice.com))

Cont. on pg 8



Chuckwalla



Fringe-Toed Lizard



Flat-tail Horned Lizard

to the desert arrives in one, they do one of two things. They step out of their car, where they are confronted with temperatures as high as 120 degrees, they get back in their car, they close their door and say to their husband, "There is no way I am going to live in this God forsaken place". If he doesn't start the engine and drive off, they grab their purse and beat him about the face and neck until he gets it!! Or.....they adapt. It's that simple. You can't change the desert, but you can adapt. And here in Lake Tamarisk, with the benefit of unlimited water we have changed the desert landscape. We have created our own little oasis with grassy lawns, potted plants, lakes and golf courses. But the climate here is patient. if we lose that water, in less than a year all our lawns and pretty flowers and golf courses will be gone. Eventually the lake will dry up and then the slow, yet relentless process of the desert reclaiming its territory will begin.

Without the illusion of an oasis, some of us would leave in a heartbeat. But I believe many of us would stay, because without knowing it we have adapted. We hunker down in the hottest part of the day conserving our energy for when the temps drop. Mornings and evenings we race outside for a few brief hours to do our yard work, go for walks, work in the garage and generally take care of business that is otherwise put on hold during the hottest part of the day. There is really no explaining why anyone would stay in a place with such unfathomable temperatures. It may be that we appreciate the stark beauty and undisturbed views; we may actually enjoy the solitude. Some are here for their jobs. Then again, some of us may be here because our roots are so firmly planted to try and leave would be like severing a tap root, leaving us pale and lifeless.

So, those of us who have chosen for whatever reason to call this desert our home, are like the Horned Lizard , the Chuckwalla , Whiptail, and yes, maybe even the controversial Fringe-Toed Lizard. All have adapted in our own unique ways to an environment considered uninhabitable by most and we have created a place we now call home. And yes...like the lizards of the Sonoran Desert, we are thriving.

Bil Gilbert, "Lizards that take to the desert like ducks to water" Smithsonian, (Aug. 1987), pp 78-86

The Desert Center Area Chamber of Commerce is actively seeking new members. You do not have to own a business to Join the Chamber. Everyone is welcome to join.

Business Memberships:  
\$100.00

General Memberships:  
\$40.00

Associate Memberships:  
\$30.00

Churches and Organizations:  
\$50.00

Charitable & Non Profit:  
\$50.00

## Desert Center Area Chamber of Commerce

will be holding elections for the following positions:

Vice Chair

Committee chair

Financial Officer

Elections will be held during the General Meeting, June 6th, 6:30 pm at the CSA Hall.

All are welcome, only **members** can vote.

# Community Bulletin Board

## ***Desert Center Area Chamber of Commerce***

Chamber Meeting are held the first Wednesday of Each month at the CSA Hall at 6:30pm. The Strategic Planning Committee meets at 5:30 on

## **National Day of Prayer**

Thursday May 3rd

CSA Hall from 11:00 am to 12,  
join in a gathering of prayer to give thought to our  
Nation.

You can reach her at 760/227-3419

## **Nazarene Church Schedule**

Desert Center Nazarene Church will enjoy the ministry of several Nazarene preachers who plan to come during the month of May while Pastor Diane and Jerry Mossbarger will be away on family business. All services will continue as scheduled, including Bible study on Friday evening at 7:00 PM with fellowship following, Sunday School at 10:00 AM on Sunday mornings, and the worship/preaching service at 11:00 AM. Beside children and youth teachers, Serena McDole and Bonnie Rose, we will also have music ministry by Alice Stuart, who will help in the worship service. Among the special speakers will be Rev. John Denney, Southern California District Superintendent, who oversees Nazarene churches in San Diego, Imperial, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

## **Lion's Club News**

**Lion's Club meets the Second and Fourth Tues. of every month,**

**7PM CSA Hall**

**Activities for this Month:**

**Friday May 11th: Pizza and a movie. Movie is free! Pizza and other snacks \$1.00 each 7:00pm**

**May 26th: Pool Opening Party 2:00pm Hot dogs , nachos, snow cones etc. \$1.00 each**

## **Eagle Mountain Baptist News**

Meet your new pastor

**Renee Vargas**

760/333-2798

**Sunday Services**

**10am and again at 6:30pm**

**Bible Study**

Wed. Bible Study 3:30 at the Carney Ranch  
5-1/4 miles North on Rice Road

**Food Pantry**

3rd Sat. from 9am –12 at the Baptist  
Church

## Solar Facts

If you are interested in learning more about *the economics of solar, endangered species, greenhouse gases, industrial solar, public lands issues, rooftop solar, subsidies, transmission, water use and wildlife I urge you to take a look at this site.*

<http://solardoneright.org>

Another good site is

<http://basinandrangewatch.org>

**Track the progress of incoming projects at**

<http://www.solareis.anl.org>

**Click on Solar Energy Zones, then Riverside East**

## Your chance to speak out!!

Desert Harvest is on its way

The Draft EIS is completed for the Desert Harvest Solar Project

The Desert Harvest Solar Project would be a 1,208 acre, 150 megawatt solar energy project and a 220 kilovolt generation-intertie transmission line. The project is slated to be built just south of the First Solar project on Kaiser Road.

Under the CEQA Guidelines it is required that the public be notified of the significant environmental effects anticipated by the project. Following is a list of the various negative impacts we can expect from the project.

### Significant Impacts

- Air resources from emissions of particulate matter, volatile organic compounds, carbon monoxide and oxides of nitrogen
- Historic and archaeological resources
- Noise from increase in traffic along Kaiser Road
- Visual resources, including scenic vistas because it would degrade the visual character of the landscape because it is inconsistent with local policies

### Cumulatively Considerable Impacts

- To sensitive natural communities and jurisdictional wetlands
- To Special-status species from habitat loss
- To Wildlife movement due to a reduced movement and connectivity in the Chuckwalla Valley

### Substantial Adverse Cumulative Effects

- On Lands and realty from large-scale land conversion

The Draft EIS is available to view at the Lake Tamarisk Library and you are encouraged to comment. **This is your chance to speak out, and possibly change the outcome.** The Public Comment period is **April 13, 2012 - July 13, 2012**. You can view it on line as well at:

- [http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/palmsprings/Solar\\_Projects/Desert\\_Harvest\\_Solar\\_Project.html](http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/palmsprings/Solar_Projects/Desert_Harvest_Solar_Project.html)

All written comments should be mailed to:

Lynette Elser, California District Office, 22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553

Electronic comments are strongly encouraged;

<mailto:cadesertharvest@blm.gov>

BLM will be holding two informational workshops **May 14, 2012**

**at the Lake Tamarisk Clubhouse 1:30-3:30 p.m.** The

second one will be at Joshua Tree Community Center May 14, 2012 7-9 p.m. 6171 Sunburst Ave. Joshua Tree, CA 92252

Photo by Marvin Nauman



## Riverside County Fire Department/OES Safety Message

### Extreme Heat

Heat kills by pushing the human body beyond its limits. In extreme heat and high humidity, evaporation is slowed and the body must work extra hard to maintain a normal temperature.

Most heat disorders occur because the victim has been overexposed to heat or has over-exercised for his or her age and physical condition. Older adults, young children and those who are sick or overweight are more likely to succumb to extreme heat.

Conditions that can induce heat-related illnesses include stagnant atmospheric conditions and poor air quality. Consequently, people living in urban areas may be at greater risk from the effects of a prolonged heat wave than those living in rural areas. Also, asphalt and concrete store heat longer and gradually release heat at night, which can produce higher nighttime temperatures known as the "urban heat island effect." A heat wave is an extended period of extreme heat, and is often accompanied by high humidity. These conditions can be dangerous and even life-threatening for humans who don't take the proper precautions

***Eric W. Cadden, is the Emergency Service Coordinator OES 11 East Desert Coordinator , and has provide us with this invaluable information. Please go to page 10-11 for a larger print instruction sheet that you can print and put on your refrigerator.***

## Greg Ragsdale

Gregory Ragsdale, born in Desert Center in 1947, to Crystal and Stanley Ragsdale, died last autumn of diabetes complications. He worked as a miner and machinist after serving in Viet Nam during the Tet offensive where he sustained injuries leaving him with imbedded shrapnel for life. His children Kristen, Kara and Will were raised in the desert and later the family moved to Utah to be with the family of his wife, Chris (nee Harrison). Greg and his brothers provided the backbone for the Desert Center businesses. He was awarded the Purple Heart and will have an honor guard salute at his interment on May 4,

2012 at Riverside Veteran's Memorial Cemetery at 11 AM. All are welcome to pay last respects.



## Coming soon to Lake Tamarisk

*1st Annual Eagle Mountain*

### ***Reunion and Harvest Festival!!!!***

*Coming Oct. 27th-28th 2012.*

***Reserve your room now at Royal Plaza Inn 760/347-0911 use the promo code "DC2012". Local Dry camping will be available as well.***

***Parade, Harvest Festival, Local Vendors, Tours, Dinner and Dance.***

***Look for the event page on Facebook, Eagle Mountain Refugee Site or the Chamber of Commerce site.***

***More details in the coming months.***

***For more information contact Julie Smiley at 760/399-6213***

treat! Thank all of you who helped with this activity and thank you to those who showed up to enjoy it.

Summer is bearing down and the afternoons can be long and hot. What better place to spend some time than in the nice quiet ,cool comfort of the local Library.

Some of the ongoing programs are

- The kid's afterschool program every Tuesday afternoon with reading, crafts and snacks.
- Book club meets monthly. The next meeting is scheduled for May 10th when we will discuss *The Tiger's Wife*.
- The children's Summer Program starts the first Tuesday school is out and runs for six weeks every Tuesday and Thursday. The hours are 10:30 to 11:30 am. Newly arrived books include, *The Shades of Grey* series and the *Hunger Games* series. New DVDs: *Real Steel*, *Chasing Liberty* and *The Tourist*.



## Chuckwalla Valley Voice, How it got it's start

My name is Julie Smiley, and this is my newsletter. I grew up, graduated, married and started my family in this valley. I recently returned after a 12 year leave of absence. After my husband passed away one of the jobs I took was working for the Lake Tamarisk Desert Resort. One of my projects ,was to help get their newsletter out each month. About the same time I was elected Public Relations Officer for the Chamber of Commerce and started working on the Chamber website, with one of

the additions being a newsletter. The scope and mission of the Chamber didn't always allow for some of the stories I thought would be interesting to cover, so I



decided to strike out on my own. And so the idea for the Chuckwalla Valley Voice was born. The intent is to create a local newsletter. It isn't a new or novel idea, we have had several news-letters in the past . My hope is to keep the community linked together through shared experiences, history, storytelling and information. If you have a story to share or a piece of news you want to get out, please use the information below to contact me.

Juliesmile\_80@hotmail.com

P.O. Box 473

Desert Center, CA 92239

# May 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 <i>Chamber Meeting</i>	3 <i>Natinal Day of Prayer</i>	4 <i>AA 7pm</i>	5
6	7	8 <i>Lions Club 7pm</i>	9	10 <i>Book Club Meets</i>	11 <i>Lion's Pizza and Movie 7pm AA 7pm</i>	12
	14 <i>BLM Workshop of Draft EIS 1:30-3:30 pm</i>	15	16	17 <i>CSA Advisory Board 7pm</i>	18 <i>AA 7pm</i>	19 <i>Food Pantry 9-12</i>
20	21	22 <i>Lions Club 7pm</i>	23	24	25 <i>AA 7pm</i>	26 <i>Pool Opening Party 2 p.m.</i>
27	28 <i>Memorial Day</i>	29	30	31		

## ***Before Extreme Heat***

- To prepare for extreme heat, you should:

To begin preparing, you should [build an emergency kit](#) and make a [family communications plan](#).

Install window [air conditioners](#) snugly; insulate if necessary.

- Check air-conditioning ducts for proper insulation.
- Install temporary window reflectors (for use between windows and drapes), such as aluminum foil-covered cardboard, to reflect heat back outside.
- Weather-strip doors and sills to keep cool air in.
- Cover windows that receive morning or afternoon sun with drapes, shades, awnings, or louvers. (Outdoor awnings or louvers can reduce the heat that enters a home by up to 80 percent.)
- Keep storm windows up all year.
- Listen to local weather forecasts and stay aware of upcoming temperature changes.
- Know those in your neighborhood who are elderly, young, sick or overweight. They are more likely to become victims of excessive heat and may need help.
- Be aware that people living in urban areas may be at greater risk from the effects of a prolonged heat wave than are people living in rural areas.

Get trained in first aid to learn how to treat heat-related emergencies.

## ***What you should do if the weather is extremely hot:***

Listen to [NOAA Weather Radio](#) for critical updates from the National Weather Service (NWS).

- Never leave children or pets alone in closed vehicles.
- Stay indoors as much as possible and limit exposure to the sun.
- Stay on the lowest floor out of the sunshine if air conditioning is not available.
- Postpone outdoor games and activities.
- Consider spending the warmest part of the day in public buildings such as libraries, schools, movie theaters, shopping malls, and other community facilities. Circulating air can cool the body by increasing the perspiration rate of evaporation.
- Eat well-balanced, light, and regular meals. Avoid using salt tablets unless directed to do so by a physician.
- Drink plenty of water; even if you do not feel thirsty. Avoid drinks with caffeine. Persons who have epilepsy or heart, kidney, or liver disease; are on fluid-restricted diets; or have a problem with fluid retention should consult a doctor before increasing liquid intake.
- Limit intake of alcoholic beverages.
- Dress in loose-fitting, lightweight, and light-colored clothes that cover as much skin as possible. Avoid dark colors because they absorb the sun's rays.
- Protect face and head by wearing a wide-brimmed hat.
- Avoid strenuous work during the warmest part of the day. Use a buddy system when working in extreme heat, and take frequent breaks.
- Check on family, friends, and neighbors who do not have air conditioning and who spend much of their time alone.
- Avoid extreme temperature changes.