

Non-Profit Happenings

Soup Beautiful Soup — And Halloween Candy Served Up In A Trunk

by Nancy Kurtz

“A lot of work and love goes into this.” I’m talking to Desert Sun Ceramics owner Liz Ford about the November 8th event known to Moabites as the “Soup Bowl Fundraiser and Silent Auction”, now going into its 7th season.

For locals and Folk Fest aficionados it’s a place to choose your own hand-crafted soup bowl and fill it with a unique soup dinner in between Folk Fest events. For Our Village Community Center, Moab’s “intergenerational community-building orchard” out on 500 West, it’s a valued fundraiser that could net the nonprofit a cool \$15,000.

Each year, CLAM, aka Clay Artisans of Moab, creates the soup bowl event and chooses a different Moab nonprofit to gift with the proceeds.

“It is a true labor of love, involving hundreds of hours,” Samantha Derbyshire, the event’s planner in chief, tells me, echoing Ford. Derbyshire took over the reins in 2023. We’re talking about generating nearly 500 pieces of pottery at Desert Sun, as well as major organizing to coordinate the restaurants, markets and other local donors who supply the soup, bread and desserts for the event, as well as the many volunteers who show up to help out.

The challenge Derbyshire faced was to streamline operations, lessen the workload, and more clearly hone in on the values involved in putting on a complex and intensely popular, fast-growing event so the organizers don’t burn out.

Now in her second year, she is optimistic – “We get a lot of people helping – we’ve been growing and generating quite a bit of money...”

Moab’s Youth Garden Project helps out by opening up their commercial kitchen and making it available to soup-makers. And Desert Sun Ceramics offers up their ample work space, incorporating “throwing nights” and classes with the making of the indispensable bowls. And when asked what would be truly helpful to the event’s continuity and longevity, long time local and pottery maker Abigail Taylor exclaims: “Join CLAM and become a potter. We welcome more people to carry that load – and it’s lots of fun.... Winter is a great time to get involved!”

To find out more, check out the Desert Sun Ceramics website and mark your calendars for the 8th of November - \$30 Tickets are on sale at Back of Beyond Books, Canyonlands Copy Center, the Desert Sun Ceramics studio on S. 191, and Our Village. The event is held at the Moab Arts & Recreation Center (MARC) downtown - Doors open at 4 p.m. and tickets are sold there for \$35. An ever-changing theater of soup and soup bowls is served up 4:30 to 6:30.



10th Annual
TRUNK OR TREAT
October 31st 4pm-6:30pm
Old Spanish Trail Arena 3641 S Highway 191
Come join us in the "SPOOK"-TACULAR tradition of family fun!

Use QR code to register a trunk
Call the Family Support Center for more information 435-259-1658
or stop by to see us 180 South 300 East

TRUNK OR TREAT

For the safety of all participants, no pets will be allowed to attend this event.

PRESENTED BY THE GRAND COUNTY FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER



Trick or Treat with a Difference

“Trunk or Treat” is a more low-key jewel that has also become immensely popular since it was inaugurated. Now in its 10th year, the free family-oriented event is held every Halloween on “a big open field” adjacent to the Old Spanish Trail Arena south of Moab on Highway 191. “We’ve had good luck with the weather,” says Julie Nieman, who heads up the Grand County Family Support Center, the Moab nonprofit that sponsors the event.

Shortly before 4 p.m., upwards of 50 various local businesses and organizations arrive to set up in the field; trunks are decked out, dressed up, and loaded with candy. Nieman anticipates about 2,000 people - including some tourists – will attend on the 31st, which is on a Friday this year. “It’s a fun, safe and uniting type of event.”

Trunk or Treat starts at 4 and ends at 6:30 so families can leave before dark; older children will still have time to make the rounds in the ‘hood. For fun and atmospherics, there is also a haunted house to explore. The arena that hosts Trunk or Treat is at 3641 South Highway 191, on the left. (No pets are allowed.)

To register a trunk, call Nieman at 435-259-1658 or to find out more about how the Family Support Center benefits the community, visit the brick house that hugs the corner, 180 South, 300 East.

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our 2025
Fall Festival
Join us on October 11th for festivities, vendors, live entertainment, food trucks, beverages, art, crafts, costumes, carnival games, and more!
Free entry, all ages
October 11
12-5pm
198 E. Center Street
Moab, Utah