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MONTHLY MENTAL HEALTH COLUMN

VOL. 4

MEET THIS MONTH'S CLINICIAN!

SCHERI MARROW

Clinical Social Worker
(CSW)

Specializing in Bipolar Disorder,
Borderline Personality Disorder,
Trauma, PTSD, and more.

Scheri works with adults, couples,
and more.

Her approach is EMDR, DBT, IFS, and
ACT



WELCOME TO ROOTS COUNSELING & WELLNESS

My name is Scheri Marrow, and I'm a Clinical Social Worker (CSW) at Roots Counseling & Wellness. I've been with Roots since 2022. I started here as an intern, and not long after, I had the opportunity to begin coaching Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) groups and to work with clients participating in ketamine-assisted treatment, helping them process and make meaning of those experiences.

As I continued my work at Roots, I completed my Master's Degree in Social Work and spent time as an intern therapist at SBHC. After finishing my internship hours, I returned to Roots Counseling & Wellness full-time, where I continue to work with individuals and groups, and it truly feels like home to me.

Along the way, I've pursued additional training to better support people who have experienced trauma. I am a Level 2-trained Internal Family Systems (IFS) therapist, a modality many people can relate to through the ideas illustrated in the movie Inside Out. I am also trained in EMDR. I value having a variety of approaches available because I believe therapy should be tailored to each person—we work together to find what truly fits for you.

I genuinely love the work I do. It means a lot to me to sit with my clients in the moments when life feels overwhelming, and to help them hold what may feel too heavy to carry alone. I see how often people feel isolated in their struggles, and I want to offer something different—a space of support, understanding, and connection. More than anything, I want people to know that help is available, and even more importantly, that healing is possible, even from things that may feel unhealable.

Taking care of your mental health is a powerful act of self-respect.

"Help is available, and even more importantly, healing is possible, even from things that may feel unhealable."

-Scheri M.

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News

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identification
made in 28-year-old
cold case -page 5*

IRON
COUNTY


today

AMERICA

250

STORY IN LIFE

Utah's Early Literacy Roadmap: Different Measures Tell Different Parts of the Story

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Research shows the importance of multiple measures for understanding early literacy progress

by Nick Thiriot ; ICT Staff

KEM C. GARDNER POLICY INSTITUTE

Utah continues to face early literacy challenges despite some signs of progress, according to a new education brief from the University of Utah's Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute. The brief reviews Utah's three major early literacy measures—Acadience Reading, RISE English Language Arts, and the National Assessment of Educational Progress—and explores what each assessment reveals about literacy outcomes across the state. As Utah works toward a

statewide goal of 80% of third-grade students reading on grade level by 2030, the brief highlights the importance of understanding how literacy progress is measured and interpreted.

“Utah continues to face early literacy challenges,

but different measures tell different parts of the story,” said Andrea Brandley, senior education analyst at the Gardner Institute and lead author of the brief. “Looking across multiple measures provides a broader understanding of literacy progress.”

Key findings from the report include the following:

Reading on Grade Level Definition – During the 2026 General Session, S.B. 241 updated the state definition of reading on

grade level to include students scoring at or above benchmark on the end-of-year Acadience Reading assessment. Under this definition, 70.5% of third graders were classified as reading on grade level in 2025. Under the prior definition, which counted only students scoring above benchmark, the rate was 50.3%. The change altered how performance is classified but did not change underlying student performance.

Acadience Reading

– Acadience results show substantial gains in kindergarten proficiency in recent years, a trend aligned with the expansion of full-day kindergarten. However, grades 1 through 3 recorded much smaller gains, and third-grade proficiency stayed essentially unchanged between 2023 and 2025.

RISE English Language Arts – Third-grade RISE proficiency nearly recovered from

see **UTAH'S LITERACY** » 14



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Positive identification made in 28-year-old cold case

by Wade Mathews

GARFIELD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Garfield County Sheriff's Office investigators have identified human remains discovered nearly 28 years ago in a remote area of eastern Garfield County, bringing long-awaited answers to a family and marking a significant milestone in a decades-long investigation.

Positive identification of the remains was made possible through the assistance of the Utah Department of Public Safety State Bureau of Investigation and Othram, a forensic laboratory specializing in human identification and cold case investigations.

The investigation began on June 2, 1998, when partially skeletonized human remains were discovered in the Hogsprings area near Ticaboo, Utah, within the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. The remains were located near a drainage path and were partially covered by sand, rock, and dirt.

The discovery occurred during an extensive manhunt for three fugitives suspected in the murder of a Colorado police officer and the attempted murder of a San Juan County Sheriff's deputy, along with multiple other law enforcement officers. Investigators from the Colorado Bureau of Investigation were searching the area after receiving information from a psychic regarding the possible whereabouts of the fugitives. During that search, a Colorado Bureau of Investigation agent located the human remains.

Investigators determined that the remains were unrelated to the fugitive investigation and there was no evidence connecting the deceased individual to the suspects being sought. The discovery instead initiated a separate death investigation that would remain unresolved for nearly 28 years.

Investigators recovered numerous personal items from the scene, including a calf-roping belt buckle, cowboy boots, a denim jacket, bathrobe, jeans, belt, athletic shoes, a yellow metal bracelet chain with an eagle charm, sunglasses, a brown wallet, a Ford

truck key, and a long-distance calling card. Evidence suggested the remains belonged to a Hispanic male between 25 and 34 years of age who may have been traveling between the El Paso, Texas, area and Los Angeles, California. Investigators estimated the individual had been deceased for approximately two years prior to discovery.

The remains were transported to the Utah Office of the Medical Examiner for examination. Despite extensive investigative efforts, no identification could be made. The case remained unsolved for decades and the individual became known as "Garfield County John Doe." Information regarding the case was entered into the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) as case number UP9835.

In July 2024, the Garfield County Sheriff's Office partnered with the Utah Department of Public Safety State Bureau of Investigation to pursue advanced forensic genetic genealogy testing. Through federal grant funding, forensic evidence was submitted to Othram.

Scientists at Othram successfully developed a DNA extract from the skeletal remains and used Forensic-Grade Genome Sequencing® to build a comprehensive DNA profile. Othram's forensic genetic genealogy team conducted genealogical analysis and provided

investigators with new family leads.

Using this information, Garfield County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Tom Talbot conducted an extensive follow-up investigation that included reviewing historical records, locating potential relatives, and conducting interviews across multiple jurisdictions. In May 2026, investigators identified a possible sister of the deceased. She voluntarily provided a DNA sample, which was compared to the DNA profile developed from the remains. The comparison resulted in a positive identification.

The deceased has now been positively identified as **Pedro Calderon Marioni**, who would have been 31-years-old at the time of his death.

"This identification demonstrates the value of persistence, collaboration, and advancements in forensic science," said Garfield County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Tom

Talbot. "Most importantly, it provides long-awaited answers to a family that has lived for decades without knowing the fate of their loved one."

The Garfield County Sheriff's Office extends its sincere appreciation to the Utah Department of Public Safety State Bureau of Investigation and its personnel, including Katheryn Moore, Brian Davis, and Steve O'Camb, as well as Othram and its forensic genetic genealogy team for their groundbreaking work in cold case DNA analysis and human identification. The

see **COLD CASE** » 9

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IRON COUNTY FORECAST

HIGH PRESSURE WILL KEEP THINGS MOSTLY SUNNY AND DRY MOVING THROUGH THE HOLIDAY WEEKEND. TEMPERATURES WILL WARM INTO THE UPPER 80S AND LOWER 90S THROUGH NEXT WEEK. ELEVATED FIRE DANGERS WILL REMAIN PRESENT THROUGH THE FORECAST.

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



THURSDAY	Sunny 87°/50° PRECIP: 0% WINDS: S 10-20
FRIDAY	Sunny 82°/60° PRECIP: 0% WINDS: SW 20-30
SATURDAY	Sunny 85°/59° PRECIP: 0% WINDS: N 5-10
SUNDAY	Sunny 92°/63° PRECIP: 0% WINDS: N 5-10
MONDAY	Sunny 91°/64° PRECIP: 0% WINDS: S 10-20
TUESDAY	Mostly Sunny 90°/66° PRECIP: 10% WINDS: SW 10-15
WEDNESDAY	Mostly Sunny 89°/67° PRECIP: 10% WINDS: W 5-15

opinion

FROM THE EDITOR



**BECCA
DIMICK**
COPY EDITOR

America 250 has me thinking about patriotism - whether it be prescribed, performed, or personally heartfelt. I've been thinking about times in my life when I have felt most genuinely patriotic and why. I keep coming back to two things in my life: getting my journalism degree and getting hired on a late-night talk show.

I've had the privilege of working on two late-night shows during my career, and while other countries certainly have their own versions, late-night television feels undeniably American to me.

The format itself is built on a uniquely American idea: that public figures, politicians, celebrities and institutions are all fair game for criticism, satire and scrutiny.

Night after night, millions of people tune in to watch hosts tell jokes about the most powerful people in the country. Sometimes the jokes are funny or insightful. Sometimes they're not.

But the fact that they can do it at all is remarkable.

The same thought crossed my mind when I earned my journalism degree. Though, at the time, I don't think I recognized how truly American that felt.

Journalism is built on the idea that information belongs to the public. That asking difficult questions is not only allowed, but profoundly valuable. That citizens should have access to facts, even when those facts make people uncomfortable.

Those ideas aren't universally accepted throughout the world.

Many countries have journalists who face censorship, intimidation, imprisonment or worse for doing their jobs. Meanwhile, I have spent most of my adult working life working in industries that depend on the freedom to speak openly, challenge ideas and share information with the public.

That is a privilege.

America has never been perfect at protecting free expression. We've had our failures, contradictions and hypocrisies - we still do. But one of the things I appreciate most about this country is that even criticism itself is often treated as a form of participation.

The freedom to explore ideas. The freedom to question authority. The freedom to publish. The freedom to joke. The freedom to disagree. The freedom of speech.

Those aren't side effects of America. They're part of the foundation.

So when I think about America's 250th birthday, I think about a career built on curiosity, telling stories and occasionally poking some fun at people in power.

That's a very American thing to do. And that's worth celebrating.



Map reflects fire conditions as of June 28, 2026, at 1:45 p.m.
Fire perimeters and containment may have changed since publication.

WORD OF THE WEEK

ZEITGEIST
[ZEIT-GEIST]

noun

The general intellectual, moral, and cultural climate of an era

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"There is nothing more important in a free society than a free press."

-Molly Ivins

IRON COUNTY **today**

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

Cedar City firefighters help battle Cottonwood Fire as Utah restricts fireworks

by *Tracie Sullivan*

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

As the Cottonwood Fire continued to burn through Beaver County late this week, Cedar City firefighters joined crews from across the state battling the blaze while Gov. Spencer Cox temporarily restricted fireworks ahead of the Fourth of July.

As of Sunday June 28, 2026, the fire had burned nearly 94,000 acres and remained 0% contained.

The wildfire had damaged structures, prompted evacuations and become the largest active wildfire in the nation.

In response to the dangerous fire conditions, Cox on Thursday declared a state of emergency and signed an executive order temporarily allowing the state forester to prohibit fireworks statewide through July 5.

The order also allows cities, in consultation with local fire officials, to designate approved areas where fireworks may still be discharged safely.

"Nothing about this decision was easy," Cox said in a statement. "Utahns love celebrating the Fourth of July with family, friends and fireworks. I do too. But this year is different. We are seeing fire behavior that even our most experienced firefighters say they've never witnessed before."

Among those responding to the Cottonwood Fire were seven firefighters from the Cedar City Fire Department, who deployed with Engine 12 and Water Tender 11 as part of a structure protection group.

Fire Chief Mike Phillips said his crew was assigned to protect structures as flames moved through the area.

"We worked that first day, like 20, 22 hours straight," Phillips said.

Phillips said firefighters cleared vegetation, removed combustible materials around buildings and used water to protect structures as the fire advanced. The structures assigned to his crew remained standing after the fire passed.

Phillips did not provide comment on what structures the firefighters saved.

Cox said the temporary restrictions were intended to reduce the risk of additional human-caused fires during the Independence Day holiday.

"Our goal is to make sure our neighborhoods and communities are still standing on July 5," Cox said.

State officials said they plan to reassess fire conditions before the July 24 Pioneer Day holiday.

Two Teens Injured in Explosion West of Cedar City

by *Iron County Today Staff*

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

Two teenagers were injured Wednesday evening after explosive target material detonated unexpectedly while a group of four teens were reportedly experimenting with it west of Cedar City.

According to the Iron County Sheriff's Office, emergency crews responded shortly before 6 p.m. on June 24 to the Desert Mound area after receiving reports of a traumatic injury.

Investigators said four teenagers were handling explosive target material when it detonated prematurely. Two teens were injured in the blast. One was treated at the scene for minor injuries, while the other sustained serious injuries and was flown by Life Flight to a regional hospital. The identities of those involved have not been released.

The other two teenagers were not injured.

The cause of the premature explosion remains under investigation.

Explosive target products are commonly used by recreational shooters and are designed to detonate only after being struck by a high-velocity rifle round when used according to the manufacturer's instructions. Officials reminded the public that these materials can be dangerous if mishandled or used in ways they were not intended.

Anyone with information related to the incident is encouraged to contact the Iron County Sheriff's Office.



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IRON COUNTY GOVERNMENT RECAPS

Iron County Commission Meeting Summary

by Iron County Today Staff

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

The Iron County Commission convened Monday morning, June 22, 2026, with Commissioner Robinson excused due to a prior commitment.

Minutes and Claims Approval

Before approving the June 8 meeting minutes, Commissioner Blake read a statement disputing allegations made during the previous meeting that he had "forced his way into the jail." Blake said he entered through a public access area to deliver distilled water for his son's medical device and noted that no charges, reports, or investigations resulted from the incident. He also stated that he regretted some of his own comments during the discussion but rejected what he described as inaccurate characterizations of his actions. The minutes were approved. Commissioners also approved claims for payment covering June 8–21, 2026.

Road Department Report

The Road Department Director reported that the Kevin Woods Road chip seal project is complete

except for flushing and striping, while work in Gold Springs is nearing completion with a few culverts remaining. Crews have completed chip sealing along the Buckhorn frontage roads and are continuing work through Paragonah, Kanarrville, the Bumblebee subdivision, and Newcastle. Microsurfacing in the Sunrise subdivision has also been completed. He noted that Lund Road was damaged during a recent wildfire response, and crews are monitoring conditions while hoping for rain to aid recovery. He also highlighted an upcoming drainage improvement project west of Paragonah to accommodate increased water flow from new UDOT culverts installed under Interstate 15.

Public Works and Engineering Report

The County Engineer reported that improvements at Iron Springs Road and Highway 56 are nearly complete, with traffic signal installation remaining. Construction on Iron Springs Road to Desert Mound is expected to begin July 7, with a cost-sharing agreement helping reduce county expenses. Rich also highlighted ongoing sign replacement efforts, hiring for a second sign department employee, and a new culvert near Peak View that successfully prevented flooding during a recent storm. Officials also said they would follow up on the installation of engine brake restriction signs in Newcastle, with the work expected to be completed by the end of the month.

Commissioner Report

Commissioner Cozzens reported on recent meetings involving the Five County Association of Governments, Southwest Technical College's new first responder training facility, and the Cedar City Regional Airport, which recently set records for air tanker operations during the Sawmill Fire. He also praised local first responders for their response to several serious ATV and vehicle crashes, as well as the nearly 4,000-acre Sawmill Fire.

Other Business

Commissioners approved a filming permit for a motorsports promotional video to be filmed in September and approved the hiring of Eric Martin as a part-time assistant cook for the Council on Aging. There were no public comments or county board items, and the meeting adjourned.

Cedar City Council Meeting Summary

by Iron County Today Staff

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

America 250 Celebration Update

Council members reported strong at Mayor Steve Nelson proclaimed June

28–July 4 as America 250 Week in Cedar City, celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. He highlighted the 13-day "Stars and Stripes Forever" celebration, including the June 30 *Echoes of Freedom* reading, July 1 time capsule burial, and July 4 fireworks at the airport synchronized with local radio stations. Residents were also encouraged to decorate their homes in red, white, and blue.

Secondary Water System Update

Staff reported that about \$78 million in federal and state funding has been secured for the secondary water system project. Engineers are designing key infrastructure while the city works to secure the remaining funding. The council also asked staff to keep current leaseholders informed as the project moves forward.

Fireworks Restrictions Discussion

The council discussed fireworks safety following the governor's call for local restrictions. Staff explained that state law allows fireworks bans only in designated high-risk areas, which Cedar City already enforces through its wildland-urban interface (WUI) map. Fire officials reviewed six approved fireworks discharge sites throughout the city, including parking lots at Cedar High School, Canyon View High School, the aquatic center, the

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

Bicentennial Softball Park, Canyon View Middle School, and the Bicentennial Soccer Complex, where water buckets and additional enforcement will be provided during the holiday. The council supported focusing on public education rather than expanding restrictions, and the mayor announced a public safety video would be released before the Fourth of July.

Magnolia Fields Phase 2 Deferral Agreement

The council approved a deferral agreement for Magnolia Fields Phase 2, allowing the developer additional time to address storm drain and infrastructure design issues before completing frontage improvements on 3900 West. The agreement was approved 4-1 after reducing the deferral from 24 months to 12 months and removing the requirement for a water line loop pending further water system analysis.

Cross Hollow Covered Arena Bid Approved

The council approved a bid from Falcon Buildings to construct a pre-engineered metal building for a covered outdoor arena at the Cross Hollow Event Center. Councilmembers also emphasized preserving the appearance and sightlines of the rodeo grounds during construction.

Personnel Policy Updates

The council approved minor revisions to the city's out-of-class pay policy. A proposed update to the compensatory time policy was tabled to allow for additional employee input. A council-led working group will review employee leave policies and bring recommendations back to the council.

Impact Fees, Water Rates, and Budget

The council approved updated impact fees, a modest increase to the base water rate, revisions to the 2025-26 budget, and changes to the city's fixed asset management policy.

Heritage Center Fees Tabled

Proposed fee increases for the Heritage Center and Festival Hall were postponed until July 15 to allow staff to compare rates with similar local venues and ensure they remain affordable for nonprofit groups.

Public Comment — Eagle Ridge Speed Hump

Residents urged the council to keep the speed hump on South Mountain Drive, citing ongoing speeding concerns. Staff will gather additional traffic data, and the issue will return for a formal council vote.

COLD CASE

« CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Sheriff's Office also recognizes the efforts of the many investigators, forensic specialists, and support personnel who contributed to this investigation over the past 28 years.

This case represents the eighth publicly announced identification in Utah achieved through Othram's forensic genetic genealogy process.

Although the identification has been made, the investigation into the circumstances surrounding Pedro Calderon Marioni's death remains active and ongoing. Investigators are seeking information regarding his movements, associates, and activities prior to his disappearance.

Anyone with information related to this case is encouraged to contact Garfield County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Tom Talbot at (435) 676-1126.

PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 3 (REPUBLICAN)

Candidate	Votes	Percent
Celeste Maloy	5,350	68.24%
Phil Lyman	2,490	31.76%

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 14 (REPUBLICAN)

Candidate	Votes	Percent
Linda Hanks	4,035	56.84%
Nichole Beecher Isom	3,064	43.16%

IRON COUNTY COMMISSIONER SEAT A (REPUBLICAN)

Candidate	Votes	Percent
Mike Bleak	3,998	51.72%
Bruce McDonald	3,732	48.28%

Information taken from electionresults.utah.gov

Nevada man sentenced in violent Cedar City jewelry store burglary

by Tracie Sullivan

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

A Nevada man who admitted participating in a violent burglary at a downtown Cedar City jewelry store was sentenced Tuesday to prison for his role in the crime.

Eric Drexel Resma, 48, received concurrent prison sentences of one to 15 years for attempted aggravated burglary and theft, along with a concurrent zero to five-year sentence for aggravated assault. He was also ordered to pay \$22,221 in restitution.

Because the sentences will be served concurrently, Resma faces a maximum prison term of 15 years. The Utah Board of Pardons and Parole will determine how long he ultimately serves within that range.

"We appreciate the victims in this case for their cooperation, patience, and assistance to law enforcement throughout this investigation and prosecution," Iron County Attorney Chad Dotson said in a statement. "Their willingness to come

forward and participate in the criminal justice process was essential in securing this outcome."

Dotson said he hopes the prosecution sends "a clear message that individuals who travel to Iron County from other states to commit crimes will be held accountable."

According to charging documents, Resma drove an SUV with its license plate concealed to Clark and Linford Jewelers in downtown Cedar City in the early morning hours of July 27, 2025, while an accomplice broke through the store's front door and began stealing jewelry.

The store owner, who lived in an apartment above the business, confronted the suspect after hearing the glass break. Investigators said the owner was struck twice with a crowbar-like weapon before attempting to identify the driver by leaning into the SUV.

Court documents allege Resma drove away while the owner was still leaning into the vehicle before the owner was able to free himself.

Police said a Southern Utah University police officer later attempted to stop the vehicle, but it fled, leading officers on a pursuit before crashing near Interstate 15.

Investigators said the suspects discarded a backpack containing stolen jewelry during the chase before fleeing on foot. Officers arrested Resma after finding him hiding in nearby bushes.

Police recovered approximately \$70,000 worth of stolen jewelry, burglary tools, methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia from the vehicle, according to the affidavit.

Before sentencing, Resma submitted a handwritten letter to the court apologizing for his actions.

In the letter, he wrote that he had struggled with methamphetamine addiction since childhood, expressed remorse for the impact his crimes had on his family and the victims, and said a jail-based recovery program had changed his outlook and given him hope for the future.

ICT | insiders club corner



The ICT Insiders Club is made up of individuals from the community dedicated to supporting the efforts of Iron County Today through membership. For just \$15 a month, Insiders will have exclusive, early access to Iron County Today digitally via email, receive a personal invitation and seat at our Annual Insider's Club Dinner, as well as the opportunity to provide their very own voice to the paper, with selected articles being published right here in our Insider Club Corner. **TO BECOME A MEMBER, SCAN THE CODE TO THE RIGHT, OR CALL 435-701-9981.**

IRON COUNTY CELEBRATES AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY

by May Hunter

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

Like much of the nation, Cedar City is preparing to celebrate a once-in-a-lifetime event: America's 250th birthday on July 4, 2026. The Iron County America 250 Committee is committed to making this a celebration you, your family, and friends will never forget.

"As a tribute to our nation and the pinnacle of our year-long America 250 commemoration in Iron County, we present Stars and Stripes Forever: A 13-Day Celebration," stated R. Scott Phillips, co-chair of the America 250 Committee for Iron County. "This event will showcase the best of Iron County and bring our communities together to honor this special milestone in America's history."

Phillips continued, "This could not have happened without a dedicated core of civic leaders from every sector of our county. My colleague and co-chair, Maria Twitchell, has been amazing, as have the 23 other committee members."

Join us for this unforgettable celebration of community, heritage, and patriotism.

Highlights

(June 26–July 8, 2026)

June 26 – We kick off with the 10th Anniversary of the Beverly Center for the Arts Street Fest, celebrating the Southern Utah Museum of Art and 65 years of the world-renowned Utah Shakespeare Festival. Join the party!

June 27 – Summer Jam with Uncle Sam. This high-energy outdoor dance is presented by the Cedar City Youth Council at Main Street Park beginning at 8:00 p.m.

June 28 – Let Freedom Shine. Businesses, municipal buildings, and residents across the county are asked to decorate in red, white, and blue from June 28 through July 5. It is designated as "America 250 Week in Iron County." At 7:00 p.m., a special choral concert will be presented by the Choral Artists of Southern Nevada at the historic Rock Church (Center Street, Cedar City).

June 29 – Freedom Found America 250 Challenge. Discover 250 things to do in Iron County through this yearlong activity challenge highlighting county attractions and history.

June 30 – Echoes of Freedom. Reading of some of the country's founding documents. The event begins at 2:50 p.m. in Mayor's Park (corner of Main and Center), where individuals will read key American documents, including

the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, Bill of Rights, and more. At 6:00 p.m., America 250 Playlist Lecture – Part 1 will be held at the Iron County Visitor Center. Music professor Joe Howe and history professor Ryan Paul will discuss the playlist selections.

July 1 – Legacy of Liberty Time Capsule. At 12:00 noon at Main Street Park (corner of 200 North and Main), Mayor Steve Nelson will speak as the America 250 Committee places 25 preselected items into a time capsule to be sealed and opened in July 2076. At 6:00 p.m., America 250 Playlist Lecture – Part 2 will be held at the Iron County Visitor Center.

July 2 – Red, White, and Blue Reel Fun Family Movie. Brian Head Town hosts this family-friendly event near Chair 1, with popcorn and family fun beginning at 8:30 p.m.

July 3 – Sacred Celebration of America 250. This program and community social begins at 7:00 p.m. at Christ the King Catholic Church. This Cedar City Area Interfaith Alliance program celebrates America's 250th birthday, followed by children's games and an ice cream social.

July 4 – America's Birthday. Independence Day! Communities across Iron County will host parades, breakfasts, barbecues, patriotic programs, park games, and evening fireworks.

July 5 – America 250 Potluck. Neighborhood potlucks across Cedar City to share food, renew friendships, and connect with neighbors.

July 6 – Trail and Monument Dedication. Dedication of a new Cedar City trail and bike path, along with the rededication of two historic monuments honoring the iron ore industry and early settlers (Fort Cedar, 1851). Children are encouraged to bring bikes and tricycles and preview the future bicycle pump track location.

July 7 – Making Waves for America. Admission to swim at the Cedar City Aquatic Center and Parowan Public Pool will be just \$2.50 during business hours. The Lake on the Hill will feature a special atmosphere and refreshments.

July 8 – Utah Symphony Under the Stars. This grand finale is an outdoor concert beginning at 8:30 p.m. at Main Street Park, performed by the Utah Symphony. Special flags will be handed out, and historical flags will be on display. Attendees are invited to bring lawn chairs and blankets.

This 13-day celebration honors our nation, showcases Iron County, and brings neighbors together to celebrate freedom and community.

HAPPY 250TH BIRTHDAY, AMERICA!

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July Jamboree

Returning for 29th Year

by Tessa Douglas

CEO CEDAR CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The 29th annual July Jamboree, Cedar City's largest single summer event, will be held July 10th and 11th on Cedar City's historic downtown Main Street.

From 4:00 to 10:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 11th, Cedar City's downtown will be filled with classic cars, motorcycles and semi-trucks, vendor booths, live local bands, a food court, and a beer garden. A plethora of sights, smells, tastes, and sounds awaits everyone who comes. Although food and vendor products will be available for purchase, the cost of attendance is free.

This summer, over 20,000 people are expected to attend, and each year the venue expands to accommodate more vendors, more cars, and more attendees. Sue Longson, Cedar City Rotarian and planning committee member, shared, "We are so grateful for the support the community gives to the Jamboree. We can't wait for everyone to enjoy it again this year, with even more to do and see!"

The Jamboree is organized by the Cedar City Rotary Club with help from sponsors and volunteers from across the community. It takes hundreds of volunteers and around 4,000 volunteer hours to make the event happen.

Sponsors include: Tink's Superior Auto Parts, Rally Stop, Cedar City Motor Company, Faith Noel, The Clique, Center & Main, The Budget Cuts, bands; Ensign Engineering, Dixie Leavitt Insurance, SUU, Choice Builders, Les Schwab Tire, Iron Mountain Plumbing, Best Western Plus, Amber Kays, Café Sabor, Rock Island Armory, The Lobby Events, Summit Valley Plumbing, Mountain America Credit Union, BZI, Bradshaw Electric, Triple S Polaris, Cacique Foods, The Iron County Today, D & P Performance, Cedar City Police Dept., Warehouse Bar and Kitchen, Gold Cross Ambulance, Wasatch and Squatters, Rocky Ridge Landscape Material, Cedar

Band Travel Plaza, Cedar City Corp., Iron Springs Resort, Southwest Tech, Tri State Motors, State Bank of Southern Utah, Prime Power Sports, Cedar Valley Water Conservancy District, Rainbow Sign and Design, Bunker Septic, Grifols Plasma Center, TekShine, Century Equipment, Town Square Media (KSUB and Cat Country), Discount Tire, Cache Valley Bank, Blvd Home, Chef Alfredo's Ristorante, Watson Engineering, Mikes Tool and Nail, Maverik Cedar City, America First Credit Union, Coca Cola of Southern Utah, KJ's Ice Barn, Tuckers Classic Auto Parts, Rocky Mountain Power, The Pub Spirits + Craft Kitchen, Centro Pizza, Chartway Credit Union, Zion State Storage, Ala Chelle Catering, Groundstone Vault, Cedar City-Brian Head Tourism, and many more.

Funds raised from the Jamboree, as well as the Cedar City Rotary Club's other events, support projects and organizations that include the Veterans Memorial Park, Iron County Care and Share, Canyon Creek Services, Cedar City Music Arts, the Happy Factory, Little League Baseball, the Southwest Livestock Show, the SUU Childcare Center, and scholarships for both SUU and Southwest Tech students, Cedar City Main street park electrical enhancement, Canyon Park Water Park and ADA playground equipment, Iron Kids, and Cedar City First Responders among others.

Rotary brings together a global network of volunteer leaders dedicated to tackling the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges. They connect 1.4 million members from more than 35,000 Rotary clubs in almost every country in the world. Together, they work together to promote peace, fight disease, and to provide clean water, sanitation and hygiene. They also work to support education and grow local economies.

For more information on becoming a member of the Cedar City Rotary Club, email Karen Thelin at cedarcityrotaryclub@gmail.com.

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29th ANNUAL
Cedar City, UT

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southern utah university

SUU Men's Rodeo Team Wins Historic First Regional Championship

by Brooke Heath

SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY

Marking a major milestone in university history, the Southern Utah University (SUU) Men's Rodeo Team captured the 2026 Rocky Mountain Regional Championship for the first time since the program's inception. The T-birds capitalized on that momentum at the College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR) in Casper, Wyoming last week, finishing the season ranked No. 9 in the country as a team, while brothers Blake and TJ Bowler climbed the standings to place third in the nation in Team Roping.

Governed by the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA), college rodeo divides the country into 12 regions, similar to NCAA conferences. SUU topped a highly competitive field of nine schools to secure the Rocky Mountain Regional title, outperforming programs from Utah State University, Utah Valley University, Weber State University, Snow College, USU-Eastern, the College of Southern Idaho, Idaho State University, and Colorado Mesa University.

To qualify for the CNFR, which brings together approximately 400 students from over 100 teams each year, student-athletes must place in

the top three overall in their event category within the region. Five exceptional SUU athletes punched their tickets to the national stage this season:

- Blake Bowler (Senior, Agribusiness; Enterprise, UT): Regional All-Around Cowboy Champion, 1st in Region Team Roping (Header), 3rd in Region Calf Tie Down Roping.
- TJ Bowler (Senior, Finance; Enterprise, UT): Regional All-Around Cowboy Reserve Champion (2nd place), 1st in Region Team Roping (Heeler).
- Brian Evans (Senior, Biology; Beaver, UT): Regional Reserve Champion (2nd place) in Saddle Bronc Riding.
- Rilee Christensen (Senior, Exercise Science; Logandale, NV): 3rd in Region Goat Tying.
- McCrae Fillmore (Senior, Agriculture - Range Management; Fremont, UT): 3rd in Region Team Roping (Header).

During the grueling 10-day national competition series in Casper, each student competed three times across the preliminary rounds, hoping to secure a spot in the top 12 of their category and compete in the final round on Saturday. While all SUU students performed exceptionally well against the nation's elite, Brian, McCrae, and Rilee placed just outside the top 12. The Bowler brothers set the standard for the T-birds, heading into the finals in fifth place after a strong preliminary performance.

"The Bowler brothers have qualified multiple times for the CNFR, but this year

is different," said Shane Flanigan, SUU Rodeo Coach/Advisor ahead of the finals. "They're grounded, relaxed, and just doing what they do best. I have full confidence they will do well."

Entering Saturday night's broadcasted final round – known as the "Short-Go" – sitting in fifth place, Blake and TJ delivered under pressure. The duo clocked the second-fastest time of the night in Team Roping at a blazing 5.6 seconds, securing a third-place podium finish overall in the nation.

"My highlight of the CNFR was competing on a big stage representing SUU with some of the best student athletes," said TJ Bowler. "The excitement of the performances with all the music and fans can be intimidating and exciting, but you have to trust the things that have got us here. I'm really lucky to have a great horse and a great partner."

The historic season reflects the industrious spirit and grit of SUU's student-athletes, showcasing the university's commitment to supporting competitive programs that cultivate teamwork and character.

"What makes this achievement special isn't just the national ranking, but the people behind it," said Michael Blake, SUU's new Coach/Advisor.

"Seeing five students qualify for the CNFR and finishing ninth in the country is a remarkable accomplishment. I'm incredibly proud of what they've achieved this season, and look forward to carrying this excitement and competition into the future of Southern Utah University Rodeo."



Help Our Neighbors in Beaver Affected by the Cottonwood Fire

by Cedar City Chamber of Commerce

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

As many of our members are aware, the Cottonwood Fire has rapidly impacted our neighboring communities, bringing devastating loss, displacement, and hardship to families, businesses, and first responders.

We know many people are wondering how they can help during this difficult time. Our sister Chamber of Commerce in Beaver County is

coordinating official local relief efforts and has verified the following ways to support those affected by the fire:

Every contribution helps provide immediate assistance to displaced families and supports the recovery of the Beaver area community.

Thank you for standing with our neighbors during this incredibly difficult time. Together, we can show our support and make a difference.



HELP THOSE DISPLACED BY THE COTTONWOOD FIRE

We know many people are wondering how they can help during this difficult time. Our sister Chamber of Commerce in Beaver County is coordinating official local relief efforts and has verified the following ways to support those affected by the fire.

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public & health

State Forester Signs Order Banning Fireworks Statewide

by Karl Hunt

DIVISION PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

Jamie Barnes, the State Forester for the state of Utah, has issued a statewide order to ban fireworks in accordance with the executive order signed by Governor Spencer Cox.

“This year, we are seeing more fires start due to the dry vegetation. These fires are starting closer to homes and communities,” said Jamie Barnes, the Director and State Forester for the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands.

“One human-caused fire is one too many. Through this ban, we are working with cities and towns to make sure all residents can celebrate the July 4th holiday in a safe manner.”



This order comes as Utah is experiencing one of the most severe wildfire seasons in recent history, fueled by historic drought conditions. Over the past week, the state has seen an increase in wildfire starts,

with each fire showing unprecedented fire behavior. These wildfire starts have stretched the state's wildland firefighting capabilities.

On June 25, Governor Cox issued an executive order that enables the State Forester to prohibit fireworks statewide during the upcoming Independence Day holiday.

With this order, municipalities have the option, in consultation with the mayor and fire chief, to designate areas where fireworks may be discharged in their communities and have the ban lifted. This provides municipalities the ability to adapt to the changing conditions within the state, which have created a tinderbox of combustible fuels.

This holiday season, individuals are encouraged to forgo personal firework displays and celebrate by attending one of the many professional shows offered by cities and towns across the state.

Those wishing to celebrate July 4th spark-free can do so at one of Utah's 46 state parks. On July 4th, visitors will receive a special bounce-back offer. The offer is good for one free day-use admission at any Utah state park between Monday, August 3, and Thursday, August 6.

UTAH'S LITERACY

« CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

pandemic-era declines but did not exceed pre-pandemic levels in 2025. Utah's adoption of revised English language arts standards and updated performance thresholds in 2025 also complicates year-to-year comparisons.

National Reading Trends – Utah generally performs above the national average on fourth-grade NAEP Reading, but both Utah and the nation have seen declining reading performance over the past decade. Utah's reading achievement peaked around 2015 and has generally declined since then.

Achievement Gaps – In 2025, 70.5% of all Utah third graders scored at or above benchmark on Acadience, compared with 55.5% of economically disadvantaged students, 52.8% of Hispanic/Latino students, 39.0% of students with disabilities, and 35.4% of students with limited English proficiency.

School-level Results – Schools serving larger shares of economically disadvantaged students generally report lower literacy outcomes. However, some schools serving majority economically disadvantaged student populations achieved strong results, with 27 such schools exceeding the state average for third-grade reading proficiency.

The report also notes that Cedar East School in Iron County School District was among the 27 schools statewide that exceeded the state average for third-grade reading proficiency while serving a majority economically disadvantaged student population. Cedar East was the only school in Iron County School District to be included on the list, which highlights schools demonstrating strong literacy outcomes despite economic challenges that are often associated with lower reading performance.

The full brief is now available online.

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Reykjavik University and Southern Utah University Join to Advance Sustainable Energy Education and Research

New agreement builds on existing collaboration and creates opportunities for students, faculty, and industry partners in Iceland and the United States.

by Brooke Heath

SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY

University (SUU) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing a framework for collaboration in sustainable energy education, research, and workforce development.

The agreement is being coordinated on behalf of RU by the Iceland School of Energy (ISE), a graduate school within the Department of Engineering focused on sustainable energy education, research, and international collaboration. The two institutions will work together to create new opportunities for students, faculty, researchers, and industry partners in both Iceland and the United States.

Building on an Existing Relationship

While the signing of the MOU marks an important milestone, the relationship between the two universities has been developing for several years.

Representatives from SUU and the Governor's Office of the State of Utah previously visited RU to explore opportunities for collaboration in energy, education, and workforce development. Since then, faculty and staff from both institutions have continued to identify areas of shared interest and mutual benefit.

Over the past two years, students from SUU have participated in the ISE's Energy Field School, gaining first-hand experience with Iceland's renewable energy systems, geothermal resources, and education system. Recently, the ISE accepted its first SUU graduate as a full-time master's student,

Reykjavik University (RU) and Southern Utah

creating a new pathway for academic exchange and international collaboration.

"Iceland is on every geologist's bucket list, and so the opportunity to go ... was amazing," said Parker Tenney, who participated in ISE's Energy Field School while an SUU undergraduate student. "I would definitely recommend this program to students interested in clean energy. Before the Energy Field School, I didn't know much about geothermal energy or the energy field; and now

I have the skills and experience to talk to professionals in the field and feel comfortable discussing in-depth topics within geothermal energy."

A Partnership Rooted in Geothermal Energy

Iceland and Utah share a unique connection through geothermal energy. Iceland is internationally recognized as a global leader in geothermal utilization, using geothermal resources for both electricity generation and district heating while developing decades of expertise in geothermal exploration, reservoir management, and renewable energy integration.

Utah, meanwhile, is emerging as one of the most innovative geothermal regions in the United States.

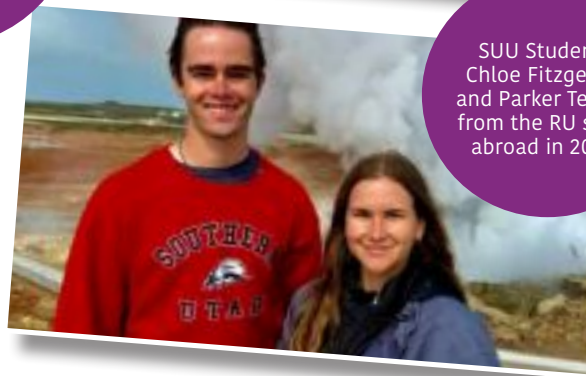
SUU and Fervo team at the Cape Station Project



Representatives from SUU and the Governor's Office of the State of Utah's visit to RU in 2024



SUU Students Chloe Fitzgerald and Parker Tenney from the RU study abroad in 2024.



Southern Utah is home to significant geothermal resources and is becoming a center for innovation in next-generation geothermal technologies.

To meet the demands of this expanding regional industry, SUU is actively supporting the workforce needs of the local geothermal sector. Leveraging its proximity to Fervo Energy's Cape Station project, SUU joined forces with Fervo Energy and Elemental Impact in 2024 to launch a specialized geothermal apprenticeship program designed to prepare workers for careers in this cutting-edge field.

The agreement between SUU and RU creates an opportunity to connect Iceland's long-standing geothermal expertise with Utah's growing role in next-generation geothermal development. Together, the institutions aim to provide students and researchers with access to both mature geothermal systems and emerging technologies that are helping shape the future of clean energy.

Areas of Collaboration

The MOU establishes a broad framework for cooperation in areas including:

- Sustainable energy and geothermal research
- Student internships, projects, and experiential learning opportunities
- Joint lectures, seminars, workshops, and site visits
- Faculty and student exchanges
- Industry engagement and collaboration with energy-sector partners

Why Hamlet Matters

by Samuel Wells

CCAC BOARD MEMBER

Tragedies - both the kinds written in world literature and the ones we live through personally - are troubling human experiences. Last month, while visiting the beautiful hill country of Northumbria in the UK, I was told by a well-meaning fellow that we Americans are too optimistic. We haven't been around long enough to fully appreciate the evil in the world. I smiled and changed the subject, not



feeling like arguing the point.

Tragedies can indeed be national affairs. But they are also felt in deeply personal ways, and our 21st Century world, both in America and abroad, is no stranger to extreme distress.

Natural disasters have not become less devastating, in spite of our best science. Wars seem just as evil and common as ever. We still suffer and die from disease. And perhaps most distressing of all are the many contemporary cases of mental illness, especially those of our loved ones that have lost hope.

And to be frank, we are not any better at dealing with these tragedies than we used to be. In fact, our way of coping too often devolves into anger and despair instead of understanding. This is unfortunate when the most thoughtful and inspiring minds of all ages have weighed in on these tragedies. Our greatest English writer, William Shakespeare, had many important insights to share. His masterpiece, *The Tragedy of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark*, cuts to the heart of these issues and is a mirror to our times if we would pay attention. It is also great literature, impressive theater, and even (dare I say it) entertaining.

There is no literary dearth about *Hamlet*. One scholar counted over 400 volumes in the Harvard University library alone. That's not just one or two bookshelves full of books, it's two or three bookcases full. People spend their entire careers determining why this one play is so important. Not everyone agrees, of course, but it is generally admitted that Prince

Hamlet marks a significant change in our culture - a change from looking at tragedy as mere fate to the more complicated realities of human psychological depth.

Of course we all love a good ghost story. And court intrigue - even murder - is certainly good press. But we miss the reason that this play is a paragon of world literature if we fail to look within ourselves and our society and find a human nature that is complicated; a human nature that needs to be fleshed out by every generation and by every soul. It is our turn again, in Cedar, to host the court of *Hamlet's Denmark*. Each time that this opportunity comes around, I become both eager and anxious. Eager to revisit a story that never grows old and to experience an enjoyable evening with family and friends. Anxious, because it isn't easy to look within and recognize the complicated side of ourselves. Having just returned from the preview of this year's production, I can say that the company has done a very professional and compelling job of retelling this timeless and difficult tale.

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REYKJAVIK UNIVERSITY

« CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

- Development of educational pathways and recruitment opportunities
- Joint funding proposals and externally supported projects
- Professional and workforce development initiatives

Looking Ahead

In the coming months, representatives from the ISE, SUU's Office of Workforce and Educational Opportunity, and SUU's College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics will identify priority initiatives and begin developing the first collaborative activities under the agreement.

By combining the strengths of both institutions, the partnership seeks to prepare the next generation of energy professionals while supporting innovation in sustainable energy systems and

geothermal development on both sides of the Atlantic. "For decades, Iceland has demonstrated what geothermal energy can achieve at scale. Today, the United States is entering a new era of geothermal innovation," said Dr. Juliet Newson, Director of the Iceland School of Energy. "This partnership connects our universities and their unique experiences, creating opportunities for students, researchers, and industry to learn from one another while helping shape the future of sustainable energy."

"The signing of this agreement solidifies a relationship years in the making," explains Dr. Bill Heyborne, Dean of SUU's Walter Maxwell Gibson College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. "We are grateful to our colleagues at Reykjavik University for past collaborations and eagerly anticipate future opportunities that will benefit the students, faculty, staff, and communities associated with both institutions."

America 250 Years: At a Glance



by May Hunter

FOR IRON COUNTY TODAY

America 250 commemorates the 250th anniversary of our

nation's founding. This historic milestone is centered on a forward-looking vision that honors America's diverse heritage, strengthens our democratic ideals, and empowers future generations. It is a nationwide movement that blends honest reflection on our history with shared aspirations for the future.

The 250th anniversary is not simply an opportunity to look back; it is a reminder that every generation plays a vital role in preserving and strengthening the freedoms we enjoy today. America 250 celebrates the enduring spirit of our nation and the continued pursuit of liberty, opportunity, and self-governance.

Looking Toward America's Future

The vision for America's next era focuses on the promise of the future while remaining grounded in the principles upon which our nation was founded.

In 1787, John Adams expressed reverence and optimism for the future of the new Constitution. Years earlier, in 1774, he warned that arbitrary power could emerge in the colonies and urged Americans to protect their liberties before they were lost. His words continue to resonate as we work to preserve the freedoms and responsibilities of self-government.

Celebrating America and Its Diversity

America's strength comes from the many cultures, traditions, and experiences that contribute to our shared national identity. By celebrating these diverse stories, we honor the people who have helped shape our nation and continue to enrich our communities.

Empowering the Next Generation

The future of America rests in the hands of its youth. By encouraging optimism, leadership, and civic engagement, we empower the next generation to contribute their talents and perspectives to the

ongoing American story.

Shared Aspirations

America 250 seeks to foster connection, belonging, and a renewed commitment to constitutional liberties and civic responsibility. While our backgrounds and experiences may differ, our shared hopes for freedom, opportunity, and a better future unite us as Americans.

On July 4, 2026, our nation will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the United States Declaration of Independence. This historic occasion provides an opportunity to reflect on our past, honor the contributions of all Americans, and inspire future generations to help shape the nation's future.

The Founders' Vision and Our Reality

America's Founding Fathers did not always share the same vision for the future. However, they were united in their belief that liberty, self-governance, and civic responsibility were essential to the success of the republic.

More than two centuries later, thirteen colonies have become fifty states, our republic has grown into a global leader, and our Constitution has faced challenges the Founders could never have imagined. This raises an important question: How closely does their vision align with the America we know today?

In many ways, the challenges we face today are the same ones our Founders warned about. Although technology and society have changed dramatically, the fundamental issues remain familiar: balancing individual liberty with civic responsibility, ensuring fair representation, and determining the proper role of government.

The ongoing challenge, both then and now, is ensuring that our republic adapts to changing circumstances while preserving the democratic principles that have guided our nation for 250 years.

How We Can Support America's Future

Each citizen has an important role to play in strengthening our democracy and supporting our communities. We can contribute by:

- ★ Voting in every election and researching local, state, and federal candidates thoroughly.
- ★ Attending city council, county commission,

or school board meetings.

- ★ Volunteering within our communities and supporting local organizations.
- ★ Respecting and acknowledging the work of public servants, election officials, and civic employees.
- ★ Encouraging informed, respectful dialogue with those who hold differing viewpoints.

As we celebrate 250 years of America, it is important to remember that America is more than an economy or a place on a map. It is a nation founded on powerful ideals. Each generation has a responsibility to bring our country closer to the fulfillment of those founding principles and to leave a stronger nation for those who follow.

“America means opportunity, freedom, power.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

America 250 represents a multi-year national effort to engage, educate, unite, and celebrate Americans, one citizen at a time. We all have a role to play in preserving our freedoms, strengthening our communities, and shaping the future of our nation.

Be a part of America 250. Get involved. Make a difference.

A Personal Reflection

What I Love About America

Home of the free and land of the brave,
A nation built through sacrifice and courage.
A place filled with opportunity, freedom, and possibility.

Because of those who came before us, we enjoy privileges and liberties that many around the world still seek.

Let us never forget what brought us here: a commitment to liberty, justice, and the belief that all people are created equal. As we celebrate our nation's past and look toward its future, may we answer the call to be engaged citizens, united in purpose and grateful for the blessings of freedom.

America, America, one great nation, always striving to become an even better one.
— Kim Matheson

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Have a Fire Emergency Plan for Every Member of the Family



by *Michelle Sathe*

BEST FRIENDS ANIMAL SOCIETY

In response to Utah's devastating Cottonwood Fire that's burned over 70,000 acres to date, national nonprofit Best Friends Animal Society urges residents to ensure their pets are

included in their disaster preparedness plans.

"The first step to make sure pets are prepared for any emergency is to ensure dogs and cats are wearing up-to-date identification tags with current contact information," said Tiffany Deaton, Director of National Operations, Best Friends Animal Society. "Having contact information updated and available on an ID tag or microchip is the quickest way for reunification should a pet become lost."

As five additional fires currently burning across Utah, Best Friends recommends putting together a go-bag of basic supplies for those in proximity to the fires, including:

- * A pet first aid kit, including an extra supply of any necessary medications, current vaccination records, a list of the pet's medical needs, and veterinarian's number
- * A 3-5-day supply of wet and/or dry food (and water, if possible)
- * A crate labeled with the pet's name and contact information (use masking tape and a permanent marker)
- * A cover for the crate, like a light sheet or towel, to block any smoke or debris and help pets remain calm
- * Pet toys and/or treats
- * Consider placing a well-worn sweater or sweatshirt inside the crate so the pet has a familiar scent around them
- * Extra poop bags
- * Blanket and towels
- * Bowl, can opener and spoon
- * For cats, a small bag of litter and litter pan
- * A photo of the pet, as well as a photo of pet owners with their pet to keep stored on mobile devices in case people are separated from their pets

"Should an emergency occur, it's important to have a plan in place: identify where you'll go, and what you'll need to bring so that you can have peace-of-mind in case you and your pets need to evacuate for several days during a potentially chaotic time. Keeping pets out of shelters is critical in times of disaster and having a course of action is an essential step in keeping pets with their people," said Deaton.

To learn more about how to prepare for an emergency with pets, visit bestfriends.org.

calendar

WED, JULY 1

CCAC BOOK CLUB (7PM) @ MAIN STREET Books in Cedar City. This month's book is *Two Years Before the Mast*, by Richard Henry Dana. We alternate between fiction and non-fiction titles. We are a welcoming and accommodating group and would love to have you join us.

THURS, JULY 2

FISHING DERBY (5-8:30PM) BRIAN HEAD Days Fishing Derby held at the Bristlecone Pond (Hwy 143, Brian Head). The pond will be stocked. Catch one with a tag, bring it in, and win a prize. Two lucky fish will be worth \$250 each! All rules and regulations follow Utah DNR guidelines.

1776 THE MUSICAL (7PM) THE FORGE presents: *1776 The Musical*, held at 7:00 pm in the Cedar Fun Center (170 E Fiddler Canyon Rd, Cedar City). Tickets are available online at theforgearts.com/tickets. Everyone is invited to join a revolutionary summer production. Witness the birth of a nation as our forefathers struggle to craft the Declaration of Independence.

FRI, JULY 3

FAITH AND FREEDOM PROGRAM (7PM) dedicated to the faith of the Founding Fathers, 451 E. Midvalley Rd in the Cultural Hall. Voices of 1776 Patriots, Musical Section by the Enoch Orchestra, 50th anniversary of the bicentennial building, patriotic contest results.

PAROWAN: JULY CONCERT SERIES (8PM) in the Parowan City Park (Main St & Center, Parowan), admission is FREE and open to everyone. Bring a chair or blanket, and don't forget your family and friends for a free concert in the park every Friday in July. For more information, call (435) 559-4504.

21ST ANNUAL CEDAR BREAKS WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL (9AM - 5PM) is held daily from July 3rd to July 11th at Cedar Breaks National Monument (Hwy 148). Participate in self-guided hikes focusing on the wildflowers, how to identify them, and much more. Park admission fee of \$15 per person or \$25 per vehicle does apply. For

information call (435) 986-7120 or visit www.nps.gov/cebr.

BRAIN HEAD ART FESTIVAL (9AM - 7PM) The annual Brian Head Art Festival is held Daily on July 3, 4, & 5, 2026 at The Mall (259 S Village Way, Brian Head). Admission is FREE. Join for a weekend of food, art, music, games, entertainment, and cool weather. The festival will feature over 60 local and regional artists, offering a wide range of artwork, live music, food trucks, and a raffle with exciting prizes. For information visit brianheadartfest.com. Brian Head Resort Live Music Schedule (\$15 Day of Cover Charge).

SAT, JULY 4

Happy 4th of July

CEDAR CITY 4TH OF JULY PARADE & FESTIVAL Cedar City Lions Club Independence Day Parade & Festival - Begin the day at 9:00 am with the Fourth of July Patriotic Parade (300 W Center Street east to Main Street then north to 400 N, Cedar City) followed by activities in the Main Street Park (200 N Main St), 11:00 am - 3:00 pm. The Cedar City Fireworks display will take place after dark (about 10 pm) at the Cedar City airport. All events are FREE and open to the public. For information, visit www.cedarlionsclub.org.

ENOCHS INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION: 5K Freedom Run 7am at Old Enoch Park. Enoch's 4th of July Parade starts at 5:30 PM along Midvalley Rd. It ends at the Church Park with Hot Dogs and contests: Wings of Death, the Children's Eating Contest, Memorization of the Declaration of Independence and Colonial Costumes. In addition there will be the annual Friends of the Library Book and Back Sale, vendors, and fun activities: bounce houses, a dunk tank, foam machine and games. Vendors and food trucks are welcome. More information and signups are at www.enochcityut.gov

PAROWAN 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION Kick off the Day at 10:00 am with the Parade (Parowan Main St) followed by Games and Vendors from about 11:00 am - 1:00 pm in Main Street Park. Fireworks will be at the Iron County Fairgrounds at dusk, *weather permitting. For information call (435) 477-8190. *Fireworks are dependent on weather and fire safety

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION AT BRAIN

HEAD RESORT (9:30AM - 8PM) Spend the day on the mountain at Giant Steps Base Area - Brian Head Resort (329 S Hwy 143, Brian Head). Enjoy great food, a beer garden and fun for the whole family. Live music will play from 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm, followed by a fireworks display over a mountain backdrop. *Fireworks are dependent on weather and fire conditions.

DUCK CREEK VILLAGE 2026 INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE (7PM) with line-up at True Value and will follow Movie Ranch Rd (Duck Creek). Everyone is invited to decorate their ride and join the parade or cheer along from the sidelines! Sponsored by the Duck Creek Chamber of Commerce. For entry forms and parade information, visit duckcreekvillage.com.

PARKRUN - STARS AND STRIPS 5K (8AM)

The Coal Creek Trail summer parkrun is a free, weekly, timed 5k run/jog/walk held on Saturdays at 8:00 am in Canyon Park West (133 S 400 E, Cedar City). The run is for all ages & abilities. Start your Independence Day with a Stars & Stripes 5K. For information, visit parkrun.us/coalcreektrail.

WED, JULY 8

JOHNSON ARTS CENTER: SUMMER CONCERT SERIES (7PM) Carvin Jones "The King of Strings" is held at 7:00 pm at the Johnson Center for the Arts outdoor stage (59 N 100 W, Cedar City). Tickets are \$35 and are available ONLINE.

FRI, JULY 10

JOHNSON ARTS CENTER SUMMER CONCERT SERIES (6PM) The Last Light and Frozen Desserts. Bring a chair or a blanket and enjoy some free entertainment at our outdoor stage. Second Friday of every month. 59N 100W Cedar City, Utah.

OPEN HOUSE AT THE COURTYARDS AT SHURTZ CANYON (3-7PM) Choice Builders and The Courtyards at Shurtz Canyon, celebrate the completion of our new Community Clubhouse and Model Home, The Promenade. We're excited to share these beautiful new spaces with the people who have helped make this community possible. We hope you'll join us for a tour, refreshments, and the opportunity to celebrate together. Families and children are welcome! Please RSVP by replying to Jen@choicebuildersgroup.com or by calling 435-773-8996.

Want your event on our calendar?

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



REPUBLIC SERVICES

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We care about the communities we serve. Ensuring safety for drivers and residents is our top priority. Please stay safe on roads this summer.

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13 DAYS OF CELEBRATION

AMERICA 250 JUNE 26TH-JULY 8TH

All events are FREE unless noted otherwise and open to the public.



STARS & STRIPES
FOREVER



Friday JUNE 26	BEVERLEY CENTER CELEBRATION Celebrate Southern Utah Museum of Art's 10th anniversary and the Utah Shakespeare Festival's 65th with art activities, street festival, food, and more. Starts at 2pm. Located at 195 W. Center Street, Cedar City.
Saturday JUNE 27	SUMMER JAM WITH UNCLE SAM Outdoor dance at 8:30pm at Main Street Park. Sponsored by the Cedar City Youth Council.
Sunday JUNE 28	LET FREEDOM SHINE Red, White and Blue lights & decor illuminate municipal, county, businesses & private homes. Enter your home in decor contest at visitcedarcity.com/america250 SPIRIT OF AMERICA CONCERT Cedar City Rock Church 75 E. Center Street, Cedar City, 7pm.
Monday JUNE 29	FREEDOM FOUND: AMERICA 250 CHALLENGE 250 things to do in Iron County Digital Pass launch. Participate in activities and events, check-in to earn points towards prizes. Go to Visitcedarcity.com/america250
Tuesday JUNE 30	ECHOES OF FREEDOM SPEAKERS CORNER 250 minutes of reading important American documents & speeches, including the Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights, etc. Starts at 2:50pm at the Cedar City Mayor's Square (corner of Center and Main). AMERICA 250 PLAYLIST LECTURE- PART ONE. The Iron County America 250 playlist features 250 songs curated by SLU professors Ryan Paul and Joseph Howe, showcasing the depth of American music exclusively from U.S. artists. Lecture at 6pm at Cedar City Visitor Center, 581 North Main.
Wednesday JULY 1	LEGACY OF LIBERTY TIME CAPSULE Items commemorating the America 250 year placed in a time capsule to be opened in 50 years. Noon at Cedar Main St. Park. AMERICA 250 PLAYLIST LECTURE- PART TWO. The Iron County America 250 playlist features 250 songs curated by SLU professors Ryan Paul and Joseph Howe, showcasing the depth of American music exclusively from U.S. artists. Lecture at 6pm at Cedar City Visitor Center, 581 North Main.
Thursday JULY 2	RED, WHITE & REEL FUN FAMILY MOVIE IN BRIAN HEAD Enjoy a patriotic movie in the cool mountains of Brian Head. Bring your own blankets and chairs and dress warm. Held at Brian Head Resort Chair #1 at 8:30 pm. Movie to be announced.

All events are FREE unless noted otherwise and open to the public.



LEARN MORE AT
VISITCEDARCITY.COM/AMERICA250



13 DAYS OF CELEBRATION

AMERICA 250 JUNE 26TH-JULY 8TH

All events are FREE unless noted otherwise and open to the public.

JULY 4TH ACTIVITIES

BRIAN HEAD TOWN

Brian Head Fire Department Pancake Breakfast from 8am-10am. Fun, food & music at Brian Head Resort Guest Steps Patio from 11am-6:30pm. Brian Head Arts and Crafts Fair all day at the Brian Head Mall. Due to wildland fire conditions, fireworks are TBA.

CEDAR CITY

Utes Club Fourth of July Parade starts at 9am on 300 W Center Street to Main Street. It opens with 12 "Spirit of '76" floats celebrating America's founding. After parade, enjoy Main Street Park activities (200 N Main St) from 11am-3pm, with the Cedar City Community Band playing throughout the day. Americans Night follows at Utah Shakespeare Festival Green-show at 7pm. The Cedar City fireworks at dusk (approx. 10pm) at the Cedar Airport, and is set to music on AM radio. Pick up free America 250 3D glasses to enhance your viewing at the Cedar City Offices or Visitor Center.

ENOCH CITY

Freedom 3K Race at 7am. Parade at 9:30am from 1,390 E. Mid Valley to 451 Mid Valley, followed by hot dogs, games, music, the Enoch City Orchestra and the Wings of Death wing racing competition. No fireworks.

KANARRAVILLE

Fun Run/Walk at 7am at the church parking lot, along with a free breakfast at the Town Park. Parade begins at 10am starting at 200 North and Main Street, followed by a patriotic program at 11am at the Cobblestone Pavilion. Fire Department Fundraiser lunch from noon-1:30pm. The festivities continue in the afternoon with water games and conclude with a dinner at Cobblestone Pavilion.

PAROWAN

Parade at 10am followed by lawn games, vendor booths, food, and live music all day at Library Park. In the evening, the community is invited to the Iron County Fair Rodeo Arena at 8pm for an America250 fireworks watch party, featuring themed music and fireworks. Don't forget to pick up your America 250 3D glasses at the Parowan City Offices or the Visitor Center.

Note: Parowan Community Potluck on July 5 at Library Park from 4-6pm. Guests are asked to bring a dish to share.

AMERICA 250 SCHEDULE CONTINUED

Friday JULY 3	A SACRED CELEBRATION OF AMERICA 250 Patriotic Program & Ice Cream Social presented by the Cedar Inter Faith Alliance (CIFA). Held at the Cedar City Christ the King Catholic Church, 600 Cove Drive at 7pm. ENOCH CITY INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM Held at 7pm at 451 E Midvalley Road
Saturday JULY 4	AMERICA'S BIRTHDAY! Extravaganza of activities, all day throughout Iron County (see details in the inset box). Get your America 250 Commemorative 3-D glasses for viewing fireworks at your City Office or Cedar City Visitor Center, 581 North Main.
Sunday JULY 5	AMERICA'S 250 POTLUCK: BACKYARD BASH Neighbors will come together to celebrate harvest, harmony, and home. Check with your local religious organization for specific neighborhood potlucks/congregation gatherings. Pin your potluck at https://bit.ly/48Pazzd and share your celebrations using hashtags #America250Utah & #America250IronCounty.
Monday JULY 6	LET FREEDOM ROLL: TRAIL DEDICATION 250 Dedication of the Fort Cedar Railroad Trail plus the unveiling of two historic markers and new pump track feature. Held at 10am on the corner of 400 West and Industrial Road in Cedar City.
Tuesday JULY 7	MAKING WAVES FOR AMERICA Celebrate America with a day at the pool at the Cedar City Aquatic Center from noon-8:30pm, or at the Parowan Pool from 1pm-6pm. Cost is \$2.50 or enjoy free swimming at Lake on the Hill throughout the day.
Wednesday JULY 8	UTAH SYMPHONY UNDER THE STARS America 250 Concert with the Utah Symphony in the Cedar Main Street Park at 8:30pm. Free but reserve your spot at https://bit.ly/3PqLofS . Bring your lawn chairs and blankets.

All events are FREE unless noted otherwise and open to the public.



LEARN MORE AT
VISITCEDARCITY.COM/AMERICA250



calendar

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

GOVERNMENT

Brian Head Council

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

Cedar City Council

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

Central Iron County Water Conservancy District Board Meetings

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

Enoch City Council

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

Enoch Planning Commission

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

Iron County Commission

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

Iron County Democrats

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

Iron County Republican Women

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

Parowan City Council

2nd & 4th Thurs, 5:30 pm • City Hall, 35 E 100 N • (435) 477-3331

SERVICE GROUPS

American Legion Post 74

2nd Mon, 6pm, Cedar Library, 303 N 100 E. Learn about Veteran benefits, opportunities, fellowship. Honor Guard provides military honors at Veterans funerals. Post Commander Tris Colman. For information contact Scotty, Post Adjutant, at (435) 590-3072 or hidesertdog@gmail.com

Bikers Against Child Abuse

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

Cedar Area Inter-Faith Alliance (CAIFA)

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

DAR – Bald Eagle Chapter

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

Elks Lodge #1556

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

Kiwanis Club of Iron County

6-7pm • Wednesday July 22nd at the Pavilion at Ridge Park in Cedar City. ironcountykiwanis-club@gmail.com

Lion's Club

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

Marine Corps League

Detachment 1315, 2nd Wed, 6:30 pm Elks Lodge (303 N 100 E)

Rotary Club

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

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

AA—Alcoholics Anonymous

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

Speaking From The Heart • M – Sa, Noon

Steps and Traditions • M – Su, 7 am

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

Misfits • M – F, 6 pm

Cedar Group • Tues, 8 pm

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

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

Uncommon Sense • Sat, 10:00 am

My Story • Sat, 8 pm

Thank God Sunday Spiritual • Sun, 11 am

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

Al-Anon

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

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

Hope for Today (Family Groups)

Thurs, 6 pm • (925) 508-9058

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

Alzheimer's/Dementia

Every Tues, 5:30-6:30 pm • Cedar Library (303 N 100 E). Learn, access resources, connect. Virtual option available. Raven Albertson, 385.831.7124, utahprograms@alz.org.

ARP—Addiction Recovery

1st Wed, 7 pm • Parowan Seminary building, Main & 300 N, Parowan
Sun 7:30 pm • 85 N 600 W, Cedar, Rm. 102 – LDS bldg. Back entrance. 435-218-9578

Embrace Grace

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

Grief Support Group

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

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

Reel Mental Health

A fun interactive support group focused on your mental health and well-being, available online <https://www.facebook.com/groups/9254516527891777/?ref=share&mibextid=NSMWBV>

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 City Farmers Market

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

Cedar Breaks Model A/Vintage Car Club

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

Cedar Chest Quilters' Guild

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

Cedar City ESL

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

Cedar City parkrun

Saturday 8 am • West Canyon Park, (133 S 400 E) • Free 5K for runners, joggers & walkers. Volunteers welcome. Info: Bruce @ 435-301-5480 or coalcreektrail@parkrun.com

Cedar City Toastmasters

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

Cedar City Unitarian Universal-**ists**

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

Cedar Professionals

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

Cedar Radio Control Club

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

Cedar City Community Band

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

Explorer Bible Club

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

International Folk Dancing

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

Iron County Moms For America

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

Iron County Democrats

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

Friends of Festival Country K9s

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

Labyrinth Walk

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

Local Cub Scout Pack (K-5th).

Wednesday @ 6 p.m. For more information, go to myscouting.org or contact local Cubmaster Tristin L. at CubScoutTroop1848UT@gmail.com

Parowan Pickleball

Mon, 6-8 pm • Tues-Thurs, 9-12 pm • Iron County Exhibit Building. Range of skill levels, 3 indoor courts, beginners welcome. INFO, fees and sign-up: 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/SmGytGfVq1tS2pB7

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) 327-1919 (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.

Zumba with Steff at**Retro Fitness 929**

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

faith

Utah pastor to pray for nation as part of Franklin Graham's call for

50 DAYS OF PRAYER

by Claisse Opulencia

BGEA

For 50 days, 50 pastors from 50 states are joining together in prayer for America as the nation prepares to celebrate the 250th anniversary of its founding on July 4. Franklin Graham is calling for Christians to pray that America would turn back to Jesus Christ and be One Nation Under God.

“Two and a half centuries since our founding, the United States is at a crossroads,” said Franklin Graham, president and CEO of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA) and Samaritan's Purse. “The America of 2026 is vastly different than the country that our forefathers established. The spiritual climate of our country has decayed, and we need to turn to God in repentance. The only hope for us as individuals and for America is the Lord, Jesus Christ.”

Since Franklin Graham launched the 50 days of prayer on May 15, pastors from across



the country have led daily prayers for the issues facing our families, our schools, our society, and our government. The short videos are released each day at noon on OneNationUnderGod.com, as well as on the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association's app and social media channels.

As the nationwide prayer initiative moves forward state by state, Pastor Bill Young from Salt Lake City will lead in prayer on June 27. He said, “Father, we come before You today, lifting up the men and women who are serving in our military. We are deeply grateful for their courage and their sacrifice and their willingness to serve our country.” The pastor of The Rock Church continued, “Protect them, Lord, in body, mind and spirit. Encourage their hearts. Remind them that they're not alone, that You are with them, watching over them. Surround them with Your peace,

strengthen them with Your presence, and draw them close to You.”

Franklin Graham has called Christians across the United States to prayer during critical moments many times before, including in 2016 when he prayed at all 50 state capitals, and in 2020 when he led a Prayer March at the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

His father, Billy Graham, also recognized the importance of praying for our nation. When he stood on the steps of the U.S. Capitol building in 1952, he called on Congress to establish a national day of prayer—which was enacted later that year. This year marked the 75th year that the United States has observed the National Day of Prayer.

To find out more about One Nation Under God: 50 Days of Prayer for Our Nation, and to join in praying, visit OneNationUnderGod.com. The prayer initiative will conclude on July 4, America's 250th birthday.

obituaries

Paul Robert Wilkinson



With the utmost respect and heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Paul Robert Wilkinson, known lovingly as Bob or Bob-o, on June 19th, 2026.

Bob was born to Robert Shirley Wilkinson and Marcia Jean Wilkinson on September 29, 1952, in San Diego, California. He was the older brother of Brent Wilkinson, Barry Wilkinson, and Debbie Wilkinson Shumway.

Throughout his life Bob dedicated time to serving the Lord in many callings including as a missionary in the Australia West mission from 1971-1973, as a Bishop for the El Cajon 6th ward and most recently as a temple worker in the Cedar City, Utah temple.

Professionally, Bob was a successful CPA, serving the state of California as a school auditor and a tax consultant for many clients. He founded Wilkinson Hadley King and Co. and retired in 2020 when he relocated with his wife Lesli to Cedar City, Utah where they were able to build a home for the grandkids to come and stay.

Bob's wife, Lesli; his four sons, Brian, Brad (Tammy), Matthew (Corinne), and Johnny (Taylor); and his nine grandchildren—Alexis, Treyson, Baylee, Brayson, Jarod, Reed, Austin, Beau, and Easton—will remember Bob-o for his sharp wit, his devotion to his family and faith, and his willingness to serve and help those blessed to know him. They will fondly remember his love of the San Diego Padres, his dogs, and his ability to make them laugh and smile even on the hardest days.

The void his spirit has already left is immeasurable.

If you would like to celebrate Bob's life and the impact he had on this earth, please join us for a funeral service on Thursday, July 2, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at the Latter-day Saint Chapel located at 451 E. Midvalley Rd in Enoch, Utah. A viewing will be held prior to the service from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Interment will be in the Enoch Cemetery under the direction of Southern Utah Mortuary.

To view a livestream of the service and share online condolences, please visit www.mortuary.org.



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by *Regan Hunsaker*

SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY

Vinciane Le Pen Returns to Compete in France, Bringing Lessons Learned from the Flippin' Birds

For Southern Utah sophomore gymnast Vinciane Le Pen, a trip home to France this spring became much more than a visit. It was the culmination of years of hard work and dedication to a sport that has taught her valuable lessons and brought her all the way to Cedar City, Utah, to compete for the Flippin' Birds.

In May, Le Pen returned to her home country to compete at the French National Team Championships, representing a club team in a top-tier competition held in Amiens. The opportunity allowed her to reconnect with her roots in the sport that first sparked her passion for gymnastics.

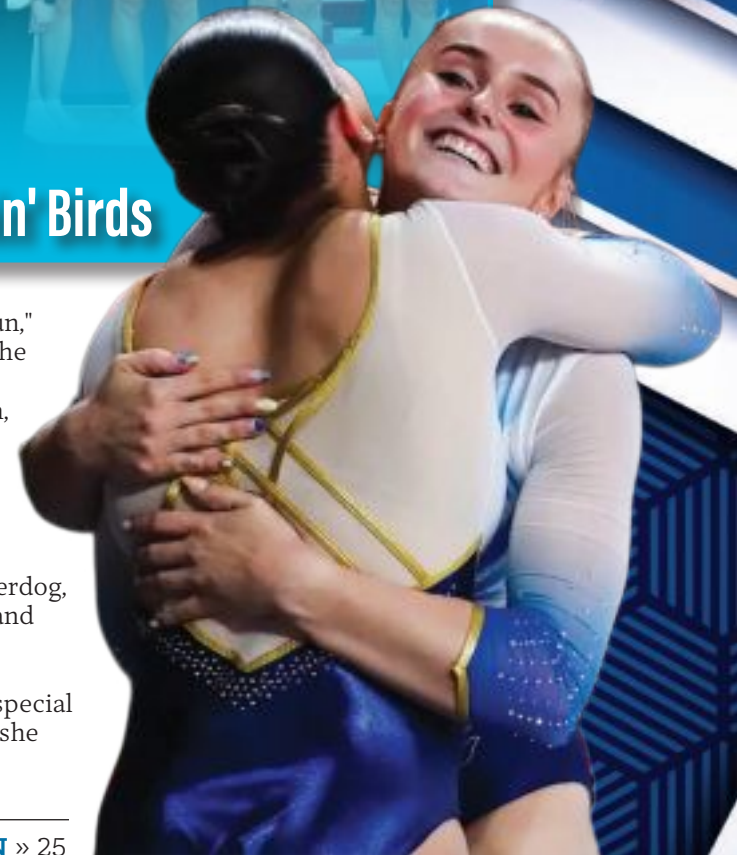
"It was a big dream," Le Pen said. "Growing up in France, competing at nationals was always something I wanted to do."

The experience was unique in more ways than one. Le Pen joined a club she had never competed for before, meeting many of her teammates only after arriving for the competition. Despite the unfamiliar surroundings, the group quickly formed a close bond.

"It was really friendly and really fun," Le Pen said. "I hadn't met most of the team before, but everyone was so nice. By the end of the competition, we had become really good friends."

The team's chemistry translated into success on the competition floor. Entering the event as an underdog, Le Pen's squad surprised the field and captured the title.

"The fact that we won was really special because it wasn't really expected," she said. "That's something I'll always



see **VINCIANE LE PEN** » 25

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TOM'S SPORTS TRIVIA

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

- At the NBA Draft on June 23, the Washington Wizards took BYU freshman A.J. Dybantsa with the No. 1 pick. What point guard out of Kansas did the Utah Jazz select with the No. 2 pick?
- One day before the Draft, Dusty May left the Michigan basketball program and was named the new head coach of what NBA team that fired Jason Kidd after it finished 26-56 last season?
- During the first round of the Draft, May's new team wasted little time and took one of his former players at Michigan as the No. 9 overall pick. Who is that player?
- Despite dealing with hecklers through most of the weekend at Shinnecock Hills Golf Course, who survived and led wire to wire, winning his second US Open in four years by one shot over Sam Burns on June 21?
- Following the Mavericks, two more of May's former players – Yaxel Lendeborg and Aday Mara – were taken with the 11th and 12th picks, respectively, at the NBA Draft. What Western Conference teams took Lendeborg and Mara?
- In one of the blockbuster trades that happened before the Draft, Giannis Antetokounmpo was traded from the Milwaukee Bucks to what Eastern Conference team in a multi-player, multi-draft pick deal?
- Who is the defending champion of the Open Championship, the final golf major of 2026 that starts July 16 at Royal Birkdale?
- While the American League has only five teams with winning records through June 24, how many National League teams have winning records?

- What two Las Vegas hotels are host sites for the 2026 World Series of Poker that runs through the end of July?
- True or False: As of June 24, Caitlin Clark of the Indiana Fever is the leading vote-getter for the WNBA All-Star Game that will be played July 25 in Chicago.
- With the USMNT already through to the knockout rounds, who did it play in the last game of group play at the World Cup on June 25?
- Portugal star Cristiano Ronaldo set a new record when he scored two goals in a 5-0 shutout over Uzbekistan on June 23. In how many consecutive World Cups has Ronaldo scored a goal?

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

- Broadway.
- Algeria.
- True. After the Detroit Tigers swept a three-game series, the White Sox fell into a tie for first with the Cleveland Guardians.
- Cape Verde.
- Scotland.
- Yordan Alvarez.
- Michael Harris.
- Oklahoma and North Carolina. The Sooners won the title in three games after a 13-2 win in Game 3 on June 22.
- Jalen Brunson and Josh Hart.
- Jordan Clarkson.
- For the World Cup only, the championship match is being played at New York-New Jersey Stadium on July 19.
- Los Angeles Dodgers.

One game at a time is a real thing

RANDOM thoughts

Tom Zulewski
IRON COUNTY TODAY



With the group stage matches finally finished at the World Cup, the US men's soccer team earned a spot in the knockout rounds after winning its first two matches with relative ease – 4-1 over Paraguay and a 2-0 shutout over Australia. There was one key piece of the puzzle missing, something the USMNT has never done at the World Cup.

There was a chance to sweep all three group stage matches for the first time in its history. Just beat Turkiye on June 25 and maybe get a few more cynical types on board the bandwagon.

With nine of the normal starting 11 on the bench, not even the return of injured star Christian Pulisic could save Team USA from a Turkiye team that was playing for pride and a chance to go home with one win under its belt.

Auston Trusty got the US off to a great start early with a goal in the 3rd minute, but the Turks quickly tied the score seven minutes later and took a 2-1 lead at the half. Sebastian Berhalter pulled Team USA back to even at 2-2 with a goal in the 49th minute,

Try as both sides might, the score held all the way to the eighth and final minute of second-half stoppage time. That's when Kaan Ayhan scored off a rebound in close to finish off a 3-2 win and go home with its collective heads held high.

You may think the match was meaningless in the bigger picture, but Team USA had a chance for serious momentum that the future challengers in the knockouts would have definitely taken notice of.

Alas, there would be no three-match sweep, and it was the winless Turks who played all the way to the final full-time whistle. The loss left the US with a little more work to do that began Wednesday against Bosnia-Herzegovina in Santa Clara, Calif.

With the World Cup down to the knockout stage, playing for the draw is no longer an option. If teams are tied after 90 minutes, a full 30-minute overtime session – two 15-minute halves – is played with no golden goal. If the tie still exists after that, a penalty-kick shootout decides the winner.

As these words were written, the final day of group play was still in progress, leaving a guessing game for Team USA's potential opponent in the Round of 16 on July 6. It could be Belgium, the Group G winner after a 5-1 victory over New Zealand on

see [RANDOM THOUGHTS](#) » 25



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VINCIANE LE PEN

« CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

remember."

While the competition took place in France, Le Pen credits much of her preparation and mindset to her experience at Southern Utah.

After spending the past season with the Flippin' Birds, Le Pen arrived at nationals with a noticeably different perspective than she had earlier in her gymnastics career.

"I think I was a lot more relaxed and not as stressed as before," she said. "This past semester made me realize that I'm doing gymnastics because I love it and because it's fun."

That outlook quickly became apparent to her French teammates.

"They told me I was kind of the sunshine of the team because I was always positive, cheering everyone on and not really stressed," Le Pen said. "I was just enjoying the experience."

Le Pen also credited the support of Southern Utah's coaching staff and teammates for helping her return



to competition at a high level. The Flippin' Birds coaches helped her rebuild her vault skills, which she had not competed in for several years, giving her confidence heading into nationals.

The competition also gave Le Pen an opportunity to perform events she missed during the collegiate season. While she competed primarily on vault for Southern Utah this year, she returned to beam and floor exercise in France.

"Competing beam and floor again made me realize how much I missed those events," she said. "It definitely made me want even more opportunities to compete them in the future."

The experience

reinforced one of the biggest differences Le Pen noticed when she first arrived in the United States: the culture surrounding collegiate gymnastics.

"I think it's the environment," she said. "Everyone is cheering for everyone. Everyone is really supportive. My teammates and coaches have helped me become the best version of myself."

That support system has become one of the defining parts of her Southern Utah experience and one she believes young gymnasts from France should experience if given the opportunity.

"If they have the

chance to come here, I would tell them to go for it," Le Pen said. "College gymnastics is unlike anything I've seen before. It has helped me not only as a gymnast but as a person outside the gym."

As Le Pen looks ahead to the future with the Flippin' Birds, her trip back to France provided more than a national championship and lifelong memories. It offered a chance to see how much she has grown during her time at Southern Utah.

Whether it was quickly building relationships with new teammates, embracing the joy of competition, or performing on a national stage, Le Pen returned to Cedar City carrying valuable lessons that will continue to shape her collegiate career as she prepares for her second season with the Thunderbirds.

And for a gymnast who once dreamed of competing at French Nationals, the experience was everything she hoped it would be, and perhaps just the beginning of what is still to come.

RANDOM THOUGHTS

« CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

June 26, or any one of six different nations that finished third in its respective groups.

The dust will have settled by the time you see these words, but the speculation and discussion will have long since begun.

Only one fact is keeping me from getting on board the hype train for the USMNT's potential to win the World Cup. Other than a third-place effort in the first tournament in 1930, the US men have never gotten further than the quarterfinals, which they did in 2002. They're two wins away from landing there again.

Should they achieve said victories, I'll channel my inner Ted Lasso and commit to believing at long last.

Contact Tom Zulewski at tominator19@yahoo.com.

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Weekly SUDOKU

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8			3			
1		5		3	7	
			2			
2	9		6		4	
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

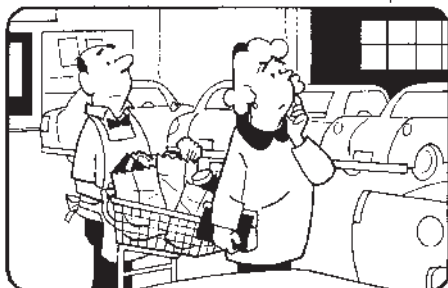
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINGOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Store windows are mirrored. 2. License plate is missing. 3. How the is added. 4. Bumper is missing. 5. Coat is longer. 6. Hair is longer.

June 29, 2026 Posting Date

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 "Chocolat" actor
- 5 Audio giant
- 9 Prune
- 12 Antioxidant berry
- 13 Egg
- 14 - budget
- 15 Plumbing problem
- 16 Firsties
- 17 TiVo precursor
- 18 Foolproof
- 19 Sch. URL ender
- 20 Borscht base
- 21 Sailing hazard
- 23 - Victor
- 25 Daughter of Muhammad
- 28 Lynx
- 32 "West Side Story" role
- 53 Perimeter
- 54 Lobbyists' org.
- 55 Pitch
- 56 Reddish brown
- 36 Grapevine talk
- 37 Chow down
- 38 " - was saying ..."
- 39 Scoff
- 42 Half of bi-
- 44 Sod
- 48 Napoleon's title (Abbr.)
- 49 Mideast gulf
- 50 Verifiable
- 51 Brit. record label

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46				47				48		
49				50					51	

- 52 Get up
- 53 Perimeter
- 54 Lobbyists' org.
- 55 Pitch
- 56 Reddish brown
- 7 Outlying area
- 8 Ambulance letters
- 9 Zero, in tennis
- 10 Formerly
- 11 Section
- 20 Date night hire
- 22 D-Day beach
- 24 Some Pacific salmon
- 25 Passing craze
- 26 Chemical suffix
- 27 Gratuity
- 29 LP successors
- 30 NPR's
- 31 Pinnacle
- 35 Recording site
- 36 Olympic swimmer
- 39 "M*A*S*H" vehicle
- 40 Tennis star Raducanu
- 41 Grand tale
- 43 Legendary loch
- 45 Language of Pakistan
- 46 Carpets
- 47 Shoe fillers
- 49 Illustrations

DOWN

- 1 June honorees
- 2 Beige
- 3 Two of a kind
- 4 Specialist in the heating/cooling industry
- 5 Grocery store
- 6 Roman poet

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1. MOVIES: Who was the only actress to appear in the 1961 and 2021 film versions of "West Side Story"?
2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which month of the year has the most letters in its name?
3. SCIENCE: What protects the Earth from solar winds?
4. TELEVISION: What is the name of the bar in "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia"?
5. U.S. STATES: Which state is home to the first Ben & Jerry's ice cream shop?
6. LITERATURE: What are the names of the two brothers in the "Hardy Boys" novel series?
7. LANGUAGE: What is a polyglot?
8. FOOD & DRINK: Which herb is most often used in traditional pesto?
9. ANATOMY: Membranes called pleurae cover the surface of which human organs?
10. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of South Korea?

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Weekly SUDOKU

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C	R	I	B							

Solution time: 26 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

- Trivia Test Answers
1. Rita Moreno; 2. September; 3. The magnetosphere, an invisible magnetic bubble generated inside the Earth; 4. Paddy's Pub; 5. Vermont; 6. Frank and Joe; 7. A person who speaks several languages; 8. Basil; 9. The lungs; 10. Seoul



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