

Our Community

James Porter is retiring as the director of High Desert UniServ, the local affiliate of the Utah Education Association.

He has served various counties in southern Utah since 1972. Prior to that, he was a fifth grade teacher at Pahvant Elementary School in Richfield.

"In the eyes of the thousands of UEA members he has represented during his career, Jim has been a trusted adviser and advocate, a relentless negotiator and lobbyist, a friend and mentor," said Mark Mickelsen, UEA executive director. He honored Porter at the UEA house of delegates as "a man who has dedicated his life to this association."

From 1972 to 1980, Porter worked as an assistant director to Jack Walters as they served the Beaver, Emery, Garfield, Grand, Iron, Juab, Kane, North Sanpete, Piute, San Juan, South Sanpete, Sevier, Sevier Valley Tech, Tintic and Wayne local units.

In 1983 a reconfiguration of the southern counties took



Jim Porter

place, and Porter became the director of South Central UniServ until 1996. During one period of time, he served 12 southern Utah units.

In 1996 another work division was implemented, and the High Desert UniServ was formed. Porter has

served for 14 years with the High Desert UniServ. Porter's successor will be Rick Pruitt, a former Richfield High School counselor.

Porter has lived in Richfield for more than 40 years.

Although he is retiring from his current assignment, he will be job sharing with his wife, Sue, by covering Beaver, Garfield, Kane and Piute in the Color Country UniServ. Sue said she is looking forward to being Jim's boss.

Throughout Porter's professional career, he has also been active in community service. He has served in Sevier County's Search and Rescue for 45 years and the Civil Air Patrol for 32. He has served as commander of both organizations, as well as other elected offices.

In appreciation of 37 years as High Desert UniServ director, friends and colleagues are invited to honor Porter at an open house Friday, July 9, from 6 to 8 p.m., in the basement of Steve's Steakhouse, 647 South Main Street in Richfield.



CHAD HUNT/RICHFIELD REAPER

Mary Lee Harrison, front left; Tanna Robertson with her baby Zander, Tammy Rasmussen, Roene Shaw, Kendall Busk, Kim Busk and Pam Snedeger all take part in a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Central Utah Food Sharing headquarters with Corwin Ogden, back left; Dwayne Shaw, Don Naser, RaKell Syddall and Glen Wood Tuesday morning on Industrial Road south of Richfield.

Project exploring local folklore receives grant

By Chad Hunt
Staff Reporter

Some \$40,000 in grant money was awarded to humanities projects throughout Utah, including one that is set to produce a 72-minute CD featuring local musicians living along State Route 12 between Panguitch and Torrey who perform music inspired by local places, activities, events and heritage.

The Scenic Byway 12 project, which is being completed by the folk arts program of the Utah Division of Arts and Museums, received \$5,000 from the Utah Humanities Council to assist in the production of the CD, as well as to help secure the involvement and services of composer and humanities scholar Phillip Bimstein, according to Carol Edison, manager of the folk arts program and curator for the Chase Home Museum of Utah Folk Arts.

"Recent cuts to the folk arts program and its programming budget would prohibit us from completing production of the CD without additional funding," Edison said.

According to Edison, two public programs hosted in September by Torrey's Entrada Institute and by Envision Escalante and Escalante Heritage Center are slated to feature these local musicians and composers along with Bimstein, known for using local culture as source material for his music. She said Bimstein is set to speak at both public programs about his use of local stories from southern Utah as inspiration for his own musical compositions and introduce local

musicians to audiences.

"This project explores the perpetuation of local history and culture through the informal, folkloric expression of storytelling illustrated specifically by the wealth of homegrown music currently being performed by area residents," Edison said. "Local music explores, articulates and preserves information about people, places of importance to community members, traditional occupational and recreational activities, and local beliefs, attitudes and concerns. Folklore and history are the major disciplines featured in this project while the history of art creation, as illustrated through the composition of lyrics and music, is also explored."

Some 14 other projects throughout the state also received grant funding from the UHC, assisting groups and organizations in perpetuating works in the humanities disciplines, including history, literature, philosophy, ethics, jurisprudence, comparative religions, anthropology and archaeology, art history and interdisciplinary studies like folklore and ethnic studies, according to Cynthia Buckingham, executive director for UHC.

"UHC grants are intended to foster connections among cultural organizations, community groups, and humanities scholars," Buckingham said. "Grant projects promote public appreciation and understanding of human traditions, values, and ideas through informed public discussion."

The next competitive grant application deadlines for the UHC for requests from \$1,501 to \$5,000 are set for Sunday,

Aug. 1, and Sept. 1. Projects considered for funding in this round may not begin before Nov. 15.

For more information on the grants, contact Maria Torres at (801) 359-9670, ext. 105, e-mail torres@utahhumanities.org, or log onto www.utahhumanities.org.

For more information on the Scenic Byway 12 project, contact Edison at (801) 533-5760, or e-mail cedison@utah.gov.

Food sharing expanding

By David Anderson
Associate Editor

A project that has been under development for more than a year took a step forward Tuesday morning as ground was broken for the new headquarters of Central Utah Food Sharing.

The new facility is designed to expand current food storage and distribution capabilities. In addition to replacing the current building, the new structure has been designed with the development of a self-sufficiency program in mind.

Building the new facility is

contractor BC Building. The company offered the low bid, which will cost approximately \$387,000 to complete.

Funding for the new food bank is coming primarily from a community development block grant, which totals \$250,000. Another \$130,000 grant from the Utah Permanent Community Impact Fund Board has also been secured for the building, as well as funds from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development.

"It should be completed by the first of November," said Kendall Busk, BC Building.

While grants have made the construction of the building possible, an ongoing local fundraising and food drive effort keeps the facility running, according to Roene Shaw, director of CUFS.

"Just in the Sevier pantry we serve between 380 and 400 families a month, and sometimes we've topped 500," Shaw said. She expressed appreciation to those who have given support to CUFS through financial and food donations.

Monetary donations can be made via postal mail to CUFS, P.O. Box 324, Richfield, UT 84701.

Blood drives scheduled throughout the valley

Several blood drives are scheduled to take place throughout south central Utah during the next month.

Drives include today, July 7, at the Loa LDS stake center cultural hall in Wayne County; Thursday, July 8, Salina LDS stake center cultural hall; and Friday, July 9, at the Moroni LDS stake center gymnasium and recreation hall; all 2 to 7 p.m.

Also, Wednesday, July 14, in the Richfield LDS 4th, 7th and 9th ward cultural hall, from 3 to 8 p.m.; Friday, July 16, at the Mount Pleasant LDS stake center cultural hall; and Thursday, July 22, in the bloodmobile at the Sevier County EMS, 925 North 50 West in Richfield; both 2 to 7 p.m.

Also, Friday, July 23, in the bloodmobile at Lin's in Richfield, noon to 5 p.m.; and Manti Mercantile, in the bloodmobile from 1 to 6 p.m.

Drives are also planned Friday, July 30, at the Gunnison LDS stake center cultural hall; and Wednesday, Aug. 4, at the Monroe LDS stake center cultural hall; both 2 to 7 p.m.

Hosted in conjunction with the American Red Cross, blood donors may be eligible to participate in the Great Summer Giveaway promotion, according to John Petersen, Red Cross spokesperson. Those donating blood with

the American Red Cross in July can enter to win a laptop computer or tickets to a Tim McGraw concert on July 30 at the USANA Amphitheater in Salt Lake City, Petersen said.

The ticket drawing is scheduled to be conducted Monday, July 26; while the drawing for the laptop is set for Monday, Aug. 2.

Donor eligibility involves minimum age, weight and health requirements, and presentation of a donor card or positive ID upon donation, according to Petersen.

Petersen said that in Utah, the Red Cross provides blood services for 33 hospitals including Sevier Valley Medical Center, Beaver Valley Hospital, the Fillmore Community Medical Center, Garfield Memorial Hospital, Gunnison Valley Hospital and Sanpete Valley Hospital.

"During summer, blood donations typically decline dramatically as donors often go on vacation and schools let out," said Jalae Thompson, donor recruitment manager for the American Red Cross in Utah. "However, the need for blood remains constant. The American Red Cross will carry out the Great Summer Giveaway to encourage people to donate this summer and help save lives."

For more information, call (800) RED CROSS, (800) 733-2767, or log onto www.redcrossblood.org.

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