



FIVE COUNTY NEWS FROM 'R' VIEW

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Citizen's Day at the Legislature

For more than 30 years, Utah Issues has sponsored Citizen's Day at the Legislature, which has involved thousands of Utahns in a unique opportunity to meet their legislators and learn about the legislative process. Each year, up to 500 Utahns come to be a part of the legislative process.

Participants learn about the process and have an opportunity to put that new learning to good use by meeting directly with their legislators. Over lunch, constituents tell legislators about the issues that are important to them.

This year, Citizen's Day is being held February 17th from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Meetings will be held at the Radisson Hotel, at 215 W. South Temple in Salt Lake City (since the Capitol is still under renovation). There is no cost to attend, but pre-registration required. To register go to www.utahissues.org, or phone 800-331-5627. (Beth Cottam)

Mini Democracy School

Do you know of a youth or community group interested in learning how to get involved with community issues or address needed changes? The Human Services unit of the Five County Association of Governments is willing to share Mini Democracy School information. Two presentations have been made this past week, one in Cedar City and one in Tropic to participants of a program called "New Frontiers for Families".

The purpose of the Mini Democracy School presentation is to motivate community members to become more informed and to appropriately engage in public processes, including voting.

Mini Democracy School information includes two power point presentations which can be shared with anyone. One is entitled, "Project Voice". It was put together by Utah Issues and starts off with a brief history of voting rights in the United States. It addresses voting myths & realities, explains how to register, and shares 8 steps to becoming a smart voter. The second power point presentation is entitled, "Advocacy 101" and includes information on

working with policy makers, explains the process of how a bill becomes a law, and outlines advocacy action steps. It was made available through the Utah Community Action Partnership.

During the Mini Democracy Schools held this past week, we also discussed legislative issues with participants and shared a handout with information on each of the local Utah State Legislature delegates from the five county area. Participants were encouraged to be more informed about their own community issues. Tracy Johnson, the advisor for New Frontiers for Families is arranging for the youth to meet with local delegates when they visit the legislature. One group of youth plans to attend the legislature on January 25th, and another group are trying to make arrangements to attend Citizen's Day at the Legislature on February 17th.

If you are interested in a Mini Democracy School presentation or obtaining the power point presentations used in the presentation, contact: Beth Cottam at Five County Association of Governments, 435-673-3548. You may also e-mail your request to: bcottam@fcaog.state.ut.us.

SR 143 PLANNING PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Scenic Byway 143 Committee has scheduled three public meetings to present the Draft Corridor Management Plan for Scenic Byway 143: "*Utah's Rainbow Skyway*". Public comments on the draft plan will be solicited and accepted.

Please plan on attending one of the three meetings which will be held at 7:00 PM each listed evening at the following locations:

Tuesday, Feb. 7th at the Library in Parowan
Wednesday, Feb. 8th at the Library in Panguitch
Thursday, Feb. 9th at the Brian Head City Office Bldg.

For more information, please go to the following web address: www.fcaog.state.ut.us/sr143.html

2006 Meeting Schedule (Revised)

The Annual Steering Committee meeting schedule which was provided in the previous Five County newsletter was in error. The revised 2006 schedule for the Steering Committee meetings is provided below.

Meeting Date	Location
Wednesday, January 11, 2006 1:00 p.m.	Five County AOG Conference Room 1070 W. 1600 S., Bldg. B St. George, Utah
Wednesday, February 8, 2006 1:00 p.m.	Kane Co. Courthouse Commission Chambers 76 North Main Street Kanab, Utah
Wednesday, March 8, 2006 1:00 p.m.	Beaver County Admin. Building Conference Room 105 East Center Street Beaver, Utah
Wednesday, April 12, 2006 1:00 p.m.	Parowan Public Library Meeting Room 16 South Main Street Parowan, Utah
Wednesday, May 10, 2006 1:00 p.m.	Panguitch City Library Council Chambers 25 South 200 East Panguitch, Utah
Wednesday, June 14, 2006 1:00 p.m.	Kane Co. Courthouse Commission Chambers 76 North Main Street Kanab, Utah
Wednesday, August 16, 2006 1:00 p.m.	Panguitch City Library Council Chambers 25 South 200 East Panguitch, Utah
Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2006 1:00 p.m..	Beaver County Admin. Building Conference Room 105 East Center Street Beaver, Utah
Wednesday, October 11, 2006 1:00 p.m.	Parowan Public Library Meeting Room 16 South Main Street Parowan, Utah
Wednesday, November 15, 2006 1:00 p.m.	Five County AOG Conference Room 1070 W. 1600 S., Bldg. B St. George, Utah

The Steering Committee does not meet during July and December. The Executive Committee will meet in July and December and at any time, as called by the Chair of the Steering Committee.

Staff Spotlights:

Maggie Cook is one of the newest members to join Five County Association of Governments. She took over the Receptionist/Secretary position left vacant by Rosanne Tietjen after her retirement.



Maggie is a native New Yorker and relocated to sunny southern Utah in 1998. She is married to Tom Cook, a native of

Bountiful, Utah, and took his five wonderful teenagers. Maggie brings to Five County 15- years of combined experience in the administrative assistant and clerical field.

When not at work, Maggie finds enjoyment in her many hobbies such as painting, cross-stitching and any crafts involving watching the do-it-yourself channels.

Maggie is very glad to be part of the staff at Five County and looks forward to settling in and continue to learn the diversities of her newly acquired position.

Julie Duckett joined the Volunteer Center of Washington County in mid-December assuming duties and responsibilities for the RSVP Seniors-in-Schools program, as well as recruiting senior volunteers for numerous community events throughout the year.



Julie first came to the Volunteer Center as a "temp" filling in for six weeks for another employee who took an

extended vacation, then decided not to return to the office.

Born and raised in northern Utah, Julie is married to James and is mom to 9-year-old Jake. While her husband completed his education at University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) in Las Vegas, Julie ran a licensed day care out of her home for five years, before moving to St. George in 2005.

She can be found at the Volunteer Center on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The rest of the week is spent with her family, exploring new hiking or biking trails or relaxing with a good book on a variety of topics.

Early Childhood Development Equals Economic Development

The Legislative session has just begun. Decisions will be made about how to use limited resources to best meet the states needs. The choices that are made will have a lasting impact on our quality of life.

There is much talk about economic development and how to best invest in programs that boost the states economic potential. There is talk about government establishing venture capital funds to subsidize new high-tech and biotech industries, to subsidize building projects, to grant incentives to business to get them to move into communities.

Early childhood development programs are rarely portrayed as economic development initiatives. This is a mistake. Studies find that the well-focused investment of dollars in early childhood programs yields extraordinarily high public as well as private returns.

The quality of life for a child and the contributions the child makes to society as an adult can be traced back to the first few years of life. From birth until about 5 years old a child undergoes tremendous growth and change. If this period of life includes support for growth in cognition, language, motor skills, adaptive skills and social-emotional functioning, the child is more likely to succeed in school and later contribute to society. However, without support during these early years, a child is more likely to drop out of school, receive welfare benefits and commit crime.

The Perry High/Scope Study conducted a benefit-cost analysis by converting benefits and costs of Early Childhood Education into monetary values. Researchers found that every dollar invested in Early Child Development Programs returns over eight dollars to society as a whole. Recent studies suggest a 12-16% internal rate of return for society in general.¹

In times when resources are limited, it makes sense to invest in those resources that can get the best possible public return, which is the correct way to evaluate economic development. Investing in Early Childhood makes sense.²

I salute those who work so hard to provide quality early childhood experiences to children. These people are to be commended not only for their dedication, but also for the contribution they make to the overall economic health of our state. (Elisabeth Barker)

Transportation Expo 2006



The public is invited to stop in at the Expo to provide your concerns or ideas regarding the many current and future transportation projects in this area. If you use area roads and highways, walk, ride a bicycle or use public transit, your opinions and feedback are valued and needed.

Informative displays and updates on current, planned and potential transportation projects will be available to you. Representatives of the Utah Department of Transportation; City of St. George; Dixie Metropolitan Planning Organization; Hurricane City; Ivins City; and Santa Clara City will be on hand to answer questions and gather feedback from you.

The Expo will be held in the Dixie Center (in the ballroom); 1835 Convention Center Drive, St. George on Tuesday, February 7, 2006 between the hours of 11:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Transportation projects and information to be displayed:

- *System Design and Freight Movement*
- *Bluff Street Corridor Transportation Study*
- *Santa Clara Road Master Plan and Trail Plan*
- *Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning*
- *Dixie Traffic Control Center*
- *Southern Parkway and I-15 Interchange*
- *Hurricane SR9 / 600 North Environmental Study*
- *Santa Clara Streetscape*
- *Valley View Bridge Project*
- *St. George City Master Traffic and Transportation Study*
- *Planning and Project Development*
- *Western Corridor Transportation Study*
- *Brigham Road Roundabout Interchange*
- *St. George Replacement Airport*
- *St. George Boulevard Reconstruction*
- *Telegraph Street Environmental Study*
- *Red Hills Parkway Environmental Study*
- *High Desert Trail*
- *SR9 Safety Review*
- *I-15 Overlay (State line to Bluff Street)*

(Lowell Elmer)

¹(Perry Study in Michigan, Abecedarian Project in North Carolina, Oklahoma's Pre-K Program, New Jersey's Pre-School Assessment Project, Syracuse Preschool Program)

²(Rob Grunewald, Federal Reserve Bank, "Building the Economic Case for Investments in Preschool," Washington D.C. Dec. 3, 2004)

CIB Public Meetings

Separate meetings to prioritize potential projects to the Permanent Community Impact Fund Board (PCIFB) for the upcoming year will be held in the following locations for each of the five counties as follows:

Kane County: Wednesday, February 8, 2006 - 11:00 a.m.
Kane County Courthouse, Commission Chambers, 76
North Main Street, Kanab, UT

Beaver County: Thursday, February 9, 2006 - 10:00 a.m.
Beaver County Administration Building, Commission
Chambers, 105 East Center, Beaver, UT

Garfield County: Thursday, February 9, 2006 - 1:30 p.m.
Panguitch Fire Station, 40 North 100 East, Panguitch, UT

Washington County: Monday, February 13, 2006 - 1:30
p.m. Five County Association of Governments, Conference
Room, 1070 West 1600 South, Building B, St. George, UT

Iron County: Wednesday, February 15, 2006 - 2:00 p.m.
Iron County Courthouse, Commission Chambers, 68 South
100 East, Parowan, UT

Please submit articles to Diane Lamoreaux via e-mail (dlamoreaux@fcaog.state.ut.us) or in writing to: P.O. Box 1550; St. George, Utah 84771-1550. For other information or services, please call (435) 673-3548 or visit our web site at: <http://www.fcaog.state.ut.us>

Steering Committee Meeting Schedule:

Wednesday, February 8, 2006, 1:00 p.m.
Kane County Courthouse, Commission
Chambers
76 North Main Street; Kanab, UT

Wednesday, March 8, 2005, 1:00 p.m.
Beaver County Administration Building,
Conference Room
105 East Center; Beaver, UT

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