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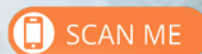
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100 children experience holiday cheer, connection through Shop with a Cop Program

by Gabrielle Costello

CEDAR CITY PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

CEDAR CITY — On Saturday, December 9, Cedar City Police officers and over a dozen other public agencies spent the morning in Cedar City with nearly 100 local children as part of the Shop with a Cop program.

The children arrived bright and early Saturday morning to enjoy a warm breakfast donated by the Cedar City Elks Lodge at Canyon View High School. Gina and Angie from the Elks Lodge shared they are proud to have been helping in this capacity since 2002 by raising money through various events and efforts throughout the year.

“We love giving back to the community and look forward to this event every year,” said Gina. The Elks Lodge also donates a pair of shoes, hand-picked by each child, in addition to the breakfast.

Upon arrival, every child is greeted by Santa and a public safety official who becomes their designated shopping companion for the morning. Once breakfast is over, the kids hop in a public safety vehicle and caravan down Main Street to Wal-Mart with lights and sirens, where they get to spend \$150 each on toys, home goods, clothing, and more. The morning commotion down Main Street can be alarming for residents, but many love hearing it is one of the kids’ favorite parts of the day.

“Not only does this program financially impact these kids and their families,” said Cedar City Police Chief Darin Adams, “But it also serves the purpose of building positive community connections with the youth and law enforcement. We look forward to this event every year.”

Children of all ages raced around Wal-Mart with enthusiasm, some walking hand-in-hand with officers, some hanging on to the shopping cart as they were zipped around the store. Baskets were loaded with items like bicycles, rollerblades, dolls,



Each year, law-enforcement officers and Shop-With-A-Cop help provide memorable experiences for youth in our community.



see **SHOP WITH A COP** » 13

PHOTOS COURTESY GABRIELLE COSTELLO

opinion

FROM THE EDITOR

The Magic of Music

Probably at Christmastime more than any other holiday, music plays an important part in the method (and to some, the madness) of this special season. While those employed in the emporiums of the shopping industries are already tired of the tirade of endlessly looping holiday music, others can't refrain from enjoying the variety of refrains on the radio.

For those of us fortunate to live in Iron County, we enjoy many melodious moments and artistic avenues in our communities.



COREY BAUMGARTNER
MANAGING EDITOR

One such event took place last Sunday and Monday, Handel's Messiah.

This magnificent magnum opus has been performed for 83 years and done so brilliantly by the

Orchestra of Southern Utah.

Even for those who are not fans of this kind of music, the message of the Messiah applies to each of our individual lives. And this majestic music is more than Biblical lessons disguised in dirges. Each note and phrase resonates and reminds all of us that we are each magnificent creations, mortal magnum opuses that the world is waiting to witness and hear our unique music and messages, however we choose to share them. Today, be your own magical music.

WORD OF THE WEEK

YULE-HOLE

The extra hole you have to make on your belt after indulging at Christmas dinner, or over the festive period in general.

But I just made the Thanksgiving-Hole! Regardless, the holidays aren't about holes. Yes, they are about feasts, but more importantly, they are about the family, friends, and feelings of gratitude for the good people in our lives.



Successful local business strategies 101

Running a small or local business isn't for the faint of heart, it is never easy. There is no doubt that traditional retail, local restaurants, and the shop-local model are under attack. Consumer habits are rapidly shifting to the ease of online and their options are forever expanding. The methods of reaching consumers through advertising and marketing is becoming more fragmented each year. The odds of success in the hyper-local arena of locally owned and operated business are certainly decreasing.

Changing the consumer mindset toward local amidst the full-on Internet blitzkrieg being waged against local business is tough. Local businesses MUST become more consumer focused, friendly, provide new and unique experiences, and greater customer service to blunt this new competition. Equally important, they must come face to face with the realities of this ever-changing marketplace.



JOHN A. NEWBY
COLUMNIST

What are some these realities? Here are just a few:

1) 70% of all retail transactions occur after 6:00PM. Additionally, most people with spendable income work. When a local business closes before 6:00PM, they are missing out on 70% of their potential business.

2) Businesses must adopt and provide over-the-top customer service, something lacking in the cookie-cutter world of retail and online.

3) Businesses must have an inviting façade and appearance to lure potential consumers through their front doors.

4) Businesses must provide products consumers are seeking, understanding that product lines change from year to year, or even month to month. Consumers spend more on local products if provided what they want and need.

see **STRATEGIES** » 13

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Never be limited by other people's limited imaginations."

Mae Jemison

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opinion

Personalizing the transgender issue

Editor's note: It takes a lot of courage to decide to get out of bed each day. It's even more difficult to discern and discover our authentic selves and purpose—then pursue it with all our potential and passion. About a month ago we shared a series on the challenges of those in our communities who are, or are discussing, deciding to become transgender. While the series was enlightening, it was not the whole picture and had the potential to cause misunderstanding and even offense, which of course is never intended with anything we share in this newspaper. The following is a more personal and courageous example of how we all have individual choices to make, voices to share and that we need each other's love and leadership every day as we each strive to navigate through this difficult, but worth it, experience known as life.

by Jay Jones

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

I've been trans for the last eight years. I came out November 19th, 2015, at fifteen years old to two evangelical parents. I was scared. I didn't know if I would be kicked out or accepted for living my truth. Instead, I was welcomed with warm arms, open hearts, and love.

After reading the issues from the previous newspaper articles concerning this issue, I only read harm due to a lack of understanding. So, I wanted to give my own opinion, as being an experienced trans person.

It seems that many in our society misunderstand and assume that "Oh well, if you're trans,

then obviously something is wrong with you." That couldn't be further from the truth. Prior to me coming out, I was depressed, to the point that suicide was often a potential answer, a way out.

The day I met a family friend's younger brother, I knew he was "trans," but had no idea what that meant. I simply thought that maybe he was weird, or something was wrong. But as we sat to talk, I realized that this is what I wanted. This one conversation, over the course of two hours, made me realize I wasn't a girl.

I never felt like a girl, and I struggled with that depiction. I didn't want to be a mother and I didn't like a lot of the more "girly" activities. However, while I was a tom-boy—and it's okay to be just a boyish girl—I now had the ability to put words to what I was feeling. I came out on Facebook, and hours later, also with a new word in my vocabulary: "Transgender."

This one word has literally toppled my existence. Now, I feel more comfortable and happier in my own skin than I ever have been.

I'm now 23. I had a bilateral mastectomy last

year and a total hysterectomy, one week apart. No, I didn't opt for a phalloplasty, as I've come to realize my gender is closer aligned to agender, but I still identify as transmasculine, as I like presenting masculine.

Absolutely nothing is wrong with me and I feel safe and comfortable in my skin. Something I've told my family is, "You don't have to understand it, you just have to accept it." And I hope after this is published, there will be less misunderstandings, more acceptance and that someone, somewhere in Iron County struggling with their own questions and concerns will feel more supported, less judged and even have their own "Ahah!" moment.

OP/
ED

TO THE EDITOR

Romney Hypocrisy

I find it rather interesting that Sen. Romney lectures us on fiscal issues and responsibilities when he voted Yes on the omnibus bill just before Christmas last year 2022. His hypocrisy is quite telling.

Dixon Tiffany

Submit your letter to the Editor on our website at www.ironcountytoday.com, or by emailing it to news@ironcountytoday.com. All letters must be brief (generally under 300 words in length), list the writer's name, city and telephone number (phone number will not be printed). Iron County Today reserves the right to edit all letters for length or content.



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Dixie and Anne Leavitt, founders of Leavitt Group, receive prestigious awards

from Heather Pierce

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

Founders of Leavitt Group, Dixie and Anne Leavitt, were recently named 2023 Insurance Industry Hall of Fame Inductees with the Utah

Utah Independent Agents (UIA) is the insurance industry trade association in the state of Utah and has been supporting insurance agents in Utah since 1919. The annual One Utah Summit takes place each year in early October at Southern Utah

influence the economic viability of rural Utah.

Each year they recognize a leader who has contributed a career of service, making a significant impact on rural Utah. Dixie expressed gratitude for receiving the Utah Rural Legacy Leader award saying, "We have worked

Anne stated, "The greatest joys have always been the people with whom we've worked. We sincerely hope each person's association with Leavitt Group blesses their lives, and that all are nourished by our touchstone of integrity and our culture of caring."

Dixie & Anne Leavitt have been a fixture in Utah's insurance market since joining the industry in 1952. After finding success with his own agency, Dixie created a partnership model that is still unique in the insurance industry. His 60-40 co-ownership arrangement became the model for Leavitt Group acquisitions, and it fostered a key cultural principle that gave on-the-ground agency managers a stake in their agency's success. The positive impact of this model and the opportunity it gave to local managers leaves a legacy that Leavitt Group stays true to today as one of the largest insurance brokers in the United States.

"Their induction into the Utah Insurance Hall of Fame by the Utah Independent Insurance Agents Association was a fitting acknowledgment of their massive contribution to the development of the independent insurance agency industry in Utah as well as throughout the country," said Eric Leavitt, CEO of Leavitt Group Enterprises and son of Dixie and Anne. "These awards remind us of the great good they've done in rural Utah as leaders in so many ways. Their impact is readily evident across all Southern Utah, and they're inspiring examples of industry, innovation, generosity, grace, and love."

In addition to their contribution to the insurance industry, Dixie served in the Utah legislature for 18 years, Anne authored "Southern Utah University: The First 100 Years, A Heritage History," and they continue to provide scholarships and housing for numerous university students through the Dixie and Anne Leavitt Family Foundation. They both are accomplished and have left a long legacy on Utah and its population.

Utah Governor Spencer Cox (R) congratulates Dixie and Anne Leavitt on their award and lifetime legacy.



COURTESY PHOTO

"We sincerely hope each person's association with Leavitt Group blesses their lives, and that all are nourished by our touchstone of integrity and our culture of caring."

Anne Leavitt

Independent Agents association and separately received the Utah Rural Legacy Leader award at the annual One Utah Summit.

University's campus in Cedar City, Utah. It is a premier rural event with a rich history of convening Utah's top leaders and decision-makers who

our whole lives together as a team. Anne is as deserving of this award as I am. Thank you for the service you provide here in rural Utah."

Vision Iron County named “Organization of the Year” in “Best of Cedar City” Awards

from Abby Jones

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

Vision Iron County was named “Organization of the Year” in the 74th Annual “Best of Cedar City” Awards, hosted by the Cedar City Chamber of Commerce. The program recognizes the contributions of individuals, businesses, educational institutions, and organizations that increase the quality of life for those who live in the Iron County area.

“We are delighted and humbled to receive this prestigious recognition,” said Crystal Rockwood who serves as Chair of the volunteer organization. “People here genuinely care about their community, and that collaborative spirit sparks great ideas and solutions at our Focus Area Team meetings,” she added.

The VIC organization is focused on improving communication and exploring shared resources and opportunities between the 16 cities in the Iron County region to enhance efficient planning for the future.

“Vision Iron County was selected for this award to honor its many significant contributions of time, skills, leadership, and resources towards the improvement of our community,” said Chris McCormick, President and CEO of the Cedar City Chamber of Commerce.

Critical to VIC’s effort is getting funding to commission another countywide survey by the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute at the University of Utah. The study is conducted every five years to gauge community priorities, wants, and needs. “It really is a blueprint for Iron County and helps to promote better long-term planning,” says Rockwood. The volunteer organization hopes the holiday spirit will encourage people to support VIC and asks that donations be made out to Cedar City Chamber of Commerce—Vision Iron County.

To find out more about donor or volunteer opportunities, please call (435) 586-4484.

“We are delighted and humbled to receive this prestigious recognition. People here genuinely care about their community, and that collaborative spirit sparks great ideas and solutions at our Focus Area Team meetings”

Crystal Rockwood

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Romney welcomes investment to improve I-15 in Iron County, Cedar City

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Mitt Romney (R-UT) applauded an announcement from the Department of Transportation that more than \$70 million from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, negotiated by Romney and his colleagues, would be awarded to the Utah Department of Transportation for the I-15 South Iron County Freight, Mobility, and Safety Project. This project will add a northbound climbing lane on I-15

“Iron County’s population and employment is expected to grow by 40% over the next few decades. The I-15 South Iron County Freight, Mobility, and Safety Project is critical to Cedar City and southern Utah—helping to reduce congestion and improve safety for both slow-moving vehicles and faster traffic.”

Sen. Mitt Romney (R-UT)

and replace an interchange in Cedar City, which will benefit the public by expediting and combining the environmental processes, synchronizing the construction schedules, and reducing mobilization costs.

“I-15 is a locally, regionally, and nationally significant freight corridor that provides a critical link between the ports in California and the inland

West,” said Senator Romney. “Iron County’s population and employment is expected to grow by 40% over the next few decades. The I-15 South Iron County Freight, Mobility, and Safety Project is critical to Cedar City and southern Utah—helping to reduce congestion and improve safety for both slow-moving vehicles and faster traffic. Helping Utah get the funds needed for expanded highways and infrastructure is why I helped negotiate the bipartisan infrastructure bill, and I look forward to this project being implemented in Iron County.”

“We are grateful for the leadership and hard work of Sen. Romney and our entire congressional delegation in securing this important funding to help keep Utah moving. This grant will allow us to make several improvements on I-15 that will enhance safety and increase traffic flow, including upgrading a key interchange and widening the interstate to three northbound lanes near Cedar City. We look forward to getting started on these projects and are committed to maximizing this investment in Utah’s transportation infrastructure.” — Carlos Braceras, Executive Director, Utah Department of Transportation.

“Iron County is excited about the climbing lane project which will facilitate better transportation in our county. Thanks to UDOT, Senator Romney, and all involved in the design and funding of this crucial project.” — Marilyn Wood, Iron County Commissioner

Negotiated by Senator Romney and his colleagues, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is a once-in-a-generation investment which will address decades of neglect of our nation’s hard, physical infrastructure.

I-15 is a critical link between California ports and the inland West, resulting in trucks accounting for one-third of the traffic on this primary freight network route. The

I-15 South Iron County Freight, Mobility, and Safety Project will add a climbing lane and replace the south Cedar City interchange from a DDI (diverging-diamond interchange) to SPUI (single-point urban interchange) design to improve safety and operations and provide active transportation facilities. This inter-

change (in its current configuration) is expected to fail between 2025 and 2030, leading to long delays and excessive vehicle queue lengths.

Additionally, this I-15 project will improve access to employment opportunities for low-medium income residents of Iron County through reduced travel delays and will positively impact local air quality by reducing the time that vehicles will spend idling in queues at the interchange.

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Tech inventory drives improvement in Iron County School District

from Utah Education Network & Connected Nation

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

CEDAR CITY — Troy Lunt knows first-hand the value of participating in UEN's statewide technology inventory. As Director of Technology for Iron County School District, he has seen how tracking what equipment and systems are in place can help district leaders better address learner's needs.

The Utah Education Network (UEN), in partnership with national nonprofit Connected Nation (CN), will soon release the results of its 2023 inventory of technology within Utah's public and charter schools. Once again, the Iron County School District has taken part in this effort to see where its school network connection needed improvement and where district leaders should allocate technology funding.

In 2015, UEN began tracking how technology is used in the classroom, as well as the access teachers and students have to digital materials, devices and platforms. Data from the last inventory was released in 2021.

"The Utah Education Network technology inventory helped us create the overall district technology standardization that we've been trying to create for the last four or five years," said Lunt. "It has benefited us greatly."

When Lunt started working for the Iron County School District in 2014, he identified its technology plan as: "Let's wait and see where this is going." Technology existed in some classrooms, but the district had nowhere near a 1:1 ratio of devices such as tablets and laptops to students. The main technology students and teachers were using were classroom sets of iPads. But as the years progressed, some of the district's schools drifted ahead of others in relation to available technology.

"We didn't want to run into situations where some students were trying to go to other schools in the district because they had more technology," said Lunt. "It was something

that we were trying to standardize and create the right environment for technology in our schools."

In 2017, the Iron County School District Business Administrator worked closely with the tech department to put together a business plan to move toward 1:1. The first thing the tech department opted to do on a big scale was assign Chromebooks to each middle and high school student to take home. The district also assigned each elementary student a Chromebook to keep in the classroom. Then, during the 2017-18 school year the district was able to provide take-home devices for each student, reaching the desired 1:1 benchmark.

"We didn't want to run into situations where some students were trying to go to other schools in the district because they had more technology."

Troy Lunt

This was an imperative decision, as the upcoming pandemic was about to change the way students used technology, both in and out of the classroom.

As COVID-19 swept the world, students all over the country were forced to do schoolwork remotely, and this was no different in Iron County.

"It was a challenge. At the beginning, teachers had to learn how to function with products like Zoom," said Lunt. "The learning curve for some was very quick, and for others, not very quick at all. But we turned our technology department into a remote support staff for all our teachers and students."

Over the phone, the teachers passed along what they learned about using the remote technology with students and families. After a lot of hard work, the teachers were able to put together dynamic programs and lessons for all of their students.

"That was almost a blessing in disguise," said Lunt. "It really put us to task, to make sure that we could manage education with the resources that we had, given the environment that we were working with."

Participating in the biannual UEN School Technology Inventory has helped Iron County School District identify key areas to improve, such as school network connections and technology funding.

"We quickly were able to deduce from the UEN technology report how we really needed to proceed with our network improvement for our high schools," said Lunt. "We thought it was going to be the top-down approach, but the survey told us otherwise."

The survey results revealed the cabling that existed, how long it had been in place, and its access point locations. This data completely changed how the tech department went about improving the schools. The report results also helped district administrators figure out where to allocate technology funding. Previously, the district did not have an inventory system to track every device. Thanks to the UEN technology inventory, now it does.

"The inventory report has been very helpful to be able to see where we were deficient in areas of spending," said Lunt.

Lunt encourages all Utah public, private and charter schools to participate in the 2023 inventory which is currently underway to ensure a better overall experience for their students, families, teachers and other school faculty.

"You need to get on this," said Lunt. "There's a big push to make sure that the survey gets done because there is value to the survey and its findings. Everybody recognizes that there is value if we all do it."

IRON COUNTY GOVERNMENT RECAPS

Iron County Board of Education (Dec. 5, 2023)

by Iron County Today Staff

IRON COUNTY TODAY

Resolution Declaring Official Results of Special Bond Election

The bond election results were 13,094 total votes cast, with 6,252 votes in favor and 6,276 votes against, a difference of just 24 votes out of over 13,000, or 0.2%. Additional insights on factors influencing the close vote this year versus last year were a 45% 2022 voter turnout compared to 65% in 2021, delays and issues with mail ballots not getting counted, and over 1.5% of mailed ballots returned as undeliverable due to outdated voter registration addresses.

The Board asked questions regarding next steps if accepting the certified results as is, given the very close margin on an issue involving millions in bond funding for district infrastructure and program improvements. It was clarified that accepting the election results is legally required and does not preclude a potential recount request, which could then be re-canvassed and accepted later. Discussion of specific contingency plans or options would require a future agenda item.

Board members expressed a preference for avoiding continued debate over a very close vote either way, and rather seeking strong public support clearly evidenced whenever a funding measure is brought back to voters in the future.

The Board then voted unanimously to formally adjourn the Board of Canvassers and reconvene as the Board of Education. Their final action was a unanimous vote to officially approve and ratify the results of the 2023 special bond election.

Jones Paint & Glass saved from fire

by Gabrielle Costello

CEDAR CITY PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

CEDAR CITY — On the evening of Monday, December 4, 2023, the Jones Paint and Glass building in Cedar City was saved by the sprinkler system after an accidental fire started in a trash can.

Chad Barnes, Assistant Manager of Jones Paint and Glass and full-time Cedar City firefighter said he was notified in both capacities that the sprinkler system had been activated at the facility after hours. Barnes was

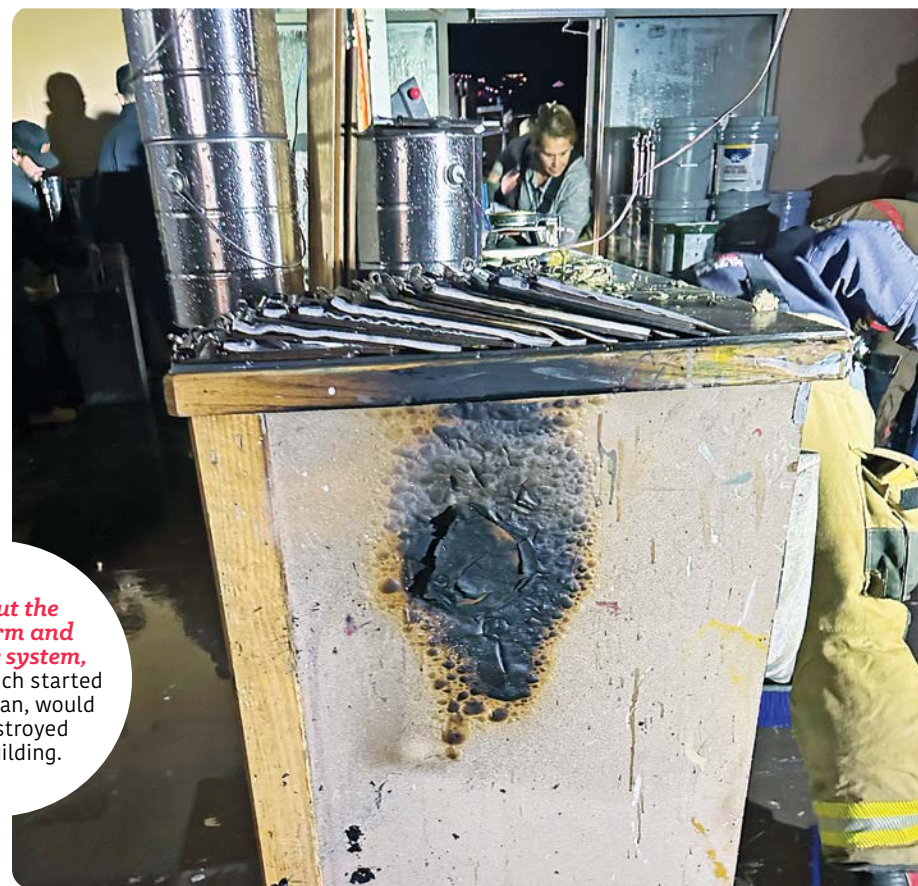
within 30 seconds after the fire and smoke had built for 4 minutes as seen through the company's surveillance system.

"This is a prime example of how a sprinkler system can save a business," said Fire Chief Mike Phillips. "Recovery after a fire can often put a business out for a few days or sometimes forever but there are ways to prevent complete devastation and resume operations soon after."

Barnes shared how the initial cost upfront for a sprinkler system can be costly for small business owners,



Without the fire alarm and sprinkler system, the fire, which started in a trash can, would have destroyed their building.



PHOTOS COURTESY JONES PAINT AND GLASS

normal business operations the very next morning," said Barnes. "On behalf of everyone at Jones Paint and Glass, we want to thank the firefighters for their prompt response and the time they spent helping clear the

water from the building."

If you are a small business owner in Cedar City or Iron County and have questions about fire sprinkler systems, call the Cedar City Fire Department at 435-586-2964.

"We are thankful to have resumed normal business operations the very next morning... we want to thank the firefighters for their prompt response and the time they spent helping clear the water from the building."

Chad Barnes, Assistant Manager, Jones Paint and Glass

off-duty with the Fire Department but arrived alongside the on-duty firefighters to find the building's sprinkler system had put the fire out

but the benefits are far greater if the sprinkler system is activated and saves the business.

"We are thankful to have resumed

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Public Meeting Regarding Jail Funding

from Iron County Tax Watch

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

would like to invite the public to attend a meeting on Wednesday, January 3, 2024, (6 pm) at the Cedar City Library to discuss opportunities that may be afforded to fund the jail in Iron County.

During the numerous public meetings held by Iron County, it was evident that the taxpayers are not opposed to the construction of a new jail, we just can't afford the construction of such a facility by property owner funding in the form of increased property taxes.

Also, during those discussions, we were impressed by the number of talented individuals we have living amongst us. We encourage anyone

who has grant writing, financial or governmental funding experience to attend the meeting and provide the public with the valued information that could assist us in funding a new jail facility. Additionally, we encourage the residents of Iron County to attend to express ideas or comments that could aid us in this endeavor. Please come and get involved so we can all work together for the betterment of Iron County and its residents.

ABA allowed me to tell my story. Other autistic kids need the same chance

by Ava Bullard

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

I have autism. If it weren't for a therapy called Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), I never would have been able to speak, let alone speak up for myself or other children

with autism.

When I was two years old, my parents thought I would never speak. Two years later, I called out to my "mama" for the first time. At the age of nine, I called on legislators at my state Capitol to do more to help children like me. I am also a student at the University of Georgia.

Every person with autism deserves access to ABA – a scientifically proven therapy that helps children communicate, socialize, and approach daily tasks. All too often, whether because of an insurance company or the shortage of qualified providers, it's difficult for us to get the therapy. Also, ABA is not a one-size-fits-all approach but an individualized plan that aims to meet the specific needs of a child.

Here's what my plan looked like. I spent 30 minutes working at a desk with my therapist, then we transitioned to the floor for 30 minutes of play, and then we went outside for 30 minutes. This cycle repeated for eight hours, five days a

week. I learned to communicate, first with hand gestures and then with language. I learned how to play and socialize without melting down. I had a resource to turn to whenever I felt anxious or overwhelmed.

Securing access to ABA was not easy. In 2006, my pediatrician told my mother that ABA was the "Cadillac version" of autism treatment. Our health insurer sent a letter informing us that autism therapy was "excluded coverage." They wouldn't cover speech therapies, occupational services, or ABA.

My family didn't give up. My mother found a therapist in South Carolina who came to our small town to work with me. My family was able to raise enough money to cover the cost of care out of pocket. Within just a few weeks, I had learned to communicate rather than cry. I could convey my wants and needs in a way others understood.

Our experience prompted my

see **AUTISM** » 12

Announcement to the Southern Utah University Nursing Community

We are pleased to announce that the Southern Utah University Department of Nursing will host an accreditation review by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) February 5 through February 7, 2024, for our new Masters of Science in Nursing Leadership and Administration program. As a part of the process, comments from constituents (alumni, employers, faculty, students, or other interested parties) are welcome and must be received by CCNE twenty-one days prior to the visit or January 15, 2024.

All third-party comments submitted to CCNE must be written in English, consistent with CCNE's policy on Conduct of Business in English.

All comments should be addressed to CCNE at:

If you would like to submit a third-party comment for a program currently under review, please submit to thirdpartycomments@ccneaccreditation.org.

Or, if you prefer, mail comments to:

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education
Attn: Third-Party Comments
655 K Street, NW, Suite 750
Washington, DC 20001



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Senator Lee introduces act to defund and depart UN

WASHINGTON — Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT) introduced the Disengaging Entirely from the United Nations Debacle (DEFUND) Act, which calls for the United States' complete withdrawal from the United Nations (UN). This legislation confronts imperative issues of national sovereignty and fiscal accountability, which have been persistent points of criticism against the United States involvement in the

and an iron-clad escape clause."

Of the bill, Rep. Chip Roy said, "This year, the United Nations' corruption, and its despicable, brazen political agenda have been on full display.

"From UNRWA actively protecting Hamas and acting against our ally Israel, delayed condemning Hamas, to China being elected to the "Human Rights Council," to the propagation of climate hysteria, covering for China's

"No more blank checks for the United Nations. Americans' hard-earned dollars have been funneled into initiatives that fly in the face of our values —enabling tyrants, betraying allies, and spreading bigotry"

Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT)

UN. Representative Chip Roy (R-TX 21) spearheads the companion bill in the House of Representatives.

"No more blank checks for the United Nations. Americans' hard-earned dollars have been funneled into initiatives that fly in the face of our values —enabling tyrants, betraying allies, and spreading bigotry," said Sen. Mike Lee. "With the DEFUND Act, we're stepping away from this debacle. If we engage with the UN in the future, it will be on our terms, with the full backing of the Senate

forced abortion and sterilization programs, the UN's decades-old, internal rot once again raises the questions of why the United States is even still a member or why we're wasting billions — indeed, \$12.5 billion in 2021 — every year on it.

"The UN doesn't deserve one single dime of American taxpayer money or one bit of our support; we should defund it and leave immediately. I am proud to lead this critical effort alongside Mike Lee and Mike Rogers."

AUTISM

« CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

mother to press the state legislature to make ABA accessible to every child with autism. When I was old enough to help, I joined my mother to lobby for legislation mandating that insurers cover ABA.

I remember how devastated I was every time our bill didn't pass. Finally, in 2015, Governor Nathan Deal signed Ava's Law, which requires health plans in Georgia to cover ABA and other evidence-based treatments for every child with autism.

While all 50 states now require insurers to cover autism therapies in varying capacities, barriers to access still remain.

When I was first diagnosed with autism, the doctor told my mother that I'd be in special education my entire life. After just two years of ABA, I joined a mainstream pre-kindergarten classroom. ABA allowed me to excel and eventually graduate in the top 5% of my high school class and head to college. As I attend class, I'm grateful that ABA gave me the freedom to chase my dreams and choose my future.

Key Elements of DEFUND Act:

- » Repeals critical acts that bind the U.S. to the UN, such as the United Nations Participation Act of 1945 and the United Nations Headquarters Agreement Act.
- » Ceases all forms of U.S. financial support to the UN, including assessed and voluntary contributions.
- » Prohibits any U.S. involvement in UN peacekeeping operations.
- » Revokes diplomatic immunity for UN officials within the United States.
- » Formalizes withdrawal from the

World Health Organization and other UN conventions.

- » Sets stringent conditions for any future engagement with the UN, requiring Senate approval with explicit withdrawal provisions.

The introduction of the DEFUND Act comes in response to years of unchecked bureaucratic expansion and financial misuse by the UN at the expense of American taxpayers. Senator Lee's legislation reflects his commitment to upholding the ideals of fiscal responsibility and self-determination that are the bedrock of the United States.

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David Grant



Ronda Gardner, CPA

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« CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

jackets, and more. After picking out gifts for themselves, their families, and even some of their pets, they were guided over to a special gift-wrapping station where their purchases were hand-wrapped



COURTESY GABRIELLE COSTELLO

STRATEGIES

« CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

The United States has added retail space at 5X the rate of consumer spending. We have nearly 4X the amount of retail square footage per person than Europe. These numbers indicate the retail competition is fierce. This places hyper-local businesses under siege. Many in the big box and chain sectors are also taking on water just as badly and are at risk of implosion as well.

All the above aren't opinions, this is the reality facing the retail world and it won't get any easier. Knowing this, communities and hyper-local businesses wishing to thrive in lieu of simply surviving, need to be taking huge strides in turning around or slowing these trends. How might this happen?

Both community and local businesses must act as if time is of the essence, because it is. Both must stop taking mini-steps and lengthen their strides as those relate to actions. While those strides will vary depending on the community or business, nonetheless, they must figure what those steps are and boldly move forward. Now isn't the time for communities to embark on more time-consuming focus groups and studies or withholding community and personal resources waiting for better days. Better days won't come with inaction.

Communities must create the uniqueness that brings high interest and awareness. They can do this by investing in their downtown, assuring that they are the heart and soul of their community. They must spend what it takes to attract those

by volunteers from the Southern Utah University athletic department, KKOS Lawyers, and Main Street businesses.

Public agencies that participated this year included Cedar City Police, Iron County Sheriff, Parowan Police, Enoch Police, Southern Utah University Police, Utah Highway Patrol, Cedar City Fire, Bureau of Land Management, Iron County Search and Rescue, National Park Service, Gold Cross Ambulance, Iron County District Attorney's Office, Utah Department of Wildlife Resources, and Brian Head Public Safety.

"The impact of this event would not be possible without the support of our community's generosity," said Cedar City Police Sergeant Justin Ludlow. "It certainly takes our entire community to make this dream become a reality."

The Cedar City Police Department would like to thank everyone who donated towards this event, as well as surrounding agencies who donated their time and resources to make this event so memorable. The Shop with a Cop program accepts year-round monetary donations to assist children who need extra help during the holiday season. Donations can be dropped off at the Cedar City Police Department Headquarters located at 10 N. Main Street, Cedar City UT 84720, or by mail.

competitive tourism dollars. They must take on projects enhancing economic vitality such as gathering spaces, retail options, bike paths, walking trails, roads, and attractions. Waiting shouldn't be an option.

If local businesses want residents to spend more for items than they might otherwise spend with a national chain, they need to ensure their places of business are attractive, inviting, and customer friendly. They need to instill a better sense of pride through over-the-top customer service. Groups of businesses need to adjust their hours of operation to match the shopping habits of their consumers. In conjunction with that, they need to work together creating events that drive traffic into their communities.

While there are many options and pathways forward for communities, there is one path sure to fail. If you keep courting outside businesses that bring more of the sea of sameness you can find anywhere, those communities will ultimately fail. To succeed, create the uniqueness locals and tourists yearn for. Create the heart, soul, and vibrancy visitors seek. This is the only viable and successful path forward. The sooner communities come to understand this, the sooner they can get on with the mission of changing their economic landscape and future. Let me close with a quote by Nikos Kazantzakis, he said, "In order to succeed, we must first believe that we can."

John Newby, Pineville, MO. is a nationally recognized publisher and speaker. He can be reached at: info@Truly-Localllc.com.

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ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT IN IRON COUNTY

G.F. HANDEL'S MESSIAH: Unparalleled Majesty

by May Hunter

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

A long running tradition in Southern Utah, the Orchestra of Southern Utah and Chorale performed their 83rd performance of Handel's Messiah on December 10-11th. The music brings in the reason for the season by telling the story of the birth of Christ and his

Unparalleled Majesty.

Thanks to generous sponsorship from State Bank and Leavitt Group, the concert was free of charge and the auditorium was packed with a captive and appreciative audience.

The Orchestra and Chorale were conducted by Jackie Riddle-Jackson. Jackie is a Cedar City native and brings much enthusiasm to the Messiah.

"Chorale music is a language, it connects and unites us with one another. This language of chorale music builds bridges across differences in cultural backgrounds, generational barriers, religious beliefs, economic hurdles, and even political. Our chorale community is reflective of those values," Riddle expressed. She added, "The music of the Messiah helps us to lift our souls

and it is so much more than just an annual event that is to be enjoyed. We are drawn to Messiah because it is like no other musical work. Handel was very concerned with the feelings of mortals. Even when the subject of his work is religious, he writes about the human response to the divine.

Assistant Chorale Director, Alex

see **MESSIAH** » 17

Alex Byers leads the audience as they join the Orchestra and Chorale in a final refrain of Hallelujah!



Shakespeare Festival announces passing of beloved retired staff member Bruce C. Lee

from Utah Shakespeare Festival

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

It is with deep sadness that the Festival announces the sudden passing of Bruce C. Lee, former Publications Manager at the Utah Shakespeare Festival, on December 3. Bruce retired in fall 2022 after a thirty-one year career at the Festival. His humble professionalism and mentorship, dedication to the mission of the Festival, and passion for creative work left a lasting mark on the organization and the people around him.

“For over 30 years the Festival was blessed by Bruce’s love of language, rigor in writing, and passion for creative communication,” says Executive Managing Director Michael Bahr. “His literary leadership and award-winning publications were fundamental in creating the Festival we know today.

“As a quiet and unassuming story-teller, Bruce had the gift for capturing the magic of the Festival’s people, plays, and programs and distilling it so they could be promoted and preserved,” Bahr continues.

Bruce’s impressive career encompassed many important decades of growth and change for the Festival. He led the Festival’s marketing and communication department for numerous years, and was part of the team during the expansion into the Beverley Taylor Sorenson Center for the Arts.

Director of Development and Communication Donn Jersey comments: “Bruce’s influence on my life and at the Festival was transformative. Beyond our professional collaboration, he became a mentor whose impact resonated deeply. His teachings extended far beyond the confines of the office and stage, leaving an indelible mark on my personal journey.

“At the Festival, our teamwork was more than



Bruce C. Lee

COURTESY USF

a creative partnership,” Jersey continues. “It was a shared exploration of art and life. Bruce infused our work with invaluable insights, elevating it beyond mere professional endeavors. His unique perspective enriched our projects, making them artistically fulfilling and personally meaningful. Every aspect of his life was guided by his faith, gratitude, and humility, which I so admired. He touched the lives

of hundreds of thousands of Festival patrons across the globe with his impeccably crafted messages and creative works. He was simply brilliant.”

“For all the years I knew Bruce he was the voice of reason,” shares emeritus Festival Managing Director R. Scott Phillips. “In the very dramatic world of theatre, he maintained a calm and focus on the end product. As a gifted writer, he expressed his passion for the world through words and ideas. He elevated the stories of the Festival to new levels of artistry. His shadow will be cast long and wide for years to come.”

His indelible work at the Festival was seen through years of writing, continually raising the quality of its marketing and communication, the publication of thousands of printed and digital articles, and the creation of the organization’s website—and the moniker “bard.org”—which he began in 1997, among many other contributions.

He also directed the visual look of the Festival, from the souvenir programs to emails, from brochures to billboards. His touch and influence is still very present today. For example, he was very influential in the development of the Festival’s current “Believe” campaign prior to his retirement last year.

Friend and retired Festival Art Director Phil Hermansen worked alongside Bruce for 21 years. He shares: “He was the best boss you could ever have. He was a father-figure to many of the Festival staff.”

His Festival family sends our deepest condolences, prayers, and love to his family during this difficult time. Funeral services were held Saturday, December 9 at 10 am at the LDS Meetinghouse at 451 E. Midvalley Road, Enoch, Utah. Interment was in the Enoch City Cemetery. For the full obituary visit <https://mortuary.org/obituaries/bruce-lee-2023>.

Lex de Azevedo’s Christian Choir presents *A Musical Christmas*

from Mande Adams

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

A Free community event presented by Lex de Azevedo’s Christian Choir will be held on December 15 & 16 at 7:00 pm at 174 N 400 E, Panguitch, UT. And December 17 at 7:00 pm at 2830 W. Cody Dr, Cedar City and December 18 at 7:00 pm at 725 S 1100 W, Cedar City.

The program features Christmas

musical arrangements by Lex de Azevedo, a choir of volunteers from Panguitch, Escalante, Hatch, Tropic, Bryce Canyon City, Parowan, and Cedar City. A children’s choir will also present numbers at each location.

Lex de Azevedo is a former Hollywood music composer, arranger, conductor, and producer who is most known for Saturday’s Warrior, The Swan Princess, and Where the Red Fern Grows to name

a few. Lex was part of the famous King Family Singers that had a weekly television show back in the 60’s.

Also featured in the program will be special guest artist Greg Knell. A familiar face throughout Southern Utah theater, Greg’s past roles include Jamie (The Last Five Years), Anatoly (Chess), Jesus (Jesus Christ Superstar), Percy (The Scarlet Pimpernel), Capt. Phoebus (The Hunchback of Notre Dame), Frankie

(Forever Plaid), and Sky Masterson (Guys & Dolls). He is a member of the St. George Chamber Singers and former BYU Young Ambassador. Greg lives in Ivins, UT with his wife and five children.

A Nativity Exhibit of over 300 Nativities will also be on display in Panguitch as part of The Musical Christmas. Exhibit hours are Friday, December 15 (11 am to 9:30 pm) and again on Saturday, December 16 (11 am to 6:30 pm).

From despair to joy through music

HOLIDAY MUSIC, PART 2

by Edy Meredith

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

Music is made up of major chords and minor chords. The minor chords speak of wretchedness, death, and sorrow in life. Even nature moans and groans in a plaintive and minor key—the sounds of the wind through the forest and around the house, the wind in the storm; the sounds of nature are always in a minor key. Even the nightingale's song, the sweetest of all bird songs, is sad, reflecting wretchedness, despair, hurt, agony, and the travail of the world in the still of the night. But we know that music and singing bring joy and the glory of release and deliverance from evil as music stimulates our minds and bodies to alleviate pain and remind us of joy. Our Christmas songs and hymns remind us of all that is good, pleasant, quiet, and pleasing as well as beautiful, graceful, elegant, resplendent, and even sublime.

Have you ever been outside during a quiet winter night when big snowflakes are falling? Remember how white and quiet everything is, from trees, to lawns, to mountains, and even streams, as each of us enjoys the quiet of a white Christmas. It is amazing how difficulty demonstrates the treasure of silence.

Such a beautiful, tranquil scene was on Christmas Day, 1941. America was deeply involved in a terrible conflict. The bombing of Pearl Harbor had recently occurred. On that Christmas Day 1941, Bing Crosby stepped to the microphone on his Kraft Music Hall radio show and for the first time sang a song written by Irving Berlin—"White Christmas."

Berlin had been born in 1888, in Siberia in Russia to a Jewish family. His family immigrated to New York when he was a child. He and other Jewish composers reinvigorated music in America by speaking to the soul of America in a slightly different way. When his songs were first introduced to the American public, he was

criticized for being "too Jewish" to appreciate the joys of Christmas, which celebrates the birth of the Jewish Messiah recognized and celebrated by Christians. But as a refugee, Berlin understood the joys of American freedom. He wrote: "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas, with every Christmas card I write. May your days be merry and bright. And may all your Christmases be white." He understood the joys that Christmas celebrates.

Looking out the window during a snowstorm, the white silence confirms the beauty of a snowstorm celebrated in "Silent Night, Holy Night. All is Calm, All is bright. Round yon virgin mother and Child. Holy Infant so tender and mild. Sleep in Heavenly peace. Sleep in Heavenly Peace," which was written at a different time in a location far away from modern America in the Austrian Alps in 1818. But it has never been forgotten.

Almost a hundred years later, during the four-year World War I at Christmas, British and German troops were face to face in a stalemate of trench warfare—long deep ditches that were considered hellish. The British faced the German troops in cold, wet, trenches for months on end. Sometime on Christmas Day in 1914, someone began singing very quietly "Silent Night, Holy night." Then others began to join in. British troops noticed with surprise that the German troops had lit candles on Christmas trees stuck along the tops of the trenches. In return, British troops started bonfires and fired rockets to celebrate, not to hurt or destroy. All along the fighting line, fighting stopped and came to a halt as muddy soldiers dressed in khaki and gray sang carols to each other.

Yes, let us each observe the beauty of silence, even when everything around us seems to be coming apart. Making silent prayer our constant companion is a song of the heart. Look for the nightingales in your life, singing in the darkness with rich powerful songs.

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MESSIAH

« CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Byers, shared his feelings of gratitude for the many blessings that accompany this inspiring production.

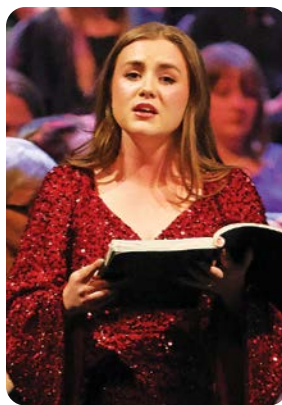
“As I reflected on the theme this year, I have been filled with an overwhelming sense of gratitude. How fortunate are we that here, in Cedar City, we are blessed to have a full community orchestra? How blessed are we that there are so many people who love to sing and come together to do it? How lucky are we to have facilities, technicians, and other professionals that allow us a space to share this music? The list goes on.” He added, “Handel’s inspiring and overpowering music fills me with an immense sense of gratitude for being part of something beyond myself—a link in a chain of experience dating back to the Dublin premiere. How magnificent that we all get to be a part of this! Thanks for this amazing music that we perform, this amazing community in which we perform, the amazing people who perform, and the matchless gift of His Divine Son, of Whom we perform.”

What makes this 280-year-old work so popular? For one thing, Handel knew how to write a good tune, and Messiah has plenty of them. The piece is hit after hit after hit. Handel’s Messiah is also successful because it delivers Biblical messages and lessons through very beautiful music. It is a Heaven on Earth experience—musically. It’s so diverse in what it offers listeners and musicians. And that diversity is what makes everyone happy.

Speaking of timeless traditions, Leah Brown (OSU Cellist) spoke about what Handel’s Messiah means to her.

“The first thought that comes to my mind is ‘tradition.’ My mother Evelyn Jones started playing in the college orchestra with Roy Halverson in the early 40’s. During my growing up she continued to play in the orchestra as a Cellist and then during the 70’s and 80’s she was the piano accompanist. I started playing in high school in the Messiah orchestra and then continued again when I returned to Cedar in 1992 (30 years). I participated in the Messiah when I was eight months pregnant and had my fifth child on December 15th right after the Messiah performance ended. I wouldn’t miss it even for the birth of my child, it’s a Christmas tradition that has grown very important to me. As I have played in the Messiah I am so grateful for the sweet spirit I have felt and my testimony is strengthened and verified that Jesus Christ lives.”

Handel wrote the entire three-hour work in 18 days. His matchless wonder is a draw for arts organizations, a challenge for performers, and much loved by listeners. Handel was and still is a man of the world. He poured his soul into composing Messiah at a difficult time in his life. Messiah provides inspiring songs and solos that are elegant, charming, and profoundly moving. Handel’s Messiah is well-loved and will continue to be so for generations yet to hear the majesty of this music!



Ember Moat, Soprano



Ruth Hailstone, Alto



Lehi Moran, Tenor



Brandi Hall, Alto



Steve Grabe, Tenor



Nitza Brooks, Soprano



Beatrice Gerfin, Soprano



PHOTOS BY COREY BAUMGARTNER
Jessie Byers, Soprano



David Torres, Trumpet



OSU Orchestra and Chorale



Dee Holt, Soprano



Stephanie Wood, Alto



Anne Turner, Alto



Andrew Biggs, Bass



Raelynn Peterson, Alto

Christmas comes to the Frontier Homestead

by May Hunter

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

Bring your family to their annual light show at the museum!

park aglow in a whole new light. This celebration of family friendly fun includes crafts, performances, and a Winter Wonderland. The Christmas Lights at the Homestead



The Christmas lights are turning back on at the Homestead. Stop by and enjoy them!



PHOTOS BY MAY HUNTER

All buildings are open, featuring themed trees spread throughout the 11-acre property. Explore history at the Homestead and enjoy the

will be turned on from December 20-23 from 5:30 to 8:00 each evening and is free to the public. Come and enjoy their Christmas lights.

Your social calendar for the next ten days

by Mary Anne Andersen

CEDAR CITY ARTS COUNCIL

First of all Cedar Citians, congratulations on your approval of the RAP Tax for another 10 years! I admit I was concerned with the referendum coming as it did, and as one of 3 requests for our money. I saw a yard sign in my neighborhood that said, "NO to any new debt; no taxes or bonds of any kind." I hoped that that frugal neighbor was an outlier with his forgetting that you can't make an omelet without breaking some eggs. And special thanks to Whitney Staheli for leading the Better Together campaign. No funding could have meant the difference between continuation or disappearance for some of the smaller Cedar City organizations. Now we can look forward to improvements and continuance of the things that make Cedar City a bounteous basket of cultural and recreational offerings for our families.

A couple of weeks ago I gave an abbreviated itinerary of special Christmas concerts and events for the first half of December. Did you get to them? I commented on how hard it could be to go out in the snow and cold to attend a concert or special event, and that off-hand comment proved to be prophetic. We did have to leave a cozy couch to enjoy some great holiday offerings.

The City welcoming-of-the-season was magical, with lights, Santa in a helicopter, and fireworks overhead that went on for a long time! But it was shivering-inducing cold and I wasn't warm again until the next morning. There must have been 30 trees at the Christmas tree festival in the Heritage lobby for 3 nights; the Orchestra of Southern Utah's pop concert, and the SUU Music Department Christmas concert the next night all required heavy coats and a real determination to not miss out.

But December is only half over, and here are some more seasonal

things that won't come when it is warm, so you best plan on gloves and hats. Frontier Homestead is beautiful, with myriad lights, holiday-themed activities, and entertainment. I have even purchased some crafty presents from vendors there. Look for more information.

Impac, the newish theatre company is presenting Irving's Berlins's beloved White Christmas at its conservatory at 389 No. 100 West, Suite 7, through Dec. 16th. The last few nights are student performers.

On December 15th—that is tomorrow!—Jenny Oaks Baker and her Family Four will perform at the Heritage Theater at 7:00. The concert will include music by Kurt Bestor, some Celtic singing and clogging, and music by the Red Rock Singers. Mrs.

Baker has long been a favorite of Cedar City and she will be accompanied by her family of accomplished musicians this time. That will be worth a frosty trip out!

If cars are your thing, go to the Diamond Z Arena the next night, the 16th, for a car show, a concert, and food trucks.

And I already told you about the Simon Fest evenings of Greatest Christmas Stories on December 21-23. After that it is Christmas Eve, and you are on your own!

"Now we can look forward to improvements and continuance of the things that make Cedar City a bounteous basket of cultural and recreational offerings for our families."



AMERICAN PATRIOT FEST

Inaugural event held for worthy cause

by May Hunter

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

The inaugural American Patriot Fest was held at the Cross Hollow Event Center and Diamond Z Arena, on Saturday December 9. This event is in support of military, police, and first responders. Noah Valentine and Kolby McKenrick, Airforce Vets are the founders as well as the organizers of The American Patriot Foundation. Noah is the president, Kolby vice president, Brie Valentine secretary.

Because the American Patriot Fest is also an official charitable foundation that provides scholarships to the children, spouses and members of the military, police and first responders, two college scholarships were given to the children of American heroes.

Everyone was invited to enjoy appearances by the local police department, military, and first responders. Throughout the day there were K9 Demos, raffles, a concert, kids activities, and many vendors. There were also special guests from SUU Aviation, Life Flight, and Intermountain Life Flight, who landed their helicopters to the delight of the chilly crowds at the event.

To make a donation to this worthy cause go to: TheAmericanPatriotFoundation.com or email NoahValentine@TheAmericanPatriotFoundation.com.

Thank you for all who attended and made this event a huge success.



The American Patriot Foundation Scholarship was awarded to Alexis Thompson, by Noah (L), Brie and Kolby.



family



SHUTTERSTOCK

Have a candied pecan Christmas

For many years my husband and I enjoyed a Christmas tradition that was eventually complicated by the addition of each of our children. Starting out we would go to Las Vegas for a tradeshow known as Cowboy

The cinnamon sugar coated nuts have turned into a Christmas staple for our family that we find ourselves craving when it comes time to trim the tree.

Since a small bag of candy is hardly worth the trip to Vegas, I found a way to recreate the special treat to be enjoyed in bulk at home! Feel free to join us in singing George Strait's "Merry Christmas Strait To You" while baking holiday pecans this Christmas season!

mom's CORNER(ED)

by Weslie Stratton

CONTRIBUTOR



Christmas, which is exactly what it sounds like, everything you could possibly hope to buy a cowboy (or cowgirl) for Christmas! After a full day of shopping we would join the thousands of other rodeo fans in town for a viewing of the National Finals Rodeo.

After our first two kids were born we tried to keep the tradition alive, but with our third (and then fourth) it became obvious that there would be years that our December Vegas vacation wouldn't be possible. Strollers and busy toddlers are not compatible with large crowds and long days on the go!

One of the things we found ourselves missing the most from this festive outing were the warm candied pecans that we always purchased to snack on while wandering around the ocean of western themed vendors.

Cowboy Christmas Pecans

- » 1 lb. pecan halves (not pieces)
- » 1 egg white
- » 1 tbs. water
- » 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- » 1/2 cup white sugar
- » 1/2 cup brown sugar
- » 1 tsp. cinnamon
- » 1/4 tsp. salt

Directions: Preheat the oven to 250 degrees. Whisk together the egg white, water and vanilla extract until frothy. In a separate bowl combine the white sugar, brown sugar, cinnamon and salt. Coat the pecans evenly in the egg white mixture before tossing them in the sugar mixture. Coat evenly before spreading over a parchment covered cookie sheet. Bake for one hour, stirring periodically and enjoy warm or cold!

celebrations

85TH BIRTHDAY

Janine Bauer Jolley

Janine Bauer Jolley will celebrate 85 years young on Saturday, December 16, 2023. WE would like to wish Mom a happy birthday and let her know how much we love her. Janine loves deeply and truly loves everyone! We hope that Mom has a wonderful 85th birthday.



There is no charge for birth, first birthday, mission, Eagle Scout, 50th anniversary (and up), wedding and 80th birthday (and up) announcements. Submissions can be made online at ironcountytoday.com, or emailed to news@ironcountytoday.com or brought to 479 N 100 W, #1, Cedar City. The deadline is Friday at noon for the following week's issue. Announcements should be 100 words or less. Please call 435-701-9982 for pricing for all other announcements.



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Mercedes Carter, PA-C

Amber Dalton, FNP-C



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110 W. 1325 N. Suite 300, Cedar City, UT 84721

Local VFW members contribute to community

from Anne Basel

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

Our House is a residential assisted-living facility in Cedar City, Utah. Members of the local Cedar City Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 10846 were keen to find some community-based activities that would aid in advancing the quality of life for both VFW members and Iron County citizens. It only took a few brief introductions for the doors to start opening.

To date, one introductory meeting with the Administrators of Our House has evolved into a regular weekly event for the VFW that centers on an 'anyone welcome' card game, along with a light-hearted and very entertaining conversation round-table. Some of the residents of Our House look forward to their lively and friendly poker games each Monday, while others are happy to just hang back a bit and listen to the boisterous activity and laughter as the piles of chips move back & forth across the table. Some of the players are old hands at the game, but others are fresh and new and just learning. No matter what, everyone enjoys a free endless chip count, the potential for a win, and a lot of laughter.

VFW members Barry Basel and Dennis Robison have encouraged those wanting to have a seat at the poker table to not only join in with the merriment and games, but to share a few stories of days gone by. It only takes a few questions and a bit of laughter to get the stories flowing about what Cedar City was like in the distant past, or adventures survived on the distant reaches of the planet, families nurtured, loves won and lost, and all the other parts of lives well-lived!

In the words of one observer, "It's lovely to witness the camaraderie and enjoyment of everyone involved, not to mention the generosity of time and intention by the VFW members for the good of us all".

In coordination with resident Activities Director, Shyann Price, other activities in which the VFW members have participated in with the Our House community, have



Dennis Robison (L) and Barry Basel at the Our House Veterans Memorial wall.

PHOTOS COURTESY OUR HOUSE



The Our House poker table is the place where everyone is a winner with the great laughs, stories and memories made.

included a shooting experience at 3 Peaks Shooting Range, book readings, trivia contests, dog visits, and even a rousing game of Scrabble on a quiet Sunday afternoon. All of these activities have been presented in a light-hearted and very informal manner and have been very well-received by the residents.

Price, says of the VFW volunteers, "Barry and Dennis have gone above and beyond any expectation I ever had. They are so consistent and reliable and have created lasting bonds with the residents. They have become a part of our family at Our

House. Monday Poker Games have become a hot topic!"

She added that while talking with residents and reviewing our activities, one lady said, "I wish we could have more Poker days!" Price couldn't agree more, saying, "We could have more Poker days, but what we really would be wishing for is more Barry and Dennis Days."

Having Barry and Dennis come into our facility has boosted morale. There is something so honorable about having veterans coming to the facility as volunteers. I could never thank them enough for the time

they take out of their day to come spend with us and they are always so happy to do so. And it's not just about Poker! I have learned so much from Barry and Dennis during the times that they have come and have shared so many stories and good jokes that make you laugh until you can't breathe. Talking about hunting and teaching Barry what "tag soup" is has got to be one of my favorite memories. The residents absolutely love visiting with them as well as playing Poker, or any other activity they come up with, or get roped into helping with.

I hope others can be inspired to volunteer and to do so with a pure heart like Barry and Dennis as it really makes a difference in the lives of the people with whom you interact.

Going beyond the VFW motto of, "No one does more for Veterans", VFW Post Commander Barry Basel and VFW Post Quartermaster Dennis Robison are aspiring Veterans to lead their Post into the future by focusing on what Veterans can do for the whole community at large, as well as for other Veterans.

calendar

THURS, DEC 14

HALCYON DAYS

PAROWAN WINTER WONDERLAND (6-10PM) Thru Janu 1st) @ Parowan Main Street Park. Admission FREE. The Parowan City Park turned into an enticing wonderland of Christmas lights, incredible displays, Christmas Characters, Santa, and hot chocolate. Paint a free ornament to hang in the tunnel. Lights turned on every night from dusk until 10 pm.

FRI, DEC 15

UGLY SWEATER DAY

CONCERT – JENNY OAKS BAKER (7PM) @ Heritage Center Theater (105 N 100 E, Cedar). Tickets \$29 - \$51. Celebrate Christmas in Cedar City. An inspiring Christ-centered Christmas show of sacred, exhilarating, and beloved Christmas Carols. Tour Sponsored by Black Desert Resort. INF/Tickets: www.jennoaksbaker.com.

SAT, DEC 16

UNDERDOG DAY

CHRISTMAS CHROME & CANDY CANES HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER (10am-6pm) @ Diamond Z Arena (11 S Cross Hollow Dr, Cedar City). Held indoors and will include live music from Muddy Boots, visit from Santa Claus, toy donation drive, and vendors.

CEDAR CITY FARMERS MARKET (10am-1pm) @ IFA (905 S Main St, Cedar). FREE. Farmers, food, artisans. Drawings, bingo, more! INFO: Facebook, Cedar Saturday Market, or Nancy 435-463-3735.



FESTIVAL CITY MARKET (10AM-1PM) @ (Center St. & 100 W) By Bristlecone Coffee. FREE. Handmade treasures and a bounty of local farmers, backyard gardeners, fresh fruits, veggies, with local artisans for jewelry, art, wood, pottery.

MIDVALLEY FARMERS MARKET & ARTISAN FAIRE (5-8pm) @ (780 Midvalley Rd. Enoch). Live music, jump house, face painting, and more. Beautiful, unique items. Have dinner, listen to music, let the kids play in the jump house. INFO: Text: 435-704-6916.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY (2-4PM)

@ Locations in Iron County. Join ceremonial wreath-laying events at 2pm @ Summit Cemetery (188 W 300 N), Enoch Cemetery (Cemetery Rd), Cedar City Cemetery (685 N Main). The mission is to Remember our fallen US Veterans, Honor those who serve, and Teach your children the value of freedom by carrying out coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies across America. INFO: wreathsacrossamerica.org.



SUN, DEC 17

WRIGHT BROTHER'S DAY

CRECHE FESTIVAL (4-8PM) @ CANYON

View LDS Stake Center (1985 N Main St, Cedar). Enjoy the creches (nativity scenes) from around the world, a live nativity, and live music. INFO: cedarcitycrechefestival@gmail.com.

LEX DE AZEVEDO'S CHRISTIAN CHOIR (7pm) DEC 15-16 @ 174 N 400 E, Panguitch, UT/ DEC 17 @ Cross Hollow Stake Center (2830 W Cody Drive, Cedar). December 18 @ 725 S 1100 W, Cedar). FREE! Christmas musical arrangements sung by choirs of volunteers from Panguitch, Escalante, Hatch, Tropic, Bryce Canyon City, Parowan, and Cedar City.

MON, DEC 18

BAKE COOKIES DAY

MESSIANIC DANCE WORKSHOP (4-5:30PM) @ Cedar City Library (303 N 100 E). Learn fun, easy ancient Judeo-Christian dances. INFO: 702-460-2317.

TUES, DEC 19

HEROES AND HEROINES DAY

CHILDREN'S STORY TIME (10AM) @ Frontier Homestead State Park Museum (635 N Main, Cedar). FREE! A ranger will read a frontier-themed story and have fun with a corresponding take-home activity. Recommended for preschool-aged children. INFO: 435-586-9290. frontierhomestead@utah.gov



WED, DEC 20

GAMES DAY

LIGHTS AT THE HOMESTEAD (5:30-8PM) @ Frontier Homestead State Park (635 N Main, Cedar). Admission is FREE. Donations encouraged. Stroll through the park grounds and enjoy the holiday lights. INFO: 435-586-9290.

CHARACTER SKETCHES (WEDS, 6:30-

8:30pm) @ Cedar City Library (303 N 100 E). Weekly drawing/painting sessions using live models as characters from art, literature, books, movies, TV, video games. INFO: 435-586-6661.

THURS, DEC 21

WINTER SOLSTICE

THE GREATEST CHRISTMAS STORIES

- SimonFest Theater (7pm) @ Heritage Center Theater (105 N 100 E, Cedar). Master Storyteller, Richard Bugg, heads a talented ensemble that brings to life many of the greatest Christmas stories and songs ever written. A charming and life-affirming treat for the entire family. Tickets \$20 adults, \$12 children (4-17yrs). Online @ simonfest.org.

Want your event on our calendar?

There is no charge for calendar items. Your submissions can be made online at ironcountytoday.com, or emailed to news@ironcountytoday.com or brought to 479 N 100 W, #1, Cedar City, Utah 84721. The deadline is Friday at noon. The calendar is not to be used for advertising. Items will be printed at our discretion.



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calendar

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

GOVERNMENT

Brian Head Council

2nd & 4th Tues, 1 pm • Brian Head Town Hall, 56 N. Hwy 143

Cedar City Council

Wed (except 5th), 5:30 pm • City Hall, 10 N. Main St (435) 586-2950

Enoch City Council

1st & 3rd Wed, 6 pm • City Hall, 900 E Midvalley Rd • (435) 586-1119

Enoch Planning Commission

2nd & 4th Tues, 5:30 pm • City Hall, 900 E Midvalley Rd • (435) 586-1119

Iron County Commission

2nd & 4th Mon, 9 am • Commission Chambers, 68 S 100 E, Parowan

Iron County Democrats

3rd Sat, 10 am-11:30 am • Cedar City Library, 303 N 100 E

Iron County Republican Women

3rd Wed, 11:30 am. Tickets \$20, <https://www.ironcountyrepublicanwomen.com>

Parowan City Council

2nd & 4th Thurs, 6 pm • City Hall, 35 E 100 N • (435) 477-3331

SERVICE GROUPS

American Legion Post 74

2nd Mon, 6pm, Cedar Library, 303 N 100 E. Learn about Veteran benefits, opportunities, fellowship. Honor Guard provides military honors at Veterans funerals. Post Commander Darrin Duncan (435) 704-1466.

Bikers Against Child Abuse

2nd Thurs 7 pm • Courtyard Marriott, 1294 S Interstate Dr (Cedar Breaks Conference Rm)

DAR – Bald Eagle Chapter

2nd Sat, 10 am • Cedar Library, 303 N 100 E

Elks Lodge #1556

111 E Freedom Blvd. Cedar City, (435) 586-8332

Lion's Club

Tues, 12 pm • Call Pres. Michelle Wilson for mtg. info. Everyone welcome! (802) 359-2183

Marine Corps League

Detachment 1315, 2nd Wed, 6:30 pm Cedar City Library (303 N 100 E)

Rotary Club

Tues, 12:15 • Southwest Tech, 757 W 800 S, Cedar City • (435) 233-0244

So. Utah Veterans Assoc.

1st Thurs, 7pm • Westview Christian Center (2624 West Hwy 56, Cedar). Veterans, First Responders, Anyone interested welcomed, encouraged to attend.

SUPPORT GROUPS

AA—Alcoholics Anonymous

(435) 635-3603 • www.utahaa.org. Helpline: John (702) 802-1332, Kara (702) 232-6829 KKCBB Club (203 E. Cobblecreek Dr, Cedar City) unless otherwise listed

Speaking From The Heart • M – Sa, Noon
Steps and Traditions • M – Su, 7 am

Red Road to Sobriety • Mon, 6 pm Paiute Tribe, 440 N Paiute (435) 586-1112 Ext. 307

Misfits • M – F, 6 pm

Cedar Group • Tues, 8 pm

The Great Fact • T, F, Noon. True Life Center 2111 N. Main. (702) 802-1332 or (702) 533-7856

Red Creek Group • Wed, 7 pm • 685 N 300 E, Parowan • (435) 477-8925

Women's Meeting • Sat, 10:30 am

My Story • Sat, 8 pm

Thank God Sunday Spiritual • Sun, 11 am

What a Way to Start the Day • Su, W, F 7-8 am • All are welcome

Al-Anon

KKCB Club (203 E. Cobblecreek Dr, Cedar City) unless otherwise listed

Al-Anon • 1st, 3rd Tues, 7-8 pm • 435-704-8984

Easy Does It • Tues, 7-8 pm • (435) 559-3333

Hope for Today (Family Groups)

Thurs, 6 pm • (435) 559-3333

Alzheimer's/Dementia

Tues, 5:30-6:30 pm • Cedar Library (303 N 100 E). Learn about/access resources, connect with others for support. Raven Albertson, 385.831.7124, utahprograms@alz.org

ARP—Addiction Recovery

1st Wed, 7 pm • Parowan Seminary building, Main & 300 N, Cedar. All levels of the caregiver's journey from pre-caregiving to bereavement and rebuilding welcome. INFO: Kat at 702-292-9911.

Caregivers

3rd Thurs, 5:45-7 pm • Zion's Way Home Health, 369 N 100 W #1, Cedar. All levels of the caregiver's journey from pre-caregiving to bereavement and rebuilding welcome. INFO: Kat at 702-292-9911.

Celebrate Recovery

Fri, 6:30 pm, starting July 7, 2023 • Sunrise Christian Church (6843 W 1800 N, Cedar). INFO: 435-586-3640, info@sonrisechurch.net, sonrisechurch.net.

Embrace Grace

Tues, 5:30pm • Unmarried, pregnant? Don't be alone. Safe, non-judgmental. Free baby stuff at baby shower for you! Childcare available with heads up. 407-719-8595 or Threshing-FloorLife>Resources>Embrace Grace.

Grief Support Group

2nd Tues, 5 pm • Southern Utah Mortuary (190 N 300 W, Cedar). Safe, supportive for those who have lost loved ones. You are not alone. Free. INFO: 435-586-4040

Grief Support - Child Loss

1st Tues, 7 pm • Cedar Library (303 N 100 E). FREE for bereaved parent, sibling or grandparent. Includes any child loss (pre-birth, young, teen, adult). INFO: 435-327-1856

Helproom

Fri, 2-3 pm • Free online support group for survivors of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault. Safe to communicate, share perspectives on healing, recovery. Join: affiliate. rainn.org/helproom/canyoncreekservices.

Multiple Sclerosis

3rd Thurs, 6-8 pm • Cedar Visitor's Center, 581 N Main. Caregivers and those with MS

Narcotics Anonymous

www.nasouthernutah.org • (435) 635-9603 KKCBB Club (203 E. Cobblecreek Dr, Cedar City) unless otherwise listed

Basic Text Study • Mon, 8 pm

Just for Today • Wed, 8 pm

Hope Without Dope • Thurs, 8 pm

Live and Let Live • Fri, 8 pm

Candle Light Mtg • Sat, 9:30 pm (Sm rm)

Women Only • Sun, 11 am

Dopeless Hope Fiends • Sun, 8 pm • Mtg Hall, 1067 S Main, Cedar (877) 865-5890

Nicotine Anon (12-Step)

Fri 5 pm • KKCB 203 Cobble Creek Dr. Ste. 201 (North Room), Cedar • (435) 559-0394

Porn Addiction Recovery

Men Only • Thurs, 7:30pm • Canyon View seminary building (54 W 1925 N). North entrance.

Pregnancy, Infant Loss

1st Thurs, 7:30 pm • Share Families of So. Utah • 565 N Main Street, Ste. 6, Cedar • www.southernutahshare.com

Senior Blind/Visually Impaired

3rd Thurs, 1:30 pm • Cedar City Library

Southern Utah Veterans Assoc.

1st Thurs, 7 pm • Westview Christian Center, 2624 W Hwy 56, Cedar. INFO: Chuck Waddell 907-252-1365.

Southwest Parkinson's Alliance

2nd Tues, 1:30-2:30 pm • Cedar City Senior Center, 489 E 200 S • Kristy 435-559-9681.

Widows Ministry

2nd Sat, 11-1 pm • New Journey-Widow's Ministry @ Sonrise Christian Church (6843 W 1800 N, Cedar). INFO: 435-586-3640, info@sonrisechurch.net, sonrisechurch.net.

CLASSES, CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

Adult Barre/Modern Dance

Wed, 11 am-noon, Spirit Wellness Club, 1615 N Main, Cedar City • All levels, Free to members, or \$8 drop-in fee.

Arthritis Foundations Exercise

Time TBA, Cedar Senior Center, 489 E 200 S • 435-586-0832. FREE. Trained instructors. Range-of-motion exercises, endurance-building activities, relaxation techniques, and health education topics.

Arts for Adults w/ Disabilities

Every other Tues, 1-2pm, starts Nov. 28. • Johnson Arts Center (59 N 100 W Cedar). Fun, engaging activities. Drum/Flute circles, group juggling, fine arts projects, more! All levels/abilities! 702-917-2151.

Bingo & Lunch

Fri, lunch @Noon, Bingo @3 pm. Free for Seniors @ Our House Assisted Living (995 S Regency Rd, Cedar). INFO: 435-867-0055.

Book Club

2nd Thurs, 6 pm • Cedar Library 303 N 100 E.

Boy Scout Troop 1848

5th-17 yrs • Thurs 6:30 pm • Old School Library, upstairs, west door. Text Sheila 805-208-4545

Cedar Breaks Model A/ Vintage Car Club

1st Thurs, 6pm • Get to know other vintage vehicle enthusiasts, great camaraderie, have fun, win awards at car shows, parades, etc. INFO: Mel @ 435-919-4183 or email cedarbreaksmodela@gmail.com.

Cedar Chest Quilters' Guild

Thurs, 10 am • Cedar Senior Center, 489 E 200 S. Projects for all abilities. Block of the Month. Make friends, improve skills & have fun. Visitors welcome. Info: Ms. Ronnie Badgett. 435-477-2243. cedarchestquiltersguild.org

Cedar City ESL

Wed, 6:30 - 7:30 pm • Free ESL lessons offered at Cedar Library, Rare Book Room (303 N 100 E). No pre-registration required.

Cedar City Toastmasters

Thurs, 7 am • Cedar City Visitor Center, 581 North Main. Find your voice, shape your future. Be the leader & speaker you want to be. (603) 731-0116

Cedar Professionals

Tues, 7:30 am • Springhill Suites, 1477 S Highway 91, Cedar City. Organization of business people. Stimulate business through exchange of ideas, information, referrals. visit www.cedarprofessionals.org

Cedar Radio Control Club

4th Thurs, 7 pm • Cedar City Library, 303 N 100 E.

Color Country Winds

Wed • Come brush up on your band skills to share with the community. Call Debbie at (435) 559-9609 for time and location.

Cub Scout Pack 1848

K-5th • Thurs, 5 pm • Old School Library, upstairs, west side door, next to Enoch City Business office. Text LaRee Kurtz 435-559-211.

Explorer Bible Club

Wed, 6:30-8 pm • 4yrs. to 6th grade, Valley Bible Church (4780 N Hwy 91, Enoch). 435-586-0253

International Folk Dancing

Fri, 1-2 pm • Cedar Senior Center (489 E 200 S) FREE: No Partner Needed; teaching! INFO: 626-808-6129

Iron County Moms For America

1st Wed, 7pm • Cedar City Library. Keep liberty alive in your hearts, homes with liberty minded book discussions. INFO: Kami Merrill 435-592-4152 or email: ironcountymoms4america@gmail.com

O.A.R.S. Young Adult Group

Tues 6-8 pm • Cedar Library (303 N 100 E). Open, Authentic, Relevant, and Spiritual. Dinner group, ages 18-30. Talk about spirituality, mutual support, curiosity, community service. Text 541-579-1554, pastorschuyler@gmail.com

Parowan Pickleball

Mon, 6-8 pm • Tues-Thurs, 9-12 pm • Iron County Exhibit Building. Range of skill levels, 3 indoor courts, beginners welcome. INFO, fees and signup: Parowan Visitors Center 435-477-8190.

PB&J Therapy Groups

These two groups teach skills for different areas of life by utilizing recreational activities and engaging in other forms of expressing emotions. INFO: 435-267-4212. College: forms.gle/SmCytgCfvQ1tS2pB7 Adolescent: forms.gle/BZiepPW63pR6Zd8k9

Rock Club

1st Thurs, 6 pm • Gateway Academy, 201 W Thoroughbred Way, Enoch. Learn about

geology, find gems, fossils and minerals. Learn to cut and polish and make jewelry. southernutahrockclub.org

Sagebrush Fiber Artisans Guild

Wed, 9:30-11:30 am • Grind Coffee House (19 N Main, Cedar City). Knit, crochet, weave, spin, etc. Come learn a craft, work on a project, or just socialize. Beginners welcome! Questions: Jane 435-233-8366.

Senior Yoga Classes

Mon, 10-11 am & Wed, 1-2 pm • Cedar City Senior Center (489 E 200 S). Easy to do. Please bring own mat. (435) 586-0832

Sewing Group

Wed 9-2:30 pm • Cedar Senior Center (489 E 200 S). Bring machine, cord, projects, supplies. No fees. All abilities welcome. Annie Anzalone (702) 232-0063.

Southern Utah Woodturners

2nd Sat, 9 am, Cedar High School wood shop, 703 W 600 S.

StrongBoard Classes

M-W-Fri, 9 am • IFS Studio, 2390 UT-56 #9, Cedar City. Improve core strength, balance, stability. All fitness levels welcome. Class size limited to 8. Call (661) 432-0259 to register/reserve your spot.

Tae Kwon Do Class

Wed, 7-8:30 pm • Cedar City Aquatic Center, 2090 W Royal Hunte Dr. \$25/mo., ages 5+, any experience level (435) 865-9223. Helps benefit Canyon Creek Crisis Center.

Tai Chi For Health

Wed & Fri, 9:30-10:30 am • Cedar Senior Center, 489 E 200 S. FREE low-impact, health for Seniors. Helps coordination, balance, flexibility. Maria Bailey, 435-673-3548 x103. Pre-registration not required. Space limited.

Take Action for Freedom

Wed, 7 pm • Stahl West 600 N. Airport Road, Cedar • Preserve Constitution, Republic, voting laws, medical freedom, education, rights, ed. on CRT & boarder illegal immigration, Legislature

Top Bar Hive Bee Keeping

1st Tues, 7 pm • Cedar City Library 303 N 100 E. (435) 586-6661

TOPS—Take Off Pounds Sensibly

Wed • Weigh-in 9 am, mtg 9:30 am., Cedar City Library, 303 N 100 E. Lose weight affordably • 586-3233 (am mtg)

Water Aerobics Class

Tues, Thurs, 9 am • SUU pool, 2-56 N 600 W., Fun, up-tempo workout to music. Intensive cardio, full body muscle toning. Any fitness level. All ages. \$3/class, including pool admission. (435) 327-2091 (no text)

Wellness Place

583 S Main Suite #5, Cedar City. (435) 592-5308. Classes: thewellnessplacecc.com/upcoming-classes

Wellness Wednesdays

Wed Noon-1 pm • Create Better Health. ZOOM Mtg ID: 841 6308 8990, PV: health, Info: Kristi Sharp (435) 986-2564, ksharp@swuhealth.org

Youth Group

Wed, 6:30-8 pm • Ages 12-18. Meal, games & Bible Study. @ Sonrise Christian Church (6843 W 1800 N, Cedar). INFO: 435-586-3640, info@sonrisechurch.net, sonrisechurch.net.

schools

Bicycle donation adds new dimension to Title I School PE classes

by Shauna Lund

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

CEDAR CITY — Kindergarten and first-grade students at North Elementary could hardly wait for the opportunity to try out 20 pedal-less bikes. At 1:15 p.m. last Tuesday, a group of kindergartners finally got their chance during PE class.

The bikes were made available thanks to a donation from the Cedar City Active Transportation Committee and Red Rock Bicycle. Southern Utah Bike Alliance and the Burgess Family Foundation were



Using their own will and power, students enjoy racing across the school gym.



PHOTOS BY SHAUNA LUND

also an integral part of the donation.

North Elementary Principal Danni Brown said City Councilman R. Scott Phillips contacted her to see if there would be any interest in the bikes. Once the school found stor-

age, the donation moved forward.

"This donation will benefit North Elementary's PE program by providing access to bikes that students can use at school while also creating a fun indoor winter exercise program," Brown said. "We

are grateful for this opportunity and the kids are ecstatic about using them."

"One of the main purposes of our Active Transportation Committee is to serve as a liaison, connect key community members, community

groups and organizations to help encourage active transportation," said Cedar City's Public Information Officer, Gabrielle Costello. "It's exciting to see these connections come to fruition and benefit our community."

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schools



Magician Mike Hamilton amazes students with magic while inspiring them to make reading a lifetime priority.



PHOTOS BY SHAUNA LUND

Magician emphasizes magic of reading in Iron County

by Shauna Lund

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

It was a magical day at South Elementary. Magician Mike Hamilton ended his visits to three Iron County School District schools with a high-spirited show that left students breathless. From turning a paper rose into a real rose to making a torn playing card disappear and then reappear in a sealed bag of chips, students were awed by the tricks. Hamilton's appearance at the three schools was funded through Les Schwab Tire Centers. Hamilton said he will visit about 100 schools in Utah. Throughout the performance, he shared a message of the importance of reading 20 minutes every day.

19th annual holiday light display raising money for charity

from Benjamin Hohman

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

Ben Hohman and Marielle Boneau, and their many elves, will once again be doing their holiday light display at 26 North 1150 West in Cedar City, Utah. This will be the 19th year of the display.

The lights in the front of the home as well as some of the lights in the backyard are choreographed to "dance" with twenty Christmas songs. The display includes a walk down "Candy Cane Lane," which leads through the back yard. In the display you can see Santa's Flight School where reindeer are learning to fly, the Christmas Zoo, Winter Disco Land, Santa's workshop, Gingerbread land, and other fun vignettes.

This year's display includes over 68,000 lights, nearly 70 plastic blow-molds, over 30 lighted animal sculptures, more than 55 inflatables, a home-made nine foot wreath, 3 wire-frame animated sculptures, and much more. The display lights up each evening (5:30pm to 10pm) starting on December second and running through December 31st, weather permitting.



COURTESY BENJAMIN HOHMAN

As part of the display, donations are collected for Make-A-Wish® Utah. The Display has raised over \$32,000 for Make-A-Wish® in the 18 years it has been running. They also donate the value of their December power bill to the organization. Donations can be made at the display or online at the light display web page: <http://benhprops6.wix.com/holidaylights> which has a link to the Make-A-Wish® Utah online donation site. They also accept donations through Venmo @benslightdisplay.



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schools

IRON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS NUGGETS

from Braylie Tullis

IRON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Canyon View Middle School

Thank you to Angela Sanders and Bethany Holyoak at Canyon View Middle School for organizing a successful Mathcounts competition for students in our area. 120 students participated! Way to go math team!

Enoch Elementary

Enoch Elementary filled many shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. These boxes contained toys, school supplies, stuffies, and more. Each box will be delivered to a child in need around the world. "It's such a special event," said Project Leader Mrs. Megan Meachum. "It's a good opportunity for us to realize how blessed we are, and that we can bring joy to others by giving." The tigers enjoyed the music from Canyon View High School's Marching Band. The students got excited to join the band someday.



Congratulations to the Reflections art contest winners! Kyla Judd was awarded 1st place for the music category. Lily Gully earned 1st place in Art. 1st place for 3D Art went to Kyson Judd.

South Elementary

To Native Americans, dance is a form of awe-inspiring storytelling that honors their culture, departed ancestors, and

more. South Elementary students were privileged to see some of these dances performed by their fellow students. The performances were enjoyed by all. South Elementary has been looking very festive lately. Thank you to all who do such a good job making bulletin boards and decorating our school.



Fiddlers Canyon Elementary

Thank you to everyone who helped with Santa's Workshop last week! Students loved being able to pick out and buy gifts for their loved ones, and we couldn't do it without great volunteers helping them out.

Don't forget that our last day before Winter Break is Wednesday, December 20th and will be early out schedule (school ends at 1:30). Don't forget to follow the Fiddlers Canyon Elementary PTA page on Facebook to stay up-to-date with the latest news and announcements from our school.

Escalante Valley

After settling on a school-wide Christmas theme of "Christmas in the country", our 1st grade class visited Dixie Power to decorate their Beryl office. Students hung ornaments, sang a carol and enjoyed a sugar cookie. We appreciate the opportunity our school has to serve local businesses.



East Elementary

Last Wednesday our students were able to see an incredible assembly called, "Reading Is Magic." The presentation was performed by magician Mike Hamilton. He shared his struggle with dyslexia and discussed the importance of practicing reading at home each night. It was a spectacular performance and left the students motivated and amazed. We are grateful for Les Schwab for sponsoring the assembly for East Elementary. It's an experience that will stay with our students for a long time.



Magician Mike Hamilton invited East Elementary kindergarten students to pet Snowball, the white rabbit, who appeared out of a cake pan during the assembly.

We want to remind our East families that the last day of school before the Christmas break is December 20th. Classes will resume for students on January 3rd.

Three Peaks Elementary

Three Peaks Elementary hosted their 5th annual STEAM Festival Night for parents and students on December 7, 2023. We had 15 activities including chemistry demonstrations, magnetic forces, Tesla coil, scratch art, SUU Aviation helicopter, telescope and constellations, fabulous fractiles, dance and movement, Animal Ambassadors, fossils, sphero indi, balloon cars, perler bead activities, and much, much more. Thank you to the SUU STEM center and the project coordinator, Rachel Christensen, SUU Animal Ambassadors, SUU Department of Chemistry and Physics, SUU Planetarium, SUU Chem Club, Southwest Technical College, USU Extension/4-H, SUU Aviation, Southern Utah Museum of Art (SUMA), ArtsFusion, Cedar Breaks National Monument, and all of the Three Peaks teachers/staff. The students and parents had a wonderful time interacting and learning all about science, technology, engineering, art, and math. They also had the opportunity to

win many fun science related games and prizes. We appreciate the parents that took the time to accompany their children to this fun and educational night. Please remember that Winter Break begins December 21 and school resumes on January 3, 2024.



schools

Cedar High students recognized as Sterling Scholars

by *Tsadakah Wilberg*

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

Every year in the state of Utah, seniors are chosen as Sterling Scholars for categories in all the academic fields. They are chosen for their desire to excel in academics, leadership, and citizenship. They are required to have a rigorous schedule, impressive scores, and a number of leadership positions and service projects. Each one is a master in the

performances such as Music, Dance, and Speech/Drama.

At Cedar High School, the assembly to announce this year's Sterling Scholars took place on the 30th of November. It began with a prelude from the High School Jazz Band who played Christmas music for the guests entering. Vice Principal Eric Fieldstead and Vice Principal Danny Lewis welcomed everyone and began presenting each Sterling Scholar with a small speech about each one's

Later, Duncan took the stage and performed a contemporary dance number. It demonstrated her grace while also being complex enough to show her dexterity and strength.

After these first four were announced, Derek Wood returned to the stage to perform a special musical number. He played "Fire 'n Ice" by Mark Wood on the electric violin, a complex piece with quick, long bow strokes. On top of this, he edited the soundtrack in order to fit

mented the song's meaningful lyrics and sound.

Then Dawson Marriott was announced as this year's Sterling Scholar for Family and Consumer Sciences. Issac Moyle is the Sterling Scholar for Mathematics, Jacie Hu is the Sterling Scholar for Science, and the Sterling Scholar for Social Science is Benjamin Norton. Elizabeth Arnell is the 2023-2024 Sterling Scholar for Visual Arts and Beckham Trigo is the Sterling



KRISTIN BRINKERHOFF

(Back L to R) Ava Price, Jacie Hu, Elizabeth Arnell, Tsadakah Wilberg, Tiana Green, Kassi Duncan, Sadie Hinck, Irene Hu. (Front L to R) Beckham Trigo, Issac Moyle, Logan Nelson, Dawson Marriott, Derek Wood, Benjamin Norton.

category they are selected for and Sterling Scholars is often a way to recognize them for that talent.

Although challenging, being a Sterling Scholar is very rewarding with university scholarships if they win at the regional competition. To compete at the regional competition, Sterling Scholars create a portfolio and interview with judges who compare the students overall presentation. Some categories require

accomplishments in High School.

Derek Wood is this year's Music Sterling Scholar for his incredible musical ability and experience. The Sterling Scholar for Agricultural Science is Ava Price. Tiana Green is the Sterling Scholar for the category Speech/Drama for her love of acting and singing. Kassi Duncan is the Dance Sterling Scholar as she has been in dance for many years and is a part of Cedar's Drill team.

the time limit of the assembly.

Then Sadie Hinck was announced as the Sterling Scholar for Business and Marketing, Logan Nelson as the Sterling Scholar for Computer Technology, and Tsadakah Wilberg as the Sterling Scholar for English. Following them, Tiana Green performed "What's Inside" from the musical The Waitress. It was beautifully delivered, complete with costume and props that comple-

Scholar for World Languages. Finally, Irene Hu was announced as the General Sterling Scholar for her impressive academics, experience in many different clubs and organizations, and impressive service history.

To finish the assembly, the Madrigals choir sang, adding to the professionalism of the assembly, honoring the Sterling Scholars. Congratulations Sterling Scholars and good luck at Region!

A diamond in the rough

LEADERSHIP 101.43

Russell Conwell's "Acres of Diamonds" is a journalistic gem reminding (even reprimanding) each of us to not only be grateful for where we are, but who we are. And yes, to continually improve our lives. I hope this brief



synopsis will help inspire your life and leadership this week. However, the story is much longer and better interpreted from a personal journey, which you can discover by searching for it online.

Conwell's chronicle begins with a story is about a man who owned a large, beautiful farm. It had orchards and gardens, and he was quite wealthy. One day a visitor shared with him how the world was made, including the "congealed drops of sunlight" known as diamonds. The visitor explained all the wonders and wealth diamonds could bring. After hearing the story, the man who owned so much, felt poor and

"There are diamonds hidden everywhere—in your home, office, classroom, neighborhood and community, who need the polish of compassion and encouragement through your leadership."

discontent. So much so that he sold his entire farm and went in search of these diamonds and what he thought would bring him a richer, rewarding life...

I think I will not spoil the rocky revelation at the end of this story. There is not enough room to do so, but also because the impact will be felt more when you discover both the dilemma and moral to the story about this person seeking treasures more in

other people, places and possessions than from within his own beautiful, wonderful world.

In today's fast paced world, there is a quality (a diamond) often misunderstood and misplaced in the role of a leader. How

many other stories have we read, or watched on television about a coach who spent millions of dollars on a "star" player, only to have that player injured, sidelined and have to be replaced by a "lower" player who was seemingly not as talented, or capable (yet) of leading the team to victory? Yet, how often have we seen patient and persistent leadership help turn that diamond in the rough into a diamond mine of success? We need more of those leaders!

This phenomenon doesn't apply only to sports, but to every genre and niche of society. There are diamonds hidden everywhere—in your home, office, classroom, neighborhood and community, who need the polish of compassion and encouragement through your leadership.

Today, no matter where and who you are, know that you are valuable, and have a purpose. As others (including yourself) help you become more confident and competent, you will feel a greater joy and peace than all the diamonds in the world could provide. Know this, that no matter how rough your life is or has been, you are still a valuable diamond. And as you continue to learn and lead you will find not only the success you seek, but more importantly, realize that the true treasure and value of You has been within you the whole time. It just needed someone to help you see it, release it and let it shine.

Peace Light of Bethlehem arrives in Cedar City

from Dave & Sharyl Admire

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

Each year an Austrian child travels to Bethlehem to obtain a sharing from the eternal flame in the grotto where Jesus was born. The flame is then flown back to Austria and distributed to delegations from across Europe who take it to their countries for use in services throughout the continent with a message of peace. The Peace Light is never extinguished and essentially handed from person to person.

The Peace Light 2023, symbolic of the Light of Christ is meant to promote peace, harmony and unity

sharing of the light has been steadily moving west since then, arriving in Utah on Dec 10.

This year there will be an open house for the sharing of the Peace Light. It will be held in Cedar City on Sunday, December 17, 2023, from 2-5 pm at Park Place Eatery located at 23 W Center St, Cedar City, UT. It is free and everyone is invited! Please bring an oil filled lantern or protected candle to contain your sharing of the Peace Light from Bethlehem and a safe way to transport it away.

There is no service or ceremony just the simple sharing of the flame with new friends and family this holiday season. The Peace Light is a



FILE PHOTO

The Peace Light has become a favorite Christmas tradition to help light up the world, one faithful flame at a time.

among the people of the world. For decades, the International Scouting movement, individuals and other volunteer groups have actively been involved in the distribution of the Peace Light while promoting global peace and harmony.

"The Light of Friendship & Peace" was first introduced to the United States in the year 2000. The sharing of the Peace Light has steadily grown each year in America, arriving this year at the JFK International airport on December 3. The person to person

symbolic reminder that we are one world in the name of peace & love. Let's light up our community with Peace Lights.

Cullaine & Mike Boone, of Park Place Eatery, are hosting the Peace Light. However, Park Place Eatery will not be open for regular business on this day. For more information on the Peace Light go to www.peacelight-northamerica.org. Also, contact Dave & Sharyl Admire (Hosts & Keepers of the Flame) by giving them a call 435-267-2610.

history

Herbert Gregory, geology pioneer of the Colorado Plateau

by Jay M. Jones

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

One of the important personalities in the development of Southern Utah was a geology professor from Yale University, Dr. Herbert E. Gregory. His pioneering work in identifying and mapping the geological and geographical features of Southern Utah and Northern Arizona is foundational to the modern understanding of the region's landscape.

Herbert Ernest Gregory was born in Michigan in 1869, and his family moved to Nebraska a few years later. His younger brother remembers him having exceptional energy, being a leader in school sports, and completing his lessons with little apparent effort. Their mother died when Herbert was 12 years old. Being the 11th of 13 siblings, he was sent to live with a Lambert family, who treated him as one of their own.

After graduating from a small college in Nebraska, he went to Yale University, where he received a PhD in 1899. He became a member of the Yale faculty, teaching geology. He was also appointed as assistant geologist for the U. S. Geological Survey, and he kept that association for the rest of his life.

Herbert married Edna Hope in 1908. She was at his side for many of his field trips and international travels.

In 1909 he was asked to search for underground water sources in the vast Navajo Indian Reservation of Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. It was this assignment that introduced him to the Colorado Plateau and Southern Utah.

Dr. Reed W. Farnsworth, a physician in Cedar City, wrote the article, "Herbert Ernest Gregory: Pioneer Geologist of Southern Utah," that appeared in the Utah Historical Quarterly in 1962. He writes:

"It was my great privilege to have known Dr. Gregory over a period of thirteen years extending from 1939 to 1952. This was the period of his life ranging from age seventy until his death at age eighty-two. These would normally be considered the sunset years usually spent in reflection and easing off from taxing commitments and responsibilities. Not so with Dr. Gregory. He always acted as though he had never given any thought to the possibility that his life might someday come to an end."

Dr. Farnsworth describes a visit the two men

Herbert E. Gregory
and his wife Edna
Hope Gregory.



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made to the Escalante River:

"I shall never forget the expression on his face one October afternoon as we were standing on a small ledge gazing out across the cleft of the Escalante River below us — toward the Water Pocket Fold and the Henry Mountains. His eyes sparkled like a child's on Christmas morning as the wind blew his straggly gray locks back from his face. He was seeing visions and dreaming dreams of the happy days he had spent in this area forty years earlier as a field geologist. He spent his eightieth birthday on this trip, and I feel sure he could not have enjoyed it more on any other spot on the globe."

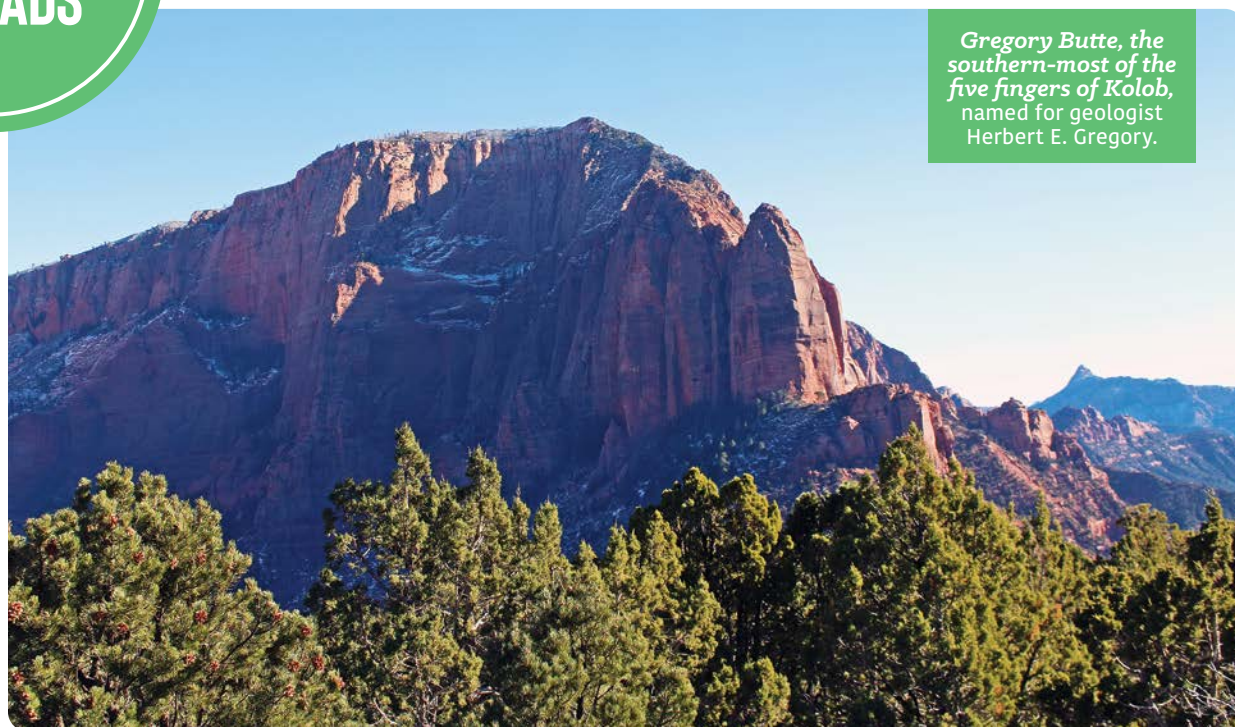
Dr. Farnsworth indicates that Gregory's life revolved around three geographical centers: (1) Yale University, where he held the Silliman Professorial Chair in Geology from 1904 to his retirement in 1936; (2) the Hawaiian Islands where he was director of the Bishop Museum from 1919 to 1936; and (3) the Colorado Plateau area, from the Four Corners westward to Zion Park.

In Southern Utah he was housed in quarters furnished by Zion Park. "It was during his return visits to Zion that I came to know him both professionally and as a friend and fellow explorer of this vast colorful area that he loved so well,"

see **GREGORY** » 30

HISTORICAL
THREADS

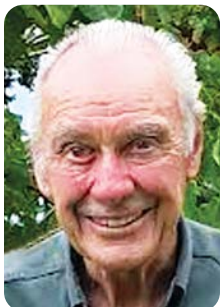
Gregory Butte, the
southern-most of the
five fingers of Kolob,
named for geologist
Herbert E. Gregory.



ROBERT JONES

obituaries

Richard Orton Batt



Richard Orton Batt was born January 9, 1936, in Cedar City, Utah to John Richard and Calma Orton Batt. Richard's dad was an aviation pioneer in Iron County and owned one of the first planes in the county. As a result, Richard grew up with a deep interest and love of all kinds of aircraft. He enjoyed spending time with his dad doing all things airplane! He also enjoyed photography and bought himself a still-camera and a movie camera when he was in high school. He loved to take pictures and movies of his family and friends, but especially of his dad flying his plane.



He met his eternal companion Barbara while they both attended Parowan High School. After graduating he served a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-days Saints in the Northeast Area Mission. He had many experiences on his mission that shaped his life forever.

After returning from his mission, he married Barbara Jane Bayles on November 4, 1960. They were blessed with 3 children, Rich, Cindy, and Rachel. He enlisted in the United States Air Force and they moved to Oklahoma. Richard trained to be an airplane mechanic and later worked for several airlines including Bonanza and Skywest. The family lived in Las Vegas NV, and Scottsdale, AZ before finally moving back to Parowan. Richard was a jack of all trades and after returning to Parowan, he began working for the US Park Service at Cedar Breaks. He performed all types of maintenance at the park for many years until retirement.

Richard enjoyed spending time in the mountains and was an avid hiker and hunter. He could out-hike anyone and always carried the heaviest backpack. He had many fond memories of time spent in the mountains with family and friends deer hunting. Richard was also a skilled craftsman. He built their home in Parowan. He built and flew his own airplane and ultralight. He loved to build model airplanes for his grandchildren.

Richard is survived by sisters, Bonnie Thornton and Donna Griffiths, daughter-in-law Sherri Batt, son-in-law Kelly Bradford, daughter Rachel Stull, grandchildren Charles Bradford, Mandy (Tyrel) Wilcox, Spencer (Shaley) Bradford, Logan (Ashley) Bradford, Porter Bradford, Joshua (Jocelyn) Batt, and 12 great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his loving wife Barbara, parents John and Calma, sibling Roger Batt, son Richard Batt, and daughter Cindy Bradford.

A viewing was held at Southern Utah Mortuary located in Parowan, Utah on Saturday, Dec 9th from 12:30-1:30pm. Graveside services were conducted at 2pm in the Parowan City Cemetery under the direction of Southern Utah Mortuary. Online condolences may be shared at www.mortuary.org.

Stephanie Shakespear Hulet



Stephanie Shakespear Hulet, age 56, passed away on December 3rd, 2023, at home surrounded by her children and her husband in Cedar City, UT. She was born on August 11, 1967, in Cedar City, UT to Rett and Christine Shakespear. She enjoyed growing up in Cedar City spending time in the mountains at her cabin adoring the fall leaves and at the lake with her family. She married her high school sweetheart, Roger Hulet on September 12, 1986, in the St. George Temple.

Stephanie dedicated her life to being a great mother to her three children. She was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother and friend. She was very kind and selfless and always worried about others. She loved hiking, reading, going to plays, watching shows and eating good food with her husband Roger. Stephanie was so excited to become a grandma and loved spending time with her grandkids.

She is survived by her husband Roger Hulet, Children Hailey Hulet Gulley (Tristan Gulley), Lindsey Hulet Van Roo (Joshua Van Roo) and Ryan Hulet (Elizabeth Hulet). Her grandchildren Lily and Declan Gulley, Bonnie Van Roo and Paisley and Lena Hulet. Her mother Christine Shakespear, Her siblings, Kenny Shakespear, Michelle Shakespear Halladay and Toni Shakespear Carl. She is preceded in death by her father Rett Shakespear and her nephew Isaiah R Carl.

Funeral services were held on Friday December 8th at the Canyon View Stake Center (1985 N Main St, Cedar City) at 11AM. There was a viewing on Thursday December 7th at Southern Utah Mortuary from 5 - 7 PM and again On Friday December 8th at the Canyon View Stake Center from 9:00 - 10:30 AM. Interment was in the Cedar City Cemetery, under the direction of Southern Utah Mortuary. Online condolences may be left at www.mortuary.org.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Cedar City Cancer Center. (QR Code below - select Cancer Services in the drop-down menu for Programs). Stephanie was so appreciative of the amazing doctors, nurses and friends who she spent so much time with over the past eight years.



Want to submit an obituary?

There is a charge of \$100 for obituaries to be published. Submissions can be made online at ironcountytoday.com, emailed to news@ironcountytoday.com or brought in typed/digitized format to 479 N 100 W, #1, Cedar City. A single submission may be up to 600 words and may include up to two photos. Submitted obituaries over 600 words will be charged an additional 10¢ per word. The deadline for submissions is Monday at 11 am for Thursday's publication.

GREGORY

« CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

wrote Farnsworth. He continues:

"[At] Zion Canyon . . . he was close to his field problems and could revel in landscape views that to him were the world's finest. I have heard him repeat many times that if he were called upon to select a single podium from which to view America's most expansive geology, it would be atop the black lava rock mountain just east of Black Ridge, above Ash Creek, looking south-eastward toward Mount Trumbull, Kaibab Plateau, Smithsonian Butte, Zion West Temple, and the finger canyons and buttes of the Kolob."

Gregory Butte, the southernmost of the Kolob "five fingers", was named in honor of Dr. Gregory. This remarkable rock mountain has stories of its own. A post on the American Alpine Club website reports the first known ascent of Gregory Butte in July 1916 by Dan Sith. His route took him up a steep, difficult gully to a hanging valley part way up. Climbers in the 1950s had reached this point to take measurements of nearby Kolob Arch. From the hanging valley to the top of Gregory Butte was another difficult and dangerous climb.

Gregory Natural Bridge, located on a tributary to the lower Escalante River is another remarkable geological feature named for Herbert Gregory. A Spring 1995 Utah Historical Quarterly article describes the "discovery" of this natural wonder, now quite "undiscoverable" under the waters of Lake Powell.

Dr. Gregory conducted geologic studies in Australia, South America, the Pacific Islands, and other points around the world. He published sixty-six professional papers, including "Geology and Geography of the Zion Park Region, Utah and Arizona" published in 1950 and "Geology of eastern Iron County, Utah," published in cooperation with the U. S. Geological Survey. He also authored "Scientific Explorations in Southern Utah," published in the American Journal of Science in October 1945.

Herbert Gregory died in 1952. Dr. Farnsworth recorded this tribute: "He knew kings, princes, and heads of nations, yet was equally at home with the lonely tribesmen of the Southwest deserts. The world was his home, and I have never known a person who knew so much about it. His life might well be summed up by the Navajo word, Utenie — 'Doer of Great Deeds.'"

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finances

ASK RUSTY: SOCIAL SECURITY

Why is my age 70 benefit not higher than my January amount?

Dear Rusty: I plan to retire in 2025 (the year I turn 70). Given that I'm still working, I'm delaying my Social Security until that year. I noticed on my Social Security statement that my payment in January of 2025 will not be much different than my age 70 amount in October of 2025. If that is truly the case, would it not be better for me to start taking Social Security payments starting in January of 2025. Am I missing anything here? Signed: Uncertain Senior

Dear Uncertain Senior: Your benefit in October 2025 at age 70 will be about 6% more than it will be in January 2025. If that isn't shown on your Statement of Estimated Benefits, it may be due to a particular nuance in Social Security's rules relating to Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs). When benefits are claimed mid-year after full retirement age (FRA), the DRCs earned in that year aren't applied until the following January. Thus, someone who claims benefits to start mid-year will initially get the DRCs they've earned through the end of the previous year, but not immediately get credit for the additional DRCs earned during the claim-year. Those extra DRCs earned between January and the month benefits started will be applied the following January.

For example, if someone beyond FRA claims benefits to start in October 2024, their initial SS retirement benefit will be what they were entitled to at the end

of 2023 and would not include DRCs earned between January 2024 and September 2024. They will collect that initial January 2024 benefit until January 2025 when the DRCs earned in 2024 are applied, at which point their benefit would increase by 6%. There is, however, one exception to this rule, which is that all DRCs are immediately credited when benefits are claimed to start in the month age 70 is reached, so despite what your Statement of Estimated Benefits might reflect, if you claim for benefits to start in the month you turn 70 (October 2025) you will get your maximum age 70 benefit immediately and won't need to wait until

January 2026 for those extra DRCs to be applied.

Unfortunately, Social Security's benefit estimator doesn't explain how this nuance works and may show someone claiming mid-year receiving the

same benefit as for the preceding January, without further explanation. That is, in my opinion, a flaw in the estimator which may result in people making a wrong decision on when to claim their Social Security benefit. Nevertheless, rest assured that your benefit in October 2025 (the month you turn 70) will be your maximum amount - 6% more than it would be if you claimed benefits to start in January 2025, and you won't need to wait until the following January to get the DRCs earned earlier in 2025.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. Visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.



RUSSELL GLOOR
SOCIAL SECURITY
ADVISOR

faith

Traffic Jams

They say patience is a virtue. Well, "they" probably haven't been in a lot of traffic jams? Or maybe they have and that's why they understand what it means to be patient. Regardless, life is full of opportunities and opposition that deal with waiting. Life has also become so fast paced, that we not only run faster than we have strength, but when we run out of strength, we rarely take the time to rest and recharge before charging back into the battle.

Also, what if traffic jams can provide a blessing beyond the bumper-to-bumper frustrations? When we are "forced" to wait, can we use those moments to reflect on the direction and speed of our lives? Even without traffic jams, it's beneficial to make time for regular rest and reflection to determine where we're at now and where we're going. Traffic jams can also slow us down when we're going too fast to take care of ourselves, or others around us (family, friends, etc.). The question is, when life gets jammed and dammed up, will we complain or create?

But being patient and traffic jams are not as fun! We've got places to be and things to do. This is why impatience has created more sorrows and ruined more todays and tomorrows than all the traffic jams in the world combined. (Proverbs 16:32) says, "Better a patient person than a warrior, one with self-control than one who takes a city."

By living in such a fast-paced world, impatience is becoming second nature to us. With so many things on our proverbial plates (and adding a plethora of new plates to fill) it can be difficult to remember what patience is, let alone implement it purposefully, especially where even two-day shipping is becoming a too-long nuisance.

And life can become discouraging, even depressing, when we allow busyness to blind us. Yes, some things in life are worth the wait, but we can lose our faith and footing when we get

so caught up in rushing from one event and experience to the next that we've forgotten how to not only be present in the moment but enjoy that moment and be grateful for it. And all too often, because we're so caught up in the pace of life, we don't realize we're losing our peace in life.

This is why (Philippians 4:6) counsels us to "...not be anxious about anything...but pray and petition to



Father" for patience, peace and the faith to endure, no matter what kind of traffic jams we face. Be patient, persistent and know that "the spring rains are coming" to bless your land and life (James 5:7).

Today, take a moment to come to a complete stop. Take some patient percolating to evaluate your experiences. Do you feel stuck in the muck? Are your godly gears jammed up with the hurry and worry of life? Then "throw off everything that hinders and entangles you and run with perseverance (and patience) your race..." (Hebrews 12:1).

VERSE OF THE WEEK**PSALM 37:23-24**

"The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will never fall, for the Lord holds them by the hand."

"Godly" doesn't mean perfection, it means desire and direction. It means pointing, preparing our minds and hearts towards Him and being willing to remember, follow and do as He—our Savior—would do, and is doing. Wherever you step, let Him hold your hand and heart today.

sports

SCORES + RECAPS FROM IRON COUNTY COMPETITION

Cedar girls basketball wins pair of road games

by Tom Zulewski

IRON COUNTY TODAY

In what's become an annual test for the Cedar girls basketball team, they played three games in three days in Northern Utah and came away with two more wins.

On Dec. 7, the Reds opened the trip with a 51-17 rout over Timpanogos.

Annalyse Shimada led the way with 15 points and Gabby Gomez added 14 as Cedar built a 29-8 halftime lead before running away to the victory.

Day 2 had Timpview scoring 28 points in the first quarter before finishing off a 53-38 win over the Reds. Gomez led Cedar with 11 points, and the team outscored the Thunderbirds by four over the final three quarters

after starting in a 28-9 hole. Gomez hit three of Cedar's five 3-pointers in the loss.

The Reds were able to close the trip Dec. 9 with a 43-31 win over Mountain View to improve to 4-2 on the season. Kiara Hansen led Cedar with 16 points and Gomez added 13 in the victory.

Cedar will return home to face

the Lehi Pioneers on Saturday in a 2 p.m. tipoff.

Elsewhere in Iron County, the Parowan girls team broke through and earned its first win of the season Dec. 9 with a 41-31 road win over Altamont. The Rams got 29 points from Bella Robinson and held the Longhorns to just two points in the third quarter and pulled away for the victory.

REGION CHAMPS



On November 18, 2023, the Canyon View Falcons 4th Grade Football Team became the 2023 USA Invitational Regional 4th Grade Champions against Desert Hills in overtime! (L to R Coaches) Greg Bulloch, Blake Myers, Mark Brown, Dan Camp and Shane Perkins.

COURTESY TALISA MYERS

Reds boys still searching for first victory

by Tom Zulewski

IRON COUNTY TODAY

The Cedar Reds were outscored 20-7 in the fourth quarter and lost all of an 11-point lead as Sky View rallied for a 58-56 victory Dec. 9. Landon Kreitzer and Easton Albrecht led the way with 18 points, but the Reds are now 0-6 on the season.

The Bobcats (3-4) were outscored 23-11 in the third quarter as Cedar opened up a 49-38 lead before Liam Guthrie – who led all scorers with 28 points – helped key the comeback in the game played at their home gym. Cedar made eight 3-pointers, but had no answer as Sky View earned the victory.

One day earlier, the Reds got 19 points from Albrecht, but Logan enjoyed a 10-point edge in the second half to pull away to a 64-50 victory. Jordan Child

led three players in double figures for the Grizzlies (5-0) with 26 points in the win.

Cedar opened the three-day trip to the Classic with a 72-60 loss to Bear River on Dec. 7. Kreitzer led three players in double figures for the Reds with 14 points, Albrecht added 12 and Tate Stubbs helped out with 10.

The Reds played their home opener Monday against Mountain View in a game that was too late for press deadline, and they will play three games at the Coach Walker Classic starting Thursday at Pine View.



Bear River

72



Cedar

60

Bear River	13	16	21	22	-	72
Cedar	18	9	15	18	-	60

Bear River – Jensen 23, Barfuss 15, Roberts 9, Marble 8, Ritter 7, Olsen 4, Thurgood 2, Sorensen 2, Jones 2. Totals 28 13-18 72. 3-pointers – Jensen 1, Roberts 1, Barfuss 1.

Cedar – Kreitzer 14, Albrecht 12, Tate Stubbs 10, Kee 5, Englebright 5, Visser 4, Ty Stubbs 4, Jeter 3, Davis 3. Totals 24 9-12 60. 3-pointers – Kreitzer 2, Kee 1.



Parowan's Daniel Bernhardt helped the Rams sink the Water Canyon Wildcats 63-31 on December 6.

Hamlin, Warriors too much for Falcon girls

by Tom Zulewski

IRON COUNTY TODAY

At times, the Canyon View girls basketball team saw a blur when it tried to defend the Snow Canyon Warriors. Throw in Olivia Hamlin, and Snow Canyon cruised to an easy victory.

Hamlin scored a game-high 27 points, and Snow

Jaycee Barnhurst said of the Warriors. "They're quick, they get the ball up the floor, and they finish well."

The Falcons trailed 10-7 late in the first quarter, but Hamlin beat the buzzer with a jumper and added a 3-pointer to start the second that sent the Warriors in motion. By the time the first half ended, Snow Canyon led 29-12. After a Nichols 3-pointer cut the lead to 31-22 midway through the third quarter, Hamlin scored eight points in a 14-2 Warriors run that dashed any hope of a comeback for CV.

"We guarded them better in the second half, but their players hit some big shots," Barnhurst said. "Their offense was better than ours tonight."

Kelly Howard added 14 points in the win for Snow Canyon, including a 6-for-6 effort at the free-throw line – the only free throws attempted by the Warriors in the game.

keep Beaver (5-1) off the free-throw line, where they went 20-for-30 was 7-for-12. Bethanee Vargas and Maylee Spencer added

10 points in the loss.

The Falcons started Region 12 play with their home opener Tuesday against the Richfield

Wildcats, a game that was too late for press deadline. CV travels to face North Sanpete tonight starting at 7 p.m.

PREP SCOREBOARD

SCORES

Region 9 Boys Basketball

12/5	Pine View 62, Rancho (NV) 50
12/7	Snow Cyn 72, Canyon View 57
	Bear River 72, Cedar 60
	Desert Hills 75, Sky View 64
	Logan 79, Pine View 60
	Crimson Cliffs 71, Farmington 65
	Dixie 75, Westlake 62
12/8	Logan 64, Cedar 50
	Bear River 62, Desert Hills 48
	Crimson Cliffs 77,
	Copper Hills 73, OT
	Hurricane 67, Virgin Valley 66
	Dixie 65, Herriman 49
	Pine View 59, Sky View 43
12/9	Sky View 58, Cedar 56
	Bear River 66, Pine View 53
	Ridgeline 53, Desert Hills 37
	Dixie 77, Crimson Cliffs 62

Region 12 Boys Basketball

12/4	Ben Lomond 68, N. Sanpete 59
12/5	Manti 73, Sky View 66
	Emery 54, Union 30
	Cottonwood 64, Richfield 54
12/6	Carbon 68, Grand 64, OT
	South Sevier 53, Delta 50
	South Summit 80, North Sanpete 44
12/7	Snow Cyn. 72, Canyon View 57
	South Summit 59, Juab 41
	Manti 58, Union 45
12/8	South Summit 59, Manti 56
	Carbon 53, North Sevier 46
	North Sanpete 76, Millard 48
	Richfield 61, South Sevier 49
	Delta 68, Tooele 53
	Juab 41, Union 34
	Emery 77, Morgan 48

Region 18 Boys Basketball

12/6	Parowan 63, Water Canyon 31
	Panguitch 58, Enterprise 48
	South Sevier 53, Delta 50
	Bryce Valley 50, Millard 38
12/7	Kanab 82, Bryce Valley 33
12/8	North Sanpete 76, Millard 48
	Richfield 61, South Sevier 49
	North Summit 56, Beaver 53
	Enterprise 58, Duchesne 53
	Water Canyon 50, El Capitan 45
12/9	North Summit 55, Enterprise 50
	Duchesne 56, Beaver 38

Region 9 Girls Basketball

12/7	Cedar 51, Timpanogos 16
	Hurricane 59, Enterprise 24
	Dixie 35, Moapa Valley 34
	Pine View 45, Hillcrest 15
	Hunter 50, Crimson Cliffs 44
12/8	Timpview 53, Cedar 38
	Snow Cyn. 59, Canyon View 37
	Hurricane 64, Virgin Valley 49
	Crimson Cliffs 60, Orem 52
	Kanab 71, Pine View 42
	Dixie 53, Juab 47
12/9	Cedar 43, Mountain View 31
	Snow Canyon 75,
	Democracy Prep (NV) 50
	Desert Pines (NV) 43, Dixie 40
	Viewmont 49, Crimson Cliffs 43
	Hunter 53, Pine View 33

Region 12 Girls Basketball

12/5	Grantsville 64, Manti 25
	Duchesne 52, North Sanpete 42
	Carbon 54, Union 21
	Millard 51, Delta 47
	Juab 58, Juan Diego 21
12/7	Beaver 52, Canyon View 42
	South Sevier 45, Richfield 39
	Carbon 73, Orem 39
	Emery 50, Union 39
	Juab 64, Parowan 16
	North Sanpete 43, Millard 41
12/8	Snow Cyn. 59, Canyon View 37
	Beaver 63, Emery 52
	Carbon 61, Hunter 56
	Dixie 53, Juab 47
	Manti 48, Grand 34
	Delta 41, Juan Diego 33
12/9	N. Sanpete 51, N. Sevier 47, OT
	Carbon 65, Kanab 60

Region 18 Girls Basketball

12/5	Millard 51, Delta 47
	Beaver 76, Am. Heritage 37
	Enterprise 48, Panguitch 45
	Water Canyon 29, Pinnacle 12
	South Sevier 77, North Sevier 33
12/7	Juab 64, Parowan 16
	Beaver 52, Canyon View 42
	Hurricane 59, Enterprise 24
	South Sevier 45, Richfield 39
	Kanab 55, Viewmont 38
	North Sanpete 43, Millard 41
12/8	Monument Valley 56, Parowan 33
	Beaver 63, Emery 52
	El Capitan 52, Water Canyon 47
	Kanab 71, Pine View 42
12/9	Parowan 41, Altamont 31
	Carbon 65, Kanab 60

STANDINGS

RPI RANKINGS IN PARENTHESES

Region 9 Boys Basketball

	REGION	OVERALL
Dixie	0-0	5-0
Snow Canyon	0-0	3-0
Desert Hills	0-0	3-3
Pine View	0-0	3-3
Crimson Cliffs	0-0	3-3
Hurricane	0-0	3-4
Cedar	0-0	0-6

Region 12 Boys Basketball

	REGION	OVERALL
Manti	0-0	5-1
Juab	0-0	5-1
Emery	0-0	4-1
Carbon	0-0	3-2
Richfield	0-0	3-3
Canyon View	0-0	2-2
North Sanpete	0-0	2-3
Delta	0-0	2-4

Region 18 Boys Basketball

	REGION	OVERALL
Enterprise	0-0	3-1
Kanab	0-0	4-2
Water Canyon	0-0	2-1
South Sevier	0-0	5-3
Beaver	0-0	2-3
Parowan	0-0	2-3
Millard	0-0	0-6

Region 9 Girls Basketball

	REGION	OVERALL
Snow Canyon	0-0	4-1
Hurricane	0-0	6-2
Cedar	0-0	5-2
Dixie	0-0	4-2
Crimson Cliffs	0-0	3-6
Pine View	0-0	2-4
Desert Hills	0-0	1-2

Region 12 Girls Basketball

	REGION	OVERALL
Juab	0-0	5-1
Manti	0-0	4-2
Carbon	0-0	4-2
Emery	0-0	5-3
Delta	0-0	3-2
Richfield	0-0	4-3
North Sanpete	0-0	5-4
Canyon View	0-0	2-4

Region 18 Girls Basketball

	REGION	OVERALL
South Sevier	0-0	4-0
Kanab	0-0	6-1
Beaver	0-0	5-1
Enterprise	0-0	2-4
Water Canyon	0-0	2-4
Parowan	0-0	1-4
Millard	0-0	1-6



Snow Canyon

59



Canyon View

37

Canyon View 7 5 15 10 - 37
 Snow Canyon 12 17 18 12 - 59

Canyon View – Barnes 2, Spencer 5, Nichols 12, Brush 2, Potter 5, Davie 5, Davenport 2, Brown 1, Vargas 3. Totals 14 5-11 37. 3-pointers – Spencer 1, Nichols 2, Potter 1.

Snow Canyon – Jensen 6, Staheli 6, Howard 14, K. Andrews 4, Hamlin 27, C. Andrews 2. Totals 24 6-6 59. 3-pointers – Staheli 2, Howard 2, Hamlin 1.

“We guarded them better in the second half, but their players hit some big shots. Their offense was better than ours tonight.”

Jaycee Barnhurst, Falcons head coach

Canyon bolted out to a big first-half lead on the way to a 59-37 win over the Falcons on Dec. 8. Maya Nichols led CV (2-4) with 12 points in the team's second loss in as many days.

"They're good in transition," Falcons head coach

In the Falcons' other game of the week, Kambree Potter led three players in double figures with 13 points, but the Beaver Beavers got 17 from Alina Lurth and posted a 52-42 victory Dec. 7. Canyon View trailed by 9 at the half (24-15), but couldn't

Falcon boys fall to Snow Canyon

by Tom Zulewski

IRON COUNTY TODAY

If there was one wish for the Canyon View boys basketball team from its game against Snow Canyon, it may involve throwing out the performance from the first quarter and using the last three to sharpen its competitive focus.

The Falcons were held to just four points in the first quarter, and the Warriors stayed in control for a 72-57 victory on Dec. 7. Felps Sanders led the Falcons with 20 points and Ty Attig added 17, but CV fell to 2-2 on the season.

Snow Canyon led 20-4 after the opening eight minutes with the help of a pair of 3-pointers from Damon Ence, but

CV didn't let the lead grow any larger than that.

"That first quarter really stuck us in a hole we spent the entire game trying to get out of," Falcons head coach Kim Blackner said. "They're long and athletic and it took us away from some things we like to do."

Missed shots and turnovers were a factor early, but they would hurt when Canyon View cut the Warrior lead to 44-37 after Sanders scored seven straight points.

"We had three possessions with a chance to cut the lead even further, but turned the ball over each time," Blackner said. "They converted shots that pushed the lead back to 11, 12, and it turned up the

pressure all over again."

CV was able to trim the SC lead back to seven again at 59-52 early in the fourth quarter after a three-point play by Sanders, but Owen Mackay came to life down the stretch, scoring 11 of his game-high 22 points in the period, including a 7-for-8 effort at the free-throw line.

The Warriors would put the win away with a clinching 13-5 run. Ence and Owen Iloa both added 14 points in the victory.

Canyon View returned home for a non-region matchup against Green Canyon on Wednesday that was too late for press deadline. They will travel to Richfield for the Region 12 opener on Friday in a 7 p.m. tipoff.



Snow Canyon

72



Canyon View

57

Canyon View 4 19 18 16 - 57
Snow Cyn. 20 19 14 19 - 72

Canyon View - Farrow 4, Attig 17, Sanders 20, Miles 8, Buhler 8. Totals 22 8-11 57. 3-pointers - Attig 2, Sanders 1, Buhler 2.

Snow Canyon - Smith 9, Ence 14, R. Mackay 4, Kelsch 5, O. Mackay 22, Iloa 14, Campbell 4. Totals 27 10-14 72. 3-pointers - Smith 1, Ence 4, Kelsch 1, O. Mackay 1, Iloa 1.

Fallah's career night propels T-Birds to eight point victory

by Parker Haynie

ASST. DIRECTOR, SUU ATHLETIC COMM.

CEDAR CITY — Parsa Fallah scores a career high 29 points and the Thunderbirds walk away with an 82-74 victory over the Idaho State Bengals in the America First Event Center.

"We were able to continue our really efficient play that we had against Utah here tonight, which is a good sign. As a coaching staff we feel like the team has really bought in to what we are trying to establish as a culture and as a program and now we can start focusing on continuing to build upwards towards winning games and making the conference tournament," said Head Coach Rob Jeter.

Neither team was able to establish any offensive rhythm in the first half, but SUU was able to close the half on a 4-0 spurt that would send them into the break with a 33-26 lead over the Bengals. The second half was quite the opposite, both teams came out shooting the ball really well and getting quality looks all over the court. Bengals scored 48 points in the second half shooting the ball 74% from the field in the second half but SUU scored 49 points in the second half. The Thunderbirds shot the ball



53% from the field and 70% from the charity stripe. SUU led for nearly the entire game and came away with a big win at home.

"We got better tonight which is always the ultimate goal. Defensively we played really well in the first half, disrupting a lot of what their offense was trying to do and forcing turnovers that led to easy baskets on the other end. Overall I am very proud of our team and we are trending in the right direction," said Jeter.

"We got better tonight which is always the ultimate goal... Overall I am very proud of our team and we are trending in the right direction"

Rob Jeter, Head Coach

The Thunderbirds return to action against the Lumberjacks of NAU on Dec 16 in Flagstaff AZ. The game will tip off at 2 p.m. and will be live streamed on ESPN+.

SUU ATHLETICS

Dominant defense pushes SUU past Lobos on road

by Tyler Francis

SUU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The Southern Utah University women's basketball team played lockdown defense to hand the University of New Mexico its first home loss of the season with a score of 58-40 on Thursday, Dec. 7 at The Pit. The Thunderbirds improve to 3-5 with the win, while the Lobos

“I thought we played really good defense for 40 minutes. They stuck to the game plan, executed offensively, and played fearless. This is a team that is capable of great things.”

Tracy Mason, Head Coach

fall to 7-3 on the season. The Thunderbirds played tremendous defense, holding the Lobos to only 27 percent shooting from the field and 18 percent from beyond the arc.

Head Coach Tracy Mason said, “I’m really proud of our performance tonight. I thought we played really good defense for 40 minutes.



SUU's Ava Uhrich helped the Thunderbirds outlast the Lobos and gain the victory in New Mexico.

They stuck to the game plan, executed offensively, and played fearless. This is a team that is capable of great things.”

Charli Kay opened the Thunderbirds' attack, drilling a three pointer at the 9:05 mark in the first quarter. After the Lobos briefly took a 5-3 lead, a pair of triples from Ava Uhrich and Samantha Johnston sparked a 15-4 run that gave SUU an 18-9 advantage heading into the second period of play.

Daylani Ballena and Megan Smith sparked a 6-0 burst to push SUU in front 24-9 with 7:18 left in the first half. New Mexico battled back, scoring nine of the next 12 points to get back within single digits, 24-16, midway through the quarter. A balanced attack offensively helped the T-Birds stretch their lead to 33-21 at the break.

Ballena and Uhrich came out hot to start the second half, fueling a 7-3 run to extend the lead to 40-24 with 7:11 on the clock. The two squads traded baskets for the rest of the period, with SUU holding a 46-33 lead at the end of the third quarter. Southern Utah stayed aggressive in the final frame, using a 9-2 sprint to claim a 55-35 lead with 4:29 remaining in the game. The lead proved to be insurmountable, as the Thunderbirds cruised to the finish line with a 58-40 victory.

Southern Utah will enjoy over a week of rest, as the team prepares to host the University of Utah on Saturday, Dec. 16. The game is scheduled to begin at 5 p.m. MT. For all the latest on Southern Utah women's basketball, follow @SUUWBasketball on Twitter and Instagram and also like the Southern Utah Women's Basketball Facebook page.

SUU ATHLETICS



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Flippin' Birds fly into the season ranked #24

by **Regan Hunsaker**

ASSISTANT AD, SUU SPORTS INFORMATION

CEDAR CITY — Southern Utah will enter the 2024 Gymnastics season as the #24 ranked squad in the country. The Flippin' Birds finished the 2023 season ranked #22 in the country after beating the #12 Auburn Tigers at the NCAA Regionals in Los Angeles.

Coach Scotty Bauman said, "We're thrilled to be ranked #24 entering the season. It's a testament to the hard work and dedication of our gymnasts, coaches, and support staff. We know that rankings can change quickly, so we're focused on putting in the work every day, and continuing to improve. Our goal is to compete at the highest level and make Southern Utah proud."

Southern Utah is competing in a new conference this season, the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation. The Flippin' Birds are the top-ranked team in the conference to begin the 2024 campaign. The other teams in the conference are Alaska Anchorage (unranked), UC Davis (received votes), and Sacramento State (received votes).

That being said, and as we head into the winter months, the excitement for Flippin' Birds Gymnastics begins to build. The Thunderbirds are coming off of a Mountain Rim Gymnastics Conference Championship season and looking to reload for a run in the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation. Let's take a look at some of the returning and new faces we can expect to fly high as part of the vault team for the Thunderbirds when the gymnastics season begins one month from today.

Coach Bauman explained, "Vault is one of our strongest events this year. We have depth and some new talent on the team, and I'm excited to see what they can do in competition. They've been working hard, and I have no doubt they'll make us proud right away."

The Flippin' Birds have a handful of vaulters who have experience, though some will be taking a more significant role than they previously held in the lineup. Sophomore Kayla Pardue will be back in the lineup this season, looking to improve on a stellar freshman campaign where she put up

impressive numbers, including a 9.900 vault late in the season. Senior Anna Hartley will also look to find a spot in the lineup. Her career best is a 9.7, but she is capable of putting up some good numbers this year. Junior Ellie Cacciola will also be an essential part of the vault squad. Cacciola's top score last year was 9.900, which earned her the MRGC vault Championship. Look

Vegas, where she was a seven-time Nevada state champion. Expanding her competition, Randolph became a two-time regional champion and earned the title of National Vault Champion in 2022. Randolph will get plenty of opportunities to shine this season.

Freshman Brinlee Christensen comes to Southern Utah from South Jordan. Christensen showcased

Level 8-10 Regional Championships. Kelly also showcased her talents at the 2019 USA Gymnastics Level 9 Western Championships and earned a spot as an alternate for Nationals in 2022. Kelly has been putting in the work and may find a spot on the vault team this season.

Regardless of the lineup when the Flippin' Birds hit the road to Las Vegas

"We know that rankings can change quickly, so we're focused on putting in the work every day, and continuing to improve. Our goal is to compete at the highest level and make Southern Utah proud."

Coach Scotty Bauman



SUU ATHLETICS

Coach Scotty Bauman looks to lead SUU to another successful season with his talented lineup of both returning and new gymnasts.

to see sophomore Kennedi McClain, junior Taylor Gull, and sophomore Trista Goodman break into the lineup at times this season as well.

Coach Bauman and his staff have also added some very talented team members since last season, and some of them will get the chance to spark the vault team this season.

Freshman Niya Randolph is a power-packed gymnast from Las

unparalleled excellence, achieving a flawless 10.00 in the vault, reigning as the '23 State of Utah Beam Champion, and seizing the '23 Region 1 Vault Champion title among her impressive accomplishments. Look for Christensen to compete regularly this season.

Mackenzie Kelly made her way to Southern Utah from Sparks, Nevada. She secured second place in the 2018

in early January, the excitement for the upcoming season is palpable.

Help us pack the America First Event Center by buying your season tickets today! Visit tbirdtickets.com to reserve your seats! And for all the latest on Southern Utah gymnastics, follow @SUUGym on Twitter, @SUUGymnastics on Instagram, and like the Southern Utah Gymnastics Facebook page.

Wright out of NFR with injury

Stetson Wright struggled in his opening round of saddle bronc and bull riding, failing to score at the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas on Dec. 8. When the performance was duplicated 24 hours later, it was cause for concern.

Wright has been forced out of the 2023 NFR due to a hamstring injury. The 23-year-old from Beaver was bucked off his saddle bronc ride aboard Big Rafter's Wild Valley in Round 2, then didn't attempt his bull ride later aboard Midnight Rider.

"He said he's out for the remainder of the rodeo," said Justin Sports Medicine Medical Director Dr. Tandy Freeman to Pro Rodeo Sports News. "We filled out a doctor's release for the remaining eight rounds. He's not going to try and come back in two rounds or five rounds, he's through."

Wright has a fifth all-around world title in his sights. Through Round 2, the champ had earned \$479,621, well ahead of team roping header Nelson Wyatt, who had \$182,612. Wyatt has a small chance to overtake Wright with eight rounds remaining as of this writing.

"We filled out a doctor's release for the remaining eight rounds. [Stetson's] not going to try and come back in two rounds or five rounds, he's through."

Dr. Tandy Freeman, Justin Sports Medicine Medical Director

Wright, who has seven gold buckles, leads the bull riding through Round 2 with \$378,630, ahead of Ky Hamilton's total of \$321,780. He is third in saddle bronc with \$261,626 behind defending champ Zeke Thurston (\$272,448) and Cade Bruno (\$262,746).

The start of the NFR was supposed to happen last Thursday, but it was pushed back a day when a mass shooting happened on the campus at UNLV, which holds the Thomas & Mack Center, home to the event. As a result, the PRCA

made the adjustment by holding rounds 6 and 7 on Wednesday. Round 6 was a morning session that was held without fans in the stands, and refunds were available for those who had tickets. The rodeo will wrap up Saturday night starting at 6:45 p.m., Utah time.

Let's say this next thing slowly. The Los Angeles Dodgers have signed Shohei Ohtani – the Babe Ruth of this generation – to a contract that will pay him \$700 MILLION over the next 10 years. You read that right. \$700 million. The reporting on Ohtani left a lot to be desired – we

feel your pain for the bad journalism, Toronto Blue Jays fans – but it's clear the Dodgers needed something or someone to help push them over the line and onto another World Series ring.

Ohtani will be entering his seventh MLB season in 2024. While he won't be pitching due to a bad elbow, he still has one heck of a bat that will give all National League pitchers fits.

In 2023, Ohtani led the American League in home runs with 44 and hit .304, his career best. Ohtani led the majors with a .654 slugging percentage and 1.066 OPS. He shouldn't be considered a cure-all, but the Dodgers have lost six straight playoff games and its 2020 World Series win came in the COVID year that shortened the season. In five of the last six non-pandemic seasons, the Dodgers have won 100 games or more. It all means nothing without the ring and the big trophy at the end, and it's clear Big Blue is going for it with the signing of Ohtani.

You may think this is not a big deal, but I was taken aback toward the end of the junior varsity girls game between Canyon View and Snow Canyon on Dec. 8. On an inbounds play, a Warrior defender guarding the passer started counting to five. Out loud. In front of everyone. My initial shock aside, I told CV head coach Jaycee Barnhurst what I saw. She shook her head and gave me a basic message that only bad things can happen when a player does something like that.

Here's your basketball news tip of the day: Do your job as a defender on the floor. Let the officials enforce the rules and all will be just fine.

Follow Tom Zulewski on X – the artist formerly known as Twitter – @TommyZee81 or email tominator19@yahoo.com.

RANDOM thoughts

Tom Zulewski
IRON COUNTY TODAY



TOM'S SPORTS TRIVIA

Another week closer to Christmas, and we come bearing gifts of sports knowledge. We go all over the place with pride and hope you've been paying attention to sports stuff everywhere you look. Please remember...no waging!

1. Dom DiSandro, the head of security at Lincoln Financial Field became a source of controversy last week when he got involved in a sideline scuffle with San Francisco 49ers defensive end Dre Greenlaw and was kicked out of the game. What team does DiSandro work for?

2. Who reached the finals of the NBA's first in-season tournament and played for the NBA Cup in Las Vegas on Dec. 9?

3. The Detroit Pistons are on a march toward NBA infamy after losing its 19th straight game on Dec. 8, but what Western Conference team that drafted Victor Wembanyama is close behind after it extended its losing streak to 16 straight?

4. What women's tennis great and ESPN commentator – who has 18 Grand Slam titles – was diagnosed with a recurrence of ovarian cancer last week?

5. When the top four teams were announced for the College Football Playoff, which ACC team was left out despite finishing the regular season with a 13-0 record?

6. USC wide receiver Brenden Rice announced last week he will give up his final year of college eligibility to enter the NFL Draft. Who is his legendary father, who holds the all-time record for most catches in an NFL career?

7. Bronny James, son of LeBron, was expected to make his collegiate debut Dec. 10, causing ticket prices online to skyrocket. What Pac-12 school does Bronny James play for, close to where his dad does his thing for the Los Angeles Lakers?

8. The home of what AFC East team hosted this year's Army-Navy game?

9. There are still five weeks left in the NFL regular season, but what team that fired its head coach two weeks ago has already been eliminated from playoff contention?

10. What Boston Celtics player received his first NBA ejection Dec. 8 and said to reporters afterward, "I wish I would have got my money's worth?"

11. What NHL Pacific Division team won its 11th straight road game Dec. 7, beating the Montreal Canadiens, setting a new team record?

12. What former Green Bay Packers kicker was activated from the Los Angeles Rams practice squad and kicked in the Dec. 10 game against the Baltimore Ravens?

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

1. John Wooden.
2. Frank Reich.
3. Arizona Cardinals.
4. Oklahoma.
5. Cleveland Cavaliers (2010-11) and Philadelphia 76ers (2013-14). The Pistons' streak reached 19 in a row after a 123-91 loss at Orlando on Dec. 8.
6. Tiger Woods.
7. Less than 1 percent.
8. Sheldon Adelson.
9. Patrick Kane.
10. Sacramento Kings.
11. Trevor Hoffman (National League) and Mariano Rivera (American League).
12. North Carolina State. The Buffs have rebounded since with three straight wins, but sit No. 8 in the latest AP rankings.

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NEED HELP FORMATTING MICROSOFT WORD AND PPT

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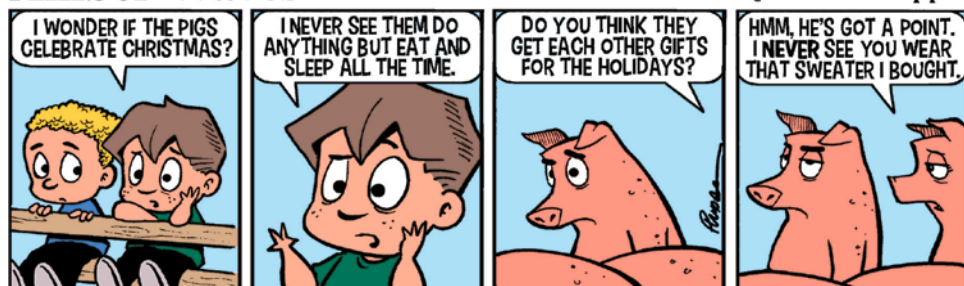
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		3		6				7
	6				9	3		
5			7				6	2
		6	5					1
1	8				4		7	
2				7		6		
3					6		1	
	4		3			2		
		7	9	5				8

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
 ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



4. Arm is moved. 5. Sign is different. 6. Antenna is missing.
Differences: 1. Assel is shorter. 2. Cuts are missing. 3. Baseball bat is missing.

Trivia Test Answerst

1. Route 66; 2. Sweden; 3. A magic hat; 4. Mashed potatoes and cabbage; 5. Hawaii; 6. The Barden Bellas; 7. Ruth Handler; 8. 16; 9. "Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator"; 10. Franklin Pierce.

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 North —
5 Green prefix
8 Oodles
12 Writer
Kingsley
13 As well
14 Capri, e.g.
15 Souvenir seller
17 Move like a butterfly
18 Tours season
19 Snaky fish
20 Ceases
21 Solidify
22 Twitch
23 Shroud city
26 He can hold his head high
30 "Dream on!"
31 Zero-star review
32 Santa's runway
33 Old English Sheepdog feature
35 Skilled
36 Tramcar contents
37 "— the season ..."
38 Poker play
41 Fish propeller
42 Spa sounds
45 Protracted
46 Decorative paper
48 "There!"
49 Santa's help-

DOWN

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1 Leaf | 23 Indent key | 41 Indent plus |
| 2 Skip | 24 GI entertain- | 42 Folksinger |
| 3 Biography | ers | Guthrie |
| 4 Ballpark fig. | 25 Tease | 43 Sainly ring |
| 5 Lucy's pal | 26 Cowboy's | 44 Bridge |
| 6 "Neato!" | sweetie | 46 "My word!" |
| 7 "Alley — " | 27 Nemesis | 47 Pallid |
| 8 Prepaid | 28 Dandy guy | |
| stocking | 29 Newt | |
| stuffers | 31 Bakery pur- | |

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1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18					19				20			
				21				22				
23	24	25				26				27	28	29
30						31				32		
33					34				35			
				36				37				
38	39	40				41				42	43	44
45						46				47		
48						49				50		
51						52				53		

6	1	7	9	5	2	4	3	8
9	4	8	3	1	7	2	5	6
3	5	2	4	8	6	7	1	9
2	3	5	8	7	1	6	9	4
1	8	9	6	2	4	5	7	3
4	7	6	5	9	3	8	2	1
5	9	4	7	3	8	1	6	2
7	6	1	2	4	9	3	8	5
8	2	3	1	6	5	9	4	7

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

[illegible]

Solution time: 23 mins.

Answers

King Crossword



Rodríguez

1. **GEOGRAPHY:** Which famous highway that stretches across the United States is sometimes known as the Will Rogers Highway?
2. **MUSIC:** Which country did the pop group ABBA come from?
3. **TELEVISION:** What article made Frosty the Snowman come to life in the popular TV special?
4. **FOOD & DRINK:** What is colcannon?
5. **U.S. STATES:** Which state is home to the Volcanoes National Park?
6. **MOVIES:** What is the name of the acapella group that Anna Kendrick joins on “Pitch Perfect”?
7. **INVENTIONS:** Who invented the Barbie doll in 1959?
8. **MATH:** How many tablespoons are in 1 cup?
9. **LITERATURE:** What is the title of the sequel to “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” by Roald Dahl?
10. **U.S. PRESIDENTS:** Which elected president is the only one to fail to gain his party’s nomination for a second term?

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