



# FESTIVAL CITY USA

CEDAR CITY COMMUNITY UPDATE • APRIL 2008

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



**CITY HONORS:** *Outdoor Life* Magazine has rated Cedar City as the 15th best outdoor city in America.

This month's issue of the magazine includes the editors' selection of the nation's top 200 outdoor towns. The city was cited for its good public land access, proximity to trophy fish and game, and overall quality of life. What the magazine didn't add is the quality of other aspects of living here: the world-class theater offered by the Utah Shakespearean Festival and the Neil Simon Festival, the ability to ski in the morning and golf in the afternoon, and Cedar City's plethora of festivals designed to appeal to people of all kinds and interests.... Governor Jon Huntsman Jr. also singled out Cedar City in his speech before 1,000 of the state's business leaders at the State Economic Summit in Salt Lake City as a place that "rocks." The Governor was especially enthusiastic about Port 15 and its recent addition, Charlotte Pipe and Foundry.

**REMEMBERING:** Abigail Swenson has researched the "C" on Cedar Mountain and has uncovered some interesting information. In 1915, an "A" was placed on the side of the mountain (standing for Branch Agricultural College) and was continued through the years when our local university was affiliated with Utah State Agricultural College (now Utah State University). But when the local school's name was changed to College of Southern Utah, the "A" was no longer appropriate. In 1959, the Cedar High School senior class requested that the

## Pageant will highlight Himmelsk Fest

*Himmelsk Saga features volcanic explosions, launching of Viking armada and more with stars Jordan Bluth, Adrienne Tawa and Rhett Guter as well as Cirque Sandou*

The Himmelsk Royal Family will return to Cedar City on April 16 to launch the fourth annual Festival Royale.

For 2008, The Royal Family has authorized the production of an historical pageant to tell the extraordinary story of Himmelsk in its various periods. The Himmelsk Saga will be big in every way: sets, costumes, special effects, and its world premiere will be presented on four successive nights: April 16, 17, 18, and 19 in the Heritage Theater in downtown Cedar City.

Of course, among the features of this year's Festival Royale is the ever-popular Smorgalauu, expanded to four nights. The combination smorgasbord and Polynesian luau as befits Himmelsk's

Scandinavian and Pacific island history is to be held at 6 p.m. each night prior to the pageant. Guests may arrive early to tour the unique Himmelsk Museum with its one of a kind items on display (see the first Mona Lisa).

Also on tap is a Bus Tour of historic Himmelsk (see the largest Valium mine in America among other amazing revelations) at 10:30 a.m. which includes a concluding tea with the Dowager Queen. The Royal Family will be making several "walk-about" at 10

a.m. during the four days to meet with the citizens of Himmelsk and visitors to Cedar City.

The pageant will feature Jordan Bluth, an exceptional singer who has been compared to Josh Groban, and who has won raves wherever he has appeared in concert. His recent self-titled CD earned him a "best new recording artist" nomination. Joining Jordan in the pageant's featured roles will be local favorite Adrienne Tawa, recently named Utah High School Music Educator of the Year, and Rhett Guter, a young actor whom many predict will go far in the entertainment world.

The pageant has been written by Gerald Sherratt, who also wrote the historical pageant, "The

West: America's Odyssey," which was presented each summer by Utah State University for 30 years in Logan, Utah. The pageant is directed by Richard Bugg, associate professor of theatre arts at Southern Utah University, who is the founder of the Neil Simon Festival. The show's choreography is by Kay Andersen, associate professor of dance at SUU and a former member of the acclaimed Nikolais and Murray Louis Dance



Jordan Bluth



Adrienne Tawa



Rhett Guter

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CEDAR CITY OFFICERS • Mayor: Gerald R. Sherratt

Council Members: Nina Barnes, Dale Brinkerhoff, Jolene Goff, Georgia Beth Thompson, Stephen Wood



# Wayne Clark is volunteer of the month

Wayne Clark, who retired last year as proprietor of Clark and Linford Jewelers, is this month's volunteer of the month for Cedar City. He has been active in a wide range of volunteer activities throughout his life here, ranging from work with youth sports to involvement with the July Jamboree since its inception. This year he will serve as co-chair for the event for the Rotary Club.



He recently spent two and-a-

half years volunteering 20 hours per week aiding students at Fiddlers Elementary School and will this month take part in the Himmelsk Saga pageant of the Festival Royale. He has spent many years on the board of the Valley View Medical Center.

He and his wife Bobette, who also retired last year after 30 years as a kindergarten teacher, are the parents of son Brandon, who works as a producer for ESPN Deportes.

## Curt Neilson is honored

Cedar City Surveyor Curt Neilson is the April Employee of the Month for the Employee Advisory Council.

The Cedar City native is in his 16th year in the position and, according to City Engineer Kit Wareham, has been responsible for implementing a wide range of advancements in the field.

"With the advent of Global Positioning System use in surveying, Curt established a GPS base systems that is used by all



surveyors in the City and area and is the envy of the state," said Wareham.

"Curt is highly respected by his peers as being the area's expert in surveying," said Wareham. "He is highly sought after by other surveyors to obtain the correct survey information and techniques for our area. He truly cares about what goes on in his home town and does his part to make it the quality place it is."

Curt is a graduate of Salt Lake Community College and has been a professional land surveyor for 26 year. He and his wife Jane, whom he met when the pair attended Cedar High School, are the parents of three married daughters and have four grandchildren.

He says he loves Cedar City because "it's home; always has been and always will be."

For fun, he enjoys snow-mobiling, boating, hunting and fishing.

## USG seeks help with housing needs

Every year, thousands of athletes along with their families and friends converge on Cedar City to participate in the Utah Summer Games, the oldest Olympic-style sports festival in Utah.

After visiting with the local hotels, officials have discovered that they are already nearly filled to capacity for the June 4-22 event.

"Our desire is to be inclusive of anyone that wishes to compete in this great event," said Director Casey McClellan. "This presents us with a challenge: this lack of room availability."

In many communities when the participation in an event extends beyond the capacity of the local hotels, oftentimes residents open their homes to participants for a reasonable fee. The USG seeks to do this as well.

If you are interested in renting space to Utah Summer Games athletes, contact Matt Phillips at 586-1777 or go online to [www.utahsummergames.org](http://www.utahsummergames.org), click on "lodging" on the left and then on "additional housing" at the bottom. Phillips, with Real Property Management, is located at 718 S. Main, Suite C.

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Company of New York City.

The narration visuals are by Larry Baker. Lighting design is by Jason Clark, and the scenery is by Ben Hohman, Lew Haslam, Philip Haslam and J. Ramsey Gibson. The specialty Miss Himmelsk hats have been designed by Tony Baker.

Pageantgoers will see the launching of the Viking armada, the exploding volcano (courtesy of Pyrotek Special Events of Las Vegas) and exceptional entertainment fit for a king (courtesy of Sandou Cirque of Las Vegas).

Many Cedar City luminaries will portray historical figures in the production.

"It will be unlike anything ever before seen in Cedar City," said Sherratt, "and not only will be highly enjoyable and entertaining, but will also be educational as it will explain much about the history of Himmelsk."

For reservations and tickets, call the Heritage Center box office at 865-2882.



### Spring concert series to begin

*The inaugural season of the spring concert series of Main Street Park's new Gazebo will begin Sunday, April 27 at 6:30 p.m. with popular local singer-songwriter Karyn Whittemore. The free, family-friendly series will run Sundays through May. Watch for further details.*



**Your RAP tax dollars at work...** *This new playground, located in Bicentennial Park at the north end of the soccer fields, is the latest work funded by the Recreation, Arts and Parks tax of Cedar City. At a cost of some \$60,000, it will provide needed playspace for children. Also in the construction phase are two new scoreboards and scorebooths at the new girls' softball fields at the same complex.*

## Public Works Report

**STREET:** The Street Division street maintenance area for this year will be Fiddler's Canyon. This will begin now with crack sealing. In June skin patching and chip sealing will occur. Spring clean-up has begun. Please remember that the City will only pick up yard waste, untreated wood, asphalt, dirt, rocks, concrete and tires (four or less per pile, no rims). Regular trash bundles will not be eligible for spring clean-up collection.

**WATER:** The Water Division reminds residents that during these early spring months the ground is still saturated from the winter so there is no need to jump the gun on irrigation. The most recent snow reports indicate that the amount of moisture in the mountains is well above normal.

**WASTE WATER:** It is important to remember that Cedar City's wastewater treatment facility is designed for things that typically go down the toilets, showers and sinks. While most homes have garbage disposals, no food products should be sent down to the

treatment facility as it has a significant impact on the treatment process. Food items should be disposed in the garbage and there should be no handy wipes, disposable diapers, etc., going down the sewer.

**CONSTRUCTION:** With spring arriving there will be more construction occurring. Anyone doing work within the road right-of-way must obtain an encroachment permit. This can be done at the office at 716 N. Airport Rd.

**AIRPORT AND CATS:** The Airport is still enjoying the excitement of having Skywest back in service.

Some residents are not aware that Cedar City has a public transportation service. Cedar Area Transportation Service (CATS) has a route providing service to 28 different locations from Walmart to the Health Department nine times a day Monday through Friday. Also offered is a dial-a-ride (curb to curb) service available for the elderly and disabled. For more information, contact CATS at 865-4510.

The Public Works Department appreciates any comments or observations. Please call 586-2912.

## Coming Up...

### IN THE HERITAGE THEATER

◆ **Orchestra of Southern Utah: Roy L. Halversen Young Artist Spring Concert** is Thursday, March 10 at 7:30 p.m. Adults, \$10; Students, \$5; Groups of Six \$30.

◆ **The Himmelsk Festival Royale Pageant** is April 16, 17, 18, 19 at 7:30 p.m. Balcony Seating, \$14; Mezzanine Seating, \$16; Orchestra Seating, \$18. Also, the Smorgalauu is scheduled for 6 p.m. prior to the performance each night (\$25 per plate) and the Bus Tour of the Kingdom and Tea with the Dowager Queen are at 10:30 a.m. each day. Cost of \$5 includes both.

◆ **Southern Utah University Spring Band Concert** is Monday, April 21 at 7:30 p.m. General admission, \$6; SUU faculty \$4; all students \$3.

◆ **Desert Dance Theater of Hurricane** is Friday, April 25 at 7 p.m. Tickets TBA.

◆ **Cedar City Music Arts Presents: Ririe/Woodbury Dance Company** on Tuesday, April 29 at 7:30 p.m. Adults, \$20; Iron County Students, \$10.

The Heritage Theater (Phone 865-2882) is located at 105 North 100 East, immediately north of the City Parking Terrace, where there is no charge for parking. Unless otherwise noted, children under the age of six are not admitted. Normal Box Office hours are Wednesday to Friday, from 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Box Office is always open one hour prior to any ticketed performance.



**Mayor** from page 1

university allow the letter to be changed to a "C." SUU concurred and the rocks used in the A morphed into a C. To this day, the tradition of whitewashing of the "C" remains a yearly occurrence for the senior class of Cedar High School.

**AIRPORT:** Paid passengers departing via SkyWest's two daily passenger flights at the Cedar City Regional Airport in February totaled 623 vs. 506 posted the year before by Mesa Airlines. The 2008 February total approaches the 647 February total in 2006 when SkyWest was running three flights a day... A \$1 million federal grant to the Cedar City Regional Airport will allow construction of new taxi lanes and a runway lighting upgrade to take place this summer... Three rental car agencies are now operating at the airport: Hertz, Avis, and Enterprise.

**NOTED:** A scholarship fund honoring the late Jason Ted Jensen has been established at SUU with the scholarship to be awarded annually beginning this fall. Ted was a remarkably gifted and kind man whose death deeply saddened the Cedar City arts community. For information contact the SUU Advancement Office... Southern Utah University led the Utah System of Higher Education in its enrollment increase this semester. The school posted a 5.87 percent increase over last year's spring semester. SUU's nearest competitor was Utah Valley with 2.37 percent... A host of some of Cedar City's most prominent citizens will make guest appearances in the Himmelsk Saga, the historical pageant that opens with a bang (there is an exploding volcano included in the show) on April 16.

**HOME SALES:** According to the Utah Association of Realtors website which tracks home sales by county, home sales in Iron County were up 9.98 percent in the fourth quarter of 2007 compared to 2006. While other counties in Utah are seeing significant decreases in number of homes sold, Iron County has yet to see the number of homes sold decrease when comparing year-to-year quarterly

numbers. While no annual figures are available for last year, Iron County saw home sales grow to 1,009 in 2006, reaching the four-figure mark for the first time ever. Good news for homebuyers wishing to move here is the fact that the average sales price of a home has decreased 16 percent from \$251,708 to \$209,789.

**REMEMBERING:** The first person to be buried in the Cedar City Cemetery was in 1853 when Joseph Chatterley, a highly esteemed member of the original group of settlers, was killed by an accidental gunshot. His burial plot established the beginning of the Cedar City Cemetery. Any burials before 1853, prior to consistent record keeping, are unknown. Although some headstones in the Cemetery do record death dates prior to 1853, this is due to the common custom of the day of placing a stone on a spot in memory of a loved one who had died and been buried somewhere else. Chatterley's is the first recorded death in Cedar City. There are some unusual markers to be found in the cemetery. John T. Morris's headstone, for example, uses the Deseret Alphabet proposed by Brigham Young, and many stones give a short history of the deceased, including their professions, religious affiliation, family members and interests.

**NOTED:** February 2008 sales tax revenues totaled \$552,637, or 4 percent more than February 2007's \$529,064... Thirty new business licenses were issued in the month of February... Efforts by Rep. Bud Bowman in the Utah Legislature paid off when the body allocated \$50,000 toward the World War II Memorial being planned for Cedar City's new Rotary Centennial Veterans Park... Former resident Arnold Leibovit (who produced *The Time Machine* and is now living in New Mexico) is producing a movie and his current plans are to have a number of its scenes filmed in Cedar City... Ed and Deb Smith have elected not to re-enter the restaurant business as originally planned.

**FESTIVALS:** In addition to the Himmelsk Festival Royale that opens this month (see separate story), Cedar City will

play host in April to the first Cedar City Volleyball Festival, headed up by Andy McLintock. The festival will be April 5 and 12 and 800 athletes from all over Utah and Idaho are expected to participate. The top Intermountain Volleyball Association club teams from throughout the region will be in attendance, their first Cedar City appearance. So if you want a room in Cedar City on April 5 and 12, better reserve them now.

**REMEMBERING:** Gerald VanIwaarden allowed me see a copy he owns of the May 1936 issue of *National Geographic* that featured southern Utah. The author selected Cedar City's then "golf course" to illustrate the Utah pioneer spirit: "Several miles from town it lies, in an arid valley crowded by craggy hills. It's 'greens' are a mixture of sand, sawdust, and oil; its teeing places are bristle doormats set in wooden frames; its fairways are barren stretches from which sagebrush has been laboriously dug.... The course lacks nothing in 'rough.' As if the hazards of cliffs, gullies, sagebrush, and thickets were not sufficient, there is an occasional rattlesnake for the player to kill with his club, or an inquisitive deer to chase out of the way of his shots." But, presumably there were no prairie dogs. Of interest, too, is the fact that Cedar City's then golf course made *Ripley's Believe It Or Not* as the only known "asphalt golf course in the world."

**KUDOS:** To the descendants of Cedar City pioneer Francis Webster, who have been so generous in their donations toward the statue of Mr. Webster being planned as part of Cedar City's downtown history project. With donations coming in at a rapid pace, the statue has been commissioned with noted sculptor Jerry Anderson doing the honors... To the Color Country Cycling Club which is planning a number of bicycle rides from Cedar City in April, including one to Sand Hollow and Quail Creek state parks (April 5), to Gooseberry Mesa (April 12), to the Gunlock/Veyo loop (April 19), and to Little Creek Mesa (April 26).