

SOUTHERN UTAH VACATION GUIDE

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NEWS



“HIT
REFRESH”



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Southern Utah is The Place to “Hit Refresh”

By Neal Brown

As I sat at my computer the other day, I hit refresh on my browser waiting for a website to load to view the score of the Utah Jazz game. It froze on me. Technology has improved quite a bit since the internet first came out when I was in middle school and a frozen computer was a very regular occurrence back then. Now, though, we expect it to move pretty quickly, which is why I was irritated as it was the fourth quarter with a few seconds left in the game and the webpage wouldn't load!

I kept hitting refresh, and nothing was happening. I went to a different device, and sure enough, the Jazz held on for the victory, which led to my son giving me a rare fist bump, another victory for dad.

A few days later my six-year-old daughter, who is oblivious to critical sporting events, begged me to take her on a hike, which she does regularly. This time I acquiesced, and brought a few of my other kids along.

As we started at the base of the hike in the Kanab Creek Ranchos, I started to reflect on 2020 and how my kids handled the turbulent year.

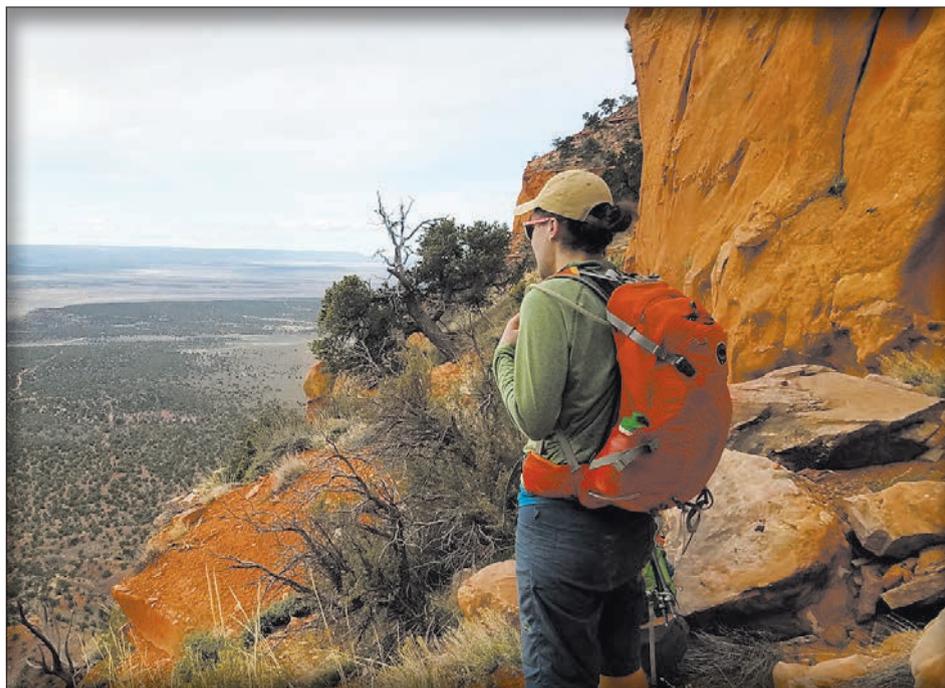
Somehow, that led to me defaulting to an annoying habit of mine, checking Twitter for news updates. I hit refresh, then hit refresh again; our hike had led us out of service. Thank goodness I didn't have another device to check; something

was telling me it was time to hit refresh in nature.

Amidst my busy schedule, I hadn't made it a priority to refresh from the chaos that controls my life. I could definitely feel it taking its toll. My kids on the other hand probably

didn't notice the epiphany I was having. They slowly and joyfully trudged up the mountain. Like most hikes I take my kids on, I didn't plan beforehand very well, and this one was no different. My five-year-old daughter had sandals on and we didn't bring any water. We didn't set out to scale any peaks around Kanab, but that's exactly what my kids wanted to do. I thought I might as well take advantage of the beautiful landscape, sit atop the cliffs, scan the community we live in and get some perspective.

The kids enjoyed the adventure, acting like they were stranded without water by finding hidden spots of unmelted snow for nourishment. As we reached the peak, I was able to unwind, relax, enjoy the cool breeze and hit my own personal refresh. Goosebumps hit as I witnessed my kids enjoying each other's company and chatting about how they didn't think they would be able to reach the peak. The chaos disappeared as I breathed in the untainted fresh air of the place I call home; southern Utah. Come to visit, come to play, come to unwind, or come to stay. Come to southern Utah to “Hit Refresh.”



Hit Refresh and be sure to take in the view after a hike. Photo: Katie Wallace

City of Kanab

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Kanab KTX Half Marathon – April 24
 Kanab's Red Rock ATV Jamboree – April 28-May 1
 Kanab Film Festival – April 29-May 2
 Kanab 10K Mother's Day Weekend – May 8
 Jacob Hamblin Days – June 17-19
 July 4th Celebration – July 3
 Kanab Music Festival – July 23-24
 Kansas City Barbeque Competition – August 20-21
 Western Legends – August 27-28
 Reel Deal Fishing Tournament – September 17-18
 Grand to Grand Ultra – September 19-26
 Kanab Hammerfest – October 8-10
 Sighthound Shivoo – October 8-10
 Canyon to Canyon Art Walk/Red Rocktoberfest – October 16
 Rocky Mountain Pro Rodeo Finals – November 12-13
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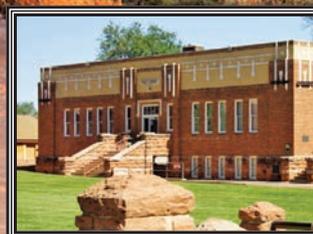
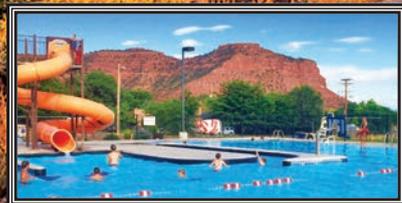
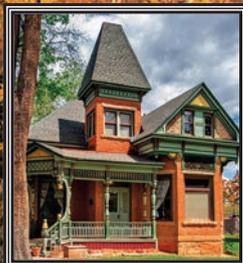
- Hiking Trails
- Biking Trails
- OHV Trails
- Skate Park/Pump Track
- Jackson Flat Reservoir
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SEASONAL ATTRACTIONS

- The Splash Pad
- Cowboy Watering Hole Pool
- Heritage House Museum
- Heritage Museum

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The cover photo of this year's Southern Utah Vacation Guide of a storm above Lake Powell was taken by photographer David Shield.

David says, "I am a landscape photographer who has been inspired by the magical beauty of our landscape, especially the Southwest. Because of this, I made the easy decision to call the Southwest home, where I have based my photography travels and workshops for the last 20 years. I travel specifically in search of unique compositions and lighting. I am both humbled and honored to have been featured in numerous guides and national publications. My most important goal is to promote inspiration and respect for our natural resources."

You can see more of David's amazing photos at:
www.davidshieldphotography.com



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2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

See the Kane County Office of Tourism website at visitsouthernutah.com or call 1-800-SEE-KANE (1-800-733-5263) for updates and details.

APRIL

- ▶ 24 • **KTX Half Marathon** Trail race beginning at the Mansard trailhead and finishing at Jacob Hamblin Park. www.ktxraces.com
- ▶ 28-1 • **Kanab's Red Rock ATV Jamboree** Four days of trail riding. Check-in at 6 pm - Jacob Hamblin Park. www.kanabatvjamboree.com
- ▶ 29-2 • **Kanab Film Festival** At the Kanab Center

MAY

- ▶ 1 • **Opening of Heritage Museum and Heritage House** Open Monday-Friday, 1-5 pm. Contact: 644-3966 for Museum and 644-3506 for House.
- ▶ 8 • **Kanab 10K Race** begins at 7 am at Moqui Cave and ends at Jacob Hamblin Park.
- ▶ 14-15 • **Ragnar Relay Trail Races**. Held at Zion Ponderosa Resort.
- ▶ 15 • **Opening of North Rim of the Grand Canyon** Highway 67 opens (road to the North Rim).

JUNE

- ▶ 5 • **National Trails Day**. Help repair your favorite hiking trail. Meet at 7 am at Jacob Hamblin Park.
- ▶ 17-19 • **Jacob Hamblin Days Ranch Rodeo** Featuring everything from mutton busting to wild steer rides. Contact: John Reese 644-2420

JULY

- ▶ 3 • **Independence Day Celebration** in Kanab. Breakfast, parade, street fair, BBQ dinner, entertainment, dance and fireworks.
- ▶ 23-24 • **Kanab Music Festival** Jacob Hamblin Park 5-10 pm each night
- ▶ 24 • **Pioneer Day Celebration** Parade at 10 am. Games at city park until 2 pm, with Dutch Oven Dinner at 6 pm.
- ▶ 24-25 • **Duck Creek Days Arts & Crafts Festival** Games, art, craft and food booths. Live entertainment. www.duckcreekvillage.com.

AUGUST

- ▶ 7-14 • **Kane County Fair** in Orderville. County Fair with livestock shows, arts & crafts, produce, games & entertainment, golf tournament, horse show and 5K walk/run. www.thekaneountyfair.com
- ▶ 14 • **Symphony at the Grand Canyon** Symphony of the Canyons will perform on the patio at the North Rim Lodge, 6 pm (AZ).
- ▶ 20-21 • **Kansas City Barbeque Association Competition** The best BBQ grillers will convene in Kanab and smoke up the town. Kanab Center.
- ▶ 27-28 • **Western Legends Heritage & Music Festival** Celebrating the culture of the Old West. Street Fair with art and food vendors, live music, evening entertainment. Saturday High Noon Parade. www.westernlegendsroundup.com
- ▶ 28 • **Long Valley Lions Club Demo Derby** Carroll Arena, Orderville

SEPTEMBER

- ▶ 3-4 • **Rutan Fly-in** Pilots race their Canard planes at Kanab City Airport.
- ▶ 17-18 • **Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument 25th Anniversary Celebration**
- ▶ 17-18 • **Reel Deal Fishing Tournament** Held over two days at Jackson Flat Reservoir.
- ▶ 19-26 • **Grand to Grand Ultra Marathon** Six day, 170 mile self-sufficient foot race from the Grand Canyon North Rim to Grand Staircase. www.g2gultra.com
- ▶ 24-25 • **Glendale Apple Festival** Fun weekend. Archery, games, and apples of course.
- ▶ 25 • **National Public Lands Day** Volunteer on your Public Lands, Forests and Monuments.
- ▶ 25 • **Carmel Mountain Car Show** Thunderbird Golf Course at Mt. Carmel Jct. 4 pm

OCTOBER

- ▶ 8-10 • **Kanab Hammerfest** Blacksmithing Extravaganza at Blacksmith Adventures.
- ▶ 8-10 • **Sighthound Shivoo** formerly known as the Greyhound Gathering. Parade, roo contest, race your greyhound, dogs painting, and much more.
- ▶ 15 • **Closing of North Rim-Grand Canyon** Highway 67 to stay open as long as weather allows.
- ▶ 16 • **Red Rocktoberfest Canyon to Canyon Art Walk** Art, music, food, Downtown Kanab
- ▶ 31 • **Halloween Spooktacular** Kanab Center
- ▶ 31 • **Village Halloween Trunk or Treat** 4-5 pm, Duck Creek Village

NOVEMBER

- ▶ 11-13 • **Kanab Writer's Conference** Writers convene at the Kanab Center. www.kanabwritersconference.com
- ▶ 12-13 • **Rocky Mountain Pro Rodeo Association Finals**. Held at Kaneplex Arena.
- ▶ 25 • **K-Town 5K Turkey Trot** 7 am, Sherry Belle Trail, Jackson Flat Reservoir
- ▶ 27 • **Christmas Light Parade** 5 pm, Downtown Kanab
- ▶ 28 • **Christmas on the Mountain/Tree Lighting Ceremony** Visit with Santa 6 pm, Duck Creek Village

DECEMBER

- ▶ 3-4 • **Christmas Festival** Annual Dinner and Concert by Symphony of the Canyons on Friday evening. Entertainment, decorated trees, vendor booths and more on Saturday at the Kanab Center.
- ▶ 11 • **Christmas Bird Count** All Day on Public Lands
- ▶ 18 • **Winsor Castle by Night** Pipe Spring National Monument

Kanab Makes a Great Hub to “Hit Refresh”

By Dixie Brunner

Make Kanab the hub for your southern Utah/northern Arizona vacation plans. Modern conveniences and close proximity to four national parks and a multitude of other scenic sights make it the logical base to “Hit Refresh” on your southern Utah travel adventure.

Here are some suggestions on how to make the most of your vacation!

- Go take a hike! There are so many amazing trails – you’ll have to return many times just to catch them all.
- Visit the North Rim of the Grand Canyon.
- Eat at one of Kanab’s great restaurants. The town is rapidly gaining a reputation as a foodie destination!
- Take a tour of Best Friends Animal Sanctuary. It is the largest no-kill animal sanctuary in the world! Stay another day to volunteer to help with the animals!
- Take a river rafting trip down the Colorado River.
- Ride a bike on a local scenic byway.
- Challenge your photography skills, and try to capture the red rock and intricate geological patterns on nearby mountains.
- Visit Bryce Canyon National Park.
- Dip into Lake Powell to cool off.
- Visit Coral Pink Sand Dunes State

Park.

- Take in the wonders of Zion National Park.
- Get a historic glimpse back into the area’s past by visiting Pipe Spring National Monument.
- Experience Toroweap, the quiet Grand Canyon view.
- Do the Michaelangelo thing, and try to capture scenic views on an artist’s canvas.
- Hot day? Head for cool, refreshing Cedar Mountain. Cool forests, astounding scenic views and Navajo

Lake beckon you.

- Want a taste of the Old West? Take in movie or film-making areas such as Parry Lodge or Little Hollywood, and see western sets and movie memorabilia.
- Stop by Moqui Cave and see the largest collection of dinosaur tracks in southern Utah. While there, check out their fluorescent mineral display, and collection of Native American artifacts.
- Visit Kodachrome Basin State Park. The strange and amazing rock

formations will make you think that you’ve been taken to another planet.

- Tour the historic Heritage House on Main Street in Kanab.
- Stop in at the Old Rock Church in Mt. Carmel and learn the fascinating history of this area.
- Check out Cedar Breaks National Monument. The red rock spires resemble Bryce, and for those with stars in their eyes, it was recently named a dark sky destination.
- Take an off-road guided tour to see some incredible sights.
- Are you a golfer? Play nine holes at the scenic Thunderbird Golf Course in Mt. Carmel.
- Stop by any of the visitor centers of the Grand Staircase/Escalante National Monument. Each one has a different theme.
- Visit the Kane County Information Center to get additional recreational ideas, hiking maps and activities to attend.
- Extend your stay, and take in more of the dramatic scenery and great history by touring Scenic Byway 12. Garfield and Wayne Counties are remote gems, with great early pioneer settlement history and scenery.
- Read the local newspaper. Out-of-state and online subscriptions are available at www.sunews.net.



Mountain biking is getting popular around the Kanab area. Photo: Barry Glazier






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Coral Pink Sand Dunes – Refresh in the Sand

By Dixie Brunner

Make a trip to the extraordinary Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park – there's so much to do!

Hiking, sightseeing and four-wheel adventure can all be part of your park experience. Grown-ups and kids alike will enjoy playing in the sand and wandering the seemingly endless dunes.

The park gets its name from the coral-colored sand that has eroded from exposed Navajo sandstone surrounding the park. The sand formed into a dune system, as a result of wind deposits rising from the hot, lower elevations. The pink sand, contrasted against the steep red cliffs and outcroppings of southern Utah, offer visitors a visual delight.

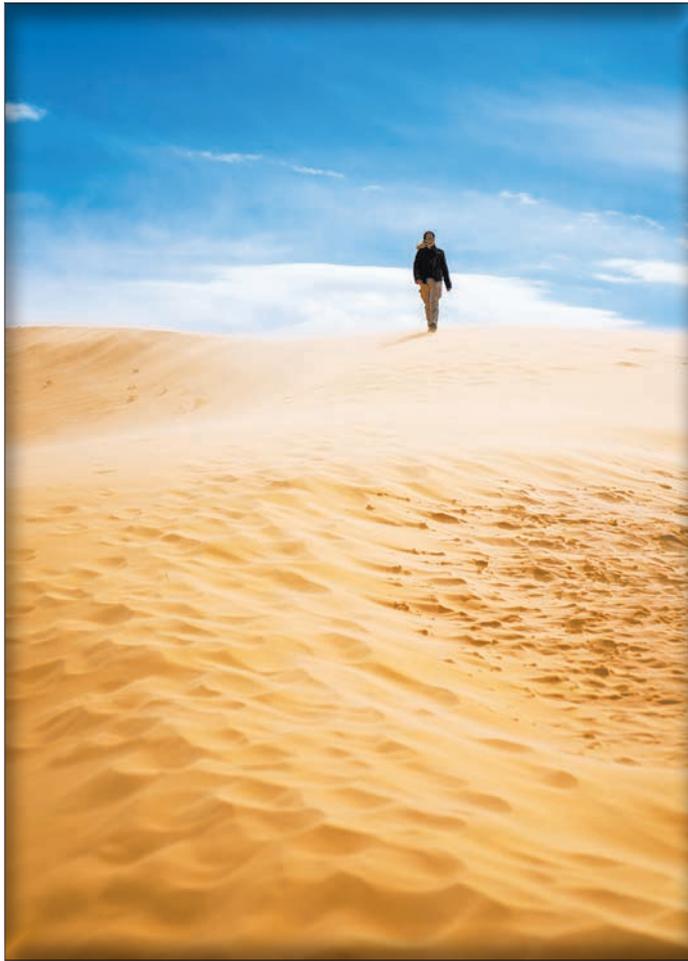
In Kane County's movie-making days, a Hollywood production company thought Coral Pink Sand Dunes resembled Egypt, and it was selected as location for filming *The Greatest Story Ever Told*. All film extras were locals, with the only imported actors being the camels!

The sand dunes and wind-whipped trees of Coral Pink offer a feeling of being somewhere else. But before you think it's a mirage, check the map – you're in the heart of

southern Utah!

The park features a 22-unit campground, along with modern restrooms, hot showers and a sewage disposal station. Reservations for group and individual campsites may be made from three to 120 days in advance. All campsites have pull-through parking, a barbecue grill and a picnic table. If day use is your plan, the park is open from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m.

Coral Pink Sand Dunes has over 3,700 acres of play area for off-highway enthusiasts. Hundreds of miles



Hit Refresh and take a stroll at Coral Pink Sand Dunes. Photo: Paul Heinrich

of trails and several developed four-wheel roads are on BLM land adjacent to the park as well.

While OHV's are permitted on the dunes, strict regulations apply. Riders should contact park personnel for laws and rules before venturing out on the dunes.

There are no developed hiking trails within the park, but several are easily accessible on adjacent lands.

The South Fork Indian Canyon petroglyphs trailhead lies four miles northeast of the park. Harris Mountain is north of the park and offers views of the sand dunes and Zion National Park, while the Moquith Mountains form the east boundary of the park. From dune vantage points, you can see Kanab Canyon and the Grand Canyon North Rim.

Nearby is a dinosaur track sight, but you must have four-wheel drive to visit!

Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park offers a unique opportunity to hit refresh in the incredible place which is southern Utah. For more information, call 435-648-2800.

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The Grand Canyon is a Great Place to Hit Refresh

By Dixie Brunner

On Feb. 26, 1919, the Grand Canyon was designated a national park, becoming one of the great attractions for those seeking to hit refresh and view awe-inspiring vistas, remote adventures or spiritual solace.

Located in northwest Arizona just south of the Utah state line, the world's largest gorge has a North Rim and South Rim separated by the Colorado River that helped carve its wonders of canyons, cliffs and grottos.

The Grand Canyon is on everyone's bucket list! How do you describe one of the seven wonders of the world? The Canyon's matchless beauty and grandeur go far beyond the human ability to describe.

The best-kept secret of the Grand Canyon adventure is to experience it at the North Rim! It's a visitor's dream come true, with incredible views, improved hiking trails and great facilities. The North Rim's popularity is growing, but the opportunities to take in a quiet hike or a scenic vista alone are still there.

When approaching the northern canyon access, you travel through the scenic Kaibab Plateau-North Rim Parkway, driving through

the gentle green forests, which rise dramatically to 9,000 feet in elevation.

The Kaibab National Forest, which the Paiute Indians called "the mountain lying down," changes from life zones of the Sonoran desert zone at one extreme, to the frosty climate of the sub-alpine zone nearer the

canyon. Dense pine forests of the high Kaibab Plateau end abruptly at the canyon's edge.

Campgrounds and lodges are available at the park, but those things can wait – the Canyon is beckoning! At the first overlook you are rendered breathless with the panoramic view. The rugged,

restless collection of colors and canyons, buttes and mesas, as well as wildlife and vegetation, stimulate emotions.

The Canyon offers a multitude of moods, appearing different with every passing minute of every single day. Each of the well-maintained overlooks provide a different view of the canyon and the Colorado River below. Those catching a sunset or sunrise are in for a truly inspiring sight.

My own favorite North Rim activity is to sit on a rocking chair on the patio behind the Grand Canyon Lodge. The panoramic view is humbling and awesome. Watch the clouds drift lazily across the huge expanse, casting different light and shadows on the mesas and canyons. If you get lucky, you might see an approaching storm and the lightning playing across the stony maze in front of you. It's a stunning visual experience.

The trip to the North Rim will offer you a spiritual experience, with plenty of time and access to meditate on its awesome beauty. One leaves the Canyon feeling more bonded and in tune with the natural wonder. Treat yourself and hit refresh at Grand Canyon North Rim!

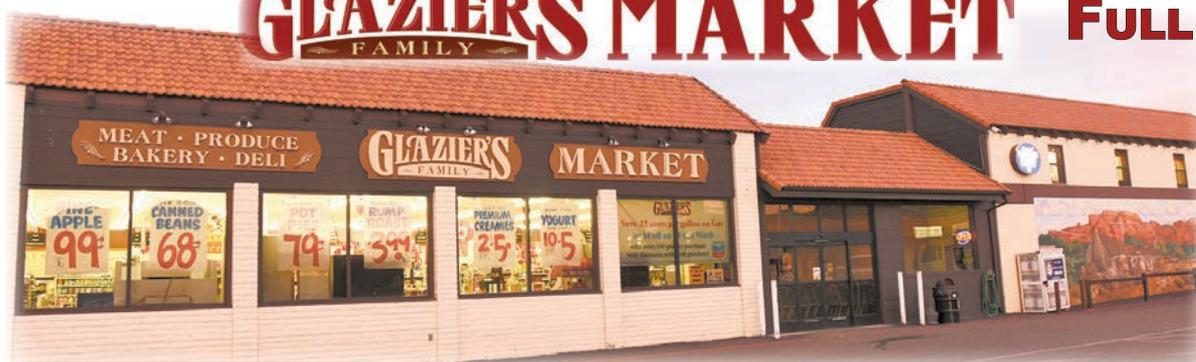


Hit Refresh by taking in the spectacular views of the Grand Canyon. Photo: Jill Williams

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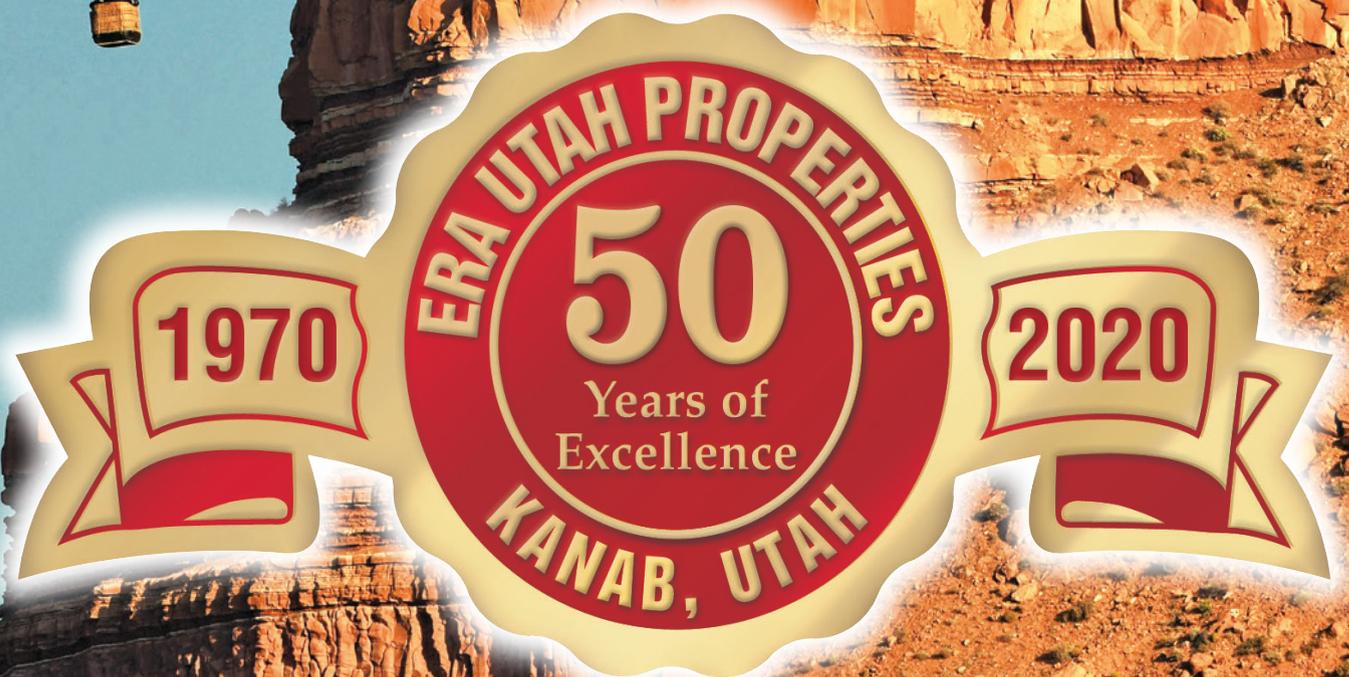
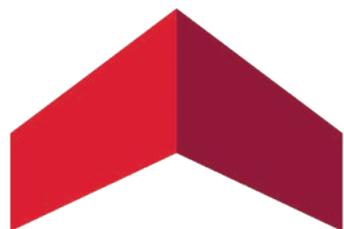


Photo by Barry Glazier

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Refresh Your Physical Self with a Trip to Legendary Lake Powell

By Neal Brown

It is known among locals and visitors alike that Lake Powell might be the greatest place on earth. The beauty of Lake Powell has been written about plenty, so here are three non-obvious reasons why it is one of the best vacation spots in the world.

1. Overcoming fears: As a teenager, I got my first taste of overcoming many fears, the first; cliff jumping. As a newcomer to cliff jumping, it was exciting to see the veterans jumping off cliffs with blatant disregard for safety. Some of these cliffs were dangerously high at 40, 50, or 60 feet and seemed terrifying as a 14-year-old. As I leapt off my first 40-foot cliff, I forgot to point my toes, and slapped the bottom of my feet. The pain wasn't bad enough to make me quit. On to the next challenging cliff of 50 feet, I had time to think in the air and remembered to point my toes, and magically I popped up out of the water with no pain. So of course, the top level 60-foot cliff was in my sights. Half of my friends remained frozen at the top of the 50-footer, so another friend and I climbed to the 60-foot cliff as others watched in nervous anticipation. This was my first taste of feeling brave, albeit for

a teenage brain, brave translates to stupidity pretty easily in the English language. As I hit the water after the 60-foot plunge, the time it took to resurface was noticeably different than the other two cliffs. But as a young boy, overcoming my fears, feeling brave, and walking away with no injuries proved Lake Powell had a place in my heart forever.

2. Warm temperatures: Most of my vacations center around water and for good reason, since water is refreshing to the mind, body and soul. Whether it's the ocean at

Huntington Beach, Bear Lake, or floating the Colorado River, there is always an adjustment period to the cold water. This doesn't hold true for Lake Powell in late summer, however. It reminds me of being a kid and taking a warm bath after playing in the rain. I think there is nothing better than laying on a floating device, listening to music and getting a little sun. For my vacations, I like to spend 90% of the time in the water, which is why I'll pick the warm water of Lake Powell 90% of the time.



A stunning view of Lake Powell from Alstrom Point. Notice Navajo Mountain looming in the background. Photo: Doris Scholte

3. Marina Tag, Grease Ball, and extreme amounts of fun: As a kid growing up in a small town, we had to learn how to create our own fun. It was no different when we found ourselves at the lake. My first memories were playing tag around the boat dock. We hit our heads multiple times, swimming in, under, and through all the huge houseboats docked at the marina. It was so exhilarating to see who could hold their breath the longest, while the person who was "it" slyly swam around looking for everyone. As we got a little too old for tag, our next adventures turned to Grease Ball. A game involving greasing up your body with sun screen, kicking a greased-up soccer ball, throwing it at someone, and finally getting tackled into the lake.

Of course there are other fun activities that Lake Powell has to offer like tubing, jet-skiing, wakeboarding, wake surfing, camping, fishing and boating.

Just like it's always hard to leave the lake, it's just as hard to stop writing about how amazing it is. Every time I go, I get the chance to hit refresh as I bask in the cherished memories of the coolest place on earth.

BIG WATER

Famous for their starry night skies and dinosaur fossils, Big Water is just a short drive away from Lake Powell, Horseshoe Bend, Grand Staircase-Escalante and Vermilion Cliffs. Plan your trip today at VisitSouthernUtah.com

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Kanab is Small Town America at its Finest

By Neal Brown

The 4th of July represents what is truly great about America, and that's never truer than spending the holiday in small town America, like Kanab, Utah. It's fun to see the streets lined with friends and family, tourists and transients. Whether you recognize someone or not, it feels like they are connected to you, and after sharing an Independence Day in Kanab, you are connected. There's a bond shared through the celebration of freedom and the safety that we all enjoy walking the streets during the parade, getting candy thrown at us, getting water sprayed on you, and smiling through it all in the dry desert heat. While the parade may seem short compared to big city parades, the after-parade activities abound.

Jacob Hamblin Park, just a few blocks north of Main Street, shines bright as one of the best parks in southern Utah. Tucked under the rising red plateaus, it provides the perfect backdrop for a fireworks show like nothing you've ever experienced before. It's no wonder the grassy park fills up right before dusk as the residents claim their spot for the fantastic fireworks show.

Visitors from all over the world come to Jacob Hamblin Park to take a load off, unwind and hit refresh, whether it's for a quick picnic lunch, or a day of getting rejuvenated before they're off on their next adventure. I have talked to many such people, who are astounded at the beauty and the activities that the park has to offer. One woman from Sweden told me they didn't have anything like this where she lived. She couldn't believe the playground structure, the splash pad feature, and the enticing outdoor swimming pool right next door to the park.

The new skate park stays full all day as kids take in the last bit of sunlight before the sun goes down



Fireworks in Kanab is a highlight of the 4th of July. Photo: Raven Chavez

and the 4th of July show begins. It's not uncommon to have kids from all over southern Utah, including Cedar City, St. George and Mesquite, Nevada, travel to spend the day skating the unique pump track around the skate park. It feels different, and that's because it is.

It's hard to put your finger on exactly why Kanab has that different feel to it. When you start engaging with the locals, you'll start to understand what makes Kanab the unique place it is. It's the people that make Kanab what it is, and the diversity among the community is ever present. Whether it's talking to Barry Glazier at Glazier's Market, Victor Cooper at Rocking V Cafe, Chef Shon at Sego Restaurant, or Rosa at Escobar's Mexican Restaurant, the love for Kanab radiates off all of them. As you feel that love, and build connections with one another, you'll get hooked on what makes Kanab so great; the people. It's refreshing to feel it, and it's addicting, which is why most people you see at the 4th of July parade in Kanab are repeat offenders, and we hope you'll become one, too.

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Refresh at the Incomparable Zion National Park

By Dixie Brunner

Few Zion National Park visitors will challenge the statement that its magnificent rock formations are incredible! Sights such as the intriguing Narrows, Virgin Towers, Temple of Sinawava, Checkerboard Mesa, Angel's Landing or Great White Throne often bring tears to those contemplating their awesome beauty.

Long before its official designation as Mukuntuweap National Monument on July 31, 1909, by President William Howard Taft, Zion was a frequent home to the Paiute Indians. The first homesteader to hang his hat at Zion was Isaac Behunin in 1861. While life was difficult for the pioneer, Behunin was appreciative of its beauty. "A man can worship God among these great cathedrals," said Behunin, "as well as in any man-made church – this is Zion."

The park was renamed and established as Zion National Park in 1919, and has become internationally known for its majestic towering rock mountains, which rise to awe-inspiring heights. Zion is a lush green oasis, surrounded by startling sentinels of stone. With sheer, milky-white cliffs

and pristine, curtained waterfalls, Zion, simply put, is one of the most beautiful places in the west.

The park became popular, with visitation numbers around 1,000 annually by 1919, when many of those tourists arrived by horseback or stagecoach. Last year, the park logged in an amazing five million

visitors from all over the world.

The lodge was completed in 1926. The majority of park visitors come during the spring and fall, with lowest visitation during the months of December to March.

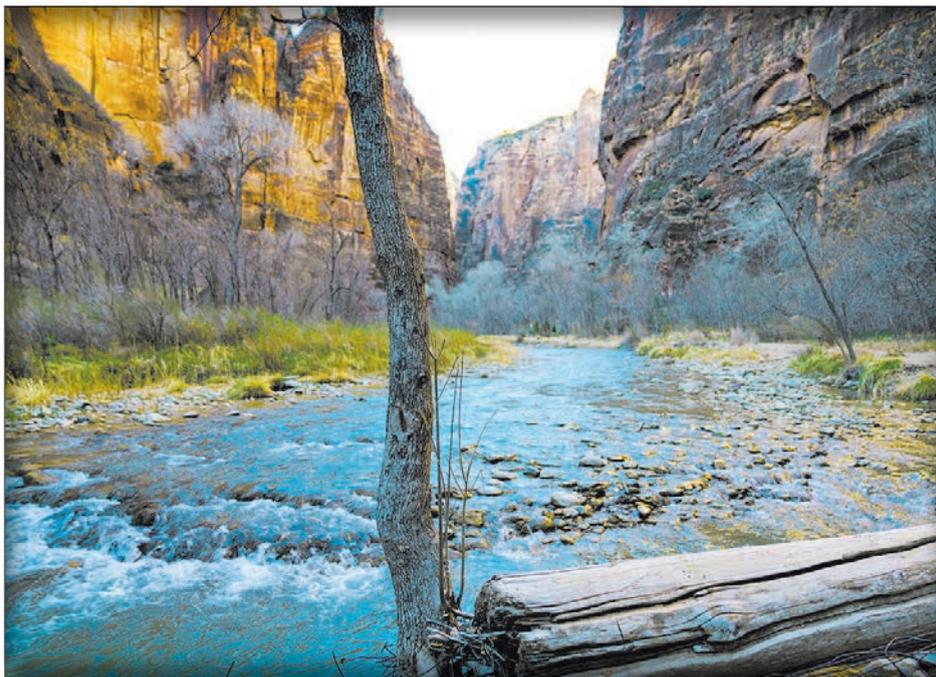
Zion National Park has seen substantial changes in its 100 plus years of existence. Two major

changes that affected park visitation the most were probably when they established the lodge, as well as when the Zion-Mt. Carmel Highway tunnel was completed. The tunnel, a major engineering undertaking, was completed and opened to the public in July 1930. The tunnel was important because it connected the way to other parks to the east, like the Grand Canyon North Rim and Bryce Canyon National Park.

When looking at the steep, stone mountains, you are struck with a feeling of something much older and more important than humans. It took Mother Nature roughly 250 million years to create this scenic wonderland, and she's not done yet! Layers of sedimentary rock make up the surrounding mountains. With each layer deposited, the weight of the new material pushes down the old.

The Virgin River also had a hand in the creation of Zion. Slicing canyons as deep as 3,000 feet in some places, the river left buttes and mesas standing as lone islands rising up from the valley floor.

Unlike many of the West's great scenic attractions, a majority of Zion is seen from the floor of the canyon, rather than from the rim. When



The Zion Narrows are very refreshing on a hot day. Photo: Paul Heinrich

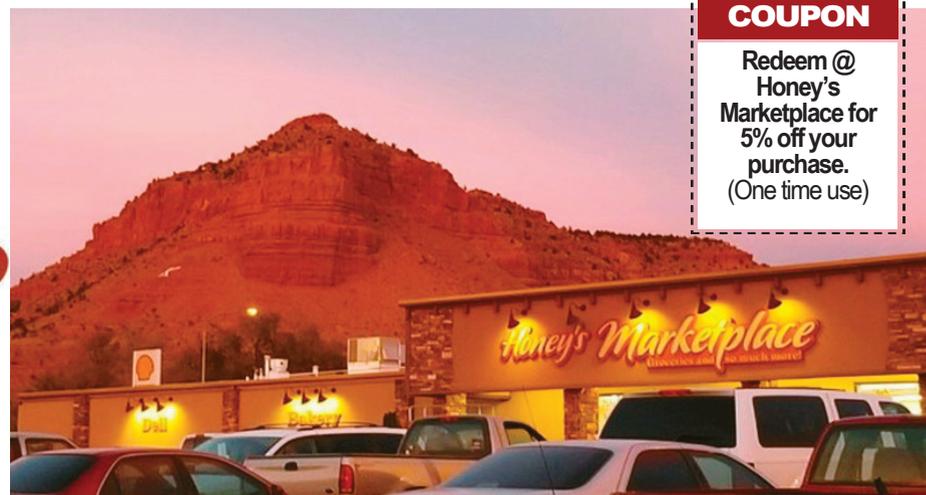
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hiking its trails, Zion surrounds you with grandeur. Hiking trails come in a variety of lengths (some with wheelchair access), offering novice to expert hikers the opportunity to see and experience the park.

Some longer hikes require permits, so check with park personnel concerning long hikes. There are serious dangers associated with flash floods in some of the narrow slot canyons, so also check weather reports before undertaking those amazing adventures.

Hiking isn't the only way to experience Zion. You can ride a bike, climb, horse-ride, take a guided tram tour or drive, with each offering a different, yet unique, perspective. The drive through the mountain tunnel, and down the dizzying switchbacks is a remarkable and sometimes nail-biting treat.

A visitor center, shuttle system, lodge and campgrounds are located inside the park, with services and accommodations outside both entrances as well. Highway 9 exits Zion's east entrance and takes tourists on a scenic trip to Mt. Carmel Junction, Bryce Canyon National Park and beyond. A new visitor center is in the planning stages near the east entrance to the park.

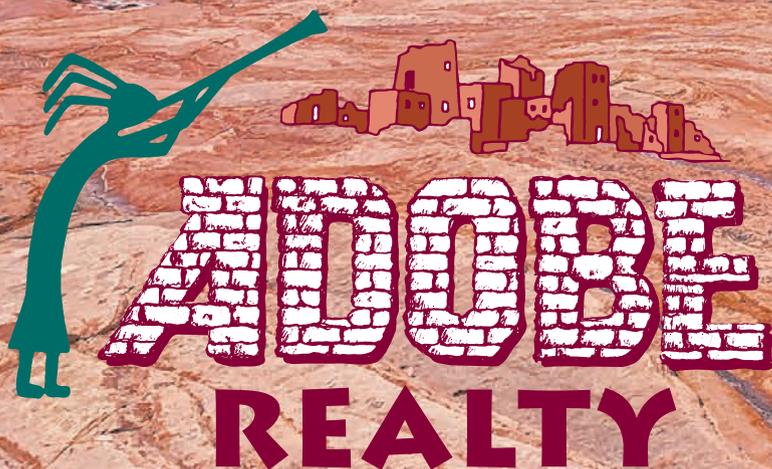
Hit Refresh and explore beautiful, beautiful Zion!



The incredible Subway hike in Zion. A permit is needed, and they are limited, so plan ahead. Photo: Barry Glazier

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Hit Refresh at the Unique Bryce Canyon National Park

By Dixie Brunner

As you approach Bryce Canyon National Park, you get the overwhelming feeling that you are about to see something very special. You can't wait to get there!

But, relax and enjoy the journey. As with most travels in southern Utah, getting there is equally as satisfying as the destination – and taking a hike and viewing the strange rock formations is the best way to explore Bryce Canyon!

A year round visitor and natural history center adjacent to the park entrance can help visitors plan their Bryce tour. Daily ranger talks and current schedules for various park activities are posted there. There is also a display of indigenous animals you might see in the park.

The roads winding up to the scenic overlooks present a visual treat themselves. You begin to see the oddly-shaped hoodoos as you pass through Red Canyon with two stone archways welcoming your arrival.

Bryce is unlike any place you've ever seen before! Red stone spires jab at the azure-blue Utah sky, like an accusing old man's fingers. An eerie feeling takes hold as the towering rock pillars beckon. Peer over the canyon rim, and you're

treated to a dramatic, breathtaking landscape vista, far beyond that of normal, descriptive vocabulary.

The geological wonder known as Bryce Canyon National Park is a testament to Mother Nature having final say when it comes to creating a place of color, texture and beauty. Its spires, rocky temples

and pillars, arranged within a huge amphitheater of red rock, seem like they've been placed to stimulate people's imaginations.

Bryce's allure is undeniable, from the minute you first glimpse the unusual sculptured, multi-colored pinnacles from along the canyon's edge. The bizarre formations are

nestled in 12 huge bowls sinking deep into the red southern Utah earth. The stone spires of Bryce are actually products of erosion. The effects of wind, weather and time on sedimentary rock, such as lime and sandstone, have carved the stone sculptures.

The Rim Trail is very popular because it runs around the top, connecting you with all the scenic overlooks, from Fairyland to Bryce Point. The great part about this trail is you can choose how far you want to go – 0.5-5.5 miles one way, offers you some options on how far is a good thing.

But you must explore Bryce more – the many hiking trails leading to the canyon floor also demand your attention! The only question is how to get down. Some choose to rent horses to make the trip, while many opt to walk.

The Navajo Trail Loop travels down into the main natural amphitheater. This is one of the most popular trails going down and can be combined with the Queens Garden Trail. While longer, it gives you even more to see with such formations as Queen Victoria, Gulliver's Castle and the Queen's Castle.



For a very different look, explore Bryce Canyon National Park in the winter. Photo: Judy Kiel

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The gradual descent into Bryce Canyon offers a giant fantasy close-up view of the orange formations. Upon reaching the canyon floor you stare up at the red spires stretching over 1,000 feet into the air and feel very small.

Each season and every passing moment offer a different view of Bryce. The master artist of time provides a different perspective, as lighting creates changing magical effects. The view confirms what you already knew to be true – Bryce Canyon is an enchanted place.

Enhance your visitor experience by taking a moonlit-guided hike, geology talk or telescope stargazing! Renowned for its stunning dark skies, a whole new life of adventure happens during the evening due to low light pollution. Become star struck!

Hit Refresh and explore the beautiful scenic attractions of Bryce Canyon!

Kane County Tidbits

- The *Kanab Index* was the first newspaper printed in Kanab in the late 1880's by Elmer Johnson.
- The first car to arrive in Kanab was in 1909 from Salt Lake City, after three full days of travel. Less than a dozen people here had seen an automobile before then.



Dark Skies at Bryce Canyon as you look up among the spires. Photo: Cody Wilson

Dark Skies – Night Refresh

By Mark Havnes

Ah, the beauty of dark skies! While traveling through southern Utah, there is still plenty to see when the blazing sunsets fade. Just turn your eyes skyward and revel in the starry extravagance enhanced by some of the best dark skies in the lower 48, including the silvery arc of the Milky Way.

The stars, and earthly parties they inspire, are growing in popularity with some of the best held at Bryce Canyon, Canyonlands and Capitol Reef National Parks. Three of the seven parks and monuments in Utah – more than in any other state – are designated as Dark Sky Places by the International Dark-Sky Association.

The parks offer astronomical lectures, star parties and other nocturnal activities throughout the summer. Schedules of events and programs can be found at nps.org or darksky.org.

The Dark-Sky Association works with the National Park Service and communities to enhance the star-gazing experience through preserving the velvety blackness of night. The effects of light pollution – the easiest type of pollution to mitigate – not only reduces the visibility of the universe, but can adversely affect the health cycles of humans and disrupt the nocturnal activities of animals, crucial to their survival.

Zach Schierl, education specialist and dark-sky coordinator at Cedar Breaks National Monument, said that true dark skies no longer exist east of the Mississippi River. In Los Angeles, overwhelming the stars by artificial light is so bad, that during nighttime power outages, people will call the Griffin Observatory wondering what the silver cloud in the sky is.

“It’s the Milky Way,” said Schierl. “These people didn’t even know it was their own galaxy staring them in the face.”

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Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

The Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) had the distinction when created in 1996 of being the first national monument to be administered by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Although this vast, unspoiled, untamed monument was cut in half by President Donald Trump, it still offers an impressive array of educational and recreational opportunities for visitors to experience.

Now forming three units – the Grand Staircase unit of cliffs and terraces, the rugged Kaiparowits unit, and the wonders of the Escalante Canyon unit – its remote character provides extraordinary possibilities for scientific research and discovery.

GSENM visitor centers each offer a different interpretive focus – Big Water features paleontology, Kanab stresses geology and archaeology, while Cannonville has a human history focus. Escalante features monument plants and animals, and archaeology is the theme at Anasazi State Park Museum in Boulder.

The visitor centers are also a great resource for travel information. The Monument is remote and unforgiving

to the unprepared, making it crucial to plan ahead and expect the unexpected! Check on current road and weather conditions, and let someone know where you are going, and when you expect to return. Carry extra water, clothing and food in case of an emergency. Do not travel or hike alone!

Remember, overnight camping requires a permit (easily obtained at any of the visitor centers).

There are several ways to access GSENM. Visitors can drive along Scenic Byway 12 between Tropic and

Boulder in the north. Travelers on this highway are treated to swirling sandstone mesas, intriguing canyons, high desert and forests. In the south, the richly-colored vermilion cliffs border Highway 89 between Kanab and Page.

Partially paved and graded gravel, the Burr Trail to the Capitol Reef National Park boundary and Johnson Canyon Road to the Skutumpah Road turnoff are visual treats of multi-hued canyon walls.

Most roads in the Monument are dirt, clay or sand. Conditions on the

unpaved roads can change quickly due to weather. High clearance four-wheel-drive vehicles are recommended. Services and water are generally not available. Cell phones do not work on most of the Monument.

Beckoning the restless heart and challenging the adventurous soul, GSENM boasts some of the best backcountry opportunities in the country. Equestrians will find the Upper Paria River an amazing corridor with steep canyon walls, hanging gardens and historic remnants from earlier travelers; while the uncompromising and vivid landscapes along the Great Western Trail offer ATV enthusiasts an exciting ride.

If you prefer guided trips with a professional outfitter, GSENM has many authorized providers offering services for auto tours, hiking, backpacking, bicycling, horseback riding, hunting, fishing and shuttle services, as well as geology and natural history tours, photography classes, environmental education, llama and horse pack trips.

If you would like more information about the magic of the Monument, visit a GSENM visitor center, or log on at www.ut.blm.gov/monument.



Metate Arch in the Grand Staircase-Escalante NM. Photo: Norm McKee

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A Truly Warm, Fuzzy Way to Refresh Your Soul Awaits at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary

By Barb Williamson

The red rock canyon walls and open vistas surrounding Kanab just make you want to explore. It seems like at every turn there is a canyon drawing you in, or a bluff that makes you crane your neck to see what is at the top. Hidden or in plain sight, the unique geology of Kanab and Kane County seems to will magic into reality. And in the middle of all this is Angel Canyon, home to the nation's largest no-kill refuge for homeless pets.

The animals come to Best Friends Animal Sanctuary from animal shelters and rescue groups across the country for special care and training so they can be ready to be adopted into a loving home. Best Friends Animal Society is a leading force in the national effort to take this country – No-Kill by 2025 – saving every dog and cat in a shelter who can be saved. It means healing the animals that can be healed, treating behaviors that can be treated, and prioritizing safety and a high quality of life for both pets and people in our communities.

When you visit the Sanctuary and witness the lifesaving love of

volunteers and caregivers for the animals, it will refresh your soul. Whether you only have time for the Grand Tour to get a big-picture look at the Sanctuary, which sprawls along a six-mile road, or you have time for the focused tours in different parts of the Sanctuary, or you do hands-on volunteering, it is sure to be a one-of-a-kind of experience.

Being that person who gets a shy dog to take a treat for the very first time; brushing a cat who is finally relaxed enough to sunbathe after being rescued from a bad situation; finding the “sweet scratch spot” on a potbellied pig’s side that makes the pig lay down in joy and beg for a belly rub; wandering through the Gratitude Garden to the meditative

labyrinth walk; or eating a plant-based lunch on the deck at Angel Cafe that overlooks Angel Canyon, you will find yourself recharged.

And at the end of your Best Friends day, what could be better than spending the night at Best Friends Roadhouse and Mercantile in Kanab? The Roadhouse is the premier pet-centric accommodation and your stay helps support Best Friends’ lifesaving work. If you are traveling with your pet, the Roadhouse friendly ambassadors can help arrange a pet sitter while you are touring or volunteering at the Sanctuary. Or they can arrange a slumber party with a Sanctuary cat or dog to make your evening extra special. Visit www.bestfriendsroadhouse.org to find out more.

While planning your Kanab getaway, go to www.bestfriends.org to secure your spot on one of the free Best Friends tours and/or register to volunteer at the Sanctuary (openings fill up fast).

Don’t be surprised if you find yourself planning your next trip back to Best Friends and Kanab before you go home.



These adorable puppies are waiting to be adopted at Best Friends.

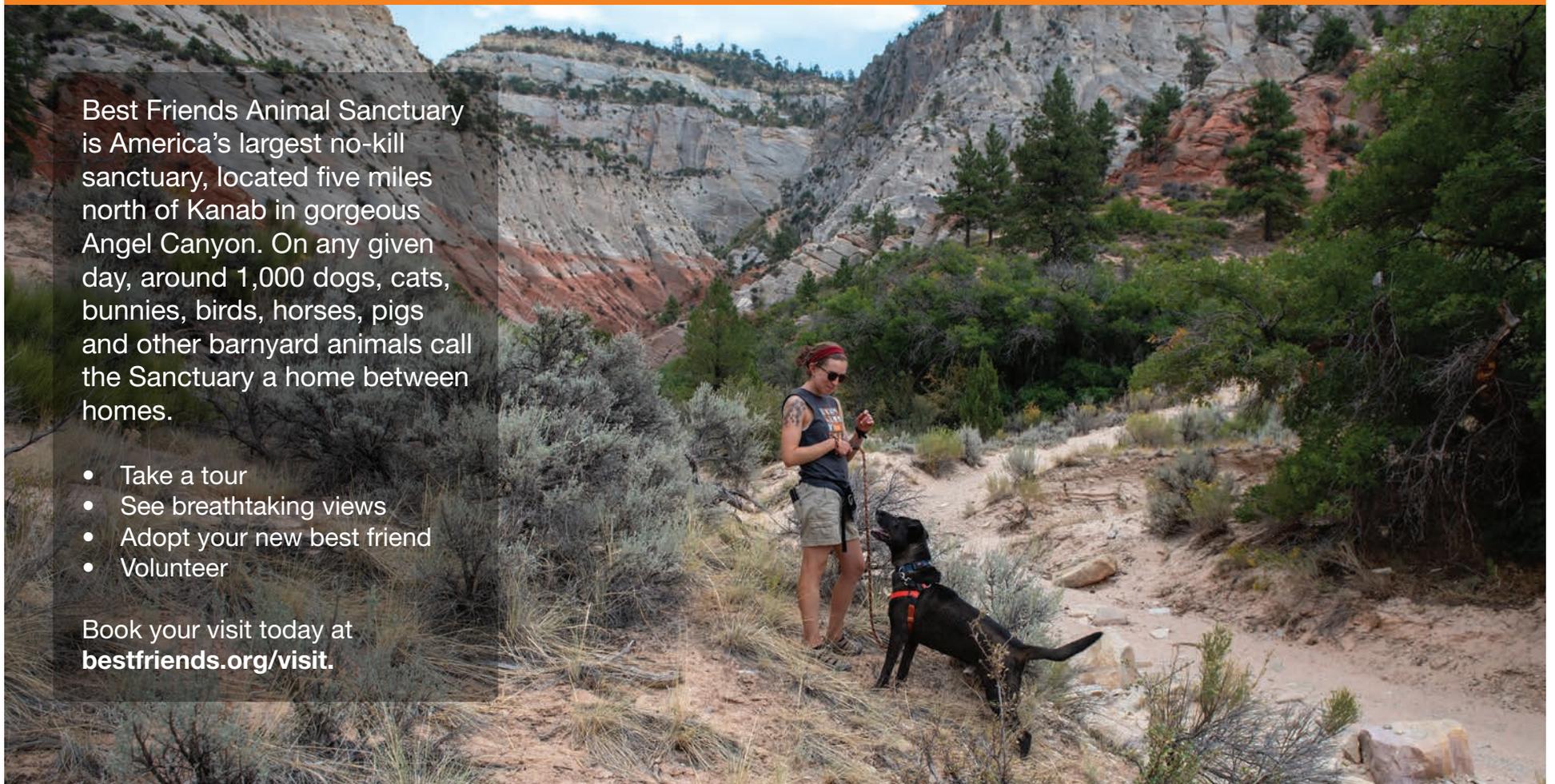
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Refreshing and Invigorating – Rafting the Colorado River

By Dixie Brunner

Picture yourself floating lazily down the river with sheer canyon walls towering thousands of feet overhead, reflecting in the crystal clear water you glide upon. Peace and tranquility envelope you with each winding turn of the river, putting more distance between you and the hectic lives you left behind.

And then ... you hear the roar!

You look ahead at a wall of roiling water, so huge you cannot see beyond. It seems impossible the raft on which you're riding can make it through the turbulent water ahead!

Grand Canyon Expeditions has been providing once-in-a-lifetime experiences for worldwide visitors for nearly 50 years. The eight or 14-day river adventures are all-inclusive, with all meals, bedding and round-trip transportation from Las Vegas furnished.

"A Canyon trip offers serenity and excitement," explains owner Marty Mathis. "It's getting back to nature, starlit nights, history. The Canyon is a magical life-changing experience."

The trip takes you on an unforgettable 280-mile journey down the Colorado River, negotiating nearly 200 heart-pounding rapids.

The adventure, which begins

at Lees Ferry, Ariz. and ends at Pearce Ferry, Ariz. on Lake Mead, carries riders on comfortable 37 foot S-Rig rafts. Known for their safety

and maneuverability, the rafts can forge through the Colorado River's most formidable rapids, many of which early explorers were forced to

portage.

Professional guides provide informed ongoing commentary on the Canyon's history, geology, archeology, and plant and animal life. The information is educational, especially since rafters on their journey down the river will see everything from ancient petroglyphs to wildflowers, from rock formations to ringtail cats and bighorn sheep.

Time is built into the trip to include opportunities for people to explore, both on their own or with guides. After the heart-pounding thrill of riding the rapids, relaxing time can be spent playing in the waterfalls of tributary streams; taking a hike in brightly-hued side canyons; or just sitting under a shade tree and watching the river rush past.

While many take the Grand Canyon trip for excitement, and some to renew family and friendship ties, there are no strangers by the end of the trip! You spend 24 hours a day for eight days with people from all over the world. You share great food, hair-raising adventure, and the most incredible scenery together. For many, the experience creates a lifelong bond of friendship that can never be replaced.

People are often moved to tears by the Grand Canyon's remarkable beauty. Time, erosion and the different rock layers have carved and created a visual rainbow palate. A trip down the Colorado River offers many a sense of renewed spirituality.

Besides offering the standard eight-day trips, Grand Canyon Expeditions also offer special interest trips for those with particular interests in history, geology, photography, ecology and/or archeology. On these trips, passengers are accompanied by experts who share special knowledge in these areas.

For more information on rafting trips, call Grand Canyon Expeditions 1-800-544-2691, or visit their website at <http://www.gcex.com>.



Getting wet rafting through a big rapid. Photo: Dennis Brunner



Playing in side canyons with waterfalls is a refreshing bonus on the rafting trip. Photo: Dennis Brunner

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Montezuma's Treasure – the Search for Gold!

By Dixie Brunner

Freddie Crystal in 1914, thought he had found the location of the famed Montezuma's Gold. (The Aztec Indian treasure Montezuma's followers supposedly buried to prevent it from falling into the hands of Cortez and his Spanish conquistadors.) Freddie was staying at a nearby Johnson Canyon ranch at the time, and was convinced he knew the location of the famed gold.

Crystal said Indian petroglyphs marked the way to a buried tunnel and secret room inside of a mountain with a great hoard of Aztec gold, silver and jewels. He disappeared for a few years, returning with a map he claimed to have found in a Spanish monastery. The map showed four mountains to the north, one mountain in each of the other three directions, a cliff with stairs, a duck petroglyph symbol, and a canyon with four side branches. One of the branches was marked as the buried treasure site.

After a great deal of searching, Crystal and his entourage found another map directing them to White Mountain. As the group entered the canyon, Crystal pointed out matching clues...the duck petroglyphs and

the cliff stairs were both there. They were sure they had found the lost treasure! The group was so excited they began digging immediately. Af-

ter two days of back-breaking excavation, they discovered a man-made stone wall built of blue limestone rock.



A cave leading to where Montezuma's Treasure was thought to have been hidden.

News of the discovery rocked Kanab! The townspeople were in a frenzy. An organized group of diggers set up a tent city on the flat terrain beneath the mountain's slope. The workers pushed through the stone wall and found to their excitement, a tunnel. The 160 foot tunnel was treacherous with cave-ins, but Crystal and his group worked diligently. The party found pottery shards, deer and rabbit bones, and just as the map said, a large room!

Unfortunately, the room was empty. There was no gold, jewels or treasure...only dust.

Many more tunnels leading in other directions were found, and the searchers kept on looking for the treasure to no avail. After a two year effort, Crystal gave up his treasure hunt and disappeared completely. Interest in the treasure waned, and Kanab folk returned to their ordinary lives without finding the phenomenal gold stash.

The tunnel and treasure room still exist today. Occasionally you hear of somebody who thinks they know the gold's real location, but Kane County's primary treasure is to hit refresh and enjoy the spectacular scenery.

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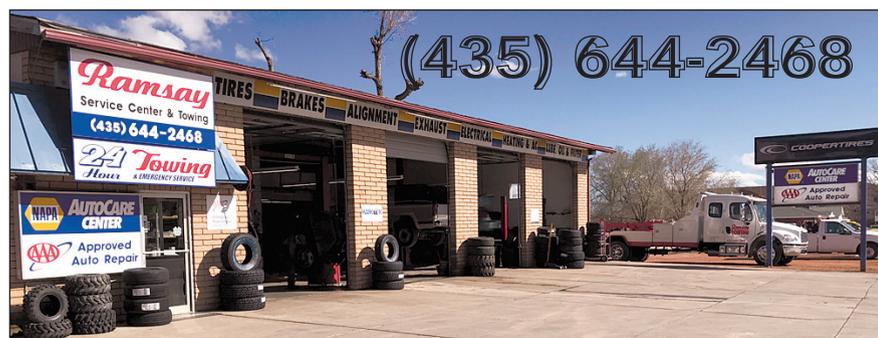


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Two Musicals, *Bright Star* and *Montezuma and the Petticoats* to Perform this Summer in Kanab

By Jeff Stott

After a year of closed theaters, Kanab locals and visitors have the chance to return to live performances not once, but twice, this summer!

First, from June 18-26, the award-winning Broadway musical *Bright Star* will charm audiences with powerful vocals, an unforgettable story and the toe-tapping sounds of a live bluegrass band.

Inspired by a true story and featuring the Tony®-nominated score by Steve Martin and Edie Brickell, Broadway's *Bright Star* tells a sweeping tale of love and redemption set against the rich backdrop of the American South in the 1920s and '40s. When literary editor Alice Murphy meets a young soldier just home from World War II, he awakens her longing for the child she once lost. Haunted by their unique connection, Alice sets out on a journey to understand her past – and what she finds has the power to transform both of their lives. With beautiful melodies and powerfully moving characters, the story unfolds as a rich tapestry of deep emotion. An uplifting theatrical journey that holds you tightly in its grasp, *Bright*

Star is as refreshingly genuine as it is daringly hopeful.

Directed by Rachelle Robinson, *Bright Star* is produced by husband and wife performers, Lyndsey and Russell Wulfenstein (The W Duo), whose previous stage productions have consistently delighted sold-out audiences with their focus on delivering uplifting entertainment and memorable experiences.

Then on August 5, 6, 7 and 9, the

all-original *Montezuma and the Petticoats* debuts. This musical play takes place in early 1900's Kanab and is inspired by two historical events: i) the election of what would become known as the nation's first all-women town council in 1911; and ii) prospector Freddie Crystal's recruitment of the whole town to help him search for Montezuma's hidden treasure supposedly buried near Kanab.

When Freddie Crystal bicycles into Kanab with a map to Montezuma's buried gold, soul-searching Mary decides to help him recruit all able-bodied men to look for the treasure. Though distrusting of Freddie and his tales of gold, Mary sees the treasure hunt as a chance for her and her petticoat friends to win the local election from the stingy and self-absorbed current mayor so that they can change the course of the poorly run town. Mary's foray into local politics helps her and others confront their own self-doubts, while simultaneously leading to feelings for Freddie – but it may be too late as the mayor relentlessly pursues arresting Freddie for fraud.

Directed by Tammie Van Dyke, written and produced by Jeff Stott, and musical arrangement by Russell Wulfenstein, *Montezuma and the Petticoats* is a western comedy that both celebrates and pokes fun at southern Utah rural life. It's about treasure seeking, falling in love, and accepting one's self – weaknesses and all.

Both shows will be performed at the Kanab High School auditorium. Tickets at www.kanabmusical.com.



Cast members are gearing up to perform "*Bright Star*" and "*Montezuma and the Petticoats*" this summer in Kanab.

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A MUSICAL PLAY INSPIRED BY KANAB'S HISTORY

Go Back in Time at Pipe Spring National Monument

In 1870, Anson P. Winsor followed Mormon leader Brigham Young's orders and began construction of a substantial fortified structure at Pipe Spring, to provide defense of the Mormon frontier against potential Navajo raids, as well as become a church tithing ranch.

It took the faithful two years to build "Winsor Castle." Rock for the walls was quarried from local sandstone, and pine timbers were freighted in from Mount Trumbull.

The tall building had large wooden gates on either side, wide enough to permit a wagon to enter. The stout walls enclosed two houses separated by a spacious courtyard, with a parlor, kitchen, meeting and guest room, and bedrooms.

To protect the precious water source, a room was built over the main spring, where the 56-degree water cooled milk, cream, butter and cheese. Those dairy products were taken to St. George, Utah, every two weeks for the builders of numerous public works projects, including a Mormon Temple.

Winsor Castle, as it was known, was a welcome stop for travelers crossing the empty, wind-swept Arizona Strip, between the Grand Canyon and the Utah border. Famed

geologist and explorer John Wesley Powell watched the groundbreaking for the fort, and his survey team bunked in the small West Cabin beside Winsor Castle in 1872.

While various people managed Winsor Castle and the ranch, the Mormon Church maintained ownership through the 1880s. During federal raids on polygamous families in the 1880s and 1890s, wives and children hid out at Pipe Spring to protect their husbands from arrest. The ranch passed into private hands in 1896.

Despite the benefit of the fort to Mormon settlers and travelers,

their arrival proved detrimental to the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians. The Kaibab were excluded from the water source that had been keenly important to their existence. This brought extreme challenges, including the loss of their traditional subsistence lifestyle, a drastic decline in population, government assimilation programs such as Indian boarding schools and termination of reservations.

Intrigued by the old fort and its pioneer and Native American history, National Park Service Director Stephen Mather proposed Pipe Spring be a national park

area. It was proclaimed a National Monument on May 31, 1923.

Today, visitors are invited to learn about the history and culture of the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians and Mormon pioneers in a variety of ways. There is an onsite visitor center and museum, shared by the National Park Service and the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians, which offers an extensive array of exhibits on the Kaibab Paiute, as well as pioneer culture and history. A theater features a film on the settlement of the Pipe Spring area from the points of view of descendents of the early occupants – Kaibab Paiute and Mormon pioneers.

In addition, Pipe Spring park rangers provide tours of the historic fort, Winsor Castle, throughout the year. During the summer, rangers also offer walks, talks and "living history" demonstrations, bringing historic pioneer and American Indian traditions to life. Visitors are welcome to stay and tour the orchard and garden, historic out-buildings, and the scenic half-mile Ridge Trail at their own pace. Trailside exhibits provide information about the natural and cultural history of the area. Ask about the featured hikes near the Monument.



An oasis on the Arizona Strip, Winsor Castle. Photo: courtesy Pipe Spring NM



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Hit Refresh With Wildlife and Scenery on North Kaibab

The North Kaibab Ranger District is a 655,000-acre sanctuary for all to cherish. Looking south from most vantage points in Kane County, it sits quietly on the horizon.

It is one of the three ranger districts that make up the 1.6-million acre Kaibab National Forest, which is bisected by the wonderment that is known as the Grand Canyon.

The North Kaibab is an island of forested lands surrounded by the sage, grasslands and canyons of lower elevations. And what it offers are countless layers of recreational and sightseeing opportunities, which are a must-see, "bucket list" experience for anyone visiting.

Before embarking on a personal exploration of the district, guests are encouraged to visit the North Kaibab Ranger District Office in Fredonia, located just seven miles from Kanab. The office is open year-round Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and it is an ideal place to absorb knowledge of the area.

The North Kaibab has a unique "niche" of bountiful sanctuaries, isolated vistas, nature-inspired solitude and quality habitat necessary for wildlife observation, hunting, hiking and other dispersed recreational activities.

The district has nearly 1,200 miles

of maintained and non-maintained trails, including sections of the Arizona National Scenic Trail, Great Western Trail, and the Rainbow Rim.

Each year, recreationists visit to run, hike, pedal, camp and ride horseback across the Kaibab's aesthetic appeal.

There are two established campgrounds on the forest – Jacob Lake Campground sits at an elevation of 7,925 feet and DeMotte Campground at roughly 8,700 feet. For those seeking a more primitive

experience, dispersed camping is also available throughout the district.

If you are looking for a more rustic weekend getaway, the district also has six cabins available to rent at Big Springs and one at Jumpup Canyon as part of the Kaibab National Forest's cabin rental offerings, which are available as part of the Arizona Cabin Rental "Rooms with a View" program. More information on cabin rentals is available at www.fs.usda.gov/kaibab.

Reservations for camping or

cabins are available through www.recreation.gov.

Visitors can enjoy communing with wildlife residents such as the Kaibab squirrel, California condor, Northern Goshawk and bison.

The arrival of autumn brings with it an abundance of fall color murals, colors that can be seen from nearly any leisurely drive in the district.

For the OHV enthusiast, there are 1,476 miles of roads available to explore. It is the operator's responsibility to drive only on designated routes outlined in the district's Motor Vehicle Use Map. This map is available at the North Kaibab Ranger District office or online at tinyurl.com/KaibabTMR.

For guests planning to visit the North Rim, please note: the Arizona Department of Transportation closes Highway 67 at Jacob Lake, usually from Thanksgiving through May 15, due to the likelihood of hazardous snow accumulations.

Visitors can obtain tourism information about the forest from the Kaibab Plateau Visitor Center at Jacob Lake, open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day from May 15 to October 31, or by calling (928) 643-7298.

For additional tourism info, visit the Kaibab National Forest at: www.fs.usda.gov/kaibab.

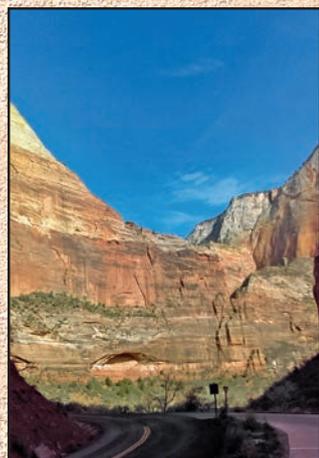


If you're lucky, you may spot bison on the North Kaibab. Photo: Dennis Brunner



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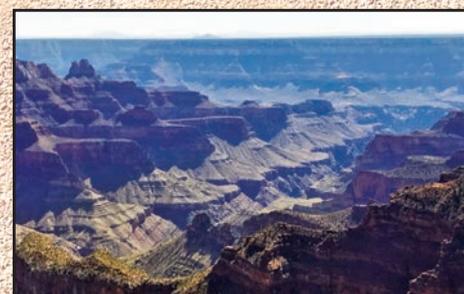
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Moqui Cave Moves Into New Chapter

By Dixie Brunner

Travelers might guess that Moqui Cave is a unique attraction, but a visit will quickly resolve any doubt!

Moqui Cave, located just five and a half miles north of Kanab on Highway 89, is a museum of artifacts, fossils and history, depicting life in southern Utah spanning the centuries.

The cave's history is as interesting as its artifacts. A cool room in the

back once housed a fully-operational tavern. It was open on Friday and Saturday evenings for dancing, food and drinks.

The late Garth and Laura Chamberlain purchased the cave in 1951, rescuing it from many years of disuse. Putting a distinctively-memorable dinosaur entryway on the front, the cave attracted curious travelers to investigate the unusual museum.

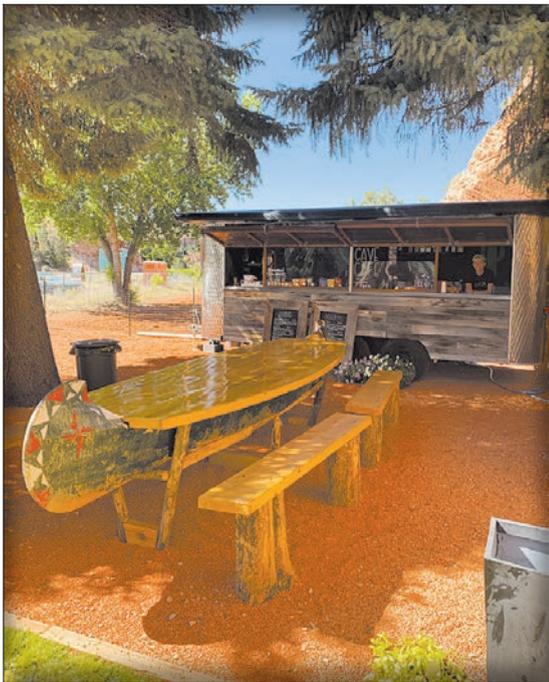
The Chamberlains, along with their five children who helped operate the cave, worked hard at making Moqui Cave a first class tourist attraction.

That same goal has continued today by Garth and Laura's daughter-in-law, LeeAnne Chamberlain. (Her husband Lex passed away five years ago.) Her son Tanner and his wife Andi are moving Moqui Cave into a new chapter, as they are now helping LeeAnne.

The dinosaur front is gone, and a cliff dwelling facade like nearby Anasazi dwellings welcomes tourists to tour the museum, with the host providing fascinating historical commentary.

Your imagination will be piqued when you enter the cool sandstone cave and see the large collection of dinosaur tracks that once inhabited the area. The cave also boasts one of the largest fluorescent and fossil mineral displays in the country.

Other exhibits include Native American artifacts, with more than 1,000 arrowheads, ceremonial points, jugs, pots, bowls and working tools of the Anasazi-Navajo for the "Ancient



A food truck is a new addition at Moqui Cave.

Ones" from centuries ago.

Moqui Cave also has a gift store in a side sandstone chamber which features items for purchase, including authentic Indian arts and crafts, jewelry, kachina dolls, rugs, pottery and turquoise.

During the summer season, hours are 8 a.m to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Bus tours are welcome.

For more information on Moqui Cave, visit www.moqui-cave.com.



The updated bar area at Moqui Cave. They are planning to serve drinks soon.

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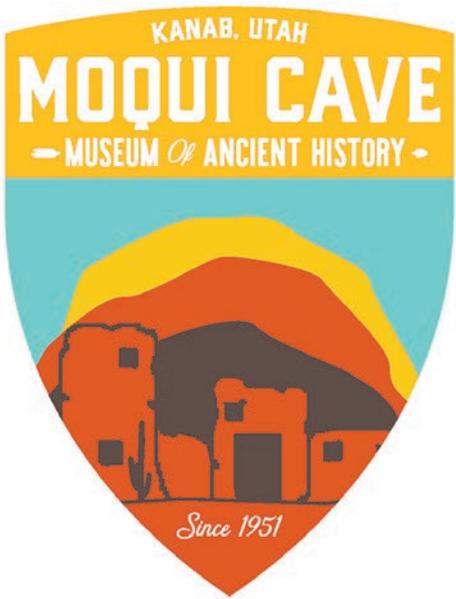
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8 am - 8 pm 10 am - 5 pm
Monday - Saturday

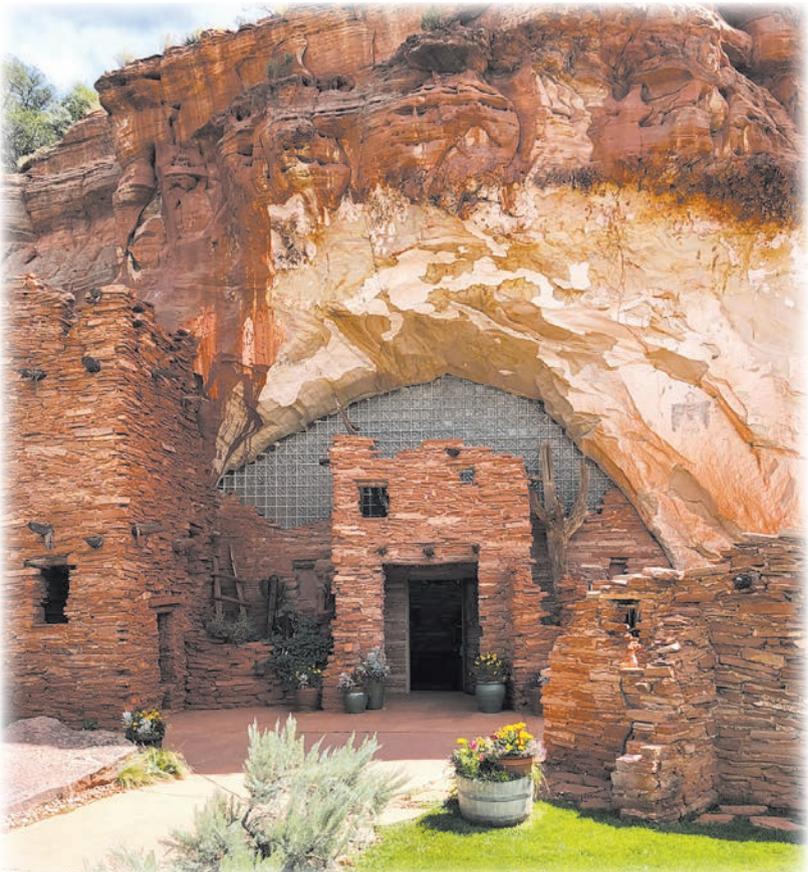
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THE COOLEST STOP ON HWY. 89 — NEVER OVER 70° DEGREES EVEN ON THE HOTTEST DAYS

Top 5 Hiking Trails in the Kanab Area

By Harry Barber

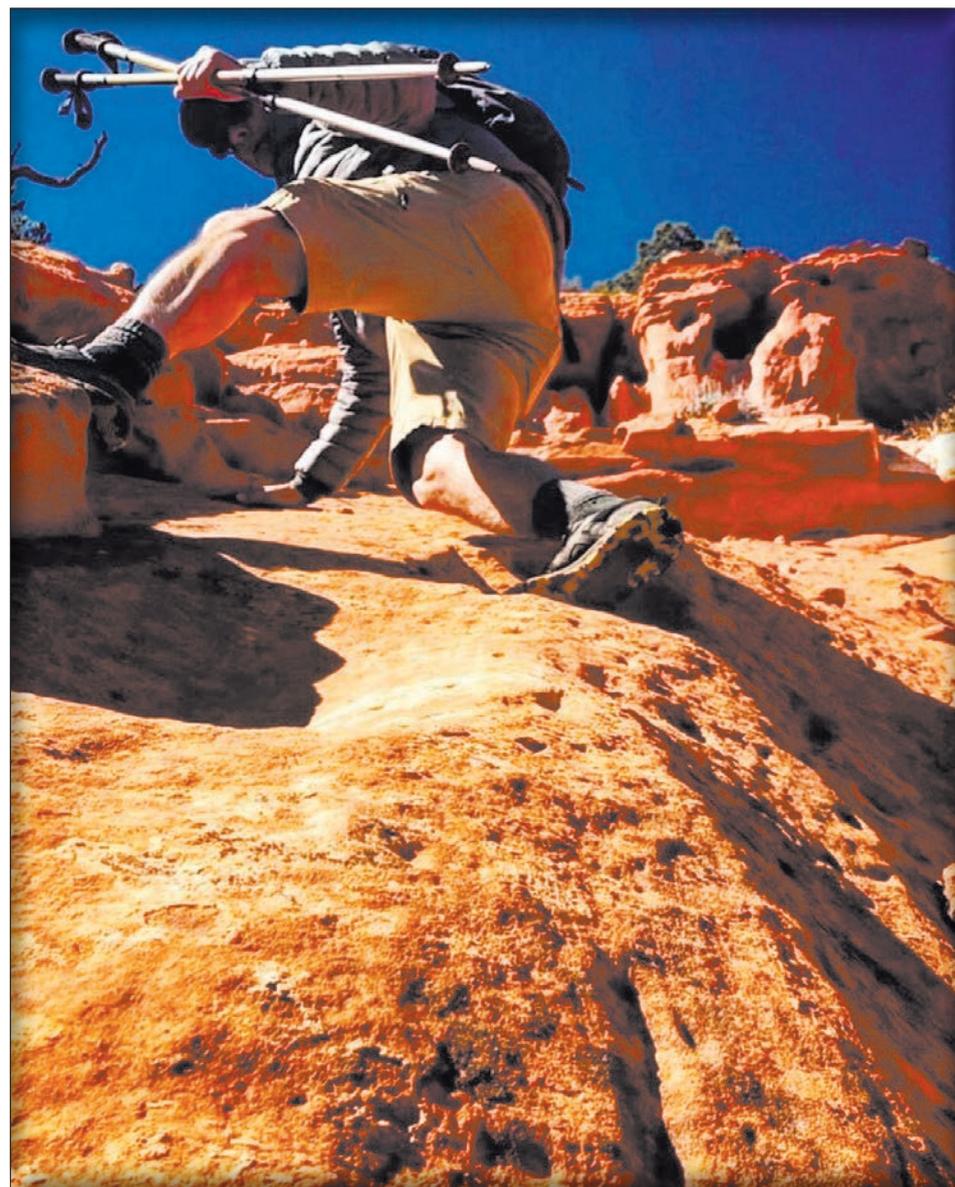
There are many trail opportunities to choose from on public lands in the Kanab area. Depending on what it is you want to do, I suggest you drop by a Kane County or Bureau of Land Management Visitor Center and talk to a knowledgeable employee about your desired trail use. I like to use the trails as a way to get into an area, and then push on to explore even further. A word of caution – do not do something you are not comfortable with. Mother nature can be fickle out here in the desert, so it is important that you know your limitations, be prepared and travel with a friend if feasible. At the very least, make sure somebody knows where you are going and when you expect to be back. These trails are incredible, but can also become dangerous, so take precautions to ensure you have a great hike!

Personally, my vice is mountain biking, hiking and trail running – so my focus here will be on five trails that I frequent.

Bunting Trail- (Hike/Run) Are you looking for steep? You found it! Located west of The Ranchos subdivision, the trail starts off as a rolling trail following the wash

bottom. The trail can be used to access a cool set of dinosaur tracks. Beyond the junction of the Bunting Trail with the wash that accesses the dinosaur track site, the Bunting Trail begins a steep upward ascent. As you continue climbing right through the rim of the mesa, an amazing view awaits your arrival. The trail, particularly the last quarter mile, contains a lot of loose rock. The rock, combined with the steep nature of the trail, makes this a challenging climb. You will gain about 1,200 feet in elevation. From the trailhead to the rim and back again will give you about 3.2 miles of calories burned. And although this does not seem like a lot, what you lack in miles you will make up for in painful elevation gains!

Greenhalgh Trail- (Hike/Run/Horse) This trail is located in Trail Canyon, north of town just off Highway 89. The trail can be accessed by parking at the ATV bridge that spans Kanab Creek and walking to the trailhead from there. Named after the Greenhalgh brothers, Harry and Wilford, the trail is moderately steep and offers great views of the surrounding area. A few years ago, the BLM worked



Hiking below Flag Point, located in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Photo: Harry Barber

with the American Conservation Experience (ACE) to make trail improvements for a safer user experience.

Mansard Trail- (Hike/Run) In the last several years, the BLM has made improvements to the trail using the ACE crews. The trail is also used as part of the G2G Ultra Marathon race and will get your heart pounding as you make your way up through the switchbacks on your way to the rim, where once again – amazing views await your arrival. This trail will lead you to an alcove containing an incredible petroglyph panel. Please be respectful of the panel by not touching or walking on it. From the trailhead to the panel and back again will be about five to six miles.

Cottonwood Trail- (Hike/Run/Horse) The trail is mostly rolling with some moderately steep grades.

The trail generally follows the base of the Vermilion Cliffs west of town. There are some great views of the Arizona Strip to the south. You will be under the rim of the Bunting Mesa with opportunities on occasion to spot desert bighorn sheep. The trail offers a challenge if you take it all the way to Cottonwood Canyon, as you will be putting nearly 10 miles on your kicks before you return to where you started.

Catstair Canyon- (Hike) Catstair is the family-friendly trail. This is one of my go-to trails when the grandkids visit. The trail offers an opportunity to hike a narrow canyon bordering on being a slot canyon. The hike to the pile of old cars used for rip-rap against the highway is fairly short but offers plenty for kids to see. The hike from the trailhead to the old cars and back is about one mile.

– Kane County Tidbits –

- Kane County was named after “a friend of the Mormons,” Thomas L. Kane, a non-Mormon man.
- Kane County contains 4,373 square miles, 3,718 of it is federal BLM land. The state owns 437 square

miles, while only 218 square miles of the county is privately owned.

The land size of Kane County is larger than the states of Delaware, Rhode Island and the District of Columbia combined.

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Orderville! What Can be Read in the Meaning of a Name?

By Jerry Melrose

Long Valley, a 13 mile north/south stretch on US-89, is a mere glitch to long-haul truck drivers along this main commercial thoroughfare between Salt Lake City and Phoenix. Nestled in the middle of the pastoral sounding towns of Glendale and Mount Carmel is a community known curiously as "Orderville" (pop. 591 in 2018). Is there another place in the world named Orderville?

It's situated alongside the course of the East Fork of the Virgin River flowing from the vicinity of Tod's Junction, where 89 intersects with State Route 14, rippling its way to a rendezvous with the Virgin River streaming through Zion National Park, then continuing south to join with Muddy Creek in Nevada, until their eventual merger with the Colorado River, fresh from its descent through the Grand Canyon.

It was there at the confluence of the Muddy with the Virgin that Brigham Young, in 1864, established the Muddy Mission at St. Thomas to the Southern Paiute people, and as a way station for Mormon emigres to California to further colonize the L.D.S. proposed State of Deseret. The Cotton Mission at St. Joseph, a

few miles north on the Virgin, was founded to complement the fields in St. George and Santa Clara to the north, as well as to utilize the paddle-wheel steamship freight traffic down the Colorado.

Conditions were inhospitable in the extreme: summertime temperatures typically well in the hundreds, scorpions, rattlesnakes, five died of malaria from mosquitoes nurtured in marshes. The 45 families first year's crop of wheat was washed away in flash floods.

In 1869, with the completion of the transcontinental railroad at Promontory Point, Utah, on May 10, it became more economical to import cotton from the South than to continue local production. Prior to 1870, taxes were being paid to the Territory of Utah; but with its 1864 statehood, Nevada, upon finalizing its boundary lines, demanded full immediate payment for the previous five years in gold!

At a meeting in Overton, a vote confirmed the decision to disband. President Brigham Young allowed everyone their own choice of directions, suggesting Long Valley as an option. So, a nine-man delegation was appointed to reconnoiter the possibilities, returning with

a good report of traversing the mostly drifting sand through 80 miles of desert from St. George via Pipe Springs and Kanab. With the pathway assured, the nearly 200 trekked forward to be joined on March 1, 1871, in the towns of Windsor (Mount Carmel) and Berryville (Glendale) by 200 more who'd abandoned the area during the Black Hawk War in 1866.

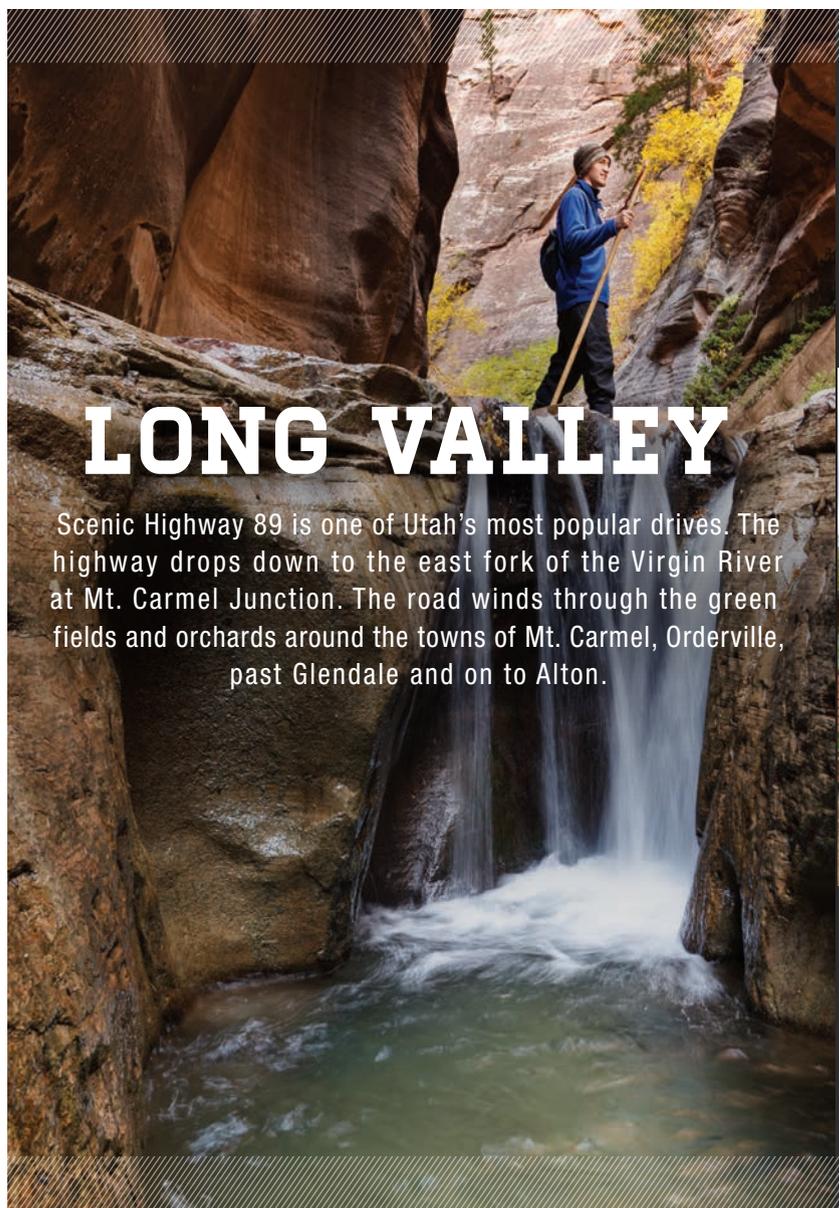
In the midst of The Panic of 1873, Brigham Young sought to institute the Law of Consecration and Stewardship, the Order of Enoch, the "Gospel Plan" envisioned in 1831 by Joseph Smith in Missouri, a collective management system of manufacturing enterprises.

On March 20, 1874, in Mount Carmel, a signed letter by President Young was read by John R. Young authorizing him to establish the United Order in the Valley. The meeting was adjourned until 7 p.m. when a vote was taken to elect officers. Israel Hoyt became President; Samuel Claridge, 1st Vice-President; Thomas Chamberlain, 2nd VP; William Heaton, Secretary; and Henry M. Jolley, Treasurer. Thus, 94 people over the age of 14 and under 96 agreed to attempt the experiment.

On March 24, a committee was appointed to appraise the value of the 430 acres of land being turned over at between \$5 and \$25 per. April 1 was the first day of cooperative planting. Unfortunately, the Valley's first crops were ravaged by grasshoppers.

All total 18 houses, 19 oxen, 103 cows, 43 horses, 500 sheep, 30 hogs, 400 chickens and 30,000 feet of lumber were donated. Every \$10 evaluation was assigned one share in the United Order Company. Upon departure, for any reason, that share would be reimbursed at its then current value.

However, during the ensuing year dissatisfactions, disputes and defections occurred. In an effort to quell the unrest and foster a spirit of peace, an agreement was reached to move those remaining steadfast souls to another location. "Accordingly," as Emma Carroll Seegmiller remembered, "a townsite was selected two miles up the valley on the north side of the Virgin River at the mouth of a small canyon. In March of 1875, the first family, that of Bateman H. Williams, moved into the new townsite, others soon followed, and thus Orderville came into existence."



LONG VALLEY

Scenic Highway 89 is one of Utah's most popular drives. The highway drops down to the east fork of the Virgin River at Mt. Carmel Junction. The road winds through the green fields and orchards around the towns of Mt. Carmel, Orderville, past Glendale and on to Alton.

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EST. 1906

[ALTON]
 — Kane County, Utah —

EST. 1862

[GLENDALE]
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EST. 1875

[ORDERVILLE]
 — Kane County, Utah —

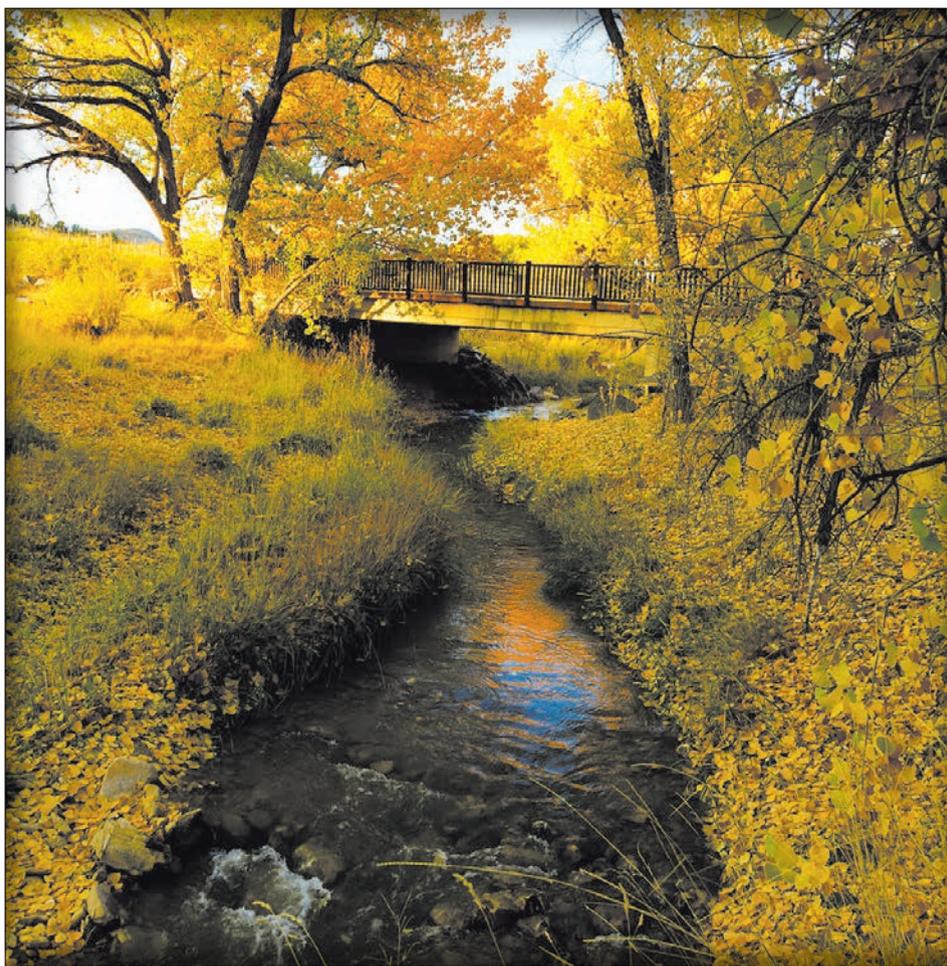
Long Valley – History and Community in the Rural West

Amidst the beauty of these southern Utah canyons, you'll discover charm in the small, rural communities of Long Valley. The communities north of Kanab have existed through the years mainly due to the vision, devotion and hard work of generations of people who settled the area, raised their families, and built lasting communities.

The history of southern Utah is filled with historic accounts of pioneers who braved hostile conditions to establish new settlements. The towns of Long Valley were founded in the mid-1800s by Mormon settlers, dedicated to building united and self-sufficient communities. Through their ingenuity and commitment, they laid a strong foundation for the rural way of life, which is still proudly celebrated today.

Agriculture has been a mainstay to this area's survival and independence. Ranches and family farms spread out along the valley and into the canyons, and backyards are filled with gardens and fruit trees, many planted by early settlers.

Glendale's Annual Apple Festival, held each fall, celebrates the harvest and honors the pioneers who planted the first orchards. Picking an apple



The Virgin River flowing through Orderville in the fall. Photo: Barry Glazier

from a tree planted so long ago, is truly holding history in the palm of your hand.

For the pioneers, sharing their knowledge, tools, skills and the foods that they grew helped the community survive. That spirit of community remains strong. Knowledge and new ideas are shared in workshops that cover a range of topics from sustainable farming to grazing management.

Long Valley's strong agricultural base is always evident, but never more so than during the Kane County Fair in August. Old-time fun and games, exhibits of fruits and vegetables, arts and crafts, great entertainment, and livestock and small animals raised by community youth in 4H and FFA, offer a glimpse at a wonderful way of life and a rich agricultural heritage.

Rural America offers a peaceful enchantment rarely found in today's world. With history, beautiful surroundings, friendly people and amazing food to share, rural America is alive and well in Long Valley!

Stop and visit – residents want to share their favorite hikes, best fishing spots and stories of their next of kin!

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Refresh Your Artistic Self at Maynard Dixon Home and Studio

By Dixie Brunner

“At last I shall give myself to the desert again, that I am its golden dust,” wrote western artist Maynard Dixon.

The desert was Dixon’s first love, as evidenced by the late artist’s famous work. Dixon painted western life for over 50 years. Through paintings, murals, drawings and illustrations, he communicated the beauty and grandeur of its deserts, mountains, canyons and valleys, and recorded the life of its Indians and settlers. He dedicated his life and art to celebrate the American West.

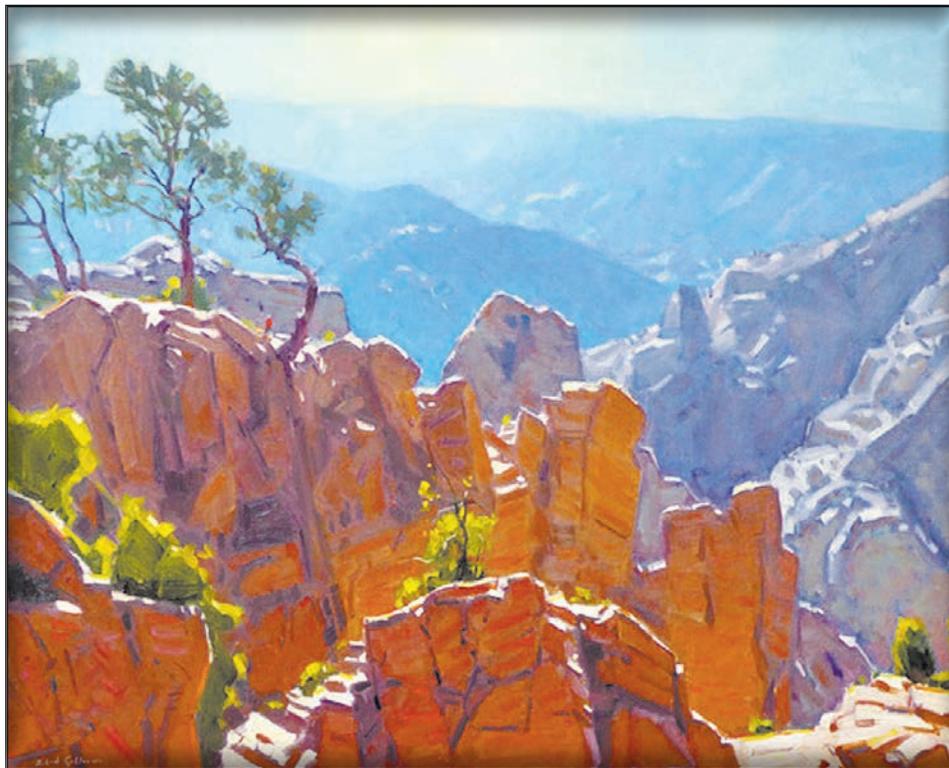
When the famed artist sought serenity and heat relief from his Tucson, Arizona home in 1939, it was in nearby Mt. Carmel where Dixon settled. He and wife Edith Hamlin built a summer home and studio in a peaceful setting among cottonwood trees and along a stream running through a verdant meadow. They were attracted by the magnificent vistas, colorful sandstone cliffs and the area’s celebrated cloud formations.

The couple’s dream was to create a place where they could work on their art, and invite artist friends to partake in the beauty of the Utah landscape. Fortunate were the

creative individuals who received the invitation and opportunity to work and spend time at the inspirational property.

The Maynard Dixon Home and

Studio is committed to Dixon’s original goal of fostering a new generation of artistic creativity. Tours are scheduled daily. There are also several events held throughout



“From Hell’s Backbone” by Robert Goodman is one of the paintings that will be on display at an Open House on May 23 at the Maynard Dixon property.

the year, where you can watch the visiting artists create and even purchase their works!

The Thunderbird Foundation for the Arts is a non-profit foundation whose mission includes the preservation and maintenance of the Dixon home and property in Mt. Carmel.

The Bingham Gallery, also on the property, features incredible works by Maynard Dixon, Jack Hillers and others.

For more information and events, please check out their website at www.maynarddixon.com.

Paul and Susan Bingham invite you to a special spring show on May 23, 2021 titled “The Iconic Southwest Landscapes of Robert Goldman.” The event will be held at the Maynard Dixon property. Paintings in this show depict the stunningly beautiful locations of Bryce Canyon, Escalante Grand Staircase, Boulder, Hell’s Backbone Bridge, Grosvenor Arch, Capitol Reef, Canyon Lands and Arches National Park.

For the May 23 show at the Maynard Dixon Legacy Museum, all health protocols will be in place and we look forward to seeing you. For your convenience, the show will also be available online.

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www.thunderbirdfoundation.com . 800 992-1066

Cedar Mountain – Hit Refresh in the Mountains

By Dixie Brunner

Dixie National Forest is a stunning, two million acre jewel of public land. While the forest has four geographic areas stretching 170 miles across southern Utah, the Cedar Mountain area is certainly among its most stunning. Cedar Mountain has literally hundreds of miles of hiking, biking, ATV, snowmobile and horse riding trails to enjoy!

You don't have to look far to find views here! With high elevations and cool mountain streams, Cedar Mountain is not only the place to get refreshed during hot summer days, but actually enjoy a mountain habitat not far from desert surroundings.

The "Cedar Mountain" name was given when early settlers incorrectly called the juniper trees so prevalent on the mountain, cedar trees. The mountain part is obvious, as you climb from about 6,000 ft. in elevation to nearly 11,000 ft. around Cedar Breaks and Brian Head. While misnamed, the Rocky Mountain juniper offers year round habitat to many of the mountain's animals. Watch out for deer, they consider Cedar Mountain their domain!

From Brian Head Peak, towering

11,307 feet above sea level, to the quaint charms of the alpine village of Duck Creek, Cedar Mountain offers a host of scenery and activities for the southern Utah traveler.

The Duck Creek area is gaining national recognition as a great recreational destination, with

some of the best trails, scenery and terrain found anywhere in America's southwest.

Forest visitors can enjoy camping, picnics and fishing besides viewing incredible scenery.

You can also read interpretive exhibits and take pleasure drives

throughout the area. Lodging accommodations are also available.

By taking scenic Highway 14 west from Highway 89 toward Cedar City, the nearly 42 mile trip offers travelers a number of scenic and recreational stops. This drive takes you through aspen, oak and pine-covered forests, past crystal clear, ice-cold streams and lakes, to an awe-inspiring and different view of Zion National Park and Kolob Canyon.

Why not visit Mammoth Creek, Cascade Falls, or get information at the Duck Creek Visitor Center?

Continue on and spend some time at Navajo Lake and Webster's Flat, or take Hwy 143 to Cedar Breaks, and on to Brian Head or Panguitch Lake.

Many artists find nearby Cedar Breaks National Monument more inspiring than Bryce Canyon National Park, with different degrees of hikes available to take in the sights.

Interpretive activities are available at the log cabin visitor center.

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It is ATV heaven on Cedar Mountain, with miles of trails. Photo: Ken Church

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Why We Love Guiding People

By Tiffany Unsworth

Jim Spielman grew up in Buffalo, New York, always surrounded by the sounds of street cars and city life. He had never experienced the feeling of being completely immersed in nature. Not, that is, until he came to Kanab. We had the opportunity to guide Jim and his wife Joan to many beautiful areas, but one spot stands out.

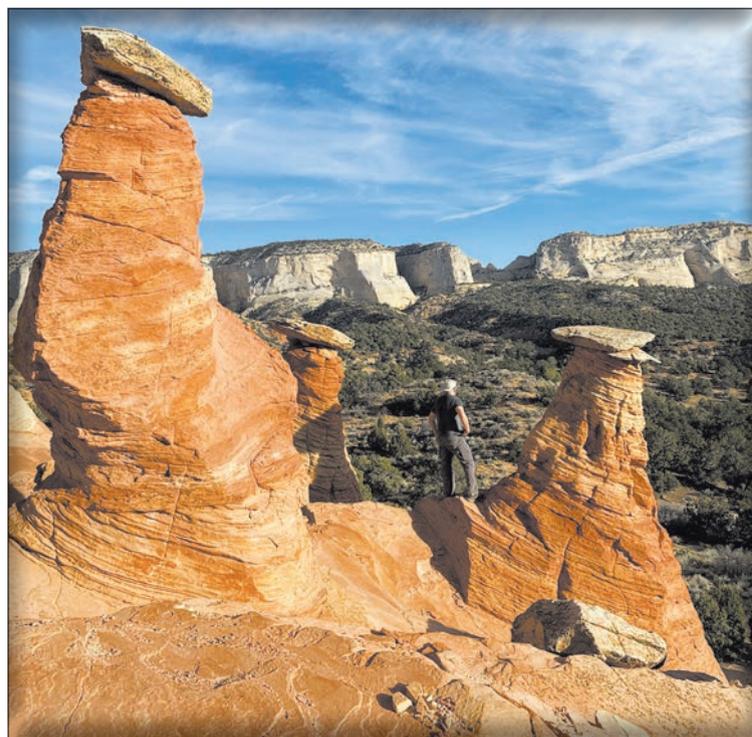
Cory Unsworth, co-owner of Kanab Tour Company, took Jim and Joan to a remote peak where nothing man-made could be seen. The opportunity to sit in an off-road vehicle and climb mountains was a thrilling prospect to them. Jim suffers from peripheral neuropathy, a condition that requires him to use a cane or walker, and he simply can't get out on the trails on foot. Therefore, he couldn't stop smiling as they ascended the red cliffs.

Cory stopped the vehicle, and the group just sat in silence for a few moments.

"What is this?" Jim asked, referring to the stillness that was all around them. "I've never experienced anything like this before." From the time he was a little boy, he couldn't remember being surrounded by

natural silence and peace. He had never gone up a mountain before because he physically couldn't. Never breathed in the clear, fresh air that can only be found in places remote.

And something happened to Jim in



Amazing views all around us. Photo: Jill Williams

that moment. He was refreshed. He was renewed. His disability didn't go away, but inside, he experienced a healing change. And we felt grateful, so grateful, to witness that change.

That experience, and many more

of a similar nature, have reaffirmed to us the power that is found in this beautiful place. Guiding people to beautiful places is more than a business for us. It is a life mission. We strongly feel, because we have seen it a myriad of times, that getting outside changes people. It blesses relationships.

It helps visitors clear their heads. It often causes us to rethink our purpose and direction. And, let's face it, it is really fun.

Why would a guest to this area consider a guided experience? A few reasons come to mind:

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- We help you make memories. We are here to ensure that you take home treasured experiences and photographs of a time when you felt like you were on top of the world. And, considering our current world conditions, we could all use memories like that.

Whether you choose Kanab Tour Company or one of the many wonderful guiding outfits in the area, we know that you will find the secrets nature has held for us all along: "When you get outside, you are healed inside."

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Hit Refresh at Navajo Lake

By Mark Havnes

When the temperatures soar too high and the "hoodoos" start looking like just another forest of sandstone goblins, it's time to head into them thar' hills of Kane County. There, the forests are green, breezes cool and one can set a fishing line and relax on the shores of glittering Navajo Lake.

Located on Cedar Mountain in the Dixie National Forest off State Route 14 about 60 miles northwest of Kanab, the lake is accessed by a paved highway with lanes to accommodate bike riders and pedestrians. It also offers upgraded campsites and boat ramps.

Every year, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources plants about 25,000 10-inch rainbow trout in the lake, along with 5,000 brown-brook hybrid trout called splake. Some fish can grow into the lunker range of more than 10 pounds.

Fishing tackle, camping supplies

and lodging are all available at Duck Creek Village five miles to the east.

The lake is also a short jaunt to Cedar Breaks National Monument and 20 miles from Cedar City, known for its summer and fall Utah Shakespeare Festival.

In July, one can enjoy the popular Duck Creek Days in Duck Creek Village that serves scrumptious food, with artist booths and plenty of activities for children.

If you go to Navajo Lake to camp, here are some things to know.

- Reservations: First come, first serve.
- Fees: \$21 for tent units; \$21 for single units; \$42 for double units; \$5 for day use.
- Restrictions: Campfires in designated areas only; no fireworks; dogs must be on leash; ATV/OHV use prohibited in the campground; maximum length of stay 14 days.

Hit Refresh in Kane County, and go to Navajo Lake!



A paddleboarder on Navajo Lake with a young passenger. Photo: Dennis Brunner

Kane County Tidbits

Though spelled incorrectly, what nearby 11,307 foot formation was named for its resemblance to the profile of "the great commoner," a favorite of Utahns? Answer: Brian Head (for William Jennings Bryan).



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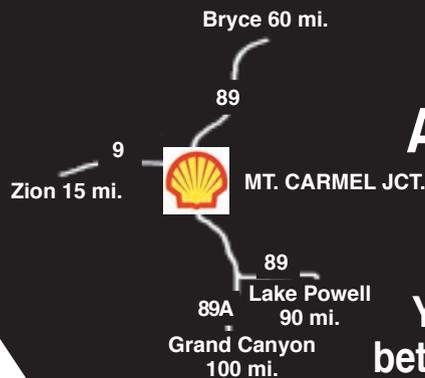
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Practice Desert Etiquette While You Hit Refresh

By Phil Clark

Southern Utah has been discovered. People from the world over are coming for the spectacular natural beauty. While the high desert of southern Utah and the rest of the Colorado Plateau might seem to be tough as rock, strong and resilient, often it is actually extremely fragile. When the natural beauty is damaged, it's damaged forever, since it takes so long to recover, if it recovers at all.

"Leave No Trace" principles and "The Hiker's Code" on Utah.com offers guidance to people who might not be sure what to do in the wilds of southern Utah. If in doubt, people should ask themselves, "would it be OK to do this in my living room or yard?"

While hiking a trail or driving on a road it is important to stay on that trail or road. Often there are no 'trails,' but rather routes, especially in canyons. The sandy surface of the desert is often populated by organisms that create an extremely fragile darker colored crust that is actually alive and takes a really long time to grow, called "cryptobiotic soil." It is amazingly fragile and should be avoided by following drainages and walking on solid surfaces instead. When on a trail

or in a canyon with other people, remember that downhill hikers yield to uphill.

With more visitors, comes more poop and trash. Many places have no restrooms and more often land managers are requiring visitors to pack everything out, including human waste. If you need to 'go' in the desert, don't leave the paper behind. The white 'flowers' last a long time and won't decompose in this dry climate. Experienced hikers bring a plastic re-sealable bag to store trash and other waste for later disposal. Public lands employees have enough to do without having to pick up after everyone else.

Many people like to have a campfire. While a fire is fun and romantic, usually it is only really a necessity if it is cold. Consider not building a fire and cooking on a propane stove instead and enjoying the beautiful night sky. Consider a fire pan or using an existing fire ring.

In many places in southern Utah, including The Wave and Coyote Buttes areas, there are delicate stone fins sticking out between softer layers of sandstone. Even though made of stone, fins are very fragile and delicate. It is best to take plenty of pictures and don't touch the fins, since even just touching them can

cause them to collapse.

With the higher visitation seems to be an increase in incidents of graffiti. Most people know that it's not OK to scratch initials or other markings on the rock, but some still have the urge to do it. It's illegal, especially if the scratching is done at an ancient Native American or other historic location. The ancients' work does not need to be 'improved' by scratching the markings up to make them more visible. There is never any reason to shoot them with a gun, either.

Other visitors seem to think it's fun to slap their muddy hands or draw designs on the walls. "The next flash flood will wash them away," they say. Actually, muddy prints can last a long time. For the last several years southern Utah has been in a drought and flooding hasn't happened as often and muddy prints last a long time.

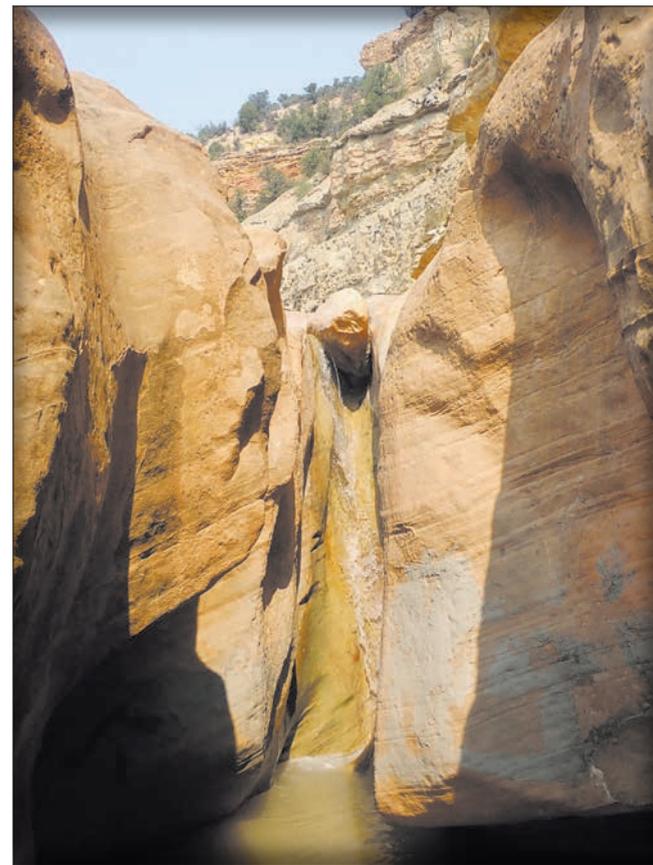
Some visitors stack rocks. Rock stacks for the purpose of marking a trail are called 'cairns.' Cairns are used to help navigate a route by placing them in visible locations, at a distance. A hiker moves from one towards another. Stacking rocks for any other reason does not improve the beauty of the landscape and is an unwelcome intrusion. Stacking rocks in a canyon where there is only one obvious path down the canyon, is unnecessary. Why not spend the time taking pictures?

Picking wildflowers, while fun and romantic to do, isn't a good idea either. With so many more people visiting southern Utah, if each one of those folks picked a flower or two, there would soon be few left for others to appreciate and even fewer

seeds for another year. Some years there are few flowers at all due to the prolonged drought.

There are many interesting rocks in southern Utah – different colors and different shapes. Consider taking a photo instead of a souvenir that will probably end up gathering dust or be forgotten entirely. Remember that it is better to do without that 'memento' so others will enjoy it another time. Why not leave it alone and let others enjoy it?

These are just a few examples of how to respect the beauty of southern Utah. For many, southern Utah is "God's Country," a sort of natural 'cathedral.' If we all are mindful of the basic principles of the "Hiker's Code," "Leave No Trace" and "Take nothing but pictures," when we are all hiking and camping, we can keep these beautiful lands intact for our children and their children.



Muddy prints can last a long time. Photo: Phil Clark



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Toroweap – The Other Grand Canyon View

By Mark Havnes

For a truly wild and spectacular visit to the Grand Canyon, the adventurous with time and a hearty vehicle should venture to the Toroweap Overlook.

Just watch your step.

A Paiute word meaning “dry or barren valley,” Toroweap is located on the North Rim of Grand Canyon National Park, offering a rare view of the canyon from the rim to the Colorado River, a dizzying 3,000 feet below.

Located 61 miles south off Arizona State Route 389, the dirt road is a bone-rattling trip over dusty washboards, with a stunning reward at the end.

For those who want to camp overnight, there is the adjacent campground operated under the auspices of the National Park Service and requires reservations.

While normal vehicles can negotiate the rough road, caution is advised. If the road gets wet, it can be like trying to drive through greasy butter. Towing stuck vehicles can cost upward of \$1,000. Heavy-duty tires are essential and if camping, plenty of food, water, tents, warm clothing, stove and lanterns are necessary.

Because there is no cell phone service, a satellite phone is the only way one can keep in touch with the outside world.

The road ends abruptly just a few hundred yards from where the earth takes a dramatic plunge, forming a narrow gash, that some who are shy of heights have been known to



Looking over the edge at Toroweap, 3,000 feet down to the Colorado River below. Photo: Stephen Dahl

approach the edge lying on their stomachs.

Because of its remoteness and grandeur, the mood

and features of the canyon seem to deepen here. Colors are darker, shadows are deeper, and sounds and silence are richer.

For more information on Toroweap and to make reservations at the Tuweep Campground, visit: nps.gov/grca.

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Jackson Flat Reservoir, Something Fun To Do For All!

By Kelly Brown

What was once a lonely body of water surrounded by sagebrush, cactus and not much else, Jackson Flat Reservoir is now a thriving destination that has something fun to do for all. Go walking, biking or even longboarding on the Sherry Belle Trail. There is more than three miles of asphalt trail that circles the reservoir with two detours that take you close to the water's edge.

Don't forget the newly constructed connector trail that turns off the main trail and takes you into the town of Kanab.

KCWCD has partnered with Kane County, Kanab City and the Kanab High School cross country program to host the annual Turkey Trot 5K Race that occurs every Thanksgiving morning.

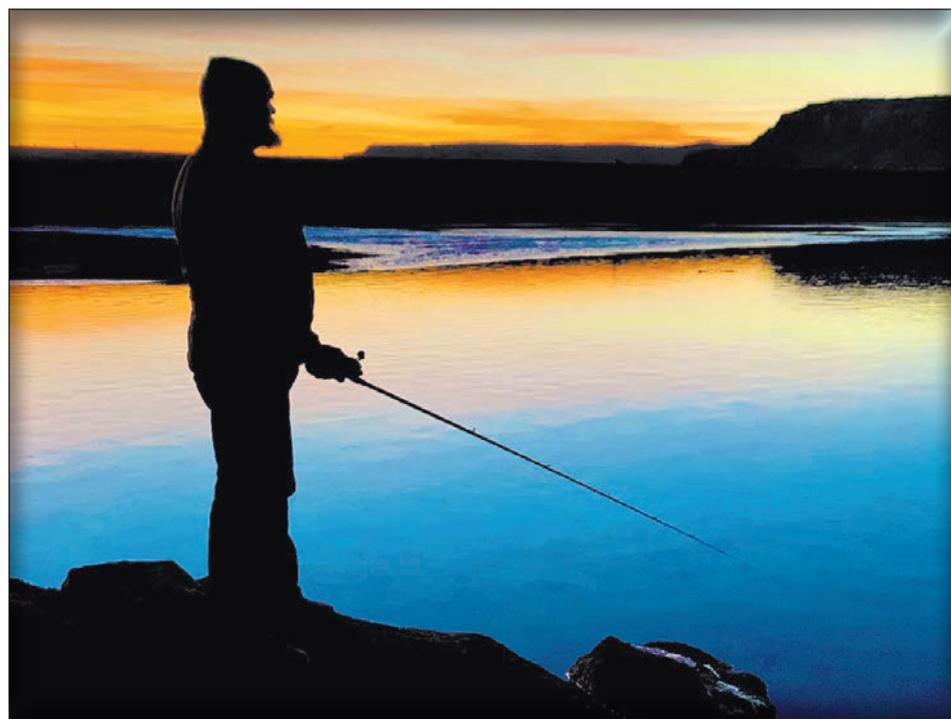
Try your hand at Kanab's local fishing hole. Maybe you'll get lucky and reel in the Utah state record largemouth bass, or maybe just think of the next great fishing story on your way home to tell the grandkids. Jackson Flat Reservoir is regularly stocked with rainbow, brown and brook trout. There is also a healthy population of largemouth bass and sunfish. Someone even pulled out a 25-pound catfish recently.

Each year KCWCD and Kane County hosts The Reel Deal Fishing Tournament, where competitors have two days to reel in the heaviest combined hauls within the Utah state catch limits and are awarded with cash prizes.

If handling slimy fish isn't your thing, rent a kayak or paddleboard and get out on the open water, where you will be awed by the views of blue water and red cliffs. Kanab City celebrated 150 years by bringing in Nitro Circus and Adventure Tour Company where the community launched kayaks and paddleboards for free. Those who dared were launched into the air off the Nitro Circus blob and splashed into the water below.

Not everything happening at the reservoir is so extreme. For those seeking something more leisurely, there are several groups of people who go bird watching at different times of the year. Since the creation of the reservoir, a large variety of different birds have been spotted including eagles, pelicans, ducks, etc. Who knows, you may spot a rare bird you've never seen before while it passes through during its migration.

Tired of heating up your lunch at the office or going home to eat your



Jackson Flat Reservoir is stocked with rainbow, brown and brook trout. There is also a healthy population of largemouth bass and sunfish. Photo: Kelly Brown

leftovers from last night's dinner? Pack a lunch and take it to the outdoor pavilion for a picnic. The kids get done early with their lunch? Let them wander over to the newly constructed sand volleyball court or play on the monkey bars that were just installed. The bars are part of a street workout calisthenics circuit that includes bars for dips, push-ups, pull-ups and many other exercises. There is even a battle rope, punching bag and weights for Olympic lifts.

This summer, Jackson Flat Reservoir will play host for the Street Workout World Cup, where international athletes will come from all over the globe to compete for handsome cash prizes. As part of this event, the athletes will hold a clinic for the community to teach basic movements that assist in learning the skill and to demonstrate the intended use of the equipment.

If you still have not found anything on the list of many things to do at Jackson Flat Reservoir, dust off

your old frisbee and come out to play a round of disc golf on the 18-hole course. Players are sure to have a great time, as there are plenty of water hazards to throw around and over if the water level is high enough. If you throw a great shot, you are sure to be thrilled as you watch the disc fly over the water and land safely in-bounds. If you shank one and it goes in the water, it's a good laugh with family and friends and gives you an opportunity to cool off while swimming to retrieve your disc.

Kanab Disc Golf Course will host the Fourth Annual Kanab Campout in 2021, which will attract both amateur and professional players from the neighboring states of Idaho, Nevada, Arizona, Colorado and even California. The course is free to play and is surely a good time.

For those that aren't into athletics at all, but still want to enjoy the property, get involved with Stellar Vista Observatory, a local non-

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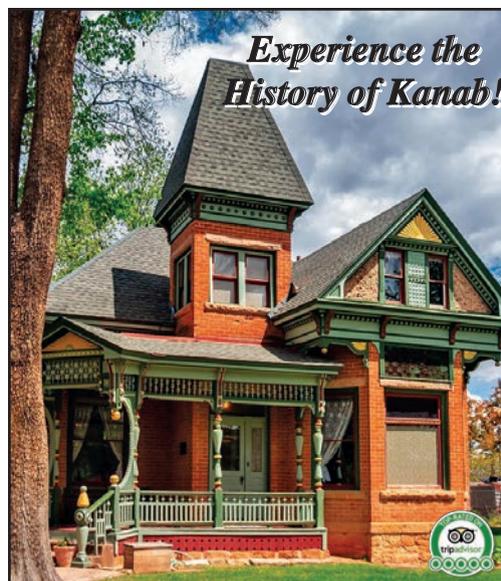
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profit organization that puts on star parties at the reservoir to educate the public and tourists on the night sky that's visible from the property. One will be awed by the beauty that is in Kanab's skies that is not drowned out by the glow from a bustling city. Jackson Flat is situated in the middle of multiple national and state parks which protect the night skies from light pollution.

Stellar Vista Observatory aims to build a state-of-the-art observatory on the property which would be open to the community for educational and recreational purposes.

If you are a sunbather, come spend a relaxing day under the rays at the beach park or find your own private section of beach along the trail somewhere. Each year for the 24th of July, the community celebrates Pioneer Day at Jackson Flat Reservoir by launching off fireworks over the water. Watch the show from the beach, somewhere along the trail or from your parked car around the

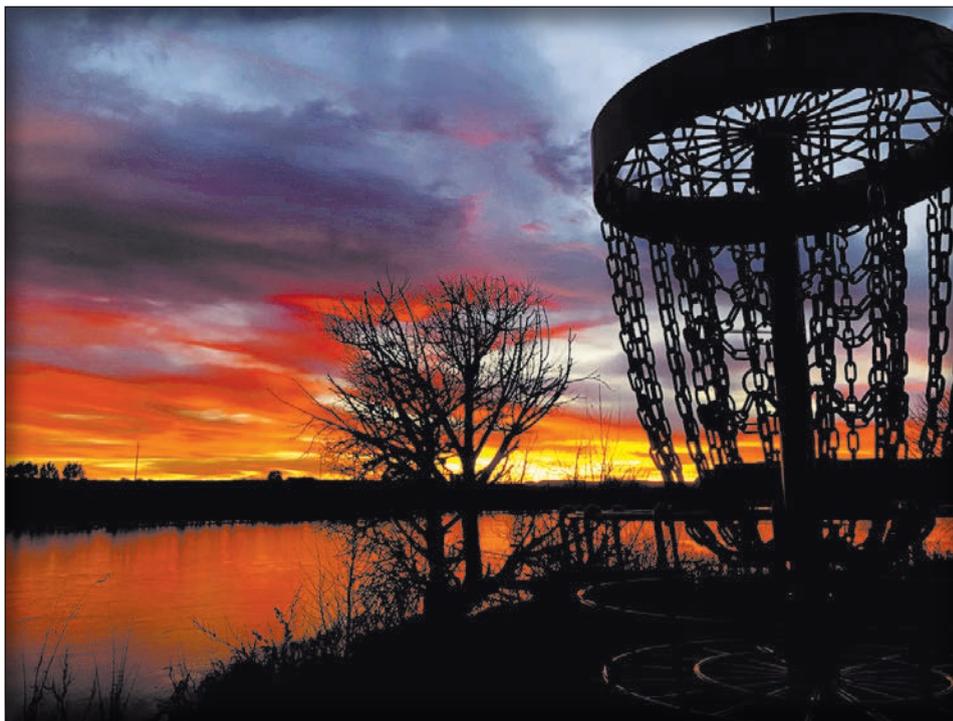
access road to the property. It's a marvel to watch the fireworks reflect off the water.

KCWCD has future plans to develop a set of climbing boulders that gives kids an opportunity to build confidence in their climbing abilities that will translate to successful and safe hikes as they venture out to Kanab's natural landscapes. The boulders will have tougher routes for more advanced climbers as well.

Next to the climbing boulders, there will be a game complex made up of a bocce ball court, shuffleboard, cornhole, horseshoe pits and ladder toss.

These developments will also include a sunken fire pit where a group of people can come out and responsibly have a fire and not leave a mess around the property.

Last, but certainly not least, KCWCD is currently working on bringing a destination golf course that will be designed by world renown course developer, David



Play a free round of disc golf on the 18-hole course. Photo: Kelly Brown

McLay Kidd. Kidd is most known for his course, Bandon Dunes, which is situated on the Oregon Coast.

Jackson Flat Reservoir truly has something fun to do for every type of person. KCWCD would like to give a special thanks to those who made it all possible: Office of Outdoor Recreation, CEBA (Center for Education, Business and the Arts),

DWR (Utah Division of Wildlife Resources), DPR (Utah Division of State Parks and Recreation) and Kane County Recreation and Transportation Special Service District. Let's not forget to thank all the local businesses in Kanab for sponsoring the many events held at the property. Jackson Flat Reservoir, come one, come all!



At Kanab's 150 year celebration, those who dared were launched into the air off the Nitro Circus blob and splashed into the water below. Photo: Kelly Brown

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LIVE WHERE YOU PLAY!

ATV Rides – Another Refreshing Way to See the Countryside

By Mark Havnes

While the areas around Kanab offer stunning hiking trails and scenic highways, most exist on the margins of incredible vistas, deep canyons and solitude that one can only experience by an all-terrain vehicle.

We're talking about going beyond mere four-wheel drive passenger vehicles to what are commonly called side-by-sides, produced by companies that make other recreational machines, like personal watercraft and snowmobiles.

Made for as many as four people, they can easily crawl like mechanized insects over rocks and through ravines that would give a horse pause.

There are plenty of such designated trails spidered across Bureau of Land Management lands, including the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Three such trails adjacent to Kanab worth considering are Hog Canyon, Peekaboo Trail and Barracks Ridge.

Where hiking and horses can lead to superb areas, distance one can travel is limited by endurance, time, water and food. But an ATV or side-by-side can plunge ever deeper into the red-rock splendors millions from

around the globe come to experience every year.

Traveling more than 50 miles a day is possible with a side-by-side, as most have areas for hauling gas, coolers, camping equipment and even tables for serving lunch on a ridge while enjoying a bird's-eye view of the earth spread out below.

Free maps designating what roads and trails in the backcountry are designated for recreation can be picked up for free at the Kane County Office of Tourism at 78 South



White Pocket is another hidden treasure, but you will need four-wheel drive. Photo: Stephen Dahl

100 East in Kanab.

If one wants the experience, but does not have a machine, the travel office can suggest tour operators who offer trips of various duration. There are also rental vehicles available at several locations.

The BLM offers free maps, in addition to maps for sale with more detailed information. They suggest motorized explorers first stop at agency visitor centers located in towns bordering the Monument, where they can ask questions about recreational designated routes, safety requirements, camping and other issues.

If you go:

- The sun can be searing, so take plenty of water, food, sunglasses, hat and sun screen. Temperatures and weather can fluctuate, so prepare for stormy weather and have some warm clothing. Roads can change

suddenly, so be aware of approaching storms and weather reports. Stay out of slot canyons when it rains, as they can turn into deadly flash floods.

- Communications are spotty for cell phones. Satellite phones are best to travel with.

- Don't be a pig. If you take it in, take it out. Admire ancient petroglyphs and pictographs sites without touching them or defacing them. If you need to let people know that "Bobby loves Mary," draw it on your bedroom wall and not on a canyon wall.

- Never leave designated trails and travel cross country, as you risk being cited by BLM rangers. Remember, you are a visitor surrounded by a fragile ecosystem that can be easily damaged. Respect the earth and leave no trace.

- Most importantly, drink in the beauty and enjoy!

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Burning Coal Vents in the Grand Staircase NM

By Phil Clark

Not far from Page, Arizona, is an underground coal fire that is estimated by the Utah Geological Society to have been burning for hundreds, if not thousands, of years. The site is on the aptly named Smoky Mountain, off of the road of the same name and is one of seven underground coal fires that continue to burn in Kane, Emery and Carbon Counties in Utah.

This reporter went with his family to see the site for the first time, located in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, just north and east of Big Water, Utah. It helped to have a copy of the BLM map for the Monument, available at the Big Water and other Visitor Centers, with the various numbered roads identified and an approximate location for the vents shown on the map. We found no signs pointing the way to the coal fire vents.

We drove up to the top of Smoky Mountain and looked around. Following the map to a spur road, we soon started smelling the acrid fumes and followed our noses to the source, at the end of an un-numbered road. Once there, we saw large fissures in the ground, coated with black tar, surrounded by a large area devoid of vegetation of any kind. We saw no

animals either. No flames are visible as the fires burn and smolder deep underground. The ground under our feet felt hot and we were glad to have our shoes on. Since it was a hot day, there was almost no smoke or steam.

According to the Utah Geological Survey, the vents are more dramatic in the winter-time when the temperatures are much cooler. However, visitors should be mindful that the road can be impossible to drive on when covered with snow.

No one really knows how the fires started. Geologists know that coal, in the presence of oxygen, can spontaneously combust and speculate that lightning might also have caused the "Big Smoky Fire." It's not likely that the fires were

caused by humans.

In 1968 and 1969, the U.S. Bureau of Mines attempted to extinguish the fires by using water and other fire retardants, to no avail. Bulldozers and excavators were also used to fill in the cracks to try to extinguish the fires without success. Between 1958 and 1976, the Bureau of Mines attempted to smother eight of the 11 active coal seam fires. Only one was successfully extinguished, between Carmel Junction and Zion National Park. The remaining fires refused to be put out and seven fires in Utah continue to smolder to this day.

At the Big Smoky Fire, more cracks have appeared since then and visitors should be careful when walking around the area. This

naturally occurring fire will probably only stop when the coal itself has completely burned out.

The road to the site is really only suitable for high clearance, four-wheel drive vehicles. The narrow road to the top of Smoky Mountain is rough and can be steep in places, often cut into the sides of cliffs and with hairpin turns. At times there is no room for two vehicles to pass. The surface of most of the road is clay and is impassable when wet, even for four-wheel drive vehicles. If rain is expected, visitors should postpone the visit for another day when it is dry.

Cell coverage is spotty, at best. Bring plenty of drinking water. Fumes from the vents smelled pretty strong, not unlike hot roofing tar or asphalt used in paving roads. We noticed that our clothing seemed to retain a hint of the coal fire smell and put them in the washer once we got home.

As a day trip from the Page area, we brought a picnic lunch and stopped at a viewpoint, well away from the smoky vents to have lunch and were treated to an expansive view of the Lake Powell area to the south. Despite the rough road and the smell, we were glad to have discovered this geological site.



A coal seam on Smoky Mountain. Photo: Paul Clark

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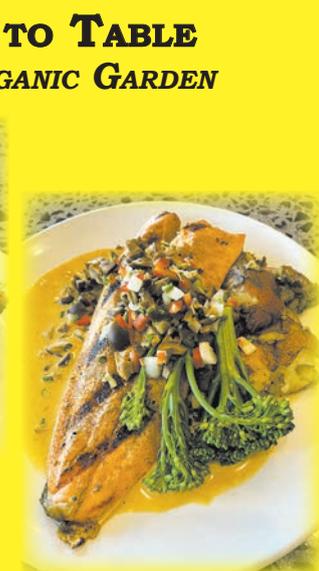
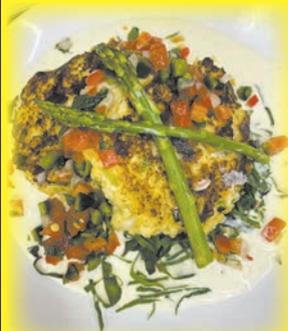
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Slot Canyon Discovery

By Phil Clark

The first time I visited what is now the Vermillion Cliffs National Monument was with an engineering school classmate in 1984. Back then it was called the Paria Wilderness Area. I worked at the Air Force base in Albuquerque and my friend, Charley, worked for the Bureau of Reclamation in Cortez. We met in Cortez and put our camping and hiking gear in Charley's late 1970s Volkswagen camper van and headed to Utah.

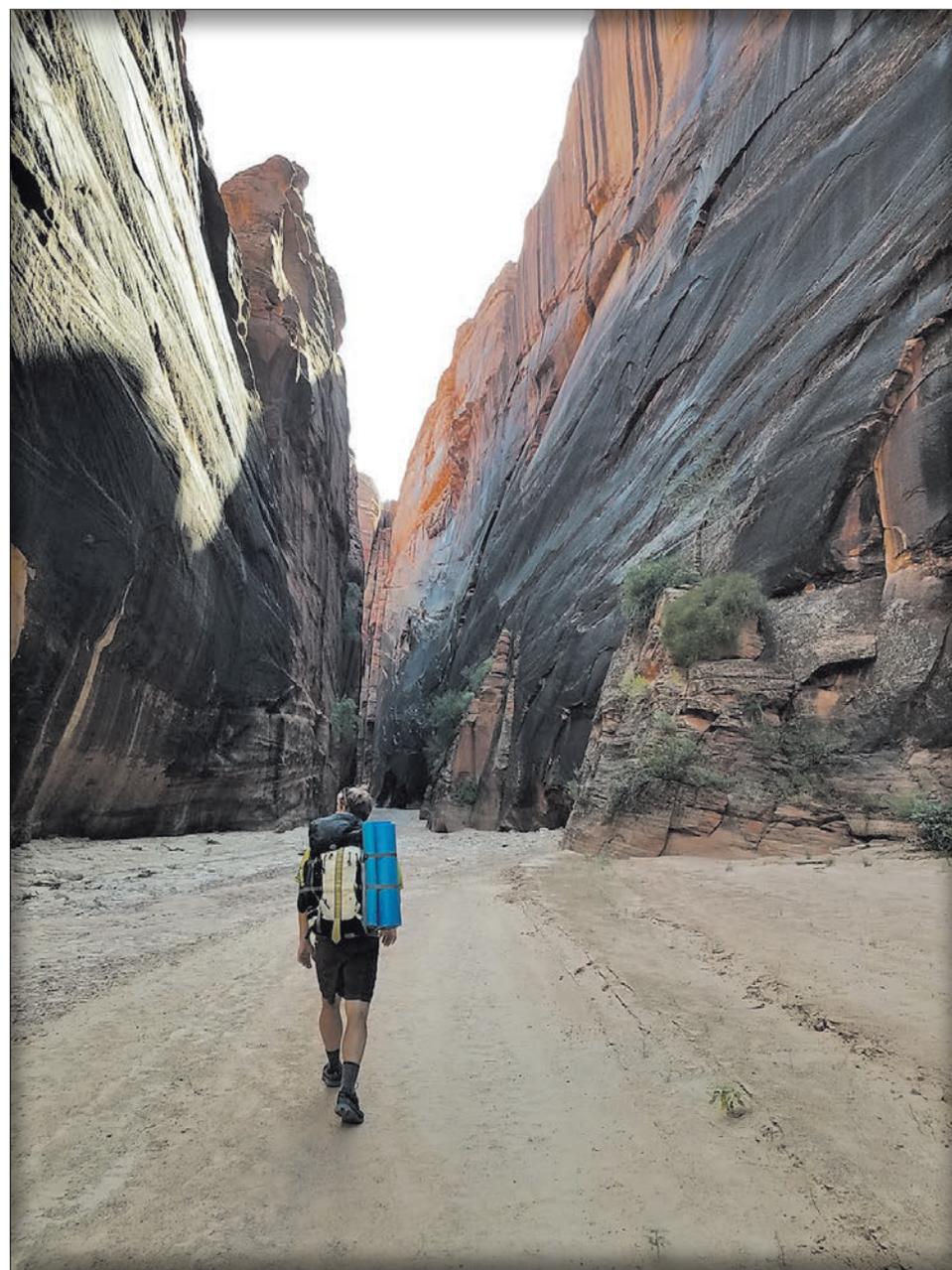
After fueling up in Page, we stopped at the small trailer that was the Paria Ranger Station and chatted with "Paria Skip," who was the only ranger. When I found out that Skip had a degree in Geology, I said to myself how lucky he was to work in a place like this and hoped that somehow I could too.

We drove down House Rock Valley Road and stopped at Wirepass Trailhead. There wasn't much of a parking area and there were no restrooms. We had the canyon all to ourselves and didn't see another soul the entire weekend. This was the first time I'd ever seen a slot canyon and was instantly smitten by its beauty. I marveled at the logs that were wedged between the walls of the canyon hinting at the depth of a

flash flood that put the logs there.

That day, the sky was clear and sunny and Charley calmed my fears by assuring me that we wouldn't need to worry about any floods. We walked down Wirepass canyon, mesmerized by the graceful curves in the slickrock that eons of flash flooding had carved. Most of the hike was basically an easy walk except for a small obstacle, a drop-off where a boulder had wedged itself between the canyon walls and created a waterfall when the canyon flooded. After climbing down the chokestone, we kept going.

When we arrived at the confluence of Wirepass and Buckskin Gulch, I was amazed at the pattern of desert varnish, a mixture of iron and manganese oxides, that highlights most of the sandstone in southern Utah. Water dissolves the oxides and are deposited on the slickrock as the water dries. Countless centuries of deposits cause fascinating patterns to form. At the confluence the vertical pattern of the desert varnish and the horizontal pattern of the various floods gave the cliff face a sort of Scottish plaid appearance. We stared at the pattern for a few moments in admiration before moving on into the even deeper slot canyon of Buckskin Gulch. The



Walking in Buckskin Wash, you can see the desert varnish on the vermilion canyon walls. Photo: Katie Wallace

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marvels continued to unfold. With no one around, the canyon was so quiet that I could hear the wing flaps of a raven flying below the rim of the canyon. Light cascades of sand grains fell from the top of the canyon and glistened in the midday light. Plants grew in the cracks of rock above us, giving us pause as to how they got there in the first place, a testament to the tenacity of life in the desert. We found ourselves whispering as the canyon walls made us think of being in a cathedral, our voices echoing on the canyon walls.

Occasionally we would encounter a pool of water that hadn't quite dried up after the last flash flood. At the edges of the pool, the mud had dried, cracked and curled, resembling chocolate. The pond was muddy and stepping in it was slippery. I hated to disturb the natural beauty by stepping in the mud or breaking the 'chocolate'. Sometimes we could walk around the water. Other times we just walked through it without worrying about our tennis shoes getting wet since the desert heat would dry them out once we got into camp. Heading down canyon we went as far as we could until time ran out and we had to turn around and head

back to the van.

As the shadows got longer, the light on the cliffs nearby became more beautiful and we shot a few photos with our 35mm single lens reflex cameras before the light was gone. Kodachrome slide film was the ideal film for red rock country with its rich red, orange and yellow tones. We found a place to camp just off the road among the juniper trees. The van had a built-in propane stove so we didn't need to build a fire. Besides, it wasn't cold and we knew a fire would mar the beauty of the landscape. A crescent moon came up as we finished dinner. Savoring an after-hike drink, we talked about how beautiful it was today and looked forward to new discoveries tomorrow when we'd explore more of the wilderness.

I was thankful that Charley shared his love of southern Utah with me. He showed me his copy of *Desert Solitaire*, which he said was a must-read. I had fallen in love with the red rock canyon country, as had Edward Abbey before us, and knew that I would return many times to explore the vast expanse of wild land in southern Utah.

Take the Most Amazing Food and Road Trip Along Hwy 12

By Neal Brown

Hwy 12 is one of southern Utah's best kept secrets. It's a road trip that every person traveling through Utah should experience, and needs to be taken to fully appreciate what it means to bridge the gap between nature and soul.

After turning off Hwy 89 heading east, you'll soon be stopping and pulling off the side of the road to take pictures of Red Canyon. It's your first taste of what Bryce Canyon has to offer. Red Canyon is so magnificent by itself, you may think it's time to turn around and head back, but don't. You'll cruise through the charming towns of Tropic, Cannonville and Henrieville, but if it's appeasing your appetite you're

after, I'd continue on for the food in Escalante.

I've eaten a lot of burgers in my lifetime; from the soaring Pacific northwest in Seattle, to the beaches of California, to the midwest trenches of Arkansas, to the heat-wave south in Alabama and everywhere in between. Nothing has grabbed and kept my attention like the BBQ Bacon Brisket Burger at the Circle D Eatery on Main Street in Escalante. It's hard to type while thinking about it, but I'll let the picture below explain how mouth-wateringly epic this thing is; if you can fit it in your mouth that is.

For me, it's usually a toss-up after a wonderful hike in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National

Monument, whether to get a pizza or a burger. If it's pizza that you fancy, then Escalante Outfitters is the place to go. I ordered the King's Mesa pizza and believe me, this thing is so full of flavor, Covid wouldn't stand a chance in blocking the taste or smell of this dynamite delicacy. The employees at the Outfitters are so friendly and helpful, you'll be hesitant to say goodbye.

Now, depending on your time, or how much you eat, you may need to take a break and stay somewhere for the night. After a youth basketball game, I stopped in with my kids at the Canyon Country Lodge on the east end of town and was blown away by the rugged quality, the friendliness of the staff, and for the kids, the size of the pool. Escalante is a small southern Utah town, so my expectations had been tempered over the years for quality accommodations in rural Utah towns. I don't know of many motels in rural southern Utah where you can sit poolside with your kids and have menus brought to you to order chicken fingers, burgers and fries, but that's exactly what we did, and it made the trip that much better.

While leaving Escalante full and refreshed, it's now only a matter of

time until you hit what the locals call the Hogsback; the most picturesque, scary, and eye-opening portion of road in all of Utah. Scratch that; in all of America.

I once read that nature needs to be protected because being alone in nature does something to the soul that can't be replicated by anything else, and if we lose that ability to be in nature, we lose one of the most valuable things our souls long for. I've never felt that more strongly than when driving Hwy 12 on the Hogsback.

When you go around one of the wildest corners and can see for hundreds of miles of vast wilderness, your mind enlarges as it tries to take it all in. It's clear your heart can't translate what it all means, because the heart doesn't speak one specific language, but in pictures and metaphors. It's the exact reason why the heart longs to be outdoors among the breathtaking landscapes.

I believe God created the beauty all around us to romance the soul, so our heart would long for the author of its beauty. There's not a better, more refreshing place to discover that natural beauty than on picturesque Hwy 12.



The mouth-watering BBQ Bacon Brisket Burger at the Circle D Eatery in Escalante. Photo: Neal Brown

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Hit Refresh in Fredonia, Arizona

By Daisy Johnson

Nestled next to the Utah border amongst the sagebrush, red dirt and sunsets, you'll find Fredonia, Arizona. While Fredonia initially began as a business venture in 1884 with the building of a dam, reservoir and irrigation ditch, the town is now an understated gem steeped in history and adventure.

Early settlers left their mark in more ways than they could have possibly foreseen. One of Orson Pratt's sons, Lorum Pratt Sr., is just one of the inspiring settlers to make an impression on the area. Lorum Pratt Sr. built one of the first rock houses in Fredonia. This rock house still stands at the center of the Grand Canyon Motel, located at the junction of Hwy 389 and Hwy 89A.

Pratt was also appointed the first Forest Supervisor of the Kaibab Forest, with summer headquarters being located at Quaking Aspen Canyon. While spending time on the Kaibab Mountain, he and his family planted potatoes in Pratt "Tater" Canyon. After the harvest, the Pratts would bring potatoes by the

wagonload down to share with the other Fredonia residents.

Today the North Kaibab Ranger District encompasses most of the Kaibab Plateau, and you can still find the district office in Fredonia. Nowadays the Lookout Canyon Trail system runs through Pratt Canyon, and offers a cool hike or ride during the summer, with a stunning display of leaves in the fall.

Thanks to the early settlers, Fredonia now offers a quiet, simple Western experience with opportunities for both recreation and relaxation. Avoid crowds and take a dip in the town pool or relax on the cool, green grass in the public park. Visit the Red Pueblo Museum and check out ancient Native American artifacts and a real dug-out home. Or, stay at one of the local RV parks or vacation rentals and use Fredonia as a base camp for your adventures to one of the many sites in the surrounding area, including: The Grand Canyon, Pipe Spring National Monument, Kaibab National Forest, Toroweap, and anywhere else the red dirt may lead you.



A couple embraces at sunset on top of the F-Hill butte just north of Fredonia. Photo: Barry Glazier



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Kanab Heritage House – Refresh With a Look Back

The Kanab Heritage House Museum, also called the Jewel of Kanab, preserves and brings to life the rich customs and traditions of southern Utah.

Built between 1892-1894, the Heritage House is a Victorian era home constructed in the Queen Anne style.

Upon its completion, original owner Henry Bowman proclaimed he had built the “first modern home in Kane County.” In its over 100 year history as a private residence, the Heritage House would come to serve as home to several prominent families in Kanab.

In 1974, the Heritage House was purchased by the City of Kanab and restored to its former glory.

The Kanab Heritage House Museum is a timeless work of art that now showcases the

rich history of Kanab and its people. The museum interior is complete with many period and original furnishings. Free guided tours are offered of the home. Tours last approximately 30-45 minutes and will immerse you in the cultural history and heritage of southern Utah.

The City of Kanab invites you to visit and experience the history of Kanab. Please go to: www.kanabheritagehouse.com for more information. History is waiting for you!



An old sewing machine inside the Heritage House.

Discover Roots at Family History Center

Genealogy has become a popular hobby. Discovering your roots is entertaining, educational and can create a unique vacation experience.

The Family History Center, located in the historic LDS Chapel in Kanab on the northwest corner of Center and Main Streets, is open to the public free of charge by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. There is plenty of parking and children are welcome.

Just stop in and learn some of this area’s early history, as you view historic photos on display.

While researching family history may seem daunting to some, there are always several staff members happy to assist your search on one of the center’s numerous computers! This service is also available to foreign visitors with easy instruction booklets printed in different languages.

Jacob Hamblin Recreational Facility

By Dixie Brunner

You’ve spent the whole day with the family touring beautiful southern Utah; a long, long day ... shut up in a vehicle together!

Let’s face it – everyone could use a little space, fresh air and recreation!

Kanab City’s Jacob Hamblin Recreational Facility, 100 East 500 North, is truly a top notch park, and a great place to unwind after a busy day on vacation. The recreational space is located directly below Kanab’s signature red rocks.

The attractive Jacob Hamblin Park features plenty of trees and green lawn, with a playground, splash pad, and picnic area with grills. There are plenty of picnic tables (two covered areas) with plenty of shade.

There is a large, modern public

swimming pool that offers slides and a lazy river to cool off in the summertime.

There are new tennis/pickleball courts to the north of the Kanab City Library, with a six-hoop basketball court immediately north of that.

Continue northbound on that same road and you see a strange-looking structure that features mounds of dirt covered with an asphalt track going up and down, over said mounds in a circle... a pumptrack. A skatepark is within the pumptrack, featuring numerous jumps, curves and rails, all for the popular activities of roller or board skating.

There is a covered structure in an amphitheater setting, with green, landscaped sloping areas for seating surrounding a stage for live shows.

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"Buddy Holly Gets A Date" Photo: Alan Holben

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Grand Canyon: A Busman's Holiday on How What We See Came to Be

By Jerry Melrose

During my five years as a tour bus driver/guide at the Grand Canyon South Rim, I used the mnemonic, D.U.D.E., as a reference to the various geological and atmospheric forces bearing upon the creation of what we were viewing.

First was "D" for "Deposition" of approximately 14 strata layers formed of mud shale, sandstone and limestone shell organisms deposited at the bottoms of an estimated eight oceans, warm shallow seas and swamp interludes, along with corresponding fossil remains (shark teeth!), over multi-millions of years.

"U" for "Uplift" of the Colorado Plateau by gradual vertical tectonic subduction of the Farallon Plate (Pacific coastline), some 70 million years ago.

Then "D" for "Down-Carving" of the river's 277-mile journey, transporting 500,000 tons of rocks and debris daily, scouring through at five tons per second prior to the Glen Canyon Dam.

"E" for "Erosion" widening of the side canyons with rain and snow with its crevice-expanding freezing/melting cycle of ice, as well as monsoon flash floods storming down, releasing boulders from precarious perches.

Simple enough, but not quite enough! The *History Channel's* documentary, "The Grand Canyon Explained: How the Earth was Made" (S2, E1), available on Youtube, offers further intriguing insights.

Amid the riverside exposures are located mangled blocks of black igneous granite known as Vishnu Schist. Upon these metamorphic magma rocks, formed at high-temperatures under high-pressure,

are embedded bubbled features of garnets. With instruments detecting radioactive decay, Karl Karlstrom PhD, determined their age to be around 1.7 billion years (whereas the rim's limestone layer figures to be 270 million). With the aid of an electron microprobe, it's suggested there had been a mountain-range of Himalaya-size elevations above the 6002-foot depth of the canyon itself, where dinosaur tracks, typical of surrounding areas in both Arizona and Utah, had already eroded!

But when, the river? In 1969, Richard Young, PhD, then a graduate student, was exploring the Muddy Creek area of the western Arizona Strip at 1129-foot elevation, a few miles downstream from the river's exit into present-day Lake Mead. At the bottom of what was once a large freshwater lake, he discovered a block of limestone composed of sea shell and mollusk remains, which could only have survived in clear waters. With their death due to the turbid, fast-flowing stream, the river's arrival there is dated as 5.5 million years ago!

John Douglass, PhD, in 2000, proposed a "Spill-Over Theory" emerging from Lake Bidahochi (elevation 6300'), once larger than Lake Michigan, 100 miles east. To prove it, he dug up green clay deposits, estimated by the 'bathtub ring' to be at 200-ft depth, finding freshwater mollusks aged at six million years. Thus, demonstrating that this could be how it all happened!

Check the [nps.gov/grca](https://www.nps.gov/grca) website for daily updates. Wonderful stories abound about all aspects of the canyon's natural and human history. All places of interest and activities are included.

Cox Family High on Bryce Canyon

By Dixie Brunner

You might say aviation runs in the Cox family. Three generations of men from the southern Utah family have been airplane and helicopter pilots. And for the past 40 plus years, they have been primarily based at the Bryce Canyon Airport!

"We've been there for decades," said Paul Cox with pride, of his high-flying family's close relationship with the Garfield County-owned airport.

Paul's father Glenn got the whole "flying Cox" thing started, as his love for aeronautics resulted in him becoming a CAA/FAA inspector.

"I kind of grew up with airplanes," admitted Paul, with a grin. "We began Bryce Canyon Airlines in 1977."

In that capacity, Cox pilots both helicopter and fixed wing airplanes for Bryce Air. The company has offered numerous affordable scenic and charter options through the years. They also fly to Monument Valley and over the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. They specialize in flying handicapped, elderly and children on their tours.

Cox, married to wife Becky for over 30 years, added that he has loved piloting from Bryce Canyon Airport. "We've met so many interesting people, and have even flown dignitaries wanting to see the aerial grandeur of the national parks. There have been so many unique experiences."

Paul Cox is also a Certified Flight Instructor. While convenient for those seeking flight instruction in the area, it was great for his son Alex, who took lessons from his father when he was a 15 year-old junior at Pine View High School in St. George.

Alex took his solo flight in a Bell 206B Jet Ranger III in 2004, becoming only the fifth 16 year-old in the nation to solo in a helicopter, and the first to do it in a jet! The test required he take three full traffic patterns, landing between each.

Third generation Alex Cox earned his commercial pilot's license when he was 18, and began flying for the company in 2008.

The Bryce Canyon Airport is owned and operated by Garfield County, and managed by Ty



The Bryce Canyon Airport was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978.

Ramsay, assisted by Brook Wiseman. It is located approximately four miles north of Bryce Canyon.



Besides helicopter tours of Bryce Canyon, Bryce Air also offers airplane scenic flights and charter service.

The airport hangar itself is significant, as an unusual example of a log hangar. The airport and hangar were built of nearby ponderosa pine by Garfield County and the Works Progress Administration in 1936. The hangar's gabled roof is made with sawn wood trusses spanning 83 feet, that are expressed on the outside and infilled with half-rounds of log, giving it a half-timbered effect. An interesting note is that the timber used show the marks of the borers that infested the trees, which were harvested as part of a program to remove beetle-killed trees.

The purpose of the airport was to attract tourism to remote Bryce Canyon National Park, which had been designated in 1928. The Bryce Canyon Airport was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978.

For more information on Bryce Canyon Airlines, call the flight desk at Ruby's Inn at 435-834-8060 or Paul at 435-691-8813 or go to: www.rubysin.com/bryce-canyon-airlines.com.html.



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