

The Springdale Sun

A local newspaper in Springdale, UT
November 4, 2025, Issue 18

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VOTE !

Ballots are due today so it is too late to mail them but they can still be taken to Springdale Town Hall or Hurricane Library which has a drive-up drop box.

🎶 Getting to Know You 🎶

There is a lovely television show where a crew of cameramen and interviewers knock on a random door and ask if they can do a show about the person who lives there. The response they get is always a variation of, " there is nothing special about me and so, please, just move on." But once they are convinced to answer some questions, oh, my! I am telling you, EVERYONE has a story. EVERYONE is worth getting to know. I am convinced that applies to Springdalians in spades. I implore your help in making "Getting to Know You" a regular column. Write an article about yourself, your neighbor, a friend, someone with whom you attend yoga classes—you get the idea. Pictures are great but not essential if they are uncomfortable with that. If every subscriber writes one article, we could make a huge difference for good in our community. On page 6 of today's issue, find a questionnaire that could be used as guidance.

Getting to Know You

Lillian Baiardi Kicks Life into High Gear and Leaves Boston

Your friend is going through a painful divorce and you are helping her get through that. Come to find out, she was getting that divorce because she was having an affair with your husband. How does your heart get over that? After going to bed for a week in pain and confusion, you do what great mothers do. You think of the kids. And you get going.



Lillie then

Lillie explains, "Craving a break, I bought a Volkswagen camper van and set out to explore the country with my children during summer vacation. We traveled far and wide, taking in the beauty and wonder of the sights along the way.

When we reached Utah, we swam in the Great Salt Lake and camped in a place where we could pick fresh cherries right off the trees. That summer was filled with unforgettable moments and marked a turning point in our lives.



In 1974, I met a wonderful man (Paolo). Together, we decided to hit the road once more—this time to find a place we could call home and begin our life together. We had a few spots in mind, but when we arrived in Rockville, Utah, everything changed. We spotted an old storefront for rent, and something about it just felt right. Without even tracking down the landlord, we started unpacking—we knew this was it."



During their Rockville days, Paolo brought home a stone statue which he proudly plunked down in their front yard. Lillie wasn't proud of it; she was aghast. She kept telling Paolo to get rid of it. "I don't want a penis in my front yard!!!!" she insisted. He did, at least, put it in the back yard — eventually.

After several happy years in Rockville, Lillie decided she had had enough of the small-town life and moved to "the big city" which was, wait for it, Springdale. There she opened the town's first bed and breakfast ("Zion House," where The David West gallery is now). She never had to advertise. Word of mouth kept them busy. She loved meeting people from all over the world—until she didn't—and moved on to other things. Paolo had passed away by then. Years later, however, his spirit managed to get that statue out in front again where it currently resides in plain view of all who drive through Rockville.

Lillie's children have grown into wonderful people, carrying with them the legacy of their mother — one of perseverance, cheerful determination, and living life to the fullest. A true Springdale treasure, Lillie has been part of the town's fabric for decades, doing it all — from cleaning rooms to driving the shuttle, and, of course, running Zion House.



This quilt (above), a cherished gift from her daughter, celebrates Lillie's life — a life defined by resilience, grace, and the steady determination to keep moving forward.



Lillie now. The eyes still have it.

Challenges have come, but with her characteristic pluck and courage, so too have genuine happiness and true success.

Speaking of Springdale residents worth getting to know, Betsy Alford and Janis Kali, both recently deceased, were interviewed in 2004. That interview transcript can be accessed here:
https://www.nps.gov/npgallery/GetAsset/7b2dab42-01c6-47bb-a652-afbbc9c99454?fbclid=IwY2xjawN00ntleHRuA2FIbQIxMQABHoOTGWX1X2OggcmGmJ8rE1eqd88WVBbI81kRpJlcIN7X5r9xjtYTuSQKhXMj_aem_fK2ohe6iSPBRbv3IfGWbPg

Zion National Park Continues to Amaze

by AI and Alan Staker

Zion National Park, located in southwestern Utah, is a showcase of geologic time and natural forces sculpted into one of the most striking landscapes on Earth. Its towering cliffs, deep canyons, and multicolored rock layers reveal a story spanning more than 150 million years, recording environments that once ranged from vast deserts to coastal plains and shallow seas.



At the heart of Zion's landscape is the **Navajo Sandstone**, the massive cream-colored formation that forms the sheer cliffs of Zion Canyon. Deposited around 190 million years ago during the Jurassic Period, this sandstone originated as enormous desert sand dunes—some over 1,000 feet high. Over time, these dunes were buried, compacted, and cemented into stone. The cross-bedding patterns visible on many cliff faces still record the sloping angles of the ancient dunes, frozen in rock. The hardness and uniformity of the Navajo Sandstone make it both erosion-resistant and visually dramatic, giving rise to Zion's iconic monoliths such as Angels Landing and the Great White Throne.

Beneath the Navajo Sandstone lies a sequence of older formations that tell of changing environments. The **Kayenta Formation**, composed of reddish mudstones and sandstones, represents ancient rivers and floodplains that once meandered across the landscape. Below that, the **Moenave** and **Chinle Formations** (to the left) preserve evidence of lakes, streams, and lush lowlands that existed in the Late Triassic, including fossilized dinosaur tracks and petrified wood. Each layer marks a different chapter in Zion's prehistory, showing how climates shifted over time from wet and tropical to dry and arid.



Zion's modern landscape began to take shape much later, when powerful **tectonic uplift** raised the entire region during the late Cenozoic Era, about 5 to 10 million years ago. The Colorado Plateau, of which Zion is a part, rose thousands of feet, dramatically increasing the gradient of regional rivers. The **Virgin River**, flowing through the center of the park, responded by cutting downward into the uplifted rock. Over millions of years, it carved the deep, narrow **Zion Canyon** we see today—up to 2,000 feet deep in some places. Though the Virgin River may seem small, it is relentless, its seasonal floods moving immense quantities of sediment and continuing to sculpt the canyon floor.

Erosion remains the dominant force shaping Zion. Water, freeze-thaw cycles, and gravity combine to create new features continually—slot canyons like **The Narrows**, natural arches, and the talus slopes beneath cliffs. Flash floods, while dangerous, are an essential part of this geologic process, rapidly scouring and reshaping narrow gorges.



The park's color palette—ranging from deep reds and oranges to creamy whites and purples—comes from varying mineral content in the rock. Iron oxides produce reds and yellows, while manganese gives purplish hues. These colors, especially at sunrise or sunset, emphasize the layering and complexity of Zion's geologic story.

(continued on next page)

In essence, Zion National Park is a masterpiece carved from the Earth's memory. Its cliffs are pages of deep time, recording the slow accumulation of sand, the rise and fall of ancient landscapes, and the ceaseless power of water and uplift. Visitors walking through Zion Canyon are literally traveling through millions of years of geologic history—an ever-evolving testament to the planet's creative and destructive forces.

The sands that eventually formed **Zion National Park's Navajo Sandstone**—the park's most prominent and visually stunning rock layer—blew in from **…** well, **t**here are two chains of thought, the Pacific Northwest origin of the massive amounts of Navajo sand and the Easterly origin of the sediments. Both ideas have proponents and I'm not sure we will ever know for certain.

Nevertheless Mother Nature is a marvelous re-cycler. The sand grains originated somewhere, east or west, settled into place during the Jurassic Period, were buried beneath thousands of feet of other sediments, then exposed by virtue of the Colorado Plateau uplift and the Mighty Virgin River. The surrounding cliffs are the result of that cycle of deposition and erosion. And the cycle continues with the Virgin carrying the same grains of sand down river to Lake Meade, into the Colorado River and then being deposited in river deltas in the Sea of Cortez (Gulf of California) much like the deltas of the Mississippi River in the Gulf of America, and can easily be seen on Google Maps. The grand cycle continues.

Oil Pulling: The Ancient Secret That Saved My Smile!

by Debi Keys

"Oh honey, you're probably going to lose that tooth. And then, maybe more. It's a family thing."

That's what my mother told me when one of my front teeth—yes, a *front* tooth—started to get loose for no reason.

I brushed, flossed, rinsed, and visited my dentist regularly. I had great oral hygiene! So why was my tooth wiggling like a six-year-old's ready for the tooth fairy?

I'd watched my grandmother wear dentures all my life, and my mom had already lost one of her front teeth. I assumed their dental woes were about hygiene—but apparently, *genes* had other plans.

Desperate for answers, I talked with my orthodontist, friends who'd battled the side effects of cancer treatment, and of course, I consulted the great and powerful internet. One remedy kept popping up: **oil pulling**.

Never heard of it? It's amazing!

Oil pulling (also known as *kavala* or *gundusa*) is an ancient Ayurvedic practice where you swish a tablespoon of oil—typically coconut, olive, or sesame—in your mouth for up to 20 minutes. The idea? The oil "pulls" toxins from your mouth and body, improving not just oral health but your overall wellness.

Sounds simple? Maybe even a little weird? Sure—but here's what I found out:

Reported Benefits of Oil Pulling:

- Whiter teeth
- Stronger gums and fewer cavities
- Fresher breath
- Less jaw pain
- Improved sinus and sleep issues
- Relief from headaches and even skin breakouts

How to Do It:

1. **Choose your oil:** Coconut oil is my favorite. (Test for sensitivity first—try a small patch on your skin.)
2. **Do it on an empty stomach:** Morning is best while you make your tea or coffee.
3. **Start small:** Try 5 minutes at first, then work up to 20.
4. **Spit it out (not in the sink!):** Use the trash or toilet.
5. **Rinse and brush as usual.**

And that loose tooth?

Still in place—and solid! My dentist and hygienist were amazed at my improved gum health and whiter smile.

So go ahead, give oil pulling a try. Your mouth will thank you.

To your health and your smile,

Debs~

Debi Keys, CHHC, CPT

www.yourkeys2health.com
www.getfit21now.com
Mobile: 951-452-1311

Never Bored in Springdale

AT THE LIBRARY: ["One of the joys of reading is the ability to plug into the shared wisdom of mankind." Ishmael Reed]
Story Time - Every Wednesday @ 10:30AM
To access the Town's November newsletter with lots of information about Town happenings: <https://www.springdaletown.com/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/225> (might need to copy and paste)
Oct 1 - Nov 8, 10 am - 7 pm
Plein Air Art Invitational, First Look for artwork at Worthington Gallery. https://www.zionpark.org/pages/artinvitational
https://www.zionpark.org/pages/artinvitational#eventschedule
Nov 4, Tuesday, 2pm, CCC
knitting, crochet, craft group
Nov 5, Wednesday, 10:30, Library
Story Time
Nov 5, Wednesday, start date, 4pm, Library Teen Time, every Wed, see page 10
Nov 8, Saturday, 9~11am, Springdale
Butch Cassidy 10k/5k, TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE - more info here: < https://www.springdaletown.com/Calendar.aspx?EID=5540&month=10&year=2025&day=22&calType=0>
Nov 9, Sunday, 8:30 am, CCC
Catholic Service, every Sunday
Nov 10, Monday, 3-5:30pm, CCC, Make Art/Live to be 100, see page 12
Nov 10, Monday, 6:30 pm, CCC
Alcoholics Anonymous
Nov 11, Tuesday, 2pm, CCC, weekly
knitting, crochet, craft group
Nov 12, **Wednesday,** 11:30 am, library
Adult Book Club, discussing *Howl's Moving Castle* by D. W. Jones
Nov 13, Thursday, start date, 4pm, After School Club, see page 10
Nov 13, Thursday, 5pm, revery 2nd Thursday, Jr D&D Club, see page 11
Nov 15-16, Sat., Sun, 11am-3pm, Arts to Zion Cultural Tour, see page 9
Nov 16, Sunday, 8:30 am, CCC
Catholic Service, every Sunday
Nov 17, Monday, 6:30 pm, CCC
Alcoholics Anonymous
Nov 18, Tuesday, 2pm, CCC, weekly
knitting, crochet, craft group
Nov 19, Wednesday, 4pm, Library, Tween Book Club discussing *Wink* by Rob Harrell
Nov 20, Thursday, 5pm, Library, Crafting with Karen, free but register 435 772 3676, see page 11
Nov 29. Saturday, 9-noon, Barker River Park, community clean up event, sponsored by Zion Guru, see page 7
Z-Arts upcoming events: https://www.zarts.org/event-list
For a great listing of community events with links to greater details:
<https://www.springdaletown.com/calendar.aspx>
Interested in learning pickleball? Text 803 215 9966 if you're interested in free lessons. See page 12

A small-town mayor arrives at the Pearly Gates after years of public service. St. Peter greets her, saying, "Before you settle in, we have a new policy: you get one day in Heaven and one in Hell. Afterwards, you choose where you'll spend eternity." "But I already know where I want to go", says the mayor. St. Peter replies, "That's the new policy".
First, she goes to Hell. She's greeted with a shiny new community center, a sparkling river walk, and all her old council members cheerfully grilling burgers at the annual town picnic. There's music, folks swapping ideas about revitalizing Main Street, and everyone's patting the mayor on the back, congratulating her on lowering taxes and fixing potholes. The Devil even hands her a "Citizen of the Year" plaque.
Next, she spends a day in Heaven. It's peaceful, with birds singing and everyone quietly enjoying nature. No one's arguing about zoning or short-term rentals, and there's no talk of budget hearings.
Back at the Pearly Gates, St. Peter asks her to choose. The mayor says, "Honestly, Heaven's nice, but Hell felt like home. I'll go back there."
Back in Hell, she finds the old town hall condemned, the river polluted, and the council feuding endlessly. The community picnic is replaced by eternal town council meetings. She asks the Devil, "What happened? Yesterday Hell was beautiful, cheerful, and full of wonderful things?"
The Devil grins and says, "Yesterday we were campaigning. Today, people voted."

Check Out November's Town Newsletter

editorial by E. Cutler

I always read the monthly Town Newsletter and always appreciate the information in it and always have a link to it in *The Springdale Sun*, often in the "Never Bored in Springdale" column. The town newsletter for November I found more newsworthy than most, while still having all the local activities listed. I am so grateful for that as it spared me writing an article about **WUI and HB 48**. I strongly urge you to read the information about that in the Town Newsletter. It has been referenced at least twice in TSS with the promise of more information as it became available.

Utah is trying to be proactive about fire prevention, especially as it pertains to homes. This will affect our pocketbooks, as home owners will be assessed a fee depending upon square footage, and fire mitigation strategies both in construction materials used and landscaping strategies.

Springdale will probably have to change some ordinances so residents can have better fire mitigation as well as be in accordance with town codes. For instance, currently in Springdale, when a house is built, every tree taken down has to be replaced by 2 new trees but that is potentially in conflict with having trees away from the home to have a fire buffer zone. Planning Commission is hard at work learning and preparing, thinking and rethinking.

The Mayor's article about Springdale Town taxes peaked my curiosity. It almost felt like writing on the wall that Springdale Town taxes might be increasing. I would ask Mayor Bruno directly but she never responds to me. Perhaps you could read her article and see what you think. In any case, I agree with the Mayor that Springdale Town taxes are a pretty good bang for the buck. I also agree with probably every tax payer in the world that whenever possible, the lower the taxes, the better.

I was grateful for the update about the Barker River Park project to expand the park and make it fancier. I remain annoyed that everyone in local governance seems tone-deaf to the general sense among nearly every citizen to whom I've spoken that it isn't wanted, since it will likely diminish the park's most important benefit — its value as a **local** amenity. It was nice to learn that, so far, other funds have been found to pay for it. Well, in a sense the "*expansion*" is wanted. The town owns that land by the Park so, obviously, make it usable, expand Barker park to include that parcel. Just don't fanci-fy it. Don't put a sign on it saying, "Check me out."

"IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME." (AND THE FANCIER IT IS, THE LONGER THEY WILL STAY.)

GETTING TO KNOW YOU QUESTIONNAIRE

(NOTHING has to be answered. Pick and choose or come up with something altogether different.)

Name

1. Early childhood:
Born where? raised where? siblings? family dynamics and/or?
2. Education?
3. Job(s)/career?
4. Favorite color(s), food(s), books, pastimes, hobbies, people, places, movies, tv shows, podcasts, etc.
5. Heroes?
6. What brought you to Springdale? And when?
7. Interesting experiences: most embarrassing, most life changing, most memorable, happiest, saddest…
8. I'll never forget ….
9. Talents?
10. Relationships: who, when, what, where?
11. A dream I actually remember
12. Things you like and/or don't like about yourself?
13. Goals?
14. Something quirky about yourself.
15. Regrets?
16. Accomplishments?
17. I wish I could …
18. What you do when you don't have to do anything.
19. It relaxes me to ….
20. I am energized by ….
21. I am very interested in ……
22. What things tend to appear in your daydreams?
23. Pets, past or present

Public Education, Please

I recognize that many people believe the common misconception that our educational system only benefits those who have children in school. There is no good metric which is not improved by having an educated society, from property values to average income. There is no negative metric which is not decreased by having an educated society, from crime rate to generational poverty. Make no mistake, taxes that go to schools benefit everyone in a society, with the possible exception of drug lords. I have put an AI generated article about the benefits of free public education on the last pages, pages 13-14, so you can read it or ignore since many of you already know the value of education for everyone in a society, not just those with children.



Safe in Springdale?

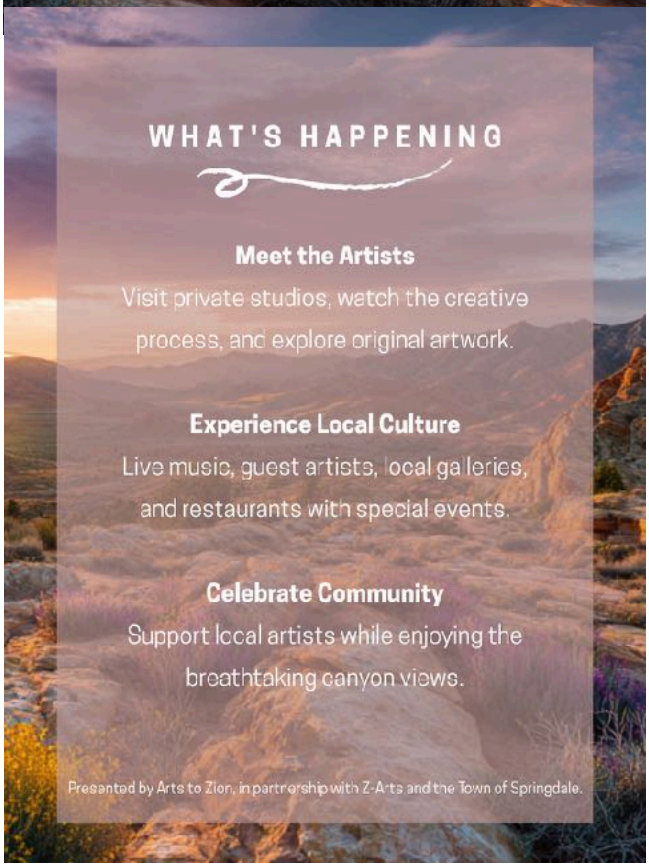
SPRINGDALE SEPTEMBER STATS			
CITATIONS		ARRESTS	
Improper Pass- No Pass Zone	2	Use handheld Device to View/Record Video While Driving	1
Improper Parking-Improper Position	1	Warrant	1
Windshield- Reduced Visibility	1	Driver License- Drive on Suspended/Revoked	1
Window Tint Violation	1	Failure to Wear Seatbelt	1
Fail to Yield to Pedestrian	1	Speed- School Zone	1
No Tail Light Reflector	1		
Speed	23		
TOTAL CITATIONS	30	TOTAL ARRESTS	5
WARNING ON CITES	12		

Apologies for the poor quality. I am working on it.

SPRINGDALE INCIDENTS			
911 Hang Up	4	Panic Alarm	0
Abandoned Vehicle	0	Paraphernalia	0
Agency Assist	6	Park Security Check	60
Alcohol Offense	0	Parking Problem	9
Animal Bite	0	PD Accident	3
Animal Emergency	2	Person Down	0
Animal Problem	5	PI Accident	0
Assault	0	Property Damage	0
Attempt to Locate	2	Protective Order Violation	0
Attended Death	0	Prowler	0
Bike Patrol	0	Psychiatric	0
Brush Fire	0	Public Urination	0
Business Alarm	3	Residence Burglary	0
Business Burglary	0	Resident Vacation Check	19
Business Checks	56	Residential Alarm	2
Camping Problem	8	Retail Theft	0
Child Abuse Neglect	2	School Zone Enforcement	34
Choking	0	Sex Offender Registry	1
Citizen Assist	11	Sex Offense	0
Citizen Contact	13	Stalking	0
Citizen Dispute	1	Structure Fire	0
Civil	0	Suicidal	1
Community Oriented Policing	10	Suspicious Other	0
Construction Site Checks	0	Suspicious Person	4
Counterfeiting	1	Suspicious Vehicle	1
Criminal Mischief	0	Telematic Alarm	1
Crosswalk Enforcement	6	Telephone Harassment	0
Curfew	0	Theft	0
Disorderly	0	Threatening	0
Drugs	0	Traffic Hazard	2
DUI	0	Traffic Offense	0
DV Assault	0	Traffic Stop Warning	41
DV Criminal Mischief	0	Traumatic	0
DV Unlawful Detention	0	Trespassing	3
Evading	0	Unattended Death	0
Extra Patrol	128	Unconcious	0
Family Fight	2	Unsecured Premise	0
Felony Theft	0	Utility Problem	2
Fire	0	Vagrancy	0
Fireworks	0	Vehicle Fire	0
Follow up	10	Vehicle Theft	0
Found Property	11	VIN Inspection	1
Fraud	0	Wanted Person	1
Gas Theft	0	Weapon Offense	0
Graffiti	1	Welfare Check	3
Harassment	0	Wildlife/Poaching	0
Hit and Run	3		0
Hitchhiking	0		0
Illegal Burning	0		0
Impound	0		0
Intoxication	1		0
Jail Release	0		0
Juvenile Problem	0		0
Keep the Peace	0		0
Lewdness	1		0
Littering	0		0
Lockout	5		0
Lost Property	1		0
Medical Assist	1		0
Missing Person	0		0
Motorist Assist	3		0
Noise Complaint	3		0
Nuisance	0		0
Other	0		0
Overdose	0		0
TOTAL SPRINGDALE INCIDENTS	488		







Experience the Heart of Southern Utah's Art Scene

Join us for the Arts to Zion Cultural Tour on November 15–16, 2025, from 11 AM to 3 PM in Springdale, Rockville, and Virgin. Explore local studios, galleries, and cultural events set against the breathtaking canyon views.

Highlights Include:
• Meet the Artists: Visit private studios and witness the creative process.
• Cultural Experiences: Enjoy live music, guest artists, and local galleries.
• Hands-On Art Activities: Free sessions featuring watercolor, rock painting, ink designs, and expressive color art.
• Student Art Exhibit: Celebrate the creativity of young artists.

Opening Program: Saturday, Nov. 15 at 10 AM at the Canyon Community Center, 126 Lion Blvd., Springdale. Featuring Paiute leaders, cultural stories, and traditional art.
RSVP Now>>> https://artstozion.org/cultural-tour/
Presented by Arts to Zion, in partnership with Z-Arts and the Town of Springdale.


SPRINGDALE LIBRARY &
CANYON COMMUNITY CENTER
AFTER SCHOOL CLUB
Starting November 13th!
Kids' Crafts, Movies & Games
Something awesome is coming after school! The Springdale Library and Canyon Community Center are teaming up to bring you a brand-new After School Club - where fun, friends, and fantastic activities come together every week!
Thursdays @ 4:00PM
What we have planned
• Once-a-month movie
• Crafts & Painting
• Fun Group Games
• Science Activities
CANYON COMMUNITY CENTER
(435) 772-3676
emilyj@washco.utah.gov
WASHINGTON COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM


Let's Laugh, Craft & Play with Friends
SPRINGDALE LIBRARY
TEEN TIME
EVERY WEDNESDAY @ 4:00PM:
STARTING OCTOBER 29th
FIRST WEDNESDAY: ART/CRAFTS
SECOND WEDNESDAY: D&D
*THIRD WEDNESDAY: GROUP GAMES
*FOURTH WEDNESDAY: BOOK CLUB
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
EMILYJ@WASHCO.UTAH.GOV
OR (435) 772-3676
(*SCHEDULE MAY CHANGE ON MONTHS WITH HOLIDAYS)


Spells
JR. D&D CLUB
@ THE SPRINGDALE LIBRARY
EVERY SECOND
THURSDAY @ 5
FOR MORE INFO CALL: (435) 772-3676
OR EMAIL: EMILYJ@WASHCO.LIB.UT.US
PARENTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME,
BUT NOT REQUIRED

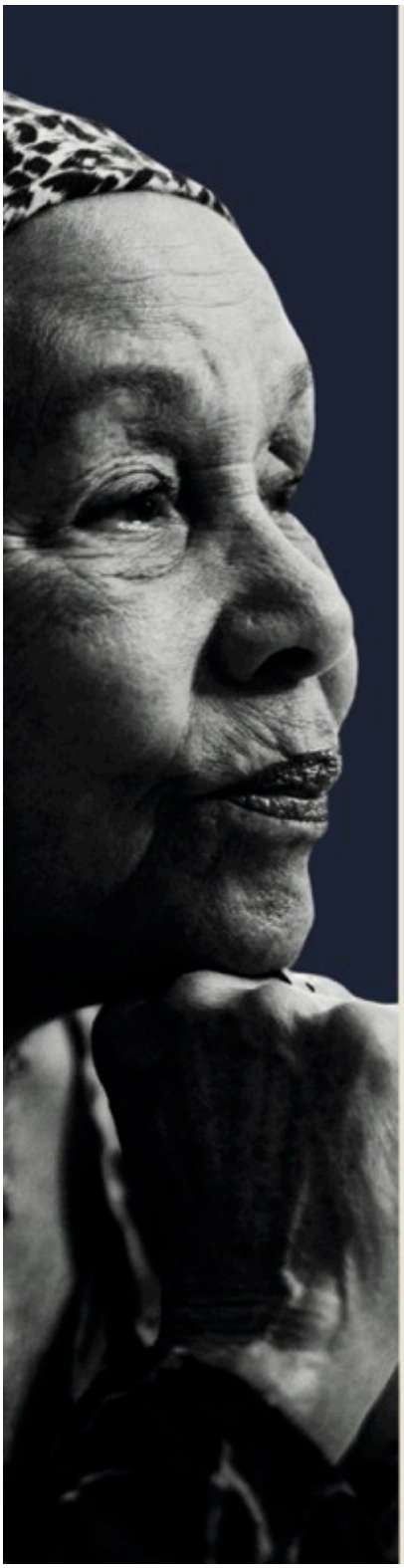

Deco Mesh
Christmas
Topiary
CraftsnCoffee.com
Washington County
Library System
Crafting with Karen
Create Your Very Own
Topiary Tree
Thursday, November 20, 2025
At the Springdale Library @ 5 pm
This FREE event is open to all patrons 18 and older. All
materials are provided, but space is limited, so please register
in advance at 435-772-3676.

Calling all Pickleball Beginners!

What is all the pickleball fuss about? Come find out. We're offering a free beginners' clinic at the Springdale Courts on Lion Blvd.
We will have paddles, balls, and coaches.

Let us know if you're interested by responding via text to 803 215 9966





8 WEEKS WITH ARTISTS WHO NEVER RETIRED

MAKE ART LIVE TO BE 100

OPEN STUDIO SESSIONS & ARTIST INSPIRATION

Mondays
3 to 5:30 pm
at the Canyon Community Center

Oct 6 - Yayoi Kusama
Oct 13 - Alex Katz
Oct 20 - Suzanne Jackson
Oct 27 - David Hockney
Nov 3 - Elizabeth Catlett
Nov 10 - Bridget Riley
Nov 17 - Betye Saar
Nov 24 - Gerhard Richter

Art classes for Adults. All experience levels welcome. Fun and friendly atmosphere.
Work on your own projects or experiment with our art supplies. Doodle, draw, paint, collage, chat and connect with your neighbors. Each session starts with a 30 minute art talk about an inspiring artist who proves that creativity has no expiration date. Join us!
RSVP contact Lanell @ 435-414-0279
or email: lanell@listendelicious.art
$6 each class with an art class pass
$10 single class drop-in
Purchase at the Springdale Town Office

WHY EDUCATION BY CHATGPT

ChatGPT said:

A free educational system provides deep and wide-ranging benefits to society — economic, social, civic, and even moral. Here are the major ones:

1. Economic Growth and Innovation

- **Higher productivity:** An educated workforce is more skilled and efficient, which boosts overall productivity and national income.
- **Innovation and entrepreneurship:** Free education gives more people access to knowledge and tools for creativity, leading to new technologies, businesses, and solutions to societal challenges.
- **Upward mobility:** Individuals from low-income backgrounds can rise economically, breaking cycles of poverty.

2. Reduced Inequality

- **Equal opportunity:** When education is free, access isn't limited by wealth or status, helping to level the playing field.
- **Social mobility:** It allows talented individuals—regardless of background—to reach their potential, which benefits society by making better use of human capital.
- **Less social stratification:** Societies with accessible education tend to have smaller wealth gaps and stronger middle classes.

3. Stronger Democracy and Civic Engagement

- **Informed citizens:** Education fosters critical thinking, media literacy, and awareness of civic rights and responsibilities.
- **Political participation:** Educated populations are more likely to vote, volunteer, and engage in civic life.
- **Resistance to misinformation:** Citizens with broad education are better able to discern truth from manipulation, strengthening democratic institutions.

4. Improved Public Health and Well-Being

- **Healthier lifestyles:** Education correlates strongly with better health choices, lower rates of smoking and obesity, and higher life expectancy.
- **Public health awareness:** Educated communities better understand issues like vaccination, sanitation, and disease prevention.
- **Intergenerational effects:** Educated parents are more likely to raise educated, healthier children.

5. Social Cohesion and Stability

- **Lower crime rates:** Education increases employment opportunities and fosters empathy, both of which reduce crime.
- **Shared values and understanding:** Schools promote cultural literacy, tolerance, and dialogue among diverse groups.
- **Community strength:** Educated citizens are more likely to volunteer, donate, and contribute to collective goals.

6. Environmental Awareness and Sustainability

- **Informed stewardship:** Education teaches critical awareness of environmental issues and sustainable practices.
- **Global perspective:** Students learn how local actions affect global systems, encouraging responsible citizenship.

7. Cultural and Intellectual Enrichment

- **Preservation of culture:** Education helps transmit cultural knowledge, history, and arts to future generations.
- **Creativity and appreciation:** Free access to learning nurtures curiosity, imagination, and lifelong engagement with ideas.

In essence, a free educational system is not just an investment in individuals — it's a foundation for a more just, prosperous, and resilient society.

1. The Practical Argument: Education Benefits Everyone

Even if someone doesn't have children, they *still benefit daily* from living in an educated society.

- **Doctors, nurses, engineers, mechanics, and teachers** are all products of the education system.
- **Businesses and the economy** thrive when workers are skilled — which stabilizes prices, jobs, and investments.
- **Public safety and governance** improve when citizens can think critically and make informed decisions.

👉 In short: *educated citizens make a stronger, safer, and more prosperous community for everyone.*

2. The Economic Argument: Education Is a Smart Investment

Education reduces the need for costly social programs and drives economic growth.

- Every dollar spent on education saves many more in reduced crime, welfare, and healthcare costs.
- A better-educated workforce attracts businesses and keeps local economies vibrant.

👉 You may not have children, but you benefit from **lower crime, higher property values, and a stronger economy** that education supports.

3. The Civic Argument: Education Sustains Democracy

Free education creates informed citizens who can reason, vote wisely, and participate in civic life.

- Democracies function best when people understand issues and resist misinformation.
- When public schools weaken, inequality grows — and that harms civic unity and stability.

👉 Even if you're child-free, **you're still part of the society education keeps stable and fair.**

4. The Moral/Community Argument: Paying It Forward

Most of us were educated at public expense — through taxes paid by others, including those without children.

- Education is a **shared investment** across generations.
- Just as others once paid for *our* teachers, roads, and public services, we help sustain them for the next generation.

👉 Supporting education is part of the **social contract** — a way of saying "I'll do my part to keep this society thriving."

5. A Gentle Summary

"Even if you don't have kids, you still benefit every day from people who got a good education — the doctor who treats you, the builder who constructed your house, the accountant who keeps your finances in order. Education is one of those public goods that strengthens everything around us."

You know, I get why people say — *"Why should I pay for schools when I don't have kids?"* It sounds reasonable at first. But when you think about it, education is one of those things that touches every single part of society, whether you have children or not.

Every doctor, nurse, electrician, builder, and firefighter who keeps your world running went through that same system. The people who keep the power on, fix your car, deliver your mail — all benefited from education that somebody else helped pay for. We all depend on it every day, whether we notice it or not.

And honestly, when communities invest in education, *everyone* wins. Neighborhoods are safer. Property values go up. Local businesses do better because people have jobs and skills. Education costs money — but ignorance costs a whole lot more in crime, poverty, and instability.

And then there's this simple truth: someone once paid for *our* education, too. Even if your parents sent you to private school, you still benefited from living in a society where most people could read, think critically, and participate responsibly. Supporting education is how we keep that going — it's part of the deal of living in a functioning, fair community.

So, no — you don't have to have kids to care about schools. You just have to care about living in a society that works.