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- 1pm - IFA - Lawn Health & Maintenance
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News

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Hampton
Inn & Suites
Ribbon Cutting

-page 5



IRON
COUNTY

today



Adult Winner:
Kennedy
McCuition
-New York New
York

Group Winner-
Iron Lotus,
presented by Iron
County Royalty

STORY IN SHOWCASE

2025 BEST OF CEDAR CITY AWARDS GALA



Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

Posting of the Colors:
Cedar Mustangs Composite Squad with the Civil Air Patrol

by *May Hunter*

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

On March 5, 2026, the Cedar City Area Chamber of Commerce celebrated the best of Cedar City, recognizing the outstanding people and organizations who help make our community such an incredible place to live and work.

The Chamber of Commerce would like to thank everyone who joined the gala and helped create such a wonderful evening of celebration. They are also deeply grateful to their generous sponsors, dedicated volunteers, and everyone who worked behind the scenes to make the event possible.

Congratulations to all of this year's honorees, and thank you for the positive impact you make in Cedar City and Iron County every day.



- Ambassador Spirit Award – Desiree Anderson
- Young Citizen of the Year – Lizzie Huff
- Educator of the Year – Kevin Garrett
- Medical Professional of the Year – Cody Wilson
- Volunteer of the Year – Iron County Search and Rescue
- Customer Service & Hospitality – The Pub Spirits + Craft Kitchen
- Innovative Business of the Year – Dallas Smith Media

National Anthem:
Side Note

• Restaurant of the Year – Bunnisa's Thai

Cruise

- Employer of the Year – Southern Utah University
- Organization of the Year – Festival City Farmers Market
- Business of the Year – Southwest Technical College
- Woman of the Year – Maria Twitchell
- Man of the Year – Jon Oglesby
- Fred C. Adams Excellence in the Arts – John DiAntonio
- Community Impact Award – Youth Futures
- Legacy (Lifetime Achievement) – Linda L. Wilson

Cedar City Area Chamber of Commerce

Mission:

To elevate business prosperity and encourage healthy communities.

Vision:

To proactively expand business opportunities through diverse and

sustainable growth.

For more information about the Cedar City Area Chamber of Commerce, visit cedarcitychamber.org.

STATE REPRESENTATION CONTACT INFORMATION:

House Representatives

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rshipp@le.utah.gov

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Carlalbrecht@le.utah.gov

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Evan J. Vickers
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Salt Lake City, UT 84114-2220
Phone: 801-538-1000
Toll Free: 800-705-2464
<https://governor.utah.gov/contact/>

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.

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MARCH 17, 2026 7:00 PM

Use the QR code to quickly find your voting precinct, what caucus is and to pre-register



STARTS 7 PM | DOORS OPEN AT 6:00PM
ARRIVE EARLY TO CREDENTIAL | CANDIDATE MEET AND GREET (SOME LOCATIONS)

CAUCUS WITH US!

Ribbon Cutting of the *Hampton Inn & Suites/Hilton*, located in Downtown Historic Cedar City, Utah



THE HAMPTON INN & SUITES RIBBON CUTTING

by *May Hunter*

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

The Hampton Inn & Suites held its grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony on March 3, 2026. The new Hampton Inn & Suites Cedar City is located in the Historic District on Main Street. It is a recently built, modern hotel offering 52–64 rooms and features an indoor pool, fitness center, free Wi-Fi, and complimentary hot breakfast.

Situated in the heart of the downtown Historic District, the hotel is close to Southern Utah University, local attractions, shopping, and dining.

Ranked as the third fastest-growing college town in America, Cedar City is ideally located for visitors to explore world-class natural destinations like Zion, Bryce Canyon, and Cedar Breaks National Monument. Cedar City is also just a short drive from the popular Brian Head Ski Resort, drawing outdoor enthusiasts year-round.



Mayor Steve Nelson made a statement thanking the *Hampton Inn & Suites and Safari Hospitality* for new hotel and its positive impact on downtown Cedar City.

The famous Shakespeare Festival brings over 100,000 visitors each year, and the highly popular Summer Games attract more than 9,000 participants and 50,000 spectators annually. The new Hampton Inn & Suites in Cedar City will be a much-needed asset for the community.

“A long-term need for our city has been to bring a top-branded hotel into downtown. The new Hampton Inn by Hilton will meet that need. This addition will bring thousands of visitors each year to shop and eat at our amazing downtown businesses,

helping keep the heart of our city vibrant. As a city, we are grateful to Safari Hospitality for their investment in our community.

— *Steve Nelson, Mayor of Cedar City*

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped welcome the Hampton Inn & Suites and Safari Hospitality to our Cedar City, Utah family.

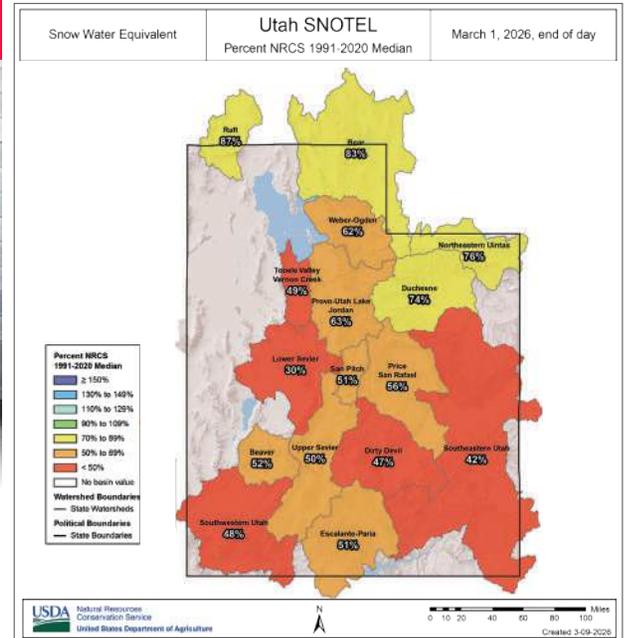
CEDAR CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BEST OF CEDAR CITY AWARDS
PRESENTED BY **BZI**

2025 AWARD WINNERS

Man of the Year Woman of the Year Business of the Year Educator of the Year Employer of the Year Restaurant of the Year Organization of the Year Young Citizen of the Year Legacy (Lifetime Achievement) Innovative Business of the Year Medical Professional of the Year Volunteer of the Year Customer Service & Hospitality Excellence in the Arts Ambassador Spirit Award Community Impact Award	Jon Oglesby Maria Twitchell Southwest Technical College Kevin Garrett Southern Utah University Bunnisa's Thai Cuisine Festival City Farmer's Market Lizzie Huff Linda L. Wilson Dallas Smith Media Cody Wilson Iron County Search and Rescue The Pub Spirits + Craft Kitchen John DiAntonio Desiree Anderson Youth Futures
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◆ AWARDS GALA ON MARCH 5, 2026 ◆

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
WWW.CEDARCITYCHAMBER.ORG/GALA



IRON COUNTY FORECAST

IT WILL FEEL AND LOOK LIKE SPRING SEASON AROUND THE AREA THIS WEEKEND INTO NEXT WEEK. HIGH TEMPERATURES WILL WARM INTO THE 70S WITH OVERNIGHT LOWS ONLY DROPPING INTO THE 40S. IT WILL ALSO REMAIN DRY THROUGH MUCH OF NEXT WEEK.

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

THURSDAY
Sunny
70°/34°
PRECIP: 0%
WINDS: SW 5-10

FRIDAY
Sunny
71°/36°
PRECIP: 0%
WINDS: SW 10-15

SATURDAY
Mostly Sunny
72°/38°
PRECIP: 0%
WINDS: SW 10-15

SUNDAY
Partly Cloudy
73°/40°
PRECIP: 0%
WINDS: W 5-10

MONDAY
Mostly Sunny
74°/42°
PRECIP: 0%
WINDS: SW 10-20

TUESDAY
Mostly Sunny
75°/45°
PRECIP: 0%
WINDS: SW 10-20

WEDNESDAY
Mostly Sunny
76°/50°
PRECIP: 0%
WINDS: W 5-10

opinion

FROM THE EDITOR



**ESTHER
HAILSTONE**
OFFICE MANAGER

I love learning new things. Recently, I started playing a fun little game where you learn where different sayings come from. One example I learned about is the phrase “sleep tight.” Long ago, before box springs were used, beds were supported by ropes. Over time those ropes would loosen, so

people had to tighten them again to keep the bed from sagging. That’s where the saying “sleep tight” is believed to have come from.

I find it fascinating to learn the stories behind everyday traditions and phrases we use without even thinking about them. Many things in our daily lives have a history that stretches back much farther than we might expect.

The same is true for holidays. Even smaller or more lighthearted ones, like St. Patrick’s Day, Groundhog Day, or April Fools’ Day, have interesting histories behind them. These traditions have been passed down over time, sometimes changing a little along the way, but still bringing people together.

Traditions are important. They help us remember the past while also giving us something to share in the present. They can be old traditions that families and communities have kept for generations, or new ones that we begin ourselves. I am grateful for traditions and the way they connect us, to our history, to each other, and to the future. They remind us that we are part of a much larger story.

I also think it’s important to find things to celebrate and to be grateful for. Taking time to recognize the small moments, the holidays, and the traditions in our lives can bring a little more joy to each day.

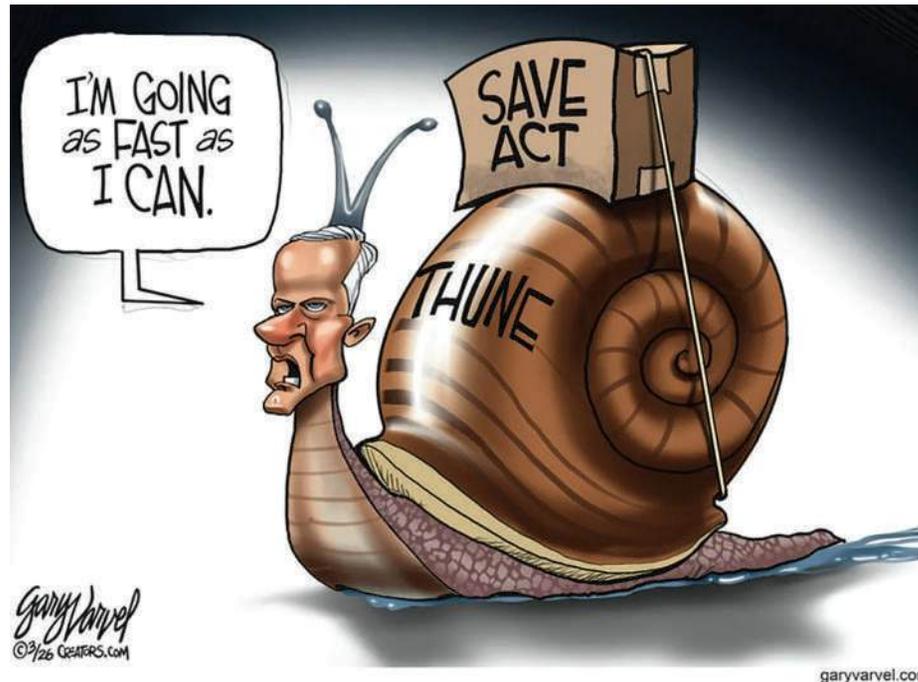
WORD OF THE WEEK

STOICISM

[sto-i-cism]

noun

the endurance of pain or hardship without the display of feelings and without complaint.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

As our nation prepares to celebrate America’s 250th birthday in 2026, families statewide have a unique opportunity to take part in a meaningful, statewide celebration. And it’s FREE.

Let Freedom Ring 250 is a virtual, family-friendly Discovery Hunt created by a Utah resident, sponsored by the Discovery Family Coalition. The Utah Prevention Network and the Utah Prevention Coalition Association have given a ‘thumbs up’ to the prevention strategies incorporated into each Adventure. The initiative encourages individuals, families, churches, youth groups, and community organizations to explore the landmarks, history, and civic heritage that make their own communities part of the American story.

Rather than marking this historic anniversary with a single event, Let Freedom Ring 250 invites Utahns to celebrate throughout the year — strengthening families, honoring freedom, and renewing appreciation for the principles on which our nation was founded.

Residents are encouraged to invite friends, neighbors, and extended family members to join them in participating and celebrating together.

To participate, download the Goosechase app and enter code ‘Freedom250UT’.

Sharilee Griffiths

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“If opportunity doesn’t knock, build a door.”

- Milton Berle

IRON COUNTY **today**

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

opinion

How a Nation's Predominant Religion Affects Its Political Life

PART 6

by *Edy Meredith*

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

While Freedom of Religion is guaranteed in the U.S. Bill of Rights and Constitution, the same is not true for people who live in Iran. I will try to distinguish the differences by comparing beliefs and government systems. (Please also find the information at the two following websites: Christianityfaq.com and namb.net/apologetics/resource/comparison/chart/islam/and/Christianity/)

1) In Islam, there is only one god called Allah; in Christianity the one God is a being called Yahweh which Christians identify as the Triune God consisting of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Muslims believe that the Trinity (Echad) is a blasphemy signifying belief in 3 gods thought to be God, Jesus, and Mary.

2) Jesus in Islam is a prophet born of a virgin and not the Son of God while in Christianity Jesus is the Divine Son of God who was virgin born of the Holy Spirit; He is also called God's Word and the Savior of all humanity (male and female) saving all humanity from the curse of sin while in Islam, women are at the bottom of the social, political and religious hierarchy and not allowed political or religious freedom as men are or even the right to show their hair in public).

3) In the Christian New Testament, women were among the first to see and witness the

Resurrection of Jesus on the third day after His death on the cross; In Christianity and in Roman historical records Jesus was crucified and rose from the dead on the third day in order to pay the price for humanity's individual and corporate sin with over 500 to 1,000 people who witnessed the Resurrection so this is a fact of history for Bible-believing Christians and historians. While Muslims do not believe that Jesus died on a Cross. Muslims believe that someone else was substituted on the Cross for Jesus and that He hid until He could meet later with His disciples.

4) For Bible-believing Christians, sin is disobedience to the established law given by God in the Bible and is generally considered to consist of the Ten Commandments. Sin grieves God because it separates God from individual humans because God is righteous. For Christians the Ten Commandments are summarized when Jesus said that we should love the Lord our God with all our heart and mind, and we should love our neighbor as we love ourselves and that we should take care of the least among us with orphans and widows mentioned specifically by Jesus.

5) Salvation was paid for by Jesus the Messiah by His death on the Cross when individuals receive Him as their Savior because His death paid the price for all sinners (all have sinned and fallen from far from the grace of God according to both Old and New Testaments). For Muslims, salva-

tion is achieved by submitting to the will of Allah which can consist of following political leaders and for women Moslem salvation is particularly restricted even to the point of requiring them to cover their hair in public.

6) Muslims accept the Bible especially the Pentateuch, Psalms, and Gospels insofar as they agree with the Qur'an while Christians believe and accept that the Bible is the inspired Word of God that is complete and not to be added to. Consequently, Christians do not accept the Qur'an given by an angel to Mohammad, because even today there are 2 forms of Islam based on 2 historical Islamic political leaders. Christians do not accept Muhammad as a legitimate prophet or foreteller.

Today Iranians worldwide are celebrating Khamenei's death with dancing and music. While Khamenei was the recognized Islamic leader of Iran, many Iranians through the years have fled Iran, young and old, because of his Islamic political oppression. "I am an Iranian and this is the best day of my life; the dictator, the killer, Ali Khamenei is dead," posted an Iranian-born PhD on X, sharing a video of herself dancing. Even in Iran people are celebrating. Why is American media not celebrating Iranian freedom in this 250th year in which we are celebrating American independence. Hopefully this is a new birth of freedom for the people of Iran. More next week about freedom fighters.

Cedar City man sentenced to jail, probation in taxi sexual abuse case

by *Tracie Sullivan*

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

A Cedar City man has been sentenced to jail after pleading guilty to a second-degree felony charge stemming from a reported sexual assault inside a taxi last year.

Fifth District Judge Matthew L. Bell sentenced Manuelito Rodriguez, 25, to an indeterminate term of one to 15 years in the Utah State Prison for forcible sexual abuse.

The prison sentence was suspended, and Rodriguez was ordered to serve 364 days in jail with credit for 116 days already served, according to court records. Rodriguez was also placed on supervised probation for 48 months.

A \$10,000 fine was imposed but suspended, and restitution remains open for later determination.

Iron County Attorney Trajan Evans said the sentence imposed by the court exceeded the midpoint recommendation under Utah's sentencing guidelines.

"I know that a lot of community members might be surprised that such serious conduct carries so little jail time," he said. "They might even believe that 364 days in jail is a light sentence. But, this is the framework that judges have to work with when sentencing defendants in the State of Utah."

"If a judge is going to deviate from this matrix, he or she must have compelling reasons to do so. The 364 days that was ordered in this case is more than three times what the midpoint of the matrix recommended. I'm grateful that Judge Bell took into consideration the seriousness of this offense and hopefully this sentence gave the victim a sense of justice."

The charges stem from a May 7, 2025 incident in Cedar City. According to charging documents filed in the case, police were called to an assault in progress near 500 South Cross Hollow Road after a fight broke out following a taxi ride from a bar.

Officers learned the fight began after a female passenger reported she had been sexually assaulted during the ride home.

see **CEDAR CITY MAN** » 11

IRON COUNTY GOVERNMENT RECAPS

Cedar City Planning Commission Meeting Summary

by Iron County Today Staff

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

Historic Downtown Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment

A proposed amendment to the Historic Downtown Commercial zone was presented by Carter Wilkey (City Council) and Brent Drew (Downtown Historic Committee Chair), with input from city staff and Economic Development Director David Johnson.

The proposal would update the table of permitted uses in the Historic Downtown area (generally 200 North to 200 South, 100 East to 100 West, including Center Street frontage to 300 West). Proposed changes include:

- Alcohol/drinking establishments: from non-permitted to permitted
- Breweries/wineries over 3,000 square feet: to non-permitted
- Convenience stores with fuel islands under 5,000 square feet: from permitted to non-permitted
- Electronics stores under 2,400 square feet: to permitted

Gas Stations

The proposed change affecting convenience stores with fuel islands generated the most discussion. Supporters said the intent is to help preserve historic buildings by limiting uses that often require larger building footprints and additional parking.

Three existing gas stations in the zone would become nonconforming uses, meaning they could continue operating but would not be able to expand without a development agreement.

One commissioner voted against the recommendation, stating that existing zoning standards already regulate building size and materials and questioning whether restricting a specific use type was necessary. Others expressed concern that without the change, future development could result in the demolition of historic structures.

Electric vehicle charging stations were briefly discussed, with commissioners noting a distinction between accessory charging (such as at a hotel) and a primary-use charging facility. Further clarification may be considered in the future.

The commission approved a motion for a positive recommendation on the ordinance text amendment, with one dissenting vote. The recommendation now moves to City Council for consideration.

Cedar City Council Meeting Summary

by Iron County Today Staff

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

Before the formal agenda began, two council members took moments of personal privilege. The mayor thanked the city’s Special Events Department for their work on the “Love Where You Live” campaign. Another council member recognized street department staff, particularly Eric Witzky and Scott, for moving a 71,000-pound rock monument.

Zone Change Request — 1,000 North, 3900 West

The council held a public hearing on a proposed general plan and zone change for about 22 acres near 1,000 North and 3900 West. The request would change the area from low-density to medium-density residential, allowing twin homes.

The planning commission unanimously recommended against the proposal because it conflicts with the city’s master plan, though supporters argued the area is suitable due to nearby infrastructure and similar zoning. After discussion, the council voted to move the request forward to the ordinance process for a future vote.

Airport Construction Agreement — Runway Resealing

The council reviewed a construction agreement for resealing Runway 20 at the Cedar City airport. The project will be funded primarily through federal FAA entitlement funds, with a small city match that had already been budgeted. The item was placed on the consent agenda for final approval.

Airport Grant Application — Taxiway Alpha Reconstruction

The council also considered a grant application for about \$1.3 million in FAA entitlement funds to cover the design phase of the Taxiway Alpha and east apron reconstruction project. While council members noted the high cost for design work, staff explained that airport engineering contracts must follow FAA procurement rules. The item was moved to the consent agenda.

Utility Auditing Services

Staff presented a proposal for a utility bill auditing service that would review city utility and vendor contracts to identify potential savings. The service requires no upfront cost and would be paid through a share of any savings found. The council agreed to place the item on the consent agenda.

Triple Deuce Commemorative Monument

Staff presented a request to install a

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

commemorative placard near the Korean War Memorial as part of the upcoming America 250 celebrations. Minor wording edits were still being finalized, and the item was placed on the consent agenda.

Impact Fee Update — Public Hearing

The council held a public hearing on a proposed update to the city's impact fee schedule, covering parks and recreation, fire, police, storm water, wastewater, culinary water, and transportation. The updated study evaluated current service levels, existing infrastructure capacity, and future needs driven by growth to determine one-time fees charged to new development at the time of building permits.

Under the proposal, total maximum impact fees for a single-family home could reach about \$20,000, largely due to rising infrastructure costs, updated facility needs, and higher land values since the last study in 2021.

Council members discussed the size of the increases and requested additional information comparing current and proposed fees across all development types. They also asked for updated impact fee fund balances and clarification on how fees are applied to different housing categories.

Discussion also touched on the broader philosophy of impact fees, including how they affect housing affordability and whether increases should be phased in over time. Staff noted that impact fees can only be used for growth-related infrastructure and must generally be spent within six years.

The council closed the public hearing and will take formal action on the proposal at a future meeting.

Parowan City Council Meeting Summary

by Jennelle Zajac

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

This is a highly condensed summary of the meeting. For more detail, see the full article at Ironcountytoday.com.

The meeting moved quickly to the action agenda due to the absence of public comments.

Action Agenda

The council approved a **property trade agreement** involving the disposal of a city parcel (APNA-0516-0009-0000) in exchange for other land parcels from the county.

The council also discussed a **Request for Proposals (RFP) for flood control basin sediment removal and restoration**. Only one proposal was submitted, from JP Excavation. The proposal suggested a timeline of up to seven years, far exceeding the city's preferred completion time of 18 months. Additional concerns included limits on material supply and a clause requiring the city to pay for material beyond 25 cubic yards per year. Council members emphasized the importance of maintaining access to native materials for city projects and questioned the proposed \$14-per-ton rate for excess material. The council agreed to negotiate with **JP Excavation while also developing an internal "city option"** to compare costs and feasibility. The issue will return for further consideration at a future meeting.

Work Agenda

The council reviewed an **amended power pooling agreement with Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems (UAMPS)**. The amendment is required due to the

transition to the Extended Day-Ahead Market (EDAM) in May. The new structure shifts from bilateral energy trading to a centralized market system. Under the updated agreement, Parowan must demonstrate day-ahead resource sufficiency or face penalties, whereas previously UAMPS absorbed shortages. The council recognized the necessity of the change and expressed confidence that the new system will ultimately benefit the city financially and operationally.

Open and Public Meetings Act Training

General Counsel Scott Burns conducted training on transparency laws governing public meetings. He reviewed quorum rules, differences between official meetings and social gatherings, proper procedures for closed sessions, and the requirement that no official decisions occur in closed meetings. He also warned against discussing city business through private communications such as texting, which violates public meeting laws.

Reports and Updates

Council reports included updates on restoration work and fundraising for the historic Rock Church, improvements planned for Meeks Pond and the community garden area, and planning and zoning approvals for a storage container and a minor subdivision. Additional community updates included fundraising needs for the July 24th Osmond production and reminders that RAP funding applications are open through March 31. The city manager also noted a large number of state legislative proposals that could affect municipalities.

The meeting concluded with a **closed session** to discuss real estate or personnel matters. Residents were reminded that city council meetings occur on the **second and fourth Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.** in the Parowan City Council Chambers or online.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES



REP. REX SHIPP
UTAH HOUSE DISTRICT 72

The 2026 General Session: For Utah

It has been an honor to serve as your representative during this session. As we wrap up our work at the Capitol, I am proud to share the progress we've made on vital legislation to protect our children, support our farmers, and empower Utah families.

Legislative Highlights

Several key bills I sponsored or supported are moving through the final stages of the legislative process:

HB 174 (Sex Characteristic Change Treatment): This bill is awaiting the Governor's signature. It protects minors by ending the use of puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones for those under 18.

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

HB 170 (School Board Amendments):

This bill, awaiting a final Senate vote, allows residents to pursue a referendum on school board decisions not passed by a supermajority, giving you more say in local taxes and school governance.

HB 326 (Animal Depredation):

To support our farmers, this bill modernizes predator control—including aerial coyote permits and stricter feral swine laws—to protect agricultural lands.

Natural Resources & Safety: We are advancing HB 125 to prevent invasive species in our waterways, HB 157 to modernize DNR operations and water rights, and HB 168 to strengthen anti-poaching efforts through a new mitigation fund.

HB 432 (Egg Amendments):

This updates safety standards for commercial egg production while protecting the rights of small, local producers to sell within the state.

Investing in the Future

Education & Workforce

We secured a 5.9% increase in education funding (\$142 million total) to ensure our schools have the resources they need. Beyond the basics, we've allocated over \$72 million for strategic innovation, including professional education centers and student credential accounts, ensuring graduates have high-tech skills for the modern workforce.

Family-First Policies

To help families navigate rising costs, we've fought for common-sense financial relief:

Lowered state income tax to 4.45%.

Expanded the Child Tax Credit.

Slashed the gas tax by 15%.

Allocated \$4 million for youth mental health and increased funding for literacy and local parks.

Modernizing Government: myutah.gov

I am excited to announce the launch of myutah.gov. This new citizen portal is a one-stop hub for state services. You can now renew vehicle registrations, order birth certificates, or manage hunting and fishing licenses in one secure location without needing to navigate multiple agency websites.

Next Steps: The Interim Process

While the 45-day session has ended, the work continues. Starting in May, we begin interim meetings to study complex issues in depth. This is the foundational period for the 2027 General Session and the best time for you to get involved.

I value your perspective and encourage you to reach out with the issues that matter most to your family. You can follow our progress or review full bill text at le.utah.gov.

Representative Albrecht's Week 7 Update End of Session

As the 2026 Legislative Session comes to a close, I'm proud of the work we've done for Utah, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to represent you. This year, my focus was straightforward: make life more affordable and keep government accountable to the people it serves. Utah families are feeling the pressure of rising costs, so we worked to help you keep more of what you earn. We lowered the income tax, expanded the child tax credit, lowering the gas tax by 15%, and cut unnecessary red tape designed to put more money back in your pocket.

We also worked to keep Utah a great place to raise a family. Over the past four years, the Legislature has increased education funding by more

than \$2.3 billion. We're protecting our water future by supporting efforts to save the Great Salt Lake and other water projects in the State. We're working to lower housing costs by cutting red tape and investing in local infrastructure. And we increased transparency in the courts by helping create free access to public court records.

It has truly been an honor to serve as your representative this Session. As our work at the Capitol wraps up, I look forward to reconnecting with our communities and hearing directly from you about the issues that matter most to you. If you'd like to follow legislation from this year or learn more about what we accomplished, you can visit le.utah.gov.

Legislative Update

I'm grateful to report that all my bills are now on the Governor's desk. I appreciate everyone who shared feedback, showed up, and took time to be part of the process—good policy is stronger when constituents are engaged early and often.



REP. CARL ALBRECHT

UTAH HOUSE DISTRICT 70

Bills on Governor's Desk

HCR01 – House Concurrent Resolution Regarding Advanced Nuclear Manufacturing

HB369 – Agriculture and Food Amendments

HB238 – Utah Energy Generation and Transmission Planning

HB222 – Limitation of Actions Amendments

HB69 – Drinking Water Restructuring Amendments

HB66 – Soil Health Program Amendments

HB145 School Excused Absence Amendments

HB78 Nuclear Regulatory Amendments

HB376 Land Management Funding Amendments

What's Next: Getting Involved During the Interim Meetings

While the General Session is behind us, the work of shaping Utah's future continues through the Interim meetings. Starting in May, we begin meeting monthly to study complex issues that need more time than a fast-paced 45-day Session allows. During these meetings, legislators serve on specialized committees, hearing directly from experts, stakeholders, and citizens across Utah. This is where the groundwork for the 2027 General Session begins, and it is the best time for you to get involved, share your concerns, or bring up the issues that matter most to your family before bills are even drafted. I value your perspective, and I would welcome hearing from you as we move into this in-depth research and planning phase.

Committees and Caucus Leadership

As Chair of the House Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Standing Committee, I remain committed to practical, rural-focused policy. I also serve on the House Public Utilities and Energy Committee, Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee, Utah Energy Council, Water Development Commission, Federalism Commission, Constitutional Defense Council, and the Colorado River Authority Caucus. I'm also a Co-Chair of the Rural Caucus and serve on a Rural Legislative Education Working Group focused on improving rural education delivery and facilities, including capital improvements and campus infrastructure.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve you in the Utah House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

Representative Albrecht
Utah House of Representatives
Phone: (435) 979-6578 Email: carlalbrecht@le.utah.gov

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Sen. Vickers- Week 7 Legislative Update



SEN. EVAN VICKERS
UTAH SENATE DISTRICT 28

Friends and Neighbors,

The 2026 General Session has come to a close, and I want to thank everyone who stayed engaged throughout the process. We also completed the state budget this week, a constitutional responsibility that helps keep Utah on solid financial footing. It was a fast-paced session, and I remain grateful for the opportunity to serve our community and our state.

Each year, university students from across Utah come to the Capitol as legislative interns. They bring energy, engagement and a willingness to learn while gaining firsthand experience in the legislative process. This session I was fortunate to work with two outstanding interns. Gavin Clarke from SUU helped keep our office running smoothly by researching policy issues, coordinating constituent meetings, answering calls and attending committee hearings. I also had the opportunity to work with Joe Simpson, a pharmacy intern from the University of Utah. It was great to give him a look at the behind-the-scenes work that goes into legislation. Utah's future is bright with young leaders like Gavin and Joe.

During the session, I worked on several important bills, including legislation related to kratom, updates to licensing laws for several health care professions and establishing a tax on kratom products. One bill I was especially pleased to floor sponsor in the Senate was H.B. 41, Construction and Fire Codes Amendments, which will directly impact many property owners in our district who live in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).

Last year, legislation raised concerns among counties and property owners

about a new assessment fee tied to WUI areas. H.B. 41 addresses those concerns by delaying when the fee begins and allowing counties time to review the state's wildfire risk maps before anything is finalized. It also ensures counties can weigh in on which properties are classified as very high risk, allowing local knowledge to guide those decisions rather than relying solely on statewide mapping tools.

For residents, these changes mean fewer unexpected costs, clearer information and greater confidence that wildfire risk designations reflect real conditions on the ground. The bill creates a more transparent and predictable process while strengthening the role of local communities in wildfire planning.

Utah has taken a steady approach to easing the financial burden on families, and this session we continued that work. A new tax package focuses on lowering everyday costs and creating more room in family budgets.

This year's income tax cut lowers the rate to 4.45 percent, continuing six years of reductions and saving many families hundreds of dollars annually. We also expanded the Child Tax Credit to support more households, created incentives for businesses to provide employee childcare and reduced the state gas tax to provide relief at the pump.

Although the session has ended, the work continues. Beginning in May, we will meet monthly during the interim to review how new laws are being implemented and prepare for next year's session. Your input remains essential during this time.

Please continue sharing your thoughts with me at evickers@le.utah.gov. I appreciate everyone who reached out during the session, whether by email or public comment. Your perspective helps guide the decisions I make on your behalf. Thank you for the privilege of serving as your state senator.

CEDAR CITY MAN

« CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

The woman told police Rodriguez repeatedly grabbed her breasts and vagina inside the taxi despite being told to stop. Video from inside the taxi reportedly captured the contact and the victim telling him to stop.

Rodriguez told officers he had touched the woman's breasts but claimed the two had been "making out" during the ride.

When the taxi dropped the passengers off, a fight broke out between two men involved in the incident.

During that altercation, a firearm Rodriguez had in the back of his pants fell out and was kicked down the street.

Police reported Rodriguez admitted he had been drinking, and a preliminary breath test showed a blood alcohol concentration of 0.26, more than three times the legal driving limit of 0.08 in Utah.

Rodriguez initially faced additional charges including carrying a dangerous weapon while under the influence and public intoxication, but those charges were later dismissed as the case proceeded through the court system.

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New Year, New Challenge: Vision Iron County Launches #26Trailsin2026 Campaign

by Marcus Lawrence

PROGRAM DIRECTOR MS IN SPORTS CONDITIONING & PERFORMANCE

Vision Iron County's Healthcare Team is continuing its mission to get the community moving with the official launch of the **#26Trailsin2026** campaign. The initiative will kick off on March 17, 2026, at the University of the Parks Celebration held at Southern Utah University. Building on the success of last year's trail challenge, the 2026 campaign invites residents of all ages and abilities to explore Iron County's vast trail network with human-powered movement through January 6, 2027.

According to Healthcare Team co-lead Marcus Lawrence, the campaign is about more than just logging miles. "Our goal with **#26Trailsin2026** is to foster a vibrant community by making physical activity accessible and enjoyable for everyone," Lawrence says. "We are fortunate to have such a beautiful landscape right in our backyard, and we want to encourage residents to use these trails to boost both their physical and mental well-being".

How to Participate and Win

The campaign features a tiered reward system to encourage participation at every level:

- The 6-Trail Milestone: Hike, bike, run, ski or do any human-powered movement at least six times on six different Iron County trails to enter the first prize drawing.
- The 26-Trail Challenge: Complete 26 trails to qualify for the grand prize drawing.

Participants can document their progress by sharing photos of their trail experiences on social media using the hashtag **#26Trailsin2026**. To officially enter the drawings, individuals should also bookmark and

complete the entry form available via the included QR code.

Prizes and Incentives

This year's prize pool features local favorites, including:

- \$50 gift cards to local staples like Centro, Milt's, and The Grind.
- Exclusive Cedar City and Brian Head apparel.
- Annual National Park Passes valid through December 2027, serving as the campaign's grand prize.

Supporting Community Health Goals

The **#26Trailsin2026** initiative aligns with several priorities identified in the 2025 Cedar City Hospital Community Needs Assessment, including improving behavioral health, investing in social drivers of health, increasing access to care, and preventing childhood injury and illness. "While a trail campaign is just one small piece of the puzzle, we believe it supports these broader community goals in a tangible way," Lawrence explains. "By encouraging time in nature, we are offering a simple tool to help improve behavioral health, as exercise is a known factor in reducing stress and anxiety".

The campaign also addresses social drivers of health by promoting free, local recreation that is accessible to all residents regardless of income. By providing a directory of local trails categorized by difficulty and accessibility, the team hopes to increase access to wellness resources for those who may not know where to start. Finally, by encouraging families to hit the trails together, the initiative helps prevent childhood illness by fostering

Iron County man sentenced to prison in fatal stabbing case

by Tracie Sullivan

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

An Iron County man has been sentenced to prison after pleading guilty to a reduced charge in connection with the fatal stabbing of his neighbor last year.

Fifth District Judge Matthew L. Bell on March 4 sentenced Gerald Lee Vandermeer, 56, to an indeterminate term of up to five years in the Utah State Prison after he pleaded guilty to homicide by assault, a third-degree felony.

Court records show Vandermeer will be transported from the Iron County Jail to the Utah State Prison to begin serving the sentence. The court also ordered \$5,771.99 in restitution to the Utah Office for Victims of Crime, plus interest.

Vandermeer was originally arrested in February 2025 on suspicion of first-degree murder following the death of 45-year-old Cory Whittenburg.

According to charging documents filed in support of the arrest, Iron County Sheriff's deputies responded Feb. 12, 2025 to a report of a stabbing and gunshot. Deputies arrived and contacted Vandermeer, who had multiple lacerations to his hands and face.

Vandermeer told investigators he had recently met Whittenburg and had gone to his residence that day with a case of beer and a bottle of vodka.

The two men drank together and later became involved in a physical altercation though Vandermeer told investigators he could not recall how the fight began or what happened during it.

Authorities later located Whittenburg deceased inside his residence with multiple stab wounds, including two significant wounds to his back, according to the affidavit.

The incident occurred near 4200 West and 6800 North west of Lund Highway in Iron County. Whittenburg was found dead inside a shipping container that served as his residence.

In a statement following the sentencing, the Iron County Attorney's Office said the case involved significant evidentiary challenges.

"This was a tragic and difficult case. The evidence showed that both men were under the influence of alcohol and engaged in a physical altercation that resulted in the death of the victim," Iron County Deputy Attorney Trajan Evans said. "While the reduction in the offense is not a reflection of the victim or his actions, there was simply not enough evidence to prove exactly what happened beyond a reasonable doubt.

"We advocated for a prison sentence and agreed with Judge Bell's ruling that prison was necessary to meet the ends of justice. Our sympathies remain with the victim's family as they continue to grieve the loss of their loved one."

early habits of physical activity that can reduce the risk of chronic diseases later in life.

Vision Iron County is a 501(c)3 organization that serves as a collaborative hub for community members, businesses, and organizations to address key needs across sectors like healthcare, education, and recreation.

For trail maps, campaign details, and a comprehensive list of local trails, visit visionironcounty.org.

Scan and bookmark the QR Code link for details and to enter to win!





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showcase

ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT IN IRON COUNTY

by Sara Penny

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

You are invited to a free recital with music from 1826 to 2026. The recital is on Saturday, March 21, at 7 p.m. in the Presbyterian Church at 2279 North Wedgewood Lane. Sara Penny and Sally Hunter Jensen have selected the second Schubert Violin Sonata and his lovely Ave Marie to represent 1826.

This early Romantic era music has lovely melodies and striking dramatic contrasts. Mendelssohn was also active at this time, so his Wings of Song is included on the recital.

For 1926 the recital is honoring Sally's mother's birthday year with one of her favorite pieces called Adoration by Borowski. This melodramatic violin solo represents the later Romantic era trends towards flourish and exaggerated contrasts. Dawn Hunter was a cultural pillar for Cedar City with her support for local arts organizations as well as making her own art. She was a musician as well as a visual artist and was instrumental in helping to establish several of our local arts groups.

For fun, the recital has an example of 1920's jazz



Dawn Hunter

with Get Happy by Harold Arlen to represent 1926. The song is mostly associated with Judy Garland, as is his other famous piece Somewhere Over the Rainbow. Arlen wrote over 500 songs. The lyricist Ted Koehler worked with Arlen on numerous Broadway and Hollywood productions.

Irish Ballad features Andy Lee on piano. He is a student at Centerville Junior High. His mother Bridget Lee and Brooke MacNaughtan will be playing a cello duet.

The final piece is a new composition by Brian Penny composed for this recital to represent 2026. From Stillness to Swell explores the tonal range of the violin. "A violin traces a single, aching line across a field of silence while the piano answers not with urgency but with restraint: each chord placed only where the emptiness has finished speaking. The music lives as much in what is withheld as in what is given, every pause an



Right: Sara Penny and Left: Sally Hunter Jensen

architecture of breath that lets each note arrive with the weight of something chosen, not inevitable," said Brian Penny. He was recently featured as a composer with the SUU Symphony Orchestra. His music is streaming on all major platforms and can be found via his website: www.brianpennymusic.com

"We are excited to share our music with you at the recital," said Penny. Refreshments will be served.

*Exploring
Music
From
1826 to 2026*

You are Invited:
FREE
Community Recital

Saturday, March 21
at 7:00 p.m.

Presbyterian Church
2279 Wedgewood Lane



Cedar City STAR SEARCH 2026

by *May Hunter*

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

Search was held on March 7, 2026, at the Heritage Theatre.

This vibrant community event, hosted by Cedar City Events, showcased incredible local talent from across Iron County. Twelve talented finalists took the stage in front of a live audience and three local celebrity judges, all competing for the \$250 grand prize.

The audience also joined in the fun by voting for the Audience Choice Award, making the night even more exciting for everyone involved. With performances that included music, dance, and more, it was truly an evening filled with energy, creativity, and entertainment for all ages.

All proceeds from the event benefited

The 6th Annual Cedar City Star

Canyon Creek Services. This organization includes the Canyon Creek Women's Crisis Center in Cedar City, Utah, which provides free 24-hour crisis intervention, emergency services, aftercare, and outreach for survivors in their time of need. Since 1996, they have been supporting the community through state and federal grants, along with generous donations from caring individuals and organizations throughout Iron County.

Thank you for supporting this important cause!

Meet the Winners

- Group Winner: Iron

Lotus performing "Dream of the Sword"

- Adult Winner: Kennedy McCuiston singing "New York, New York"
- Teen Winner: Jasmine Overson singing and playing guitar to "The Rest"

- Youth Winner: Kyla Judd singing "Wicked Game"

- Audience Choice Award: Louthan & Ethan Templin performing "The Great Piano Duel"

- Special Presentation: The Spare Keys (2026 Runner-Up)

Meet the Judges

Randall McUrie, Cedar City Attorney

Melinda Pfundstein, Executive Director of Community and

Audience Choice Award-Louthan & Ethan Templin, presented by Iron County Royalty



Guest Band-Apollo's Army



Workforce Development at Southern Utah University

Brooke Twitchell, Director of Events at BZI Steel

Thank you to everyone who attended, performed, volunteered, and supported this wonderful community event, and for helping make it a night of exceptional entertainment for the whole family!

Vote For PEDRO IRON COUNTY SHERIFF

Listen. Align. Advance.

15 Years of Local Experience. Innovative Solutions. Root-Cause Results.

The Garcia Family Roots Iron County is where my wife, Chandra, and I raised our five children. And now it's where we welcome our first grandchild. This isn't just a jurisdiction to me, it's home. My commitment to this county is personal.

Why Now? Iron County is growing, and our approach to law enforcement must grow with it. We cannot solve 2026's problems with 1990's tactics: yet from Corrections and Patrol to School Resource Officer and Drug Court, I've spent my 20s and 30s in the trenches of Southern Utah law enforcement. I've seen where the system works and where it fails.

I possess the integrity, innovation, and energy necessary to lead our county forward.



"Just because something has been done a certain way for along time doesn't mean it's the right way. If you want real change, Vote for Pedro."



Beyond D.A.R.E.

We need consistent Deputy engagement in our schools from Kindergarten through 12th grade, not just a one-time program in the 5th grade.



Ending "Tablet Culture" in Jail

I advocate for meaningful work programs. No more sitting around. Let's get inmates cleaning our county, learning a strong work ethic, and saving taxpayer dollars.



Local Supervision & GPS Tracking

Instead of just building bigger jails, let's use underutilized tools like GPS tracking and a local Probation Program to reduce recidivism.



Targeting the Root Cause

We tackle property crime and theft by aggressively addressing the drug issues that drive them through specialized, hardworking teams.

PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF PEDRO FOR IRON COUNTY SHERIFF

HOW TO HELP: I am currently collecting signatures for my petition packet to be on the ballot. If you want a smarter, safer Iron County, please reach out.

Call or Text: 984-840-1000 and visit www.Vote4Pedro.org
I am Pedro Garcia, and I approve this message.

The Forgotten Awards

by Samuel Wells

CCAC BOARD MEMBER

Most of us have some idea of famous books. Many of them are memorable because they won prestigious awards. To Kill a Mockingbird (by Harper Lee) and The Grapes of Wrath (by John Steinbeck) won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Island of the Blue Dolphins (by Scott O'Dell) and A Wrinkle in Time (by Madeleine L'Engle) both won the Newbery Medal. This Is Not My Hat (by Jon Klassen) and Hello Lighthouse (by Sophie Blackall) won the Caldecott Medal.

Many of us are unaware,

however, of the other book awards given out each year.

Just a month ago (on January 26) the Youth Media Awards were announced and over 20 different categories were recognized. One of my favorites is the YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults, and this year the winner is *Death in the Jungle* by Candace Fleming. This is the story of the Peoples Temple where the infamous cult leader, Jim Jones, led more than 900 people to death in Guyana on November 18, 1978. It is a real page-turner, and I kept asking myself, after reading each



chapter, how could so many people be taken in by this manipulator. It is a very insightful story and a cautionary tale, for sure. It is certainly a story we should not forget. It is also a book that most of us adults (young and old alike) would enjoy reading.

I mention this because the statistics on adult reading proficiency in the United States are not encouraging. Most of us are reading at a junior high school level or below. Millions of American adults are not reading books at all. It is understandable that we may not favor reading

stories for children as we mature, and it is also understandable that many books targeting an adult audience are beyond the average person's patience. But it is for precisely these reasons that more of us should be reading young adult nonfiction. These books are written in straight-forward sentences and describe storylines that are not complicated. Many are lavishly (and beautifully) illustrated.

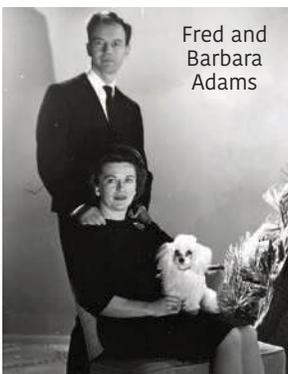
My neighbor Mark told me an interesting story last Sunday. He said that he had stopped reading books when he was younger because life just got too busy and he didn't connect with any of the authors.

This suddenly changed, he told me, a couple of years ago when his grandchildren asked him to be part of their reading group. The books they chose were for a young audience and didn't really interest him, at least at first, but he wasn't about to turn down an opportunity to be with his family. He told me with obvious pleasure how surprised he was to discover that he actually enjoyed the stories. "They have lessons in them that are appropriate for all of us," he said, "and they are really interesting and fun." I couldn't agree more. Young adult literature is where so many readers like to go when they want to start loving books again.

Celebrating 65 Years: Shakespeare and the Fluffy Bundle

by Ryan Pau

GUEST WRITER AND FESTIVAL ORIENTATION/SEMINAR MODERATOR



Walt Disney, at the height of his popularity, advised his animators to "remember that it all started with a mouse." In the case of the Utah Shakespeare Festival, it all started in a laundromat. In the spring of 1960, Fred Adams, a

young (and the only) drama professor at the College of Southern Utah sat with his fiancée Barbara Gaddie in the Fluffy Bundle Laundromat and on a yellow note pad designed their dream. The notes on that pad would become the blueprint for the Utah Shakespeare Festival. The events that culminated with this Fluffy Bundle planning session had taken root years before.

Fred Adams had begun to build a successful drama program that the Cedar City, Utah, community enthusiastically supported and which would eventually evolve into the Utah Shakespeare Festival. Coming from a family that actively encouraged his dramatic ambitions, Fred brought some of the biggest shows of

the New York theater scene to rural Southern Utah and its small college. The only looming difficulty became the cost of continually purchasing royalty rights for newer shows. The solution: produce Shakespeare. The plays of William Shakespeare existed in the public domain, so no royalties needed.

Fred had spent a few weeks in the summer of 1959 living with friends in Ashland, Oregon. There he developed a life-long friendship with Angus Bowmer, the founder of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Fred spent all his time taking notes, watching rehearsals, and sketching sets. He began to notice similarities between Ashland and Cedar City. Both were similar in size, had small junior colleges, and were surrounded by scenic wonder. If a Shakespeare festival could work in Ashland, Oregon, why not Cedar City, Utah?

In 1960, Fred took his college acting company on a barn-

storming tour of rural Utah and Nevada. They performed Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit* in cultural halls and rented auditoriums to great acclaim. This cast became the foundation for the first Festival productions.

The pieces began to fall together. Fred and Barbara wanted to stay in Cedar City. Shakespeare worked in the community. The drama program had expanded and the students were enthusiastic. However, there were some storm clouds on the horizon. Cedar City had begun to suffer some economic troubles. The iron mines, which had brought large amounts of tax revenue into the city and county coffers, were beginning to close.

Additionally, the proposed route of the new Interstate 15 bypassed Cedar City by over 15 miles to the west. If the freeway did not have an interchange in Cedar City, it would be a devastating blow to the local business community.

Fred and Barbara envisioned a Shakespearean festival that would draw tourists into the community--tourists that would stay in motels, eat at restaurants, buy gas for their cars, and shop in the local stores. A festival could provide leverage for bringing the freeway closer and making Cedar City a destination point for travelers. Shakespeare could help Cedar City survive. Fred and Barbara took the ideas written on the yellow note pad, finished their laundry, and set to work.

Since it's inaugural season sixty-five years ago, the Utah Shakespeare Festival has evolved from three plays over two weekends on a temporary stage into an internationally recognized, Tony Award-winning theatre company. The Festival now presents in three diverse theaters, eight plays in repertory through the summer and fall bringing quality professional theater to hundreds of thousands of people from around the world.



WEAR YOUR GREEN!

by *May Hunter*

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated every year on March 17th, and in 2026 it falls on a Tuesday. Whether you're Irish or not, it's a wonderful day to celebrate the culture, heritage, and traditions of Ireland.

This holiday honors St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, who was a Christian missionary credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland in the 5th century. Originally observed as a religious feast day, St. Patrick's Day has grown into a joyful celebration of Irish culture enjoyed around the world.

One of the most recognizable symbols of the holiday is the shamrock, Ireland's national plant. Wearing green has become a fun tradition, legend says it makes you invisible to mischievous leprechauns! Today, it's simply a festive way to celebrate and avoid getting playfully "pinched."

When Irish immigrants brought St. Patrick's Day to the United States, it gradually became a broader celebration of Irish pride and heritage. Over time, the holiday expanded beyond its religious roots to include parades, festivals, music, great food, and lots of green attire.

The Catholic Church officially recognized St. Patrick's Day as a feast day in the early 1600s. The first recorded celebration in America was held in Boston in 1737, and since then the holiday has continued to grow in popularity.

One of the most unique celebrations takes place in Chicago, where the Chicago River is dyed bright green each year on the Saturday before St. Patrick's Day. This bucket-list tradition has delighted crowds for more than half a century.

Ever wonder why corned beef and cabbage is the traditional St. Patrick's Day meal? In Ireland during the 19th century, corned beef was considered a luxury food, and many people ate salted pork instead. When Irish immigrants came to the United States, salted pork became expensive, but corned beef was affordable. Paired with inexpensive cabbage, the now-famous St. Patrick's Day meal was born!

Today, St. Patrick's Day is celebrated all around the world, from Ireland and the United States to Australia and Brazil, bringing people together to enjoy Irish culture and community.

Irish Blessing

May your troubles be less
And your blessings be more,
And nothing but happiness
Come through your door.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!



SHAKE IT UP-ST. PATRICK'S DAY MINT SHAKES
(An American-Irish Tradition)

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pint vanilla ice cream (2 cups)
- 1/4 cup whole or 2% milk
- 1/2 teaspoon peppermint extract
- 1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 3 or 4 drops green liquid food coloring
- Whipped cream and green sanding sugar, for garnish

DIRECTIONS

1. Blend the ice cream, milk, peppermint extract, vanilla and food coloring in a blender until smooth.
2. Pour into one or two serving glasses and garnish with whipped cream and sanding sugar.

celebrations

Shirley White

of Summit, UT
is turning



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schools

IRON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS NUGGETS

by Colby Leavitt

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

Three Peaks Elementary



Three Peaks Elementary 4th and 5th grade students participated in the production of *Disney Frozen Kids*, through special arrangement with Music Theatre International. They performed for the school on March 4, 2026 in the afternoon and for parents and families that evening. Students tried out for varying parts back in October and continued to practice each Friday morning at 7:30. Students worked hard to memorize lines and lyrics, and learn choreographed dances. They also painted the backdrops and created the props for the show. Parents/guardians helped with costumes and transpor-

tation to practices. We would like to thank Cassie Walker-director, Jenny Van Blaricom-assistant director, and Ashley Haderlie-parent volunteer, for making this show possible for everyone to enjoy. We would also like to thank the School LAND Trust program for making it financially possible to fund these types of school productions. We are excited for next year's production- I wonder what it will be?

East Elementary

East Elementary School celebrated Read Across America Week during the first week of March with fun, Dr. Seuss themed activities. Students wore green for Green Eggs and Ham and showed off their creativity on Wacky Wednesday with wacky outfits. The week was made extra special by guest readers from across the school and district, including the school secretary, nurse, principal, district elementary director, and Superintendent Dr. Hatch, who shared their favorite books with students.

Canyon View Middle School

The students in the Chinese Dual Immersion program at CVMS participated in Chinese Night last week. Students worked hard to decorate the auditorium and perform songs in Chinese. 8th grade students announced the evening and translated all of the speaking into Chinese. It was a great celebration of Chinese culture and all of the hard work the students have put into learning another language.

South Elementary

While most of the town was still fast asleep, students in Mr. Hunt's fifth grade class were wide awake and looking to the skies. Before the sun came up, these dedicated young astronomers gathered with blankets, hot chocolate, and plenty of excitement to watch the recent lunar eclipse. After the eclipse viewing, students went home for a short while before returning to school for the regular day. Although a few sleepy eyes and extra yawns were spotted, not a single student fell asleep in class.

Hello March

by May Hunter

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

"March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb."

- Thomas Fuller

This familiar proverb describes March's ever-changing weather. It suggests that the month may begin with cold, stormy winter days (the lion) and end with gentle, mild spring weather (the lamb). Do you believe this saying, or do you think it's just colorful weather folklore?

Spring is a season full of change, especially when it comes to the weather.

Here in Southern Utah, we

see **MARCH** » 19



HELLO MARCH

« CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18



know just how unpredictable it can be! Temperatures can swing from balmy to frigid, sunny days may be followed by a week of storms, and sometimes we experience dramatic weather shifts all in one day. As the air warms, it holds more moisture, which is why springtime thunderstorms are more common.

Even with a few cold days lingering, spring is definitely on its way, bringing with it a sense of renewal, warmth, and hope. After a long, snowy winter, many of us are ready to see grass turning green, hear birds singing, and spend more time outdoors. For those who aren't fans of cold weather, spring means it's finally time to get outside and enjoy Southern Utah's beautiful landscapes once again.

Spring is the perfect time to turn over a new leaf. It's a season of growth, courage, and fresh beginnings, a chance to push back fears, embrace change, and move forward with optimism.

Although snow and icy nights may still surprise us now and then, spring is slowly but surely making its way here. Take a walk and notice flower buds forming, blossoms appearing on trees, and animals becoming more active. Head up the mountain and watch for wildlife emerging after winter. Look for squirrels darting across lawns and birds busy building their nests.

Spring also means family walks, country drives, and visits to see baby lambs, calves, chicks, and other farm animals. It's the perfect time to explore new trails, many paved and ready for adventure all around town!

The arrival of spring often lifts our spirits. Longer, warmer, sunnier days bring

happiness and hope. Nature invites us to slow down and enjoy the moment. We tend to eat fresher foods, sleep better, soak up natural vitamin D, and breathe in that fresh spring air. All of this helps boost our mood and mental health, often without us even realizing it.

Birdsong, budding trees, green leaves, and early flowers remind us that brighter days are ahead. Our landscapes become more colorful, skies turn bluer, and everything seems to come alive again. Better weather brings us closer together, giving us more

see **MARCH** » 22



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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 (805) 268-4287.

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 • (435) 559-3333

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

Caregivers

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

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

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

Porn Addiction Recovery

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

Pregnancy, Infant Loss

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

Reel Mental Health

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

Senior Blind/Visually Impaired

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

Southern Utah Veterans Assoc.

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

Southwest Parkinson's Alliance

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

Widows Ministry

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

CLASSES, CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

Adult Barre/Modern Dance

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

Arthritis Foundations Exercise

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

Bingo & Lunch

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

Book Club

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

Cars & Custard

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

Cedar Breaks Model A/Vintage Car Club

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

Cedar Chest Quilters' Guild

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

Cedar City ESL

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

Cedar City parkrun

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

Cedar City Toastmasters

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

Cedar City Unitarian Universalists

welcome all religious backgrounds, agnostics, and atheists. 3rd Sundays at 12 noon. 5101 W 1125 S, Cedar City. Leave a message or call Valerie 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

OARS (Open, Authentic, Relevant, Spiritual)

meetings every Tuesday night 6pm-8pm at the Cedar City Library in the Park - excluding holidays. Includes dinner, faith-oriented discussion and prayer for ages 18-30. Info: text 541-579-1554 or pastorschuyler@gmail.com.

Parowan Pickleball

Mon, 6-8 pm • Tues-Thurs, 9-12 pm • Iron County Exhibit Building. Range of skill levels, 3 indoor courts, beginners welcome. INFO, fees and signup: 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/BZiepPW63pR6zD8k9

Rock Club

1st Thurs, 6 pm • Gateway Academy, 201 W Thoroughbred Way, Enoch. Learn about geology, find gems, fossils and minerals. Learn to cut and polish and make jewelry. southernutahrockclub.org

Sagebrush Fiber Artisans Guild

Wed, 9:30-11:30 am • Grind Coffee House

(19 N Main, Cedar City). Knit, crochet, weave, spin, etc. Come learn a craft, work on a project, or just socialize. Beginners welcome! Questions: Jane 435-233-8366.

Senior Yoga Classes

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

Sewing Group

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

Southern Utah Woodturners

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

StrongBoard Classes

M-W-Fri, 9 am • IFS Studio, 2390 UT-56 #9, Cedar City. Improve core strength, balance, stability. All fitness levels welcome. Class size limited to 8. Call (661) 436-0259 to register/reserve your spot.

Tai Chi For Health

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

TOPS—Take Off Pounds Sensibly

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

Water Aerobics Class

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

Wellness Place

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

Wellness Wednesdays

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

Youth Group

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

calendar

FRI, MAR 13

CEDAR CITY JUNIOR BALLET PRESENTS CINDERELLA (7:30PM) Performed March 13th and 14th. At the Heritage Center Theater. \$15 General Admission tickets available at Heritage Box Office.

DISNEY'S "DESCENDANT'S" THE MUSICAL DATES MARCH 13th, 14th, 16th, 19th, 20th, 21st (7PM) At 150 E Altamira Ave. Cedar City. Tickets are only \$10 and are available online in advance or at the door. CCCMT.org

SKI WITH A RANGER PROGRAM (12:30 PM) THE FREE PRO-gram educates guests about forest health and local geology. Second Friday of each month: Mar. 13 (Navajo base area; youth-focused), Apr. 10, plus Saturday, Apr. 25, 2026. Base of the Giant Steps Express Lift at 1 p.m. (except Mar. 13 at the Navajo base area). Approximately one hour, weather and conditions permitting. Reservations are not required. Participants must be intermediate-level skiers or snowboarders and have a lift ticket or season pass. Attendance is first-come, first-served.

CEDAR BREAKS: SNOWSHOE HIKE (10:30AM TO 4:00PM) Ranger Led Snowshoe Hikes at Cedar Breaks National Monument. Join for beginner-friendly Guided Snowshoe Tours at 10:30 am, 12:30 pm, and 2:30 pm every Friday & Saturday throughout the winter beginning at the Visitor Contact Station at North View Overlook (weather permitting). The National Monument entrance fee applies (\$25 per vehicle). Reservations are required and are available at eventbrite.com. For information, visit nps.gov/cebr or call (435) 986-7120. Participants will hike a 1-mile round-trip through snowy terrain. The group will stop for a 15-minute Ranger program approximately halfway through the hike. The entire experience will last about one hour and thirty minutes. The equipment, including snowshoes and a pair of ski poles, is available to all participants at no cost.

TUES, MAR 17

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

IRON COUNTY GOP CAUCUS NIGHT (7PM) DOORS OPEN AT 6pm. Arrive Early to credential, candidate meet and greet (some locations) Visit ironcountygop.org for more information.

CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY WITH LIVE MUSIC (5:30-8:30PM) At Last Chair Grill & Brews. The evening features a performance by Molly's Malone, along with food and a selection of local beers. Last Chair Grill & Brews is located on the third floor of the Giant Steps Lodge.

JOHN MEAD DANCE COMPANY PRESENTS ENCORE (7:30PM) March 17th and 18th at Cedar City's Heritage Theater. Cedar City: John Mead Dance Company (JMDC), cordially invites you to see ENCORE! Don't miss Cedar City's own, adult, professional dance company as they perform this energetic, family-friendly show! Tickets are available through the Heritage Theater in Cedar City through their website: <https://ci.ovationtix.com/35507/production/1267418>, or by calling 435-865-2882.

GUEST ARTIST PIANO RECITAL - BENJAMIN DAVID TUFT (7:30PM) Piano Recital featuring guest Artist Benjamin David Tuft will be held at the SUU Music Building - Thorley Recital Hall (432 W 200 S, Cedar City). Admission is FREE and everyone is welcome.

Val Wood



February 26, 1947 – March 1, 2026

Val Wood of Cedar City, Utah, passed away peacefully on March 1, 2026. Born on February 26, 1947 in Cedar City, as the oldest child of Lehi and Elsa (Pendleton) Wood, Val was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend, known for his humor, creativity, and resilience.

A lifelong resident of Southern Utah, Val graduated from Cedar High School. He was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and served a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Austria, an experience that led to him speaking German fluently for the rest of his life. In 1975, he suffered a traumatic brain injury on Kanarra Mountain that affected him for the rest of his life. Despite this challenge, Val lived fully, always ready with a story, a joke, or a poem about someone's name.

Val worked for many years at Deseret Industries in Cedar City, a job he truly enjoyed and where he made many friendships.

Val was married three times. He first married Louise Seegmiller, and together they had three children: Brigitte, Melora, and Kurt. Val and Louise later divorced. In 1985, he married Ardith Shakespear; they later divorced. After a brief courtship, he married Regina Houston on November 11, 1993, in the Las Vegas Temple. Regina preceded him in death in 2021.

Val will be remembered for his storytelling, humor, poetry, and craftsmanship, including welding projects and creative plant stands. He loved gardening, maintaining the greenest lawn, and caring for animals—rescuing his dog "Freeway" from the I-15 freeway and transporting cats by bike to the vet, much to the dismay of the cats as they had to ride in his backpack. His signature phrase, "Well, alright," often accompanied a knowing eye roll, and his warmth and humor touched everyone who knew him. He also cherished spending time at the family ranch near Zane.

He is survived by his daughter Melora Wood, son Kurt Wood, and son-in-law Miguel Galindro; grandchildren Alex and Brendan Galindro; brothers Matthew (Marilyn) Wood, Randy (Aleta) Wood, and Mont (Cindy) Wood; sister-in-law Judy Wood; brother-in-law Daniel Venables; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his loving and patient wife Regina Wood, daughter Brigitte Galindro, grandson Daniel Galindro, his parents, sister Lucy Venables, brother David Wood, and niece Wendy Wood.

The family would like to express their heartfelt thanks to 3 Peaks Assisted Living, as well as to his siblings Matt and Lucy, for their loving care and support following Regina's passing. A Graveside Service will be held Saturday, March 14, 2026 at 11:00 am at Cedar City Cemetery, Cedar City, Utah. Interment is under the direction of Southern Utah Mortuary. Online condolences can be shared on the website www.mortuary.org.

obituaries

Marlynn Smith

Dec. 12, 1936 ~ Feb. 05, 2026



Marlynn Smith, age 89, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her loving family on February 5th, 2026. She was born on December 12th, 1936 in the hospital in Cedar City to Rue and Marva (Corry) Heppler.

She grew up in Beaver, Utah with her brothers and their dog, Skipper. Her first job was at the Dairy Queen that her father opened. She then went on to work as a bank teller, a waitress at the cafe, the secretary of an elementary school, and as an admissions coordinator at Southern Utah University. It was while waitressing at the cafe that she met her beloved husband, Con Smith.

Con and Marlynn married in Las Vegas in Bishop Bunker's home on March 16th, 1955, and were later sealed in the St. George temple. Marlynn's happiest years together with her husband were spent traveling to Europe and Hawaii, raising their three wonderful boys, and dancing the night away.

Marlynn was preceded in death by her husband, Connell, of 61 years, and survived by their children Chris (Xiaoli); Kelly (ReNae); Lynn (Sheri); grandchildren, Mandie (Dan); Kaleb, Trevor (Cierra); McCall (John); Raquel, and 3 great grandchildren, Nathan, Shawn, and Canyon.

A graveside service will be held at the Cedar City cemetery, 685 North Main Street, on March 16th at 10 AM.

Donald Sullivan Richardson



Donald Sullivan Richardson was born on January 09, 1935, in Mesa, AZ. He enjoyed life until February 24, 2026. When he was 74, he and his wife Diane moved to Southern Utah. When he would communicate with his family in Mesa, he would tell them that this was the choicest place on the planet, and he wished he had been born here.

During his life, he enjoyed several different occupations and for that reason, he never was bored by his employment. He worked for Arizona Public Service, taught school, worked for a mining company, a heavy equipment mechanic and retired as a plumber. He liked anything with wheels and gears and restored old hit and miss gasoline engines. He liked to make things and fix things and said (tongue in cheek) that if a man made it a man could fix it.

Except for Mexico and Canada, he never left the United States. After having travelled in the 48 states and having lived in Arizona his whole life, he finally saw the Grand Canyon. He had a good sense of humor and enjoyed anything that was funny. He always said he was looking forward to a visit with his daddy and mother, brothers and sisters who passed on.

He is survived by his wife Diane and his children Arlin, Bryan, Cheryl, Daena, Eric, Julie, Crystal, Andrew and stepchildren Stacy, Trevor, Tiffany, and Shelly. Also, many grand and great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents Gilbert and Barbara Richardson and eleven siblings, and daughter Tara.

Funeral Services will be Wednesday, March 4th, 2026, at 11:00 A.M. at the Paragonah LDS Chapel 79 N Main St., Paragonah, UT 84760. With a viewing one hour prior to the service.

Family and friends are invited to share tributes online at www.SerenityStG.com. Arrangements and memorial tree planting under the direction of Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah, (435) 986-9100.

obituaries

Joye Leslie Golden Corry



Joye Leslie Golden Corry was born September 27, 1941, in Atlanta, Georgia, to Willis Mansfield and Mary Dorothy Gower Golden. Joye died February 27, 2026, from the complications of mortal life.

At the age of 12, she moved with her family to Levittown, New York. After graduating high school, she attended nursing school at Queens Hospital Center School of Nursing. Upon graduation, she began her career working in ICU. In 1963 a "Corry" boy named "Elder" from Cedar City knocked on her door and asked her what did she know about the Mormon church. She was baptized and her life forever changed. The story of her pioneer journey to Utah was rife with trials and adventures. She met her husband and best friend ever, another "Corry" boy, W. Kent Corry on a blind date on August 3, 1968. They were married 15 days later in Elko, NV. Their marriage was solemnized in the Salt Lake Temple on August 18, 1969. While Kent attended law school, Joye continued to work in ICU and Inservice Education until their daughter, Amy, was born. They spent the next few years in Salt Lake City and in New York. In 1976, they moved to Cedar City where their son, William Andrew "Drew" (Melissa), was born.



Joye believed in putting her actions where her feelings were. She went door to door to obtain enough signatures to get street lights in her subdivision. She spent 10 or more years teaching Iron County kindergarteners about "Jimmy Germ", a program she developed about the importance of washing their hands and keeping them away from the holes in their bodies. She served

as the blood drive chairman in Cedar City for many years. She was a first aid merit badge counselor for the boy scouts and gave classes to young women before they went to Girls Camp. She was a member of the hospital's health care foundation and spent time as a fund-raising chairman. The first project she worked on was to raise money to purchase life sustaining equipment for premature babies born in Cedar City who had to be life flighted to Salt Lake City.

Joye was a sincere believer in the power and importance of genealogy work and was a true "rockstar", having submitted well over 100,000 names to her family tree. As she proudly would say "families are eternal" and she truly represented the beauty of those words. Joye also loved camping and fishing with her family and could clean a fish better and faster than anyone.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her sisters, Anne White, Dorothy Dale (Robert) Nystrom, and Virginia Lee (Rob) Billotti. She knew her children were miracles in her life and considered them the jewels in her crown. Her grandchildren and great grandchildren, Kaison (Amber), Kylie, Kade, Madison (Terry), Makenna, Mylee, Matea, Zackary, Emily, Jaxon and McCoy are the flowers in her garden. She was active in her church and served to the best of her ability whatever she was called to do. She had a deep abiding testimony of Heavenly Father and His son, Jesus Christ. She knew that death is part of life eternal. She would say often that she "did not want to live in her sins forever" and upon death would be able to shout "free, free at last... here I come."

A funeral service honoring Joye will be held Saturday, March 7, 2026, at 1:00 pm at the LDS Fiddler's Canyon Chapel (638 East Canyon Center Road, Cedar City, Utah 84721). Viewings will be on Friday, March 6, 2026, from 6:00-8:00 pm at Southern Utah Mortuary and prior to the funeral service from 11:30-12:30 pm at the church. Interment will be at Cedar City Cemetery under the direction of Southern Utah Mortuary. To share online condolences and view the funeral livestream, visit the website www.mortuary.org.

Lenna Brunson



George Utah Temple.

Lenna Jean Winn Brunson, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and friend, passed away peacefully at All Seasons Senior Living in Cedar City, Utah, on March 5, 2026, surrounded by her family she spent her life nurturing. Born on November 9, 1945, in Richfield, Utah, Lenna spent her early childhood in Loss Creek before moving to Cedar City as a teenager. It was there that she met the love of her life, Ernest Kenney "Ken" Brunson. The two were married on October 12, 1963, in Cedar City, and their marriage was later solemnized in the St.

Lenna was a pillar of the Cedar City community, serving for many years as a cook for the Iron County School District. Her leadership and dedication to service extended to the Fire Department Association Women's Auxiliary, where she served as President for a year. A faithful member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, she shared her testimony and kindness with many as a Sunday School teacher.

Lenna's hands were rarely still, as she was a passionate painter, crafter, and master of crochet and macramé. Whether she was creating "rock pets" with the kids or adding to her cherished collections of dolls and plates, she found beauty in the details of her work. Her happiest moments were spent outdoors camping or gathering with her family for reunions. Every Thanksgiving, her kitchen was filled with the warmth of her famous rolls, which she loved baking alongside her grandchildren. Above all, Lenna was a woman who loved deeply, always keeping her family in her thoughts and worries, and she will be remembered for her devotion to those she held dear.

Lenna is survived by her devoted husband, Ken Brunson; and her three sons: Robert "Kenney" Brunson (Monica) of Enoch, UT; Jeff E. Brunson (JoAnn) of Cedar City, UT; and Russel Brunson (Sonia) of Enoch, UT. She also leaves behind her cherished grandchildren: Marissa (Ron), Alicia (Mason), Brantz (Kassidee), Kalee, Jacee (Christian), Katrina (Ben), and Trevor; as well as four great-grandchildren, with another precious one on the way. She will also be missed by her loyal dog, Rosie, who was her constant companion.

The family wishes to express their sincere gratitude to the staff of All Seasons and Hospice, specifically Carisa Archuleta and Ethan Bunker, for the exceptional and tender care they provided to Lenna.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, March 14, 2026, at 11:00 am at the Heritage Park Ward (290 W. 1045 N., Cedar City, UT). Viewings will be held Friday evening, March 13, from 6:00 - 8:00 pm and Saturday morning from 9:30 - 10:30 am, both at the church. Interment will be at the Cedar City Cemetery under the direction of Southern Utah Mortuary. To view the livestream of the services and share online condolences, please visit www.mortuary.org.

HELLO MARCH

« CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

opportunities to spend time with friends and family.

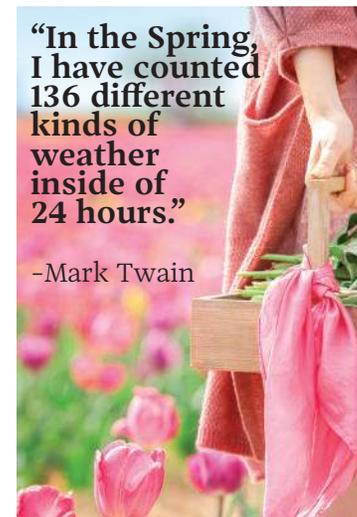
Spring is the season when the natural world awakens. Dormant plants begin to grow, seedlings sprout from the soil, and animals emerge from hibernation. It's a time full of possibility, proof that it's never too late to set a new goal or dream a new dream.

Spring is the earth smiling. It's a time to celebrate life, feel grateful for what we have, and look forward to what's ahead. Dance, sing, laugh, love, and don't forget to slow down and appreciate the beauty around you. Stop and smell the roses!

Spring reminds us just how beautiful change can be. Despite the forecast, live like it's spring!

"In the Spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours."

-Mark Twain



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Haller hits her way to Hendrix

When Canyon View head volleyball coach Lynette Whittaker saw Alyssa Haller play for the first time as a sophomore, she knew there was something special in the way Haller played the game.

On March 3, Haller made the hard work pay off when she signed her letter of intent in the CV library to play volleyball at Hendrix College, a four-year NCAA Division III school located in Conway, Arkansas, about a 40-minute drive south of Little Rock.

“Anyone who saw her walk in and play knew she had the potential to go play at college,” Whittaker said. “When I first started coaching her as a sophomore, I knew she had the potential. For girls like her to do this, it only opens the door for others.”

Haller and her family took a two-week trip to five different states – Massachusetts, Tennessee, Louisiana, Illinois and Arkansas. When she visited Hendrix, Haller immediately put it among her top choices along with Trevecca University in Tennessee.



Canyon View volleyball player **Alyssa Haller** stands with her teammates after she signed her letter of intent March 3 to join the team at Hendrix College, a Division III school located in Conway, Arkansas (Tom Zulewski/Iron County Today)

Once she visited with the coaches and team at Hendrix, it felt just like home.

“I got along with the Hendrix coach a lot better,” Haller said. “When I met with the

girls on the team, I had a lot of fun with them. When I got the paperwork, the coaches were more than willing to help. It was one good thing after another.

“It usually takes me a while to really get out there with people. I was so far away (from home), but I was still so talkative with them. It was a really, really good sign I could get along faster and have fun with that team.”

Hendrix finished 19-7 overall in 2025, 13-3 in the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference. While Haller set the example for the younger players on Canyon View’s 3A state title winners in her junior year, she knows she’ll be ready to learn from the group of juniors and seniors she’ll join on the Warriors.

“Once I learn and grow through the years, I’ll definitely be able to help the younger girls. Once I get to Hendrix, I’ll learn from the seniors in my first year,” Haller said. “Winning state was fun, but the competitive level showed how much it can bring all the girls together. It makes everything more fun.”

Haller plans to study “a large variety of things” before leaning toward work in cybersecurity. She is the second CV volleyball player to continue playing at the collegiate level, joining Dalayni Brindley, who is heading for her sophomore year at College of Southern Idaho.

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The brackets are coming

As we start this week's word salad masterpiece, I have a tiny confession to make.

I've been watching the undefeated run of the Miami RedHawks of the Mid-American Conference as the wins have continued to pile up. In case you missed it – you probably did, but we digress – the RedHawks completed its run to a perfect regular season with a 110-108 overtime victory over the Ohio Bobcats on March 6. A 31-0 record secured in a game where Miami erased a ton of demons over its in-state MAC rival.

There were enough reasons to celebrate this game to write its own column, but the biggest highlights are mind-blowing.

Miami had not won at Ohio's home arena – the Convocation Center in Athens, Ohio – in the last 14 tries. There were 11 ties and 17 lead changes, and the RedHawks were able to secure the most important one when Peter Suder made two free throws with 12 seconds left in

the extra period. Justin Kirby added one more free throw, and the celebration began when Jackson Paveletzke's 3-point try hit off the rim at the buzzer.

Paveletzke led all scorers with 37 points for the Bobcats. Jawan Simmons added 30. It wouldn't be enough to counter Eian Elmer leading five RedHawks in double figures with 32 points to go along with 12 rebounds.

All the other madness from this game aside, it would be a complete farce if Miami isn't chosen for the NCAA Tournament now. Even if they don't win the MAC tournament title this weekend, they would only have a single loss on the resume for the selection committee. Since the field was expanded, no team with less than two losses has been left

out of the NCAA Tournament. The RedHawks opened the MAC Tournament Thursday morning against the Minutemen of UMass. If they advance, there's a strong likelihood Bowling Green and former SUU head coach Todd Simon could get another shot at Miami in Friday's semifinal.

After Ohio's loss, the Falcons moved up to the fifth seed and faced the Toledo Rockets in the second quarterfinal game.

Stuff like this makes the NCAA Tournament special. Forget the transfer portal and leave NIL deals to those who want them.

With three games left before Selection Sunday, non-bracket hacks may wonder if Miami will be seeded higher than 11. I'd

endorse that idea.

As for our neighborhood teams, the SUU men have secured the No. 5 seed for their final WAC Tournament at Orleans Arena in Las Vegas. The T-Birds' first game happens Thursday against UT-Arlington in a 7 p.m. tipoff. Utah Tech has earned the No. 3 seed and will open its final WAC tournament run against the winner of Abilene Christian vs. Tarleton State on Thursday in a 9:30 p.m. start.

For the women, SUU is locked into the No. 3 seed and opens against the winner between UT-Arlington and Utah Tech on Thursday in a 4:30 p.m. start. UTA and UTU faced each other in the play-in game that happened Wednesday.

Game on, my friends.

Contact Tom Zulewski at tominator19@yahoo.com.

RANDOM thoughts

Tom Zulewski
IRON COUNTY TODAY



MONTHLY MENTAL HEALTH COLUMN

VOL. 2

MEET THIS MONTH'S CLINICIAN!

ROCHELLE MCLELLAND

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Clinical Mental Health Counselor
(CMHC)

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play therapy.



WELCOME TO ROOTS COUNSELING & WELLNESS

Rochelle McLelland is a Clinical Mental Health Counselor and the Clinical Director at Roots Counseling in Cedar City, Utah. Known for her warmth, clarity, and steady leadership, Rochelle plays a central role in shaping both the culture and clinical excellence of the practice. Rochelle is especially passionate about supporting teenagers and families. She understands that adolescence can be an emotionally intense season—not only for teens, but for parents who are trying to stay connected while navigating stress, conflict, and uncertainty. Her approach emphasizes emotional safety, honest communication, and rebuilding trust in ways that feel practical and sustainable.

She is also closely involved in Roots Counseling's DBT youth group program, which helps teens develop essential skills for managing emotions, strengthening relationships, reducing impulsive behaviors, and building healthier coping strategies. Rochelle believes in equipping young people with tools they can use in real-life situations—especially during the high-pressure challenges of school, friendships, family stress, anxiety, and depression.

In addition to her client work, Rochelle is deeply invested in mentoring clinicians. As Clinical Director, she provides guidance and support to the therapists at Roots Counseling, helping them grow in skill and confidence so they can better serve those seeking care. She believes meaningful therapy happens when clinicians feel grounded and supported—and she is committed to fostering a team that continues to learn and improve.

Rochelle's leadership balances compassion with purposeful growth. She is passionate about helping individuals and families move forward—not through pressure or perfectionism, but through encouragement, accountability, and a strong belief in resilience. If you would like to contact Roots Counseling or submit a question for a future column, email info@rootscw.com.

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change.”

-Rochelle M.

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TOM'S SPORTS TRIVIA

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

- Another weekend of NASCAR is on the way at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, so this week's dozen is devoted to all things racing around the 1.5-mile oval. For starters, who is the defending champion of the Pennzoil 400 that will be run Sunday?
- At the 2025 South Point 400, Denny Hamlin became the second driver to win at LVMS after starting on the pole. Who was the first, a Las Vegas native who pulled it off in 2009?
- On the opposite end of the coin, who has won a Cup race at Las Vegas from the deepest starting position (25th)? This driver did it in 2004 and retired in 2020 with 39 career wins in 697 starts.
- Two drivers are tied for the most race wins at LVMS with four checkered flags each. Name either driver.
- True or False: Since a second race weekend was added in 2018, no driver has been able to win both times at Las Vegas.
- How many races have the Busch brothers – Kurt and Kyle – won at LVMS?
- Last year's Pennzoil 400 had the most lead changes in 36 Cup races held at Las Vegas. How many lead changes happened?
- Who won the inaugural NASCAR Cup race at Vegas on March 1, 1998? This driver never won a Cup Series championship, but did win 40 races in 882 starts over a 31-year career that lasted until 2013..
- What Cup driver led the most laps at LVMS without winning the race? It happened in 2010, and in spite of the misfortune, this legend still won 93 times in his Hall of Fame career.
- NASCAR's second-tier series has a new title sponsor in 2026. What auto parts company's name will be on all of the Saturday races aired on the CW Network (Channel 30 locally)?
- Jimmie Johnson won five

consecutive NASCAR Cup titles between 2006 and 2010. How many times in that stretch did he win the race at Las Vegas?

- How many laps make up the distance for the typical 400-mile Cup race at Las Vegas?

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

- The Knights made 14 three-pointers (14-24) in the win over the Cougars.
- Scotty Bowman.
- C.C. Sabathia.
- True.
- Indianapolis.
- New Orleans Pelicans.
- Rick Pitino.
- UCLA.
- Connor McDavid.
- Max Scherzer.
- Apple TV.
- Lando Norris.

THIS WEEK WITH THE T-BIRDS



Southern Utah Athletics 2026

EASTER EGG HUNT

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This past season, Whitney Gardner surpassed Stacey Brinkman for the most points in SUU history with 52.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
 ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Hat is larger. 2. Bottom of lamp is not showing. 3. Lamp is different. 4. Book cover is different. 5. Glasses are missing. 6. Ribbon is moved.

March 9, 2026 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Makes a choice
- 5 Pear-shaped fruit
- 8 "The Black Prince" author Murdoch
- 12 High point
- 13 Hostel
- 14 Central point
- 15 "Citadel" actress Chopra
- 17 Only
- 18 Brooch
- 19 Rappers' improvisations
- 21 Signaled "Hi!"
- 24 — Bator
- 25 Battery fluid
- 26 Female royal
- 30 Roulette bet
- 31 Carried on, as war
- 32 Pickles on "Rugrats"
- 33 Inmate
- 35 Chorus syllables
- 36 "I dropped the fruitcake!"
- 37 How distant stars shine
- 38 Politico Nancy
- 41 Parcel of land
- 42 Latin 101 word

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
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			36				37			
38	39	40				41				
42				43	44			45	46	47
48				49				50		
51				52				53		

- 43 Archbishops, e.g.
- 48 Get overemotional
- 49 Slithery fish
- 50 Prime-time hour
- 51 Villa d'—
- 52 Tofu source
- 53 Bigfoot's cousin
- 5 Twain hero
- 6 Squid squirt
- 7 More knotted, as a tree
- 8 Harmonious
- 9 Leeway
- 10 Between jobs
- 11 Beholds
- 16 Help
- 20 Royal flush, e.g.
- 21 Get bent out of shape
- 22 Computer brand
- 23 Caesar's "I saw"
- 24 Implores
- 26 Primitive flutes
- 27 Wax-coated cheese
- 28 Ledge
- 29 Do in
- 31 Courts
- 34 Mollify
- 35 Lengthy list
- 37 — Perignon
- 38 Leaf
- 39 Flightless birds
- 40 Endure
- 41 Easter bloom
- 44 Classic car
- 45 Dead heat
- 46 Sinusitis doc
- 47 Six, in Sicily

DOWN

- 1 Antonym (Abbr.)
- 2 Capita lead-in
- 3 — chi
- 4 Used a Zoom alternative

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- MUSIC: Who composed the opera "The Magic Flute"?
- LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "Wuthering Heights"?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which sport uses a shuttlecock?
- MATH: What is the next prime number after 11?
- GEOGRAPHY: Where is Pearl Harbor located?
- INVENTIONS: Who is credited with inventing the World Wide Web?
- SCIENCE: What is the name for plants that live for two years?
- MOVIES: What is Jack-Jack's real name in "The Incredibles"?
- ACRONYMS: What does VPN stand for?
- ASTRONOMY: Which moon is the largest in our solar system?

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54
55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63
64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72
73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81

Solution time: 23 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

1. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart; 2. Emily Bronte; 3. Badminton; 4. 13; 5. Oahu, Hawaii; 6. Tim Berners-Lee; 7. Biennials; 8. John Jackson Parr; 9. Virtual Private Network; 10. Canyone of Jupiter

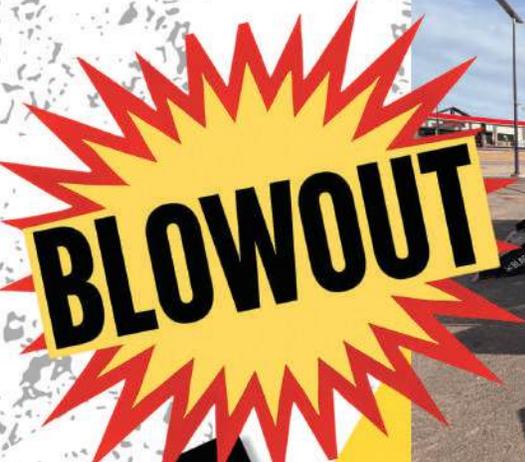
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