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showcase

Crèche
Festival
inspires
true meaning
of Christmas



IRON COUNTY

today

WREATHS of HONOR



**Wendy
Cowan Bonzo**
takes a moment
to remember
her Dad with a
Wreath.

STORY ON PAGE 2

COURTESY MAY HUNTER

Wreaths Across America Day observed in Cedar

by May Hunter

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

serving this great nation's armed services."

Across the country there are more than 4,300 memorial sites like this one, there are millions of Americans gathering as one nation to Remember, Honor and Teach values of sacrifice and service. We are all proud to be Americans living in a free society made up of many people from many walks of life.

The freedoms we enjoy today have not come without a price. Lying here before and around us and in cemeteries throughout the nation, are men and women who gave their lives so that we can live in freedom and without fear. We can worship as we see fit. We are free to vote for the leaders of our choosing. We have the right to succeed, and we have the right to fail at whatever endeavor we wish to pursue.

A stirring performance of "The Star Spangled Banner" sung by Melinda Pfundstein, set the mood

see **WREATHS** » 3



At top, Dr. Andrew Briggs and his wife Kristen sing The Prayer and God Bless America.



PHOTOS BY MAY AND DONNIE HUNTER

WREATHS

« CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

for the audience. It was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by Iron County Sheriff Ken Carpenter.

Mayor Garth O. Green also addressed those in attendance. "The United States of America was founded on the ideals of freedom, justice, and equality. Our nation stands as a shining beacon of liberty and freedom to the world. We thank those who served and those who gave their lives to keep us free. We shall not forget. We shall remember. We show a united front of gratitude and respect across the United States of America. We must ensure that future generations learn from today and never forget. God Bless our veterans and God Bless America."

R. Scott Phillips added, "It is difficult for us to

"It is difficult for us to imagine the sacrifices so many of our veterans made on our behalf. At our local cemetery alone, we have nearly 1,300 veterans who have chosen this beautiful spot as their final resting place."

Scott Phillips, Cedar City Councilman

imagine the sacrifices so many of our veterans made on our behalf. At our local cemetery alone, we have nearly 1,300 veterans who have chosen this beautiful spot as their final resting place."

And as this is the season of giving and remembering the value of family, loved ones, and believing in magical moments, Kaden McBride, from Southwest Tech College, recited a special version of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' to pay tribute to all military personnel who have served or are currently serving and are away from home and family during this Christmas season.

Another special part of the ceremony was a Cold War Victory Presentation by Harold Frazer, (Iron County Veterans Coalition), and a Quilts of Valor presentation by Crystal Farinella.

David Bulloch (Ret.) also shared the story of what a "Veterans Wreath" is. He explained that the wreath is made up of ten bouquets as a symbol of honor, respect and victory. It's made of evergreens which symbolizes longevity and endurance. It's a personal gift to an American hero.

The beautiful ceremony ended with songs by Kristen and Andrew Briggs, ceremonial wreaths for each branch of our military, a rifle volley, and the solemn playing of Taps.

Thank you for Remembering, Honoring and Teaching, and to all the volunteers who made this possible and a huge success.



Each wreath is handmade and is a significant symbol of their service and sacrifices.



PHOTOS BY MAY AND DONNIE HUNTER

opinion

FROM THE EDITOR

Merry Christmas

Attempting the Christmas concerts and the Crèche Festival this month has not only reminded and reinforced within me the Reason for the season, but also what a wonderful community we live in. No, we don't all believe or live the same way. No, we don't walk, talk and enjoy (or dislike) all of the same things. Nevertheless, we're neighbors, co-workers collaborators and even visitors. We strive to make our homes, neighborhoods, schools, businesses and cities better places to live, work and play. What does that have to do with this Christmas message? Everything! Because the great thing is, we're not just this way during the holidays. Sure, maybe it's a bit easier and enjoy-



COREY BAUMGARTNER
MANAGING EDITOR

able to accomplish during the holidays, but I am grateful that we don't need a calendar to remind us, or encourage us to be kind, caring and compassionate to one another. That being said, regardless of gifts under the tree, may the true gifts given be more joy to the world, more peace on Earth and even if you can't be home, I hope you and yours still have yourself a merry little Christmas.

Sincerely,
your Iron County Today family

WORD OF THE WEEK

DONIFEROUS

Carrying a present in your arms.

While we've all spent time in long lines, and endured long wait times to acquire that special gift, may we each remember that the greatest gifts are the ones we carry in our hearts.



TO THE EDITOR

Opposing opinions on recent pieces discussing gender dysphoria

I think it's great that this paper has been running a series of opinion pieces about gender dysphoria and the rise of transgender identification among youth and teens. However, I believe that some of the opinions in these pieces are based on information that is, at best, misleading.

The book Irreversible Damage by Abigail Shrier was suggested as a place to find "accurate information." This book is not a reliable source for information. The premise of the

book, Rapid Onset Gender Dysphoria, is from a paper published in 2018 by Lisa Littman, titled "Parent reports of adolescents and young adults perceived to show signs of a rapid onset of gender dysphoria." In 2019, Littman published a correction to this paper, which points out the flaws in the process of the study, including the ambiguity of the recruitment of the parent participants. It is unclear how many of them were recruited from groups specifically for parents of transgender children who doubted, or may even have been hostile toward, their child's transgender identity.

For a much more extensive source on the issues with Shrier's book based on this paper, here are a few sources that I recommend:

see **TO THE EDITOR** » 5

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I wish we could put up some of the Christmas spirit in jars and open a jar of it every month."

Harlan Miller



479 N 100 W, Suite 1
Cedar City, Utah 84721
Ph: 435-701-9981
IronCountyToday.com

ADMINISTRATION

Esther Hailstone
OFFICE MANAGER

officemanager@ironcountytoday.com
435.701.9981

EDITORIAL

Corey Baumgartner
MANAGING EDITOR

news@ironcountytoday.com
435.701.9982

Tom Zulewski

SPORTS REPORTER
tominator19@yahoo.com

ADVERTISING

Patti Bostick

SALES MANAGER
patti@ironcountytoday.com
435.701.9983 (c) 435.592.1030

Craig Cardon

SALES REPRESENTATIVE
craig@ironcountytoday.com
435.701.9998 (c) 435.592.3194

LAYOUT/DESIGN

Devin Christ

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
design@ironcountytoday.com
435.701.9984

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For questions or concerns regarding your newspaper delivery, please contact the Cedar City Post Office.

TO THE EDITOR

« CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

1. "What is rapid onset gender dysphoria?" on MedicalNewsToday.com
2. "Do Clinical Data from Transgender Adolescents Support the Phenomenon of "Rapid Onset Gender Dysphoria"?" from The Journal of Pediatrics on ScienceDirect.com
3. "Evidence Undermines 'Rapid Onset Gender Dysphoria' Claims" from ScientificAmerican.com
4. "Breaking Down Rapid-Onset Gender Dysphoria" on the YouTube channel Jammidodger (Dr. Jamie Raines has a doctoral degree in transgender men's sexuality)

I highly encourage everyone to take a look at some of these, as I believe Shrier's book, Irreversible Damage, has much potential to cause irreversible damage.

Bird Thacker

A response to Senator Lee's statement in Dec. 14 issue of Iron County Today

I applaud Senator Mike Lee for introducing the Disengaging Entirely from the United Nations Debacle (DEFUND) Act, which calls for the withdrawal of the United States from the United Nations (UN). The UN is a complete failure and a waste of American taxpayers' money. It has almost 200 members but has no real power over any of those member nations.

The UN has proven incapable of preventing

conflicts during the last several decades. Two prime examples are the Vietnam war in the 60s and 70s, and the more recent Russia-Ukraine Civil War. The UN makes grand gestures but has never been able to effect a significant change. What has the UN ever done to resolve the many issues that continue to make the Middle East a ticking time bomb?

Many people say climate change is the biggest threat being faced by the world. The UN has for years convened leaders, diplomats, experts and advocates to speak and commiserate at an annual meeting. Reports and resolutions are generated, but little if any action is taken.

Most recently, the UN has failed to appropriately condemn the terrorist acts of Hamas and has instead called for Israel to stop defending itself. It's time to get out!

*Michael Joyner,
Cedar City*



IRON COUNTY

HEADING INTO THE CHRISTMAS WEEKEND, AN INCREASING CHANCE OF WET WEATHER AND DECLINING TEMPERATURES. CHRISTMAS EVE WILL BRING A CHANCE OF STRAIGHT SNOW BEFORE A CALMER AND CHILLY CHRISTMAS DAY.

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THURSDAY Slight Chance Rain 52°/32° PRECIP: 20% WINDS: S 5-10	
FRIDAY Chance Rain 49°/30° PRECIP: 40% WINDS: SSW 5-10	
SATURDAY Chance Rain/Snow 43°/21° PRECIP: 50% WINDS: W 5-10	
SUNDAY Chance Snow 37°/18° PRECIP: 40% WINDS: N 5-10	
MONDAY/CHRISTMAS Partly Cloudy 38°/19° PRECIP: 0% WINDS: N 5-10	
TUESDAY Partly Cloudy 40°/20° PRECIP: 0% WINDS: WSW 5-10	
WEDNESDAY Partly Cloudy 43°/22° PRECIP: 0% WINDS: SW 5-10	

Why Me?

INVESTOR INSIGHTS

by Rob O'Brien

IRON COUNTY TODAY INVESTOR

As new residents to Cedar City, coming from Chicago in December of 2020, we quickly recognized the "hidden gems" that make southern Utah, Iron County, and Cedar City the exceptional community that it is. Of course, we enjoy the parks, the activities, the weather, and the obvious benefits. But one of the "hidden gems" that long term residents may have lost sight of or perhaps had taken for granted is the "core gems" such as family values, the sense to serve and care for one another and promote community activities and businesses.

It was this "sense of community" that was presented in the Iron County Today and we, like many, were saddened when we learned it was being discontinued. I believe that the saying "you don't know what you have until it's gone" applied when the paper closed last March. We have lived in areas where these types of community icons disappear, and the result is they are back filled with things that do not match the core values of this community and we were not going to let that happen.

It was then that we sprang to action to do all possible by engaging community leaders, investors, and businesses to "save the paper" and are very grateful for those who have followed that example and kept the paper operating in a greatly enhanced way with expanded circulation, consistent mail delivery, and community ownership.

The time has come where we need other community leaders, residents, and businesses to help in the funding of that so we can continue forward. We thank those who have already joined us in advertising, subscriptions, donations, and service contributions. I am inviting all Cedar City residents and businesses to consider joining in this effort so we can continue to keep the Iron County Today being the "Light of the County." The two best ways to help would be to go to ironcounty-today.com and sign up as an Insider's Club Member to contribute \$15 per month. You can also call us to inquire about providing any level of additional donations or becoming an investor/shareholder.

Regards, Rob O'Brien

IRON COUNTY GOVERNMENT RECAPS

Cedar City Council Meeting (Dec. 13, 2023)

by Iron County Today Staff

IRON COUNTY TODAY

The City Council meeting on December 13th, 2023, brought a mix of farewells, introductions, and significant updates for the citizens of Cedar City, Utah. Among the notable moments were the recognition of retiring council members, the swearing-in of the new Youth City Council, and the presentation of a water exploration study for the Shirts Canyon area.

Thank You

The meeting commenced with gratitude and appreciation for the outgoing council members, Councilwoman Terri Hartley and Councilman Craig Isom, who have served diligently for the past eight years. Mayor Garth Green expressed sincere thanks for their commitment and presented them with tokens of appreciation for their valuable contributions to the community. They each shared remarks expressing their thanks. Councilman Isom highlighted his initiative in improving city broadband infrastructure, while Councilwoman Hartley underscored the significance of city finance and staff in serving residents.

Welcomes

Ryan Marshall, the Public Works director, warmly introduces Eric Witzky as the new Street Superintendent, expressing appreciation for Eric's five years with the city and his diverse experience. Eric, in turn, briefly shared his background, having spent 12 years in the county before joining the city. He acknowledges the responsibility of succeeding Jeff Hunter and commits to doing his best for the city's improvement.

New Youth Council Sworn In

Current members were acknowledged for their service, and Mayor William Garza was recognized for his role. The new class of youth council members introduced themselves. After taking the oath of office and signing certificates, photographs were captured, and plans were made to display their official photos.

Mayor Green and councilwoman Terri Hartley congratulated the new youth council, emphasizing the importance of family and community service in their roles.

Main Street Park Electrified

Ken Neelson shared exciting news about a project to enhance Main Street Park's electrical infrastructure. The Rotary Club, known for community service, is leading the initiative to upgrade outlets and breaker boxes, recognizing the need for increased capacity during events like the annual July Jamboree celebration. Bradshaw Electric, led by Jared Bradshaw, is overseeing the project in collaboration with the Rotary Club. Rob O'Brien from the Rotary Club has played a crucial role, ensuring alignment with the park's plans. Neelson updated the mayor and council on the project, emphasizing transparency, with O'Brien providing regular updates. Tom Heaton suggested relocating the main breaker box for aesthetic reasons, and Neelson confirmed the project team is considering options.

Water Main Plan Updates

Mayor Garth Green, together with the council members, concluded the meeting with the approval of an ordinance updating and amending the city's water main plan. The comprehensive plan, presented by Hansen Allen and Loose, outlines a long-term strategy for managing and developing the city's water resources.

Iron County School District (Dec. 12, 2023)

by Iron County Today Staff

IRON COUNTY TODAY

Return the Redmen Mascot

Community members spoke in support of reinstating the "Redmen" as the district's mascot and nickname, which was changed in 2019 after controversy and claims it was racially insensitive. A community member shared a letter from the Chairman of the Killingly, Connecticut Board of Education, who explained their decision to bring back their Redmen mascot after it had been previously

canceled. He said the letter showed that the majority of Native Americans actually oppose banning Native-themed mascots when used respectfully.

Financial Audit

Todd Hess presented the results of the district's annual independent financial audit. He explained the auditors had given the district an "unmodified opinion," meaning they found its financial statements were materially accurate and conformed with established governmental accounting principles. The auditors also gave the district the highest rating possible on its compliance with relevant laws, regulations, and internal controls. Hess praised the exceptional work of the district's accounting team to produce flawless results without any audit findings. The board voted unanimously to approve the audit report.

High School Lacrosse Teams

Lacrosse was officially recognized as a high school sport by the state activities association in 2020. It is currently a club sport at Cedar and Canyon View high schools, with over 100 students participating between them. However, all other Washington County schools will be sanctioning lacrosse next school year, which would leave Iron County club teams with no one else to compete against. The athletic directors requested the board sanction lacrosse beginning in the 2024-25 season to allow Iron County teams to join the southern Utah lacrosse league.

It was cautioned that adding another sanctioned sport would further strain access to district facilities, especially outdoor field space which is already over capacity. Approving any new sport implies a responsibility to provide adequate facilities for that sport. Board members acknowledged this would need to be addressed, with capital funding. The motion to sanction the request for boys and girls lacrosse at both Canyon View and Cedar High Schools passed unanimously.

An "Apple" a Day

The next agenda item was Apple device financing. The board voted to approve leasing just over \$850,000 worth of new MacBook laptops to replace all district teacher and staff computers. The 4-year Apple lease offers discounted pricing for a bulk purchase as well as 0% interest.

Romney applauds Natural Resource Committee passage of Utah Priorities

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Mitt Romney (R-UT) applauded the passage of two Utah priorities out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee: the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins Recovery Act and the Great Salt Lake Stewardship Act.

"I thank the Committee for considering these important pieces of legislation for our state," Senator Romney said. "One of these measures will support Utah's efforts to recover threatened and endangered fish species in the Upper Colorado and San Juan Rivers by providing the necessary tools to comply with complicated federal mandates.

"I urge my colleagues to support these measures when they come to the Senate floor."

Senator Mitt Romney (R-UT)

The other will support water conservation efforts in the Great Salt Lake Basin and help Utah fulfill its critical water needs. I urge my colleagues to support these measures when they come to the Senate floor, and hope we can get them signed into law soon."

The Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins Recovery Act: Legislation introduced by Senators Romney and John Hickenlooper (D-CO) to continue protecting four threatened and endangered native fish species in the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins by extending conservation programs for one year to allow Upper Basin communities the time to develop a long-term management plan.

The Great Salt Lake Stewardship Act: Legislation cosponsored by Senator Romney to amend the Central Utah Completion Act to authorize expenditures for the conduct of certain water conservation measures in the Great Salt Lake Basin, and for other purposes.

Congress passes final defense bill with Romney measures for National Security and Utah

WASHINGTON — Congress has passed the bipartisan and bicameral conference report for the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (NDAA), annual legislation that authorizes funding levels and provides authorities for the U.S. military and other critical defense priorities, ensuring America's forces have the training, equipment, and resources they need to carry out their missions. The conference report, which now heads to the President's desk, authorizes a 5.2% pay raise for servicemembers—the largest raise in more than two decades. The report also includes measures from Senator Mitt Romney (R-UT) aimed at protecting against threats from China and Russia and reaffirming the critical role Utah plays in our national security, as well provisions to improve access to passport services for Utahns.

"After months of negotiation by my colleagues on the House and Senate Armed Services Committees, I am pleased we are able to get the final version of this year's defense bill through the finish line," Senator Romney said. "With the growing threats we face, it is paramount that our military has the resources, equipment, and capabilities it needs to

keep our nation safe."

Romney measures included in the NDAA:

» **Ending China's Unfair International Advantages:**

Section 5413 of the NDAA is an updated version of Senator Romney's Ending China's Developing Nation Status Act and establishes that it is U.S. policy to oppose granting "developing nation" status to China in international organizations and future treaties.

"The People's Republic of China uses its developing country status to undermine the international rules-based order, receive a disproportionate share of aid from international treaties and organizations, and exploit developing countries through its debt diplomacy. We cannot sit idly by as the PRC – which has the second largest economy in the world – exercises undue influence on the global stage and carries out its economic coercion campaign on nations that are actually developing," said Representative Young Kim (R-CA).

» **Improving Passport Services for Utahns:**

Require the State Department to produce a strategy to ensure reasonable access to passport services for all Americans, including how to reduce

passport processing times to an acceptable average for renewals and expedited service and provide U.S. residents living in a significant population center more than a five-hour drive from a passport agency with urgent, in-person passport services, including the possibility of building new passport agencies.

» **Promoting Military Service:**

Sections 541 and 543 include a version of Senator Romney's Military Service Promotion Act of 2023, bipartisan legislation that addresses the current military recruitment crisis by strengthening military recruiter access to high school and college students.

» **Support for Construction at Hill Air Force Base:**

The NDAA authorizes new military construction projects at Hill Air Force Base, including:

\$82 million for the F-35 T-7A East Campus infrastructure project, which would support F-35 maintenance, repair, and training facilities, in addition to a T-7A Depot Maintenance Complex; and \$14.2 million for a new open storage area for the Defense Logistics Agency Distribution Hill, Utah in support of F-35 depot maintenance and the LGM-35A Sentinel programs and \$4.7 billion for new F-35A fighters for the Air Force.

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ATTENTION ENOCH & PAROWAN RESIDENTS

MAILBOX DELIVERY OF IRON COUNTY TODAY TO ENOCH AND PAROWAN WILL BE DISCONTINUED BEGINNING JAN. 1, 2024

To our valued readers in Enoch and Parowan,

As the editor of this newspaper, it is my responsibility to be bearer of both good and bad news. Thankfully, it's more often good news. Today's news may be disconcerting to those of you who have been receiving *Iron County Today* in your mailbox. It has been determined by both the market and management to discontinue delivery through the Post Office to our Enoch and Parowan readers.

Since *Iron County Today* went out of business earlier this year, and was then reborn from the inky ashes, we have been doing our best to become more sustainable and also more available to you. Nevertheless, it has been a worthy and worthwhile challenge to discern and decide how best to continue to create and distribute this much-loved publication to you, our valued readers.

While our desires and aim were true in immediately increasing distribution to the majority of Iron County, the process has proved fiscally challenging. And because I believe you and I both agree that losing this newspaper is still something that needs to be avoided, these changes—for now—must be made to secure the future of our newspaper.



Corey Baumgartner

Corey Baumgartner
Managing Editor

Questions? Give us a call at 435-701-9981

This has been a difficult decision and may have repercussions—which we will face and overcome together—but this doesn't mean that *Iron County Today* will not be available in your city! We will continue to have racks available where you can find a copy each week. And we are still providing the opportunity for you to become a subscriber to the newspaper, which includes direct delivery to your address.

Please let us know if you have any questions, ideas, concerns, or even complaints. Because as I said, we're in this together and we'll resolve it together. We also encourage anyone who wants to volunteer to help us deliver the newspaper to these communities—we welcome and invite such initiative.

Know that this is not the end, it's just a different decision and direction with the potential to get your community newspaper to a better and more sustainable place.

As always, it is an honor to continue to serve you.

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PAROWAN

- » **Parowan Cafe** | 33 N Main St
- » **Chevron Club** | 200 S Main St
- » **Parowan Library** | 16 S Main St

CEDAR

- » **Walmart** | 1330 S Providence Center Dr
- » **Cedar City Library** | 303 N 100 E
- » **Cal Ranch** | 750 S Main St



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public & health

Say it isn't snow: Winter season is here

from Sandy Silverstein

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

It's snowing in many parts of the country. As such, We at State Farm highly recommend drivers create an Auto Safety Prep Kit. The items contained in this kit are essential for any driver to have in their car during snow, hail, ice, or heavy rain.

Included are items intended to help keep warm such as gloves, winter cap and a blanket. In addition, we recommend a flashlight, spare phone charging cables, spare batteries and an external battery pack. Jumper cables, tire pressure gauge, spare fuses, electrical tape, tools (ratchet set, pliers, screwdrivers), and emergency hazard signs are recommended as well. Be sure to include food items that can easily be stored as well as water. Please don't forget this important information regarding preparing your vehicle and safe winter driving tips!

As we approach the heart of winter season, State Farm also recommends homeowners and renters review the following tips in prepping for winter storm season.

- » Check the fireplace: If you burn wood in your fireplace, you should have your chimney inspected yearly for creosote build-up.
- » Clear debris: Remove debris or branches from around the HVAC unit, gas meters, basement windows and your dryer exhaust vent. When it's windy, branches can rub or scratch the surfaces of your home and cause damage. They could also fall during a storm or break under heavy snow and ice.
- » Visually inspect your roof: Look for any missing or damaged shingles. Ensure that all gutters are clean and securely attached to help prevent ice dams.
- » Tool checkup: Make sure your snow shovels are free from cracks. And schedule the annual tune-up for your snow blower if you have one.
- » Winterize outdoor faucets: Remove all hoses or devices attached to outdoor spigots and drain any water left behind in the pipes. Have in-ground sprinkler systems blown out and turn off water to the outdoor spigots.

- » When the forecast calls for unusually cold temperatures:
- » Let water drip from hot and cold faucets overnight. Keep cabinet doors open to allow warm air to circulate in places like below sinks. If you open the cabinet doors, remove anything inside the cabinets that may pose a safety hazard to children or pets, such as household cleaners.

Have a safe and happy winter!

Making the Holiday Season Dementia-Friendly

from Sandy Silverstein

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

With the holiday season in full swing, the Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA) is offering tips to help the millions of Americans caring for a loved one with dementia celebrate the holidays with their loved one in a dementia-friendly manner.

"People with dementia can still, and should be encouraged to, enjoy and participate in the spirit of the holiday season. Because of the way dementia-related illnesses impact the brain, they may not be able to do it exactly as they did prior to the onset of dementia," said Jennifer Reeder, LCSW, AFA's Director of Educational and Social Services. "By being adaptable and sensitive to the person's needs and wishes, caregivers can help create a joyous, dementia-friendly holiday season for their loved one with dementia."

AFA offers these dos and don'ts for creating a dementia-friendly holiday season:

Do: Keep decorations simple. Decorating is part of the holiday season fun, however, too much stimulation may be challenging for someone with dementia. Keep decorations festive, but simple. Instead of elaborate decorations, choose a few favorite items. Phase in decorations over a period of days so that changes to the person's environment are less confusing.

Don't: Overdecorate or use dangerous decorations. Too many flickering lights or noisy items could overwhelm someone living with dementia. Changes to the person's environment might cause disorientation, which may

then lead to wandering. Be aware of safety issues: fragile decorations can shatter into sharp fragments and decorations that look like food or candy could be mistaken for edible treats, creating a choking or dental hazard.

Do: Adapt past favorite traditions or create new and viable ones. Build on old traditions when appropriate, such as enjoying favorite music or movies, or looking at pictures of past holiday celebrations. Adapt past traditions as well; if the person always sent out holiday cards or baked holiday cookies and still wants to do so, do it together with them. If they can no longer shop for gifts for their loved ones, invite them to help with wrapping the gifts so that they feel involved. Start new traditions that center on activities and events the person enjoys and can do, such as touring neighborhood holiday lights; plan to do it together. Whenever possible, ask what traditions are important to your loved one—it keeps them engaged, and helps you prioritize and plan appropriately.

Don't: Dwell on past practices. It is normal to feel some sadness about changes and losses, especially during a

holiday. Acknowledge these feelings and then move on to new ways to celebrate.

Do: Create a safe and calm space where your loved one can sit comfortably during a holiday gathering, and where guests can visit in small groups or one-to-one. To the greatest extent possible, maintain the person's normal routine when scheduling visits or holiday gatherings; disruptions in routine can be difficult for someone living with dementia.

Don't: Neglect safety. Be very mindful of potential tripping hazards on the floor, such as wires for decorations, as dementia can cause changes in vision, depth perception, and gait. Securely hook Christmas trees to the wall to avoid falls and use menorahs or kinaras with electric candles to reduce fire hazards.

The AFA Helpline is available seven days a week to help provide additional information about creating dementia-friendly holidays or any other caregiving questions. Connect with a licensed social worker by phone (866-232-8484), webchat (www.alzfdn.org) or text message (646-586-5283).



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Center for Health and Safety Culture. (2019, 2020). Utah community survey of adults on seat belt use. Montana State University. (N = 3114, N = 673)

Brian Head Resort open for season

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by May Hunter

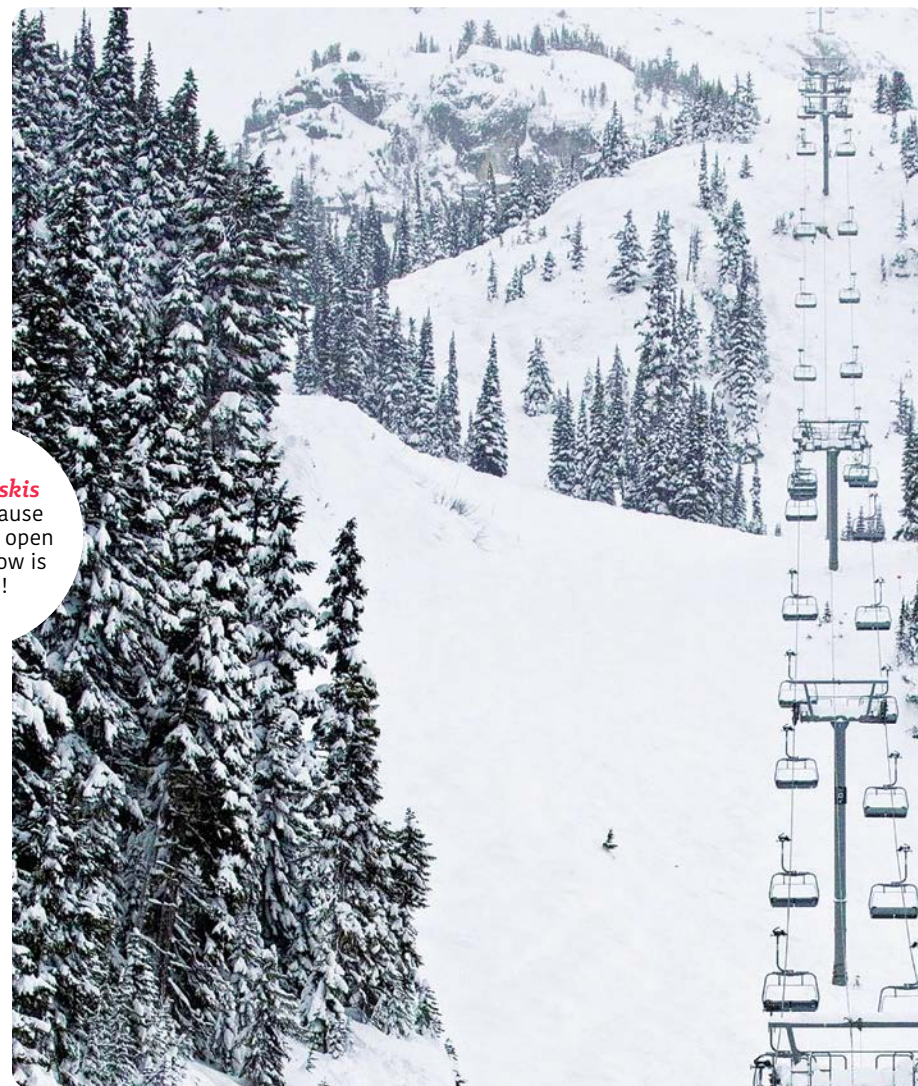
FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

Brian Head ski resort in southern Utah, is open. They have 33 out of 71 trails open, and 4 out of 8 lifts open. However, tubing will not be open until December 22, because of lack of snow. It is the best of both worlds and Brian Head is the highest resort in Utah and an outstanding locations for those who love to ski/board, snowmobile, tube/sled, snowshoe.

ticularly well suited to beginner and intermediate riders. There are usually no crowds and you can have the lifts and slopes to yourself. The ski resort also has spectacular scenery.

Sunday December 31 at 7:00 pm -8:00 pm, New Year's Fireworks Extravaganza & Tourchlight Parade at Giant Steps Lodge. There is always free live music on Fridays. The calendar is full, see all the events planned at Brian Head at brianhead.com. And don't

Get your skis ready because the lifts are open and the snow is waiting!



PHOTOS COURTESY BRIAN HEAD RESORT

“Kindness is like snow—It beautifies everything it covers.”

Kahlil Gibran

When you think southern Utah, you don't think of snow and elevation, but Brian Head's base sits at 9600' and tops out at 10,900'. That also means a very long ski season. The 2024 ski season at Brian Head is off to a good start. Santa Claus will ski on December 25th, and of course don't miss the lighted New Year's celebration. It is always a big success.

The Brian Head snow is generally dry and lovely. The ski terrain is par-

forget Brian Head Ice where you can ice skate through the trees. Set in the mountain trees, it is spectacular! Be sure to bring family and friends and enjoy this charming and beautiful atmosphere. Then, warm up with some to chocolate and grab a bite to eat. It is located at 240 S. Village Way Brian Head, open from 4-9 PM. Santa will be at the rink on December 23rd for pictures and hot chocolate from 4-7PM.



UTAH LEGISLATIVE UPDATE — SENATE

Dear Friends,

With the holidays here, I want to express my warmest wishes to each and every one of you. It's a special time of year to celebrate what matters most, including getting to be with those you love.

My sister's family and ours have always had a Christmas party together where we exchange a few gifts and enjoy each other's company. With my sister's passing in 2021, we weren't able to hold our annual get together in 2022, but have once again planned to do this with our families this year.

I think what my heart and mind turn to at this time of year most are the numerous blessings we have been given, including getting to grow up in southern Utah. When I was a child, Christmas in Beaver was very much built around family and friends. Back then, Christmas seemed much more simple, with less fanfare. I remember helping my mom bake bread and cookies to take to our neighbors as gifts. Those in Beaver may remember the ward Christmas parties we had every year, finishing with a visit from Santa. Those were fun memories. My dad loved popcorn so we would cook popcorn

over the kitchen stove with lots of butter, then sit down to watch a show together, and I'm sure some of you remember the time when we only had three TV channels to choose from. It was usually a sporting event of some kind we'd watch, and it was a great time to just be together as a family. I remember as a kid around this time of year we'd get a group together to go rabbit hunting, too.

As you can see, the memories I think back on fondly didn't have much to do with any presents or material things. It was the time spent with my dear family and friends, and getting to do small acts of kindness that I remember most. This year, I encourage you to reach out to those around you, to spread love and joy wherever you can, and to embrace the spirit of hope and renewal that the holiday season represents.

Though I look forward to time with friends and family this month, there is also legislative work we continue to do. Utah House Rep. Bridger Bolinder, who in part represents Millard County, joined me in meeting with

the Millard County School Board this month, and we discussed with them education issues for the upcoming legislative session. Rep. Carl Albrecht, who in part represents Beaver County, joined me to do the same thing with the Beaver County School Board at the end of November.

I am also preparing for the 2024 session, which begins on January 16. My colleagues and I are committed to making Utah sustainable at every level. We are challenging ourselves to answer questions that will impact the next 50 and 100 years, not just the next year or two. The many leaders who came before us had a vision for what Utah could become, and they made decisions that still benefit us today. Now, it is our responsibility to plan for the future our

grandchildren and great-grandchildren will enjoy.

With that in mind, I am pleased to share the 2024 Utah Senate Majority Priorities:

- Progressing toward energy independence
- Expanding and optimizing water supply

and infrastructure

- Increasing options for affordable housing
- Addressing the cycle of homelessness
- Improving roads and transportation
- Strengthening public safety through criminal justice reform
- Enhancing innovative education outcomes and programs
- Maintaining Utah's strong economy
- Providing more financial freedom to Utahns through fiscally responsible tax cuts
- Empowering parents with resources to protect their children against the harms of social media

I will keep you informed about specific bills in the coming weeks. My goal is to represent you to the best of my abilities and fulfill the responsibility you have given me. Thank you for your trust and support.

From my family to yours, I wish you the merriest of Christmases, and a happy and healthy New Year.

Sincerely, Evan



SEN. EVAN VICKERS
UTAH SENATE DISTRICT 28



I attended the Paiute Indian Tribe Recognition Reception and new clinic ribbon-cutting with my children Robbie and Martene, as our family businesses work with the tribe's Four Points Health Clinic.

COURTESY PAIUTE INDIAN TRIBE FOUR POINTS HEALTH CLINIC.

Southern Utah University

SUU President's Holiday Gala an extraordinary event

by Ruth Scovill with thanks to
Staci Carson & President Benson

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

On December 7, 2023, the annual Southern Utah University President's Holiday Gala was held. Each year the gala recognizes members of the Old Main Society and other contributors whose generosity has helped to build the university.

The beautiful evening was organized by SUU President Mindy Benson's event planning class. The ballroom was elegantly decorated, and attendees were welcomed by beautiful strains of music played by the Hal Campbell Quartet, featuring Emma Stubbs and Evelyn Jacobsen on the violin, Grace Benham on the viola, and Emily Street on the cello. During the program, the audience was also treated to "O Holy Night," sung by mezzo-soprano Anne Turner, and accompanied by Tracy Bradshaw.

During the festive evening, the Joe and Beverley Burgess family was honored for their ongoing hands-on support of the university for over half a century. They have been deeply involved in fundraising for and development of many campus projects and have been equally involved in building the Cedar City community.

Joe served as the 48th Mayor of Cedar City. Along with his wife



The Joe and Beverley Burgess family has been providing decades of hands-on support to SUU and Iron County.

COURTESY JOE AND BEVERLEY BURGESS FAMILY

Beverley and their children, Jeff, Jim, Jayme (Payne), and Jace, the family has been influential in real estate development in Cedar City and the hospitality industry. This year, the family was inducted into the Gold Medallion level of the Old Main Society. The Burgesses have 19 grandchildren who are following in the family tradition.

Also honored was Sky West, for their ongoing contributions to the university. This year they donated a CRJ200 airframe to the aviation program. This will allow students studying maintenance in the aviation program to have hands-on experience with commercial aircraft and components. Along with SkyWest, Inc., several other new inductees joined the Old Main Society this year, including the Alan and Jeanne Hall Foundation, LaDawn Mitchell, Richard and Marie Steele, and Therabody.

SUU President Mindy Benson addressed the audience saying "My

heart is full of gratitude and immense appreciation for the incredible impact that our donors have on the lives of our students here at Southern Utah.

The President's Holiday Gala gives us a unique opportunity to publicly celebrate those who support SUU throughout the year." She continued, "One of the groups that has been a part of the SUU holiday tradition is the Oak Ridge Boys Christmas show. They have a holiday song called Extraordinary, Ordinary Days. It's one of my favorites. It's a great reminder that even your most ordinary days are extraordinary. And some of your most ordinary days will be your best memories.

President Benson shared other insights into the value of SUU's days and decades. "SUU is built on extraordinary ordinary days. Ordinary days of our students getting their education have turned into extraordinary lives of service. We are fortunate to be able to share in all those ordinary extraordinary moments with all of you. Many of those extraordinary ordinary moments are made possible by you. Because your most valuable contribution is not your gifts--though we are deeply appreciative of them--your great gift is that which is within you, that which motivates and inspires you to care about SUU. It's your love and loyalty for our university and for our future; it's your generous heart that cares about our students."

"My heart is full of gratitude and immense appreciation for the incredible impact that our donors have on the lives of our students here at Southern Utah."

SUU President Mindy Benson



Southern Utah University

SUU awarded as a top online nursing program

from Abbie Cochrane

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

Southern Utah University has been named as one of the nation's best schools for online degrees and certificates in the healthcare field going into 2024. According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), there are 747 RN to BSN nationwide programs available, including more than 650 programs that are offered at least partially online. With only six percent of regionally accredited colleges and universities earning a ranking position, SUU is ranked 35th in the nation. This places SUU in the top 4.7% of RN to BSN programs nationwide.

The baccalaureate degree program in nursing at Southern Utah University is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. The master's degree program in nursing at Southern Utah University is pursuing initial accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. Applying for accreditation does not guarantee that accreditation will be granted.

Additionally, the nursing program at SUU has received a myriad of awards such as;

- » #3 Ranked Nursing Program in Utah (Registered Nursing.org)
- » #8 Best Nursing Schools in Utah for 2022 (Nursing School Hub)
- » #35 Most Affordable Online RN to BSN Online Programs in the Nation (EDUMED)
- » #41 Most Affordable Online Nursing Program in the Nation (EDUMED)
- » #97 in the West region (Nursing Schools Almanac)
- » Fastest BSN Program (Best Value Schools)
- » Best RN to BSN Programs in Utah (RN to BSN Program)

SUU offers several nursing programs that are either partially or fully online; RN to BSN, MSN, RN to MSN and MSN/ MBA Dual degree online. Online program length varies between 1 to 2 years depending upon the school's requirements, program type and the student's previous academic achievement.

"We are very proud of our accomplishments here at the Department of Nursing at SUU," said Selwyn Layton, nursing department chair. "Our faculty work hard to create quality programs and it shows."

Whatever the intended career trajectory, online nursing students are sure to receive an affordable and quality education from SUU Online that is dedicated to the success of students in an academic and professional setting.

"Our faculty believe in nursing education and



COURTESY SUU

"We are very proud of our accomplishments here at the Department of Nursing at SUU. Our faculty work hard to create quality programs and it shows."

Selwyn Layton, nursing department chair

put their all into student learning, creating a safe and fruitful educational environment, and hold our students to the highest standards of the nursing profession," said Layton. "But it goes further than that. Our staff work hard at making sure the department functions like a 'well-oiled machine'. Our students are of the highest caliber and their professionalism shows in all their accomplishments, patient care, and work that they put into their education."

SUU's Online Nursing program is dedicated to helping students grow and develop their skills in providing quality care to patients, gaining vital expertise in nursing, encouraging leadership and innovation, improving local community wellbeing and implementing exceptional patient care and building on preexisting nursing background. Through SUU Online Nursing, students are able to play an integral role in shaping the future of healthcare.

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CRÈCHE FESTIVAL

Annual event returns to inspire true meaning of Christmas

by Corey Baumgartner

IRON COUNTY TODAY

If you've never been to the Crèche Festival, add it to your calendar for next year because it's an inspiring and enjoyable experience for the whole family.

A crèche is a model that represents the birth of Jesus Christ. Also known as a nativity scene, it includes iconic images such as the three wise men, stable animals, angels, the guiding star and of course Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus in the manger. This

see **CRÈCHE** » 16



Is it a hymn or a song?

by Edy Meredith

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

What is the difference between a hymn and a song? Music has always been a fundamental part of human culture, serving many purposes and eliciting distinct emotions and thoughts. The word song refers to the large category of music and is not confined to religious devotion. Music is the art and science of arranging sounds in different combinations of form, harmony, melody, rhythm, or other expressive content. Songs set to music are usually poems or poem-like phrases. Hymns, however, point to a specific category of musical composition. The word hymn is derived from the Greek word “hymos” which means a song of praise. They deal with the spiritual and religious side of human life with a long history

lambs had to meet the strict legal-religious regulations of the Jewish faith meaning that they had to be more than one year old, male, and without spot or blemish; in other words, a picture of the perfect Lamb of God. They had to be born within 5 miles of Jerusalem, and the lambs born and taken care of in the fields around Bethlehem met all the strict requirements with no defects or imperfections. They were symbolic of the perfect Lamb of God who was born in Bethlehem during the census of Caesar August that all the world should be registered. Joseph and Mary went up from Galilee to the City of David, Bethlehem. The perfect Lamb of God was born there and announced by the angels to the shepherds in the fields around Bethlehem.

The author of our next hymn “O Holy Night” was a wine merchant who wasn’t a religious person,

HOLIDAY MUSIC, PART 3

dating back thousands of years rooted in religious experiences praising God, the Great Creator. This is no matter what the religious tradition is, with historical examples from the Psalms of the Bible to modern day contemporary worship music where humans sing in choirs and audiences listen to music.

Most of us love music. So, take out your hymnal (a collection of hymns) and let’s sing and repeat together some more beloved songs and hymns.

“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night” was composed originally in the late 1600’s by Nahum Tate. While it has been re-arranged numerous times, it is a version of Luke 2:8-14 in the New Testament. Its familiar lyrics remind us of the Christmas good news. The Bethlehem shepherds were unusual in that they were not ordinary shepherds. The Jewish historian Josephus wrote in the first century records that at Passover up to 265,000 lambs were sacrificed in the temple of Jerusalem. Those

but he read the account of the birth of Christ in Luke 2 and tried to picture that unusual evening. On December 3, 1847, the words of “O Holy Night” came to him as he rode a stagecoach to Paris. He took the words to Adolphe Adam, a well-known musical composer and asked him to write the music. At first Adolphe refused but finally relented. On Christmas Eve 1847, a well-known singer Madame Laurey sang the song at a gathering in Roquemaure for Midnight Mass. The congregation was overwhelmed with the power and beauty of the new Christmas Carol. When the song reached America, the political climate was warlike, and events were moving toward the Civil War which began on April 12, 1861. The hymn was translated into English by John Sullivan Dwight, a resident of Boston. The English version became very popular in the United States especially in the northern states. This hymn came to the United States at the right time and became one of freedom’s anthems.

SimonFest brings greatest Christmas stories to life

by May Hunter

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

Join in the Christmas Spirit at the Heritage Center Theater December 21-23, 2023, at 7 PM as the SimonFest Theatre Company provides accessible, entertaining theatrical experiences that excite the imagination and nourish a lifting passion for the theatre. They present plays and musicals that make every production an experience to remember.

Master storyteller, Richard Bugg, heads a talented ensemble that brings to life many of the greatest Christmas stories and songs ever written. Bugg is also the founder and director and puts his heart and soul into each performance to create a charming and life-affirming treat for the entire family.

He explained how it all came to pass. Bugg shared, “I noticed one day that Mr. Simon had written more successful plays than Shakespeare, and was still writing. While some have dismissed his plays as fluff, I strongly disagree. While less poetic than Shakespeare, Simon’s own comic cadence speaks with loving and unerring humor to the American character. I thought

it was time that there be a festival of his works. While ours is the first, I’m certain it won’t be the last. Two hundred years from now, Simon festivals will dot the land.”

Along with its slogan “Come Laugh With Us!” the festival certainly creates high expectations

“While ours is the first, I’m certain it won’t be the last. Two hundred years from now, Simon festivals will dot the land.”

Richard Bugg

and they have many loyal patrons. Neil Simon was contacted about the festival before its first season and was both flattered and honored by the Festival’s plans. The Festival has high hopes that Mr. Simon will be able to pay a visit soon and be honored in the way that he deserves.

Life is like theatre. Each new day is a new scene with new acts and roles to portray.



SUU AND CEDAR CITY HAVE BEEN KNIT
TOGETHER FOR 125 YEARS - AND COUNTING.
HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE IT HAPPEN!

Gadgets to solve life's irksome problems

by Mary Anne Andersen

CEDAR CITY ARTS COUNCIL

Finally, America! The problem of a ragged tear on the roll of toilet paper has been recognized and solved. A well-known toilet tissue maker has made the separations between the squares of tissue scalloped instead of straight, claiming that it will tear smoothly every time and illuminate those annoying little triangles of paper sometimes left on the roll. I don't know about you, but I worry about that—what if it doesn't separate completely?! Now, problem solved. I'm assuming it will be available to us very soon.

And I ran across the solution to another common problem that must annoy us all: pulling the trash bag out of the kitchen trash can. The manufacturer called the issue of a clingy trash bag a “struggle”. The solution? A trash can with one whole side that swings open and makes the full trash bag much more accessible. No more having to gently tug the bag up and over the top of the can! The cost of a new kitchen trash can would be only \$180.00. Cheap at the price, wouldn't you say?

How many times have you wished your reusable tote bag were a backpack? Lots, I'll bet. Purchase this “Notabag” for \$28 and with a little strap adjusting you can carry your groceries out the door on your back instead of at the end of your arm. Isn't it reassuring that there are engineers out there who are thinking about

solving our most pressing problems? And just in time for Christmas.

My Dad loved gadgets. One year we bought him an electric fork. It was a good mate for the electric knife we bought the Christmas before. The only difference was that the knife actually had moving parts, and the fork did nothing—just stayed impressively plugged into the wall.

You would think that in a world that provides scalloped toilet tissue edges, someone would have made us a stopper for opened soda cans. I believe that cans recycle better than plastic and so would rather drink from a 12-oz. can than a two-liter bottle. The bottle has its screw-on lid to preserve the fizzy, but I have asked repeatedly in different stores if there is a stopper for cans that keeps the sparkly for a day, but no one has heard of one.

And you know those 6-inch-long wooden sticks, pointed at one end and rubbery on the other? It's called a pencil for you phone devotees, and what it needs is an eraser that lasts as long as the lead. I have a couple of drawers full of pencils with their erasers no longer usable. If I try to use one, it leaves a dark smudge on the paper. That does put me in a tizzy!

But of all the solutions to our everyday aggrava-

tions, legitimate or not, there is one that you need to know about. The next time you have blood drawn, take home that orange rubber tourniquet. It wraps around a stubborn jar lid and allows it to be opened by anyone! Huzzah!



“Isn't it reassuring that there are engineers out there who are thinking about solving our most pressing problems? And just in time for Christmas.”



CRÈCHE

« CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14 »

year's festival showcased hundreds of homemade crèches from around the world. These creative crèches were made out of materials including metal, wood, plastic, paint, fabric, seashells, LEGO and love to honor our Lord and His birth. There was also a live nativity scene performed by different groups of children as well as many musicians and singers who provided a beautiful backdrop of holiday music for those viewers walking up and down the rows of amazing crèche displays of that “O Holy Night” when a Miracle transformed a meager manger into a palace fit for kings and shepherds alike.



PHOTOS BY COREY BAUMGARTNER

Cedar High bands instrumental in celebrating the season with Christmas music

by Tsadakah Wilberg

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

This season is a wonderful time for Christmas music and on December 11th, the Cedar High Band provided just that. Filling the auditorium once more with music, the band played a number of songs from “Do You Hear What I Hear” arranged by Paul Jennings to “Cowboy Christmas” by Jeff Simmons. It also included some pieces like “Electricity” by Brain Balmages, that the band has been working on learning since the beginning of the year.

The band’s performances are professional, complete with an ensemble of concert clothing and stage exits and entrances. Their concerts are well put together and well performed but they are also able to incorporate a bit of fun befitting the band’s brand of music. Mr. Sorenson, the band director and conductor, is entertaining and shares his passion for music with others. As he said, “The art is literally created in the act of performing it.”

There are three bands at Cedar High, starting with the JV Band. They played “Rhythm Machine” by Timothy Broege, a huge, booming song that has a lot of power and energy to it. It was exciting to listen to and watch as the students performed the piece. Two seniors play in the JV band, Zadok Jackson and Mary Jane Ward.

The next to play was the Concert Band, an audition-only band that specializes in performing music. The seniors in this band are Derek Wood, Alexis West-Salinas, Jared Schofield, Hayes Longhurst, McKay Price, and Ella Adams. They performed “The Most Wonderful Time of The Year” arranged by John Moss. The classic Christmas song, when played on brass, wind, and percussion instruments, became dramatic and larger than life. The familiar song was delightful to hear in this new form.

The last performers were the Symphonic Band, also an audition band, filled with students who have the most experience and drive when playing music. The students



(L to R) Hayes Longhurst, Andrew Laws, Caleb Lewin, Jared Schofield, Johnathan Wright, and Eliza Lambert.

PHOTOS COURTESY KRISTIN BRINKERHOFF



graduating this year in Symphonic are Sadie Hinck, Caylie Childs, Johnny Vega, Ella Adams, James Moyle, Caleb Lewin, Sam Palmer, Logan Nelson,

Eliza Lambert, Eli Christensen, Trevor Hall, Jonathan Wright, Jenna Johnson, Issac DePoe, Issac Moyle, Mary Jane Ward, Ryan Ball, Porter Burt, and Jared

Schofield.

They played an incredible piece, “Lightning Field” by John Mackey, a beautiful piece with a mysterious sound that swells into something playful and electrifying. It is accompanied by the piano, played by Logan Neilson, and thunder tubes, a sort of can shaped instrument that makes an echoing thunder noise as it is shaken.

Cedar High’s band is also very accomplished in the number of parades, football and basketball games, and concerts they have now performed in. There are 170 students in the bands currently and several are a part of multiple bands. They are looking forward to future performances—one of them hopefully at State!

Iron County volunteers achieve MONUMENTAL TASK

by John Byron Turner

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

It's not every day in Parowan that you catch a glimpse of a bunch of guys apparently vandalizing one of the many monuments throughout the town, so I had to stop and check it out.

I introduced myself to a guy with a sledgehammer in his hand. He turned out to be Mr. Roice Nelson of the Cedar City chapter of the Sons of Utah Pioneers (SUP), and Chairman of the Monuments and Treks Committee, who was there working with a group of volunteers from

around Iron County.

Mr. Nelson explained to me that every year, the national chapter of the SUP challenges them to identify one monument that is in dire need of repair, and to carry out those repairs, and I had, in fact, crossed paths with them as they were demolishing this year's monument that honors the explorer John C. Freemont, and which was crumbling away on Main and 100 South.

Freemont explored the West between 1842 and 1853, making three treks into Utah, primarily to find a

see **MONUMENT** » 20



John C. Freemont is one of southern Utah's pioneers who helped blaze a trail for the future railroad.

family

Calling all last minute shoppers!

Christmas is right around the corner! This year I completed our shopping ahead of schedule, but then I've thought that before. Am I the only mom who has realized last minute that an item from her list was missing from under the tree? Or has a kid other than mine suddenly decided that something was missing off their list that would just really make their Christmas extra special?

If you find yourself scrambling for the perfect gift with just a few days to go then please

ride, our kids also love to kill time by racing their scooters around the driveway. The older (more physically capable) of the four use simple kid powered scooters while the younger kids love racing their Lifetime Wiggle Car alongside the scooters. I initially hesitated investing in scooters for fear of accident and injury, but years later I am the only one who has wrecked. Multiple times! I stand by them as an excellent gift choice as they are compact, can be easily transported and provide hours of entertainment in tight spaces.

Twister

An oldie but a goodie! This game can be played by the whole family. While some of our kids struggle to reach the tricky positions they find themselves in, they give it their best shot and we all end up in a laughing pile.

Jump rope or Skip It

Talk about a blast from the past! I bet most of you haven't thought about a Skip It since you left elementary school. Each of these toys are guaranteed to wear your kid out. As an added bonus they encourage coordination and can be used in various ways by adding participants.

Don't Spill The Beans

This simple game was mastered by our kids by age two, yet remains entertaining to the rest of the family. As beans are added to an unstable surface one by one, the anticipation of seeing who will be responsible for "spilling the beans" is nothing but fun!

If you're as human as the rest of us and looking for some last minute shopping ideas, grab this list and run to the store. And don't forget to have yourself a merry little Christmas!

mom's CORNER(ED)

by Weslie Stratton

CONTRIBUTOR



read on! I have compiled a list of items that have been treasured and used months (and even years) past Christmas morning.

When considering gift ideas my husband and I like to brainstorm items that will do two things. 1) Bring our family closer together, and 2) akeep our kids active. The following accomplish both.

Scooter or Wiggle Car

While everyone enjoys a long bike

"If you're as human as the rest of us and looking for some last minute shopping ideas, grab this list and run to the store."

celebrations

WEDDING

Introducing Mr. & Mrs. Fletcher

In a private ceremony, their love was celebrated. Joseph and Dakota eloped on Tuesday, December 5th, 2023, at the Iron County Courthouse. Wedding to celebrate with their families to follow in 2025.



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ASK RUSTY: SOCIAL SECURITY

Nonagenarian war veteran asks about extra credit for his service

Dear Rusty: I'm turning 95 this year and am caretaker for my wife in our 70th year of marriage. I served before 1968 (1951-53) during the Korean War. How do the "special extra credits for military service" work for me? Is it retro-active? My wife, who only worked a short time, gets half of my Social Security so would it affect hers, too? Signed: Korean War Veteran

Dear War Veteran: First, I want to express my gratitude for your war-time service to our country and I also applaud your 70 years of marriage. Thank you, and congratulations!

Regarding the "special extra credit" for military service, Social Security FICA taxes weren't withheld from military pay prior to 1957 so you didn't pay Social Security payroll taxes (FICA) from your military earnings during the years you served. As a result, Social Security would have no record of your military earnings during those 1951-1953 service years. But when you claimed Social Security later in life they would have asked if you served in the military and given you "special extra credit" in the form of presumed earnings for your service years. They likely would have asked for a copy of your DD-214 and would have added \$160 to your earnings record for each active duty month during those 1951-1953 years. Note they do not give you an extra amount of Social Security; rather, for benefit computation purposes, they reflect your earnings for those years a bit higher than are shown in your earnings record (which would likely show zero for your service years). For example, if you served 12 months active duty in 1952, when your Social Security benefit was calculated they would consider

your 1952 earnings as \$1,920 (\$160 x 12), instead of the zero shown in your record because you didn't actually pay FICA tax on your military pay. But whether those extra earnings credits would have any effect on your Social Security benefit is a separate item.

Assuming you had earnings from regular employment over your lifetime and paid into Social Security from those non-military earnings, you became eligible for Social Security benefits from earnings outside of your military service. If you worked and earned a decent salary for at least 35 years, then those special extra credits for your military service years would have no effect on your Social Security benefit. If you had less than 35 years of regular non-military employment, then those extra earnings added for your military service years counted and provided you with a slightly higher Social Security benefit when you claimed.

So, the bottom line is this: if, over your lifetime, you worked for at least 35 years paying into Social Security via FICA payroll or self-employment tax, then the "special extra credits" for your military service years had no effect on your Social Security benefit. But if you worked less than 35 years in which SS taxes were withheld from your earnings, then those "special extra credits for military service" contributed to and increased your Social Security benefit when you claimed. However, even if you worked for over 35 years outside of the military and the extra credits didn't matter for your Social Security benefit, your service to our country did, indeed, matter a great deal. From one veteran to another, thank you again for your service to our country.



RUSSELL GLOOR
SOCIAL SECURITY
ADVISOR

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.

MONUMENT

« CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

feasible transcontinental railroad route. The winter crossing of the High Plateaus proved extremely arduous, leaving the entire expedition in desperate straits before they reached the Mormon settlement of Parowan in 1854.

The plaque on the monument reads in Fremont's own words, "We were all so feeble we could barely drag ourselves down the trail, but the Mormons took us in, one or two in each home, fed us, and nursed us back to health." On this spot Fremont himself was nursed back to health by Mrs. John

C. L. Smith.

After he left Utah, Captain Fremont went on to lead other expeditions in the West, served as the governor of the Arizona Territory, was the first US Senator from California, founded the Republican Party in California and ran for President but was defeated by James Buchanan.

After the monument's demolition, the plaque itself went home with Mr. Jay Wilcken, a Parowan resident, and member of the SUP. It will spend the holidays there until it is embedded back into the new rockwork. Mr. Nelson estimates that the monument will be rebuilt, hopefully by the end of January, with the plaque set back in place



PHOTOS BY JOHN BYRON TURNER

Dedicated volunteers demolish the monument as to restore it for future generations of pioneers.

"We were all so feeble we could barely drag ourselves down the trail, but the Mormons took us in, one or two in each home, fed us, and nursed us back to health."

John C. Fremont

and finally rededicated. I will have pictures of the rededication of the restored monument to share with you in a future edition of this newspaper.

Mr. Nelson and his group of workers are a great example of the volunteer spirit that keeps our Iron County heritage alive.

Parowan has many other monuments and statues scattered throughout the community that make for an interesting trek through the town, but maybe wait until the weather is a little warmer.

If you're interested in this kind of volunteer work, please contact Jeff Corry, President of the Cedar City SUP at: herrcorry14@gmail.com.

Stratum Real Estate Group shares Christmas party with Iron County friends, neighbors

from Elise Swenson

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

Despite the frigid weather that Saturday, Dec 9th had to offer, the cheerful team at Stratum Real Estate Group happily hosted their 9th Annual Spirit of Christmas Festival, described by their office manager, Elise Swenson, as Stratum's gift to the community. As Swenson quoted, "I've only had the pleasure of working at Stratum since July, and admittedly, I haven't attended the event in previous years but my first experience volunteering and helping plan the festival was such a blast! It is so rewarding seeing the community members' excitement and hearing about how attending our event has become a tradition for their families."

The yearly event boasts a multitude of free activities such as roasting marshmallows over the fire for s'mores; crafting ornaments to take home; getting face painted with festive colors;



Each year, Stratum's Christmas party is an opportunity to improve the unity in our community and improve the lives of our students.

their class and a Slurps Up Gift Card for themselves. This year, Stratum reported that over 1,000 individuals braved the thirty-degree temps, including 359 elementary schoolers and 120 coloring page entries were submitted.

When we asked Kelsea Burton, one of Stratum's agents, for her comments, this is what she had to say: "I've been a realtor with Stratum for six years and, man, have I watched our town go through so many changes in the last few years. What has become one of my favorite things about the festival itself is that it has now become an annual staple in our community; a constant and a family tradition for many. Our free, welcoming, activity-filled setup has had to make adjustments over the last several years to make room for more people to enjoy it and that makes all the prep worth it. Being part of a small community and being able to provide this festival year after year is always something we look forward to, especially when seeing familiar faces mixing among new ones. It's been a joy for me to have been involved the last 6 years and I'm already looking forward to next year which will mark our tenth year. I'm proud to be part of this brokerage and this community and for me, this festival marks the beginning of holiday festivities."

If you missed the event, Stratum hopes you'll join them next year to celebrate their 10th Annual Spirit Christmas Festival on Saturday, December 7th, 2024, to see what new fun they dish out in honor of a decade of holiday fun in Cedar City!



PHOTOS COURTESY ELISE SWENSON

sipping hot cocoa; munching on popcorn; and walking the decked halls to view the collection of decorated office doors while you wait in line to visit with Santa himself! The party also encompasses a theme of giving back.

Attendance was tallied and after the event, Stratum donated \$3 per elementary schooler who attended to their respective ICSD elementary

schools. Three Peaks Elementary, the school with the most students who attended, received an extra \$250 to the PTA to fund school events this spring. To spread the news leading up to the event, fliers were sent home with the Iron County Elementary kids which had coloring sheets on the back for students to enter in the coloring contest for a chance to win a pizza party for

Leadership and Friendship

LEADERSHIP 101.44

When you think about what a leader is—both the leaders in your life and yourself in the areas you are called to lead—what defining words come to mind? Entrepreneurial, Educated, Charisma, Savvy, etc.? There is another word that I have come to realize, throughout the leaders I have followed and strived to become, that may be more import-

thick and thin, on or off the clock. Their friendship isn't based on a schedule, paycheck or a potential pay raise. It's based on integrity, care and character.

They know that leadership isn't a competition, but is founded on the leadership efforts and qualities of each person on that team, or within that household. They know leadership isn't about control or competition, but complementing and completing the team in the best ways possible.

This kind of friend isn't afraid to bring up difficult subjects. It's not that they're not afraid to bring up "touchy" subjects, but that they care about the leader—even if that person is not directly their leader, or boss. And

when they do feel the need to "call you out" on something, it's not to point a finger, but to help you see a different point of view.

When a leader has a friend like this, their job is not only more enjoyable, but less stressful, and more successful. When the chips are down and the cards are dealt, they'll be able to play a better hand because they aren't alone in the game of life.

What happens when leaders don't have such a friend(s)? Or when they have false friends who tolerate their leadership, and/or say things they know their superiors want to hear, more than need to hear? This can be a difficult distraction in the workplace, but it doesn't mean that the work still can't be accomplished, or that there's an air of animosity in the hierarchy. In some places, the leader may not be able to have friends, or allowed to be friendly, depending on their job.

Bottom line is that when a leader knows that they not only have their employee's support, but at least one true friend in the mix, that leader will be able to accomplish more and enjoy life more in that environment. Especially when work is literally a home away from home, a true friend can make all the difference.

the rut LESS TRAVELED

Corey Baumgartner

news@ironcountytoday.com



ant than any other...Friend.

While it's great to have a leader that is your friend, in this instance I'm speaking about the friend of a leader. Not a company cohort, guru or guide,

"When the chips are down and the cards are dealt, they'll be able to play a better hand because they aren't alone in the game of life."

but I'm talking about a genuine friend who treats you the same within or without the cubicles, boardrooms and walls of your world. When a leader has this kind of friend, they will not only become a better leader, but a better person.

Alright, so what is the definition of "this kind of friend"? In the business world, this kind of friend will stand by your side, through

calendar

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.

FRI, DEC. 22

MATHEMATICS DAY

"MATHEMATICS IS NOT ABOUT NUMBERS, equations, computations, or algorithms: it is about understanding." William Paul Thurston

SAT, DEC. 23

CHRISTMAS MOVIE MARATHON

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.

SUN, DEC. 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

PRESBYTERIAN CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

(10am and 6pm) @ Community Presbyterian Church (2279 N Wedgewood Ln, Cedar). 6pm Service includes candlelight singing. INFO: 435-586-8891.

VALLEY BIBLE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE (6 PM)

@ Valley Bible Church (4780 N Hwy 91, Enoch). Intersection of Highway 91 and Midvalley Road. Spend an hour enjoying music and Scripture readings that focus our attention on the real meaning of Christmas. INFO: 435-586-0253.

MON, DEC. 25

Merry Christmas

"YES," SAID QUEEN LUCY. "IN OUR WORLD

too, a stable once had something inside it that was bigger than our whole world." C.S. Lewis, The Chronicles of Narnia

TUES, DEC. 26

THANK YOU NOTE DAY

PAROWAN WINTER WONDERLAND (6-10PM

daily thru Jan 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.

WED, DEC. 27

CUT-OUT SNOWFLAKES DAY

STEVE HODSON CANCER CLASSIC –

Basketball Tournament (All Day 27th-29th) @ Canyon View High (166 W 1925 N, Cedar). Since 2012, Canyon View and Cedar have hosted the tournament to honor the legendary former Canyon View and Cedar coach who died of multiple myeloma in 2008 and to help local families in their own fight against cancer.

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. 28

CALL A FRIEND DAY

"WRITE IT ON YOUR HEART THAT EVERY

day is the best day in the year." Ralph Waldo Emerson

calendar

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

In light of the Christmas Holiday, be sure to check with each group or event on whether or not it will be taking place.

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, Parowan Sun 7:30 pm • 85 N 600 W, Cedar, Rm. 102 – LDS bldg. Back entrance. 435-218-9578

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 Thrashing-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

Returning Jan. 9, 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) 436-0259 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

IRON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS NUGGETS

from Braylie Tullis

IRON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Canyon View Middle

Holiday Program at CVMS - Thank you to the CVMS music and arts department for an awesome school Holiday Program! It was wonderful to see student art, poetry, essays of memories, holiday music, and talents showcased. The trees from each department were spectacular. The program was a great success!



Three Peaks Elementary

On December 18, we had a special visitor from the North Pole come to the school to visit each classroom. He couldn't believe how many "nice" students we have at Three Peaks Elementary. Later that day, the entire student body sang Holiday songs in the gym.

We would like to thank our team of

behavior coaches; Mary Irons, Jenelle Lacy, Brandon Muller, and Kaylynn Neilson for all they do to help our children become successful students both academically and socially. They helped create Christmas cheer this season by decorating doors throughout the school. We appreciate them! Students will be dismissed at 1:30 pm on December 20, 2023. Winter Break begins on December 21, 2023, with students returning to school on Wednesday, January 3, 2024.



Fiddlers Canyon Elementary

Thank you to everyone who supported our recent Feed Your Family Fundraiser Night at Panda Express! Thanks to you, we received \$220 that will help the PTA keep making Fiddlers a fun place to learn and work through programs like reading incentives, teacher classroom grants, STEAM Week, and hearing and vision screenings. Our choir did an amazing job at their performances this month! Thank you to Mrs. Callister and parent volunteers for their hard work and support. These kids have shown up to school early at least twice a week all year, and their dedication really shows. Don't forget that Wednesday, December 20 will follow our early-out

schedule (the day ends at 1:30), and school will resume on January 3. Follow the Fiddlers Canyon Elementary PTA page on Facebook for more news, updates, and highlights. See you next year!



Enoch Elementary

Magic Mike Hamilton performed illusions for Enoch Elementary. As he pulled a rabbit out of thin air and made spoons stick to a student's face, he taught that they have the power to make healthy choices. The playing card magically stuck to the gym ceiling will remind the Tigers for years to come.



South Elementary

The students of South Elementary have had amazing opportunities to see a production of the Nutcracker this week as well as enjoy the gifts and talents of Vocalocity. They will enjoy a visit from Cedar Middle School next week for some holiday music as well as participate in the annual "Sing Around the Tree" in the South Elementary gym. It truly is the most wonderful time of year to be at South Elementary!



Iron County School District

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Iron County School District's Transportation

Department arranged for special education students throughout the district to visit Parowan's Winter Wonderland. On Tuesday, Three Peaks Elementary students could hardly contain their excitement as they climbed inside a gingerbread house, posed as an elf and of course, visited Santa! Parowan Chamber of Commerce and city officials were on hand to greet the students and give them a cup of hot cocoa. The lights may not have been as bright as they are at night, but magic was in the air.



schools



COURTESY AMIRA MCGOWEN

The new National Junior Honor Society members look forward to improving their school and community through Scholarship, Service, Leadership, Character, and Citizenship.

Gateway Academy holds induction ceremony for National Junior Honor Society

from Amira McGowen

GATEWAY GRADE 8

The Gateway Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society inducted 16 new members. The Honor Society has now grown to 25 students.

We are so proud of each of our

new members and for them working together to do this, especially the Presidency who helped with the ceremony, including giving a speech about one of the five pillars: Scholarship, Service, Leadership, Character, and Citizenship. They all did an amazing job in trying to be the best they can.

The ceremony took place at the

Sizzler in Cedar City. They provided us with really good service and delicious food. The ceremony was really nice, and we are so proud of all of the students who achieved this honor.

For their first semester service project the Gateway Honor Society have been making blankets for the Iron County Holiday Assistance. We

worked on the blankets for 3 hours after school. Students created a Spook Alley in October and the funds from that event were used to purchase the material for the blankets. The Honor Society has worked really hard on blankets.

We are all so proud of them and the service they have been doing.



Lands Providing a Bright Future

Learn about the Utah Trust Lands Administration. They generate revenue from Trust Lands that benefit public schools and other important state institutions, ensuring prosperity for present and future generations.

Learn more at TrustLands.Utah.gov

Iron & Beaver school districts received over

\$2.2 MILLION

in funding this year from revenue generated on Trust Lands.

*Charter Schools in the area also receive Trust Lands funding.



obituaries

Judith Scott Asay



Judith Scott Asay, born June 28, 1939, lived a full and active life. She was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, the second child and oldest daughter of 14 children to Austin and Ruth Musser Scott. Judith found her beautiful singing voice while in the basement of her family home cleaning load after load of laundry in an ancient wash tub. She studied and became a lover of reading and learning, graduating from Olympus High School in 1957.

In 1961, she and W. Morgan Davis married in the Salt Lake Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and had six children together: Kimberly, Melanie, Nile, Troy, Nathan and Matthew. They lived back east, in Arlington, VA, while Morgan attended dental school, before moving to Boston, MA, for his orthodontic studies. This was far away from her parents and siblings, which was difficult for Judith, but she was willing to make the sacrifice to help her family get established.

After his graduation, the family moved to Zanesville, OH, where he practiced orthodontics, before moving west again in 1970 to Mesa, AZ. Judith dedicated her time to serving in the church along with being a seamstress for many of the family clothes.

Judith's growing passion for health and nutrition continued to blossom following her divorce from Morgan in 1978. Invited by the BYU Travel Studies, Judith and her mother, Ruth, toured South Africa in 1980. In February of 1983, Judith married Robert Dix Asay in the Salt Lake City Temple and Sarah was born that December, the day before her maternal grandfather's birthday. Together, Judith and Bob traveled to the Holy Lands. Following her divorce with Bob, and as a single mother, Judith went to Utah State University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Education. After that, she attended Arizona State University, where she received her Master's degree in Special Education.

Judith was a dedicated teacher of children with visual impairment, using her creativity and love of health to enhance the classroom experiences, even growing wheatgrass in the classroom for her children's tactile learning.

In 1999, at sixty years old, Judith ran the Logan, Utah "Top of Utah" Marathon, winning first place in the women's 60-64 category. In 2008, Judith retired from teaching and served a temple mission at the Washington D.C. Temple. Judith continued her love of sewing and service, making countless dolls and quilts for grandchildren and many others. She also took meticulous care of her yard and garden. Judith's final years continued to see her regular service in the Temple along with her daily walks.

Judith wrote hundreds of letters throughout her years to friends and family members, saving either the original or copies of each one. Each child and grandchild would receive a birthday card, often including a balloon to inflate. Before she wrote each note, she would kneel by her bed, pray, and receive direction on what to write, specific for each loved one. Her last writing was the letter "M" (for "Mom") in a daughter's birthday card, shortly before her passing.

Always tenacious and single-minded, and with her love and dedication to Temple Work, Judith lived to see her goal of attending the renovated St. George Temple re-dedication with three of her children. She passed on three days later, surrounded by love in her daughter's home in Cedar City, Utah on December 13, 2023.

Judith is survived by her seven children, 35 grandchildren, and 48 great-grandchildren. Her funeral will be held at the Cedar City 2nd Ward building of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, located at 155 East 400 South, on Friday, December 22, 2023, at noon. Her body will then rest "in my new bed!" in the Cedar City, Utah cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please consider sending donations in Judith Asay's name to: Utah School for the Deaf and the Blind, 742 Harrison Blvd., Ogden, Utah 84404. Or contact: Amy Zaharis, amy@usdb.org 801-505-8696.

Paula R. Wilcock



Paula R. (Penny Milner) Wilcock passed away on December 6, 2023, in St. George Utah. She was born September 15, 1946, in Salt Lake City Utah to Raymond E. and Mary P. Milner. They lived in Hilo Hawaii, Richfield Utah, Springville Utah, and then ultimately, moved to Cedar City Utah where she spent the majority of her life. Penny Graduated from Cedar High School as a proud Redman and went on to graduate from the Continental College of Beauty in

Salt Lake City Utah.

Penny married the love of her life Evan G. Wilcock December 17, 1966, in the St. George Temple. She worked as a beautician and also managed the Old Cedar Breaks Lodge and Restaurant while Evan cooked in the restaurant. She also went on to be a wonderful homemaker and mother. When Evan was in the service of his country (our proud Army veteran), he and his proud wife Penny and their two kids traveled the country and world even living in Manheim Germany for 4 years.

Penny was a lifelong member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and served various callings in her life including Relief Society President for the Cedar City 4th Ward most recently. Mom loved the arts and had an artist's eye. She enjoyed painting and drawing and worked at planting her garden and designing her yard with Dad. She had a beautiful talent for hair/nails and cooking delicious meals for family and friends.

To Mom, her animals were a part of our family. All of her pets throughout the years were so special to her. Mom loved a family gathering. She loved sharing a meal and singing together with her musical family. She enjoyed music and laughter and had a contagious laugh and joyful smile that will be missed dearly. She always had such a talent for finding the positive even in trying times. She would always look for the blessing in a moment.

Mom was courageous and strong. She could very much stand up for herself and the ones she loved and always just told it like it was! Mom just glowed, showing love and pride for her family, her country, and her life. She was as patriotic as they come, right up to the end. Although we are left on earth without her and are deeply saddened, we also know that there is a joyous reunion happening on the other side and it's their turn with her. Heaven is very lucky to have her.

Penny is survived by her best friend and husband of 57 years Evan G. Wilcock of Cedar City Utah, their daughter Virginia R. (Ricky) Evans of Cedar City Utah, their four grandchildren Micheal W. Alamo Jr (Ashley Williams) of Lehi Utah, Ryan S. (Cheyenne) Alamo of Cedar City Utah, Braden L. Evans of Cedar City Utah, Jessica R. Evans of Cedar City Utah, their two great-granddaughters Presleigh E. Alamo and Paige C. Alamo of Cedar City Utah, and her siblings Thomas E. (Ruth Ann) Milner of Cedar City Utah, and M.J. Dixon (Kristen) of California.

She was preceded in death by her parents Raymond E. and Mary P. Milner, her infant brother Raymond E. Milner Jr., her loving son Evan G. Wilcock II, and her father and mother-in-law Gale and Gai Wilcock.

A viewing will be held on December 23, 2023, at Southern Utah Mortuary at 190 N. 300 W. Cedar City Utah, 84720 at 9 AM MST and a graveside at 11 AM MST at the Cedar City Cemetery under the direction of Southern Utah Mortuary. Online condolences can be sent at www.mortuary.org.

The family would like to thank the St. George Regional Hospital doctors, nurses, and hospice staff for their tender care and respect.

Patricia Marie Shand Lund



Patricia Marie Shand Lund, 92, passed away peacefully on December 4, 2023, in Cedar City Utah. She was born to David A. and Leda Olson Shand on April 6, 1931, in Manti, Sanpete County, Utah. After graduation she attended Snow College where she earned her Associates Degree. She then moved to San Francisco to live with her aunts, Katie and Alta Shand. When she

returned to Manti she married her sweetheart Larry J Lund on December 17, 1955, in Ephraim, Utah. They lived in Thistle, Utah for several years where their 3 oldest children were born. They then moved to Manti, Utah where she had 2 more children. In 1965 they packed up their young family and moved to San Leandro, CA for Larry's job.

Pat was a skilled seamstress and made almost all her and her daughters' clothes. She worked at Paco Pumps in San Leandro while raising her 5 children. She was an active member of The Daughters of Utah Pioneers in California and Utah. She was especially skilled in both crossword and jigsaw puzzles, even completing simple puzzles up until her passing. After Larry's passing in 1994, they were sealed in the Oakland CA Temple.

Pat loved her family the most. She adored having grandchildren but often said that she was too young for grandchildren.

In 2001 she moved to Ephraim Utah where she lived until 2007, then finally settled in Cedar City. While in Ephraim she loved serving the Lord. She served in the House of the Lord Manti Temple as a temple worker for several years until moving to Cedar City, Utah. While in Cedar City she loved volunteering at the Shakespearean Festival.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Larry J. Lund and her daughter, Kimberly Lund Houghton of Ocala Florida. She is survived by her sons, Stuart J. (Tamara), Bruce L. Scott A. and Craig D. Lund, 8 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, 1 brother and 3 sisters.

The family received friends and family at a viewing on Friday, December 15, 2023, from 4-6pm at Affordable Funeral Services, 2002 North Main Street, Cedar City, Utah. A memorial service was held Saturday, December 16, 2023, at 11:00am at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints chapel located at 800 South Laurie Lane, Cedar City, Utah. Condolences can be sent through www.heartlightfs.com. Interment will be at The San Joaquin National Cemetery in Santa Nella CA at a later date.

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.

obituaries

Marsha Harding



Marsha Hollingshead Harding returned to the arms of her loving Heavenly Father on December 10th, 2023. She was finally reunited with her husband, Clyde F. Harding, who preceded her in death 37 years ago. She passed away peacefully in the home that she and Clyde had built.

Marsha was born on August 5, 1947, in Heber, Utah, to Marshall Hollingshead and Nellie D. Duke. She was the oldest daughter and second of ten children. She played an active role in all of her siblings' lives. She was raised in Minersville, Utah. She was proud of her heritage and loved being a "Punkin' Roller." She returned to Minersville often to visit with family and close friends and was a regular for Fourth of July celebrations. She also loved to attend the horse races on the 24th of July in Beaver.

A 1965 graduate of Beaver High School, Marsha later attended Southern Utah State College (SUSC), where she obtained a bachelor's degree in physical education and secondary education. It was while at SUSC that she met Clyde Frank Harding. They were married civilly on August 9th, 1969, in Minersville, Utah, and were sealed in the St. George Utah Temple on August 7th, 1971. Following their marriage, they lived for a short time in Fredonia, Arizona, and then permanently settled in Cedar City, first living at the Gentry Mobile Home Park and then later in their home on 860 West.

If you attended a sporting event in Southern Utah, you probably knew Marsha. She cheered loud and proud, not afraid to out-yell and out-cheer the fans from the opposing team. She was fearless when it came to voicing her feelings over what she felt was a bad call by the umpire or referee and stared down many a belligerent fan. She loved the Cedar High Redman, Canyon View High Falcons, and the Thunderbirds, and also loved little league baseball, high school basketball, and men's and women's fast pitch softball. She was the first female director of the Thunderbird Athletic Club at SUU.

At the tender age of 38 she became a widow, when Clyde was killed in an aviation accident at the Cedar Municipal Airport. As a single parent, she courageously raised 5 children, spanning in ages from 15 to 4. She rejoiced in her children's accomplishments and successes. Marsha had great faith in Jesus Christ and was a righteous example. A joyful moment for her was when she was able to gather with all of her children in the Portland Oregon Temple for the marriage of her fifth child. All of her children were there, dressed in white, with their spouses. Families are forever. She knew this, taught this, and lived worthy of the promise of eternal life with her family.

Marsha had worked alongside Clyde in his business endeavors: Harding Brothers' Construction and then later Color Canyons Aviation. She and Clyde had operated Color Canyons until the time of his death in 1986. Following his death, she sold the successful business to help support her family. For several decades following, she worked as a Title I Aide, first at South Elementary and then later at East Elementary School.

An active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Marsha served in a variety of callings. A calling that she deeply enjoyed was serving as the Primary President at the Iron Mission Branch, which served the Cedar City Band of Paiute Indians. She loved serving the Paiute children and they in turn loved her. She also served in the YW organization and regularly attended the temple. She loved the Cedar City Utah Temple, declaring it, "The most beautiful temple in the Church."

As her children scattered far and wide, Marsha traveled to Hawaii, Oregon, Washington, Florida, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Washington DC, Virginia, California, and many other great places in support of her children and their families.

Marsha is survived by her five children: Brandon (Amy) Harding, Poulsbo, WA; Christy (Mark) Florence, Cedar City, UT; Justin (Bridget) Harding, Philadelphia, PA; Amy (Rod) Emory, Toluca Lake, CA; and Darrin (Rhonda) Harding, Newberg, OR. She is also survived by 19 grandchildren: Olivia, Caleb, Sophia, Isaac, Josiah, Amelia, Brynn, Logan (Emma), Maia, Nelson (Chelsea), Eve, Hannah, Christian, Anna, Emme, Zayne, Jayde (Drew), Carson, Ellie, and Piper. Additionally, she is survived by eight of her nine siblings and a large extended family. She was preceded in death by her husband, Clyde F. Harding, granddaughter Aubrey Jayde Emory, parents Marshall & Nellie Hollingshead, and sister Katie Herring.

A viewing was held at Southern Utah Mortuary, 190 North 300 West, Cedar City, UT on December 17th from 6:00-8:00 pm. A second Viewing was held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, located at 1120 West Greens Lake Drive, Cedar City, UT 84720 on December 18th from 11:30 am-12:30 pm prior to the Funeral Service at 1:00 pm. Interment immediately followed at the Cedar City Cemetery under the direction of Southern Utah Mortuary.

To view the livestream of the funeral service and to share online condolences, please visit www.mortuary.org. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to a charitable cause on Marsha's behalf through "Light the World" at Giving Machines | Light the World.

faith

More junk in the trunk

Trunks are amazing inventions. They make travel and moving more convenient. Trunks also provide great hiding places for all kinds of physical, emotional and spiritual junk. Not only does junk take up precious cargo space, but the weight slows us down, and ruins our gas mileage.

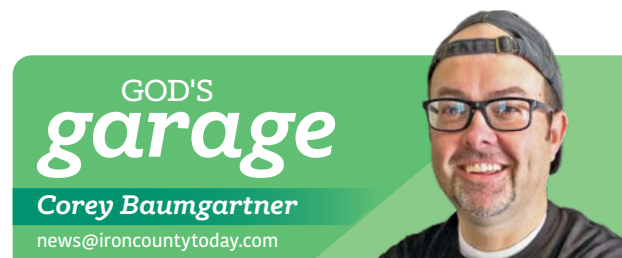
Sometimes we think we're the only ones with junk in the trunk and others won't understand, let alone help us remove it. This isolation leads to more junk and sorrow. That's why we need trusted friends, family and leaders to help guide and guard us through the de-junking process (James 5:16). As you continue, you will realize and come to rely on God, who will not only help you remove and escape it, but change your heart so that you no longer desire it (1 Corinthians 10:13). You truly can become God's temple (1 Corinthians 3:16), so that His Spirit can not only dwell in you, but help deliver you from future junk.

Also, it seems like in today's world most of the junk we carry around deals with other people's junk. There's a difference between helping someone take out the trash (junk), or just storing it for them in your trunk. I'm not saying you shouldn't strive to help a brother or sister in need, but "Bad company corrupts good character. (1 Corinthians 15:33). And don't think the devil isn't trying to fill up your trunk (mind, heart) with deceit, despair and rusting rumors (Ephesians 4:24-31). If you really want a treasured trunk (heart), then you need to start putting things in it worth treasuring.

It's tough not to stuff junk in the trunk and hurt in your heart. And they can both hold a lot of junk and a lot of hurt! And it's not easy, even painful, to open the trunk, let alone look in and try and decipher and decide what to get rid of. How did it all get (and fit) in there? One decision at time. Which is how you're going to get rid of it, but

not alone (Psalm 37:5). Because there is no mountain too high, or valley too low for your Savior to find, reach, help and love you back to life (Romans 8:39, Isaiah 41:10).

And Jesus isn't just a junk-removal man. What He helps you remove, He will also help you replace (with mercy and grace) with things that are better, higher and holier (Philippians 4:8).



GOD'S
garage

Corey Baumgartner

news@ironcountytoday.com

No, it's not easy, but that's why just a few verses later God reminds you that you can do all things through Him (Philippians 4:13)! Along with His spirit of power, love and self-control (2 Timothy 1:7).

So, what are you waiting for? Want to get more smiles to the gallon? Cast your cares (junk) on the Lord (1 Peter 5:7). It's time to get some better directions, some better tunes and check that your companions are headed in the same divine direction. By the way, where are you headed in life?

VERSE OF THE WEEK

PSALM 32:7-8

"7 Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah. 8 I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye."

In today's world, it may seem that places of refuge from the storms of life are few and far between. That is why we need divine designers and apostolic architects to help build such places within our hearts, homes, neighborhoods and communities.

sports

SCORES + RECAPS FROM IRON COUNTY COMPETITION

Reds break streak, win twice at Classic

by Tom Zulewski

IRON COUNTY TODAY

The Cedar Reds have been in search of the right combination of players to put on the basketball court and produce victories. Cedar finished off its run of seven games in nine days with an impressive come-from-behind win.

Easton Albrecht scored a game-high 29 points and Landon Kreitzer added 21 as the Reds erased a 16-point first-half deficit and beat the Spanish Fork Dons, 62-54 on Dec. 16 to earn its second win of the season in the Coach Walker Classic played at Crimson Cliffs High in St. George.

"We didn't change anything at halftime. Our kids just changed their attitude," Reds head coach Tyler Monks said. "We kept fighting and got some momentum from some kids off the bench that gave us good energy."

Cedar trailed 27-11 midway through the second quarter after Spanish Fork went on a 15-2 run, but rallied to cut the deficit to 30-23 at the half. Thanks to Albrecht's long-range shooting and inside work by Kreitzer, the Reds pulled away in the fourth quarter and secured the victory.

"They're huge as senior leaders. Easton's a point guard and Landon gets the ball in his hands and makes plays for us as a three-year starter," Monks said of the duo. "They've got to keep doing what they do for us to be as good as we can be."

Cedar had its other win at the Classic in a 79-76 overtime thriller over Sports



Mountain View

61



Cedar

55

Mtn. View 16 15 16 14 - 61
Cedar 15 8 14 18 - 55

Mountain View - R. Lewis 3, Fairbanks 17, K. Lewis 9, Mella 17, Suguturaga 7, Kodpua 8. Totals 24 3-8 61. 3-pointers - R. Lewis 1, Fairbanks 3, K. Lewis 3, Mella 1, Suguturaga 1, Kodpua 1.

Cedar - Albrecht 3, Tate Stubbs 3, Englebright 3, Kreitzer 28, Davis 2, Kee 13, Ty Stubbs 3. Totals 18 8-13 55. 3-pointers - Albrecht 1, Tate Stubbs 1, Kreitzer 5, Kee 3, Ty Stubbs 1.



Cedar

62



Spanish Fork

54

Cedar 9 14 19 20 - 62
Spanish Fork 12 18 12 12 - 54

Cedar - Albrecht 29, Kreitzer 21, Stubbs 9, Kee 2, Visser 1. Totals 19 17-23 62. 3-pointers - Albrecht 4, Kreitzer 2, Stubbs 1.

Spanish Fork - Dunn 19, Beckstead 11, Leatherwood 9, Christensen 9, Weekes 2, Olson 2, Lambson 2. Totals 21 8-11 54. 3-pointers - Christensen 3, Leatherwood 1.

Cedar's Easton Albrecht rises above the Mountain View defender to the score for the Reds.

Despite injury, Wright wins fifth all-around NFR title

by Tom Zulewski

IRON COUNTY TODAY

LAS VEGAS — Stetson Wright didn't have the best of times at the 2023 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo, failing to score on his bull and saddle bronc rides in each of the first two rounds. Thanks to another stellar performance across the whole season, the Milford native officially claimed a fifth straight gold buckle Dec. 16 in the all-around as Round 10 wrapped up before another sold-out crowd at Thomas & Mack Center.

Wright's final money total in the all-around was \$479,620, good for his eighth gold buckle. With the injury, the 24-year-old finished eighth in the final saddle bronc standings with \$261,626 and third in bull riding with \$378,630.

Even though Wright had to watch the final eight rounds from the sidelines, he never stopped cheering on and supporting his fellow cowboys.

"Never give up on your dreams. After reaching the top of every mountain is the bottom of the next," Wright said to an appreciative crowd during the awards presentation.

Among the other NFR events, Ky Hamilton became the first Australian to win a PRCA bull riding world championship after clinching the gold buckle following Round 9 with a final season total of \$595,414. Utah cowboy Josh Frost of Randlett was able to pass Wright and finish second in the final standings after an 89.5-point ride in Round 10, finishing with a final season total of \$400,766.

For the second year in a row, Canadian Zeke Thurston survived a three-way money fight and came through with his fourth saddle bronc gold buckle. Thurston scored 86.5 on his Round 10 ride aboard Dandy Delight from his native Calgary Stampede, good for a share of sixth and a final check of \$2,476. With his win in the average — 863 points on 10 head with eight cashes — Thurston's season total was \$456,356, well in front of runner-up Sage Newman's \$397,836.

Newman won the first-place check on his Round 10 ride with a score of 91, a half-point ahead of Ryder Wright, who finished eighth in the average and seventh overall with \$286,447.



Stetson Wright competed in the first two rounds of the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas, but had to withdraw due to a hamstring injury. He still won his fifth straight gold buckle in the all-

EMILY HILTON/PRCA



TOM ZULEWSKI

Stetson Wright reacts during the awards presentation after Round 10 of the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo on Dec. 16.

Among other Utah cowboys who competed at the NFR, Dean Thompson of Altamont had his best run of the rodeo when he scored 89 points in round 10 and earned a second-place check good for \$24,268. He finished 13th for the season with \$170,672 in winnings.

Mason Clements of Spanish Fork scored 84 on his Round 10 ride, but it wasn't good enough for a check. He finished seventh in average with 836 points on all 10 head and eighth overall for the season with \$224,652.

Rhen Richard of Roosevelt teamed with Canadian Jeremy Buhler to finish

"Never give up on your dreams. After reaching the top of every mountain is the bottom of the next."

Stetson Wright

seventh in the average and eighth overall with \$213,716.

Prior to the start of this year's rodeo, Las Vegas Events (LVE) announced a new 10-year agreement was reached Dec. 4 to keep the Wrangler NFR in Las Vegas until 2035. KLAS-TV reported on its website that no details were immediately released on the financial commitment from LVE, but the event has sold out Thomas & Mack Center for 360 straight performances.

Cedar girls keep rolling, beat Pioneers

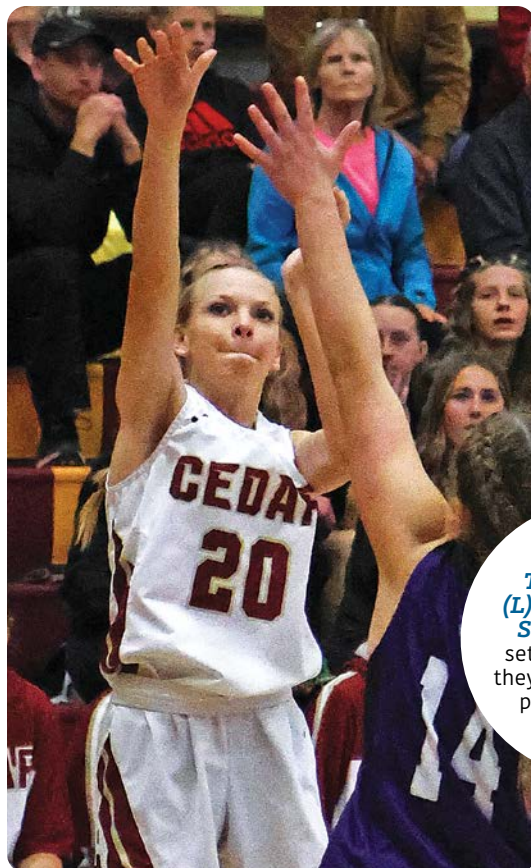
by Tom Zulewski

IRON COUNTY TODAY

In a pair of tightly contested games, the Cedar girls basketball team survived all challenges and came through with two more wins last week. The Reds finished with a 47-42 win over the Lehi Pioneers on Dec. 16 and improved to 7-2 on the season. No additional details were available.

Cedar also won its first game of the week 24 hours earlier, beating the Moapa Valley Pirates, 35-31. Kiara Hansen and Mya Bishoff scored 12 points apiece to lead the Reds, who outscored the host Pirates 21-10 in the second half to rally for the comeback win.

Region 9 play began for Cedar on Tuesday with a road game at Hurricane that was too late for press deadline, their final game before the holiday break.



Cedar's Tylee Nielson (L) and Annalyse Shimada didn't settle for a loss as they helped the Reds prevail over the Pioneers.



PHOTOS BY COREY BAUMGARTNER

Canyon View girls fall short to Richfield

by Tom Zulewski

IRON COUNTY TODAY



Richfield

36



Canyon View

32

Richfield	12	7	7	10	36
Canyon View	4	8	9	11	32

Richfield – Jolley 9, Evensen 3, Albrecht 14, Janes 4, Knutson 6. Totals 12 6-18 36. 3-pointers – Jolley 2, Knutson 2.

Canyon View – Spencer 10, Nichols 4, Brush 4, Farrow 2, Miles 4, Davie 2, Vargas 6. Totals 12 6-8 32. 3-pointers – Spencer 2.

Canyon View girls basketball head coach Jaycee Barnhurst knew her team was in a battle to find production on the offensive end of the floor. Even after seeing the visiting Richfield Wildcats start the game on a roll, the Falcons kept chipping away.

When it came to the finish, the Wildcats made just enough baskets to walk away with a victory.

Abbie Albrecht led all scorers with 14 points and Richfield survived for a 36-32 win over Canyon View, spoiling the Falcons' Region 12 and home opener at the Nest on Dec. 12. The Wildcats raced out to a 12-4 lead on the strength of four 3-pointers – two each by Brielle Jolley and

Kamryn Knutson – but the Falcons stayed close throughout.

"They went cold, then we got warmer, but ultimately it came down to who could find the bottom of the net," Barnhurst said. "They found it a few more times. This is the best game we've played this year, but we've got to find the bottom of the net."

CV was within five points on two occasions in the fourth quarter, but lost Brooke Davie and Bethanee Vargas when they fouled out. The Wildcats got single free throws from Abby Evensen and Albrecht down the stretch to help secure the win. Maylee Spencer led CV with 10 points in the loss.

"Bethanee is our defensive specialist, but when one player goes down, someone has to step up," Barnhurst said. "Our focus is always going to be defense. If we can

keep girls teams below 40 (points), we've got a chance to win a lot of games. If we can find ways to score, I think we can make a run in this region."

The Falcons recovered later in the week and beat North Sanpete on Dec. 15, 55-40, to even its Region 12 record at 1-1 and improve to 3-5 overall. Maya Nichols led three players in double figures with 13 points, and CV outscored the host Hawks 23-12 in the second half to earn the victory.

Spencer and Kamryn Brush added 11 points each for the Falcons, who overcame a game-high 19-point effort from the Hawks' Jessica Applegarth.

Canyon View traveled to Manti on Tuesday for its last game before the holiday break, which was too late for press deadline.

Wolves prove too much for Falcons

by Tom Zulewski

IRON COUNTY TODAY

When it comes to making a comeback, the Canyon View Falcons learned how important it is to hold on to the basketball in search of a win. In the end, the Green Canyon Wolves made their free throws and held on for a victory.

Kyran Hoffman led four players in double figures with 18 points, and the visitors from Region 11 made free throws when they mattered to finish off a 65-58 win over Canyon View on Dec. 13 in the Falcons' home opener at the Nest. The Wolves improved to 7-0 on the season.

"We're shorthanded, and I love how the guys are playing right now," CV head coach Kim Blackner said. "I thought for 32 minutes and our intent was spot-on. We got in some critical situations where turnovers were costly in the moment. You can survive some turnovers on occasion, but the turnovers we had were critical."

After trailing by as many as 12 in the first half,

CV closed the third quarter with a 7-2 run and cut the Green Canyon lead to 41-37. The Wolves began the fourth quarter with an 8-2 run of their own to push the lead back to 10 (49-39), and the Falcons couldn't get any closer than five the rest of the way.

"We missed an open three that was costly, and we chased the rest of the way," Blackner said. "Their ball pressure got us in spurts. We had to use some timeouts to help the guys, but once they understood where their eyes needed to go, I thought we did a better job."

Ty Attig led the Falcons with 17 points in the loss. Felps Sanders added 16 and Jace Farrow chipped in with 14.

CV opened Region 12 play on the road and beat the Richfield Wildcats, 55-54, on Dec. 15. The Falcons led by 10 at the half, but had to hold of a Wildcat rally in the final quarter before securing the win and improving to 3-3 on the season.

Sanders led the way for Canyon View with 22 points and Attig added 20. The Falcons played North Sanpete on Wednesday in their last game before the holiday break, which was too late for press deadline.



Green Canyon

65



Canyon View

58

Green Cyn. 10 21 10 24 - 65
Canyon View 14 7 16 21 - 58

Green Canyon - Anderson 15, Hoffman 18, Ward 14, Penigar 16, Thomson 2.
Totals 23 14-19 65. 3-pointers - Anderson 3, Ward 2

Canyon View - Farrow 14, Attig 17, Sanders 16, Miles 8, Irons 3. Totals 21 11-18 58.
3-pointers - Attig 2, Sanders 1, Miles 2.



JR ROBINSON

Parowan's Trevor Robison helped the Rams defeat the Eagles as they began Region 18 with a win.

Rams start region on winning note

by Tom Zulewski

IRON COUNTY TODAY

Hunter Bettridge led three players in double figures with 13 points, and the Parowan Rams got Region 18 play off to a good start as they held off the winless Millard Eagles, 51-47 at home Dec. 13. Daniel Bernhardt and Austin Edwards added a pair of 3-pointers each and combined for 21 points on the night. Treyden Terry and Derk Memmott led the Eagles (0-9) with 17 points each.

The Rams went outside of region and dropped their other games of the week. Sadler Barnes scored 19 points along with four 3-pointers as Milford edged Parowan, 49-41 on Dec. 14. Bettridge led the Rams with 14 points in the loss. They enjoyed a 29-12 edge in free-throw attempts, but could only make 16.

On Dec. 16, the visiting South Summit Wildcats used a 17-6 second-quarter run to kick-start a 69-47 win over the Rams. South Summit added 24 points in the third to break the game open.

Bernhardt led Parowan with 15 points in the loss.



CV's Carson Miles had 8 points, including two 3-pointers, but the Falcons couldn't evade the Wolves.

JR ROBINSON

Heartbreak for the Thunderbirds in Flagstaff

by Parker Haynie

ASST. DIRECTOR, SUU ATHLETIC COMM.

FLAGSTAFF, AZ — A tough battle ends in heartbreak for the SUU Men's Basketball team as they fall at the buzzer to Northern Arizona, 74-76.

With eight seconds left in the ball game, SUU trailed by three 71-74. Braden Housley knocked down a triple that would tie the ball game at 74. After a quick time out the Lumberjacks inbounded the ball to Oakland Fort with six seconds remaining, Fort was able to get to rim and attempt a layup that bounced off the front of the rim and Jayden Jackson was there to tap in the missed layup just before the final buzzer sounded. The Lumberjacks have won three straight games with buzzer-beaters. The Thunderbirds fall to 3-7 on the year.

SUU once again had five players score in double figures. However, this time it was UTEP transfer Jamari Sibley, who was making his first appearance for the Thunderbirds after getting clearance from the two-time transfer rule. Sibley had 15 points off the bench with seven rebounds and three steals. SUU was led by Dominique Ford who poured in 19 points on 4-10 from three. He also led the team



SUU's Dominique Ford led the way to a near victory with 19 points, 4 three-pointers and 5 assists for the T-Birds.

with five assists on the night.

Parsa Fallah had another fantastic performance, securing a double-double with 15 points and 12 rebounds, including five offensive. He also led the team with two blocks in the contest. Zion Young had 12 and Braden Housley had 11.

The Thunderbirds as a team shot 42% from the floor and just 27% from three. They won the rebounding battle by six and doubled up the Lumberjacks in points off turnovers. However, lost the battle of points in the paint by 10.

SUU continues to struggle defensively as they allowed NAU to shoot 53% from the floor and 42% from three. Three players for NAU scored in double-digits, led by the unbelievable shot-making of Trent McLaughlin who had 19 points on the night.

"We have to be better defensively, that's all there is to it. We can't expect to win ball games when we consistently allow teams to shoot over 50% and give up 76 points," said Head Coach Rob Jeter. "Offensively we did some good things and showed the will to battle back even when we were down late, but until we can consistently get stops we can't expect the result to change," he added.

Smith, Uhrich shine as Thunderbirds fall to Utes



SUU's Megan Smith scored all 10 points for Southern Utah in the 2nd quarter, as the Thunderbirds trailed 50-23 at the break.

by Tyler Francis

SUU ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

CEDAR CITY — Megan Smith and Ava Uhrich combined for 41 points as the Southern Utah University women's basketball team fell to the University of Utah 96-60 on Saturday, Dec. 16 at the America First Event Center. The Thunderbirds move to 3-6 on the season, while the Utes improve to 9-2 overall.

Head Coach Tracy Mason said, "I thought Ava and Megan played really well. I'm super proud of their performances. Defensively, we have to continue to get better. There are things that we need to take away from this game and continue to work on."

Megan Smith led all scorers with 26 points in addition to compiling a team-high five rebounds and two steals. Ava Uhrich was a force to be reckoned with, scoring 15 points on 63 percent shooting from the

field. Daylani Ballena and Shiho Isono each dished out four assists to lead the Thunderbirds.

Ava Uhrich came out hot to start the game, scoring six quick points to push SUU in front by four, 11-7, early in the first quarter. However, the Utes used a 19-2 run to take a 26-13 advantage at the end of the period. Utah carried this momentum into the second quarter, out-

scoring the Thunderbirds 24-10. Megan Smith scored all 10 points for Southern Utah in the quarter, as the Thunderbirds trailed 50-23 at the break.

Smith stayed aggressive to begin the second half, pouring in eight points to power the Thunderbirds' offense in the third period. The Utes held a 71-39 lead heading into the final quarter of play. The Thunderbirds relied on a balanced attack in the final frame. Six players recorded a field goal in the fourth quarter for SUU as the Utes went on to claim a 96-60 victory.

Southern Utah hosts Northern Arizona today, Thursday, Dec. 21. The game is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. MT. For all the latest on Southern Utah women's basketball, follow @SUUWBasketball on Twitter and Instagram and like the Southern Utah Women's Basketball Facebook page.

"There are things that we need to take away from this game and continue to work on."

Head Coach Tracy Mason



Cedar's Landon Kreitzer (Top) and Hayden Kee, battle the Bruins in a tough loss at home.



PHOTOS BY COREY BAUMGARTNER

CEDAR HOOPS

« CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

Leadership and Management (SLAM) Academy out of Las Vegas on Dec. 14. Kreitzer led the way with 24 points, Albrecht had 17 and Tate Stubbs added 15. The Reds led 54-48 heading to the fourth quarter, but regulation ended in a 67-67 tie.

In the game played Dec. 15, Cedar couldn't hold an 11-point halftime lead and fell 72-67 to the Manti Templars, the defending 3A state champions. Manti scored 46

points in the second half to rally for the win. Kreitzer led Cedar with 28 points for the second straight game and Albrecht added 12 in the loss.

The Reds played their home opener to start the week Dec. 11, and fell 61-55 to the Mountain View Bruins. Bryce Mella and Conner Fairbanks led the Bruins with 17 points each in the victory, while Kreitzer scored 28 points for the Reds and Hayden Kee added 13.

Cedar opened Region 9 play in its final game before the holiday break Wednesday against the Hurricane Tigers at home. The game was too late for press deadline.

PREP SCOREBOARD

SCORES

Region 9 Boys Basketball

- 12/11 Mountain View 61, Cedar 55
- 12/12 Crimson Cliffs 72, Manti 69
- 12/14 Cedar 79, Slam Acad. (NV) 76, OT
Cottonwood 59, Snow Cyn. 54, OT
Orem 55, Dixie 53
Desert Hills 63, Spanish Fork 62
Ridgeline 72, Crimson Cliffs 46
Pine View 60, Manti 51
- 12/15 Manti 72, Cedar 67
Maple Mtn. 60, Snow Cyn. 53
Dixie 74, Timpview 73
Hurricane 72, Delta 66
Desert Hills 65, Logan 54
Pine View 84, Westlake 75
Riverton 55, Crimson Cliffs 54
- 12/16 Cedar 62, Spanish Fork 54
Riverton 55, Snow Canyon 44
Green Cyn. 71, Desert Hills 64
Crimson Cliffs 82, Cottonwood 61
Pine View 75, Payson 53

Region 12 Boys Basketball

- 12/12 Crimson Cliffs 72, Manti 69
- 12/13 Green Cyn. 65, Canyon View 58
North Sanpete 61, Gunnison 50
Emery 79, Am. Leadership 39
Providence Hall 54, Carbon 48
- 12/14 Kanab 68, Delta 56
- 12/15 Canyon View 55, Richfield 54
Manti 72, Cedar 67
North Sanpete 66, Carbon 49
Hurricane 72, Delta 66
Emery 56, Juab 54
- 12/16 Manti 63, Slam Academy 48

Region 18 Boys Basketball

- 12/13 Parowan 51, Millard 47
Beaver 62, North Sevier 44
South Sevier 68, Kanab 59, OT
Enterprise 70, Water Canyon 27
- 12/14 Milford 49, Parowan 41
Kanab 68, Delta 56
- 12/15 Am. Heritage 84, Enterprise 68
North Summit 54, Millard 34
Duchesne 67, South Sevier 55
- 12/16 South Summit 69, Parowan 47
Enterprise 60, Rowland Hall 43

Region 9 Girls Basketball

- 12/12 Syracuse 68, Dixie 47
Desert Hills 65, Pine View 25
- 12/13 Westlake 60, Dixie 34

- 12/14 Lehi 54, Hurricane 42
Sky View 44, Pine View 27
Snow Cyn. 61, Green Canyon 43
- 12/15 Cedar 35, Moapa Valley (NV) 31
Green Canyon 49, Pine View 32
Lehi 50, Desert Hills 42, OT
Snow Canyon 66, Mtn. Crest 42
- 12/16 Cedar 47, Lehi 42
Snow Canyon 51, Sky View 48

Region 12 Girls Basketball

- 12/12 Richfield 36, Canyon View 32
Delta 46, Manti 38
Carbon 76, North Sanpete 36
Juab 61, Emery 58
- 12/14 Canyon View 55, North
Sanpete 40
Richfield 55, Manti 32
Emery 65, Delta 35
- 12/15 Beaver 46, Juab 44
Carbon 64, Millard 34
Delta 52, Parowan 28
South Sevier 45, Carbon 44
Richfield 45, Summit Acad. 29
- 12/16 Kanab 61, Carbon 46
North Summit 55, Juab 44
Union 40, Delta 33
Richfield 52, Beaver 32

Region 18 Girls Basketball

- 12/12 Millard 52, Parowan 32
Beaver 71, North Sevier 21
Kanab 58, South Sevier 54
Enterprise 62, Water Cyn. 28
- 12/14 Milford 56, Parowan 36
- 12/15 Delta 52, Parowan 28
Beaver 46, Juab 44
Carbon 64, Millard 34
South Sevier 45, Carbon 44
Kanab 53, North Summit 45
- 12/16 Summit Acad. 50, Parowan 31
Kanab 61, Carbon 46
Millard 29, Union 24
Richfield 52, Beaver 32
Enterprise 40, North Sevier 39
South Sevier 56, Duchesne 32

STANDINGS

RPI RANKINGS IN PARENTHESES

Region 9 Boys Basketball

	REGION	OVERALL
Dixie	0-0	6-1
Pine View	0-0	6-3

Desert Hills	0-0	5-4
Crimson Cliffs	0-0	5-5
Hurricane	0-0	4-4
Snow Canyon	0-0	3-3
Cedar	0-0	2-8

Region 12 Boys Basketball

	REGION	OVERALL
Emery	1-0	6-1
North Sanpete	1-0	4-3
Canyon View	1-0	3-3
Manti	0-0	7-2
Delta	0-0	2-6
Juab	0-1	5-2
Carbon	0-1	3-4
Richfield	0-1	3-4

Region 18 Boys Basketball

	REGION	OVERALL
Enterprise	1-0	5-2
South Sevier	1-0	6-4
Parowan	1-0	3-6
Beaver	0-0	3-3
Kanab	0-1	5-3
Water Canyon	0-1	2-2
Millard	0-1	0-9

Region 9 Girls Basketball

	REGION	OVERALL
Desert Hills	1-0	2-3
Snow Canyon	0-0	7-1
Cedar	0-0	7-2
Hurricane	0-0	6-3
Dixie	0-0	4-4
Crimson Cliffs	0-0	3-6
Pine View	0-1	2-7

Region 12 Girls Basketball

	REGION	OVERALL
Richfield	2-0	8-3
Juab	1-0	6-3
Carbon	1-0	6-4
Emery	1-1	6-4
Delta	1-1	5-4
Canyon View	1-1	3-5
Manti	0-2	4-4
North Sanpete	0-2	5-6

Region 18 Girls Basketball

	REGION	OVERALL
Kanab	1-0	9-1
Enterprise	1-0	4-5
Millard	1-0	3-7
Beaver	0-0	7-2
South Sevier	0-1	6-1
Water Canyon	0-1	2-5
Parowan	0-1	1-8

A holiday to remember

There will be one more edition of this newspaper to come before 2023 fades into memories and clips for the scrapbook. For a time, I was in the school of “what do I do next?” before we got our chance to return six weeks later – something Canyon View assistant principal Julie King described to me as “a nice mini-vacation.”

But then we made our comeback. Knowing you were searching for an outlet that shared the news of what’s going on in sports locally and beyond, it gave me all the feels when we returned to your homes. With that in mind and with only a few days left till Christmas, here are some of my favorite things from the year that was.

Easiest moment to choose that belongs at the top of the heap for 2023: My appearance on Jeopardy! that happened July 7. I didn’t win in the money sense, but I won by beating ridiculously long odds to get to the Alex Trebek Stage.

“Knowing you were searching for an outlet that shared the news of what’s going on in sports locally and beyond, it gave me all the feels when we returned to your homes.”

The process goes like this: Take a 50-clue test. Pass it, get noticed. If you’re discovered, repeat the procedure all over again – another 50-clue test, pass it, get seen live (at least in my case) by the actual humans in charge of choosing people they feel are best for being on the show.

I went through the entire gauntlet, got The Call (it’s not just any ordinary call, mind you.) eight months after my final audition, and filmed all the fun May 16. Just our luck, but the game was aired July 7, the end of the 4th of July holiday week. Took a while, but the peeps eventually were able to see it all unfold. And while the struggle to buzz in was real, I got the responses that mattered in the end and played in Final Jeopardy! Making \$1,000 for 25 minutes of work is clearly one of the coolest things ever.

RANDOM thoughts

Tom Zulewski

IRON COUNTY TODAY



Canyon View football kept on moving up the competitive ladder in the 3A ranks, setting

a new standard for wins in a season with a 9-3 record. They lost to a very good Richfield team in the semifinals, and the Wildcats completed a perfect 13-0 season with a 27-21 win over Manti in the 3A final played at SUU last month.

Speaking of the T-Birds, the SUU women’s basketball team won the Western Athletic Conference regular-season title, won the WAC tournament, and reached the NCAA Tournament for the very first time.

Although the task proved difficult in a first-round loss to No. 3 seed Notre Dame – a school that’s been a national championship contender – SUU had great things happen, most notably Cedar High alum Samatha Johnston scoring 9 points with five assists in 31 minutes. She also made two of the T-Birds’ four 3-pointers.

Stetson Wright was forced out of the National Finals Rodeo with a hamstring injury (see story elsewhere on these pages), but still won his fifth straight gold buckle in the all-around. At 24, Wright is closing in on the gold standard of cowboy excellence that is Trevor Brazile. Brazile won seven all-around gold buckles from 2009 to 2015 and 14 for his career.

For now, that’s all we have for the year’s best. We’ll do another round of our favorites in next week’s column. In the meantime, may you enjoy all the goodness that comes with the holiday season and that 2024 is even better than this year was for us all.

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

TOM'S SPORTS TRIVIA

Christmas is almost here – hopefully by the time you read this – and our main theme for the week is the NBA on the holiday. Here’s hoping you got everything you wished for, but please remember...no wagering!

1. Among the five NBA games being played Dec. 25, one features a rivalry that has been at its greatest in the NBA Finals, the last coming in 2010. Name the teams.

2. As is custom, the defending champion Denver Nuggets will play on Christmas Day. Its opponent will be what Pacific Division team that just saw Draymond Green get suspended indefinitely last week?

3. The Miami Heat own the best record in Christmas Day games at 11-2 and will get a chance at a 12th win this year when they face what Eastern Conference rival who saw Joel Embiid score 41 points in a win over the Detroit Pistons on Dec. 13?

4. Who was the last defending NBA champion to LOSE on Christmas Day? It happened at home in 2019 and was the first Dec. 25 game played in Canada.

5. The Memphis Grizzlies crossed off playing on Christmas Day from its team bucket list one year ago. Who was the opponent, a team that beat them in the second round on the way to winning the 2022 NBA title?

6. What NBA Eastern Conference team is the only one who has not played on Christmas Day?

7. In what year did Christmas Day serve as

the NBA regular-season opener due to a lockout?

8. The Nuggets were also involved in the most recent Christmas Day game that needed overtime to decide the winner. Who did the team beat last year?

9. The Minnesota Timberwolves are tied with the Boston Celtics for the NBA’s best record as of Dec. 14. How many times has the team played on Christmas Day – the last coming in 2017?

10. Mired in a franchise-worst 18-game losing streak, when was the last time the San Antonio Spurs played a Christmas Day game? Its opponent that day beat them 121-112 on Dec. 8, the Spurs’ 16th straight loss.

11. What Western Conference team last played a Christmas Day game in 2003?

12. The Utah Jazz last played on Christmas Day in 2021. Who did the team beat, and how many times have they won on the holiday?

LAST WEEK’S ANSWERS:

1. Philadelphia Eagles.
2. The Los Angeles Lakers beat the Indiana Pacers, 123-109 on Dec. 9 to win the first NBA Cup for the in-season tournament.
3. San Antonio Spurs. As of Dec. 14, both teams’ streaks were still active. Detroit has lost 21 in a row, and San Antonio has dropped 18 straight.
4. Chris Evert.
5. Florida State.
6. Jerry Rice.
7. USC.
8. New England Patriots.
9. Carolina Panthers.
10. Jaylen Brown.
11. Los Angeles Kings. The Kings had their road win streak snapped Dec. 9 after a 4-3 overtime loss to the New York Islanders.
12. Mason Crosby.

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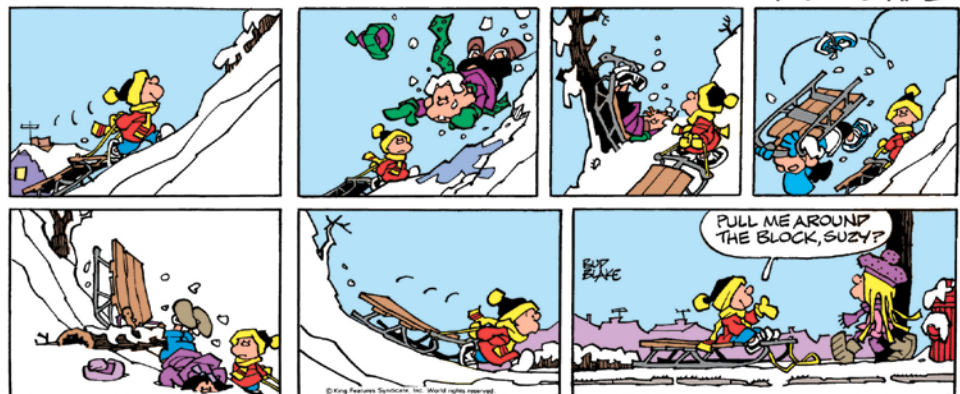
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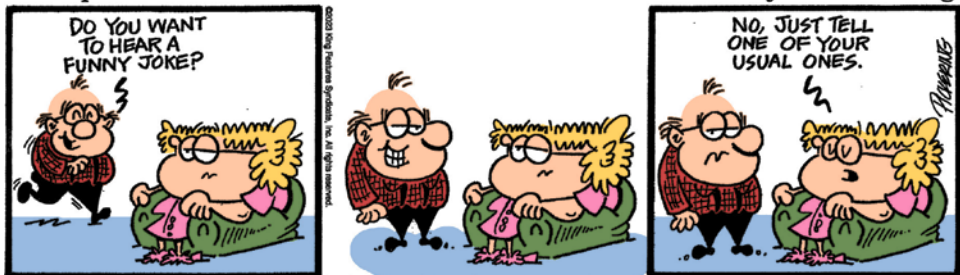
TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

3					4	1		7
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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!

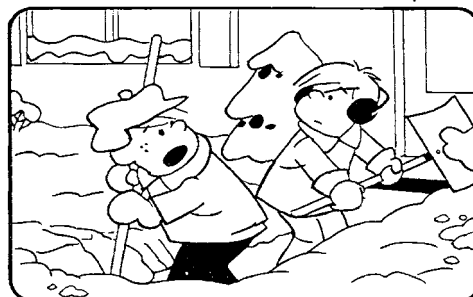
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



ifferences: 1. Ear flap is moved. 2. Collar is smaller. 3. Tree is smaller. 4. Arm is moved. 5. Wreath is missing. 6. Shovelful of snow is smaller.

ACROSS

- 1 TiVo precursor
4 Wide
9 America's
uncle
12 Consume
13 Heart line
14 La-la lead-in
15 Gym machine
17 And so on
(Abbr.)
18 Nabokov
novel
19 Bowling lanes
21 Packs tightly
24 Go yachting
25 Yale grad
26 Author
Umberto
28 Aegean island
31 Building
wings
33 Farm female
35 Steakhouse
order
36 Rice recipe
38 PC key
40 Chaney of
horror films
41 First lady of
scat
43 Bistro furniture
45 Telepathic
47 Sushi choice
48 Hostel
49 Heavy burden
54 Memo letters
55 Deadly virus

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| ster | 16 Small batter- | flickerers |
| 59 Director Lee | ies | 39 Salad type |
| | 20 Tale teller | 42 Suspect's |
| DOWN | 21 Army trans- | excuse |
| 1 Animal doc | port | 44 Crunchy |
| 2 Train unit | 22 "That's — | sandwich |
| 3 Hwy. | need to | 45 Peeve |
| 4 Villain | know" | 46 "May It Be" |
| 5 Woo | 23 1,000-year | singer |
| 6 "... — quit!" | spans | 50 Bagel topper |
| 7 World record? | 27 Have debts | 51 Slangy suffix |
| 8 Texas city | 29 Bassoon's kin | 52 Sister |
| 9 Sheet metal | 30 Taxpayer IDs | 53 Silly Putty |
| producer | 32 Pretzel topper | container |

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3	5	2	8	9	4	1	6	7

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

[illegible]

Solution time: 22 mins.

Answers

— King Crossword —



1. **FOOD & DRINK:** What is ciabatta?
2. **TELEVISION:** What is the name of the 1980s cop drama series starring actor William Shatner?
3. **HISTORY:** In which year did the Gulf oil spill occur?
4. **LITERATURE:** Who wrote the classic holiday novella "The Cricket on the Hearth"?
5. **INVENTIONS:** Who invented penicillin?
6. **GEOGRAPHY:** Monaco is bordered on three sides by which European country?
7. **U.S. STATES:** Which state's nickname is "The Land of Enchantment"?
8. **MOVIES:** What is the name of the police chief in the movie "Jaws"?
9. **GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** What does the J.D. stand for in a law degree?
10. **MUSIC:** Which singer had a breakout hit with "I Kissed a Girl"?

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Trivia Test Answers!

1. An Italian bread.; 2. "T.J. Hooker"; 3. 2010.; 4. Charles Dickens.; 5. Alexander Fleming.; 6. France.; 7. New Mexico.; 8. Martin Brody.; 9. Juris Doctor.; 10. Katy Perry;

Trivia Test Answerst

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