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THE INDEPENDENT

A voice for Utah

**KANE COUNTY HOSTS
INAUGURAL KANAB
RED ROCK ATV JAMBOREE**
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PRESENTS "THE TAFFETAS"**
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To contact us please call: (435) 656-1555 or write to:
P.O. Box 3116, St. George UT, 84771.
Editor: editor@infowest.com

For advertising - Publisher Josh Warburton's email:
ipc@infowest.com

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STAFF

Publisher: Josh Warburton

Editor: Jason Gottfried

Graphic Designer: Josh Segovia

Advertising Director: Scott Dunford

Office Manager: Nikki Slade

Distribution Manager: Elliot Lockwood

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EVENTS

Join us for the inaugural Kanab Red Rock ATV Jamboree, where there are endless riding opportunities on the Anasazi Trail System in beautiful southern Utah! Kanab's Red Rock ATV Jamboree will take place May 1-4 in the heart of Red Rock Country. Sign up today for four days of social breakfasts and dinners, 10-14 rides per day, swag bags, and a chance to win prizes at the end of the weekend. Register at kanabatvjamboree.com. Registration starts at \$100 per person.

Join us the evening of May 1 for an ice cream social. Check in, pick up your swag bag, learn more about each day's itinerary, and get to know other riders.

Each morning, meet up with the group for breakfast at Jacob Hamblin Park before your ride for the day and each evening for a delicious dinner for you and your crew. You will find yourself lost in the beauty of local hidden gems such as dinosaur tracks, Native American ruins and writings, sand dunes, slot canyons, scenic vistas, alcoves,



KANE COUNTY HOSTS INAUGURAL KANAB RED ROCK ATV JAMBOREE

By Josephine Sprecher

and historic movie and pioneer sites all along the Anasazi Trail System in Kane County.

Each trail will be rated depending on skill level, so bring family and friends of all ages! There will be ample OHV fun on our guided rides by the UT/AZ ATV Club in the red rock canyons of Kane County. In the past, the UT/AZ ATV Club has hosted a fantastic fun run for riders all over the southwest. This year, we are working together to bring the OHV community an amazing jamboree in scenic Kanab.

Kids 12 and under ride free unless requesting a lunch, in which case they will need to be registered. If your child has his OHV Driver Certification and would like to drive his own OHV, he will need to register as a driver.

Be sure to check out our many rides, and keep in mind your child's skill level before you choose a ride for your young one.

You'll want to stay longer or return to Kanab often to experience all that is offered in the region for OHV recreation. A day riding the Anasazi Trails will offer the solitude and grandeur of endless views and horizons void of crowds. You'll often find yourself feeling as if you have the trails all to yourself, making your visit even more magical!

Kanab is centrally located near the Grand Canyon north rim, Zion National Park, Bryce Canyon National Park, five national monuments, Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park, Dixie National Forest, and our own Anasazi OHV Trail System. Find your magic in basecamp Kanab, and join us for Kanab's Red Rock ATV Jamboree! Register today at kanabatvjamboree.com.

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EVENTS

BEAVER DAM JAM OFFERS A WEEKEND OF LIVE MUSIC AND FREE CAMPING

By Bill Evans

Once again, it is time for the Beaver Dam Jam. This year, it will be the 12th year of music, fun, and entertainment May 3, 4, and 5.



The Beaver Dam Jam is and has been an event that celebrates the great music scene here in southern Utah, northern Arizona, and southern Nevada. The bands not only hail from our local region but also

have come in from as far away as Florida and Alaska.

This year promises to be another great year with music beginning May 3 at 4 p.m. Friday will feature Bottoms Up, Vinyl Fusion, Full Tilt Boogie, Nearly Departed, and Aura Surreal. Saturday's line up is Most Wanted, Roc Dox, Insanity Stew, Swagger, Catfish John. On Sunday, Joe Sherman, Soul What, Tommy Roger, and Delta Straight will perform.

There will also be a Thursday night pre-party, which is always a good time, and the lawnmower race final Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. as well as Three Blind Mice playing in the Bar Friday and Saturday night from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m.

There is free camping for motor homes, RV's, and tents all around and close to the venue. For those who want a little more primitive camping, there is free camping in the Beaver Dam Wash, just north of the venue, which offers a small stream and something other than the desert.

This year will be a great year with all the entertainment. Beaver Dam Jam is the area's best-kept secret — at only \$50 for the weekend or \$20 per day, you can't beat it! Come and celebrate, camp, and be a part of this gem in the desert.



KANAB HOSTS MOTHER'S DAY 10K

By Daniel Ellison

Families from all over the state will be in Kanab May 11 for the annual Kanab Mother's Day 10K race. If you are a mother, or if you have a mother, this is your official invitation to run one of the most scenic courses in southern Utah and "Make Mama Proud." A rose will be presented to each mom as she crosses finish line. The 10K course begins at Moqui Cave just north of Kanab and follows Highway 89 through the narrow red rock canyon into Kanab with a finish at the Kanab City Park. There will also be a 5k race option that will start at the halfway mark.

The 10K is a long-standing Mother's Day tradition for the entire family. The rose presented to each mother as she crosses the finish line honors all they do. Additionally, there will be a prize for the fastest mother-daughter combined time and the fastest mother-son combined time.

The race begins at 7 a.m., but racers must be at Jacob Hamblin Park, located at 100 E 500 N, by 6:30 a.m. to take a shuttle bus to the starting line. Walkers and runners must complete the first five miles of the course in two hours or less. Strollers will be allowed on the course, so moms and dads can run together with little ones.

The entry fee includes a t-shirt designed by Kanab artist Mikelle Stott; a post-race breakfast feast that includes a variety of fresh fruit, mini muffins,

doughnut holes, and a variety of juices compliments of Glazier's Market; and a raffle ticket for a drawing that includes great prizes from many community businesses. Custom trophies made from sandstone quarried near Kanab by Western Hills will be awarded three deep in each age division. You can also enter to win a guaranteed and paid entry into the coveted St. George Marathon.

Packet pickup will be in Kanab May 10 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Kanab City Office, located at 26 N 100 E. Register online at runnercard.com or download a registration form at kanab10k.com. Register by April 30 for the lowest price!



This is one of Kanab's premier events as many businesses and individuals converge to create a sense of community. We want everyone to experience it. So run, walk, volunteer, or cheer. We will see you there!

HURRICANE VALLEY THEATRICAL COMPANY PRESENTS "THE TAFFETAS"

By Jennifer Roberts

Most of us remember our parents singing along with the very songs featured in Rick Lewis' *The Taffetas*, those pop chart hits that made toes tap and could even inspire our parents to start swing dancing around the kitchen. It was a time of Ed Sullivan, The Hit Parade, big hair, sweater sets, poodle skirts, saddle shoes, and the local malt shop.

This nostalgic musical revue of 1950s pop chart favorites features an all-girl group called *The Taffetas*. The four girls are sisters out of Muncie, Indiana and are making their television debut on the fictional show "Spotlight on Music." Their hope is one that so many small-town talents hoped — that Ed Sullivan is watching and will offer them a spot on his show, thus launching their career. The entire show is their act, and although the goal is to get on Ed Sullivan, you get the feeling that they might be just as happy taking the bus back to Muncie.

The *Taffetas* pay tribute to the vocal stylings of the Fontaine Sisters, the McGuire Sisters, and the Chordettes. These include favorites like "Mr. Sandman," "You

Belong to Me," "Where the Boys Are," "Johnny Angel," and much, much more — about 40 songs are packed into the show with many of them blended into medleys.

Expect the tightest four-part harmonies you've ever heard along with duets and solos

from the girls, each a vocal powerhouse in her own right. The girls bring their own brand of humor and genuine likeableness that is guaranteed to win you over. How could Ed not give these girls a spot on his



show? Buckle up for an evening of nostalgia and feel-good entertainment with "The Taffetas" — a musical journey through the fabulous '50s.

Kaye is played by McKenzie Morgan, Peggy is played by Janessa Judkins, Cheryl is played by Makayla Nelson, and Donna is played by Grace Wells. The show is directed by Kyle Myrick with musical direction by Grace Palfreyman and choreography and costuming by Sammy Myrick. "The Taffetas" runs Fridays, Saturday, and Mondays April 12–May 4 at the newly renovated Hurricane Fine Arts Center. Tickets can be purchased at hurricanetheatrical.com or by calling (435) 668-9753.

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LOCAL NEWS

CENTER FOR THE ARTS AT KAYENTA HOSTS NATIVE GRASS BAND

By Merrie Campbell-Lee

Bluegrass? In Utah? Absolutely, and possibly the best new iteration of this distinctively American genre. Native Grass Band will perform April 13 at 7:30 at the

Center for the Arts at Kayenta.

Born out of the coral desert of southwest Utah, The Native Grass Band writes and performs original Bluegrass with Western influences. The group, which formed in 2016, earns fans wherever they go, including the legions of locals who heard them at the 2018 K.A.R.M.A. Fest at The Center for the Arts at Kayenta. Their creative compositions and unique vocals and instrumentals give a fresh and exciting take on Bluegrass. Lead vocalist Lindsey Short is on banjo, JD Thompson holds down the bass and vocals, Dave Holder handles the six-string and vocals, and Walter Josey plays mandolin and sings. This unique ensemble's distinctive approach and original music makes Native Grass Band an unforgettable concert to see.

Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased online via kayentaarts.com or by calling (435) 674-2787. The Center for the Arts at Kayenta is located at 881 Coyote Gulch Court.



DAVID GERALD PERFORMS AT ST. GEORGE CONCERT IN THE PARK IN APRIL

By Gary Sanders



David Gerald will take the stage at Vernon Worthen Park in St. George as the 2019 St. George Concert in the Park season kicks off April 8 at 7:30 p.m.

The son of rural Mississippi born-and-raised parents, Gerald grew up to the sounds of the blues and R&B music in his hometown of Detroit. He's the youngest of 11 children, six of whom were born and partly raised in Mississippi.

"Because segregation and racial discrimination were so bad in Mississippi at the time, my dad moved the family north to Detroit when he was 33 so we'd have a better chance at the American dream," Gerald said.

Gerald's dynamic, blues-infused rock/soul hybrid has been captivating audiences across the country for over a decade. He started playing guitar at 14, influenced by Prince and '80s rock guitarists.

"I was lucky enough to have a neighbor who was a guitarist and gave me scrap guitars," Gerald said. "I would piece them together and build 'Frankenstein' guitars. They were horrible to play and sounded bad, but I had to play music. It was and is my destiny. I finally scraped up enough money to buy an old amp, and I was happy."

Gerald performed in many local blues, R&B, and rock bands, cutting his guitar and vocal chops live. Finding it hard to keep a band together, Gerald learned to play guitar, bass, keys, and drums. Using two antiquated cassette recorders, he would overdub each part individually until the song was complete.

"The end result sounded horrible, and the songs would not end up in the same key they started in," Gerald said. "But it got my songs recorded." This was the beginning of his songwriting, most of which were pop and rock tunes during the '80s. Around the

age of 24, he began experimenting with computers to write music. As he began to explore the music of blues heavyweights like Albert King, ZZ Hill, B.B. King, and Stevie Ray Vaughan, his sound evolved and expanded to where it is today. Gerald is now playing nationally with his own band. He performs at clubs and festivals across the United States.

Gerald's music has been receiving widespread radio play along with recognition in the blues and rock communities. His 2009 debut CD, "Hell And Back," continues to receive consistent airplay while his stirring live performances have brought widespread acclaim. Recently, Gerald was listed as No. 1 on the ReverbNation blues charts for Michigan Blues artists. "Hell and Back" reached No. 1 on Roots Music Report's Blues Chart for Michigan-based artists and remained in the top 20 for many weeks in a row.

Gerald's long awaited new album, "N2U," was released in April 2018. Videos from two of the album's ten tracks of blues-infused "Rock N Soul" had begun to leak out across the internet prior to the release, creating a groundswell of excitement in anticipation.

"This album has been a long time coming," Gerald said. "I put together these songs for myself, my friends, and supporters. It's all about new thoughts, new experiences, and deeply felt emotions. I hope everyone who listens can find something that touches them. Something they can relate to."

"N2U" is a true solo effort. With the exception of two live tracks on which he's backed by his band, Gerald not only plays every instrument on the album's eight studio tracks but also handled all of the recording and mixing duties.

Sponsored by the City of St. George with funding from the City of St. George RAP Tax, the Utah Division of Arts and Museums, and the National Endowment for the Arts, the Concert in the Park 2019 series is free and open to the public. Don't miss the second Monday of each month April through September. Park seating is available. Bring blankets, lawn chairs, food, and the family. For more information call (435) 627-4525. Vernon Worthen Park is located at 300 S 400 E in St. George.

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LOCAL NEWS

CELEBRATE PUBLIC LANDS AT AMAZING EARTHFEST

By Rich Csenge

Deep in southern Utah, the serene outdoor adventure destination of Kanab rests upon the highly scenic western edge of the Colorado Plateau where some of America's most majestic and richly hued public lands have found protection. Vermilion cliffs of sandstone, dramatically rising a thousand feet from downtown, adorn the city's northern, western, and eastern horizons. National and state parks and national forests and monuments abound here in a moderate, welcoming climate that's perfectly suited for outdoor adventure. Rugged geology, scenic trails, and dinosaur tracks in splendid, unspoiled landscapes beckon visitors to begin each new day on the trail.

Expectations for a memorable, quiet recreation experience at Amazing Earthfest are well founded!

This unique, educational community festival celebrates America's public lands not with things to buy but things to do. Experiential learning events enrich the spirit, inspire wonder, and deepen understanding of the natural world and the heroic conservation legacy that preserves America's public estate for present and future generations. Beginning Mother's Day each year, the distinctive Amazing Earthfest features more than 30 fascinating scheduled events, offering a solid week of discovery and enjoyment.

Now in its 13th consecutive year,



Earthfest began with the visionary idea that wild federal lands, managed in trust for and freely accessible to all Americans, could catalyze civic and personal healing in a modern society wandering amidst the sirens of excessive consumption and artificial distraction. Earthfest thrives on the inspiration of committed individuals who care deeply about our planet's natural wonders as pure healing power in a complex ecology that sustains all forms of life, including us! Distinguishing this unique experiential learning festival are individuals and experts from regional nonprofit organizations like the BLM and the National Park and Forest Service — specialists who weave the preservation of natural landscapes, wildlife, and ancient cultures into their daily lives.

Join others visiting southern Utah from around the nation and across the oceans in attending Amazing Earthfest to commemorate the centennial of Grand Canyon National Park and to explore the incredible natural clarity and darkness of night skies over the Colorado Plateau. Absorb the insights of local poets, get out on the trail to experience the solitude and majesty of America's wild lands in Utah, and be energized by award-winning documentary films of contemporary significance. Discover for yourself what makes wilderness irreplaceable and how richly it nourishes the spirit!

The 13th annual Amazing Earthfest offers all of this in a friendly rural setting sporting great hospitality, fine restaurants, and limitless destinations nearby for self-directed exploration. Volunteer opportunities are available during the festival. Make your travel plans and reservations with family and friends now! The nonprofit Amazing Earthfest receives support from state, county and local government, philanthropic foundations and nonprofits, area businesses and individuals. See event information and register to attend by visiting amazingearthfest.org, or call (435) 644-3735.

Rich Csenge is founder and executive director of Amazing Earthfest.

GILA MONSTER OFFICIALLY NAMED UTAH'S STATE REPTILE

By Faith Jolley

Utah has long had a state flag, a state emblem, and even a state cooking pot (the Dutch oven). Now, with the March 27 signing of HB144, Utah officially has a state reptile: the Gila monster.

Here are some facts about Gila monster.

Gila monsters are primarily located in west-central Arizona but are also native to southwestern Utah, Nevada, New Mexico, and parts of California. The Gila River in New Mexico is the namesake for the species.

Snow Canyon State Park, designated trails in the Red Cliffs Reserve, and the BLM Red Cliffs recreation area are the most likely places to see a Gila monster in Utah. People are most likely to see them during the day in April and May, but they may also be seen through June, July, and August, especially on warm summer nights.

The large, heavy-bodied lizards primarily eat tortoise and bird eggs as well as baby cottontail rabbits and other small mammals that can't move quickly. Gila monsters can eat up to 33 percent of their body weight in a single meal, and it digests slowly, so they only eat three or four times a year. As a result, they spend 95 percent of their time out of sight in burrows and below ground while their food digests.

Gila monsters typically live up to 25 years, and some in captivity have been recorded to live as long as 38 years. While they are not a federally endangered species, Gila monsters are protected in each of the states where they live, and it is illegal to capture or move a Gila monster found in the wild.

The lizards can range in color from yellow with black bands to orange or pink with black bands. Gila monsters can't change their color during their lifetime, but generations of populations have changed color over time to better adapt and camouflage to their environment.

Gila monsters are one of two venomous lizard species in North America. However, because they are slow and underground the majority of their life, they aren't a very large threat to people. No human deaths have been reported since the early 1930s, when according to folklore an intoxicated pool-hall operator allegedly died after poking his thumb into the mouth of a Gila monster. But, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources officials said the claim was never confirmed.

While fatal in large doses, the venom also has some remarkable medicinal properties. Researchers in the 1980s captured a Gila monster and made some amazing discoveries when they extracted its venom. A peptide called exendin-4 was discovered from Gila monster venom samples that originated in southwestern Utah. It has now become a leading new drug for treating Type 2 diabetes. The drug, now known as Exenatide, can be synthesized in a laboratory, and it's no longer necessary to extract exendin-4 from Gila monsters.

If you do get lucky enough to see a Gila monster in the wild, do not attempt to grab or touch one. They are slow animals and are harmless when left alone.

Bites are very rare and are usually the result of harassing the reptile. If you do happen to be bitten by a Gila monster, here's what to do:

—Remain calm.

—If necessary, remove the Gila monster using a sturdy lever to pry open the jaws.

—Immediately transport the bitten individual to a medical facility.

—Remove jewelry, watches, and restrictive clothing from the affected limb.

Because sightings of the reptiles are so rare, people should report when and where they see Gila monsters to the DWR. People can email photos and descriptions of where they saw a Gila monster to DWR biologist Ann McLuckie at annmcluckie@utah.gov, or they can report the sighting by calling (435) 879-8694.



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OPINION

THE UTAH THEOCRACY MUST END

By Ed Kociela

The Legislature is all nice and neatly tucked away for another year. The pitter-patter of little feet is pretty much gone from the Capitol hallways. The lobbyists have packed their bags of money and headed home. And the marketing and public relations wing of the church can take a few days off from generating spin and influence.

Such is life in the theocracy of Utah.

Despite the urging of Founding Fathers like Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, there still is no separation of church and state in Utah. They don't even try much to camouflage it anymore.

I knew a southern Utah mayor who was a pretty good political huckster. If he had a difficult decision that needed a solution, he would put together a special committee made up of a couple of council members, a few sterling businessmen, and a couple of prominent residents. These committees were often headed by one of the most powerful businessmen in southern Utah who also happened to be a former legislator and, at the time, bishop for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

"I always appoint him head of the committee if it's a tough deal," this mayor once confided. "Kinda tough to look your bishop in the eye and go against him."

That's not exactly what the Founding Fathers had in mind.

In fact, Madison once wrote that the "practical distinction between religion and civil government is essential to the purity of both and as guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. The merit will be doubled by the other lesson that religion flourishes in greater purity, without than with the aid of government."

It wasn't such an earth-shaking stance. A few centuries earlier, Lutheran reformer Philip Melancthon presented his "two kingdoms" doctrine that the church should not exercise worldly government, and princes should not rule the church or have anything to do with the salvation of souls. Melancthon collaborated with Martin Luther, who started the Protestant Reformation.

Of course, by then it was sort of a moot point because Catholics bent to the will of Pope Boniface VIII, who proclaimed that it was "absolutely necessary for salvation that every human creature be subject to the Roman pontiff."

That included kings, queens, and anybody else with political clout.

Using that as a model, when the Mormons came west and settled part of what was then Mexico — an area that encompassed all of Utah and Nevada, about two-thirds of Arizona, and about a third of California — they set up what LDS Church founder Joseph Smith called a "theocratic political system," which he described as a fusion of traditional republican democratic principles under the U.S. Constitution, in tandem with theocratic rule.

As the Mormons moved west, they had trouble along the way because of their political power.

In Daviess County, Missouri, they tried to vote themselves into power in a legislative action. It turned ugly with a battle that took several lives and resulted in Gov. Lilburn W. Boggs issuing an order that all Mormons must either be driven from the state or executed.

The group packed up and headed east to an Illinois city they took over and renamed Nauvoo. Again, they seized control by voting church members into office to control the city and represent them in the legislature. It didn't work out there, either, as Smith and his brother Hyrum were killed by a mob of townspeople while incarcerated in a county lockup.

That's why it took Utah seven tries to attain statehood, with supposed guarantees that the church would not meddle in the affairs of state government and that it would, of course, put an end to the practice of polygamy.

Here we are in 2019, and guess what?

We still have polygamy that goes unfettered in several corners of the state, and the legislature is held on a tight leash, as evidenced by church influence on our liquor laws, the medicinal cannabis ballot issue, the Equal Rights Amendment, the state's stance on all things LGBTQ-related, and myriad civil rights issues.

It's not even thinly disguised. Just look at this year's legislation.

It includes tougher abortion guidelines and shelving a bill that would have allowed transgender people the ability to change their listed gender on their driver licenses. The church took a neutral stance on a bill that would have barred therapists from using conversion therapy as a way to change the sexual orientation of minors. This lack of position was, in itself, a strong enough message to lawmakers. Likewise, the church took a neutral position on a hate crime bill instead of standing up for the rights and protection of all.

To be fair, the LDS Church isn't the only religious outfit putting pressure on elected officials across the land. But its influence here in Utah is arguably stronger than what any other church has over any other state, and I don't think that is what the Founding Fathers had in mind.

In fact, in modern-day reference, former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor concurred in a dissent opinion she wrote in the historic 2005 Ten Commandments ruling that allowed display of the Ten Commandments on the grounds of the Texas capitol.

"Why would we trade a system that has served us so well for one that has served others so poorly?" O'Connor wrote.

Indeed, why would we?

"When the government associates one set of religious beliefs with the state and identifies non-adherents as outsiders it encroaches upon the individual's decision about whether and how to worship," she continued. "Allowing government to be a potential mouthpiece for competing religious ideas risks the sort of division that might easily spill over into suppression of rival beliefs."

Don't we have enough of that already?

Peace.

UTAH'S ECONOMIC SECRET: POPULATION GROWTH

By Howard Sierer

Utah's secret is out: The state's economy has grown faster than the country has since 2010. The key factor? A rapidly growing labor force.

We have spectacular scenery, a benign climate, and ready access to a wide variety of outdoor activities. Those assets have been turned into an economic success story by a welcoming business climate and — most importantly — a rapidly growing, well educated workforce.

Utah has had the fastest-growing labor force of any U.S. state since January 2010 — a key ingredient for economic growth and one that provides an example for the nation as a whole as our country hopes to extend its recent expansion.

The state's labor force — the number of people age 16 and over holding or seeking a job — has grown an average of 1.9 percent a year from 2010 through January 2018, more than triple the nation's 0.6 percent pace, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

More workers generate more output. Income and consumer spending increase in parallel. These factors attract more employers and workers, fueling a virtuous cycle of growth.

The state's economy has expanded an average of 2.8 percent a year since 2010, the year after the recession ended, outperforming the U.S. rate of 2.2 percent, according to the Commerce Department. Utah is on a roll, leaving much of the rest of the country behind.

Harvard University professor Dale Jorgenson specializes in estimating an economy's growth potential. He notes, "Utah is a lesson to the rest of the country that demographics are quite important."

Utah registered the highest birthrate among states again last year. Large families are encouraged by both The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Catholic Church, whose combined membership makes up a large majority of the state's population.

Utah's large families are often criticized

by those who see them as a burden on the public purse. Instead of a burden, children from Utah's strong families are a major asset since they give the state a large supply of young workers with strong local ties.

Utah also has strong rates of immigration from other states and countries. In 2017, almost half its population growth came from people moving in, fleeing states like California. Many new arrivals come because Utah is especially attractive for families with multiple children.

Population growth alone doesn't guarantee growth unless the would-be workers have job skills. Utah's workforce is more educated on average than the rest of the country's, making it more productive and thus attractive to many employers.

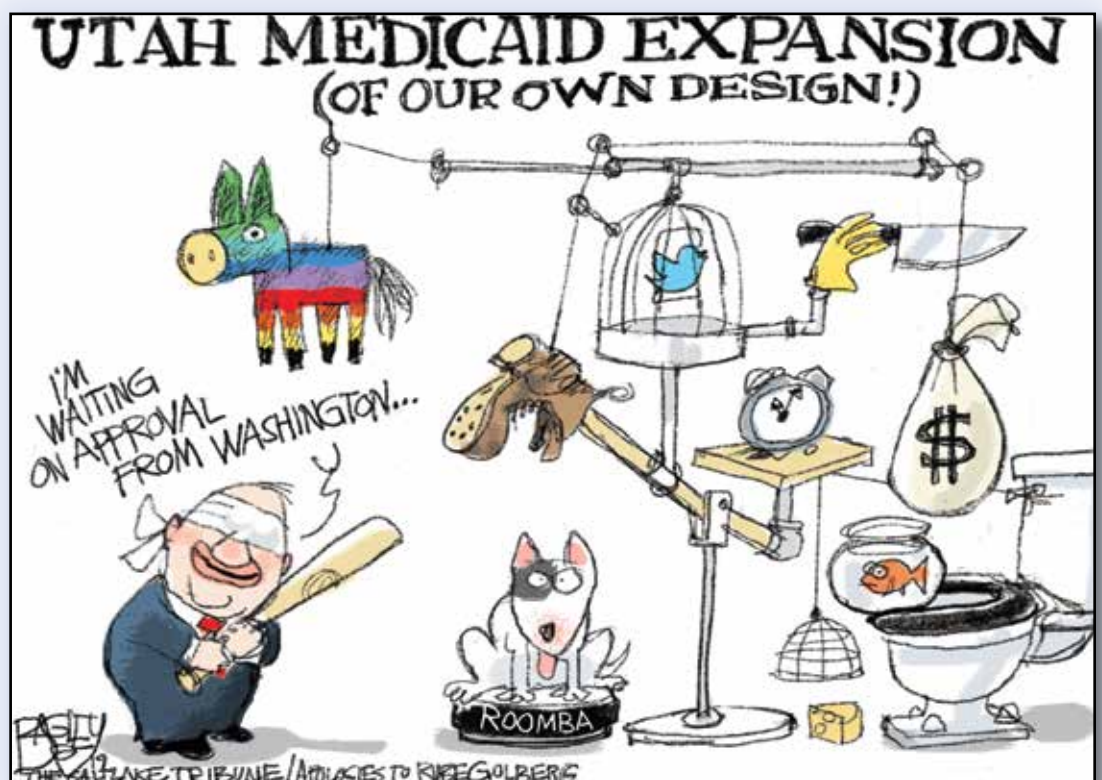
This well educated labor pool has helped nurture a blossoming tech sector, much of it based in the Silicon Slopes area around Salt Lake City, Provo, and Park City. Southern Utah is beginning to see a tech spillover as companies are drawn to our unique surroundings and lifestyle.

Despite frequent complaints about the quality of Utah public education, our students score well on the ACT, and we have a high percentage of adults with college degrees.

Many factors affect growth, including business regulation, access to financing, and the quality of educational institutions. Employers say Utah is attractive on all these fronts.

The U.S. Census Bureau projects that the nation's older people are expected to outnumber children by 2030. In contrast, Utah is likely to be an island of prosperity in a country slowed by too few workers supporting its rapidly growing elderly population.

So when you see young families with armloads of kids, thank them for our booming economy, one that is likely to continue leading the nation in economic opportunity.



OPINION

OPPORTUNITY ZONES: "OPPORTUNITY" FOR WHOM?

By Lisa Rutherford

Opportunity Zones, or OZs, were created when the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was passed by Congress and signed by President Trump in December 2017. The act specifically states: "(Sec. 13823) This section authorizes the designation of opportunity zones in low-income communities and provides various tax incentives for investments in the zones. Taxpayers may temporarily defer the recognition of capital gains that are invested in opportunity zones." Utah's Senator Hatch co-sponsored the act.

On the face of it, this sounds good, right? Help areas that need help. Gov. Herbert worked with county and local leaders to identify OZs in Washington County based on existing census tracts. This resulted in Washington County getting two OZs.

The largest OZ includes Red Cliffs National Conservation Area and Red Cliffs Desert Reserve, much public land along Highway 18, and the Shivwitz Reservation. The second and smallest zone is south of St. George Boulevard and includes Dixie State University.

Even given the census-tract qualification, these two areas seemed very odd to me — the one because it includes "protected" public lands with, understandably, no population and the other in a well-populated area of St. George. Since DSU students don't qualify as residents, the area was able to be included.

But according to IRS information, the two zones are listed as "low-income community" areas. That may apply to the public lands, Shivwitz reservation, and areas along Hwy 18, perhaps with exception of Dammeron Valley, but the DSU area seems questionable.

According to the IRS, OZs were established to help provide tax breaks for investors while directing taxable capital gains money to economically-distressed areas, stating clearly, "Opportunity Zones are an economic development tool — that is, they are designed to spur economic development and job creation in distressed communities."

I do not see the DSU area as economically distressed.

In fact, DSU is the fastest-growing university in Utah. It turns out that DSU's "Innovation Plaza" is the focus of this effort to direct money to the area.

Now, I am not against Innovation Plaza, which is going great guns according to a July 2018 St. George News article: "The U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration announced June 21 that it had awarded \$876,000 to Dixie State's Innovation Plaza project so it can purchase equipment and support networking activities for the facility's launch."

I am against using a tax-break feature of the 2017 tax reform act to gain access to money that according to the act's language is meant to support those in real need. In all

fairness, Innovation Plaza's goal is to create better jobs for our area, but it remains to be seen if that will occur. This county, even with all the growth seen over the past 20 years, has not seen much improvement in wages, even as housing prices increase.

I'm not the only one concerned about the OZ idea. Economist Jared Bernstein, senior fellow at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and author of "The Reconnection Agenda: Reuniting Growth and Prosperity," was an early contributor to this idea due to the scarcity of capital in places with great need and an inability of low-income people to "move to a better place."



Although he suggests we give OZs a chance, he advises that their progress should be scrutinized and the Treasury dictate strong reporting requirements. His biggest concern — and perhaps the biggest hope of investors — is that the Treasury fails to collect adequate data to evaluate relevant outcomes, resulting in just another method of sheltering capital gains.

That would be another loss for those truly in need and another feather in the cap of those who support the rich over the needs of the poor.

Bernstein notes that some zones were poorly chosen, thereby raising the possibility that areas already on stable footing are being subsidized, which is my point with the DSU area being in one of our Washington County Opportunity Zones.

A "glitch" in the law "allows governors to nominate up to 5 percent of better-off places next to low-income ones." This could allow such areas to absorb a disproportionate share of the OZ money, leaving other truly needy areas lacking. Some mayors are actually working to figure out how to use their OZs to address the lack of affordable housing, such as in Boulder, Colorado. As Jared Bernstein noted, "If OZs turn out to largely subsidize gentrification, if their funds just go to places where investments would have flowed even without the tax break, or if their benefits fail to reach struggling families and workers in the zones, they will be a failure."

Additionally, what about the public land that's targeted in the largest Washington County OZ? How could these OZ designations affect property and appraisal values of SITLA land and private inholdings that remain in public land areas? Were BLM, FWS, UDWR, and the HCP administration consulted during the nomination process? If so, what was and where is their input?

Perhaps of most concern for the public land is the question of whether OZ designations might encourage development on these lands and potentially allow violation of the current Habitat Conservation Plan. In fact, with the conservation plan currently under renewal, will those who are rewriting

the plan allow loopholes that would enable the OZ designation to do harm?

In 2006, county leaders, with the help of congressional members, attempted to convert 25,000 acres of BLM land to county ownership. Is this OZ designation just the latest in attempts to secure these lands?

The Utah Association of Counties is working with the Governor's Office of Economic Development and the Sorenson Impact Center, through their representative Patrick Mullen. Their threefold responsibility starts with "engaging and educating rural communities housing Opportunity Zones." Yet of the 46 zones identified in Utah, only 19 are in rural

say that we don't have people in need in this county. We certainly do as is witnessed by our homeless and low-income populations. But the OZ areas identified do not seem to be positioned to help those populations. Are these two census areas the poorest in the county and most deserving of a tax subsidy to stimulate development?

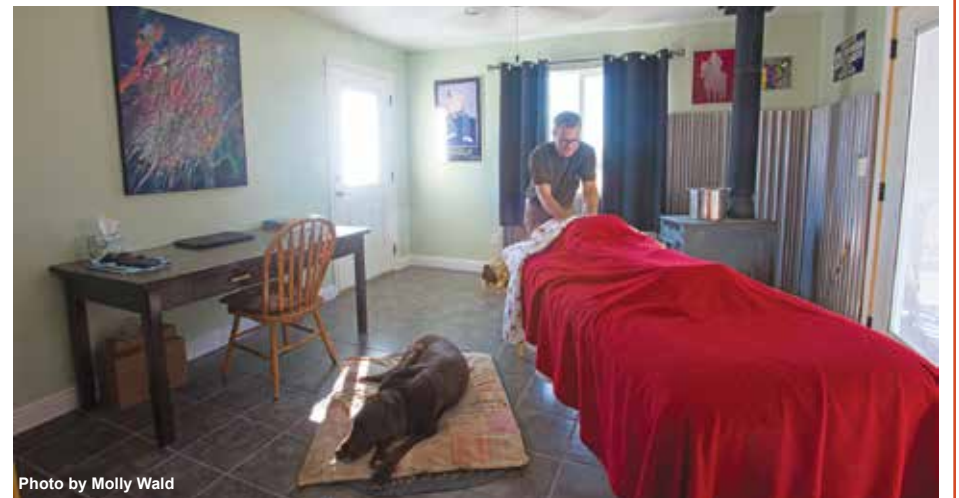
With local leaders so focused on growth at any cost, are they in a position, or even willing, to provide good oversight on investments and development in these OZs? What kind of pressure will investment money coming to the area put on local leaders to amend zoning ordinances and make decisions that are not in keeping with what's best for our area? We've seen the flow of money into poor areas in other locales lead to "gentrification" with rising property values driving existing residents out. Will that be what we see here, where property values are already skyrocketing and making housing unaffordable for many?

Over \$100 billion in private capital will flow into OZs around the nation according to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. A Richmond, Virginia paper, the Richmond-Times Dispatch, noted, "This obscure tax code benefit is essentially giving commercial real estate a turbo boost of energy in the form of dollars just at the point when everyone thinks the party should be winding down. The maximum benefit requires investors to get dollars to work in 2019, which also creates an immediacy that should benefit certain areas and projects."

Utah leaders should explain their rationale for identifying these areas in our county since many questions remain. Growth in Washington County does not need this steroid injection.



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SO. EXPOSURE

OUR GEOLOGICAL WONDERLAND: THE MISSING ROCK RECORD IN ST. GEORGE

By Rick Miller

As previously described in a series of 14 articles published in the Independent over the past year, St. George has quite a few unusual and even world-class geologic features. Some of these features are illustrated below (Figure 1), and they indicate why the St. George area is indeed a geological wonderland. This article will discuss only the sedimentary rocks in this area.



Figure 1a. Pine Valley Mountain Laccolith, red rocks of the Navajo Sandstone, one of the well known basalt lava ridges at left.

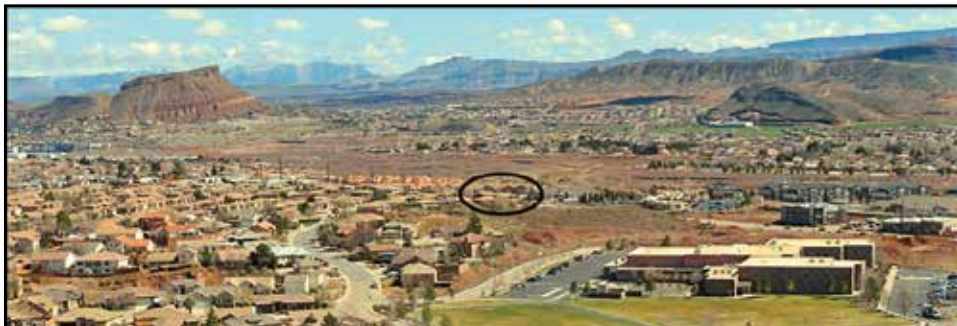


Figure 1b. Zion Canyon cliffs (Navajo Sandstone) in the background, tilted (folded) rocks of the Virgin Anticline in center, Dinosaur Discovery Museum (black circle).

A geologic map illustrates the various rock formations that represent many of the wonderland features seen in St. George (Figure 2). The map below covers only the main portion of the city. Much more detailed published maps by the Utah and U. S. Geological Surveys cover Washington County and most of the United States.

The presence of a sedimentary rock record in our local St. George area and elsewhere provides evidence of how the Earth works. This is illustrated by what is called the rock cycle (Figure 3). Existence of this cycle provides proof for the existence of an atmosphere, hydrosphere, and lithosphere, which are necessary for the existence of life as we know it.

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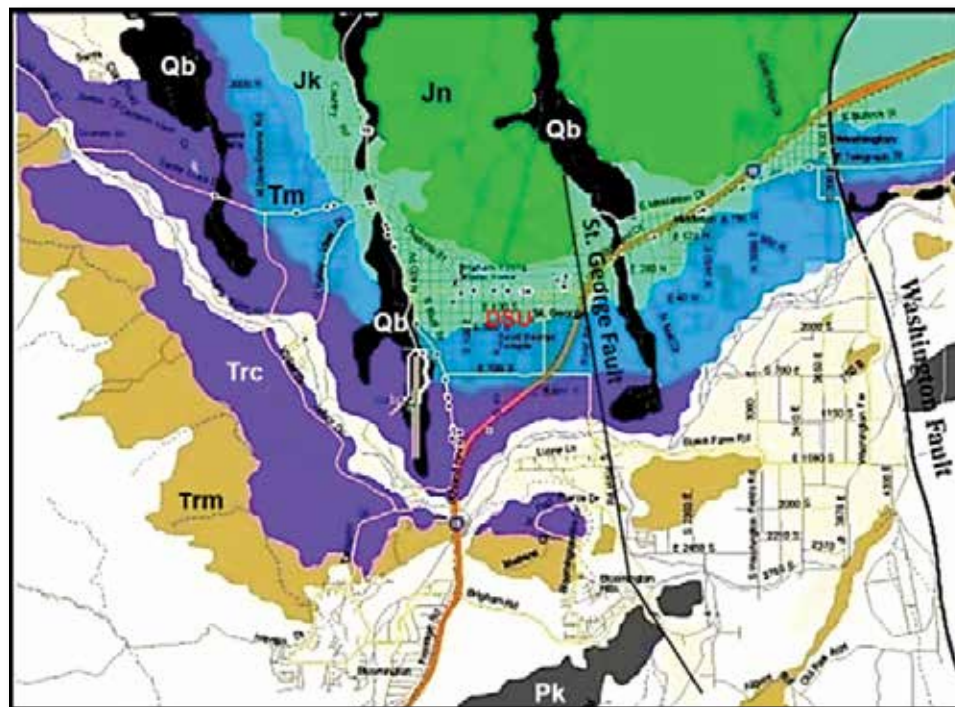


Figure 2. Geologic map of rock formations in St. George. Each color represents where a different rock formation is exposed at the surface. Letters indicate geologic age and name for each formation. For example, "Jn" stands for Jurassic Navajo Sandstone.

In our area, sedimentary rocks represent approximately 90 million years of geologic time, spanning from about 270

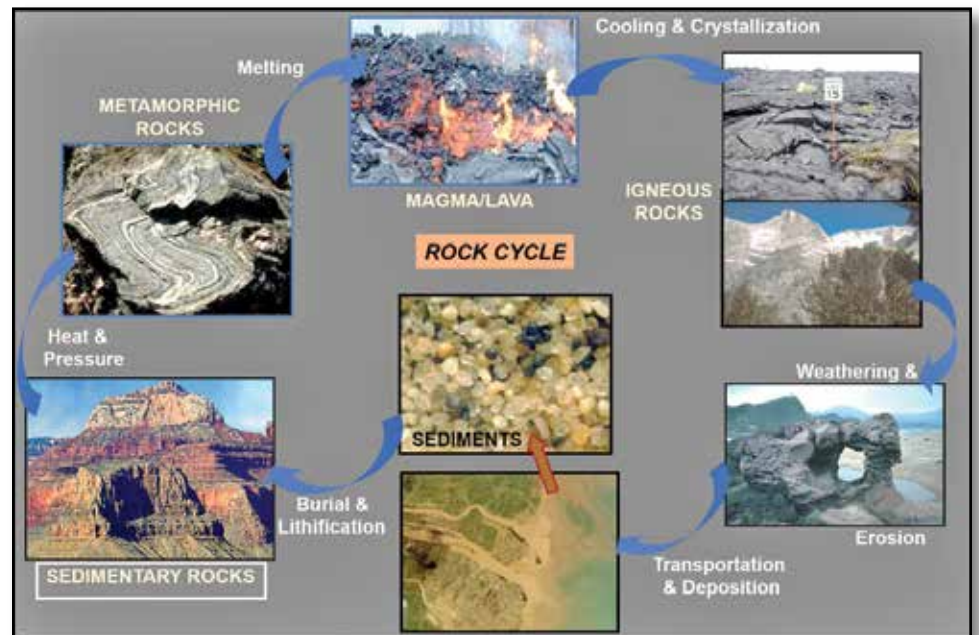


Figure 3. Simplified example of the rock cycle. This cycle illustrates the type of materials which occur on the surface and within the Earth, and also the process by which type of material is formed.

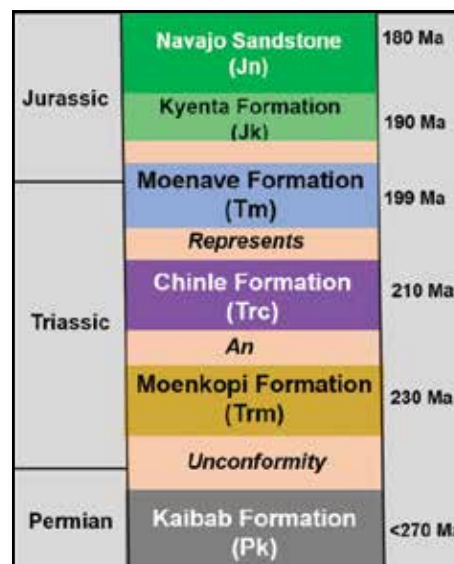


Figure 4. This diagram represents a stratigraphic column, which lists each sedimentary rock that is on the geologic map. The orange intervals represent the time intervals for which we have no rock record preserved in the St. George area, and they therefore represent unconformities. Thicknesses of the formations are not to scale.

ago. Both of these formations, along with others in the column, are widespread in the southwestern United States. Some, like the Kayenta and Navajo, are often seen exposed in spectacular fashion at the numerous national and state parks in the region.

Of note is that all of these formations contain some evidence of past life, including actual body fossils and various types of trace fossils such as burrows and trackways. An example is provided by the Dinosaur Discovery Museum at which world-class trackways are preserved in the Moenave Formation. From this paleontological perspective, the last 30 million years (Late Triassic – Early Jurassic) of this time in various parts of the world represents the appearance of the first dinosaurs, the first true mammals, and the first birds. So far, dinosaur bones and their preserved trackways represent the only one of the three groups to have left an abundant fossil record in our local area.

Intervals for which there is no rock record are called unconformities, and in this area, they occur between most of the formations as indicated by the orange intervals demarking the boundaries

between formations in Figure 4. A way to think of an unconformity is to consider a story book in which someone has cut out and removed pages, which is annoying if you are trying to read a complete story. Since the early 1800s, geologists have recognized various types of unconformities and how they have formed. In our area, most of the unconformities are of a type called a disconformity (Figure 5).

Length of time an area is exposed to erosion on land will determine how much of the previously formed rock record is destroyed. Some unconformities are known to represent significant lengths of geologic time, in some examples many tens of millions of years or more.

As noted above in Figure 4, there are recognized unconformities in the rock record of St. George between most of the formations. A nicely exposed example of such an unconformity occurs between the Moenkopi Formation and the overlying basal member of the Chinle Formation, which is known as the Shinarump Conglomerate (Figure 6).

A different situation is seen in the transition from the Kayenta Formation to

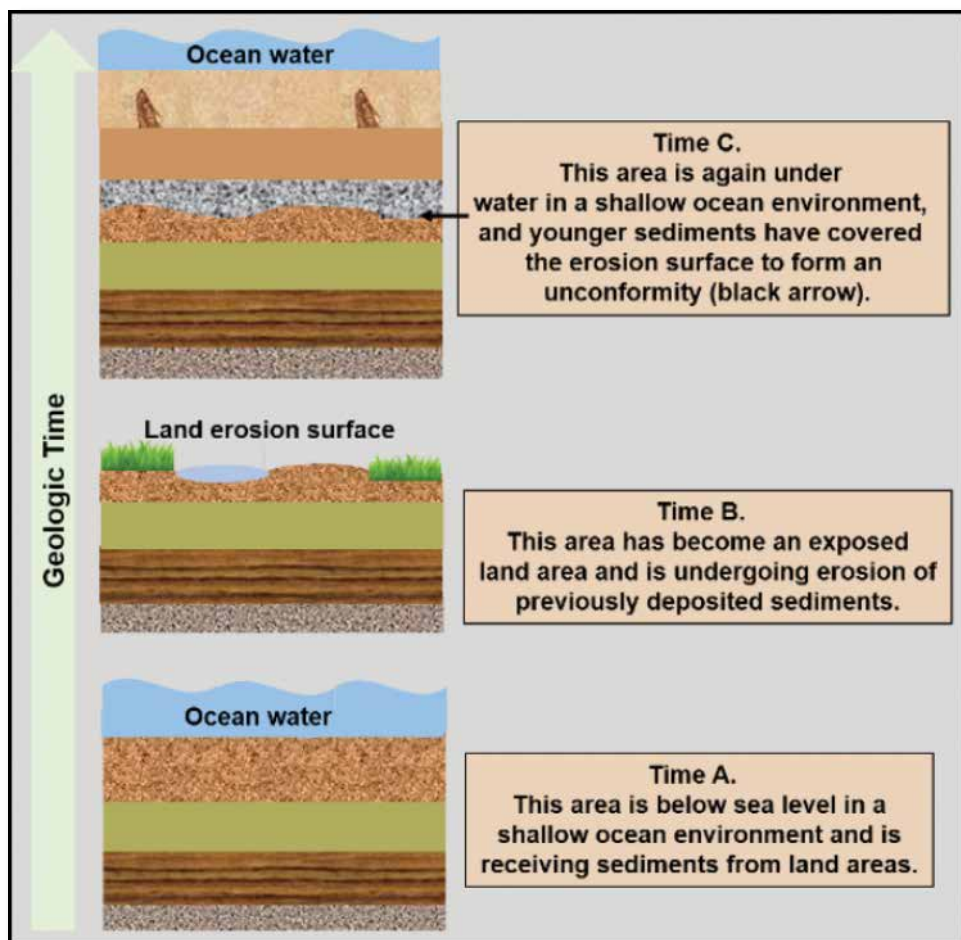


Figure 5. One example of how an unconformity might form over geologic time.



Figure 6. This is an example of a disconformity (white arrows), where the rocks below and above the erosion surface are all sedimentary and the layers (bedding) are parallel to one another. Note that this area is now undergoing erosion, as are all land surfaces on Earth. Perhaps in the distant future, these areas will be buried and therefore become an unconformity. This image was taken looking northward on River Road at the hills and ridges behind the Stone Cliff Development.



Figure 7. Exposed on this cliff face is a sharply defined contact (white arrow) between the Kayenta and Navajo with no evidence of erosion, and therefore no unconformity. This image was taken looking northward from the soccer field on Bluff Street just south of Sunset.

the overlying Navajo Sandstone. In this example, there is a continuous record of deposition, and no unconformity has been recognized (Figure 7). What is evident is that a change in depositional environment

affected the type of sediments being deposited, but there is no evidence for erosion. The Kayenta rocks are fine-grained mudstones and siltstones, whereas the Navajo rocks are fine-grained sandstone.

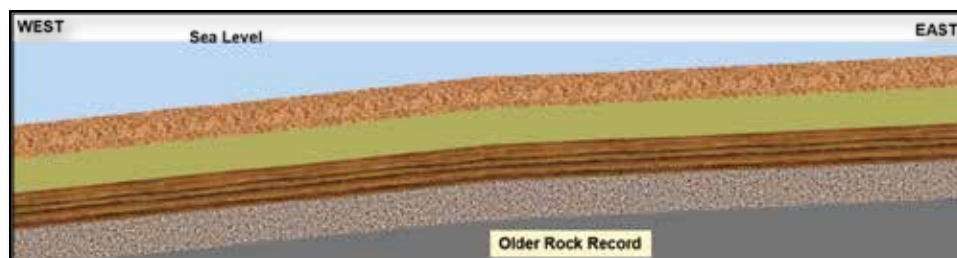


Figure 8. Generalized cross-section from west (left) to east (right) across the southwest at the latitude of St. George. At this time, the region is covered by a shallow sea, and deposition occurs in all areas. This could be a model for the Kaibab Formation. Rock layers match those in Figure 5.

Anatomy of an unconformity

Some types of unconformities record major geologic events such as mountain building, igneous activity, and various structural events like folding and faulting. A good example of such an unconformity is provided by the "Great Unconformity" in the inner gorge of the Grand Canyon. In contrast, disconformities are most common in regions which are geologically stable. This was the situation in the St. George area for most of the 90-million-year interval we are discussing.

However, to form a disconformity changes in sea level over time are required,

havoc with our coastal cities and much of the Gulf Coastal Plains.

Closer to home, geologists have recognized that during Permian and Triassic Periods and for part of Jurassic time (270–180 million years), much of what is now the southwestern United States was relatively flat and of low elevation above sea level. Therefore, relatively small changes in sea level would either expose or cover much of this region. Also, even slight changes in elevation of the land surfaces would have the same effect on position of the shoreline. The result of such changes would be relatively thin successions of rocks and numerous disconformities. This

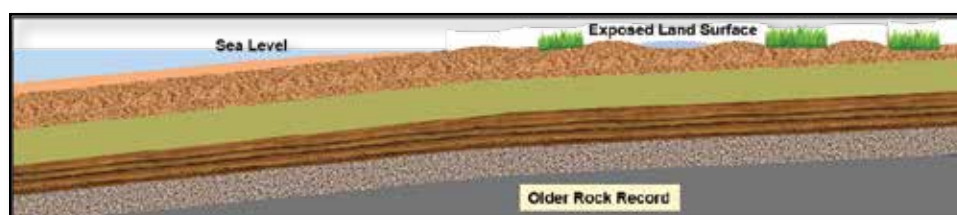


Figure 9. At a later (younger) time, a change in sea level (a regression) exposes the eastern part of the region. Erosion of previously formed rocks occurs on the exposed land area, whereas deposition continues to the west (note thin orange layer). Inland lakes and river drainage systems or even arid desert areas may develop on the exposed land surface, and estuaries and tidal flats may develop near the coastline.

which results in lateral movement of shore lines. Think about modern tidal changes. If you are at the beach and set out your stuff near the water, you may find that after a few hours the water has encroached up the beach and may inundate your stuff if you don't move it. This is a result of ocean tides, where water migrates in and out across the beach during the course of the day.

When the tide is out, the beach sand area is wider. When the tide comes in, the

is what we see in the rock record of the region, and the process of formation can be illustrated with simple cross-section diagrams (Figures 8, 9, and 10).

It is recognized that the sedimentary rock record of St. George represents only a portion of the time between 270–180 million years ago. Disconformities represent the rest of this interval. Another subject to consider is the types of depositional environments that existed and the kinds

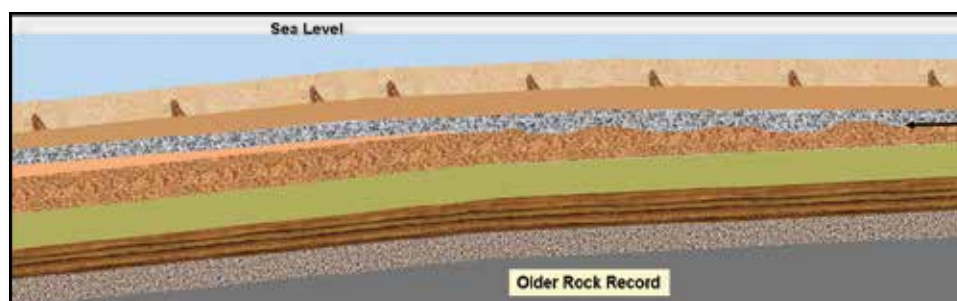


Figure 9. At a later (younger) time, a change in sea level (a regression) exposes the eastern part of the region. Erosion of previously formed rocks occurs on the exposed land area, whereas deposition continues to the west (note thin orange layer). Inland lakes and river drainage systems or even arid desert areas may develop on the exposed land surface, and estuaries and tidal flats may develop near the coastline.

beach sand area is narrower. Project this type of change over a large interval of time and a corresponding change in position of the shoreline covering tens or hundreds of miles. This change is not due to tides but rather is the result of changes in the volume, or global level, of ocean water. An example would be the formation or melting of large continental ice sheets.

The U. S. Geological Survey estimates that if all current ice sheets melted, global sea level would rise over 250 feet above its present level. That would certainly create

of organisms that were present during this interval of time and which have been found and studied.

Thanks to Dr. Rob Kramer, Robert Kerr, and Smilla Bithell for reviewing this article and providing some helpful suggestions for improvement.

Dr. Rick Miller is a semi-retired professor of geological sciences (San Diego State University) with primary interests in microscopic fossils and the history of our planet. He moved to St. George in 2001 because of the beauty and geological setting.

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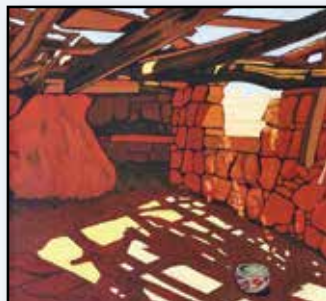
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ARROWHEAD GALLERY ETC FEATURES KEN CHURCH IN APRIL

By JoAnn Merrill

Arrowhead Gallery ETC's featured artist immediately online at saatchiart.com, and for April is Ken Church. Please join him for his work is on display in commercial office buildings and in private collections. His subject matter varies from large animal portraits, abstract impressions of music, and colorful landscapes. His paintings are in a modern style of contemporary impressionism, characterized by bold brush strokes and expressive lines and finished with hand-



After graduating from the York School of Art in England, Ken moved to the United States where he received a scholarship to study fine art at BYU. He moved on to postgraduate studies in drawing and illustration at The Art Center College in Pasadena.

Ken began his career as a full-time artist in June of 2016 after a long career as a creative director at several Los Angeles area advertising agencies.

Church's paintings began to sell

rubbed glazes that combine to create a patina of depth and color.

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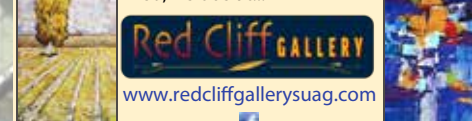
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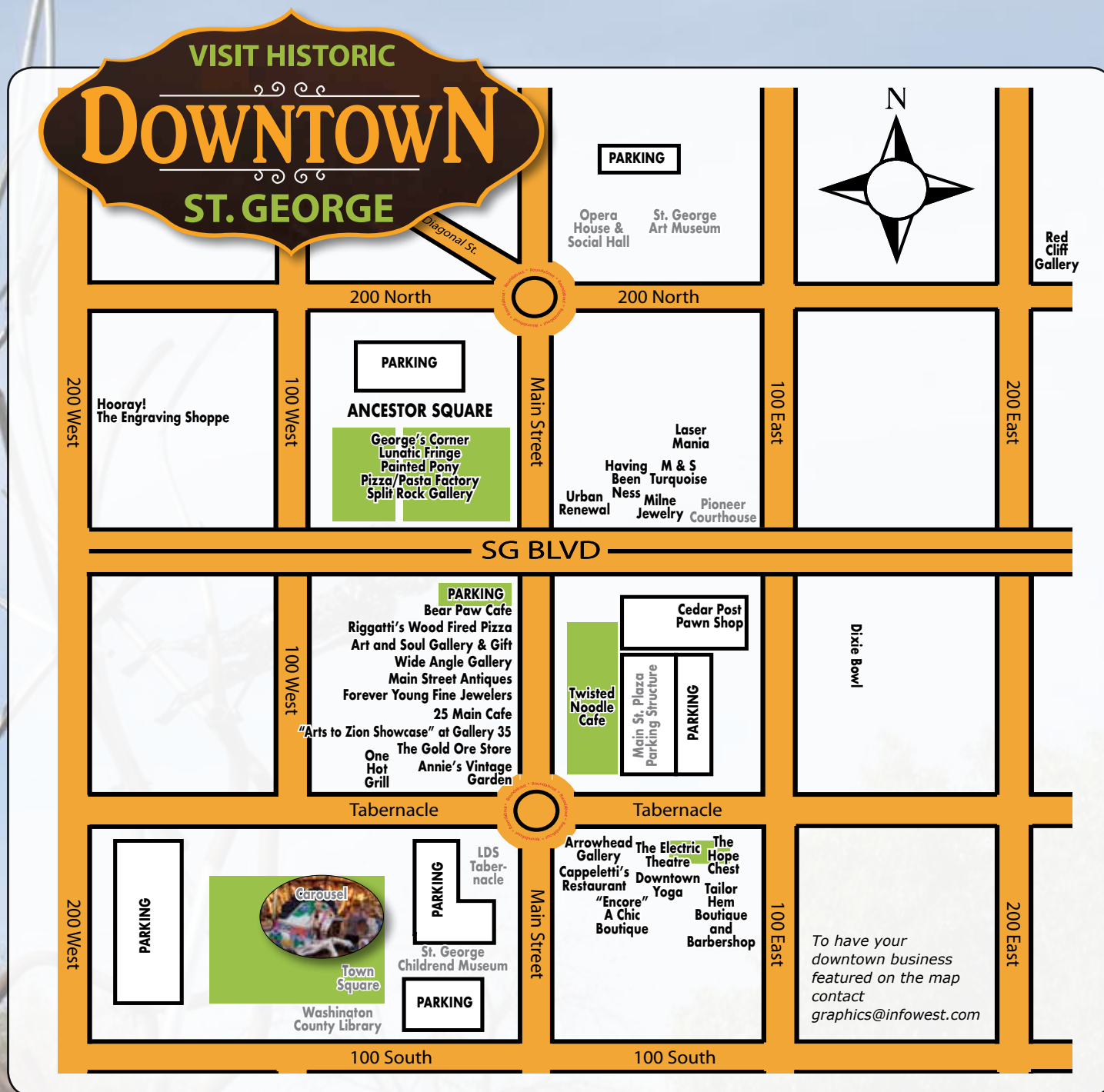
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THE INDEPENDENT MOVIE GUIDE

By Adam Mast

“Dumbo” (PG)

★★½



Given my love of Disney, Tim Burton, Michael Keaton, and Danny DeVito, it gives me absolutely no pleasure in saying that this live-action take on “Dumbo” is a crushing disappointment. The production value — including wonderful set design, costumes, and a pleasant if a tad familiar Danny Elfman score — aid in making for a movie that certainly isn't awful. But ultimately, “Dumbo” plays like the unnecessary re-imagining that many folks feared it would be. It's a shame, too, because the trailers for this picture showed a lot of promise.

In this live-action take on Disney's beloved animated feature, an infant elephant with abnormally large ears propels a financially struggling traveling circus to new heights after returning war veteran and circus performer Holt Farrier (Colin Farrell) and his children Milly (Nico Parker) and Joe (Finley Hobbins) discover that the little guy can fly. Almost immediately, ringleader Max Medici (Danny DeVito) sets out to exploit his new star attraction, and eventually, he even sells out to V.A. Vandevere (Michael Keaton), a Walt Disney-like entertainment mogul with a bit of a dark side.

With a guy like Tim Burton at the helm, you know you're going to get plenty of visual splendor, and that's certainly the case with “Dumbo.” What's really lacking are the magic, joy, and enchantment that Burton's most memorable work (see “Edward Scissorhands”) tends to offer. “Dumbo” has its cute moments — given that it's about an adorable baby elephant with big ears, how could it not? — but overall, this film is oddly mechanical in its approach. This is to say that genuine heart and warmth are scarce.

It doesn't help that Ehren Kruger's screenplay somehow manages to feel both rushed and drawn out simultaneously. But perhaps the strangest aspect of this picture is that Dumbo himself is almost treated as a supporting character. This movie is really more about the less interesting characters surrounding Dumbo.

As for the performances, a handful of really terrific actors are given very little to do. It's worth mentioning that “Dumbo” serves as a bit of a “Batman Returns” reunion, but sadly, DeVito's and Keaton's considerable talents are underutilized here. DeVito, who has a pretty weak arc in this picture, has a handful of spirited moments as a circus owner who gets a taste of his own medicine in the form of the mogul who is a bigger-than-life Vandevere. What's intriguing and off putting in equal measure is the fashion in which Keaton's Vandevere has been drawn. Parts of his persona seem to be modeled after Walt Disney himself, only he's vilified and mocked to the point that I was surprised the Mouse House would sign off on this. It was great seeing DeVito and Keaton together again, but it's as shame that this reunion didn't take place in a better movie.

Farrell is good as a one-armed single father looking to reconnect with his children while a generally charismatic Eva Green is all but squandered as a woman tasked with sharing the spotlight with Dumbo. Worse still, the great Alan Arkin is saddled with a throwaway role. As for the rest of the cast, they are given even less to do than the film's star players, but admittedly, it was fun seeing a gentle Roshan Seth of “Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom” fame pop up in there.

“Dumbo” isn't a train wreck. Again, Disney spared no expense on a technical level. In addition to the previously mentioned attributes, the visual effects are decent, and Aurora's theme song, “Baby Mine” — performed by Arcade Fire during the end credits — is actually a very catchy lullaby. Further props to Burton and crew for avoiding talking animals, which might have made matters even worse.

Too bad the stuff that works in “Dumbo” is greatly outweighed by the stuff that doesn't work. Included is an embarrassingly out-of-place appearance by the WWE's Michael Buffer doing a slightly tweaked play on his famed “Let's get ready to rumble!” schtick. Oh yeah, they go there.

As a Tim Burton movie, “Dumbo” comes up short. It's stronger than “Dark Shadows” and “Wonka,” but that feels like faint praise at best. As a live action re-imagining of a Disney animated classic, “Dumbo” comes up even shorter. Ultimately, this is a beautiful-looking movie, but it's seriously lacking in that Mouse House magic. As I watched this film, I couldn't help but be reminded of the similarly themed “The Greatest Showman.” That movie certainly has its flaws, but it is considerably more entertaining and substantially more energetic than the well intended but unfortunate misfire that is “Dumbo.” Here's hoping that “The Lion King” and “Aladdin” are better.

“Us” (R)

★★★½

“Us” is the latest film from Jordan Peele, a storyteller whose freshman directorial effort “Get Out” showed the “Key and Peele” funnyman in an entirely new light. With his latest movie, Peele admirably avoids repeating himself by way of a “Twilight Zone” inspired allegory that at times boldly and provocatively suggests we are our own worst enemy. But even though “Us” is classified as a horror movie, it should be noted that this film is more trippy and funny than straight-up scary. This isn't to say there aren't creepy moments, but “Us” isn't the scare-per-minute shocker the trailer suggests.

As “Us” opens, the Wilson family are

en route to Santa Cruz (home of “The Lost Boys”) for a much needed vacation. While poppa Gabe (Wilson Duke) and little ones Zora (Shahadi Wright Joseph) and Jason (Evan Alex) couldn't be any more excited, matriarch Adelaide (Lupita Nyong'o) seems a little more reluctant in regard to her family's destination, and with good reason. It seems that years earlier, when she was just a little girl, Adelaide had quite the traumatic experience at one of Santa Cruz's Boardwalk funhouse attractions, and this eerie, sinister incident has stuck with her well into adulthood. Still, mom soldiers on in the name of keeping her loved ones happy.

Ultimately, a day at the beach with friends Kitty (Elisabeth Moss) and Josh (Tim Heidecker) followed by an evening at their beach side abode prove to be just what the doctor ordered ... until the Wilson family's life is plunged into a freakish nightmare brought on by the arrival of a family of seemingly evil doppelgangers!

As was the case with “Get Out,” Peele is working with elements that might seem familiar. At a glance, you may notice shades of “The Twilight Zone,” “Dawn of the Dead,” “The Shining,” “Invasion of the Body Snatchers,” “The Sixth Sense,” “Jaws,” and many of the works of John Carpenter (most notably, the underrated “Prince

of Darkness”). There are also aspects of this film that are a bit reminiscent of 2014's creative doppelganger romance “The One I Love,” which interestingly enough starred “Us” supporting player Elisabeth Moss. Of course, Peele takes all of these elements, along with a healthy dose of social commentary, and weaves them into something fresh, unexpected, creepy, offbeat, weird, and at times pretty darn funny. All of that said, “Us” may leave some viewers a little frustrated. More on that in a moment.

The performances in “Us” are well worth noting, and it helps that the leads are given the opportunity to have a little extra fun by way of playing dual versions of their respective characters. Duke livens the proceedings as both the affable Gabe and his lumbering, grunting counterpart. Evans does a good job displaying the utter terror of Jason's situation as well as showcasing the startling viciousness and animalistic physicality of his far less sweet-natured other self. Joseph is terrific as a scared but fiercely independent teen, but she's even more effective as Zora's cold and terrifying mirror image.

As entertaining as these performances are, “Us” belongs to Nyong'o, whose mesmerizing and emotionally resonant work as both Adelaide and her gravelly voiced doppelganger are so good that I'd be awfully surprised if she isn't remembered come Oscar nomination day next January. From her unforgettable turn(s) in “Us” to the undeniably sunny disposition she displays in the upcoming irreverent zombie comedy “Little Monsters,” the stunning Lupita Nyong'o is poised to have one hell of a year.

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probably wondering if there are any missteps in Peele's sophomore effort. While that question is certainly open to debate, those who find the lack of explanation in this picture frustrating and maddening certainly aren't wrong. As a director, Peele delivers. "Us" is well shot, it has an effective build, the family dynamic is instantly relatable, and the plot goes well beyond the "home invasion" set up. Further still, "Us" is punctuated by a nifty (and fittingly provocative) twist.

The fact remains, though, that come the end credits, some viewers will be bothered by the fact that they've been left with more questions than answers. Particularly where the doppelgangers are concerned. To that end, it's clear that, as many supporters of "Us" have been quick to suggest, this movie is more about the "why" than the "how." This is to say that where these doppelgangers come from and how they function in the place from which they came isn't as important to Peele as what they represent.

I'm all for ambiguity and the provocative nature of mysterious questions unanswered. But from where I'm sitting, even though I like the "why" at the heart of this film, I'd be lying if I said that I didn't want a few more answers myself.

That said, there's no doubt that Peele is quite the exciting filmmaker. "Us" touches on some pretty hefty themes, including, among other things, the homeless epidemic. But it shrewdly encapsulates these themes

in the kind of freakish outer horror shell that would make storytellers like George A. Romero proud. It may not always hit the mark, but with solid direction, creative performances (most notably a stellar Nyong'o), and a zany shifting of tones, the flawed but entertaining and thought-provoking "Us" sets out to define what it means to be human.

"Captain Marvel" (PG-13)
★★★

Marvel keeps chugging along with one monster hit after the next, and its latest mega blockbuster is the cosmic, time-jumping "Captain Marvel" starring Brie Larson. There's a lot of talk regarding this one both from Larson and fans, but at the end of the day, from a Marvel Comics Universe standpoint, "Captain Marvel" sits alongside "Iron Man 2" and "Thor: Dark World" — which is to say that it isn't bad, but it isn't great.



In the origin story that is "Captain Marvel," Air Force pilot Carol Danvers (Larson) discovers that there's quite a bit about her past that even she can't remember. Slowly, Danvers begins to unlock

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the secrets of that past in an adventure that finds her in the middle of a galactic war between two alien races. During her journey of self discovery and intergalactic ass kicking, she teams up with a young Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson) circa the '90s, and she eventually transforms into the title character, a fiercely independent warrior looking to bring safety and peace to the galaxy.

Whereas last December's "Bumblebee" was a smorgasbord of '80s references, "Captain Marvel" works hard to remind viewers that this flick takes place in the '90s. From the massive '90s-centric soundtrack (some songs are used in a subtle fashion while others ... not so much) to a de-aged Jackson, a much welcome lack of cell phones, and an appearance by a Blockbuster Video store, you'll swear you're visiting a decade long since vanished. While the period detail is fine, the nostalgia factor didn't really work me over, because I was a teen of the '80s. That said, if you did grow up in this particular decade, you'll find plenty to smile at.

"Captain Marvel" was directed by Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck — the filmmaking team behind independent gems "Sugar," "Half Nelson," and "Mississippi Grind" — and while this duo clearly put a lot of effort into this massive production, there are plenty of times throughout this picture when it simply feels like they bit off more than they could chew. This is dense source material, and quite frankly, in film form it feels a bit on the convoluted side. There's a lot going on. Perhaps too much. Worse still, many of the film's larger action sequences aren't particularly memorable.

Perhaps the most disappointing aspect of "Captain Marvel" is that it lacks a certain kind of joy and charm that makes even some of Marvel's lesser hits (see "Ant-Man") so breezy and endearing. Furthermore, the effects are inconsistent at best. The alien make-up is terrific, as is Jackson's digitally enhanced youthful appearance. But the shots of Captain Marvel zipping around through the sky feel far too cartoony, even by big Marvel-movie standards.

In terms of performance, Oscar winner Brie Larson is okay in the lead. She's spunky, she does a lot of her own stunts, and at times she displays a quick wit. But there isn't anything particularly dynamic about the way she plays the role.

As far as addressing the elephant in the room, the Oscar-winning "Room" star has taken a lot of heat for recent comments made in the press as of late (she certainly hasn't made a lot of friends on the sound crew circuit), but she's also been equally commended for those same comments. At the end of the day, all of the off-screen chatter is neither here nor there where the actual quality of the movie is concerned, and to that end, again, Larson is merely okay as the lead in Marvel's first female-headlined comic book adaptation. She doesn't bring the same sort of heart to the role that Gal Gadot brought to "Wonder Woman," but thankfully she proves to be substantially stronger than Halle Berry was in "Cat Woman."

While Larson does carry the bulk of the weight of this movie on her shoulders, she's often upstaged by her supporting cast. Lashana Lynch is terrific as an Air Force pilot and single mother who assists Danvers on her mission. She brings much needed

weight to the proceedings. As expected, Jackson is fun here, and much of the buddy-buddy banter his Fury engages in with Danvers is amusing, if a tad obvious. Likewise, a classy Jude Law has some nice moments in the quintessential mentor role, but despite the movie's best efforts, there isn't anything particularly surprising about this character.

Of the entire cast, Ben Mendelsohn leaves the strongest impression as a quirky alien being looking to capture Danvers and set her straight in terms of the way the universe really works. Mendelsohn brings a fittingly offbeat vibe to "Captain Marvel," and he does it while covered in quite a bit of impressive makeup.

"Captain Marvel" isn't without its noteworthy attributes: A scene-stealing kitty named Goose is certainly worthy of

his own spin-off movie. But overall, I wasn't entirely engaged by this one. "Guardians of the Galaxy" had stronger cast chemistry and did the zany, offbeat cosmic adventure stuff much more effectively while DC's "Wonder Woman" proved to be a much stronger representation of female empowerment.

Marvel's latest does an okay job in further planting the seeds for adventures to come, namely "Avengers: Endgame." But as a standalone movie, "Captain Marvel" is on the lower end of the Marvel Comics Universe spectrum.

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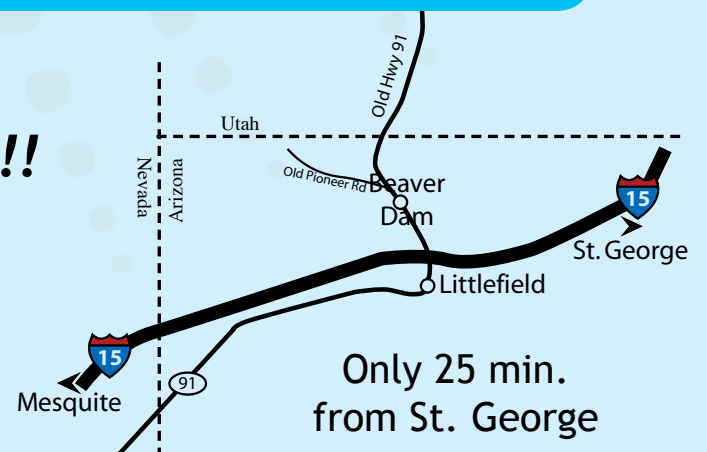
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"ARSENIC AND OLD LACE" April 5-10, 7:30 p.m. Pine View High School 2850 E. 750 N., St. George.

IN-STEP DANCE INVITATIONAL April 5 and 6, 4 p.m. Dixie Center, 1835 Convention Center Dr., St. George.

DENSO SPARK PLUGS NHRA FOUR-WIDE NATIONALS April 5-7. Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 7000 Las Vegas Blvd. N., Las Vegas.

LIBRARY STORY TIME Apr. 8, 22, and 29, 10 a.m. Panguitch Library, 25 S. 200 E., Panguitch.

LITTLE HOLLYWOOD SHOOTOUT April 10-12, noon. Kanab. Film competition offering prospective filmmakers the challenge of producing a short film with Kanab area locations as the backdrop.

KANAB FILM FEST April 11-13, 6 p.m. Kanab's first official film festival, including a guerilla shorts competition. Submissions expected to come from all over the world. Tickets \$3-\$20. kanabfilm.com, hello@kanabfilm.com, Parry Lodge (The Barn), 89 E. Center St., Kanab.

"THE TAFFETAS" April 12-May 4, 7 p.m. A musical journey through the fabulous fifties. Hurricane Fine Arts Auditorium, 92 S. 100 W., Hurricane.

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

SPRING CARNIVAL WEEKEND April 13 and 14, 9:30 a.m. Brian Head Resort, 329 S. Highway 143, Brian Head.

SPRING BREAKOUT April 15-19. A week-long creative experience at SUMA. The camp consists of two week-long sessions. The morning session, 9-11 a.m., will be available for students in grades K-2. The afternoon session, 2-4 p.m., will be geared toward grades 3-6. \$100 per child or \$75 for members. suma@suu.edu. 351 W. University Blvd, Cedar City.

THE KLIQUE AT CASABLANCA Apr. 5-7, 7 p.m. Showtimes may vary. Playing tunes from the Swing Era to today's chart-toppers. 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

VOODOO COWBOYS AT VIRGIN RIVER HOTEL Apr. 5-7, 7 p.m. Showtimes may vary. The Voodoo Cowboys are a little bit country and a little bit rock & roll. Free admission. 21 or older. Virgin River Hotel & Casino, 100 Pioneer Blvd., Mesquite.

KID & NICK SHOW AT CASABLANCA Apr. 10-14, 7 p.m. showtimes may vary. A fun, high-energy, interactive variety musical group. Free admission. 21 or older. 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

MICKEY UTLEY AT VIRGIN RIVER Apr. 10-14, 7 p.m. Showtimes may vary. Country band. Free. 21 or older. 100 Pioneer Blvd., Mesquite.

AMERICAN MADE AT VIRGIN RIVER HOTEL Apr. 17-21, 7 p.m. showtimes may vary. Playing classic rock and country. Free. 21 or older. 100 Pioneer Blvd., Mesquite.

MICKEY UTLEY AT CASABLANCA Apr. 17-21, 7 p.m. Showtimes may vary. Country band. Free. 21 or older. 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

CJ SIMMONS AT RIVER LOUNGE Apr. 24-28, 7 p.m. showtimes may vary. Country covers and originals! Free admission, must be 21 or older. 100 Pioneer Blvd., Mesquite.

GREGG PETERSON BAND AT CASABLANCA Apr. 24-28, 7 p.m. showtimes may vary. Variety and dance band. Free. 21 or older. 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

THE PAJAMA GAME Apr. 25-May 4, 7:30 p.m. St. George Musical Theater, 212 N. Main St., St. George.

KANAB RED ROCK ATV JAMBOREE May 1-4. Four days of social breakfasts and dinners, 10-14 rides per day, swag bags, and a chance to win prizes at the end of the weekend. \$100 per person. kanabatvjamboree.com. Kanab.

CPR/FIRST AID CLASS 5:30-9:30 p.m. May 3 and 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. April 4. Hurricane Rec. Center, 63 S. 100 W., Hurricane.

NEW HORIZONS INTERMEDIATE BAND AND STRINGS Band 1-3 p.m., strings 3-5 p.m. Economical group lessons for seniors. \$80 per semester or \$30 per month. (435) 772-1005, zionmusicensembles@gmail.com, zionmusicensembles.com, newhorizonsmusic.org. Electric Theater, 68 E. Tabernacle St., St. George.

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DANCE COMPANY SPRING SHOW May 1-3, 7 p.m. Desert Hills High School, 828 E. Desert Hills Dr., St. George.

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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.

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

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

Events by Day MONDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TUESDAYS

CHILDREN'S STORY TIME 10 a.m. Frontier Homestead State Park, 635 N. Main St., Cedar City.

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

MEMORY MATTERS EARLY STAGE MEMORY LOSS SERIES 10:30 a.m. 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.

WEEKLY HEALTHY LIFESTYLE CLASS Noon. Class to help you start taking steps to a healthier lifestyle. Must be at least 18 years old and a resident of Washington, Iron, Kane, Garfield, or Beaver County. Southwest Utah Public Health Department, 620 S. 400 E., St. George.

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

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

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

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

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CALENDAR

TRIBUTE TO THE KING AT CASABLANCA 6-10 p.m. Starring John Brooks. Must be 21 or older. Free. "Voted Best of Las Vegas 2013 "Best Elvis Tribute Show" and "Best Lounge Performer." CasaBlanca Skydome Lounge, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ELECTROACOUSTIC CONCERT 7:30 Eccles Fine Arts Center, S. 700 E., St. George.

Find more events daily at SUindependent.com

THURSDAYS

WEIGHT LOSS GROUP 4 p.m. The Wentworth At the Meadows Theater Room, 950 S. 400 E., St. George.

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.

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.

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

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

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

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, Apr 5

ART ON MAIN GALLERY STROLL 5 p.m. Main Street, St. George.

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.

JOSH WARBURTON AT PEEKABOO KITCHEN 6:30 p.m. Free. Josh Warburton performs originals and classics in the folk, blues, and rock genres with unique vocals and acoustic guitar. 233 W. Center St., Kanab.

CRIMSON COWBOYS LITERARY LECTURE 7 p.m. SUU Professor James M. Aton will present a lecture on his newest book, "Crimson Cowboys: The Remarkable Odyssey of the 1931 Claflin-Emerson Expedition." Canyon Community Center, 126 Lion Blvd., Springdale.

ASL STORY TIME 10:30 a.m. Washington County Library System, 88 W. 100 S., St. George.

"CHARLEY'S AUNT" 7:30 p.m. St. George Musical Theater, 212 N. Main Street, St. George.







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CALENDAR

Fri, Apr 5

DAVID JORGENSEN PRESENTS CAROLE KING & JAMES TAYLOR TRIBUTE CONCERT 8 p.m. Long Beach, California based artist Stacey Robbins is an accomplished pianist whose effortless vocals and style invoke the true spirit of King's artistry. David Jorgensen's storytelling ability and intricate guitar work will highlight many James Taylor favorites and some lesser known gems. Reserved seating available while tickets last. Electric Theater, 68 E. Tabernacle St., St. George.

CASEY STICKLEY TRIO AT GEORGE'S CORNER 8 p.m. Free. Heavily influenced by bands such as Pearl Jam, Soundgarden, and Alice in Chains. 2 W. St. George Blvd., St. George.

PORTERHAUS MUSIC 9 p.m. Mike's Tavern, 90 W. Hoover Ave., Cedar City.

TOUGH TITTIES CANCER FUNDRAISER 9 p.m. 9 p.m. \$10 Club Toadz, 432 N. 100 W., Cedar City.

Sat, Apr 6

ART ADVENTURES: PLEIN AIR AT JIMMIE JONES HOUSE 9 a.m. Learn about Jimmie Jones while gaining inspiration from nature to create plein air pastel drawings. SUMA, 13 S. 300 W., Cedar City.

NEW MOON SOUND HEALING YOGA WORKSHOP 10:30 a.m. Be Hot Yoga, 348 N. Bluff St., St. George.

SCIENCE SATURDAYS 1 p.m. Join us for fun, hands-on science experiments with DSU's American Medical Women's Association. The event is included in museum admission. George Children's Museum, 86 S. Main St., St. George.

CASEY STICKLEY TRIO AT ZION CANYON BREW PUB 4 p.m. Combining the finest elements of the classic and the modern which provides a unique and incredibly rewarding listening experience. Heavily influenced by bands such as Pearl Jam, Soundgarden, and Alice in Chains. Zion Canyon Brew Pub, 95 Zion Park Blvd, Springdale.

THOMAS GABRIEL BAND AT SAND HOLLOW RESORT 6:30 p.m. \$25. Sand Hollow Resort, 5662 W. Clubhouse Dr., Hurricane.

SOUTHERN NEVADA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AT CASABLANCA 7:30 p.m. (800) 585-3737. 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

MUSIC WITH GOOD FRIENDS 8 p.m. George's Corner Restaurant and Pub, 2 W. St. George Blvd., St. George.

Sun, Apr 7

GUIDED MEDITATION SOUND BATH 7 p.m. Downtown Yoga, 50 E. Tabernacle St., St. George.

Mon, Apr 8

DAVID GERALD AT CONCERT IN THE PARK 7:30 p.m. David Gerald grew up to the sounds of the blues, R&B and Rock music in his hometown, Detroit, and is now playing his Blues infused Soul Rock music nationally with his band. Free. Park seating. (435) 627-4525. Vernon Worthen Park, St. George.

KANAB CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP 12:30 p.m. Senior Center, 56 W. 450 N., Kanab.

STATE THEATRE SHOWCASE 6 p.m. Canyon View High, 166 W. 1925 N., Cedar City.

Tues, Apr 9

FAT, FIBER, AND YOU Noon. A special emphasis is placed on weight loss, diabetes, heart disease, and stroke prevention based on simple, proven methods to a healthier lifestyle. Southwest Utah Public Health Department, 620 S. 400 E., St. George.

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

DH CONE SITE BAND CONCERT 7 p.m. Desert Hills High School, 828 E. Desert Hills Dr., St. George.

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

Wed, Apr 10

PARENTING THE LOVE AND LOGIC WAY 9 a.m. Free class teaches parents how to raise responsible kids and enjoy parenting. Must be 18 or older to attend. m.bristol@usu.edu. Department of Workforce Services, 162 N. 400 E., St. George.

AMANDA BARRICK AND STEVEN STAY AT GEORGE'S CORNER 7 p.m. 2 W. St. George Blvd., St. George.

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

Thurs, Apr 11

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP Noon. Bring your own lunch. Five County Bldg., 585 N. Main St., Cedar City.

PREVENTIVE HEALTH BY DR. DAVID BLODGETT 6 p.m. Southwest Utah Public Health Department, 620 S. 400 E., St. George.

WASHINGTON CITY CONCERT BAND SPRING CONCERT 7 p.m. Free. Pine View High School, 2850 E. 750 N., St. George.

ORCHESTRA OF SOUTHERN UTAH 7:30 p.m. Youth soloists. Heritage Center Theatre, 105 N. 100 E., Cedar City.

CHAMBER MUSIC: WOODWIND & BRASS 7:30 p.m. Eccles Center, S. 700 E., St. George.

Fri, Apr 12

DIXIE JAM (ELEVATE/ELEMENT/ EVOLUTION/EVOKE) Dixie High School, 350 E. 700 S., St. George.

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

LYNDY BUTLER ALBUM RELEASE CONCERT AT ARROWHEAD GALLERY Doors open at 6:30 p.m. For her new album "Buffalo Skater." 68 E. Tabernacle St, St. George.

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

LEIFWAVE AT GEORGE'S CORNER 8 p.m. Free. 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.

SAFETY ORANGE LIVE 9 p.m. Beach rock/reggae. Club Toadz, 432 N. 100 W., Cedar City.

Sat, Apr 13

SPRING INTO EASTER EVENT 9 a.m. Scavenger hunt and old-fashioned games. Meet baby animals and play on the playground. Staheli Family Farm, 3400 S. Washington Fields Road, Washington.

DANCE CONCERT Snow Canyon High School, 1385 Lava Flow Dr., St. George.

HEROES IN DISGUISE 5K 9 a.m. 5K run and 2K walk Crosby Family Confluence Park, 1953 S. Convention Center Dr., St. George.

RECORD STORE DAY 11 a.m. Groovacious, 173 N. 100 W., Cedar City.

JASON TYLER BURTON AT ZION CANYON BREW PUB 4 p.m. Jason Tyler Burton is a wanderer, a soul searching adventurer who writes songs about the journey. His songs and stories are heart felt, reflecting a search for meaning and home, with a voice and lyrics that invite you to lean in a little, and really listen. Zion Canyon Brew Pub, 95 Zion Park Blvd, Springdale.

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.

RAVEN CAIN DUO AT GEORGE'S CORNER 8 p.m. Raven Cain Band is a country and Southern rock band based out of Hurricane. 2 W. St. George Blvd., St. George.

MICHAEL MCDONALD AT TUACAHN 8 p.m. 1100 Tuacahn Dr., Ivins.

GARTH & TRISHA TRIBUTE EXPERIENCE AT CASABLANCA 8:30 p.m. High-intensity monster hits of Garth Brooks, with the powerful vocals and presence of Trisha Yearwood featuring Ron Collins and Kathy Shelby. (800) 585-3737. 21 or older. 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

Mon, Apr 15

CHAMBER MUSIC: FLUTE & GUITAR 7:30 p.m. Eccles Fine Arts Center, S. 700 E., St. George.

Tues, Apr 16

HOW TO BECOME A HEALTHIER YOU Noon. A special emphasis is placed on weight loss, diabetes, heart disease, and stroke prevention based on simple, proven methods to a healthier lifestyle. Southwest Utah Public Health Department, 620 S. 400 E., St. George.

Wed, Apr 17

MERRIL CAMPBELL AT GEORGE'S CORNER 7 p.m. 2 W. St. George Blvd., St. George.

JOHN FORD COLEY-A BENEFIT CONCERT 7:30 p.m. Electric Theater, 68 E. Tabernacle St., St. George.

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

Thurs, Apr 18

SUPPORT GROUP/ LUNCH AND LEARN Noon. Support group for caregivers. Bring your own lunch. Five County Association of Government Building, 1070 W. 1600 S. Bldg. B, St. George.

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

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

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

CHAMBER LINE DANCING WITH ERIC DODGE 6 p.m. Join us for an evening of fun and dancing with Eric Dodge. Dixie Elks Lodge, 630 W. 1250 N., 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.

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

DESERT HILLS HIGH: DAY OF THUNDER DANCE 8 p.m. 828 E. Desert Hills Drive, St. George.

Fri, Apr 19

EASTER EGG HUNT 4 p.m. Free Easter Egg Hunt for children through 6th grade. Panguitch.

VOICE RECITAL 5:30 p.m. Eccles Fine Arts Center, S. 700 E., 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.

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

CHARLIE KESSNER AT GEORGE'S CORNER 8 p.m. Free. George's Corner Restaurant and Pub, 2 W. St. George Blvd., St. George.

CARPENTERS TRIBUTE CONCERT AT CASABLANCA 8:30 p.m. Opening with a Tribute to Herb Alpert & The Tijuana Brass. Celebrating the music and legacy of the famed brother-sister duo featuring Sally Olson as Karen Carpenter and pianist Ned Mills as Richard Carpenter. (800) 585-3737 21 or older. CasaBlanca Resort, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

Sat, Apr 20

EASTER EGG HUNT 9 a.m. Free Easter Egg Hunt, LaVerkin.

ANNUAL KIDS' EASTER EGG HUNT & FESTIVAL 9:30 a.m. Brian Head Resort, 329 S. Highway 143, Brian Head.

KITE FESTIVAL 10 a.m. Encampment Mall, DSU, 225 S. 700 E., St. George. Join us for fun, hands-on science experiments with DSU's American Medical Women's Association. The event is included in museum admission. George Children's Museum, 86 S. Main St., St. George.

DUCK CREEK EASTER CELEBRATION 10 a.m. duckcreekvillage.com. Duck Creek Village.

SCIENCE SATURDAYS 1 p.m. Join us for fun, hands-on science experiments with DSU's American Medical Women's Association. The event is included in museum admission. George Children's Museum, 86 S. Main St., St. George.

"LEMONS TO LEMONADE" COMMUNITY PICNIC 3 p.m. Hela Seegmiller Historic Farm, 2592 S. 3000 E., St. George.

TOM BENNETT AT GEORGE'S CORNER 8 p.m. Tom Bennett sings country and is based out of SLC. 2 W. St. George Blvd., St. George.

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

CALENDAR

HOMeward BOUND: THE MUSIC OF SIMON & GARFUNKEL AT CASABLANCA 8:30 p.m. Featuring The Chamberlain Brothers. (800) 585-3737. 21 or older. 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

NATHAN SPENSER REVUE AT ZION CANYON BREW PUB 4 p.m. Nathan is a Utah native. He's a swooner with a bluesy voice and riveting stage presence. Many note Nathan as an old soul, inspired by Americana, Folk, Roots & Blues music. Zion Canyon Brew Pub, 95 Zion Park Blvd, Springdale.

HARLEM RIVER NOISE! Mike's Tavern, 9 p.m. 90 W. Hoover Ave., Cedar City.

THE HOOTEN HALLERS 4/20 PARTY AT THE BIT AND SPUR 10 p.m. Columbia, Missouri trio The Hooten Hallers are a high-energy blues-rock band known for wild live shows, 1212 Zion Park Blvd., Springdale.

Sun, Apr 21

EASTER SERVICE AT TUACAHN 8 a.m. 1100 Tuacahn Dr., Ivins.

Mon, Apr 22

EASTER MONDAY City of Beaver, Beaver.
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, Apr 24

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION VISIT 9 a.m. Senior Center, 102 W. Old Mill Road, Mesquite.
LADIES NIGHT: CHALK COUTURE WITH RICKI 6 p.m. Make chalkboards that you can erase and reuse. Club Toadz, 432 N. 100 W., Cedar City.
BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP 7 p.m. Washington County Library System, 126 Lion Blvd., Springdale.

Thurs, Apr 25

JAZZ CONCERT 7:30 p.m. Eccles Center, S. 700 E., St. George.

Fri, Apr 26

READER'S CIRCLE BOOK CLUB 3 p.m. Washington County Library System, 36 S. 300 W., Hurricane.
BLUE BUTTERFLY HOUSE LUAU FUNDRAISER DINNER 6 p.m. \$60 per person, \$400 for table of 8. RSVP to BlueButterflyHouse@gmail.com or (435) 222-9525. Bloomington Country Club, 3174 S. Bloomington Drive E., St. George.

TOM BENNETT AT PEEKABOO KITCHEN 6:30 p.m. Free. Tom Bennett sings country and is based out of SLC. 233 W. Center St., Kanab.

DAVID ARCHULETA AT HERITAGE CENTER 7 p.m. 105 N. 100 E., Cedar City.

PIERRE JARAWAN "THE STORYTELLER" PRESENTATION AND BOOK SIGNING 7 p.m. (435) 619-8200 The Book Bungalow, 94 Tabernacle St., St. George.

ALAN MENKEN AT TUACAHN 8 p.m. 1100 Tuacahn Dr., Ivins.

Sat, Apr 27

COLORADO CITY MUSIC FESTIVAL See website for music lineup: thecoloradocity-musicfestival.com. Maxwell Park, 1750 N. Maxwell Parkway, Hildale.

D DAY DANCE Dixie High School, 350 E. 700 S., St. George.

SENIOR BALL Snow Canyon High School, 1385 Lava Flow Dr., St. George.

STATE SOLO & ENSEMBLE Dixie High School, 350 E. 700 S., St. George.

STATE SOLO AND ENSEMBLE Snow Canyon High School, 1385 Lava Flow Dr., St. George.

ST. GEORGE KSL CLASSIFIEDS GARAGE SALE 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. Fill out the form to reserve your spot at bit.ly/2MBKkRA Red Cliffs Mall, 1770 E. Red Cliffs Dr., St. George.

STILLHOUSE ROAD AT ZION CANYON BREW PUB 4 p.m. Free. Stillhouse Road performs a special blend of bluegrass and mountain music, country classics, and fiddle tunes. Joe's original songs are a driving force behind the band's popularity, in addition to his unique bass and mandolin solos. Zion Canyon Brew Pub, 95 Zion Park Blvd., Springdale.

EQUALITY CELEBRATION 6-10 p.m. The Ledges, 1585 Ledges Parkway, St. George.

LITTLE MISS PAGEANT 7 p.m. Enterprise High School (Auditorium), 565 S 200 E St, Enterprise.

GRADS DANCE 8 p.m. Cheer/Mallory Christison Cedar High School, 166 W. 1925 N., Cedar City.

FRANKIE VALLI & THE FOUR SEASONS AT TUACAHN 8 p.m. 1100 Tuacahn Dr., Ivins.

DAVE COMPTON AT GEORGE'S CORNER 8 p.m. 2 W. St. George Blvd., St. George.

TRAVIS CLOER AT CASABLANCA 8:30 p.m. Starring the longest running Frankie Valli in the history of Jersey Boys, Travis Cloer. (800) 585-3737. 21 or older to attend. CasaBlanca Resort, 950 W. Mesquite Blvd., Mesquite.

FESTIVAL COUNTRY K9'S BENEFIT WITH FENWICK WAY AND LINCOLN COUNTY CONSPIRACY 9 p.m. Mike's Tavern, 90 W. Hoover Ave, Cedar City.

Mon, Apr 29

MIGRANT FAMILY NIGHT 7 p.m. In the little theater/commons. Enterprise High School, 565 S 200 E St, Enterprise.

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

Tues, Apr 30

EHS SPRING MUSIC CONCERT 7 p.m. Enterprise High School, 565 S. 200 E. St, Enterprise.

Wed, May 1

16TH ANNUAL CHAMBER CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT 7 a.m. Sunbrook Golf Course, 2366 W. Sunbrook Dr., St. George.

FOREIGN FILM CLUB 6 p.m. Washington County Library System, 88 W. 100 S., St. George.

GARY HUFF AT GEORGE'S CORNER 7 p.m. Free. 2 W. St. George Blvd., St. George

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

Thurs, May 2

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER BREAKFAST 7:30 a.m. Banquet Dixie Center, 1835 Convention Center Dr., St. George.

CANYONS LAUNCH PARTY 5 p.m. Snow Canyon High School, 1385 Lava Flow Dr., St. George.

ASK A FOSTER PARENT 6 p.m. Ask local families about their experiences fostering or adopting. Heritage Center Theatre, 105 N. 100 E., Cedar City.

Fri, May 3

SUNDOG AT PEEKABOO KITCHEN 6:30 p.m. Free. A savory blend of country fried Americana and psychedelic anthems of the sun. Peekaboo Kitchen, 233 W. Center St., Kanab.

KENNY RUSSELL AT GEORGE'S CORNER 8 p.m. Kenny Russell sings country/folk/ americana and is based out of Cedar City. George's Corner Restaurant and Pub, 2 W. St. George Blvd., St. George.

Sat, May 4

MUSICAL REVIEW Snow Canyon High School, 1385 Lava Flow Dr., St. George.

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

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY Washington County Library System, 36 South 300 West, Hurricane.

JEFF FOXWORTHY AT TUACAHN 8 p.m. 1100 Tuacahn Dr., Ivins.

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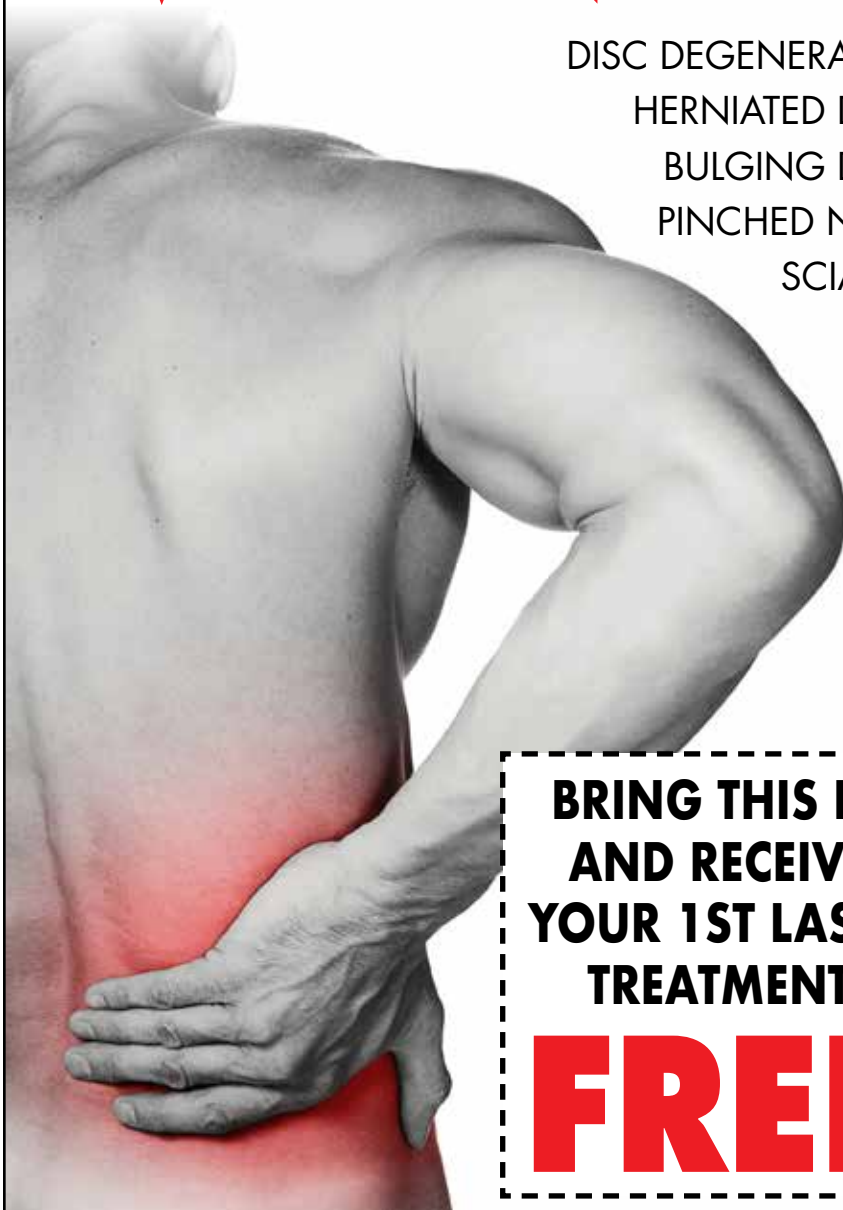
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