

News line

Actor hospitalized in critical condition

SANTAQUIN (AP) — A Utah hospital says former child television star Gary Coleman has been admitted in critical condition.

Utah Valley Regional Medical Center spokeswoman Janet Frank says Coleman was admitted to the Provo facility on Wednesday. Frank said she can't release any additional details.

Coleman's attorney, Randy Kester, said he contacted Coleman's wife, Shannon Price, at the hospital and confirmed the 42-year-old actor had fallen somehow and was in intensive care.

"They're kinda scared," Kester told the Deseret News Thursday. "He's in pretty frail health. He had heart surgery last fall. Any little thing can be twice as bad for him."

The 42-year-old actor is best known for his stint on TV's "Diff'rent Strokes," which aired from 1978-86. In February, Coleman suffered a seizure on the set of "The Insider."

Last fall, Coleman had heart surgery that was complicated by pneumonia, Kester said.

In February, Coleman pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor criminal mischief charge related to an April 2009 domestic violence incident at his home. Recent health issues have caused several follow-up hearings in Coleman's case to be delayed, Kester said.

Contributing: Lana Groves

Timpanogos Cave and trail reopen

AMERICAN FORK — Timpanogos Cave and Timpanogos Cave trail have been reopened after a five-day closure prompted by the death of a park employee.

Rex Walker, 58, a maintenance worker for the monument, died Friday after he somehow drove off of the trail and fell more than 500 feet. Walker was on a motorized trail bike fixing lighting outages at the time, and it remains unclear what caused the fall, park superintendent Denis Davis said.

The trail had been open to the public for less than a week when it was closed to allow for an investigation into Walker's death. Davis said investigations were conducted by the National Park Service, the Utah County Sheriff's Office and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The results of those investigations should be released in about 45 days. Davis said until then, "there is no value in speculating about the cause of the accident."

Walker had long ties to the monument, as his father and grandfather operated the cave's original concession stand. Davis said the family, including Walker's wife and four children, was eager to see the trail reopened.

— Emiley Morgan

Body donors will be honored today

SALT LAKE CITY — The University of Utah School of Medicine will honor the memory of 144 people who donated their bodies to science and education last year.

Body donors and their families will be recognized at a memorial service at 11 a.m. today. The service will take place at the body donor program's grave site in the northwest corner of the Salt Lake City Cemetery, at 200 N. N St. in Salt Lake City. The program will feature remarks from Kerry Don Peterson, director of the U.'s body donor program, and will include musical presentations as well as a congregational sharing opportunity for family and friends.

As a part of the medical school's training program, cadavers are used to help educate future health-care professionals. Researchers also use the cadavers to develop new technologies, and practicing physicians use them to teach one another novel procedures and techniques for surgery.

Judge will consider staying Gardner execution

By Emiley Morgan
Deseret News

SALT LAKE CITY — Though he declined to give Ronnie Lee Gardner an escape route from Utah's death row, a judge agreed Thursday to consider staying Gardner's June 18 execution.

Third District Judge Robin Reese said he would take the motion to stay the execution under advisement and issue a ruling today, just three weeks before the execution is scheduled to take place.

The judge did, however, rule in favor of a prosecution motion that essentially confirms Gardner's death sentence and declined to grant him a new sentencing hearing. Reese said Gardner's petition was filed too late, saying all of his claims could have been addressed as far back as 10 years ago.

Defense attorney Andrew Parnes had asked that Gardner be re-sentenced, giving the 49-year-old death-row inmate a shot at receiving a sentence of life without the possibility of parole. That sentence was not an option when Gardner was originally convicted.



Ronnie Lee Gardner

"The judiciary ensures that the process is fair, and in this case, it wasn't fair because Gardner never got the hearing he was entitled to," Parnes said.

Reese, however, disagreed. While Parnes believes there is information about Gardner's past and childhood that would explain his history of violent behavior, assistant attorney general Tom Brunker said Gardner himself prevented information about his family and upbringing from being presented in court.

The Utah Supreme Court is scheduled to hear similar arguments on June 3 about why Gardner's sentence should be changed to life without the possibility of parole or whether a new sentencing hearing for Gardner

should be ordered. The court agreed to hear the case quickly because of the pending execution date.

Brunker said that if Reese denies the motion to stay, defense attorneys will likely raise the issue before the high court.

Parnes argued that the state statute is clear that when a petition or appeal is filed in a case, the judge must issue a stay of the execution date.

But Brunker said the defense was merely trying to enter into a sort of round robin in which the state would have to re-file an application for the warrant, requiring another hearing and another execution date — something that could go on indefinitely.

On April 23, Reese signed the execution warrant authorizing Gardner's death by firing squad on June 18. Under Utah law, Gardner was allowed to choose between lethal injection and the firing squad as the method of death.

Gardner was sentenced to death in 1985 for murdering defense attorney Michael Burdell during an escape attempt from the old Salt Lake County courthouse. Gardner, who was appearing in court on a separate mur-

der charge, also shot and wounded court bailiff George "Nick" Kirk.

Gardner has spent the last 25 years appealing the conviction on every level possible. He didn't appear at Thursday's hearing due to recurring pain from rheumatoid arthritis that Parnes said may have aggravated a new shoulder injury.

Gardner will also seek a new sentence in a commutation hearing before the Board of Pardons, which is scheduled for June 10 and 11. While the board has the power to commute a death sentence, the governor can only stay the execution pending such a hearing. In the governor's monthly news conference on KUED Thursday, he addressed some of the frustrations with the Gardner case.

"It's something that we ought not to be looking at with any kind of joy and glee," Herbert said. "I think justice needs to be served. ... If there's any frustration, I think that anybody has, that we all share, is it's taken so long. But you know, the law is the law, and we need to uphold the law, and that includes capital punishment."

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Excited athletes begin Special Olympics Utah Summer Games

By Daniel Ng
Deseret News

PROVO — Participants, coaches, teams and volunteers gathered at BYU's Larry H. Miller Field Thursday to kick off three days of competition and fun at the 2010 Special Olympics Utah Summer Games.

Participants David Deppe and Dirk Howe were ready to get started. They said the opportunity to compete was a perfect chance to not only work on their competitive edge, but also to relax and have fun.

"I'm one of the fastest on the team," Deppe said. "It's great to meet people and to compete against each other. I love it."

Howe echoed Deppe's confidence and also expressed his excitement.

"The softball throw is my favorite event," Howe said. "I always win it. It's just a chance to get away from work, to just hang out with friends and have a good time."

Under overcast skies, Thursday's opening ceremonies started with a welcome to those in attendance, as well as an introduction of the teams as they paraded into the stadium.

The program was highlighted by the lighting of the Olympic cauldron. The five carriers of the torch were Karlyn Ziemski, representing the University of Utah; Michael Keller, representing West High Alumni; Jessica Johnson, representing the Summit County Wildcats; Trevon Cole, representing



Eight-year-old Michael Walton high-fives fans during the opening ceremonies for the Special Olympics at BYU Thursday.

JASON OLSON, DESERET NEWS

Photo gallery

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the Hartvigsen Howlers; and Kerry Cole of Saratoga Springs Police Department.

Two guest speakers, Provo Mayor John Curtis and BYU basketball coach Dave Rose, also gave a few remarks.

"I'm really proud of all of you, you've accomplished so many things," Rose said. "You all have the heart of a champion. I wish all of you the best as you compete in your events. Have a good time."

South Jordan, who is assisting in the track and field staging and escorting, the event is something he's always looked forward to.

"This is probably more fantastic for me than them," Palmer said of the athletes. "I'm here probably selfishly. I just want to be a part of it, see how everything works."

Assistant coach Julie Shannon of West Jordan agreed with Palmer, but added that

along with the volunteers, the experience is special for the participants and athletes.

"I think it's a chance for the athletes to build a lot of confidence and character," Shannon said. "It's a really good experience for them."

Athletes from 69 teams were scheduled to continue their competitions at 9:30 a.m. today.

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Shakespearean Festival founder gets humanities award

By Gina Barker
Deseret News

SALT LAKE CITY — Whether he was acting, directing, painting a set or stitching sequins onto a costume, Fred Adams' life was in theater.

And while Adams was a constant figure in the background of his plays, he is better known for creating the Utah Shakespearean Festival held each year in Cedar City.

His life's work was recognized Thursday at the Utah Humanities Council's 22nd Annual Humanities Awards, where Gov. Gary Herbert presented the Governor's Award in the Humanities to Adams.

"He is an example of what we've been talking about here," Herbert said as he presented the award to Adams, "civility, humanitarian effort, trying to improve the community in his own way, and having a significant impact on the goodness of the people of Utah and our surrounding areas."

While many people know the stories of William Shakespeare, not as many know the story of how the nation's second largest Shakespearean



Fred Adams

festival came to be. As a professor for Southern Utah University, Adams came up with the idea for a Cedar City Shakespearean venue in 1961. Now, the Utah Shakespearean Festival is about to enter its 49th year. Each year, 150,000 spectators travel from around the nation for the festival, which runs from June to October. Ten plays are included in the festival, from Shakespearean classics to contemporary pieces. This year will feature "Macbeth," "Much Ado About Nothing" and "The Merchant of Venice," along with a handful of others.

"Cedar City really loved Shakespeare," Adams said. "In the theater department, I had done a couple of Shakespeare plays and found that they were really, really well-attended and appreciated by the locals."

But before the festival became a

staple for Shakespearean culture, it was inspired by Adams' work as a professor and his attempts to connect to the Cedar City community. His first Shakespearean play as a professor at SUU was in 1961. The play's popularity sprung Adams into action.

"I think he recognized the potential of Shakespeare to energize a community," said Utah Shakespearean Festival educational director Michael Bahr.

Bahr works for the festival today, but in 1982 he was a student at SUU and was mentored by Adams. Bahr has acted in the festival and worked closely with Adams since his years at SUU, but he still talks about Adams' influence like an excited college student.

Bahr said it was Adams' "enthusiasm for the craft of theater" that made him the man he is today. Bahr attributed the festival's success to the fact that Adams had a natural rapport with his audiences.

"His audiences trust him because he knows his audiences," Bahr said.

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PETS OF THE WEEK

Allie is a beautiful 4-month-old dachshund mix. She came to the shelter as a stray at the beginning of April.

She gets along great with other dogs and children of all ages. She is crate-trained but still needs a little help on house-training. Since she is still just a puppy she will need lots of love, attention and plenty of chew toys.

Annie is a "large and in charge" feline. She loves getting attention and does great with other cats and has been at the shelter since March. She is already spayed, so she can go home right away.

Those interested in adopting a pet can visit Salt Lake County Animal Services, 511 W. 3900 South, Salt Lake City, between 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday. For more information, call 801-559-1100 or visit www.slcoanimalservices.org.



SALT LAKE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES