

In print
the 1st Friday
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May 2018 - Vol. 23, #3
Online at SUindependent.com

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THE INDEPENDENT

A voice for Utah



**AN INTIMATE, INDOOR, PROFESSIONAL
THEATRICAL ADVENTURE: THIS IS THE
CENTER FOR THE ARTS AT KAYENTA**
- See page 3

ALSO THIS ISSUE:



**EQUALITY CELEBRATION HONORS LOCAL
LGBTQ COMMUNITY**
- See Page 4



**St. George
Literary Arts
Festival**

**ST. GEORGE LITERARY ARTS FESTIVAL
OFFERS FUN FOR ALL AGES**
- See Page 4



**THE INDEPENDENT OFFERS INTERNSHIPS
FOR SUU AND DSU STUDENTS**
- See Page 4

Contents

May 2018 Volume 23, Issue 3

EDITORIAL.....2	OUTDOORS.....18
EVENTS.....3	SPECIAL FEATURE.....19
NEWS.....7	GARDENING.....20
LOCAL BUSINESS.....11	MOVIE REVIEWS.....21
OPINION.....12	CLIP-N-SAVE SECTION
DOWNTOWN SECTION.....16	CALENDAR OF EVENTS.....25

ON THE COVER: AN INTIMATE, INDOOR, PROFESSIONAL THEATRICAL ADVENTURE: THIS IS THE CENTER FOR THE ARTS AT KAYENTA. SEE STORY ON NEXT PAGE.

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The Independent is published the first Friday of each month. All copies are distributed free of charge at over three hundred area locations throughout St. George, Cedar City, UT, Mesquite, NV & surrounding areas.

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To submit a calendar event go to SUIndependent.com

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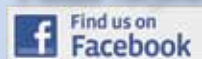
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EDITORIAL

PUBLISHER'S PERSPECTIVE by Josh Warburton

I just passed one year of daily meditation. It's kind of hard for me to believe it's been that long already and what a difference a year makes.

The week I started meditating every day was an eventful one. There were some major changes happening in my personal life. I was emotional, distraught even. I figured meditating couldn't hurt. I'd talked about meditation many times with family, friends, and significant others, but had a hard time getting interested in "guided mediation." My thoughts at the time were that the last thing I needed was someone else telling me what to do, let alone how to rest or relax. But I had already tried it off and on for a few months without having worked it into my routine until then. That week, I knew I needed nurturing. I needed peace and I needed help. And with the upheaval of my personal life, I knew I needed to help myself. So how could it hurt?

I downloaded a couple of apps on my phone: Headspace, Calm, and eventually Mediation Studio, which I use almost exclusively now. I knew I wanted to make it a part of my daily routine, which I've never had much of, so I decided the best way was to make it part of my waking up. I'd been really contemplative first thing in the morning, and I'd been giving myself a bit of time each day to think about my day, life, goals, and such. So along with that, it seemed like the best place for me to consistently insert meditating into my day.

And so it began. Each day I would wake, give myself a bit of time to adjust and reflect, and then cue up a guided meditation from one of the apps ranging in length from 2 to 20 minutes. And although I really had no idea if it would be beneficial, I trusted what I'd been told — that in time I would reap the benefits. So I stuck with it, day after day, morning after morning. I'd also occasionally add in extra ones in an evening or on a commute.

I tried not to overthink it. If it was good enough for Tim Ferriss and the multitude of successful people I'd heard him interview on his podcasts, it was good enough for me. Without knowing what I might gain or how it might benefit me, I continued the practice, and in a short time, I did notice some changes. I was calmer. More patient. More understanding. It seemed too good to be true, but I kept at it.

After a month or two, I wrote about it here in my monthly column. I espoused its benefits to my friends and family. I shared the apps with people I cared about. I became a proponent of daily meditation, contemplation, and quiet self analysis. It just became part of who I am and what I do, and I've really enjoyed it.

But I'm sure what you'd all like to know is whether or not it really works. Could it really benefit you, and if so, how? I

can only speak to my own experiences, but let me recall a couple that I think showcase the positive effects of meditation on me.

Last year as I was working in my yard, headphones on and focused on my tasks at hand, I heard a commotion. I looked up to witness an altercation between my neighbors, a husband and wife. As they had taken an exchange that was going on in the house out into the open air of their driveway, I was witness to a heated verbal bout that almost got physical.

Rather than immediately injecting myself into the situation, I remember feeling calm, observant, and almost out of my body, as if I could see myself watching the interaction. I considered my options: maybe yelling that I was watching them so they knew there was someone witnessing their fight, or maybe just calling the cops — she did attempt to hit him with her shoe, but she missed. Instead, I simply observed, phone in hand ready to dial and eyes wide open. Within a minute, they stopped fighting, and he drove away. And while I have certainly second-guessed my actions, I believe meditation helped give me the ability to observe thoughtfully before reacting.

Just recently, I had an exchange with another neighbor that began very awkwardly. My neighbor was upset, but I didn't know why. After a few moments of uncomfortable and confusing statements,

I simply asked him very gently if there was a problem he'd like me to address. He then expressed to me just what was bothering him.

That approach seemed to really disarm him. I told him that I was happy to help resolve the situation and that if there was anything else he had an issue with, I'd really love to hear about it so I could address it.

At that point, the whole conversation shifted. I think a previous version of me might have told him

where he could lodge his complaint, if you know what I'm saying. But again, as I observed his anger, I felt I was actually looking at myself from the outside with a similar calm I'd felt when I'd witnessed my other neighbors' interaction. And that ability to calmly pause for observation is what I feel I've gained from meditation.

But those things seem like isolated incidents. I'm sure you'd like to know if daily meditation has affected my day-to-day life, and I believe it has.

Just a couple of months ago, I was having a difficult day. I observed myself dropping things and getting frustrated. And it was weird. Why? Well, because since I'd been meditating, I'd rarely fumbled, dropped, or misplaced anything. I'd also rarely gotten really frustrated or angry. So I noticed it. What an amazing thing. I'd been so much more focused, calm, and present that when I wasn't, I really noticed it!

So I'm not a doctor or a psychologist, and my experiences are simply that: my own. But if you've ever wanted more calm in your life, consider meditating. If you feel you're possibly too reactionary and would like to be able to process situations without losing your temper, try meditating. It's been great for me.

Have a great month, and happy reading!



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EVENTS

AN INTIMATE, INDOOR, PROFESSIONAL THEATRICAL ADVENTURE: THIS IS THE CENTER FOR THE ARTS AT KAYENTA

By Jan Broberg

The Center for the Arts at Kayenta presents a rich and diverse offering of theater and music in May. “Art” plays Wednesdays–Sundays at 6 p.m. through May 12. Pianist Connor Chee performs May 17 at 7:30 p.m. followed by the Toga Party Band May 19 at 8 p.m. And performances of “Other Desert Cities” run Thursdays–Saturdays from May 24 to June 9 at 7:30 p.m.

The Tony Award-winning comedy “Art” continues its sellout opening night run through May 12! Beauty truly is in the eye of the beholder! The purchase of an all-white painting creates a rift between

three close friends in this clever, funny, sophisticated, and ultimately moving portrait of friendship and its complexities. An all-professional cast starring Garry Morris, Kent Hayes, and Philippe Hall will have you laughing through tears.

Experience the virtuosic talent of Navajo classical pianist Connor Chee in a full-length solo recital May 17. Carnegie Hall followed! Nominated for Best New Artist and Record of the Year, Chee performs throughout the U.S. He’ll play original piano compositions based on traditional Navajo chants from his recent recording, “The Navajo Piano,” as well as Chopin, Rachmaninoff, and Liszt. At age 12, Chee won gold in the World Piano Competition. As a special attraction, there will also be a Kaibab Paiute performance during intermission. The audience will be invited to join our special guests in a “friendship dance” to celebrate Kaibab Paiute Indian culture.



Ready for something completely off the charts? On May 19, it’s Toga! Toga! Toga! The Toga Party Band is coming to Kayenta direct from SoCal! Togas are optional, but dancing the night away and having more fun than anyone else in southern Utah



isn’t! Space is limited, so make sure to buy your tickets in advance.

Hungry for a rich, funny, and touching adult drama? “Other Desert Cities” by Jon Robin Baitz is for you. The play explores the limits of parental love and filial duty, our myth-making culture, and the claim we have to our own biography when it involves the invasion of privacy of others.

“Other Desert Cities” delivers serious family drama and combustible comedy. Brooke Wyeth, the protagonist, returns home to Palm Springs after a six-year absence to celebrate Christmas with her parents, brother, and aunt. Brooke announces that she is about to publish a memoir dredging up a pivotal and tragic event in the family’s history — a wound they don’t want reopened. She draws a line in the sand and dares them all to cross it.

“Other Desert Cities’ is clever and biting and a comic genius of a script,” said director Douglas Caputo. “This is the kind of show we don’t get to see in our area often: an adult, contemporary comedy/drama. We have a strong local cast, and we are also bringing in talent from outside the area. This will be the show to see for those who desire a little more edge in their entertainment.”

“The most richly enjoyable new play for grownups that New York has known in many seasons,” write the New York Times. “Mr. Baitz makes sure our sympathies keep shifting among the members of the wounded family portrayed here. Every one of them emerges as selfish, loving, cruel, compassionate, irritating, charming, and just possibly heroic ... leaves you feeling both moved and gratifyingly sated.”

The cast of “Other Desert Cities” includes Nick Adams, Ginger Nelson, Jared Shipley, Pat Evans, and California-based actor Robin Hampton.

For tickets, pricing, and more information, visit kayentaarts.com or call the box office at (435) 674-2787. The Center for the Arts at Kayenta is located at 881 Coyote Gulch Ct. in Ivins.



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EVENTS

EQUALITY CELEBRATION HONORS LOCAL LGBTQ COMMUNITY

By Stephen Lambert

Equality Utah is preparing to host its eighth annual equality celebration May 19 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the DSU film studio in St. George. This gathering is open to the public and represents a chance for the local LGBTQ community and its allies to come together and celebrate all



we've accomplished in our ongoing quest for equality as well as to inspire continued commitment to the work that lies ahead.

It is so important that we build a stronger LGBTQ community in southern Utah, and events like this one, sponsored by Equality Utah, help make it possible. It's literally a matter of saving lives, emotionally, spiritually, and physically.

Equality Utah co-chair John Meisner also emphasized the need for connection.

"Our goals go beyond an annual pride event," said Meisner. "We're looking to schedule events throughout the year and to have a common place, real and virtual, for the LGBTQ community to connect. Isolation in southern Utah is a real concern, and we're trying to break that down."

The theme for this year's event is "All You Need is Love," inspired by the classic Beatles song. In addition to food, drinks, and a silent auction, guests can expect a Beatles tribute band and are invited to wear '60s fashions. The night will also feature powerful words from selected speakers and honorees.

All are welcome to attend. Tickets and sponsorships are available at equalityutah.org. The cost of tickets is considered a tax-deductible contribution to the Equality Utah Foundation and helps us provide education and outreach all over Utah.

Equality Utah works toward a fair and just Utah and seeks to secure equal rights and protections for LGBTQ Utahns and their families.

For more information about this year's equality celebration, contact Equality Utah at (801) 355-3479 or email stephen@equalityutah.org. The DSU film studio is located at 317 S. Donlee Dr. in St. George.

THE INDEPENDENT OFFERS SUMMER INTERNSHIPS FOR SUU AND DSU STUDENTS

The Independent has begun offering internships to Dixie State University and Southern Utah University students. Summer, fall, and spring internships are offered. These salaried internships pay about \$300 per month.

The Independent seeks an intern from Dixie State University to assist with the following areas:

- Marketing and branding strategies in The Independent's distribution area, ranging from Mesquite, Nevada to Bryce Canyon.

- Sales in but not limited to the St. George area — may extend as far south as Mesquite and as far north as Cedar City.

- Finding leads and setting appointments.

This is a part-time position that entails working 20 hours a week. The salary for the summer semester is \$1,000. The intern may telecommute if he or she wishes or may

work using the office located at 40 N. 300 E. St. George, UT, 84770 #103.

The Independent seeks an intern from Southern Utah University to assist with the following areas:

- Marketing and branding strategies in The Independent's distribution area, ranging from Mesquite, Nevada to Bryce Canyon.

- Social media strategies on multiple platforms to maximize visibility, outreach, and impact.

This is a part-time position that entails working 20 hours a week. The salary for the summer semester is \$1,000. The intern will telecommute.

Prospective interns should apply at editor@infowest.com.

ST. GEORGE LITERARY ARTS FESTIVAL OFFERS FUN FOR ALL AGES

By John Grant

The St. George Literary Arts Festival will take place May 18 and 19 on the campus of Dixie State University. The festival promotes and elevates literacy and the literary arts in southern Utah.

On May 19, the festival will host workshops and other presentations for all ages. Presenters include professionals from a wide cross-section of literary disciplines including poetry, fiction, nonfiction, contemporary writing, screenwriting, lyric writing, publishing, and children's literature.

Literacy continues to be a critical component of human interaction, even in the electronic communication age. Poor grammar, misuse of vocabulary, and improper use of capitalization can lead to misunderstanding, miscommunication, and unintended offense. Now more

than ever, we need to know how to write with better accuracy and communicate our intentions with more fluency. Literacy is the beginning of great literature. Whether you are writing for recreation or professionally, accuracy and fluency are critically important.

The St. George Literary Arts Festival seeks to raise awareness and proficiency in the way we all communicate. Language is complex with intricate and subtle nuances that often trip up even the most accomplished writer. Whether you're writing an email or novel, you want to be understood. For the sake of better communication of ideas

and concepts, everyone should attend the festival to improve their communication skills.

Lunch will be available from noon until 1 p.m. for a nominal fee. There will also be a number of exhibitors on site as well as authors on hand to sell and sign their books. Admission to the festival is free to all and is funded by local agencies and organizations with the community's best interests at heart. We look forward to rubbing shoulders with you at this stimulating and inspiring event.

The St. George Literary Arts Festival

is presented in part by the Heritage Writers' Guild and promises to approach the topics of literacy and literature in an engaging and entertaining fashion. There will be activities for all ages and all walks of life. Something for everyone has been our goal

from day one. We seek to reach out to the entire community and provide an enjoyable atmosphere for enlightenment and illumination. The festival strives to improve our overall ability to communicate literary intent through workshops and other presentations. We have made every effort to create an all-inclusive atmosphere for expression of thoughts and ideas. You're sure to come away from the festival with a greater understanding of higher level communication and an elevated ability to communicate your own thoughts.

More information is available at heritagewritersguild.com.



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EVENTS

ST. GEORGE DINO SAUR DISCOVERY SITE PROVIDES 12 WEEKS OF FUN DURING SUMMER DINO TUESDAYS

By Diana Azevedo

Join the St. George Dinosaur Discovery Site museum for fun and educational dinosaur activities every Tuesday this summer starting May 22 and ending Aug. 7. Activities range from take-home crafts to games with prizes and are included with regular admission prices. Activities will be available at 10 a.m. until supplies last. Visit utahdinosaurs.com/dinosaur-events for a detailed list of activities.

"Dino Tuesday is the best part of summer," said Jaleesa Spor, a DSU intern for the Dinosaur Discovery Site. "Kids and

parents will both have fun and the variety will keep you coming back for more."

This is only the second year the Dinosaur Discovery Site has offered a summer program, and it hopes to see it become a fixture at the museum. Thanks to the St. George City Art Commission RAP Tax Grant, the museum was able to fund a part-time intern to lead the activities and provide supplies for the take-home crafts and prizes. This year's activities are slightly different from last year's. It kept the best ones and improved the activities that weren't as successful.

The museum preserves and exhibits fossils from southwestern Utah, especially from an Early Jurassic (200 million year ago) lake ecosystem. The museum houses thousands of fossilized tracks of dinosaurs and other animals as well as fossil plants and bones. Uniquely, the museum was built directly over the initial discovery site, keeping the fossil track surface intact and undisturbed. Since opening its doors in 2005, over 517,000 visitors have walked back in time while exploring the site.

Admission is \$6 for ages 12 and older is \$6 and \$4 for kids ages 4-11. Kids ages 3 and younger are admitted at no charge.



UTAH STATE PARKS YOGA SERIES WITH GRANOGI BRINGS YOGA TO UTAH

By Eugene Swalberg

The Utah Division of Parks and Recreation is excited to announce the kickoff of the Utah State Parks Yoga Series with Granogi, an outdoor adventure and yoga company.

Utah's 44 state parks are packed full of outdoor adventure options, and Granogi's outdoor yoga is just one more way people can take full advantage of the beauty Utah has to offer. At the same time, they can reap both the physical and mental benefits of yoga.

The Yoga Series kicks off April 28 at Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park and will continue along multiple parks across Utah until concluding at Snow Canyon State Park Nov. 17.

The Utah state parks involved in the series include Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park, Dead Horse Point State Park, Wasatch Mountain State Park, Jordanelle State Park, Goblin Valley State Park, Red Fleet State Park, Rockport State Park, Snow Canyon State Park, and Antelope Island State Park.

Each stop in the series gives visitors a new and exciting opportunity to experience Utah's state parks while participating in a fun and healthy activity. Participants arrive in the morning where they are greeted by a park ranger and given some information about the each park's history, geography, and recreational opportunities.

From there, participants will join Granogi's experienced instructors for group activities, a rejuvenating 1-2 mile adventure hike, a yoga session, and a mediation activity.

Participants are also welcome to stay in each park to for some extra fun after activities have ended but must leave when the park closes for day-use — unless they have also reserved a campsite.

Attendees will also receive a gift bag packed with swag like yoga towels, journals, t-shirts, stickers, and more.

The Utah State Parks Yoga Series is a great way for people to connect with nature, their minds, their bodies, and other people who are interested in both the outdoor and the yoga community.

The full calendar of yoga events and locations can be found online on Granogi's Utah State Parks Yoga Series webpage as well as on the Utah State Parks website.

Entry into each of the state parks is included with participation in each yoga series spot. This does not include costs for camping or food, so please make appropriate lodging and meal plans.

Find more events everyday at SIndependent.com

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HOW MOTHER'S DAY BECAME A HOLIDAY

By Tom Emery

Mother's Day has been an official holiday since May 9, 1914, when President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation designating the second Sunday in May as a day to honor the nation's mothers.

"The signing was not that important to Wilson in a political sense. But it would not have taken much persuasion for Wilson to sign it," said Andrew Phillips, curator of the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library. "Strong women were greatly influential in his life, including his mother, his first wife, and his three daughters."

The concept for Mother's Day was nothing new. Local celebrations were common in America. Some attribute the idea to Julia Ward Howe, composer of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," who first organized a "mother's day for peace" June 2, 1872.

Many also cite Anna Jarvis, a Grafton, West Virginia housewife who began the push for the holiday to honor her own mother, who died in 1905. As early as 1868, the elder Jarvis established a local committee for a "Mother's Friendship Day" to heal wounds in families broken by the Civil War. Prior to that, she had also organized "Mother's Day Work Clubs" to ease the suffering of ill and wounded Civil War troops.

In 1908, Jarvis organized official commemorations in Grafton as well as Philadelphia. In 1910, West Virginia declared Mother's Day an official holiday.

Jarvis, though, clearly had a flair for self-promotion. In 1912, she trademarked the phrases "Mother's Day" and "second Sunday in May" and created an international association for the holiday.

The establishment of Mother's Day was also promoted within the women's suffrage movement.

"The suffragettes were among the first to call for the holiday," remarked Phillips. "Of course, the Mother's Day of what everyone envisioned then is much different than what it became."

In 1913, Congress passed a resolution for the observance of Mother's Day by government officials. The following year, the legislature approved a joint resolution calling for the official designation of the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

Wilson signed the proclamation May 9, only one day ahead of the second Sunday of the calendar. As a result, there was not a lot of fanfare in the holiday's first year.

"But it caught on fast," said Phillips. "Hallmark began producing greeting cards by the early 1920s, and soon the holiday was moving closer to what we know today."

Jarvis, though, watched the popularity with disdain. Angered that Mother's Day had become commercialized, she spent her efforts and inheritance to fight for its removal. She found the greeting card craze particularly distasteful, lamenting that cards were "a poor excuse for the letter you are too lazy to write."

HOW DONALD LONG MOVED FROM HOMELESSNESS TO BEING A TOP STUDENT RESEARCHER AT SUU

By Nikki Koontz

From living on the streets of Los Angeles to graduating top of his class, Donald Long, a first-generation student, says Southern Utah University gave him a second chance.

After graduating from high school in New Jersey, Long joined the Air Force branch of the military from 2000 to 2004. There, he learned the value of hard work and loyalty. Stationed in Kansas for most of this time, he discovered a love for personal training and fitness, which kept him in Kansas working at a local gym until 2009. Deciding to leave his possessions behind in Kansas, Long followed his dreams of personal training to California.

Long lived in what he calls a “scary, bad neighborhood” while in California. Working as a personal trainer at a local gym, he was finally feeling good about his decision to leave Kansas until he got involved in a neighborhood fight. During the fight, Long was stabbed inches away from his spine and hospitalized, lucky to be alive.

After his hospital release, Long didn’t want to return to that neighborhood and became homeless on the streets of Los Angeles. He bounced around multiple VA shelters, trying to keep his job and survive.

“It got to the point I remember I was sleeping literally on the street,” said Long. “It was the lowest point of my life. But I thought to myself ‘There’s nowhere but up from here.’ So I didn’t give in. I persevered and told myself I’d make it through this. That experience taught me about independence, dedication, and overcoming insurmountable obstacles.”

A friend convinced Long to move to Cedar City in 2011, and Long was able to find a job working at Gold’s Gym (now Vasa Fitness). He knew about SUU and wanted

to pursue a degree in medicine but waited several years before applying to school. The biggest obstacle in going back to school was the financial cut he’d take as a full-time student, but a desire to help his clients beyond the scope of a gym drove him to enroll at SUU in 2014.

Long began his academic journey in SUU department chair of chemistry Dr. Ty Redd’s organic chemistry course. This comprehensive and very intense two-semester class educates students to think critically and independently about organic chemistry through a mechanistic common-theme approach to the subject.

“At times, I felt like I was back in military boot camp,” said Long. “But professor Redd’s demanding, passionate character really helped to refine my grit toward a vocation as a medical scientist.”

Though challenging, Long’s academic performance ranked him in the 99th percentile of the nation on that year’s organic chemistry exit exam, nationally standardized by the American Chemical Society. Redd has personally worked with Long through classes and extracurricular research, always finding Long to be self-motivated and enthusiastic.

“The manuscript of Donald Long’s life could have been very small, ending with his death at the hands of a man with a knife, but it did not, and Donald is making the best of his second chance,” said Redd. “His compassion is the fabric of his desire to serve and improve life for others. Donald is cheerful, engaging, congenial, and always lifts those around him. He is a self-motivated student who challenges himself to succeed.”

While at SUU, Long discovered the ultimate channel for his greatest aspiration: science. With the help of invaluable mentors like Redd, SUU department chair of biology Dr. Fredric Govedich, and SUU chemistry professor Dr. Bruce Howard, Long discovered his passion to change the world through science.

“During my years at SUU, I have cultivated perfecting the scientific process, which has been refined over the millions of years of humanity’s existence,” said Long. “A huge component of the scientific method is being familiar with the ever-shifting foundations of the physical and biological sciences. One has to grasp the core principles in order to understand what you are observing in the world, which prompts viable questions and hypotheses.”

As a member of the Rural Health Scholars program at SUU, Long has had service and research opportunities woven into his undergraduate education. Through the program’s resources, Long was accepted to a Summer Research Opportunity Program at the University of Iowa. Last summer, he spent over eight hours a day researching under Kairuki Maina and Hank Qi at the University of Iowa. In Long’s experience, internships are a crucial part of an undergraduate education, especially if graduate school is a future option.

“Theory, which is invaluable, is what you learn at SUU, and may I say, they do a stellar job of teaching that,” said Long. “Research skills, the other side of the coin, are what you learn with these internships. Having these two components makes you a force to be reckoned with: It helps you know what you are doing and why you are doing it.”

Although this is his first exposure to a research institution’s methodology, Long is no stranger to lab work. He has spent a considerable amount of time in and outside the classroom collaborating with professors

and learning everything he can. Howard has mentored Long on multiple projects and provides invaluable scrutiny to Long’s work.

“At times, I really gritted my teeth as his honest evaluation of my ideas and procedures were like the sound of nails scraping across a chalkboard, but in hindsight I am greatly appreciative of his guidance,” said Long. “It has helped me not only refine my scientific methods but has provided immense insight into how to effectively and efficiently carry out future projects.”

“Don is one of the most thoughtful, talented, and hard-working students I’ve had the pleasure of working with at SUU,” Howard said. “His perspective on life is well-grounded, and his interests are wide-ranging. He excels at thinking outside the box and focuses on really understanding concepts and ideas. As he continues his education, I’m confident he will become an excellent physician and scientist and will make a real difference in the world.”

As a nontraditional first-generation student, Long understands the struggles



From left to right, Dr. Frederic Govedich, Donald Long, and Dr. Robert Eaves

working professionals face when deciding to go back to school. But as Long has progressed through his degree, he’s found that hard work in school “pays” in scholarships, grants, and invaluable internship opportunities.

Long has a deeply rooted thirst to engage in research and has been involved in four major projects while at SUU. Two of these projects have been funded by the National Science Foundation and two via granted fellowships. He has investigated the effects of a community’s unique irrigational system on its local water chemistry and analyzed the effects nutrient enrichment and pharmaceutical pollution has on stream biofilms. He’s analyzed inhibitors for an enzyme linked to tuberculosis, which is still a persistent disease in the 21st century. He’s also evaluated the effects of genetically modified soy-based baby formula on the methylation/acetylation patterns, reproduction, and development in *Drosophila melanogaster*, a species of fly, over seven generations. He has presented his work at national conferences.

“Going back to school was the best decision I’ve made,” said Long. “I am beyond grateful for the opportunities my professors at SUU have given me to grow as a scientist. They have prepared me for the country’s top medical programs and have taught me the value of intensive research.”

Long will graduate this May with a double major in biology and nutrition and a minor in chemistry. He will take the MCAT and start applying for medical schools this fall with the goal to study internal medicine. During his gap year, Long has plans for a post-baccalaureate program, which entails a year of intensive research at an R-1 institution.

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LOCAL NEWS

SUMMER STEM PROGRAM CAMP INVENTION COMES TO ST. GEORGE

By Ken Torisky

Camp Invention, a nationally recognized nonprofit summer enrichment camp program, is coming to Crimson View Elementary School in St. George June 4–8.

A program of the National Inventors Hall of Fame in partnership with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Camp Invention challenges children in grades K–6 to find their inner inventors by learning the process of innovation. Using hands-on activities, Camp Invention promotes science, technology, engineering, and mathematics learning; builds resourcefulness and problem-solving skills; and encourages entrepreneurship in a fun and engaging environment.

Each year, the program features a new curriculum inspired by some of our nation's most brilliant inventors, the National Inventors Hall of Fame Inductees. This year's Fast Forward curriculum features several video challenges from these Inductees encouraging children to be confident in their ideas and explore their innovativeness. These hands-on activities include the following:

—Optibot: Campers will launch into the future with their own Optibot, a small self-driving robot that senses changes in light.

—Robotic Pet Vet: Throughout this module, campers nurse their robotic puppy back to health and design and build dog parks as they hammer out ideas for the best park attraction.

—Mod My Mini Mansion: Campers will dream up and design their very own futuristic smart home filled with gadgets, LEDs, technology, and innovations!

—Stick To It: Campers will invent something new every day as they explore what it is like to be a physicist, engineer, and entrepreneur. Young innovators will invent, make, and craft solutions to real-world challenges by building their own prototypes and discovering that anything is possible.



At the end of the program, each camper will bring home two personalized robots. Learn more about this year's all-new curriculum.

All local Camp Invention programs are facilitated and taught by certified educators who reside and teach in the community. Camp Invention serves more than 140,000 students every year and partners with nearly 1,700 schools and districts across the nation. For additional information or to find a camp near you, visit campinvention.org.

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WASHINGTON COUNTY LIBRARIES PARTICIPATE IN NEW TELESCOPE LENDING PROGRAM

By Jeff Axel

For southern Utah residents, getting a closer look at our night sky will soon be as easy as checking out a book from the library. Telescopes will be available to check out starting April 30 at Washington County libraries so that area residents can get a closer look at all those fascinating points of light in the night sky.

The telescope lending program is a partnership between Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, Cedar Breaks National Monument, the St. George Astronomy Group, and the Washington County Library System. Six telescopes were donated to the Washington County Library from the two monuments. The Washington County Library purchased two more telescopes so that a telescope would be available at each branch. Maintenance of the telescopes will be provided by the St. George Astronomy Group.

“Dark night skies are one of the great benefits of living in southwest Utah,” said Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument superintendent Chad Corey said. “Through the telescope lending program, we are happy to provide Washington County residents the opportunity to experience the wonders that come from seeing those objects in the night sky in much higher detail.”

guide of the constellations, and a night-vision-friendly red LED headlamp.

A star party, open to the public, will be held on the west lawn behind the St. George Library at 88 W 100 S in St. George April 28 from 8 to 10 p.m. to celebrate the kick-off of the library telescope lending program. Washington County residents are encouraged to stop by for a quick lesson on how to use the lending telescopes and to enjoy stargazing with the St. George Astronomy Group.



Contact your local library to check on telescope availability. For more information on protecting dark night skies, visit nps.gov/subjects/night skies/index.htm.



Due to increasing light pollution in cities, many people around the world can't see more than a few stars at night. St. George is only 120 miles from Las Vegas, which is reputed to be the brightest place on earth. Yet in St. George, hundreds of stars can still be seen on a dark night. Travel out of town to one of the local national parks or to other public lands, which are some of the darkest places in United States, and the visible stars can number in the thousands.

Library patrons can check out a telescope and explore the night sky for a week at a time in their own backyards. The telescopes are modified to be user-friendly. The StarBlast 4.5-inch tabletop reflecting telescope has quality optics that provide great views of the craters on Earth's moon, Saturn's rings, Jupiter's moons, star clusters, galaxies, nebulae and more. Included with each telescope is an instruction manual, a moon map, a pocket

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KANARRA FALLS CANYON HIKE REQUIRES PERMIT FEE STARTING IN MAY

By Maria Twitchell

In recent years, the scenic Kanarra Falls Canyon hike located in southwest Utah has gained notoriety as a favorite destination for adventure seekers. However, yearly increases in visitation have raised concerns for residents of Kanarraville. Beginning May 1, anyone wishing to hike Kanarra Falls Canyon must pay a hiking permit fee.

"Water quality for our culinary and irrigation water from the spring and creek is of major concern due to the amount of human waste and debris left along the trail," said Kanarraville town clerk David Ence. Recent surveys indicate visitation to be over 40,000 hikers per year, mostly on holidays and weekends during the summer months.

"We have been compelled to look for some solutions that balance the hikers wishes and the wishes of town residents," said Kanarraville Mayor Randy Carter. "In an effort to keep everyone as happy as possible, we have hopefully created some solutions to fix the issues involved."

Last spring, Kanarraville turned to Iron County for assistance.

"In addition to Kanarraville's water concerns, the large numbers of people were impacting the fragile slot canyon ecosystem and because of its remoteness, Iron County Search and Rescue has been called out on several instances," said Iron County Natural Resources Manager Mike Worthen. "However, like Kanarraville, Iron County didn't have jurisdiction to regulate the number of hikers going into the canyon. The land in which the actual slot canyon and waterfalls are located is managed by the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration."

In an effort to ease visitor pressure and preserve the quality of the hiking experience, the town of Kanarraville, along with the Iron County government and the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, or SITLA, recently entered into a land management agreement, part of which is to transition the general public to a fee-based permit system to regulate the number of people hiking in Kanarra Falls Canyon.

Currently, there are no limits on the number of hiking permits available. However, daily limits may be considered in the future. Permits can be purchased for \$8 per person online at kanarrafalls.com. There is a nominal transaction fee, and the permit includes parking at both the town and Sweet Spot parking lots. Hiking permits can also be purchased at the Kanarra Falls Canyon trail head, but the transaction will be by credit or debit card only. No cash transactions will be allowed, and there are no refunds.

There is one group permit available per day for nonprofits that allows up to 30 people in the group. The cost is \$25 per group. Advance reservation through kanarrafalls.com and proof of nonprofit status, such as an IRS tax designation letter or state tax exempt certificate, will be required. The group permit is not available to commercial tours and outfitters. Commercial operations must purchase the \$8 permit for each guest.

"We hope that hikers will be patient with us as we roll out this new system", said Carter. "We know there will be glitches and obstacles that will need to be worked on. We all want to do the right thing for as many people as possible. That takes work from all of us."

The permit system will also allow officials opportunity to better educate hikers about the slot canyon experience and understand the level of difficulty and caution this trail requires.

"The hike is mainly through water, so you will get wet and climbing the two waterfalls does require sure-footedness," said Iron County Sheriff Mark Gower. "You hike at your own risk, and cell service is limited, so if you are in need of rescue, it can take a while before it gets there."

Kanarra Falls Canyon is a slot canyon, and there is a real danger from flash flooding, so it's highly recommended to check weather conditions prior to a trip with the National Weather Service at (801) 524-3057. No pets are allowed along the hike to protect the watershed from contaminants.



The Greater Southwestern Exploration Company, CC BY 2.0

With the land agreement, a Kanarraville Falls committee has been formed to assist Kanarraville with management of the hiking area. The committee has already acquired a vault restroom to be installed along the trail. Plus, they have installed signage to educate hikers and have assembled a group of volunteers to monitor the trail and remove garbage. Proceeds from the permit fees will be used to offset mitigating costs from the trail use and to maintain and improve town infrastructure, including a planned restroom facility at the town trailhead parking lot. Royalties paid to SITLA under the land management agreement will be put into the trust fund benefiting Utah schools.

Kanarraville is located approximately 10 miles south of Cedar City along Old Highway 91. Approximately 375 people live in Kanarraville. The town government maintains a municipal water system, community parks, a fire department, and a cemetery.

For more information, please contact Kanarraville at (435) 867-1852 or go to kanarrafalls.com.

PREREGISTERED 17-YEAR-OLDS WILL RECEIVE PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOTS

By Ryan Cowley



During the Utah Legislative session, HB 281 was passed and signed this month by Gov. Herbert. That means beginning this year, any Utah resident who will be 18 on or before Election Day, Nov. 6, will be eligible to vote in the June Primary Election. This means that under Utah law, students ages 16 and 17 years old, can preregister to vote and that all eligible 17-year-olds will automatically receive their Primary ballot in the mail.

You can preregister at voter.utah.gov if you have a valid Utah Driver License.

"Studies show that engaging people in the political process at an early age increases the chance that they will participate throughout their lives," Weber County Clerk/Auditor Ricky Hatch said. "Allowing youth who can vote in November to also vote in the primary helps establish that political engagement."

The Primary will be held June 26, and ballots will begin arriving in voters' mailboxes around June 7. Weber High School student Zach Thomas (pictured third from the right) was instrumental in working with Rep. Joel Briscoe (D-District 25) and other students to get this bill passed and signed into law.

For more information, please call (801) 399-8036 or email rcowley@webercountyutah.gov.

REP. STEWART INTRODUCES H.R. 5597, LEGISLATION FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY NORTHERN CORRIDOR

On April 24, Rep. Chris Stewart introduced H.R. 5597. This legislation will provide the controversial Northern Corridor in Washington County, Utah.

"This is a big win for my constituents in Washington County," Stewart said. "This bill will finally allow for further transportation development to accommodate growth in one of the fastest growing areas in the nation."

"We appreciate Rep. Stewart's leadership on this legislation that is vital to Washington County's future," The Washington County Commission said in a statement. "The Washington County Commission has worked collaboratively with the BLM, Fish and Wildlife, the State Department of Wildlife Resources, and local stakeholders to create a framework for meeting the resource needs of the tortoise and transportation requirements of Washington County's growing population. Congressman Stewart's legislation has our full support and backing."



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THE AFFOGATO COFFEE TRUCK: COFFEE INFUSED WITH LOVE AND CHAOS

By Krista Kirkham

On the corner of 100 South and Bluff Street, nestled in the parking lot of the Red Rock Bicycle Co., sits the Affogato coffee truck. Strangers and friends alike gather around the truck, sitting in the red and blue camping chairs and joining in casual conversation. Everyone has a drink in their hand and a smile on their face.

"I want them to feel like they're sitting in my kitchen or living room," said Elise West, the owner of Affogato. "Anyone is welcome."

The truck is 28 feet long, almost 14 feet tall, and weighs in at 25,000 pounds. Inside, there are five refrigerators, three coffee grinders, an espresso machine, an ice machine, and two blenders — all powered

by one 50,000-watt generator. The truck is a beautiful giant designed to handle the biggest crowds while maintaining the highest standards of gourmet beverages.

You would never guess it looking at Affogato's menu, but West didn't drink coffee until she was 26.

"I started off drinking Folgers," she said, "I just doctored it up with some milk and sugar." It wasn't until the late '90s, when the Salt Lake City coffee scene began to grow, that Elise started to branch out. She now starts each day off with Davis and Clark Superfood Coffee, her personal favorite drink on the menu.

"We named the drink after two different guys that came on separate days and ordered the butter coffee," West explains. Inside Affogato's best-selling beverage is espresso, coconut oil, unsalted Kerrygold butter, five spices, raw cacao, collagen, and coconut sugar. The Davis and Clark is full of good fats and sustainable energy, and like all of Affogato's signature drinks, it is handcrafted with high-quality natural ingredients.

"If it's not good," she said with pride, "it doesn't go out the window." When possible, West sources her ingredients locally. The beans she brews are roasted by River Rock Roasting Company in LaVerkin and Espressions Beans in Phoenix. She also sells homemade vegan pastries made by Little Birds Catering and hand-crafted mugs made by local artist Brady Richardson. The truck offers 12 different syrups, and all but two of them are made in-house. The menu is simple but diverse.

"It's like Mexican food," she said. "You have 10 ingredients, but you can make 500 dishes."

West says she feels like an alchemist

in the kitchen. She's takes pride in creating drinks that can't be found anywhere else. Her menu features a wide variety of coffee beverages, including the classics like lattes, Americanos, and cappuccinos but also featuring her own unique creations.

"I could taste the attention to high-quality, health-conscious ingredients," said a customer.



The Feellove Moscovato Latte is crafted with Moscovato brown sugar, espresso, and milk and topped with a molasses drizzle. The Affogato Love is the truck's signature dessert: a scoop of locally-made vanilla bean ice cream topped with a shot of espresso. The Dirty Hawaiian, inspired by an Almond Joy candy bar, is a rich drink loaded with dark chocolate, coconut, and almond flavors. It comes topped with whipped cream, chocolate drizzle, and flaked almonds. All of Affogato's beverages can be made with a large variety of milks including whole, fat-free, coconut, almond, and even cashew.

Although West has been experimenting in the kitchen since childhood, opening a coffee shop wasn't always part of her plan. From retail to restaurants and even the airline industry, Elise has done it all. She recently managed Café Soleil in Springdale, which she credits for giving her the knowledge and confidence to open Affogato.

West is not a St. George native. Her father worked for Johnson & Johnson during her childhood, and because of his work transfers, she grew up all over the United States. She moved to Orem at the age of 12 and has spent most of her time in Utah ever since. Despite moving around a lot as a child, West always made friends with ease.

"I'm a bit of an extrovert," she explains.

After spending the last eight years of her life in St. George, it now feels like her home.

"I've found my tribe here," she said. St. George is a city full of transplants, West being one of them. She loves change and believes the diverse community keeps things interesting.

The truck, built in Brazil in 1988, has a history almost as unique as its current owner. Its first decade was spent as ice cream truck on the Chicago pier. After that, it sat in storage for nearly a decade until it was purchased by the Phoenix resident who transformed it into the coffee-shop-on-wheels it is today. He used Affogato for few years before he put it up for sale on Craigslist.

"A friend told me about the ad," West said. She had been looking for a location to open a coffee shop for months, but nothing had felt quite right. After checking out the ad on Craigslist, she drove down to Phoenix to see the truck in person. She even worked it at a few events before making the purchase to ensure it was a good fit. Her first official day of business was July 4, 2017, and she's been busy ever since.

"I have no free time," West said. Her truck is open from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, and West herself works 16-hour days. When she isn't in the truck crafting beverages

for her beloved customers, she handling everything behind the scenes. On any given day, you can probably find West sitting in her office at a round plastic table on the porch of Red Rock Bicycle Co. Between orders, payroll, shopping, and managing, the truck takes up all of her time.

West is full of energy and thrives on being busy.

"I'm at my happiest when I'm being productive and tackling my list, when every drink that goes out the window is top quality," she said.

Her positive energy is clearly contagious, a common trait shared between all of Affogato's employees.

"The coffee is fantastic," one customer said, "and the staff is just as lovely." Elise's baristas are like family to her.

"We all have such love and respect for each other," she said. West, Kimmy, Bradley, Monica, Sam, and Katie work gracefully together in an extremely tight space. In fact, in seven months of business West said that the work environment has remained completely drama-free. The happy energy of the baristas is an essential part of the Affogato experience.

"It's more pleasure than work" she said, "and that's when I know it's meant to be."

Like the truck, her baristas and many other aspects of her business simply fell right into place.

"I didn't even have to interview," she said, "they all just came to me." As far as location goes, she was approached by the marketing manager of Red Rock Bicycle Co., who asked if she'd be interested in parking her truck in their lot. She agreed, and said it's been "heaven" ever since.

With only herself as a guide, West dove head first into life as a business owner, and she hasn't looked back. Within the next six months, West thinks she'll be ready to open a brick-and-mortar location, and although it wasn't her plan originally, she now sees the truck as a perfect starting point. She's currently in the process of rebranding her business and truck to add her own personal touch: Affogato West. With her gourmet menu and personable crew, West has already made her mark. But by adding her last name to the end of "Affogato," the truck will become undeniably her own.



"You either fear it or you love it," West said, "and when you love it, the sky is the limit." To anyone aspiring to follow a similar path, she said not to discount your abilities but not to be afraid of hard work. Opening Affogato has been the hardest thing she's ever done but also the most rewarding. You can see passion and commitment, not only in the success of her business but in the way her eyes light up when she talks about everything she's accomplished.

"Our drinks are hand-crafted," West said, "with love and chaos." Her mission in opening Affogato was to bring St. George a new kind of coffee shop where she could share her passion for quality, health, and experience with the community. Undoubtedly, all of her customers would agree that she has accomplished exactly that and more.



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LOCAL BUSINESS

NATIONAL PARK TOURISM IN UTAH CREATES MORE THAN \$1.6 BILLION IN ECONOMIC BENEFIT IN THE STATE

By Patrick O'Driscoll

A new National Park Service report shows that 15,154,285 visitors to national parks in Utah in 2017 spent \$1.114 billion in the state. That spending resulted in 17,596 jobs and had a cumulative benefit to the Utah economy of \$1.667 billion.

"From Golden Spike to Canyonlands, the 13 national park units in Utah attract visitors from within the state, across the country and around the world," said NPS intermountain region director Sue Masica. "Whether they are out for an afternoon at Arches, a school field trip to Timpanogos Cave, or a week in Zion on family vacation, visitors come to have a great experience and

end up spending a little money along the way. This new report shows that national park tourism is a significant driver in the national economy — returning \$10 for every \$1 invested in the National Park Service — and a big factor in the state's economy as well, a result we can all support."

Utah's 13 national parks include Arches, Bryce Canyon, Canyonlands, Capitol Reef, and Zion National Parks; Cedar Breaks, Dinosaur, Hovenweep, Natural Bridges, Rainbow Bridge and Timpanogos Cave National Monuments; Golden Spike National Historic Site; and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.

The peer-reviewed visitor spending analysis was conducted by economists Catherine Cullinane Thomas of the U.S. Geological Survey and Lynne Koontz of the National Park Service. The report shows \$18.2 billion of direct spending by



more than 330 million park visitors in communities within 60 miles of a national park. This spending supported 306,000 jobs nationally, 255,900 of them in park gateway communities. The cumulative benefit to the U.S. economy was \$35.8 billion.

According to the 2017 report, lodging registered the highest direct benefit of park visitation nationally with \$5.5 billion in economic output into local gateway

economies, including 49,000 jobs. The food-and-beverage sector felt the next highest direct benefit with \$3.7 billion of economic effect on the economies of local park communities, including 60,500 jobs.

By percentage, here is how park visitor spending was distributed: 32.9 percent for lodging/camping, 27.5 percent for food and beverages, 12.1 percent for gas and oil, 10.1 percent for souvenirs and other expenses, 10 percent for admissions and fees, and 7.5 percent for local transportation.

Report authors also produced an interactive tool that allows users to explore current year visitor spending, jobs, labor income, value added, and output effects by sector for national, state, and local economies. Users can also view year-by-year trend data. The interactive tool and report are available at nps.gov/subjects/socialscience/vse.htm.



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DEAR DSU AND LEGEND SOLAR: SHOW ME THE MONEY

By Dallas Hyland

In the latest of a litany of controversial issues surrounding Dixie State University, it was announced in the last month that the school's ties to local business Legend Solar would be severed. This is due to the company potentially failing and possibly being investigated for financial malfeasance and irresponsibility.

The obvious egg-on-the-face element of this for DSU is the fact that their new athletics stadium is, at least for a little while longer, named after Legend Solar. And this came at the mere price of an announced \$10 million donation the company committed to making for the construction of the stadium.

There have been conflicting reports about just how much of the \$10 million was actually given to the school, but it is generally being reported at present that

the donation was being paid in installments and that only around \$150,000 had been given so far.

That is 1.5 percent of the original amount committed and given annually for argument's sake would take the "legendeers" roughly 66 years to fulfill the commitment. They managed to be rendered somewhat out of business in fewer than five years — but more importantly, they are not being held to the debt now, it appears.

Sounds OK, right? DSU graciously, albeit strategically, letting them off the proverbial hook and even going as far as to suggest giving the stadium a new name?

Maybe they can procure the services of an advertisement firm to do a "nationwide" search for the best stadium name and pay them handsomely to do so. It seemed to work when the college went through several rebranding expeditions over the last couple of years.

Something about lipstick on a pig comes to mind here — but I digress.

And with all of the carefully released statements about the matter — with the

understanding that it is not at all an isolated incident of changing the subject and turning your attention elsewhere — one might think that there are a couple of questions that arise from this unfortunate termination of a the relationship with DSU and the self-professed "legends."

Did it not seem that when the stadium rebuild was announced in conjunction with the donation that the it was in fact money being given in total for construction costs? Regardless that a company that was fewer than five years old and reporting annual revenues that would make such a lump sum donation demonstrably infeasible, did it not have the appearance at least that this is where the money was coming from?

This, of course, leads to the next and more obvious question: If it was not a lump sum donation, and if in point of fact only a fractional percentage was actually given, where did the money for the construction come from?

The stadium is finished. Big "Legend" sign and all.

And for the sake of posterity and

transparency, would it not be prudent to see the books? This was a transaction between a public entity and a private business. The public — that's you — has a right to know, among other things, what money was used to pay for the stadium.

What was the vetting process used for choosing Legend Solar as a partner? Was the same process used in the recent collaboration with Teallach Partners and their initial \$1 million donation?

Who owns Legend Solar? Furthermore, does said owner(s) have any ties to individuals at the school?

Surely the desire for absolute transparency would compel the school to answer such questions without hesitation or even the hint of a GRAMA request.

Because of the many possible perceptions of what is taking place, the one we most surely want ruled out is that the money for the stadium was procured using monies not for building a stadium and that someone who knew someone who owned a legendary company helped facilitate the facade that a donation was being made.

Surely, we would not want to discover that some financial malfeasance was taking place and involving the crown jewel of St. George — its university.

Let it be discovered that perhaps a loan was procured, guaranteed by the donation or a bond, and that all of this is really just an unfortunate happenstance.

Absolute transparency would quell any doubts, right?

So, DSU, how about an explanation of where the money came from accompanied with a copy of the books? You have my email address.

See you out there.



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OPINION

AS THE NORTHERN CORRIDOR LOOMS, DRIVING A WEDGE BETWEEN RECREATIONISTS AND CONSERVATIONISTS SERVES NO GOOD PURPOSE

By Lisa Rutherford

County leaders, with the help of Congressman Stewart and Senator Hatch, are attempting to expand the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve and Red Cliffs National Conservation Area. They aim to do this by adding a new zone, Zone 6, so they can build the Northern Corridor — aka the Washington Parkway — through a critical desert tortoise habitat in Zone 3.

I wrote about this last month when the county held an open house to “educate” the public. It was evident at the open house and at a recent St. George City meeting held to approve a resolution by the county to support the expansion that the effort is driving a wedge between recreationists and conservationists in our county.

“Divide and conquer” may or may not be the purpose of county leaders, but if it is their plan, manipulating constituents seems to be an irresponsible way for them to get what they want.

Concerned recreationists feel that the creation of Zone 6 would protect an area they enjoy for mountain biking, rock climbing, and off-road vehicle activities. But they are relying on politicians who seem willing to take any tack to achieve their goals. And in spite of the high number of tortoises in the heavily-recreated area, human activities in general have been shown to have a negative effect as evidenced by early studies leading up to the listing of the tortoise as threatened in the early ‘90s and the most recent 2011 Mojave Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Only recently, on April 24, were Stewart’s bill (H.R. 5597) and a Zone 6 map made public through his press release — although even the press release did not include the text of the bill.

A “draft” copy of Stewart’s bill states in Sec. 3, “Upon receipt from Washington County, Utah, of a proposal to amend and renew the Desert Tortoise Habitat Conservation Plan...” which seems to indicate that there is no plan upon which recreationists can hang their hats and their hopes at this point.

The county is pushing local governments to support an expansion resolution, the details of which are missing.

Many in the recreational community are apparently not conservationists since it appears they will concede to anything, including allowing the county to renege on a 22-year agreement to protect the existing Red Cliffs Desert Reserve’s prime habitat. As long as they get their recreational area, they are fine with allowing anything else to happen to the reserve, including the construction of a new road that runs through it.

Let me be clear that this assertion may not apply to all recreationists. But it is clear from comments overheard and stated publicly at recent meetings that many feel this way.

Much of the proposed Zone 6 area to the west of Bloomington and Sunbrook residential areas is owned by School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, or SITLA, an organization whose mission is to make money off its lands to support Utah schools. Zone 6 is bordered on the west by the proposed Western Corridor, which would run from Interstate 15 through Santa Clara area to Highway 91 tentatively and which may very well present its own set of development pressures in this sensitive Zone 6 area.

For many years, the area under consideration has been used heavily for recreation. Now, in conjunction with the county’s effort to get the land in the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve, SITLA is warning recreationists that if the deal is not completed, SITLA will sell the land for development, thereby eliminating the recreation area.

This has thrown the recreation community into a panic. From what I understand, they have basically thrown Northern Corridor opponents under the bus so they can have their recreation area.

But wait — let’s look at this a little more deeply.

As noted, the land for Zone 6 has been vacant for many years. Yes, there is a lot of development occurring in Washington County now, but it’s actually less than was occurring back in the mid-2000s before the Great Recession served Washington County a gut punch. Will SITLA really develop that area now, or is SITLA just in cahoots with county and national leaders since these folks stick together like a nasty wad of gum on a shoe sole?

What will a new Zone 6 cost us?

Currently, there is no defined budget for managing Zone 6. Already, pressures due to human activity in the existing reserve, including Snow Canyon State Park (Zone 2), are exceeding the county’s and other agencies’ ability to control and will require additional expenditures.

A recent Habitat Conservation Advisory Committee meeting revealed that “social” unapproved trails in Snow Canyon State Park are impacting the area.

These problems will only increase with the county’s growth.

Garbage resulting from human activity in Red Cliffs Desert Reserve areas draws in predators that harm young tortoises, while visitors let dogs run loose, apparently unaware that dogs can damage tortoises or cause them to void their precious water resources.

As growth and human pressure increase, what future surprises will leaders have for recreationists who support them in their effort now to secure the road in exchange for recreation but may change their tune when a new focus of their attention arises?

Now, their effort is to get the Northern Corridor through the existing Zone 3. What’s to say they won’t have another “darling” project in the future that would affect Zone 6? Already, a road through the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve’s Babylon area (Zone 4) is being pushed by Hurricane leaders.

Given that the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area’s Habitat Conservation Plan says no new roads, will this be the next “darling” project promoted by the county and for which they will turn to Congress for help? What will follow as leaders work to undo the 1996 Habitat Conservation Plan agreement that has allowed development in Washington County to flourish for over 20 years?

If Zone 6 is so rich in tortoises, why was it not considered for inclusion in the reserve back in the mid-90s when the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve’s Upper Virgin River Recovery Unit, the smallest of the six tortoise recovery areas, was established?

Now, all of a sudden, the county is keen to secure and preserve the area. But it wasn’t back then, apparently, even though



population projections revealed where we were heading. Leaders and agencies in the mid-90s were either not aware of the number of tortoises there or they just didn’t care to add that to an already bitter battle over the 62,000 acres under consideration that would allow development on 300,000 acres in the county.

Tortoises could not just have magically appeared there over the past 22 years in such abundant numbers.

According to the county’s 2017 tortoise survey of the area, approximately 30 percent of the tortoises observed in Zone 6 were juvenile tortoises. That means that 70 percent were adult tortoises.

The desert tortoise, according to the 2011 Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan, requires 13 to 20 years to reach sexual maturity and has low reproductive rates. They live for 50–80 years. It seems clear that the area should have been included in the Upper Virgin River Recovery Unit back then.

Also, the 1994 Desert Tortoise (Mojave Population) Recovery Plan makes it clear that human activities including those currently existing in Zone 6 are major reasons for the decline in tortoise populations that led to the “threatened” listing, but the county is arguing that they can coexist and support a healthy tortoise population — even as they know use of the area will grow as this county grows.

So perhaps the bigger question is why the area is not protected already anyway? Why not keep Zone 6 for recreation and protect it from development, imminent or not, but not in trade for a road in Zone 3?

The proposed \$110 million road will not solve Washington County’s transportation (continued on page 15)

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problems no matter how much leaders argue that it will. Anyone who looks at the master road plans can see that the Southern Corridor and planned Western Corridor are far from St. George's city center. Not so for the proposed Northern Corridor, which is barely outside St. George's city center.

Proponents assert that the road has been planned for decades, but early 1996 Habitat Conservation Advisory Conservation meeting minutes reveal otherwise. Roads were discussed — but only existing roads in the new reserve.

Why were leaders not arguing for the Northern Corridor then as current leaders would have us believe? Perhaps because it did not suit their purposes and they left that for others to do at a future time?

As a conservationist, I'm willing to concede that perhaps Zone 6 recreation should be allowed to continue given the current healthy population and to support the recreationists within reason in spite of the challenges that growth and the ensuing additional recreational activities will present.

Unlike many recreationists who apparently are just out to protect their own lifestyles at the expense of other considerations, I, as a supporter of the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve and an opponent of the Northern Corridor, am willing to support their effort to pursue their activities. But I have some warnings for them.

A handout provided at the county's open house stated that Stewart's bill would include the following:

—An allowance for existing recreational use in Zone 6 to continue, including on designated trails for hiking, biking, horseback riding, and off-road vehicle use.

—A requirement that Washington County and the BLM manage Zone 6 according to the rules of the previous Habitat Conservation Advisory agreement.

Here are some excerpts from the handout's referenced "previous" (current) Habitat Conservation Advisory agreement (2009 amended) they say will be followed.

Zone 2

—Hiking, equestrian use, and hunting, including other non-consumptive recreational activities, should be restricted to designated trails.

—Organized or competitive sporting or recreational events should not be allowed, although guided or controlled tours to enhance education may be permissible.



Zone 3

—Hiking, equestrian, and camping should be restricted to designated areas.

—No organized or competitive sporting or recreational events should be allowed.

So which of the above management requirements will apply to the new Zone 6? The draft bill gives no clear direction but only states as follows:

"(b) MANAGEMENT OF RED CLIFFS DESERT RESERVE, ZONE 6.—The Red Cliffs Desert Reserve, Zone 6 shall be managed by Washington County as part of and in conformity with the provisions of the Desert Tortoise Habitat Conservation Plan, Washington County, Utah."

Stewart's bill effectively eliminates the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a principal agency involved in the 1996 Habitat Conservation Advisory, from the current process. However, the service's 2011 Revised Recovery Plan for the Mojave Population of the Desert Tortoise provides these recovery actions, among many others, which seem relevant as decisions are made.

Protect Existing Populations and Habitat

2.1. Conserve intact desert tortoise habitat

Fragmenting existing and prime Zone 3 with the Northern Corridor does not support this, even if Zone 6 lands are used as mitigation for the road.

2.10. Restrict off-highway vehicle events within desert tortoise habitat

Will the recreation community be happy with this limitation? Is it appropriate for them to turn to the county commission to ask for exceptions for these activities as they see fit or for the commission to allow?

2.11. Connect functional habitat

This is a reason why Zone 6 should be supported, but not in exchange for an expensive and unnecessary road. But where's the budget to support a new Zone 6? How much will this cost Washington County tax payers? How will the SITLA land be purchased or exchanged, and at what cost?

It's clear that there are many questions that need to be answered and problems that need to be solved. Running a road through our existing Reserve Zone 3 creates a problem for all National Conservation Areas in this nation. If the rules that protect these areas can be overrun in Washington County by the stroke of a D.C. pen, what's to happen elsewhere in these important areas?

As for the angst-filled recreationists, if I were them, I would not be too comfortable with what SITLA or the county tells me with regard to how things will play out with the Zone 6 deal. I would not take anything that SITLA or the county says to the bank yet in their effort to garner support. It's clear that they are willing to adjust the story to meet their needs, as they've done with their tales about the history of the proposed Northern Corridor.

There is also nothing to assure that

the terms of Stewart's bill will not be altered. In fact, recreationists would do well to join forces with conservationists and insist that Zone 6 be added to the existing Red Cliffs Desert Reserve with reasonable recreational protections, but not in exchange for a \$110 million road that will not serve transportation needs well.

The county's "divide and conquer" tactic should be viewed with skepticism and caution should be the byword as this process evolves.

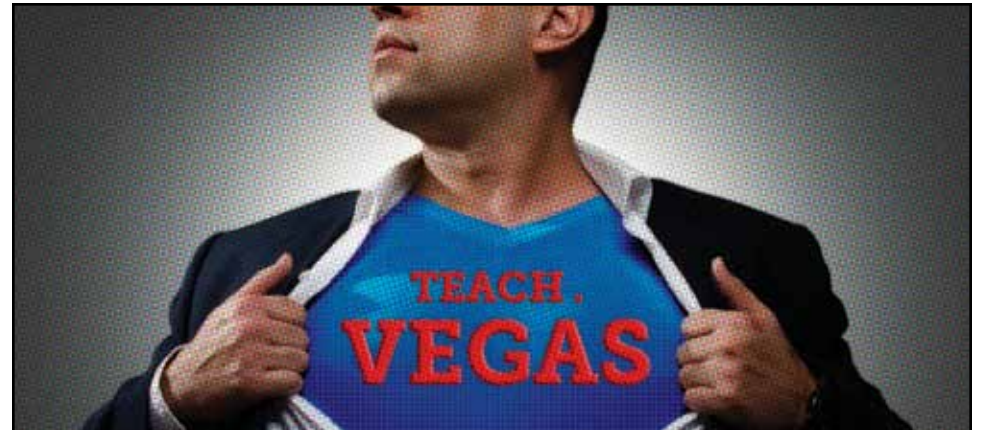
As conservationist and recreationists wrestle with the situation that's been handed to them, southern Utah's leaders would do well to heed some warnings from other quickly growing areas like Fort Collins, Colorado. Particularly, as city leaders review Washington County's resolution to build the contentious Northern Corridor

through the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve and the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area, they should heed this warning from those in Fort Collins regarding growth and roads:

"Building six lanes in both directions, at some point you have the same congestion as you did with two lanes. Now all you have is 12 crowded lanes rather than four." Additionally, "It's not importing jobs; it's importing growth."

Washington County's leaders would do well to study and learn rather than donning their cheerleading outfits and pompoms.

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ARROWHEAD GALLERY FEATURES KEN CHURCH AND HAZEL JANET WHITE IN MAY

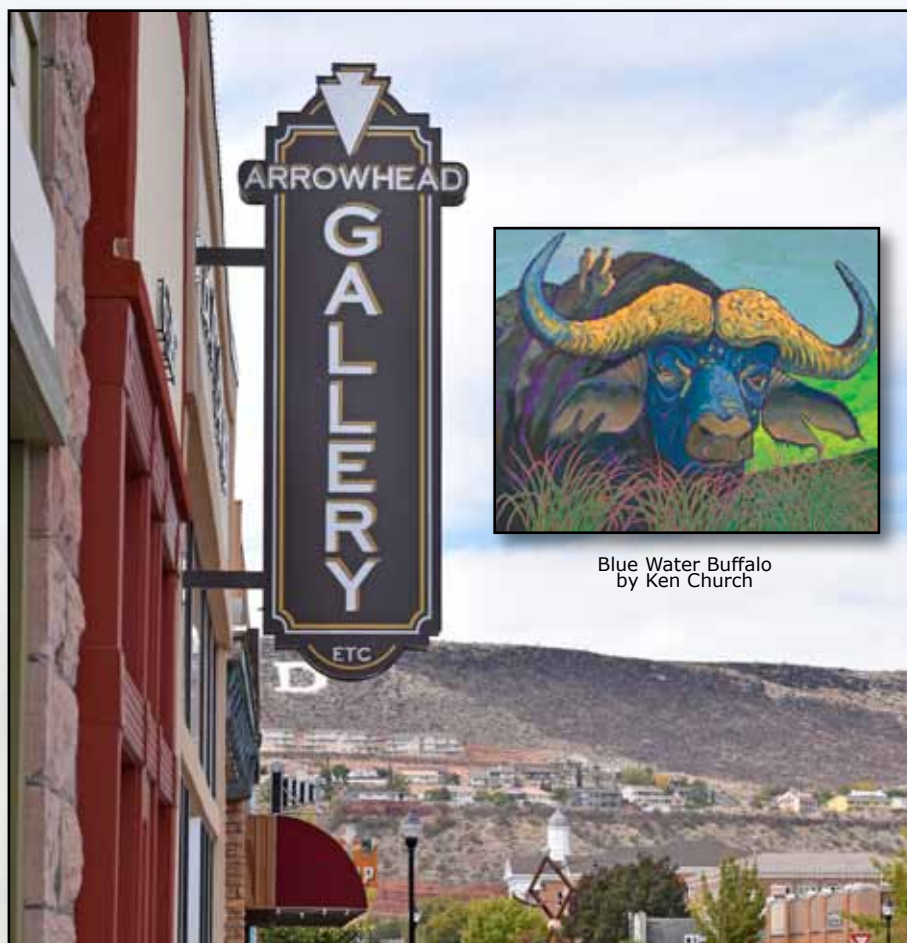
By Jo Ann Merrill

Arrowhead Gallery ETC's featured artists for May are Ken Church and Hazel Janet White. An artists' reception will be held May 4 from 6 to 8 p.m. at 68 E. Tabernacle St. in St. George.

Church graduated from the York School of Art in England. After graduation, he moved to the United States where he received a scholarship to study fine art at Brigham Young University. He then moved on to postgraduate studies in drawing and illustration at The Art Center College in California. His paintings are in a modern style of contemporary impressionism, characterized by bold brush strokes and expressive lines, and

finished with hand-rubbed glazes that combine to create a patina of depth and color.

White attended the University of Utah to complete her art degree. She focused on painting and drawing. She earned a teaching certificate and spent 12 years teaching art at the middle school level. Her rural desert upbringing informs the solitude and organics of her work. Organic shapes dominate her work. They reflect her experiences, mentally and emotionally. She has exhibited in many art shows throughout the Utah area and has been a member of Ceramic Artists of Utah since 1991.



Blue Water Buffalo
by Ken Church

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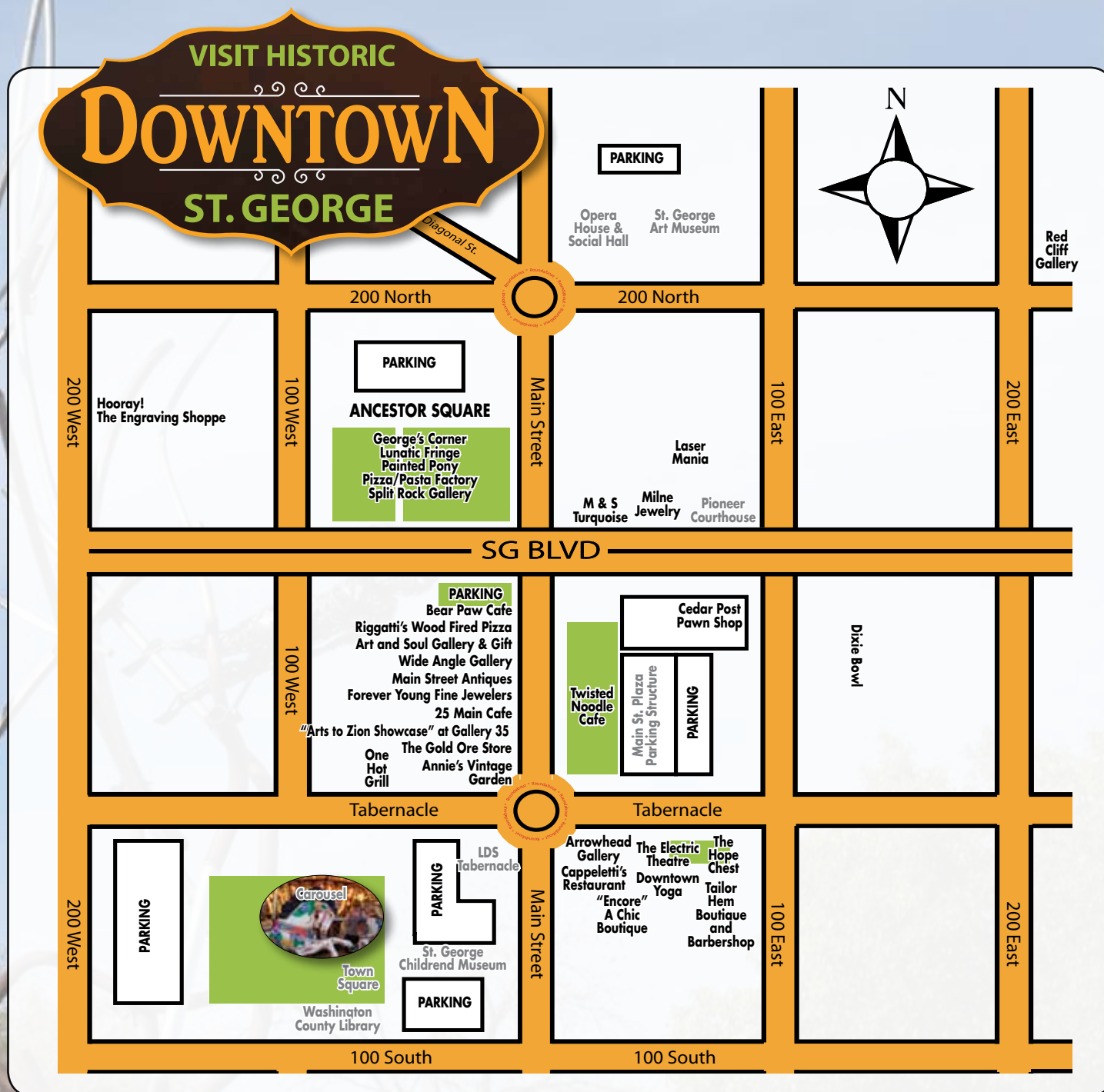
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OUTDOORS

HIKING SOUTHERN UTAH: EAST REEF By Lacey McIntyre

Distance: Approximately 2.5-mile loop from the historic Babylon trailhead to the East Reef Trail to Babylon Road
Family-friendly: Yes
Dog-friendly: Yes, on a leash

Directions from St. George: Take Interstate 15 North to exit 22, which is the Leeds exit. Turn left (north) off the interstate and drive approximately 2 miles through the town of Leeds. To your right, you will see a sign that says "Red Cliffs National Conservation Area."

Turn right on the paved road (900 North, aka Babylon Road), which will soon turn into a dirt road. About a mile into the drive, the road will get sandy and potentially tough for smaller vehicles to maneuver. Occasionally, larger rocks may be in the road as well. It is strongly suggested to have high clearance and/or 4-wheel drive, but it is not always necessary. Use your best judgment, and don't continue on the road if you have doubts.



Approximately 3.7 miles from the turn-off, you will reach the historic Babylon trailhead on your right.

I began this hike on a gorgeous April morning. I parked at the historic Babylon trailhead and took the step over for the historic Babylon Trail toward the obvious passage between the rocks. The first crossing of the stream was pretty easy, with rocks lining the way. During this trip, the stream was really nothing more than an inch or so of water, but be prepared to either get your feet wet or cross via the rocks in three different places. As I made my way through the opening between the rocks, I saw the petroglyphs up to the left. This loop has a couple of spots right along the trails to marvel at the beautiful markings left by local tribes of the past. Please respect these beautiful treasures and view them from a distance.

At the second crossing, I could see a set of cairns denoting where the trail led across the stream. The third crossing was a bit trickier. If you find yourself heading off into tall Coyote Willow like I did, turn around and see if you can find a couple large rocks in the stream to cross. Cross the stream and follow the trail to its intersection with the East Reef Trail. The area is not well marked, so there were quite a few times when I had to stop and look around to find the trail. After about a quarter of a mile, I came across the junction of historic Babylon (continuing to the right) and East Reef (to the left).



Following the East Reef Trail to the left will lead you around the back of the hills you can see from Babylon Road. About a half mile into this section of trail, there is a beautiful petroglyph rock. Posing right in front of the rock was a large Mojave desert tortoise that was probably well over 60 years old.



Beyond the rock, I lost the trail but did end up finding an opening in an old fence. Go through the fence and you will make your way up toward the left to the top of the hill, where there are beautiful views of the Virgin River, before dropping back down to the East Reef trailhead off Babylon Road. Head left down Babylon Road to make your way back to your vehicle at the historic Babylon trailhead. Keep an eye on the sides of the roads, because I spotted my first hatchling tortoise as I headed back to my vehicle. If you've never seen a hatchling, it is quite an experience!



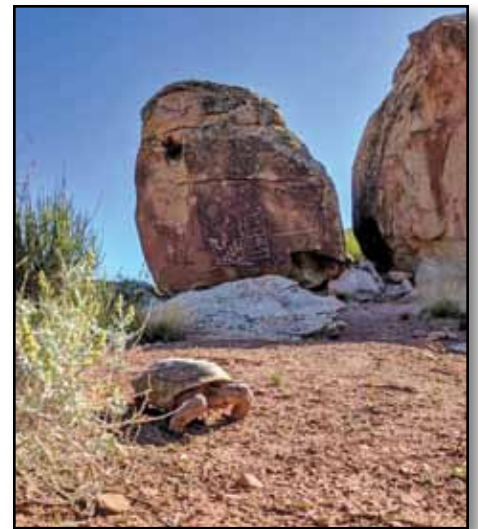
One of the main reasons I wanted to hike in this area at this time of year was actually to see a Mojave desert tortoise, so seeing two was quite a treat. The Mojave desert tortoise was listed on the Federal Threatened and Endangered Species List as a threatened species in 1990. After



the listing, Washington County prepared a Habitat Conservation Plan, anticipating that it would provide a comprehensive approach to preserving and protecting habitat for the desert tortoise while allowing controlled growth and development in portions of desert tortoise habitat that were less essential to the species. The plan proposed the establishment of a nearly 62,000-acre wildlife reserve, the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve. Within this area, uses are carefully controlled, and all management actions are to place the desert tortoise as the highest priority. Basically, the Habitat Conservation Plan and Red Cliffs Desert Reserve allowed for development of desert tortoise habitat in designated areas, called take areas, outside of the reserve. Of course, when reserve staff removed tortoises from these take areas, the animals needed to be relocated. In the past 20 years, tortoises have been relocated in many different areas throughout the reserve to preserve the gene pool and make sure there are viable populations behind different firebreaks in case of a catastrophic wildfire.



In the original draft of the plan, this area — known as Babylon or Zone 4 — was to be evaluated as a possible translocation site. As healthy tortoises were being removed from take areas outside the reserve, a population was translocated to Babylon to see if they would be able to survive a translocation effort. Many said they did not think it would be possible, but if you make your way around the area in the tortoises' active season, you can see that



the experiment was a very successful one. Over 450 tortoises have been translocated to the Babylon area since 1999. On this hike alone, I spotted an adult male and a brand new hatchling. Who knows how many others I passed by and didn't even see? The ability to return to the area yearly and find both large tortoises of breeding age as well as these new young ones is exciting!

A number of tortoises are spotted on the main road through Babylon, and tortoise hatchlings are only the size of a silver dollar, often getting mistaken for rocks. Keep your eye out for one of these amazing creatures as well as many different species of birds, snakes, and lizards, including Gila monsters. The plant activity is great as well, with blooming Indian paintbrush and desert sage adding a pop of color to your hike. The area comes alive with activity in the spring, and if you go slowly and pay attention to your surroundings, you just might spot some amazing wildlife! As always, please do not touch the tortoises and other sensitive species. Tortoises have a very special way to store water, but a sniff from an unleashed dog or a human getting too close can cause it to void its bladder out of fright. In the hot, dry summer, a tortoise that voids its bladder and cannot find more water can easily dehydrate and die.

If you'd like to learn more about the reserve or animals you may encounter in the area, stop by the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve Visitor Center at 10 N 100 E in downtown St. George. The free center houses live desert tortoises, a Gila monster, a tarantula, a scorpion, and a king snake. Open Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., it is a great place to bring the family for a visit and even buy a trail map!

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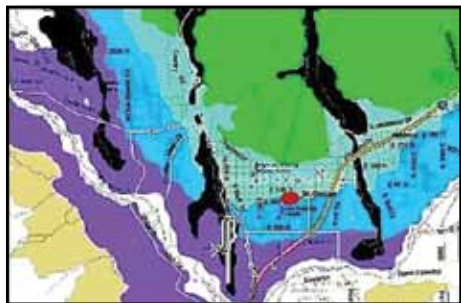
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SPECIAL FEATURE

THE FAMOUS INVERTED TOPOGRAPHY OF ST. GEORGE'S BASALT LAVA RIDGES

By Rick Miller

Within the city limits of St. George are some nearly flat-topped ridges with an unusual geologic history. These ridges have been given individual names such as Middleton Black Ridge, Old Airport Black Ridge, West Black Ridge, and so on. Each of the ridges is capped by a dark-gray to black rock, which to geologists is known as basalt. To developers and builders, the ridges are great places to build expensive homes, many of which have spectacular views. To lovers of fireworks, the ridges are great places to watch the fireworks shows on July 4 and 24. To geologists, the ridges provide an interesting display of some activities of our dynamic planet such as volcanic activity, weathering, and erosion.



These ridges represent an unusual geologic anomaly and are described in geological publications as basalt lava flows representing inverted topographic features. Two images below provide a comparison of a modern basalt lava flow on Hawaii with an older basalt flow ridge in St. George. Clearly, they have a similar sinuous pattern, but the modern flow occurs within a channel. In contrast, the older flow here in St. George (Middleton Black Ridge, north



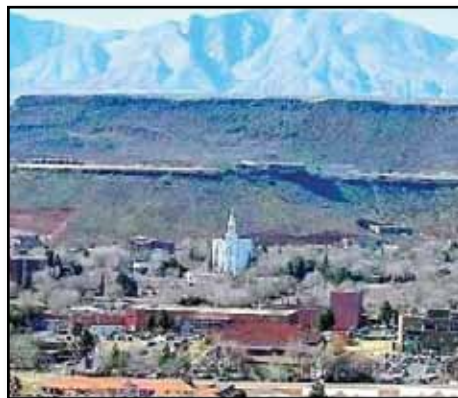
of Interstate 15) seems to have flowed on top of pre-existing rocks to form a ridge. Considering that lava flows are molten liquid, how is it possible that this flow in St. George occurred on top of pre-existing rocks but apparently did not flow down the sides of the ridge?

Old Airport Black Ridge and West Black Ridge exhibit the same apparent anomaly. How could the molten liquid flow along the tops of the ridges but not spill over the edges and flow down the sides?

We could speculate on an answer to this question as follows:



- These ridges represent the remains of ancient highways built by aliens.
- The reason that the lava did not run down the sides of the ridges is due to divine intervention.
- These flows were originally in a gully or stream valley, but subsequently erosion of the surrounding rocks produced the current inverted appearance.



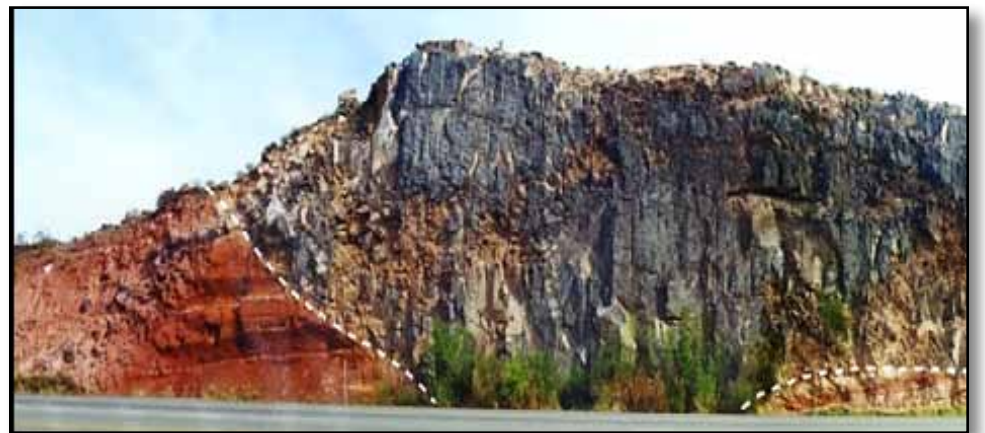
Considering the third hypothesis above, it is known that these flows are part of a fairly extensive volcanic field in and around Washington County, which also includes numerous cinder cones and various other basalt flows. Because these lava flows are a volcanic igneous rock, they can be radiometrically dated. The age of the oldest flows is approximately 2.3 million years, but some of the other volcanic features in the area, such as cinder cones and other lava flows, have formed possibly as recently as 32,000 years ago.

If we consider the geology of where these basalt ridges are located, we find mostly sedimentary rocks that represent a variety of environments such as oceans, lakes, deserts, and wetland forests that existed in this region during an interval of geologic time from the Permian to the Jurassic Periods. This represents a numerical time from about 270 to 190 million years ago. In contrast, we noted that the volcanic rocks have formed very recently in geologic time, mostly within the past 2 million years. Although this area is

basically an arid desert environment today, during the ice ages there was more water and were developing stream valleys. The lava flows, which erupted from around the base of Pine Valley Mountain, flowed down slope, and some went into existing galleys or stream channels.

After eruptions and cooling of the flows, the processes of weathering and erosion began their slow but inevitable progress. Because the much older sedimentary rocks are less durable than the basalt, they began to erode away faster than the basalt in the channels. What we see today are basalt flows that were formed in stream channels but now form ridges because the sedimentary rocks making up the original slopes above the channels have been eroded away. Thus, the term "inverted topography."

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GARDENING

BACKYARD COMPOSTING

By Ali Reynolds

There's more to backyard composting than leaves, grass clippings, and kitchen scraps. In one handful of brown compost matter exists an ecosystem of fungi, bacteria, enzymes, sugars, and nutrients galore! While millipedes, earthworms, and sow bugs make their way through the organic concoction, it's the unseen army of microscopic creatures that does most of the work of breaking down the rough stuff into compost. It's that finished black gold and its wonderful benefits to our garden that we clearly see.

If there is one thing you can do this year to improve your garden, it's starting a compost pile. The benefits are innumerable, from improved tilth to a revitalized soil ecosystem. Backyard composting turns organic waste into the best soil conditioner around.

There are two methods of creating compost: hot and cold. A cold composting system is one in which organic waste is simply dumped in a pile to decompose. The gardener expends little energy in managing the pile and just simply waits for it to decompose. Hot composting requires a system that raises temperatures high enough and for a long enough time to destroy weed seeds and plant pathogens. This requires some work on the part of the

gardener with layering of organic materials and maintaining heap temperatures.

The term "cold composting" is a bit misleading as its temperature will rise. It's more passive. A cold pile may be as sophisticated as a three-bin system or as simple as a heap of leaves. The beauty of cold composting is that you just pick a spot to plop your organic matter and then add to it. This method appeals to the laziness in all of us, but cold composting takes longer to produce finished compost, such as a year or more.

The hot method requires monitoring the moisture content of the pile, aerating it to keep oxygen-hungry microbes fueled, and balancing the brown and green material you add to the heap.

You don't need high-tech equipment to get the job done. You will not need a chipper, shredder, giraffe poop, or some special elixir. You just need somewhere to let your heap sit, ideally close to the garden with a water spigot nearby. You can buy a bin or build one. I built my heap right on the ground with three sides of timbers to keep it mostly contained. A bin encloses organic material, allows better control of compost temperature, and tidies up your yard. In dry climates like ours, an enclosed



bin will reduce evaporation and water loss. A bin will also help deter unwelcome scavengers. Tumblers are fine, but I prefer a bin with an open bottom. Plus, I can make more compost in a bin than a tumbler.

Besides a bin, consider buying a pitchfork for turning your pile. If you want to make sure your compost reaches temperatures high enough to kill pathogens, compost thermometers are great for watching the rise and fall of temperatures due to the actions of different microorganisms.

All leaves, grass, and food scraps that are destined for your compost come with bacteria and inoculants to spare. Bacteria are also naturally present in the air and soil, so you don't have to add bio-activators or inoculants. Bacteria are also naturally present in the air and soil (this is why I like mine on the ground). To get off to a running start, the best primer is a shovel full of freshly made compost. In it exists a world of microbes ready to devour fresh organic matter. Mix some into your new compost pile. That said, I will add a cup or two of rock dusts to my heap and a little bit of blood meal. I always feel like my plants appreciate it once the compost is added to the garden as apposed to not adding it.

There are several methods of ratios out there: 80 percent brown (carbon), 20 percent green (nitrogen); 90 brown, 10 percent green; 50/50; and so on. But we don't always have the exact amounts of brown material vs. green material. I have never had my compost pile not decompose. Use what you have or can acquire. Of course some of both is best. In a composting system, carbonaceous material tends to be brown: dry leaves, stalks, twigs, wood-chips, and sawdust from untreated wood, and torn-up newspaper. Nitrogenous material has a higher water content and is typically green: grass clippings, fresh plants, and food scrapes.

Managing an active pile

Size matters! The smaller the pieces of compostable material, the faster they will break down. If you are building a pile from the ground up, start with some sticks or stalks 2 to 6 inches deep on the bottom of the pile to allow oxygen distribution. Then layer material — brown, green, brown, green — several inches of each while moistening as you layer. Keep layering until you have a nice sized heap. A good compost heap size is 4 feet by 4 feet by 4 feet. The smaller the area, the cooler the pile. Larger piles can be hard to manage.

The pile's moisture content needs to be monitored. You want the compost contents to be as damp as a wrung-out sponge, because bacteria need moisture to effectively decompose organic material. Too much water can result in the leaching of nutrients out of the pile or can lead to anaerobic conditions. Too little water equals slow decomposition.

To destroy weed seeds, pathogens, and fly larvae, temperatures in the compost must reach 120 degrees to 160 degrees for a few days. To control temperatures, manipulate the basic variables: brown matter, green matter, moisture content, turning the pile, and air.

Turning a pile can be turned as frequently as every three days. Turning the compost material can be done with a pitchfork or even a small tiller (my method). This will increase the oxygen and may be a good time to sprinkle with some water.

When a pile is turned and has cooled, the temperature will rise again if thermophiles are still active, then

drop naturally when the thermophilic stage is over. As the compost cures, or matures, mesophilic microbes take over the decomposition. The compost is done when temperatures no longer rise. The pile is probably diminished by half, and the heap will be a beautiful rich-brown, friable substance and will smell earthy.

Theoretically, anything of organic origin can be put into a composting system, but I would not recommend adding meat, fish, poultry, or foods with added fat to an open system. Plants that have been treated with pesticides or herbicides are something that I choose not to add to my piles as well as any diseased plants or pernicious weeds.

Animal manure such as from horses, cows, chickens, rabbits, and goats is a traditional addition to compost. It provides a large amount of nitrogen. Keep cat and dog feces out of the pile.

Grass clippings, leaves, plant kitchen scraps, shredded newspaper, coffee grounds, garden debris, and other plant materials are perfect adding to the compost pile. It's better to compost these than to toss them the trash.

Compost can be worked into the soil or used as a mulch on the surface throughout the growing season. No garden should be grown without compost!

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MOVIES

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

THE INDEPENDENT MOVIE GUIDE by Adam Mast

“Blockers” (R)

★★★★



Not only is “Blockers” quite the pleasant surprise but it’s also wonderfully deceptive in the way that its sweet side sneaks up on you. This is a movie in which R-rated irreverence and crude humor are trumped by a great big beating heart.

In “Blockers,” a trio of concerned parents (played by Leslie Mann, John Cena, and Ike Barinholtz) set out to prevent their respective daughters (played by Kathryn Newton, Geraldine Viswanathan, and Gideon Adlon) from following through on a sex pact during the night of a big school dance. Throughout their late night ordeal, these determined parents discover quite a bit about one another. But more importantly, they learn a great deal about themselves, all while setting out to protect the most important individuals in their lives.

As directed by Kay Cannon from a screenplay by Brian Kehoe and Jim Keyhoe, the dirty but supremely hilarious “Blockers” feels like it might be a kindred spirit to the ‘80s teen sex comedy “Porky’s” at a surface level. But at it’s heart, this movie is more along the lines of “Superbad,” only from a female perspective. The trio of teenagers at the center of this movie are inseparable friends, and the pure likability factor that Newton, Viswanathan, and Adlon bring to the table elevates the proceedings above the simplistic “we need to get laid” sensibility that makes up the core of Bob Clark’s seminal horndog classic.

Likewise, Mann, Cena, and Barinholtz are superb as loving parents who would make complete fools of themselves in the name of their kids. Mann has shown how effective she can be as a wonderful supporting player in movies like “The 40 Year Old Virgin” and “This is 40,” but she kicks it up a notch in “Blockers.” As a single mom having a hard time dealing with the fact that her daughter will soon be leaving for college, Mann brings humor, warmth, and vulnerability in spades! A scene in which she reconnects with her own youth after finding herself spying on her daughter is incredibly telling, and

stronger still is a moment when Mann is so overjoyed that she finds herself laughing and crying simultaneously, which makes for the ultimate “Blockers” highlight.

Meanwhile, wrestler-turn-actor Cena follows up his scene-stealing work in “Trainwreck” with yet another outstanding comical performance punctuated by a healthy burst of likability. Rounding out the parents is Barinholtz, who brings a surprising amount of depth to what could have been an obnoxious throwaway. He’s a ton of fun here. In terms of supporting players, watch for the hilarious duet that is Gary Cole and Gina Gershon as a sex-crazed couple that always go the extra mile to keep their relationship brimming with excitement.

“Blockers” certainly offers a carefree attitude towards sex that’s sure to offend some viewers, and while I don’t know that I share the same views as these characters either, particularly where my own children are concerned, there’s still something endearing and honest about the parenting theme as presented in this film. Furthermore, some of the choices the teens make in “Blockers” might surprise you. In some ways, these kids are of even more sound mind than the adults. It’s also kind of sweet and admirable that the individuals our central teenage girls have their eyes on aren’t lowlife douche bags just looking to get their rocks off.

And that’s one of the many joys of “Blockers.” I liked these characters. No matter how silly, crude, or straight-up absurd the proceedings got, I enjoyed spending time with these people. Add to that the humor and charm factor and you have one of the best comedies of 2018.

“Avengers: Infinity War” (PG-13)

★★★★

It’s a little difficult to share one’s complete thoughts where “Avengers: Infinity War” is concerned, because this latest Marvel Studios superhero epic isn’t complete. It is but one half of a whole. This is to say that “Avengers: Infinity War” ends with more than a few unanswered questions, and fans will have to wait until May 2019 to have those questions answered.



Beyond that, your overall enjoyment of this picture will probably depend upon how much you enjoy superhero movies in general. Translation: If you’re not into comic book movies, or if you’re one of thousands of filmgoers who suffer from the real disease that is superhero movie fatigue, “Avengers: Infinity War” probably won’t do much to win you over. Regardless, the box-office revenue this juggernaut and the recently released “Black Panther” are pulling in suggest that comic book movies aren’t going anywhere anytime soon.

“Avengers: Infinity War” wastes no time plunging viewers right into the thick of the action. From the get-go, we’re introduced to the film’s big bad guy, a bulky cretin of a survivalist called Thanos (Josh

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Brolin). This alien warrior has sinister plans in store for the universe, but in his eyes, those plans are all in the name of our best interests. In order to bring his master game plan to fruition, Thanos will have to hunt down a handful of mythical infinity stones to grant him the full power he so desperately craves, and doing that will require that he face The Avengers head on in the biggest superhero bout in history.

Of course, The Avengers are no longer the cohesive unit they once were, and this all stems from developments brought on by the shattering events in "Civil War." So now, the question is whether Iron Man, Doctor Strange, Thor, War Machine, Falcon, Spider-Man, Captain America, Black Widow, Black Panther, Hulk, Vision, Scarlet Witch, and Guardians of the Galaxy — new to the equation — all come together in a courageous effort to put a stop to Thanos and his deadly plan?

As directed by brothers Anthony and Joe Russo, "Avengers: Infinity War" is a culmination of a decade's worth of Marvel-inspired cinematic entertainment that has seen the release of a whopping 19 films, and it all leads to this exhausting motion-picture experience that's as massive and purely entertaining as it is overstuffed and devastating.

While "Avengers: Infinity War" is certainly overly long — crazy when you take a moment to consider that, again, this is only half of a much bigger story — there's no doubt that this film gets a ton of mileage out of memorable character beats and undeniable cast chemistry. As was the case with 2012's "The Avengers," "Avengers: Infinity War" also deftly juggles multiple characters and star personalities to strong effect, and while the end result doesn't measure up to the first picture — or to "Civil War" and "Black Panther," for that matter — it is considerably more memorable than "Age of Ultron."

While fun and brimming with the sort of witty banter and delightful chemistry you've come to expect from the Marvel universe, "Infinity War" also has a dark side that at times feels a little more akin to the likes of DC's moodier cinematic efforts. This is a movie about failure and sacrifice, and "Infinity War" doesn't shy away from either. Look no further than the much talked-about cliffhanger ending. Quite honestly, I couldn't believe what I was seeing. True, we'd be foolish as fans to take all of this stuff at face value for obvious reasons — the upcoming second half of "Avengers: Infinity War" being the primary one — but a decade's worth of Marvel entries have essentially built towards this, and this studio has done such a great job at getting us invested in this shared universe and its characters that the emotional beats and the

dark nature of this ending pay off, no matter how permanent or temporary this devastation might be.

Speaking of darkness, the ringleader of darkness at the heart of "Avengers: Infinity War" is Thanos. As powerful, deadly, and physically imposing as he is, though, Thanos isn't necessarily the most memorable or most complex Marvel villain. That honor still belongs to Killmonger of "Black Panther" fame. That said, what does make this character worthy as a baddie is that he believes wholeheartedly in his own ideology, he always has his eyes on the ultimate prize, and he will do absolutely anything to get it. These attributes result in some of the most devastating moments you're ever likely to see in a Marvel movie.



On the flip side, you can't talk about the Marvel universe without talking about fun, and despite its overall grim nature, "Avengers: Infinity War" has plenty of fun to offer. As for our barrage of fearless heroes, Guardians Peter Quill, Gamora, Drax, Mantis, Groot, and Rocket supply the film with its biggest laughs. Quill's verbal sparring with an equally confident Tony Stark and his playful jabs at a bigger-than-life Thor are certainly highlights as is Drax's inability to grasp the finer points of the English language.

One of the more miraculous aspects of "Avengers: Infinity War" is the fashion in which each character gets his or her moment to shine, and that's no easy feat given that there are countless characters to speak of here. It should also be noted that two familiar Avengers have been written out of the proceedings entirely, but don't worry — their absence is acknowledged, and you have to believe they'll both make an appearance in the next film.

"Avengers: Infinity War" is not without its flaws. Again, in addition to only being half of a larger piece, there are lapses of logic — particularly where the power of the infinity stones are concerned — and there are certainly moments, including a doozy when Quill's uncontrollable anger puts those around him in serious jeopardy, that are a bit on the aggravating side. Still, "Infinity War" by and large delivers the kind of large-scale ass-kicking superhero action fans will be expecting, and while it might not be Marvel's best movie, it's still grand entertainment punctuated by a sucker punch of an ending that is sure to get fans talking. Also sure to get fans talking is a post-credits stinger that suggests who might play a major role in the second half of this epic story.

"Rampage" (PG-13)
★★½

Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson is one of the biggest stars on the planet, and the man has enough charisma and pure star power to elevate the joy factor in just about any movie. Look no further than 2017's infectiously likable surprise hit, "Jumanji." Hell, even the Rock vs. Earthquakes epic "San Andreas" had a certain charm about it that took the silly proceedings a notch

above routine disaster flicks like "The Day After Tomorrow," and a lot of that had to do with Johnson's sheer star power.

Admittedly, the idea of the Rock starring in an old-fashioned monster movie probably sounded like a good one on paper. But ultimately, the new film "Rampage" is enough to drive even the biggest haters of "Skull Island" and Gareth Edwards' "Godzilla" (two films that I greatly enjoy) to reevaluate those pictures and recognize the good in them. Yes, "Rampage" is that boring and that forgettable, and that's all the more disappointing given that Johnson is headlining this thing.

In "Rampage," loner primatologist David Okoye (Johnson) must spring into action and save the city after a tainted piece of debris falls from space and causes an abnormal growth spurt in his best friend, a rare albino gorilla called George. With this growth spurt, which takes George from average primate size to the size of King Kong in a very short amount of time, comes uncontrollable anger issues. Making matters worse, other animals are also infected, and before long, these massive beasts are wreaking havoc in Chicago.

"Rampage" was directed by Brad Peyton ("San Andreas"), and it's clear that the name of the game here is fun. Unfortunately, though, "Rampage" is a mostly joyless affair. Even the priceless image of a gorilla flipping The Rock the bird and the added sight of gigantic monsters making the city of Chicago their bitch do surprisingly little to up the fun factor.

To Johnson's great credit, he puts forth an effort. But his natural likability is ultimately squandered here. Likewise, a generally outstanding Naomie Harris is a blank as a geneticist aiding The Rock in saving the city as we know it. Jeffrey Dean Morgan, the single reason that AMC's "The Walking Dead" is even remotely worth watching anymore, is also along for the ride, and I swear, I can't look at this guy and not think "Neegan" anymore. That's a true testament to his overall effectiveness on "The Walking Dead," but in "Rampage," it's a bit of a distraction.

For the most part, the cast in "Rampage" is upstaged by everything you'd expect: special effects! While the visuals are passable, none of these monsters really have the personality to carry the movie on their abnormally large shoulders. George comes close, but close doesn't cut it.

We don't really need to delve too deeply into the plot here. "Rampage" is what it is, and it seems virtually pointless to gripe about the boring and comically bad villains, the dullsville military men who are dispatched to put a stop to nature gone wrong, and the surface-level story of a guy who learns to trust again after having an obvious aversion to people in general. This stuff all plays second banana to monster mashing, and while I'm always down for a big, dumb, mash-em-up monster movie, this one is simply too routine and lacking in energy to offer up a recommendation.

"A Quiet Place" (PG-13)
★★★★

"A Quiet Place" has been building a steady stream of buzz as of late, and upon seeing it, it's pretty easy to see why. With a simple yet very effective premise that finds its primary characters living in a world where being noisy will get you killed, this honed in sci-fi-tinged family drama benefits from outstanding acting, expert sound and creature design, a strong Marco Beltrami score, and beautifully structured

set pieces that pulse with the kind of tension and suspense that would make the likes of Alfred Hitchcock and Steven Spielberg proud.

No real exposition here. "A Quiet Place" throws us smack dab into a world under attack by otherworldly creatures that zero in on their prey by way of sound. We are given hints as to what make these creatures tick throughout the picture, but for the most part, we don't know much about them or where they came from. No matter, though, because "A Quiet Place" is really about the tight-knit family trying to survive in a world virtually gone to hell. The family in question consists of Lee Abbott (John Krasinski), his wife Evelyn (Emily Blunt), and their three children — Regan (Millicent Simmonds), Marcus (Noah Jupe), and Beau (Cade Woodward).

Ultimately, The Abbott family is given what appears to be a slight advantage due to the fact that eldest child, Regan, is hearing impaired (intriguing side note: the gifted Simmonds is deaf in real life), and as an end result, this family is well versed in sign language. Furthermore, it's clear that the art of silence is something that they understand. Of course, part of the Abbott family's said advantage has to be taken away upon the earth-shattering revelation that Evelyn and Lee are expecting a baby, a plot development that certainly ratchets up the tension in "A Quiet Place."



"A Quiet Place" was directed by John Krasinski, and nothing "The Office" co-star has made up until this point (including directorial efforts "The Hollars" and "Brief Interviews With Hideous Men") would necessarily lead one to believe that he had this kind of a film in his arsenal. But here we are, and as it turns out, he appears perfectly at home in this particular genre. This isn't to say there aren't missteps along the way.

Despite what you may have heard, "A Quiet Place" isn't void of characters making dumb decisions. No, I'm not referring to the idea that the couple at the heart of this picture are prepared to bring a crying baby into a place that requires silence in order to survive. This particular plot device is more of a fitting metaphor and puts a poignant spin on the "Why would you want to bring a child into this crappy world?" analogy. It's other aspects of "A Quiet Place" that may really have you scratching your head. Like why not relocate to a more sensible area? Why not soundproof the whole house like you did with the bunker? Why not get rid of everything on site that could potentially make loud noises? Furthermore, one might question why the Abbotts wouldn't be more aware of their surroundings and pay more attention during the positively gut wrenching opening moments of this movie.

Those things aside, there's something to be said about a genre film that's so satisfying and so well constructed that you're willing to forgive it for its flaws and simply enjoy the ride. "A Quiet Place" is such a film. The tension is so palpable here that you might chew your fingernails off by the time it all comes to a close. Krasinski



MOVIES

definitely does an outstanding job with suspense (look no further than a damn nail in the stairway), and he also manages to put together a couple of very intense sequences that pay obvious but very effective homage to “Jurassic Park.”

More effectively, though, Krasinski takes what is presumably a massive worldwide crisis, zooms in, and tells an intimate story of one family dealing with their own specific problems. In that regard, there are parts of “A Quiet Place” that play a bit like M. Night Shyamalan’s scaled-down alien invasion movie “Signs.” As was the case with that picture, “A Quiet Place” is a film about survival, guilt, parenting, and communication.

The performances here are universally great with Krasinski, Blunt, Simmonds, and Jupe conveying a wide range of emotions through facial expressions and body language alone. There is dialogue, but it’s minimal, and quite honestly, the silence in this picture takes the proceedings to a whole other level.

“A Quiet Place” clocks in at a brisk 90 minutes. It’s concise and to the point. Nothing feels belabored, particularly the final showdown. That said, a potentially emotional moment in the final act isn’t quite as powerful as it could have been because it all happens a little too fast. Had there been a tad more development and patience, that might have made all the difference. Still, as an exercise in tension building, alien-invasion terror, and the strength that comes with a family sticking together in a time of crisis, this movie delivers the goods. Word to the wise though: Avoid eating snacks during this one, because “A Quiet Place” is so darn quiet that the sound of chewing is likely to distract the viewers around you.

“Ready Player One” (PG-13)

★★★★

If “Ready Player One” suggests anything, it’s that even in his 70s, Steven Spielberg has still got it! The Beard’s latest offering is a dizzying, dazzling, nostalgia-laced pop culture smorgasbord.

This technical marvel is based on the popular novel by Ernest Cline — which I must confess, I have not read — and while there are plenty of fans of the book out there who are quick to point out that quite a bit has been left out of this film adaptation, there’s another contingent of “Ready Player One” fans who are quick to suggest that many of Spielberg’s changes are for the better. No matter what your opinion on that subject, one thing is certain: It would be difficult to deny the overall sense of fun to be had here. This is pure escapism, the kind of unfiltered joy that ingratiated many of us to the works of Spielberg in the first place.

Taking place in the not-too-distant future, “Ready Player One” revolves around a virtual-reality world known as the Oasis. Created by socially awkward genius Halliday (Mark Rylance, doing a near spot-on impersonation of Garth Algar from “Wayne’s World”), the Oasis is a place where anything can happen — but more importantly, it’s a place where folks from the real world can jump in and be whoever they want to be. It isn’t long before the Oasis becomes a way of life in a dystopian landscape where escaping the harsh

existence of reality is easier than figuring out a way to solve real world problems.

Upon learning that he’s sick and hasn’t much time left, the mysterious Halliday sets the stage for the world’s biggest Easter egg hunt in an effort to pass on his legacy — which is both his blessing and his curse — to a worthy successor. Enter Wade Watts (Tye Sheridan), a seemingly trapped young man whose life in the Stacks is so impoverished and so uneventful that he uses the Oasis and his alter ego, an avatar called Parzival, as a means to make a more adventurous life for himself. After all, in the real world, Wade is a nobody, but in the Oasis, he’s a man with a purpose.

Eventually, that purpose finds Parzival competing with numerous players inside the Oasis with the sole goal of acquiring the ultimate prize. Of course, any time there’s an “ultimate prize” at stake, there’s bound to be several interested parties, and in the case of “Ready Player One,” one such party is Sorrento (Ben Mendelsohn), the nefarious head of a corporation with an almighty agenda. And so, faster than you can say “Raiders of the Lost Ark,” the race is on!



As a movie, “Ready Player One” does feel overstuffed and clunky at times, and even for this avid fanboy, it isn’t without it’s eye-rolling moments. That said, this movie is so damned fun and so overflowing with awe-inspiring grandeur that the flaws feel like a fleeting memory. When “Ready Player One” isn’t throwing game- and film-related references at you at a breakneck pace — this movie will most certainly require multiple viewings to catch them all — it dazzles you with the kind of technical bravado and sequence construction that only a storyteller of Spielberg’s caliber could deliver.

True, it does seem a little odd that one of the book’s primary influences has gone on to actually direct the movie, but no matter. This is Spielberg doing Spielberg, and it’s clear that he’s having the time of his life playing in this particular sandbox. Look no further than a jaw-dropping, much talked-about sequence that pays homage to Stanley Kubrick’s landmark horror film “The Shining.” Simply put, this sequence is an all-timer!

There are certainly missteps here. “Ready Player One” runs long, and with so much exposition, so many references, and all the epic world building going on, perhaps this might have been one of those rare occasions when splitting the material into a couple of cinematic chapters might have been more appropriate. It also would have been a bit more honest had Spielberg cast less conventionally attractive actors in the lead roles. An energetic Sheridan and a likable Olivia Cooke are terrific in their respective roles, but the casting here feels a little bit safe, especially taking into consideration that Parzival and his fellow avatars in the Oasis fear meeting one another in the real world due to a myriad of insecurities.

All of that said, “Ready Player One”

offers up a whole lot of entertainment value, and surprisingly, there’s more to speak of than just the pop culture references and the spectacular, visual splendor of it all. The central Halliday plot thread is actually a sad one and speaks volumes to our current social media culture. This man hides behind his creation because reality alludes him, but one of the more intriguing (and special) aspects of this movie is that Halliday (a role that was rumored to have been offered to a retired Gene Wilder at one point) is aware of his own flaws, and it’s something he wants to rectify. And that all plays a big part in his Willy Wonka-inspired Easter Egg hunt. In fact, Wade’s issues mirror Halliday’s, and this thematic through-line really elevates the proceedings.

With its tale of gaming and the strengthening of one’s self through the

art of play, the heart of “Ready Player One” echoes the recently released “Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle” in a handful of ways. Granted, that movie was more of a comedy while “Ready Player One” amps up the sci-fi/futuristic elements. Still, in both cases, the characters at the center of these films learn quite a bit about themselves and one another. Further still, in the case of “Ready Player One,” Wade comes to the realization that perhaps reality is the most important thing in this world, because it’s real. That’s a worthy (and timely) message, particularly given the climate we’re currently living in.

“Ready Player One” isn’t the film of Spielberg’s career, but it is another shining example of an iconic storyteller continuing to do what he does best. And in the end, even a mid-tier effort from the Beard is something to be cherished.

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Multi-Day Events

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

BLACKSMITH ADVENTURES 6 p.m. Experience a hands-on introduction to the age-old craft of blacksmithing. Forge lasting memories as you forge your very own keepsake project. Great fun for families, small groups, couples and individuals. Taste of Fire 6-7 p.m., Flirt with Fire 7-9:30 p.m. blacksmithadventures.com. Blacksmith Adventures shop, 2540 S. Hwy 89A, Kanab.

TAO TE CHING INITIATION May 4-7, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Master Kuo of the Tao Te Ching from Taiwan. He will be staying in Utah May 3-7. May 5: meditations with a full day to spend interacting with Master Kuo and Nicole Ashton. Free admission. 3800 N Paradise Village Dr. #117, Santa Clara.

"ART" May 4, 6, 9-12, 7:30 p.m. Three long-time friends. One white painting. A hilarious Tony-award winning comedy. "Art" is a clever, funny, sophisticated, and ultimately moving portrait of friendship and its complexities, responsibilities, and burdens. Kayenta Center for The Arts, 881 Coyote Gulch Ct, Ivins.

BEAVER DAM JAM May 4-6, 4 p.m. Come out for the 11th year of music, fun, and entertainment. The Beaver Dam Jam is and has been an event that celebrates the great music scene here in southern Utah, northern Arizona, and southern Nevada as well as its annual lawnmower race. \$20 day, \$50 3-day pass. Free camping, children 12 and under free. Search "Beaver Dam Jam" at suindependent.com for more details. Beaver Dam Station, 402 Old Highway 91, Littlefield.

COLORADO CITY MUSIC FESTIVAL May 5 and 6, 11 a.m. \$10, free for those under 18 years old. Maxwell Park, Hildale.

PRISTINE LAND EXHIBIT BY MILTON GOLDSTEIN AT SG ART MUSEUM May 4-May 18. Closed Sundays. 47 E 200 N, St. George.

STORY TIME May 4-May 25, Tuesdays-Fridays, 10:30 a.m. Washington County Library System, 220 N 300 E, Washington.

GREGG PETERSON BAND AT CASABLANCA May. 4-5 7 p.m. Showtimes may vary. Variety and dance band. Free. 21 or older. 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

GUITARS & CADILLACS AT VIRGIN RIVER HOTEL May. 4-5 7 p.m. Showtimes may vary. '50's cover band. Free. 21 or older. 100 Pioneer Blvd., Mesquite.

REVERIE ART SHOW May 7-12, 10 a.m. zarts.org/reverie. Canyon Community Center, 126 Lion Blvd., Springdale.

NITRO EXPRESS AT RIVER LOUNGE May 9-13, 7 p.m. Country-rock band performing classic and modern country combined with classic rock. Influences ranging from Bakersfield to Liverpool, Nashville to London, Texas to Chicago, Detroit to Sweet Home Alabama, and many points in between. Classic Rock, Blues, Bluegrass, R&B, Country, Southern Rock, Surf Music, Motown, and even Reggae are some of the components that make up their unique sound. Virgin River Hotel & Casino, 100 Pioneer Blvd., Mesquite.

TERRY WAYNE PROJECT AT SKYDOME LOUNGE May 9-13, 7 p.m. One of Vegas' top variety bands, TWP sings hits from Pink, Maroon 5, Journey, Bruno Mars, Folsom Blues Boogie, Enrique Iglesias; R&B, funk, dance, oldies, and classic rock. Free admission. 21 or older. CasaBlanca Resort, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

"BYE BYE BIRDIE" May 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26, 31, June 1, 7 p.m. The year is 1958, and the much-adored rock and roll idol Conrad Birdie has been drafted into the U.S. Army. His songwriter and agent, Albert, and Albert's secretary and sometime girlfriend, Rosie, hatch a plan for a farewell performance to take place on The Ed Sullivan show. Brigham's Playhouse, 25 N 300 W, Washington.

RAGNAR TRAIL ZION May 12 and 13, 8 a.m. Teams of 8 or 4 will find their inner wild on three different gritty trails that start and finish at Ragnar Village. The adventure starts on Friday at Zion Ponderosa Ranch, a trail running Shangri-li that sits on 8,000 pristine acres of land bordering Zion National Park. North Fork Road, Mount Carmel.

AMAZING EARTHFEST The week-long 12th Amazing Earthfest 2018, based in Kanab, offers 40 scheduled activities within five themes: "arts and culture," "community," "documentary film," "outdoor adventure," and "science and land." amazingearthfest.com. Kanab.

HOT JUNK AT CASABLANCA May 16-20, 7 p.m. Pop, rock, and dance music from Las Vegas, Hot Junk blends music that will bring back those memories from the good ol' days. Free admission. 21 or older. 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

MARSHALL STAR AT VIRGIN RIVER HOTEL May 16-20, 7 p.m. Even as musicians come and go, Marshall Star is going strong with over two decades of experience. Three strong vocalists, steel/fiddle, piano, and lead guitar. Classic and current country, classic rock, and originals. Free admission. 21 or older. 100 Pioneer Blvd., Mesquite.

POSITIVE PARENTING WORKSHOP May 18 and 19, 4 p.m. Come learn how to use your power as a parent to create a happy home in a five-hour workshop. Included in the ticket price is a catered dinner provided by Kneaders. Washington City Community Center, 350 E 200 N, Washington.

ST. GEORGE LITERARY ARTS FESTIVAL May 18 and 19, 6 p.m. Picking up where the St. George Book Festival left off, the Literary Festival offers workshops, activities, and other presentations that cover a variety of literary topics including poetry, children's literature, fiction, nonfiction, contemporary literary forms, publication, and lyric writing. Prizes will be awarded to local talent. 225 S 700 E, St. George.

B FLAT & THE NOT TOO SHARP AT CASABLANCA May 23-27, 7 p.m. This band has been on national TV. Variety from The Cars, Joan Jett, Dire Straits, Neil Diamond, Adele, and more. Free admission. 21 or older. 950 W Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

VOODOO COWBOYS AT VIRGIN RIVER HOTEL May 23-28, 7 p.m. The Voodoo Cowboys are a little bit country and a little bit rock & roll. Free admission. 21 or older. Virgin River Hotel & Casino, 100 Pioneer Blvd., Mesquite.

KID & NICK SHOW AT CASABLANCA May 30, June 1, 7 p.m. A fun, high-energy, interactive variety musical group. Free admission. 21 or older. 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

LIVING HISTORY Fourth weekend of every-month. 10 a.m. Silver Reef Museum, 1903 Wells Fargo Rd., Leeds.



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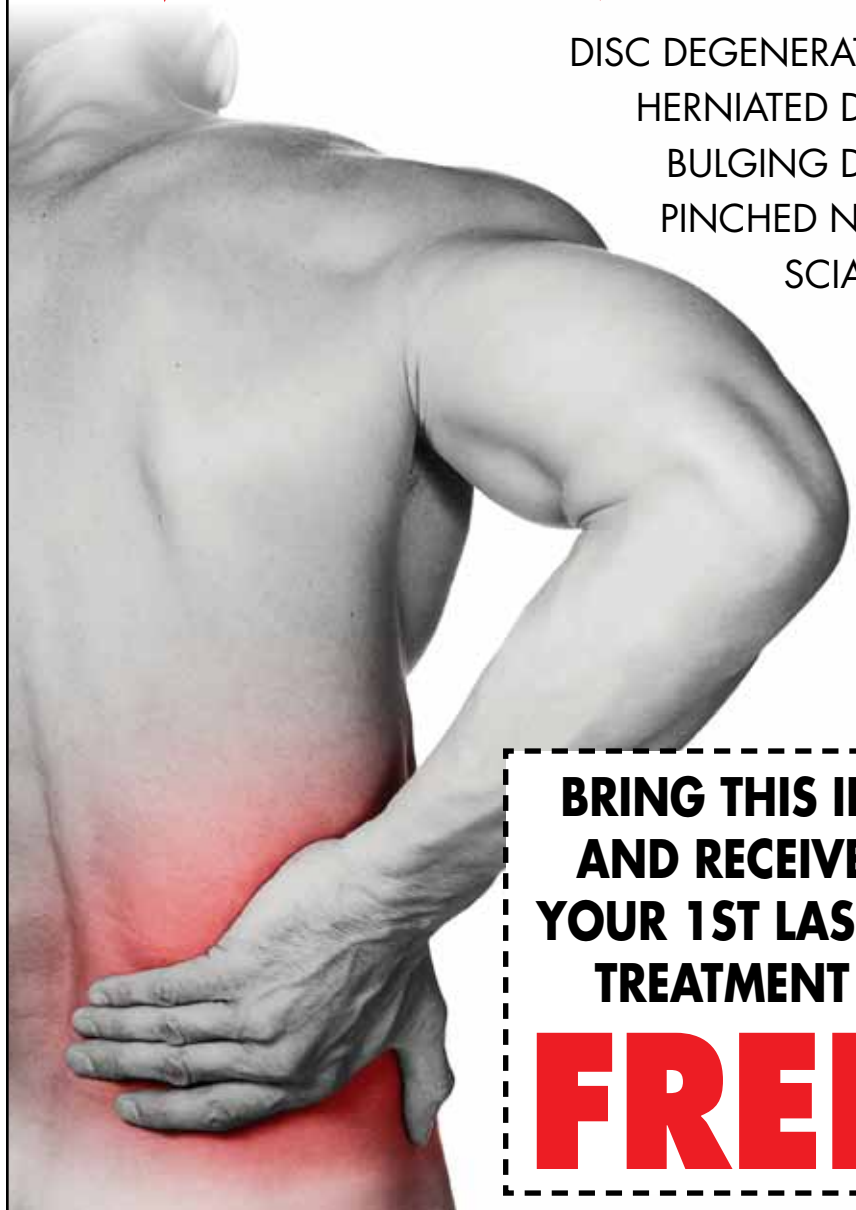
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CALENDAR

JERRY ANDERSON'S PRIVATE STUDIO
May 25 and 26, 10 a.m. Washington Co. artist/sculptor Jerry Anderson's studio will be open. Silver Reef Ghost Town, 1903 Wells Fargo Road, St. George.

TRAVELING ART EXHIBIT: THEY PAINTED IN THE CANYONS May 4-31. 9 a.m. Cedar City Arts, 303 N 100 E, Cedar City.

BAR G WRANGLERS AT REDSTONE THEATER Mondays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Country/western show band. \$20. theredstonetheater.com. 29 W. Center St., Kanab.

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.

OUTBACK HIKING CLUB OF SOUTHERN UTAH Dates and times vary. Visit meetup.com/outback-hiking-club-of-southern-utah.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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

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.

STORY TIME WITH GRANDPA STEVE 10 a.m. Washington County Library, 88 W 100 S, 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 1950's and 60's. 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.

GIVE IT A WHIRL POTTERY CLASS 5 p.m. Try out a potter's wheel and learn basics of throwing a pot on the wheel. 2-hour class. All tools and supplies provided. \$30 per person. No registration. The Tilted Kiln, 215 W St. George Blvd., St. George.

ST. GEORGE DANCE COMPANY CLASS 7:30-8:45 p.m. Ballet for adults, intermediate to advanced. Open to the public. Visit saintgeorge-dance.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. Tuesdays. 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.

FRONTIER STORY TIME 10 a.m. Each Tuesday, preschool children can learn about the past through stories and history-related events. A different story and activity is featured each week. Free. (435) 586-9290. Frontier Homestead State Park Museum, 635 N. Main St., Cedar City.

MEMORY MATTERS EARLY STAGE MEMORY LOSS SERIES 10:30 a.m. 10-week course begins Feb. 6. 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. Tuesdays. 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.

CALENDAR

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.

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

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 AT CASABLANCA 6-10 p.m. Starring John Brooks. Must be 21 or older. Free. "Voted Best of Las Vegas 2013 "Best Elvis Tribute Show" and "Best Lounge Performer." 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

STORY TIME WITH MRS. MANN 10 a.m. Washington County Library, 88 W 100 S, St. George.

STORY TIME 11 a.m. Washington County Library System, 36 S 300 W, Hurricane.

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.

BEREAVEMENT/GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP 4 p.m. For caregivers, 6 group support lessons for stress relief and wellness. Sun Tree Hospice, 1240 E 100 S Suite 18-B, 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.

PAINT NITE AT 'BOUT TIME PUB & GRUB 6 p.m. No experience necessary. Use the code SUTAH for 35% off. Drinks purchased from the venue separately, no BYOB. 21 and up. 929 W. Sunset Blvd., St. George.

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 every Wednesday 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 NIGHT AT SAND HOLLOW RESORT 6 p.m. No experience necessary. Use the code SUTAH for 35% off. Drinks purchased from the venue separately, no BYOB. 21 and up. 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.

KARAOKE WITH DJ JANELLE AT MIKE'S TAVERN 9 p.m.-1 a.m. No cover. 90 W. Hoover Ave., Cedar City.

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.

MOMS 'N TOTS PLAYTIME 11 a.m. Washington County Library System, 36 S 300 W, Hurricane.

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 visitor-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.

SUU DISCOVER STORY TIME 6:30 p.m. Cedar City Library, 303 N 100 E, Cedar City.

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

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

FRIDAY NIGHT PARTY WITH DJ JANELLE AT MIKE'S TAVERN 9 p.m. No cover, drink specials, free glow sticks and arcade games. 21 and over, 90 W. Hoover Ave., Cedar City.

SATURDAYS

GUIDED SATURDAY MORNING HIKE 7 a.m. Venture into the stunning outback that surrounds St. George on a guided half-day hiking tour (4-5 hours). Scheduled hiking tours begin at the St. George Adventure Hub (spring and fall months). The guide is a local expert trained as a Wilderness First Responder. Call (435) 673-7246. Adventure Hub St. George, 128 N 100 W suite 124, St. George.

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.

YEAR ROUND FARMERS MARKET 9 a.m.-noon every Saturday. Cedar City's year-round downtown farmers market. 50 W. University Blvd./Center St., Cedar City.

CEDAR SATURDAY MARKET 9 a.m.-1 p.m. every Saturday. Food, artisans, drawings, bingo, and more. Held indoors during winter. (435) 463-3735. IFA, 905 S. Main St., Cedar City.

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.

Events by Date

Fri, May 4

ST. GEORGE STREETFEST 6 p.m. On the first Friday night of every month, downtown St. George transforms into a multi-stage outdoor concert venue and street market. Town square, 50 S. Main, St. George.

DICK EARL AT PEEKABOO KITCHEN 7 p.m. Free. Dick Earl is a blues and rock and roll musician from St. George. Peekaboo Canyon Wood Fired Kitchen, 233 W Center St, Kanab.

THE NAKED WAITERS AT GEORGE'S CORNER 8 p.m. Free. The Naked Waiters play acoustic ukulele-based pop. George's Corner Restaurant and Pub, 2 W St. George Blvd., St. George.

"WEIRD AL" YANKOVIC AT TUACAHN 8 p.m. "Weird Al" Yankovic forgoes his usual high-octane, big-production show for an intimate evening of music, focusing on original (non-parody) songs. Special guest Emo Philips. 1100 Tuacahn Drive, Ivins.

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.

CALENDAR

Sat, May 5

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY Washington County Library, 88 W 100 S, St. George.

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY 11 a.m. Meet local comic book artists and writers Lee Wiley, Aimee Homer, Mark Swan, Jared Gifford, and Corry Heppler. Free comic books, all-day gaming, costume super hero characters, 25–50 percent off select items. Comics Plus, 348 W St. George Blvd., St. George.

A MOTHER'S DAY OF PAMPERING 11 a.m. Access to hundreds of dollars worth of pampering services and prizes. This event is the annual fundraiser for local motherhood support group Free2Feed. Advanced Care Chiro, 47 N 100 E, St. George.

COLORADO CITY MUSIC FESTIVAL May 5 and 6, 11 a.m. \$10, free for those under 18 years old. Maxwell Park, Hildale.

BASIC DRAWING CLASS 10 a.m. DiFiore Center, 307 N. Main St., St. George.

THE NAKED WAITERS AT ZION CANYON BREW PUB 6–9 p.m. Free. The Naked Waiters play acoustic ukulele-based pop. Zion Canyon Brew Pub, 95 Zion Park Blvd, Springdale.

COMEDIC RELIEF AT EVEN STEVENS 7–9 p.m. Free. Live comedy. 471 E. St. George Blvd., St. George.

LATINO ROOTS AND ANDEAN FLUTES AT KAYENTA 7:30 p.m. Latino Roots and Andean Flutes return by popular demand to Kayenta for A Cinco De Mayo performance that will delight audiences young and old. 881 Coyote Gulch Ct., Ivins.

JAY LENO AT TUACAHN 8 p.m. An indefatigable performer, Leno loves to test his humor live on audiences across the nation, performing over 100 live appearances in nightclubs, theaters, and stadiums each year, including during his long Tonight Show hosting. 1100 Tuacahn Dr., Ivins.

BEANS AND WHEELS AT GEORGE'S CORNER 8 p.m. Free. Folk/Rock/Americana. George's Corner Restaurant and Pub, 2 W St. George Blvd., St. George.

**Find more events
everyday at
SIndependent.com**

LOVE, SWEAT & TEARS AT CASABLANCA 8:30 p.m. A tribute to big horn bands from the '70s and the voices that performed with them. Featuring Marc Love and Denise Clemente. Purchase tickets by phone at (800) 585-3737 or in person at the CasaBlanca Resort front desk. 21 or older. All ticket sales are final, no refunds or exchanges. 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

DJ THIS GUY DAVE AT BUCKSKIN TAVERN 9 p.m., 2321 N. Hwy 89A, Fredonia.

DJ VEXIFY AT MIKE'S TAVERN 9 p.m. No cover, drink specials, free glow sticks and arcade games. 21 and over, 90 W. Hoover Ave., Cedar City.

Sun, May 6

ROOSTER AT EVEN STEVENS Noon–2 p.m. Free. Even Stevens, 471 St George Blvd., St. George.

Mon, May 7

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

PAINT NIGHT AT EVEN STEVENS 6 p.m. No experience necessary. Use the code SUTAH for 35% off. Drinks purchased from the venue separately, no BYOB. 8 and up. 471 E St. George Blvd., St. George.

Tues, May 8

PAGE TURNERS BOOK CLUB 2:30 p.m. Washington County Library, 88 W 100 S, St. George.

SUICIDE CERTIFICATION 4 p.m. With Dept. of Health. St. George Area Chamber, 136 N 100 E, St. George.

JAZZ IMPROV CLINIC 6 p.m. Free. difiore-center.org. DiFiore Center, 307 N. Main St., St. George.

Wed, May 9

DULCE AT GEORGE'S CORNER 7 p.m. Free. George's Corner Restaurant and Pub, 2 W St. George Blvd., St. George.

Thurs, May 10

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

Fri, May 11

TOM BENNETT AT PEEKABOO KITCHEN 7 p.m. Free. Tom Bennett is a blues man from SLC. Peekaboo Kitchen, 233 W Center St, Kanab.

SARAH JANE AT EVEN STEVENS 7 p.m. Free. Sarah Jane Birch has a beautifully powerful voice with a stage presence that mesmerizes audiences. Even Stevens, 471 E St George Blvd, St. George.

ART COWLES AT GEORGE'S CORNER 8 p.m. Free. Art Cowles is a singer/songwriter from St. George playing rock, jazz, and blues. George's Corner Restaurant and Pub, 2 W St. George Blvd., St. George.

Sat, May 12

HURRICANE MUD RUN A 5K run with over 20 obstacles. Use promo code INDEPENDENT for a 15 percent discount. 2000 W Sandhollow Road, Hurricane.

KIDS' PAINTING CLASS 10 a.m. Stephanie will teach an introductory lesson based on surrealist painter Rene Magritte and provide plenty of time and supplies for your child to paint. Ages 6–12 \$3 for the first child, \$1 for each additional sibling. Cap of 12 students. St. George Art Museum, 47 E 200 N, St. George.

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

MOUNTAINTOP SOUND AT ZION CANYON BREW PUB 6–9 p.m. Free. Zion Canyon Brew Pub, 95 Zion Park Blvd, Springdale.

NITRO CIRCUS 6 p.m. The Next Level Tour will feature athletes in action sports facing off against the biggest ramps on the planet, a groundbreaking setup that is now touring for the first time. Nitro's daredevils will also brave a bunch of outrageous contraptions and much more. Legend Solar Stadium, 501-551 S 700 E, St. George.

ART COWLES AT EVEN STEVENS 7 p.m. Free. Art Cowles is a singer/songwriter from St. George playing rock, jazz, and blues. Even Stevens, 471 St. George Blvd., St. George.

JOSH WARBURTON AT JUNIPER RIDGE 7 p.m. Josh Warburton covers folk, blues, and rock with unique vocals and acoustic guitar. 2631 Highway 89A. Fredonia, Arizona.

LISA MAC AT GEORGE'S CORNER 7 p.m. Free. Lisa Mac has become known for her powerful, soulful voice and poignant blues-rock songwriting. George's Corner Restaurant and Pub, 2 W St. George Blvd., St. George.

LARRY BAGBY AT GEORGE'S CORNER 8 p.m. Free. Larry plays a wide array of musical genres ranging from Country to CHR, and early Rock and Roll. George's Corner Restaurant and Pub, 2 W St. George Blvd., St. George.

SECOND SATURDAY SWING DANCE 7:30 p.m. Lessons held just before the dance 7:30–8:30 p.m. \$5 per person, +\$1 for lesson. Dance from 8:30–10:30 p.m. Washington City Community Center, 350 E 200 N, Washington.

CASAPOOLOOZA WOMEN OF ROCK 8 p.m. In the first concert of the 2018 CasaPooLoOza season, the Women of Rock show pays tribute to the female rock stars from the '60s to the present. Featuring two female vocalists, they bring you the music of artists like Heart, Pat Benatar, Janis Joplin, Stevie Nicks, Gwen Stefani, Sheryl Crow, and many more. Free admission. 21 or older. Doors open 7 p.m. with DJ Ricochet gets the party started. Swimming pool will be open, so wear your swim suit and dive in. Bars will be open. No outside food or drink allowed. CasaBlanca Resort, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

DJ THIS GUY DAVE AT BUCKSKIN TAVERN 9 p.m., 2321 N. Hwy 89A, Fredonia.

INSANITY STEW AT MIKE'S TAVERN 9 p.m. Take crunching guitar riffs, melodic vocals, add some synth, some soul pounding drums and bass, throw them in a pot, mix with catchy, foot stomping lyrics and an energetic, high-octane stage show and you have Insanity Stew. 90 W. Hoover Ave, Cedar City.

Sun, May 13

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.

Tues, May 15

FAMILY HEALTHCARE BREAKFAST 7:30 a.m. "Making Lives Better in Southwest Utah." Registration at 7:30 a.m., doors open at 7:45, program at 8, ends promptly at 9. Dixie Center, 1835 Convention Center Dr, St. George.

SUMA CREATE PLAYDATE 11 a.m. 13 S 300 W, Cedar City.

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.

"IN THE CENTURY OF CHANGE" JAZZ CLASS 6 p.m. DiFiore Center, 307 N. Main St., St. George.

Wed, May 16

2018 BEAVER TRAILS ATV JAMBOREE Three days of guided rides, breakfast, Wednesday night dinner, and Saturday night barbeque. Registrants under the age of 18 must wear helmets and ages 8–15 must possess an OHV Education Certificate if operating on public lands. No one is allowed to go on the trail rides unless they are a registered participant. Daily registrations available at \$35 a day. beaver.utah.gov/calendar. Beaver.

VOYAGER SERIES: THE SEARCH FOR ANOTHER EARTH WITH RON SMITH 7 p.m. Are we alone in the universe? Retired astronomer and planetarium lecturer Ron Smith takes us on a fascinating voyage in a quest to answer this compelling question. Kayenta Center for The Arts, 881 Coyote Gulch Ct., Ivins.

Thurs, May 17

TEEN BOOK CLUB 3:30 p.m. Hurricane Library, 36 S. 300 W., Hurricane.

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

BOOK CLUB 4 p.m. "Fire From Heaven" by Mary Renault. St. George Art Museum, 47 E 200 N, St. George.

BOOK ENDS BOOK CLUB 4:30 p.m. Washington County Library System, 220 N 300 E, Washington.

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CALENDAR

CONCERT PIANIST CONNOR CHEE AT KAYENTA 7:30 p.m. Chee plays original Navajo "vocables" — meaningful sounds unique to the culture — as well as works by Chopin, Rachmaninoff, and Liszt. 881 Coyote Gulch Ct., Ivins.

OPEN MIC NIGHT AT EVEN STEVENS 6:30–9:30 p.m. Free. Live music and comedy. Even Stevens, 471 E St. George Blvd., St. George.

Fri, May 18

WEIGH-INS FOR MAYHEM IN MESQUITE XIV 6 p.m. Free admission. All ages. Casablanca Skydome Lounge, CasaBlanca Resort, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

ANNIE SCHUTZ AT EVEN STEVENS 7 p.m. Free. Even Stevens Sandwiches, 471 St. George Blvd, St. George.

JON STONE AT PEEKABOO KITCHEN 7 p.m. Free. Multi-instrumentalist Jon Stone from Louisiana plays acoustic folk on violin, mandolin and other strings. Peekaboo Kitchen, 233 W Center St, Kanab.

CONNOR CHEE RECITAL 8 p.m. Chee plays original Navajo "vocables" — meaningful sounds unique to the culture — as well as works by Chopin, Rachmaninoff, and Liszt. Admission is \$15 cash at the door, or tickets can be purchased online at eventbrite.com. Canyon Community Center, 126 Lion Blvd., Springdale.

ANOTHER JOURNEY AT CASABLANCA SHOWROOM 8:30 p.m. Tribute to "Journey," preparty for Mayhem in Mesquite XIV. Free Admission. 21 or older. 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

DJ DWAYNE AT MIKE'S TAVERN 9 p.m. 90 W. Hoover Ave., Cedar City.

Sat, May 19

BRANSON ANDERSON AT EVEN STEVENS 7 p.m. Free. Even Stevens, 471 St George Blvd., St. George.

MIKE AND ELAINE AT ZION CANYON BREW PUB 6 p.m. Free. This multi-instrumentalist couple are also in local band Soul What!? and cover a range of musical styles in many genres. Zion Canyon Brew Pub, 95 Zion Park Blvd, Springdale.

1940'S HANGAR DANCE 6 p.m. There will be prizes for best 1940's costume, vintage aircraft, classic cars, and the Southern Utah Rebel Jazz Band playing hits from Glenn Miller, Andrews Sisters, Les Goodman, and more Vintage 1940's dress not required but encouraged. Please keep to 1940's civilian or Allied uniforms. Western Sky Aviation Warbird Museum, 4196 South Airport Parkway, St. George.

CONNOR CHEE AT FREDONIA HIGH SCHOOL 7 p.m. Classical pianist Connor Chee will play original Navajo "vocables" as well as various classical works for piano. amazingearthfest.com/events, (928) 643-7333. 221 Hottt St., Fredonia, Arizona.

**Find more opinions
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PAUL BORUFF AT JUNIPER RIDGE 7 p.m. Paul Boruff writes and sings about the splendor of the natural world to encourage the enjoyment and preservation of these wonders through understanding. 2631 Highway 89A. Fredonia, Arizona.

MAYHEM IN MESQUITE XIV 7 p.m. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. All ages need a ticket to attend events, 3 years and older. Purchase tickets by phone at (800) 585-3737 or in person at the CasaBlanca Resort front desk. CasaBlanca Event Center, CasaBlanca Resort, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

TOGA PARTY BAND AT KAYENTA 8 p.m. Toga Party Band is southern California's premier dance band with one goal in mind: to get you to loosen up from your stressful lifestyle, "Animal House" style. Kayenta Center for The Arts, 881 Coyote Gulch Ct, Ivins.

VETS HELPING VETS POKER RUN OFFICIAL AFTER PARTY 9 p.m. Featuring Full Tilt Boogie and Fenwick Way. 90 W. Hoover Ave, Cedar City.

Sun, May 20

GARY HUFF AT EVEN STEVENS Noon–2 p.m. Free. Even Stevens, 471 E St George Blvd, St. George.

Mon, May 21

PAINT NIGHT AT EVEN STEVENS 6 p.m. No experience necessary. Use the code SUTAH for 35% off. Drinks purchased from the venue separately, no BYOB. 8 and up. 471 E St. George Blvd., St. George.

Wed, May 23

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP 7 p.m. Washington County Library System, 126 Lion Blvd., Springdale.

DUELING PIANOS AT MIKE'S TAVERN 9 p.m. Each entertainer performs songs directly from the audience's requests, creating their own special blend of hilarity, excitement, and musical favorites, delighting guests. 90 W. Hoover Ave, Cedar City.

Thurs, May 24

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

Fri, May 25

READER'S CIRCLE BOOK CLUB 3 p.m. Reader's Circle Book Club Washington County Library System, 36 S 300 W, Hurricane.

JOSH WARBURTON AT PEEKABOO KITCHEN 7 p.m. Free. Josh Warburton covers folk, blues, and rock with unique vocals and acoustic guitar. 233 W. Center St., Kanab.

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

SEVERIN BROWN AT GEORGE'S CORNER 8–11 p.m. Free. George's Corner Restaurant and Pub, 2 W St. George Blvd., St. George.

MARK PRESTON AT CASABLANCA 8:30 p.m. Featuring a 7-piece band, this three-time Grammy nominee will be performing favorite romance hits including: "Put your head On My Shoulder," "More Today Than Yesterday," "Goin' Out of my Head," "Shangri-La," "After the Loving," "I Swear," and more. Purchase tickets by phone at (800) 585-3737 or at the CasaBlanca Resort front desk. 21 or older. All ticket sales are final, no refunds or exchanges. 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.



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CALENDAR

Sat, May 26

CLASSIC CAR SHOW, BARBECUE & DANCE Registration for car show from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Judging for car show from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Barbecue at 5 p.m. Dance at 7 p.m. Town Park, 230 E. Horton St., Fredonia, Arizona.

SPIKE MAGUIRE AT ZION CANYON BREW PUB 6 p.m. Free. Zion Canyon Brew Pub, 95 Zion Park Blvd, Springdale.

KATE BURGESS AT EVEN STEVENS 7-9 p.m. Free. Even Stevens Sandwiches, 471 St. George Blvd, St. George.

BEER DRINKERS & HELL RAISERS AT CASABLANCA 8:30 p.m. The Bay Areas own ZZ Top tribute, dedicated to not only playing ZZ Top's music down to every detail but with the beards and stage getups as well. Buy tickets by phone at (800) 585-3737 or at the CasaBlanca Resort front desk. 21 or older. 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

VIVID YOUTH, TENKARAS AT JAZZY'S 8 p.m. \$7 cover. 1812 W. Sunset #6, St. George.

NED EVETT & TRIPLE DOUBLE "FIRST BAND IN SPACE" AT MIKE'S TAVERN 9 p.m. 90 W. Hoover Ave., Cedar City.

Sun, May 27

JOSH LARSEN AT EVEN STEVENS Noon-2 p.m. Free. Josh Larsen is a singer/songwriter from St. George. Even Stevens, 471 St George Blvd., St. George.

Mon, May 28

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.

Wed, May 30

NICK ADAMS AT GEORGE'S CORNER 7 p.m. Free. Nick Adams is a singer/songwriter based out of St. George. George's Corner Restaurant and Pub, 2 W St. George Blvd., St. George.

Tues, June 1

ST. GEORGE STREETFEST 6 p.m. On the first Friday night of every month, downtown St. George transforms into a multi-stage outdoor concert venue and street market. Town square, 50 S. Main, St. George.

"MATILDA" 8 p.m. Tony Award-winning musical inspired by Roald Dahl revels in the anarchy of childhood, the power of imagination and the inspiring story of a girl who dreams of a better life. Tuacahn Amphitheatre, 1100 Tuacahn Dr, Ivins.

Find more events everyday at SIndependent.com



Rotary Club of Zion Canyon



Current and ongoing projects:

Pinkies for Polio
Fundraiser for the Rotary International project of eliminating Polio worldwide. Multiple fundraisers have been done by Rotary Club of Zion Canyon for this effort in the last four years.

Water Filling Stations
Rotary Club of Zion Canyon is spearheading the project to install free water filling stations at each shuttle stop in Springdale. Two stations are installed with a third station coming soon.

The Giving Tree
During the last four holiday seasons, Rotary Club of Zion Canyon has given to numerous needy families in the Zion Canyon boxes of gifts of toys, clothes, food, and cash.

Auction for Education
Last year the annual auction raised about \$15k for the Springdale Elementary School art and music programs, scholarships, and other local education related programs.

**Join us at Jack's Sports Grill,
1215 Zion Park Blvd in Springdale,
Thursdays from 12:30 - 1:30 pm.**




Rotary Club of Zion Canyon

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SUU:

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