

RACE INTO SUU *Homecoming*

SEPTEMBER 21-26

Friday **25**

She Loves Me (50% Discount Tickets)

Utah Shakespeare Festival • **2:00 PM**

Apply promo code TBIRDS26

Eccles Music Center Opening Concert

Eccles Music Center • **7:00 PM**

Pick up free tickets at SUMA while supplies last.

Forever RED

Upper Quad • **7:30 PM**

Featuring live music from *Broken Road: A Tribute to Rascal Flatts* and *Playback Party Band*, neon drone show, food trucks & more! Everyone is Welcome!

IRON
COUNTY | **today**
SEPTEMBER 24, 2026 | VOL. 17 NO. 38

Saturday **26**

Pancake Breakfast

Hunter Alumni Center Parking Lot • **9:00 - 10:00 AM**

Homecoming Parade

University Blvd. • **10:00 AM**

Eccles Music Center Open House

Eccles Music Center • **11:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

Something Rotten! (50% Discount Tickets)

Utah Shakespeare Festival • **2:00 PM**

Apply promo code TBIRDS26

Tailgate Party

Old Softball Field • **4:00 - 6:00 PM**

Football vs. Idaho State

Eccles Coliseum • **6:00 PM**

Purchase tickets at tbirdtickets.com



suu.edu/HOMECOMING

2026 Proposed Constitutional Amendments

H.J.R. 10 Proposal to Amend Utah Constitution - Publication Amendments

2025 General Session

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This joint resolution of the Legislature proposes to amend the Utah Constitution regarding the publication of a proposed constitutional amendment.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution proposes to amend the Utah Constitution to:

- require a proposed constitutional amendment to be published, in a manner provided by statute, for 60 calendar days immediately preceding the general election.

Other Special Clauses:

This resolution directs the lieutenant governor to submit this proposal to voters.

This resolution provides a contingent effective date of January 1, 2027 for this proposal.

Utah Constitution Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

Article XXIII, Section 1,

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, two-thirds of all members elected to each of the two houses voting in favor thereof:

Section 1. It is proposed to amend Utah Constitution, Article XXIII, Section 1 to read

Article XXIII, Section 1. [Amendments: proposal, election.]

Any amendment or amendments to this Constitution may be proposed in either house of the Legislature, and if two-thirds of all the members elected to each of the two houses, shall vote in favor thereof, such proposed amendment or amendments shall be entered on their respective journals with the yeas and nays taken thereon; and the Legislature shall cause the same to be published ~~in at least one newspaper in every county of the state, where a newspaper is published, for two months, in~~ **a manner provided by statute, for 60 calendar days** immediately preceding the next general election, at which time the said amendment or amendments shall be submitted to the electors of the state for their approval or rejection, and if a majority of the electors voting thereon shall approve the same, such amendment or amendments shall become part of this Constitution.

The revision or amendment of an entire article or the addition of a new article to this Constitution may be proposed as a single amendment and may be submitted to the electors as a single question or proposition. Such amendment may relate to one subject, or any number of subjects, and may modify, or repeal provisions contained in other articles of the Constitution, if such provisions are germane to the subject matter of the article being revised, amended or being proposed as a new article.

Section 2. Submittal to voters.

The lieutenant governor is directed to submit this proposed amendment to the voters of the state at the next regular general election in the manner provided by law.

Section 3. Contingent effective date.

If the amendment proposed by this joint resolution is approved by a majority of those voting on it at the next regular general election, the amendment shall take effect on January 1, 2027.

H.J.R. 10 passed the House 70-0-5.

H.J.R. 10 passed the Senate 29-0-0.

S.J.R. 2 Proposal to Amend Utah Constitution - Statewide Initiatives

2025 General Session

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This joint resolution of the Utah Legislature proposes to amend the Utah Constitution to modify a provision relating to statewide initiatives.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution proposes to amend the Utah Constitution to:

- provide the circumstances under which a higher percentage of voters than a majority must approve a statewide initiative that proposes to impose a new tax or to increase the rate of an existing tax or the amount of revenue collected.

Other Special Clauses: This resolution directs the lieutenant governor to submit this proposal to voters. This resolution provides a contingent effective date of November 23, 2026 for this proposal.

Utah Constitution Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

Article VI, Section 1, Effective 11/23/26

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, two-thirds of all members elected to each of the two houses voting in favor thereof:

Section 1. It is proposed to amend Utah Constitution, Article VI, Section 1 to read

Article VI, Section 1 (Effective 11/23/26). [Power vested in Senate, House, and People.]

(1) The Legislative power of the State shall be vested in:

- a Senate and House of Representatives which shall be designated the Legislature of the State of Utah; and
- the people of the State of Utah as provided in Subsection (2).

(2) (a) (i) The legal voters of the State of Utah, in the numbers, under the conditions, in the manner, and within the time provided by statute, may:

- initiate any desired legislation and cause

it to be submitted to the people for adoption upon a majority vote of those voting on the legislation, as provided by statute; or

(B) require any law passed by the Legislature, except those laws passed by a two-thirds vote of the members elected to each house of the Legislature, to be submitted to the voters of the State, as provided by statute, before the law may take effect.

(ii) Notwithstanding Subsection (2)(a)(i)(A), legislation initiated to allow, limit, or prohibit the taking of wildlife or the season for or method of taking wildlife shall be adopted upon approval of two-thirds of those voting.

(iii) Notwithstanding Subsection (2)(a)(i)(A), initiated legislation that is subject to a vote that occurs after November 1, 2026, shall be adopted upon approval of at least 60% of those voting on the legislation if the initiated legislation includes:

(A) the imposition of a new tax;

(B) an expansion of an existing tax to include additional items or transactions subject to the tax;

(C) an increase in an existing tax rate; or

(D) for a property tax, a change to the tax rate that causes the tax rate to decrease less than it would under current law.

(b) The legal voters of any county, city, or town, in the numbers, under the conditions, in the manner, and within the time provided by statute, may:

(i) initiate any desired legislation and cause it to be submitted to the people of the county, city, or town for adoption upon a majority vote of those voting on the legislation, as provided by statute; or

(ii) require any law or ordinance passed by the law making body of the county, city, or town to be submitted to the voters thereof, as provided by statute, before the law or ordinance may take effect.

Section 2. Submittal to voters.

The lieutenant governor is directed to submit this proposed amendment to the voters of the state at the next regular general election in the manner provided by law.

Section 3. Contingent effective date.

If the amendment proposed by this joint resolution is approved by a majority of those voting on it at the next regular general election, the amendment shall take effect on November 23, 2026.

S.J.R. 2 passed the Senate 21-8-0.

S.J.R. 2 passed the House 55-17-3.

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News

Superintendent
presents draft
plan for four-day
week -page 4

IRON COUNTY

today

Cedar City Teacher, Coach and Veteran Receives New Vehicle, All-Terrain Wheelchair



STORY IN NEWS

Superintendent presents draft plan for four-day week

by Shauna Lund

IRON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Iron County School District administrators are meeting with staff and discussing frequently asked questions as they work toward the transition to a four-day school week in 2027-28.

Superintendent Dr. Lance Hatch advised board members that all discussions about the four-day school week are still in draft form. However, he said he wanted to seek feedback from the board as discussions move forward.

Members of the district administrative team recently participated in a video call with administrators from a school district in Independence, Mo. That district is slightly larger than ICSD, but has shown success in implementing a four-day school week without impacting academic perfor-

mance, in fact their student learning outcomes have improved.

A clear message from that district, he said, was the importance of ensuring the transition did not negatively impact employee pay and retention. With that in mind, Hatch said several ideas have been discussed and have included employee groups. Those proposals include:

- Compensating bus drivers for lost Friday route hours with a base hourly pay increase from \$25 per hour to \$27.50 per hour. Additionally, trips would be paid at the standard hourly rate rather than a reduced rate of \$21 per hour. Hatch said ICSD is very efficient in transportation and therefore receives less funding from the state. There is a possibility that the move to four-days could result in additional funding.
- Maintaining paraprofessional hours with work time adjusted to only Monday through Thursday.

Transitioning front office staff at schools to 9-hour shifts Monday through Thursday. Additionally, 16 designated work days would be scheduled on Fridays on the weeks teachers are in the building and when staffing is crucial (beginning and end of the school year).

- Continuing to explore school nutrition services options. Hatch said because there is a potential federal revenue impact, there is still some research that needs to be done in that area.
- Considering a decrease to 9 days for personal annual leave for teachers. Currently, teachers receive 11 days for 188 contract days. The four-day school week reduces contract days to 171.

Another question many community members have asked is whether the district will provide optional Friday activities. Hatch said another lesson learned from Missouri is that a multi-million dollar investment in Fridays yielded minimal engagement from students. On average only 50 to

100 elementary students participated in the optional activities.

"I really like our approach," Hatch said. "We start with nothing, but let the needs dictate."

Another impact the district is looking at is the need to adjust start and end times. Hatch said part of the consideration was a request from transportation to space elementary and secondary runs at least 60 minutes apart. The increased traffic in Cedar City has meant delays in arriving at and leaving schools.

The current proposal is:

- Elementary: 8:55 a.m. to 3:55 p.m.
- Middle: 7:50 a.m. to 2:50 p.m.
- High School: 7:40 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Hatch said administrators are continuing the work on putting the implementation of a four-day school week in place. He would like to roll out a solid official plan by November so families and employees can make plans.

STATE REPRESENTATION CONTACT INFORMATION:

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rshipp@le.utah.gov

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435-979-6578
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State Senator District 28

Evan J. Vickers

Phone: 435-817-5565
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Salt Lake City, UT 84114-2220
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board@schools.utah.gov

Communications sent to this email address will be received by all board members, the USBE superintendency and select board staff. Please include the city where you live in your emails so your recognized board member may choose to email you personally.

Drought Update: Fall Irrigation, Soil Moisture and Statewide Reservoir Conditions

by Michael Sanchez

DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES

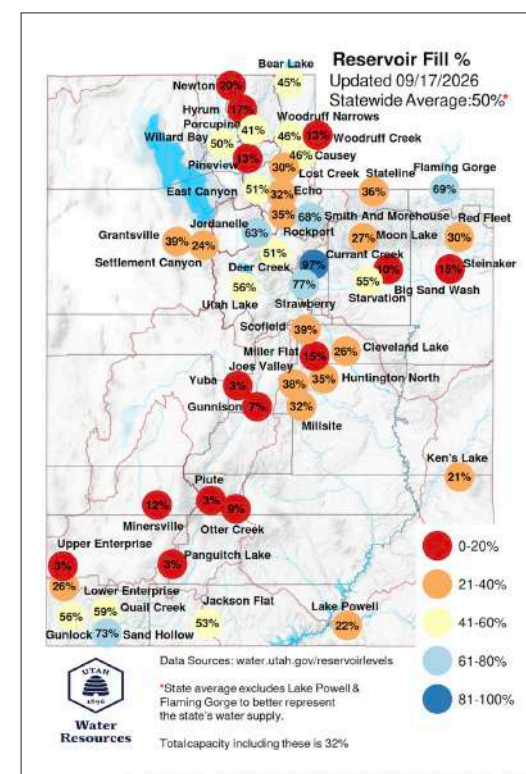
Utahns to adjust their irrigation habits and prepare for the upcoming water year.

"With shorter days and cooler evening temperatures, landscape water requirements decrease significantly," Joel Williams, director at the Division of Water Resources, said. "Irrigation timers should be adjusted down or turned off. Leaving automatic sprinklers on summer schedules leads to wasteful overwatering. Follow our Weekly Lawn Watering Guide for general recommendations"

Conditions at a Glance

- Statewide reservoir storage is at 50%
- 1,190 wildfires have been reported this year
- 100% of the state is in some

see **DROUGHT UPDATE»** 5



DROUGHT UPDATE

« CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

form of drought

The New Water Year Begins October 1

Utah's hydrologic "water year" runs from Oct. 1 through Sept. 30. A water year is a term used to describe a time period of 12 months where precipitation totals are measured. It coincides with the growing season where the water collected is used up and then the water year starts over. As we close out the current water year, water managers assess cumulative precipitation, streamflows and reservoir storage to establish a baseline for the upcoming winter snowpack season.

Soil Moisture: The Foundation for Next Spring's Runoff

Soil moisture levels in late fall play a critical role in determining how much water reaches our reservoirs during next spring's snowmelt. When mountain soils are moist before the ground freezes, melting snowpack in the spring flows directly into streams and reservoirs rather than soaking into dry dirt like a sponge. August monsoonal storms improved mountain soil moisture levels for most of the state, providing a solid foundation ahead of winter.

Fall is Prime Time for Waterwise Planting

Fall is the best season in Utah to plant waterwise perennials, shrubs and trees. Cooler air and soil temperatures allow roots to establish safely without the heat stress of midsummer, ensuring plants thrive with less water by next spring.

Conservation Efforts

The state continues to promote initiatives such as the Agricultural Water Optimization Program for farmers and SlowtheFlow.org for residents. These programs aim to educate and incentivize water-saving practices, helping Utahns become more drought-resilient and better prepared for future conditions.

For indoor water-saving tips are available on the Slow the Flow website.



by Iron County Today Staff

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

Cedar City High School teacher, coach and U.S. Army veteran Travis Wood was honored in Minneapolis last week with a new payment-free vehicle and an all-terrain wheelchairs in recognition of his military service and continued dedication to his community.

Freedom Alliance and U.S. Bank, in partnership with the Minnesota Vikings and The Action Foundation, presented the gifts to Wood on Sept. 11 at the Vikings Legacy Ship at U.S. Bank Stadium. The vehicle was provided by Inver Grove Ford, while the all-terrain wheelchairs was built by ATZ Manufacturing.

Wood, a former U.S. Army staff sergeant, was critically injured during combat operations on Jan. 15, 2007, when the vehicle he was traveling in was struck by a command-detonated improvised explosive device. He suffered six fractures in his back and extensive nerve damage to both legs, eventually requiring the amputation of his right leg. Since the attack, Wood has undergone approximately 84 surgeries and continues to face medical challenges.

Cedar City Teacher, Coach and Veteran Receives New Vehicle, All-Terrain Wheelchair



After being medically discharged from the military in 2010, Wood continued serving others through education, mentorship and football.

At Cedar City High School, Wood teaches science, advises student government and serves as the freshman head football coach and varsity running backs coach. Last season, the varsity team finished with a perfect 13-0 record and captured a state championship.

"Staff Sergeant Travis Wood has exemplified the resilience, determination, and selfless spirit that define our nation's heroes," Freedom Alliance President Tom Kilgannon said. He added that Wood has continued to serve others as an educator, mentor and coach despite the challenges resulting from his injuries.

The presentation was part of an ongoing partnership between Freedom Alliance and U.S. Bank to support wounded veterans, Gold Star families and military families by helping address everyday barriers and provide greater independence. Wood's vehicle marked the 104th payment-free vehicle donated by U.S. Bank



since 2018 and the 67th presented in partnership with Freedom Alliance. His all-terrain wheelchairs was also the 86th presented by Freedom Alliance.

4WARN WEATHER

IRON COUNTY FORECAST

WE'RE LOOKING AT A MIX OF CLOUDS AND SUNSHINE MOVING THROUGH THE WEEKEND. A SLIGHT CHANCE FOR AN ISOLATED STORM, BUT MOST OF THE WEEKEND AND NEXT WEEK LOOK DRY. HIGH TEMPERATURES WILL BE IN THE UPPER 70S TO LOWER 80S.

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

THURSDAY	Mostly Sunny 80°/50° PRECIP: 10% WINDS: S 5-10
FRIDAY	Partly Cloudy 81°/52° PRECIP: 20% WINDS: SW 10-20
SATURDAY	Partly Cloudy 82°/53° PRECIP: 20% WINDS: SW 10-20
SUNDAY	Partly Cloudy 81°/52° PRECIP: 20% WINDS: SW 15-30
MONDAY	Mostly Sunny 80°/51° PRECIP: 10% WINDS: W 10-15
TUESDAY	Mostly Sunny 79°/50° PRECIP: 10% WINDS: W 5-10
WEDNESDAY	Mostly Sunny 78°/49° PRECIP: 10% WINDS: SW 5-10

opinion

FROM THE EDITOR



**BECKA
DIMICK**
COPY EDITOR

A newspaper is more than a collection of headlines. At its best, it helps us understand what is changing in our community and reminds us to recognize the people who help shape it. This week's issue does both.

First, I encourage you to read our update on the Iron County School District's transition to a four-day school week in 2027-28. The broader decision has been made, but much of how it will work remains in draft form, from employee schedules and pay to Friday activities and school hours. This will alter the weekly rhythm of families across the county, and now is the time to understand the details while they are still taking shape.

I also hope you will read about Travis Wood, a Cedar City High School teacher, coach and Army veteran who recently received a payment-free vehicle and an all-terrain wheelchair. After being critically wounded in combat and enduring approximately 84 surgeries, Wood continued serving others through education, mentorship and football. The gifts recognize not only what he sacrificed, but what he has continued to give.

These stories are different in scale and subject, but both reflect why local news matters. One helps readers understand a consequential public decision before its details are finalized. The other recognizes a neighbor whose service did not end when he returned home.

Both deserve our attention, and I hope you will take a few minutes to read them.

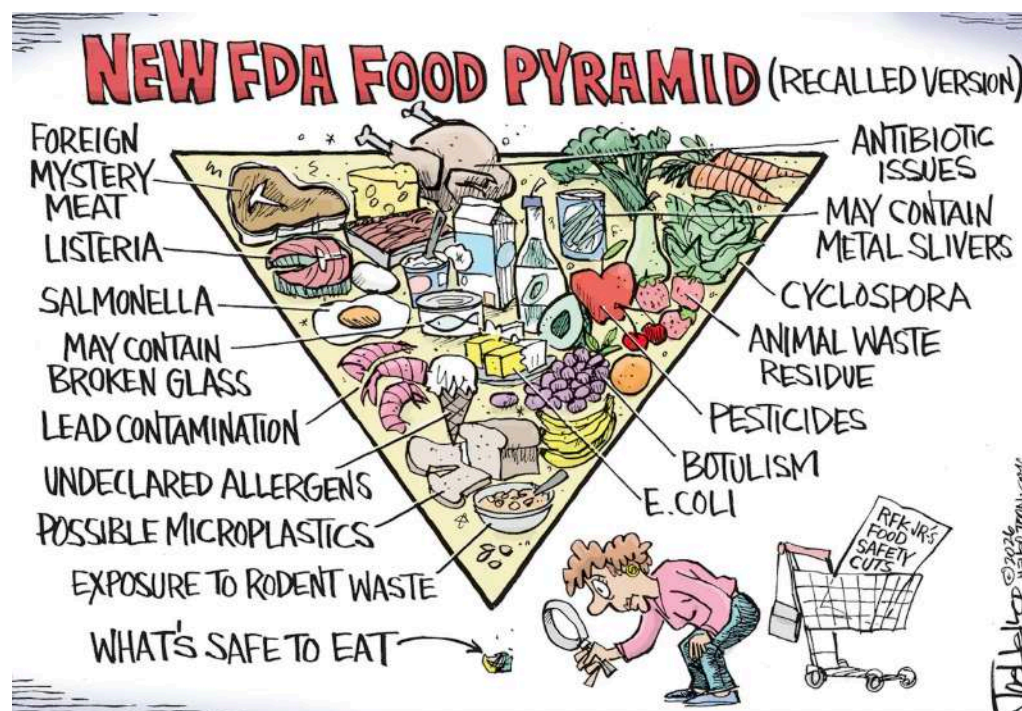
WORD OF THE WEEK

SPREZZATURA

[SPREZ-ZA-TU-RA]

Italian Noun

studied nonchalance : graceful conduct or performance without apparent effort



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Voting is deeply personal. Throughout different chapters of my life, the ability to cast a mail-in ballot has ensured my voice can be heard no matter where I am at election time. While living overseas, mail-in voting allowed me to remain actively engaged as a citizen, just as it currently enables many young missionaries from my faith community and beloved members of the military who are stationed overseas to participate as active voters while serving abroad.

Locally, mail-in voting continues to support Utah women and families in practical, meaningful ways. As a married woman, the current system ensures that taking my husband's surname does not create unnecessary administrative obstacles to exercising my constitutional rights. I am especially grateful that I do not need to show a passport to vote simply because my Utah REAL ID does not directly indicate citizenship status. For working mothers like myself, especially those balancing professional responsibilities and childcare, having a ballot delivered directly to our

homes means we do not have to miss work, pay for babysitters, or unnecessarily juggle busy family schedules just to stand in line at a polling place.

Protecting the freedom and accessibility of our vote is essential for strong families and a healthy democracy. I am deeply grateful to Utah's election officials, especially Lt. Gov. Deidre Henderson, who has protected the vote for Utah missionaries, military service members, mothers, and women, and defended common-sense access that protects our ballots. This commitment to protecting our votes and access to the ballot safeguards Utah communities and strengthens our nation. I am ever grateful for the right to vote and for those who defend and protect my right to vote.

Sincerely,

Sherrie Gavin

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The only way to do great work is to love what you do."

— Steve Jobs



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

New Cedar City Cares Committee to Serve the Community

by **Mary Nelson**

CEDAR CITY PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

CEDAR CITY, UT – Cedar City is thrilled to announce the new Cedar City Cares Committee, passed by the City Council on Wednesday, which is dedicated to the beautification and cleanup of the community.

“The Cedar City Cares Committee will make a big impact in our community,” said Mayor Steve Nelson. “One thing we know about Cedar City is that we have a fantastic community of people that really care about where they live, and are passionate about making it better, and so we’re really excited to see what they do for our town.”

The Committee is charged with finding and completing service projects around Cedar City that contribute to a cleaner, safer, and more beautiful community. Projects by the committee will include removing graffiti, pulling weeds from public sidewalks, removing trash from roadsides, performing landscape work, and more.

This new initiative is in direct response to requests from members of the public for increased efforts to clean, beautify, and maintain various areas within the community. It is anticipated that the committee will complete one or two large projects a year, initially, with plenty of room for growth.

The effort will be managed by five board members and supported by local volunteers tasked with promoting the cleanliness and visual aesthetic of the City. The newly appointed board members include Pam Branin, Tim Marriot, Craig Corry, Cleave Weaver and City Councilman Phil Schmidt. The Committee will operate entirely through volunteer participation, allowing projects to be completed with minimal direct costs to the City.

Residents are encouraged to join the committee and contribute to this effort. Those interested in joining

the committee and participating in projects can learn more by contacting Anna Hernandez at hanna@cedarcityut.gov

Students can purchase exclusive \$20 tickets to the Utah Shakespeare Festival’s production of *Something Rotten!* from 8 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at the Randall L. Jones Theatre.

Friday, Sept. 25

Parents and alumni can take advantage of a 50% discount on tickets to the Utah Shakespeare Festival’s production of *She Loves Me!* from 2 p.m. to 4:40 p.m. at the Randall L. Jones Theatre.

In the evening, former student leaders gather for the SUUSA, NAC, and SAA Reunion at 6 p.m. in the Hunter Alumni Center.

Music lovers can enjoy the Eccles Music Center Grand Opening Encore Concert at 7 p.m. (tickets are free and can be picked up at SUMA Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.).

The entire Cedar City and campus community is invited to Forever RED on the Upper Quad Friday night from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. for a premier night of music, food, and celebration.

The night wraps up with the traditional True T-Bird Night from 11 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at the Founders Monument.

Saturday, Sept. 26

Saturday morning starts with a complimentary Homecoming Pancake Breakfast hosted from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. in the R. Haze Hunter Alumni Center parking lot. The iconic Homecoming Parade follows at 10 a.m. along University Boulevard.

Community members can explore the new music facilities during the Eccles Center Open House from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. A second 50% discounted matinee performance of *Something Rotten!* for parents and alumni will run from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Randall L. Jones Theatre.

The week concludes as Thunderbird fans gather at Eccles Coliseum to cheer on SUU Football during the Homecoming Football Game from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Find updates, campus maps, visiting information, and full Homecoming details at suu.edu.

Man sentenced to five years to life for rape of 15-year-old

by **Tracie Sullivan**

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

A 30-year-old man convicted of raping a 15-year-old girl was sentenced Wednesday to five years to life in the Utah State Prison.

Fifth District Judge Meb Anderson ordered Pedro Javier Zuniga Velasquez on Sept. 16 to begin serving the prison term immediately. Zuniga pleaded guilty Aug. 5 to one count of first-degree felony rape.

The court also ordered Zuniga to pay \$887.98 in restitution and issued a continuous protective order.

Zuniga was initially arrested Dec. 27 on one count of third-degree felony unlawful sexual activity with a minor. The Iron County Attorney’s Office said the charge was later amended to rape after investigators obtained additional evidence.

The investigation began Dec. 22, 2025, when Iron County sheriff’s deputies received a report that a 15-year-old girl had been raped months earlier and was pregnant as a result of the assault.

According to charging documents, the girl told investigators Zuniga grabbed her by the arm, pulled her onto a couch and raped her while covering her mouth and nose with his hand.

She said she struggled to breathe and began feeling dizzy before she was able to escape and lock herself in a bedroom.

During an interview at the Children’s Justice Center the following day, the girl reported she had

never had sex before the assault and experienced pain afterward.

Four days later, Zuniga admitted during a recorded conversation with the girl’s father that he was the father of the baby and took responsibility for the pregnancy, the affidavit states.

Deputies arrested Zuniga shortly after the conversation. During a subsequent interview at the Iron County Sheriff’s Office, Zuniga repeatedly responded that he did not know or did not remember and did not want to discuss the assault.

In requesting that Zuniga be held without bail, Iron County Sheriff’s Detective Tyrell Crofts wrote that Zuniga was living in the United States illegally and had no ties to the community.

see **MAN SENTENCED**» 9



CEDAR CITY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Annual Pumpkin Festival

Sponsored by

CEDAR VIEW
PEDIATRIC DENTIST

10 OCT 2026
10 AM - 3 PM

VENDORS NEEDED!

Contact Lexa at
events@cedarcitychamber.org

IRON COUNTY GOVERNMENT RECAPS

Cedar City Planning Commission Meeting Summary

by Iron County Today Staff
FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

Diamante Subdivision General Plan Amendment and Zone Change

The commission held a public hearing on two related requests for a roughly 1.9-acre lot at 226 North 3325 West. The requests would change the general plan designation from Central Commercial to Business and Light Manufacturing and the zoning from IN-M2 to IN-M1. The property owner plans to build commercial shell buildings with tenant spaces, and staff said the proposed zoning better fits commercial and light-industrial uses. The commission unanimously approved both requests.

South Mountain Area Zone Changes

The commission considered five zone changes covering roughly 170 acres in the South Mountain area, consistent with the previously approved Bower Meadows RDO. Discussion focused largely on traffic and a planned bypass road, targeted for 2028–2029, that would help divert through-traffic away from South Mountain Drive.

Public comments raised concerns about approving additional zoning before the road is built and the potential impacts of future development. Commissioners noted that zoning approval does not mean development will happen immediately and

that infrastructure has been planned for future growth. All five zone changes were approved.

Cedar City Council Work Meeting

by Iron County Today Staff
FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

Homeless Shelter Services and Mitigation Funding

The council received an annual report on homeless shelter services and state mitigation funding. The local shelter provided 45,000 meals last year and served 445 shelter clients in 2025. About 26% of clients were seniors, and domestic violence was reported as a leading cause of homelessness among women and families served.

Council discussion included where shelter users come from, security, and efforts to reduce impacts on surrounding neighborhoods. The FY27 mitigation allocation will support a case manager and contracted security services. Officials reported that police calls related to the shelter have dropped 42% since 2023.

The organization also outlined plans for a 12-bed micro-shelter project designed to better accommodate seniors and people with mobility limitations. A groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for October 22.

Cedar City Cares Committee Appointments

The council approved by consent the citizen appointments of Pam Brandon, Tim Marriott, Craig Corey, and Cleave Weaver to the newly created Cedar City Cares Committee, with Councilman Schmidt serving as the council liaison. It was noted the appointees were selected in part to represent the city's largest employers, Southern Utah University, the school district, and the hospital system.

Wastewater Truck Purchase

The wastewater treatment plant superintendent requested approval to purchase a new roll-off truck used to haul biosolids to the landfill, recommending a Cummins-engine model to standardize with the city's existing fleet and ensure local parts availability. The purchase came in under budgeted, with the retired truck reassigned to the street department. The item was placed on consent.

Budget Amendments and Fund Balance Policy

The council held a public hearing on FY26/27 budget amendments involving police and fire funding, water and storm drain projects, and a minor public works adjustment. No public comments were received, and the amendments moved to next week's action agenda.

A proposed reserve policy would set targets of 25% of general fund revenue, 50% of average annual capital expenditures for capital projects, and 180 days of operating expenses for enterprise funds. The council

requested that the mayor be included in recovery-plan discussions if reserves fall below the targets. Adoption is scheduled for next week.

Cody Drive and Legacy Way Four-Way Stop

A traffic study recommended a four-way stop at Cody Drive and Legacy Way due to limited sight distance and other safety concerns. Residents also reported near misses involving pedestrians, cyclists, and children traveling to a nearby middle school.

The council approved the four-way stop with crosswalk striping and requested police enforcement once it is installed.

Parowan City Council Meeting Summary

by Jennelle Zajac
FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

Action Agenda

Shade Tree Commission Appointments
- The council considered appointments to the Shade Tree Commission. They thanked Heidi Toia and Bryce Mineer for their service and appointed Jennelle Zajac and Brandon Allen to fill the vacancies.

Public Hearing for Main Street Vacation
- A date was set for a public hearing to consider vacating a portion of Main Street

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

related to a trade with Lance Shotwell. The proposed date for the public hearing is September 24, 2026. This action is a step in a multi-stage process that will create a road and access to the Parowan Foothills (see diagram).

Authorization to Execute Dedication Plat

The council authorized the Mayor to execute a dedication plat for parcel A-0033-0001-0000 at 100 North South Street. This is a crucial step after the city acquired the property for right-of-way establishment. The city owns the property and will be dedicating the road for public use.

Work Agenda: Reports and Updates

Council Member Burton commented on the success of the fair and inquired about the status of the water diversion and bridge projects. Council Member Dean reported on planning and zoning meetings, including annexation petitions and boundary adjustments, as well as attending an Economic Health and Development Committee meeting. Council Member Barton provided an update on the water diversion project, stating it was on track for completion within a couple of weeks. He also addressed complaints about willows obstructing visibility on 200 South and plans to have them trimmed. Council Member Harris discussed Airport Board concerns regarding the airport's future development and urged support for the kids' livestock show. The development of a new clinic, referred to as IH, was a significant topic. The construction of a new facility is seen as a major quality-of-life improvement, providing essential healthcare services to Parowan residents.

Residents are encouraged to attend City Council Meetings on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the Parowan City Council Chambers. Alternatively, the meetings can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/@parowancity2030>

MAN SENTENCED

« CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Prior to the incident, the Iron County Attorney's Office said Zuniga had previously been accused of rape in California and fled to Utah.

Iron County Attorney Trajan Evans praised the victim for her courage.

"The victim's courage in reporting this offense resulted in an extremely dangerous individual being sentenced to prison where he can no longer harm innocent victims," he said.

In a prepared statement, the Iron County Attorney's Office also credited Crofts, Deputy J. O'Mealey and the rest of the Iron County Sheriff's Office for an investigation that corroborated the girl's report.

"It is our office's hope that Mr. Zuniga is never released, as he's shown the propensity to commit these offenses," the statement said.

If and when Zuniga is released from prison, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement will place a detainer on him, the office said.

NTSB Finds Instructor Lost Control in Cedar City Helicopter Crash

by Iron County Today Staff

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

The National Transportation Safety Board has completed its investigation into a May 23 helicopter crash involving Southern Utah University's aviation program at Cedar City Regional Airport.

The Bell 206L helicopter was carrying a flight instructor and student during a training flight. Neither occupant was seriously injured in the crash.

According to the NTSB, the flight

see **NTSB** » 10

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NTSB

« CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

instructor lost control of the helicopter after reaching across to adjust the engine governor. The helicopter moved backward and descended, striking the ground before becoming airborne again and hitting the ground a second time.

The helicopter sustained significant damage, including separation of the tail boom and main rotor. Investigators reported finding no mechanical malfunctions or failures with the aircraft.



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Judge recuses from Cedar City road rage case after prosecutors raise impartiality concerns

by Tracie Sullivan

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

The judge who ruled that a Cedar City motorcyclist acted in self-defense during a 2024 road rage shooting has recused himself after prosecutors alleged his impartiality could reasonably be questioned.

Fifth District Judge Meb Anderson granted the state's formal motion to disqualify him Sept. 10 and requested that Presiding Judge Jay T. Winward assign the case to another judge.

Four days later, Winward assigned the case to himself for all further proceedings.

"Out of an abundance of caution and to preserve absolute public trust in the administration of justice, the State's Motion to Disqualify is granted and this Court will recuse, with this Court taking no further action in the case," Anderson wrote.

The order does not find that Anderson was biased or address the prosecution's allegations individually.

Prosecutors initially asked Anderson to voluntarily recuse himself during a private, in-chambers meeting July 21 attended by attorneys for both sides. Anderson declined.

The Iron County Attorney's Office filed its formal motion July 31, alleging several circumstances created an appearance of favoritism toward defendant Jason Bryan Stolworthy.

Among the concerns raised was Anderson's review of character letters submitted in support of Stolworthy's bail, including letters from an assistant dean at Southern Utah University and the dean's wife.

According to the state's motion, the assistant dean described Stolworthy as a close friend and neighbor and expressed the belief that Stolworthy would only

draw a firearm in self-defense.

Anderson previously worked in SUU's Office of Legal Affairs as an assistant attorney general. Prosecutors said Anderson acknowledged providing legal advice to the dean on more than one occasion and serving on a panel that interviewed the dean for a job.

The state argued the relationship among Anderson, the dean and Stolworthy created a conflict because the dean had expressed an opinion about the central issue Anderson later decided during the justification hearing.

Prosecutors also raised concerns that Anderson recognized several people in the courtroom who were there to support Stolworthy.

While Anderson denied that anyone had approached him about the case, prosecutors argued his familiarity with Stolworthy's supporters raised concerns. They argued some of those same people had contacted the county attorney's office to object to the prosecution.

The state also pointed to Anderson's decision to reduce Stolworthy's bail from \$200,000 to \$10,000 after dismissing four charges against him.

Although prosecutors acknowledged that a reduction could appear reasonable after the dismissal of the most serious charges, they said the bail issue was not formally before the court.

According to the motion, Stolworthy's former attorney had privately sought the state's agreement to reduce bail to that exact amount because the higher bail created a financial hardship.

A fourth concern involved what prosecutors characterized as an apparent friendship between Anderson's wife and Stolworthy's wife. Anderson disclosed that the two women had attended the same social gathering several years earlier, and prosecutors noted they were Facebook friends.

Finally, prosecutors alleged Anderson may not have fully reviewed the state's arguments opposing the defense motion to dismiss the remaining felony.

The state said Anderson repeatedly indicated that he had presided over Stolworthy's preliminary hearing, although Judge Matthew Wilcox had

conducted that proceeding.

"By continually representing that he presided over the preliminary hearing, the State does not believe that Judge Anderson has read, much less considered, the State's argument in response to the Defendant's motion," Iron County Trajan Evans wrote.

The prosecution's filing relied on Utah's Code of Judicial Conduct, which requires judges to disqualify themselves when their impartiality might reasonably be questioned. The state argued that the circumstances, considered together, created an appearance of favoritism.

The allegations arose in a criminal case that began after a June 12, 2024, confrontation between Stolworthy, who was riding a motorcycle, and Robert Mabbitt, who was driving a car.

The confrontation began near Main Street and Center Street and ended several miles away at the KB Express near Fiddlers Canyon Road. Mabbitt was shot in the upper chest and flown to St. George for treatment of injuries to his lung and ribs.

Stolworthy, 48, was charged with first-degree felony discharge of a firearm causing serious bodily injury, second-degree felony aggravated assault, second-degree felony obstruction of justice, two counts of reckless endangerment and reckless driving.

Following an April 2025 justification hearing, Anderson ruled in September 2025 that Stolworthy acted in lawful self-defense.

Anderson found Mabbitt was the aggressor and had punched Stolworthy through his helmet visor, breaking his nose and temporarily impairing his vision. The judge also found Mabbitt threatened to kill Stolworthy and charged at him as Stolworthy retreated.

The ruling resulted in the dismissal of the firearm and aggravated assault charges with prejudice and the two reckless endangerment charges without prejudice. A second-degree felony obstruction charge and a class B misdemeanor count of reckless driving remain pending.

Defense attorney Scott Garrett has asked the court to dismiss the obstruction charge with prejudice.

Your Musical Dreams Come True with Magic in Motion

by Amy Gold

ORCHESTRA OF SOUTHERN UTAH

Your musical dreams come true on October 1 as the Orchestra of Southern Utah presents Magic in Motion, an evening featuring beloved musical favorites inspired by timeless stories and popular films.

The season-opening concert will take place at the new SUU Music Building, the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Music Center, at the corner of 300 West and University Boulevard. Two shorter performances will be offered to accommodate audiences, with patrons able to choose between a 6 p.m. or 8 p.m. concert. Tickets are now available at myosu.org.

The concert opens with the iconic main theme from Star Wars, composed by John Williams for the epic space film series that began with George Lucas's 1977 film. Williams's unforgettable music has become synonymous with adventure, imagination, and some of cinema's most beloved stories.

From a galaxy far, far away, the orchestra travels to the magical world of Cinderella. OSU Music Director Carylee Zwang leads "A Dream Is a Wish Your Heart Makes," performed by Melissa Pack. Written for Disney's

1950 animated classic, the beloved song captures the hope and optimism at the heart of Cinderella's timeless story.

Tchaikovsky's "Sleeping Beauty Waltz" follows, capturing the romance and enchantment of another beloved fairy tale. The joyous music celebrates the return of a magical kingdom after it has fallen under the spell of an evil fairy.

The magic builds with Paul Dukas's The Sorcerer's Apprentice, made especially familiar to audiences through Disney's Fantasia. The music tells the story of a young apprentice whose attempts at magic quickly get out of hand. Inspired by a poem by Goethe, the story traveled from a German poem published in 1797 to Dukas's music in 1897 and eventually to Disney's beloved 1940 animated classic.

The performance continues with an energetic medley from Pirates of the Caribbean. The adventurous music, created by Klaus Badelt and Hans Zimmer for the 2003 Disney film, brings a swashbuckling spark to the concert.

Next, audiences enter the imaginative world of Alice in Wonderland through music by Danny Elfman. The music was written for Tim Burton's 2010 reimagining of Lewis Carroll's popular classic. These timeless stories continue to be reinterpreted because of their enduring connection with audiences of

all ages.

Justin Olsen then takes the stage for "Under the Sea," the lively favorite from Disney's The Little Mermaid. Hans Christian Andersen's 1837 fairy tale inspired the beloved film and musical, while Alan Menken's memorable music captures the spirit and adventure of the story.

The orchestra next performs Igor Stravinsky's The Firebird, which was featured in Disney's 2000 film Fantasia. OSU will perform the beautiful "Berceuse" and the rousing "Finale." The story of a magical bird and a prince became the basis for the renowned ballet, which premiered in 1910.

The enchantment continues with music from Beauty and the Beast, another beloved story brought to life through unforgettable music. The

evening then builds toward its conclusion with "Let It Go" from Disney's global sensation Frozen. Written by husband-and-wife songwriting team Robert Lopez and Kristen Anderson-Lopez, the song's soaring melodies will be performed by Kate Felt.

"Great stories continue to cast their magic through the years," said Harold Shirley, OSU President.

Join your orchestra for a magical evening of music on Oct. 1. All ages are welcome at the 6 p.m. concert. Because the 8 p.m. performance will be recorded, babies and children under six are not permitted.

"We are excited to bring you this magical music," said Carylee Zwang.



THE ORCHESTRA OF SOUTHERN UTAH

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TIMELESS ANIMATION MELODIES

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GEORGE S. AND DOLORES DORÉ ECCLES FOUNDATION

Utah Division of Arts & Museums

Celebrating the New SUU Music Center



by Carol Ann Modesitt

GUEST COLUMNIST AND FORMER PRESIDENT OF CCAC

My

husband and I moved from New Hampshire to Cedar City in 1993

when I was hired as an Assistant Professor at Southern Utah University in the Music Department. While Bart Shanklin, Music Department Chair was on sabbatical working on his doctorate and I was Interim Chair, I first heard that we were going to get a new music building. I spent weeks talking to architects and reading up on room

dimensions, etc. Then we were told that the Music Building had fallen way down on the legislators' list of needed buildings for colleges and universities in the state.

Well here we are thirty plus years later and we finally have a new Music Building, thanks to the help of President Mindy Benson, Former Dean Shauna Mendini, Associate Dean Keith Bradshaw, Dean of CPVA Michael Schmidt, Tiger Funk, Vice President of Operations, Lawrence Johnson, former



Music Department Chair, Adam Lambert, Current Music Chair, Senator Don L. Ipson, and countless more donors to the building and everyone who worked on the design and construction.

We moved into the Center this past May, and we are getting ready to have the celebration of our Grand Opening on September 24th and 25th.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place on the afternoon of September 24th at 4 pm. The concerts both evenings will have SUU instrumental and vocal students combining for the second movement of the Dvorak New

World Symphony, the last movement of the Beethoven Ninth Symphony featuring soloists, Jackie Riddle Jackson, Kristin Briggs, Dr. Lawrence Johnson, and Dr. Andrew Briggs. One of the highlights of the evening is a piece written especially for the occasion by Dr. Keith Bradshaw - a fitting celebration for a hard fought thirty year effort.

More information on the opening concerts and events is at <https://events.suu.edu/emc>. There will also be a public open house following the Homecoming Parade on Saturday, Sept. 26, from 11 am to 2 pm that will include music performances. The George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Music Center is located at the corner of 300 West University Blvd. (Center Street).



PHOTO COURTESY: UTAH SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

The Utah Shakespeare Festival Celebrates 65 Years

by May Hunter

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

Back in the early 1960s, Fred Adams had a dream of bringing Shakespeare to Cedar City, which at the time was home to more livestock than people. Adams, an assistant professor of theatre arts at what was then the College of Southern Utah, and his wife, Barbara, envisioned performing Shakespeare on the lawn with folding chairs for the audience. The idea was fueled by an estimated quarter-million summer tourists visiting the area's national parks and the desire to bring great theatre to southern Utah.

With the newly planned I-15 freeway threatening to draw travelers away from Cedar City's Main Street, Fred and city leaders were looking for ways to entice visitors to stop and stay. With the help of about 25 students and friends who volunteered to build scenery and sew costumes, Fred and Barbara's vision became a reality. The Utah Shakespeare Festival was founded in 1961 and presented its first season in 1962.

One day, while Fred and his girlfriend Barbara, who would later become his wife, were at the Fluffy

Bundle Laundromat, an idea was born: Why not start a Shakespeare festival?

Excited by the idea, Fred packed up his notes and headed to Ashland, Oregon, home of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. While there, he closely observed its operations and was befriended by its founder, Angus Bowmer, whom Adams interviewed extensively. Fred, Barbara, Barbara's mother Louise, and two CSU students also visited theaters in Canada and Connecticut. Somewhere along that long journey

see **65 YEARS** » 13



PHOTO COURTESY: UTAH SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

65 YEARS

« CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

back to Cedar City, the Utah Shakespearean Festival truly began to take shape.

Fred met with the Cedar City Council and Chamber of Commerce to share his idea for attracting visitors to Cedar City. The local Lions Club ultimately supported his plan with \$1,000 after Fred said he expected to earn the money back through ticket sales. For the first season, Adams chose *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Hamlet*, and *The Merchant of Venice*, performed by college students and townspeople on a makeshift outdoor stage. The volunteers also helped build the stage, props and costumes. The two-week season attracted 3,276 spectators and earned a \$2,000 profit, enough to ensure there would be a second season. Sixty-five years after those first sparks of inspiration, Fred's dream has blossomed into a Tony Award-winning cultural institution that welcomes more than 100,000 theatergoers each year.

Barbara also played an important role in shaping the Festival, creating the nightly Greenshow with

music, dancing and a Punch and Judy puppet show. LaVere Whetten oversaw the dancing while Barbara directed the music. To help spread the word about the new Festival, a group Barbara taught to play recorders performed medieval music downtown and invited people to attend that evening. The Greenshow was an instant success, and Barbara continued helping it grow and improve for many years.

Fred knew he could not fulfill his dream alone, so he reached out to his community. With a little persuasion, the community embraced what would eventually become the Utah Shakespeare Festival.

Today, Fred's spirit continues to guide and inspire the Festival. To him, no one was a stranger. When he greeted visitors on the Greenshow lawn, he welcomed them into the Festival community and made everyone feel valued.

The Utah Shakespeare Festival remains a gathering place for connection and shared ideas. Over the decades, it has built a powerful legacy of unforgettable theatrical experiences that stay with audiences for a lifetime. The Tony Award-winning Festival has helped transform southern Utah into a

premier destination for world-class theatre, community, and artistic excellence.

Fred C. Adams constantly searched for opportunities to make a difference. The 1960s proved to be the perfect decade for Fred and his dream. He represented change, positive change, good change, kind and thoughtful change. Fred always looked up, reached higher, and dreamed bigger, believing that theatre could elevate the world. He believed it had the power to make people smile, feel included, and become inspired.

People made Fred truly happy, and perhaps that is part of what made him the "force of nature" he was. As R. Scott Phillips, former executive director of USF, described Fred as "a collector of people."

One of William Shakespeare's most famous lines seems especially fitting for the remarkable legacy Fred and Barbara began all those years ago:

"All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players."

—William Shakespeare, *As You Like It*



PHOTO COURTESY: UTAH SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL



PHOTO COURTESY: UTAH SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

"It has been an incredible season celebrating both the 65th anniversary of the Festival and the 10th anniversary of the Beverley Taylor Sorenson Center for the Arts. I am so grateful for Fred and Barbara Adams, who conceived, created, cultivated and shared the dream that became the reality of the Utah Shakespeare Festival." - Michael Bahr



Why do we have FALL?

by May Hunter

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

Fall arrives because Earth is tilted on its axis as it travels around the sun. That tilt changes both the angle and the amount of sunlight each hemisphere receives throughout the year.

Earth's Tilt and Orbit

- The tilt: Earth does not stand straight up and down. Its axis tilts at an angle of about 23.5 degrees.
- The journey: As Earth orbits the sun, different parts of the planet receive different amounts of direct sunlight.
- The equinox: In the Northern Hemisphere, fall officially begins with the autumnal equinox, usually around September 22 or 23. On this day, the sun crosses the celestial equator, and day and night are nearly equal in length.

Changes During Fall

- Less sunlight: After the equinox, the days grow shorter and the nights become longer.
- Cooler air: Less direct sunlight causes temperatures to drop.
- Changing colors: Trees respond to shorter days and cooler temperatures by slowing food production. As green

chlorophyll fades, the yellow and orange pigments that were present all along become visible. Some trees also produce brilliant red and purple pigments.

Why Leaves Fall

- Seasonal signals: Shorter daylight hours and cooler temperatures signal that winter is approaching.
- Saving energy: Making food is no longer efficient, so the tree begins shutting down its leaf 'food factories.'
- Restoring nutrients: The tree draws valuable nutrients from its leaves back into its twigs and trunk, where they are stored for winter.
- Shedding leaves: A special layer of cells forms at the base of each leaf stem, gradually cutting off water and allowing the leaf to drop safely.

What Makes Fall Colors Brighter or Duller?

Sunny days and cool, frost-free nights often produce the brightest fall colors. Hard frosts, prolonged cloudy weather, drought, or unusually warm temperatures can make the display shorter or duller.

Sunny Days:

- Bright colors: Sunlight allows leaves to continue producing sugars through the last stages of

photosynthesis.

- Red and purple hues: When sugars become trapped in the leaves, they can support the production of vivid red and purple pigments called anthocyanins.

Cool Nights - Above Freezing:

- Sugar retention: Crisp nighttime temperatures slow the movement of sugars out of the leaves.
- Pigment development: Those trapped sugars help brilliant reds and purples develop before the green chlorophyll disappears completely.

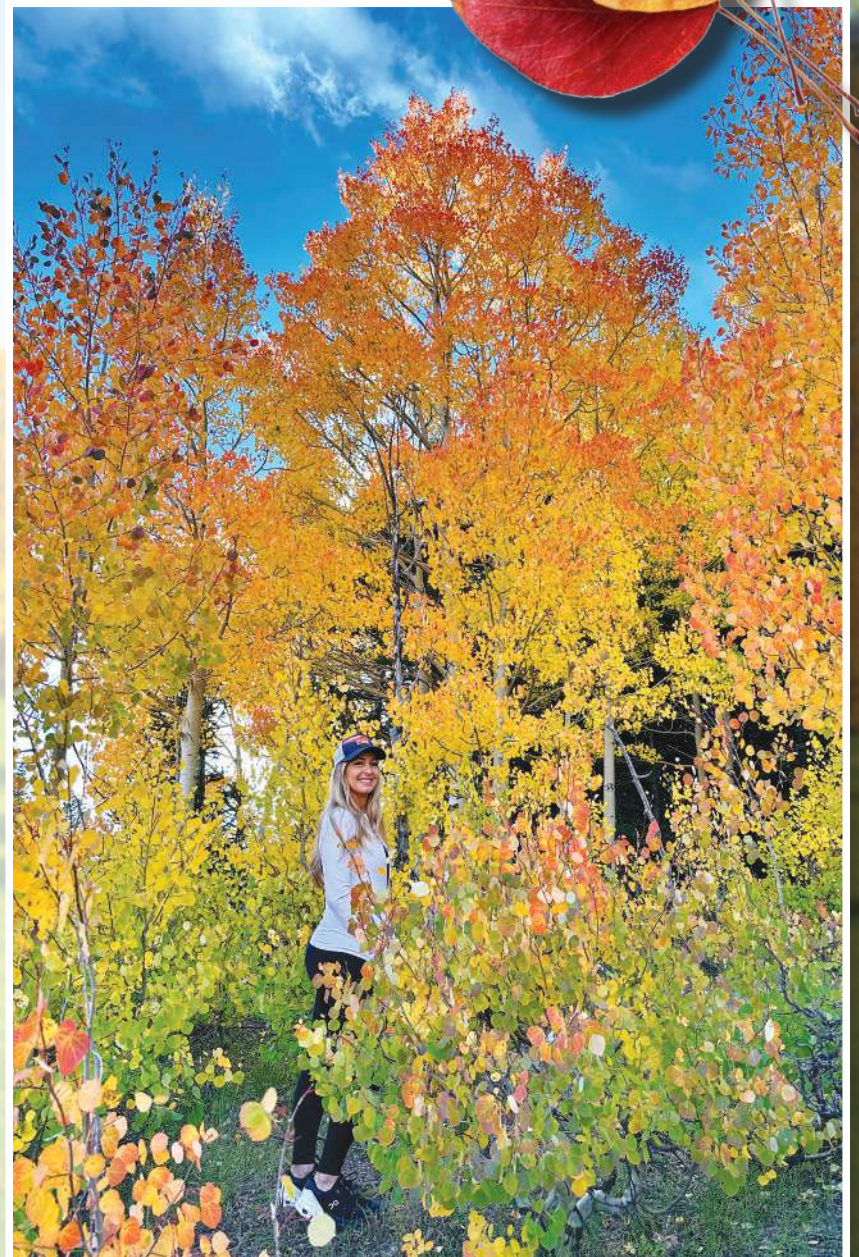
The Beauty of Fall

Fall is widely considered one of the most beautiful seasons because of its dramatic foliage, comfortable weather, and rich sensory experiences. It brings a familiar back-to-school energy that can inspire renewal, focus, and new goals.

Warm beverages, apple picking, and holiday such as Halloween and Thanksgiving add a comforting sense of nostalgia. Fall also offers a welcome balance between summer's heavy heat and winter's bitter cold.

"Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall."

- F. Scott Fitzgerald



SUU Announces Homecoming 2026 Activities Sept. 21-26

by **Brooke Heath**

SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY

Southern Utah University (SUU) alumni, students, faculty, staff, and community members are invited to celebrate Homecoming 2026 during a week full of Thunderbird pride and tradition from Sept. 21 - 26.

Monday, Sept. 21

Homecoming week kicks off with free food and activities from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Library Quad.

Later that evening at 7 p.m., the community is invited back to the Library Quad for an Outdoor Movie & Car Show.

Tuesday, Sept. 22

The next day, spirit and service take center stage: students and community members can participate in the Homecoming Service Event from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the Sharwan Smith Student Center Living Room.

Later that evening, taste flavors from around the globe at the World Grand Prix International Food Fair from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Sharwan Smith Student Center Ballroom and Rotunda,

followed by the Battle of the Bands on the Upper Quad at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 23

Get creative from 4 - 7 p.m. at the Southern Utah Museum of Art (SUMA)

with Art Garage: Create a Keychain.

The evening concludes at Eccles Coliseum with the energetic Pep Rally & Powder Puff Football Game from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 24

Thursday marks a historic day for campus arts with the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Music Center Ribbon Cutting from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Grand Opening Concert will take place from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. as part of the Music Masterworks Series 2026-27 (tickets are free and can be picked up at SUMA Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.).

The annual Alumni Awards Banquet that evening will recognize three distinguished alumni for their professional accomplishments and exemplary service to SUU and their communities:

Outstanding Alumnus award recipient Eric Houle elevated SUU to national prominence during his 34-year tenure coaching Thunderbird track, field, and cross country, securing 47 team conference championships and two individual NCAA National Championships.

Distinguished Service award honoree Rich Christiansen, a prolific global entrepreneur and former SUU board chair, has dedicated decades to advancing the university's growth alongside his

successful business and educational endeavors.

Young Alumnus award recipient Janese Pentico transformed her SUU music education foundation into an acclaimed operatic career, performing in 12 languages with major symphonies while educating audiences across the country.

Students can purchase exclusive \$20 tickets to the Utah Shakespeare Festival's production of *Something Rotten!* from 8 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at the Randall L. Jones Theatre.

Friday, Sept. 25

Parents and alumni can take advantage of a 50% discount on tickets to the Utah Shakespeare Festival's production of *She Loves Me!* from 2 p.m. to 4:40 p.m. at the Randall L. Jones Theatre.

In the evening, former student leaders gather for the SUUSA, NAC, and SAA Reunion at 6 p.m. in the Hunter Alumni Center.

Music lovers can enjoy the Eccles Music Center Grand Opening Encore Concert at 7 p.m. (tickets are free and can be picked up at SUMA Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.).

The entire Cedar City and campus community is invited to Forever RED on the Upper Quad Friday night from



7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. for a premier night of music, food, and celebration.

The night wraps up with the traditional True T-Bird Night from 11 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at the Founders Monument.

Saturday, Sept. 26

Saturday morning starts with a complimentary Homecoming Pancake Breakfast hosted from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. in the R. Haze Hunter Alumni Center parking lot. The iconic Homecoming Parade follows at 10 a.m. along University Boulevard.

Community members can explore the new music facilities during the Eccles Center Open House from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. A second 50% discounted matinee performance of *Something Rotten!* for parents and alumni will run from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Randall L. Jones Theatre.

The week concludes as Thunderbird fans gather at Eccles Coliseum to cheer on SUU Football during the Homecoming Football Game from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

More Information

Find updates, campus maps, visiting information, and full Homecoming details at suu.edu.



SUU Mechanical Engineering Student Transforms Classroom Knowledge into Real-World Impact at Valar Atomics

by Brooke Heath

SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY

Southern Utah University (SUU)

mechanical engineering student Calvin Hadley spent his summer putting classroom lessons to work in the fast-growing energy sector through a hands-on internship with Valar Atomics. Working at the Utah San Rafael Energy Lab in Orangeville, Utah, Hadley helped advance clean energy technology while building the practical skills needed for a successful engineering career.

Valar Atomics is working to make reliable, affordable nuclear energy more accessible for high-demand industries like manufacturing, fuel production, and data infrastructure. Unlike traditional reactors that rely on

water, Valar uses helium gas to cool its high-temperature systems. The company reached a major milestone this June when its test reactor achieved criticality - making it the first Department of Energy-authorized reactor built outside the national laboratory system.

For Hadley, a New Harmony, Utah native and Cedar High School graduate, the experience connected the dots between university coursework and real-world problem solving.

"At SUU, I learned the terminology, theories, and concepts, but at Valar I was able to see what those ideas look like when you actually apply them to solve a problem," Hadley said. "The experience helped me realize how much my coursework has prepared me. I'm excited to come back and finish my degree with a better understanding of why what we're learning in the classroom matters."

Hadley found that foundational courses in Thermodynamics and Fluid Mechanics directly applied to this

experience. The internship highlights the core purpose of higher education: giving students the space to learn essential concepts in the classroom, then connecting them directly with industry leaders where they can put those skills to work.

Personal mentorship at SUU played a key role in preparing Hadley for the opportunity. As he begins his final year, he is working on his senior capstone project alongside his faculty mentor, Dr. Ali Siahpush.

As part of his capstone project, Calvin and three other students will collaborate with a local industry partner, IPS, to design, construct, and test a real-world hydraulic pump system. Through this project, the students will experimentally evaluate energy losses associated with various system components and characterize pump performance. The project gives them valuable hands-on experience in system design, instrumentation, experimental testing, data analysis, and collaboration with practicing engineers.

"Calvin's experience with Valar Atomics highlights the value of combining personal faculty support

with practical, career-focused learning," said Dr. Siahpush. "When students see how the fundamental concepts they learn in the classroom can be applied to solve real-world engineering problems, it can transform their approach to education and strengthen their preparation for professional practice. We are proud to support Calvin as he completes his capstone project and prepares for a rewarding career in engineering."

Following graduation, Hadley plans to turn his student momentum into a lasting career, with hopes to return to Valar Atomics full time.

SUU's mechanical engineering program prepares graduates for high-demand careers in aerospace, manufacturing, and energy. Visit SUU's mechanical engineering program to learn more about the hands-on learning opportunities.



SUU Student Calvin Hadley



SEPTEMBER IS **HEALTHY AGING MONTH**

HEALTHY AGING STARTS WITH YOUR BRAIN.

And your **hearing** may play a **bigger role** than you think.



You check your blood pressure.



You watch your cholesterol.



You stay active to protect your heart.

But when was the last time you checked your **hearing** and **brain Health**?

YOUR SCREENING CAN HELP YOU BETTER UNDERSTAND:



How well you're hearing right now



Whether you may be missing important sounds



How hearing challenges may be affecting everyday communication



What steps you can take to support healthier aging

Hearing  Brain

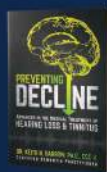
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calendar

WED, SEPT 23

IRON COUNTY CARE & SHARE'S LUCKY 14 ANNUAL
Charity Golf Tournament
Cedar Ridge Golf Course-Cedar City
Registration 12:00 p.m.
Shot Gun Time: 1:00 p.m.
Contact Jeanette Bustos (435) 708-0509 or by email
jeanetteb@careandshare-ut.org

THURS, SEPT 24

SUU SUCCESS ACADEMY HOSTS TEEN SCIENCE
CAFE (6-7:30PM) focused on Baja Race Engineering.
All Iron County teens are invited to learn from SUU
Baja Racing Engineering Club. The event will be held
in SUU Engineering & Technology building room 106.

NEIGHBORHOOD SLOW ROLL IS HELD FROM 6:00
pm to 8:00 pm at Iron Springs Elementary (235 N
4050 W, Cedar City). Everyone is invited to bring a
bike, scooter, or anything with wheels and join for
a ride! This is a FREE event and everyone is invited
to attend! Information is available on Facebook /
CedarCitySlowRolls.

KANARRA SCARE PUMPKIN PATCH AND SCARY
Maze/Haunted House held at Frisby Farms Utah
(Kanarrville). Admission is \$10. Enjoy spooktacular
activities every Thursday through Sunday throughout
October! Join for thrilling spooky activities including
Pick your Pumpkin, Pumpkin Carving, Explore
the spooky indoor outdoor maze, Potion making
Apothecary, Pumpkin chuckin', Photo shoot opportu-
nities, and more! More details online at frisby-farms.
com. *when searching for them just type in "Frisby
Farms" in Kanarrville and it will take you right to
them. They are located just south of Kanarrville
right off Old Hwy 91. Look for the GIANT pumpkin!

SUU MUSIC CENTER GRAND OPENING CONCERT
SUU George S and Dolores Dore Eccles Music Center
Grand Opening Concert held at 8:00 pm held at
the Eccles Music Center (NW corner of 300 W and
University Blvd, Cedar City). In celebration of the
Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening of the George S.
and Dolores Doré Eccles Music Center at SUU, the
Department of Music will open the 2026-27 Music
Masterworks Series with a Grand Opening Concert
featuring multiple ensembles, alumni, faculty, stu-
dents, and community on September 24, 2026. This
concert will be FREE and open to all, however tickets
are required. Tickets will be available for pickup at
Southern Utah Museum of Art

FRI, SEPT 25

FINAL FRIDAY ART WALK (5-8PM) FREE AND OPEN
TO everyone and is held the last Friday of the month.
At various locations along Center St / University Blvd
and 100 W (from about Main St to 300 W along
University Blvd). Visit with artists, see beautiful art
pieces made using a variety of mediums, and maybe
purchase a new piece to add to your collection.
Listen to live music. For more information, visit them
on Facebook: /CedarCityWalks or /CedarCityArts.

SAT, SEPT 26

P.E.O WALK TODAY FOR WOMEN TOMORROW
(9AM) At Hollow Waking Trail near Silver Silo. Sign
up at 8:30am. For more information contact: 435-238-
5799. Registration is free!

LABYRINTH WALK (12-2PM) AT ST. JUDE'S
Episcopal Church. (70 N 200 W) No Charge. Please
join us in a sacred, calm environment for walking
meditation and prayer on the largest indoor labyrinth
in the state of Utah. Come experience this powerful
practice used for centuries to unite body, mind
and spirit. No experience required; facilitators are
present. Last Saturday of each month.

ANNUAL ERIK GRAY CHALLENGE 5K, 1 MILE, AND
kids race beginning at the Southview Trailhead (S
Shurtz Canyon Dr, Cedar City) with Races starting
at 9 am - kids race & virtual 5K, 9:15 am - 5k, and
9:30 am - 1 mile. Registration and information is
available at runsignup.com. All proceeds will go
to a Cedar City local and their battle with cancer.
Additional information is available on Facebook: /
theerikgraychallenge.

SUU HOMECOMING FEVER RED HELD FROM 7:30
pm to 11:30 pm on the Southern Utah University
Upper Quad (351 W University Blvd, Cedar City). Get
your kicks at Forever RED! A beloved SUU tradition
since its debut in 2011. Now celebrating its 16th anni-
versary, this electric night brings together alumni,
students, and community members to celebrate
SUU and the connection we share as Thunderbirds.
Held on the scenic Upper Quad, the evening features
live music from Broken Road: a Tribute to Rascal
Flatts, food trucks, scholarship giveaways for current
students, and much more. The night concludes with
a neon drone show so spectacular you won't want to
miss. This event is free and open to all, so bring your
dancing shoes, your T-Bird pride, and be part of this
celebration on Route SUU.

ROBISON FAMILY PUMPKIN PATCH IS OPEN
Monday - Friday from 3:00 pm - 8:00 pm and
Saturday from 9:00 am - 8:00 pm at the Robinson
Family Pumpkin Patch (1680 W Industrial Rd, Cedar
City). Open until all the pumpkins are gone. For
information call (435) 691-5014.

SUN, SEPT 27

FAITH, FAMILY, & FREEDOM: A NIGHT OF SONGS,
STORIES, & CELEBRATION (5-7PM) at Cedar Fun Center
(170 E Fiddlers Canyon Rd, Cedar City). Doors open at
5 pm at the program will begin at 5:30 pm. Join the
Forge Center for the Arts for a relaxed evening where
families, friends, and neighbors can come together
to enjoy local performers, discover hidden talents,
share meaningful stories, and celebrate the values
that bring everyone together.

MON, SEPT 28

MESSIANIC DANCE WORKSHOP(4-5:30PM), CEDAR

City Library, West Room, 303 N 100 E. Come and learn
ancient Judeo-Christian dances, fun and easy. No
cost. For more info call: 702-460-2317

TUES, SEPT 29

FREE WORKSHOPS FOR ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES
(1-2PM) "ARTSpore" Exposure to the ARTS, including
Fine Arts, Music, Dance, & Outdoor Art Experiences.
1 - 2 p.m. Lighthouse Art & Learning Center (between
Sweet Basil & Subway). Questions? Call Jill Spatafore
702-917-2151

THURS, OCT 1

ORCHESTRA OF SOUTHERN UTAH PRESENTS MAGIC
IN MOTION Timeless Animation Melodies two
performances at Heritage Center Theater (105 N 100
E, Cedar City), 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm, admission is
\$18 for adults and \$13 for students & Seniors. Open
the season with a program of drama, color, and
energy. Featuring Tchaikovsky's Sleeping Beauty and
Stravinsky's Firebird, alongside themes from Pirates
of the Caribbean and Star Wars. Information and
tickets are available at www.myosu.org.

JUDD PUMPKIN PATCH IS OPEN MONDAY
- Saturday 9:00 am - 7:00 pm at the Judd Pumpkin
Patch (314 E 270 N, Paragonah). Open until all the
pumpkins are gone or, October 28. There are no
entrance fees and the Farm Animal Zoo is also free,
Wagon Rides are \$3 per person and Barrel Train
Rides are \$2 per person. (3 yrs and younger are free)
Pick your own pumpkin right off the vine, enjoy a
wagon ride and pet some fun farm animals. For
information call (435) 477-9783

FRONTIER HOMESTEAD: HAUNTED HOMESTEAD
held at 6:00 pm at the Frontier Homestead (635 N
Main St, Cedar City). Join the Frontier Homestead

for Cemetery tours, Guest Speakers, and Halloween
Activities. Each Thursday will be something
different, so be sure to check their Facebook: Frontier
Homestead page for details and updates. General
museum admission is \$4 per person. Donations
appreciated. For information call (435) 586-9290. *A
free self-guided cemetery tour is available all month.

FRI, OCT 2

CEDAR ROCK & GEM SHOW (10AM-7PM) FREE
admission! Experience one of southern Utah's most
exciting mineral, jewelry, and rockhound events.
Visitors will find sparkling minerals, handcrafted
jewelry, unique gifts, fascinating demonstrations,
family-friendly activities, silent auctions, door prizes,
and plenty of opportunities to learn something new.
Come explore new treasures, meet knowledgeable
vendors, enjoy free kids' activities, watch cabbings
demonstrations, take part in mineralogical lessons,
and celebrate the beauty of the natural world.
October 2-4 at the Diamond Z Arena, 11 S Cross
Hollows Dr, Cedar City, Utah. Hours: October 2-3 from
10am to 7pm, October 4 from 10am to 5pm.

SAT, OCT 3

CANYON CREEK SERVICES TO HOST ONCE UPON A
GALA (6-9PM) at Heather Hill Farm and Gardens.
Guests are invited to dress formally, enjoy an eve-
ning out, and be part of the next chapter of Canyon
Creek Services' story to ensure that our vital services
can continue for years to come. Tickets are available
now for \$60 per person and include dinner. They can
be purchased at <https://canyoncreek.givesmart.com>,
www.canyoncreekservices.org. All proceeds from this
event will go directly to Canyon Creek Services to aid
in their work providing safety, advocacy, education,
and support to survivors across Iron, Beaver, and
Garfield Counties.



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calendar

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

GOVERNMENT

Brian Head Council

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

Cedar City Council

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

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.ironcountyrepublicanwomen.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. For information content Scotty, Post Adjutant, at (435) 590-3072 or hidesertdog@gmail.com

Bikers Against Child Abuse

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

Cedar Area Inter-Faith Alliance (CAIFA)

3rd Tues 10:30am @ Cedar Library, West room. Help us plan and organize fundraising projects and quarterly community events. (No meet Jul, Nov, Dec)

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

6-7pm • 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 KKCB 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 • (925) 508-9058

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

Alzheimer's/Dementia

Every 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

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

Holding Out HELP

Holding Out HELP provides those from a polygamous culture the care, support, and resources to become independent and self-sufficient (Cedar City and surrounding areas). Please call: 801.548.3492.

Multiple Sclerosis

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

Nicotine Anon (12-Step)

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

OARS - Open Authentic Relevant Spiritual:

Are you between the ages of 18-36? Are you hungry for some FREE dinner? Are you looking for a spiritual community where you will be totally accepted just like you are? Are you looking for a Safe Space where you can work out issues of faith and life? Would you like to be with a group where ALL questions are more than welcome? Where all perspectives are respected? Are you interested in Christian faith and spirituality, but not thrilled about rules or doctrine or being judged? If you have answered yes, join us on Tuesdays 6 pm at the Cedar City Library (by Main Street Park) beginning September 15, 2026. Questions? Contact pastorschuyler@gmail.com or pastorrobbyn@cedarpres.org.

Workshops for Adults with Disabilities.

Every other Tuesday 1-2. Call Jill for more info. 702-917-2151

Porn Addiction Recovery

Men Only • Thurs, 7:30pm • Canyon View semi-

nary building (54 W 1925 N). North entrance.

Pregnancy, Infant Loss

1st Thurs, 7:00 pm • Share Families of So. Utah • 565 N Main Street, Ste. 6, Cedar • www.southernutahshare.com

Reel Mental Health

A fun interactive support group focused on your mental health and well-being, available online <https://www.facebook.com/groups/925451652789177/?ref=share&mibextid=NSMWBT>

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 City Farmers Market

(9am-1pm) on the north end of Cedar City, Design & Flooring parking lot (2232 N Main St, Cedar City). Admission is FREE. Come for the farmers, food, and artisans, as well as drawings, bingo, and more! For information, visit them on Facebook, Cedar Saturday Market, or call Nancy (435) 463-3735.

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 8 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

welcome all religious backgrounds, agnostics, and atheists. 3rd Sundays at 11 am. 5101 W 1125 S, Cedar City. Leave a message or call Valerie Whitaker if interested at 435-704-4262.

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

The Lunch & Learn

is every Monday at 11 AM at Brody's Mexican Restaurant, and attendees will make a free roller bottle of essential oils, learn about natural solutions for healthspan and enjoy a free lunch of 2 street tacos or an enchilada with rice & beans.

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/SmGytgCfvQ1tS2pB7

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, PV: health, Info: Kristi Sharp (435) 986-2564, ksharp@swuhealth.org

Workshops for Adults with Disabilities

Every other Tuesday 1-2. Call Jill for more info. 702-917-2151

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.

Zumba with Steff at Retro Fitness 929

S Main St, Cedar City, Tuesday at 9 AM. Membership or drop-in fee. Fun and easier to follow.

schools

Three Peaks welcomes Olympic-value focus

by Shauna Lund

IRON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

It was a special day at Three Peaks Elementary as the school hosted one of seven opening ceremonies for the launch of the 2034 Champion Schools program.

Sporting T-shirts symbolizing the colors of the Olympic rings, students paraded with their grade through the gymnasium and out onto the playground. There they placed banners representing core values of friendship, respect, gratitude, curiosity, excellence, integrity and teamwork.

The Champion Schools 34 program was developed with the Utah 2034 Organizing Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. It is an extension of the Ken Garff for Good Literacy Initiative. Torchbearer Amy Garff encouraged students to attend school, read every day and live the Olympic values.

Principal Ike Spencer said the students will work through lesson plans, literacy programs and more

as the state gets ready for the Olympics.

Speedskater Julie Letai, who competed in the 2022 and 2026 Olympic Winter Games, spoke to students about the many years of preparation that went into her becoming an Olympian.

"You bring out the best in the people around you when you are trying your best," Letai said about the value of teamwork.

"Every time you show up is doing a favor to yourself and your future self."

Three Peaks is one of 72 schools launching the pilot program.



NEWS FROM THE NEST

by Madison Meredith

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

Homecoming was a huge success this past week! The Falcons had the best time celebrating with so many fun activities throughout the whole week! Starting off on Monday with the Mr. CV pageant.

The winner was Sean Cannon. Sean's talent was singing, playing guitar, and the harmonica all at the same time! Clearly, he wowed the judges. Not only did he earn the title of Mr. CV, he also won a free ticket to Homecoming as well.

The 1st attendant was Cole Pace who played the piano, 2nd attendant was Chandler Crawford who sang, and the fan favorite was Tret Howe who wowed the crowd with his singing and piano skills. This was such a fun way to get involved and one of the favorite events of the school year.

On Wednesday, the seniors came out on top at the powderpuff game against the juniors fair and square. The juniors scored the first touchdown of the game and almost won it all, but the seniors pulled through in the last minutes of the game! And finally, the Homecoming king and queen were crowned during Friday night's football game. With that being said, this year's homecoming queen is Ellie Barrick and the king is Bryson Barnes. They shared a slow dance on Saturday at the dance. Congratulations to them and everyone else who was on homecoming royalty.



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Clearing clogs and keeping your drains flowing.
-  **WATER HEATER SERVICE & REPLACEMENT**
Repair, maintenance, and new water heater installs.
-  **BOILER SERVICES**
Boiler installation, repair, maintenance, and replacement.
-  **PIPE REPAIRS & REPLACEMENT**
Fixing leaks, corrosion, and broken pipes.
-  **WATER LINE REPAIRS**
Repairing damaged or leaking water lines.
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schools

IRON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS NUGGETS

by Colby Leavitt

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

South Elementary

On September 11, the second graders honored the heroes who showed courage, strength, and selflessness on one of the most significant days in our nation's history. Through songs, poems, and heartfelt

performances, the students reminded us of the importance of remembering and honoring those who serve and protect others. Their program was a beautiful tribute to the heroes of September 11th and to the many heroes who continue to serve our country today.

Escalante Valley Elementary

Thanks to the SUU STEM Center, we hosted our annual Title 1 S.T.E.A.M. With the theme being "Out of This World" families left with an experience that was just that! Students participated in art activities, interacted with animals, built rockets to launch, discovered how old they were on other planets, and designed flying saucers. Our school is extremely grateful for the time and effort the SUU STEM Center put into making the evening a huge success.

Fiddlers Canyon Elementary

Fiddlers Canyon Elementary had a nice program on 9/11 that included a flyover by SUU aviation, previous students speaking about those who had birthdays that day, and singing. The kids were very respectful and helped to make it a nice memorial.

Canyon View Middle School

Students at CVMS were given the opportunity to hear from Sandy Zimmerman. Sandy is the first mom to earn a buzzer on American Ninja Warrior. She shared valuable life lessons with the students about persevering through challenges and continuing to work hard to achieve their goals.

Three Peaks Elementary

We had the opportunity to participate in a special event celebrating the importance of reading and the future 2034 Utah

Olympics. Principal Spencer spoke to the kids about the importance of setting goals, working hard, and making the most of every opportunity. We had two guest speakers, Amy Garff, Chairperson of Ken Garff Education, and Julie Letai, an Olympian. They shared their experiences and talked about perseverance and achieving goals. The kids learned that accomplishing great things takes hard work, that everyone falls down sometimes, and that what matters is getting back up and trying again.

Enoch Elementary

The Museum of Contemporary Art traveling exhibit bus from Salt Lake City came to visit this week. Students explored currency and they were able to create their own individual currency. Each child who attended enjoyed designing their own personal work of art. Our administration had the opportunity to present our school goals for the year to the Iron County School Board. Perfecting and honing teaching practices and improving overall attendance are our main focus this year as a whole school.



MONTHLY MENTAL HEALTH COLUMN

VOL. 6

MEET THIS MONTH'S CLINICIAN!

DARIAN HALL

Associate Marriage and Family Therapist (AMFT)

Specializing in relationships, trauma, personality disorders, and more.

Darian works with couples, families, individuals, and more.

His approach is EFT, ACT, DBT, and more



WELCOME TO ROOTS COUNSELING & WELLNESS

Hello, my name is Darian Hall, and I am an Associate Marriage and Family Therapist (AMFT) here at Roots Counseling & Wellness. I have been at Roots Counseling since 2023, where I joined the Roots team as an undergraduate student doing my internship, helping run group therapy sessions. I returned to do my graduate internship at Roots Counseling and have stayed here ever since.

My approach to therapy will always start with connecting with you and everyone else in the therapy room. This means I want to understand who you are as a person, not just as a client, but what makes you, you. My most important goal in therapy is for you to first feel like therapy is truly a safe space where you can feel and be secure and understood enough to be honest with how you're feeling.

I believe change is going to be a process that looks different for everyone, but can be achieved by everyone. With this, while therapy helps us change, change is ultimately going to come from within each person themselves. This change can sometimes be hard or uncomfortable to go through. I want to help people understand, process, and tap into their own strengths and qualities needed for this change.

Sometimes we do not know our own strengths, qualities, values, and unique aspects of ourselves that make us who we are. We also, at times, aren't aware of our behaviors, how they affect those around us, where these behaviors come from, or why we even do them. If we do not know these things, change will be a lot harder. I believe my role as a therapist is to simply "move things out of the way" or to "point things out," while the client actually does what is needed to create the change.

Feeling seen and understood is essential to emotional well-being.

"The real issue isn't the problem itself; it is the ways we try to cope with it."

-Darian H.

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schools

Utah Higher Education Prepares for the Demographic Dip

Research brief examines Utah's approaching college-age population decline and opportunities to strengthen higher education for the future

by Nick Thiriot

KEM C. GARDNER POLICY INSTITUTE

Projected declines in Utah's 18- to 24-year-old population prompt

action from Utah's higher education leadership. Demographic shifts have begun to reshape the age structure of the state's population, bringing a larger share of older residents, smaller shares of children and young adults, and significant implications for Utah's economy, workforce and public institutions. A new research series from the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute examines the far-reaching consequences of these shifts. The newest brief in the series released today focuses on higher education and examines how a shrinking college-age population could affect Utah's colleges and universities while also identifying options to strengthen future opportunities.

"Utah's demographic landscape is changing," said Heidi Prior, senior public policy analyst at the Gardner Institute and lead author of the brief. "The approaching decline in college-age residents reflects a broader shift in Utah's age structure, with important implications for higher education."

"Understanding the timing and scale of these changes gives policymakers and institutional leaders time to prepare and think strategically about the future of higher education," added Andrea Brandley, senior education analyst. "Approaching this transition as a statewide system—not simply institution by institution—can help Utah expand educational opportunity, improve student success, and better meet evolving workforce needs."

Key findings from the research include the following:

Utah's college-age population will decline for nearly two decades – Utah's population ages 18 to 24 is projected to peak around 2028 before declining by roughly 85,000 residents, or 17.9%, through 2047. The latest projections show the decline beginning somewhat earlier and lasting longer than previously

projected, with 28 of Utah's 29 counties expected to experience a decline.

Enrollment challenges extend beyond demographic change – Utah's college-going rate remains well below its historical high, while public confidence in the value and direction of higher education presents an additional challenge. If these trends continue, they could further constrain enrollment beyond the effects of population decline.

Impacts will vary across institutions – Colleges and universities serving larger shares of traditional-age students may face greater enrollment exposure, while differences in funding structures, institutional missions, and student populations will shape the financial effects.

Improved retention can strengthen enrollment – USHE institutions retained 68.7% of first-year students between 2023 and 2024, with about 7,000 full- and part-time students from the entering cohort not returning to their institution the following fall. Even incremental improvements in retention could keep hundreds or thousands of additional students enrolled each year.

Learners age 25 and older represent a growing opportunity – Utah's population age 25 and older is projected to grow even as the traditional college-age population declines. More than one-third of working-age Utahns do not hold a postsecondary credential, and changing workforce needs may increase demand for reskilling and upskilling among those who already hold credentials.

Utah has begun preparing for the transition – Recent legislative and higher education initiatives emphasize long-term planning, strategic resource allocation, institutional collaboration, student completion, and better alignment between educational programs and workforce needs.

The full brief is now available online.

obituaries

Ellen Hensley (Ryan Ray)



Ellen Hensley passed away August 21, 2026 in St George, UT, surrounded by her loved ones. She was born in Westlake, Ohio, on May 15, 1999 to Randy Ray and April Dawn Hensley.

From the day she was born, she was a gentle and beautiful soul. She was a multi talented musician and an artist. She picked up drumsticks when she was three and started guitar when she was twelve and never looked back. She had a beautiful voice. She became a tattoo artist later and also painted beautifully. She was soft spoken and kind, and always had a quiet well reasoned response even if she disagreed with you. She created a circle of friends wherever she went. She loved nature and animals. The world has lost a very special person, who had a sweet crooked grin and gentle laugh.

Her siblings: Naomi, Holly, Michael, Donald and Autumn will miss her forever. She was reunited with her sister, Trysta, who died in 2021 and her parents, whom she lost at a young age. Her father died of cancer when she was 8 and she lost her mother to cancer when she was 17. Our family is bereft, having lost so many that we loved but we have hope that we will see them again.

Ellen met Meg Scott in 2024 and they were married June 21, 2025 at the Iron Springs resort.

They were soulmates and enjoyed life together as they explored nature and the surroundings of beautiful southern Utah. Meg and Ellen were a wonderful example of the ideal couple as they chose togetherness in all their days. They loved each other, heart and soul.

Ellen worked for Chrysalis corporation and put everything she had into serving handicapped members of our community. She worked her heart out and her clients loved her dearly. She had a natural ability to work with people who struggled, making them feel secure and valuable.

While we have lost her, we will never forget her. She will always be a part of our lives and we rejoice in the time we had together. Ellen is survived by her wife, Megan and her beloved siblings as well as many friends and family whose lives she touched along the way. A memorial was held in Cedar City and our family will celebrate her life in Ohio at a later date. We ask all families to show each other a little more love, in memory of our El and cling to life as a gift from God.



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sports

SCORES + RECAPS FROM IRON COUNTY COMPETITION

Reds explode in second half, beat Hawks

by Tom Zulewski

IRON COUNTY TODAY

The Cedar Reds were holding a slim eight-point lead as the second half began in the Homecoming game at Legacy Field. In the space of one play, North Sanpete running back Trevor Mann shocked everyone on an 80-yard touchdown.

With the two-point conversion added, the score was tied.

It would be all Cedar after that.

Braxton Demille scored five touchdowns and Cedar peeled off 31 straight second-half points to break the game open and cruise to a 48-24 victory before a big crowd at Legacy Field. The Reds improved to 2-0 in 3A South play and 4-2 overall.

Demille finished with 243 yards on 23 carries and gave all the credit for the surge to his blockers up front.

"All praise is to the O-line, really. They opened up the holes and we started finding the stuff we talked about at halftime," Demille said. "They executed perfectly."

With the score tied at 17-17, the Reds drove deep into Hawks

territory before Cody Stevenson hit the second of his two field goals on the night from 27 yards out with 7:48 left in the third quarter to kick-start a big scoring surge by the offense.

It helped erase most of the sting from last week's 35-34 home loss to the Dixie Flyers.

"If you keep focus on trying to do your job every play, eventually good things will happen," Cedar head coach Tye Hiatt said. "(North Sanpete) was 4-1 for a reason. They play extremely hard and have a Hall of Fame coach (Dave Peck) on the other side."

Cedar would grab control of the game when North Sanpete tried a fake punt that was stopped by Owen Burton at the Hawks' 26-yard line. Demille found the end zone with a 2-yard touchdown, and the Reds pushed the lead to 27-17 with 3:18 left in the third.



Cedar running back **Braxton Demille** runs past a North Sanpete defender.
Photo from Jaylin York

"Braxton is one of the hardest workers I've seen regardless of level of play," Hiatt said.

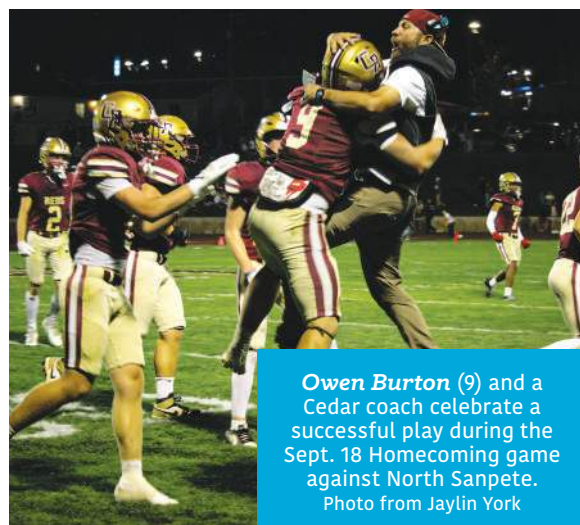
The Reds forced another turnover when they recovered a Hawks' fumble, and Demille wasted no time in helping the team take advantage. The senior scored on a 37-yard touchdown with less than a minute to play in the period, and Cedar never looked back after that.

Demille added two more touchdowns in the final quarter from 15 and 7 yards to complete the scoring for Cedar. The Reds return to play this week with a road game at region leader Richfield

on Friday night in a 7 p.m. start. The Wildcats are 3-0 and 5-1 after a 49-7 rout over Manti in last week's outing. Over its last four games, Richfield has outscored the opposition 181-14 with two shutouts.



Members of the Cedar offense get ready for the Homecoming game against the North Sanpete Hawks on Sept. 18.
Photo from Jaylin York



Owen Burton (9) and a Cedar coach celebrate a successful play during the Sept. 18 Homecoming game against North Sanpete.
Photo from Jaylin York



Cedar
48
North Sanpete
24

N. Sanpete 9 0 8 7 - 24
Cedar 0 17 17 14 - 48

FIRST QUARTER

NS — Lee 9 run (kick failed), 10:11
NS — FG Pollock 30, 1:43

SECOND QUARTER

C — Demille 1 run (Stevenson kick), 8:51
C — Burgess 38 pass from J. Mann (Stevenson kick), 6:34
C — FG Stevenson 21, :30

THIRD QUARTER

NS — T. Mann 80 run (2-point conversion pass), 11:45
C — FG Stevenson 27, 7:48
C — Demille 2 run (Stevenson kick), 3:18
C — Demille 37 run (Stevenson kick), :42

FOURTH QUARTER

C — Demille 15 run (Stevenson kick), 8:52
C — Demille 7 run (Stevenson kick), 5:16
NS — Hendry 17 pass from Lee (Pollock kick), 1:09

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Falcons beat Spartans on Homecoming

by Tom Zulewski

IRON COUNTY TODAY

Camden Sheridan accounted for three touchdowns and Owen Williams threw three touchdowns as Canyon View used a big second half to finish off a 50-0 rout over the visiting Emery Spartans on Sept. 18. The Homecoming Night win improved the Falcons to 5-1 on the season and gave them a second win under the new 45-point mercy rule in the last three games.

CV's offense got off to a slow start, but Sheridan scored on a 12-yard run late in the first quarter for a 6-0 lead after a two-point run was missed. Williams connected for his first TD pass of the night when he hit Karson Greenland from 19 yards to extend the Falcon edge, and they closed the first half on a 20-yard field goal from Jaxon Beckstrom with 8 seconds remaining for a 15-0 lead at the break.

Sheridan delivered two more scores in the third quarter to start the second-half wave, coming through with a 6-yard touchdown and catching a pass from Williams that was good for 75 yards and pushed the CV lead to 29-0 with 3:24 to play in the third quarter.

Then the Falcons went to work and protected the shutout by the defense. Preston Higgins got the fourth-quarter scoring started when he caught a 50-yard touchdown pass from Williams to start the running clock, and Kallen Cavalieri added a 17-yard run that made it 44-0 with 5:02 left. When Crue Urie returned an interception for a 40-yard touchdown, it ended the game early.

Canyon View will return to 3A South play on the road this

CANYON VIEW HIGH SCHOOL FALCONS		Canyon View	
		50	
		Emery	
		0	
Emery	0	0	0
Canyon View	6	9	14
FIRST QUARTER		CV - Sheridan 12 run (run failed), 3:21	
SECOND QUARTER		CV - Greenland 19 pass from Williams (run failed), 8:55	
		CV - FG Beckstrom 20, :08	
THIRD QUARTER		CV - Sheridan 6 run (Beckstrom kick), 7:22	
		CV - Sheridan 75 pass from Williams (Beckstrom kick), 3:24	
FOURTH QUARTER		CV - Higgins 50 pass from Williams (Beckstrom kick), 10:11	
		CV - Cavalieri 17 run (Williams run), 5:02	
		CV - Urie 40 interception return, 1:51	

week against Juab on Friday starting at 7 p.m. The Wasps cruised to a win over Carbon in its game last week.

Canyon View's **Karson Greenland** (12) catches a 19-yard touchdown pass over an Emery defender during the Falcons' game against the Spartans on Sept. 18. CV won, 50-0. (Cavett Ishihara/For Iron County Today)



TOM'S SPORTS TRIVIA

And now, we have liftoff on a dozen sporting trivia questions straight out of the grab bag for your guessing enjoyment. This week's collection is full 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!

- As of Sept. 17, how many of the six MLB division champions in 2026 have already been decided?
- True or False: Prior to 2026, the Milwaukee Brewers have never finished with 100 victories in regular-season play.
- The Los Angeles Dodgers have reached the National League playoffs for 14 straight seasons. What National League team also had a 14-year run of postseason trips from 1991 to 2005 with the late Bobby Cox as manager?
- What American League team had a streak of 13 straight playoff appearances from 1995 to 2007, now third-most all-time in MLB history?
- Milwaukee pitcher Jacob Misiorowski has the lowest ERA among all MLB pitchers at 1.89 through Sept. 16. What New York Yankees pitcher leads the American League in ERA at 1.95?
- What Atlanta Braves pitcher is the most recent 20-game winner, pulling it off in 2023?
- Houston's Yordan Alvarez leads the American League with a .310 batting average and is in a virtual tie with what Tampa Bay Rays outfielder?
- The Chicago Bears had an exceptional offensive display, scoring 59 points in a Week 1 win over the Carolina Panthers. Since the 17-game schedule was started in 2021, what fellow NFC North team has scored the most points (564)?
- After a miserable first half, what New Orleans Saints quarterback

ended up throwing for 410 yards in a 31-30 overtime loss Sept. 13 to the Detroit Lions?

- What Saints receiver tied with Detroit's Amon-Ra St. Brown after coming up with 10 catches in the Week 1 game at Ford Field?
- What former Seattle Seahawks running back led the NFL with 173 yards and a touchdown in the Kansas City Chiefs' 31-10 Week 1 victory on Monday Night Football over the Denver Broncos?
- What NFL division's teams all failed to win its Week 1 games?

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

- Ben Shelton. Shelton advanced to the final that was played Sept. 13, but lost in four sets to Alexander Zverev.
- The Yankees beat the San Diego Padres in 1998, the Atlanta Braves in 1999 and the NY Mets in 2000.
- True
- Green Bay Packers.
- Western Michigan.
- Barry Melrose.
- Craig Biggio.
- True.
- San Diego and Arizona.
- Even with the win, Michigan was removed from the latest Top 25 poll last week.
- Jalen Brunson.
- Sam Darnold. Darnold didn't return to the game after the injury.



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Late Surge Comes Up Just Short as Thunderbirds Fall to UC Riverside

by Arza Marsh

SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY

Southern Utah ended its non-conference slate for 2026 on Saturday, losing to the UC Riverside Highlanders 3-0 (25-21, 25-16, 25-21) despite a late push that nearly saw the Thunderbirds force a fourth set.

After the match, Coach Danielle Jensen said, “Both teams started the match a bit on edge, with eight of the 12 total service errors coming in the first set alone, but as the Thunderbirds settled in, they managed to build a slim 13-12 lead. Then a 5-0 scoring run by the Highlanders swung the momentum, and even when Southern Utah managed to scratch out its own 3-0 run late, the set went to UC Riverside 25-21.”

The Thunderbirds started the second set strong, with three total

blocks and back-to-back kills by Kaitlyn Hoelker helping them build an early 10-7 lead. The Highlanders would then regain their offensive footing, going on a 12-3 scoring run before ultimately taking the second set 25-16.

The third set was a dogfight, with each team taking turns on small runs of three or four points at a time. Then, with the Thunderbirds leading 14-13, UC Riverside went on the largest run of the set as an 8-1 scoring burst had the Highlanders leading 21-15. With the match on the line, the Thunderbirds refused to quit, with kills by Kaitlyn Hoelker and Ryen Smith sparking a 6-1 Southern Utah run that brought the deficit to just one point before the Highlanders closed out the set 25-21.

It was an improved defensive

see [LATE SURGE](#) » 25

PREP SCOREBOARD - FALL STANDINGS

SCORES

Football

3A South

9/18 Cedar 48, N. Sanpete 24
Canyon View 50, Emery 0
Richfield 49, Manti 7

9/19 Juab 55, Carbon 7

1A South

9/17 Kanab 14, Beaver 7

9/18 Milford 15, Parowan 14
Millard 21, Enterprise 7

Girls Soccer

Region 9

9/15 Cedar 3, Dixie 0
Crimson Cliffs 5, Pine View 1
Desert Hills 4, Hurricane 0

9/17 Desert Hills 1, Crimson Cliffs 0
Pine View 2, Snow Canyon 1
Hurricane 1, Dixie 0

Region 14

9/15 Canyon View 2, Richfield 0
Carbon 8, Delta 0
Juab 4, Providence Hall 0

9/17 Desert Hills 1, Crimson Cliffs 0
Pine View 2, Snow Canyon 1
Hurricane 1, Dixie 0

Volleyball

Region 9

9/15 Crimson Cliffs 3, Cedar 2
Desert Hills 3, Snow Canyon 1
Dixie 3, Pine View 0

9/17 Snow Canyon 3, Hurricane 0
Crimson Cliffs 3, Dixie 1
Desert Hills 3, Pine View 0

Region 14

9/15 Richfield 3, Providence Hall 0
Juab 3, Delta 0

9/17 Canyon View 3, Richfield 0
Olympus 3, Delta 1
Juab 3, Providence Hall 1

STANDINGS

RPI RANKINGS IN PARENTHESES

Football

3A South

	REGION	OVERALL
Richfield (3)	3-0	5-1
Juab (4)	2-0	4-2
Cedar (7)	2-0	4-2
Canyon View (6)	1-1	5-1
N. Sanpete (5)	1-2	4-2
Manti (11)	0-3	1-5
Carbon (12)	0-3	1-5

1A South

	REGION	OVERALL
Kanab (1)	1-0	5-1
Enterprise (5)	0-0	3-3
Parowan (9)	0-0	1-5
Beaver (4)	0-1	2-4

Girls Soccer

Region 9

	REGION	OVERALL
Crimson Cliffs (2)	7-1	11-2
Desert Hills (7)	6-2	9-4
Snow Canyon (10)	5-2	7-4
Cedar (18)	3-4	4-6
Dixie (17)	3-5	6-6
Hurricane (23)	2-6	2-10
Pine View (24)	1-7	4-10

Region 14

	REGION	OVERALL
Canyon View (7)	4-0	9-5
Richfield(3)	3-1	10-3
Juab (10)	2-2	5-8
Delta (12)	1-3	4-8
Providence Hall(14)	0-4	2-5

Volleyball

Region 9

	REGION	OVERALL
Crimson Cliffs (5)	5-0	16-5
Cedar (7)	4-1	10-6
Desert Hills (4)	4-1	11-3
Dixie (14)	2-3	8-7
Snow Canyon (11)	2-3	7-5
Hurricane (13)	1-3	7-7
Pine View (20)	0-6	3-9

Region 14

	REGION	OVERALL
Juab (7)	2-0	8-6
Canyon View (5)	1-0	9-6
Richfield (10)	1-1	5-7
Delta (4)	0-1	11-5
Providence Hall (12)	0-2	3-6

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What did BYU football ever do to you?

RANDOM thoughts

Tom Zulewski
IRON COUNTY TODAY



In the universe of football fandom, there will always be a vocal minority of fans who believe that trying to tear down the opposition with their words is the way to have an influence on the game's outcome. Some chants and cheers are pretty funny, but others can be downright disturbing.

The BYU football team has had a way of bringing out the worst in some fan bases. Our latest exhibit came Sept. 19 when the Cougars went to Fort Collins, Colo., to face the Colorado State Rams. There were chants used to mock the faith of the BYU fans and players, but it didn't seem to matter all that much, at least to them.

Colorado State's administration took notice, issuing an apology that said "mocking anyone's faith has no place at CSU," a quote published by the Associated Press. "It runs counter to our community's values and to who we are. BYU's players, coaches and fans deserved better."

Head coach Kalani Sitake certainly knew this, and he offered a simple, solid take that did a fine job deflecting the intended message from the haters.

"The guys are motivated to play football, no matter what. We're not going to judge an entire fan base on a few, a few of the ones that made their chants," Sitake said.

Running back L.J. Martin, who ran for three first-quarter touchdowns in the Cougars' 41-23 rout, was even more direct when asked if the fan chants added any more fuel to the competitive fire.

"We're self-motivated," Martin said

in the AP story. "Of course, you just hear them

talking. It makes it a lot funner when you do go out there and perform the way you do. It makes it a lot funner just to see them go from real loud just to real quiet."

It's not the easiest thing to do, but good performances can go a long way toward shutting down those who feel better by trying to make others feel worse.

Similar incidents of bad fan behavior against BYU happened twice during the 2025 season. Colorado was fined \$50,000 for "expletives and religious slurs," and Big 12 commissioner Brett Yormark issued a statement condemning the action.

Cincinnati athletic director John Cunningham also issued an apology when BYU came to town last November. The story did not mention if the school had to pay a fine.

One major thread that binds all of this ugly behavior together: BYU won all three games. It just goes to show that no matter how hard the haters may try, they will always have absolutely no influence on the game or its outcome.

The players will carry on and get ready for the next opponent. It's not always easy to tune out the hateful voices, but the scoreboard can speak loudly when emotions try to get in the way.

Contact Tom Zulewski at
tominator19@yahoo.com.

LATE SURGE

« CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

performance for the Thunderbirds as they doubled their total team blocks from Friday with six stops while recording over 30 digs for a second straight match. On offense, the Thunderbirds sent home over 30 kills for the fourth time in their last five matches as the connection between hitters and setters continues to grow every match.

Ryen Smith led the Thunderbirds in points for the first time this season with 12.5 as the Junior sent home 11 kills on only 18 attempts while also recording

a solo and an assisted block. Maya Banks showed why she leads the team in kills this season as she put up another eight. Defensively, Southern Utah had five different players record blocks on the afternoon, with Natalie Moore leading all Thunderbirds with three rejections. On the back line, Zorana Stankovska continued her run of scrappy defense with nine digs, and Kaitlyn Barnes provided backup with an additional six of her own.

The Thunderbirds will finally make their eagerly anticipated return to the Big Sky next as they travel to Flagstaff, Arizona, for a tussle with Northern Arizona on September 24 at 6:30 pm MT.

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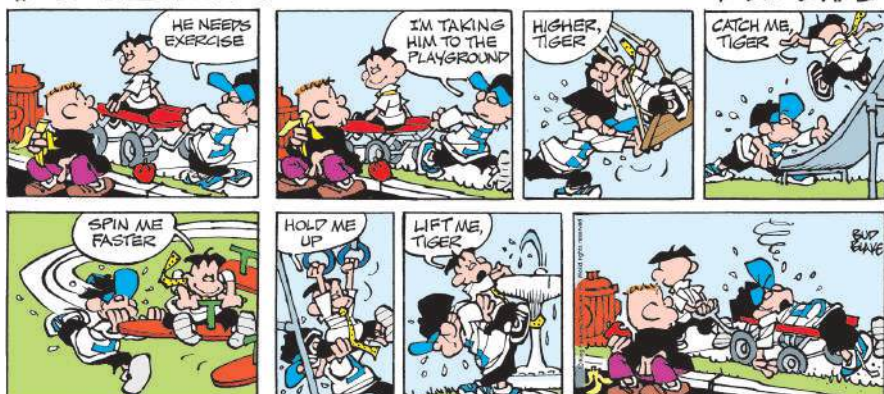
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Weekly SUDOKU

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 3-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



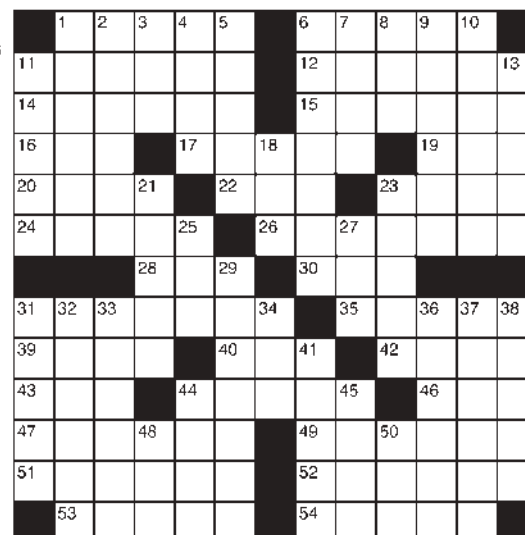
Differences: 1. Man is shorter. 2. Pad is longer. 3. Finger is moved. 4. Curtain is not as wide. 5. Apron strap is moved. 6. The is missing.

September 21, 2026 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Bath powders
6 Selected
11 Patronize, as a bistro
12 Cuts at an angle
14 Long-haired cat
15 Rise in defiance
16 Montmartre Mrs.
17 Wide
19 Big fuss
20 — ale
22 Rocker Nugent
23 Raced
24 Nosh at mid-night
26 Bishop's district
28 Free (of)
30 Spanish gold
31 Pianist Arrau
35 Slowpoke
39 Fireplace shelves
40 Ump's call
42 Old U.S. gas brand
43 Balloon filler
44 Impetus
46 Weeding tool
47 Roma's land
49 Pub perches



- 51 Pay off
52 Digital greetings
53 Lasso
54 Afternoon hour
6 Trucker's device
7 Obey
8 Eggs
9 Mexican shawl
10 Shakes off
11 Muffles
13 Fine china brand
18 British ref. work
21 Beige shades
23 Tea biscuit
25 Tease
27 Choice words?
29 Museum display
31 Desk go-with
32 Hang around
33 Rub the wrong way
34 Gigi's "yes"
36 On the beach
37 Tristan's love
38 Windblown soil
41 Sports bar fixture
44 Food regimen
45 Engrave
48 Meadow
50 Rowing need

DOWN

- 1 Dorothy's friend
2 Germany's Merkel
3 Sign before Virgo
4 Keto restriction
5 Kick off

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

T	A	L	C	S	C	H	O	S	E
A	N	G	O	R	A	R	E	A	L
D	I	N	E	A	T	B	E	A	V
P	A	L	E	B	R	O	A	D	A
S	P	E	D	T	E	D	O	I	C
S	E	S	E	R	I	D	O	R	O
L	I	L	S	O	I	O	D	U	D
O	S	S	E	H	O	I	O	S	B
H	O	E	I	V	E	A	I	R	O
S	T	O	O	L	A	S	T	A	I
D	S	C	A	H	E	M	R	E	D
E	E	E	I	H	R	E	V	A	R

Solution time: 21 mins.

Answers

King Crossword



1. GEOGRAPHY: Which South American country has two capitals?
2. AD SLOGANS: Which car company uses the ad slogan "Let's go places"?
3. FOOD & DRINK: What is a johnny cake primarily made of?
4. LITERATURE: In which Harry Potter novel is the portkey (a method of magical transportation) first mentioned?
5. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the most popular animal used on national flags?
6. MOVIES: What object is Wilson in the movie "Cast Away"?
7. U.S. STATES: Which U.S. state is the only one that has parishes instead of counties?
8. MUSIC: Which 1980s band released the album titled "Synchronicity"?
9. TELEVISION: What is James Kirk's middle name in the "Star Trek" series?
10. MYTHOLOGY: Who is the Greek goddess of wisdom?

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Trivia Test Answers
1. Bolivia, Sucre and La Paz; 2. Toyota; 3. Cornmeal; 4. "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire"; 5. The Lion; 6. A Wilson-brand volleyball; 7. Louisiana; 8. The Police; 9. Tiberius; 10. Athena

S O U T H E R N U T A H

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