

UTAH VALLEY DIGEST

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EAGLE MOUNTAIN

Free baby-sitting class — A free baby-sitting CPR and safety class will be offered by the fire department today from 9 a.m. to noon. The class will be at Station No. 2 in the Ranches. To register, contact Steve Conger at sconger@emcity.org or at (801) 420-2897. You can also sign up at the city public library.

MOUNTAIN TRAILS ELEMENTARY

PTA safety week — The PTA will sponsor safety week beginning Monday. Learning activities will focus students' attention on personal safety, travel safety and school and home safety. Parents are encouraged to discuss safety tips with their children.

LEHI

Construction update

FrontRunner construction crews are building two bridges in Lehi at 2300 West and 2100 North. The 2300 West bridge will allow FrontRunner to travel over Lehi's future 2300 West road project, and the 2100 North bridge will span UDOT's future Mountain View Corridor, 2100 North roadway. The 2100 North bridge will feature abutments on each end of the bridge and five center piers.

In an effort to increase safety for area schoolchildren, the project will be installing a stop sign at the entrance to the 2300 West bridge construction site at the 2300 West/2150 North intersection in Cranberry Farms. Crews will also be refreshing the paint on the crosswalk located at the entrance to the work site. All trucks leaving the bridge construction site will come to a complete stop at this crosswalk before proceeding through the intersection.

Between Club House Drive and 2100 North, crews will be cleaning up slopes and ditches along the corridor and prepping the sub grade. At the 2300 West bridge, crews will grout and patch, and at the 2100 North bridge, work continues on parapet walls. Retaining wall work also continues in Cranberry Farms near the 2300 West bridge. Work will resume on the retaining wall south of 900 North, and crews will continue to support work for Union Pacific duct and fiber installation at 500 West, Main Street and 200 South.

LEHI HIGH SCHOOL

Mascot bowl — The annual mascot bowl football game will be played at the school on Monday at 5 p.m.

LEHI JUNIOR HIGH

Teacher conferences — Parents may meet with their children's teachers on Wednesday from 3 to 7 p.m. at the school.

LINDON

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY

Carnival — The carnival will be Monday from 5 to 8 p.m. This year's theme is "Once Upon a Time." Come enjoy fun activities, games and treats.

LINDON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Community Council — The

Community Council will meet at the school on Monday at 9 a.m. The public is invited to attend.

OREM

Orem Reads

The Orem Library will begin their exploration of the magic and mystique of the fantasy genre in the Orem Reads program kickoff Tuesday. The kickoff will feature bestselling fantasy author Brandon Sanderson, who is frequently likened to J.R.R. Tolkien in style and scope. His writing has been praised by Orson Scott Card. He has traveled the world promoting his books.

Sanderson will join patrons around the fireplace at 7 p.m. to discuss his Mistborn trilogy, as well as his monumental completion of Robert Jordan's "The Wheel of Time" series. Sanderson is the first author in an impressive lineup of fantasy writers to be featured at Orem Reads, running from Tuesday through Oct. 25.

A resident of American Fork, Sanderson made a name for himself in the world of fantasy literature with his breakthrough first novel, "Elantris." Since then, he has authored nine books of the same genre, all to critical acclaim. Among his most notable works are his Mistborn trilogy, hailed by the American Library Association as a melding of "intrigues, politics and conspiracies." Most recently, Sanderson was chosen by the widow of Robert Jordan to posthumously complete her husband's epic, "Wheel of Time" series. The next installment of the series will be released Nov. 2.

Sanderson will be the first of seven fantasy authors to visit Orem Reads. Upcoming authors include:

- Sept. 22: James Dashner, author of "The Maze Runner"
- Sept. 30: Brandon Mull, author of the Fablehaven series
- Oct. 5: Fantasy Author Panel with Berin Stephens, Stephen Gashler and Greg Park
- Oct. 16: Dave Wolverton, author of the Runelord series
- Oct. 19: Julie Berry, author of "The Amaranth Enchantment"
- Oct. 21: Allyson Condie, author of "Matched"

All Orem Reads events are free and open to the public. For more information on library events, visit the library's website at www.orem.org. 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 the Orem Reads program in local schools was provided by Walmart, Macey's and Harmon's Grocery.

PLEASANT GROVE

MANILA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Reflections program — It's not too early to think about the PTA Reflections fine arts program at the school. This year's theme is "Together We Can." Entries will be collected beginning in October. Projects can be entered in literature, music composition, visual arts, photography, film/video production, dance choreography, three-dimensional art and theater. Rules and guidelines can be found at www.utahpta.org/prog/reflections.

PLEASANT GROVE HIGH SCHOOL

Parent-teacher conferences — Parent-teacher conferences will be in the cafeteria on Wednesday from 3:30 to 7 p.m. This is an excellent opportunity for parents to come and meet their students' teachers, learn about the course expectations and student's progress.

GROVECREST ELEMENTARY

Book fundraiser — Students are selling "Happenings" books for a school fundraiser. These books contain hundreds of buy one get one free and other discount coupons for food, fun, lodging and much more in Utah Valley. Contact a student or the school at (801) 785-8714 for more information.

PROVO

Kidney screenings — If you, your parents or siblings have diabetes, high blood pressure or kidney disease, you are at



Courtesy photo

Brian Harker, teacher at Lone Peak High School, on a camel at the pyramids near Giza on one of his trips to Egypt.

Teacher uses Egypt experiences in class

Christie Dalley
CORRESPONDENT

Lone Peak Arabic teacher Brian Harker went to Egypt over the summer on a grant to help him teach the language better. His favorite part was living in the dorms with Egyptian students and getting to know the language the way it is spoken there.

Harker spent six weeks in Alexandria, Egypt, on a special program grant with the American Council for International Education.

"Egyptian Arabic is full of humor, slang and sarcasm, so there is a huge difference between the written language and what is actually spoken by most Egyptians. The same word can be pronounced in many different ways, so it can have entirely new meanings," he said.

The study each day was intensive, with four hours of classes, then study time. However, he said he got more out of speaking with his fellow Egyptian dorm mates.

Harker graduated in Middle Eastern Studies from BYU and has been to Egypt twice as well as Jordan, Palestine and Yemen. "Of all the Mideastern Arabic languages, I am drawn to Egyptian Arabic the most. The language of Jordan is beautiful, but Egyptian is more lighthearted and friendly, more full of fun and humor," he said. "Some Mideastern places are cleaner and nicer with better food, but whenever I study Arabic, I would rather go to Egypt."

Harker got the grant after one of his former students at Provo High told him about the program. He applied online and was accepted.

The U.S. State Department has been encouraging the study of the critical languages of Chinese, Russian and Arabic

and have set up grants for students and teachers to learn these languages better. Harker said, "Nationwide, Utah is one of the places where Arabic is taught in more high schools maybe because of the National Middle East Language Resource Center is at BYU. In fact, there were two teachers from Utah, two from Idaho with only one each from Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Kansas in our group."

Two other Utah teachers, Tina Cannon and Stacy Lyon from the Renaissance Academy in Lehi, received similar grants this year from the ACIE to go to China to increase their proficiency in the language and methods of teaching.

Harker said the experience has opened up avenues to connect with other Arabic teachers and share ways to make their classes better. Harker has read two of the Harry Potter books in Arabic and uses parts of these books to enliven his classes.

"Arabic has 28 letters and is written right to left and connected together like our cursive. It is a phonetic language so sounding out some of the unique words in Arabic the students are familiar with in English like quidditch and Hogwarts are fun for the students," he said.

Harker teaches Arabic part time at Lone Peak High School as well as Salt Lake Community College, and he has taught at BYU, the University of Utah, Provo High and Salem Hills High School.

Lone Peak High School principal Chip Koop said Harker is a great teacher and the students really like him.

"He is an engaging teacher and kid centered. The Arabic language is very different with many dialects and traditions," Koop said. "Brian helps bring our different worlds and cultures together. He has done a phenomenal job for us."

The weather in Alexandria, while humid, is mild with the temperatures

in the 80s because it is on the Mediterranean Sea. But it is different in Luxor, where the pyramids are located. "It gets over 110 degrees there," he said. He also got to go scuba diving in the Red Sea, which is one of the premier places for the sport.

He said the food in his dorm was good but almost always had the same basic ingredients of caramelized onions, rice, lentils, meat and tomato sauce.

"They serve it family style with all the dishes placed on the table to be passed around. The chef in our cafeteria was pretty good, so it was tasty. But the girls said theirs was pretty bad. We went out to eat at restaurants sometimes, but the menu was about the same. So we didn't go out much."

Harker was born in Corvallis, Ore. but grew up in Springville, then went to BYU where his father is a professor of microbiology. Although he took German in high school, he said he did not apply himself so did not like it very well. He became interested in other languages when he was on a mission for the LDS Church in Hawaii.

"I had the opportunity to study Tongan and Gilbertese when I was serving in the Christmas Islands. I realized it was the only time I wished I had more time to study more, it was so fascinating to me," he said.

In his spare time, he likes to read, ski and train for and participate in triathlons.

"When you think of triathlons you think of the Iron Man, which seems impossible, but I do the half-mile sprint, half-mile swim and 5K bike ride which is doable and fun. My last time was an hour and 20 minutes, which is 20 minutes less than I did before," he said. "I like the sport because you are mostly competing against yourself. The other people often stop and help each other, like if you get a flat tire on your bike."

risk for kidney failure and should attend a free screening conducted by the National Kidney Foundation of Utah and Idaho on Sept. 25 at the LDS Church, 2225 W. 620 North, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The screening is part of the National Kidney Foundation's Kidney Early Evaluation Program, an early detection screening designed to identify and educate people at risk. For more information or to make an appointment, call (801) 226-5111.

SARATOGA SPRINGS

WESTLAKE HIGH SCHOOL

Homecoming — Students will promote school spirit and welcome back alumni with homecoming week activities beginning Monday.

► **Monday:** Homecoming kickoff and athletic department dinner and auction, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

► **Friday:** Homecoming pep rally, 7:45 a.m. Homecoming carnival, 4:30 p.m. Homecoming varsity football game against Orem at Westlake at 7 p.m. The WHS marching band will perform during halftime.

► **Sept. 25:** Homecoming dance, 8 p.m. at the school.

Conferences — Parents are invited to meet with teachers on Wednesday from 3 to 6 p.m. in the auxiliary gyms for parent/teacher conferences.

UTAH COUNTY

National essay contest

U.S. high school students and their teachers are invited to compete for about \$115,000 in prize money by participating in the Bill of Rights Institute's fifth annual Being an American essay contest. Top prize winners and their teachers will also receive all-expenses paid trips to the nation's capital.

The largest high school essay contest in the country, awarding 180 students and teachers with cash prizes and attracting more than 50,000 essays last year, explores the rights and responsibilities of American citizenship. The contest is administered by the Bill of Rights Institute, a nonprofit educational organization in the Washington, D.C., area devoted to educating children about the Constitution and founding principles. The sponsors include the History Channel and the Stuart Family Foundation.

Specifically, students are asked to share their thoughts on American citizenship by answering the following question: "What civic value do you believe is most essential to being an American?"

The top three student winners and their teachers from each of the nine geographical regions will be announced at a special Washington, D.C. Awards Gala in the spring of 2011, where they will be awarded cash prizes of \$5,000 (first place), \$1,000 (second place), and \$500 (third place). The winning students will also explore the nation's capital, meet contemporary American heroes and national leaders and visit national landmarks. Additionally, the contest will award 126 honorable mention prizes of \$100 to seven students and their teachers from each region.

Nearly 100,000 students have participated in the essay contest since it began in 2006. Now in its fifth year, the contest is the largest high school essay contest in the country. For more information, including submission criteria, lesson plans and background information on the Constitution, Bill of Rights, Founders and other

Americans who have contributed to America's shared civic values, go to www.BeingAnAmerican.org.

Maple Lake and Maple Bench

campground closed — Doug Jones, Spanish Fork District ranger and Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest have announced that Maple Lake and Maple Bench campground located approximately six miles south of Payson on the Nebo Loop Scenic Byway are now closed for the season and for reconstruction. For public safety, the site is closed to all vehicular and pedestrian access, and no public parking will be allowed outside the facility gate due to heavy equipment activity and construction operations. The site is expected to be closed until the spring of 2011.

The reconstruction includes a redesign of the interior roads and campground sites, improved parking to accommodate horse trailers and new restrooms. The vault toilet facilities were originally installed in the 1960s and are being replaced with clean, modern toilets, which are more maintenance free and meet accessibility requirements.

LEARN MORE ...

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

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