



Stars debut, bring professional basketball to the suburbs

By *Tori La Rue* | tori@mycityjournals.com

PAGE 18

J.J. O'Brien handles the ball during the Salt Lake City Stars' inaugural game against the defending NBA D-League Champions the Sioux Fall Skyforce. O'Brien added 20 points and six boards to the game, but the Skyforce still Defeated the Stars 117-100 (Dave Eggen/NBAE/Getty Images)



Autumn gifts for children

PAGE 6



For-profit colleges

PAGE 17



Taylorsville pitcher signs

PAGE 21

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Residents invited to celebrate with Santa Mayor

By Tori La Rue | tori@mycityjournals.com



Left: A boy sits on Santa's lap at the Historic Preservation Committee's 2015 Saturday with Santa event. Taylorsville Mayor Larry Johnson plays the part of Santa Claus. (Taylorsville City) Right: A family poses for a picture with Santa at the Historic Preservation Committee's 2015 Saturday with Santa event. Taylorsville Mayor Larry Johnson plays the part of Santa Claus. (Taylorsville City)

Taylorsville Mayor Larry Johnson won't be wearing a typical workday outfit on Dec. 3. Instead, he'll be sporting a red suit and a snow-colored beard in honor of the city's 12th annual Saturday with Santa Tradition.

Originally, the Taylorsville Youth Council hosted a family meet-and-greet with a Santa at the Taylorsville Bennion Heritage Center as a fundraiser. They tired of the event, so the city's Historic Preservation Committee decided to keep the event going and stopped charging for admission. That's when Johnson volunteered to play Santa.

"It is fun to see the smiles and joy and listen to what (kids) have to say to Santa Claus," Johnson said. "If I can make anyone smile, I am all for that."

The 2016 event on Dec. 3 runs from 2–4 p.m. within the Heritage Center Dairy Store, located at 1488 West 4800 South. Santa will give the children treats, and volunteers will

offer hot chocolate to parents or others in attendance. After seeing Santa, all participants are invited to tour the museum and dairy store, which includes the opportunity to see animals wearing their winter coats in the museum's corrals.

Connie Taney, chair of the Historic Preservation Committee, said the committee, full of "retired grandmas and grandpas who simply catch the spirit of Christmas," spend hours decorating the dairy store and museum, readying it for Saturday with Santa. They put in the effort because the event is one of their favorite activities, Taney said.

"It just feels like a day where we can all still get the feeling that we are little once again," she said. "We as volunteers all go away with a warm feeling in our hearts because we get to experience joy and laughter for two whole hours."

Usually 60 to 80 participants attend the

event, bringing cameras and grins, Taney said.

"We've noticed a better attendance now that we have Santa sit in his special chair in the dairy store, rather than on the front porch or even out in the gazebo as we have tried before," she said. "Getting out of nasty weather seems to be the secret to a good attendance."

Although there have been minor changes to Saturday with Santa, the event is mostly the same as it has always been—a place for local children to visit Santa and tell him which presents they hope he'll bring them on Dec. 25.

While the Taylorsville Christmas tradition only happens once a year, the Historic Preservation Committee invites those who miss the event to tour the museum and dairy store at a later date. The buildings are open for free tours each Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday from 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday from 2 to 6 p.m. Calling ahead is not required. ✦

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13
Town Hall Meeting
(Granger High School)

DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 2
Winter Break
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TUESDAY, JANUARY 10
Board of Education
Public Meeting
(2500 S. State Street)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13
End of Term
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MONDAY, JANUARY 16
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Students can download the SafeUT app at any time on The App Store or Google Play.

For those students who do not own a smartphone, Granite School District has phone and text lines available 24/7 where students can report bullying, violence, threats, mental health issues, or any other unsafe circumstance.

CPR for the mind: SLCo offers mental health first aid

By Travis Barton | travis@mycityjournals.com

The Speedy Foundation teamed up with Optum on Sept. 24 to offer a free Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) course at the Salt Lake County offices in West Valley City. MHFA is an eight-hour course training participants how to identify the common signs of mental illness including depression, anxiety disorders and substance use.

What the Classes Do

For four years Robyn Emery has been teaching MHFA, but her involvement with mental health has spanned much longer. Emery's daughter was diagnosed with bipolar disorder at 14 and it's what led Emery into her work field.

"[My daughter] got me involved just trying to keep her alive and good and well...now I advocate for families with kids who have mental health issues," Emery said.

Emery is a certified MHFA facilitator and a family support specialist at Optum. She said the class is essential in teaching people how to be first responders in a mental health crisis.

"People are often trained in CPR or the Heimlich maneuver or first aid, but you're just as likely to come in contact with someone who is suffering from a mental or emotional crisis," Emery said.

Julie Stewart and her husband have taken the course twice and work with homeless people experiencing mental health issues.

"With the skills I learned, I feel confident I can step up to support someone in my community and help them get the care they need," Stewart, a Sandy resident, said.

Emery said the most important skills participants learn is how to recognize an issue, having the tools to assess the risk and directing the person to a place they can seek professional help.

"You're not going to be able to handle it forever, you're not supposed to be," Emery said. "We want [class participants] to see what it looks like and what it's not."

Katie Flood, director and treasurer of The Speedy Foundation, said recognizing the issue promptly rather than ignoring the signs can help stop issues before they become serious.

"A lot of times we overlook [the signs] and just assume they'll be OK and get themselves out of this funk," Flood said.

Stewart said she used to be afraid talking to people suffering from depression or suicidal thoughts. She learned strategies they could use to counsel with those who feel like "they've hit rock bottom."

"Instead of saying, 'well you'll be OK,' and walk off, maybe realizing instead that it does help to assess the situation and say, 'let's talk about it.' Those words are big words," Stewart said. "[Emery's] class really does help you feel more comfortable in talking through things."

It's part of the skill set attendees are meant to acquire along with knowing where to send people for professional help.

"We could give reassurance that there is help and learning from Robyn about all the resources in the valley was huge for us," Stewart said.

It could also prove a lifesaver for the homeless Stewart works with.

One in five adults experience mental illness according to the National Institute on Mental Health. With everyone capable of receiving aid from the course, Flood has experienced firsthand the results of the training.

"I've used it for myself, not knowing I was depressed. Then seeing it really progress, I was able to use those tools and take a



MHFA training teaches participants how to identify the most common signs of mental illness and an action plan to help someone in crisis. (Courtesy of Optum)



By training more people to assist someone facing a behavioral health crisis, Optum and The Speedy Foundation hope to increase the chances that the person in need gets help. (Courtesy of Optum)

For immediate assistance with a behavioral health crisis, call the Salt Lake County Crisis Line 24 hours/7 days a week at (801) 587-3000.

step back and really reflect on what I was going through," Flood said.

For a year and a half, Flood has worked with The Speedy Foundation, a non-profit dedicated to preventing suicide and supporting mental health. It was formed in 2011 in memory of Jeret "Speedy" Peterson, an Olympic freestyle aerials silver medalist. Peterson battled depression before taking his life at age 29.

Flood's brother was an Olympian with Peterson and felt the need to jump in and help.

"I, too, had suffered from depression. I feel like its therapeutic in a way. I can reach out and show there's recovery and hope and good health," Flood said.

Breaking down stigmas

Classes are comprised of 20 to 30 people and one of the first things it does is dispel stigmas surrounding mental health. Flood said it's the interactive classes that help shatter perceptions.

"You see people engaged, really asking the questions they've seen people go through. The engagement is wonderful for people to get rid of the stigmas of depression, drug abuse and suicide," Flood said.

Emery said the class facilitates understanding of a person with mental illness.

"The whole basis with a stigma is a lack of knowledge. When you learn about these things, that they're normal and not a flaw in their character, it makes a difference in how you interact with them," Emery said.

Emery explained that oftentimes people with mental illness are perceived as scary and violent when in reality, they're more likely to be the victim. She said she would love to see everyone in the valley take the course because you never know when a situation will arise.

"I think of it personally with my daughter, I'm not with her every night. What if something goes wrong and I'm not around, who's going to take care of her? Neighbors? And if they don't know what to do, they can't be a lot of help," Emery said. "In

fact, they probably walk away because they're frightened by what they don't understand."

Emery took the MHFA course. It improved her family relationships, more than just with her daughter.

Emery's nephew committed suicide 30 years ago, the night before his 31st birthday. He had three little kids at the time. Emery was angry at him. She would go to the cemetery leaving flowers at the graves of all her family members, except his. She would wonder how he could do such a selfish thing. For 20 years, she continued to wonder until the class changed her perception.

"Now I know the pain he was feeling was so intense, that it was the only way he knew how to stop it," Emery said. "It's helped me to be a lot more compassionate and feel things that I didn't for 20 years."

Youth Mental Health

"Mental health is not restricted to a particular age group," Stewart said about traumatic experiences affecting all ages.

Youth mental health classes are also offered for people who regularly interact with adolescents who may be experiencing mental health or addiction challenges.

These classes have become increasingly important in light of a July report from the Utah Department of Health (UDH) stating that suicide is the leading cause of death in Utah for 10- to 17-year-olds.

"We're in a major youth suicide crisis right now...we need to really hit home in our schools and anywhere we can," Flood said, adding that the class is great for parents, counselors and educators.

Oftentimes mental health issues can be misjudged as anxiety, stress or being overdramatic, especially in teens Emery said.

"It took me two years to realize that it wasn't typical teenage rebellion," Emery said of the experience with her daughter.

Flood said the class shows participants the signs between typical and atypical teenage behavior.

"You can see where a typical teenager will always go on

their roller coaster ride to really seeing the signs of isolating and if they're getting involved with alcohol and drugs," Flood said.

Severity and time are two of the most important things to look for according to Emery.

"That lets you know it's not a situational issue," Emery said.

Utah's Issues

Challenges of maintaining an emotional balance is an issue affecting the entire state of Utah.

In a survey conducted by UDH, it showed that one in 15 Utah adults have had serious thoughts of suicide and according to statistics compiled by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Utah ranks fifth in the nation in suicide rates at 21 people per 100,000 people.

"We live in what they call suicide alley," Emery said referring to the region that includes Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota to go along with Utah. The region has the highest average rate of almost 20 suicides per 100,000 people.

"Suicide is the one cause of death that is 100 percent preventable, if you know what to do," Emery said.

Stewart said having awareness of the issue can assist in both the healing and prevention process.

"We can all help each other, I might not be in a crisis today but I might be next month," Stewart said.

With the MHFA classes and a suicide hotline in Idaho, Flood said The Speedy Foundation is reaching its mission in promoting conversation on the topic. In turn, this helps the individuals who need assistance.

"It's OK to let people know you've gone through hard times because chances are that everyone has, just different degrees of it," Flood said. "People feel shame with it so no one wants to talk about it."

Optum and Speedy Foundation Partnership

The partnership between The Speedy

Foundation and Optum started two years ago in Idaho before branching to the Utah division. Optum manages Salt Lake County Mental Health and Substance Use services through a contract with the Division of Behavioral Health Services.

Flood said MHFA courses fit the need for education and fit the mission of the foundation by combining to provide free books for the courses. Cost of the class is typically \$20 to cover the cost of the book provided, but with the partnership, the classes are available for free for limited period of time.

"We are committed to working with Optum to increase awareness about suicide prevention and assist people throughout the Salt Lake area who are affected by mental illness," Flood said.

Provided by the partnership for the eight-hour courses are leadership, logistical support, printed course materials and awareness campaigns.

Emery said it's been great working with The Speedy Foundation.

"They're incredible, it's a great foundation...a lot of people have been able to benefit from the classes who otherwise couldn't," Emery said.

It's more likely to find someone having an emotional crisis than a heart attack. Which, Emery said, makes it all the more important to take the class.

"It really is [important]. I have a family full of mental health problems and I don't know what I would've done if I didn't have this kind of stuff," Emery said.

For more information on upcoming courses available in the Salt Lake City area from Optum and The Speedy Foundation, contact Julie Hardle at julie.hardle@optum.com or call (801) 982-3217. For immediate assistance with a behavioral health crisis, call the Salt Lake County Crisis Line 24 hours/7 days a week at (801) 587-3000.

You can also visit thespeedyfoundation.org to learn more about other mental health classes. †



Robyn Emery, a family support specialist for Optum Salt Lake County, regularly facilitates training such as Mental Health First Aid and Youth Mental Health First Aid in order to help members of the community better understand and support child and adolescent mental health needs. (Courtesy of Optum)

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Sheriff's Office, inmates give autumn gifts to children

By *Tori La Rue* | tori@mycityjournals.com



The Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office delivered hundreds of pumpkins to Hartvigsen School in Taylorsville on Oct. 26. (Taylorsville City)

Hartvigsen School broke away from its daily routine when visitors from the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office and Unified Police Department brought each student a pumpkin on Oct. 26 to celebrate fall.

"The kids think it is fun to see the department in the building and see that they are involved in the school," said Gary Slaymaker, who's been a secondary teacher at the special needs school for 32 years. "For me, it means that people care, and for them, it means they got a pumpkin. Some of them will go home and tell people about how they got something new while at school."

The department selects three schools to bring their autumn gifts to, and Capt. Matt Dumont said Hartvigsen is always at the top of the list. The department has been delivering pumpkins to the school for the past six years.

"It's just a special place here, and we are always invited back," Dumont said. "It warms my heart right up to see these kids get so excited and have an opportunity to interact with them on this level."

The pumpkins are not only gifts from the Sheriff's Office but also from the inmates at the Salt Lake County Jail. The inmates till the ground for the pumpkins, grow them and harvest them as part of the jail's horticulture program.

"Not all of the inmates are excited about it, but there's some of them who are really excited and think it is awesome to be able to grow these pumpkins that they know will be donated to these school children," said Officer Mark Noble,

the corrections officer who's in charge of the horticulture program.

The Sheriff's Office employees and Unified Police officers traveled from classroom to classroom carting pumpkins in hand in shopping carts to visit the students and give away their presents. Many students at Hartvigsen school hugged their visitors after receiving a pumpkin. They smiled as they took pictures with the Sheriff's Office dog mascot, Sgt. Siren.

"Just like all kids, they love to see new things, so they love seeing the Sheriff's department," Nathan Sellers, a paraeducator at Hartvigsen said. "Our kids are interested in sensory activities, so they're excited to feel the mascot costume and interact with the community members. I only wish more people would come to visit us."

Taylorsville Mayor Larry Johnson also came to the school during the pumpkin giveaway.

"It is an honor to pass out pumpkins with the Taylorsville Precinct Officers and Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office employees at Hartvigsen School," he said. "The faces of these students light up with excitement when they are given their very own pumpkin."

After the pumpkin giveaway, Hartvigsen students went back to their normal activities, but Dumont said employees of the Sheriff's office plan to visit around the same time next year.

"It's a favorite activity for many of us," he said. ✦

Council adapts code requirements for call centers

By *Tori La Rue* | tori@mycityjournals.com



Taylorsville City cleaned up its ordinances concerning parking space requirements for call centers. (Pixabay)

With some discussion about call centers moving into Taylorsville, the city cleaned up its ordinances concerning parking space requirements.

"We're Certainly not proposing to prevent any kind of business from coming to town, but you'll notice there were some gaps in the code," Tracy Cowdell, city attorney, said addressing the city council during the Nov. 2 meeting. "These call centers might end up in places where maybe it isn't the best use."

Matthew Taylor, Taylorsville city planner, explained that the city's code doesn't differentiate between call centers and other kinds of businesses, which could lead easily lead to parking jams since call centers usually house more employees per square foot of office space than other companies.

"Call centers are much more intense use than a typical office," Taylor said. "The rule is to pack them in deep. With that general rule for call centers, our ordinances for parking are deficient."

Taylor proposed a change in city code, which would create a separate land-use category for call centers, distinguishing it from the land-use categories of office space. He also proposed a definition of "call center" be added to city code. After Taylor explained his reasoning for suggesting the change, the city council unanimously voted in favor of these changes.

Councilwoman Dama Barbour said she wanted to be sure that the new code wouldn't put any current call center applicants in a bind. Crowdell assured her there weren't any call center applicants at the time, and Taylor said even if they were, they would have a one-year buffer period before the new code would affect them.

Council Chair Ernest Burgess said he was impressed with city staff and thanked them for their foresight on the issue. ✦

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Public, private partnership creates pathway for students

By Kelly Cannon | kelly@mycityjournals.com

Governor Gary Herbert announced the launch of a new medical innovations pathway on Sept. 27 that will allow high school students the chance to graduate with a certificate in medical manufacturing innovations. From there, students can either continue their education at the post-secondary level or begin their career in life sciences.

The new pathway was brought about through a partnership of USA Funds, the Governor's Office of Economic Development and Department of Workforce Services.

"We set a goal to become the best performing economy and a premier business destination," Herbert said during a special presentation at Edward Life Sciences in Draper. "It's encouraging to see the fruits of our labors, to see that happening in front of our eyes."

The Medical Innovations Pathway is being funded through a \$1 million grant from USA Funds.

This is the third pathway the state provides to high school students, the other two being aerospace and diesel technology. According to Ben Hart, the managing director for urban and rural business services at the Governor's Office for Economic Development, the pathway works by partnering high school students with both a post-secondary institution and an industry.

"They get some experience, some curriculum while they're in high school and then they get further, more rigorous training at one of the secondary institutions and then they get a chance

to go onsite in the industry," Hart said. "Whether that's a 48-hour internship or job shadow, they get a chance to see what they're actually going to be doing."

Hart said the purpose of the pathways program is to empower students to make better career decisions so they can understand what jobs are actually like before deciding if it's the right career for them.

Herbert praised these programs because of the partnership between public and private interests.

"Education is the key to long-term success economically," Herbert said. "One of the reasons we're having success is what I call the spirit of collaboration, this partnership and the one we see in this pathways program, exemplifies this idea of public and private partnership working together for the good of the whole economy."

Herbert also praised the program for its potential to help people.

"The advancements in science and technology we're seeing and exhibiting here today is making people's lives better," Herbert said. "And at the end of the day, that's what it's all about."

Ken Eliason, vice-president of plant operations at Edward Life Sciences, thanked Herbert for pursuing these opportunities to improve their workforce and provide students with workforce opportunities.

"This program is a step forward for us addressing workforce challenges in our state,"



Vanessa Olsen, Edwin Carcano and Kiera Terrlink are seniors enrolled in the Medical Innovations Pathway. (Kelly Cannon/City Journals)



Ken Eliason gives Gov. Gary Herbert a tour of Edward Life Sciences in Draper after the announcement of the Medical Innovations Pathway. (Kelly Cannon/City Journals)

Eliason said. "We hope this program will not only provide stable and rewarding jobs but also create an interest in life sciences and STEM classes."

The Granite School District has been working on a life sciences program for the past nine years, developing training programs in both biotechnology and biomanufacturing.

"This medical innovations pathway will take that work to the next level by providing direct linkage to companies who are seeking employees and the real work that is going on in these industries," said Martin Bates, the superintendent of the Granite School District.

The program will start in the Granite School District and will expand to the Davis and Canyons School Districts next year. The first semester of the

program will take place in the high schools and the second semester will include curriculum from Salt Lake Community College. Students will also do internships and job shadowing. Upon completion of the Medical Innovations Pathway program and passing pre-employment requirements, students will be certified to begin work with one of the life science partners in Utah, receiving a family-sustaining wage.

Kiera Terrlink, a senior at Skyline High School, will be starting the pathways program next semester.

"People seemed so involved in their careers and it sounded like a good opportunity to start and figure out if that's what I wanted to do," Terrlink said. ✦

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Eisenhower educator recognized for historic teaching

By *Tori La Rue* | tori@mycityjournals.com

The Utah Council for the Social Studies named Eisenhower Junior High teacher Jennifer Kesler the 2016 Secondary Teacher of the Year during its mid-October conference.

“I found out I’d received the award only a few days before they were to announce it at the annual conference,” Kesler said. “Oftentimes, teachers aren’t recognized, so it felt really nice to win the award, but I was surprised.”

Principal Mark Ellermeier said the award did not come as a shock to him. Although he doesn’t know who nominated Kesler for the award, he said it could have come from anyone because she’s well-deserving and liked by the administration, faculty, staff, parents and students.

“She’s created a friendly learning environment for the kids,” Ellermeier said. “She is just a team player, so anything we ask Jenny to do, she does—great asset to Eisenhower Junior High. As a principal, we are glad to have her.”

Kesler’s been at Eisenhower Junior High for eight years where she teaches eighth grade U.S. History and advises the student government. She said she always knew she wanted to be a history teacher because she had a love for historic stories and wanted to help others gain the passion she found.

U.S. History is a versatile subject, she said, teaching students not only what happened and when but helping them discover why. In history class, students learn not only about happenings in the nation and world but about how to be an adult and participate in the democratic process, she said.

“They are at that age where they are

still learning new things about history. They learned a little in elementary school, but this is the first time they are really diving in,” Kesler said. “They are not yet like adults who have grown jaded and bitter, so they are willing to see new perspectives.”

Unlike their exposure to history before middle school, Kesler’s students learn that history is full of complex characters not just “clear-cut good and bad guys,” she said.

The topics Kesler said her students seem to like the most are social justice issues, including the Civil War and slavery, and women’s rights.

“They get into these subjects more than issues of the economy and government because justice issues are more emotional, and they can feel what is right and wrong,” she said.

To help students relate to what they are learning, Kesler focuses their study on primary sources, so the students can get inside people’s heads and find out why they did the things that they did and why they believed the things they believed.

Kesler gives her students projects to aid the development of critical-thinking skills. One of her favorite projects is the National History Day Contest, which invites students to create web, performance, documentary, report or exhibition projects based on an annual theme. The projects are then adjudicated at the school, region, state and national level.

Last year, four girls in one of Kesler’s classes created a project about the Chicago World’s Fair that placed at school and region and went on to the state competition.



Jennifer Kesler, a history teacher at Eisenhower Junior High, poses with a trophy after the Utah Council for the Social Studies named her the Secondary Teacher of the Year at their mid-October conference.

“They were the first group from Eisenhower to ever get that far,” Kesler said. “It was amazing to watch their success.”

Teaching middle school can be challenging because the students are at a tough spot in their lives where they are learning to grow up, but Kesler said the benefits outweigh the costs.

“Once you can relate to them, it becomes easier to understand where they are coming from,” she said. “They are full of energy, they make you laugh and they surprise you with the insights and questions that they ask. That’s why I keep coming back here and why I keep teaching.” ✦

Our mission is to inform and entertain our community while promoting a strong local economy via relevant content presented across a synergetic network of print and digital media.

**Thank You for Supporting
Your Community and City Journals!**

Shop Your Local Businesses this Holiday Season



RECYCLE



Emergency

Emergency	911
Unified Police Department Dispatch	801-743-7000
<i>(Non-Emergencies)</i>	
Fire Department	801-743-7200
Poison Control Center	1-800-222-1222

Frequently Called Numbers

Animal Control Shelter	801 -965 -5800
Animal Control After Hours Dispatch	801 -840 -4000
Building Inspection	801 -955 -2030
Chamber West <i>(Chamber of Commerce)</i>	801 -977 -8755
Gang Tip Line	385 -468 -9768
Garbage/Recycle/GreenWaste Pick-up <i>(Wasatch Front Waste & Recycling)</i>	385 -468 -6325
Granite School District	385 -646 -5000
Health Department	385 -468 -4100
Highway Conditions <i>(from cell phone)</i>	511
Park Reservations	385 -468 -7275
Public Works <i>(Salt Lake County)</i>	385 -468 -6101
Questar	801 -324 -5000
Rocky Mountain Power	888 -221 -7070
Salt Lake County Recycling/Landfill	801 -974 -6920
Taylorsville - Bennion Imp. District	801 -968 -9081
Taylorsville Food Pantry	801 -815 -0003
Taylorsville Senior Center	801 -293 -8340
Taylorsville Neighborhood Compliance	801 -955 -2013
Taylorsville Justice Court	801 -963 -0268
Taylorsville Library	801 -943 -4636
Taylorsville Recreation Center	385 -468 -1732
Swimming Pool <i>(Memorial Day to Labor Day)</i>	801 -967 -5006
Taylorsville -Bennion Heritage Center	801 -281 -0631
UDOT Region 2	801 -975 -4900
Utah Transit Authority (UTA)	801 -743 -3882



Mayor Larry Johnson

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

The Christmas Season is here – my favorite time of year. It offers an opportunity to gather family and friends to enjoy traditions that have passed from generation to generation. It is a time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and be most appreciative and grateful.

This Christmas, let us all reach out a little further to those around us. Let us look for those who might need that helping hand. Let us thank the Veterans for their sacrifice and service, the police officers and firefighters who work diligently to protect and keep our communities safe, the elderly for their wisdom and examples, the young children for their hope and optimism, and friends for just being friends. Reach out to a stranger, participate in random acts of kindness, take a child or grandchild on a one-on-one date, ask for their thoughts, and then really listen to what they have to say; start a new family tradition, or maybe, forgive that one person you told yourself you would never forgive. In a world where time is so very precious – these small gestures can mean a lot.

I would like to wish each of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. It is a great privilege to serve this community alongside dedicated city employees to ensure that Taylorsville is prosperous and a great place to live.

–Mayor Johnson



Come join the Taylorsville Arts Council & Taylorsville Senior Center for:

A Celebration of Friendship & Love
February 10th, 11th, & 12th at the
Taylorsville Senior Center located at
4743 Plymouth View Dr. at 7:00 PM

If you are interested in performing at this event please contact Susan Holman at (801) 966-8376

MAYOR'S CHOICE

RESTAURANT

Texas Roadhouse

5418 South 1900 West • Taylorsville, Utah 84129
Phone: 801-955-7514 • www.texasroadhouse.com

Favorite Entrée – Fall Off The Bone Ribs

Favoride Sides – Buttered Corn, Baked Potato

Favorite Dessert – Big Ol' Brownie

Monday – Thursday: 4 PM – 10 PM • Friday & Saturday: 11 AM – 11 PM
Sunday: 11 AM – 10 PM



BUSINESS

Shirts & Things LLC

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Monday – Thursday 10 AM – 7 PM • Friday 10 AM – 5 PM
Saturday 10 AM – 2 PM • Sunday Closed

COUNCIL CORNER

Now that 2016 is almost over, we count our blessing and thank you Taylorsville City for an abundant year!

Thank you residents, friends and neighbors for your support, ideas, creativity and fun. We appreciate your support and critiques through emails, one on one visits, phone calls, and community councils. Your attendance at council meetings, expressing concerns and offering solutions is invaluable. More importantly it is heartwarming to see so many who love and care for others through neighborly random acts of kindness large and small. The spirit of volunteerism and positive community involvement is thriving in Taylorsville.

Thank you employees, staff, administration and public safety personnel of our city. We truly believe we have top notch people with skills and heart who are committed to performing their best for Taylorsville. Many times our



public servants go above and beyond what they are tasked, and do so with enthusiasm and genuine love for our city home. Our various citizen committees and volunteers add an extra layer of support and a positive influence to our wonderful community.

As we celebrate this season and the close of a great year, we wish you our warmest regards and best holiday wishes. May we see the good all around us, the impact of a friendly smile, kind words and a gesture of genuine help and friendship. Happy Holidays!



Vice-Chair Brad Christopherson - District #3 **Council Member** Dama Barbour - District #4 **Chair** Ernest Burgess - District #1 **Council Member** Kristie Overson - District #2 **Council Member** Dan Armstrong - District #5

YOUTH COUNCIL CORNER

2016-2017 Taylorsville Youth Council



2016-2017 Taylorsville Youth Council Members: Aaron Tibbitts, Abigail Philpott, Angelique Canepari, Anthony Haynes, Ariana Jones, Bryn Gale, Cole Arnold, Ethan Ford, Jared De Leon, Kenna Bradley, Lucas Carpenter, Malia Hansen, Megan Squire, Natalie Pitts, Sarah Kendall, Shelby Handy, Sydney Mendenhall. 2016-2017 Youth Ambassadors: Cole Arnold, Jared De Leon, Shelby Handy

Youth Council has sure been busy this November between smoothing out wrinkles and doing our first major service project, Thanksgiving boxes. Each year the council has the opportunity of shopping for a Thanksgiving dinner for a family who would otherwise not have one. Not only do we provide the family with a delicious meal, but we also do a Sub for Santa in December.

Our new members are excited about seeing and experiencing the difference we can make for that family. The service we do is a learning experience for us all. This specific project helps remind us of the importance of gratitude. This is just the first step in our nine month journey together. Each service project done teaches something new and we can't wait to see what that will be come December.



Youth Council is excited to participate in helping make the community better and each other better as well! Happy Holidays from the youth of Taylorsville!

Saturday with Santa
Saturday, December 3rd from 2PM - 4PM
Taylorsville-Bennion Heritage Center (Dairy Store)
1488 West 4800 South Taylorsville, Utah
Free Event - Open to the Public

SNOW REMOVAL REMINDERS FOR TAYLORSVILLE RESIDENTS



Traveling, even short distances, during the winter months in Utah can be stressful. Snow and Ice can cause delays and be very dangerous. Salt Lake County Public Works Operations is committed to providing safe, well-maintained roadway systems for the benefit of the public.

Our snow teams are prepared 24 hours a day in the event of a storm. Major arterial streets are the first priority to make passable and provide access to schools, hospitals, fire stations, police and other emergency services. Depending on the size of the storm, teams may need to continually plow these roads, which may delay residential road clearing. After the snow event has ended snow teams will return to residential streets to push the snow back to the curb or edge of the road. This often causes additional snow in driveways. We make every effort to clear all roads within 48 hours after the storm ends. When the temperatures dropping below 17 degrees the salt used on the road is less effective. The melt rate slows and the snow & ice may take days to completely melt. Drivers need to exercise extreme caution.

It is important for residents to understand what they can do to ensure the roads and sidewalks are safe and passable. Sidewalks and mailboxes are the responsibility of the resident to keep clear. We recommend the sidewalk be cleared after the plows have serviced the area.

Snow team members have been instructed not to clear roads with cars parked on them. Residents may call their local code enforcement or police department to assist with the removal of the cars to enable the plows access to the area. When clearing your driveways and sidewalks, the snow should not be deposited in the road. Garbage cans should be set at the curb in the morning and removed promptly.

Snow removal team members are working 12-16 hour shifts and appreciate courteous and friendly drivers. Please use caution when you see a snow removal vehicle and remember the snow removal vehicle is harder to stop than a regular vehicle. For more information, please contact us at 385-468-6101.



City of Taylorsville Parking Reminder

- No Overnight Winter Parking (November - April) for Snow Removal 11.20.130
- No Parking for more than 24 Consecutive Hours 11.20.135
- No Large Truck or Trailer Parking in Residential Area for more than three consecutive hours 11.20.060
- No Parking for Repairs, Maintenance, or to Display for Sale 11.20.140



Greenhouse Winter Gardening

Taylorsville Community Greenhouse is NOW OPEN for anyone interested in winter gardening. Cost is \$45 for winter gardening to the end of March 2017.



For additional information please contact:
Toni Lenning at 801-265-1328



Cold Weather & Your Pet

The cold weather is upon us. Winter is here and it is time to be aware of what winter weather can bring that may affect your pet. The following advice may help your pet this winter:

- Exposure to the dry cold air, as well as the wet winter conditions, can cause chapped paws and itchy, flaky skin on your pet. Coming out of the cold air into a warm house feels good to your pet but your furnace is drying out the air while it warms it. Keep your home humidified and check your pet to make sure they are dry when they come in; use a towel to dry them off if they are wet. Check the feet of your pet and remove any snow packed in between the toes or pads of their foot.
- Shaving your pet during the winter is discouraged. The longer hair helps provide warmth to your pet. If your pet has long

hair and ice tends to cling to it, just trim the long hair but don't shave. If your pet has shorter hair, a sweater or coat for them when going outside is recommended.

- In addition to a coat, booties for your pet to wear on walks can help protect their paws from the cold ground and chemicals used to melt snow. If you don't use booties, basic petroleum jelly rubbed onto the paws can help provide protection before going outside.
- Antifreeze is a chemical that is used more often in the winter and as such gets left out. Antifreeze is poisonous to your pet and at the same time your pet can be attracted by the color and smell. Take care to make sure this, and other chemicals, are used and stored properly.
- Don't bathe your pet too much during the winter. Washing too often removes the natural oils in the skin which, in turn, can

cause dryness and flakiness. If you do bathe your pet during the winter use a moisturizing shampoo.

- Pets burn more energy during the winter as they try to stay warm. Providing more food to meet the demand for this extra energy is important. Also, make sure your pet has plenty of clean, fresh water always available as hydration is very important during the winter. Your pet will use extra water to keep their skin from drying out.
- An extra blanket or pillow during the winter to help your pet stay warm while sleeping is also important. Remember, if it too cold outside for you it is probably too cold for your pet. Find a warm place for them to sleep.

Following these, and other common sense pet care procedures, will help keep you and your pet happy and healthy this winter.



City of Taylorsville Holiday Food Drive

The Taylorsville Food Pantry is in need of some items to help fill the shelves for the holiday season.

The items needed to complete holiday meals for those in need include:

- Potatoes (instant or fresh)
- Cranberries
- Canned Pasta Sauce
- Boxed Stuffing Mix
- Pumpkin Filling
- Yams
- Evaporated Milk
- Jello
- Canned Fruit
- Turkey
- Ham

Hours of Operation:

Monday 1PM - 3PM

Wednesday 4PM - 6PM

Saturday 10AM - 12-Noon

Donations may be dropped off during the hours listed above

Taylorsville Food Pantry
4775 South Plymouth View Drive
Taylorsville, Utah 84123
TaylorsvilleFoodPantry.org
Phone: (801) 815-0003

OFF TO SOMEPLACE WARM?

Plumbing is especially susceptible to cold weather and freezing. Burst pipes from freezing can cause some of the most expensive repairs in the home. So let's go over some of the basics to make sure you have them covered.

Insulate Exposed Piping

If you have any exposed water or drain piping in uninsulated spaces such as in a crawlspace, attic, outside walls, etc., make sure to insulate them. Ideally you should wrap them with electrical heating tape first, and then insulate them.

Wrap water heaters and hot water pipes in insulation to improve efficiency. This is especially important in locations where hot water components are exposed to cold temperatures.

Exterior Faucets

Also known as hose bibs. You may want to consider an insulated cover for the exterior faucet. And remember to disconnect your garden hoses from the outside faucets and drain the hose to prevent damage if stored outside.

Continuous Flow Notifications

If you received a notice in the message box on your bill it means the water meter has registered a continuous flow of water to your property for more than 15 consecutive days. This may indicate an unknown leak in your system that is increasing your usage. Possible locations of a leak include interior plumbing fixtures, lawn sprinklers systems, and your service lateral. Additional information can be found on our website www.tbid.org or by calling 801-968-9081.

Reminder: If you are shutting down a property for several months you should always shut off the water supply from inside the home. If a leak were to occur without occupancy, the damage could be catastrophic.

Leisure Activities, Recreation & Parks Committee (LARP)

Holiday Outdoor Decor Contest



Show off your community pride and holiday spirit by nominating yourself or a neighbor in the City of Taylorsville for the HOLIDAY OUTDOOR DECOR CONTEST!

Submit a picture or video via email to LARP@taylorsvilleut.gov

All entries must be received by Friday, December 23rd at 5PM.

There will be two award recipients selected by the Taylorville LARP Committee!

Leisure Activities, Recreation & Parks Committee (LARP) 2016 AWARDS



The Leisure Activities, Recreation & Parks Committee (LARP) Committee presented the **2016 Halloween Outdoor Decor Contest Awards** to the following recipients in the Nov 16 City Council Meeting. Congratulations and thank you to everyone who entered!

Josh Mellor
2099 West Kirkham Way



Brent Terry
3651 West 5735 South



Daniel Browning
853 West Rockhill Circle



Gordon and Anne Black
5104 South Persille



The Leisure Activities, Recreation & Parks Committee (LARP) Committee presented the **2016 Beautification Awards** to the following recipients in the Nov 16 City Council Meeting. Congratulations!

Khamkeng and Boua Aloun Keomounmany
5309 South Percille Drive



Larry and Cecelia Van Tassel
5122 South 1470 West



Larry and Shirley Taylor
1558 West Smiley Lane



Delmer and Rosalind Ketcham
4896 South 3145 West



Richard and Claudia Monson
1490 West Paradise Lane



Taylorsville Bennion Heritage Remembrances – Clyde Barker

This month's precious remembrance of Taylorsville was written by a man named Clyde Barker. It was given on February 22, 1950 at a Ward Reunion.

"Friends and Neighbors, Boys and Girls"

How would you like to travel the highway of life and go backward 40 to 50 years ago, visit and see Taylorsville as it appeared then to a youngster of 8 to 20 years old who has now just passed his 50th birthday? I would like to take you back with the hope that the youngsters will enjoy it and the oldsters will thrill in reminiscing for a moment on the days of yesteryear when, as I recall, you could call a spade a spade, until you fell over one. When a dollar was worth a dollar instead of 30 cents, a man was a gentleman, and the ladies stood up in streetcars. When people didn't work so hard or so fast but seemed to accomplish just as much and enjoy themselves more. Of course, in a different sort of a way.

Shall we start with our school days? Very well! If you attended school in Taylorsville before the year 1950, you would have gone to a little rock one-roomed school house built by Archibald Frame Sr. in 1867, presided over by one teacher. This building used to stand on the present site of (now the Barlow home) and was used for church services also. It didn't matter how far you lived from school - it would be your obligation and worry to get there the best way you could because of no school wagons - or school busses. In 1908, the school was moved to the new site of Plymouth (which is now torn down, located at Redwood Road and 4800 South). As the school grew, it became necessary to provide school wagons that only those were privileged to ride on to snitch a ride by jumping on the wagon as it passed us, only to be pushed off by those who figured they had the sole right and priority to travel. Many horses and buggies were used for transportation to get to school.

Many were the exciting hockey games we would hold on the ice after school on Saturdays and even Sundays. Many of these games were staged on the canal south of 4800 South up the Canal Road or cut road, as it was called. I can even remember a lot of years when we played hockey on the ice of the Old Mill Race that now runs along 4800 South down in Tyes (which has now been filled in). It seems that through the years, the water and climate have even changed because these streams do not freeze now as in days of yore. And talking of the Mill Race, did you know that Hyrum Bennion & Sons operated a fine flour mill that used to stand on the brink of the hill overlooking the Jordan River where the Mill Race now empties into the Jordan River where we now have 3,200 people living in condominiums?

The farmers in this community, each fall used to take what they would call 'grist' or some of their wheat to Bennion's Mill to have it ground into their winter's flour. And incidentally, everyone baked their bread. You couldn't buy it as we do now in the stores. Yum-Yum. This mill burned down in 1908 and was rebuilt on 4800 South in Murray, now owned by Murray Elevators. (Which has since caught fire and has been torn down) We all had a cow or two. No chance to buy it in the

stores or Jones Dairy.

And oh...for a return for just a little while to those happy horse and buggy days....

When you consider the way we hustle and bustle now days to get to our desired destination with an auto, and usually late..... you would wonder how we ever made it before autos were ever thought of. But we nearly always did and on time. It seems more fun now to think about it than it did when we had to participate. For instance, if you were going to church or the store, or to town, or on your best date, it was necessary long in advance to start preparing old Dobbin for the proposed trip such as watering him, feeding him hay and maybe a few oats. Then grooming him so he would appear up in the same class as most of the other Dobbins on the road. Then if you happened to be a little fussy about our outfit (such as some of our young boys are nowadays about their cars) you may want to wash the buggy and shine it. Now if you didn't have a kind brother or a sympathetic father, or someone else that could or would get your outfit ready while you were donning your glad rags, then it would be necessary for you to do this while you had your work clothes on, then tie Dobbin to the hitching post while you tidied yourself.

Now if this proposed trip was in the good old summertime, everything usually proceeded pretty well, except for a little dust and mud that the horse and buggy kicked up and often settled right in your lap. No hard surface roads and the dust varied from 2 to 10 inches thick. We would wrap ourselves in quilts or horse blankets, pull our stocking caps down over our ears, don nice warm gloves, put hot bricks or rocks at our feet, and all sit down in two rows along each side of the wagon box with our feet all together in the middle, as we faced each other. I recall one time as we were going to Pleasant Green (Out near Magna) somewhere in Granger as we were going over a huge snow drift and two fiery horses were pulling the sleigh and oops, the sled tipped over and scattered us all over the street. We brought the horses to a halt, gathering up our belongings, got in the sleigh, put the roadshow on...and lived happily ever after.

Of the many thrilling times we used to experience in those bygone days, may I take you on just one? You take your best girl to the dance and incidentally, she would be lucky if she danced one dance with you; a little more lucky (and this usually happened) you would be gracious enough to give her the first and last (out of 16 dances) just to remind her that you 'brung her.' The dance over, you proceed to the buggy and Dobbin, tuck yourself and your girl beside you with the lap robe. If it was severe cold, you might have remembered a couple of hot bricks to keep her tootsies warm!

Now supposing you happen to be among the lucky ones and are driving a nag that happens to be a little speedy on the rocky roads, then you have some fun on your hands, because this four-footed animal has become chilled, hungry, and out of patience and he is now determined to get you home in a hurry. He passes up all those that have left before you and keeps you so occupied holding him, that you have no time to spend with the sweet young thing beside you until you get

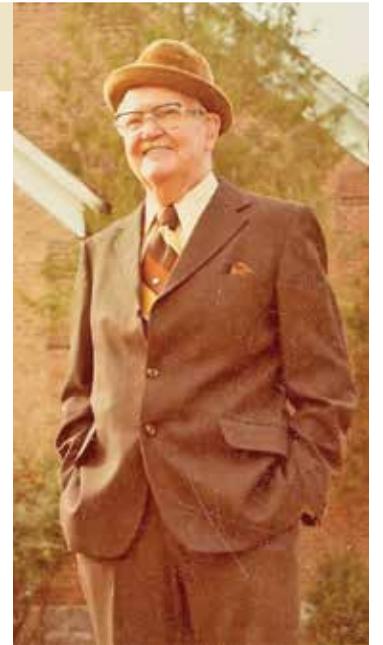
to her house where you tie the speedster to a hitching post. It's only a little while, but she insists it's too cold and that you come in the parlor with her on the divan. Then a kindly sympathetic and pleading voice is heard from the bedroom, "Mary, it's time to get to bed now" Well, what could you do about it? There was nothing left for you to do if you wanted to make an impression on your intended in-laws. I guess this explains why courtships were so long in those days when Daddy was a young man. Maybe it was harder for him to make up his mind from the fact that he had a

wider variety of gals to pick from because, if you remember, I suggested that at tonight's dance you would have had the privilege of dancing with 15 beauties instead of just one. And of course, in each instance, each one cuddles up to you, telling you what a handsome brute you are and suggesting that at your earliest convenience they would appreciate a date and the privilege of showing you how sweet and enjoyable they could be to you. So it seems now to one of your old dads that the variety of gals was a little wider to pick from and as a consequence when the marriage took place, you were a bit more apt to have found the one that was meant for you. At least, the percentage of divorce cases then as compared with now would indicate this to be a fact.

As I recall in those days, most of the people in Taylorsville were lucky if they got a chance to go to town once a week. This was usually on Saturday. Now, how would you get there? You would go through the business of getting the one horse shay ready again, or then drive to Murray or 33rd South and State where you would put your horse or horses up at the livery stable where you would pay the man about 50 cents who would, in turn, take care of your outfit for the day while you went from there to town on the streetcar.

Nearly all the people along the North Jordan Canal in those days raised ducks, and some of the thrills we used to experience in these swimming escapades were when we would chase these ducks that usually like to stray from home. When they became tired, they would start diving; then we would start diving after them and from here on out, it was a game of seeing who could stay under water longest - you or the ducks.

The first model T Ford (or jitney) was invented in about 1903. I can recall the first ones that every came into Taylorsville. This was about 1915 when I was 15 years old..... HAPPY DAYS!



NEW BUSINESSES – Welcome to Taylorsville!

American Beauty Academy

5636 So Redwood Rd
Cosmetology School/Barber School

Crossland Salt Lake City #3549

5683 So Redwood Rd
Extended Stay Hotel

IPS Mortuary & Crematory, LLC

4555 South Redwood Rd
Funeral Home

Joint Spine Care Center of Utah

2195 West 5400 South
Chiropractic Care

Stone Cold Cryotherapy

6575 So Redwood Rd #201
Body Cryotherapy

Utah Creative Development, LLC

5677 So Redwood Road #18
Real Estate Development

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@taylorsvillecity



www.taylorvilleut.gov



Chief Jay Ziolkowski

UFA Safety Message

By Jay Ziolkowski

For many, the holiday season is a great time of reflection and time with family. Unfortunately, creating a memorable 'just right' home atmosphere may also bring on potential dangers. The following holiday fire facts are provided by the National Fire Protection Association:

- Christmas Trees - One of every three Christmas tree fires is caused by electrical problems, and although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious. One of every 31 reported home Christmas tree fires results in a death compared to an average of one death per 144 total reported home fires. A heat source too close to the tree causes one in every four of Christmas tree fires.
- Candles - December is the peak time of year for home candle fires, and one-third of all candle fires start in the bedroom.

In order to prevent injury or death, please follow these simple safety reminders:

- Keep all combustible materials (trees, decorations, etc.) at least three feet from open flames and heat sources.
- Candles should have at least a 12 inch clearance from other flammable materials (up, down, all-around), and as much as possible be self-contained.
- Never run extension cords under rugs, or string them in a series beyond manufacturer's recommendations. Caution should be used as to not overload any particular outlet/circuit.
- Inspect all indoor/outdoor decorative lighting to ensure there are no frayed or pinched wires.
- Never leave a candle or space heater unattended.
- Likewise, do not leave cooking equipment unattended, and remember to turn off the oven, burners, or fryers when done.
- Water a natural tree regularly, and if it begins to dry out (needles start to drop or they crumble in hand), discard immediately.

Unified Fire Authority wishes everyone a safety and wonderful holiday season! For answers to any fire prevention or related organizational questions, please contact Jay Ziolkowski at 801-824-3670.



Leisure Activities, Recreation & Parks Committee (LARP)

Remember Me Rose Garden

4743 South Plymouth View Drive
Taylorsville, Utah

The Remember Me Rose Garden has been created to be a place of contemplation and respect where deceased individuals who have contributed to the quality of life in the Bennion and Taylorsville communities can be memorialized with a living tribute - a rose bush - and a plaque containing their name and area of service to our community. A completed application along with the fee to cover the cost of the rose bush and plaque (\$300) should be submitted to the City of Taylorsville and LARP Committee for review and approval.



Applications are available on the City of Taylorsville website at taylorsvilleut.gov

Due to limited space, applications will be limited to the first 40 applicants.

Taylorsville Senior Center

4743 South Plymouth View Drive
Taylorsville, Utah 84123
385-468-3370

December Events

- Friday, Dec. 2** – Entertainment by Music Maker Stars from 11-12
- Tuesday, Dec. 6** – Birthday Tuesday- Come and celebrate your friends with birthdays in December. Entertainment by Ruby Tuesday from 11:30-12:30, followed by a special lunch.
- Tuesday, Dec. 6** – Paintbrush Santa's with Aspen @ 1:00 \$1.00 suggested donation
- Thursday, Dec. 8** – Senior Voices from 10-12. Hear words from Governor Herbert highlighting the Utah Legislature process.
- Friday, Dec. 9** – Afternoon at the Movies- The Christmas Candle @ 2:00
- Monday, Dec. 12** – Bingo sponsored by Jenkins Soffee @ 1:00
- Tuesday, Dec. 13** – Entertainment by the Taylorsville Senior Center Harmonica Band from 11:30-12:30. Followed by Special Holiday Meal at 12:00 and Santa Claus at 12:30
- Wednesday, Dec 14** – Visit with Podiatrist by appointment only– 11:00
- Thursday, Dec 15** – Evening at the Center-Dinner at 5pm/Bus leaves at 6pm \$3 per person
- Friday, Dec. 16** – Afternoon at the Movies- Four Christmas's @ 2:00
- Monday, Dec. 19** – Entertainment by the Hillcrest High Choir from 11:30-12:00
- Friday, Dec. 23** – Afternoon at the Movies- It's a Wonderful Life @ 2:00
- Friday, Dec. 30** – Entertainment by Larry Turner @ the Noon Year's Party from 11:30-12:30. We will have sparkling apple cider and toast on the "noon hour".
- Friday, Dec. 30** – Afternoon at the Movies- Miracle @ 2:00

"Bring a Friend" Contest in December

Bring in a friend who has never been to a Senior Center and get them registered as a new member. Their lunch that day will be sponsored by the Advisory Committee. The best part you will be entered into a drawing for a special prize. Bring in a friend on each day, enter the contest 2 times. The days of the contest will be Wednesday, Dec 7 & Monday, Dec 19.

Volunteer of the Month

Gail Springer



Gail was born in Salt Lake City. She gets the most enjoyment out of life being around friends and family especially her two granddaughters. One of her many talents is remembering people's names. Gail has two dogs and one cat. Some of her favorite vacation spots include Moab and Nebraska. She has been attending the center since 2007 where she always has a friendly smile and nice welcome to new members. Thanks Gail.

Wasatch Front Waste & Recycling



Green Waste Collection

The last pickup date for Green Waste Collection in 2016 for Taylorsville will be Thursday, December 8. We remind residents to not place the green cans out on the curb after that date. They will not be picked up nor emptied. Green Waste Collection will resume next March.

Leaf Bag Collection

Our annual Fall Leaf Bag Collection event will conclude on Wednesday, November 30. The closest leaf bag drop-off locations for Taylorsville are South Ridge Park (5210 S. 4015 W.), Valley Ball Complex (5100 S. 2700 W.), and Vista Park (2055 W. 5000 S.). Please do not deposit leaf bags at any drop-off location after November 30. Instead, consider starting a compost pile, place your fall leaves in your green recycle can (until December 8), or in your black waste can. If you use your green waste can, please do not bag your leaves.



Facebook

As we approach the cold, winter months, we also see the possibility of bad weather affecting our ability to provide timely service to your neighborhood. Our Facebook page is the best way for residents and customers to find out if there could be a delay in service due to weather or traffic complications. Please follow us on Facebook to stay apprised of these issues, and also to receive waste and recycling tips.

Customer Satisfaction Survey

Our annual Customer Satisfaction Survey will be distributed at the end of November. All residents are invited and encouraged to complete the survey online, whether or not you receive a survey in the mail. Details and a link will be posted on our website (www.wasatchfrontwaste.org) when the survey becomes available.

Taylorsville Stats (Year-to-date through September):

Refuse: 16,343.39 tons	Green: 380.07 tons	Diversion Rate: 16.6%
Recycle: 2,846.54 tons	Glass: 27.54 tons	

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Tumult for many for-profit colleges, why students still attend

By Mandy Morgan Ditto | m.ditto@mycityjournals.com

Many students and graduates of ITT Technical Institutes didn't expect a college to close so rapidly. However, that's exactly what happened with ITT Tech on Sept. 6, right as the school year was beginning.

ITT Educational Services, which operates ITT Technical Institutes — private colleges that have operated in more than 140 locations across the nation for more than 50 years — announced closures after the Department of Education decided “to bar the chain of colleges from using federal financial aid to enroll new students,” according to the New York Times.

The only ITT Tech location in Utah was in Murray, Utah, and students that planned to attend the 2016 fall semester on Sept. 12 were surprised to have plans changed a few days before.

“It is with profound regret that we must report that ITT Educational Services, Inc. will discontinue academic operations at all of its ITT Technical Institutes permanently after more than 50 years of continuous service,” said ITT Tech's official news release announcing the closure of the schools. “The actions of and sanctions from the U.S. Department of Education have forced us to cease operations of the ITT Technical Institutes, and we will not be offering our September quarter.”

For Kevin Neff, a graduate from ITT Tech in Murray in 1998, the worth of his degree and the education he received is still entirely valid to him, no matter the school closure. Neff, who received an associate of applied science degree in computer-aided drafting and design technology, was looking for a school to help him get a secondary education degree and have time to spend with his family.

“In speaking with the school, reviewing the schedules and looking further at the classes offered, I was pretty much sold from day one,” Neff told the City Journals in an email. He had considered the programs for computer-aided drafting and architecture at both Salt Lake Community College and the University of Utah, but the programs would take too much time while he was working full time, and he was hoping to get his degree in less than four years.

“I feel the education and training I received at ITT Tech was as thorough as I would have received attending any community college,” Neff said. “There was never a time at ITT that I felt the curriculum or my instructors were sub-par when compared to my public community college options. I did feel that the algebra and physics courses at ITT were tailored more towards real-world applications faced in drafting and design scenarios than an overall study of each course.”

Neff has worked for over the last 16 years in a position focused on “the utilization of both GIS and computer-aided drafting systems.” He and his family currently resides in Oregon.

Though most graduates haven't felt much impact from the closure of the school, it was jolting for some employees. Tony Rose, who worked at the Phoenix location of ITT Tech, was surprised to see an email several days after it was sent to his work account about the school closure, before the semester started.

There was an email sent to all ITT Tech employees' work accounts at 4:30 a.m. in Arizona, right after Labor Day weekend, he recalled. “Nobody had checked their email unless you worked in the offices,” he said. “I'm driving home from my day job, and I hear on the radio that they closed it.” He believes management was aware before other employees that the institute would close. He also said many people didn't get their final paychecks due to scattered management of finances overall.

Luckily, Rose has another job working as a network administrator in the Creighton School District in Phoenix, but he won't have a chance at another community college job until potential hiring takes place before the next semester that starts in January. For those students who were hoping to finish their degree at ITT Tech, there is a process some qualify for to get their student loans through



A sign posted on the door of the ITT Tech campus in Murray announces the closure of the school. The national for-profit school closed all its doors in September. (Kimberly Roach/City Journals)

“It is with profound regret that we must report that ITT Educational Services, Inc. will discontinue academic operations at all of its ITT Technical Institutes permanently after more than 50 years of continuous service,”

the school forgiven, Rose said, though some are simply going to have to pay off federal loans and find another school that may or may not take already earned credits to finish a degree.

The sudden closure of ITT Tech hasn't impacted Kyle Judson much, as he has security in his current job. Judson, who graduated from one of the previous two ITT locations in Massachusetts in 2007, was top in his class with a degree in computer networking. He is still living in Massachusetts.

“I've never actually had a job in computer networking, but that's the same old song and dance for all of us,” Judson said. “I work for a medical device company now, I'm a technical support manager after being in the engineering world for about seven or eight years after I graduated.”

Why students choose schools like ITT Tech over four-year colleges is a question that can only be answered by everyone at these schools, who like Judson, have found factors that work best for them.

Judson wasn't exactly sure what he wanted to do after he graduated from high school; he attended a few universities before landing on ITT Tech. “I've always had an aptitude for math and science,” he said. “I knew computers were kind of a combination of the two, and I needed a degree and I needed one fast, so I said ‘ITT Tech, why not?’”

The smaller class sizes and regular interaction with professors who worked in the industry all provided positives for Judson at ITT, which led to more connections and networking. There wasn't, however, as much hardware to use and learn from at the university, which was something Judson said he saw as a bit of a problem, especially with the amount of tuition being paid. For being a technical college, it was the one thing that didn't quite make sense — to not have the very equipment there all the time to help students really learn the trade they were studying.

When it came to funding at ITT, Judson said “there were always some rumors and some whispers about — for lack of a better term

— some shady financial practice,” Judson said. “But at the time I didn't really know about it, and I just wanted an education, but I'm lucky it worked for me. I got a great job after I graduated, and I was able to pay my student loans, but I also did really well in school so I got a really good job when I was done.”

Judson graduated with \$48,000 in student loan debt, after a two-year program, including two private loans that were \$20,000 and \$18,000, with high interest. His federal government loan was low-interest, and he has paid off every loan since.

Though programs may end up costing students a lot at schools like ITT Tech, the quicker nature of getting degrees from them is often what brings students to their doors.

As for accreditation, Judson feels ITT Tech never had any problems with that; most concerns came with finances, which is ultimately what led to the closure of the nationwide school.

However, other colleges that have remained open in the valley are dealing with accreditation issues, since the Department of Education took away accreditation privileges from the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS), the largest national accrediting organization of degree-granting institutions.

Those like The Art Institute of Salt Lake City, Broadview University, Neumont University and Eagle Gate College are either waiting for the appeal to go through and provide ACICS with authority once again or are making plans to gain accreditation from another source. Though all schools accredited by ACICS will remain so through a transition period of 18 months, all will want to be sure students from their university will leave with valid, accredited degrees.

Neumont University President Shaun McAlmont announced shortly after the announcement about ACICS that they were already in the process — months ago, in fact — of changing accreditors. Neumont is located in downtown Salt Lake City.

“We're already through the first two steps of the five-step process for changing accreditors,” McAlmont said. “This change will not affect the quality — or value — of education that has always set Neumont apart. Regardless of our accreditor, Neumont will continue to deliver a hands-on, rigorous, project-based and results-driven computer science education for all of our students.”

Neumont expects to have a new accreditor in the next six to nine months.

Since finding out about the possible loss of accreditation from ACICS, Broadview University — located in West Jordan — has also started on the process of being re-accredited with a previous accreditor as a backup plan.

“The process is already in place as far as taking care of the front-end work, as kind of a preventative measure, just in case, should we need to use that,” said Michelle Knoll, senior marketing and communications manager for Broadview. “And then, should ACICS prevail, we would just stay with ACICS.”

If any changes were to occur, Broadview University would inform students of the change, which would only mean they might have a different company accrediting the university by the time many of them graduated, Knoll said.

“It's kind of a tricky situation, but we know that the students are top priority, so we want to make sure that anything that impacts them they are aware of, but now it shouldn't impact them, until there's a decision,” Knoll said.

If Broadview had believed that ACICS was doing anything they shouldn't have done as an accreditor, they wouldn't have stuck with them, Knoll said. The university supports ACICS and will stay with them if they win with the appeal.

No one at the ITT Technical Institute, the Art Institute of Salt Lake City or Eagle Gate College responded to the City Journals for comment. †



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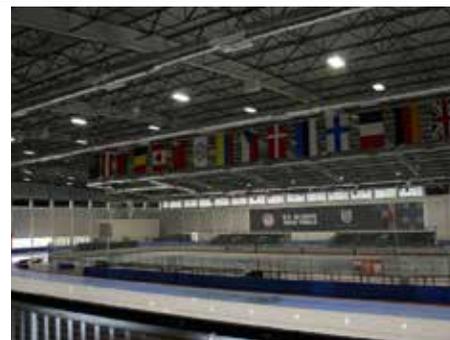
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Stars debut, bring professional basketball to the suburbs

By *Tori La Rue* | tori@mycityjournals.com

The Salt Lake City Stars began their debut season mid-November, giving basketball players opportunities for growth and community members additional accessibility to professional ball.

In April, the Utah Jazz announced they'd be moving their development league affiliate, formerly known as the Idaho Stampede, from Boise to the Salt Lake City area to tighten ties between the D-League team and the Jazz. The team's new home is the Bruin Arena at the Salt Lake Community College Taylorsville Redwood Campus.

“The No. 1 priority of purchasing the team and bringing it to Salt Lake is to help the development of the Utah Jazz basketball organization,” said Bart Sharp, the Stars' general manager. “While we want to be competitive and we do have the goal to win games, make the playoffs and succeed there, the No. 1 priority is to develop our players and provide them an opportunity to understand the Jazz system, instruction and culture.”

The D-League team brings together new players on the Jazz roster who could use more playing time, Jazz draft picks who have been assigned to the Stars and free agent players who could be called up to the Jazz or other National Basketball Association teams upon vacancy.

Sharp said Rudy Gobert, a Jazz center who played with the Stampede during his rookie year, is a fantastic example of how the D-League can reinforce a player's skills.

“I bet quite a few people would attribute his rapid development to that ability to get on the court with the D-League, all while staying close to the parent organization—the Jazz,” Sharp said.

Sharp noted that Joel Bolomboy, Jazz forward who formerly played at Weber State University, may have a similar experience.

“He is obviously on the Jazz roster, and he is doing very well; however, there are opportunities while we are in town,” Sharp said. “They could send Joel down to a (Stars) game here on Tuesday night, and he could get some more playing time on it, and then on Wednesday he could be on the Jazz bench, building those relationships with those players and making sure that he understands what they are doing at that level, which hopefully expedites his experience as a player.”

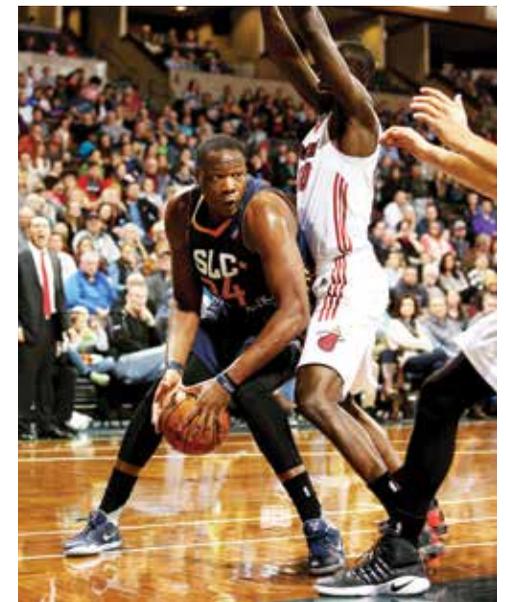
Because the Jazz already have four point guards contracted, two Jazz second-round draft picks are assigned to the Stars: Tyrone Wallace, a 6-foot-6-inch guard coming from University of California and Marcus Paige, a 6-foot-2-inch guard from University of North Carolina.

“I think this is an opportunity to get better and work on my craft—you know, put in the hours here and put in the time,” Wallace said about playing for the Stars. “It is a chance for me to get on the floor every night in order to be in the NBA.”

Wallace, who spent part of his senior season at Berkeley on the sidelines after he suffered a wrist fracture during a preseason practice, said he was ready to get back on the court full time.

“I am ready for the fans to get here,” Wallace said. “I think it is going to be a good year for us.”

The Stars went up against the Santa Cruz Warriors and the Reno Bighorns on Nov. 6 in their preseason tri-game at the Kaiser Permanente in Santa Cruz, Calif., falling short against the Warriors 52-38 and emerging victorious against the Bighorns 60-50.



Eric Dawson pivots with the ball during the Salt Lake City Stars' inaugural game against the defending NBA D-League Champions the Sioux Fall Skyforce. The Stars lost the away game 117-100 at the Sanford Pentagon. (Dave Eggen/NBAE/Getty Images)

Although three players scored in the double-digits, the Stars lost their inaugural game against the defending NBA D-League Champions the Sioux Fall Skyforce on Nov. 12 (print deadline). The Stars were behind by up to 31 points in the third quarter, but narrowed the gap to 17 by the end of the game in a 117-100 loss.

Season tickets for the Stars are still available and run as low as \$78, with single game tickets as low as \$5. Sharp said it's an affordable way for families residing in the suburbs to watch professional basketball with less travel.

“We feel like—especially being out here in the Taylorsville area so close to Kearns and West Valley, West Jordan and others—that there's a lot of folks even in the Salt Lake County that don't get an opportunity to go to the Jazz games as much as they'd like, so we're bringing a part of the Jazz here,” Sharp said.

The Stars have their own dancers, dunk team and fun zone that includes bounce houses and activities for kids, bringing a unique alternative to going to the movies for family nights out, he said.

The Stars will also be more accessible than Jazz, Sharp added. After each game, spectators are invited onto the court for an autograph session with some of the players. In addition, the coaches, staff and team host basketball clinics to help aspiring child basketball players. Their first basketball clinic on Sept. 17 served 50 children at the Taylorsville Recreation Center.

Giving back to the community will be a focus for the Stars. One of the team's 24 home games will be a “themed jersey night,” where the Stars will design and sport a jersey featuring a local charitable organization. The jerseys will be auctioned at the end of the game, and the proceeds will go to the charitable organization.

For more information about the Stars or to purchase tickets, visit saltlakecity.dleague.nba.com. ✦

Salt Lake County goes votebymail countywide

Aimee Winder Newton, County Council District 3

One of the hallmark traditions of our form of democracy is the peaceful transition of power. That holds true for the presidential election every four years, as well as local elections down to the smallest jurisdiction.

The 2016 election was unique for a number of reasons. A thorough review of the process after the fact is always helpful for elected officials and citizens alike.

For 2016, the County Council decided to orchestrate votebymail elections for both the primary election and general election. For the general election, Salt Lake County had 510,397 active voters. These voters were contacted by the County Clerk's office ahead of time to inform them of their voting options. Once receiving a ballot, voters could fill it out and mail it back, fill it out and drop it off at early polling locations or on election day, or still vote in person.

Some key numbers help show what happened during this election.

Early voting took place between October 26 and November 4, and 14,661 voters (about 3.5 percent) voted early. By comparison, in 2012, 86,000 people (19 percent) voted early.

The Friday before election day, the County Clerk had received only 13,000 mailin ballots, lower than what they were expecting. Knowing election day would be busy, they wanted to add more polling locations, but because of the bond on the ballot and noticing requirements, that was not an option. Instead the Clerk's office added roughly

100 voting machines and deployed additional laptops and poll workers.

On election day, 344,420 voters voted by mail and 55,425 voted in person at 38 different polling locations. There were reports of long lines at many of the locations some locations had waits as long as three hours or more! I applaud those of you who were so committed to exercise your right to vote that some of you even waited outside in the cold for long periods of time!!

When all the voting was finished, the work continued for the County Clerk's staff. They had to go through the security and screening protocols for each mailin ballot. On election night there were still people in line to vote, so the County Clerk didn't want to release the early return counts until polling locations were closed. Initial results were released twice that evening and the Clerk's office is still counting ballots. Luckily, because of a state law change, the Clerk's office has been able to release election results every few days.

For every election, there is a two week time period that ballots continue to be counted. On

Tuesday, November 22 at 4 p.m. the Canvassers meeting will be held where the County Council will finalize the election numbers.

I'm grateful for the patience of voters who faced delays on election day. I'm even more grateful to the people who made the time to research and understand the candidates and issues on the ballot, and cast their vote in whatever form they chose. +

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Bobcats claim first volleyball championship in 20 years

By *Tori La Rue* | tori@mycityjournals.com

The score was 24-22 with Bennion Junior High School up by one game. Olympus Junior High lobbed the volleyball over the net, but Corbin Wilkinson slammed it down, scoring the final point in the championship game.

"I don't know how to describe that feeling. It was sensational, really," said Tyler Olsen, who plays middle-back for the Bennion Junior High boys volleyball team.

Tears of joy filled the eyes of some of the players as more than 100 Bennion students stormed the court on Oct. 19, celebrating the end of a drought. The Bobcats had claimed their school's first boys volleyball championship since 1996.

"We're just like any other team, but it just goes to show that there's no substitute for hard work," Hunter Smith, the team's libero, said. "If you put in the work, you'll come out on top."

The Bobcats got off to what their coach Tami Decora calls a "mediocre start," losing their beginning games to Evergreen, Churchill and Olympus. Although their chances of winning the championship weren't looking good on paper, Decora said she knew this could be their year to win.

"It all just slowly started coming together," she said. "Watching the boys and the camaraderie that they have, we knew we could do it."

Decora's belief that her team would make it to the playoffs led her to put off taking a vacation to visit family in Portland during fall break. Three weeks prior to the championship, Decora decided to forego purchasing plane tickets for Oct. 19 to keep her schedule open for the championship game night.

At the time, she had no quantifiable evidence to assume Bennion would be at the playoffs, but she knew how hard the boys were willing to work, assistant coach John Rees said. She told them she chose not to go on the trip in case the team made it to the playoffs, and that gave them a reason to play better, he added.

The boys attended their 6 a.m. practices continually working to better



Bennion Junior High Boys Volleyball players celebrate winning the championship game against Olympus Junior High on Oct. 19. Bennion hadn't won a boys volleyball championship since 1996. (Granite School District)

their skills. Most of them had less than a year of experience playing the sport but were athletic in other ways. For example, Wilkinson, Smith and Devin Beckstead play on the Bennion baseball team, and Jackson Rees and Chris Kavapalu play on the basketball team.

The nine varsity players' athletic training came a long way in helping them succeed, according to John Rees, which is why they were selected for the team among the more than 50 students who tried out.

"We knew if any year could take the championship, it was these guys," John Rees said.

After the boys got used to the sport, Decora and John Rees started switching the players' positions around, finding where the team meshed together the best.

They ended up with 6-foot middle hitters in Wilkinson and Kavapalu, with Jackson Rees as setter, Connor Evans and Mitch Herrin

as outside hitters, Smith as libero and Beckstead, Olson and Mormon Vaitu'u on the back row.

With Churchill and Olympus winning nearly all the district championship games in boys volleyball for the past 20 years, Decora said she had to work with the team to get them mentally ready to verse their opponents. When they played the teams in the regular season, they lost, but it had been close and that gave them confidence, Decora said.

"They'd get this mental block where they didn't think they could win, so they'd slip up, but we worked on some things," she said.

Bennion made it to the semi-playoffs on Oct. 17 where they'd need to beat Churchill to get to the championship game.

"We had a good mindset going in, knowing that we were going to play as hard as we could and play our strengths," Smith said.

After winning the semi-championship, the team was ready to roll, according to Decora. But that didn't mean they weren't apprehensive.

"It was a little scary," Beckstead said of making it to the championship game. "On the bus ride over there you could feel the tension, and I was nervous."

Bennion got off to a good start, taking the first of the three-game rounds against Olympus with a score of 25-23. Then Smith led the Bobcats to a nine-point lead with his serves at the beginning of the second game. Olympus gained momentum, closing Bennion's lead from nine to two points before Wilkinson scored the final point for the Bobcats.

"It was crazy," Wilkinson said after the game. "I just had so many emotions and could not believe we won."

Beckstead and Olson, the only eighth-graders from the 2016 varsity team, said they're already planning to win the championship next year.

"We'll have it again," Olson said. "We've just got to develop our skills and not mess around." ✦



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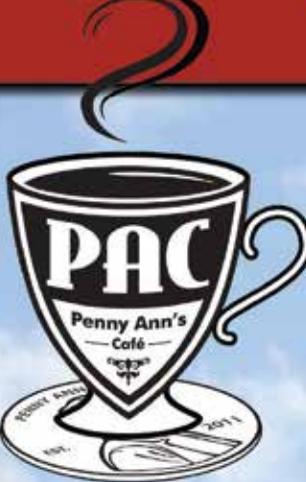
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Talorsville pitcher signs with UK

By Tori La Rue | tori@mycityjournals.com

Surrounded by friends, family and coaches, Crosby Bringhurst signed a letter of intent in the Talorsville High School main office on Nov. 9 to play baseball at University of Kentucky.

After rounding up offers from the University of Utah, University of the Pacific, University of New Mexico, University of Arizona, Arizona State University and University of Kentucky, Bringhurst said he selected Kentucky because of the coaches and the opportunity to play in the Southeastern Conference.

"I wanted to play against the best competition, and the best competition that I could think of is to play in the SEC," he said.

Bringhurst, a right-handed pitcher who can crank baseballs over home plate at upwards of 90 mph, is ranked No. 28 in the state and just over No. 4,000 in the nation, according to MaxPreps high school sports media company.

He is the first from the Talorsville baseball program to sign a letter this year—something that's not uncommon for the Warriors, who usually have one to three players a year go on to play at the college level. Most Talorsville players end up playing at the U of U, BYU or UVU, so head coach Jake Brown said it was exciting to see Crosby venture to the SEC.

"You know, every time this happens, it is kind of like the first time," Brown said of watching Crosby sign his letter of intent. "I was lucky enough to be a college athlete, so I know kind of the struggles and the feeling of accomplishment that goes with it, so I am really excited for Crosby in that respect."

Brown, school representatives and Bringhurst's team, family and friends watched as he signed his letter of intent. They cheered for him and celebrated by eating sugar cookies



The Talorsville Warriors baseball team surrounds Crosby Bringhurst, one of their right handed pitchers, to celebrate his signing of a letter of intent to play at the University of Kentucky. (Tori La Rue/City Journals)

decorated with the UK insignia.

"It's been an amazing trip," Bringhurst's father, Lance Bringhurst said. "The big thing is that I've seen him improve and grow as a player and as a person in leadership and different things like that since he's been involved in the sport."

While Crosby Bringhurst "always wanted to be the best" that he could be, he said playing at the collegiate level is a fairly new dream.

"I started playing at 8 years old, but I never really thought I was the best at baseball until I got to high school," he said, adding that his experiences with the Warriors helped him realize that he has a shot at college and maybe even professional baseball.

He attributed his improvement over the years to his dedication to practice and training. In the baseball offseason, he's in the weight room lifting or suiting up for the THS basketball team. While he loves both sports, he said he's better at baseball and is not overly concerned with focusing on the one sport in college.

The Warrior baseball season begins in February, and Brown said Crosby Bringhurst is sure to be a "centerpiece" that could lead them to region and state championships.

"I would say his No. 1 strength is he is extremely competitive," Brown said. "He is a kid that is willing to do whatever it takes to improve and to win. I think that serves him very well in an athletic environment."

He even influences the younger players on the high school teams and local little league teams, Brown said.

"The example he shows is going to have a lasting impact on our program for years to come," Brown said. "Our younger players want to be more like him."

Crosby Bringhurst said his overarching piece of advice to young or new players is to focus on one goal at a time instead of setting unrealistic expectations for improvement. That's what he's done, and everything's worked out OK, he said.

"When I get out there (to UK), I just want to stick to what I know is true," he said. "I just want to keep going with how I do things because it has been working for me so far." †

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The Holidays: Time to Start Giving Back.... Or, is it?

Pay it Forward, Serve, Give Back, Random Act of Kindness, no matter how you spell it, it's that time of year where we are all thinking about giving. What a relief! After the troubled times of November, I for one am looking forward to the positivity the holidays bring. But, this leaves me pondering, what is all the excitement about. After all, December is just one month out of an entire calendar year.

Studies show that people that help our fellow man are more successful in life, have improved health and happiness. Plus, children who volunteer are more likely to grow up to volunteer and serve as adults. Communities with more volunteers are typically more stable and better places to live (USA Today). So why are we saving all those positive benefits for only 1/12 of an entire year? Lets face it, in today's world we need to make the effort to put a smile on the faces around us everyday.

So, I'm proposing, in addition to the plans you already have to serve this holiday, you add just one more thing, a big cardboard box. For years I've had a box that's plunked right next to my front door. It's become a bit of joke for friends, as every time they stop by, I make some excuse for the tripping hazard. To the untrained it could look like a pile of unorganized junk waiting to be hauled out to the trash, but my charity box is actually a dropping ground for denotable food and clothing, household items or children's niceties. I've found that having the box right where I enter and leave encourages me to add to it and reminds me to drop it of. To get you started here are a few things that have landed in this years box.

January: Hot Cocoa Mix

A little treat to enjoy with a neighbor after shoveling their sidewalk

February: Oatmeal

Did you know February is National Hot Breakfast Month? What a great time to do a neighborhood Oatmeal Drive for the Food Bank.

March: Books, Puzzles and Board Games

It's national reading month, so how bout encouraging a little reading? Volunteer at the Library; donate books to children in need. Senior homes also enjoy donations of books, puzzles and games.

April: Pet Food

Pet rescues, such as the Humane Society, Best Friends Animal Society and Rescue Rovers not only need pet food, they also need for paper towels, garbage bags, and old blankets.

May: Pantry Staples

Because of Memorial Day sales not only is May a great month to break out the coupons for grocery shopping. It's also the month we see both the Boy Scouts Scouting for Food and the Letter Carriers Stamping out Hunger. I like to buy extra so I'm ready for them.

June: Tomato Plants and Pots

Plant patio tomatoes in flowerpots and deliver them to an elderly neighbor or retirement home.

July: School Supplies

Kids all over Utah need school supplies and teachers love getting them too. Donate to your local school or participate in Stuff the Bus and help fill backpacks for kids. (stuffthebus.uw.org)

August: Personal Care Items

Even the casual coupon user knows that personal care items like toothpaste; soap and hygiene products are easy pickings. Instead of

piling these products on shelves in the basement, I pile any extras in the box and drop them off at the Road Home or a Women's Shelter. For more about how to get these items with just a little effort and out of pocket expense, make sure you are following the Grocery section of Coupons4Utah.com.

September: Craft Supplies

Sharing Place is a place where children that have lost a parent can go to learn coping skills, share stories and learn to deal with grief. They are in constant need of arts and craft supplies. (thesharingplace.org)

October: Diapers

Families all across Utah are need of diapers, diapers and more diapers. Visit utahdiaperbank.org to find a list of drop of locations.

November: Holiday Wrapping Paper, Tape and Gift Cards

Remember all of those donated gifts need to get wrapped. Most charities collecting gifts also have a need for wrapping supplies. One idea would be the Holiday Gift Box. They provide individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families who are in need gifts for Christmas. More info at uaidutah.org/holiday-giftbox

While I may trip over my charity box every now and again, it helps me remember to make those important little donations the entire year. And as for my friends that stop by, well... I'll just let them continue to think I'm a little unorganized.

Wishing you the happiest of holidays, all year long. ✦

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O Tidings of Comfort Annoy



By Peri Kinder

Now that Facebook has become a year-round newsletter, packed with enough posts to make us feel miserable all year long, can we finally call it quits on those dreadful holiday letters?

I understand a family newsletter can be a highlight of the season, recapping all your adventures with witty repartee and candy cane clip art, but to many people, this bragalicious tradition is lemon juice in the paper cuts of life. Reading about how you cured black lung disease or saved an endangered species makes others' successes look like table scraps.

My newsletter would go something like this, "Dear family and friends, I did not get arrested this year. Happy New Year! Love, Peri." (Disclaimer: The year's not over yet.)

So, first of all, don't write a Christmas letter. However, if you feel you must write an annual message or your life won't be complete, here are tips to make it bearable for friends and family.

Let your children do the writing. I would LOVE getting a Christmas message that read, "Mom cries in the bathroom and tells us to eat Froot Loops for dinner. Dad has a special 'drinking mug' in his garage. Aunt Ethel spent Thanksgiving in the county jail for walking streets. Happy Holidays!"

Use your letter as a weapon. A Christmas newsletter can encourage friendly competition amongst your offspring. Announce who had the most As, the best-cleaned room or who

peed the bed the least amount of times. Be sure to embarrass the *&%\$ out of them so they'll be on their best behavior next year.

Create an acronym. For instance, NOEL can be Notice Our Exceptional Lives or No One Enjoys Letters.

Quote Quiz. Choose the funniest quotes said by your family during the year and have your readers guess who said it.

January--"Who left the %&@* lights on?!"

February—"Is there a reason there are a dozen shoes by the back door?"

March—"Who left the %&@* lights on again?"

Write from your pet's perspective. "This is Peri's dog, Ringo. I was taken to the vet three times this year and had to get shots. She forgot to give me a treat twice last week, even after I sat under her feet for three consecutive episodes of Westworld. She also didn't pet me long enough after she got home from work, but she gave me a steak bone, so all's forgiven."

Share a family recipe. If people ask for your sugar

cookie recipe, put it in your Christmas newsletter. But don't be like my neighbor who leaves out key ingredients so my cookies never taste quite the same as hers. Not cool.

Don't recount Family Disasters 2016.

Your water heater broke, your car died in the desert, you have rats in the basement and bats in your belfry. You lost several jobs, were abducted by aliens and SWAT kicked in your door at 3 a.m. Newsletters are not catastrophe competitions. Next!

Don't brag. For every straight-A accomplishment, for every award-winning dance competition and for every higher-salary promotion you exclaim over, your letter will be read by a man with kids struggling in school, a daughter with no noticeable rhythm and a woman in a dead-end, mind-numbing job. Take it down a notch, will ya?

Even better, since I never receive mail anymore (except for Hickory Farm catalogues and postcards from mortgage companies), maybe save all your glowing updates for Facebook and Instagram where you can gush all you'd like. You can even add clip art. +



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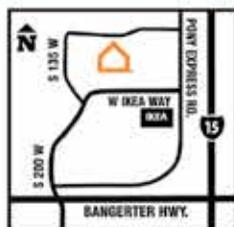
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