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CENTER FOR THE ARTS
AT KAYENTA

**KAYENTA HOSTS KURT BESTOR,
A DIAMOND HOLIDAY, AND ENCHANTED
WORLD OF DOLLS**

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BRIGHAM'S PLAYHOUSE**

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EVE BASH FEATURES CATFISH JOHN**

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EVENTS

KAYENTA HOSTS KURT BESTOR, A DIAMOND HOLIDAY, AND ENCHANTED WORLD OF DOLLS

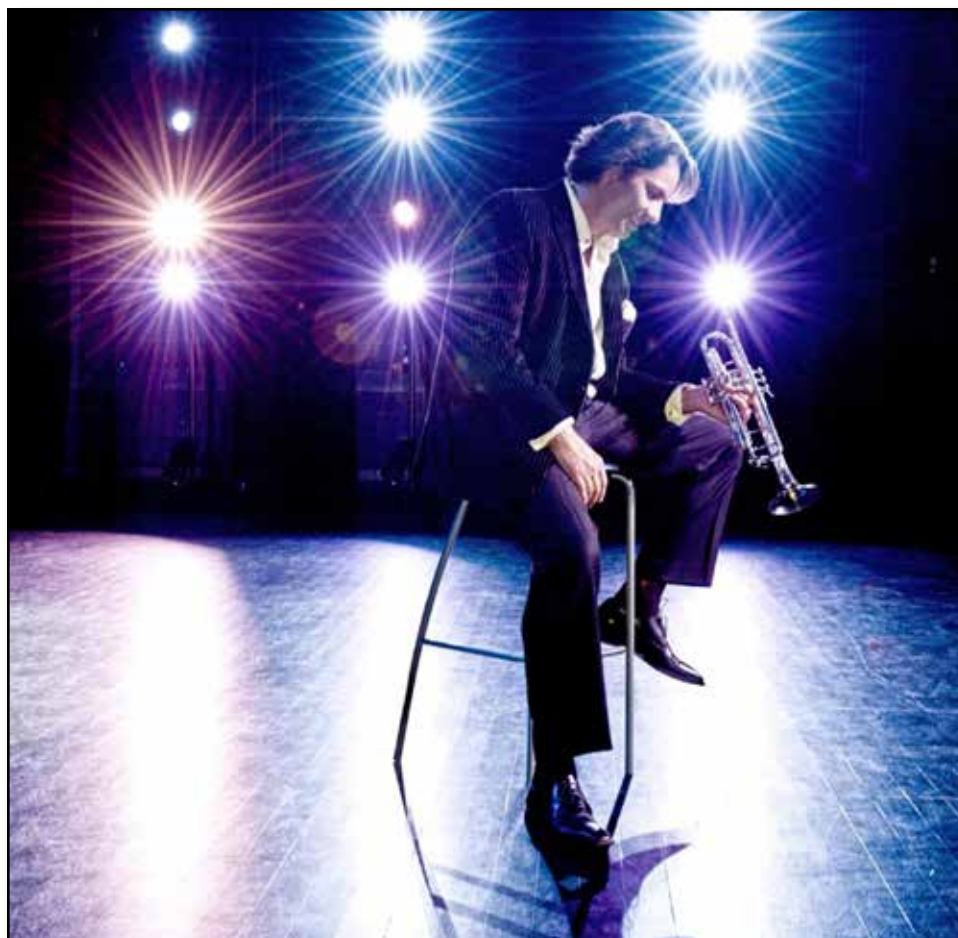
By Merrie Campbell-Lee

Take a holiday in Kayenta and you'll see why December really is the "most wonderful time of the year." This December, the Center for the Arts at Kayenta invites you to step inside an enchanted world with performances by singer/songwriter Kurt Bestor as well as A Diamond Holiday and The Enchanted World of Dolls.

On Dec. 7 and 8 at 7:30 p.m., Bestor brings his extraordinary voice and sound to southern Utah audiences with "Peace on Earth," an intimate concert that seeks to instill peace into hearts at Christmastime. Then with fire pits ablaze, trees shimmering with lights, and the air filled with aromas and sounds, Kayenta will be transformed from a desert paradise into a magical wonderland Dec. 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, and 22 when The Enchanted World of Dolls promenade takes place from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. A Diamond Holiday will follow at 7 p.m. and end at 9 p.m. inside the Lorraine Boccardo Theatre. Matinee performances are Saturdays and feature the Enchanted World of Dolls promenade from 12:45 to 1:45 p.m. and A Diamond Holiday from 2 to 4 p.m.



Kurt Bestor is a household name for most locally, but he is also world renowned for the multifaceted body of award-winning music he has composed and performed during his prolific career. His holiday songs are beloved for their beauty, richness, and uniqueness. Bestor is an Emmy-award-winning and Grammy-nominated composer who for over 30 years has composed and arranged music in a myriad of styles and genres, including over 30 feature-length films, 18 popular albums and numerous national television themes.



Bestor, who performed last year at the Center for the Arts at Kayenta, is excited to return to Kayenta this year.

"The 200-seat theater creates a special, familial energy," Bestor said. "It's as if close friends have joined me in my living room to listen to the Christmas arrangements that I hold dear."

Bestor chose the theme of peace for this year's concert.

"It's something the world needs a whole lot more of right now," he said. Kayenta is excited to be the chosen place for southern Utah patrons and visitors to experience this special holiday concert. Jan Broberg, Center for the Arts at Kayenta director, is a personal friend of Bestor and knows the kind of experience people have at his concerts.

"His music just stops you in your tracks," Broberg said. "We are so lucky to have

a musician of Kurt's caliber come to our theater. There are things you learn about Kurt that you will never see anywhere else. He plays more instruments, shares pieces he's composed for a smaller venue like ours, and he's funny! I hope as many people as possible get the opportunity to experience Peace On Earth."

The festivities continue the following week — enjoy warm drinks and sweet treats as you stroll through the Enchanted World of Dolls performance. Inside storefront windows along the plaza, young actors come alive as mechanical dancing dolls dressed in traditional costumes representing countries from around the world.

"Celebrating a global wish for peace, the wonder of children and the spirit of giving make this a great family tradition and young visitors might be surprised by

CENTER FOR THE ARTS AT KAYENTA



Santa, who's making time to pay Kayenta a visit!" said Susan Broberg, director of the Enchanted World of Dolls. "Join us on this multicultural journey as we celebrate together a few of the many unique and charming dances and traditions found worldwide."

The magic continues inside as guests take their seats in the Lorraine Boccardo Black Box Theatre for A Diamond Holiday, a festive and captivating dance and musical theater concert. Performers will light up the stage with scenes from "The Nutcracker," Santa's workshop of toys, The Rockettes, Irish dance, and more. The music, song, and dance themes evoke the hope and wonder found in every heart, especially at this time of year.

The performance stars Diamond Talent's troupe of highly trained student performers. Many alumni are now performing on Broadway and in regional theaters across the country. They got their start training and performing in excellent Diamond Talent Productions.

Tickets for Kurt Bestor's performance are \$45. Admission to A Diamond Holiday is \$15, and premium seats are \$25. Admission to the Enchanted World of Dolls costs \$5 cash at the door. For tickets and information, visit kayentaarts.com or call (435) 674-2787. The Center for the Arts at Kayenta is located at 881 Coyote Gulch Ct. in Ivins.

In January, Kayenta will host award-winning barbershop quartet Newfangled Four as well as the Neil Simon Festival production of "Jake's Women." Spring season tickets are available now for all or part of the more than 20 unique events scheduled to delight and entertain you.



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EVENTS

"A CHRISTMAS CAROL" BEGINS AT BRIGHAM'S PLAYHOUSE

By Melanie Baxendale

Brigham's Playhouse, a southern Utah leader in live theater, is excited to announce its Christmas production, "A Christmas Carol" running Nov. 29–Dec. 29 at its intimate, indoor theater in Washington. Performances are running Wednesdays through Saturdays at 7 p.m., with matinee performances at 2 p.m. on Saturdays. This family favorite is not to be missed this holiday season and is perfect for groups.

Ebenezer Scrooge is a prosperous curmudgeon who believes that personal wealth is far more valuable than the happiness and comfort of others. With an infuriated "Bah! Humbug!" Scrooge sums up his feelings of



Christmas tidings and charitable giving. But he's forced to face his selfish ways when three ghosts on Christmas Eve lead him through his past, present, and future. Thanks to their guidance, Scrooge recognizes his faults and greets Christmas morning with a cheerful "Happy Christmas" before spending the day reconnecting and sharing love with those that mean the most to him.

"A Christmas Carol" is a spectacular adaptation of Charles Dickens' most well known story and a true Broadway hit. Tickets for Adults are \$23, Seniors are \$21 and Children over 5 and Students are \$17. For more information about Brigham's Playhouse or to purchase tickets, please visit brighamsplayhouse.com or call (435) 251-8000. Box office hours are Tuesdays–Fridays 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from noon to 7 p.m.

Brigham's Playhouse believes in the power of live theater and its ability to provide audiences and performing artists with life-changing experiences. It strives to provide professional quality performances that are uplifting and wholesome for the whole family. The perpetuation of the arts through performing arts education and training is also a priority to Brigham's Playhouse. Theater professors Jamie Young and Doug Knapp founded Brigham's Playhouse in 2014 and are pleased to serve tens of thousands of audience members each year.

ZION CANYON BREW PUB NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH FEATURES CATFISH JOHN

For five years, Zion Canyon Brew Pub has hosted live music every Saturday night with no cover charge. This New Year's Eve, Catfish John returns to the pub to jam into 2019. Last year's show was such a blast that the Las Vegas band has decided to come celebrate another year-end in Zion. Come early to get a table as reservations are not accepted. The cover is only \$10, and music begins at 9 p.m.

December musical lineup

Dec. 8, 6 p.m.: 3 Hat Trio plays American Desert Music, mostly original with old-time



cowboy and pioneer songs with a twist. The town of Springdale also presents their light parade that night, so come check out one of the best acts in the area and celebrate the holiday season in Springdale.

Dec. 15, 6 p.m.: Steven Swift and April McPherson make up the roots-indie Americana of Mountaintop Sound, bringing you raw harmonies and fun melodies to tap your toes to. 12/22

Dec. 22, 6 p.m.: Springdale's own Dave Tate and Victoria Lagerström fuse together soulful, jazz-influenced vocals with pop/rock and folk sensibilities in a variety of genres.

Dec. 29, 6 p.m.: Dick Earl's Electric Witness is a blues and rock outfit from St. George.

Dec. 31, 9 p.m.: Catfish Josh is a dedication and devotion to the musical adventure of the Grateful Dead, Jerry Garcia, and all things related.

Zion Canyon Brew Pub is located at 95 Zion Park Blvd. in Springdale. The pub is open every day but Dec. 25.

CASABLANCA HOSTS MAYHEM IN MESQUITE XVI

By Tyler Coop

Mayhem in Mesquite XVI, Mesquite Gaming's mixed martial arts amateur fighting championship event, will be held Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. inside the CasaBlanca Events Center at CasaBlanca Resort. In partnership with Tuff-N-Uff: The Future Stars of MMA, the card features fighters from gyms from surrounding areas including Nevada, Utah, Arizona, and California.

"These Tuff-N-Uff fighters bring exciting energy into the CasaBlanca Events Center each installment of Mayhem in Mesquite," said Ely Prussin, director of player development for Mesquite Gaming and founder of Mayhem in Mesquite. "This event continues to bring out great fans supporting their hometown fighters, and the up-and-coming fighters put on a great show as they look to improve their records

Mayhem in Mesquite XVI event schedule

Dec. 14

6 p.m.: Mayhem in Mesquite XVI weigh-ins

Come out to support your favorite fighters during the ceremonial weigh-ins for Mayhem in Mesquite XVI. Watch up-and-coming fighters as they meet their opponents and get battle ready. All ages are welcome. Admission is free.

8:30 p.m.: Another Journey

Another Journey, a Journey tribute band, captures the true essence of Journey and will start the weekend off on a high note. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased through Star Tickets or through CasaBlanca Resort.

Dec. 15

7 p.m.: Mayhem in Mesquite XVI Tuff-N-Uff and Mesquite Gaming are partnering once again for the 16th installment of Mayhem in Mesquite. Doors open for the main event at 6 p.m. Ages three and over are welcome. Minors must be accompanied by adults.

10 p.m.: Mayhem in Mesquite afterparty



in the cage."

General admission tickets are \$15, and VIP seating starts at \$30. To purchase tickets and for more information on Mayhem in Mesquite XVI, visit casablancaresort.com/entertainment/mayhem-in-mesquite. CasaBlanca Resort is also offering an exclusive Mayhem in Mesquite room rate of \$55. Just use the promotional code MMAPK16. To make a reservation, call (877) 438-2929 or book online at casablancaresort.com.

The fun doesn't stop after the final bell rings. The official Mayhem in Mesquite afterparty kicks off right after the final match in the CasaBlanca Showroom. DJ Juan will be maintaining that high post-fight energy.

Additional fight information and updates are available at the Mayhem in Mesquite Facebook page and tuffnuff.com. For more information on Mesquite Gaming visit mesquit gaming.com or follow Mesquite Gaming on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube.



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A MERRY MOVIE CHRISTMAS

By Adam Mast

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

Local aspiring filmmakers were given the theme "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas" and a limited amount of time to put together their short film projects seven minutes or less using any resources available to them. Additionally, these creative storytellers were required to include either a Christmas tree or a wreath in their yuletide-inspired efforts.

On Dec. 15, come on out to Megaplex's Main Street Cinema and see what these talented filmmaking teams put together. The event will begin at 3 p.m. with doors opening at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are only \$10 and \$5 for children 11 and under. Get in on the action and vote for your favorite short as there will be prizes awarded to the three strongest films of the bunch picked by you, the enthusiastic attendees.

In addition to the holiday edition of the Guerilla Shorts Showcase, expect a few

surprises throughout the event. In fact, A Merry Movie Christmas programmers have just received word that a very special guest is making time in his hectic work schedule and will be flying in all the way in from the North Pole, so be sure to bring the kids. And if you're feeling extra courageous, be sure to attend in your favorite ugly Christmas sweater as there will be a prize offered up to the most creative.

Finally, and most importantly, it should be noted that half of the proceeds from "A Merry Movie Christmas" will be divided up between four very worthwhile local causes:

—DOVE Center, a shelter created to provide confidential housing and aid for victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse.

—Switchpoint Community Resource Center, a homeless shelter responsible for housing and feeding 100s of individuals in need.

—Climb to the Light, a nonprofit designed to bring more awareness to depression and suicide through the majestic art of mountain climbing.

—RSQ Dogs, a rescue shelter designed to provide a safe haven for abandoned and abused animals in rural Utah.

If you live in the area, come on out and join in on what is sure to be a magical Christmas event for the whole family. Not only will you be lending support to a vibrant local filmmaking community but you'll also be lending aid to a handful of very worthwhile local causes as well. After all, 'tis the season for giving.

For more on A Merry Movie Christmas, including ticket info and detailed lineup, be sure to check out fnasu.com.

SNAKE HOLLOW ST. GEORGE BIKE PARK OPENS

The mountain bike rider pedals, hits the ramp, and soars, hanging airborne as the gathering twilight leaves a kiss of sunlight on the surrounding area. The diverse scenery and eye-popping color set the mood while the intense obstacles at Snake Hollow St. George Bike Park test the soul.

The combination proves irresistible.

Snake Hollow, the first year-long mountain bike skills park in Utah, is set to officially open Nov. 17 at 11 a.m. when the City of St. George hosts the grand opening and ribbon cutting for the park located at approximately 1500 N 2400 W, across from Snow Canyon High School. The event will include vendor booths, food trucks, and Snake Hollow swag.

"St. George is synonymous with outdoor adventure," said Mayor Jon Pike. "Mountain biking is no exception. Besides the nearly 300 miles of trails, we're proud to now have the only year-round bike park in the state of Utah. For years, visitors would ask us where the bike park was located, given the variety of mountain bike trails in the area. Snake Hollow St. George Bike Park is the first park of its kind south of the Wasatch Front and was built for locals and everyone who loves to ride southern Utah."

St. George has long been a destination for mountain biking due to the quantity and scenic nature of the trails in addition to the mild winter temperatures, which allow for year-long riding. Yet St. George had been without a bike skills park. Now that need is filled.

Snake Hollow St. George Bike Park

encompasses 80 acres of land in western St. George, located primarily on the west side of the park, with some additional courses on the east side along Tuweep Drive. There are hundreds of features and four skills zones: Rattler's Revenge (dirt jump zone), Snake Den (pump track and skills loop), Venom Drops (gravity skills), and Sidewinder Slopestyle (gravity jump trails).

The park includes a large pavilion, restrooms, paved trails, utility connections, and a gravel parking lot. As more funding emerges, another pavilion, more restrooms, and paved parking are scheduled to be added.

"We have seen the mountain bike scene explode in St. George over the past decade," said Supportive Services director Marc Mortensen. "As a city, we realize that it's a big reason people are moving to and visiting our area. Creating a legitimate bike park to complement what we already have was a no-brainer, and what a great opportunity to get kids outdoors and exercising."

The park is also anticipated to host high-profile regional and statewide competitions.

"You can feel the buzz and energy about this from young people," said Kevin Lewis, director of the Washington County Tourism Office. "Just being on the site takes me back to my childhood, building jumps in the dirt and riding our Stingrays through the fields. Kids are craving exciting outdoor activity like this. It is such an incredible addition to our community."

ST. GEORGE ART MUSEUM HOSTS STUDIO ART QUILT ASSOCIATES' "LAYERED VOICES"

By Deborah Reeder



Open Nov. 10, 2018–March 9, 2019 at the St. George Art Museum, "Layered Voices" is an exhibition of 23 art quilts created by members of Studio Art Quilt Associates. Today, the group defines an art quilt as a creative visual work that is layered and stitched or that references this form of stitched layered structure. Layers are everywhere. They become apparent when we plumb the earth's surface. They make archeological digs to discover the history of civilizations, explore human anatomy, dress for the weather, dig in freshly fallen snow, and count rings in the stump of a tree. Layers are abstract, too. We find them in language when we ponder the hidden meanings in novels, poems, conversations, and puns. And of course, layers are integral to the definition of an art quilt. Textile artists achieve layering many ways in their artwork. Multi-hued fabrics frequently begin the layering process. The character of the layers can be changed by selecting sheer, opaque, reflective, tinted or toned fabric. Enhancement of the layers can be achieved with paints, dyes, bleaching, distressing, embellishments, and stitching. These are the tools at the artist's disposal to create layers of light, shade, depth, and color. Entrants were encouraged to interpret the use and concept of layering in their work. The layering of the media may be literal, inferred, or even digital. Realistic, representational, wearable art, and abstract work were considered for this exhibit.

As the introduction stated, layers are everywhere. Layers are inherent in the definition of a quilt: two or more layers, held together by stitch. They can be literal, conceptual, or both, so we invite viewers to look for the myriad iterations of layers in these works. The artworks ask us to contemplate the additive and subtractive experiences of time and memory as we observe the additive and subtractive techniques used to create each piece. They can and should be viewed with an eye to both the layering of image, meaning, and form, and to the individual voice of each artist. We ask viewers to take the time to ask questions about the artists' decisions, and to make connections between the works to further deepen the experience. There are no right or wrong answers to the questions posed, and keep in mind that individual pieces may connect to others in more than one way.

Studio Art Quilt Associates is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to

promote the art quilt through education, exhibitions, professional development, documentation, and publications. Founded in 1989 by an initial group of 50 artists, the group now has over 3,000 members worldwide: artists, teachers, collectors, gallery owners, museum curators and corporate sponsors. Since its establishment, the organization has grown alongside the evolution of the quilt as an art form.

Layered Voices is as much about the unique voice each person expresses as it is about layers. How are these voices heard? The juror states, "Transformative processes brought about by natural forces, politics, social interactions, emotional states, and spiritual convictions were recurring themes in many artist statements. It became apparent that an exploration of the nature of time — particularly as it relates to the environment, memory, and change — was a unifying theme in the 23 pieces I chose for this exhibition." In viewing the artwork, ask how the layering of images, meaning, and form works together to convey a message.

Linda Colsh's "Defiant" invites conversation about aging, strength, stubbornness, and independence versus feebleness. Penny Mateer's and Martha Wasik's "This Revolution Will Not Be Televised #13 Protest Series" uses a traditional quilt format as the foundation for imagery highlighting the institutionalized racism still prevalent in the United States today. Kristin La Flamme's "Death Shroud For Democracy" references ancient textiles to speak to current political woes. All the pieces in the exhibit, and these two in particular, confront our assumptions of quilt as object for warmth and comfort and use that dissonance to invite deeper consideration.

"I paint fabric, then search for narratives within the colors and shapes," Dinah Sargeant states. "Between what I see and what I intuit, a story unfolds." What story does her piece, "Premonition," suggest to you? Compare Sargeant's painted piece to Roxanne Lasky's layered and stitched coat, "Migration, Souvenir," which also seems to voice a narrative.

Which voices in this exhibit speak loudly, and which convey a quiet message? When might one or the other be most effective? An artist's voice can be heard through the materials they choose to work with, their unique aesthetic, or what subject matter they explore. What might your voice be?

LOCAL NEWS

OVER 200,000 BEARS EARS SUPPORTERS ASK BLM TO HALT PLANNING

By Alastair Lee Bitsoi

More than 200,000 public comments asking the Bureau of Land Management to halt its planning process for Bears Ears National Monument have been submitted to the federal agency. Most of these public comments center on how the planning process for the monument is short sighted, particularly when the tribes of the Bears Ears region through the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition and other plaintiffs like Utah Diné Bikéyah, Patagonia, and our environmental allies are in litigation to restore Bears Ears National Monument.

"Right now, the BLM is taking public comments, but how many of our comments will be upheld or honored? That's the question I raise," said Willie Grayeyes, board chair for Utah Diné Bikéyah. "If President Donald Trump is doing a unilateral move, why are we wasting our time submitting public comments. We are still in suit."

The Bears Ears National Monument executive order, issued by President Obama in 2016, invited tribes to have a seat at the table to advise on land management planning decisions for the region. It is not just for one part of the government to look at it, Grayeyes added.

Last December, President Trump reduced Bears Ears National Monument by 85 percent without any tribal consultation and after the monument had been designated in 2016 by President Obama as a national monument. Despite concerns that their comments will not be taken seriously, Utah Diné Bikéyah and its allies submitted public comments that opposed the BLM's planning process for the Shash Jaa' and Indian Creek Units of Bears Ears National Monument and, in the event that the planning process does continue to move forward, offered insight as to how the BLM should manage the area to ensure protection of all the cultural resources present there.

"How can the BLM propose a management plan for the archaeology when less than 10 percent of the land has been surveyed?" asked Honor Keeler, executive director for Utah Diné Bikéyah. "This is a human rights issue!"



Find more at SUIindependent.com

HARVARD REPORT OUTLINES UTAH DATA, OFFERS STRATEGIES TO PREVENT FIREARM-RELATED SUICIDE

By Ashley Sumner



A new legislative report says 85 percent of firearms deaths in Utah are suicides and offers prevention strategies such as temporarily reducing access to firearms for those who are at risk of using a gun in their attempt. The report, presented Nov. 14 at the Health and Human Services interim committee meeting at the Utah state legislature, was prepared by the Harvard School of Public Health using data from multiple Utah state agencies including the Office of the Medical Examiner, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Health and the Utah

Department of Public Safety. The study was the result of a directive from H.B. 440, 2016 legislation co-sponsored by Rep. Steve Eliason (R) and Rep. Brian King (D).

Utah has already established itself as a leader in bringing gun stakeholders into the conversation about suicide prevention and developing innovative outreach strategies. The H.B. 440 report establishes Utah as a leader in linking data from disparate data sources to best learn from yesterday's tragedies and how to prevent tomorrow's:

—Eighty-five percent of firearm deaths in Utah are suicides, and most suicides are by firearm.

—Healthcare systems play an important role in comprehensive, community-oriented prevention.

—Not all suicides are "planned," and relationship problems play a major role in suicide deaths.

—Most people who die by suicide could pass a background check for firearm possession.

—Homicides are very rare in Utah, and when they do occur, the perpetrator is most often an acquaintance, family member, or intimate partner. Homicides by a stranger are almost non-existent.

SOUTHERN UTAH SPACE FOUNDATION PURSUES STELLAR VISTA OBSERVATORY PROJECT IN KANAB

By Rich Csenge

How cool would it be if a facility could be created in Kanab for students, residents and visitors to learn about the wonders of outer space and to see what's really out there, where a large and powerful telescope linked to a big screen could display images of distant star clusters and galaxies, where amateur and professional astronomers could do cosmological research and deep sky photography, where children and adults could view the planets up close and personal and enjoy stories of the constellations in a comfortable outdoor amphitheater specially designed for stargazing?

It's an ambitious idea that a group of Kanab residents aims to bring to fruition: To design and raise funds to build and operate an astronomical observatory for public and educational use that also has substantial research capabilities attractive to professional and retired astronomers.

To witness the infinity, eternity, and immortality of the physical universe is incredibly inspiring. Local architect Bob Kaczowka is on the team with retired professional astronomer and author Von Del Chamberlain, Jackson Flat Reservoir facilities manager Kelly Brown, and former math and science educator Paul Barron. We are inviting folks with talents of all kinds to join our core team and bring their capacities to help make the project successful.

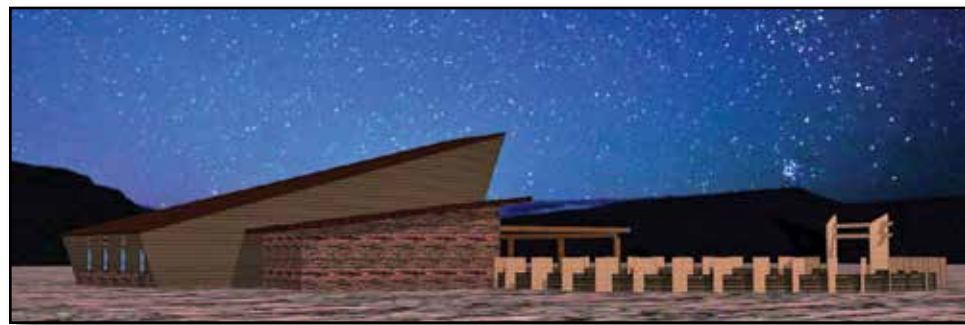
The Southern Utah Space Foundation, based in Cedar City, is already engaged and offering its support. The foundation's director, Lee Ricci, is helping the Kanab group launch a multi-year fundraising campaign beginning with this event, the first of a series of star parties hosted by the Kane County Water Conservancy District where the concept will be introduced.

"Up on the Colorado Plateau and away from major metropolitan areas in Utah and Arizona where light pollution makes viewing the stars quite challenging, the relative remoteness of Kanab is a great location for a public observatory," said Ricci. And just as important, Kanab is the largest of only three rural communities to date in the state of Utah that have enacted a night-sky-friendly outdoor lighting ordinance to protect the outstanding clarity of the southern Utah night sky. With its full range of visitor services including B&B's, hotels, and restaurants and its close proximity to federally managed parks, forests, monuments, and public lands, Kanab offers outstanding prospects as a home base for astrotourists.

Now in early planning stages, the vision is to design and construct a public facility serving residents, students, and visitors to Kanab who value the magnificent planets, stars, and deep space objects visible in the night skies over southern Utah. Several sites on which to locate the facility are under consideration.

The Stellar Vista Observatory would include a building housing a primary research telescope plus a range of portable scopes, a classroom with digital connectivity to the primary telescope, an outdoor amphitheater for guided constellation viewing, bathrooms, parking, and site improvements.

With an initial fundraising goal of \$3,000, the group intends to secure architectural design, site planning, and other components of a formal project proposal. The project time horizon is to pursue design, engineering, and fundraising in 2019/20 and commence construction in 2021.



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RECREATION

HIKING SOUTHERN UTAH: BUCKSKIN HOLLOW VIA WINCHESTER TRAIL

Article and photos by
Tom Garrison

Trail: Winchester Trail and Buckskin Hollow

Location: Red Cliffs Desert Reserve

Difficulty: Moderately strenuous due to elevation change and required scrambling

Distance: 4.5 miles

Trailhead elevation: 3,870 feet

Average hiking time: About three hours

Kid friendly: Not suitable for young kids, a lot of elevation change on a rocky trail

Everyone loves a surprise. Yes? Of course. Who doesn't enjoy opening a present, and instead of getting the boring item you knew was there, the gift is a joy, just what you wanted. Or the surprise birthday party where people jump up from behind furniture or, like apparitions, flow from the walls to scare the crap out of you. What could be more fun?

Well, how about a rather mundane hike that once you make a left turn becomes a glorious riot of swoopy, striped red and yellow sandstone in a virtually unknown canyon only a few miles from St. George? If you are up for this surprise, follow my wife Deb and I as we travel Winchester Trail to Buckskin Hollow in the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve.



The Red Cliffs Desert Reserve was established in 1996 to protect a large and diverse habitat capable of sustaining wildlife populations threatened by development and habitat loss. It comprises 62,000 acres and has more than 130 miles of shared use trails for hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. Three ecosystems — the Mojave Desert, the Great Basin Desert, and the Colorado Plateau — merge in southwestern Utah, and the reserve reflects the biological diversity of this unique region.



We began this adventure on a clear early November morning. From St. George, we went north on 3050 E/Green Springs Drive, crossed under Interstate 15 (at exit 10), and turned left (west) onto Red Hills Parkway. We continued on Red Hills Parkway for 1.6 miles and turned right (north) onto Cottonwood Springs Road (aka 1550 E). Staying on the main road, we drove 5.3 miles to the signed Yellow Knolls trailhead and parking area on the right (east). The first three miles of Cottonwood Springs Road is paved, and the remainder is a good dirt road posing no problem for a standard sedan.

The Yellow Knolls trailhead has a large parking area where we parked. The Winchester Trail trailhead is on the west side about 50 yards back down (south) Cottonwood Springs Road. The trailhead is marked by a locked double gate, a step-over, and a small sign.

Since Winchester Trail is in the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve, there are no fees or permits necessary.

Winchester Trail follows an old vehicle track for almost two miles to its terminus at private property near the community of Winchester Hills. The rocky, lightly used trail has several elevation gains and losses, some fairly steep. It follows a mostly northwestern direction. To the south are views of Arizona mountains; the west features red mountain vistas. Other than

stunted trees and large bushes, there is no shade the entire route, so bring a hat if it is sunny.

The track starts on a wide plateau. About a quarter of a mile in, the trail, following a line of power poles, makes a 220-foot rocky descent, crossing a deep ravine at the bottom. Here, Black Gulch Trail, coming in from the north, meets Winchester Trail. Climbing out of the ravine placed us on the base of a long ridge, black with volcanic rock. A bit upslope, the line of power poles continues. The trail is a seldom used maintenance road for the power lines.

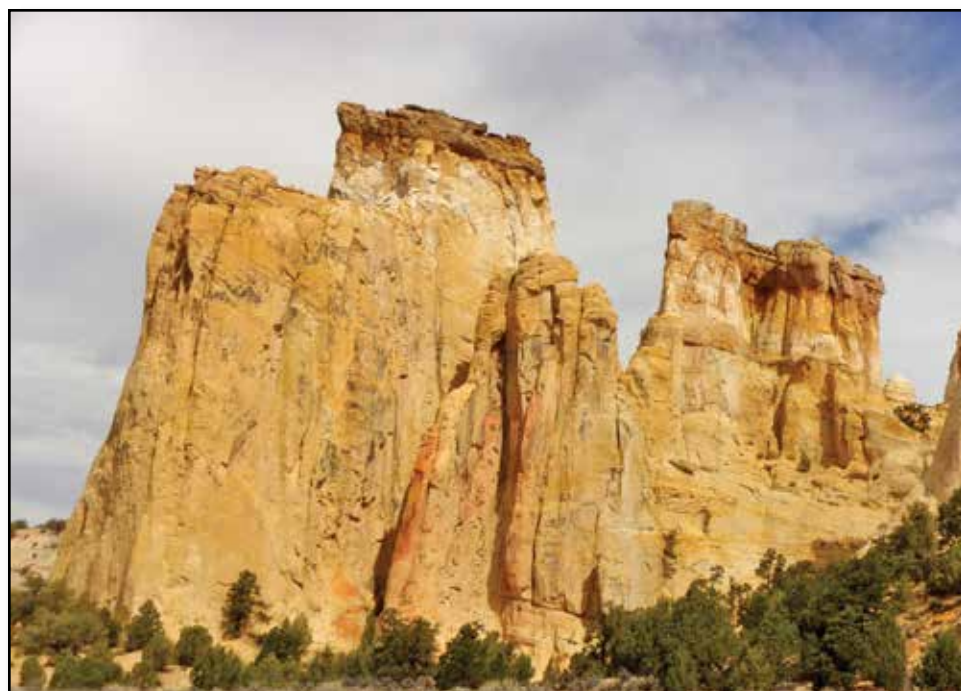
We continued northwest, slowly ascending and following the power lines. About one mile in was another steep ravine — down and back up. We trudged along the trail and at 1.5 miles came to a nondescript shallow gully of mostly white slickrock. The gully was on our left and goes south. This is the trailhead for Buckskin Hollow. It is not a formal trail and does not have a sign. It is about equidistant between two power poles and directly south of a large hill covered with black volcanic rock.

The shallow streambed of Buckskin Hollow is easy to follow downstream with some easily circumvented small dry falls. The first quarter-mile is mostly white sandstone. After that, the formations are a mix of colors — red, white, and yellow, often in stripes. There are many potholes. At one point, a series of three close together, and two still contained water. It had not rained in almost three weeks. We saw many animal tracks leading to these slowly evaporating pools.

The best striped and strangely eroded sandstone formations are in the cavities and falls along the upper section of the hollow. Don't overlook them. We climbed the sides of the hollow to examine the many thin bands of bright yellow and red.

After about a quarter-mile, the sides of the hollow get closer and it becomes more of a canyon than gully. A little less than a mile in, we stopped when confronted with a 30-foot dry fall, steep surrounding walls, and no way around unless we climbed to the top of the canyon walls. This was our turnaround point. The canyon continues about another mile.

The hike took about three hours, and we covered 4.5 miles. It is great if you want some solitude. We saw only one other person on the trail, a friendly guy on a horse. Buckskin Hollow is a surprise and worth the effort, very close to St. George, and a wonderland of stripy color.



RECREATION

BRIAN HEAD RESORT'S 2018-19 WINTER OPENING WEEKEND

Article and photos by
Josh Segovia

Another opening weekend at Brian Head Resort is in the books, and the stoke was at an all-time high. Everyone I encountered couldn't be more happier to be back up on the hill sliding around and enjoying the best "waste of time" there is around. It's always great to catch up with old friends and meet new ones on the way.

the rest of the mountain opening up for all of us pow hounds.

With one lift open this weekend, we all made the most of it, some sending it hard right off the bat and others like myself working on the fundamentals and getting the muscle memory working after a long break in the off season. I can't stress how good it felt being back on my board and enjoying the outdoors with a great group of peers who help lift each other up.

I don't personally gain anything from these articles on openers that I have written the last three years or so but trade for being on the mountain and the satisfaction of bringing and sharing something that I have loved to do for the past 10 years in my own life, and that is standing sideways on my board every winter season. Hopefully, it will shed some light to those who have been interested in skiing or snowboarding in the near future as well. I am also very thankful to have found this media outlet to be able to express



Brian Head Training Grounds Crew



Taylor Frazier



To that hardcore group that exists and made it out this opening weekend, we were blessed with another opener this season, and I hope to see you there with all the rest of the gang. Hoping to meet many more of you throughout the season for some great times, shredding, tailgates, first chairs, and last calls. Hope you have a great Thanksgiving holiday with your loved ones, and I will see you on the hill for some after-turkey runs!

I would like to personally thank some Brian Head staff for making this weekend possible. Thanks for your support Reece Thompson, Trace Whitelaw, Mark Wilder, Ron Burgess, Mary Ann Mudge, John Grissinger, and Mike Saemisch. I hope I can ride with you soon! Find more at brianhead.com and follow my winter adventures on Instagram @joshsegovia.



Mark "Park Mark" Arrietta



Vinnie Fava

OUR GEOLOGICAL WONDERLAND: VOLCANOES IN SOUTHERN UTAH

By Rick Miller

Remnants of volcanoes in southern Utah and of previous volcanic activity are numerous and quite evident. Among them are volcanic features like cinder cones and lava flows, most of which have formed within the last six million years and some even within the past 30,000 years. It is certainly possible that another eruption could occur in the future, and wouldn't that be exciting? Various other types of igneous activity, however, have been occurring in this region for at least the past 36 million years of geologic history. Also, we recognize the Pine Valley Mountain igneous intrusion, which formed about 22 million years ago. Let's chronicle these intense geological events.

Supervolcanoes

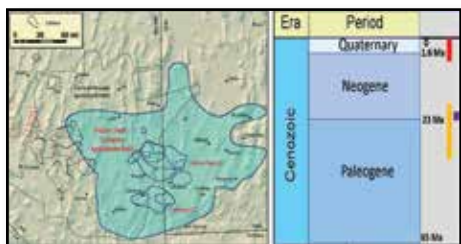


Figure 1. Left. Location map for 18–36 million-year-old supervolcano field in southern Utah and eastern Nevada.

Right. Portion of the Geologic Time Scale which indicates the time interval of the supervolcano eruptions (orange) and other events such as formation of Pine Valley Mountain (purple) and more recent volcanism (bright red). "Ma" stands for "million years."

A group of geologists from BYU published results of a long-term study indicating that supervolcanoes, like those in the modern-day Yellowstone area, produced very extensive eruptions in this region from about 18–36 million years ago (Figure 1). Much of the obvious evidence for these eruptions has been eroded away or covered by younger sediments, but remnants of a distinctive rock type, known as ignimbrite (welded volcanic tuff) provide clues to the extent and duration of these eruptions. Fortunately, these volcanic rocks can be radiometrically dated, thus providing the numerical ages of the eruptions.

Within this supervolcano field are some preserved rocks that provide a record of the eruptions. Most common are layered volcanic rocks, which occur in a variety of colors and represent successive eruptions. These rocks are a well cemented, or welded, fine-grained volcanic ash, which contains larger volcanic fragments (Figure 2). Modern eruptions that produce such rocks can be very explosive and consist



Figure 2. Layers of volcanic pyroclastic tuffs from eastern Nevada and a hand-sized sample of a volcanic tuff breccia with larger rock fragments (ignimbrite). Width of sample is about five inches.

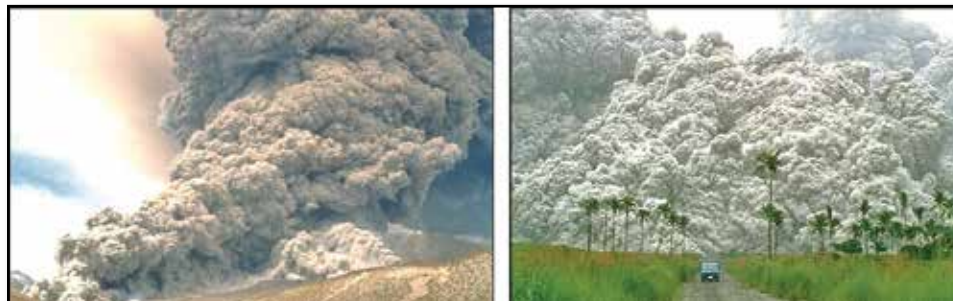


Figure 3. Examples of a nuee ardente eruption and flow, which is basically a very hot, quickly moving pyroclastic debris flows. They represent a volcanic version of an avalanche. Left from Chile, 1993. Right from Philippines, 1991. The Roman city of Pompeii, Italy was buried under almost 20 feet of volcanic ash and pumice by such an eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 CE. Many of the inhabitants were suffocated, cooked and buried by the flow.

of very hot ash and cinders, other rock fragments, and hot gases, all of which travel downslope from the volcanic source as a very hot, quickly moving flow, much like an avalanche. Such an eruption and flow is termed a "nuee ardente" (Figure 3).

Pine Valley Mountain



Figure 4. Exposed 22 million-year-old Pine Valley Mountain laccolith and hand-sized sample of quartz monzonite (compare with ignimbrite sample in Figure 2). Note much younger, dark, sinuous, nearly flat-topped and snow-covered basalt lava flow at lower left side of image (discussed below).

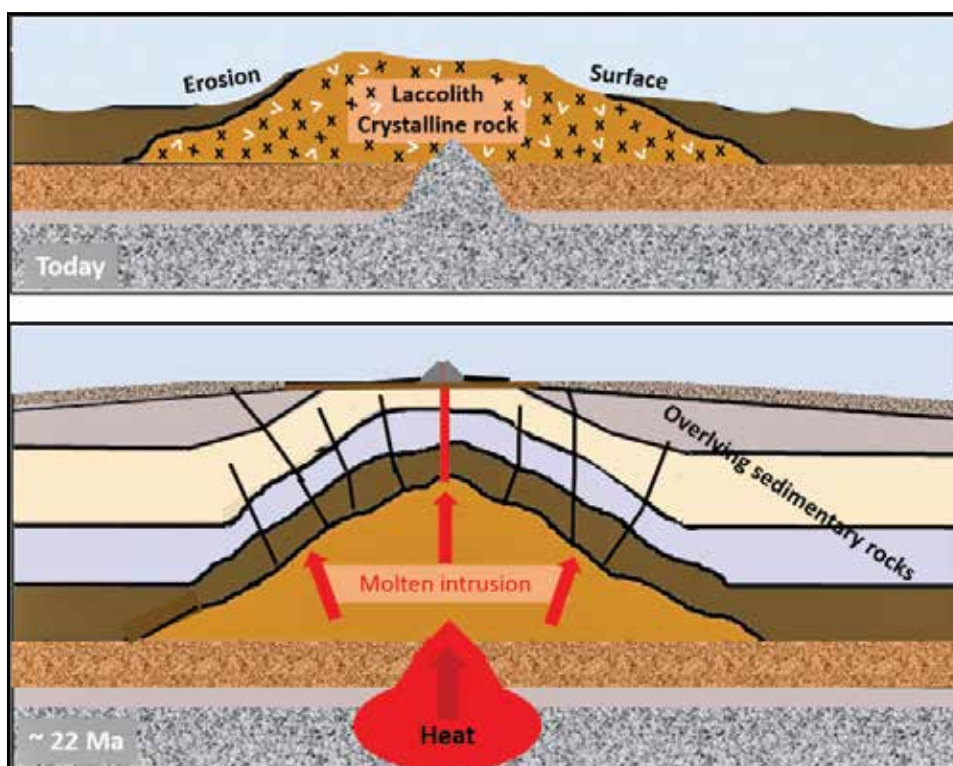


Figure 5. Stages in the formation of the Pine Valley Mountain intrusive laccolith in cross-section. Lower. Molten material (magma) pushed up and expanded into older sedimentary rocks. The pressure bowed up and produced cracks (fractures) in those rocks. Some of these cracks then acted as conduits for molten material to reach the surface and produce volcanoes and lava flows. Upper. Subsequent erosion has removed the volcanic materials and much of the overlying sedimentary rocks, thus exposing the present-day dome-shaped laccolith.

pushes up into overlying rocks and then slowly cool and crystallizes. The resulting rocks are identified as a quartz monzonite. The monzonite of Pine Valley Mountain has been radiometrically dated as having crystallized about 22 million years ago (Figures 1, 4, and 5). This subsurface dome-shaped structure was subsequently exposed by weathering and erosion, which removed the overlying sedimentary rocks. This laccolith is one of the largest in the world and reaches elevations of over 10,000 feet.

More recent history

As noted above (Figure 1), significant volcanic activity of a much younger geologic age has also occurred in this region. Because of their relatively young geologic age, many of these features are still present. Volcanic cinder cones and lava flows can be seen within Washington County and even within the city of St. George. This volcanic activity is a result of two significant geologic activities. One is the continuing plate tectonic activity along the western edge of North America and the other is a process of extension of the outer lithosphere layer of the Earth between western Utah and eastern California. These activities generate heat and stress on the rocks and a thinning of the lithosphere.

Regionally, some of the landscape and geologic features resulting from these activities include the Cascade Volcanic Arc, the San Andreas and associated faults, the north trending mountain ranges and valleys that make up the Basin and Range Province, the north trending fault zone called the Intermountain Seismic Belt in Utah, the succession of Yellowstone calderas, and numerous volcanic cones and lava flows in Nevada, northern Arizona, and Utah (Figure 6).



Figure 6. Geographic relief map of the western United States illustrating some of the major geologic provinces in the region. The Intermountain Seismic Belt represents a transitional boundary between the Basin and Range and the Colorado Plateau. Purple circle is St. George.

St. George is essentially located within a transition zone between two geologic provinces, the Basin and Range to the west and the Colorado Plateau to the east (Figure 7). The city lies within a widespread volcanically active region which includes northern Arizona and southwestern Utah (Figure 8).

In Washington County, evidence of this geologically young volcanism is common and seems to be considered "just part of the landscape" by most residents. There are numerous volcanic cinder cones, which consist mostly of ash and cinders (Figure

OUTDOORS

9). The fact that they are still evident and have not been eroded away indicates they are geologically young features.

A distinctive volcanic feature within the city are nearly flat-topped ridges, which are capped by lava flows that consist mostly of a rock called basalt. There are three prominent ridges that can be readily seen from almost anywhere in the city and also show up as distinct features on a geologic map of the city (Figures 9 & 10).

The surface texture of these lava flows is also distinctive. Two main types are recognized by geologists, and they have been given Polynesian names (Figure 11). The basalt itself is a distinctive igneous rock (Figure 12). Although these flows

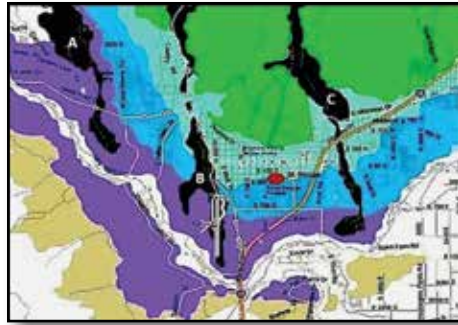


Figure 10. Geologic map of the St. George area. There are three distinctive basalt lava ridges in St. George. A portion of flows "A" and "B" are evident in Figure 9, and a portion of "C" is illustrated in Figure 5. These flows initially formed in stream beds or gulleys. When cooled, the rocks are more resistant to weathering and erosion than the sedimentary rocks around them. Therefore, over time, the sedimentary rocks were eroded down below the volcanic rocks, thereby leaving them as high-standing ridges. In geologic terms, they represent "inverted topographic" features. The red dot is the campus of DSU.



Figure 11. Left is a pahoehoe (smooth ropy texture) basalt lava flow. Right is an aa (blocky texture) basalt lava flow. The difference results from the amount of fluids, the viscosity, of the molten material. In St. George, the most flows are aa type, which indicates they had a relatively low fluid content and a relatively high viscosity.

formed on the continent, basalt is the most common rock type forming the floors of the ocean basins (think Hawaiian Islands).

The future

Previously occurring widespread but episodic igneous activity is recognizable in a variety of geologic features in Washington County and surrounding areas of the southwestern United States within the past six million years. Within the St. George area, the most recent eruptions occurred approximately 30,000 years ago.

This brings up the question: Will there be another eruption, and if so, when might that occur?

The answer is that we don't know. However, there is one clue. There are active hot springs within the area, such as Pah Tempe in Hurricane and the Veyo hot springs. So there is still a source producing heat below the surface.

But is it enough to generate another volcanic eruption? Stay tuned.

And finally, as is sometimes reported but possibly representing an urban legend, in ancient times, especially in the New World, sacrificing a human was used to protect people from volcanic eruptions and also to protect against other naturally occurring geologic hazards.

"Bring forth the sacrificial!"

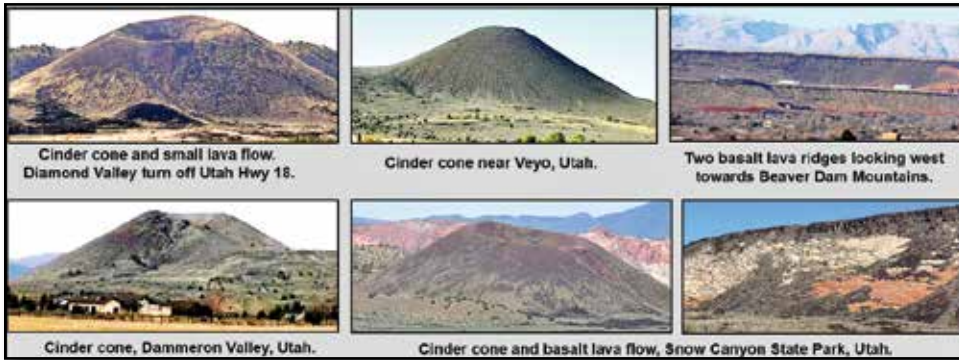


Figure 9. Examples of cinder cones and basalt lava flows in Washington County, Utah.

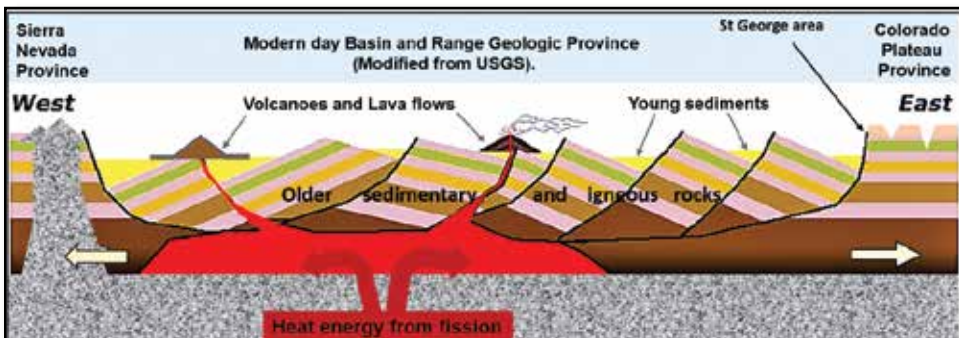


Figure 7. Geologic cross section from the Colorado Plateau across the Basin and Range and to the Sierra Nevada. The tensional stretching of the Basin and Range within the past 40 million years (yellow arrows) has resulted in a thinning of the lithosphere, tilting of older rocks, and abundant normal faulting (black lines), which have provided access for molten material to intrude the rocks and often make it to the surface in the form of volcanic eruptions.

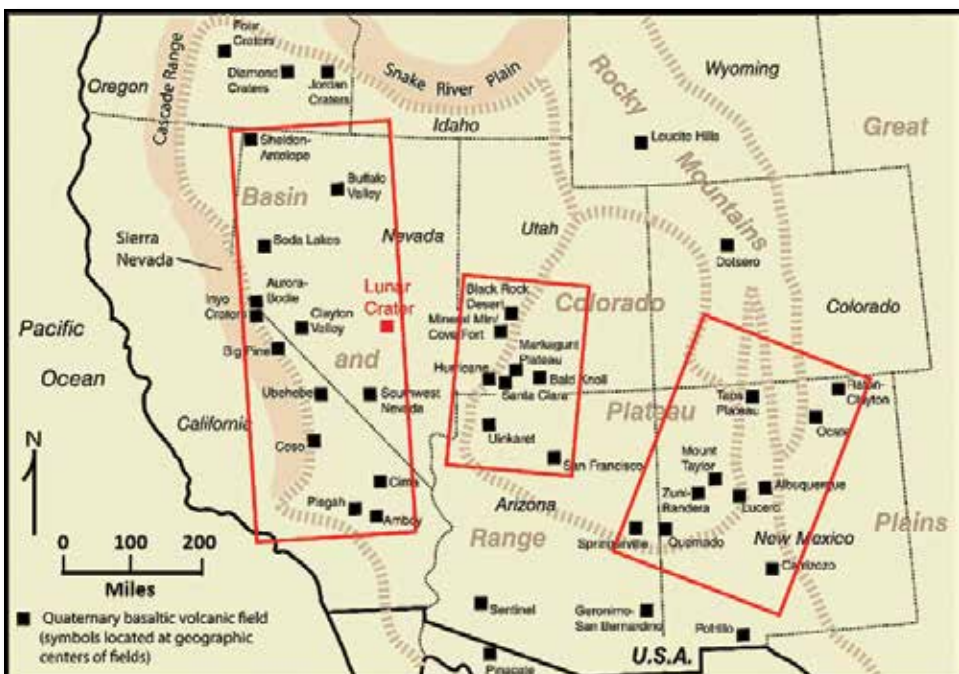


Figure 8. Distribution of quaternary volcanic fields in the western United States. I have drawn rectangles around three main areas containing volcanic fields, and it appears that most fields are associated with, or close to boundaries between geologic provinces (hatched lines).

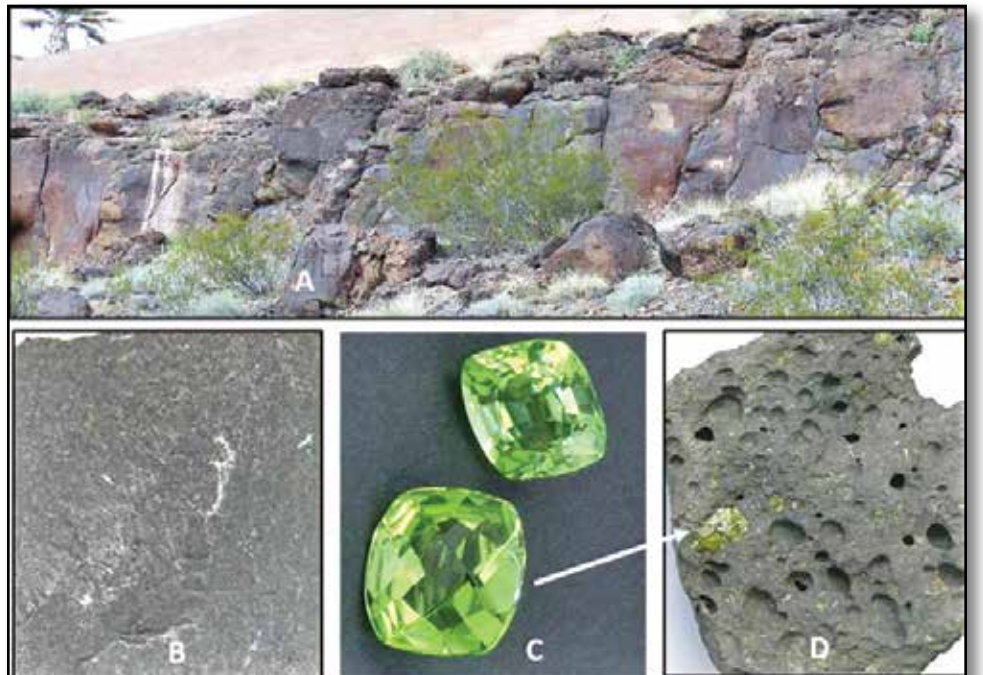


Figure 12. A. Example of small basalt lava flow in St. George. B. Hand-sized sample of massive basalt. C. Specimens of a semi-precious gem stone called peridot, which is actually the mineral olivine, often found in basalt. D. Hand-sized sample of vesicular basalt with olivine. The vesicles form from gases trapped in the molten lava. When erupted onto the surface, the pressure decreases and gasses expand and escape, thereby forming vesicles as cooling occurs. Both types of basalt occur in the St. George area. Compare the texture of these samples with that of the volcanic ignimbrite (Figure 2) and with the Pine Valley Mountain intrusive monzonite (Figure 4).

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ARROWHEAD GALLERY ETC FEATURES PHOTOGRAPHER SHIRLEY SMITH IN DECEMBER

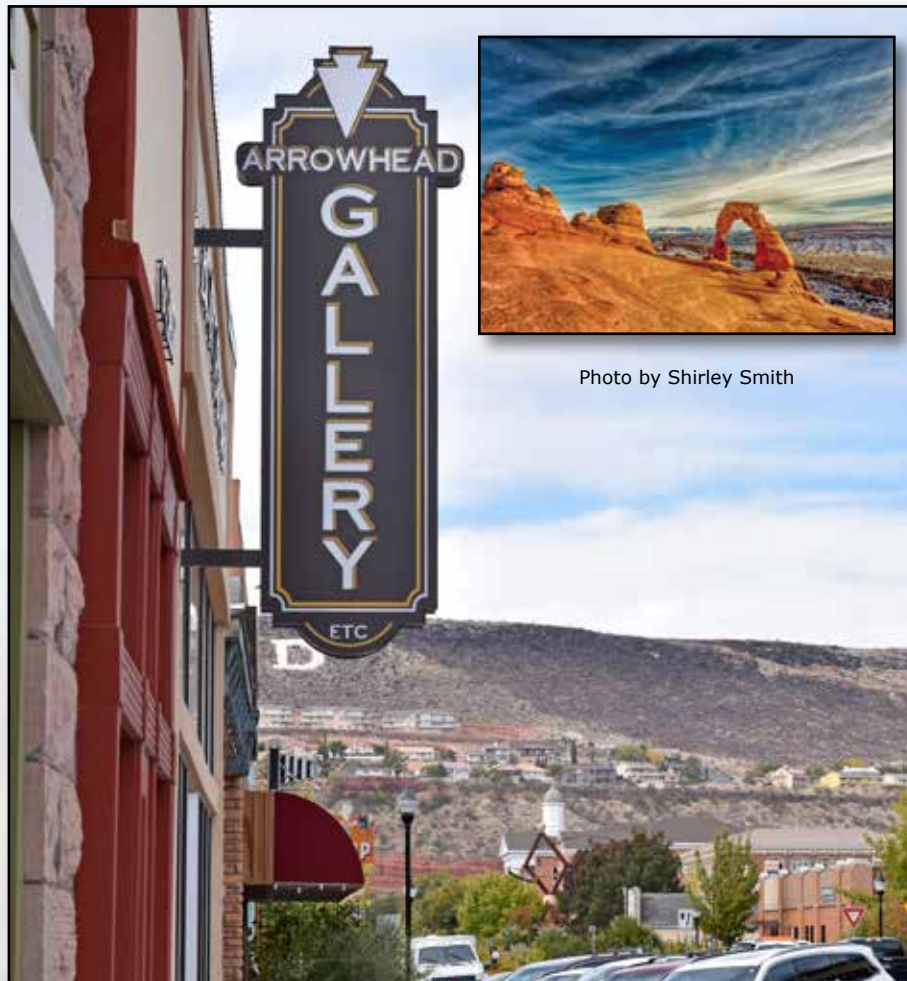
By Jo-Ann Merrill

Arrowhead Gallery ETC's featured artist for December is Shirley Smith. Please join her for a featured artist reception Dec. 7 from 6 to 8 p.m. at 68 E. Tabernacle St. in St. George.

"Mother Nature is the true artist," Smith said. "All I can do is capture her beauty with my camera in person and in my studio."

Smith utilizes her camera to capture moments in time and the computer to enhance them. Her expertise in digital photography allows her to share these moments and feelings with the viewer. Since Smith studied photography in

2012, she has not looked back to "life" before the camera. She is an award-winning photographer. Her work is currently on display at the Mesquite Fine Art Gallery. Her alcohol ink art tiles are also on display at the Datura Gallery in the Kayenta Art Village. She received the Sweepstakes Award for her image of the Babylon Arch at the Washington County Utah Fair. She is president of the St. George Color Country Camera Club, an active member of the Southern Utah Art Guild, and a member of the Virgin Valley Artists Association.



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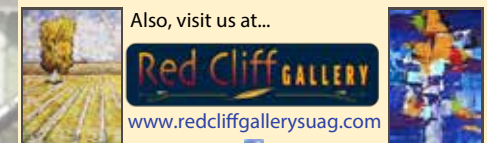
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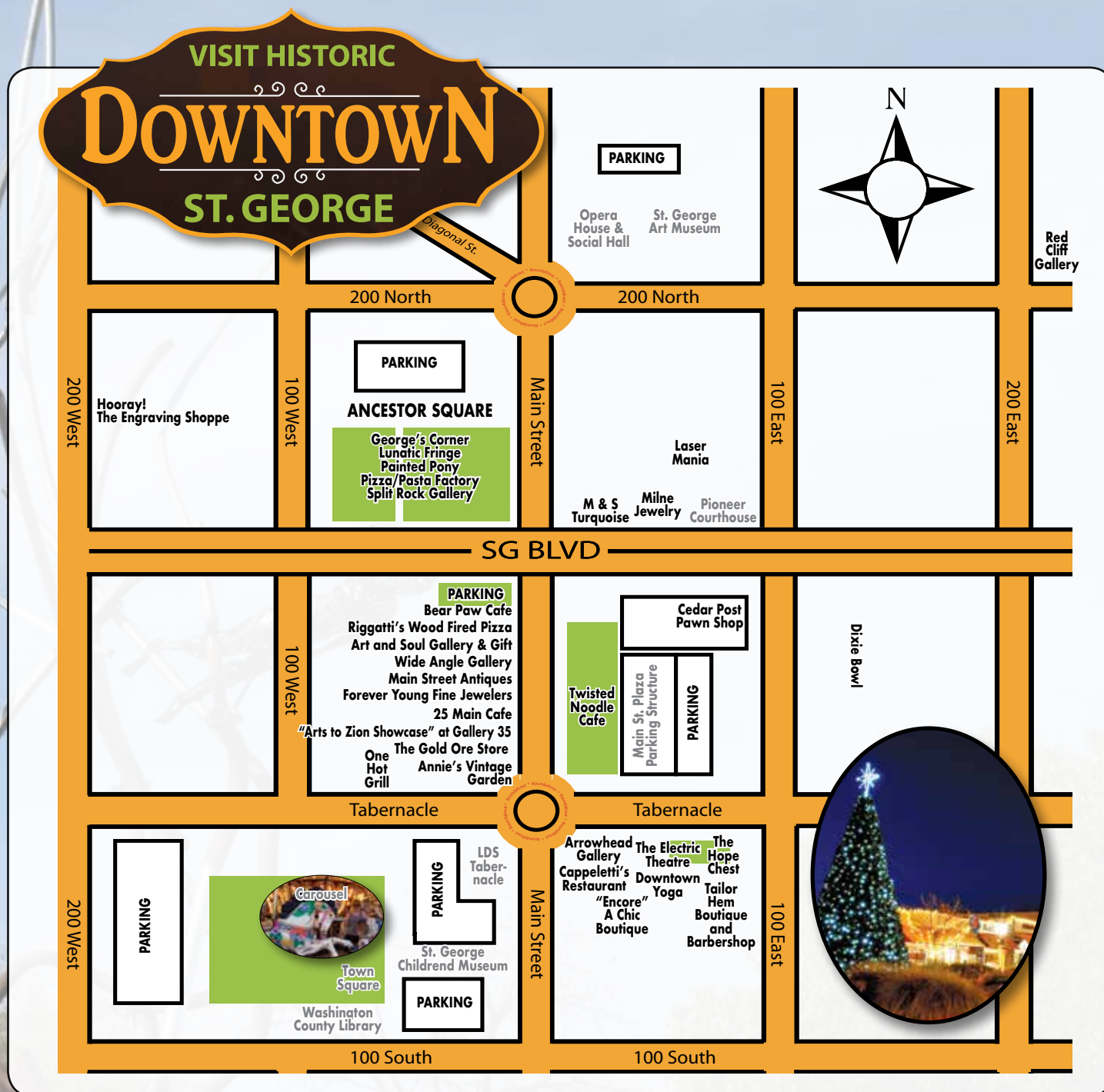


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MOVIES

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- ★ - Terrible

THE INDEPENDENT MOVIE GUIDE

By Adam Mast

“Ralph Breaks the Internet” (PG)



★★★★

“Creed II” wasn’t the only heavy-hitting sequel to open up over the Thanksgiving break. Ralph, as in “Wreck-It Ralph,” also made his highly anticipated return to the big screen, and while his latest adventure lacks the overall charm of its predecessor,

there’s still plenty of fun to be had here.

In the years that have passed since the first film, Ralph (voiced by John C. Reilly) and Vanellope (voiced by Sarah Silverman) have become the best of pals. In fact, they’re downright inseparable. The plot is set into motion when Ralph, out to give Vanellope the grandest of adventures, finds himself the accidental cause of damage to “Sugar Rush,” the game that his best friend calls home. In an effort to repair the old-school arcade relic, Ralph and Vanellope travel to the technological Mecca that is the internet for their very first time in a valiant effort to find an all important broken piece that will restore “Sugar Rush” to its former glory. If they are unsuccessful in their quest, Vanellope and the many characters who reside in that game will find themselves homeless.

Props to the makers of “Ralph Breaks the Internet” for not simply rehashing the first picture. It’s certainly more chaotic and less concise than its predecessor, but it benefits from wonderful animation, great energy, moments of unexpected seriousness, an offbeat sense of humor, and colorful vocal work.

Reilly and Silverman have spot-on chemistry in this picture, and that would probably explain why the storytellers behind this follow-up chose to make the focal point of the proceedings their unwavering bond. Yes, “Ralph Breaks the Internet” offers up Internet gags galore, pop cultural references (mostly of the Disney variety), and a couple of obligatory callbacks to “Wreck-It Ralph.” But even while our fearless heroes are on their journey to save “Sugar Rush,” the main thrust of the plot finds Ralph having to deal with the very idea that his best friend would rather stay in this new place

rather than return to her home, even if it means no longer hanging out with her best friend. In fact, Ralph is so insecure and terrified at the thought of being alone that he makes a few decisions that threaten the very livelihood of the Internet itself. This leads to a final act that is as epic as it is poignant.

Along the way, “Ralph Breaks the Internet” takes an opportunity to suggest that, for all its importance in the modern world, the Internet certainly has its downside. This film even goes so far as to give a glimpse at the negative effects of cyberbullying. Yes, there are certainly surprisingly heady themes in this film, themes I actually wish “Ralph Breaks the Internet” would have delved in to even further. But the fact that such contemporary issues are addressed at all is a pretty bold, and welcome, move.

Again, “Ralph Breaks the Internet” isn’t quite as consistently charming (or funny) as its predecessor, and it’s not quite as exhilarating as Steven Spielberg’s big-screen adaptation of the similarly themed “Ready Player One.” But there are still plenty of moments that make this colorful movie worth seeing in the theater. Be it Vanellope’s righteously hilarious run-in with a handful of iconic Disney princesses, the sight of Ralph facing his own insecurities head-on, a post-credits stinger for the ages (particularly if you’re looking forward to next year’s “Frozen 2”), and an undeniably clever Vanellope-headlined musical number, this “Wreck-It Ralph” follow-up is sure to make you smile while reminding you that the Internet can be both a blessing and a curse.

“Overlord” (R)

★★★★



If “Re-Animator” and “Saving Private Ryan” got together and produced a love child, it might look a little something like “Overlord,” a wildly entertaining horror/war film hybrid that owes just as much to war movie tropes as it does to the unforgettable gore-fests of the ’80s. What makes this film extra interesting is that it straddles that line between camp and seriousness ever so delicately. In other words, the dramatic element here keeps “Overlord” from turning into something like the zany but high-camp splatterfest that is “Dead Snow.” Not that this flick isn’t bonkers. It certainly is. It just has a surprising amount of heart and gung-ho patriotism to go along with all the gore and intensity.

“Overlord” wastes absolutely no time plunging us into the thick of the action as the film drops us directly into a World War II bomber under attack. Aboard the bomber are a squad of military men preparing to parachute behind enemy line. But before they have an opportunity to voluntarily jump from the plane, their aircraft is hit by enemy fire, all but forcing these men to deploy early.

Once on the ground, the tension only escalates as this core group of men are

separated behind enemy lines. Eventually, the squad reunites, and ultimately, a German woman (Mathilde Ollivier) leads them to a village where they hope to hide out. As it turns out, however, this village harbors a dark secret. It seems that in this particular village, villainous Nazis are using unsuspecting individuals as guinea pigs in a series of disturbing human experiments.

“Overlord” could have gone south quickly. But the fact is that this movie is incredibly entertaining throughout. The script by Billy Ray (“Captain Phillips”) and Mark L. Smith (“The Revenant”) is well paced, and for all it’s B-movie bravado, it still offers up characters worth caring about. Likewise, director Julius Avery (“Son of a Gun”) really does set the tone straight away with a terrifyingly well conceived aircraft attack.

This is to say nothing of the disturbing human experiments that make up the crux of the film. Beyond that, though, there’s plenty of humanity to be found in “Overlord” as well, and it goes beyond the righteous protagonist at the center of the movie. There’s also Ollivier’s tough but sympathetic villager and a charming bond between a streetwise soldier and Ollivier’s precocious young brother.

The performances are terrific right across the board with the standouts being Jovan Adepo (“Fences”) as noble soldier Boyce, a man who refuses to let the undeniable horrors of war shake him of his morality, and a wonderfully charismatic Wyatt Russell (son of the great Kurt Russell) as a fierce Ford, the hard-nosed leader of the squad. This man won’t take shit off nobody, least of all a bunch of bottom-feeding Nazis. I have no interest in that long-gestating “Escape From New York” remake we’ve been hearing about for the better part of the last ten years, but if it has to be made, the producers behind it would be positively foolish to not at least have a conversation with Russell Jr. about taking on one of his father’s greatest roles.

Elsewhere, “Overlord” is peppered with a terrific supporting cast, including Ollivier, John Magaro, Iain De Caestecker, Erich Redman, and a scary Pilou Asbaek as the film’s big bad guy, a heartless Nazi called Wafner. Clearly, Asbaek bows at the altar of Michael Shannon. He’s not quite in the same league as the magnetic “Take Shelter” star, but if you’re going to borrow, why not borrow for the best?

Hats off to Bad Robot Productions for this unconventional but gloriously twisted gem of a movie. With little odes to the likes of “Get Out,” “The Thing,” “Pan’s Labyrinth,” “The Descent,” “28 Days Later,” “Inglourious Basterds” and nearly every grand war picture you can shake a stick at, the appropriately bonkers “Overlord” emerges as pure delight for genre fans. The set pieces are first rate, the makeup effects are stellar, the characters are appealing, and a dynamic score by “The Babadook” composer Jez Kurzel is the icing on the cake. This may not be a movie for the masses, but if you’re a fan of ’80s gore-fests, war movies, and flicks that features Nazis getting knocked on their asses, this movie is definitely for you.

“Creed II” (PG-13)

★★★★

First off, a confession: I enjoy “Rocky IV” quite a bit for what it is. But quite honestly, it’s always been my least favorite of the series. Yes, even the much despised “Rocky V,” for all its flaws and overstuffed

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nature, is a better movie. This isn't to say that "Rocky IV" is bad. It's high energy and features a couple of supremely badass training montages, and the final fight is pretty damn rousing. But the whole premise of "Rocky IV" is just so darn silly, most notably the idea that Balboa could end the Cold War in the ring. Quite frankly, that's more of a job for Rambo!

The original "Rocky" used boxing as a backdrop. But the real key to that movie's success was in the character work and the relationships. Even the other entries in this enduring franchise, as inferior as they are to the original, managed to steer clear of the cartoony nature of "Rocky IV." Why even bring "Rocky IV" up in this article, you ask? Because "Creed II" is just as much "Rocky IV, Part 2" as it is a sequel to "Creed."



This follow-up to Ryan Coogler's outstanding 2015 hit finds Apollo's son Adonis riding large on the boxing circuit following his victory at the end of the first picture. Trouble arises, however, when a money-craving boxing promoter (is there any other kind?) sets out to set up a much publicized fight between Adonis Creed and Viktor Drago, the physically imposing son of Ivan. Ivan, of course, is the monstrous Russian boxer responsible for killing Adonis's father in the ring 30 years earlier before losing a big fight to Balboa shortly thereafter.

With his pride on the line, Donnie — as his friends call him — agrees to meet Viktor in the ring against a disapproving Rocky's wishes. Rocky is of the humble opinion that Donnie has too much to lose while Viktor Drago was raised in hatred and has absolutely nothing to lose. Ultimately, Balboa chooses to walk away from training duties, causing a rift between himself and a bitter Donnie. What follows is a formulaic series of events that play a bit like a "Rocky" franchise milkshake. But in the end, I'll be darned if this formula still doesn't work.

The big question mark going into "Creed II" is clearly the absence of writer and director Ryan Coogler, who was too busy working on a little movie called "Black Panther" to commit to this sequel. Coogler was so integral to the success of the first picture that the thought of him not coming back to helm the second was almost too much to bear. Alas, the first film (or seventh, depending on your particular point of view) was such a hit that a follow-up was inevitable. So Steven Caple Jr. was eventually brought in to follow in Coogler's mighty footsteps, working from a script co-written by Stallone himself. The end result is a movie that doesn't quite pack the same emotional punch as "Creed" — Balboa will never fight a bigger opponent than cancer — but still manages to uplift and move even when we've seen a lot of this stuff before.

Be it the blossoming relationship between Donnie and Bianca (Tessa Thompson), an older and wiser Rocky still fighting the good fight, a brutal boxing sequence followed by a rousing rematch, and of course a training montage, "Creed II" is the very personification of familiar. The thing is, though, that the relationships here are charming enough and the character work strong enough that it all comes together effectively.

Not everything works. While Caple is more than capable at displaying Adonis's quickness and finesse in the ring as well as Viktor's size and undeniable power, the two key boxing sequences that take place in this picture lack the rhythm and build of the best fights in this iconic franchise. Further still, while the desert locale of the training montage is a nice change of scenery, it lacks the "get-up-and-cheer" vibe you might be hoping for. Again, though, there's plenty worth noting in this picture.

What truly make "Creed II" worth watching are the performances. A ripped Michael B. Jordan brings real swagger to the proceedings. With his fierce, charismatic, and often arrogant take on Adonis, he's not always a character as easy to root for as his underdog mentor, Rocky. But quite honestly, that's a bit of a plus because it helps distinguish this new series direction from earlier entries in the franchise. It should also be noted that Jordan is equally adept at being vulnerable and being fearful, both of which he displays to dramatic effect as he continues to try and live up to his father's legacy, all while embarking on that crazy, unpredictable adventure that is parenthood. Speaking of which, Thompson is terrific in this picture as well, serving not only as the object of Donnie's affection but as an independent character with challenges of her own. Bianca continues her quest in the music industry, even as her hearing continues to fail her, because as Rocky once famously said, "It's not about how hard you can hit but how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward."

As for Rocky, he's more of a supporting character here, as was the case with the last picture, but he is still of the utmost importance. Obviously, the role of Rocky fits Stallone like a weathered boxing glove by this point as this legendary character has endured for the better part of 40 years, and as expected, Sly brings an undeniable charm to this lovable fighter. Further still, Stallone has a couple of moments towards the end of this picture that are moving in a big way. This is to say nothing of his spot-on chemistry with Jordan. According to Sly himself, this is his last turn as Balboa, and if that is in fact true, what a glorious ride it's been.

Beyond wonderful work from Jordan, Thompson, and Stallone as well as the inclusion of a couple of surprise cameos that are best left undisclosed in this review, a quietly intense Dolph Lundgren returns to the role that put him on the map as a now disgraced Ivan Drago. Because of his monumental loss to Rocky on that fateful day way back in the mid-80s, he's lost virtually everything, and payback has been on his mind for the better part of three decades. Despite little screen time, Lundgren is very good in this picture, and thankfully, he hasn't been relegated to a stock one-dimensional villain as he was in "Rocky IV." His Ivan Drago is given more depth this time around, and "Creed II" is all the stronger for it.

Florian Munteanu also makes an impression as Ivan's hard-punching son, Viktor. This man has essentially been

groomed to redeem his father, and there's a lot of pressure that comes with that. This is Munteanu's acting debut, and while the Russian dialect could have used a little more work, this professional fighter adapts himself nicely here. He's terrifying in the ring, to be sure. But there's sadness, anger, and confusion behind those eyes, and this gives "Creed II" an additional dramatic layer.

There's a wonderful father/son thematic through-line in "Creed" that certainly continues in this picture. In fact, that through-line is even more apparent in this follow-up, not just in terms of Rocky and Donnie but with Ivan and Viktor as well, particularly in the final act as "Creed II" comes to an emotionally satisfying conclusion. One even gets the sense that an effective Stallone drew from the passing of his real-life son, Sage, to bring some of the more powerful moments in "Creed II" to life.

Finally, it should be noted that while certainly flawed, "Creed II" offers up a first for the franchise: Over 40 years of "Rocky" films and this is the first entry where I didn't want to see either boxer lose the final fight. That's saying a lot. True, "Creed II" isn't as strong as the last picture, but it still serves as a worthy follow-up to both "Rocky IV" and "Creed." Yes, there are cheesy moments and the film is overflowing with familiar tropes but it still emerges as a nostalgic rush filled with characters that believe in what they're fighting for.

"The Grinch" (PG)

★★★★



From Universal Pictures and Illumination, the animation studio behind "Despicable Me," comes a new adaptation of a Dr. Seuss holiday classic that's actually considerably more enjoyable than that 58 percent Rotten Tomatoes score would have you believe. There's something to be said for an animated feature that goes out of its way to suggest that kindness in this world still greatly outweighs meanness, and while the idea that love can transform even the coldest of hearts might seem a tad idealistic and sappy, particularly in today's climate, it's still a lovely concept.

"The Grinch" weaves its tale around the title character, a curmudgeon who lives a life of virtual solitude on the outskirts of cheery Whoville. The Grinch (voiced by Benedict Cumberbatch) only has his sweet-natured dog to keep him company, but that suits him just fine. Unfortunately for him, though, the arrival of that annual annoyance that is Christmas pushes the Grinch over the edge. The mere thought of seeing the citizens of Whoville come even closer together during the yule tide season is almost too much for him to bear, so he decides to do something about it! He decides he'll steal Christmas from his unsuspecting neighbors.

Meanwhile, down in Whoville, a young girl called Cindy Lou-Who (Cameron Seely) is on a mission of her own: to deliver the

most special of gifts to her loving mother. In order to pull it off, though, it'll require the assistance of the one and only Santa Claus. Ultimately, her plan will find her crossing paths with the Grinch, making for one heck of a strange Christmas Eve encounter.

"The Grinch" has been adapted into both a wonderful '60s television special featuring the voice of Boris Karloff and a very successful 2000 Jim Carrey-headlined blockbuster film directed by Ron Howard. While the expanding of the original source material keeps this version from outranking the '60s television take, I do prefer this to Ron Howard's live-action version, primarily because this story simply works to stronger effect in animated form.

There's wonderful vocal work, too, most notably Cumberbatch who surprisingly refrains from resorting to the deep and brooding menace of Smaug and Khan and opts for a more lighthearted approach. He's a lot of fun here, evoking that playful grumpiness we all come to expect from this character, but he also brings a much welcome sense of vulnerability and, dare I say, sweetness to the proceedings. While this is essentially Cumberbatch's show, he's backed up by a wonderful roster of supporting vocal talent, including a precious and playful Seely, a goofy Kenan Thompson (Mr. Bricklebaum), a sweet and loving Rashida Jones (Donna Who), and an cheerful and inviting Pharrell Williams (the Narrator).

While "The Grinch" uses Dr. Seuss' sacred text as its primary inspiration, the storytellers behind this likable adaptation also find time to wink at other iconic holiday fare including "A Christmas Story," "Christmas Vacation," and "The Nightmare Before Christmas." Subsequently, the great Danny Elfman is responsible for this film's appropriately festive score.

Yes, "The Grinch" feels like Christmas through and through. It's colorful and vibrant, particularly the nighttime scenes in which a lit up Whoville sparkles like the brightest of the stars in the sky. But it's also sweet and warm in terms of the messages it sets out convey. Look no further than the very idea that little Cindy Lou-Who simply wants to bring joy to her mother for the holidays.

Beyond that, if adorable animals are your thing, than "The Grinch" has got you covered. From the Grinch's cute (and fiercely loyal) dog Max to an endearing reindeer to a hilarious screaming goat, these animals will warm your heart and tickle your funny bone.

In the end, though, "The Grinch" is really about the title character's transformation, and while his turn might feel a bit slight, there's plenty of insight into what makes this iconic character tick throughout this charming movie. In the end, the little layers that are eventually peeled away go a long way to earn "The Grinch" its sweet and undeniably affectionate ending.



OPINION

WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT SHOULD GET A LUMP OF COAL THIS CHRISTMAS, NOT MORE OF OUR TAXES

On Dec. 5 at 6 p.m. the Washington County Water Conservancy District held a public hearing to discuss its proposed tax increase. The word “tax” is nearly a curse word in Utah, and particularly in southern Utah. So what’s their rationale for this tax increase, and is it valid?

The following is an excerpt from the July 2018 Washington County Water Board meeting detailing water manager Ron Thompson’s concerns about property taxes for the district:

“Ron discussed the need of the district to bring the property tax levy to 0.001. It has dropped down to 0.00006, and the goal is to get it up to 0.001 by 2030. In the 6 p.m. public meeting, he will present a statement of the district’s intention to levy a tax rate that exceeds the district’s certified tax rate. The cost would be to an average home of \$300,000 about \$10 a year. There was some discussion among the board of raising it in smaller amounts over a number of years rather than raising it a lot at one time.”

Unlike many, if not most, other public meeting entities, the Water Conservancy District does not post the audio from its meetings, so I do not have more details about the July discussion. But it seems clear that the district wants more of our tax dollars.

I don’t know how accurate the \$10 a year for an average home is. This may not seem like much, but taxes are taxes. They have a way of growing over time.

Subsidizing our water through taxes creates disconnect between how we use water and how much we use while doing nothing to encourage conservation. This regressive tax puts additional burden on those who can least afford to have their taxes increased, and those who pay rent will have the property owners’ taxes passed along to them. With unaffordable housing already a problem in Washington County, this tax increase should be rejected.

A little history about Utah’s property tax laws sheds light on how we’ve arrived at our current situation. The current “Truth in Taxation” process came about due to increasing citizen concerns about the way local governments had been levying property taxes during a period from 1970 until the mid-1980s during which assessed property values had increased rapidly, averaging 13 percent per year. This situation provided a windfall to some local governments with tax revenues increasing faster than actual cost of services.

The 1985 Tax Increase Disclosure Act created a revenue-based tax system to replace the rate-based system and mandated a process to involve citizens if entities want to raise property taxes.

Utah Foundation’s “The Essential Tax — Property Tax 2018” explains the current situation this way: “In theory, Truth in Taxation dictates that the property tax should generate the same revenue every year. However, there are two ways revenues can change. The first is that any new growth (like a new subdivision) would be taxed at the current rate, theoretically allowing growth in revenue commensurate with the new services required by the new subdivision. The second way to increase revenue would be to increase the tax rate (or even just leave it the same) by going through the Truth in Taxation process.”

The Historical Overview of Utah’s Property Taxes states as follows: “Utah’s ‘Truth in Taxation’ laws are revenue-driven, not rate-driven. That means the requirement to hold a ‘Truth in Taxation’ hearing is based upon the collections of a taxing entity, not the rate charged. Utah law requires ‘Truth in Taxation’ hearings to be held when a taxing entity elects to collect more revenue than was collected the previous year, although the entities are permitted to keep revenues generated by ‘new growth’ — such as value added to the tax rolls from a new subdivision or a new business.”



From 2006 to 2016, property taxes collected statewide have risen from \$2.1 billion to \$3.3 billion. Over that time period, an additional \$1,200,537,384 has been raised in property taxes statewide with 55 percent of that going to schools and the remainder split between counties, cities and towns, and special districts such as the water district.

The Utah Foundation report reveals that “Revenues for school districts and special and local districts statewide have increased faster than inflation and population growth combined.” Our water district, as already noted, is considered a “special” district.

According to the 2017 audited financial report for the Washington County Water Conservancy District, 2017 property tax revenue increased by \$489,000, a 4.6 percent increase. The current U.S. inflation rate is 2.5 percent as of October 2018. So the district seems to have been faring well. Also from the district’s 2017 audited financial report, the district enjoyed a decrease in general government expenses

of 10.9 percent and a decrease in business expenses of 9.85 percent. I applaud the district for these achievements, but that does not mean it deserves more of our money. In fact, the same 2017 financial report reveals under Statement of Net Position (Dec. 31, 2017) that the district has \$97,568,989 in “Cash & Cash Equivalents” and \$73,822,571 in “Restricted Cash” totaling \$171,391,560.

Additionally, from 2016 to 2017, impact fees collected by the district increased from \$16.4 million to \$26 million, so they are reaping the rewards of our latest growth spurt.

A Nov. 2 news report by KSL News provided information on how water districts statewide are doing when it comes to salaries: “A little-known network of government agencies pay some of the highest salaries in the state. In fact, an analysis of compensation records for water districts show one-third of employees earn six-figure pay packages. The water conservancy districts manage water resources across the state. Trustees and staff are largely un-elected. Records provided by water conservancy districts to the Utah Transparency website show the top five employees earned on average over a quarter million dollars last year. Their compensation packages include benefits like healthcare and sometimes a car. The KSL salary analysis also found 60 percent of water district employees make more

tax increase is really necessary or is just to stash money away for the proposed but unnecessary Lake Powell Pipeline? That’s certainly how it appears, but our district and others throughout the state argue the property tax revenue stream is essential to their operation, often using their obligation to endangered species protection in rivers, such as our Virgin River, as one excuse. In fact, many other states don’t even collect property taxes for water and, with so many threatened and endangered species in the world and our nation, undoubtedly have their own challenges.

So are property taxes for water necessary at all? Utah Rivers Council, a Salt Lake City-based conservation organization, surveyed 62 water suppliers in 12 western states to determine how many collected revenues through property taxes and how that affected the suppliers’ bond ratings. Of those 62 suppliers, only 18 received revenues through property taxes, and eight of those are in Utah. In fact, all queried in Utah do. Seven of the 62 suppliers surveyed have authority to raise revenues using property taxes but are not currently doing so.

How do property-tax revenue streams affect water suppliers’ bond ratings? Whether or not property taxes were collected, all suppliers surveyed by Utah Rivers Council had A-/A3 or better ratings, with a significant number of those who did not collect property tax money having AA/Aa2, AA+/Aa1 and AAA/Aaa. So property tax revenue is not needed to achieve a high rating.

In fact, given that many water suppliers are able to function without having property tax revenue, the state should be phasing out property taxes for our water district and others in Utah. What is needed is for the state to come up with a plan to do this and engage the community in a conversation about it. For our district, specifically, it seems clear that this effort is to shore up the war chest for the Lake Powell Pipeline, a project that may very well increase our water waste problem, not help it.

The most recent Federal Energy Regulatory Commission public comment period, part of the Lake Powell Pipeline licensing review process, reveals how Washington County citizens feel about the Lake Powell Pipeline. Sixty-two percent of Washington County resident who commented opposed the project, and that does not include the overwhelming opposition expressed by citizens from across the state who commented. Those outside the county will not pay these additional property taxes proposed by the district, but they would be on the hook if the state bonds for the project in the future, tying up valuable financial resources.

By the time this article is published, a decision will have been made about this tax increase. I can only hope that citizens attended and spoke out against the proposal and that decision makers listened. The district’s certified tax rate allows the taxing entity to obtain the same property tax revenue budgeted in the previous year but also allows for additional revenue generated from new growth in the tax base. Given the explosive growth we are experiencing in Washington County now, I am sure that new growth is providing great revenue opportunities for them. Given the water district’s financial circumstances described in its 2017 financial report and other tax-related issues noted in this article, it should not be asking for too much this Christmas!

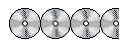
ALBUM REVIEWS

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THE INDEPENDENT ALBUM REVIEWS

By Brian Passey

The Smashing Pumpkins reunite
(kind of) with “Shiny and
Oh So Bright”



Remember when The Smashing Pumpkins had simple names for their albums, like “Gish” or “Adore”? Even “Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness” is almost pithy compared to the band’s latest, “Shiny and Oh So Bright — Vol. 1 / LP — No Past. No Future. No Sun.”

If you can get past the mouthful that masquerades as an album title, you’ll find the big news: James Iha is back! Jimmy Chamberlain is back! It’s the most The Smashing Pumpkins have looked like themselves since their 2000 breakup. No, D’arcy Wretzky didn’t join this reunion effort, but we’ll take it — especially since this is the most The Smashing Pumpkins have sounded like themselves in 18 years.

It’s probably foolish to hope that The Smashing Pumpkins will ever fully channel the same alt-rock majesty they embraced in the mid-’90s with albums like “Siamese Dream” and the aforementioned double-LP, “Mellon Collie.” Even their 1998 quasi-electronic affair, “Adore,” was a bright spot in the band’s history — despite the notable absence of Chamberlain, who had been fired because of his problems with drug and alcohol addiction.

That was just the beginning of two decades of turbulence for frontman Billy Corgan’s band — a band for which he would be the sole consistent member. They officially broke up in 2000 after the “Machina” albums, but Corgan and Chamberlain were soon working together again on a new band, Zwan, while Iha joined A Perfect Circle and Wretzky all but disappeared.

Corgan and Chamberlain revived The Smashing Pumpkins, without Iha or Wretzky, in 2007 for “Zeitgeist,” which had a few promising tracks but was somewhat forgettable overall. The next couple of efforts found Corgan without any of his original bandmates, releasing “Oceania” and “Monuments to an Elegy” — both chapters in the band’s “Teargarden by Kaleidyscope” series — in 2012 and 2014, respectively. Mötley Crüe drummer Tommy Lee joined the band for the 2014 album, but even with a famous name on the skins, both efforts lacked that signature Chamberlain punch, inflected with flourishes of jazz.

But 2018 would be different. When The Smashing Pumpkins announced tour dates, it was billed as a reunion tour, and Iha was confirmed to back with the band for the first time in 18 years. Chamberlain was there, too. And when they kicked off the tour in

Glendale, Arizona, the focus was on the band’s first five albums. Their ‘90s music videos played behind the band (though Wretzky was noticeably absent from the footage) as they tore through hits like “Today,” “Disarm,” and “Zero.”

They also played a couple of new tracks, hinting at a new album. Sure enough, both songs appear on “Shiny and Oh So Bright.” And they’re not half-bad.

No, the album won’t stand up well alongside “Siamese Dream” or “Mellon Collie.” But it just might do OK when paired with “Machina.” That’s to say that this isn’t the band’s best work, but at least it sounds like The Smashing Pumpkins again.

“Solara,” one of the singles, goes for the heavy-hitting, grandiose rock of “The Everlasting Gaze,” but it comes up sounding more like “Doomsday Clock” or “Tarantula”

— not quite fully formed but good enough for a headbang or two.

More successful are the more melodic tracks. It’s obvious that the band is striving for the unbridled nostalgia of “1979” and the epic grandiosity of “Tonight Tonight.” But we should be kind to ourselves and not expect the band to ever write another “1979.” After all, we aren’t sitting around and waiting for Paul McCartney to give us another “Yesterday,” but we’re happy with recent tracks like “Confidante.”

To that end, “Silvery Sometimes (Ghosts)” and “Travels” are both close enough to The Smashing Pumpkins of 25 years ago to make us not only smile but actually tap our toes to their engaging tunes. In fact, “Silvery Sometimes” is the catchiest thing Corgan has written since his Zwan days.

At only eight songs, this latest Smashing Pumpkins album actually faces the opposite problem of its three previous predecessors, each of which failed to keep our attention for an entire album of songs. There just isn’t quite enough of what The Smashing Pumpkins are offering this time around. We actually find ourselves wanting a little more.

Corgan seems to have a bad habit of starting musical projects (typically with long, complex names — surprise, surprise) and never finishing them. Despite the unwieldy name, here’s hoping there’s a Vol. 2 to “Shiny and Oh So Bright.” And with Iha back, maybe it’s not too optimistic that they’ll make amends with a certain bass player and make it a complete reunion the next time around.

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AL ROUNDS AND LES SMITH GALLERY SHOW Mondays-Saturdays, 10 a.m. Utah artists Al Rounds and Les Smith will be featured in the gallery at the DiFiore Center in the months of November and December. The DiFiore Center, 307 N. Main St., St. George.

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HOLIDAY MARKET Dec. 7-8, 11 a.m. Find gifts for everyone on your list, including yourself. Shop for unique handmade gifts from glasswork to soap. Live entertainment and Santa impersonator. Frontier Homestead, 635 N. Main St., Cedar City.

FAIRY TALE CHRISTMAS Dec. 7-22, 7:30 p.m. This holiday musical sees Christmas through the eyes of a group of Fairy Tale Villains who decide to kidnap Santa in hopes of changing the endings of the Fairy Tales and erasing all the happily-ever-afters. Hafen Theater, 1100 Tuacahn Dr., Ivins.

GLITTERING LIGHTS AT LAS VEGAS MOTOR SPEEDWAY Dec. 7-Jan. 6, Drive-through Christmas lights display, 7000 Las Vegas Blvd., North Las Vegas.

OFF THE BLOCK GALLERY SHOW Dec. 7-15, 10 a.m. Featuring the art of Carol Bold, Royden Card, and Abraham McCowan. Canyon Community Center, 126 Lion Blvd., Springdale.

EHS CHRISTMAS SHOW Dec. 7, 8, and 10, 7 p.m. Enterprise High School, 565 S. 200 E. St., Enterprise.

HANDEL'S "MESSIAH" Dec. 9-10, 7:30 p.m. Heritage Center Theatre, 105 N. 100 E., Cedar City.

HURRICANE VALLEY CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL Dec. 14-15, Noon. Over 50 trees decorated and ready for viewing and bidding. Money raised goes to Shop With a Cop and youth scholarships. Entertainment throughout the day, bake sale, and drawings. Tons of vendors to fill your stockings and finish your holiday shopping. Free admission. Hurricane Community Center, 63 S. 100 W., Hurricane.

JENNY OAKS BAKER Dec. 14-15, 7 p.m. Cox Performing Arts Center, 325 S. 700 E., St. George.

GUITARS & CADILLACS AT VIRGIN RIVER HOTEL Dec. 5-9, 8 p.m. showtimes may vary. Classic country and '50s cover band. Free admission. 21 or older. River Lounge, 100 Pioneer Blvd., Mesquite.

GREGG PETERSON BAND AT CASABLANCA Dec. 5-9, 8 p.m. showtimes may vary. Variety and dance band. Free. 21 or older. 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

WRANGLER NFR 2018 LIVE BROADCAST VIEWING AT CASABLANCA Dec. 6-15, 6:45 p.m.. Watch the National Finals Rodeo live on big screens in the Skydome Lounge. Free, must be 21 or older. Bands start at 9 p.m. 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

WRANGLER NFR 2018 LIVE BROADCAST VIEWING AT RIVER LOUNGE Dec. 6-15, 6:45 p.m.. Watch the National Finals Rodeo live on big screens in the River Lounge. Free, must be 21 or older. Bands start at 9 p.m. 100 Pioneer Blvd., Mesquite.

TOUCH OF SILK AT CASABLANCA Dec. 12-16, 8 p.m. showtimes may vary. Playing old school R&B, Motown, and more. Free. 21 or older. CasaBlanca Resort, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

PSYCHOBILLY AT VIRGIN RIVER HOTEL Dec. 12-16, 8 p.m. Cover band playing a variety of dance music from country to classic rock. Free. Must be 21 or older. 100 Pioneer Blvd., Mesquite.

KID & NICK SHOW AT CASABLANCA Dec. 19-23, 8 p.m. showtimes may vary. A fun, high-energy, interactive variety musical group. Free admission. 21 or older. 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

MOST WANTED AT VIRGIN RIVER LOUNGE Dec. 19-23, 8 p.m. showtimes may vary. Playing classic rock, disco, oldies, country, and everything in between. Free. 21 or older. 100 Pioneer Blvd., Mesquite.

GREGG PETERSON BAND AT CASABLANCA Dec. 26-31, 8 p.m. showtimes may vary. Variety and dance band. Free. 21 or older. 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

LARA ASH & INFERNO AT RIVER LOUNGE Dec. 26-31, 8 p.m. Variety cover band. Free admission, must be 21 or older. 100 Pioneer Blvd., Mesquite.

NEW HORIZONS BAND FOR SENIOR ADULTS Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1 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.

NEW HORIZONS STRINGS FOR SENIOR ADULTS Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3 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.

New Year's Eve BASH
featuring
CATFISH JOHN
9pm – Midnight
December 31
\$10 Cover
Zion Canyon Brew Pub
95 Zion Park Blvd • Springdale, UT

December Live Music
All Shows 6-9 pm, No Cover
12/1 – Buena Onda
12/8 – 3 Hat Trio (After Light Parade)
12/15 – Mountaintop Sound
12/22 – Dave & Victoria
12/29 – Dick Earl's Electric Witness
95 Zion Park Blvd, Springdale • 435-772-0336

CALENDAR

Multi-Day Events

JERRY ANDERSON'S PRIVATE STUDIO Nov. 23, and 24, 10 a.m. Washington Co. artist/sculptor Jerry Anderson's studio will be open. Silver Reef Ghost Town, 1903 Wells Fargo Rd., St. George.

LIVING HISTORY AT SILVER REEF GHOST TOWN Fourth weekend of every month. 10 a.m. Silver Reef Museum, 1903 Wells Fargo Rd., Leeds.

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 Rd., 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.

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.

TODDLER TIME Thursdays and Fridays, 11 a.m. Washington County Library System, 88 W. 100 S., St. George.

Events by Day SUNDAYS

SOUTHERN UTAH MORMON TRANSITION/SUPPORT GROUP 1-2:30 p.m., this weekly support group is for individuals questioning their Mormon faith and looking to join like-minded people in open discussion on navigating a faith transition. The group meets in at the north end of the building by the pharmacy in the community room at Smith's, located at 565 S. Mall Dr. in St. George.

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 saintgeorgedance.com or call (435) 773-1221. The Electric Theater, 68 W. Tabernacle St., St. George.

TUESDAYS

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

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.

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.

MEMORY MATTERS EARLY STAGE MEMORY LOSS SERIES 10:30 a.m. Designed to aid the person with memory loss and their primary care partners and includes presentations on legal and financial preparation, pharmaceutical and alternative remedies, brain health, and nutrition. Falls Event Center, 170 S. Mall Dr., St. George.

STORY TIME WASHINGTON BRANCH 11 a.m. Washington County Library System, 220 N. 300 E., Washington.

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

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

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

TRIBUTE TO THE KING 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 'twens who love anime, gaming, or both meet for book discussions, games, and great times. Santa Clara Library, 1099 Lava Flow Dr., St. George.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

DESERT COMMUNITY STRINGS 6:30 p.m. Open to all ages and abilities. If you used to play a stringed instrument and would like to get back to the joy of music, this group is definitely for you. desertstrings.org St. George Medical Building, 736 S 900 E, St. George.

JOYFUL YOGA 6:30 p.m. Kundalini Yoga as taught by Yogi Bhajan. Free, donations accepted. Sage Hills Healing Center, 6232 W. Sage Hills Dr., Cedar City.

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 MIKES TAVERN 9 p.m.-1 a.m. No cover. 90 W. Hoover Ave., Cedar City.

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

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.

SUP YOGA AT QUAIL 10 a.m. Join Michelle Ennis and DIG Paddlesports UP Yoga Friday mornings. Experience the Bliss of Yoga on the water while laughing, getting wet, and having a great time. Whether you are an experienced yogi or you just want to try something new, challenging, and fun, this class is for everyone. Feel at ease while you are guided to move and balance. Taught by a certified Stand Up Paddle Yoga instructor in a safe and supportive environment. Classes are 90 minutes and include SUP instruction, warm up, flow, playtime, and savasana on the water. Quail Creek State Park, 472 N. 5300 W., Hurricane.

**YOUR FEATURED EVENT HERE!
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CALENDAR

FRIDAYS

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

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

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 vistorcenter@bestfriends.org and they'll print it out for you. Email jennifer-nagle@hotmail.com to sign up. Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, 5001 Angel Canyon Rd., Kanab.

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

LIVE MUSIC AT PEEKABOO WOOD FIRED KITCHEN 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. 233 W. Center St., Kanab.

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

DJ JANELLE AT MIKE'S TAVERN 9 p.m. 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.

KANAB OUTDOOR MARKET 4 p.m. Local crafts, produce, live entertainment, and more. Comfort Suites, 150 W. Center St., Kanab.

LIVE MUSIC AT ZION CANYON BREW PUB 4-7 p.m. Free. Zion Canyon Brew Pub, 95 Zion Park Blvd., Springdale.

Events by Date

Fri, Dec 7

SUU STUDENT RECITAL Noon. Thorley Recital Hall, 432 W. 200 S., Cedar City.

ROCKVILLE HOLIDAY PARTY 6 p.m. Rockville Community Center, 43 E. Main St., Rockville.

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.

LISA MAC AT PEEKABOO KITCHEN 6:30 p.m. Free. Lisa Mac has become known for her powerful, soulful voice and poignant blues-rock songwriting. Peekaboo Kitchen, 233 W. Center St., Kanab.

DSU CHORAL CONCERT 7:30 p.m. Dixie State University, 225 S. 700 E., St. George.

SUU MASTERWORKS CHRISTMAS CONCERT 7:30 p.m. Heritage Center Theatre, 105 N. 100 E., Cedar City.

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

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

Sat, Dec 8

CHRISTMAS IN THE COUNTRY HOME TOURS 10 a.m. View five Panguitch homes. Panguitch.

FAMILY DAY 2 p.m. SUMA and artsFUSION have teamed up to bring performing and visual arts to life for families in southern Utah. SUMA, 13 S. 300 W., Cedar City.

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

LIGHT PARADE & SWEETS SOCIAL 6:30 p.m. Canyon Community Center, 126 Lion Blvd., Springdale.

NATHAN PACHECO AT COX AUDITORIUM 7:30 p.m. Pacheco is a classically trained tenor who has a passion for reaching out and uplifting people through music. \$30. Purchase tickets by phone by calling (435) 652-7800 or visit dsutix.com. 325 S. 700 E., St. George.

OSU CONCERT 7:30 p.m. (435) 592-6051 Heritage Center Theater, 105 N. 100 E., Cedar City.

DSU SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA 7:30 p.m. 225 S. 700 E., St. George.

SECOND SATURDAY SWING DANCE 7:30 p.m. Swing Dance lesson followed by two hours of swing dance music. DSU, Whitehead Education Building, 865 E. 100 S., St. George.

CHRISTMAS WITH REBA AT CASABLANCA 8:30 p.m. Corrie Sachs tribute to Reba McEntire. Enjoy an evening of holiday music and Reba's No. 1 hits. CasaBlanca Resort, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

JOE BALLANT AT GEORGE'S CORNER 8 p.m. Free. 2 W. St. George Blvd., St. George.

RED AND GREEN KARAOKE Mike's Tavern, 90 W. Hoover Ave., Cedar City.

Find more at SUIdependent.com

Mon, Dec 10

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

BAND CONCERT 7:30 p.m. Cedar High School, 166 W. 1925 N., Cedar City.

Tues, Dec 11

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

JAZZ IMPROV CLINIC 6 p.m. (435) 673-4206, difiorecenter@gmail.com, difiorecenter.org. DiFiore Center, 307 N. Main St., St. George.

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Christmas Day - Closed

New Years Eve
Closes at 3 pm

New Years Day - Closed

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CALENDAR

DHHS ORCHESTRA CONCERT 7:30 p.m. Desert Hills High School, 828 E. Desert Hills Dr., St. George.

Wed, Dec 12

CVHS CHRISTMAS CONCERT 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Canyon View High School, 166 W. 1925 N., Cedar City.

SLACKWATER SOCIAL AT GEORGE'S CORNER 7 p.m. 2 W. St. George Blvd., St. George.

DHHS BAND CONCERT 7:30 p.m. Desert Hills High School, 828 E. Desert Hills Dr., St. George.

Thurs, Dec 13

GIFT-WRAPPING PARTY WITH SENIORS 12:30 p.m. Canyon Community Center, 126 Lion Blvd., Springdale.

CASEY LOFTHOUSE BENEFIT CONCERT 7 p.m. Come join us for our kick off to The Hurricane Valley Christmas Tree Festival. Enjoy a night of entertainment with Casey Lofthouse, Layne Benson, John Houston, Seth Well, Shawn Owen, and Ryan Tilby. Admission is \$5 at the door. Proceeds benefit the Shop With A Cop and local scholarships. Hurricane Fine Arts Building, 92 S. 100 W., Hurricane.

Find more events daily at SUindependent.com

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Fri, Dec 14

COMMUNITY HOLIDAY PARTY 6 p.m. LDS Church, 1584 Zion Park Blvd., Springdale.

GARRY GENTRY PIANO CONCERT 6:30 p.m. Free. Holiday concert arranged and performed with a mix of pop, rock, and jazz. Light refreshments served. Gentry Music & Arts, 771 S. Bluff St., St. George.

JON STONE AT PEEKABOO KITCHEN 6:30 p.m. Free. Multi-instrumentalist Jon Stone from Louisiana plays acoustic folk on violin, mandolin and other strings. 233 W. Center St., Kanab.

THE NASHVILLE TRIBUTE BAND AT HERITAGE CENTER 7:30 p.m. Christmas show. 105 N. 100 E., Cedar City.

CASEY STRICKLEY AT GEORGE'S CORNER 8 p.m. Free. W. St. George Blvd., St. George.

ANOTHER JOURNEY AT CASABLANCA 8:30 p.m. "Journey" tribute. 21 and older. 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

Sat, Dec 15

UGLY SWEATER CHRISTMAS CONTEST 10 a.m. At Tuacahn Saturday Three separate contests where winners will be announced at 11 a.m., noon, and 1 p.m. Each winner will receive a Family Pass for the Tuacahn live nativity (\$20 value). Tuacahn Center for the Arts, 1100 Tuacahn Dr., Ivins.

HOLIDAY BRASS CONCERT 4:30 p.m. Eccles Fine Arts Center, S. 700 E., St. George.

MOUNTAINTOP SOUND AT ZION CANYON BREW PUB 6 p.m. Free. Steven Swift and April McPherson make up the Roots-Indie Americana of Mountaintop Sound, bringing you raw harmonies & fun melodies to tap your toes to. 95 Zion Park Blvd., Springdale.

JOSHUA CREEK AT BUMBLEBERRY THEATER 7 p.m. Traditional and original Christmas songs mixed with memories and anecdotes. Tickets are \$10-\$12 and can be purchased at bumbleberry.com. 897 Zion Park Blvd., Springdale.

MAYHEM IN MESQUITE XVI 7 p.m. MMA Amateur Fighting Championships. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. All ages need a ticket to attend events, 3 years and older. Under 3 free admission, no strollers or baby carriers allowed. All children under 3 must sit in lap of an adult 21 or older. To purchase by phone, call (800) 585-3737. CasaBlanca Showroom CasaBlanca Resort, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

JOSH LARSEN AT GEORGE'S CORNER 8 p.m. Free. Josh Larsen is a singer/songwriter from St. George. George's Corner Restaurant and Pub, 2 W. St. George Blvd., St. George.

MAYHEM XVI OFFICAL AFTERPARTY 9:30 p.m. With DJ Number Juan. Free admission, must be 21 or older CasaBlanca Resort, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

Mon, Dec 17

LIBRARY STORY TIME 9 a.m. Panguitch Library, 25 S. 200 E., Panguitch.

SCHS CHRISTMAS CONCERT 7 p.m. Snow Canyon High School, 1385 Lava Flow Dr., St. George.

CHS CHOIR CONCERT 7 p.m. Cedar High School, 166 W. 1925 N., Cedar City.

Tues, Dec 18

MUSICAL IRELAND AT COX AUDITORIUM 7:30 p.m. The hugely popular Irish Christmas in America show features top Irish music, song, and dance. 325 S. 700 E., St. George.

Wed, Dec 19

LIBRARY YOGA 8:30 a.m. Free, donations accepted. Kanab City Library, 374 N. Main St., Kanab.

HOLIDAY MEET THE CHAMBER 11 a.m. 136 N. 100 E., St. George.

MASON COTTAM AT GEORGE'S CORNER 7 p.m. Mason's music can be described as an eclectic breed of a folk, acoustic rock, jazz sound which incorporates cultural influences in a seamless, infectious harmony. 2 W. St. George Blvd., St. George.

Thurs, Dec 20

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

PAWS FOR TALES-READ TO A DOG 4 p.m. Children can read to registered therapy dogs. Washington County Library System, 88 W. 100 S., St. George.

BOOK CLUB 4 p.m. "The Blind Astronomer's Daughter" by John Pipkins. 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.

Fri, Dec 21

JON SLATER AT PEEKABOO KITCHEN 6:30 p.m. Free. 233 W. Center St., Kanab.

NICK ADAMS AT GEORGE'S CORNER 8 p.m. Nick Adams is a singer/songwriter based out of St. George. 2 W. St. George Blvd., St. George.

Sat, Dec 22

DAVE AND VICTORIA AT ZION CANYON BREW PUB 6 p.m. Free. Dave Tate and Victoria Lagerström fuse together soulful, jazz-influenced vocals with pop/rock and folk sensibilities in a variety of genres. 95 Zion Park Blvd., Springdale.

IMPROV DIXIE'S HOLIDAY MAGIC 6:30 p.m. Improv comedy and magic show. Comfort Suites, 175 1000 E., St. George.

AN EVENING WITH DEAN AND FRIENDS AT CASABLANCA 7:30 p.m. Tom Stevens' remarkable resemblance to Dean Martin makes him one of the world's premier Dean Martin impersonators. To purchase by phone, call (800) 585-3737. Must be 21 or older. 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

KARAOKE WITH DJ VEXIFY AT MIKE'S TAVERN 90 W. Hoover Ave, Cedar City.

Mon, Dec 24

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, Dec 26

GARY HUFF AT GEORGE'S CORNER 8 p.m. Free. 2 W. St. George Blvd., St. George.

Fri, Dec 28

READER'S CIRCLE BOOK CLUB 3 p.m. Washington County Library System, 36 S. 300 W., Hurricane.

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

LISA MAC AT GEORGE'S CORNER 8 p.m. Free. Lisa Mac has become known for her powerful, soulful voice and poignant blues-rock songwriting. 2 W. St. George Blvd., St. George.

Sat, Dec 29

DICK EARL'S ELECTRIC WITNESS AT ZION CANYON BREW PUB 6 p.m. Free. Dick Earl is a blues and rock and roll musician from St. George. 95 Zion Park Blvd., Springdale.

GOOD VIBRATIONS AT CASABLANCA 8:30 p.m. Beach Boys tribute. To purchase by phone, call (800) 585-3737. Must be 21 or older. 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

REGGAETON NIGHT AT MIKE'S TAVERN 90 W. Hoover Ave., Cedar City.

Mon, Dec 31

FEATURED EVENT

BIT AND SPUR RESTAURANT'S NEWYEAR'S EVE SHOW



New Year's Eve at the Bit and Spur from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. The Soul Juice Band is a horn-driven soul, funk, and roots music band from Las Vegas that performs a dynamic and inspirational show for any audience. The funky B3, heavy guitar, and live horns cause people of all ages to get on their feet and move by delivering a groove and sound that is unique in the industry. The band mixes elements of funk, soul, rock, gospel, and jazz to give listeners an amazing experience they will never forget. Admission is \$20. Must be 21 or over with ID. For more information, email bitandspur@infowest or call (435) 772-3498.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Dinner, live music, bingo, inflatables, and kids' games. Triple C Arena, Panguitch.

NEW YEAR'S FIREWORKS 6 p.m. Square dance lessons, 6:30 p.m. Community Social featuring Patrick and Hazel Matthews of Utah Square Dance. 7:30 p.m. fireworks. Canyon Community Center, 126 Lion Blvd., Springdale.

NYE BASH WITH CATFISH JOHN AT ZION CANYON BREW PUB 9 p.m. \$10 cover. A dedication and devotion to the musical adventure of the Grateful Dead, Jerry Garcia, and all things related. Come early to get a table, no reservations accepted. 95 Zion Park Blvd., Springdale.

JON STONE AT PEEKABOO KITCHEN 11 p.m.-1 A.M. Free. Multi-instrumentalist Jon Stone from Louisiana plays acoustic folk on violin, mandolin and other strings. 233 W. Center St., Kanab.

REALITY CHECK BAND AT MIKE'S TAVERN 90 W. Hoover Ave., Cedar City.



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