



HEBER CITY NEWS

November 2010



MAYOR'S MESSAGE by Mayor Dave Phillips

The community gathered together on a Saturday morning in early October to plant trees at Wheeler Park (400 East 2400 South). Tony Kohler of the City's planning staff coordinated the effort that resulted in the planting of more than a dozen large trees at this park. Heber City was able to obtain these trees several months ago from the Northwest for only the cost of shipping. We appreciate Tony's efforts and would also thank Mark Rounds and his employees in the Parks and Cemetery Department.

The announcement that went out community-wide resulted in over 20 men, women and children showing up to help plant and backfill the dirt surrounding the trees. Tony had coordinated having City staff dig the holes prior to the day of planting, and there were trucks of dirt on hand for the backfill.

It gives one a warm feeling to see neighbors coming together to work in a common goal. Volunteerism is a great way for families to have fun and feel closer to one another. One of the most satisfying, fun, and productive ways to unite a community is volunteering for community service projects. Volunteerism also sets a good example for children and helps the community. The trees planted at Wheeler Park will grow and beautify that area of the City, and will be there for years to come. We appreciate the efforts of the people who were able to attend this activity, and look forward to other community projects in the future.



POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Heber City has for some time now been the target of the newest fad in the illicit drug culture, "Spice" or "K2". Spice is synthetic Marijuana and the latest in a string of dangerous drugs that our laws are unable to keep up with.

Spice has the same intoxicating effects as Marijuana and has potentially far greater problems commonly associated with LSD. As is the case with any illicit drug or drug abuse, Spice poses a threat to our citizens. Drugs are not a victimless crime. Users routinely injure others while high, especially when operating motor vehicles. Addicts routinely commit other crimes including burglary, theft, fraud and assault in order to support their habits. Exact numbers are hard to reach, but as much as 90% of all crime has some direct correlation to substance abuse. Our healthcare system is also affected because of the injuries caused to others and the severe health effects on the users themselves. This affects individual consumers who now have to pay higher healthcare premiums and costs.

To combat this, Heber City, in cooperation with Wasatch County, is working to enact a joint ordinance to prohibit Spice or other similar products from our community. By the time you read this article, both entities will most likely have prohibited the sale, possession, and use of Spice or similar products. If you have questions or concerns about this issue, please contact the Police Department at 435-654-3040.



AMERICA'S FAVORITE COWBOY SINGERS SADDLE UP WITH THE UTAH SYMPHONY FOR HEBER CITY'S COWBOY GATHERING

Heber City will celebrate its 16th Annual Cowboy Poetry Gathering and Buckaroo Fair in grand fashion by opening the festival at Abravanel Hall with Riders in the Sky and the Utah Symphony on Nov. 1. The rest of the festival will take place in Heber Valley Nov. 2-7 with top western entertainers, including Ian Tyson, the Bar J Wranglers, Sons of the San Joaquin, Red Steagall, Hot Club of Cowtown, Suzy Boggus, R.W. Hampton and Wylie & the Wild West, with renowned cowboy poet Waddie Mitchell as the host.

What began 16 years ago as a one-night gathering with local cowboy poets sharing poems in the Midway Town Hall is now a full week of entertainment at seven different venues featuring entertainers from all over the United States. Now averaging more than 12,000 attendees each year, Heber City's Cowboy Poetry Gathering has become one of the largest gatherings of its kind in the country.

"We don't want people to forget the cowboy heritage that established not only Utah but the West," said Tom Whitaker, event creator and trail boss. "The best way to experience being a cowboy without being 'a cowboy' is to be entertained by real cowboys. These performers live it, write it, rhyme it, sing it and perform all over the country."

A retired businessman who is now a local rancher and farmer in the Heber Valley, Whitaker met up with a few cowboy friends sixteen years ago and discovered they all knew some cowboy poems. They decided to print up a few flyers, post them and see if anyone would show. More than 300 people attended the first gathering. After a couple of years, the event outgrew the Midway Town Hall and moved to Wasatch High School in Heber City. The new school offers a larger auditorium, more space and open areas to host the multiple events of Heber City's Cowboy Poetry Gathering and Buckaroo Fair.

The 16th annual gathering will feature 10 main concerts and shows; nonstop cowboy poetry and entertainment; more than 40 western booths with arts, crafts and cowboy gear; Mountain Man Camp; Cowboy Church; The Wild West Show "Famous Outlaws of the West"; fiddle, guitar, harmonica and mule-driving clinics; Cowboy Express Train; Impact of the Horse, Mustang/Horse Competition; Cowboy Buckaroo Ball and more. Souvenirs include the Heber City's 16th Annual Cowboy Poetry Gathering and Buckaroo Fair poster painted by Karl Thomas, a membership pin and a CD with poems and songs from all the artists.

Tickets for the Buckaroo Fair and continuous music and poetry are \$10 at the door. A cowboy BBQ lunch and dinner is \$15 for adults and \$7 for children. Concert tickets range from \$14 to \$45 and are available online at www.hebercitycowboypoetry.com or Day's Market in Heber City, 435-654-2352. For more information on event times and locations visit www.hebercitycowboypoetry.com.

