



# News Release

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For Immediate Release

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## Mojave Max Has Emerged

### Local Desert Tortoise Announces Official Arrival of Spring

Mojave Max, the famous Southern Nevada desert tortoise, officially emerged from his burrow at 11:34 a.m. today.

Mojave Max is a live desert tortoise residing at the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. Like other Southern Nevada desert tortoises, he enters a burrow to brumate (the reptilian form of hibernation) every winter and emerges every spring.

Mojave Max's emergence marks the beginning of spring in Southern Nevada. Warmer temperatures, longer daylight hours and an internal clock are factors known to contribute to his emergence every year.

As part of the eighth annual Mojave Max Emergence Contest, students have been studying Mojave Desert weather, temperatures, and conditions to scientifically estimate when they believed Mojave Max would first emerge from his burrow in 2007. They entered their guesses on line at [www.mojavemax.com](http://www.mojavemax.com). The entries are being tabulated and the official winner will be announced soon. The winning student will receive prizes including a year-long pass to federally managed fee areas and a personal game system. The winner's entire class will receive a field trip to Mojave Max's habitat, Mojave Max Olympic-style medals and T-shirts, while the winner's teacher will receive a personal computer.

"Now that Mojave Max has come out of his burrow, spring is officially here," said Clark County Commission Chairman Rory Reid, who declared it Mojave Max Day countywide. "Everyone's favorite tortoise is a great ambassador of the desert, helping our local school children understand our environment and how it works."

Questions about the live Mojave Max residing at the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area should be directed to the visitor's center at 515-5350. Volunteers, rangers, and members of the public have been watching Mojave Max's habitat closely for the last few weeks, anxiously awaiting his announcement of spring for Clark County.

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*News release also available on the Internet at [www.accessclarkcounty.com](http://www.accessclarkcounty.com)*

Clark County Board of Commissioners

Rory Reid, Chairman ■ Chip Maxfield, Vice-Chair ■ Susan Brager ■ Tom Collins ■ Chris Giunchigliani ■ Lawrence Weekly ■ Bruce L. Woodbury / Virginia Valentine, County Manager

The historical Mojave Max Emergences and contest entries are as follows:

**Mojave Max's Emergences by year**

2000	3/15/00	12:32 p.m.
2001	3/19/01	8:30 a.m.
2002	3/22/02	11:46 a.m.
2003	3/7/03	10:25 a.m.
2004	2/19/04	11:14 a.m.
2005	2/14/05	11:55 a.m.
2006	4/3/06	11:32 a.m.

**Mojave Max Emergence Contest Entries by year**

2000	2,000
2001	1,000
2002	2,000
2003	4,000
2004	6,000
2005	5,200
2006	7,800
2007	6,200 (as of March 21)

More information is available at [www.accessclarkcounty.com](http://www.accessclarkcounty.com).

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