

Community Partnership Connection



Nevada's New Off-Road Vehicle Registration Law

Nevada's new state law requiring owners of off-highway vehicles, including dirt bikes, to register and title their vehicles went into effect on July 1, 2012.

The Washoe County Sheriff's and District Attorney's Offices want to remind all owners of off-highway vehicles, or OHVs, manufactured in 1976 or newer that they must register their vehicle and properly display the registration decal in order to legally operate their vehicles in Nevada.

According to the Nevada Commission on Off-Highway Vehicles, OHVs include, but are not limited to all-terrain vehicles, all-terrain motorcycles, dune buggies, snowmobiles and "any motor vehicle used on public lands for the purpose of recreation." Nevada's new statute requires that OHVs purchased prior to July 1, 2012 must be registered by July 1, 2013. Titles are optional for OHVs purchased before July 1, 2012.

OHVs purchased after July 1, 2012 must be registered *and titled* within 30 days of purchase. Registration applications are accepted and decals are issued by mail only. For additional resources and information about the registration and operation of Off-Highway vehicles in Nevada, visit the official website of the Nevada Commission on Off-Highway Vehicles at www.nvohv.com; or call (775) 684-4381.

Washoe County is currently reviewing local ordinances related to the operation of OHVs on public roads based on the state's new registration requirements. However, all current state and local regulations and restrictions pertaining to OHV operation remain in effect, regardless of whether or not an OHV is registered, until such time as new regulations are formally adopted by the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners.



Emergency Family Preparedness Part 8 of 9: Flu Pandemics and West Nile Virus

FLU PANDEMICS



A flu pandemic occurs when a new flu strain starts spreading quickly around the world. Depending on the strength of the strain, it can cause severe illness or death.

The flu spreads mainly through coughing or sneezing. People can also leave the virus on things they touch if they have the flu germ on their hands.

Flu viruses are easily spread. With modern travel, viruses can circle the globe faster than ever.

Take steps to avoid getting or spreading flu germs:

- Wash your hands often and well
- Cough or sneeze into your shoulder
- Don't share personal items
- Thoroughly cook meat, poultry and eggs
- Get available flu shots as recommended by your doctor
- Check the news. Officials will announce a pandemic or strain of flu and provide instructions.
- Support "common good" efforts. Authorities may make decisions to restrict gatherings, and ask people to stay home.

To learn more about emergency preparedness or pandemic flu go to www.readywashoe.com or www.pandemicflu.gov

WEST NILE VIRUS

What is West Nile Virus (WNV)?

West Nile Virus infection is a mosquito-borne virus. Since 1999, confirmed cases of WNV in animals and humans have occurred in all of the lower 48 states including Nevada.

How do people get West Nile Virus?

Mosquitoes feed on infected birds and pass it on to other birds, animals and people. It is not spread by person-to-person contact.

What are the symptoms?

Common symptoms of mild infections are fever, headache, body ache, skin rash and swollen lymph glands. Those with a more severe infection may experience high fever, headache, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, paralysis and death. In humans, the virus has an incubation period of three to ten days.

How can I protect myself against West Nile Virus?

While there is no recommendation to limit outdoor activity, there are certain precautions you can take if West Nile virus is found in your area:

- Limit evening outdoor activity when mosquitoes are most active.
- When you're outdoors, wear a mosquito repellent containing 20-30% DEET for adults and no more than 10% for children.
- Do not use repellent containing DEET on children under three.
- Only adults should apply repellent on a child.
- Spray repellent on your hands and then apply to your face.
- Only apply repellent to exposed skin and clothing.
- Do not use repellent under clothing.
- Wash treated clothes before wearing them again.
- Do not apply repellent over cuts, wounds, sunburn or irritated skin.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and pants when outdoors for long periods of time.
- Avoid perfumes and colognes when outdoors for extended periods of time.
- Repair window screens if needed and make sure window and door screens remain closed.

Source: Washoe County Health District

Volunteer Yoga Instructors Provide Classes to Help Improve the Lives of Women in Custody at Detention Facility



Around the world, yoga is used for everything from meditation to weight loss. Now, the Washoe County Sheriff's Office is using Asana yoga classes, taught by volunteers, to help women in the custody of the Detention Facility manage stress, anger and other emotions in the hopes that it will prevent actions that could lead them back to jail.

Twice a month, on Saturday afternoons, volunteers facilitate yoga classes for eligible women in custody at the Detention Facility. The classes focus on teaching skills such as breathing exercises and yoga positions known as asanas to help improve individual well-being through the interconnection of mind, body, emotions and spirit.

"Recent studies show that women who participate in yoga classes showed significant improvement in emotional control and their ability to calm themselves," the Sheriff's Alternatives to Incarceration Unit Program Coordinator Brooke Howard said. "Yoga can also provide a great amount of confidence building while helping women to rejuvenate their mind and body from the trauma of physical, mental, emotional, and verbal abuse."

Howard said the yoga classes are part of the Alternatives to Incarceration Unit's Women's Empowerment Program. The program focuses on empowering women with skills that they can use to meet the challenges of their daily lives after release from the Detention Facility.

"The Women's Empowerment Program is all about giving women skills that can help them make more rational and levelheaded decisions when faced with stressful and emotional situations, decisions that could prevent them from going down a path that leads back to jail," Howard said.

Because the yoga classes are facilitated by volunteers, they are offered at no cost to the County or the taxpayer. Howard said she plans to monitor the participants' recidivism rate over the next several years to help determine the program's success. To view media coverage of the new yoga program go to <http://www.washoesherriff.com/vod-archive.php>

Cat Lost for a Year, Returned Home Thanks to Microchip

Eight-year-old Carlie Sheridan of Cold Springs never expected to see her cat Splash again.

The orange tabby wandered off in July of 2011 shortly after the cat and his family moved from Loyalton, California to their new home in Cold Springs.

Carlie was four-years-old when she adopted Splash on the same day her brother Bret also adopted a cat named Humphrey. When the cat did not return home, the entire family was heartbroken.

"We searched the local shelters, talked to neighbors, but there was no sign of Splash anywhere," Carlie's mother Mandie Sheridan said. "After awhile we began to accept the fact that Splash just wasn't coming back."

When the Sheridan's phone rang last week, almost exactly one year after Splash disappeared, the last thing they expected to hear was that Splash had just been found in Sun Valley by Animal Control Officer Marie Busselman from Washoe County Regional Animal Services.

"At first we didn't believe it, we thought someone was pulling our leg," Mandie Sheridan said. "Carlie was so excited that we couldn't get into the car fast enough. We drove down to Animal Services on Longley Lane, and sure enough, there was Splash. Carlie was thrilled!"

Splash is home now because Splash has a microchip.

"The story of Splash and Carlie is a wonderful illustration of why we so strongly believe in the value of microchips and urge every pet owner to make use of them," Washoe County Regional Animal Services Manager Barry Brode said. "Microchipping is your pet's best chance of getting back home if it ever becomes lost."

A microchip is a small, electronic chip enclosed in a glass cylinder about the size of a grain of rice. The microchip is activated by a scanner which receives information about the pet's owners and home from the chip. In many cases, microchipped pets can be scanned in the field and returned to their homes without ever having to be brought to the shelter.

Regional Animal Services offers microchip implants for only \$12. Microchips are also available through local veterinarians. All it takes is a simple injection, and registering your pet online, for the microchip to serve you and your pet for the pet's lifetime.



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Sheriff's Citizen Corps Volunteers Help Safeguard County's River Parks

Sandy Petersen has a special kind of love for parks. She also appreciates the importance of keeping parks safe and is willing to give up several summer evenings per week to join other Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers who are helping to keep an eye on some of Washoe County's popular river parks during the month of August.

The Washoe County Sheriff's Office initiated the program for CERT volunteers to have a presence in Mayberry, Dorostkar and Ambrose River Parks following a recent increase in vehicle burglaries at these parks.

Sheriff's Office data showed that the peak problem hours in the parks were between late afternoon and sunset. The Sheriff's Office asked volunteers from the Community Emergency Response Team to organize volunteers to be in the parks during those hours on various days throughout the month of August. CERT volunteer Sandy Petersen stepped forward to help organize and participate in the effort.

"These parks are vital to the well-being of our community and I want to be a part of efforts that help keep them safe places for people to visit and enjoy," Petersen said.

All volunteers are trained members of the Sheriff's Office Citizen Corps. Their purpose is to provide safety information to park users while keeping an eye on the parks and reporting suspicious activity. Their presence in the parks is also expected to help to discourage unlawful behavior.

The Sheriff's Office is nationally recognized for its data driven approach to reducing crime and increasing public safety in Washoe County. Crime statistics are reviewed weekly and used to proactively fight crime in the region and provide the best possible services to the citizens of our community.



Sheriff's Citizen Corp volunteers Tom Briggs (left) and again with Sandy Petersen (right) as they visit with park patrons Mel Winkle and Rorie while walking in the area around Ambrose River Park in August.