Special Olympics Founder to be honored in Utah Saturday

The Wasatch Front will take worldwide center stage this September as communities around the world celebrate the life and legacy of Special Olympics, Dare Bidelman, and Community of Caring visionary Eunice Kennedy Shriver. But perhaps nowhere will this celebration be prouder than here in Utah.

The first-ever “Eunice Kennedy Shriver Day” (EKS Day) is Sept. 25, and originates at the University of Utah, where the National Center for Community of Caring is headquartered.

“Eunice Kennedy Shriver Day has been created in her honor to inspire people to experience her legacy and embrace annual checkups, breast examinations, pelvic pain and gynecological disorders. Copper Canyon Women’s Center also provides care for women with routine and high-risk pregnancies and performs ultrasounds.

Because of the clinic’s association with Pioneer Valley Hospital, patients also have access to additional facilities and diagnostic tools.

Copper Canyon Women’s Center is located at 3336 South 4155 West, Suite 301 in West Valley City. The clinic has regular office hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m. to Noon on Friday, with extended hours until 8 p.m. on Tuesdays. The clinic also offers same day and next day appointments. Most major insurance plans, including Medicaid, are accepted.

For more information, call 801-964-3865 or visit www.PhysicianGroupUT.com.

Why did the US Congress have a problem with EKS Day? And why did the solution lead to the creation, 160 years ago this month, of a place called Utah?

The lands of the American Southwest — an area now covering California, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, and Utah — were ceded to the United States following the end of the Mexican-American War in 1848. The problem confronting the US, however, was whether the new lands should become slave states or free. The union of the nation depended on keeping a balance, and for two years, Congress wrestled with the question.

In the absence of any decision, people living in those areas began to organize governing institutions of their own. Mormon leader Brigham Young established an independent government called Deseret, which stretched from the Rocky Mountains to the sea, and petitioned for statehood as a way to secure local independence.

Finally, members of Congress reached a deal called the Compromise of 1850, wherein California was admitted to the Union as a free state, while the remaining lands became the New Mexico and Utah Territories, where people were allowed to decide the slavery issue for themselves. The compromise resolved the immediate crisis, but only delayed the question of slavery in western lands.

Congress also refused to grant statehood to Deseret because the region lacked the required number of eligible voters. Moreover, they objected to the huge size of the proposed state. When selecting a name for the new territory, Congressional support was strong for the name Utah, after the indigenous Ute tribe. Mormons resisted naming the territory after a people they scorned and feared, but the name prevailed.

So, in September 1850, Congress passed a bill organizing the Utah Territory, rejecting the name Deseret and shrinking its presump
tuous borders. However, President Millard Fillmore’s politically astute selection of Brigham Young as governor made territorial status easier for the Mormons to accept. In gratitude, they named their new territorial capital and its surrounding county after him.

Utah would wait another 46 years for statehood. The Beehive Archive is a weekly bite-sized look at some of the most pivotal — and peculiar — events in Utah history. It is part of The Utah Humanities Council, a nonprofit organization that provides life-long learning across the state through programs that explore diverse traditions, values and ideas.