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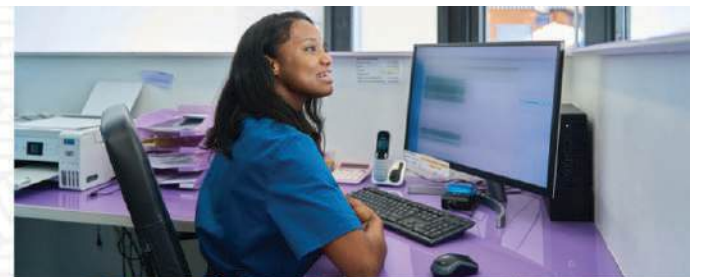
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IRON
COUNTY

today

Cedar City Launches Holiday Season With Dazzling Downtown Lighting Ceremony



STORY IN SHOWCASE

Honor our Local Veterans at the 7th Annual Wreaths Across America tribute on Saturday, December 13th

from John Zierow

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

CEDAR CITY,

UT – Cedar City's 7th annual "Wreaths Across America" tribute will

take place on Saturday, December 13th at 2:00 p.m. at the Cedar City Cemetery where all are invited to attend and pay tribute to our military veterans alongside nearly 5,400 cities who also participate across the United States. 1,400 hand-tied, live balsam wreaths will be placed at gravesites to remind us of our heroes' sacrifice, dedication, and patriotism.

More than 200 volunteers from the community representing students from our high schools and Southern Utah University (SUU), as well as members of several civic clubs, organizations, veteran's associations, and City departments are assisting in the success of this year's event. The Wreaths Across America Board and The Bald Eagle Chapter of DAR have invested hundreds of hours over the past several years to ensure every veteran is honored with a wreath.

This brief program promises to be touching and patriotic, consisting of a color guard presentation, a special ceremonial wreath presentation honoring each branch of our military, remarks from Cedar City Mayor Garth O. Green, music, tributes, bagpipes, taps, and much more.

Wreaths Across America is expecting a large turnout for this ceremony and the Cedar City Police Department and the VIPS (Volunteers in Police Service) will be assisting with parking. All traffic for the event will be directed to enter the cemetery from Iron Mission Parkway and exit onto Main Street. All vehicles will be entering one way only. Once you enter the cemetery grounds, volunteers will direct you in order to maximize parking. Please follow all instructions and proceed slowly. The ceremony will begin promptly at 2:00 p.m. and we ask those attending to arrive early. We will have golf carts available to assist the elderly and those needing assistance getting to the ceremony site.

We thank the hundreds of donors who have already stepped forward sharing their generosity and spirit

of community to make this event possible. Without them, we would not be able to make this opportunity available. Thank you to Red Acre Farm for donating the Ceremonial Wreaths that will be display and presented to each branch of the military.

Donations are still being accepted. Each wreath costs \$17.00, but gifts in any amount are appreciated. If you would like to donate, please make checks payable to "Bald Eagle Chapter DAR" and mail them to Wreaths Across America, 126 S. 2050 W., Cedar City, UT 84720, or leave contributions at City Hall (10 N. Main Street, Cedar City) in Councilman R. Scott Phillips's mail box.

Finally, donations can be accepted via Venmo to Wreaths Across America at 435-701-7884.

We remind everyone to dress warmly and be prepared for December temperatures. The goal of Wreaths Across America is to provide proper respect and remembrance to these remarkable citizens who served in the military so our freedoms would be protected and educate future generations so that we never forget the servicer and sacrifice of our veterans.

STATE REPRESENTATION CONTACT INFORMATION:

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board@schools.utah.gov

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Four Former Veteran Cedar High School Teachers Oppose the Four Day School Week

by Jeff Corry

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

Jeff Corry, Steve Steffensen, Harold "Huck" Shirley, and Steve Shirts, all former teachers at Cedar High, announce their opposition to the Four-Day School Week now being investigated by the Iron County School District.

In the October 25, 2025, edition of the Iron County Today, the Iron County School District listed benefits of the

Four-Day School Week. Zero negatives were mentioned in the article. Is this transparency?

The following are major drawbacks to the Four-Day School Week.

1- The possibility of children being unsupervised for the entire Friday if Parents/ Guardians are not present. If Child Care is provided, who pays for it?

2- Learning will absolutely be hurt. Five days a week is crucial in

Elementary Schools.

For that matter daily contact is beneficial in whatever one is learning. At the high school level where classes meet every other day, that will mean if you have a class Wednesday, you won't see that class again until the following Monday, and if you have a class on Thursday, you won't attend that class again until the following Tuesday. Of course, classes will be longer since extra time will be added to the other four

days to make up for some of the time that would have been on Friday.

3- More instruction time will be missed by athletes, debate squads, music groups etc., who need to be released early to attend their events that might be held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays since time must be added to those days as well as Mondays to make up for some of the time missed because of the elimination of Friday as a school day.

4- Those children, who depend on free or reduced breakfast or lunch, will miss it on Fridays. Who assists them?

5- Prime morning teaching time will be eliminated on Fridays if the Four-Day School Week is implemented.



Temple View Commons Opens With Focus on Local Families and Long-Term Community Needs



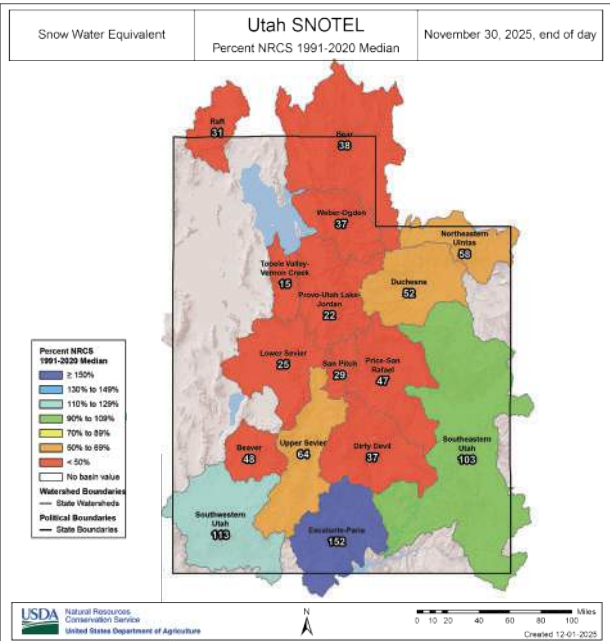
by **Lindsey Lefevor**
FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

CEDAR CITY, Utah — Temple View Commons, a new residential community on Cedar City’s west side, has officially opened, expanding local housing options at a time of rapid growth and rising demand across Iron County. The

development introduces modern, energy-efficient homes designed with Southern Utah families and long-term community stability in mind.

The community celebrated its opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony held on Friday, November 21, at 1:00 p.m., joined by members of the Cedar City Council, local business owners, and area residents. Guests enjoyed refreshments from Park Place Eatery, participated in raffles, and toured the model homes, gaining an early look at the project’s design and construction quality.

Temple View Commons offers



THURSDAY
Mostly Sunny
40°/16°
PRECIP: 0%
WINDS: N 5-10

FRIDAY
Partly Cloudy
46°/19°
PRECIP: 10%
WINDS: N 5-10

SATURDAY
Partly Cloudy
51°/24°
PRECIP: 20%
WINDS: SW 5-10

SUNDAY
Mostly Sunny
50°/24°
PRECIP: 0%
WINDS: S 5-10

MONDAY
Sunny
52°/25°
PRECIP: 0%
WINDS: NE 5-15

TUESDAY
Sunny
55°/26°
PRECIP: 0%
WINDS: W 5-10

WEDNESDAY
Sunny
57°/27°
PRECIP: 0%
WINDS: W 5-10

IRON COUNTY FORECAST

RAIN CHANCES BEGIN TO FADE LATE THIS WEEK AS THE MONSOON FLOW MOVES OUT OF THE AREA. LOOK FOR INCREASING SUNSHINE AND Milder TEMPERATURES INTO MOST OF NEXT WEEK.

Check your local forecast anytime at:
ABC4.com/weather

see **TEMPLE VIEW** » 13

opinion

FROM THE EDITOR



CASSI SCHMUTZ
COPY EDITOR

Our modern world affords us so much joyous frivolity, particularly around the Holidays. There's much debate on the "right" way to ring in the Christmas season and the best ways to honor it. Are

you a decorate before or after Thanksgiving family? Real tree or fake tree? Colored lights or white lights? Chic, modern, aesthetic decorations or nostalgic red and green? Black Friday or Cyber Monday? Eggnog? Or does your stomach turn at the mere thought? My husband and I come from truly different worlds, and therefore, pretty much answered opposite to each of these questions in our 20s. But since we have been married for going on 13 years, we've found a happy middle ground (though I think he's won most of the battles). We typically decorate the weekend before Thanksgiving, while I was raised in a strict "no Christmas until after Thanksgiving" family. I always had real trees growing up, but I conceded that they are a mess to maintain, so we have a BEAUTIFUL fake tree. During the day when my sons are running the show, the tree has colored lights to my husband's delight, but after bedtime, he dutifully turns the tree lights to white because he knows it's my preference. All little traditions and tiny seasonal details, but all together it's what makes this season so memorable. However you like to celebrate I hope you slow down this month in all the chaos to enjoy it all with loved ones! While all these details are so fun to debate and create, it's important to remember the reason for the season. Family, gratitude, peace, and the Savior, whose birth we honor this season.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Christmas isn't about presents. It's about being together."

-Cindy Lou Who



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A lot of bologna is being thrown at the wall in regard to the Congressional Map hoping it sticks. It isn't sticking. There is objection to the fact that someone other than the Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) created the new Congressional map. There was no similar objection when someone other than the IRC created the previous map—the one the GOP super-majority legislature created outside the IRC's guidance—but now the process is being questioned.

There is criticism that we have a "textbook case" of gerrymandering. Utah was considered the most gerrymandered state in the nation after the 2021 map created by the legislature that flew directly in the face of Prop 4—yet that concern was not expressed at the time. There is also criticism that the new map includes a "safe" Democratic district in a state where 37% of the people voted for Harris in the last Presidential election, with claims that it "dilutes Republican voices." However, there has been no similar concern about

the long-term dilution of Democratic voices under previous maps.

There is strong disagreement with the fact that Prop 4's framework—including a multi-year effort to ensure everyone's voice is heard, no party is favored, districts are compact, and communities of interest are kept together—was not followed in selecting Plaintiff's Map 1. Yet there is acceptance of Republicans receiving 100% of the representation in a state where their registration is just over 50% and where President Trump couldn't break 60%, and there are demands for lawsuits to preserve that outcome.

The human cost is described as "stark," suggesting "thousands" of Utahns in the newly drawn district find their voices muffled, while the hundreds of thousands of Democrats who have lacked meaningful representation for generations go unacknowledged. There is concern about "forcing lifelong Republicans into a district engineered

see **LETTER TO THE EDITOR** » 7

WORD OF THE WEEK

FRIVOLITY

[fri-vol-i-ty]

Noun, Plural

of little weight or importance; lack of seriousness; light-heartedness



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opinion

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

« CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

for Democratic dominance,” while lifelong Democrats across the state routinely find their voices dismissed.

Farmers, ranchers, and tech workers are mentioned as examples, but without explanation of how they would be harmed by a Democratic representative. The implication is simply that Democrats would be harmful. Period.

I do not vote by mail; I do not just drop my ballot in a box. We usually eat dinner, then, dressed in our old Levi's and shirt, we get in the Chevy and drive down to the Enoch City Offices, where we greet familiar friendly faces and cast our votes as registered Republicans. Been doing that a long time.

The argument being made is carefully crafted. It claims a lawsuit is needed because Map 1 wasn't vetted by the independent body, while seeking to force in either Map C or the 2021 map—neither of which was vetted by the independent body. This attempts to convince Utahns that a more balanced map that better reflects the state's population is “serving the powerful,” while ignoring that the previous “powerful” actors created maps to keep themselves in control and are actively

trying to take more power away from the people—through Constitutional amendments

limiting ballot initiatives and a ballot initiative aimed at undoing Prop 4 altogether.

But we, the people, are asking questions—because it is beginning to appear that the Republican Congressional majority does not trust voters to make a sensible choice if given a fair opportunity. Either that, or they recognize voters would choose differently—and that these specific Republicans are not the sensible course.

The people understand fairness, and Republicans have had an unfair advantage in Utah long enough. I am personally surrounded by die-hard Republicans, and no matter how it gets sorted out, Republicans win in Utah. Why is it treated as essential that the most staunch Republicans win every single time? Republicans have a super-majority in the state legislature and will continue to hold the majority in the Congressional delegation. There is no need for any manipulation, yet manipulation continues because any dissenting voice is treated as a threat.

The issue is not Constitutional law or fairness; it is about who is willing to undermine who we are in order to stay

in power. The sensible course is supporting our neighbors, our community. People often feel pressured to cater to friends rather than vote according to honest convictions—so politicians should be meeting the people, regardless of party, getting to know them, and representing them—not parroting partisan talking points or drawing unfair maps to manipulate the system.

As I read the recent diatribe against Judge Gibson and the list of objections to the map she chose, I wondered if the critic has ever met a real Democrat, face to face. The objections rely on insulting language without specifics, designed to stir emotion in devoted Republicans without identifying any actual, practical harm.

With the gerrymandered maps still in place at the state level and below, Republicans are so overrepresented that the only way many people feel they can influence an election is by registering as Republicans. I know many who do this as a practical necessity rather than out of genuine party alignment, caught in a dichotomy created by state Republican leaders.

It's time for an honest vote. Liberals, independents, and Democrats are not going to behave recklessly if given fair representation. Republicans want you to believe these individuals are a big, scary force concentrated in Salt Lake City, but

they aren't. They're your neighbors and the parents of your kids' friends. They're your pastors and your doctors. They are your community, and they aren't evil. You might be surprised how measured and wise decisions become when made in dignity and fairness.

We have lost some of the loving community that used to define Utah for me. I often ask people where they are originally from when I meet them, and I recognize the hesitation that tells me they're from out of state—usually California. Many Utahns dislike Californians so strongly that they won't let their children play with kids from California. That isn't the Utah I know and love. That is a partisan, gerrymandered Utah focused on distrusting people who aren't exactly like us. The red words on the white pages—words like “Love your neighbor”—have been lost to the white words on the red hats.

Know this: we have not heard the last of this debate. Judge Gibson picked the map that was closest to the fairness defined in Prop 4 but surely knew there would be continued contention as Republicans continue their fight to overrule Democrats in governing Utah.

Arlene Ball

Cedar City Man Returned to Jail After DUI Arrest While on Pretrial Release in Sexual Assault Case

by Tracie Sullivan

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

A Cedar City man charged earlier this year with multiple felony

sexual offenses has been ordered back to jail after being arrested on a DUI while on pretrial release.

Manuelito Rodriguez, 24, was arrested May 7 after Cedar City police responded to reports of an assault in progress near the 500 South block of Cross Hollow Road. Investigators allege the incident stemmed from a sexual assault that occurred inside a taxi while Rodriguez and others were leaving a bar.

According to charging documents, the female victim told police Rodriguez repeatedly grabbed her breasts and vagina during the ride, continuing even after she told him to stop.

The alleged assault was captured on taxi surveillance video.

see **CEDAR CITY MAN»** 8



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CEDAR CITY MAN

« CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Rodriguez told officers he touched the woman but claimed the contact was consensual.

Court records show a physical altercation broke out after the taxi dropped the group off. During the fight, a firearm Rodriguez was carrying fell from his waistband into the street. Rodriguez allegedly admitted he had been armed while intoxicated and had been drinking at the bar earlier that evening.

A preliminary breath test indicated Rodriguez’s blood alcohol concentration was 0.26 percent, more than three times Utah’s legal limit, according to the affidavit.

Rodriguez was charged with two counts of second-degree felony forcible sexual abuse, along with misdemeanor charges for carrying a dangerous weapon while under the influence and public intoxication.

Despite the nature of the allegations, Rodriguez was later released from custody under court-ordered pretrial conditions. Those conditions included private probation, alcohol restrictions, electronic monitoring, mandatory substance abuse treatment, and compliance with all laws.

Court records show Rodriguez remained compliant for several months. Probation reports and court filings indicate he participated in treatment, submitted to regular testing, and had no

reported violations.

In August, a judge approved the removal of his ankle monitor after defense counsel told the court Rodriguez had remained compliant.

That changed in October.

According to a motion filed by prosecutors, officers were called to Rodriguez’s residence after a report that he was intoxicated inside a vehicle and might drive. Officers found Rodriguez unresponsive and slumped over in the vehicle, with the keys in the ignition and alcohol present.

Prosecutors allege Rodriguez showed signs of impairment and later refused to submit to a chemical test pursuant to a search warrant.

Rodriguez was arrested on new charges for driving under the influence and refusing to submit to testing, violations of his pretrial release conditions prohibiting alcohol use.

During a November hearing, prosecutors moved to revoke Rodriguez’s pretrial release and requested that he be returned to jail. Defense counsel argued for reinstating monitoring in place of incarceration, but the judge granted the state’s motion.

Rodriguez was ordered to report immediately to the Iron County Jail and remain in custody pending further court order. The court warned that failure to report would result in a warrant and loss of credit for time spent out of custody.

The felony sexual abuse and DUI cases all remain pending.

IRON COUNTY GOVERNMENT RECAPS

Iron County Commission Meeting Summary

by Iron County Today Staff
FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

Departmental Reports

The County Auditor announced that new legislation now requires all Board of Equalization participants to complete a property tax designation course. A proposed abatement program change failed but is expected to return next session.

The Council on Aging reported strong growth in meal deliveries, from the Cedar Center (up 25%) and from Parowan (up 19%). The department remains on budget, received an transportation grant, and still needs volunteer drivers, especially for the Enoch route.

Tourism reports show transient room taxes down 6% but restaurant taxes up 14%. Visitor data showed 2.6 million trips and 3.9 million visit nights. The mountain bike state championship brought in a lot of visits but will move elsewhere in 2026.

The Parks Department announced Wood Ranch’s winter closure and ongoing slash-pile burning with state crews.

The Sheriff reported 20 SWAT callouts so far this year and noted new leadership in the drug task force. He highlighted the importance of federal intelligence-sharing

programs that support law enforcement, warning that a 5% budget cut could reduce essential tools and resources.

He also cautioned residents about a violent gang expanding into Utah and about scams where callers impersonate deputies and demand gift-card payments—an approach the sheriff’s office never uses.

A major concern is rising violence in youth residential facilities. There have been 59 assault incidents this year, including several serious injuries. Deputies have spent 618 hours on these cases.The commission discussed potential options.

Budget Presentations and Public Hearings

The Commission reviewed detailed presentations on the proposed 2026 county budget totaling \$136 million.Two public hearings were held to explain major financial factors shaping the plan.

Economic Overview and Revenue Outlook

The presentation reviewed current economic conditions. Inflation has stabilized after sharp increases in recent years, and sales tax revenue remains strong, with 2025 expected to finish above budget. Growth has slowed but continues steadily. Home values have leveled off, and recording fees have returned to typical levels.

Debt Management

The county continues to maintain low debt,

BUDGET SUMMARY

YEAR	STATE OF UTAH	IRON COUNTY	SCHOOL DISTRICT	CEDAR CITY	COUNTY POPULATION	INFLATION RATE
2020	\$18,500,000,000	\$64,397,882	\$97,275,145	\$84,121,067	57,286	1.4
2021	\$20,300,000,000	\$68,529,185	\$111,206,179	\$82,661,906	58,672	7.0
2022	\$25,600,000,000	\$80,413,678	\$116,183,977	\$82,219,239	62,508	6.5
2023	\$26,000,000,000	\$78,255,317	\$172,080,787	\$97,198,239	64,211	3.4
2024	\$29,400,000,000	\$67,789,445	\$200,512,950	\$150,125,060	65,765	3.2
2025	\$30,800,000,000	\$132,282,649	\$221,113,931	\$77,269,263	67,617	2.7
ANNUAL INCREASE	10.7%	15.5%	17.8%	0%	3.4%	4.3

* Information was obtained directly from the governmental entities listed.

IRON COUNTY GOVERNMENT RECAPS

with no new borrowing in 2025. Existing obligations include bonds for the public safety building, the Shakespeare Theater, and the sheriff's complex. Each bond is supported by dedicated revenue sources, and public safety sales tax collections are currently exceeding bond payments giving the county a healthy cushion and potential for early payoff.

Capital Expenditures

Proposed 2026 capital spending focuses on essential equipment and ongoing projects. Construction of the sheriff's complex will continue through 2027. Plans include replacing SWAT vehicles, upgrading road department equipment, and adding water-handling and security upgrades at the landfill due to increased fire incidents. The Council on Aging is requesting more accessible transit vans to replace older buses and reduce injury risks for seniors.

Compensation and Staffing

A major part of the budget focuses on employee compensation under the stepping-grade system. The 2026 plan includes a 5% cost-of-living increase plus step adjustments, along with updates to job structures and licensing incentives.

Of 27 new position requests, approved additions include expanded Council on Aging hours, IT support roles, a wildfire specialist, building department support, engineering sign-shop staff, three sheriff patrol positions, eight jail deputies added quarterly, and a part-time DMV position.

Financial Impacts

Key budget considerations include a grant repayment, a required capital facilities study, and a significant insurance increase, partly offset by prior self-insurance savings.

The county remains in strong financial condition, with fund balances growing and statewide studies ranking it among the lowest in Utah for revenue per capita, reflecting conservative fiscal management.

Executive Officer Compensation

A required public hearing was held to review compensation changes for county executive officers, including department heads, chief assistants, elected officials, and chief deputies. Most will receive a 6.6% increase (a 5% cost-of-living adjustment plus step increases). Positions already at the top of the pay scale will receive only the 5% cost-of-living increase.

Water Rights Discussion

The commission also discussed concerns raised about the Pine Valley Water Supply Project. The local water district responded to neighboring counties' objections regarding groundwater impacts, noting its water rights were settled through litigation and approved in 2019. The commission voted to support the water district's stance.

Cedar City Planning Commission Meeting

by Iron County Today Staff

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

Sidewalk Installation Ordinance

The commission debated a proposed ordinance change that would shift sidewalk installation from subdivision developers to home builders in certain cases. Supporters argued this would prevent sidewalks from being damaged during home construction and reduce waste. They also noted new state legislation allowing cities to wait at least 18 months before redeeming improvement bonds for sidewalks.

Commissioners, however, worried this would create subdivisions with scattered gaps in sidewalks for years—or even decades—leaving pedestrians to walk in the street. They emphasized the importance of complete, consistent infrastructure in new neighborhoods.

Concerns were also raised about how delaying sidewalks would affect water meter installation and other utilities.

The commission ultimately voted **3-1** to issue a **negative recommendation**, citing long-term infrastructure concerns despite acknowledging issues with construction damage and cost.

Water Preservation Element

The commission unanimously approved updates to the Water Use and Preservation section of the General Plan. The revised document includes more detail on agriculture, open space, and the city's water resources.

A key discussion centered on public perception, with residents often frustrated when they see public facilities irrigating heavily while being asked to conserve. Staff discussed improving education, implementing water budgets for all properties, and ensuring the city leads by example.

Additional context was provided on the

city's tiered water rate structure, noting that most residential use happens outdoors and that the first-tier indoor allowance is intentionally generous to accommodate larger households. The commission also highlighted the need for more drought-tolerant landscaping education and resources to help residents create attractive, water-wise yards.

Zone Changes and Land Use Amendments

The commission approved several zoning and general plan requests:

- Francisco Property: Rezoned from AT to INM-1 to create consistent industrial zoning across the site. Staff was asked to explore ways to share costs for infrastructure improvements that benefit multiple properties, such as railroad crossings.

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IRON COUNTY GOVERNMENT RECAPS

- 502-590 North 400 West: Rezoned from General Commercial to R3M to match the general plan and surrounding residential development.
- 2700 South Cedar Boulevard: Approved a general plan change from Natural Open to Central Commercial and a zone change from AT to Central Commercial for about 15 acres near Shirts Canyon Road.

Public Utility Easement Update

The commission approved reducing required public utility easements from 20 feet to 15 feet in commercial and industrial zones when utility providers confirm the extra width isn't necessary. Language was added to clarify that the 20-foot requirement applies only where setbacks exist, preventing conflicts in downtown areas with zero setbacks.

Functional Classification Definitions

The commission also approved adding definitions for local streets, collectors, and arterials to city ordinance.



Save the Date

CEDAR CITY INNOVATION CENTER HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

DEC 11 | **11 AM to 1 PM**
510 W 800 S, Cedar City, UT 84720

Come grab some lunch, see what's new at the Innovation Center, and enjoy networking with business leaders and friends!

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Friends and Neighbors,

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving. This is an important time of year when we prioritize gathering with loved ones to celebrate our gratitude and remember what truly matters most.



SEN. EVAN VICKERS
UTAH SENATE DISTRICT 28

As we head into December, we enter the final stretch before the 2026 legislative session. Over the next few weeks, we will finalize bill drafts, review policy proposals and continue developing legislation that protects families, strengthens communities and supports Utah's long-term success.

We hope each of you can spend meaningful time with loved ones this season. May this time bring peace and gratitude as we move into the new year.

Protecting Utahns' Voices. Upholding the Constitution. Restoring Stability.

Our primary objective is to uphold the long-term strength and stability of Utah's constitutional institutions. Recently, a judge imposed a new map without allowing opportunities for public input or review, disregarding the advisory procedures outlined in Proposition 4. Decisions regarding representation should be made transparently, inviting everyone to participate in the process. This situation centers on ensuring fairness and guaranteeing that all voices can be heard.

This is a pivotal moment for Utah. It is essential to defend the principles that safeguard our system of government. The current redistricting issue goes beyond a single map; it raises concerns about whether the state's constitutional requirements are being followed to maintain lasting stability.

The legislative and executive branches are collaborating to restore clarity and order. Ongoing court delays have complicated planning for counties, communities, and candidates, all of whom depend on stable district maps. Utah residents

deserve a process they can trust; one that is consistent, reliable, and transparent.

Steps the Legislature Is Taking

- Request a final ruling from the Third District Court to allow an appeal.
 - Appeal to the Utah Supreme Court.
 - Convene a Governor-called special session on December 9 to ensure clarity in the election process.
- ### Why This Matters
- The issue extends beyond one map and concerns the constitutional framework that governs Utah.
 - Article IX of the Utah Constitution states: "The Legislature shall divide the state into congressional, legislative, and other districts accordingly."
 - Utahns deserve a stable, transparent, accountable process.
 - Court delays have created confusion for voters, communities and candidates.

Looking Ahead

- Our founders warned that the distinction between a republic and a democracy is the difference between order and chaos. Utah must remain a republic governed by clear, constitutional processes.
- We are preparing a constitutional amendment for the 2026 ballot to prevent ballot initiatives from creating constitutional conflict.
- By putting Utahns first, we can keep our state the best place to live, work and grow a business.

Our Commitment

- We will restore order after delays and instability introduced by the courts.
- The legislative and executive

branches are united in resolving this issue.

- As we move through the special session and appeals, our goal remains simple: protect the voice of the people.
- We will keep Utah's future in the hands of Utahns and ensure stable, constitutional governance.

Last Interim of 2025 – Highlights

Utah's Continued Success

Utahns make our state one of the best places to live, work and raise a family. Thanks to communities across the state, we continue to excel:

- #1 Best State (third consecutive year)
- #1 Best Economic Outlook (18th year in a row)
- Highest volunteering rates
- #2 Most charitable state

These achievements reflect Utah's strong values and community engagement.

The Purpose of Interim Meetings

Each month, lawmakers meet with Utahns, experts and stakeholders to understand community needs, preview possible legislation and evaluate policy ideas. What we learn directly shapes bill drafts, committee priorities and upcoming legislation.

Below are key interim actions:

Business and Labor Interim Committee

Kratom Revisions

- Nearly 160 deaths in Utah over the past five years have involved kratom.
- Kratom is a plant-based substance made from the leaves of a tree native to Southeast Asia. People often use it as a natural stimulant or pain reliever, but in higher doses it can act like an opioid—creating dependency risks,

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**MATTRESS
STORE**
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**Utah SUMMER
GAMES**

ICT SILVER

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

dangerous interactions, and, in some cases, overdose or death.

- The Department of Agriculture and Food outlined regulatory challenges and recommended updates to improve safety.
- A bill file was opened to strengthen kratom regulations and enhance consumer protections.

Office of Professional Licensure Review Amendments

- The Office of Professional Licensure Review shared recommendations to keep Utah's licensing system efficient and transparent.
- A bill file was opened to streamline review procedures, reduce unnecessary barriers and maintain public trust.

Honoring Veterans

Veterans Day reminds us that liberty comes at a price. Utah's veterans continue to strengthen our communities as neighbors, leaders and public servants. To all who have served: thank you for your sacrifice and unwavering commitment to our nation.

Utah's Newest Supreme Court Justice

The Senate confirmed Judge John Nielsen as the newest justice on the Utah Supreme Court. His background in appellate and constitutional law, along with service in the courts and Attorney General's Office, makes him well-suited for this important role. His strong legal mind and excellent writing will serve the Court and the people of Utah well.

Col. Michael Rapich

For over 30 years, Col. Michael Rapich has exemplified the highest standards of service. A strong advocate for Zero Fatalities, he emphasized that traffic deaths are preventable and urged Utahns to drive safely. His leadership and dedication have saved lives and strengthened

communities. We extend our deepest gratitude for his decades of service.

Olympic Logo

Utah's 2034 transitional brand launched this month as we prepare to welcome the world once again. The effort will unite all 29 counties and give every Utahn an opportunity to participate, through volunteering, attending events or celebrating together. Utah's spirit of collaboration will be on full display in 2034.

Thank you for your continued support. Please reach out with your ideas, questions, and feedback at 435-817-5565, or evickers@le.utah.gov.



Honoring **Col. Michael Rapich** for more than 30 years of dedicated service to Utah. A champion of Zero Fatalities, he has saved lives, strengthened communities and exemplified the highest standards of law enforcement.

SBSU KIDS

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†Optional feature is a BusyKid product.

Felony Obstruction Charge Dismissed Against Cedar City Woman; Related Case Also Dropped

by Tracie Sullivan

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

Court records show a felony obstruction of justice charge against a Cedar City woman has been dismissed.

Shayla Vanderpool, 40, of Cedar City, was charged earlier this year with obstruction of justice in connection with a broader criminal investigation.

Court records show Vanderpool was accused of hindering an investigation tied to serious allegations against another defendant. Prosecutors did not publicly detail the actions that led to the charge, and Vanderpool was issued a summons rather than arrested.

The dismissal comes as charges in the related case were also dismissed last August against Kacey D. Zufelt, 34, of Cedar City.

Zufelt was arrested in January following an investigation launched in spring 2024 after the Iron County Sheriff's Office received a report from the Utah Division of Child and Family Services.

Court records show a felony obstruction

According to charging documents, a juvenile had alleged prolonged sexual abuse over several years. Detectives also cited the seizure of electronic devices that appeared to have been erased or tampered with shortly before being collected.

Prosecutors requested an arrest warrant based on those allegations, and Zufelt was charged with two counts of rape and one count of aggravated sexual abuse of a child, all first-degree felonies. He was also charged separately with obstruction of justice related to the alleged destruction of evidence.

The alleged victim later submitted a voluntary witness statement recanting earlier allegations, saying they were made under duress. In the statement, the witness said she was threatened by her then-boyfriend and feared harm to her family.

"I said all of that because of the threats I was getting and the threats towards my family," the witness wrote in a follow-up

see **FELONY** » 13



TEMPLE VIEW

« CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

3-bedroom, 3.5-bath homes that balance elevated finishes with practical, durable materials well-suited for Southern Utah's climate. Features include upgraded hardware, Legrand switches, outlets for mounted televisions, insulated steel tubs, 8-foot doors, and high-efficiency furnaces and AC units. Each home incorporates metal roofing, enhanced insulation, and insulated garage doors for improved energy performance

and long-term comfort. Interior elements such as quartz countertops, oversized poured patios, and thoughtful layout design contribute to a polished yet approachable feel.

With housing affordability presenting ongoing challenges for many Iron County families, the community was intentionally priced to support new homeownership, while still reflecting modern lifestyle needs and long-lasting construction values. "We just want to give back," said Jarrod Grannum, Community & Client Director. Temple View



Commons was created to serve the community and provide homes

that offer both comfort and long-term value.

Located at 3049 W 1600 N, the development provides convenient access to local schools, parks, trails, and essential services, making it a fit for families, young professionals, and longtime Cedar City residents alike. Fourteen homes are currently complete or nearing completion, with more than 160 homes slated to be built in phases over the coming months and years.

More information, including home availability and floor plans, is available at www.templeview-commons.com.

FELONY

« CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

statement dated July 29, 2025.

The witness clarified that the term "molest" used earlier reflected confusion and fear at the time, adding that "nothing ever happened" with Zufelt.

During a scheduling conference in August, prosecutors informed the court of a "change of circumstance" and moved to dismiss the remaining charges against Zufelt without prejudice. Judge Meb Anderson granted the motion.

Because the dismissals were entered without prejudice, charges could be refiled if new evidence emerges. No future hearings are currently scheduled, and neither defendant remains in custody.

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Laughter, elves and holiday magic for all ages.

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ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT IN IRON COUNTY

Cedar City Launches Holiday Season With Dazzling Downtown Lighting Ceremony

by May Hunter

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

Historic Downtown Cedar City shimmered to life on Saturday, Nov. 29, 2025, as thousands gathered for the city's annual Holiday Lighting Ceremony and opening night of the Holiday Tree Jubilee. The long-standing tradition once again marked the official start of the Christmas season, drawing families, visitors, and community leaders to celebrate together.

Mayor Highlights Community Spirit

Mayor Green welcomed attendees with a message of gratitude and reflection, emphasizing the meaning

behind the city's holiday celebrations. "This is one of my favorite moments of the year—when we bundle up, gather downtown, and remind ourselves that no matter how busy life gets, there is still magic in this season," he said. "We gather as friends and neighbors. We look at familiar streets that suddenly sparkle. And for a moment, we remember what this season is really about: peace, hope, kindness, and the joy of being part of a community that truly cares."

The mayor concluded by thanking residents for their ongoing support and commitment to keeping Cedar City a place of warmth and connection.

Festivities Fill Downtown

This year's celebration featured expanded attractions that transformed the downtown corridor into a holiday village. Visitors enjoyed a bustling Christmas Market filled with artisan vendors, carriage rides, children's crafts, and a Live Nativity presented by the Cedar Area Inter-Faith community outside the historic Old Rock Church. Adding to the excitement, families lined up at Santa's Stables—complete with a real live reindeer—sponsored by ERA Realty.

Santa Arrives in Style

Despite a few technical difficulties, the arrival of Santa Claus became one of the evening's most memorable moments. SUU Aviation, working in partnership with the Cedar City Police Department, safely delivered the Jolly Old Elf to the event, where he helped "light the downtown" to

the cheers of children and parents gathered below.

Holiday Tree Jubilee Opens to Thousands

A short walk away at Festival Hall, the Holiday Tree Jubilee opened its doors for its eighth year. Featuring more than 60 decorated trees donated by local families and businesses, the event draws an estimated 9,000–10,000 visitors annually.

Founder Laura Albrecht expressed appreciation for the community's generosity and the volunteers who help make the fundraiser possible. "The annual event has grown so much, I now have a board that helps make this a huge success," Albrecht said.

"There are two main reasons for the Jubilee of Trees—bringing the community together and helping those in need." Proceeds benefit several local programs, including Iron County Care and Share, the Cedar City Police Department's Shop with a Cop initiative, Iron County School District homeless teens, and local families needing assistance during the holiday season.

An Evening of Music, Dance, and Celebration

The lighting ceremony featured an hour-long program filled with performances from professional dancers, a dancing violinist, Fiddlers Elementary students, and Iron County Royalty Sydney Rasmussen, who delivered a moving lineup of holiday favorites. Emcees Ben Batty and Laura Albrecht kept the crowd engaged throughout the show.

The event coordinators want to thank



Mayor Green Welcomes everyone to the Down Town Lighting Ceremony!

the more than 100 volunteers who contributed to planning and executing the event, which concluded with a brilliant fireworks display sponsored by the Iron County Visitor Center.

As the final sparks of fireworks faded over downtown, attendees agreed the evening lived up to its theme: "Where the Magic Begins."

"There is no better place to kick off the holiday season than Cedar City," Batty said. "The kids' faces holding their lighted wands to the sky—truly believing—brings a tear to my eye. Downtown Cedar City truly is where the magic begins."

With music in the air, lights glowing across the historic district, and Santa safely delivered to his post, Cedar City once again ushered in the season with joy, unity, and unmistakable holiday magic.

THE CEDAR CITY COMMUNITY BAND
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Westward Ho, Ho, Ho!
CHRISTMAS IN THE WEST

Wednesday,
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Cedar High Auditorium
7:30pm
FREE admission

Made possible by:
Cedar City RAP Tax | Dixie and Anne Leavitt Family Foundation
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Resilience Through the Arts

by Brian Penny

GUEST COLUMN

Over the next 30 years, artificial intelligence will reshape the workforce, and those who thrive will be the people who can imagine, adapt, and build. Adaptive creative thinking isn't a luxury; it's a survival skill for navigating new tools, fast-moving industries, and problems without answer keys. Art is the training ground for that mindset. It teaches students to think and develop, not by memorizing facts, but by taking an idea or project and making it one's own. The studio and stage demand choices, iteration, and reflection. By nature, this instills creativity and adaptation, and these habits spill into reading, science, entrepreneurship, and civic life.



As Professor Leon C. Megginson once summarized Darwin's work: "It is not the most intellectual of the species that survives; it is not the strongest that survives; but the species that survives is the one that is able best to adapt and adjust to the changing environment in which it finds itself."

We are on the verge of a seismic technological shift; students who practice adaptation and creative thinking today will be miles ahead.

Our duty as a community is to give students the best foundation for success. Art gives kids the opportunity to learn without boundaries or criticism. It allows them to express and grow in ways they never thought possible. Art education expands the universe inside a child's mind. With proper guidance, students can

transform from thinking a project is impossible to realize that not only can they do it, but it's also enjoyable to take on seemingly insurmountable challenges. That shift from fear to agency powers lifelong learning and the kind of persistence the future will reward.

To prepare students for AI-rich workplaces, we must teach everyone to use AI as a tool rather than a crutch. AI can be someone's most significant weakness or their greatest strength. It comes down to whether you use it to enhance your ideas or as a substitute for your own. Use AI as a learning

coach, a research tool, and a helper for bureaucratic tasks, but keep the vision, judgment, and ethics with the learner. Art classes are ideal laboratories for this habit because they train students to decide what to say, why it matters, and how to make it their own. As a final thought this is what ChatGPT had to say about art education in early childhood education: "Art is a way of making sense of the world around us. It's a way of expressing ourselves when words fail us. And it's a way of connecting with others in ways that we never thought possible."



Reader Reviews!

by Mary Payne

CEDAR CITY, UTAH

Rock Gold Volume 3--3 times the fun! Our marvelous Orchestra of Southern Utah continues to impress and entertain us throughout the season with their talent and dedication! Conductor Carylee Zwang is a gem to watch as she rocks out to the music. No wonder Rock Gold Volume 3 was a sold out performance. The performance met every expectation for a great night of entertainment. The inclusion of the talented solo artists and SUU Choirs made it an all around community event including the enthusiastic audience. Let's hope you didn't miss it. If you did; be glad Rock Gold Volume 4 next year will be your chance! All this in Cedar City!



Photo Credit: Amy Gold



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WE GO TOGETHER LIKE WINTER AND A SWEATER

Larger than Life – Winter in Southern Utah

by May Hunter

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

“To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake it is necessary to stand out in the cold.” — Aristotle

As winter settles across Southern Utah, our red rock home takes on a magical, almost cinematic glow. The season wraps the region in a chilly embrace, transforming familiar landscapes into quiet, crystalline scenes and offering residents and visitors a chance to rediscover the outdoors through a different lens.



WALKING INTO WINTER

Few places capture winter's charm quite like the Coal Creek walking trail. Winding gently along the water's edge, this paved, all-access path remains a reliable choice for cold-weather strolls,

staying remarkably clear even in snowy conditions. The trail gives walkers up-close views of



Cedar City's iconic red hill at the mouth of the canyon, a stunning contrast of crimson cliffs against soft winter whites.

There is something sacred about hiking in winter. A hush falls over the world as snow blankets the ground, quieting life's noise and making room for reflection. Beyond its beauty, a simple winter walk can be transformative for both body and mind. Even a brisk 5–10 minute outing offers health benefits, contributing to the recommended 150 minutes of moderate weekly exercise. Layer up, dress warmly, and let the fresh air and sunlight work their magic.

A WINTER DRIVE TO REMEMBER

For those unable, or unwilling, to brave the cold on foot, a winter drive delivers all the scenic reward with none

of the frostbite. Cedar Mountain, one of the most beloved winter destinations in Dixie National Forest, stands at an impressive 9,200 feet and offers panoramic views in every direction.

Highway 148, short but spectacular, weaves past Cedar City's red hill before climbing into thick forests of maple and scrub oak. As the road narrows into the canyon, travelers can peer into the sheer cliffs of the Ashdown Gorge Wilderness Area, a dramatic landscape made even more striking under a blanket of snow.

Cedar Breaks National Monument remains open year-round, but access is limited during the winter due to snowfall. The northern end of the park (Highway 143) generally remains open year-round, with winter access to Cedar Breaks available from Brian Head. Its amphitheater of stone glows against winter's stillness. Snow-capped peaks, endless canyons, and remarkable quiet make this area feel like a secret world tucked high above the valley.

WINTER — THE SEASON LESS TRAVELED

Winter in Southern Utah is enchanted, a place where the bold and curious are rewarded with beauty at every turn. From crisp morning walks to scenic canyon drives, the region invites all of us to slow down, breathe deeply, and marvel at the landscapes we're lucky enough to call home.

So take a walk. Take a drive. And let Southern Utah's winter scenery remind you that cold weather and warm experiences truly go together like winter and a sweater.

Be safe, check weather conditions, and don't forget your sweater!



calendar

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

GOVERNMENT

Brian Head Council

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

Cedar City Council

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

Central Iron County Water Conservancy District Board Meetings

3rd Thurs., 6:30pm. 710 S. Westview Drive

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.ironcountyrpublicanwomen.com

Parowan City Council

2nd & 4th Thurs, 5:30 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 Tris Colman (805) 268-4287.

Bikers Against Child Abuse

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

DAR – Bald Eagle Chapter

3rd Tues, 11:30 AM @ the Cedar City Brian Head Visitors Center.

Elks Lodge #1556

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

Kiwanis Club of Iron County

1st Tuesday of each month at the Cedar City library. ironcountykiwanisclub@gmail.com

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 Elks Lodge (303 N 100 E)

Rotary Club

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

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

1st Thurs, 6PM, Post 10846 meets @ Elks Lodge, 111 E 200 N.

SUPPORT GROUPS

AA—Alcoholics Anonymous

(435) 635-3603 • www.utahaa.org. Helpline: John (702) 802-1332, Kara (702) 232-6829 KKCBC 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

Uncommon Sense • Sat, 10:00 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

Easy Does It • Tues, 6-7 pm • (435) 559-3333

Hope for Today (Family Groups)

Thurs, 6 pm • (435) 559-3333

Key to Harmony (Online/Email Meeting) Sun & Tues 435-704-4979 • https://keytoharmony.org/

Alzheimer's/Dementia

Last Tues, 5:30-6:30 pm • Cedar Library (303 N 100 E). Learn, access resources, connect. Virtual option available. 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-caringiving to bereavement and rebuilding welcome. INFO: Kat at 702-292-9911.

Embrace Grace

Unmarried, pregnant? You don't have to walk alone! Safe, judgment-free zone. Free baby stuff at a baby shower for you. Text or call 407-719-8595 . Info under Resources tab @ Threshingfloor.life.

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

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

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

Basic Text Study • Mon, 8 pm

Just for Today • Wed, 8 pm

It Works - How and Why • Thurs, 7:30-8:30 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

Reel Mental Health

1st Tues, 6PM • Mountain View Lodge 625 W 200 S Parowan UT 84724 • A fun interactive support group focused on your mental health and well-being.

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.

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.

Cars & Custard

2nd Mon., 6-8 PM at Culver's Treasures Thrift Store is: 1093 S Main Street, Cedar City, UT. Classic Cars & Trucks, Customs, Your pride and joy. A free small Custard for each car entry, provided by Culver's! Contact Mike @ 909-717-1232 or ekimjacobs@gmail.com for more info.

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 cedarmodela@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 parkrun

Saturday 9 am • West Canyon Park, (133 S 400 E) • Free 5K for runners, joggers & walkers. Volunteers welcome. Info: Bruce @ 435-301-5480 or coalcreektrail@parkrun.com

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 City Unitarian Universalists

2nd Sundays at 2:00pm @ 1280 E Midvalley Rd. Leave a message for Bonnie at 435 590-0596 if interested.

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.

Cedar City Community Band

We offer a wealth of opportunities for individuals of all ages and skill levels to get involved and experience the joy of ensemble music-making. Contact us at www.cedarcitycommunityband.org or by calling 435-590-2513.

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

4th Thurs, 7pm at 2321 W Cove View Dr, Cedar City. Join a growing number of women throughout the nation to strengthen and preserve liberty. INFO: Kami Merrill 435-592-4152 or email: ironcountymoms4america@gmail.com

Iron County Democrats

Come meet with an exciting and welcoming group committed to improving our world. Monthly meetings and annual convention. For more information find us at FaceBook- Iron County Utah Democrats, or call Mike Keil at (435)840-4712.

Friends of Festival Country K9s

offers Dog Training classes and therapy dogs for libraries, schools, and more. We also have events like animal adoptions and microchip clinics. Call Gail Workman at 435-592-5487 for info.

Labyrinth Walk

Last Saturday, 12:00-2:00. St. Jude's Episcopal Church (70 N 200 W, 1 block north of W University Blvd). No Charge. Please join us in a sacred, calm environment for walking prayer on the largest indoor labyrinth in the state of Utah. No experience required, facilitators are present.

Local Cub Scout Pack (K–5th).

Wednesday @ 6 p.m. For more information, go to myscouting.org or contact local Cubmaster Tristin L. at CubScoutTroop1848UT@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: Season: October 21 to July 25. Parowan Rec, 35 E 100 N, Parowan, UT 84761. 435-600-1597.

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/SmGytGcfvQ1S2pB7

Adolescent: forms.gle/BZiePW63pR6Zd8k9

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.

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.

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, PW: 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.

calendar

THURS, DEC 4

HOLIDAY LIGHT DISPLAY (DEC. 2-31) @

26 North 1150 West in Cedar City.
Collecting donations for Make-A-Wish Utah®. Display runs from 5:30 to 10 pm nightly (weather permitting)

A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS (6PM &

8PM) Saturday Times (2PM & 8PM) @ Randall L. Jones Theater: Shakespeare Ln Cedar. Come and join us for a heartwarming Holiday classic that comes to life on stage. Admission is free to each 30 minute performances.

FRI, DEC 5

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN

(DEC. 5-22) @ Cedar Fun Center. A Modern Christmas Carol! Kick off a brand-new family tradition with this joyful, affordable holiday show! Ebony can't stand Christmas—and she definitely doesn't believe in Santa. But with three mischievous elves, a little help from the audience, and a touch of holiday magic, she's about to discover the true spirit of the season. This hilarious, heart-warming story is fun for all ages and the perfect way to make memories with your kids, grandkids, friends, and neighbors. Tickets:

\$10 individual & \$30 family pass (bring the whole crew!) Get Tickets: www.theforgearts.com

SAT, DEC 6

GOLD RIVER GALLERY ANNIVERSARY

(5-8PM) We would like to invite the members of our community to celebrate our anniversary! Come enjoy refreshments, good company and giveaways at Gold River Gallery located at 111 S. Main Street # 2A. We look forward to seeing you there!

THE STAR STILL SHINES (DEC. 6-22) @

Cedar Fun Center. A beautiful new Christmas tradition for the whole family. For generations, the Star of Bethlehem has guided humankind with hope and light. This joyful celebration reminds us that the light of Christ still shines today—warming hearts, lifting spirits, and bringing us back to what Christmas is truly about. Gather your family, friends, youth groups, and neighbors for a night filled with music, meaning, and the simple wonder of the season. Tickets: \$10 individual. \$30 family pass (affordable for everyone!) Get Tickets: www.theforgearts.com

ENOCH CHRISTKINDL MARKT (11AM

- 2PM) @ 2355 E Village Green Dr. Cedar. 3rd Annual Christmas Fair. Handmade Goods, Truffles, Nutcrackers, Evergreen wreaths, Free Hotschocolate!

SUU A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS

Come and join us for a heartwarming Holiday classic that comes to life on stage. Admission is free to each 30 minute performance. 2pm & 8pm. Randall L. Jones Theater: Shakespeare Ln Cedar.

THE 13TH ANNUAL RED ACRE

CHRISTMAS (11AM - 3PM) Sip complimentary hot cider while you walk a real working farm, warm your hands by the fire, and roast marshmallows. Enjoy all the available winter activities. Held at Red Acre Farm (2322 W 4375 N, Cedar City).

THE JOHNSON ARTS CENTER PRESENTS

SPIRIT OF THE SEASON (10AM-2PM) @ 59 N 100 W Cedar. Stop by during the Festival City Farmers Market for: Live Entertainment, Christmas Crafts, Photos with Santa and MORE!

MON, DEC 8

VETERANS CHRISTMAS PARTY

(6PM-8PM) Cedar City Library (303 N 100 E, Cedar City). American Legion Cedar City Post 74 Christmas Party for all veterans and their families. For information, call Scoty Harville (435) 590-3072.

TUES, DEC 9

CHRISTMAS JAZZ! (7PM) THE JAZZ

Alliance of Cedar City presents its monthly JAZZCAST at Off The Cuff, 913 S. Main St. Join us for our most popular event of the year as the OTC House Band serves up swinging, soulful, and spirited jazz arrangements of your favorite Christmas classics. Free admission and free desserts.

WED, DEC 10

CEDAR CITY COMMUNITY BAND

WESTWARD HO, HO, HO! CHRISTMAS IN THE WEST (7:30PM) @ Cedar High Auditorium. Free admission. For more information please visit cedarcity-communityband.org

Want your event on our calendar?

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

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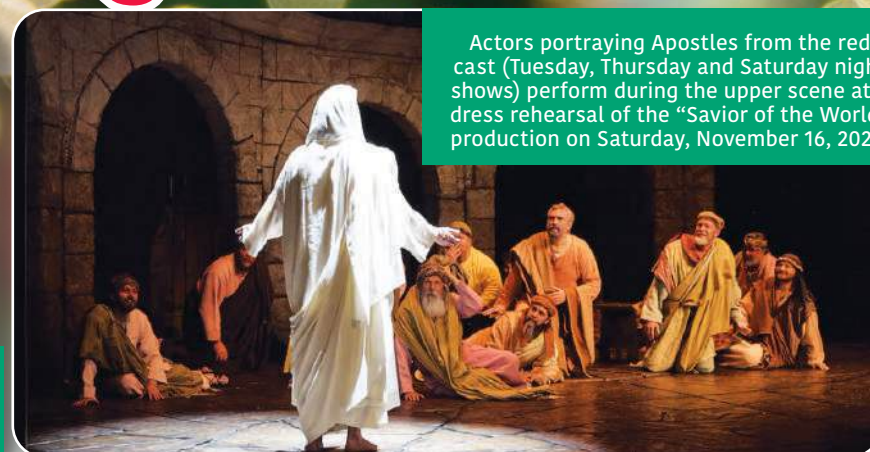
Please Help Us Honor America's Heroes.

faith

Temple Square 2025: Christmas Celebrations Centered on the Light of Christ



Christmas lights and decorations on display at Temple Square in Salt Lake City, Utah, on Monday, November 24, 2025.



Actors portraying Apostles from the red cast (Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday night shows) perform during the upper scene at a dress rehearsal of the "Savior of the World" production on Saturday, November 16, 2024.

from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Newsroom

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

"In this season of light and goodwill, we rejoice in Jesus Christ and in His eternal plan of happiness. We invite you to seek Him and the blessings of His peace. Merry Christmas!" the First Presidency shared as part of their 2025 Christmas message.

Temple Square, located in the heart of Salt Lake City and the global headquarters of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, is offering Christ-centered displays and free activities this Christmas season.

While renovation continues on the historic Salt Lake Temple, many locations on Temple Square are open to guests.

Below is a schedule of the various events:

Christmas Lights

Available at all open areas of Temple Square daily from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. beginning Friday, November 28, 2025, through Thursday, January 1, 2026.

Church History Museum

- Giving Machine display in lobby
- Available during regular hours:
- Monday, Friday and Saturday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Tuesday—Thursday: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Auditorium—musical performances from community/school groups
- "Victorian Christmas" décor in the Drawing Room
- Free activities include the Light the World tree and take-home Christmas crafts (luminaries from Mexico and parols from the Philippines)

"We love sharing the excitement of the Christmas season with you and your family and friends," said Natalie Bodine, events coordinator at the Church History Museum.

"Together, we celebrate the birth of the Savior by creating traditional crafts from around the world, donating to those in need via the Giving Machine, and enjoying beautiful musical performances. There is something for every age and interest to enjoy. All Christmas activities are free and open to the public."

Conference Center

- Christmas-themed large-form artwork throughout the plaza lobby
- Available during regular hours (through the first week of January):
- Monday—Saturday: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Tours of the building

- Not during events or closures

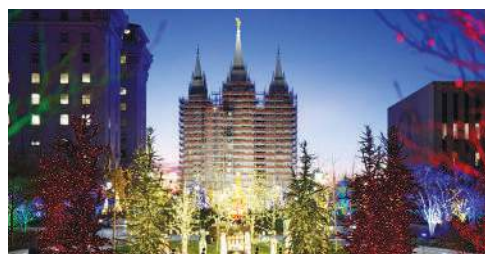
Tabernacle Choir Christmas Concert

- Friday, December 11 through Saturday, December 13, 2025, at 8:00 p.m. in the Conference Center
- Featuring Tony Award-winning actress Stephanie J. Block and Broadway and television actor Sebastian Arcelus
- Tickets are complimentary but required for entry. The random selection process is now over, but a standby line in the Tabernacle will open 90 minutes before each concert.

"Every year, The Tabernacle Choir looks forward to sharing the message of the birth of our Savior and the joy of the Christmas season through music," said Choir President Michael O. Leavitt. "As members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, we look to Jesus Christ for peace and solace and hope that everyone will reach out and feel His love for them during this special time of the year."

Music and the Spoken Word

- Live each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Center



Christmas lights and decorations on display at Temple Square in Salt Lake City, Utah, on Monday, November 24, 2025.



The Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square's iconic "Music & the Spoken Word" program marks a historic milestone, airing its 5,000th episode from the Conference Center in Salt Lake City, Utah, on Sunday, July 13, 2025.

faith

TEMPLE SQUARE

« CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

- Broadcast is 30 minutes long
- Free to the public; no ticket required for entry
- Special Performance: Sunday, December 14, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. in the Conference Center
- Will feature the guest artist and highlight music from the Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square's Christmas concerts

Giving Machines

- Kiosks hosted in 126 cities

across 21 countries and on six continents

- Locations in Salt Lake City: City Creek Center and the Church History Museum

"It's so fun to think about how what begins as a three-to-five-minute experience in front of one of these machines turned into a lifetime change for a family or even just one young woman," said Young Women General President Emily Belle Freeman at the Salt Lake City kickoff event on November 12, 2025. "That's such an amazing and remarkable thing for all of us to be able to participate in."

Savior of the World Performance

- Thursday, November 20, 2025, through Saturday, December 27, 2025, in the Conference Center Little Theater (excluding Sundays and Mondays)
- Matinees begin at 2:00 p.m. and evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m.
- Tickets are required for entry. All have been distributed, but a standby line will be available at a marked location inside the Conference Center Plaza level lobby near the west wall portrait gallery.

Concerts and Nightly Performances

- Sunday, November 30, 2025, through Wednesday, December 23, 2025
- Various times and locations throughout Temple Square
- Featuring choirs sponsored by schools, missionary and community organizations, as well as various string, flute, guitar and bell groups

No Christmas displays or events will be offered at the Church History Library or FamilySearch Library, but the buildings will remain open as usual.

celebrations



Happy Retirement Mr. G!

After 30 years of teaching choir at Cedar High School, Mark Ganowsky will be retiring in May 2026.

On Saturday, December 13th, at 7:00 PM the choirs of CHS will perform the CHS Alumni Christmas Concert, "Arise and Shine." This concert is free to the public and all are invited to come and enjoy! It is called an "Alumni" Christmas Concert, as anyone who has ever been a member of one of the groups is invited to join that group on the stage for the group's alumni piece that has been sung throughout the years. Since Mr. G, as his students refer to him, will be retiring, we would like to invite all choir alumni to a social before the concert, 4:00 - 6:00 PM, in the CHS lunchroom. Come and see friends from the past and get a chance to talk to Mr. G. You can join us on Facebook or Instagram, if you want to help spread the word.

schools

Gateway Academy



by Kati Meyers

K-1 TEACHER GATEWAY ACADEMY

The Kindergarten and 1st grade students at Gateway

Academy learned about our community helpers through our Career Day this week. Students learned about what an EMT does and toured an ambulance, learned from a nurse from SW Tech about our hearts, a soccer coach from SUU taught us about having a positive attitude, a police officer taught us how to be safe by following the rules and an auto mechanic from SW Tech taught us about cars and showed us his car racetrack. Students were very excited to learn about all the different career choices. Thank you so much to all the parents that came to help us with this experience.

obituaries

Deanna Luttio



Deanna Luttio went home to be with the Lord on October 20, 2025, at age 83. She was born on June 18, 1942, in Covina, California to Al and Ruby Navus. Deanna had one sister, Jacque, who predeceased her. She married her first husband right after high school, and they were blessed with two daughters- Jacqueline and Kelly. After this marriage ended, Deanna went to nursing school and graduated

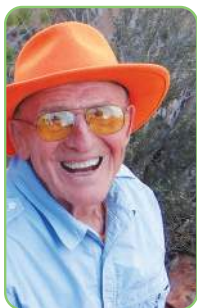
with her Licensed Vocational Nursing Degree. She worked with spinal cord injury patients in the Rancho Los Amigos Rehab Hospital in Downey, California for 21 years.

In 1972 Deanna married Donald Luttio and they began life together with five teenagers. They loved the outdoors and enjoyed camping and water skiing. They moved to Cedar City in 1993 and immediately began making new friends in this community. Don and Deanna began attending Valley Bible Church in Enoch in that same year. She and Don soon became very involved in church activities and started growing in their hunger for the truth of the Bible. Deanna loved greeting visitors and always had a word of welcome. She will be remembered for her friendly smile, warm hugs, and for the many cards of encouragement she sent to those who were sick or hurting.

Deanna is survived by her husband Donald Elmer Luttio, 9 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren. She loved her family and her church family, but most of all, she loved her Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, and was always ready to share what Christ had done in saving her and giving her eternal life. A memorial service in honor of Deanna will be held at 2 PM on Saturday, January 10, 2026, at Valley Bible Church, 4780 North Old Highway 91, in Enoch, Utah.

obituaries

Battista Locatelli



Battista Locatelli was a Vegas legend, opera-singing restaurateur, and the man who outran Father Time.

Battista Locatelli (93) crossed his final finish line with family by his side in Parowan, Utah on October 31, 2025.

Battista lived a HUGE life unconstrained by his humble origin as the second of twelve children born in Bergamo, Italy on December 10, 1931. He moved to America, establishing his dual citizenship, in 1948. He married the woman of his dreams, Rio Bornholt in 1952.

After years of manual labor, he showed up at the back door of the Beverly Hills Hotel in 1955 looking for a new opportunity. Battista assured the kitchen boss that he would never hire a harder working employee, and they never would. Battista rose from kitchen help to the personal waiter of various Hollywood movie stars.

Battista and Rio had four children before moving to Las Vegas in 1969. With Rio and his children: Pier, Desiree, Gigli, and Heidi, he opened what is now the beloved Battista's Hole in the Wall restaurant, on May 1st, 1970.

The small family cafe with Rio cooking and Battista singing to the customers grew to become THE Vegas hotspot for locals and tourists, movers and shakers, casino executives, showgirls, and mobster lawyers alike.

Battista's energy, unfiltered humor, love of people and home grown wisdom had us all standing up straighter with our shoulders back and speaking with an Italian

Accent.

In his lifetime he did a little of everything: opera singer, truck driver, restaurateur, marathoner, mountain runner, airplane pilot, diet/fitness guru, and tireless advocate for what would become the Las Vegas Marathon.

He would shock complete strangers by giving them unsolicited advice: "The secret to success is to give people service, service, service!" or "You're too fat! Look at how fit I am! You must eat more vegetables!"

Somehow his character succeeded in transforming and lifting up the many people whose lives he touched.

When at a hotel or restaurant Battista loved slipping in the back and handing out money to people scrubbing the floors and washing dishes - he never forgot how he first started out.

And we will never forget him.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 70 years, Rio Locatelli, and his two sisters Giannina, Tina, and his brother Mario. He leaves behind four children (Pier Marsh(Randy), Desiree Locatelli (Todd), Gigli Locatelli, Heidi Pearson (Jerry)), twelve grandchildren, twenty-seven great-grandchildren, one great-great grandchild

The family extends deepest gratitude to Richard Hall and the caregivers who made Battista's final lap as dignified as his first. In his final days, when asked how he was doing, Battista said, "Well...I've got one foot in the grave, and another on a banana peel, so....Arrivederci!"

A Memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 17th at 12 noon at Grace Christian Church 845 W. 200 S. Parowan, UT 84761.

Peggy Jackman



Peggy Ann Jackman, born October 2, 1963, passed away on November 22, 2025.

Peggy was a graduate of UNLV and dedicated many years working there until retiring at age 55. She loved to travel, especially to the beach, and she cherished the memories she made with her family and friends, Debby and Mary.

She is survived by her sister, Debra (Daniel) Grafelman; her nieces and nephews; and their families, all of whom felt she was much more than an aunt. Peggy was preceded in death by her parents, Walter Jackman and Ione Ashby.

Peggy will be remembered for her kind heart, her thoughtful nature, and the way she consistently checked in on others with genuine love and care.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, November 28, 2025 at 1pm at Southern Utah Mortuary (190 N. 300 W., Cedar City, Utah). Final arrangements are under the direction of Southern Utah Mortuary. To view a livestream of the service and share online condolences, please visit www.mortuary.org.

Colleen Adams



Colleen Adams, a beloved wife, sister, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and cherished friend, passed away peacefully on November 25, 2025, at the age of 85 in Sunriver, St George Ut, following a courageous battle with cancer. Born on October 28, 1940, in Beaver, Utah, Colleen was the daughter of Lorin Hutchings and Clysta Osborne. She grew up in Beaver Utah, graduating from Milford High in 1958.

On August 19, 1960, Colleen married the love of her life, Larry Adams, in Milford, Utah. Their 65 years together were marked by unwavering support, companionship, and a shared passion for life. Together, they built a home filled with love and laughter, a place where their family could grow and thrive.

Colleen was a devoted mother to her children. She was preceded in death by her son, Don L. Adams, and her sister Anna (Bud) Ashby. Colleen is survived by husband, Larry; daughter Tamara(Rick) Allen; grandchildren: Lauren (Gary) Thagard, Tess (Colton) Milne, Ty (Madi) Hansen, Katie (Jake) Brunk, and Bryan (Mikayla) Hansen; and 12 great-grandchildren: Kase Thagard, Keegan Milne, Grayson Milne, Sterling Milne, Cosette Milne, Oakley Hansen, Mesa Hansen, Ky Hansen, Wyatt Brunk, Karsyn Brunk, Macie Hansen, Bonnie Hansen and one on the way. She took immense joy in being a central figure in

their lives, making beautiful memories through baking, scrapbooking and knitting blankets for/with them.

Colleen received her associate's degree from Southern Utah University. Her education equipped her with the skills she employed as a wonderful homemaker. She enjoyed traveling, cruising, dear friends, exploring new destinations and creating lasting memories.

A woman of many talents, Colleen was known for her love of golf. She was a member of many golf associations, and for 25 years a member of the Bloomington Country Club. Her love for bridge kept her socially engaged, while her culinary skills delighted family and friends alike, as she always loved trying out new recipes. Colleen was a talented card designer, crafting special messages for every holiday and occasion, a testament to her thoughtfulness. She was an avid walker, and cherished the summers spent at their cabin on Cedar Mountain.

In her final month, Colleen was surrounded by love and care, and her family extends special thanks to Dixie Hospice and Lola, with Good Samaritan Senior Care for her unwavering support during this time. Though Colleen will be profoundly missed, her spirit will forever be alive in the hearts of those she touched. Her legacy of love, kindness, and resilience will continue to inspire all who knew her.

A funeral service in her honor will be held on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at Southern Utah Mortuary in Cedar City, where family and friends are invited to celebrate her remarkable life and the legacy she leaves behind. A viewing will be held on Monday, December 1, 2025, from 7:00-9:00 p.m., and again on Tuesday morning from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the service, both at Southern Utah Mortuary. To view the livestream or share online condolences, please visit www.mortuary.org.



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sports

SCORES + RECAPS FROM IRON COUNTY COMPETITION

Reds run past Falcons



Cedar and Canyon View players fight for position to rebound during the game played Nov. 25 at the CHS gym. The Reds beat the Falcons, 65-40.

(Tom Zulewski/Iron County Today)

by Tom Zulewski

IRON COUNTY TODAY

When the Cedar Reds girls basketball team feels a challenge from the opposition, head coach Corry Nielsen knows he has a player he can turn to to restore momentum. Gabby Gomez delivered when it mattered, and Cedar was

able to roll to another win.

Gomez scored 17 of her game-high 24 points in the first half, and the Reds pulled away after halftime for a convincing 65-40 victory over the Canyon View Falcons on Nov. 25 at the Wolf Den. Cedar improved to 2-1 in the early season while CV fell to 1-3.

“Gabby’s a four-year starter and two-year All-State player,” Nielsen said of Gomez. “Sometimes we depend on her too much, but I thought we were even better when Gabby penetrated and was able to find open players.”

Canyon View was able to close within 26-20 late in the first half after Payton King got inside and got fouled to complete

a three-point play.

After a timeout, Gomez made a free throw, then hit a 3-pointer with time winding down to help Cedar lead 32-20 at the break.

The lead never fell below double figures in the second half for the Reds, and everyone got involved on the final score sheet as the team enjoyed a

19-8 scoring edge over the fourth quarter. For the game, the defending 3A state champions were 11-of-23 from the free-throw line.

“We graduated a really strong senior class. Part of the step for this program to get better is to have moments like that,” Falcons head coach Jaycee Barnhurst said. “When their best player has the ball with seven seconds left, she’s not giving it up.”

And the missed free throws were an additional concern for Barnhurst.

“I know what we’re doing tomorrow – shooting 100 free throws,” she said.

For the week ahead, CV had a stretch of four games in five days, starting with a road matchup at Crimson Cliffs on Tuesday, then Pine View at home Thursday.

“Our schedule might be the toughest in the state,” Barnhurst said. “We need this competition right now. Even

when it’s tough, even when you get blown out, those are learning moments. At the end of the day, someone still wins a region trophy, and we want to put ourselves in the best spot to do that. Learn early, excel late.”

Kambree Potter led Canyon View with 12 points in the loss, and King added 11.

Cedar begins a weekend trip to northern Utah for three games starting today at Wasatch, then a game at Timpview on Friday and at Provo on Saturday.



Cedar

65

Canyon View

40

Canyon View 9 11 12 8 - 40
Cedar 18 14 14 19 - 65

Canyon View – Hallows 2, Taylor 4, King 11, Potter 12, T. Blackner 9, Bailey 2. Totals 14 11-23 40. 3-pointers – Potter 1

Cedar – Nielson 6, Tripp 3, Albrecht 2, Corry 3, H. Blackner 2, Vargas 2, York 7, Jones 4, Bishoff 10, Gomez 24, Esplin 2. Totals 25 9-14 65. 3-pointers – Tripp 1, York 1, Bishoff 1, Gomez 3.

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PREP SCOREBOARD - WINTER STANDINGS

SCORES		
Boys Basketball		
Region 9		
11/20	Cedar 69, Providence Hall 50 Bountiful 72, Snow Canyon 62 Dixie 61, Provo 59 Hurricane 74, Green Canyon 54 Wasatch 79, Crimson Cliffs 68 Mountain View 63, Desert Hills 59 Pine View 70, Manti 32	
11/21	Cedar 47, Northridge 42 Snow Canyon 65, Manti 48 Dixie 58, Bountiful 56 Crimson Cliffs 81, Spanish Fork 64 Pine View 76, Provo 63 Desert Hills 64, Clearfield 55	
11/22	Roy 54, Cedar 42 Hurricane 73, Canyon View 31 Snow Canyon 82, Summit Academy 55 Crimson Cliffs 68, Mountain Ridge 58 Dixie 59, Green Canyon 58 Desert Hills 60, Spanish Fork 38	
11/25	Richfield 66, Cedar 55 Desert Hills 43, Canyon View 32	
Region 14 Boys Basketball		
11/18	Delta 76, Am. Heritage 68 Providence Hall 50, Deseret Peak 38	
11/19	Delta 76, Millard 44	
11/20	Summit Academy 55, Canyon View 33 Cedar 69, Providence Hall 50 Richfield 63, Spanish Fork 57	
11/21	Canyon View 64, Am. Heritage 55 Wasatch 67, Richfield 60	
11/22	Hurricane 73, Canyon View 31 Payson 48, Richfield 45	
11/25	Desert Hills 43, Canyon View 32 Richfield 66, Cedar 55 Emery 59, Juab 48 Delta 61, Tooele 42 Providence Hall 69, Ben Lomond 57	
11/26	Emery 55, Delta 51	
Region 18		
11/19	South Sevier 66, Wayne 59 North Sevier 67, Grand 57 Kanab 82, Valley 48	
11/21	Parowan 49, Gunnison 47 North Sevier 62, South Sevier 59 Duchesne 65, Grand 54 Beaver 62, Water Canyon 46 Enterprise 57, Valley 55 San Juan 58, Bryce Valley 48	
11/22	Beaver 70, Intermountain Christian 26 Tabiona 70, Grand 67 Wayne 53, San Juan 50 Chinle (AZ) 69, Kanab 67	
11/25	South Summit 74, Parowan 72 San Juan 77, Green River 55 Piute 65, Beaver 54 Enterprise 58, Panguitch 53 South Sevier 64, Manti 63	
Girls Basketball		
Region 9		
11/18	Kanab 61, Desert Hills 48	
11/20	Kanab 49, Pine View 43 Enterprise 63, Crimson Cliffs 50 Gunnison 39, South Sevier 32 Union 45, Grand 24	
11/21	Cedar 52, Manti 44 Mountain Ridge 61, Snow Canyon 45 Layton Christian 67, Crimson Cliffs 49 Hurricane 64, Orem 44	
11/22	Layton Christian 55, Cedar 52 Pleasant Grove 70, Hurricane 20	
11/24	Herriman 49, Hurricane 40	
11/25	Cedar 65, Canyon View 40 Kanab 62, Crimson Cliffs 37 Snow Canyon 50, Pine View 39	
Region 14		
11/18	Delta 50, Juan Diego 32	
11/19	Maeser Prep 55, Providence Hall 31	
11/20	Emery 53, Canyon View 26	
Region 18		
11/21	Logan 52, Providence Hall 19 Grantsville 52, Richfield 32 Morgan 70, Juab 52	
11/21	Canyon View 45, Carbon 29 Delta 54, Ogden 46 Juan Diego 47, Juab 42 Providence Hall 41, APA West Valley 12	
11/22	Union 44, Canyon View 30	
11/25	Cedar 65, Canyon View 40 Duchesne 56, Providence Hall 12 Union 55, Juab 50 Delta 65, Gunnison 31 Richfield 54, Carbon 41	
11/26	Altamont 40, Providence Hall 32	
Region 18		
11/18	Grand 61, Green River 14 Carbon 53, San Juan 35 Kanab 61, Desert Hills 48	
11/20	Water Canyon 52, Parowan 20 Kanab 49, Pine View 43 Enterprise 63, Crimson Cliffs 50 Gunnison 39, South Sevier 32 Union 45, Grand 24	
11/21	North Sanpete 58, Grand 28 Wayne 51, San Juan 47	
11/22	Carbon 46, Grand 12 Kanab 62, Chinle (AZ) 44	
11/22	Union 44, Canyon View 30	
11/25	North Sevier 52, Parowan 10 Kanab 62, Crimson Cliffs 37 Beaver 43, Emery 42 Manti 36, South Sevier 30 Enterprise 54, Panguitch 45	
STANDINGS		
RPI RANKINGS IN PARENTHESES		
Boys Basketball		
Region 9		
	REGION	OVERALL
Dixie	0-0	3-0
Hurricane	0-0	2-0
Region 14		
	REGION	OVERALL
Kanab	0-0	4-0
Enterprise	0-0	2-0
Beaver	0-0	1-0
Grand	0-0	1-3
Parowan	0-0	0-2
South Sevier	0-0	0-2
San Juan	0-0	0-2
Region 18		
	REGION	OVERALL
Pine View	0-0	2-0
Desert Hills	0-0	3-1
Crimson Cliffs	0-0	2-1
Snow Canyon	0-0	2-1
Cedar	0-0	2-2
Region 14		
	REGION	OVERALL
Delta	0-0	3-1
Provincial Hall	0-0	2-1
Richfield	0-0	2-2
Canyon View	0-0	1-3
Juab	0-0	0-2
Region 18		
	REGION	OVERALL
Enterprise	0-0	2-0
Beaver	0-0	2-1
San Juan	0-0	2-1
South Sevier	0-0	2-1
Parowan	0-0	1-1
Kanab	0-0	1-1
Grand	0-0	0-3
Girls Basketball		
Region 9		
	REGION	OVERALL
Cedar	0-0	2-1
Hurricane	0-0	1-2
Snow Canyon	0-0	1-2
Dixie	0-0	0-0
Desert Hills	0-0	0-1
Pine View	0-0	0-2
Crimson Cliffs	0-0	0-3
Region 14		
	REGION	OVERALL
Delta	0-0	3-0
Richfield	0-0	1-1
Canyon View	0-0	1-3
Providence Hall	0-0	1-4
Juab	0-0	0-3
Region 18		
	REGION	OVERALL
Kanab	0-0	4-0
Enterprise	0-0	2-0
Beaver	0-0	1-0
Grand	0-0	1-3
Parowan	0-0	0-2
South Sevier	0-0	0-2
San Juan	0-0	0-2

There's a lot to be thankful for



With our food coma subsided and the Thanksgiving holiday well past, it gave time to reflect on all that's good and right with the sports world. In no particular order, here are some of my favorite sports things from the year that was – at least through the day of turkey and family celebration.

- Seeing the Philadelphia Eagles manhandle the Kansas City Chiefs in Super Bowl LIX was a beautiful sight. There was absolutely no doubt who was boss when the Eagles built a 34-0 lead late in the third quarter. Three-peat: denied.
 - Rory McIlroy's emotion after finally winning the Masters and completing the career Grand Slam on his 11th try was a wonderful moment worth watching. You can't get more genuine than the Irishman falling to his knees and crying the happiest tears of his life.
 - For the first time in a long time, we saw the effects of the transfer portal shape what happened at the NCAA Men's basketball tournament. When all was said and done, the No. 1 seeds from all four regions – Auburn, Florida, Duke and Houston – reached the Final Four in San Antonio.
 - In the end, the Gators forced a turnover on the final possession that helped them beat the Cougars, 65-63. For the game, Florida led for a grand total of 1 minute, 4 seconds.
 - On the NCAA women's hoop side...UConn beat South Carolina badly, 82-59. Geno Auriemma won the school's 12th national title as its head coach. We move on.
 - U.S. Open golf was special in its own right. Oakmont Country Club was its usual feisty self as the field had a hard time hitting fairways, which led to high scores. When all was sorted out, J.J. Spaun made an insanely ridiculous 64-foot birdie putt at the 72nd hole and won his first major championship, finishing as the only player under par at 1-under 279, two shots ahead of Scotland's Robert MacIntyre.
 - The NBA title and the O'Brien Trophy ended up in Oklahoma City, of all places. The Thunder finished 68-14 in the regular season and survived a seven-game Finals series over the Indiana Pacers to win the franchise's first crown since being stolen from Seattle and moved to the Midwest in 2008/ So far, the Thunder are off to a 19-1 start, and 70 wins is being discussed more with each victory. Here's a fun fact: when the Golden State Warriors went 73-9 in 2015-16, they started 24-0 and did not win the NBA title.
 - My annual excursion to Sonoma Raceway for the Toyota/SaveMart 350 in July showcased a definite road-course legend as Shane VanGisbergen dominated to win. It was SVG's third of five wins in 2025, all on road courses, easily qualifying for the NASCAR Cup playoffs. After failing to advance out of the Round of 16, the main goal for VanGisbergen in 2026 is easy to decipher. Find a way to sneak in a victory on an oval track, and we could be talking about him as a title contender.
 - Ohio State may have lost to Michigan for the fourth straight year, but when the calendar flipped over to 2025, the Buckeyes ran through Tennessee, Oregon and Texas before beating Notre Dame, 34-23 to win the national title. The Buckeyes haven't lost since last year's Michigan game, and it will be no surprise at all to see them playing for the trophy once again come January.
 - And finally, the one sad constant from the NFL is likely to happen. Not only are the Detroit Lions likely to miss the playoffs, but it will be 68 years since the organization's last NFL championship. We can't say Super Bowl because the Lions haven't been there.
- However the rest of this year shakes out, I hope 2025 was a memorable one for you on the sports calendar. May 2026 be even better.

Contact Tom Zulewski at tominator19@yahoo.com



Leavitt Group Auto-Owners INSURANCE

Leavitt & Auto-Owners Sponsor Utah Summer Games 40th Anniversary

by Brooke Heath

SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY

Cedar City, UT -- The Larry H. Miller Utah Summer Games, an outreach department of Southern Utah University (SUU), will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2026. As part of that, another Cedar City institution will support the celebration. Leavitt Group, in partnership with Auto-Owners Insurance, has agreed to a multi-year sponsorship with LHM USG, with the groups supporting the Games and contributing other resources to support USG programming. As part of the agreement, Leavitt Group and Auto-Owners Insurance will sponsor the Games' 40th Anniversary celebration in 2026, which will be known as the 'Larry H. Miller Utah Summer Games 40th Anniversary Celebration, presented by Leavitt Group and Auto-Owners Insurance.'

"Leavitt Group's deep roots in Cedar

City and commitment to strengthening our region align closely with the Larry H. Miller Utah Summer Games' mission of fostering community connection," said SUU President Mindy Benson. "We are excited about this new partnership and look forward to celebrating the Games' 40th anniversary together as we continue strengthening the ties between SUU, the Leavitt Group, and athletes and families across Utah."

As part of the partnership, the 40th Anniversary celebration will feature a variety of community engagement events around Iron County, expanding upon the existing events such as the 'Opening Ceremony, Presented by State Bank of Southern Utah', the 'Block Party, Presented by KSL 5 TV', and the community pancake breakfast event after the conclusion of the 5K/10K race, also supported by State Bank of Southern Utah. The new community events supported by Leavitt Group and Auto-Owners Insurance will

see **LEAVITT** » 25



TOM'S SPORTS TRIVIA

And now, we have liftoff on another dozen sporting trivia questions for your guessing enjoyment. This week's collection is a Thanksgiving grab bag of challenging stuff that won't break your brain – at least that's the intended goal here. Have fun, embrace the chaos, and please remember...no wagering!

1. When the Detroit Lions played the Chicago Bears in 2024 on Thanksgiving, the Bears mismanaged the clock in the closing seconds with a chance to tie the game and lost by a field goal. Who was fired as Bears head coach the next day?
2. What AFC South team has never played on Thanksgiving in its 30-year history?
3. Staying with the AFC South, what team added to the Detroit Lions' winless 2008 season by beating them, 47-10, at Ford Field?
4. In what year did the NFL add a third Thanksgiving Day game for the prime-time audience?
5. The third Thanksgiving Day game of 2008 featured two teams who later played in that season's NFC Championship game. Name either team.
6. True or False: A third Thanksgiving Day game was not played in 2020 because of the COVID-19 outbreak.
7. What award was started by the late John Madden and given to the Most Valuable Player of the holiday game broadcast by CBS and later Fox from 1989 to 2001?
8. Who played in the first Black Friday NFL game when it debuted in 2023?
9. While the Los Angeles Rams have the NFC's best record at 9-2, it's been a long time since the team last played on Thanksgiving. Who did the Rams play in 1975, the Lions or the Cowboys?
10. When the Lions faced the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1998, the game went to overtime and finished with controversy. What

nickname was given to the moment that happened as the overtime period started?

11. In 1993, the Dallas Cowboys thought they had a Thanksgiving win after blocking a field goal, but lineman Leon Lett made a mistake by touching the football and moving it forward. What AFC team benefitted from the error and booted the game-winning field goal on the next play?
12. The prime-time Thanksgiving game in 2011 ended up as a preview of Super Bowl XLVII as the San Francisco 49ers played the Baltimore Ravens. Who were the brothers that coached against each other in the game?

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

1. Randy Jones.
2. James Franklin.
3. James has started his 23rd season, a new NBA record.
4. The Raiders have qualified for the playoffs twice since their last Super Bowl appearance – in 2016 while the team was still in Oakland and in 2021 in Las Vegas – and lost in the first round both times.
5. In 1989-90 and 2003-04, the Pistons won 13 straight games and went on to win the NBA title both times.
6. True.
7. Through Week 11, Smith-Njigba had 1,146 receiving yards to Taylor's 1,139 rushing yards.
8. Lauri Markkanen.
9. Cairo Santos hit a 48-yard field goal to give the Bears the win over the Minnesota Vikings.
10. Gordie Howe.
11. Dillon Gabriel.
12. BYU fell two spots to No. 9 in the AP poll.

LEAVITT

« CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

serve to simultaneously engage local communities and visitors with local businesses and attractions throughout the months of May and June.

“Leavitt Group is honored to support the Larry H. Miller Utah Summer Games during their historic 40th Anniversary celebration,” said Eric Leavitt, Executive Chairman and Chief Executive Office, Leavitt Group Enterprises. “We are especially excited that our employees will have volunteer opportunities during the event. Service has always been central to who we are, and this partnership allows us to strengthen the community that has supported us for generations.”

In addition to the support of the 40th Anniversary events, Leavitt Group and Auto-Owners Insurance will also provide volunteer support and assistance to the Larry H. Miller Utah Summer Games and programming for affiliated partners.

“The support of Leavitt Group and the Leavitt Family – both pillars of the Cedar City community – is much appreciated as we celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Larry H. Miller Utah Summer Games in 2026,” said Jon Oglesby, Executive Director of the Games. “We are grateful for the continued involvement of Leavitt Group at Southern Utah University and in the Cedar City community and look forward to leveraging their support and the support of Auto-Owners Insurance for an outstanding series of community engagement events in 2026.”

A schedule of community events for the ‘Larry H. Miller Utah Summer Games 40th Anniversary Celebration, presented by Leavitt Group and Auto-Owners Insurance’ will be released at a later date.

The programming schedule for the 2026 Larry H. Miller Utah Summer Games will be released in early November, with registration opening on Monday, December 1 at utahsummergames.org. The ‘Larry H. Miller Utah Summer Games Opening Ceremony, Presented by State Bank of Southern Utah’ is scheduled for Friday, June 5 at Eccles Coliseum in Cedar City.

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