

FESTIVAL HAPPENINGS

Castle Valley Gourd Festival

by Tricia Ogilvy

Mom? Dad? Are you Bored? Stressed out? In need of a change?

Time to flee your daily routine and get away to Castle Valley for some R and R.

IT'S GOURD FESTIVAL TIME AGAIN!!! — Saturday, October 21st 10-3:00 PM. Take 128 River Road to the turnoff to La Sal and follow the signs to Castle Valley.

Here's a plan: First, make your family's favorite side dish, then rip the electronics from their hands, throw them in the car (the family, that is!) and drive up river. Decompress along the beautiful drive to Castle Valley. Feel yourself breathe deeply, taking in the views. When you see festive signs, cars, color, and a teepee, you are there.

The Gourd Festival takes you back in time. A time where things were, simpler, handmade, stress free. A time when families engage together to have fun.

But, "HOW MUCH WILL THIS COST ME???" you ask. How about... FREE. Everything is free. Which makes you free to relax.

Watch the delight on the children's faces as they transform into their favorite animal. (painted by veteran face painter, Carol Delaney). Slip into the teepee to hear your fortune in gourd cards interpreted by one of our gourd mystics. While the kids decorate a gourd to take home, go have yourself an authentic mate, served...in a gourd! Sing along to the live music by musician, Ted Bright. Be part of the action by wood burning your own gourd to take home.

Browse the vendor tents of gourd artists from Moab and afar. Learn the history of gourd use in the world and see the history of our own festival founded by Bob Ridges, Cris Coffey, Rebecca Martin and Alice Drogin.



The puppet show has gotten a lot of attention in recent years. An original script keeps it fresh each time, along with new puppets, costumes and sets. It will enchant the young and old alike. See this year's play, *Out of Her Gourd???* No admission fee. Free. Free. Free.

The festival culminates in the parade at noon. Decorate your bikes



Chrissy Applegate and sons, Gavin & Connor along with the parade marshal, Gourdy.

and be in the parade along with Gordy, the Grand Marshall and this year's gourd goddess or "Gourdess." This year promises to be spectacular!

After the parade, enjoy the potluck lunch in the firehouse, or sit on the grass

and thank yourself for taking the time to have fun. Free. More information 435-259-0537 and be sure to mention you read about the gourd festival in *Moab Happenings*.



Bluff Arts Festival Returns October 20-22

The Bluff Arts Festival is returning October 20-22, 2017 for its 13th year of celebrating Four Corners artists. This annual event brings together locals and visitors for a long weekend of workshops, an Artist Market, and storytelling, to name a few of its classic events. For the 2017 Festival, the lineup includes a few new additions, including live music by the Piñon Pickers and Bluff Buzzards, new workshops, and a mural by Whitehorse High School students. Featured artist Gilmore Scott, who created this year's logo, will work with the students from Montezuma Creek and other participants on the mural titled "Honor our Home."



The Bluff Arts Festival started in 2005 at the St. Christopher's Mission and quickly spread across town. It has taken different shapes and forms, and this year, event organizers wanted to underline the centralized community feeling of the fall event. Working with featured artist Gilmore Scott of Montezuma Creek was a natural fit, as his art brings together different cultures and mediums on vibrant canvases.

Friday's Riverside Storytelling will feature the Ellen Meloy Desert Writers Fund 2017 Winner, Michael Branch. Branch and Utah Poet Laureate David Lee with guide readings and a discussion about "What it means to live in the desert." This nighttime event has always honored the late Bluff author, Ellen Meloy, and this year, community members will gather to also honor the recent passing of long-time Bluff residents, Gene & Mary Foushee.



The Artist Market returns to the Bluff Community Center this year for Saturday & Sunday October 21 & 22. It will include Four Corners artists, fun "make and take" art projects, and outdoor food vendors.

Workshops throughout the weekend include many favorites and some new additions. This year, local artist Joe Pachak will return to build a willow sculpture for Bluff's annual winter solstice burn. His animal of choice this year - a bear, of course!

For the full event schedule and workshop registration, visit www.bluffartsfestival.org.



Castle Valley Gourd Festival
16th annual
Free admission

Saturday Oct 21, 2017

Come celebrate the beauty and versatility of hard shelled gourds and gourd art with us

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

**Castle Valley Community Lot
2 Castle Valley Drive
Castle Valley, Utah**

sorry, **NO pets allowed on the terrain** (exception: service dogs)

More info:
www.gourdfestival.blogspot.com
or call: 435-259-0537 Like us on

**OCTOBER : BLUFF
20-22, 2017 : UTAH**

**13TH ANNUAL
BLUFF ARTS FESTIVAL**

Workshops | Riverside Storytelling
Mural Project with Whitehorse High School
and Featured Artist Gilmore Scott
Live Music by the the Piñon Pickers & Bluff
Buzzards | Artist Market | More!

Schedule & workshop registration at
www.bluffartsfestival.org