

THE INDEPENDENT

— Special Expanded 25 Year Anniversary Edition —

ZION GUIDE

Mar. '21

Celebrating 25 Years - Online at SUIdependent.com & ZionGuide.com



**YOU ASKED FOR IT! - WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR MOVES TO APRIL
SEE PAGE 4**

MORE GREAT HAPPENINGS IN THIS ISSUE:



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- SEE PAGE 5**



**EDWARD ALBEE'S 'WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?'
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**THE 3RD ANNUAL KANAB FILM FEST ANNOUNCES
WEEKEND OF MOVIES - SEE PAGE 5**

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EDITORIAL

25 YEARS By Josh Warburton



So, 25 years ago this month, four rag tag young adults published the first edition of The Revolution, which within one year would become The Independent.

Last month I wrote my version of our "origin story" and in this issue you'll get

a chance to read a few other perspectives of that story. That's because in addition to our core slate of content, this special 25 year anniversary edition contains other snapshots on the history of The Independent, from varied contributors.

They are relevant to me because what we are today is a product of our past, and The Independent is no different in that regard. But rather than continue that story where I left off, I wanted to use this space to bring the story up to today, as well as to express my immense gratitude for the opportunity to be here today typing this.

You'll see my name mentioned often in the "retrospective" features starting on page seven of this edition, and it's not by accident. It's true, I'm the sole survivor from the very beginning, and it's basically been my baby since year one. That's not to say I asked any of our past contributors to give me props, kind of the opposite in fact. Our editor James and I reached out to several past writers, contributors, editors, and co-founders with a request to "say whatever you want" about your experience with The Independent. Two of those founders, Heather McNamee and Mike Gardener, were happy to chat but having parted ways with the paper in the first few months of existence they decided they had little to add, except to send "love and well wishes" to you, our readers.

That was fine with me as it has literally been 25 years and memories fade. That said, I thank them both graciously, as I do the fourth co-founder, German Reyna, who does have a piece in this issue. And based on its contents, I'm guessing it'll be the last from him. If we make it to the 30 year mark, I'll have to accept they've all said what they needed to say about their time with The Independent.

But let me back up, or move forward, as is this case, to bring y'all up to date with where The Independent is today. Starting almost 10 years ago now, and having somehow survived the 2008 financial collapse, we made a few changes to our overall program. With "print ad dollars" in newspapers slowly diminishing, and "web ad dimes" replacing them, we needed to get creative. We launched a new website at SUindependent.com. It was not super modern at the time but functional, and with space for sponsors and advertisers.

Tourism to southern Utah, with Zion National Park being the largest draw, had seen dramatic increases in visitorship year after year. I shifted some of my energy, and the paper's resources to capturing some of that audience of the millions of people trekking through our scenery, and with it, hopefully, advertisers to support what we do. While print readership everywhere was decreasing, and our unique geographic location with increasing tourism, our position in the market gave us a unique opportunity to serve this audience. So, what started as a single page of Zion Park and Springdale content slowly expanded until we launched Zion Guide as

a separate printed edition inserted into The Independent. That addition was a godsend to The Independent. Without that pivot it's hard to say if we would have made it.

By 2015, and with other print revenue becoming more and more difficult to come by, I moved to a small apartment in Springdale to be closer to Zion and the supporting Springdale businesses. That move turned out to be somewhat temporary as I made trips out to Kanab starting in early 2016. By that fall, I'd bought a house in Kanab with my former girlfriend. And while I kept the Springdale apartment until 2019, shifting continued in the form of near continuous change such as opening and then later closing a Kanab office, and eventually shutting the doors of our home office in St. George. This was a time of deep contemplation for me, resulting in cost cutting, consolidation, and streamlining, all in the interest of preserving The Independent.

Then, we couldn't possibly have known what was coming in 2020, when Covid-19 basically shut the world down.

This last year has been a whirlwind, both personally and professionally. Working on and through our 25th year amidst a global pandemic was challenging to say the least. We hunkered down. We shored up all the advertisers we could. We got a PPP loan in the second round (I was too wary to apply at first). All of that and just having the will to survive carried us through. But the thing that helped the most was the support of our advertisers. Not every business was able to continue to advertise, and with the future very uncertain, so many businesses spent what they could with us, and we in turn gave all we could to help support them.

As we turned the corner into 2021 with this anniversary on the horizon I felt such a sense of gratitude. Gratitude for all the support and encouragement over the years. Gratitude to be able to be my own boss, get a paycheck (most months), serve the community, and help amplify the voices of others. This is where we're at today as I type this... grateful, thankful, and humbled by the opportunity's life has given me.

So, like I said, those "retro" features mention me a lot. So much so, they're a bit tough for me to read. I'll take credit where credit is due, but I also like to give it the same way. And that's what I'd like to say here.

Thank you, you the readers. Without an audience there wouldn't be The Independent. Your interest in what's happening locally and

around the world makes this all possible. Thank you to all of our advertisers over all of these years. Every single one of you made this paper possible. And all of the businesses in this issue I'd like to give special thanks because I know some of you did it just to support me and The Independent, making it possible to continuing publishing. And a special thanks to all of our contributors over the last two and a half decades. There are far too many for me to list here, and it must be a handful that have had unique contributions including Adam Mast who started reviewing movies in the third issue and has continued to this day. I'd also like to give a special shoutout to my mom, who worked with and for me off and on throughout the years, and even gave me a cash infusion in the first five years when we almost folded.

I'd also like to thank each of our editors who spearheaded The Independent's editorial content for their terms, having to deal with me, and the balancing act that it is.

What the future holds is always uncertain, but I'm feeling good that for the time being I'll be standing here (at my standing desk, after too many years of sitting) and connecting you to the best southern Utah has to offer. Happy reading.

25 YEAR ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EDITION

EVENTS

YOU ASKED FOR IT! – WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR MOVES TO APRIL!!

By James McFadden

Having lived in southern Utah for almost 13 years now, the Washington County Fair was one of those things our family and especially our kids would always look forward to. The heat? Not so much!

It's probably best I don't mention we moved here from San Diego, California – whoops! Cat's been out of the bag on that one for a long time so I hope you can forgive me for that. After all, the last thing southern Utah needs is another person from California telling you 'in California, we...' yea.



Point being, the heat was the most dreadful thing we had to come accustomed to; and we have. But, when it comes to going to the fair, the heat was often brutal! Well... worry your little heads 'and hot feet' no more! Starting in 2021, the Washington County Fair is in April and we could not be more excited about that and for southern Utah! Oh, and to top it off, they are going to have a 'Beer Garden' Now I know many of you do not see that as a benefit, but southern Utah is not just about our locals, it's about bringing outside visitors and outside revenue into our beautiful area and I expect this one little change will go a long way to help improve the fair's overall attendance.

Washington County Commission Leaders Dean Cox, Gil Almquist, and Victor Iverson had this to say: "For more than 160 years, the Washington County Fair has been an integral part of the southern Utah community--ever since the early settlers of Washington City opened their homes to display agricultural products including live-



stock, corn, cotton, garden vegetables, home-made articles from county-grown cotton and wool, braided straw hats, and moccasins made from tanned deer skin. Even though the locations, entertainment and displays have changed throughout the years, one thing remains the same: the fair brings the community together.

2020 was fraught with so many challenges and surprises and although the county fair in 2020 happened, organizers are even more excited to bring joy, smiles and memories to our community in 2021."

Here are a few of the things you can look forward to this year!

A New Carnival Company, A Parade and Kickoff Party, Military Wall of Honor, Several Contests, An Animal Education Center, A Petting Zoo, Lots and Lots of Food, Fair and Rodeo Royalty, Boxing, The Junior Rodeo, Barrel Racing, Live Music, Historical Displays, Home and Fine Arts, and of course, The Beer Garden...

And, at the top of the list of must-see things?! The Rock Bottom Boys will be performing live and on stage for free on April 14th. The Como La Flor Band 'A Tribute to Selena', will be performing on Thursday, April 15th with tickets starting at \$15. Next, they have Ned Ladoux in concert on Friday the 16th with tickets starting at \$20 and capping off the fair will be southern Utah's very own and very traditional Demolition Derby on Saturday the 17th with tickets starting at \$25 and there will be fireworks after each event!

Tickets are on sale now at www.washco-fair.net so if you don't want to miss anything, you'll want to get those reserved right away!

Organizers also wish to remind those attending the fair this year that "an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. All official CDC guidelines will be in place to help protect those attending the fair. So please follow all posted guidelines while attending the Washington County Fair this year and have an awesome time with your friends and family!"




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Kanab, UT 84741
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20 Acres in Cougar Canyon Estates
Other, UT 84762
N. Kane County
\$90,000



Un-Bound


2021 UPCYCLED BOOK ART CONTEST

The Washington County Library System invites you to show us your creativity in recycling and re-imagining an old book! Join us for the sixth annual "Un-Bound" book art contest. Take an old book, remake it into an original work of art, and win one of many prizes!

The contest is open to residents of Washington County ages 5-105. Prizes will be awarded in all age groups for kids, teens, adults, senior citizens and special needs.

Entries will be accepted at all eight library branches from March 25th-31st, with winners announced on April 3rd. Winners will receive a gift card and a plaque. Pick up a free book for your project at your library branch!

For more information, call 435-634-5737 or visit www.library.washco.utah.gov





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EVENTS

BEST FRIENDS ANIMAL SOCIETY HAS 'CAT'S FOR HIRE!'



Cats For Hire

We all know cats can nap like nobody's business. But as it turns out, they're also some of the hardest workers around.

That's what Karen Orawa learned one day when she visited her friend's winery near Los Angeles and met their newest and most dedicated employees: cats. At first, Karen was skeptical about her friend's hires. Were cats really the perfect employees for her enclosed property, or was it too good to be true?

Working cats program

Karen did some research, and after learning about Best Friends Animal Society's working cats program, she was convinced to give it a try. She hired Pumpkin and Ash, two working cats, to keep rodents away from a barn where she stores vintage automobiles. Both cats warmed to their safe new digs. Pumpkin patrols the barn like a confident little lion, and under the hood of Karen's cars, there's nary a mouse dropping in sight.

"Everyone benefits from our working cats' program," says Liz Anderson, lifesaving and care supervisor for Best Friends in Los Angeles. "Shelters benefit because it makes more room for friendly cats who need homes,

and adopters benefit because they can save their property from rodent damage without spending a lot of money." But it's the cats who benefit the most, she says.

Employment trend: giving cats jobs to save lives

Happily, the working cats' trend is catching on across the nation. In Osceola, Florida, 24 cats from a hoarding situation that could not be adopted into homes were given jobs. These successful cat guardians are now protecting barns, a ministry warehouse, and the stock at a local orchid farm. Their story is truly inspiring.

Osceola County and the Best Friends community cat program collaborated to place and oversee the cats, paving the way to help felines in similar predicaments. For cats with few placement options, getting hired is a genuine lifesaver.

"That's why this program is so important," says Samantha Bell, a Best Friends cat behavior specialist. "There are a lot of cats at the shelters who aren't necessarily bonded to humans at all. Every time we find an appropriate placement for one of those cats, we can go right back to the shelter and save another cat in need."

Working cats to the rescue

Karen Orawa, a longtime Best Friends supporter, says that Pumpkin and Ash have become great employees. Karen knows firsthand that a working cats program does more than deter rodents and protect property. In fact, she's so impressed that she adopted two more working cats for another building on her ranch.

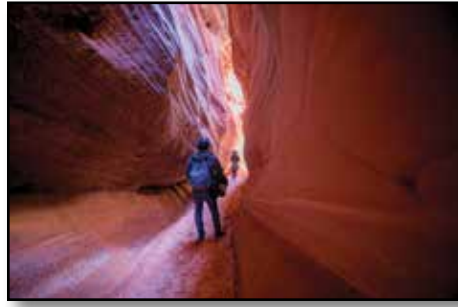
"I really believe in this program and its potential to save lives," says Karen. "The cats are often scared of people and hide. But when I do see them, they seem happy. And it's a good feeling to know that I'm giving them a chance to live the life they deserve."

Do you have a job for a community cat? Please contact Best Friends at adoptions@bestfriends.org to set up a consultation.



THE BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO SLOT CANYON PHOTOGRAPHY: FOUR THINGS TO KNOW

By Dreamland Safari Tours



Slot canyons are a photographer's paradise. You don't need a fancy camera in order to take good photos in a slot; smart phone cameras work shockingly with canyon light! But there are a few basic rules to observe. Here are four general principles of slot canyon photography that you should keep in mind to maximize the photographic potential of your canyon visit.

1. Position. Get close to the walls. Look for leading lines and pleasant curves, both in the shape and in the coloration of the canyon. Finding a foreground, a mid-layer and a background will make your shots more interesting and give them depth.

2. Soft Glow. Typically, the best slot canyon photos are those that do *not* include direct sunlight (no sunny walls, no sky) - look for the soft glow of indirect light instead. That means you'll often want to frame your images horizontally rather than vertical, to ensure you don't have any sky at the top of your image. The reason behind all this is that our camera sensors aren't yet powerful enough to be able to manage the contrast between direct sunlight and shaded canyon walls - meaning you'll either completely blow out the sky or lose lots of color and details in the shadows. A good image has well balanced-light, and the easiest way to achieve that balance in a slot canyon is to stay in indirect light.

3. Light Beams. There is a notable exception to the 'indirect light' rule: if you are chasing light beams. Light beams can be ethereal but require just the right air (dust) and wind conditions - human interference can help if the air is calm.

4. Timing. There is no one right or wrong time to photograph a slot canyon. You'll see different walls and corners light up at different times of the day, depending on the aspect of a canyon's twists and turns. The general rule, though, is that early-to-mid morning and mid-to-late afternoon will offer you the best chances of capturing magical, soft light. Avoid the harsh light of high noon where the sun is directly overhead, unless you know that the canyon you are visiting has the opportunity for light beams. During the summer months, Peekaboo Slot Canyon just north of Kanab has some beautiful beams in a few spots that you can typically observe between 11am and 2pm, while an earlier morning or later afternoon visit to Peekaboo will allow you to capture that magical canyon glow.

Ready to put these principles of slot canyon photography to the test? Head over to Dreamland Safari Tours at www.dreamlandtours.net or give them a call at 435-644-5506 to book your Peekaboo Slot Canyon tour today and ask for Sunny!



THE 3RD ANNUAL KANAB FILM FEST ANNOUNCES WEEKEND OF MOVIES



Kanab, UT, February 23, 2021 – The Kanab Film Fest will hold their 3rd annual Film Festival at the Kanab Center and various locations in the area April 29 - May 2, 2021. Offering state of the art sound and a 4K projector, attendees will get to see the very best films from professionals and students all over the world.

This year's festival is a 4-day long celebration of film, industry workshops, parties and networking. The Film Fest takes place in a relaxed setting perfect for getting to know the filmmakers and chatting with film enthusiasts. There will also be interactive workshops in topics including screenwriting and creating music for films.

Single, multi-day, and virtual festival passes can be purchased through www.kanabfilm.com/tickets. VIP All Access passes are also available for the ultimate experience complete with a swag bag of goodies, exclusive access to all festival parties and the "Kanab Gets Dark" screening inside



Moqui Cave.

"Part of what makes the Kanab Film Fest so special is the incredible area," said festival co-founder Britt Roth. "Attendees can sign up to go on a locally led hike, a specialty tour, and can learn about Kanab's rich history of filmmaking going back to the 1930s."

Between 1930 and the 1990's, over 300 films were made in Kanab, and a handful more since including HBO'S Westworld. The Kanab Film Fest provides a modern festival experience to celebrate this rich movie-making history.



This year's presenting sponsor is Kanab Realty, the region's most comprehensive real estate professional serving home buyers and investors with quality service, expertise, and integrity. Other sponsors of the 2021 Kanab Film Fest include Dark Sky RV Campground, McDonald's, Moqui Cave, Kanab Create and RothFirm.

The official lineup of films for this year's festival will be released at the beginning of April. The Kanab Film Fest is dedicated to keeping Kanab's filmmaking legacy alive.

For more information, visit www.kanabfilm.com/ and www.filmfreeway.com/KanabFilmFest

Find more events daily at SUindependent.com

DON'T BE AFRAID TO SEE THIS PLAY!

Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* Hits Kayenta Stage Late March

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? is one of the most talked-about and most rarely performed plays in existence. No one really wants to do it. We see two conforming couples in the 1960s who have just met one another commit adultery for revenge, publicly shame one another, reveal highly embarrassing secrets, and cathartically regain the truth about their love in the end. When you have to live with someone you can't stand, you know how to hurt them and how to make them laugh, so the onstage antics become bombastically hilarious in one breath and gravely serious in the next. It's *Home Alone* meets *Lord of the Flies*. This is a play whose publishing house requires a minimum of four and a half weeks of rehearsals *before adding technical elements*.

Kayenta Arts Foundation, just west of Tuacahn, is combining two highly reactive substances: the infamous play itself and the man they chose to direct the project—Clarence Gilyard, Jr. This stage and screen veteran of Walker Texas Ranger, Matlock, Top Gun, and Die Hard directed Red at Center For the Arts at Kayenta (CFAK) in October, and has since joined the CFAK team as Associate Director. This comes in addition to his already full teaching schedule as a professor in the University of Nevada Las Vegas theatre department.

Gilyard jumped on the opportunity to make an artistic difference at Kayenta despite the time he would need to spend away from his own family in Las Vegas because of two friends and kindred spirits—CFAK's Executive Director Jan Broberg and Production Manager Chris Whiteside. These

two actors-turned-administrators are the production powerhouse behind Kayenta's whiplashing *fifty event per year average*. Broberg and Whiteside star in *Woolf* alongside regional favorites Dean Jones (Rothko in Kayenta's *Red*, Horton in *Seussical*) and Sceri Sioux Ivers (Corie from *Barefoot in the Park* and Diedre in *I Hate Hamlet*).

Gilyard, who coaches his cast with the kind of fervor you see on a football field, points them at every possible turn toward real behavior. "What are you afraid of? Why are you afraid to see this play?" asked Gilyard mid-rehearsal, in discussion about why people may not want to see the show. "Is it a reason or an excuse? It is a healing play to those who are open to it. You can't heal unless you acknowledge the pain. You can't heal without scabs, and medicine, and side effects. People experience the impact of all the unfinished, unanswerable things

in their lives on this thing called *marriage*."

The content of the play merits it a 17+ age suggestion on Center For the Arts at Kayenta's website (below), and includes drinking, smoking, profanity, intimacy, and intimate language.

Dates: March 25-28 THU-SUN; March 31-April 4 WED-SUN

Time: 7:30pm except 6pm SUN (28th)

Location: Center for the Arts at Kayenta,

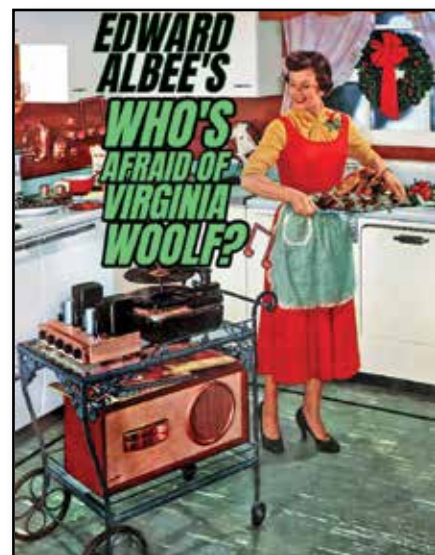
881 Coyote Gulch Court, Ivins, Utah 84738

Cost: \$35 (\$10 students with current ID or children)

Buy Tickets Online: KayentaArts.com

Call for Tickets: (435) 674-ARTS (2787)

Box Office Hours: M-F 12-4pm



EDITORIAL

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

By James McFadden



Life is a delicate tapestry that weaves us in and out of each others lives. Like the threads of a handkerchief, each and every thread, touches each and every thread. That's what The Independent reminds me of, the threads of a

handkerchief.

What more can I say that has not already been said throughout this issue? 25 years is a

huge accomplishment for any business but for a publication? It is rare for sure! Like putting a man in orbit rare. If The Independent makes it to 50 years? We're talking man on the moon level baby!

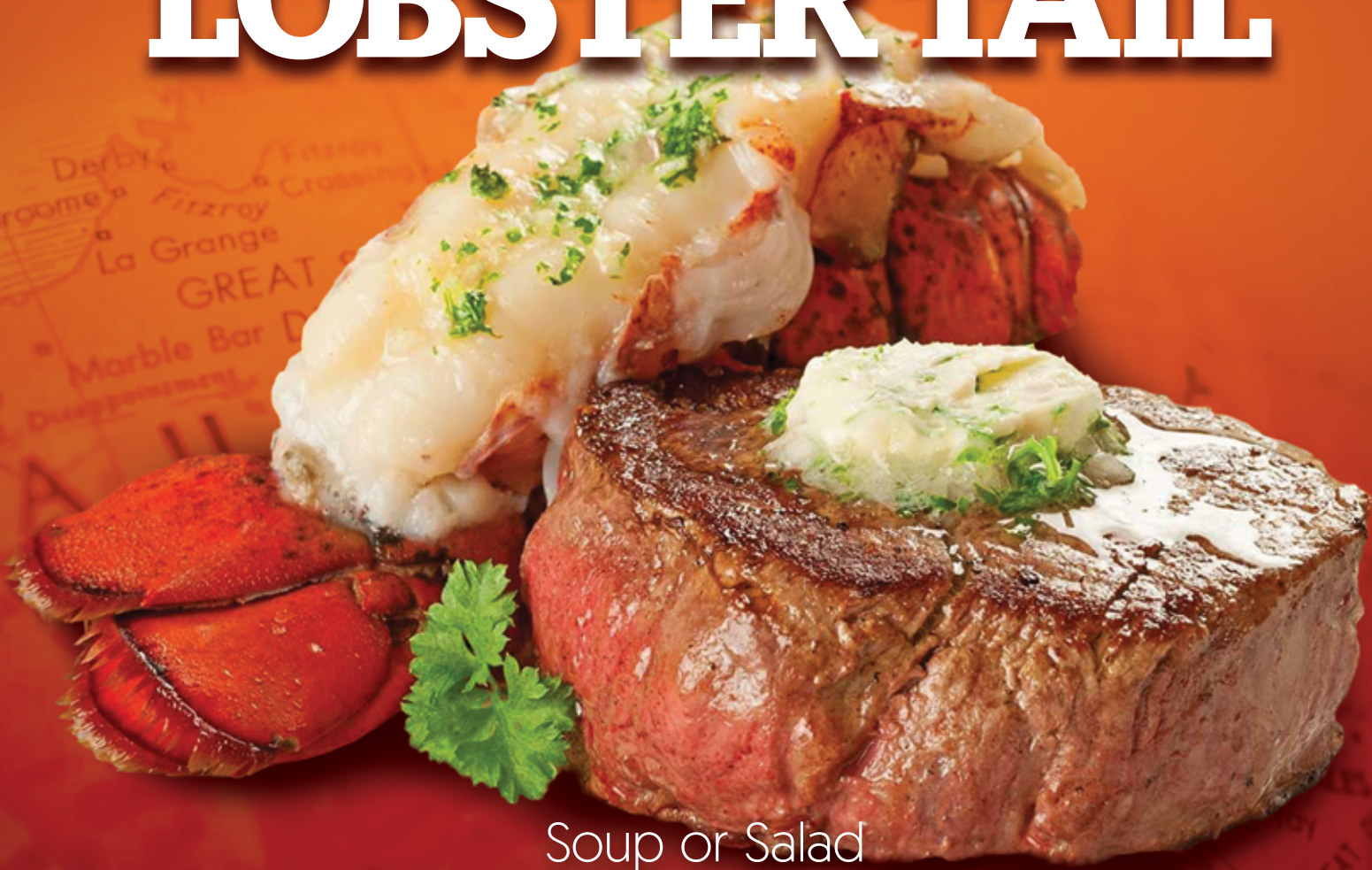
It's hard to find the words to justify my feelings right now, I mean, 25 years and I've only been here for one! ONE!! Like, that's NOTHING compared to what has been accomplished by those that have stood in the shoes I'm blessed to wear today. It is definitely an honor and a privilege to be a part of this great organization. You'll notice I'm not mentioning 'you know who' because as he has already stated, his name is all over and all throughout this issue. But, you know who you are, and I thank you for the opportunity to experience just a taste of what The Independent has accomplished over the last quarter century.

So, as we move onward, upward, and forward, I/we hope you will continue to pick us up each month and visit us often at sunindependent.com and stay connected to everything southern Utah has to offer us. Be a part of our tapestry so we can be a part of yours.

Here's to another 25 years of success... you know who.



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EDITORIAL

MILESTONES By Dallas Hyland

In the course of every facet of a profession, there are what one can call milestones. Points where one can reflect on the distance traveled from whence they started and what has occurred over a given period of time. For the Independent, this is a noteworthy one.

For twenty-five years, this publication has been contributing to this community a broad and diverse spectrum of news, commentary, entertainment, and advertisement in print and online. It has been a relevant icon in Southern Utah and beyond. And its iconic nature begins and ends with Josh Warburton, its founder and sole publisher.

I had the privilege for the better part of a decade to be a part of the Indy's trajectory

25

YEAR ANNIVERSARY RETROSPECTIVES

serving in roles over time from regular columnist, opinion writer and editor, photo editor, and eventually editor at large. Perhaps you've seen me here over the years.

So when Josh phoned me a couple weeks back to share the news of this landmark, and ask me to contribute something to commemorate it, I was nothing short of delighted. Having been for several years on a regiment of producing content on a weekly and monthly deadline, it should have seemed a routine task but I will admit to you that it proved to be a little challenging. Besides congratulating my publisher and friend for a job well done and a legacy that will outlive him through the body of not only his work, but the work of all who contributed to this rag, I did not know if I had anything noteworthy to say. This is what I've got.

When the founders of this nation were forming what would become our ethos as a people via the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, the Constitution, and the subsequent amendments, there came with great wisdom and prudence the first and likely most important amendment of all, aptly named the First Amendment. The freedom of speech and freedom of the press were, are, and will indelibly remain the most core staples of our constitution as a free people that without them, our nation will not endure. The fourth estate of government is the invaluable element whereby an outside group of citizens take on the charge of holding this country's elected and appointed officials accountable for how they carry out their duties and govern a free people. Done right and well it is a noble task the likes of serving in defense

of our union and without it, all of our other freedoms are quite literally indefensible. An informed populous is necessary to a free one. And a free, unhindered press in all its facets is the pinnacle of said freedom.

And at the heart of the Independent, in spite of all odds and hardships, Josh knows this and holds it dear. For a quarter of a century he has spearheaded a publication that sought earnestly to be the "voice" of the the people of Southern Utah and beyond. I am not only honored to have played a part in the evolution of this paper, but to also call him my friend.

Congratulations Josh and the Independent for the work you have done and continue to do. I look forward to the next chapter. I truly do. See you out there.

NO LONGER AN INEXPERIENCED WRITER

By Rob Jones

It's pretty interesting to look back on the decade when I wrote music reviews for The Independent, it almost seems like a different world or another life. My first album review was for the Monster Magnet album God Says No and was featured in the May 2001 issue of the independent, I was 21 at the time and spent a lot of time at the local music stores.

Tom Tom's music was the best of these stores and was a cultural hub for music fans and local artists, It was also where a couple of the writers for the Indy worked, Adam Mast and Kevin Jones. I asked Adam how if I could write album reviews for the Indy and

he gave me an advance copy of the monster magnet album to review, looking back at that review it wasn't my best writing but an honest attempt by a kid who was inexperienced in published writing but passionate about music. What I brought to the independent was representing hard rock and heavy metal, which was in contrast to the styles the other guys were into.

A lot of great music goes unheard and unrepresented so the majority of people don't get to hear it, so I saw it as my opportunity to expose people not only to bands they knew, but to bands they on average wouldn't have

heard. It was honestly extremely fulfilling to get to write about the bands I love and see it printed and was a cool opportunity to have in the days before social media was everywhere and getting your voice publicly heard wasn't common.

Over the next crazy decade since that first issue my life and the world changed a lot, the dynamic of how music was marketed changed when the digital era ended the music store and I honestly think it's to the loss of something that added a lot to the local culture. I had a lot of fun in my time with the independent, my favorite times were hang-

ing out with Kevin and talking music with him as well as hearing his beautiful song "as needed for pain" before it was released on the local music compilation cd, homegrown 2.

I also really enjoyed talking movies with Adam and our mutual love of classic horror films and what of them might make that year's horrorfest, I still think the one he did in Springdale on the IMAX was the best of the ones I went to. I made great friends in working with these guys and to be a part of the 25-year history of this great paper is an honor, a lot of love goes into it.

A MATTER OF INDEPENDENCE

By Ed Kociela

We all need a voice and when I came to Southern Utah 26 years ago, there weren't a whole lot of places where one could do so in a safe and friendly environment.

I got hired on at the Spectrum, working the copy desk as the newspaper was transitioning from an afternoon paper to morning delivery. We were owned by a Canadian outfit that had little interest in Southern Utah other than how much money we could generate for its corporate coffers. The emphasis was on revenue as opposed to quality and it showed. When I worked a tryout week there, I was paid a miserly \$7 an hour. That was in 1995 when business was booming in the region and the ill-advised believed they could continue to sustain 10 percent or more growth. We all know what happened shortly thereafter as the market took a nosedive and people got upside down in debt as a result of bad investments from business to housing.

We didn't know it at the time, but the communications world was about to make a drastic change as we sat on the threshold of niche marketing and the internet, which was about to explode with news aggregator sites and an onslaught of websites delivering their versions of the daily report.

Back then, newspapers were all things to all people. It was, as The New York Times modelled, "All the news that's fit to print."

There were no 24-hour news stations pumping out "the latest" around the clock, there were few niche publications of consequence, the voices often struggled to be heard.

Here in Southern Utah, however, a young man with a plan decided he would toss the dice and offer an alternative to The Spectrum and the bottled news hand fed by the local radio stations, which rarely dipped its toes deeper than a few national headlines.

Josh Warburton was a young, skinny little guy with long blond hair, a passion for good rock 'n' roll, and the skills of a talented graphics designer. He worked in that capacity at the Spectrum, burning his eyes out on the various ads he built all day long in front of a computer that blinked, whirred, and sometimes burped as it struggled to keep up.

Our first conversations were about music and guitars – passions for both of us. I remember him thanking me for squeezing the obit on Jerry Garcia into the paper, even though our editor argued that nobody in St. George knew much about The Grateful Dead or its iconic founder.

I'm not sure how much that influenced him, but it wasn't long after that he started talking to me about how he wished there was an alternative to the corporate news that was carefully spoon-fed to the market. The talk soon turned to his wondering if it could happen, and, one day, his plans for making it happen.

As a young musician, he knew there were a lot of others like him who never got their due. There were also artisans, craftsmen and women doing beautiful work that went largely unrecognized. Sure, the paper was filled with information about chamber quartets and all the proper and acceptable forms of art that fit well within the predominant culture, but there was a growing influx of people from California who had broader, more sophisticated taste and lifestyles.

That's why, if you look at our homepage, you see us refer to The Independent as "a voice for Southern Utah and the area's premier events and culture paper."

That focus led him to creating a little paper he called The Revolution, a sort of counter-culture medium that lent a little spice to the bologna on white bread with mayonnaise

taste of Southern Utah.

He needed a little help editing the first couple of editions, so I did some work on the down-low for him, gratis, as he tried to find his feet.

So, I guess you could say I was there from Day One, cheering the underdog while I hung onto a job at a place where I would work for 16 years.

I knew the odds were stacked against him. He had a great idea, but no money behind him, just his boundless energy. He didn't know enough to understand that, well, according to the great captains of industry, he was doomed to certain failure. Very few new newspapers made it beyond a year, even with proper staffing and funds.

Except something unexpected happened.

People began to take notice, and as the newspaper came more and more into clearer focus – including a rebranding as The Independent – even more and more people took notice.

I would have bet a year's salary in the beginning that the newspaper would never make it, that the money and will would run out sooner than later, that the struggle would be too overwhelming.

But, credit to Josh, he managed to keep it going, gaining more and more community support and some writers who could had a pretty good handle on the Southern Utah art scene.

For awhile, the newspaper tried to resemble a more traditional report, including news and the usual ambulance-chasing stories you can find anywhere. But, way ahead of the curve, Josh realized that there was a paradigm shift coming and that by focusing on that cultural, arts niche, he could survive nicely, even as the news business continued to shed

its rotting corpse of print.

I've been a part of The Independent a couple years now and I must say, this is the most comfortable I've ever been, not because Josh is such a nice guy, but because it is a place where the conversation actually takes place in human volume and terms. Yes, people disagree here, they argue their points vehemently, but, for some reason, there is an air of civility that goes missing in so many other sites I have been associated with over the years. I think it has something to do with the way the site presents itself, the mojo that happens when adults engage in respectful banter.

He has also been smart enough to allow people to talk about things here that real people talk about when they get together. I mean, people may check the local news to see if everybody was OK in that wreck they saw on the side of the road yesterday, but they talk about Trump, Romney, and Lee; they talk about COVID-19; they talk about the Dixie moniker. Too many other publications don't quite get that, one, in fact, rejecting all opinion pieces that do not have a local angle and spending valuable time and money chasing ambulances instead of reporting with depth and context. To be honest, St. George isn't all that interesting to opine about with any kind of frequency. I mean seriously, if I bumped into you at Wal-Mart, would you ask me about the latest city budget or engage on some political issue?

That's why The Independent is as important – more important, in many ways – than any newspaper that has published in Southern Utah.

Congratulations, Josh, on the Independent's 25th anniversary. Here's to another 25.

BORED STUPID By German Reyna, Retired Co-Founder

Twenty-five years. I'm having a hard time recalling the events that lead to the start of The Independent, (back then known as Revolution). Luckily, I had the first ten issues saved in a box, so I pulled them out to see if it would help me recall anything from that period of time.

After looking through some of the issues nothing was coming back to me. But I kept coming back to the first issue. The front cover headline read "Bored Stupid. Where does everybody go when the sun goes down? Article on page 4," but it was actually on page 3. So somewhere between feeling bored and stupid, we were also young and naive.

Josh and I spent many an evening talking about everything young 19-23 years old's

do while working the evening shift at the local newspaper. Which would only make sense that the idea to start a paper would be a logical step for us, and by us, I mean mostly Josh.

He always had tons of energy. He would probably tell you it was his vegan diet, but looking back now I think it was his creative drive and wanting to be able to support his young family. I think I went along with it to support him, and there wasn't much else going on in Southern Utah. And, in some way, I was hoping that maybe we could bring out the local music scene like my friends living in Salt Lake at the time we're getting to experience.

When it came time to commit to the future of The Independent, I couldn't see myself doing it. I was ready to leave St. George and if Josh was going to keep making me write stories then it was definitely time to make my exit.

I can't even begin to understand how much work it's taken to have a small 8 page paper grow I to the outlet it is today, I know it's not something that only one person could have accomplished on their own. And that there have been many others that have come and gone but have been able to share in the experience of taking the Independent to where it is today. But one thing is for sure, Josh is the propulsion that have put the paper where it is today. Probably fueled by

his vegan lifestyle, who knows for sure.

Josh, thank you for letting me join you on the beginning of this journey and for still being a friend after leaving. Thank you for always acknowledging my small contributions in the beginning, you're very generous and kind. And I wish you and the paper nothing but success for many years to come, just please don't ask me again to write anything. I can actually recall saying that writing was not one of my strong abilities. It's been too long since we've had a chance to visit in person and hopefully soon we can reminisce in person, until then stay safe and healthy.

Your friend,
G.R.

EDITORIAL

THE INDEPENDENT'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY
By Howard Sierer

I've been an opinion columnist for The Independent for the last two of the publication's 25 years, but a resident of Southern Utah for 21 years. My wife and I have never regretted our decision to move here: what a great place to live! Ditto for my experience with The Independent.

Our experience with the good people of Southern Utah has matched that reported by our region's many visitors. We've found local folks to be cheerful, friendly, family-oriented and willing to help others. As our area continues to grow, we hope that the steady influx of new neighbors will continue this positive spirit.

Utah as a whole is a shining star. We have a booming economy despite the pandemic, a balanced state budget, the high-

est number of volunteer service hours per capita, low numbers of homeless people and the best economic mobility in the country. We are showing the nation how conservative governance, low taxes and limited government can benefit all of a state's citizens. Oh, and by the way we have a spectacular natural environment embodied in the state's numerous national and state parks. We're not perfect but what's not to like?

I am impressed with how well our Southwest Utah Public Health Department delivered COVID-19 vaccines to large numbers of our seniors. Arriving with scheduled appointments, lines moved right along with short wait times. COVID-19 caseloads and hospitalizations are dropping as citizens take the needed precautions and the number of those vaccinated grows. Good show! I hope we all enjoy the 4th of July without face masks or social distancing.

Some years back, I seem to recall printed versions of The Independent on stands at stores and restaurants, years when some of its columnists had a counterculture vibe. I was surprised when I was invited to write for The Independent and didn't expect to fit in since I style myself as a Reagan Republican with center-right views. Instead, I've found that The Independent has a balanced readership with thoughtful comments from those both farther left and farther right.

So here's to another 25 years for The Independent. Keep up the good work!

ALL NIGHT SESSIONS
By Kelly Patch

It has been a little more than 20 years since I last contributed to the Independent, but I still have a great fondness for the few years I worked there. I started writing album reviews (which I enjoyed), but I was not great at forming coherent opinions and transforming them into thoughtful words. I remember reading Adam Mast's movie reviews and wanting my thoughts to flow as freely as his did, and sound as legitimate as he did, but I never felt like I quite got there.

I then started working closely with Josh Warburton, Kevin Jones, Adam, and many other contributors working on ideas for upcoming issues, new features we could introduce, or going out and taking pictures for stories ready to run. I met many great people and got to see glimpses into their points of view and what inspired them to write so passionately about it. The different kinds of feature stories that ran were as diverse and wide-ranging as the landscape of the southwest area itself.

Josh Warburton, Kevin Jones, and I would pull all-night sessions on Mondays and Tuesdays editing submissions, laying out the final copy, and getting the issue to publication on time. Recently I spoke with Josh and we both still don't know why we chose to work the long hours that we did.

But those overnight sessions are some of my fondest memories from my tenure.

Mostly, this trip down recollection road has me thinking about the role a free publication devoted to the arts/cultural scene has on a community. I remember having the Independent as a resource was critical to finding out about new movies, music, live shows, galleries, etc. Getting the new issue every mid-week and knowing I could find some info on events to check out was a necessity for the upcoming weekend. Even now as I've traveled across the country, I've always looked for that same type of publication wherever I've landed. In today's digitized news world, I realize how hard it may be for companies to keep creating and curating this type of content, but I'm still very appreciative of it.

And having gone from being an avid reader to an employee contributing to its publication, I was pleasantly surprised to find out how much love and passion was put into the creation of each issue. Having grown older now and becoming a more-jaded bastard than previous, I can say it's very rare to find a staff that cares as much about what it produces as the Indy staff did back then, and still do to this day.

Happy 25 Indy!!

HAPPY 25TH ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENT!

By Lily Ofcarcik, Mom

A tiny, cramped office subleased from a friend, a borrowed computer, and a young four-man staff, with the drive to create a new publication. That is how I remember the Independent in the very early days in 1996. Fun, frantic, and fiercely energetic, they were launching a newspaper that would fill a giant void in St. George, focusing on music, art, entertainment and eventually, the great outdoor playground of Southern Utah.

The first name for the infant newspaper was The Revolution, later changed to The Independent. And the headline of that first edition "Bored Stupid," was not a surprising banner. At the time, there were no musical events for teens, no dances, just private parties and driving out to Gunlock Reservoir with friends and listening to taped tunes in their car, if they were fortunate enough to have some wheels.

Josh Warburton and his compadres feeling this lack of connection with the arts and music world, literally willed this publication into being with technical savvy, hard work, long hours, and an incredibly low budget. Each did his share of reporting, opining, selling advertising, laying out the ads and the pages, sending it monthly to press and then distributing stacks of newspapers to all their racks located throughout the county and beyond. Eventually, the founding members whittled down to two then one, and Josh, with a little help from friends and family, kept it going.

Over the years, the Independent grew and attracted more writers and readers. Its articles covered local theater productions, movie and music reviews, local politics, community events, restaurant recommendations, local business news, health and fitness items, and local outdoor recreation. It added a Calendar of Events, where it listed local musical performances, art showings and community gatherings, such as the Ironman challenge and St. George Marathon. When a new venue came to Southern Utah, The Indie highlighted its productions and helped to promote it. Many musicals plays and performances at Tuacahn Center for the Arts in Ivins have been spotlighted in full color in the Independent. Another venue the Indie

has encouraged the public to visit is the Center for the Arts at Kayenta, where audiences enjoy eclectic theater pieces, and talented musicians, as well as its beautiful art galleries and a yearly art fest. When the Electric Theater was renovated and started welcoming audiences again, the Indie was there, helping to promote live productions, film series and music classes.

Annual events such as DOCUTAH (the annual documentary film festival), the St. George Art Festival, and the monthly Downtown St. George first Friday Street Fest (March through December) have been staples of Independent reviewing and promoting for many years. Also, the theatrical and musical performances held at Dixie State University are always a part of the Indie's reporting.

More recently, The Independent has added coverage of broader areas in Southern Utah, treating readers to information on state and national parks, on popular Zion National Park hikes and beautiful town of Springdale news. In addition, readers can find reporting on events and great places to visit in the amazing red rock area of Kanab to the southeast, home of Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, and several yearly events.

Through the Covid-19 struggles, many venues were barred from holding concerts and plays, and restaurants closed. Advertising for these areas down, the publication took a big hit, yet it persevered. The Independent published articles about outdoor activities still possible in Southern Utah. The visitors at the parks increased noticeably. Now that the vaccine is starting to take hold, venues are opening again, and people want to go out and enjoy music, art and theater in person and The Indie will continue to showcase all these events.

Amid good times and hard times, through COVID and in good health, The Independent is still with us, and still free and found on steel racks displaying its logo all around Washington, Iron and Kane County. Also, readers can check out its great website at suindependent.com, updated daily.

Cheers to you, Independent. Thanks for all the memories. From my heart, Mama Lily



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THE INDEPENDENT & ZION GUIDE

Happy 25th Anniversary!

Congratulations to the entire Independent team!

As a small advertising agency, it is critical to develop strategic relationships with the media. My firm focuses on nonprofit organizations who rely on solid community-based editorial and affordable advertising that works.

I have worked with Josh Warburton for 15 years now. In that time our partnership has grown, and I present The Independent to my clients for their advertisement buys often. Why? Return on investment is wonderful! I can also trust them to keep my clients' best interest and budgets in mind.

Thank you for all you do!

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EDITORIAL

25-YEARS OF CHANGE IN SOUTHERN UTAH – WHERE WILL IT LEAD?

By Lisa Rutherford

Much has happened in Southern Utah since 1996 when the SUIndependent started. Given the rapid pace of growth, more change has occurred here than most places. I have only witnessed twenty of those years, but even the change I've seen is interesting and in many ways troubling.

In 2001 Washington County had a population of 91,000. Now we're tipping the scale at nearly 187,000, and the growth continues, although not as frantically as in the early 2000 decade. The 2060 population predication was 860,000 but now is down to around 500,000. The growth has resulted in many things: more shopping, restaurants, medical facilities, arts, bigger university, new airport, and lots and lots of traffic. At the same time housing costs have risen dramatically putting great pressure on many of our citizens whose wages have not kept pace. Although the average monthly wage doubled from 1996 to 2019—skewed by a few occupations at the top—the *average home price* in 2019 was five times the median salary. In 2002 the average asking price for a home was \$142,500 while the median home value now is \$340,074 and home prices rose by 5.0% *within a year*.

Many have moved here from California and other pricey places, bringing some of those areas' problems with them. They sell homes for a lofty price and often plop that money down on large homes driving up housing costs. During twenty years of growth, I've witnessed the homeless problem accelerate due to rents and house costs. Fortunately we have Switchpoint to help deal with that but keeping up is daunting. Our growth is not without problems and growth does not pay for itself.

The size and the beauty of the area brought my husband and me here in 2001 but also brought many others. People subsequently told friends what a great place this is so some moved here, too. Those who didn't move have been inspired to visit and enjoy our wonderful public lands – lands that officials often grumble about.

In 2013 the State of Utah began a big push to promote Southern Utah. Boy did it work. People are now coming out of the woodwork and not always for the good. Of course businesses see dollar signs

as do advertisers, but the pressure on areas particularly Zion National Park has been overwhelming, relentless, and often damaging with some disrespectful visitors leaving graffiti, trash, and unmentionables. Zion's highest visitation month in 1996 saw 372,426 with total visitation at 2,498,001. 2020's highest month was 559,342 with total visitation at 3,591,254. The highest yearly total recently was 2017 at 4,504,812. So annual visitation to Zion has increased one to two million in recent years since 1996 putting incredible stress on the park, towns and roads.

Fourteen of my twenty years in this area have been spent working to protect what's truly special here. As a member of *Conserve Southwest Utah's* board and now as advisor I've fought against the proposed Lake Powell Pipeline because it would exacerbate growth that is coming and waste tax dollars while seeking Colorado River water that diminishes yearly. I've fought to protect Red Cliffs Desert National Conservation Area/Reserve, established to protect not only the threatened Mojave desert tortoise but provide an area of respite for humans. Growth pressure has officials fighting to force a highway through the heart of Red Cliffs, a project that would diminish the area and its benefits for all.

Gifford Pinchot – American forester and politician – stated, “Unless we practice conservation, those who come after us will have to pay the price of misery, degradation, and failure for the progress and prosperity of our day.” Although his focus was on forests, his vision can be applied to any area where forces bent on monetizing the area are at work. That certainly applies to Utah in general and our area specifically. To officials it seems easier to run a highway through an open area rather than opting for other already-developed areas they don't want to disturb. But what price will future residents pay for bad decisions now that diminish these special areas?

To quote *Aldo Leopold*, whose life's focus was nature and wildlife preservation, “We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.”

What is Southern Utah's future? Growth will bring new citizens who perhaps will see our public lands as a mere commodity to be squandered for dollars or to be misused in other ways. For those who have true vision, these are lands worthy of our respect and preservation for those who follow.

Given what's happened so far, I am not that optimistic, but as we enter the next twenty-five years for this publication I will stay focused on conserving this incredible area and hope you will, too. Scientists don't know whether life exists on other planets or if human existence elsewhere is even possible. We should take care of our corner of what may be our only option.

THICK AS THIEVES

By Kevin Jones

I have to say I was very delighted to get Josh's call. True, we had not talked in years and it was a little awkward at first, but once he had reminded me who he was and how we know each other, boom - we were off to the races, thick as thieves and rambling through the old stories like it was yesterday.

We spoke of what I might write about and quickly agreed that it should be a sprawling, laugh-filled retrospective glimpse of the good old days. Yesiree. The late nights pecking away at the old Underwood, my fedora cocked at a rakish angle, cigarette ridin' the corner of my lip as I spoke truth to power, with cheap Bourbon on my breath. (Just kidding. I didn't really speak truth to power). What else? Maybe sprinkle in a dash of wistful nostalgia and maybe a few clever allusions as to how much times have changed. No problem Josh, I'll lash that together and send it right along. I have to say it was all going along swimmingly until I began to notice that I'm not really all that funny anymore. It's not like riding a bike at all. “Come on man, you're just a little rusty,” I told myself, it's bound to take a minute to get that mojo flowing. Sadly, as you're about to discover - I can't seem to remember how to go about it. Oh well. At first, I figure it's gotta be Trump's fault. Right? I mean everything else is his fault. But why me? I didn't quake with fevered, hysterical hatred at the very thought of the man? I just ignored him, like I do all politicians (read, self-serving liars). Crap. So... what? Am I just out of practice? I mean humor has become somewhat obsolete, right? People want to be offended; they don't want to laugh. It's much more fun to be miserable, serious and grave - to narc people off and ruin their lives. (Insert Beavis laughing) Because, by God, everything is bad now. Really bad - all of it. Every bit of it sucks ass. We live in a sinister nation, populated by all kind of creepy, evil, stupid, rotten, fascist bastards. That's nothing to laugh about. Suburbs overrun with domestic terrorists - bigotted, gun-worshipping cretins - poised to murder AOC no matter what building she's in. I blame social media too. We all live on social media and if I've learned one thing from all that wasted time, it's that biting your tongue is always the best policy. People are just waiting for you to say one thing that makes sense so they can pounce on you like jackals. Why stick your neck out? There are two very distinct and opposite versions of the truth to choose from. So, f@ck it, I just play along. If you're Republican, I'm Republican. If you want to blather on about your Woke nonsense, I'll blather right along with you. Woke is me. It's not worth the grief to exercise that most cherished of all rights “free speech.” I think what a lot of folks don't understand is that

speech has never been free. Ever. Anyone who thinks speech is free, has obviously never called their wife a bitch. Very costly, speech - not free at all. So rather than suffer all the negative consequences of honestly expressing my opinions, I've become what social scientists refer to as a wussy.

Screw it, I don't make the rules. Those creepy Big Brother-y types - Zuckerberg and Dorsey make the rules. Nothing funny about those two. Aside from the fact that Zuck has the blank, soulless eyes of a sock-puppet monkey and Dorsey is obviously the victim of some sort of hypnosis experiment gone horribly awry. I've never seen him when he didn't look stunned - like he just woke up to loud voices in his head telling him to eat a turd.

So, I guess the trick to getting along in this Brave New World is to learn to accept the fact that you're a low-life, racist, bigoted, fascist, sexist scumbag. It's not so hard. When you think about it, it's really not that much different than telling your wife that the pants she's wearing make her look skinny. We all live a lie, and, as I've said many times in the past, “the truth sucks.” Nobody wants to hear that crap. Oh and just in case you think you're 'not' a low-life, racist, bigoted, fascist, sexist scumbag, you are. Just the fact that you think you aren't, is ample evidence that you are. No sense putting up a fuss and getting doxed or called-out or cancelled. (And no, I have no idea what “doxed” means.)

I once wrote an article in this very publication entitled “The Truth Sucks.” This was years and years before every single solitary thing in the world had been politicized. In the article I examined the slippery nature of truth. I explored such concepts as the “general” truth versus the “exact” truth. You may recall the general truth is the sort of truth that it's best to tell your parents. No parent wants to hear the “exact” truth. So, for example a report on a trip to Cabo would go something like: “Boy did we have a swell time. So much fun. Almost landed a swordfish, had him right up to the boat.” As opposed to: “Nearly got stabbed by a one-armed stripper in what turned out to be some kind of whorehouse.”

Funny stuff. Anyway, I suppose I'll end on that lovely note. Thanks to everyone who used to read my crap and especially Josh who offered me the opportunity. The time I spent as Editor of the Indy was some of the best years of my life. I made so many great friends, particularly Adam Mast who has become a legend and has always been a mensch. I'd list everyone if I hadn't already run on so long. You know who you are, and you know I love you. (If you're interested in what I'm doing now, please visit lazysuzanmusic.com)

12 AMAZING YEARS

By Kyle England

Wow! 25 years!! It's quite the accomplishment that publisher Josh Warburton has pulled off to keep this paper running all these years and must surely be commended. It was only in its second year of publication that I picked up my very first Independent issue my freshman year at Dixie College (now Dixie State University).

I was a bright eyed and bushy tailed 18-year-old kid new to St. George and fresh off a one-year stint working in a record store in my hometown of Taylorsville, Utah. There were two things that struck me right off the first issue I read. One, movie critic Adam Mast knew his stuff and you could tell just how passionate and deeply his love of movies ran through every word he jotted down in his reviews. And two, music critic Kelly Patch had a wide ranging knowledge of music and through his reviews I was able to become educated in a lot of artists and albums I would have never heard of at the time if not for him. I thought to myself... how cool would it possibly be to one day meet these guys and express to them how much their writing impressed me?

Only a few months later I was lucky enough to meet them both at the now defunct Tom Tom Music record store (remember that cool place?!?). I became fast friends with both Adam and Kelly almost seemingly overnight and we spent the next year plus hanging out and going to advance screenings of movies down in Mesquite, going to concerts down in Las Vegas (Pearl Jam at the MGM Grand is

still one of my all-time favorite memoirs) and even catching screenings up in Park City for Sundance a few consecutive years.

After I moved back to the Salt Lake City area to continue work on my undergrad, Adam, Kelly and myself regularly kept in touch. It was finally around March of 2002 that Adam brought to my attention that Independent publisher Josh Warburton might be looking for new music critics. I threw my proverbial hat in the ring immediately to be considered for the critic gig, even with virtually no writing experience, but Josh must have seen something in me that I hadn't even seen in myself and he gave me a trial run. My very first review was for Wilco's album *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot*, pretty awesome stuff that my first ever album review would also turn out to be my favorite album of that decade.

It was a wonderful way to start my 12-year run as an Independent album critic. Those 12 years saw me through graduating college, getting married, getting AND beating cancer and the birth of my first daughter. Writing for *The Independent* was a very special period in my life that I look back on fondly and frequently, not only because it gave me a way to express my voice and my own personal passion for music, but also the life long friendships it forged along the way and I'll be forever grateful to Josh Warburton and *The Independent* for giving me the opportunity of a lifetime.

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MOVIES

THE INDEPENDENT MOVIE REVIEWS & RETROSPECTIVE
By Adam Mast

The year was 1996. Much simpler and less contentious times to say the least. A time when, among other things, CD stores were still a thing. Here in St. George, UT I was happily working for Tom Tom, a local music hotspot and a refreshingly intimate alternative to the likes of big corporate names like Sam Goody.

I was stocking shelves one day--If memory serves, I was unloading copies of The Fugees, 2 Pac, Sepultura, Shakira, Fun Lovin'

Criminals, Bad Religion, 16 Horsepower, and Nick Cave-- as this young thin guy with beautiful flowing blond locks approaches me and engages in a passionate conversation about the arts. He informs me that he's just started publishing a local arts and leisure newspaper called The Revolution. Based on our high-energy conversation, as well as things he's heard about me from around town, he's well aware of my unadulterated love for film and tells me that he'd really like a movie critic on board for his publication.

As it happens, I had a little bit of experience writing reviews for a community college paper in California several years earlier. By no means was I an accomplished writer--I still don't fancy myself an accomplished writer--But I was naive enough to believe that I had barely enough skill to get by. Therefore, I agreed to contribute as I firmly believed this would provide a justifiable excuse to continue watching an obscene amount of movies. As for those early articles, so unassured was I that I went under the pseudonym, Alan Smithee; An inside joke that probably wasn't as funny or as clever as I thought it was at the time.

As for that young guy with beautiful flowing blond locks? That was, of course, local musician, dreamer, and entrepreneur Josh Warburton and through the aid of a tight-knit and dedicated crew, he was able to build this appealing little newspaper from scratch. A handful of issues in, The Revolution would undergo a name change. Thus, The Independent was born and the rest, as they say in the biz, is history!

It's been an epic ride and if I'm being completely honest, I can't believe it's been 25 years! Nearly half my lifetime and in that time, I've written well over 1000 film reviews. Putting it all into perspective, I've been writing for The Independent longer than my lovely wife Tonja and I have had kids.

Again, I've never really considered myself the best of writers, but I've certainly grown over the last 25 years. It should also be noted that I've never really even been particularly comfortable with the title "film critic." I've always considered myself more of a fan who writes about the experience of watching movies. Whatever your opinion on that particular subject, you know the age-old saying; "Everyone is a critic!"

So many monumental events have transpired during my many years writing for this paper. Some personal (the intense premature birth of my resilient daughter McKenzie, the passing of my mother, watching my 4 amazing children grow up, etc.), some professional (managing a music store, Zboneman.com, Cinemast.net, The Guerilla Filmmaking Challenge, The Film and Media Alliance of Southern Utah, etc.), some profoundly impactful on an indescribable level (the birth of the blessing and the curse that is social media, 911, a pandemic, etc.) This is to say nothing of all the amazing opportunities the paper has afforded me as well as all the incredible friendships I've forged. Far too many important individuals in my life to name in this article so for fear that someone will get left out, I'm not even going to attempt to do so. The point being, it's almost as if The Independent has always been there as I've been on this insane, exhilarating, and often unpredictable journey called life.

As for The Independent itself, even in a climate where print is often considered dead, this free publication can still be found on Southern Utah-based newspaper stands everywhere to this very day. True, its online presence is substantially more prevalent but it's still pretty darn cool to hold a print edition--now a monthly--in the palm of your hand. That texture, that smell...Nothing beats it.

In terms of content, no matter your thoughts on the many variations and transformations The Independent has gone through throughout the years, props are certainly in order to Warburton and crew for dreaming big and providing an alternative voice in the community. It's fitting that The Independent was initially known as The Revolution because in its own way, its very existence began as a miniature revolution

of sorts.

A very Happy 25th Anniversary to The Independent! Additionally, to all of those who have been behind-the-scenes making this thing go, I say thanks for the memories and thanks for giving me a place to grow. Further still, thanks for inspiring others and for giving writers out there an opportunity to share their voices. Perhaps most importantly, though, thanks to all the readers out there for taking the time to listen to our voices even if, at times, our varying opinions might have differed from your own. Certainly, the paper would not have lasted as long as it has without your continued readership.

On a final note, I would like to take a stroll down memory lane and present a little rerun of the very first review I ever wrote for this publication. As always, thanks for reading.

FARGO

Originally published in the May, 1996 issue of The Revolution/The Independent. No alterations have been made.

There are two kinds of people in this world, those who love the Coen brothers and those who hate the Coen brothers. As a frequent movie goer and a total movie buff, all I can say is this, The Coen brothers are wickedly original film-makers in (90% of the time) an unoriginal industry.

For about a decade now, Joel and Ethan Coen have dazzled us with their unique style and bizarre sense of humor. It started with a dark comedy called Blood Simple. This was one of the best of its year and a critical success but it didn't seem to connect with a mass audience. It wasn't until Raising Arizona that the Coens became a household name. The film, starring Oscar winners Holly Hunter and Nicolas Cage, won rave reviews and achieved cult success. My fellow film buffs may want to burn me at the stake for this, but I was never terribly partial to the film although I thought the cinematography was breathtaking.

In the next few years to come, the Coens continued to make films that stimulated our minds as well as our eyes. These little gems include Hudsucker Proxy, Miller's Crossing, and my personal favorite, Barton Fink. This brings us to Fargo. Let me start by saying, Barton Fink is now number two on my list.

Fargo is one of those rare films that has you constantly saying, "What the hell is THIS?" I get the purest pleasure from movies that aren't the same old thing. It's funny, it's violent, it's darker than hell and most importantly, it's fresh and unpredictable. The film is beautifully acted out by everyone involved including William H. Macy and everyone's favorite independent film actor, Steve Buscemi. The film, however, belongs to Frances McDormand who gave a beautiful, comic performance. Another major character in Fargo is the South Dakota background. It plays an important role in the story. From frame one, when we're introduced to the vast snow filled landscape, I couldn't wait to see the blood spill, and spill it did.

Most movie reviews give a brief summary of the plot, but I'm not going to do that. I'm just going to encourage you to see this movie before it's gone. It's a miracle that it's even playing here. Sit back and enjoy the ride in all its quirky glory.

I recently read an interesting interview with the Coen brothers. They claim that when they make a movie they do so without really trying. It's all natural talent. To them, these are just home movies they make to fulfill their life long passion. Imagine what kind of damage these guys could do if they put forth the effort.

Fargo is rated "R" for violence, language and nudity. On the Smithee scale, Fargo gets a 5!!!

- Smithee Scale
- 1 - Navy Seals 2 bad
 - 2 - Bordering On Dog Crap
 - 3 - Semi-Chubber
 - 4 - Lit My Nipples On Fire
 - 5 - Multiple Orgasms



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OUTDOORS

EAST REEF TRAIL IN RED CLIFFS DESERT RESERVE

Trail: East Reef

Location: Red Cliffs Desert Reserve near Leeds

Difficulty: Easy with some up and down sections

Average Hiking Time: Less than two hours at a leisurely pace for the 2.5 mile loop hike.

Family Friendly: Yes

Getting There: Heading north on Interstate 15 take Exit 22 near Leeds onto Old Highway 91. Turn left and continue north approximately 2.2 miles through the town of Leeds. (In Leeds, the highway is renamed Main Street.) Next turn right (south) onto signed 900 North/Babylon Road just past the sign for the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area. Babylon Road (the primary access to seven trailheads and 13 designated trails) begins as asphalt and becomes a dirt road at .6 miles in. Stay on the main road and at four miles from the turnoff you reach the unsigned East Reef Trail trailhead and small parking area, good for three vehicles on the right (west) side of the road. A few feet beyond the trailhead is a large red sign reading, "All motorized vehicles must stay on designated roads." The trailhead is also .3 miles past the well-marked Historic Babylon trailhead. I strongly recommend a high clearance vehicle.

East Reef. We, my wife Deb and I, began our adventure on a Thursday morning in late February.



The Red Cliffs Desert Reserve was established in 1996 to protect a large and diverse habitat capable of sustaining wildlife populations threatened by development and habitat loss. It comprises 62,000 acres and has more than 130 miles of shared use trails for hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. Three ecosystems—the Mojave Desert, the Great Basin Desert, and the Colorado Plateau—merge in southwestern Utah and the Reserve reflects the biological diversity of this unique region. The Red Cliffs Desert Reserve Habitat Conservation Plan is administered by Washington County in coordination with the Bureau of Land Management, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Utah Department of Natural Resources, and the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration. Remember, the reserve is a sensitive area, stay on the trails and minimize your impact—walk as if you are kissing the earth with your feet.



Marked by a short wooden fence and stepover, the trailhead elevation is 2,810 feet with a 120 feet elevation change from the trailhead to the highest point. There are some not-too-steep up and down sections.

The temperature was in the low 40s at about 9 am as we began our hike under an awesome blue Utah sky. Unfortunately for us, a cold gale force wind accompanied us for the entire hike—brrrrrrr. It never got warmer.

Be advised that the trail is marked by four widely spaced, almost unreadable trail signs. And there are several user trails that while not the official trail, do eventually get back to the main trail.

We began heading southwest on the eastern side of the reef (ridge) along the left

side (south) of a gully. Within ¼ mile the trail became steep for a while and then down a bit to the southwestern tip of the reef. This vantage point afforded great views of the Virgin River.

At about ¾ miles along we descended the western side into a valley formed by two ridges and followed a dry streambed for about ¼ mile. The trail then jogs slightly to the right (east) and is closer to the bottom of East Reef. Less than 1 ½ miles along the trail, we came across two very large free standing boulders, one of which has some nice petroglyphs.

This section of trail also features a large mound, or small hill, with wide grey and reddish bands. Fairly odd in this area of mostly brownish and reddish ridges.

Then it was up an incline where we took some photos back toward the valley we traversed and soon our trail merged with Historic Babylon Trail. It quickly turned south to confront East Reef. On Historic Babylon Trail we crossed the ridge by walking through a large gap filled with boulders and almost vertical walls.

Through the ridge we were now at

the Historic Babylon trailhead and headed southwest down Babylon Road .3 mile to complete the loop hike back at the East Reef trailhead.

This is an easy hike with some not too steep up and down sections. The views are good as were the petroglyphs. As with most of our hikes, we did not encounter other people. The entire hike was about 2 ½ miles and took less than two hours.

Tom Garrison has been an avid hiker for more than 30 years. He is the author of seven books, the most recent hiking book being "Hiking Southwest Utah and Adjacent Areas, Volume Three."



All hikes are good. Some have one or two attractions, others more. This hike, East Reef Trail in the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve, is one of the multi-attraction hikes. First, although only a few miles from civilization, it feels like, and is, wilderness. A place of solitude, we encountered no other people on our trek. Upon hiking to the top of East Reef/ridge are great views of the Virgin River. Past inhabitants of the area also left their mark—petroglyphs on the western side of

Stem Cell Therapy

Stem Cell injection treatments have become very popular, and expensive. The FDA however, has issued warnings due to invalid stem cell treatments that have resulted in several health problems. The only established method since 2016 is hemotopoietic transplantation, either from bone marrow or umbilical cord blood. Taking in another person's stem cells can be problematic for the recipient. Injections also require future injections, so the body's own stem cell production is reduced.

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Before After



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OPINION

SCORE ONE FOR ROMNEY

By Howard Sierer

Utah's Sen. Mitt Romney, representing one of the nation's most conservative states, proposes to send monthly checks to every family with children in the country. And his plan is applauded by Republicans as well as Democrats. How can that be?

The two principal existing federal support programs for families with children have a common shortcoming: they are based on income tax returns. The Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit provide qualifying families a lump sum payment from the IRS in the winter/spring of the year.

This process presents hurdles to recipients, especially to those with the lowest incomes. The current programs require recipients to file a return and importantly, to properly request the credits. About 22 percent of those eligible for the Child Tax Credit don't file for it.

Further, the lump sum payment doesn't match the monthly expenses of raising children. Expecting parents to budget only a twelfth of their annual payment each month over the coming year would be a challenge for most of us.

Romney's proposed Family Security Act would modify both the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit, replacing them with a monthly check.

Gladden Pappin of the conservative New York Post says Romney's plan "has the simplicity all too often missing from efforts of the kind. Instead of a complicated tax credit, most of the benefit will be administered by the Social Security Administration with a direct monthly payment."

The conservative Niskanen Center estimates that poverty would fall by nearly 14 percent (5.1 million people) across the board and by one-third for children.

Welfare programs in the past have discouraged work: benefits could disappear if a beneficiary found a job because every dollar earned reduced welfare benefits. The Romney subsidy phases out only at higher incomes, removing the disincentive for low-income parents to find jobs.

For Republicans, Romney's plan has another plus. It can give them a chance to move on from focusing on former President Trump, an increasingly divisive debate and one sure to annoy the swing voters needed to win elections.

Congressional Democrats find themselves behind the curve, given the wide bipartisan interest in Romney's plan. They're discussing half-measures like expanding the current EITC and making monthly payments instead of a yearly lump sum. Their proposal

still leaves out those whose tax returns fail to take advantage of today's credits.

Romney's plan would raise annual CTC and EITC expenditures by \$66 billion to a total of \$254 billion but by replacing several other existing programs for families with children, about \$41 billion per year would be saved. To make his proposal revenue-neutral, Romney proposes to eliminate the state and local tax (SALT) deduction, raising federal revenues by about \$25 billion annually. And there's the rub.

About 87 percent of all federal income taxpayers use the standard deduction. Most of the remaining 13 percent who itemize deductions have high incomes and large deductions for state and local taxes (SALT), mortgage interest and retirement account contributions.

High-income taxpayers in high-tax, blue states like New York, California and Illinois, benefit the most from the SALT deduction, in effect subsidizing blue state profligate spending. Recognizing this reward to high-tax states, Republicans limited SALT deductions to \$10,000 in their 2017 tax reform legislation.

President Biden and Democrats make much of "taxing the rich," but they object strenuously to this limit. Restoring an unlimited deduction would save these high-income taxpayers \$76 billion, increasing the federal deficit and shifting more of the federal tax burden to taxpayers in low-tax states like Utah.

In my book, anyone paying more than \$10,000 in state and local taxes is "rich." I pointed out Democratic hypocrisy on this issue in a previous column.

The Democrats' beloved SALT deduction is the most regressive provision in the tax code. Romney's proposal to eliminate it entirely makes his proposal highly progressive, a virtue Democrats preach in public but fail to practice in this case.

For Republicans, Romney's proposal has the political virtue of highlighting Democratic SALT hypocrisy. Republicans will do their best to make this an issue but expect the liberal media to bury the story to the maximum extent possible.

Democrats naturally want to avoid attaching Romney's name to any legislation that does move forward. Their alternative will be described as a Democratic proposal. To this, the old adage applies that there is an immense amount of good we can do if we don't care who gets the credit.

At a minimum, Romney's proposal is a test of Biden's claim that he would embrace bipartisanship. Expanding support for families with children looks like a winner for both parties and Biden would be able to take a lot of the credit. If he fails even to meet with Romney to discuss the idea, we can rest assured that his claim to want to work with Republicans was all cheap talk.

For Republicans, this might be a way to move forward on a social policy issue that moves beyond the party's lingering Trump issues. Let's hope so.

LIGHTING ISSUE BIG DEAL IN UTAH

By Lisa Rutherford

Whether it is at the local or state level, lighting is a big deal. For three months, Ivins City where I live has been struggling with revamping a lighting ordinance. Many concerns have been expressed: lighting location and brightness, vegetation lighting, holiday lighting (which holidays and for how long), lighting for safety (so that people do not get run down in crosswalks by cars or attacked by perpetrators), and perhaps primary in the minds of many "freedom to do as I please on my property." People concerned about peeping Toms are speaking out too; an easier solution such as drawing blinds comes to mind for me, but I digress! The point is that many aspects of this issue are being raised and discussed. On the other side are those concerned with the beauty of our area and the night sky while not having the light of others affect their own property and views.

Many people moved to Ivins specifically to view the night sky and enjoy the darkness which also promotes good sleep. Given the lack of sleep on the part of many citizens that has been reported frequently, this is also an important safety issue.

In any case, it has been a challenging effort, and I give the Ivins Planning Commission members credit for being willing to deal with it. There are passions on both sides. I mean, people want to light their trees and shrubs. It is a little crazy. I understand the desire to do what a person wants on their own property, but when that affects neighbors as does fugitive light from excessive lighting, then some consideration to one's neighbors is necessary.

While this local effort has been underway, SB 61 "Outdoor Advertising Amendments" and sister bill SB 144 "Billboard Restrictions Amendments" have garnered much attention during the legislative session. Both bills take away discretion from local communities for setting standards for digital signs, signs that seem to already proliferate and some promoters want more - particularly the billboard lobby that's strong in Utah.

It seems to me that already our state is awash in billboards - billboards that cause distraction for drivers, destroy landscape views that have made Utah famous, and wash out our precious night sky views in fast-growing areas such as St. George and Washington City. As is the usual case, both bills are long, detailed and basically inscrutable to the average citizen and perhaps even many legislators which is why, given the volume of bills run annually (over 1000!), many legislators don't read the bills but rather rely on proponents and those they think know more than they to advise them. Given that caveat, both bills seem to encourage the use of these signs rather than restricting which would be the more reasonable thing to do given the light pollution we are already dealing with and which will only get worse with growth. There is a strong lobby in Utah that is working to push this through, a lobby that gives generously to legislators and \$40,000 to Governor Cox in the last go round. These bills undermine local decision making and costs taxpayers. SB144 prohibits a municipality, when conveying municipal property, from restricting the purchaser's ability to place a billboard on the property. If a billboard owner successfully sues for injury because a municipality has worked with a property owner or restricted placement of a billboard in a property conveyance, SB 144 requires the municipality to pay the greater of actual damages or \$350,000, whichever is greater, and attorney fees.

Cities such as Ivins should be able to set their own standards when it comes to

lighting and not face punitive and expensive treatment. It appears that this bill would significantly impact private property owners who want to negotiate with municipalities on billboard placement and locally elected officials' ability to balance the rights of billboard owners with community impacts.

Both SB144 and SB61 take away local control when it comes to lighting - lighting that is causing light pollution, interrupting sleep, affecting animals and plants and needs to have more control not less as this state grows. Many of our areas pride themselves on the night sky views which draw visitors but which will be diminished if we continue down this path.

I listened to committee hearings on both bills. SB61's sponsor argued that it's about "equality" in the advertising space and that cities are allowing businesses to have on-premises digital boards but not allowing off-premises digital boards thereby holding the industry back. It would not affect new boards, only existing that could be upgraded to digital, although some committee members thought that was not clear in the bill. By far most of the public comments were against the bills with only company representatives and two former legislators speaking in favor. One former legislator pointed to the "social" benefit of digital signs that advertise affordable housing, suicide prevention, Amber Alerts, and more, but there are many other ways to get that information communicated. One committee senator not in favor of SB61 mentioned the "pay to play" aspect of the legislation and was nicely but soundly rebuked by the committee chair, who was apparently sensitive about the issue.

I heard billboard company representatives asserting this would limit their companies from growing "organically." Hard to imagine how that would happen. These companies can lobby freely with their money showing they are not hurting financially. Just because existing non-digital billboards are limited from becoming digital does not mean the death knell for the industry. There are other ways to advertise than lighting up our beautiful state with digital billboards. They are not only offensive because of their enormous amount of light but because they are distracting to drivers, and I think we can all agree that drivers have enough distractions already. Companies say new technology can limit the amount of light, but I certainly have not seen the benefits of that technology anywhere in the St. George area.

Comments against the bills were not just from individual citizens and non-profits working to protect the beauty of Utah such as the National Parks Conservation Association. The Utah League of Cities and Towns, Utah Transit Authority, Utah Association of Counties, UDOT, Layton City Council, and Salt Lake County all had representatives speaking against the bills.

Both bills were passed out of committee but not without concerns on the part of senators who expected further work to be done on the bills before they would vote to pass once the bills reach the Senate floor. SB144 has been voted down by the Senate. Perhaps we will get that lucky with SB61, too, which is currently circled.

The University of Utah's Department of Physics and Astronomy has created a video about light pollution that I encourage all citizens to watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxLZacW_ric.

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ALBUM REVIEWS

THE INDEPENDENT ALBUM REVIEW

By Oscar Parks

White-Tiger - Durrantula VISUAL ART WITH A BEAT

Most people don't think of music as a visual art. For most listeners, music is a way to escape the realities that are in front of us. Music makes the day go by faster, makes work less boring, heartache less painful, and otherwise mundane experiences exciting. And, like a fine wine, music needs to be matched with the reality we want to consume. Red wine with steak, white wine with fish, and a nice burgundy with lamb. The same is usually applied to music. I mean, you're not going to hear disco at a funeral, an orchestra at a club, or heavy metal at a bar mitzva. On the other hand, country music is like beer, it goes well with just about anything, even if it's not your favorite. Then there's bourbon, you sip it slow, you never guzzle, and unless you just want to get stone faced drunk at a party, you find a quiet place to unwind and you let it slowly make you numb and wash away all your cares...



That's how I felt as I listened to White-Tiger by Durrantula. It's music that is best sipped slowly in a quiet room with the lights a little dim and nothing but your thoughts, and the music, carrying you to new and exotic places you have never experienced before. Visual art with a beat.

I'm a child of the 60's, and while my parents were not hippies or acid heads, I was. I loved to explore everything, and my imagination was the train that drove me to explore farther and deeper. White-Tiger took me back to that time when fairies danced in my head and music moved me to see things born of mysticism and magic. An eclectic entanglement of colors and unexpected detours that seemed to flow together in a way that brought clarity from chaos. Something you might find in a movie soundtrack.

By far, my most favorite track on the album is Message From The Grave, track #4. It's both unexpected and captivating when compared to the three previous tracks.

Then there's Sleep-Runner, track #6. It reminds me of Pink Floyd's Dark Side of the Moon. It's a heart pumping, mind thumping, hypnotic trance inducing jam that could go on for hours without irritating your senses.

Then, at the end of the day when you're ready to slip in under the sheets to drift away into a deep slumber, you'll want to que up track #7. Sleep tight and don't let the 'Bed-bugs' bite...

Overall, White-Tiger is an eclectic collection of sound and visual stimulation that will certainly bring you back over and over.

White-Tiger was Release on KAVE Records, a local record company. Available streaming on iTunes, Spotify, Pandora, yesouisimusic.com and at durrantula.bandcamp.com. It's also for sale at "name your price." Reverbnation as well. Be well and enjoy!

THE INDEPENDENT ALBUM REVIEW

By Rob Jones

The Dead Daisies - Holy Ground

The concept of a supergroup is a great idea when you think about it, great musicians from several bands working on an album together, but more often than not, it yields either disastrous or underwhelming results.

The Dead Daisies do this concept justice, though they prefer to call themselves a musical collective rather than a supergroup, which makes sense given their revolving line up which has included a long list of members of well-known and legendary rock bands. When you consider this, it is frankly astounding that this band is not better known.

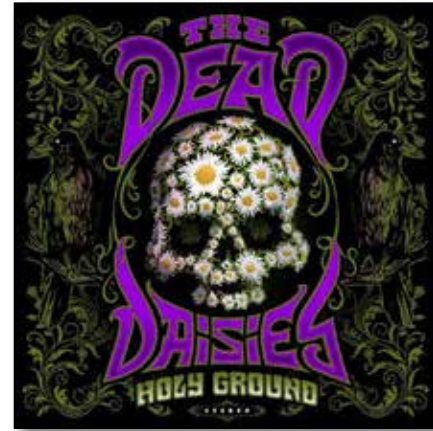
Holy Ground marks the debut of new frontman/bassist Glenn Hughes, (ex-Deep Purple, Black Sabbath, and current Black Country Communion) who replaces both ex front-man John Corabi, (ex-Motley Crue, The Scream, Union, & Ratt), and bassist Marco Mendoza.

Glenn makes a powerful impact on this album, raising an already great band to the next level with soulful and powerful vocals, grooving bass, and all-out rock n roll swagger. His presence on this album not only elevates this album but defines it, proving why he is among the greatest singers in the history of rock n roll. The guitar playing from band founder David Lowy and Doug

Aldrich, (ex-Whitesnake), is incredible and their chemistry is undeniable, everything you could want in great rock guitar playing is on this album in spades, bluesy and heavy riffs, grooving guitar playing that gets you moving, and guitar solos that will set your soul on fire.

The drumming from Deen Castronovo, (ex-Journey), is exceptional providing the necessary thunder that serves the musical wizardry on this album well, Deen even handles lead vocals on an exceptional cover of "30 days in the hole" from Humble Pie.

There is honestly not a single weak track on this album and it sets the bar extremely high for music in 2021, despite what they tell you, rock n roll is far from dead and the Dead Daisies are one of many bands not only carrying the torch, but revitalizing it for the future.



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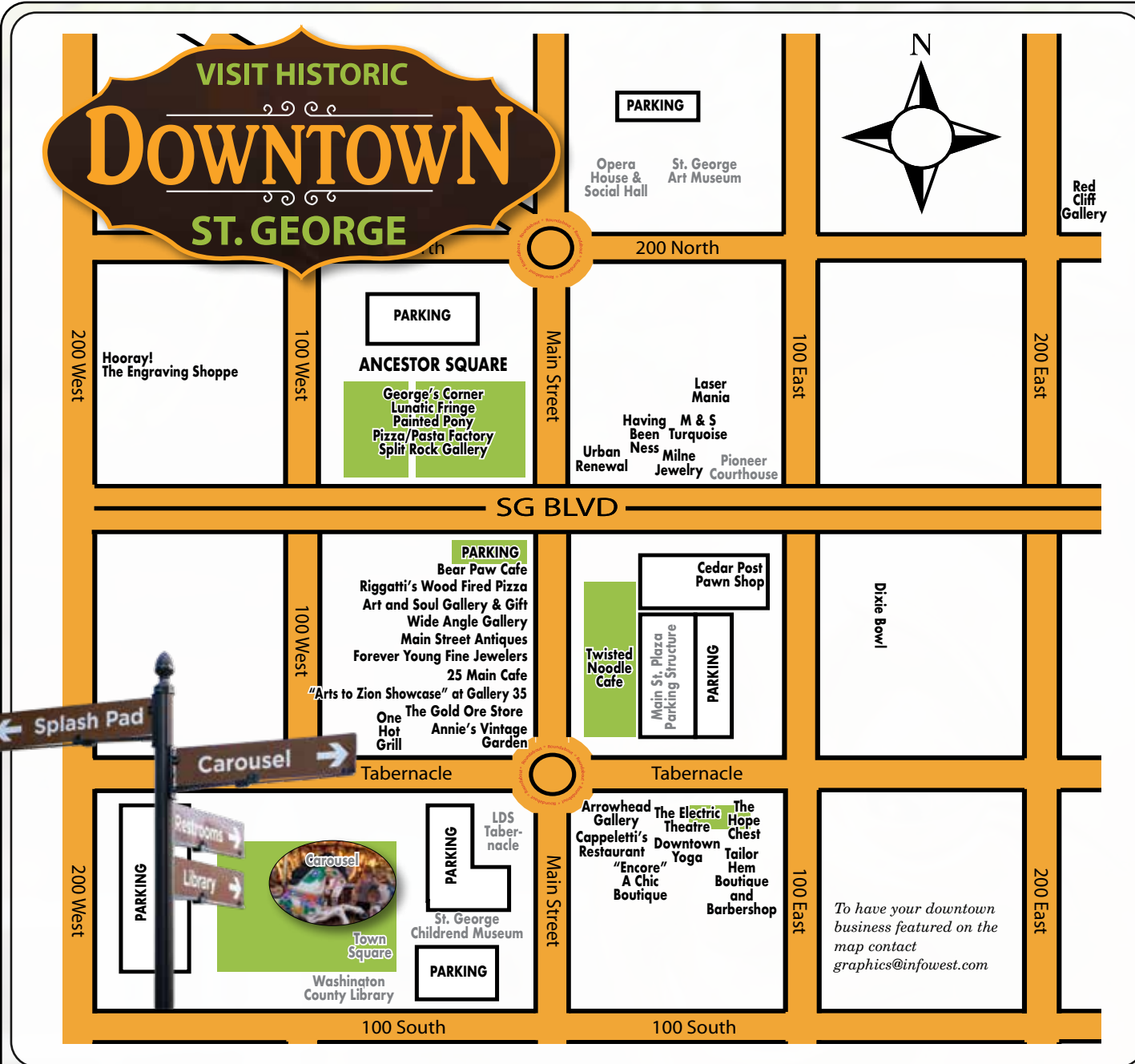
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Springdale Utah Town Map

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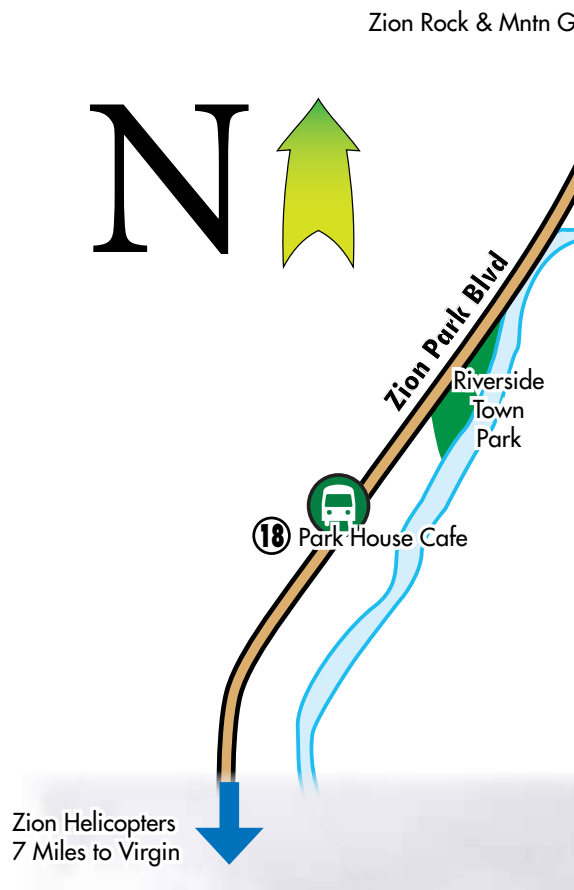
Ice Cream Chocolates Candy

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P Paid parking lots can be found on Lion Blvd, behind Whiptail Grill Restaurant at 445 Zion Park Blvd, and a number of other locations throughout Springdale.

Other spots of note in Springdale include the library (located on Lion Boulevard, next to Town Hall), tennis/pickleball courts (also on Lion Blvd), and the Virgin River, which has numerous loctions of access, but Riverside Park is one of the best.



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GUIDE TO UTAH'S LIQUOR LAWS

If you order an alcoholic drink at the restaurant bar, don't be surprised when the bartender asks you to order some food with your drink. In Utah, restaurants may only serve alcoholic beverages with food. Customers don't have to order food each time they buy another drink. The beer sold in grocery stores and gas stations, and tap beer is a bit weaker in Utah, limited to 3.2% alcohol content by weight (4.0% by volume), about 0.5% less than a typical American domestic beer. You can buy full-strength beer, along with liquor and wine, in a state-operated liquor store. Please remember to tip your servers and drink responsibly! The Utah State Liquor Store in Springdale is located inside the Switchback.

SPRINGDALE'S FEATURED RESTAURANTS FROM ZION GUIDE

Restaurant <i>(Listed by address from ZNP Entrance)</i>	Address	Phone	Drinks/Vegan <i>(W)ine, (B)eer, (M)ixed Drinks (E)spresso, (V)egan items on menu</i>	Hours	WI-FI
Red Rock Grill	1 Zion Lodge	435-772-7760	W, B, M, E, V	6:30-10:30am, 11:30am-3pm, 5-10pm daily	Yes
Zion Canyon Brew Pub	95 Zion Park Blvd	435-772-0336	W, B, V	Noon-10pm daily	Yes
Happy Camper Market	95 Zion Park Blvd	435-772-7805	B, V	8am-8pm daily	Yes
Thai Sapa	145 Zion Park Blvd	435-772-0510	W, B, E, V	11:30am-9:30pm daily	No
Perks Coffee Shop	147 Zion Park Blvd	435-668-0446	E	7am-4pm daily	No
Café Soleil	205 Zion Park Blvd	435-772-0505	W, B, M, E, V	7am-9pm daily	No
Spotted Dog Cafe	428 Zion Park Blvd	435-772-0700	W, B, M, E, V	7-11am, 5pm-9pm daily	Yes
Whiptail Grill	445 Zion Park Blvd	435-772-0283	W, B, V	Noon-9:30pm daily	Yes
Blondie's Diner	736 Zion Park Blvd	435-772-0595	B, V	11am-8:30pm Mon-Sat	Yes
Bamboo Chinese Restaurant	828 Zion Park Blvd	435-703-2882	V	11:30am-10pm daily	Yes
Zion Pizza & Noodle	868 Zion Park Blvd	435-772-3815	W, B, V	4pm-10pm daily	No
Oscar's Cafe	948 Zion Park Blvd	435-772-3232	W, B, E, V	7am-9pm daily	No
Switchback Grille Restaurant	1149 Zion Park Blvd	435-772-3700	W, B, M, E, V	5-8pm daily	No
Jack's Sports Grill Restaurant	1149 Zion Park Blvd	435-772-3700	W, B, M, V	Noon-9pm daily	No
Bit & Spur Restaurant & Saloon	1212 Zion Park Blvd	435-772-3498	W, B, M, E, V	5pm-11pm daily	Yes
Park House Café	1880 Zion Park Blvd	435-772-0100	W, B, V	8am-2pm daily	Yes

See detailed restaurant listings for Springdale and the greater Zion National Park area at ZionGuide.com.

Welcome To Zion and the Southern Utah area!

Safety Tips For Zion

Emergencies

For 24-hour emergency response, call 911 or (435) 772-3322. The Zion Canyon Medical Clinic is located in Springdale near the south entrance to the park. For hours, please call (435) 772-3226. Other medical clinics are located in Hurricane. The nearest hospitals are in St. George, Cedar City, and Kanab.

Hydrate and use refillable water bottles

It is easy to get dehydrated while hiking and walking in the desert, so pack along extra water, and be sure to take rest and water breaks on long hikes. There are a number of places to refill your water bottles in Zion National Park including the visitors' center and Zion Lodge as well as a new hydration station at the Springdale bus stop in front of The Bumbleberry Inn and Zion Canyon Brew Pub.

Be cautious near steep cliffs

Falls from cliffs on trails can result in death. Loose sand or pebbles on stone are very slippery. Be careful of edges when using cameras or binoculars. Never throw or roll rocks because there may be hikers below you. Stay on the trail. Stay back from cliff edges. Observe posted warnings. Please watch children.

Watch for flash floods

All narrow canyons are potentially hazardous. Flash floods, often caused by storms miles away, are a real danger and can be life threatening. You are assuming a risk when entering a narrow canyon. Your safety is your responsibility.



Tips To Minimize Your Impact

Pack it in, pack it out & use recycling bins

Each month, Zion National Park pays many thousands of dollars to haul away waste collected from garbage cans and recycling bins. Your experience and that of everyone who visits Zion Canyon can be improved by never littering and making sure you pick up any trash you see along the way. Recycling bins are placed strategically throughout Zion Park, and it is highly encouraged for everyone to use them.

Please stay on the marked trails

Hiking off trails can lead to loss of vegetation, soil compaction, erosion, and unsightly scars on the landscape. Remember, if you bring it in, please pack it out.

Go before you go

It is always a good idea to use the restroom before you begin a hike since facilities are limited to select locations. If you do need to take care of your business, please pack it back out.

Be respectful to the wildlife

Feeding, harming, or capturing wild animals is illegal and can cause injury or death to the animal. Animals can become aggressive beggars when fed.

Please leave it how you found it

It is illegal to remove anything from Zion National Park, including flowers, rocks, or anything else that you might find. Do not write or carve on natural surfaces.



Tips To Maximize Enjoyment

Go on a less crowded hike

The most visited Zion have a lot of competition. If you'd rather not feel like you're in the line at a theme park, consider seeking out a less traveled path. Check out our newest feature, Less-Traveled Zion Hikes.

To avoid the crowds, go early or later in the day

Consider getting up extra early or trekking out midday after the initial rush has flooded in.



Top Things To Do In Zion

Get some great hiking in

Zion National Park is known for its scenic landscape and unrivaled hikes. No matter your fitness level, there are hikes here for you. Please go to ZionGuide.com to see the details on many area hikes.

Spend a day in Springdale

Springdale is unique to our national park system in that it is almost completely surrounded by Zion National Park. So when you're in Springdale, you're right in the middle of Zion Canyon.

Visit the east side of Zion and spend a day in Kanab

The east side of Zion is generally less crowded, making hikes more accessible and private. These are some of the most enjoyable hikes in the canyon. You can spot wildlife you won't see elsewhere in the canyon. The city of Kanab, situated east of the canyon, is full of unique attractions.

Take lots of pictures, leave only footprints

Be sure you've got extra charged batteries, smartphone cables, and memory cards so you can capture all the magic of Zion National Park. Additionally, there are numerous photo tour and guiding companies to assist you. Thank you for visiting the Zion National Park area.

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Top Things To Do In Zion

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Catch an event

Not only does Zion Brew Pub have live music every Saturday, the property also hosts a handful of events throughout the year, as do the Bit and Spur restaurant, Tanner Amphitheater, Bumbleberry Inn, Wildcat Willies, and several other locations.

Try a guided tour

Jeep, helicopter, ATV, canyoneering, horseback riding, or mountain biking, guided tours are all available. Many of these tours take you outside Zion National Park boundaries and give you a unique perspective on Zion's canyons and plateaus from surrounding areas of southern Utah. Check out ZionGuide.com for listings and ads.

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Zion Canyon Shuttle & Parking Info

PARKING & SHUTTLE INFO

There are two shuttle routes. The first is in the park. It requires a ticket that must be purchased in advance only at recreation.gov (Ticket information is on the nps.gov website). It runs from the visitor center up the Scenic Drive to destinations like the Zion Lodge and trailheads, including Emerald Pools, West Rim Trail, and Temple of Sinawava where hikers depart for the Narrows. Face masks must be worn on the shuttle buses and in queue lines.

The second shuttle route will begin operating for the 2021 season on March 13, 2021. This shuttle is free and located in the Town of Springdale. It stops at 9 locations in town and picks up and drops off visitors at the park's pedestrian/bike entrance.

Tickets must be purchased online at Recreation.gov or using the Recreation.gov mobile app. Shuttle Tickets are not sold at the park. The non-refundable ticket fee is \$1 USD.

SHUTTLE SERVICE OPERATIONS UPDATES FOR 2021



SPRINGDALE, UT – The following provides an overview of upcoming shuttle service operations in Zion National Park that will occur in February, March, and April 2021. The park always recommends that visitors plan ahead and check the park website before their visit at nps.gov/zion to see what activities are currently available and what facilities may be open or closed. As in any winter season, visitors should check and plan for conditions such as ice, snow, and cold temperatures.

During shuttle and non-shuttle times, parking will fill early. Once full, additional vehicles can only be allowed in that area after parking spaces become available. With high vehicular traffic expected, walkers and cyclists must adhere to safety requirements along roadways and proceed single file to reduce potential conflicts with vehicles. Likewise, motorists must pay attention to pedestrian and bicyclist safety in road corridors. If traffic becomes too congested, entry to portions of the park may be temporarily suspended until traffic clears. This ensures access to emergencies by first responders along the Park road corridors. There is additional parking in Springdale.



Visitors who can be flexible with their schedule are encouraged to visit weekdays rather than Saturday or Sunday. Consider arriving early or after 3:00 p.m. to avoid high use conditions. Visitors should have alternate plans in the region in case their intended destination or activity is not available when they arrive.

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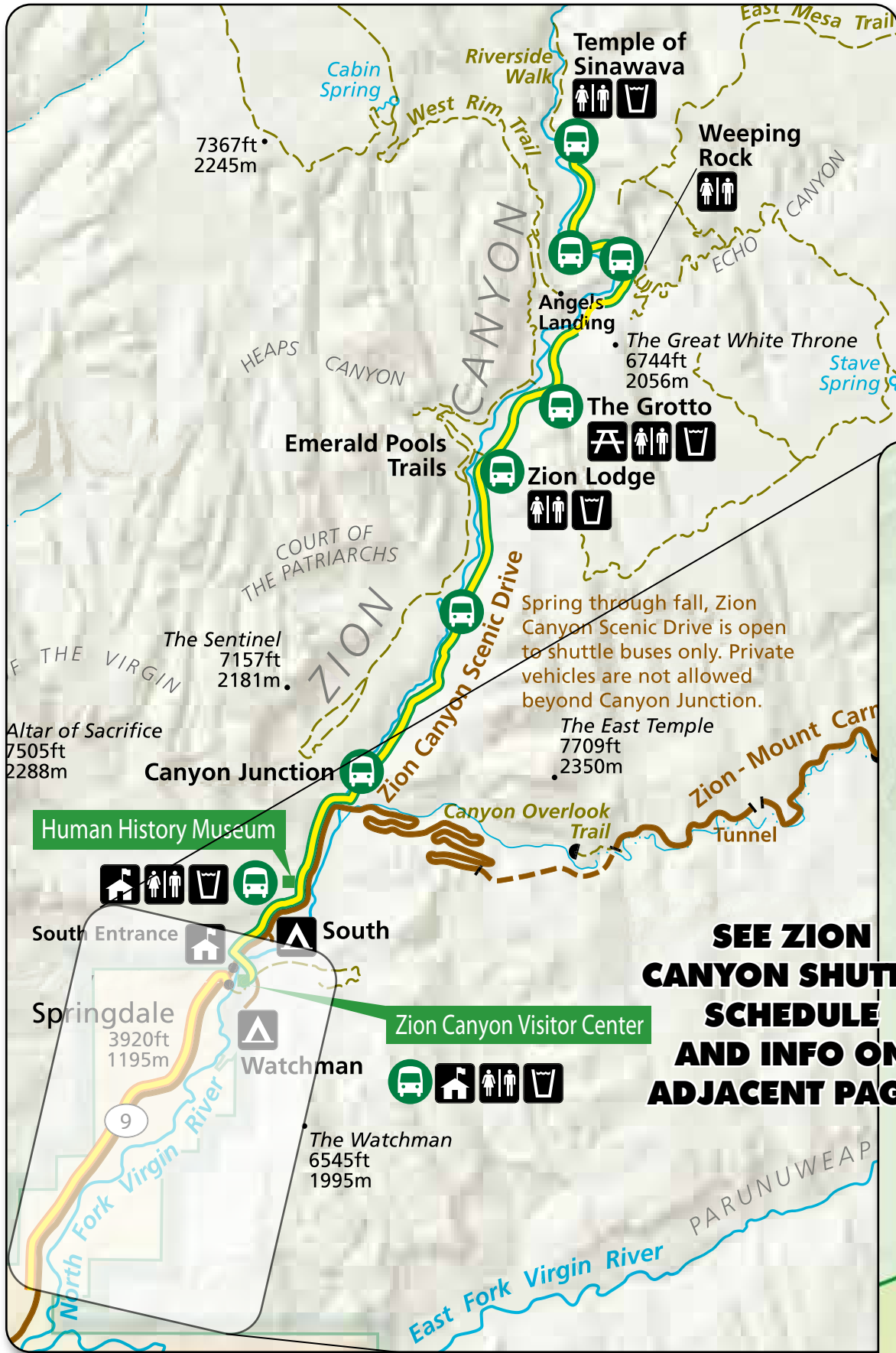


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Springdale Shuttle Map



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www.zioncanyonrealestate.com

Zion Area Town & Cities

Cedar City



To get to Cedar City from Zion National Park, take State Route 9 from the park's south entrance to I-15 north. The overall distance is about 57 miles, about the same as traveling to St. George. Cedar City is home to Southern Utah University. It has a population of about 31,000 and an elevation of almost 6,000 feet, making it cooler in the summer. Named "Festival City," it is a popular summer destination in the area with a variety of noteworthy annual events.

The world-renowned Tony, Emmy, and National Governor's Association Award-winning Utah Shakespeare Festival attracts about 120,000 patrons each year. The 2018 season runs through Oct. 13 and features "Henry IV Part One," "Othello," "The Merry Wives of Windsor," and other plays by Shakespeare as well as a few by other playwrights. The festival also puts on an event through Sept. 8 known as the Greenshow, a free lighthearted outdoor entertainment event including singing, dancing, and more. Visit bard.org for a schedule of plays.

Cedar City is also home to the Neil Simon Festival, which runs through Aug. 11. This year's offerings include Simon's "Biloxi Blues" and "Jake's Women" in addition to a few other shows. Visit simonfest.org for more information.

Cedar Breaks National Monument is only 23 miles east of the city along Highway 148. At 10,000 feet, it offers scenic meadows and forests along with breathtaking views of the natural amphitheater below. The nearby Duck Creek Village is a nice place to visit to refuel and purchase supplies or simply pause for a picnic.

Brian Head Ski Resort is located about 45 minutes east of Cedar City. Although it is a ski resort, summer activities there are plentiful and range from hiking and biking to live music and festivals. And at nearly 11,000 feet, it is the highest-elevation ski

resort in Utah, so the climate is much cooler. More information is available at brianhead.com.

Bryce Canyon National Park isn't in Cedar City — it's about 76 miles east of Cedar City and 83 miles from Zion. Like Brian Head, with higher elevations it's cooler than Zion. So at such a short distance, visitors to Zion or Cedar City would be well advised to take a day and drive to Bryce Canyon National Park for a change of scenery and climate, hitting two of the nation's most spectacular national parks in one trip.

More ideas for local recreation in Cedar City and the surrounding area are available at cedarcity.org, cedarcitychamber.org, and visitcedarcity.com.

Hurricane Valley



Situated between Zion National Park and St. George, the town of Hurricane is a mere 23 miles east on State Route 9 with an estimated population of about 16,000.

Sand Hollow Resort is home to more than just a golf course. Sand Hollow Reservoir affords visitors opportunities for boating and other watersports while sand dunes are a popular destination for ATV enthusiasts. For golfers who want even more variety, Sky Mountain Golf Course and Copper Rock Golf Course are also nestled within Hurricane Valley.

The Sand Hollow State Park and Quail Lake State Park are two more recreation destinations in Hurricane Valley, each boasting warm waters and magnificent red rock camping scenery.

The Southern Utah Sports Shooting Park is a public facility near the Washington County Fairgrounds. With five ranges to choose from, visitors can enjoy everything from skeet and clay shooting to rifle, handgun, and trap shooting.

Find more at cityofhurricane.com and hvchamber.com.

Kanab and Fredonia



Kanab has a population of about 4,500, and just across the Arizona state line, Fredonia has a population of about 1,300. Both towns are easily accessible from Zion National Park by departing from the park's east entrance along State Route 9 and following Highway 89 south. Kanab is about 40 miles away, and Fredonia is only 10 miles further.

Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in nearby Angel Canyon is home to about 1,600 animals, from cats and dogs to rabbits, horses, pigs, and more. It has engaged in high profile rescue work over the years, taking animals after Hurricane Katrina as well as dogs rescued from Michael Vick's dogfighting kennels, saving them from euthanasia. The sanctuary offers a variety of free tours and features one of the area's best buffets, which is open to the public.

Moqui Cave, another geographical landmark created by sandstone erosion, was used by the Anasazi for shelter. Now privately owned, it houses dinosaur tracks, fluorescent minerals, fossils, and Native American artifacts along with a gift store.

The Western Legends Round-Up, held the week of Aug. 20, is a celebration of Western heritage with an emphasis on Kanab's historic role as a backdrop for Western films. Live music and a BBQ competition are a part of the festival along with more immersive activities like campfire breakfasts and Dutch oven dinners.

A popular destination for photographers and ATV enthusiasts alike, Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park comprises dunes made from the pink Navajo Sandstone frequently seen throughout southern Utah. Due to how the geography directs winds, they have deposited sandstone particles in this area for thousands of years, resulting in the dunes. This unique area contains rare and endangered species only found here: the Coral Pink Sand Dunes tiger

beetle and Welsh's milkweed.

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument stretches over a million acres from Glendale and Kanab to the eastern part of the state. A visitors' center is located in Kanab.

Just south of the Utah border and west of Fredonia in the town of Kaibab is Pipe Spring National Monument, where Pipe Spring enabled the Ancestral Puebloans and Kaibab Paiutes to survive the heat and aridity of the northern Arizona desert for over 1,000 years.

For more information, visit zionguide.com, visitsouthernutah.com, and fredoniaaz.net.

Mesquite



Although it's in Nevada, the city of Mesquite is only 80 miles from Zion National Park. Simply head east on State Route 9, then take I-15 south. Situated directly between St. George and Las Vegas, Mesquite offers all of the amenities and entertainment found in Vegas with none of the traffic, crime, or pollution. For a town of only about 18,000, Mesquite has a lot going on.

CasaBlanca Resort is a hotel, casino, golf course, RV park, and performance venue rolled into one. Its free Summerpalooza event series hosts poolside concerts featuring the best Vegas talent, and the CasaBlanca Showroom regularly houses some of Sin City's best tribute acts — not to mention an annual Elvis impersonator contest.

Eureka Casino Resort is another golfing and gambling destination in Mesquite. It operates the Rising Star Sports Ranch, which is home to Mesquite's NABP League basketball team, the Nevada Desert Dogs.

For more information, visit mesquitenv.gov or mesquitenvchamber.com.



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Zion Area Town & Cities

Mt. Carmel, Glendale, and Orderville



The towns of Mt. Carmel, Glendale and Orderville are east of Zion National Park and north of Kanab and are collectively referred to as Long Valley. These towns are very small. However, being centrally located, they serve as waystations for those traveling to Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Bryce Canyon, Kodachrome State Park, or the Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park.

This area is a little off the beaten path, so venturing into Long Valley immerses one in the resplendence of some of Utah's most untouched outdoor beauty. The three towns are located on Scenic Highway 89, part of the Utah Heritage Highway 89. Opportunities abound for hiking, boating, camping, and more. There are inns, cabins, and lodges in the area for those looking for a place to rest, and the Thunderbird Lodge offers not only rooms but the Thunderbird Golf Course and the Thunderbird Restaurant.

For more information, visit visitsouthernutah.com/glendale-orderville or zionguide.com

St. George



St. George can be reached by traveling 56 miles west on State Route 9 from Zion National Park's south entrance. With a population of nearly 85,000 people, it is the largest city within 100 miles of Zion. Before it was settled, the area was home to Ancestral Puebloans — forbears of the modern Hopi, Zuni, Pueblo, and Southern Paiute nations.

The St. George area is a destination

for rock climbers, boulderers, and mountain bikers. It offers multiple golf courses and spas as well as opportunities for boating, fishing, horseback or ATV riding, and myriad other outdoor activities.

Snow Canyon State Park and the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve are both located near St. George, and each offers its own unique scenery that's a bit different from that in Zion.

There are often theatrical offerings from local companies including Tuacahn, The Stage Door, The Space Between, and Brigham's Playhouse. Kayenta Art Village and Dixie State University also frequently host concerts, plays, and other cultural events throughout the year.

The St. George Children's Museum is conveniently located downtown right next to both St. George's largest splash pad and another interactive water feature for kids and adults alike — which can be a fun relief from the desert heat. The children's museum does not charge admission (although donations are accepted) and houses exciting kids' activities including a performers' stage, a medieval dress-up area, full-body interactive video games, a dinosaur room, a physics experiment room, and much more.

The Dinosaur Discovery Site is an all-ages dinosaur museum. Located at Johnson Farm, it boasts genuine dinosaur tracks found on site where they are safeguarded, maintained, and on display for the public.

There are numerous art galleries

throughout the St. George area. Of note are Arrowhead ETC, located downtown next to the Electric Theater, and the St. George Art Museum, which houses everything from abstract art to desert landscapes in a variety of media ranging from sculpture to paintings, photography, and beyond.

The Red Hills Desert Garden offers a sampling of native flora set amidst a small outdoor aquarium that is host to several species of native fish. It is set adjacent to one of St. George's most popular hiking and scrambling areas, Pioneer Park, from which one can take in breathtaking views of the entire city.

St. George is also home to over 30 excellent and well maintained public parks. Local favorites include the newly-renovated Vernon Worthen Park and Thunder Junction, which features a train ride, permanent metallophones, and a huge volcano that "erupts." Find a full list at sgcity.org, and visit visitstgeorge.com and stgeorgechamber.com for more ideas for local recreation.

Springdale



Springdale sits at the south entrance to Zion National Park, and

unless patrons enter through the east entrance, they must travel through it to reach the park.

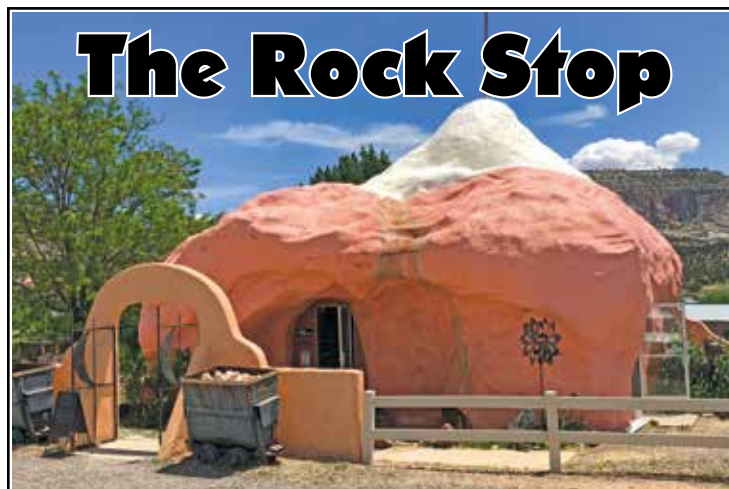
While Zion National Park is a national tourist attraction, locals often come to Springdale just for the high-quality restaurants, and the Bit and Spur Saloon is one of few southern Utah venues that consistently attracts touring bands. Locals also routinely come from Cedar City and St. George simply to enjoy Springdale's top-notch spas, inns, and hotels.

From the Conviction Stout and Springdale Amber to the Ascender Hefeweizen and Zion Pale Ale, The Zion Brew Pub offers seasonal and flagship brews freshly concocted by the Zion Brewery, southern Utah's craft brewery. With an authentic wood-paneled pub feel indoors, the pub also regularly features frequent live music outdoors on the patio — right next to the Virgin River and backed by the grandeur of the canyon walls.

The O. C. Tanner Amphitheater is home to the annual Zion Canyon Music Festival in late September and provides a venue for other festivals and performances as well. For a schedule of events, visit octannershows.com.

For more information on what's going on in Springdale, visit springdaletown.com or zionguide.com.

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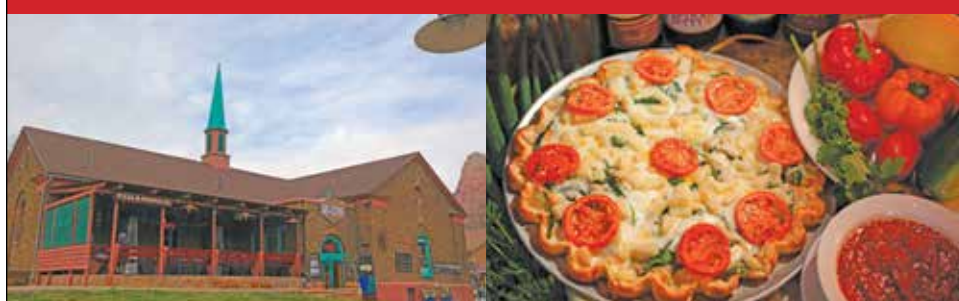
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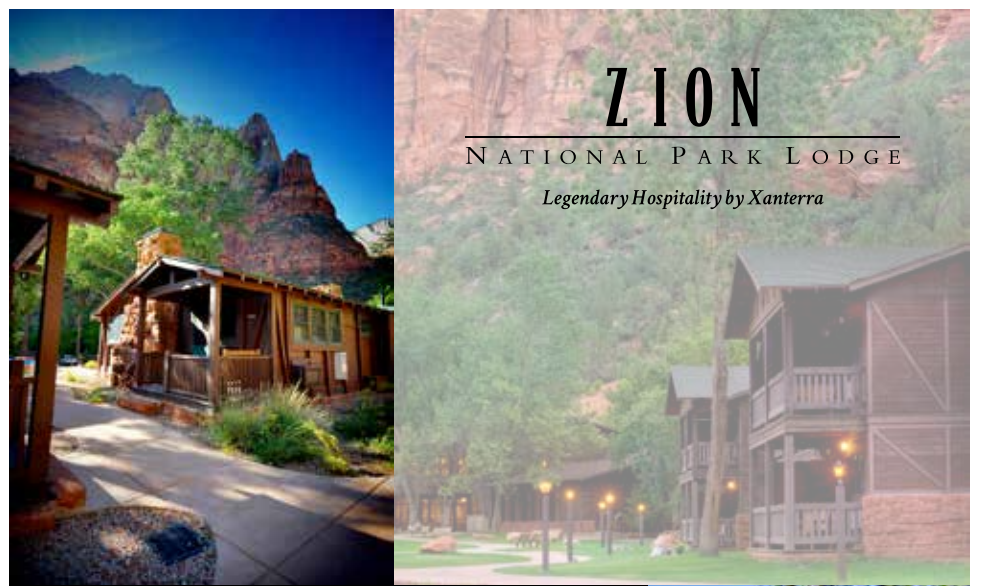


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DON'T BE A STATISTIC: THE LOCALS' GUIDE TO HIKING PREPAREDNESS

National parks are seeing an uptick in helicopters carrying unfortunate hikers out of precarious situations.

In 2017, the National Park Service reported 324 search-and-rescue operations, which means 324 extremely unpleasant vacation experiences — nearly one a day. In 2014, the reported number was almost half that. The majority of those rescues occurred in Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks, and most hikers who end up getting into trouble are either in their 20s or are older than 60.

Despite our highly skilled and dedicated rescue teams' valiant efforts, not everyone made it out of their predicaments safely. Twelve people lost their lives in Utah's national parks in 2017 alone.

It's hard to imagine one wanting a vacation amid the splendor of our national parks to involve search and rescue teams or a close encounter with death.

Zion National Park is often referred to as an outdoor Disneyland. But this is the

wilderness, and it's far less forgiving than any theme park. Here are some tips for how to safely enjoy your time in Zion Canyon.

Bring water

You lose more water through perspiration than you realize, and if you are used to a more moist climate — and nearly any climate is less arid than southern Utah — you can become dehydrated quickly without realizing it.

The National Park Service recommends that hikers bring one gallon of water per hiker per day. There are fill stations throughout Springdale and the park that provided filtered water at no charge.

Natural water sources in the park such as creeks and streams are not reliable sources of clean drinking water. If you find yourself in a situation wherein you need water but have none, it is strongly advised that any locally-sourced water intended for consumption first be filtered, boiled for at least 10 minutes, or treated with iodine before consuming.

Wear appropriate clothing

While most paths and trails are well maintained, this is the great outdoors, and a little loose gravel or slickrock can lead to injury — or worse. Think of appropriate footwear as an insurance policy — and if you are a little nervous, a hiking stick never hurts. Also, dress lightly if it's going to be hot, but be sure to use appropriate sun protection like sunscreen and large-brimmed hats, because suffering from sunstroke or severe sunburn during an already taxing hike can be brutal.

Hike at your skill level, and don't take risks

Trails in Zion range from short and easy to long and challenging. Don't overestimate your ability and endurance level. And don't engage in horseplay or other activity that might endanger yourself or others. Some of Zion's hikes are steep, and you wouldn't be the first person to tumble down a hill — or worse, fall off a cliff. Zion is beautiful, but it's also dangerous, so respect yourself and

others by respecting the terrain.

Leave wildlife alone

Animals instinctively avoid humans, but the area is home to everything from poisonous snakes to mountain lions. Never approach local wildlife — and never try to feed them. This can result in injury to visitors, and numerous visitors have required stitches after attempting to hand-feed animals. But when humans feed wildlife, it's also not good for the animals, who are already best suited to feed themselves.

Hike sober

Sometimes relatively stationary outdoor activities like boating or camping involve enjoying an adult beverage or two. But when you're hiking the varied terrain of our national parks, you don't want your coordination, balance, or judgment to be impaired to any extent. Zion Canyon, Springdale, and Kanab are home to several fine restaurants and bars — but visit them for a cocktail after your hike, not before.

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Zion Area Annual Events Calendar

Currently, many events are canceled or postponed due to the Covid19 pandemic. Please check before attending any events.

May-Oct. Kanab Outdoor Market
Nursery stock, baked goods, local artistry, jewelry, crafts and goods, free bounce house and balloons for the kids.

May Kanab 10K
A beautiful course sanctioned by USA Track and Field along Hwy 89 from Moqui Cave to the Kanab City Park.

May Amazing Earthfest
Southern Utah's festival of learning, arts, and outdoor adventure.

June Jacob Hamblin Days Festival
A fun festival to celebrate the pioneer and Western heritage of Kanab and Kane County.

July Kanab 4th of July Celebration
Celebrate the nation's Independence Day small-town style in charming Kanab, Utah! Parade, vendors, entertainment and festivities throughout the day into the evening.

July Springdale 4th of July Celebration
Celebrate Independence Day with the Springdale community. Kick off with a parade followed by a barbecue, live music and activities for the whole family to enjoy.

July 24th of July Celebration
Celebrate the state of Utah with a pioneer dinner. Get ready for the fourth annual Kabob-a-Que.

July Pioneer Day Celebration
Games, Dutch oven dinner at the park and a great costume parade celebrating pioneer heritage.

August Symphony at the Grand Canyon
Symphony of the Canyons performs on the patio at the North Rim Lodge. Bring a picnic dinner and listen as the sun sets over the Grand Canyon.

August Kane County Fair
Offering many wonderful events for the whole family. Most of the events are free so don't miss out.

August Western Legends Round-up
Kanab's celebration of film, music, poetry, and Western heritage.

September Big Water Dinosaur Festival
Celebrating past and present dinosaur discoveries in the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument.

September Demolition Derby
Cars, trucks and "figure 8s" with up to 18 cars demolition derby with events for the entire family, including the Power Wheels Derby for kids and the wife-carrying contest!

September Carmel Mtn. Music and Art Festival and Car Show
Check out fancy cars and enjoy live entertainment, vendors, food and kid-friendly activities.

September Glendale Heritage Apple Festival
The Glendale Heritage Apple Festival was started to celebrate Pioneer Heritage and the many talents that are in this small town.

September Duck Creek End of Summer Bash
6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Duck on In Saloon in Duck Creek Village. Come spend your Labor Day Weekend in Duck Creek enjoying live music.

September Zion Canyon Music Festival
Enjoy the beautiful fall season in Zion as the canyon is filled with music. The Zion Canyon Music Festival features music, art and an exquisite backdrop.

October Red Rocktoberfest
Art, food, live music and poetry, dancing, wagon rides, photography, games and activities for the kids, all on the main drag in Kanab. German food and activities.

October Zion Rocktoberfest
Celebrate the start of fall in Zion mixed with traditional Oktoberfest aspects. The event will feature live rock and folk music and many other activities.

Nov-Dec. Zion Joy to the World
Enjoy a wonderland of events in a weekend celebrating winter. Be a part of a community tree lighting, craft fairs, musical events and the fourth annual Light Parade.

November Butch Cassidy 10K Run
This 10K/5K scenic race brings together community, and not just with running. Stay after for some Grafton fun with what is promised to be a party.

November K-town Turkey Trot 5K
Taking place in Kanab on Thanksgiving morning, bring the whole family for this early morning fun run/walk to make room for that delicious dinner later in the day!

November Plein Air Art Invitational
Be a part of a week of lectures and demonstrations from some of the finest plein air artists in the country. Enjoy painting sales, exhibits and workshops.

November Christmas Light Parade and Festival
An annual light parade on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Gourmet s'mores school held on Main Street followed by music, caroling, hot cocoa and a wishing lantern launch.

November Zion Canyon Arts and Crafts Fair
Visit Zion for the 26th annual arts and crafts fair put on by Z-Arts. Spend the weekend touring the different vendors and craft booths.

December Windsor Castle by Night
Held at historic Pipe Springs National Monument, the Castle by Night is an opportunity to enjoy a historic recreation of an 1860's early settlement by candlelight and music.



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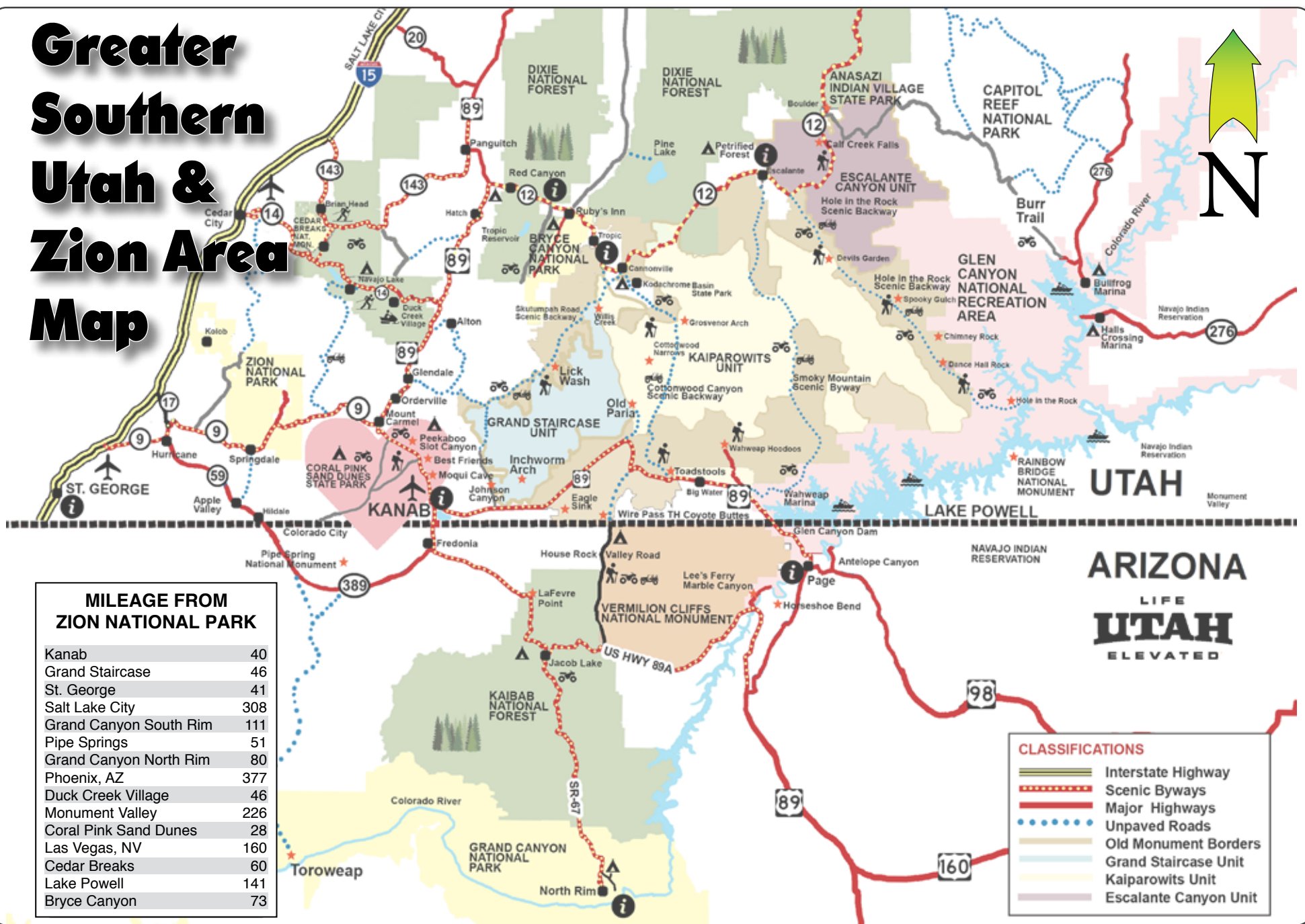
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Greater Southern Utah & Zion Area Map



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ANASAZI STATE PARK MUSEUM - This ancient Indian village in the heart of Utah's canyon country was one of the largest Anasazi communities west of the Colorado River. The site is believed to have been occupied from A.D. 1050 to 1200. The village remains largely unexcavated, but many artifacts have been uncovered and are on display in the newly remodeled museum. Anasazi State Park is in the picturesque town of Boulder on State Route 12. Group and individual picnic areas are available. There is no camping. (435) 335-7308.

BAKER - Baker Reservoir is a small lake on the Santa Clara River four miles north of Veyo on Utah State Route 18. It is a 63-acre lake with an average depth of about 20 feet. Many people come to the reservoir to camp at one of its 10 campsites and to fish. The reservoir is stocked with rainbow trout and contains brown trout, green sunfish, crayfish, reidside shiner, and mountain sucker. It has picnic areas and vault toilets. There is a fee for visiting the reservoir and no boat ramp.

BRYCE CANYON - Bryce Canyon National Park is a scientist's laboratory and a child's playground. Because Bryce transcends 2,000 feet of elevation, the park exists in three distinct climatic zones: spruce/fir forest, ponderosa pine forest and pinion pine/juniper forest. This diversity of habitat provides for high biodiversity. Here at Bryce, you can enjoy over 100 species of birds, dozens of mammals, and more than a thousand plant species. (435) 834-5322.

CEDAR BREAKS - Sitting at over 10,000 feet and looking down into a half-mile deep geologic amphitheater. Come wander among timeless bristlecone pines, stand in lush meadows of wildflowers, ponder crystal-clear night skies and experience the richness of our subalpine forest. Just four miles off Utah Highway 148, you'll find the Cedar Breaks National Monument parking lot.



CORAL PINK SAND DUNES - At an elevation of 6,000 feet and 12 paved miles off U.S. Highway 89 near Kanab, this park provides a fantastic setting for camping, hiking, OHV riding or just playing in the sand. A 265-acre conservation area prohibits motorized vehicles in order to protect the Coral Pink beetle (found nowhere else in the world) and its habitat. The mule deer, jackrabbit, kit fox, coyote, and many small

rodents also make the park their home. (435) 648-2800.

DEAD HORSE POINT - Dead Horse Point State Park is perhaps Utah's most spectacular state park. Dead Horse Point is a promontory of stone surrounded by steep cliffs near Moab. The overlook at Dead Horse Point is 6,000 feet above sea level. Two-thousand feet below, the Colorado River winds its way from the continental divide in Colorado to the Gulf of California, a distance of 1,400 miles. (435) 259-2614.



DINOSAUR TRACKS - The St. George Dinosaur Discovery Site at Johnson Farm is home to exceptionally well-preserved dinosaur tracks, some displaying skin impressions. These tracks, along with hundreds of fossil fish, plants, rare dinosaur remains, invertebrates' traces, and important sedimentary structures, show evidence that this site was produced along the western edge of a large, Early Jurassic (age between 195-198 million years ago) freshwater lake. (435) 574-3466.

ENTERPRISE - There are two reservoirs in the Bull Valley Mountains 10 miles southwest of the town of Enterprise. The main one is Upper Enterprise Reservoir, about 250 acres with an average depth of about 50 feet, while Lower Enterprise Reservoir is 79 acres. Many come to the reservoir to camp, fish hike, and boat. The Honeycomb Campground is situated between both lakes and has 21 campsites and flush toilets. There is a boat ramp on Upper Enterprise Reservoir and several fishing areas around both reservoirs. Fishermen will find rainbow trout and smallmouth bass here. Fees are charged.

FOUR CORNERS - The Four Corners is the only place in the U.S. where four states come together at one place: Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Colorado. Here, a person can put each of their hands and feet in four states at the same time. The unique landmark is on Navajo

Nation land and is open for visits from the public. West of U.S. Highway 160, 40 miles southwest of Cortez, Colo. (928) 871-6436.

GRAND CANYON - A World Heritage Site encompassing 1,218,375 acres on the Colorado Plateau in northwestern Arizona. The land is semi-arid and consists of raised plateaus and structural basins typical of the southwestern United States. (928) 638-7888.

GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT - Nearly 1.9 million acres of America's public lands

any of its many canyons or sand dunes. (928) 608-6200.

PINE VALLEY - Pine Valley Reservoir is a beautiful place for fishermen to fish brook trout and rainbow trout. The reservoir is near the Pine Valley Recreation Complex, which has over 150 campsites with picnic and restroom facilities. This area is greener than most other parts of southwestern Utah with pine and pinion trees, and many come to enjoy camping and hiking. It is west of the town of Central. (435) 652-3100.

QUAIL LAKE - Quail Creek State Park provides excellent year-round camping, picnicking, boating, and trout and bass fishing in sunny southwest Utah. The park is three miles east of the Interstate 15 Hurricane exit on Utah State Route 9. Facilities include 23 campsites, modern restrooms, a fish cleaning station, and two covered group-use pavilions. (435) 879-2378.

SAND HOLLOW - Looking to fish? Swim? Ride your ATV in the sand? Do all that and more at Sand Hollow State Park, located between St. George and Hurricane. Bring your boat, a picnic, and some fishing gear for a fun day on the reservoir, or watch the kids swim while you relax on the beach. Load up your RV or tent and settle in for a nice campout, or ride your ATV in the dunes of Sand Mountain. (435) 680-0715.



and located between Bryce Canyon and Glen Canyon Recreational Areas. From its namesake Grand Staircase of cliffs and terraces across the rugged Kaiparowits Plateau to the beauty of the Escalante River Canyons, the Monument's size, resources, and isolated location provide amazing opportunities.

GUNLOCK - In scenic red rock country, 15 miles northwest of St. George, lies the 240-acre Gunlock State Park and Reservoir where year-round boating, water sports, and quality fishing for bass and catfish attract visitors. Facilities include boat launching ramp and pit privies. (435) 628-2255.

LAKE MEAD - Lake Mead National Recreation Area offers a wealth of things to do and places to go year-round. Its huge lakes cater to boaters, swimmers, sunbathers and fishermen, while its desert rewards hikers, wildlife photographers, and roadside sightseers. It is also home to thousands of desert plants and animals adapted to survive in an extreme place where rain is scarce and temperatures soar. (702) 293-8990.

LAKE POWELL - In Glen Canyon National Recreation Area is one of the world's great places for houseboating! The 186-mile-long lake offers sandy beaches, cool blue water, and exceptional red-rock scenery. It is excellent for boating, skiing, kayaking, and fishing. Boat or hike to Rainbow Bridge, or explore

SNOW CANYON - Named after early Utah leaders Lorenzo and Erastus Snow, Snow Canyon State Park begins just outside of Ivins and stretches northward. Spectacular scenery includes towering red and white sandstone cliffs, black lava formations, and even a waterfall that appears during heavy rain. Snow Canyon offers 16 miles of hiking trails, beautiful sand dunes, technical rock climbing sites, horseback riding, year-round camping, nature studies, and wildlife viewing. This park is a favorite for locals and visitors alike. (435) 628-2255.

ZION - With breathtaking views, numerous hiking attractions of all difficulty levels and some of the most spectacular scenery on earth, Zion National Park and its surrounding areas attract thousands of visitors every year. This natural wonder is not only a mecca of recreational activity, but Zion and nearby Springdale host numerous cultural activities, as well. There's something for everyone in Zion - whether you're looking for a challenging hike or a fun excursion for the family. (435) 772-3256.



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Trail Closures (as of March 1 '20)

The Weeping Rock Trail, Hidden Canyon Trail, and Observation Point Trail (East Rim from Weeping Rock) are closed due to rockfall damage. These closures are indefinite at this time. Lower Emerald Pools Trail is closed for trail repairs until Spring 2020.

Hiking is popular in Zion National Park, and popular hikes are seeing record visitation at peak days and times. For a less congested trek, consider these less-traveled hikes.

Northgate Peaks

By Don Gilman

The Northgate Peaks trail in the Kolob Terrace section of Zion National Park is an amazing trail with spectacular views. The trail itself is nearly flat, making it a perfect hike for families.

To reach the Northgate Peaks trailhead, take State Route 9 to the town of Virgin. Turn left onto Kolob Terrace Road. Drive for 15.7 miles through increasingly spectacular country until the short spur road (on the right) for the Wildcat Trailhead is reached. Drive a few hundred feet to the large parking area.

The trail heads east across grassy plains and stands of Ponderosa Pine with dynamite views of the towering Pine Valley Peak to the west. Soon the trail will be fully in the forest with limited views. After 0.9 miles, the junction with the Hop Valley trail is reached. Continue east, and 0.1 miles further, the junction with the Northgate Peaks Trail is reached. Head south on this trail for another 1.1 miles until the end of the official trail is reached at a rocky basalt bluff with epic views of the Northgate Peaks to the east and west and of North Guardian Angel to the south.

For families with young children, this makes an excellent turnaround spot.

Gifford Canyon

By Bo Beck

Gifford Canyon offers a nice stroll through a sandy wash and is very charming when water is running. This hike is nearly 3 miles long and will take about 2 hours to finish.

To start this hike, park in the lot located immediately east of the Zion/Mt. Carmel Tunnel. The trail begins at the backside of the restrooms at the back of the parking lot. There will be a steep, sandy path to climb down before you enter Pine Creek slot. Follow the path upstream for almost 75 feet, and look for a 15-foot wall of slickrock. You can scramble up the rock or look for the beaten path on the backside of the rock.

On top of this wall is a narrow dirt path that is crowded by rock and vegetation. It winds around the mountain to a dead end with a beautiful view of the mountain where the Canyon Overlook Trail is located, opposite is Gifford Canyon.

The path will lead past stone bridge and to another minor slickrock climb. At the end of the canyon, there is a circle of cliffs preventing further exploration without climbing up the sandstone.



Chinle Trail, photo by Doug Dolde

Chinle Trail

By Greta Hyland

Chinle Trail is an off-the-beaten-path trail located in the lower elevation west desert wilderness area, offering wide vistas, desert landscapes, and a reprieve from the more touristy trails in the park. Though it's a long trail, it's a mellow hike that can be cut off whenever you feel like turning around. It's a great hike with kids because it's not treacherous, slippery, or steep. Avoid it after snow or rain as it will be muddy.

The Chinle Trailhead starts outside of Zion, south of Springdale. If you are coming from St. George, the turn is about a block before you hit the apple orchard and stand as you leave Rockville off of State Route 9. There is a parking area off the right of Anasazi Way near the Anasazi Plateau housing development. If you hit houses, you missed it. And yes, the trail starts below the housing development and takes you right through it. Don't worry though, it doesn't last long.

Shortly after you get through the housing development, you will hit a sign letting you know you are entering the Zion Wilderness. At this point, you can breathe a sigh of relief, because you have gotten away from civilization to enjoy nature, and chances are that you won't see another soul until you return to your car.

Many Pools

By Candice Reed

The route is moderate with a gentle uphill climb to an alcove, but plan for a strenuous hike if you continue to the East Rim.

The route begins right off the highway. Drive to the pullout near the second drainage on the north side of the State Route 9, about 0.8 miles after the smaller tunnel. Walk carefully along the road about 150 yards and drop down into a sandy bowl on the north side of SR-9. There is a trail for a short distance, and then the sand turns into large flat stones that you can pick and choose to walk on, depending on your sense of balance.



Many Pools

A short distance off the road, filled pools carved into the rocks appear. Ponderosa Pines and Juniper trees twisted by the wind are a good backdrop to the reds and whites ribboned through the rocks.

Hidden Canyon

By Bo Beck and Tanya Milligan

Hidden Canyon features steep ascents, narrow foot paths, and switchbacks on a narrow cliffside with exposure at high elevations. Some parts have chains to use for assistance. Be cautious near slippery sandstone areas with steep dropoffs. Expect full sun in most places after the early morning. Once you are into the canyon, it is shady and surprisingly cool.

This impressive 2.2-mile roundtrip hike begins at the same busy trailhead as Weeping Rock, Observation Point, and the East Rim. Begin at the Weeping Rock Trailhead, which quickly splits to the left. The trail you want to follow bears right toward the East Rim, Observation Point, and Hidden Canyon. Watch for a sign that indicates the direction to Hidden Canyon.

A well-traveled path takes trekkers between sheer sandstone walls rising up hundreds of feet, made up by some of Zion's most famous landmarks: Cable Mountain and the Great White Throne. Once beyond the end of the actual trail and into the slot canyon, look for small sandstone caves and a 20-foot long arch. Be careful to only explore as far as you know is safe for you! Few should ever venture past the freestanding arch.

Sandstone pools at the end of this hike are a favorite spot of the delightful and boisterous canyon tree frogs. Look for the tiny gray creatures near the water, and listen for their loud trilling. Past the pools is the end of the Hidden Canyon Trail.

Overlook Trail

By Charlotte Emett

The Overlook Trail is a short, beautiful hike located on the east side of Zion National Park, just outside the Mt. Carmel tunnel. The hike is about one mile roundtrip, and it usually takes people about an hour. It is definitely one of the easier hikes in Zion, but it's still considered a moderate-level hike due to a few exposed areas and sandstone pathways, which can be slippery.

The Overlook trailhead lies right outside of the Mt. Carmel tunnel by the ranger booth. Exit the tunnel too quickly and you'll miss it.

It begins with a staircase carved out of the sandstone leading up and away from the road. Soon, you'll be walking along the side of the mountain and looking down into a thin crevice known as Pine Creek Canyon. At about halfway, you'll walk across a bridge that wraps around a corner and leads to an area of recessed rock wet with the moisture that caused it to erode and be filled with ferns growing out of the sandstone.

Please check with nps.gov for current conditions, restrictions, and access. Be careful and have fun!

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Popular Zion Hikes

Trail Closures (as of March 1 '20)

The Weeping Rock Trail, Hidden Canyon Trail, and Observation Point Trail (East Rim from Weeping Rock) are closed due to rockfall damage. These closures are indefinite at this time.

Warning: These hikes are very popular and often overcrowded. While they are well worth doing, expect them to be a little congested.

If you are feeling up to some of the more **difficult** hikes, try some of these popular hikes.

Angels Landing via West Rim Trail

Possibly the most popular hike in Zion, Angels Landing takes around four hours to complete and covers just under 5 1/2 miles. As you work your way up the 1,488-foot change in elevation, you'll want to look out for long drop-offs. This hike is not for young children or people with a fear of heights. Be sure to enjoy, but be careful along the last section of the hike, which is a steep, narrow ridge to the summit. The hike starts at The Grotto.

Kolob Arch via La Verkin Creek Trail

Getting to Kolob Arch via the La Verkin Creek Trail follows Timber and La Verkin creeks and connects to the trail to Kolob Arch, one of the world's largest freestanding arches. A full-day hike, it will take around 8 hours to finish the 14-fourteen mile trip. This hike starts at Kolob Canyons Road.

If you are looking for something more **moderate**, try some of these mid-range hikes.

Watchman Trail

Starting at the Zion Canyon Visitor Center, this hike takes about two hours and covers just under 3 miles. The 368-foot elevation has some minor drop-offs and ends at a view point for Tower of the Virgin, lower Zion Canyon, and Springdale.

Middle Emerald Pools Trail

A two-hour hike, Middle Emerald Pools has long drop-offs. The unpaved trail to the Middle Emerald Pools has loose sand and slippery rocks. You'll cover two miles in 2 hours over the course of a 150-foot elevation gain. The hike starts at Zion Lodge.

Upper Emerald Pool Trail

Starting at Zion Lodge, this is a shorter trail covering one mile in about an hour. You will rise 200-feet in elevation, and there are minor drop-offs.

Kayenta Trail

This two-hour hike starts at the Grotto and goes for two miles. You'll gain 150 feet in elevation, and the trail does have long drop-offs. This unpaved climb connects the Grotto to the Emerald Pools trails.

Canyon Overlook Trail

Starting at Zion-Mt. Carmel Highway, this one-hour hike provides a 163-foot gain in elevation over the course of a mile. This rocky and uneven trail ends at a viewpoint for Pine Creek Canyon and lower Zion Canyon. While this trail is mostly fenced, there are long drop-offs.

Taylor Creek Trail

You'll begin this five-mile hike at Kolob Canyons Road. It should take around 4 hours to complete and provides a 450-foot gain in elevation. Larger groups may need to split up, as this hike limits 12 people to a group. It follows the Middle Fork of Taylor Creek past two homestead cabins to Double Arch Alcove.

Timber Creek Overlook Trail

A quick hike, the Timber Creek Overlook Trail covers just one mile and 100 feet in elevation gain. It can be done in about 30 minutes. The trail follows a ridge to a small peak with views of Timber Creek, Kolob Terrace, and Pine Valley Mountains.

Those looking for something **less strenuous** should check out these easy hikes.

Pa'rus Trail

Starting at the Zion Canyon Visitor Center, this two-hour hike covers 3 1/2 miles and rises 50 feet in elevation. A paved trail that follows the Virgin River from the South Campground to Canyon Junction, Pa'rus Trail is wheelchair accessible and is open to both bicycles and dogs.

Archeology Trail

Also starting at the Zion Canyon Visitor Center, this short half-hour hike covers just under half a mile and rises 80 feet in elevation, making it a short but steep trail. This trail offers trailside exhibits and views of several prehistoric buildings.

Lower Emerald Pool Trail

This paved trail leads to the Lower Emerald Pool and waterfalls. It also connects to the Middle Emerald Pools Trail. It should take about an hour and covers just over one mile with 69 feet in elevation gain.

Grotto Trail

Starting at Zion Lodge or the Grotto, this trail connects the two locations and can be combined with the Middle Emerald Pools and Kayenta trails to create a 2 1/2-mile loop. The non-loop version should take about 30 minutes and rises 35 feet over one mile.

Weeping Rock Trail

A short but steep hike, the Weeping Rock Trail offers trailside exhibits. This paved trail ends at a rock alcove with dripping springs. It rises 98 feet over just under a half mile. It can be completed in about 30 minutes.

Riverside Walk

Starting at Temple of Sinawava, this 1 1/2-hour hike cover just over two miles and rises 57 feet in elevation. While it is wheelchair accessible, there are minor drop-offs. The trail, which is paved, offers trailside exhibits as it follows the Virgin Rivet along the bottom of a narrow canyon.



Observation Point via East Rim Trail

This hike climbs through Echo Canyon to a viewpoint of Zion Canyon and offers access to Cable Mountain, Deertrap, and East Mesa trails. Plan for at least half of a day as this hike takes around five hours to complete and stretches over 8 miles. The 2,148-foot change in elevation from start to finish has long drop-offs, so be careful. Like Hidden Canyon Trail, this hike starts at Weeping Rock.

The Narrows via Riverside Walk

A full-day hike at 8 hours, the Narrows can pose extra dangers depending on the weather. High water levels can prevent access to the Narrows, so be sure to check with the visitor center before beginning this 9 1/2-mile hike. You'll start this hike at Temple of Sinawava.

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- Family History Center
- Heritage House
- Kanab Heritage Museum
- Kanab City Library
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15 Asava Juice & Smoothies.....	176 S 100 E, Kanab	(435) 644-2637	V	9am-6pm Mon-Sun	Yes
12 Jakey Leigh's	4 E Center St, Kanab	(435) 644-8191	E, V	7am-2pm Mon-Fri, Sat & Sun 8am-Noon	Yes
7 Peekaboo Restaurant.....	233 W Center St, Kanab.....	(435) 689-1959	W, B, M, E, V	11:30am-2:30pm & 5-9pm daily	Yes
6 Sego Restaurant	190 N 300 W, Kanab	(435) 644-5680	W, B, M, E, V	6-10pm Tues-Sat	Yes
16 Wild Thyme	198 S 100 E, Kanab.....	(435) 644-2848	W, B, M, V	5pm-9pm Tues-Sun	Yes
17 Willow Canyon Outdoor.....	263 S 100 E, Kanab.....	(435) 644-8884	E	7:30am-7pm daily	Yes

EAST ZION & KANAB'S FEATURED SERVICES, SHOPS & GALLERIES FROM ZION GUIDE

FOR EMERGENCIES DIAL 911

Services (Listed Alphabetically)

1 Best Friends Animal Sanctuary	5001 Angel Canyon Rd, Kanab	(435) 644-2001
27 Blacksmith Adventures	2450 South Hwy 89, Kanab	(575) 313-4650
5 The Canyons Collection	190 N 300 W, Kanab	(435) 644-8660
24 Dreamland Safari Tours	Serving the greater Kanab area	(435) 644-5506
11 ERA Utah Properties	7 West Center, Kanab	(435) 644-2606
25 GarKane Energy	1802 S Hwy 89A, Kanab	(435) 644-5026
13 Kanab City	37 North 100 East, Kanab	(435) 644-2534
9 Kanab Realty	93 West Center, Kanab	(435) 229-6911
14 Kane County Visitors Bureau	78 S 100 E, Kanab	(435) 644-5033
23 Kanab Tour Company	681 Chnle Dr, Kanab	(435) 644-5525
1 Maynard Dixon Museum	2200 State St, Mt Carmel	(435) 648-2652
26 Red Rock Homes	1875 South Hwy 89, Kanab	(435) 644-3225

Shops (Listed Alphabetically)

18 Glazier's Market	264 S 100 E, Kanab	(435) 644-5029
22 Honey's Marketplace	260 E 300 S, Kanab	(435) 644-5877
8 Kanab Drug	176 W Center, Kanab	(435) 644-3401
11 Kanab Natural Market	11 W Center, Kanab	(435) 644-5575
4 Moqui Cave	4581 US-89	(435) 644-8525
29 Pioneer Creations	55 North Main, Fredonia	(928) 643-7020
10 Terry's Photo Shop	19 W Center St, Kanab	(435) 689-0443
1 The Rock Stop	385 W State St, Orderville	(435) 648-2747
2 White Mountain Trading Post	10 W Hwy 9, Mt Carmel	(435) 648-2030

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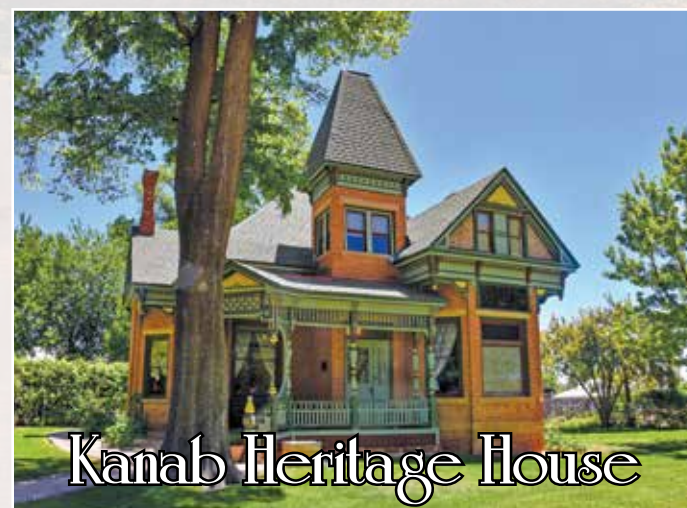
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