

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What is your opinion? This newspaper welcomes letters from its readers concerning any subject. Defamation of character or anything of a libelous nature will not be considered for publication. Please limit your letters to 300 words or less. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. Letters must be signed and include your full name, address and telephone number. Please limit your letters to one per person per month.

Homegrown beauty

Dear Editor:

One often hears it said, "Kanab is beautiful," and Kanab's natural beauty is apparent to anyone who has watched sunlight and long afternoon shadows spread over the red rock cliffs that wrap around the town, or who has gazed into the dark night skies above and seen the constellations and planets so brilliant and vivid that they seem almost touchable.

Kanab's beauty is also found in a community learning to appreciate the positive outcomes that are available when diverse and differing perspectives are included in community discourse. Kanab is a vibrant community, and the responsibility that comes with that vibrancy is the recognition that strongly held opinions and opposing views don't rip a community apart, but rather, indicate a healthy democracy.

Creating a more inclusive democratic process is always a work in progress, and there are certainly examples in Kanab when community discourse has given rise to inappropriate and hurtful attitudes; and sometimes these misdirected actions are adopted into municipal ordinances. However, in my interactions with Kanab's business owners, elected officials, tourist councils, chamber of commerce members, and citizens who desire to elevate Kanab to its highest potential, the attitudes and ordinances that reflect negativity and inequality are fading into the past, and today's community leaders are more interested in promoting economic development, providing jobs, and creating youth opportunities than they are in scrutinizing the number of children in a family's "quiver."

Kanab's booming tourist-driven economic engine is sustained by its residents who participate in municipal meetings, and who organize community events, and understand that a community is beautiful when public discourse moves away from promoting individual agendas to the promotion of broad community needs. That "Kanab is beautiful" is more than a catchy slogan, it's a way of life, and when diverse and alternative views are included in community decision-making, that, in itself, becomes a beauty that never grows old.

Roger Cole
Kanab

Hooray for Kanab!

Dear Editor:

I was surprised by a recent letter saying that our little community is deteriorating, and thought it would be fair to suggest a different point of view. In the 10 years I've lived in Kanab, I've seen so many positive changes and new facilities for the benefit of all residents, that I actually had to make a list.

The first things that come to mind are the updated Hamblin Park, the fantastic new swimming pool, the redone K on K Hill, and the new ball fields. I think of the new public safety facility and the jobs it creates, the Search and Rescue build-

ing, and the new amphitheatre at the old middle school to replace the gazebo. We've improved many of the hiking trails around town and even created a few new ones, attracting a world-class trail running event in the process. We've dramatically improved the quality of our fire department vehicles and safety gear. Colorful murals now decorate many buildings in town. A new traffic signal helps make our children safer as they travel to elementary school.

Plus, there are even more plans underway, including efforts to upgrade the airport, create a bike lane to Best Friends, build a new skate park, and design a state-of-the-art remote control airplane runway.

Add this to the great things that were here when I arrived. We've got an awesome public library - much better than a small town like ours could expect, an annual 10-K, community events like a revitalized Western Legends Round-up, fundraiser participation events like Relay for Life, and more parades that I can count. We've got fly-ins, SWATC, Symphony of the Canyons, scouting, youth sports leagues, a ham radio club, an ATV club, a skeet range, and a farmer's market, just to name a few.

I also think it is important to remember that none of the things I've mentioned happened on their own. In every instance, it is members of our community stepping up and making an extra effort to bring these things to pass. In fact, Kanab has more opportunities to participate than anywhere I've ever lived.

This isn't to say everything is perfect of course, but it is to suggest that the best way to create the community we want is to focus on the positive and put our shoulder to the wheel to make it happen. Fortunately, I think that is what most of us are doing already. Hooray for Kanab!

Mark Foley
Kanab

An adventure of a lifetime

Dear Editor:

My name is Michele Gra-glia. I am an Ultra Runner from Italy who just returned from the Grand2Grand Ultra Race, hosted in Kanab last week. I had the great pleasure to meet and know Susana Young, and read her articles in your newspaper about the event on our return to "civilization." She invited me to write a few words about the race. But, if you allow me, I would like to share a bit more than that. A piece of my mind perhaps, about what I consider the adventure of a lifetime.

There are things in life that for a reason or another tend to define our true self. It's hard to describe, but those moments inevitably carve a very special spot in our minds that leave indelible traces worth memories of a lifetime.

It's 4 a.m. of Saturday, September 27. The last stage of the Grand2Grand Ultra is only hours away as I find myself staring at the rare stillness of camp. All my fellow runners are asleep. It's quiet and it's cold. The bigthunderstorm that hit us last night is still very much hovering around us, but a break through the clouds above my head shows the majestic view of the marvel-

ous milky way. I just find myself overwhelmed with a river of emotions.

Most people out there cannot, and perhaps will never understand the reasons that brought 104 Ultra Runners from all around the globe to challenge themselves through 170 miles of relentless running, unsupported, into one of the most beautiful, yet grueling, landscapes on the planet. G2G is considered one of the hardest events in the world and often we are questioned why we do it. Why would you put yourself through so much harshness and pain?

My first answer would be, it's about the simplicity of life and the wonderful feeling of accomplishment when we cross that finish line, sought after day after day. It's pure joy, and sharing that joy together goes far beyond the competitiveness of the event itself. I crawl back into my tent with teary eyes knowing that today would be the last leg of our journey. It's the community that made it so special to me.

It's been a wonderful journey, a real adventure. An experience I will never forget. I feel incredibly lucky and blessed I had the opportunity to share all if it with some of the best people I've ever met. The friendship through harshness and the solid bonds this race has created are bound to last a lifetime.

My thoughts go out to my wonderful tentmates, and to all the tough runners at camp! To all the crewmembers who dedicated their time and efforts and worked relentlessly day in and day out to help us reach our dreams! And of course to the incomparable support of the people of Kanab, and to Tess and Colin Geddes, the kindest and most fun race directors I've met! It was all their hard work that made it possible and gave us the opportunity to conquer an unfathomable goal.

We all lived in the simplest and rawest of conditions through strength and tenacity. From the first, to the last I thank you all from the bottom of my heart. And Kanab, be sure I'll see you again very soon!

Best Regards
Miky

Thank you

Dear Editor:

The staff at Southern Utah Home Care and Hospice would like to thank, the Kane County Ambulance, Washington Veterans Mobile Van, Mountain Land Physical Therapy, Kane County Health Department, Utah State University Kane County Extension Office, Beehive Homes, Lincare, Total Respiratory Care, Zion's Pharmacy, Southwest Behavioral Health Center, Best Friends Animal Sanctuary, The Herb Basket and Coral Hills Family Dental Office for participating in our health fair on Tuesday, September 23. Thank you also to our local residents who supported us in our event and enjoyed the booths, information and treats! We look forward to seeing you again next year!

Southern Utah Home
Care and Hospice

A catered picnic?

Dear Editor:

How many of you have ever gone to a catered picnic? Very few of the KCH Auxiliary volunteers have ever attended one, but their yearly picnic was just that.



Thank you Kanab

Dear Editor:

I was a participant in this year's Grand to Grand Ultra, and I want to thank the community of Kanab for so warmly welcoming and supporting this event. I felt moved by the tireless work of the community's volunteers and by the words of encouragement I received from every local I met. This was actually my second Grand to Grand - I also ran the inaugural event in 2012 - and I have since fallen in love with Kanab.

My story might provide an example of the positive economic ripple the event generates for the community: Since discovering Kanab in 2012 because of the Grand to Grand, my family has booked a rafting trip with

a local outfitter (Grand Canyon Expeditions) that we found out about because they sponsored the G2G, and then our family returned to vacation in Kanab over New Year's Eve so I could show my kids the Coral Pink Sand Dunes and Best Friends Sanctuary.

I enjoyed shopping locally in the days before this year's event, and the next time my family drives from California to Colorado, we'll detour to Kanab again, rather than staying in Salt Lake City. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for welcoming our crazy tribe of Grand to Grand runners and for making this incredible event possible.

Sincerely,
Sarah Lavender Smith
Piedmont, California

FRIGHTMARES coupons to benefit Kane County students

FRIGHTMARES is happening! Although Lagoon was late in getting the word out, the "dark side of Lagoon" is here. The Kane Schools Foundation for Students again has special discount coupons for Lagoon Amusement Park, located in Farmington, Utah, whereby admission is reduced to \$41.95 for the annual Halloween season FRIGHTMARES event.

The special discount coupons have been distributed to all Kane County students and staff. Additional coupons are available at the Kane County School District office, the Kanab City Library, *Southern Utah News* and Glazier's Family Market.

One coupon entitles every member of a family to purchase a Fright Pass for \$41.95. For every Fright Pass purchased with the coupon, Lagoon will donate \$3 to the Kane Schools Foundation for Students, where it will be used to foster educational excellence in our local schools.

FRIGHTMARES is 19 years old. It is a delightfully

wicked celebration of the scary season, with haunted houses and entertainment for all age groups, along with Lagoon's great rides. For the little ones, FRIGHTMARES has Spook-A-Boo Walk-thru and Scary & Crow's Straw Maze. For teens and adults, there's Fun House of Fear, Zombie Lockdown, and Nightwalk. New this year is Twisted Tales and Pioneer Village Scare Zone!

For times, visit the Frightmares website at <http://www.lagoonpark.com/attractions/frightmares>. The haunted house/walk through attractions are fantastically done with

incredible costumes and excellent performers. It is just the right mixture of horror and hilarity - the best time you'll ever have being scared.

So...celebrate the scary season with a devilish deal at Lagoon! Use one FRIGHTMARES discount coupon for your whole family and benefit the students of Kane County.

FRIGHTMARES runs every weekend beginning September 19 until October 30, 2014. Remember, extra coupons are available at the above listed locations. Have fun and thank you for your support!



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