

RENO HAPPENINGS

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Sparks revs up for Festival Days

John Sparks, Nevada governor from 1903 to 1908, will be the honored guest -- in memory, at least -- at the third annual Sparks Festival Days June 11-15.

"The basic intent of the festival is to honor John Sparks and to call attention to Sparks as a community," said Karen Mabry, spokeswoman for the event. "It will provide some wholesome family activity."

The festival, to be held in the Silverada Mall parking lot on Oddie Boulevard -- behind the Lucky, Long's and Montgomery Wards stores -- will include a "full carnival" of amusement rides, Mabry said. In addition, there will be booths featuring food, games, arts and crafts and other attractions.

Also planned are a dog show, a battle of the bands and an array of city officials, political candidates, beauty contest winners, Bertha the elephant and other minor nobility of the Rail City.

The dog show, coordinated by the Sparks Leisure Services Department, will be a "fun type of show," said Carol Balaam of the Sparks Community Chamber of Commerce, sponsor of the festival.

"It's basically for youngsters," agreed Les Hicks, director of leisure services, who is putting the dog show together.

"We're not really concerned about pedigree. There will be prizes for the biggest dog, the smallest dog, the ugliest and cutest dogs."

Hicks said kids may register their dogs on the day of the show. It will begin at "around 11 in the morning" on Saturday, June 14.

Details for the battle of the bands, including a starting time, have not been worked out, according to Mark Lee of C&M Music Center in Sparks.

"We're hoping for eight or 10 good bands," Lee added. "The first prize is \$1,000, so we should get a pretty good turnout."

Festival hours will be from 5 to 10 p.m. Wednesday, June 11; from noon to 10

8 percent home loans available -- for some

A new Nevada housing plan offers a 7.99 percent mortgage interest rate on about 700 homes for low and moderate income families.

Mamie Chinn, deputy administrator of the Nevada Housing Division, said the money for the mortgages come from a \$150 million 1984 bond for use in the low interest loan program.

The remaining \$47 million in the program is available to finance homes at a rate of 7.99 percent, she said, provided that individuals or families fall within the income limits specified in the program.

"The 7.99 percent is the lowest rate offered by the housing division since 1979 and is probably the lowest offered by any state housing finance agency in the United States for this year," she said.

The rate is available on 30-year, fixed rate mortgages, she said, and within the program's limits should finance acquisition of about 700 homes statewide. Homes must be either FHA-insured or VA guaranteed.

Income limits for first-time buyers range from \$27,032 for individuals to \$43,438 for a family of six or more.

Any new or existing home is eligible within price limits of up to \$87,250 for new

homes and \$100,760 for existing homes.

The program is designed, Chinn said, for the first-time homebuyer or people who have not had a home investment in the previous three years.

Since 1977, she said, the division has financed more than 7,500 single-family homes with more than \$400 million in loans.

Kenneth G. Lynn, executive director of the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada, said the program should help the Reno area provide housing for its growing economic base "if we get our proportionate share."

Robert Jones, executive director of the Builders Association of Northern Nevada, said the rate is almost a full 2 percentage points lower than the conventional level.

"I think that makes it easier for more people to get into home ownership and they'll become better citizens for the community," he said.

He also cautioned that this is the last of the money available from the earlier bond issue and because of tax law changes pending in Congress.

"This is an excellent time for people to take advantage of the program," Jones said.

McKay challenging DOE on nuke dump selection

CARSON CITY—Attorney general Brian McKay planned to file several lawsuits today challenging the Department of Energy's efforts to place a high-level nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain in Southern Nevada.

McKay is seeking intervention by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco to put the process on hold until Nevada officials have the opportunity to comment on environmental assessments that were released today.

Should President Reagan act on the Energy

Department's recommendations McKay will ask the federal court to invalidate his actions.

In a release issued today, McKay said he would advise the court that the selection process is illegal and is geared to make Yucca Mountain the only site under consideration for the repository.

In a separate petition, McKay planned to argue that the Department of Energy lacks the necessary jurisdiction over Yucca Mountain. The attorney general will ask the appeals court to allow Nevada to spend Energy Department funds to seek a court review of the department's decision regarding the repository selection process.

p.m. June 12, noon to midnight June 13; 10 a.m. to midnight June 14 and noon to 10 p.m. on the closing Sunday, June 15.

Parent says school violated boys' rights

RENO—A Fallon mother told U.S. District Judge Edward Reed Monday her late son and two other Churchill County students were scapegoats when suspended for fighting that erupted during a basketball game last year.

Linda Davis argued the boys' rights were violated by the Churchill County School Board, which refused to hold an open meeting on an appeal of the disciplinary action against the trio.



Delores Feemster, Reno Sentinel-Voice General Manager. For news, weekly locations of paper and advertising information, contact her at 323-3677.

The Reno-Sparks NAACP TV program will now be aired at 12:30 p.m. Saturdays by KOLQ-TV Channel 8.

Mowbray and Springer Filed Jointly June 3

Chief Justice John Mowbray and Vice-Chief Justice Charles Springer, who earlier this year announced their intent to seek re-election to the Nevada Supreme Court, filed their formal declarations of candidacy on Tuesday, June 3. Above, Secretary of State William Swackhamer watches as Justice Mowbray (l.) and Justice Springer (r.) sign the appropriate papers. Not pictured are the high court's other three members--Justice Steffen, Young and Gunderson--who accompanied Mowbray and Springer to Secretary of State's office. As the Supreme Court's senior member, Chief Justice Mowbray has served on the high court since 1967, and in the Nevada judiciary since 1959. Vice-Chief Justice Springer, formerly Nevada's Attorney General, won election to the Supreme Court in 1980.

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