

# UTAH VALLEY DIGEST

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## ALPINE SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Fall Break** — All schools in Alpine School District will be closed on Thursday and Friday for fall break. School resumes on Monday.

## AMERICAN FORK

### AMERICAN FORK HIGH SCHOOL

**Club social** — The Family, Career and Community Leaders of America club will hold its opening social on Oct. 22 after school. Anyone interested in joining FCCLA may pick up an application in room 27 on A days from Mrs. Peterson. Club dues are \$15 and should be paid at the student finance office. When applicants return their receipt and application, they will receive a new member gift. For more information, see [www.afhsfccla.blogspot.com](http://www.afhsfccla.blogspot.com).

## EAGLE MOUNTAIN

### ROCKWELL HIGH SCHOOL

**New enrollment** — The school is accepting new students. Enrollment information and applications are available online at [www.rockwellhigh.net](http://www.rockwellhigh.net).

## LEHI

### Pioneers vs. Thunders school ice cream contest

Emmett's and Ethel's on Lehi's Main Street and 100 East is sponsoring an ice cream contest between high schools in Saratoga Springs (The Thunders) and Lehi (The Pioneers). The contest runs through the end of October, and the school that shows the most team spirit and buys the most of their school flavor wins 10 buckets of their ice cream for an after-school party. As of Oct. 11, the score was 849:819 with the Westlake Thunders leading.

"So far, the rivalry's been hot," said Chuck Bonar, cafe owner. "Bucket loads of ice cream are being purchased daily by both schools, and it's been a tight race."

Students and faculty get a 20 percent discount on their respective flavor with their school ID cards. Emmett's and Ethel's is staying open late every Friday in October so students can come in and check the score after their varsity football games.

"We are planning on making this an annual contest for these two schools, and certainly wouldn't be opposed to running similar contests for other area schools," Bonar said.

There is also a flavor they are selling for Breast Cancer Awareness Month called "Pink Ribbon." It is a cheesecake-flavored ice cream with raspberries and chunks of white chocolate. A portion of the proceeds from the sales of this flavor will be donated to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Both the high school rivalry contest and the Pink Ribbon ice cream were suggestions of Emmett's and Ethel's employees.

### Frontrunner traffic impact and construction

Crews will de-stress track between Club House Drive and 1500 North in Lehi, continue installing bolsters at the 2100 North bridge and finish crossing upgrades at the 900 North and 500 West crossings for Frontrunner construction. South of 900 North, crews will install permanent fencing at the retaining wall recently constructed along the corridor and begin track-way embankment. Crews will set a signal house at Main Street and remove tree stumps between Main Street and 200 South.

Between 200 South and Center Street, crews will prep the sub grade and place sub ballast. Between Center Street and 300 East, crews will install barbed-wire fencing. There will be lane restrictions on 900 North and 500 West in Lehi this week for finish work at the crossings. There will be truck traffic on 200 South and Center Street in Lehi this week.

A portion of the Lehi Station Park and Ride Lot is now open for public use. Crews will continue work on the ramp footings at the pedestrian tunnel and will pave and stripe at the Lehi Station Park and Ride Lot. They will also work on landscaping.

### LEHI HIGH SCHOOL

#### Sterling Scholar deadline

Sterling Scholar applications are due today for students. Categories are English, mathematics, social science, science, foreign language, computer technology, trade and technology education, family and consumer science, business and marketing, speech/drama, visual arts, music and dance.

### WILLOWCREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL

**School photos** — Today is picture make-up day for students.

## OREM

### Orem Reads: Julie Berry

Author Julie Berry burst into the world of children's fantasy with the publication of "The Amaranth Enchantment" in 2009. This best-selling author will join patrons at Orem Public Library on Tuesday at 7 p.m. to discuss her writing, as well as her upcoming book "Secondhand Charm," released this month. This event, part of the Orem Reads program, will be held in the library's Storytelling Wing.

Berry spent her childhood as the youngest of seven children on an idyllic 50-acre farm with frog-filled ponds, pigs, rabbits and rusted farm equipment. She met and married her husband while earning a B.S. in communications at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y. After her fourth son was born, Berry decided to pursue her dream to become a writer and earned an M.F.A. in writing for children and young adults from Vermont College of Fine Arts. "The Amaranth Enchantment" was the second novel she wrote while working on her master's degree. She has since sold "Secondhand Charm," soon to be published, and the "Splurch Academy for Disruptive Boys" series, which her sister, Sally Faye Gardner, illustrated.

Visit the library's website at [www.orempubliclibrary.org](http://www.orempubliclibrary.org) for more events, dates, times and locations. Funding for Orem Reads comes in part from the Utah Humanities Council Book Festival. The Utah Humanities Council promotes understanding of human traditions, values and issues through informed public discussion. Additional support for Orem Reads programs in local schools was provided by Walmart, Macey's Market and Harmons Grocery.

**Family Support & Treatment Center needs donations** — Holiday food drives in December



File photo

An American Fork High School band member shows a dog tag worn by all members in memorial of their teacher Heather Christensen at a service held at the Alpine Tabernacle in American Fork on Oct. 17, 2009.

## Band recalls crash, memory of instructor

Barbara Christiansen

DAILY HERALD

**A** year after a bus accident claimed the life of American Fork High School band instructor Heather Christensen, band members and staff reflected on the tragedy and how it has changed their lives.

They also gave thanks to those from far and near who offered assistance and support at the time of the accident and since.

Last October, one of four buses carrying band students home from a competition in Pocatello, Idaho, crashed after the driver suffered a medical problem. Christensen attempted to steer the bus, and was killed in the ensuing accident.

"It has been one year since the tragic bus accident took Heather Christensen from among us, and we feel a need to further express the American Fork Band's feeling of gratitude and love for all that has transpired since that horrific night and to give an update on how the band and students are healing," said AFHS Director of Bands John Miller.

"We wish everyone could have walked into our band room the week following the accident and witnessed the outpouring of support through cards and letters that lined our walls and the flowers that adorned tables around the room," he said. "Expressions of love and support from bands, individuals and businesses from around the world covered all the walls of our band room. Even now, a year later, we continue to receive cards and letters expressing their thoughts and best wishes to our students. We have tried to individually respond and thank those people but realize we will never be able to fully do so."

The band members and staff also expressed thanks to those who offered immediate help. Those thanked included some who assisted at the scene, first responders and Idaho state police, along with hospital staff in Pocatello and administration and band teachers at

Idaho State University. Miller gave one example.

"When I walked into the hospital in Pocatello, there was a nurse who met me," he said. "She told me she had been in my junior high band in Blackfoot and said she had been assigned to care for me and to make sure I could get around to see the students."

He said he also appreciated the compassion of the safety personnel.

"I was concerned when we left the site that we hadn't accounted for every single student," he said. "They made me leave, but the sheriff assured me they would call when they lifted the bus. He did make that call and assured me there were no others hurt."

Wendy Jones was also on the band trip and was serving as band booster president.

"My thanks would be again to the community of Pocatello," she said. "Their hearts and arms were open to these kids." Some met the band members at the hospital and offered food, lodging and other support.

Once word of the accident was out, there began outpourings of love and support from across the country.

"These kind words have calmed us greatly and have helped us beyond measure," Miller said. "Thank you all for your kindness and prayers on our behalf. The students are healing well. Most physical injuries have healed but the emotional scars will be with us for a while. We are amazed at how resilient we are and have learned that life must go on and that we need to press forward as Heather wants us to. We have become better people because of what we experienced."

Not long after, the band members began a movement to take their show to Bands of America Grand National Championships in Indianapolis. They had competed in that prestigious event previously, but said they felt it was what Christensen would have wanted them to do — to spread their support of America's veterans through the band's field

show, "The Greatest Generation."

A community fund-raising event began, and shortly brought in a quarter of a million dollars to permit the band to make the trip, although the group did not quite make the finals.

Miller expressed thanks to those who contributed.

"We would also like to thank all those parents, individuals and companies who helped make it possible for our band to take the special message of our show last year about our veteran heroes, that evolved to a higher level of meaning after the accident, to a national audience," he said. "We felt we were being drawn to make this happen as a way to thank those bands around the nation who had expressed such strong feelings toward us. Our sweet message was received as intended, and we touched many hearts with our emotional performances."

Miller said the band appreciated those who helped them in so many ways but also appreciated Christensen for her contributions.

"This accident will be with us throughout our lives, but we feel it has turned into a positive force for good," he said. "We miss Heather with all our hearts and realize that although she taught us great lessons during her life, perhaps her greatest lesson came as she gave her life to save the lives of our students. Although we can never fully express our appreciation for all that everyone has done for us, we are even more appreciative for the life Heather lived, and shared with us, as well as her last heroic act of service and selfless sacrifice to steer that bus through the narrow path of relative safety that resulted in no loss of life for our students."

He said the students have learned much from the events, but one thing stands out.

"If the band has learned a lesson from this experience, it is that we must all touch each other's lives in positive and loving ways, and that service to each other is what Heather would have us do," he said.

are the main source of food supplies for centers such as the Family Support & Treatment Center in Orem, which is the first line of defense for children removed from their homes. However, these resources usually run very low by the beginning of fall.

Donations are accepted year round but are in especially high demand right now. Examples of food donations needed include canned food, box dinners and gift certificates to grocery stores. A more complete listing can be found on the website [www.utahvalleyfamilysupport.org](http://www.utahvalleyfamilysupport.org).

## PAYSON

### Country Farm Fest

Featuring homemade and homegrown products, Country Farm Fest is a celebration of Fall and agriculture. Held at the small, working Dumas Farm, 4058 W. 9600 South, the three-day event starts off Thursday and continues through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Specializing in good clean family fun, Farm Fest features a costume contest, pumpkin carving and a pumpkin weigh-off, petting zoo, farmer's market, homemade crafts and other family activities. Living heritage demonstra-

tions give modern kids an experience of how "it used to be done." They include: blacksmithing, wool-spinning and soap-making. For machinery buffs in the family, there is an antique tractor display. For more information go to [www.countryfarmfest.com](http://www.countryfarmfest.com).

### SPRING LAKE ELEMENTARY

On Sept. 21, the PTA sponsored a doughnut morning to kick off the book fair. Teachers came in to read to students at the school while they ate doughnuts. Scholastic is a great partner with the PTA in helping our school. Nebo Credit Union also donated \$25 to classroom teachers who have an account with them.

## PLEASANT GROVE

**Great Reads for Girls** — Join other girls and their mothers or other caring adults for lively discussions, activities and fun at the Pleasant Grove Library today. Girls, ages 8 to 16, are encouraged to join in the free Great Reads for Girls program. This month, we will discuss "The Witches" by Roald Dahl. A young boy and his Norwegian grandmother, who is an expert on witches, foil a witch's plot to destroy the world's children by turning them into mice.

### PLEASANT GROVE JUNIOR HIGH

**Picture make-up day** — Picture make-up day will be today for students who missed having their photos taken or want them retaken.

## SARATOGA SPRINGS

### WESTLAKE HIGH SCHOOL

**College prep test** — Juniors are encouraged to take the PSAT college entrance exam preparation test today at 8 a.m. The cost is \$17.

## WOODLAND HILLS

### Traffic signs go missing

Three stop signs and two street signs have recently gone missing from the streets of Woodland Hills. A missing traffic sign can be extremely dangerous and replacing the signs is expensive. If you have any information that could lead to the recovery of the missing signs, contact the city office at (801) 423-1962. To report crimes or if you observe suspicious activities, call the sheriff at (801) 851-4100.

## UTAH COUNTY

### Exchange Club meeting

Provo Mayor John Curtis will speak at this week's Exchange Club meeting.

The breakfast gathering will be held today at 7:30 a.m. at Mimi's Cafe in Orem. All interested community members are invited to attend.

Curtis was elected Mayor of Provo a year ago. Prior to becoming mayor, he worked in the corporate world for 30 years first with Citizen Watch Company and then for 10 years with O.C. Tanner Company. He has been a partner in Action Target for the last 13 years.

He is married to Sue Snarr Curtis, and they have six children and one grandson.

Exchange, America's Service Club, is a group of men and women working to make their communities better places to live through programs of service in Americanism, community service, youth projects, and its national project, the Prevention of Child Abuse. To date, the National Exchange Club's efforts have helped more than 1.6 million children and 656,000 families eliminate child abuse from their daily lives. The local Exchange club meets weekly for breakfast on Wednesday mornings at Mimi's Cafe in Orem. New members are sought and always welcome to join. For more information, look online at [www.utahvalleyexchange.org](http://www.utahvalleyexchange.org).

## LEARN MORE ...

Look to your community newspapers to get the full report on issues and happenings that affect you.

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Provo, countywide