

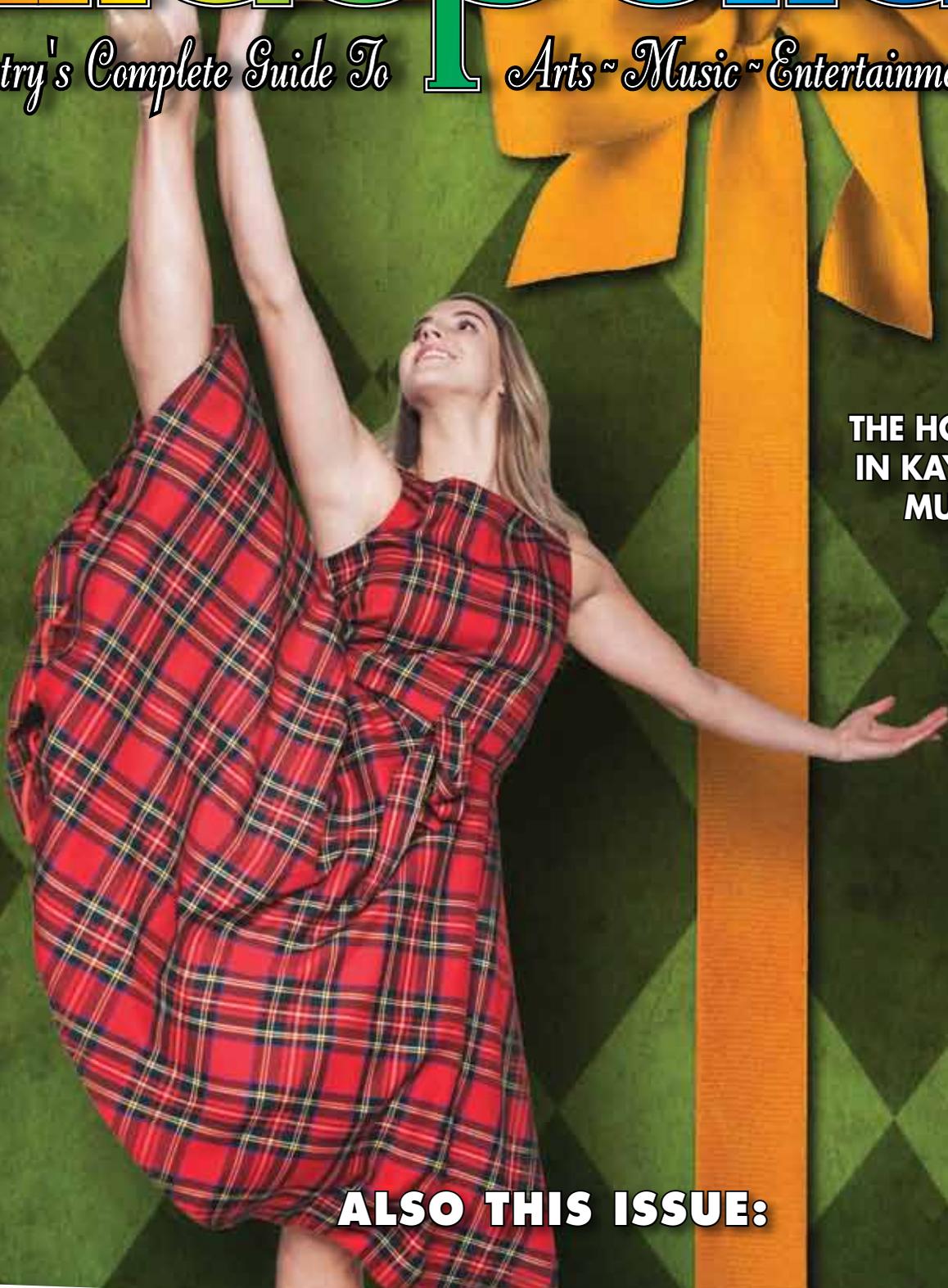
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IN KAYENTA WITH MAGIC,
MUSIC, AND DANCE**
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EDITORIAL

PUBLISHER'S PERSPECTIVE By Josh Warburton

The holidays can be stressful. Most of us are concerned with gift giving, holiday parties, company visiting, or any number of events that can very trying. So how do you cope?

I know I write a lot lately about self love and self care, but I think it's particularly important to talk about this time of year. While we're all running around, looking for that great bargain, carefully wrapping presents, or trying to get that package mailed in time to reach a loved one, who's taking care of you? The answer often is nobody. There's a lot of research out there that suggests we as a society are more stressed near the holidays. So what's a person to do to thwart those holiday blues? Well, I've got a few suggestions for you!

First, prioritize yourself. I know, I know ... this is the time of the year when you're supposed to be thinking of others ... and you should, just don't forget about you. As I've written in previous articles, the oxygen-mask concept applies here. That's to say that you'll be in the best frame of mind for giving if you've nurtured yourself (put the oxygen mask on yourself before doing it for others). It's easier than you might think.

As an example, pick yourself up little treats along the way. Grabbing something for the kids at a big box store? Get yourself

a little reward. Ideally, it'd be something healthy, like a nice piece of fruit or a nutritious energy bar. Not only will you get a bit of joy from the treat, but the healthy calories will help you keep up the hunt. I'm not saying to go crazy with the snacks, but don't sacrifice yourself and your own well-being just to get that special deal.

Buy yourself something nice, if you can afford it. You've worked hard this year. You're thinking of others. If you can make it work in your budget (or it's worth borrowing on a credit card for), pick something up that you know no one would buy for you. I typically do this every year as I often want something that would be hard for someone else to pick out for me. And don't feel guilty about it. Celebrate it! It's a gift ... to yourself! You can enjoy both the giving and receiving, in this case. I even know some folks who'll wrap that gift up, put it under the tree, and say it's from Santa.

Another way to be sure that your holiday gift giving includes yourself is by taking someone out to eat or to a show for their gift ... and go with them! That's a gift of an experience for both of you. This can be a great option for an adult sibling or friend that you might not always exchange gifts with. It'll give you a nice break and some fun, and it doubles as a gift given as well as nurturing yourself.

I'm going to keep it short this month ... lots to do as I prep for my first trip out of the country as an adult. My brother and I are headed to Mexico in early December. We're both paying for ourselves, but it's definitely a gift to and from each of us. We've earned it!

Happy reading, and enjoy the new year!

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EVENTS

THE HOLIDAYS COME ALIVE IN KAYENTA WITH MAGIC, MUSIC, AND DANCE

By Jan Broberg

This holiday season, the Art Village Plaza and Center for the Arts at Kayenta will glow with seasonal cheer. December kicks off with a concert featuring the Dixie State University Chamber Singers, the Snow Canyon High School Jazz Band, and the Madrigal Choir. These award-winning musical groups will perform a selection of holiday favorites! Honored as Best Jazz Band in several regional competitions and touted as the finest singers in southern Utah at numerous festivals, both Snow Canyon High School groups have performed throughout Utah and California, including being featured at the Disneyland theme park! Under the direction of Dr. Roger Hale, the DSU Chamber Singers are establishing a unique tradition of tonal beauty bringing complex harmonies and soaring highs and lows that will give you goosebumps — not caused by the winter chill in the air but by the exceptional voices that come together to deeply move an audience. We will finish off the evening of music with an audience singalong that will usher in the spirit of the holiday season. In a unifying experience, we will share our common humanity through song. Join us for a joyful musical experience Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$8 for students, and \$5 children 13 and under.

Celebrating 30 years of “A Kurt Bestor

Christmas,” Kurt Bestor will bring the joy of the season alive in this very rare performance at the Center for the Arts at Kayenta. To offer this intimate holiday performance with Kurt, a renowned Emmy Award-winning composer, singer, songwriter and entertainer, is such a privilege for us, and to be so up close and personal in the theater with him will be absolutely thrilling. With carolers in the lobby and magic in the air, theatergoers can enjoy a preshow boxed dinner provided by Harmon’s on Saturday night. Other beverages and snacks will be available Friday. Support Kony Coins for Kids and Toys for Tots by bringing a donation or unwrapped gift and get a free warm beverage! A Kurt Bestor Christmas lands center stage Dec. 8 and 9 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$40–\$60.



Kurt Bestor

With magic in the air, the village trees will glisten as vendors offer warm drinks, light bites, and sweet treats on the Center for the Arts Plaza with Many Miles performing a selection of holiday tunes. The days grow shorter, but the imagination grows brighter with a new collaborative event presented by Kayenta Arts Foundation and Diamond Talent Productions: A Holiday in Kayenta



Many Miles

featuring A Diamond Holiday, a dance and music concert; and The Enchanted World of Dolls, a walkthrough experience showcasing dolls that magically come to life in our windows on the plaza in a celebration of holiday traditions from around the world.

According to director Alexei Syssoyeva of Enchanted Dolls, “The audience moves through a series of stages, viewing the exceptional talents of young actors and



Snow Canyon Jazz Band

dancers who represent various countries throughout the world. Moving as though they were mechanical dolls, this is a magical interactive experience for young and old.”

The festivities then take us inside the theater where A Diamond Holiday dance and music concert will captivate the audience in the spirit of the season. This spectacular holiday show filled with beautiful dance



Enchanted Dolls

and music is a wonderful way to bring the worldwide spirit of understanding, unity, and joy to every heart. Diamond Talent performers are highly trained students and professional dancers as well as singers, many of whom have gone on to perform on Broadway and attended prestigious schools like Julliard. This spirited show features Suzi Snowflakes, Santa Claus fun, March of the Toys, great traditional Christmas songs, the best of “The Nutcracker,” and an angelic climax that will thrill both young and old as the nativity is revealed, a truly inclusive worldwide celebration of many faiths and holiday traditions from around the world.

The Enchanted World of Dolls promenade and Plaza offerings will be open with continuous tours starting at 5:30 p.m. The last tour begins at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5.

A Diamond Holiday follows in the theatre from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15–\$35

Performance dates are Dec 14–16 and 21–23 including matinees on Dec. 16 and 23. Tickets are \$15 (includes both shows). A limited number of premium seats are available for \$35.

The Center for the Arts and the Lorraine Boccardo Indoor Theatre are located in the Kayenta Art Village. For more information and tickets, visit kayentaarts.com.



DSU Chamber Singers



Diamond Holiday



Diamond Holiday

Grace Episcopal Church



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Sundays – 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday – Noon (in the chapel)



4th Sunday of Advent Service – Saturday December 23, 5:30 p.m.
Christmas Eve Service – Sunday December 24, 5:30 p.m.



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EVENTS

JENNY OAKS BAKER & FAMILY FOUR PERFORM WITH SOUTHERN UTAH HERITAGE CHOIR

By Jim Coleman

The Southern Utah Heritage Choir is thrilled to welcome renowned guest artists Jenny Oaks Baker & Family Four for their annual Christmas concerts, "Long Ago in Bethlehem." Three performances will be held in the Cox Performing Arts Center: Dec. 15 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 16 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased from the DSU Box Office, online at heritagechoir.org, or from any choir member.

Under the direction of principal conductor Dr. Ken Peterson, artistic director and pianist Dr. Nancy Allred, and organist Karen Lee, the choir is excited to perform several beloved Christmas carols including "The First Noel," "Long Ago in Bethlehem," "Silent Night," "See Amid the Winter's Snow," and "Breath of Heaven" with soprano soloist Lizzy Peterson.

Jenny Oaks Baker & Family Four will perform a variety of stunning Christmas arrangements by celebrated composer Kurt Bestor: "We Three Kings," "Ding Dong Merrily on High," "Angels We Have Heard on High," "Christmas Concerto," "O Come, O Come Emmanuel," "Gesù Bambino," "Patapan," and "Carol of the Bells," to name a few. They will also collaborate with the choir for several Christmas selections.

Jenny Oaks Baker is a Grammy-nominated, Billboard No. 1 performer and recording artist. She received her master's degree in from the renowned Juilliard School in New York City and her bachelor's degree in violin performance from the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. She has performed as a soloist

at Carnegie Hall, the Lincoln Center, Strathmore Hall, and the Library of Congress and as a guest soloist with the National Symphony, Jerusalem Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, San Diego Symphony, Utah Symphony, and the internationally acclaimed Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Over the years, Jenny has collaborated with such luminaries as Gladys Knight, Marvin Hamlisch, and former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Jenny has released fourteen studio albums since 1998. They have sold nearly half a million copies and consistently chart on Billboard. Jenny's emotionally stirring music has also been featured on the soundtracks of many films, and her popular music videos can be viewed on her YouTube Channel. Jenny, her husband Matthew, and their four children (Family Four) reside in Salt Lake City.

Jenny Oaks Baker & Family Four have performed throughout the United States, including performances in Abravanel Hall in Salt Lake City, the Stevens Performing Arts Center in Idaho, on the Hour of Power TV Show broadcast worldwide from California, for Ambassador's Wives at the Congressional Club in Washington DC, for the Music Educator's Rally at the Utah state capital, for the Washington DC Temple Festival of Lights, and for the World Congress of Families IX. They have also performed the National Anthem for the Days of Forty-Seven Rodeo and a Jazz Basketball Game at the Vivint Smart Home Arena and performed with The Millennial Choirs and Orchestra and The Lyceum Philharmonic. Jenny Oaks Baker & Family Four are also featured on the CD "My Home Can Be A Holy Place" and on a Mormon Channel music video, performing "Love Is Spoken Here." In the summer of 2017 Jenny & Family Four are performing concerts throughout Austria, Taiwan and Japan. Their debut CD was released in the fall of 2017.

Laura is 15 and plays the violin and percussion. Hannah is 14 and plays the piano. Sarah is 12 and plays the cello. Matthew is 10 and plays the classical and electric guitar. Jenny and her children have been performing together as a family since each child started playing their instruments when they were three and four years old.

The Heritage Choir invites the community to enjoy this spectacular evening of Christmas music Dec. 15 and 16. Upcoming performances include a spring concert March 23 with guests artists Jordan and Kaitlynn Kleinman Bluth and the Southwest Choral Festival April 14 with distinguished conductor Dr. Craig Jessop.

More information is available by emailing jimc@erabrokers.com.

"A CHRISTMAS CAROL ON THE AIR" FEATURES TV STAR TONY AMENDOLA

"A Christmas Carol on the Air," which tells Dickens' classic Christmas story in the style of an old-time radio show, will be performed Dec. 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Heritage Center Theater. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for veterans, students, and children. This performance will feature Tony Amendola from ABC's "Once Upon A Time" as Scrooge. Tickets are available online at simonfest.org. The Heritage Center Theater is located at 105 N 100 E in Cedar City.



ODYSSEY DANCE THEATRE PERFORMS "THE REDUXNUT-CRACKER" By Susie Carlson

Odyssey Dance Theatre will perform "The ReduxNut-Cracker" throughout December at four locations in Utah: Dec. 1 and 2 at the Val Browning Center at Weber State University (weberstatetickets.com), Dec. 4 and 5 at the Cox Performing Arts Center at DSU, Dec. 11 at the Sevier Valley Center for the Arts (svc.snow.edu), and Dec 13-23 at Kingsbury Hall (tickets.utah.edu).

Odyssey Dance Theatre does it again and will present its own version of the holiday dance classic "The Nutcracker." As they have successfully done to other great classics such as "Giselle" and "Romeo and Juliet" to rave reviews from across the globe, for the fifth year Odyssey Dance Theatre brings this production to life in the present day with the original Tchaikovsky score re-imagined and arranged in a pop/hip hop style!

Imagine Clara as the young lady whose imagination is inspired by the technological advances of today and is drawn into her smartphone to a magical world where Drosselmeyer drives a DeLorean, the soldiers are actually robots, and the gangsta mice have a hip hop swagga.

If you've been to one too many Nutcrackers, then this is the one you will want to see — re-imagined, updated, and a visual feast full of surprises.

Go to odysseydance.com for tickets, discounts and show information. It is as

only Odyssey Dance Theatre can create — "The ReduxNut-Cracker"!

Winner of Best of State in Dance for twelve years in a row; Best of State of all Arts and Entertainment 2007 and 2015; Best Choreographer 2009 Odyssey founder and artistic director Derryl Yeager; Best Individual Dancer 2010 former Odyssey associate artistic director/principal dancer Eldon Johnson; Best Individual Dancer 2012 Odyssey associate artistic director/principal dancer Veronica Yeager, Best Individual Dancer 2013 former Odyssey principal dancer Dayna Marshall; and Best Youth Dance Group 2011 and 2012 Odyssey 2, Odyssey Dance Theatre performs to critical acclaim and standing ovations at home and on tour, nationally and internationally, most notably coinciding with the Beijing Summer Olympics.

Odyssey Dance Theatre is funded in part by Zoo, Arts and Parks.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOSTS '70S-THEMED CASINO NIGHT FUNDRAISER

Habitat for Humanity will host its second annual casino night fundraiser Dec. 30 from 6 to 10:30 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn in St. George. This year's event has a '70s theme, and the organization has encouraged prospective participants to wear "hippie/flower-power/disco attire." The fundraiser will feature food, drinks, a silent auction, and photos along with a "diamond dig." All proceeds from

the evening will go to support Habitat for Humanity and its mission ensuring that everyone in Washington County has a safe, affordable, and decent place to live. Tickets are \$50 per person in advance or \$75 at the door and can be purchased at habitatswu.org



org or at the ReStore, located at 835 Bluff St. in St. George. The Hilton Garden Inn is located at 1731 S. Convention Center Dr. in St. George.

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EVENTS

ORCHESTRA OF SOUTHERN UTAH PERFORMS HANDEL'S "MESSIAH"

Orchestra of Southern Utah's 77th annual performance of Handel's "Messiah" will be given Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the Heritage Center (105 N 100 E, Cedar City). Admission is free, and seating is on a first come, first served basis. More information is available at myosu.org or by calling (435) 233-8213. The Heritage Center Theater is located at 105 N 100 E in Cedar City.



SAND HOLLOW RESORT HOSTS PAINT NIGHT

On Dec. 7, at 6 p.m., Sand Hollow Resort will host a Paint Night event. Attendees must be 21 and older. Admission is \$45 and does not include food or beverages. Participants are not allowed to bring outside food or beverages into the venue. More information is available at paintnite.com/venues/sand-hollow-resort-146035 or by calling (435) 656-4653. Sand Hollow Resort is located at 5662 W. Clubhouse Dr. in Hurricane.



A MERRY MOVIE CHRISTMAS RETURNS TO THE ELECTRIC THEATER

By Adam Mast

If October's Horror-Fest was all about the heebie jeebies, than December's A Merry Movie Christmas is all about the warm and fuzzies. The centerpiece of this all ages Christmas-inspired event will be the Holiday Edition of the Guerilla Shorts Showcase.

Local aspiring filmmakers were given the theme "Christmas" and the dialogue line "Peace on Earth." These individuals then had a limited amount of time to put together their short film projects using any resources available to them. On, Dec. 22, come on out to the Electric Theater and see what these talented storytellers put together. Get in on the action and vote for your favorite short as there will be an Audience Choice Award presented to the strongest movie of the bunch.

In addition to a handful of locally

made short films, the event will include a screening of a Christmas classic. And to top it all off, programmers have also just received word that a very special guest is making time in his hectic work schedule and will fly all the way in from the North Pole to be at the event, so be sure to bring the kids.

Finally, it should be noted that most of the proceeds from A Merry Movie Christmas are going to Switchpoint and the Dove Center here in St. George. Come on out and support local filmmaking. But more importantly, support two outstanding causes. After all, tis' the season of giving.

For more on A Merry Movie Christmas, including ticket info and detailed lineup schedule, be sure to check out fmasu.com or search for "A Merry Movie Christmas" at Facebook.



2017 SUMA FAMILY ART NIGHT SERIES COMES TO A CLOSE

The final event in the SUMA Family Art Night Series, themed "Spending Time Together," will take place Dec. 4 from 6 to 7 p.m. Space is limited to 36 participants. The museum will also feature a wishing tree for the Iron County Care and Share, a gift shop sale, and a winter-themed exhibition in December.

The museum is open Tuesdays-Saturdays from noon to 6 p.m. It will open from 6 to 7 on Monday nights for the Family Art Night Series program. Admission is free. More information is available at suum.edu/suma.

The museum is located at 13 S 300 W in Cedar City.



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What: Habitat's 70's Themed Casino Night Fundraiser
When: Saturday December 30th, 2017 • 6pm - 10:30pm
Where: Hilton Garden Inn - 1731 S Convention Center Dr, St George, UT 84790
Tickets: \$50 prior, \$75 at the door.

Can be purchased online at habitatswu.org or at the ReStore

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MESQUITE HOME TO NEW NEVADA DESERT DOGS BASKETBALL TEAM

The Nevada Desert Dogs, a new professional basketball team based out of Mesquite, has named Paul Mokeski as the head coach and general manager. The home games will be played at the Rising Star Resort and the first home game will be in January. The 32-game schedule will be posted soon.

"I am very excited to be the head coach and GM of the Nevada Desert Dogs of the [North American Premier Basketball League]," said coach Paul Mokeski. "We are Mesquite's pro basketball team! We are looking forward to having 'The Barn' at the Rising Star Resort as our home court. We want to play up-tempo, exciting basketball and get the Barn rocking. With great fan support, it will be a huge home court advantage for us. I have coached in many leagues all around the world and have never been more excited for this year of Desert Dogs basketball!"

The North American Premier Basketball League was founded by longtime founder and owner of the Premier Basketball League Dr. Sev Hrywnak and David Magley, a former professional basketball player, businessman, coach, and commissioner of the NBL Canadian league.



North America does not have a second division professional league. Currently, there are only the NBA and G League, owned and operated by NBA teams. Basketball players seeking employment sometimes go overseas to continue their careers. The North American Premier Basketball League hopes to fill a niche both for players and markets. There are currently over 60 professional markets that may have been home to an NBA, ABA, CBA, or D League in the past and no longer have a league for their venue. The inaugural season will begin in January 2018 with eight teams:

- Mesquite, Nevada
- Yakima, Washington
- Vancouver, British Columbia.
- Kansas City, Missouri
- Rochester, New York
- Albany, New York
- Owensboro, Kentucky
- Akron, Ohio

There is interest from other professional markets, and the goal is to have 20 teams within the next three years.

"I am very excited to be the head coach and GM of the Nevada Desert Dogs of the NAPB," said coach Paul Mokeski.

"We are Mesquite's pro basketball team! We are looking forward to having 'The Barn' at The Rising Star Resort as our home court. We want to play up-tempo, exciting basketball and get the Barn rocking. With great fan support, it will be a huge home court advantage for us. I have coached in many leagues all around the world and have never been more excited for this year of Desert Dogs basketball! We need the whole community to come out and support us. I guarantee you will have a great time!"

More information about season ticket packages or sponsorship packages is available by calling Preston Guthrie at (702) 510-7175 or emailing preston@nvdesertdogs.com.

GYLAH, DESERT RATS, AND UPLA CLEAN UP LA VERKIN'S VALLEY GUN RANGE

A cooperative effort by the Give Your Lands a Hand, or GYLAH, committee filled a 30-cubic-yard dumpster to capacity Nov. 18. GYLAH worked alongside Desert Roads and Trails Society, or Desert RATS; the Utah Public Lands Alliance, or UPLA; and Republic Services. The effort was sponsored by Washington County. The cleanup project was undertaken at the Valley Gun Club shooting range in LaVerkin. Republic Services donated and delivered the dumpster. Upon witnessing the project, a LaVerkin resident borrowed his employer's front-end loader and was reportedly a huge asset to the effort.

"I started working with the Give Your Lands a Hand Campaign in February of 2017," said Sarah Thomas, a member of the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve and the GYLAH committee. "In the amount of time I have worked for GYLAH, we have scheduled four successful cleanups, and each time we've filled 30-yard dumpsters to capacity or more. We've been really lucky to work with Republic Waste and also with Desert RATS, whom we are partnering with. Our first cleanup was in Bloomington, the second was Confluence Park, and third Santa Clara River Reserve. The fourth here today is at the Valley Gun Range."

"A big component of the GYLAH program is actually getting on the ground and cleaning up trash," Thomas said. "Another really big component is creating community partnerships. We're hoping to create more and more ties with the county and user groups like the Desert RATS. The third big component is that we are hoping to undertake an education program so that we can let people know how great the Washington County landfill is and how residents can get rid of their trash there for free. Around the country, this is pretty unusual. That's the next big push, educating people that they don't have to dump on the land because we have a great dump to take things to."

"UPLA is here helping cleaning up the dump at LaVerkin off Nephi Twist Trail," said Gil Meachan, president of the Utah Public Lands Alliance. "The Nephi Twist

Trail is one of the trails where we do four-by-four off-roading. We want to help the county out, too. So we've found lots of stuff out there. We have a 30-yard dumpster that's full. We could have probably fill three or four more. It's daunting, but we'll keep plugging away. We'd like to see more people come out here with their kids and their guns and enjoy shooting, and take home everything that they brought out."

"The Desert RATS group tries to conduct or participate in at least four desert cleanups per year, both in Utah and Arizona," said Bud Sanders, a board member of the Desert RATS. "We're pleased to partner with Washington County and GYLAH to clean up our public lands in Washington County. Most of our cleanups are on BLM lands, and we've had great cooperation from them in both Utah and Arizona. Earlier this year, we cooperated with GYLAH and cleaned up a parcel of state SITLA land in Bloomington. Most of the worst, trashiest areas are where unorganized shooting occurs, so we're attempting to find a way to change the shooting culture for them to pick up all their shooting residue before they leave."

The Desert Rats and the Utah Public Lands Association are both 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations committed to keeping public lands public and accessible to all, including the disabled.

Of the four cleanups the Desert RATS conducts each year, a traditional cleanup is held on National Public Lands Day in September in the Sand Mountain off-highway vehicle area in Hurricane.



LIBRARY TELESCOPE-LENDING PROGRAM INTRODUCED BY CEDAR BREAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT

Cedar Breaks National Monument and local astronomy clubs are collaborating with Iron and Washington County libraries to launch a new library telescope-lending program. Telescopes are now available to the public at the Cedar City and Parowan libraries in partnership with the Southern Utah Space Foundation, or SUSF. More telescopes will become available



at additional libraries throughout Iron and Washington Counties in the coming months in partnership with the St. George Astronomy Group and the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument. Cedar Breaks National Monument, SUSF, and the St. George Astronomy Group will maintain the telescopes in this program.

Library patrons can check out a telescope as they would a book for a week at a time. The telescopes are modified to be user-friendly and are of higher quality than most amateur-level telescopes. The StarBlast 4.5-inch tabletop reflecting telescopes utilize quality optics that provide great views of craters on the moon, Saturn's rings, Jupiter's moons, numerous star clusters, galaxies, nebulae, and more. Included with each telescope is an instruction manual, a moon map, a pocket guide of the constellations, and a night-vision-friendly red LED headlamp.

ELECTIONS BRING CHANGE TO HILLDALE

By Darren M. Edwards

Things are changing in Hildale. The little town on the Utah/Arizona border, most widely known for its Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints — or FLDS — dominant population, had several firsts with this most recent election.

For the first time, all of the seats up for election were won by individuals not affiliated (or no longer affiliated) with the FLDS church. The city council will now be made up of the three non-FLDS individuals who were just elected (Maha Layton, Jared Nicol, and Carlos S. Jessop) and the three FLDS city council members whose seats were not up for election.

Also for the first time, the town elected a female mayor. Mayor-elect Donia Jessop is a former church member. According to Jessop, the new city council

mix should be a good representation of the city.



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- Tom Blackburn



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- Tony Manardi

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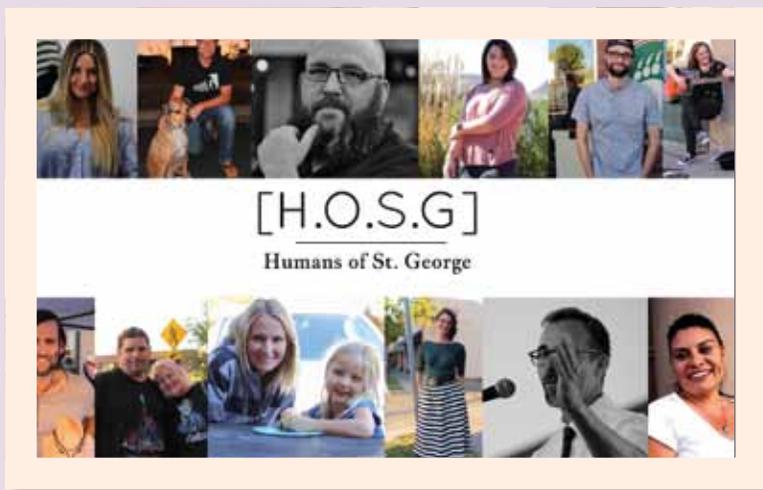
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HUMANS OF ST. GEORGE

By Darren M. Edwards

In September of 2010, New York-based photographer Brandon Stanton started a side project he called “Humans of New York,” or HONY. Stanton’s idea was to create a visual catalog of the people living in New York. Photographing strangers he met on the street, Stanton soon began collecting their stories. The project showed a very human side of a city that can sometimes seem full

of nameless faces. Since HONY started in 2010, hundreds of other photographers have followed Stanton’s example. There are Humans of Chicago, Humans of Austin, and even recently a Humans of Salt Lake.

So, why start a Humans of St. George (HOSG)? Since I moved here in 2010, I’ve noticed many divisions in St. George, and southern Utah by extension. But when it

comes down to it, we’re all just people, and it’s a lot harder to place someone in that “other” category once you know them a little.

The goal of Humans of St. George is to help us see the humanity in each other, especially in those we see as different from ourselves. Project subjects are generally met on the streets of St. George and always asked the same five questions. “How did you end up in St. George (and/or) what has kept you here?” “Where do you fit in in St. George?” “How would you describe your personal sense of style?” (Can go deeper than clothing.) “How would you describe St. George to someone who has never been here?” “If you could have one wish for the St. George area, what would it be?”

I hope you enjoy this exploration of our community.

Ronald Mark Coulson II

I first moved to St. George, entirely against my will, when I was 14 yrs. old. Since then, I have moved away and back several times. The last time I moved back was over 6 years ago. I was 33 and I realized how much I actually adore St. George. Of course, we have our fair share of problems — what city doesn’t? — but they are minor compared to other places I’ve lived. When I try and pinpoint what exactly keeps me here, the simplest answer is this: It feels like home. I have met many wonderful people here, including my fiancée Kayleen Williams, and I have had the privilege to become great friends with many of those

individuals!

The varying hues of red that makeup our landscape create a perfect backdrop where retirees and university students blend together in a unique storm of wills and desires. And while I am no fan of the summers here, I love seeing our city grow and evolve. There is a little something for everyone, and if what we have isn’t what you want, you are just a short drive from other options.

Aside from working as a bookseller, helping kids find those books that speak to them, you might find me out here pushing all things creative. I was a two-time team member of southern Utah’s Poetry Team, which competed on a national level, as well as a host for the local open mic known as Storm the Mic. Sadly, the open mic isn’t operating as of right now, but I have some things in the works that will hopefully pan out and we can get it up and going once more. There are others in the community who inspire me to do more, to give back more, and I look forward to being able to do so.

I believe in being comfortable and approachable. I am a big guy, and have been told that I can come across as intimidating, so everything I do is with the idea to be as inviting and approachable as possible. I do have to admit that I quite possibly have an unhealthy love for beards! More often than not, you’ll see me sporting one of my own. As for my personal style of creative writing, I love capturing moments ... for better or worse. It is within these moments, where time seemingly stands still, that I can find



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beauty and/or introspection.

There are times when I wish that our city would embrace growth and change. There are those times when it seems to cover it's ears, stamp it's feet, and shake it's head no like a defiant child. I guess that's expected. I believe, also, that we could be more inclusive and more accepting ... and while I am seeing us head in that direction, it isn't without a great amount of growing pains.

Karl Vochatzer

My wife and I were ready to live in the western USA. When an employment option came up for Cedar City/St. George, we took the plunge and moved our family out of the density of Austin, Texas to here. We stay because we like the great outdoors and the beautiful scenery, especially while rock climbing in the numerous places and types of rock all around the area.

I fit in anywhere outdoors and away from dense civilization!

My style is very casual: t-shirts, jeans, and flip-flops or climbing/outdoor garb.

[I would describe St. George to someone who has never been here as] living in the middle of a multidimensional environment with various levels of terrain, big skies, and colorful sunshine on everything it shines upon.

If I could have one wish for the St. George area, it would be not to outgrow itself or to continually expand its footprint until everything is paved over and carved up.



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THE BEST GOLF GIFT IDEA EVER!

By Scott Dunford

With the high peak-season rates around these parts, it's no wonder we have to budget our time on the greens. Here's the best way to save money and the answer



to a fabulous gift idea that the golfer on your Christmas list will love! One of several options for loyalty discount cards! Here's a list of what I think are the best in our area.

The Mesquite Golf Pass is one of the most economical golf pass programs available for the price. For just \$150, a typical green fee at one of our high-end resort courses, members and their guests can benefit from a generous discount on green fees and golf shop merchandise throughout the year. New this year is a free round at Coral Canyon valid throughout January 2018. Members receive one free round of golf at Falcon Ridge, Oasis Palmer, Oasis Canyons and Coral Canyon as well as Coyote Springs for just a \$20 cart fee. They've added another round at any Summerlin course (golfsummerlin.com) for just a \$25 cart fee. Members also receive an invitation to participate in the annual Mesquite Golf Pass 36-hole tournament May 20 at the Oasis Golf Club, 21 at Falcon Ridge, and 22 at Oasis Canyons for just \$90 per player. There will be \$3,000 in prize money based on a full field. You can purchase a 2018 Mesquite Golf Pass by visiting mesquitegolfpass.com or calling (866) 720-7111.

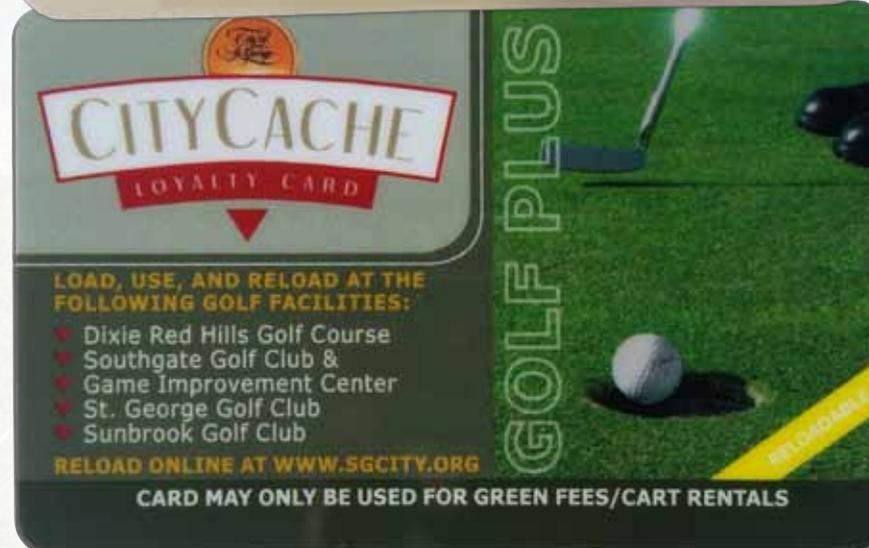
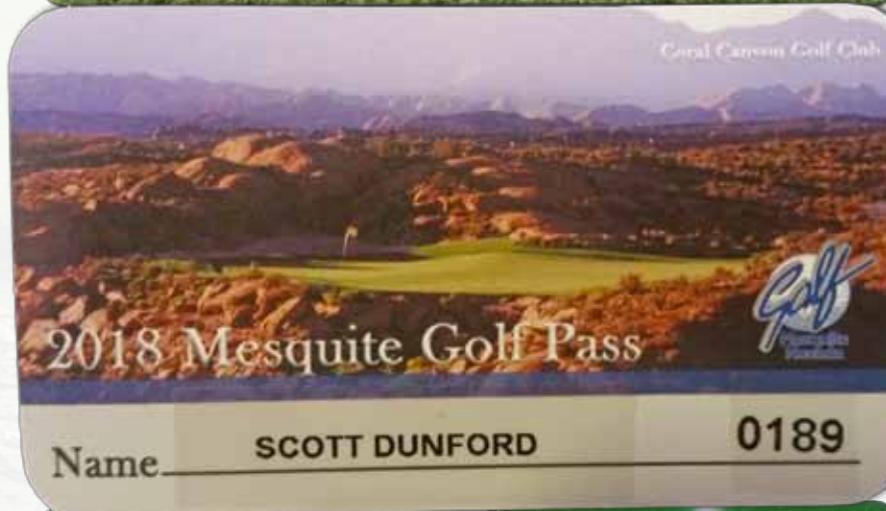
The Troon Rewards Card is a free card that earns you free rounds of golf and discounts on merchandise and golf fees. You'll also receive special offers, access to exclusive events, and Callaway promotions. The more you play, the more you save! For every dollar you spend on your own golf fees and merchandise, your

rewards add up. One dollar equals one point. Earn 500 points and you'll receive a certificate good towards one free round of golf at any participating Troon facility, including Conestoga in beautiful Mesquite. Go to troongolf.com/troon-golf-rewards-program.html.

For only \$99 a year, Vanguard Player's Card holders receive 50 off Sunday–Thursday peak-season rack rates with a cart in Utah and Nevada only with the exception of Feb. 15–April 15 at Sky Mountain, Coral Canyon, and Falcon Ridge. Enjoy 25 percent off rack rates, green fees, and carts; Friday–Saturday peak season rack rates, green fees, and carts; twilight rack rates, green fees, and carts; and nine-hole rack rates, green fees, and carts. Enjoy \$5 per regular bucket and \$10 off purchases over \$50, excluding Ping and golf ball purchases. Cardholders receive one free round of golf at Thanksgiving Point, The Ranches, Coral Canyon, and Falcon Ridge (restrictions apply) and 10 percent off temperature special off season. For purchase information and details, go to vanguardgolf.com/club.php or call (801) 768-7401.

Check out the Mesquite Gaming's \$99 Stay and Play package, which includes a one-night stay at the CasaBlanca Resort and your choice of playing 18 championship holes at either the CasaBlanca Golf Club or Palms Golf Club, a perfect combination of great golf and an inexpensive getaway close to home! Go to casablancaresort.com/golf or call (877) 438-2929

There you have it: the best way to save your green on the greens in southern Utah and Mesquite, plus take advantage of exclusive tournaments and merchandise discounts. Pick the card or cards that work best for you, and get out and play more often. Your conscience will be clear, knowing that you did all you could to protect your wallet from unnecessary peak season rates! See ya on the links!



OPINION

I HEARD THE NEWS TODAY

By Dallas Hyland



Tonight, as I tap the keys from my desk, Texas families and friends are still reeling in grief from what is being called the largest mass shooting in the state's history.

"Mass shooting" has become so common a phrase in American nomenclature that it is losing the impact it should have on us.

And the political division in this country is reaching levels of toxicity and shrewd intolerance where those who would seek to do something about what is a pandemic problem in our land are silenced. It is beyond absurd. It is woefully ignorant and stupid.

I'm talking of course about a lobby-laden Congress that prevents the Center for Disease Control from even doing a study on gun violence. A study.

It is said that the first step to solving a problem is recognizing that there is one. And while we can suffice it to say that the advocates for guns would just as soon shoot themselves than admit there is a problem,

it is not hard to imagine that under different circumstances they would acquiesce the phrase.

It is simply common sense to engage in root-cause analysis to solve a problem.

To those who would assert that guns do not kill people, people do, I will repeat a common response. No shit. Did you figure that out all by yourself? Wherever do you get the moronic notion that what is being advocated is the behavioral adjustment of the inanimate objects? What is desired by advocates for gun legislation is more stringent laws on people, not guns. On who can obtain them and how.

Because we are seeing in real time how well self-regulation works.

But I digress. At this point, if the CDC cannot do the study, maybe it's time for citizens to take it into their own hands and publicly fund a study of their own. Because if it is people doing this — and it is — then understanding why is the first necessary step to preventing it in the future.

To those who have lost family and friends in the mass shootings of the last few months, I grieve for you and with you and hold mine oh so close, fearing the day it happens in my own town.

See you out there.



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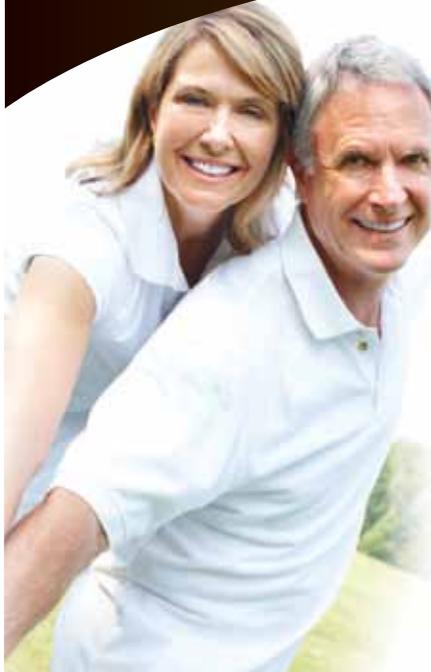
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Brandon Hansen



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INAUGURAL INDY AWARDS VOTING PERIOD BEGINS DEC. 3

The nomination period for the inaugural Indy Awards is officially closed. The voting period will begin Sunday, Dec. 3, and will last for three weeks. To vote, simply click the "Indy Awards" link at the top of any page at suiindependent.com. The voting polls will be presented in the Dec. 3 Sunday Edition, accessible at suiindependent.com/sundayedition or by simply clicking the "Sunday Edition" link at the top of any page at suiindependent.com. While you're there, be sure to sign up to get the Sunday Edition delivered fresh to your inbox every Sunday morning.

Here are the results of the 2017 nomination period.

Best singer/songwriter

Brandon Clove
Craig Newville
David Jorgensen
Josh Larsen
Josh Warburton
Kevin Jones
Raven Cain
Ryan Orton
Steven Swift

Best pop/rock band

Bila Gaana
Full Tilt Boogie
Goodbye Nova
Mister Hyde
Nevermind
Soul What!?
Sucker Punch
Vinyal Fusion
Wirelefant
Wolph
Yesouisi

Best country band

Gunlock County
Muddy Boots
Raven Cain Band
Silverwood

Best metal band

Aura Surreal
Mesozoic
Sleep Dealer

Best DJ

DJ Lex
DJ Spinz

Music (other)

Gary Huff
The Houston Rocket Band
Orchestra of Southern Utah
Spare Parts
Three Hat Trio
Wilhelm
Carlisle Potter

Best photographer

Alex Santiago

Carl Mazur
Chris Bilagody
Jeff Pedersen
Karen Equinta Sharkey
Nathan St. Andre
Nick Adams
Ron Broad
Andi Watkins

Best casual fine dining restaurant

Bit and Spur
Spotted Dog
Benja's
Anasazi Steakhouse and Gallery
Aragosta
Painted Pony
The Granary
Depot Grill
Xetava Gardens
Sakura Japanese Steak House & Sushi
Cliffside Restaurant

Best healthy restaurant

Peekaboo Kitchen
Twisted Noodle
Wild Thyme

Best painter

Royden Card
Gayla Folkman
John Mangels
Steven Stradley
Kathey Hawkes
Eddi Malloy
Beth Migruder-Deliberto
Gina Jrel
Del Parson

Art (other)

Deborah Durban
Matt Clark
Brady Richardson

Best dancer

Arielle Elonys
Rebekah Wainwright
Tia Stokes
Li Lei
Jenny Mair

Best stage actor

Henry D. Ballesteros
Brodie Perry
Taylor Williams
Dale Hoopes

Best stage actress

Sceri Sioux Ivers
Ashley Rai Benham

Best film actor

Derrick Butler
Dan Fowlks
Sheldon Demke
Brian Grob

Best film actress

Alexis Vencill
Jessica Eileen Staples
Rachelle Hansen

Best spoken word poet

Ron Coulson
Janae Godfrey
Jaitee Pitts

Best Writer

David Wolverton
Brian Passey
Stephen Armstrong
Janice Brooks

Best writer for The Independent

Chris Zinda
Cora Hamer
Dallas Hyland
Darren Edwards
Jason Gottfried
Laurie Nelson-Barker
Leah Dietzen
Marianne Hales Harding
Marianne Mansfield
Rebecca DiVerniero
Niki Hawkes



CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON IN DOWNTOWN ST. GEORGE

By Darren M. Edwards

There is plenty going on in downtown St. George this December to keep you entertained. With restaurants and art galleries around every corner, there is something for everyone.

Georgefest

In January and February of 2018, Georgefest will be going dark. After listening to public feedback, Georgefest is taking some time to revamp itself and address your concerns and ideas. But don't worry, Georgefest will be back and better than ever the first Friday in March 2018.

Mystery Escape Room

Located at 46 W. St. George Blvd., the Mystery Escape Room invites you and your friends to try and escape one of their seven room designs. They are open Mondays-Saturdays by reservation. Contact Jeff at (435) 237-8470 for more information.

Open Mic Poetry Jam at the St. George Art Museum

Every fourth Thursday of the month at 7 p.m., you can share some of your poetry or some poetry that you love, or you can just come and listen to others at the St. George Art Museum. Not only is this event free but you can also enjoy free entrance into the art museum every Thursday after 5 p.m.

Game Night at the St. George Art Museum

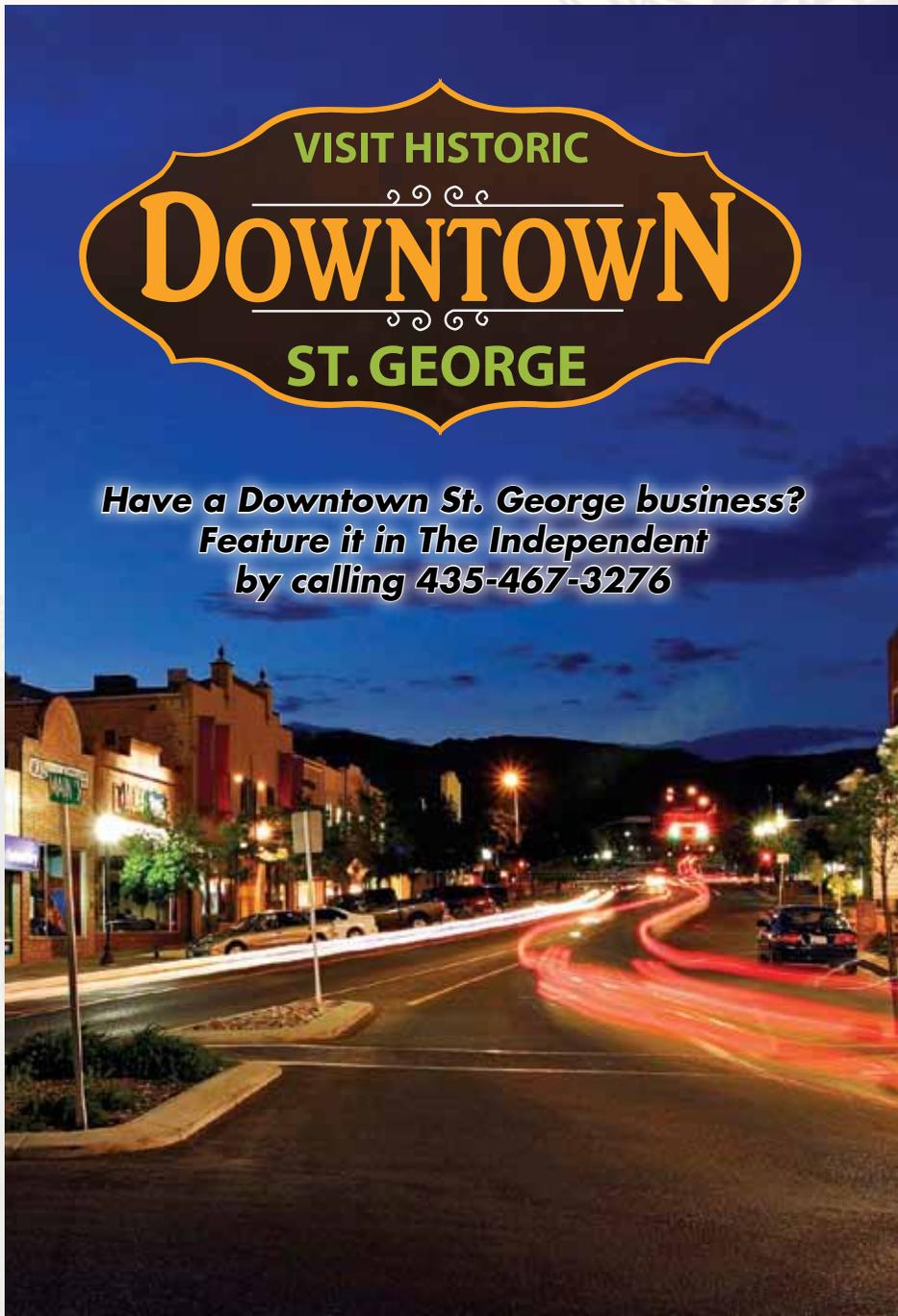
If poetry isn't your thing, you may want to check out Game Night every second Thursday of the month at the St. George Art Museum. You can pick from the selection of games provided by the museum (including Trivial Pursuit, Monopoly, and Go Fish), or you can bring your own. This event is free and open to the public.

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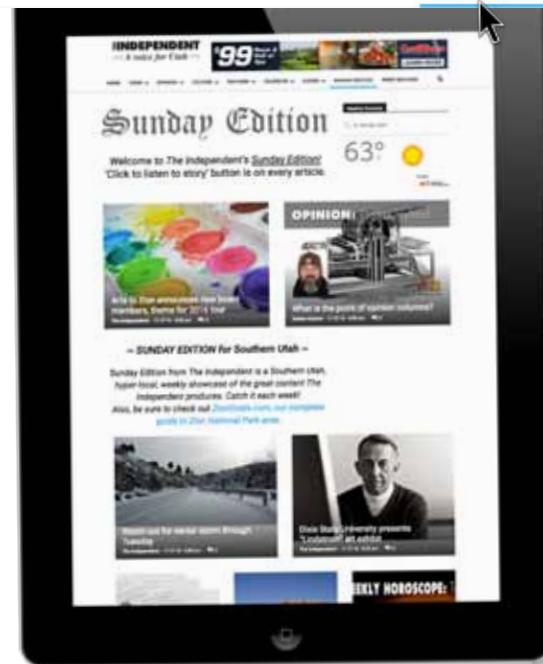
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SOUTHERN UTAH ART GUILD PRESENTS HOLIDAY ART SHOW

The Southern Utah Art Guild presents its holiday art show, which runs through Dec. 20 in the Red Cliff Gallery. The show is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays. Its theme is "The Gift of Art."

The show features approximately 100 works of contemporary art from approximately 40 southern Utah artists in various media including painting, mixed media, photography, pottery, and sculpture. It is a miniature show with all 2D art being 12x12 inches or smaller including the frame and all 3D art being 12x12x12 inches or smaller. All pieces are for sale. Larger pieces that are not part of the formal show are also be available for sale.



RED CLIFFS GALLERY



The Southern Utah Art Guild's mission is to promote the visual arts and artists in southern Utah. The Red Cliff Gallery is located in the St. George City Commons Building at 220 N 200

E in St. George. The Southern Utah Art Guild also operates the Arrowhead Gallery in the Electric Theater Center, located at 68 E Tabernacle in St. George. More information is available at southernutahartguild.com.

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Dec. 9
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Dec. 16
11:00-2:00pm

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Dec. 16
11:30-12:00pm

Holiday Music Time
Free of charge!

Dec. 2
11:00-12:00pm

Holiday Arts & Crafts with Mary
Free of charge!

Dec. 9
11:00-2:00pm

Princesses at the Museum!
Free of charge!

Dec. 23
11:00-12:00pm

Holiday Arts & Crafts with Mary
Free of charge!

For more information, please visit our website www.sgchildrensmuseum.org, 435-986-4000, 86 S. Main Street

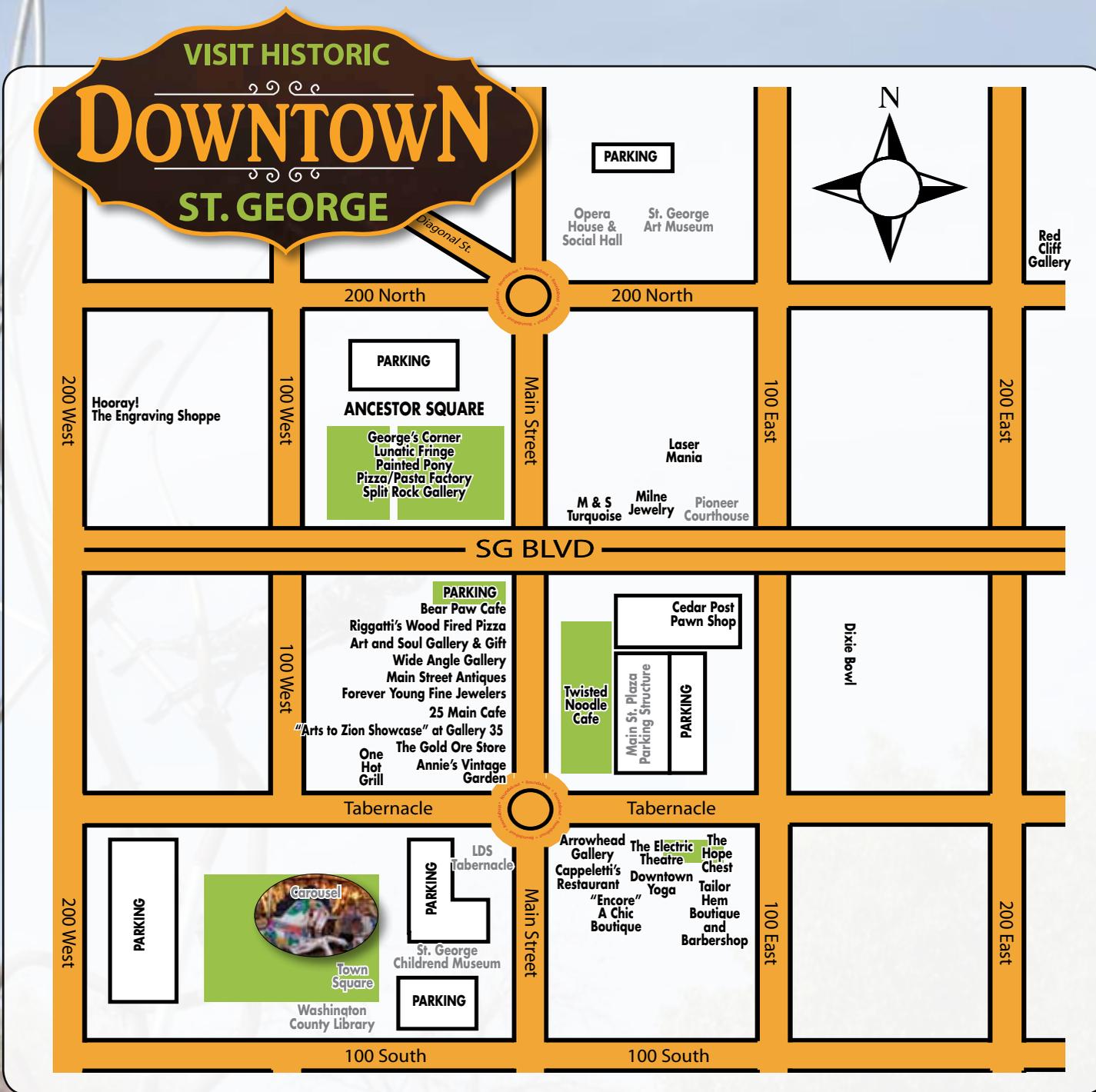
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- Art Around the Corner
- Arts to Zion Showcase
- Authentique Gallery
- Bedard Fine Art Gallery
- Brigham Young Home
- Children's Museum
- Daughters of the Utah Pioneers Museum
- DiFiore Center Gallery 35
- Main Street Gallery by Fibonacci
- Pioneer Courthouse
- Roland Lee Gallery
- Split Rock Art & Design Gallery
- St. George Art Museum
- Wide Angle Gallery

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BRIAN HEAD RESORT 2017-18 SEASON'S OPENING WEEKEND

By Josh Segovia

@JOSHSEGOVIA

We couldn't possibly wait any longer! I don't think I can remember not being on a snowboard by Thanksgiving weekend — it's pretty much tradition around here. While early snowfall hit many Utah resorts a few months back, it definitely brewed some excitement about what the possible 2017–18 winter season might look like. Now that we are here in late November, that excitement has turned into dances, prayers, beard growing, and ski-burning snow rituals that will have many outsiders thinking this record warmth has gotten to us, and they may be right. It certainly does not help when Facebook brings back those

memories a year later and you're left to think, "Hmm, that looks like something I remember called winter!"

Snow or not, real or fake, nothing will keep me from a change in altitude and scenery, especially when it's right in my backyard. I grabbed a couple of buddies and made plans upon hearing that Brian Head Resort will be opening, forgot about my office duties for a day (sorry guys), and headed up with just the mere goal to have fun, a recipe that has always worked for me in the past. After a few "breakfast smoothies" (ahem) in the parking lot, we ascended with stoked marvel at what nature and man had

prepared for us. While the resort only had one lift running on this day, all we cared about were our boards underneath or feet and making the first turns of the season.

Thoroughly impressed by how good the snowpack was and that we still had a few moves in us, we glided along with not a care in the world except being back where we belong. I'm always impressed at all the locals and travelers alike that come and fill up the slopes weekend after weekend as well as the entire staff that is ready to serve and make your experience the best it can be. I can't wait until all the terrain is accessible as well as for the long party

weekends to begin. I can't personally thank the staff at Brian Head Resort enough for their hospitality and good times on and off the slopes, and I look forward to another great season with all my new and old friends enjoying what we do best. It really is great to be back, and looking outside as I was typing this, it sounds like the winds are changing, so get yourself and your gear in shape and ready to hit the slopes when Mother Nature decides it is time to do so. See you on the hill! Stay up to date on when the resort will open more terrain and events at brianhead.com, and follow my adventures on instagram.com/joshsegovia.



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MOVIES

- ★★★★★ - Amazing!
- ★★★★ - Good
- ★★★ - Decent
- ★★ - Poor
- ★ - Terrible

THE INDEPENDENT MOVIE GUIDE

By Adam Mast

"Daddy's Home 2" (PG-13)

★★★½

Maybe it was my serious lack of expectation, or perhaps it was due to my undying love for Band Aid's "Do They Know It's Christmas," but "Daddy's Home 2" ended up being much more entertaining than that dismal Rotten Tomatoes score would have you believe. Don't get me wrong. It isn't a classic by any means, but it's considerably more entertaining than the first picture, and a lot of that has to do with a very entertaining performance by veteran John Lithgow. More on that in a second.

In "Daddy's Home 2," bumbling stepdad Brad (Will Ferrell) and his wife's handsome ex, Dusty (Mark Wahlberg), now work together instead of against each other when it comes to parental duties, but their new found bromance is threatened

with the Christmastime arrival of Dusty's intimidating father, Kurt (Mel Gibson). Thankfully, Brad's goofy dad, Don (John Lithgow), is also along for the ride in a new comical misadventure that finds the entire family renting a cabin for the holidays in what could be best described as a sort of Christmas version of "The Great Outdoors."

Instead of duplicating the high-concept antics of the first picture and finding new ways for Brad and Dusty to one-up each other in a bid for the kids' approval, this sequel is more interested in falling back on the casting of Gibson and Lithgow. Of the pair, Lithgow shines brightest as the overly affectionate Don. Through his lovable performance, it's easy to see where doofus Brad inherited a lot of his dorky behavior, but aside from the funny stuff, Lithgow also brings warmth and a surprising dramatic touch.

On the flip side, Gibson doesn't fare quite as well. The veteran actor does have a fun time playing with our perception of who he is in real life, but his Kurt often tends to feel more like a caricature rather than a character. Still, Gibson has a handful of entertaining moments, and he brings a little bit of bite to the proceedings.

As for Ferrell and Wahlberg, it's more entertaining to watch them work together (as they did in "The Other Guys") than against each other. "Daddy's Home 2" probably won't make a Ferrell fan out of the haters, but if you're one of the faithful, you'll most likely succumb to his own brand of man-child charm. Once again, Ferrell's Brad simply wants approval, and sometimes his over-excitability gets him in to trouble. Think of him as a more beady-eyed version of Clark Griswold.

As Brad's macho counterpart, Dusty

comes across as less abrasive this time around, and that ultimately makes him a more appealing character. As for the relationship between Dusty and Kurt, it's colder and less interesting than the Brad/Don dynamic, but Wahlberg and Gibson do manage to have some fun with the proceedings, and a running gag hinged on whether or not they'll profess their love for one another is an amusing one.

Where "Daddy's Home 2" falters most is in the way that it shortchanges Linda Cardellini and John Cena. From "Freaks and Geeks" to "ER," Cardellini has always been a wonderful on-screen presence, but in this picture, she's virtually sidelined. Likewise, those who were led to believe at the end of the first picture that Cena would play a more pivotal role here are bound to be disappointed, because the WWE star is given very little to do — a shame, because this guy has proven to have real comical chops. Look no further than his scene-stealing work in the overrated "Trainwreck."

"Daddy's Home 2" is a silly movie, and it certainly won't win any screenwriting awards. There are several jokes that crash and burn, and a gag involving drunk kids might push some viewers over the edge. That said, the cast rapport is mostly on point, there are plenty of jokes that do stick, and a cameo at the end of the picture is as inspired as it is bizarre. Furthermore, "Daddy's Home 2" also manages to generate a bit of that warm and fuzzy vibe that you want from a Christmas movie. It isn't high art, and it certainly isn't in the same league as "Christmas Vacation." But again, "Daddy's Home 2" is funnier than the first picture, and as far as comedy sequels are concerned, it's substantially more entertaining than those weak "Focker" sequels.

appears to be sleepwalking through this thing. Likewise, Jim Sturgess doesn't do much to elevate the proceedings either, and that's a shame, because he's been really good in far better movies. As for Harris and Garcia, it's difficult to decipher why they agreed to say yes to this project, but if any of us were to venture to take a guess, it's probably for the same reason that Michael Caine said yes to "Jaws: The Revenge." Whatever the case may be, it's not like "Geostorm" will have an affect on the films these veteran actors have done in the past or will do in the future, so if there's a silver lining to be found, that's it.

It's clear that "Geostorm" doesn't aspire to be high art, and that's fine, because not all movies need to be high art. What's disappointing here, aside from all the money and talent that was put into this thing, is that in its crusade to be the biggest and best in large-scale entertainment, it ended up just being boring and uneventful.

"Wonder" (PG)

★★★½

It's hard to nitpick a movie as well-intentioned as "Wonder." It may be a little sticky-sweet and eager to pull at the heartstrings, but thankfully, it isn't as cloying or as preachy as something like "Pay it Forward." Instead, it wears its heart on its sleeve and plays more like a mild child version of "Mask."

In "Wonder," young Auggie (Jacob Tremblay) prepares for his first day of school after having been homeschooled for quite some time. This transition would be difficult for any child, but it is doubly so for Auggie because he was born with a birth defect that affects his facial features. Despite his overwhelming fear of what other kids will think of his appearance, this youngster enters his new school with his head held high.

Sadly, Auggie is bullied to a certain extent, but much to the delight of his loving parents (played by Julia Roberts and Owen Wilson), he makes a handful of friends, too.

"Wonder" benefits from a warm roster of supporting players as well. Izabela Vidovic is compassionate and fittingly conflicted as Auggie's older sister. She adores her brother and would do anything for him, but she sometimes doesn't feel she gets the support she needs. Veteran Mandy Patinkin ("The Princess Bride") is also terrific, if a little underutilized, as a stern but understanding school principal.

"Wonder" offers up a much needed anti-bully sentiment in a world that desperately needs it. But Chbosky deals with this theme in an interesting way by showing that this is learned behavior and by daring to have one character man up and own a terrible mistake rather than denying it and getting away with it without any repercussions.

All of that said, "Wonder" is worthy of a viewing, and it's definitely a film kids should see because it does teach an important life lesson about compassion and acceptance in a way that they'll understand. Of course, it also helps that the pint-sized emotional powerhouse that serves as this film's protagonist is also a big "Star Wars" fan, and what kid can't relate to that?

Happy Holidays, everyone!

"Geostorm" (PG-13)

★★

In "Geostorm," Butler is Jake Lawson, a genius technician who's called into action when the satellite system he created in an effort to control the world's climate malfunctions, resulting in the formation of a devastating geostorm that could wipe out the human race as we know it. Upon arriving on said satellite system, Lawson soon realizes that the malfunction may not be a malfunction at all. That's right! Sabotage, ladies and gentleman. But by who, you ask? Chances are, you'll figure it out in the first act.

Disaster movies can be a lot of fun but "Geostorm," despite a reasonable pace, is anything but. With "Geostorm," Devlin has regurgitated the type of film Roland Emmerich has been regurgitating for the better part of his entire career. And while this movie probably deserves some points for not taking itself too seriously, some of those points have to be taken away for a severe lack of urgency and for daring to inject messages, political and environmental, into a movie that isn't really worthy of them.

Furthermore, for a big disaster flick with so much going on, it's strange how it never feels like anything is actually happening in "Geostorm." Even the massive disaster sequences, which most people will be coming to see, are completely lackluster. Save for a sequence in which a man attempts to outrun underground volcanic activity while barreling down the streets of Hong Kong in his car, we've seen cinematic disaster done substantially better in everything from "Armageddon" to "Dante's Peak" to "Deep Impact."

Butler, who can be a terrific actor,



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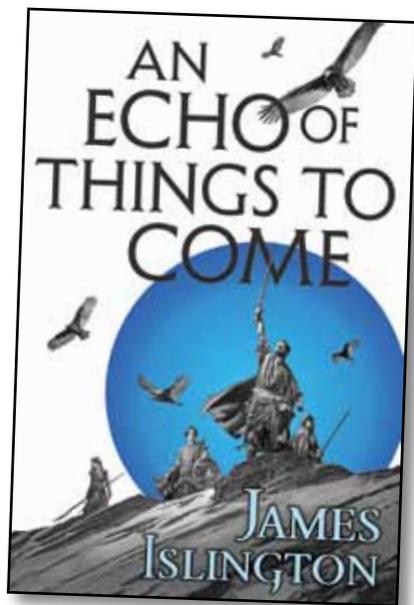
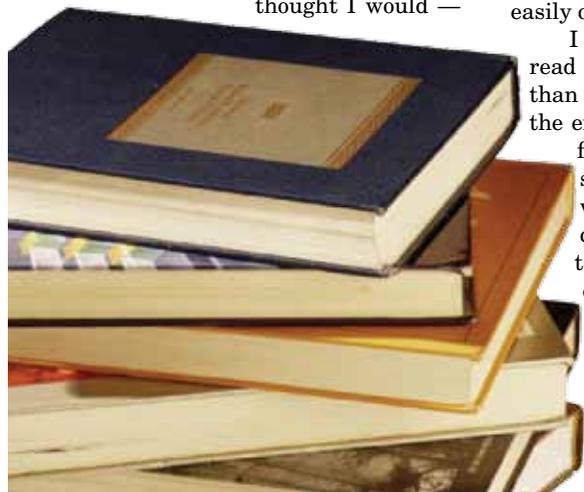
THE OBSESSIVE BOOKSELLER REVIEWS

By Niki Hawkes

The Licanus Trilogy (so far)
by James Islington

★★★★½

What started out as a seemingly straightforward classic adventure fantasy quickly evolved into a complex story with countless dynamics and twists and turns. I ended up liking it ten times more than I thought I would —



it's easily one of the best I've read this year.

I wouldn't call this series an "easy" read as it required more concentration than average, but it's certainly worth the effort. I don't pretend I always knew for certain what was going on when some of the time-travel elements were introduced, but Islington quickly earned my trust in his ability to tell a good story and reveal things on a need-to-know basis. Instead of stressing about figuring things out, I finally just sat back and enjoyed the thought-provoking and entertaining ride.

The setting shared similar elements with series such as *Sword of Truth* and *the Stormlight*

Archives, but they were integrated in a way that felt fresh and original. What's more, I feel as though the author has barely scratched the surface of what this world has to offer in these first two books. I'm always a sucker for such in-depth world building, so I'm cautiously optimistic that the third will blow my mind. It's not just the world building that makes it unique but also the overall atmosphere. The power plays and dynamics between the heavy-hitters in this series set an almost tangible ominous overtone. It was fantastic.

My only criticisms (which kept the overall rating from a solid five stars) are pretty nitpicky. The end of the first book had a lot of repetitive word choice that was noticeable enough to become distracting, and I think the pacing could have been a tad tighter. The second book had a bunch of

flashback scenes that killed the momentum a bit. Even though the flashbacks usually advanced plot and built character, they made the book feel longer. However, what book two lacked in pacing it more than made up for with an absolutely killer ending. At this point, I don't think it's fair that we have to wait a year before the final book.

As the Licanus Trilogy is responsible for some of my favorite reading experiences of the year so far, I'd recommend it to any fantasy reader who isn't afraid of a slow-burn plot with lots of dynamics. My recommendation is especially strong to those who love the feel of classic fantasy but want something a little more complex.

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HUMOR

YOUR MONTHLY HOROSCOPES

By Trippy Koala

These horoscopes are provided for entertainment purposes only. The authors cannot be held responsible for any decisions or actions based, in whole or in part, on any of the information presented herein. Really, even if you believe in horoscopes (especially if you believe in horoscopes), you shouldn't listen to anything listed herein ... wait, drink water. There, that's some advice you can heed.

Aquarius

This month, you will act like a greedy, impatient child. Everything is about you, and everyone is in your way. Merry Christmas, 'merica!

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Pisces

Your dream of a white Christmas will sadly die. But you live in southern Utah, so this shouldn't be a surprise.

Aries

It's time to shake things up at work. Consider wearing nude jeggings, and *only* nude jeggings ... no, really, I'm sure it will make people respect you more ... I promise ... lol.

Taurus

You've always been especially attuned to the needs and feelings of others. However, maybe shouting out "Susan has to pee!" in the middle of a meeting isn't the best use of this ability.

Gemini

You know that one friend who always becomes a bit of a Grinch during the holidays? Buy them a bottle of Jack and watch their heart grow three sizes.

Cancer

Did you know there is a movement of people trying to prove the earth is flat? This isn't a horoscope so much as an acknowledgment of the death of humanity.

Virgo

This Christmas, don't forget to remember the reason for the season ... which I think has something to do with pagans and cultural appropriation or some such.

Leo

You know Dave, that guy from work? This is the perfect time of year to slide a stick of deodorant into his desk as a not-so-subtle hint that he's slowly killing everyone in the office with his body odor.

Libra

Life is a process of constant change. Nothing stays the same. Well, except cheese in a can ... yeah, I think that doesn't change.

Scorpio

People want the best for you. No, really, they do. They just have an odd way of showing it. I mean, they're constantly telling you to go screw yourself, so they're actually suggesting you go enjoy one of your favorite pastimes. See? Nice.

Sagittarius

2017 hasn't been very kind to most of you. Now is the time to start looking forward to 2018. Consider offering it a nice sacrifice ... maybe a goat or a b-list celebrity.

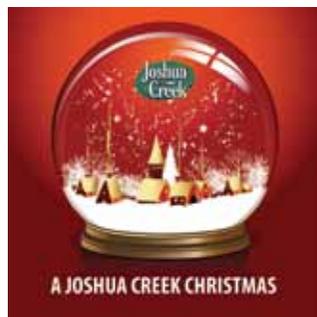
Capricorn

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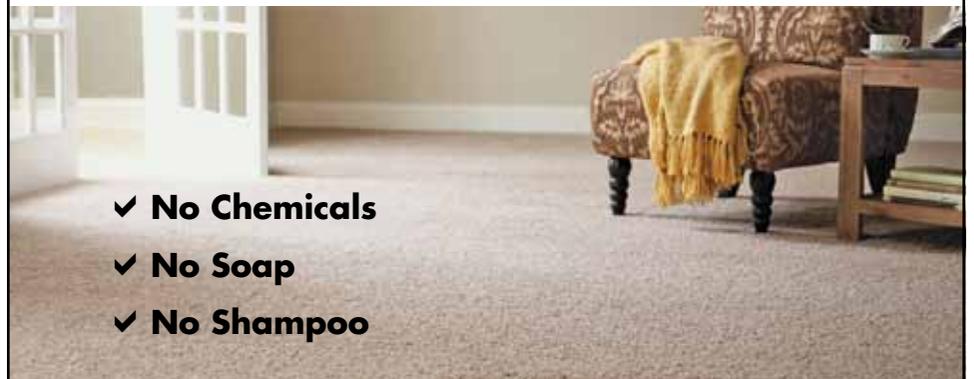
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CALENDAR

Multi-Day Events

To get your event in our Free Calendar of Events log on to suindependent.com/events_calendar/form.php Limit one free listing per day or date per organization.

YOUR FEATURED EVENT HERE! CALL (435) 656-1555.

"BENEATH THE SURFACE" DANCE CONCERT 7:30 p.m. Nov. 29–Dec. 2, 2 p.m. matinee Dec. 2. Featuring original choreography by SUU's dance dept. Randall L. Jones Theatre, 351 W. Center St., Cedar City.

MAPPING: THE POETICS OF UTAH EXPRESSION 9 a.m. Mondays–Fridays in November and Dec. 1. Selected Utah contemporary artists create philosophical essays in paint and other art forms. Sears Art Museum Gallery, 155 S. University Ave., St. George.

PLAID TIDINGS 7 p.m. Struggling to make it as a swing and standards harmony group, the Plaids are suddenly wiped out by a school bus while driving to their first real gig. They return to Earth to put on a holiday special. Brigham's Playhouse, 25 N 300 W, Washington.

DICKENS' CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL 10 a.m. Dec. 1–Dec. 2. Wind through narrow village streets, shop for gifts, and rub shoulders with a cast of Dickens' characters. Dixie Center, 1835 Convention Center Dr, St. George.

SYMPHONY OF THE CANYONS CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL 7 p.m. Dec. 1 and 2. Entertainment on stage during all open hours. Food court will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dinner and concert at 7 p.m. Contact Betty Colston: bcolston@kanab.net. Kanab Middle School, 690 S. Cowboy Way, Kanab.

HANDEL'S "MESSIAH" 2 p.m. Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 3. Southwest Symphony performs Handel's iconic oratorio. Cox Performing Arts Center, 225 S 700 E, St. George.

"A CHRISTMAS STORY THE MUSICAL" 7:30 p.m. St. George Musical Theater, 212 N Main St., St. George.

ANATOMY OF ART 10 a.m. Dec. 1, 2, 18, 19. A new art challenge for artist of all ages. The DiFiore Center, 307 N. Main St., St. George.

ODYSSEY DANCE THEATRE: "THE REDUXNUT-CRACKER" 7:30 p.m. Dec. 4 and 5. Cox Performing Arts Center, 225 S 700 E, St. George.

"SWEAT" Staged reading of Lynn Nottage's "Sweat," which portrays a meeting between a parole officer and two ex-convicts and three women who were childhood friends working in the same factory. Themes include job cuts, poverty, and downsizing. Followed by a conversation between audience, cast, and Kathryn Syssoyeva. Admission by donation. Center for the Arts at Kayenta, 681 Coyote Gulch Court, Ivins.

A KURT BESTOR CHRISTMAS 7:30 p.m. Dec. 8 and 9. Holiday concert by singer/songwriter Kurt Bestor. Tickets available for Dec. 9 performance including a boxed dinner from Harmons Catering. Lorraine Boccardo Theatre, Center for the Arts at Kayenta, 681 Coyote Gulch Court, Ivins.

FAIRY TALE CHRISTMAS 4 p.m. Dec. 8–15. Tuacahn Amphitheatre, 1100 Tuacahn Dr., Ivins.

GENTLE YOGA Mondays and Wednesdays at 4:15 p.m. ZACI Yoga, 348 N. Bluff St. #205, St. George.

JUMP INTERACTIVE AT CASABLANCA 8 p.m. Dec. 1–3, showtimes may vary. Vegas-based variety band playing hits from rock, pop, blues, country, disco, Motown, and oldies contemporary top 40. 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

THE KID & NIC SHOW AT VIRGIN RIVER CASINO 8 p.m. Dec. 1–3, showtimes may vary. A fun, high-energy, interactive variety musical group. Free admission, must be 21 or older. 100 Pioneer Blvd., Mesquite.

GUITARS & CADILLACS AT VIRGIN RIVER HOTEL 7 p.m. Dec. 6–10, showtimes may vary. Classic country and '50s cover band. Free admission. 21 or older. River Lounge, 100 Pioneer Blvd., Mesquite.

HIGHRISE AT CASABLANCA 7 p.m. Dec. 6–10, showtimes may vary. Vegas dance band playing current and retro pop, rock, dance, and R&B. 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

GREGG PETERSON BAND AT CASABLANCA 7 p.m. Dec. 13–17, showtimes may vary. Variety and dance band. Free. 21 or older. 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

MOST WANTED AT CASABLANCA 7 p.m. Dec. 13–17, showtimes may vary. Playing classic rock, disco, oldies, country, and everything in between. Free. 21 or older. 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

RANDY ANDERSON BAND AT VIRGIN RIVER HOTEL 7 p.m. Dec. 20–24 and Dec. 27–31, showtimes may vary. Playing new and traditional country music as well as oldies and classic rock. Free. 21 or older. 100 Pioneer Blvd., Mesquite.

RADIO RAVE AT CASABLANCA 7 p.m. Dec. 27–31, showtimes may vary. Pop, rock and hip hop dance band. CasaBlanca Resort, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

MAPPING: THE POETICS OF UTAH EXPRESSION 9 a.m. Selected Utah contemporary artists create philosophical essays in paint and other art forms. Sears Art Museum Gallery, 155 S. University Ave., St. George.

OIL PAINTERS OF AMERICA 2017 WESTERN EXHIBITION Illume Gallery of Fine Art (29 W 200 N), Authentique Gallery of Art & Design (199 N. Main St.) and The Mission Gallery (173 N. Main St.), St. George.

PIZZA N PAINT NIGHT FOR KIDS 6 p.m. every Friday and Saturday. Fridays are for 4–12 year olds and Saturdays are for 8–14 year olds. Pizza, a movie, and paint supplies are provided. Kids take home their creations. Ms. Traci's Small Scholars, 293 E. Telegraph St. Ste. 103, Washington.

BEST FRIENDS ANIMAL SANCTUARY TOUR 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Drive to the sanctuary and take a tour through the visitor center. Make reservations at (435) 644-2001 or visit bestfriends.org. Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, 5001 Angel Canyon Road, Kanab.

COWBOY DINNER AND SKIT 9 a.m. Join the Chuckwagon Cookout at Little Hollywood Museum for the buffet when they have tours scheduled. Walk-ins are welcome. Most seatings include an episode of the "How the West Was Lost" cowboy skit. \$16 for lunch and \$20 for dinner. 297 W. Center St., Kanab.

ART CLASSES Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6 p.m. Oil painting, drawing, portraits, and pastel classes available. Desert Rose Art Studio, 225 N. Bluff St., suite 1, St. George.

MOVIES AT CRESCENT MOON MOVIE THEATER Wednesdays–Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 1 p.m. Ticket prices start at \$6. Call (435) 644-2350 or visit crescentmoonkanab.com. 150 S 100 E, Kanab.



December Live Music

All Shows 6-9 pm unless otherwise noted

12/2 – Tom Bennett Band

12/9 – Soul What?!

12/16 – 3 Hat Trio

12/23 – Josh Warburton

12/30 – West Coast Jazz Players

NYE Bash with Catfish John!

\$10 Cover Charge – 9pm-midnight

95 Zion Park Blvd, Springdale • 435-772-0336

CALENDAR

POLE FITNESS CLASSES 7 p.m. Beginner class (Flow 1) held Tuesday and Thursday nights at 7 p.m. for \$10. Or attend the free community intro class at 7 and 8 p.m. Saturday nights. Book a party for your bachelorette or birthday party. 270 N 2940 E, St. George.

KARAOKE AT THE STATELINE CASINO Tuesdays and Fridays at 8 p.m. Karaoke goes until they're finished. Stateline Casino, 490 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

STAR PARTY A guided stargazing tour takes place in Dark Canyon Star Park every night. Learn something about the night sky and the universe. For reservations, text or call (435) 899-9092 or email kanabstars@gmail.com. N. Hwy. 89, Kanab.

NEW HORIZONS BAND AND ORCHESTRA FOR SENIOR ADULTS 2 p.m. Dates vary. Supports lifelong music participation for seniors, teacher training opportunities for college music students, and music education for youth. Visit zionmusicensembles.com. The DiFiore Center, 307 N. Main St., St. George.

KARAOKE AT THE ONE AND ONLY Mondays and Wednesdays at 9 p.m. 800 E. St. George Blvd., St. George.

PIANO MAN STEVE & DJ JUAN IN SEASONS LOUNGE AT EUREKA CASINO Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m. 275 Mesa Blvd., Mesquite.

Events by Day

MONDAYS

USMS SWIM TECHNIQUE COACHING 8 a.m. Free. Must pay Sand Hollow Aquatic Center pool entry fee. Current USMS membership required. All level swimmers 18+, individual abilities considered in workout structure. Call Lynne Lund at (760) 844-6288. 1144 Lava Flow Dr., St. George.

PRECISION HEARING AND MEMORY MATTERS MONDAY MOVIE MATINEE 1 p.m. The Precision Hearing Monday Matinee series is a new, free community event that is bringing back the classics featuring memorable film favorites from the 1950s and '60s. The Electric Theater, 68 E. Tabernacle St., St. George.

COMMUNITY BEREAVEMENT GROUP 3:30 p.m. A supportive and educational group for those experiencing grief resulting from the loss of a loved one. Call (702) 346-5224. Mesquite Library, 121 W. First N. St., Mesquite.

KICKSTART YOUR HEALTH NUTRITION AND COOKING CLASSES 4:30 p.m. Class topics range from digestion to blood pressure. Visit nutritiousway.org. 1554 Hummingbird Dr., St. George.

ST. GEORGE DANCE COMPANY CLASS 7:30-8:45 p.m. Ballet for adults, intermediate to advanced. Open to the public. Visit saintgeorgedance.com or call (435) 773-1221. The Electric Theater, 68 W. Tabernacle St., St. George.

TUESDAYS

NEW HORIZONS ORCHESTRA 9:30-11:30 a.m. Free group music instruction for senior adults, beginning or experienced. zionmusicensembles.com. Washington Fields, 471 W. Washington Palms Way, St. George.

"NEW HORIZONS" BAND & ORCHESTRA CHILDREN'S STORY TIME 10 a.m. Frontier Homestead State Park, 635 N. Main St., Cedar City.

MEMORY MATTERS EARLY STAGE MEMORY LOSS SERIES 10:30 a.m. 10-week course begins Sept. 12. The course is designed to benefit those with an early stage memory loss or dementia diagnosis and their care partners. During the second hour of the class, participants may attend either a cognitive training group or a care partner training and support group. St. George Branch Library, 88 W 100 S, St. George.

NEW HORIZONS BAND 2-4 p.m. Free group music instruction for senior adults, beginning or experienced. zionmusicensembles.com. St. George Library, 88 W. 100 S., St. George.

KARAOKE AT PEGGY SUE'S DINER 5-9 p.m. Full bar and grill. Hosted by singer Gayle Louise. 380 N. Sandhill Blvd., Mesquite.

HERITAGE WRITERS GUILD Second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. Meets in the basement of the St. George Library. Call (435) 634-5737. 88 W 100 S, St. George.

OPEN PAINT NIGHT 6 p.m. Desert Rose Art Studio invites anyone who would like to join a group of artists. Bring whatever medium you want. Cost is \$15. Call Alice Hiatt at (435) 256-3317. 225 N. Bluff St. suite 1, St. George.

TRIBUTE TO THE KING 6-10 p.m. Starring John Brooks. Must be 21 or older. Free. CasaBlanca Skydome Lounge, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

THE GRACEFUL WOMAN 6:30 p.m. Open to women of all ages for a night to empower, uplift, heal, strengthen, and teach. Fruit and tea will be served after class. By donation. Sage Hills Healing Center, 6232 W. Sage Hills Dr., Cedar City.

LIBRARY ART CLUB FOR CHILDREN 6:30 p.m. Every second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Free. Register in the children's area. St. George Library, 88 W 100 S, St. George.

OLD TIME FIDDLERS JAM SESSION 7 p.m. Free. Parry's Lodge Old Barn Theater 89 E. Center St. Kanab.

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL WEST COAST SWING CLASSES AND DANCING Each first and third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. \$6 per person per class. For more information, contact Neil Duncan at neiljamesduncan@gmail.com or call (619) 994-6854. Washington City Community Center, upstairs aerobics room, 350 E 200 N, Washington.

WEDNESDAYS

WRITERS' IMPROVEMENT GROUP 2 and 6 p.m. Offered by Heritage Writers Guild. Bring up to eight pages of writing, double spaced, 12-point font for free and friendly feedback. For more information, call (435) 625-1743. St. George Library, 88 W 100 S, St. George.

ANIME GAMER CLUB 3 p.m. Teens and 'tweens who love anime, gaming, or both meet for book discussions, games, and great times. Santa Clara Library, 1099 Lava Flow Dr., St. George.

WELCOME WAGGIN 5 p.m. Join one of Best Friends' founders to learn more about the organization, hear heartwarming stories, and discover secrets about the sanctuary. Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, 5001 Angel Canyon Rd., Kanab.

KARAOKE AT BEAVER DAM STATION 5:30-9 p.m. Full bar. 21 and over, must have ID. Hosted by singer Gayle Louise. Beaver Dam Station, County Hwy. 91, Littlefield, AZ.

GRATITUDE & GRIT: YOGA FOR ADDICTION RECOVERY 6 p.m. Meditation and yoga exercises to help overcome destructive behaviors. All are welcome. Sage Hills Healing Center, 6232 W. Sage Hills Dr., Cedar City.

MINDFULNESS AND MEDITATION CLASS 6 p.m. Free. Discussion of mindfulness and periods of meditation. All experience levels welcome. Offered by Dr. David Tate and Caroline Kiss. Grace Episcopal Church, 1072 E 900 S, St. George.

MUSIC AT THE TERRACE 7 p.m. Come out and enjoy live music on the stage behind the Office of Tourism Visitor Center. It is free to the public and a different performer each week. Office of Tourism Visitor Center, 78 S. 100 E., Kanab.

ELECTRIC LINDY NIGHTS 7:30 p.m. Red Rock Swing Dance offers beginning and intermediate classes in a progressive fashion with each class building on the last. The first hour will be the lesson followed by a social dance. Enter from the rear of the building. Classes are held downstairs. The Electric Theater, 68 East Tabernacle, St. George.

THURSDAYS

MENTAL HEALTH CLASSES 5:30 p.m. Free. National Alliance on Mental Illness offers classes for families and loved ones coping with mental illness. Peer to Peer and Family to Family classes taught by trained volunteers in recovery. Support group for Peer to Peer Sept. 7. Support group for Family to Family Sept. 4. Washington County Library, 88 W 100 S, St. George.

PAINT NITE 6 p.m. Use the code "SUTAH" for 35% off. 21 and older. Sand Hollow Resort, 5662 W. Clubhouse Dr., Hurricane.

SINDUSTRY 7 p.m. Free drink and drawing ticket, corn hole tournament, beer pong, and Jenga. Live entertainment. \$10 buckets of beer. No cover charge. 275 Mesa Blvd., Mesquite.

LINE DANCING AT THE ONE AND ONLY 9 p.m. Come have some good old fashioned fun with a friendly crowd. 64 N 800 E, St. George.

FRIDAYS

YOGA NIDRA AND GONG 9 a.m. A unique guided meditation preceded by yogic breathing and movement. All levels welcome. The Healing Tree, 535 S. Main St. #4, Cedar City.

PAINT YOUR PET PARTY 5-7 p.m. For just \$20 per person, you're provided with an 11x14 canvas, paints, brushes, and artist instruction. No prior painting experience is needed. Don't have a pet? Thumb through one of the many Best Friends' magazines to find an animal of your liking or email a web image to vistor-center@bestfriends.org and they'll print it out for you. Email jennifernagle@hotmail.com to sign up. Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, 5001 Angel Canyon Rd., Kanab.

KARAOKE AT OASIS GOLF CLUB 5-9 p.m. Full bar and grill. Hosted by singer Gayle Louise. 100 Palmer Lane, Mesquite.

LIVE MUSIC AT PEEKABOO WOOD FIRED KITCHEN 6:30 p.m. Free. 233 W. Center St., Kanab.

JAKEY LEIGHS HOSTS RED ROCK LIVE 6:30-9:30 p.m. Live music, free and open to the public. Jakey Leighs, 4 E. Center St., Kanab.

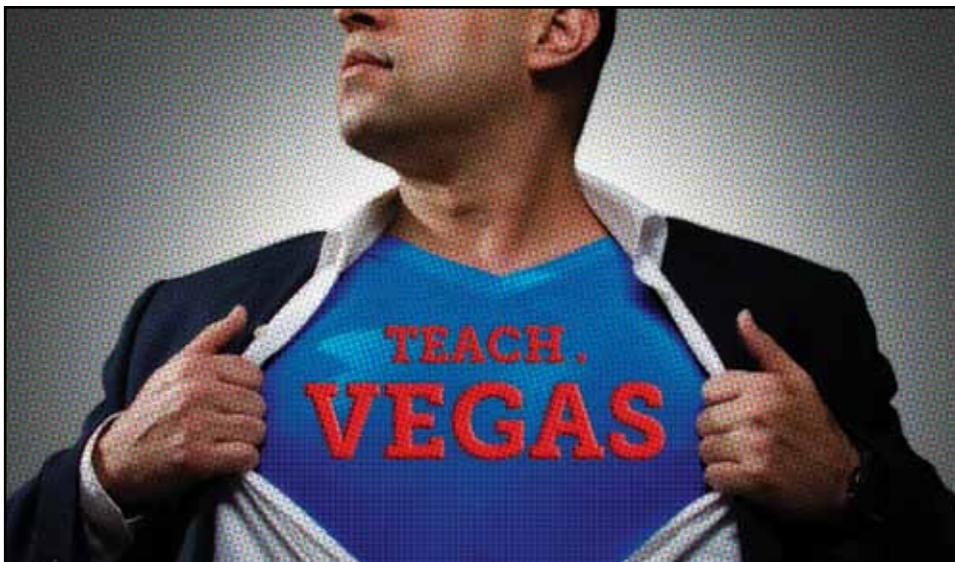
DJ SPINZ AT THE ONE AND ONLY 9 p.m. 64 N 800 E, St. George.

REDUX NUT-CRACKER
Dec 4-5
COX PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
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5. Nevada Department of Education School Nurse Endorsement*

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702-799-7443 for questions.

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* Are not required prior to interview

CALENDAR

SATURDAYS

TUACAHN SATURDAY MARKET 9 a.m.–1 p.m. Come enjoy the wonderful surroundings at the outdoor market in the canyon featuring local artwork, crafts, food and entertainment. 1100 Tuacahn Dr., Ivins.

TAI CHI DRAGON QIGONG AT SANTA CLARA LIBRARY 10:30–11:30 a.m. Full-body energetic healing. Admission is free. No experience needed. Tai Chi Dragon Qigong is good for all ages and all levels of health and mobility. Santa Clara Library, 1099 N. Lava Flow Dr., Santa Clara.

SATURDAY MOVIE MATINEE 2 p.m. St. George Library, 88 W 100 S, St. George.

YOUTH BEGINNER TENNIS LESSONS
KANAB OUTDOOR MARKET 4–9 p.m. Usual farmers market offerings as well as food trucks. Free classes such as yoga or Zumba will be offered at 4 p.m. and live music will be performed from 7 to 9 p.m. No fee for vendors to participate, although anyone offering baked goods must have a cottage kitchen license. Email tracy@cluckingitup.com. 150 W. Center St., Kanab.

SUNDAYS

D.R.I.F.T.: DIXIE REASON INQUIRY AND FREE THOUGHT: 2 p.m. An open place where people can meet to talk about religion, atheism, life, death and an unlimited number of other topics. All are welcome. Jazzy Java, 285 N. Bluff St., St. George.

Events by Date

Fri, Dec 1

ART WORKS GALLERY EXHIBIT OPENING
Art Works Gallery, 16 N 100 W, Cedar City.

HURRICANE VALLEY CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 5 p.m. Silent auction, Christmas trees for auction, bake sale, live entertainment, family fun, Santa Claus breakfast Saturday at 9 a.m., craft fair. hurricanerecreation.com/christmas-tree-festival. Hurricane Community Center, 63 S 100 W, Hurricane.

GEORGEFEST JAZZ GARDEN 5:30 p.m. The Dixie Jazz Quartet will play followed by Nick Adams and Vinyl Fusion. Free. Ancestor Square, 2 W. St. George Blvd.

GEORGEFEST FIRST FRIDAY 6 p.m. Green Gate Village, 76 W. Tabernacle St., St. George.

ADAM DUNE AT EVEN STEVENS 7–9 p.m. Free. Adam Dune is the frontman of St. George-based rock band The Dune Lunes. 471 St. George Blvd., St. George.

DSU SYMPHONY BAND CONCERT 7:30 p.m. Eccles Fine Arts Center, S 700 E, St. George.

MIKE AND ELAINE AT GEORGE'S CORNER 8 p.m. This multi-instrumentalist couple are also in local band Soul What!? and cover a range of musical styles in many genres. 2 W. St. George Blvd., St. George.

THE COMEDY MACHINE 8:30 p.m. Enjoy top comedic performances from the United States. Tickets are \$15–\$25 and can be purchased at startickets.com. Casablanca Resort, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

Find more events daily at SIndependent.com

POLYRHYTHMICS AT THE BIT AND SPUR 9 p.m. Eight-piece Seattle band blends funk, soul, psychedelic rock, R&B, progressive jazz, and afrobeat. 1212 Zion Park Blvd., Springdale.

WOMEN OF ROCK AT CASABLANCA 10:30 p.m. Tributes including to Heart, Pat Benatar, Janis Joplin, Stevie Nicks, Gwen Stefani, and Sheryl Crow. Mayhem XIII pre-party. 21 and older. 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

Sat, Dec 2

SOUTHWEST SYMPHONY MESSIAH CONCERT 2 p.m. Cox Performing Arts Center, 385 S. University Ave., St. George.

TOM BENNETT AT ZION CANYON BREW PUB 6 p.m. Tom Bennett is a traveling folk/blues singer playing dobro, harmonica, and foot percussion. 95 Zion Park Blvd., Springdale.

HOLIDAY CONCERT AND CANDLE WALK AT SAND HOLLOW RESORT 6–8 p.m. Join for hot chocolate in the clubhouse and a walk along a path of luminaries to an outdoor concert with performances by local high schools and the fire dept. Free admission. To be held in the clubhouse in the case of inclement weather. 5662 W. Clubhouse Dr., Hurricane.

DICK EARL AT EVEN STEVENS 7–9 p.m. Free. Dick Earl is a blues and rock and roll musician from St. George. 471 St. George Blvd., St. George.

MAYHEM XIII 7 p.m. Tuff-N-Uff presents future stars of MMA. Tickets are \$13–\$30. Doors open at 6 p.m., fights at 7 p.m., afterparty at 10 p.m. featuring classic rock cover band Rok Of Ages. CasaBlanca Event Center, CasaBlanca Resort, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

MINUTE MUSIC 7:30 p.m. Eccles Fine Arts Center, S 700 E, St. George.

JOSH CLAFIN AT GEORGE'S CORNER 8 p.m. 2 W. St. George Blvd., St. George.

Sun, Dec 3

DULCE AT EVEN STEVENS Noon–2 p.m. Free. 471 St. George Blvd., St. George.

Mon, Dec 4

PAWS FOR TALES 4 p.m. Children can read to registered therapy dogs. Free. St. George Library, 88 W 100 S, St. George.

Tues, Dec 5

DIXIE POETS 2 p.m. Develop your poetic talents with a fun group of poets twice monthly on first and third Tuesdays. Bring 10–12 copies of your original poetry for gentle critiquing and suggestions. Short poetry lesson on the first Tuesdays and other special events as scheduled. Contact Lin Floyd at lin@sunrivertoday.com for more info. Newcomers welcome. St. George Senior Citizen Center, 245 N 200 W, St. George.

Wed, Dec 6

FOREIGN FILM CLUB Every first Wednesday of the month at 5 p.m. Watch and discuss foreign films. Santa Clara Library, 1099 Lava Flow Dr., St. George.

DSU JAZZ BAND 7:30 p.m. Eccles Fine Arts Center, S 700 E, St. George.

"THE FORGOTTEN CAROLS" 7:30 p.m. Stage performance tells the story of Connie Lou, a nurse whose life is changed when a patient recounts the mythical story of Christ's birth as told by little-known characters in the nativity story. 325 S 700 E, St. George.

CALENDAR

Thurs, Dec 7

OPEN MIC NIGHT AT EVEN STEVENS 7 p.m. Solo artists, groups, poets, comedians, and more. 471 St. George Blvd., St. George.

DSU CHAMBER SINGERS, SNOW CANYON JAZZ BAND, AND MADRIGALS CONCERT 7 p.m. Holiday concert featuring seasonal classics with audience sing-along. Center for the Arts at Kayenta, 681 Coyote Gulch Court, Ivins.

THE DESERT PULSE NIGHT AT EVEN STEVENS 7-9 p.m. Free. Live music and comedy. 471 St. George Blvd., St. George.

PERCUSSION CONCERT 7:30 p.m. Eccles Fine Arts Center, S 700 E, St. George.

Fri, Dec 8

JOHNNY VAN AT EVEN STEVENS 7-9 p.m. Free. 471 St. George Blvd., St. George.

DSU CHORAL CONCERT 7:30 p.m. Eccles Fine Arts Center, S 700 E, St. George.

PATRICK MCEWEN DUO AT GEORGE'S CORNER 8 p.m. 2 W. St. George Blvd., St. George.

Sat, Dec 9

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT 3 p.m. Cedar City Library, 303 N 100 E, Cedar City.

HOLIDAY PARTY WITH SOUL WHAT?! AT ZION CANYON BREW PUB 6 p.m. Classic R&B and funk from James Brown to Joss Stone. 95 Zion Park Blvd., Springdale.

ART COWLES AT EVEN STEVENS 7-9 p.m. Free. Art Cowles is a singer/songwriter from St. George playing alternative rock. 471 St. George Blvd., St. George.

AN EVENING OF ART AND WINE 7 p.m. Fine wines, exquisite art, and divine culinary creations. Featuring Iron Gate Winery and The LaFave Gallery. Performance by Lyndy Butler. Tickets are \$39 per person or \$59 for two and include wine tasting, small plates, and appetizers. Art will be on display and for sale. Overnight packages including room and event entry are available starting at \$89 per person per night (based on double occupancy). Limited space available. Call (435) 656-4653 for reservations. Sand Hollow Resort, 5662 West Clubhouse Dr., Hurricane.

LEXI MAE WALKER WITH DSU SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA 7:30 Cox Performing Arts Center, 225 S 700 E, St. George.

Sun, Dec 10

TOM BENNETT AT EVEN STEVENS Noon-2 p.m. Free. Tom Bennett sings country and is based out of SLC. 471 St. George Blvd., St. George.

Mon, Dec 11

ERIC DODGE ANNUAL COUNTRY CHRISTMAS CONCERT 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Free admission. Hurricane Fine Arts Center, 92 S 100 W, Hurricane.

Wed, Dec 13

BAR J WRANGLERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT 7:30 p.m. Cox Performing Arts Center, 225 S 700 E, St. George.

LAYNE BENSEN AT GEORGE'S CORNER 8 p.m. 2 W. St. George Blvd., St. George.

MEDITATION 101 6:30 p.m. Meditation 101, a beginners class, is offered every month on the second Wednesday. Learn techniques to reduce stress and increase happiness through meditation. Class fee is \$10. For more information, contact Suzie at (435) 592-5191. Stone Path Energy Center, 150 W. University Blvd., Cedar City.

RED CLIFFS AUDUBON MONTHLY MEETING 7 p.m. Learn how to identify local birds for upcoming Christmas bird counts. Bring a flashlight. Redcliffsaudubon.org. Tonaquint Nature Center, Tonaquint Nature Center, 1851 S. Dixie Dr., St. George.

Thurs, Dec 14

"A HISTORICALLY MAGICAL CHRISTMAS" 6 p.m. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at the door. Sun River Community Center Ballroom, 4275 S. Country Club Dr., St. George.

LIVING #FIRED UP METABOLIC SUCCESS SEMINAR 6 p.m. Covers how to get a fat-burning workout done in 30 minutes how to create a fat-burning effect that last all day, the difference is between a healthy diet and a fat-loss diet, and how to distress. Fitness Level 10 Studio, 376 E. Sunland Drive #10, St. George.

LIVE MUSIC AT EVEN STEVENS 7-9 p.m. Free. Musician TBA. 471 St. George Blvd., St. George.

A DIAMOND HOLIDAY 7 p.m. Holiday dance and music concert featuring the Diamond Dancers and highlights from "The Nutcracker." Ticket price also includes admission to The Enchanted World of Dolls (see below). Lorraine Boccardo Theatre at 7 p.m. Center for the Arts at Kayenta, 681 Coyote Gulch Court, Ivins.

THE ENCHANTED WORLD OF DOLLS 5:30 p.m. A walk-through experience showcasing an array of dolls that come to life and represent various countries from around the world. Live music by Many Miles. Last tour commences at 6:30 p.m. Center for the Arts at Kayenta, 681 Coyote Gulch Court, Ivins.

DESERT DWELLER PROJECT AT EVEN STEVENS 7 p.m. 471 E St. George Blvd., St. George.

Fri, Dec 15

LISA MAC AT EVEN STEVENS 7-9 p.m. Lisa Mac has become known for her powerful, soulful voice and poignant blues-rock songwriting. 471 St. George Blvd., St. George.

"THE NUTCRACKER" 7:30 p.m. The Russian Grand Ballet Company performs Tchaikovsky's ballet. Tickets are \$30, \$15 for students. Heritage Center Theatre, 105 N 100 E, Cedar City.

SOUTHERN UTAH HERITAGE CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT 7:30 p.m. Additional performance 2 p.m. Dec. 16. Cox Performing Arts Center, 325 S 700 E, St. George.

"THE NUTCRACKER" 7:30 p.m. The Pink Tutu Ballet performs Tchaikovsky's ballet. Tickets start at \$15. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Ages 5 or older. CasaBlanca Showroom, CasaBlanca Resort, 950 West Mesquite Blvd, Mesquite.

Sat, Dec 16

RYAN SHUPE CHRISTMAS 7:30 p.m. Ryan Shupe & the RubberBand perform a Christmas show. Dixie High School, 350 E 700 S, St. George.

HOLIDAY BRASS CONCERT 7:30 p.m. Eccles Fine Arts Center, S 700 E, St. George.

3 HAT TRIO AT ZION CANYON BREW PUB 6 p.m. American Desert Music, mostly original with old-time cowboy and pioneer songs with a twist. 95 Zion Park Blvd., Springdale.

JERRY ALLEN AT EVEN STEVENS 7-9 p.m. Free. Jerry Allen is based out of St. George and cites Matchbox 20 and The GooGoo Dolls as influences. 471 St. George Blvd., St. George.

ELVIS - LIVE FROM VEGAS AT CASABLANCA 7:30 p.m. Starring Tyler James and featuring The Memphis Experience Band. Tickets start at \$15. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. 21 and older. CasaBlanca Resort, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

Sun, Dec 17

NICK ADAMS AT EVEN STEVENS Noon-2 p.m. Free. Nick Adams is a singer/songwriter based out of St. George. 471 St. George Blvd., St. George.

Mon, Dec 18

GENTRI 7:30 p.m. Cox Performing Arts Center, 325 S 700 E, St. George.

Tues, Dec 19

DIXIE POETS 2 p.m. Develop your poetic talents with a fun group of poets twice monthly on first and third Tuesdays. Bring 10-12 copies of your original poetry for gentle critiquing and suggestions. Short poetry lesson on the first Tuesdays and other special events as scheduled. Contact Lin Floyd at lin@sunrivertoday.com for more info. Newcomers welcome. St. George Senior Citizen Center, 245 N 200 W, St. George.

OPEN MIC NIGHT AT THE LIBRARY 5:30 p.m. Showcase your talent in music, dance, spoken word poetry or comedy. Prizes awarded in teen and adult categories (9th grade and up). Light refreshments will be served. Performer sign-up begins at 5:30 p.m. Performances begin at 6. (435) 986-0432. Santa Clara Branch Library, 1099 N. Lava Flow Drive, St. George.

JAZZ JAM 7 p.m. Free. Every third Tuesday of each month. For information, call (435) 673-4206, email difiorecenter@gmail.com, or visit difiorecenter.org. DiFiore Center, 307 N. Main St., St. George.

Wed, Dec 20

TAP TIDINGS 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. A short holiday tap show. The Electric Theater, 68 E. Tabernacle St., St. George.

TOM BENNETT AT GEORGE'S CORNER 7 p.m. Tom Bennett sings country and is based out of SLC. 2 W. St. George Blvd., St. George.

A NASHVILLE TRIBUTE BAND CHRISTMAS 7:30 p.m. Classic Christmas songs as well as originals. Doors open at 7 p.m. Desert Hills High School, 828 E. Desert Hills Dr., St. George.

Thurs, Dec 21

PAWS FOR TALES 4 p.m. Children can read to registered therapy dogs. Free. St. George Library, 88 W 100 S, St. George.

THE DESERT PULSE NIGHT AT EVEN STEVENS 7-9 p.m. Free. Live music and comedy. 471 St. George Blvd., St. George.

LOU GEHRIG'S DISEASE SUPPORT GROUP 7 p.m. For patients and their families and caregivers. Share experience and advice. Beehive Cottages Community Center, 2041 S. Mesa Palms Dr., St. George.

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CALENDAR

Fri, Dec 22

MIKE & ELAINE AT EVEN STEVENS 7-9 p.m. Free. 471 St. George Blvd., St. George.

THE LARRY BAGBY DUO AT GEORGE'S CORNER 8 p.m. 2 W. St. George Blvd., St. George.

Sat, Dec 23

JOSH WARBURTON AT ZION CANYON BREW PUB 6-9 p.m. Free. Josh Warburton performs originals and classics in the folk, blues, and rock genres with unique vocals and acoustic guitar. 95 Zion Park Blvd., Springdale.

LIVE MUSIC AT EVEN STEVENS 7-9 p.m. Free. Musician TBA. 471 St. George Blvd., St. George.

Mon, Dec 25

COLOR COUNTRY CAMERA CLUB 4TH MONDAY 6 p.m. The Color Country Camera Club is a fellowship of people with a mutual interest in photography who routinely gather at meetings and on field trips to share photographic knowledge and experiences. Attendees are at all levels of expertise, beginners to professionals. No fees or by-laws. St. George Public Library, 88 W 100 S, St. George.

Find more events daily at SUindependent.com



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Thurs, Dec 28

MR. CP'S JAZZ JAM AT EVEN STEVENS 6-8 p.m. Free. 471 St. George Blvd., St. George.

OPEN MIC POETRY JAM AT THE ST. GEORGE ART MUSEUM 7 p.m. Read your poetry or others' poetry or just come to listen. Celebration theme is encouraged but not required. 47 E 200 N, St. George.

Fri, Dec 29

SHANNON BIRCH VOCAL STUDIO STUDENT NIGHT AT EVEN STEVENS 7-9 p.m. Free. 471 St. George Blvd., St. George.

Sat, Dec 30

ULTIMATE OUTDOOR RECREATION EXPO Exhibits and classes including on archery, fishing, camping, kayaking, standup paddle boarding and more. Dockdogs competition and predatory bird show. Over 25 free activities and workshops Dixie Center, 1835 Convention Center Dr, St. George.

WEST COAST JAZZ PLAYERS AT ZION CANYON BREW PUB 6 p.m. Jazz standards. 95 Zion Park Blvd., Springdale.

BIG TOM AT EVEN STEVENS 7-9 p.m. Free. Big Tom is an Irish country/folk musician, and Gunlock County is a local country band. 471 St. George Blvd., St. George.

THE EVERLY BROTHERS EXPERIENCE AT CASABLANCA 7:30 p.m. Featuring ZMED Brothers and the Bird Dogs Band. Tickets start at \$15. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. 21 and older. CasaBlanca Showroom, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

Sun, Dec 31

FEATURED EVENT



THE GRINGOS PLAY AT BIT AND SPUR

The Bit and Spur will host a New Year's Eve concert Dec. 31 from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. featuring The Gringos, a ska/reggae band from Salt Lake City. Nate Robinson, a member of The Gringos, is a longtime member of bands Stretch Armstrong and My Man Friday and frontman of Two And A Half White Guys, which has released five albums since 2000. Admission is \$20. The Bit and Spur is located at 1212 Zion Park Blvd. in Springdale. More information is available by emailing bitandspur@infowest.com, calling (435) 772-3498, or visiting bitandspur.com.

SOUTHERN UTAH NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY 6 p.m. A private red-carpet affair with live music, a DJ dance party, a full bar, soft drinks, dinner, tapas, a photo booth, a ball drop, prizes, and raffles. Advance registration required. Search Facebook for "Southern Utah New Year's Eve Party" for registration details. Hilton Garden Inn, 1731 S. Convention Center Dr., St. George.

NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH WITH CATFISH JOHN 9 p.m. \$10 cover. No reservations. 95 Zion Park Blvd., Springdale.

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASQUERADE BALL AT SAND HOLLOW RESORT 7 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres, dinner (choice of prime rib, stuffed chicken, or a vegetarian dish served with a salad, roasted potatoes, and steamed vegetables), dessert, live music, roaming entertainers, dancing, champagne toast, and fireworks. Semi-formal or formal attire required. Limited space available. \$100 per person or \$175 for two until Dec. 15. \$125 per person or \$200 for two after Dec. 15. Tables for eight available for \$750. Call (435) 656-4653 for tickets. 5662 W. Clubhouse Dr., Hurricane.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OF OUR READERS!

FEATURED EVENT



ZION JOY TO THE WORLD NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

The Zion Joy to the World New Years Eve Celebration in Springdale will usher in the new year with live music, refreshments, and fireworks. A community social will begin at 6 p.m. at the Canyon Community Center with music performed by the Nate Robinson Trio followed by a fireworks display at 8 p.m. More information is available at springdaletown.com/260/Zion-Joy-to-the-World.

Mon, Jan 1

PAWS FOR TALES 4 p.m. Children can read to registered therapy dogs. Free. St. George Library, 88 W 100 S, St. George.

Tues, Jan 2

DIXIE POETS 2 p.m. Develop your poetic talents with a fun group of poets twice monthly on first and third Tuesdays. Bring 10-12 copies of your original poetry for gentle critiquing and suggestions. Short poetry lesson on the first Tuesdays and other special events as scheduled. Contact Lin Floyd at lin@sunrivertoday.com for more info. Newcomers welcome. St. George Senior Citizen Center, 245 N 200 W, St. George.

Fri, Jan 5

GEORGEFEST FIRST FRIDAY 6 p.m. Green Gate Village, 76 W. Tabernacle St., St. George.

WINNIE BRAVE AT GEORGE'S CORNER 8 p.m. 2 W. St. George Blvd., St. George.

THE COMEDY MACHINE 8:30 p.m. Enjoy top comedic performances from the United States. Tickets are \$15-\$25 and can be purchased at startickets.com. Casablanca Resort, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

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