

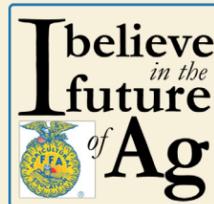
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

School Events

February 20: President's Day - NO SCHOOL!
 February 16-18 & 20 - 21: "Handing Down the Names" begins at 7:00 pm
 February 20: Lehi FFA presents "The Bar J Wranglers" in concert at Thanksgiving Point Barn @ 7:00 pm
 February 21: Lehi High Blood Drive
 February 22: College Recruitment Seminar from 6:30 -9:00 pm
 February 23: Alpine District Science Fair @ Pleasant Grove High
 February 24: Encore Concert 7:00 pm
 March 6: "ACT Testing"
 March: Regions for Choir and Drama

Community Events

February 20: Lehi Legacy Center presents "GreenEggs & Ham." Concert starts at 8:00 - 11:00 am
 February 23-25: Hutchings Museum presents "Night at the Museum Event." Event begins at 5:00 - 8:00 pm
 February 24 -25: Lehi City Scrapbook Sleep over. Friday 4:00 - 9:00 pm & Saturday 9:00 am - 9:00 pm
 February 29: Raising Backyard Chickens Course. Classes start at 6:00 - 8:00 pm.
 March 1: Grand Marshall nominations due
 March 8: Lehi City Library presents "Library Gala." Event begins at 6:30 pm. Cost is \$18.00
 * all registration information found at <http://www.lehi-ut.gov/>



"The National FFA Organization is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education."



INSIST ON QUALITY AND VALUE. INSIST ON CASCADE.

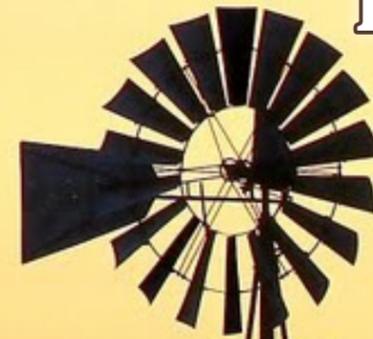
For quality, conscious consumers Cascade Collision Repair is the auto body shop in Utah County that provides peace of mind.

Career and Technical Education programs have strong ties to business and industry. These partnerships will allow you to step out of the classroom into the real world, where you can gain a better understanding of the job skills required for your career. These programs are often short-term, hands-on, and cover a broad range of subjects. As you participate in CTE and Career Pathways you will acquire the skills necessary for entry into well-paid careers with: High potential for rapid financial growth, Increased levels of responsibility and, a High degree of personal satisfaction



The Lehi Ag Journal

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**Backyard Farming:
What are our rights? p. 6**

It all started with a Garden

By Addie Hodgson, Kellie High, & Rebecca Ferguson

Alan and Karen Ashton are remarkable people. They are parents of 11, and grandparents of 51. With that much family, they stay pretty busy all the time. Not only that, but they are the owners and creators of Thanksgiving Point. They have served on the President's Leadership Council at BYU, and on the Board of Trustees at UVU.

Thanksgiving Point first started out as the gardens. Mrs. Ashton said she wanted a garden. Not just a 5 acre garden, but a big garden. So, they bought a dairy farm and turned it into a 60 acre garden in 2000. Then along with that came the golf course, and from there it kept growing and growing into what it is today. Thanksgiving Point is a non-profit organization, so all the money that goes into it is used to keep it running for the community. Last year alone, Thanksgiving Point had over 1.5 million visitors.

The Ashton's do have their favorite events that happen each year at Thanksgiving Point. This past year, they really enjoyed the lights during the holidays. Also, the gardens

are a favorite of theirs, especially during the Tulip Festival. Each year, 250,000 tulip bulbs are planted for the Tulip Festival. Another one of the Ashton's favorite features of Thanksgiving Point are the waterfalls, where there have been performances from Jon Schmidt, the Utah Symphony, and others. The Harvest Restaurant is another one of their favorite places to go. Their grandchildren also love the dinosaur museum.

It took much thought over what to call this area they made for the community and families, but the Ashton's decided on Thanksgiving Point. The Thanksgiving part came from the fact that they wanted to show gratitude and give back to their community, and Point came from the Point of the Mountain, which is close to its location so that way people would know what area it is in. Thanksgiving Point has been a wonderful place for the community, especially families. Mr. Ashton said, "We want to make it as good of a place as it can be." And we can definitely say, it really is!

A guide to backyard Farms

What are our rights?



Have you ever moved into a new area not knowing the regulations on animals? Which kinds of animals are allowed? How many can you have? The developmental code of Lehi city section 12.120 states for large animals: "Properties of one acre or more but less than five acres are permitted to two cows, two horses, two donkeys, or five sheep and or goats per acre."

Moreover, for household pets: "No more than six common household pets may be allowed including dogs, cats, rabbits, ducks, and chickens." As if these regulations aren't hard enough to follow, the code also states that, "All barns, pens, cages, or corrals for keeping such animals must be located at least twenty five feet from any public road, thirty feet from the owners residence, and at minimum of sixty feet from any other form of residential housing."

When people arrive into the new area, the most common complaint against animals is their smell. The Right to Farm act protects farmers against being forced out of their land. If you live in the Utah County area and have animals within the regulations of having animal rights, new landowners

cannot force you out. In addition, if you were to move, the next owner of your property will have those animal rights that the original owner did.

On the other hand, you can lose your rights to own animals by conviction. This is when you or your animal violates the regulations assigned. If you get up to three convictions within a twelve-month period, you lose those rights to have animals for a year. Some of the regulations change when areas are subdivided. In the case that the area around a farm is being subdivided, the new landowners have as much rights as the farmer.

They are allowed the same numbers of and animals that are on the farm. You do not take advantage of this within six months you then lose those rights.

Farmers are finding themselves in these situations daily. A house or road is built too close their barn or corral, or simply just complaints from new residences. The farmland that surrounds us is becoming more populated than we can take a count for.

By Cody Franson and Dakota Spencer

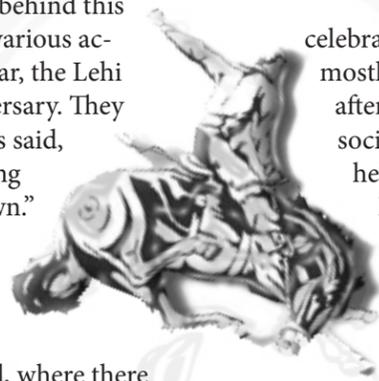


Lehi Round-Up



In a little town called Lehi, 75 years ago a fantastic idea was born – Lehi Round Up. The idea behind this event was to have an epic rodeo and various activities that involved the whole town. This year, the Lehi Round Up is celebrating their 75-year anniversary. They have many great things planned. Peggy Lewis said, "This year there is going to be a lot more going on that will be entertaining for the whole town."

To start the 75-years of a great town celebration, they are going to have a cattle drive. The cattle will drive down Lehi Main street and conclude back at Lehi High School, where there will be a guest speaker to commence the city celebration. With all the excitement, they will have a dance held in the parking lot, where young and old can come and cut the rug. They will continue to have the stock parade, rodeo, float parade and



many other fun activities on Saturday at the park

Have you ever thought where this all began? Lehi's celebrations began in the 1850's with the first pioneers, mostly happening during the 4th or 24th of July. Shortly after, the city decided to form a civic improvement association to organize a city celebration. A contest was held, where Ethel Hunger had the winning entry, 'Lehi Round Up.' She wanted the farm and ranching legacy of Lehi to carry on.

The Lehi Round Up celebration is a great family activity that everybody will enjoy. They will have stuff for the kids to do and the adults will not have to worry. Multiple activities and events will be going on for every age group. There will be food and drink that you will be able to purchase there as well as many other souvenirs sponsoring the cities anniversary celebration.

Migration of Waterfowl



Waterfowl hunting is becoming a very popular sport in North America. People ask me many questions about waterfowl hunting in Utah. Utah ducks come from a couple of different flyways, as the Central Flyway, and the Pacific Flyway both cut through parts of Utah. Cold fronts and cold weather cause ducks to migrate south. Ducks migrate mostly from areas in Canada, although there are a few breeds such as the Canvasback that will commonly come from areas around the Gulf of Alaska. They migrate south during the winter in an attempt to follow the warmer weather, and then migrate back north where they nest and hatch during the spring. Utah does host some excellent waterfowl hunting. Especially at places like the Great Salt Lake, which is a major breeding ground for waterfowl. There are also refuges such as Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge which holds some amazing waterfowl hunting especially in the early season. The unusual weather this year affected the migration, and hunting greatly. Since there were really not a lot of cold fronts to push the ducks south, they really had no reason to migrate. Although the duck numbers were incredibly high and we did see a significant amount of birds come through Utah with an excellent hunting season, I believe if we would have received some really cold weather earlier in the year to really make the ducks migrate, it could have been some of the best duck hunting we have seen in years.

Beef or Bison

When men first started living in the western United States bison (commonly known as buffalo) were very abundant. They were hunted for meat and their hide. As hunting buffalo grew in popularity the population slowly plummeted. This is the period when domestic cattle came into the picture.

The first recorded bison-cow cross accidentally occurred in 1749 when a wild bison bull managed to impregnate a domestic cow. The first real effort to breed the hybrids was in the 1800's when Charles Goodnight decided he wanted a domestic beef cow capable of enduring the harsh winter conditions that were known to kill cattle. He crossed domestic cows with bison bulls with some level of success but not enough to maintain his breeding program. He had a higher birth rate when breeding bison females with domestic bulls. He called his hybrids Cattalo, but they had a few major flaws.

Taking after their mothers, their temperaments tended to be more aggressive and the males born to this first generation were all sterile, which was considered a great financial loss. The male offspring continued to be infertile in the successive generations bred to domestic bulls in an attempt to curb the problem, until the third or fourth generation with which the genes dwindled to 1/8 or 1/16. By this time they had lost most of the positive characteristics of the bison he was trying to achieve. With all these problems he was forced to stop his pet project.

Jim Burnell continued the project with a different method, breeding his first generation hybrid females back to the bison bull. He finally had success with a fertile bull that was 3/4 bison by 1957. Jim



didn't continue the project but sold the bull and 2 others to Bud Basolo. Historians think this new beef cow/bison cross was then named Beefalo by Bud. Bud was then said to have bred 17 to 18 of a fertile 5/8 bovine cow and 3/8 bison males. In this manner he created a large cow that was still docile and produced a good amount of meat that was far harder to harsh weather than their bovine competitors.

Now beefalo are considered their own breed and are categorized only as an animal who is 5/8 bovine and 3/8 bison. Being bigger than the traditional beef cows and harder to extremes in weather they've been gaining popularity. Their calves are also smaller at birth which means they don't have as many birthing problems as the traditional beef cows. Their meat is also lower in fat and cholesterol but higher in protein. They're a near perfect meat animal but were never used for dairy or fiber purposes.

The four main reasons for choosing beefalo meat is that the meat tastes great, it has about a quarter of the cholesterol of regular beef, you don't have to worry about mad cow disease, and beefalo has a higher level of natural disease resistance and insect tolerance than regular beef cows.



By Jacquelin Edwards and Chandler Wilder

Food for thought

By Emily Webb & Kim Hanks

The Utah Farm Bureau, in conjunction with Utah State University Extension, helps teach elementary school kids about life on the farm. Each year they visit three areas in Utah County: Harward Farms in Springville, Equestrian Center in Lehi, and Cache, Wasatch, and Salt Lake Valley. By providing lesson plans that focus on educating about accurate farm life. Second grade student, Jennifer Webb says "It was fun to see all the fun animals!"

The FFA Food for America Program is designed to educate elementary students about the importance agriculture plays in their lives. For the classroom instruction part of the program, the committee used the Utah State Agriculture in the Classroom as guidelines and help for creating the lesson plans. To start the program, the committee sent out a letter to all first, second, and third grade elementary teachers that feed into Lehi High School, which includes; Lehi Elementary, Meadow Elementary, Eagle Crest Elementary, Segoe Lily Elementary, Snow Springs Elementary, North Point Elementary, and Fox Hollow Elementary.

Lehi FFA has been recognized as the top chapter in the

state for the past five years in educating the youth about the importance of agriculture in our lives.

To reach that goal, the Food for America committee wanted the students to understand the correct practices required for plant production. They wanted them to have a hands-on experience in understanding plant growth, so they had the first graders make a living necklace. They followed the lesson plan outlined in making a living necklace and taught them the importance of plant production. To make sure the students understood plant growth, the students had pictures of a sun, water, soil, and other things that help in plant production.

The nutrition, and health and safety lesson plans were prepared for all grades, to help them understand the importance of staying healthy, so they can enjoy their lives.

For the lesson on economy, the group showed pictures of produce, such as meat, leather gloves, soccer ball, as well as a coloring handout. The committee took a different approach to teaching the water cycle and the importance it has on our lives and the environment. They made bracelets with different color beads for all the parts of the water cycle.



Utah weather surprises us once again



Many people say that if you hate Utah weather, wait five minutes and it will change; but this year that is not the case. We have had a very dry and warm winter with little snowfall. The first snowfall of the new season is usually recorded in late October. We did not receive significant amounts of snow until mid to late November; but this year is a different story. We have had a few storms here and there, but nothing like we are used to. It is nearly springtime and we have received little to no snowfall depending on where you live.

Many people have been worried about droughts in Utah. Since 2004, Utah has no longer been in a drought and Bruce Webb of Brigham Young Soils Analysis Laboratory tells us, "Utah won't be affected too much because of our previous water storage. Crops shouldn't be affected, but it all depends on how dry the land was when the crops were planted. We may experience a dry spring, but we should be alright; although, if we have another dry year like this, we could be in danger for another drought." Deseret News explains, "The lack of snow fall isn't creating a drought, because most of the state's reservoirs, except large ones such as Bear Lake and Pineview Reservoir, are in good shape. But for farmers with junior water rights on such reservoirs, some shortages may occur." Although the reservoirs are alright, many towns in Utah depend on spring runoff for their water supply. For example, Mount Pleasant and Fairview, of Sanpete County rely only on the snowfall they receive as their year supply of water. The runoff from Skyline Drive and Fairview Canyon is given to neighboring towns such as Manti and Moroni to help supply them with water. Due to the high pressure that has been hovering over Utah, we haven't received much snow. This has caused many people to wonder if we truly are prepared.

Although there is a lack of snowfall, we have been receiving rain in the valleys and some snow in the mountains. We hope that the snow will come soon and that we will be able to have a good season with enough water so that many farmers will be able to water their crops without worry. Although it has been a scarce snow year, many predict that we will have snow until May once again, and they hope that we will not replay the floods that happened in 1983.

As snow continues to fall, we are bettering our chances of staying out of a drought and having a very productive season for our crops this year. Although we haven't had a great year for snow, I wouldn't be too surprised if we see a large storm hit us. Be careful and be prepared for the continuing winter season and stay safe.

By Addison Beck, Rachele Johnson, & Tommy Smith

Hidden in the halls of Lehi High School



At Lehi High School, there are many great teachers that make a difference in lives of students. However, there is one in mind that has been a great influence in my life. This teacher has been teaching her favorite subject for 12 years. She is always ready and willing to help any student with homework, book reports or anything they need. On top of giving of her time for student success, she is a part of many school committees, such as flex, sterling scholar, and the accreditation team.

To bring a little light in to the life of this wonderful teacher, she lettered in debate when she was in high school, qualifying twice at state. She was in choir and was a clogging machine. To earn her degree, this teacher attended BYU Idaho and BYU to obtain her English teaching degree. After, she earned her Master's Degree from Western Governors University. She is a person who loves to read. Some of her favorite literatures to read are Gone With the Wind and The Far Pavilions

The teacher we are hinting about is Mrs. Rachel Billings, an English Teacher her at Lehi High School. The reason we want to show case Mrs. Billings is because of her love for English, writing and reading. We have not always been the best at English, but Mrs. Billings helped change my perception. She brought a new perspective to English. She did not just lecture in front of the class, but engaged us in what she was teaching. In her class, she played a reading game called Popcorn Reading. One student had to read, then they called on someone else, then that student had to continue where the student left off. This made reading for me interesting and more enjoyable. If you ever get a chance to attend Lehi High School, make sure you go see Mrs. Billing, she is someone that everyone should know.

Written by: Shawn Goodwin & Dallan Mckinney 2



Is your produce really freshly picked?

When you buy produce, you want it to be fresh. When you buy fruits and vegetables from your local grocery store they say they are freshly picked, but are they? No, produce from the grocery store is grown to last on the shelf. Most fruits and vegetables are ripened with chemicals, a chemical called calcium carbide. Acetylene is essential for chemical ripening, but there's a secret that grocery stores keep from buyers. These chemicals are also used to slow down the ripening process by decreasing ethylene production in the produce (<http://en.wikipedia.org>). This creates the situation that no one wants, where people buy produce, lacking in its nutritional value. There's a solution to avoid these chemically ripened produce - locally grown foods at farmers markets. Who benefits from farmers markets? According to the United States Department of Agriculture, small farm with less than \$250,000 in annual receipts who work and manage their own farms are those whose are benefited by farmers markets. Farmers have direct access to markets to add to farm income. Consumers can meet and interact with the farmers who grew the foods. Many urban communities where fresh and nutritious foods are lacking have quick and easy access to locally grown foods.

The growth of farmers markets is fueled by the public awareness of eating better. Customers want to know where their food is grown, and who grew it. The grocery store will not tell you where your food was grown, or how fresh it really is. Consumers have the opportunity to purchase freshly picked, great tasting seasonal produce, from local farmers. The produce is brought directly from their farms and often is picked at the peak of maturity only days and even hours before sold at the farmers market!

Not only are farmers markets a healthier and smarter choice, but they are fun! They are considered to be social events and are important to the community. People often run into friends and talk, or meet new ones, including farmers. Shoppers at farmers markets have seven times as many social interactions than in a grocery store! Bet you didn't think

of a farmers market as the social event of your community!

Local foods also create the community. Knowing where your food comes from connects us to the farmers who raise and grow it. Instead of always going to one supermarket, you develop smaller connections to more than one food source; vendors at the farmers market. Farmers are proud to be selling their foods, and it makes them feel good. You know that feeling when you made or did something, and you sold it to someone else for money and they really loved it? You feel really good inside right? Farmers feel the same way when someone purchases their foods. It may not be this huge profit but it makes all the difference.

Lots of farmers markets today not only sell produce, but now hand made goods. Anything from quilts, hair accessories, jewelry, and all kinds of hand made goods. If you don't adore going to the farmers market with your parents, you may just find a hand-made quality item. Make those hand-made item vendors feel good about their work, too!

By Kaylee Hying and Laysha West



Local business Making a difference



Have you ever had a lawn mower, or snow blower that has needed some TLC, but you don't want to take it all the way across the valley?

JNJ Small Engine Repair LLC is a family owned business here in Lehi that was started by Nancy Lamph and her son Jim Lamph. If you ever have an engine that needs repair, want to buy new equipment, or would like to buy parts for the one you already have, this place has it all for you.

This small town business is run on a system of great customer service, as well as a friendly, caring environment. You may not need a repair, but you might have a question that you need to ask, the employees would be more than happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have regarding your equipment.

This local business serves the community by offering small engine repair to engines ranging from lawn mowers to weed whackers, throughout the whole year. The busiest time of year for them begins around March, and then goes until the end of October. They specialize in lawn and garden engine repair as well

as sell out new equipment, such as lawn mowers and snow blowers.

They started the business in 1990 and will be in business now for 22 years. It all started when Nancy Lamph's son Jim, decided that he enjoyed engine work and that it was something he wanted to further pursue. Before, Jim was working in lawn care and working to repair small engines for another business. So Nancy made the decision to help her son with his goals, and helped create their business.

Ever since the business was started, they have run it with honest and fair treatment towards customers, and because of this, they have had customers that continue to do business happily with them. When asked if they would like to keep the business in the family all their replies were that it would be nice if possible, and that they would like to work in the business until retirement.

Even though the economy has

been down, and most businesses have struggled because of it, JNJ has actually benefitted from the down time. Nancy said that with the economy, most people had started to cancel their lawn care services and began to do their own. This in turn brought more people to the shops, which were looking for quality lawn equipment. Once again, by being notorious for being honest and fair in the business, it attracted more customers and brought in more business.



If you would like more information, or have an engine that you would like to take in, anyone is more than welcome to stop by anytime between, 10-6 Tuesday through Friday and 9-2 on Saturday, on State Street at 219 E State Street Lehi, UT 84043-1627.

By Taylir Hutchings

AN FFA AMERICAN STAR

FFA offers many awards to students for their success. One of the highest awards is the American FFA Degree. To earn this degree, a student must maintain a detailed record of their agricultural project, which demonstrates outstanding planning, managerial, and financial skills. The student must have outstanding leadership skills and participate in community service activities. As a part of the American FFA Degree, a student can apply for the American Star Award. The American Star Award represents the elite among the thousands of American FFA Degree recipients. Finalists for the award have mastered skills in production, finance, management, and/or research. They can apply in four areas: Star Farmer, Star in Agribusiness, Star in Placement, and Star in Agriscience. Students selected as a finalist receive a scholarship and recognition, as well as cash awards.

Rhett Peterson, a member of the Lehi FFA, has taken the challenge and has applied for this prestigious award. In addition to maintaining a detailed record of his project, he had to fill out an application,

which included his planning, managerial and financial skills, a resume of his accomplishments, a description of his project, his marketing strategies, and his skills that he has learned. To work towards this goal, Rhett has also applied for two proficiency awards - Ag Processing and Poultry Production and has placed in the top 15 in the nation for both awards.



Rhett's agricultural project is poultry production and processing. He uses his birds for show, egg production, and others he processes to sell for meat. When he began his project, he had approximately 30 chickens. Over the past six years, he has mastered his management and processing skills, and has expanded his operation to over 300 multiple breeds of chickens and processes over 1400 carcasses and 57,600 eggs a year for clients in the Utah County region.

Rhett will find out if he is selected as a Star in Agribusiness finalist this summer. If he is selected, he will go through an interview process at the National FFA Convention this fall. Let us congratulate him on his major accomplishments and future success!

By: Brett Robertson