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SALT LAKE
BUSINESS
JOURNAL

Focus



Small Business

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Comcast RISE to award millions in small-business grants

By Peri Kinder
The City Journals

Getting a small business off the ground, or scaling to the next level, takes more than hustle and passion. It takes resources. A small-business grant can be the difference between success and failure, and Comcast is investing in success.

The Comcast RISE program will award comprehensive grant packages to 100 small businesses in Bluffdale, Draper, Herriman, Riverton, Sandy, South Jordan, West Jordan and White City. Through May, Comcast will accept applications from small-business owners who are committed to growing their companies, lifting their communities and inspiring the next generation.

“The Comcast RISE program will deliver innovative and impactful resources that will make a lasting impact on small businesses in Utah. Supporting small businesses is crucial for economic development and ensuring that the backbone of our communities can thrive,” said J.D. Keller, senior vice president of Comcast’s Mountain West Region. “Among the many things we all love about Utah is our vibrant small businesses and Comcast’s commitment to supporting them.”

Each grant includes a technology make-



Small-business owners in Salt Lake County can turn possibility into progress with help from a Comcast RISE grant. (Photo courtesy of Comcast)

over (with digital services for one year), access to online entrepreneurship courses, coaching sessions, a business assessment and \$5,000. Grant recipients will also receive a professionally produced TV commercial and media strategy consultation.

Scott Cuthbertson, president/CEO of the Economic Development Corporation of Utah, said small businesses are the foundation of the state’s economy. More than 90

percent of companies in Utah are considered small businesses, run by families, friends and neighbors. He said it’s essential that these businesses succeed.

“Comcast is such a valued partner,” Cuthbertson said. “They make critical investments in our infrastructure and we think they’re exemplary about how they invest

see GRANTS page 2

Miller family acquires control of soccer teams, properties

Brice Wallace
Salt Lake Business Journal

Out of the world of professional basketball, the Miller family is turning its sights to pro soccer, with an eye also on Major League Baseball.

The Millers and Miller Sports & Entertainment recently completed the acquisition of controlling interest in RSL Football Holdings (the Club), which includes Real Salt Lake of Major League Soccer and the Utah Royals FC of the National Women’s Soccer League, along with the Real Monarchs of MLS NEXT Pro and the RSL Academy. The deal also includes America First Field, Zions Bank Stadium and Zions Bank Training Center.

Financial terms of the transaction were not disclosed, but The Athletic pegged the deal at \$600 million.

Global sports entrepreneur David



America First Field, home of RSL and the Utah Royals soccer teams, is among the assets purchased by Miller Sports & Entertainment. Photo by Tom Haraldsen/Salt Lake Business Journal

Blitzer and Ryan Smith acquired the RSL companies in January 2022 and Blitzer will remain as their second-largest shareholder. As part of the changes, Smith, owner of the Utah Jazz and Utah Hockey Club, sold his minority interest in RSL and the Royals.

“We are honored to join the Real Salt

Lake Club and invest in the highest levels of men’s and women’s soccer in both RSL and the Royals,” said Steve Starks, CEO of the Larry H. Miller Co. “We are grateful for David Blitzer’s trust, and I am confident our

see PROPERTIES page 10

Onset Financial acquires Minnesota-based Channel

Onset Financial, an independent equipment leasing company based in Draper, has acquired Channel, a provider of equipment finance and working capital for small businesses, along with its subsidiaries.

Channel operates from its headquarters in Minnetonka, Minnesota, with additional locations in Kennesaw, Georgia; Mount Laurel, New Jersey; Des Moines, Iowa; and Marshall, Minnesota.

“This strategic acquisition brings together two of the industry’s most innovative and financially strong independent finance companies, creating an unmatched platform with the scale, expertise and resources

to meet the evolving needs of businesses across all segments,” an Onset Financial statement said.

Founded 16 years ago, Onset has facilitated over \$5 billion in equipment finance funding, with more than \$1 billion in the past year alone. It serves industries including manufacturing, health care, energy, aviation and technology.

Onset has been recognized as a Monitor Magazine Top 100 and Independent Finance Company Magazine Best Workplace.

Since its founding in 2009, Channel has provided over \$3 billion in financing to more than 30,000 businesses, earning recognition

for its data and technology-driven approach, deep industry relationships and commitment to its partners, Onset said.

“This acquisition positions us to lead the independent equipment finance space with unmatched resources, expertise and combined financial strength,” said Justin Nielsen, founder and CEO of Onset Financial. “The exceptional leadership, industry experience, and culture that the Channel team brings to the table are a perfect match with Onset. Their deep partner network and technology-driven approach, combined with our large-scale leasing capabilities, create a powerhouse of innovation and

service. We are excited for the near-term growth opportunities this creates, as we combine forces to build an even stronger future.”

“This is a defining moment for Channel,” said Brad Peterson, co-founder and CEO of the firm. “From my first conversation with Justin, it was clear that Onset operates with a bold, forward-thinking approach that sets them apart. Their vision, leadership and ability to execute at scale are truly impressive. Our united strength in both financial foundation and proven expertise, positions us extremely well for projected expansion.”

GRANTS *from page 1*

back into the community, in particular, through this RISE program that provides needed support to our small-business owners.”

Andrea Benitez is the fundraising manager at Suazo Business Center, which offers resources for economically disadvantaged businesses. Through education, workshops and access to capital, the center has helped launch hundreds of small businesses, generating millions of dollars in revenue.

Benitez’s clients include minority and underserved populations who need direction for creating a business. They might not qualify for a loan or don’t want to go into debt to fund their dreams, so the Comcast RISE program could be a game-changer for these struggling entrepreneurs.

“This Comcast grant is just a great opportunity for them to apply and help their business grow,” Benitez said. “We have lots of clients in that part of the valley and we’re going to help them apply for this grant.”

Diana Lopez owns Cakes by Edith, a popular bakery with two locations in the Salt Lake Valley. As a small-business owner, she understands the obstacles faced by entrepreneurs and the many hats they have to wear to keep their businesses running.

As Cakes by Edith grows, Lopez hopes to expand to a third location where she can continue to carry on her family’s legacy. She said if she’s awarded the Comcast RISE grant, she’ll use the funds for marketing and equipment.

“There are so many trends in the baking

industry and we’re trying to stay current with everything in the baking world,” Lopez said. “This opportunity with Comcast would provide for businesses in the area. For us, honestly, we would love that opportunity.”

The southern end of Salt Lake County has seen significant growth during the past decade and is geared for more expansion. The South Valley Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with Salt Lake Community College, offers a 10-week entrepreneurial program to help small-business owners find resources for success.

Jay Francis, president/CEO of the South Valley Chamber of Commerce, said small-business owners face myriad challenges as they try to get an idea off the ground and that this Comcast RISE program could give them the momentum they need to create something big.

“If a business is fortunate enough to be able to receive one of these grants, I think that’s huge. It’s a real lift and a real boost,” Francis said. “I appreciate Comcast and I think more opportunities need to be afforded to small businesses. This fits in really well with things that we’re focusing on as a chamber.”

Utah is one of five regions to receive 100 Comcast RISE small-business grants this year. Recipients from Salt Lake, Boston, Grand Rapids, Nashville and Seattle will join the 14,000 entrepreneurs nationwide who have been supported through the program since it launched in 2020. For more information, visit www.ComcastRISE.com.



Utah’s jobless rate dips slightly in March

While the nation’s unemployment rate inched up by one-tenth of a percentage point in March, Utah’s rate dropped by the same amount.

The Utah Department of Workforce Services (DWS) reported the state’s unemployment rate last month at 3.1 percent, down from February’s 3.2 percent and leaving an estimated 57,570 Utahns out of the workforce. Meanwhile, the U.S. rate rose a bit to 4.2 percent.

Utah’s nonfarm payroll employment for March climbed an estimated 1.7 percent over the past 12 months, with the state’s economy adding a cumulative 29,500 jobs since March 2024. Utah’s current job count stands at 1,765,100.

“Job growth has kept pace with population and labor force expansions over the last 12 months, keeping the unemployment rate

low,” said Ben Crabb, chief economist with DWS. “Broad growth across sectors reflects continued strong demand for workers.”

Utah’s March private-sector employment recorded a year-over-year gain of 1.3 percent — a 19,700-job increase. Seven of the 10 major private-sector industry groups posted net year-over-year job gains. The overall gains are led by education and health services (up 11,700 jobs), construction (up 6,500 jobs) and manufacturing (up 2,700 jobs). Leisure and hospitality (down 3,600 jobs); trade, transportation and utilities (down 3,000 jobs); and other services (down 100 jobs) experienced year-over-year job losses.

Additional information and analysis on Utah’s employment situation, including county-by-county statistics, are available at the DWS website, jobs.utah.gov.

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Trump-driven cuts hurt Salt Lake County Health programs

By Shaun Delliskave
The City Journals

In a sweeping move with immediate local consequences, the Trump administration’s sudden cancellation of federal public health grants has dealt a significant blow to the Salt Lake County Health Department (SLCoHD), forcing the department to prepare for the layoff of at least 17 employees. The funding cuts terminate millions in previously committed Center of Disease Control (CDC) support, jeopardizing vital programs in epidemiology, nursing, communications and community outreach, and leaving health officials scrambling to absorb the fallout.

The layoffs, which will primarily affect staff in epidemiology, nursing, communications and the department’s CARE Bureau, are a direct result of federal funding cancellations announced by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in March. All affected staff members are currently employed under temporary or time-limited statuses.

“We are devastated by this blow to our workforce,” said Dorothy Adams, executive director of the SLCoHD, in a department-wide communication. “Our hearts go out to our colleagues directly affected by this federal decision.”

Department leaders are currently assessing how long they can maintain the impacted positions without federal funding. While exact dates for the layoffs have not been finalized, officials say additional information will be shared with affected employees as the department assesses its financial viability.

County administrators are also re-

viewing internal job openings in an effort to help displaced staff transition into other roles within the Salt Lake County system. According to Adams, the leadership team is working in collaboration with Salt Lake County Human Services to identify alternative employment options for those affected.

The federal grants, initially funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), were intended to support public health infrastructure, community outreach and pandemic preparedness. Among the terminated grants were the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act (PPPHEA) grants, an expansion of that program, and a Community Vaccination grant.

These grants, originally scheduled to run through as late as December 2026, had approximately \$6 million in unspent funds remaining at the time of cancellation. Although the department anticipated that not all of the remaining funds would be used, officials had planned to continue using them to support preventive education and community health initiatives, particularly through the work of community health workers (CHWs) and partnerships with community-based organizations.

In response to the cuts, the department has reassigned 10 CHWs and four epidemiologists to other grant-funded programs for up to 90 days. This pivot, which will cost an estimated \$350,000, allows the employees to continue working under new program scopes, albeit temporarily. An additional \$150,000 is projected in vacation payout expenses when these roles conclude.

Three additional positions — two



South Redwood Public Health Center in West Jordan. (Shaun Delliskave/City Journals)

temporary nurses and one communications staffer in the executive director’s office — have been eliminated outright.

Department leadership has implemented several measures aimed at mitigating the immediate impact of the funding loss. These include sustaining positions for up to 30 days after notification of grant termination and up to 90 days when funding delays are temporary or pending resolution.

While some cost savings have been realized due to vacant positions that remain unfilled, Adams acknowledged that the department’s financial reserves — known as the Health Fund — are not sufficient to offset long-term revenue shortfalls. The pace at which the department’s reserve funds are depleted is increasing due to slower-than-expected revenue recovery and a decrease in tax allocations.

To help stabilize finances, SLCoHD is implementing a new billing system and exploring operational efficiencies. However, department officials note that these measures may not be enough to counteract the loss of federal support.

The layoffs in Salt Lake County are occurring against the backdrop of broader changes at the national level. The Trump administration has cut additional employees at both CDC and HHS. Local officials say they are now reviewing all federally linked contracts to assess further potential impacts on the department.

“We know our work makes a difference,” Adams said. “It is devastating to see reductions in funding that affect our staff and our work, but we are actively exploring every opportunity to preserve as many positions as possible.”

Utah AG joins other states in threatening ‘robocallers’

The Utah Attorney General’s office has joined a task force of attorneys general from 27 states in threatening phone service providers in nine states with shutdown for what Utah Attorney General Derek Brown and his counterparts in other states call the “robocall ecosystem” across the country.

The Federal Communication Commission says its top consumer complaint is unwanted calls, numbering in the tens of thousands of complaints monthly. The AG group says that artificial intelligence has pushed the limits on the robocalls that many experience. Known phone numbers are “spoofed,” voices of public figures, including presidential

candidates, were imitated with “deepfake” technology; vulnerable people are scammed; and emergency medical communications and 911 call centers can be disrupted, according to an FCC report.

The AGs are supporting a rehearing by the National Consumer Law Center in a case between the Insurance Marketing Coalition Limited and the Federal Communications Commission. The AGs seek to defend a rule by the FCC that stops telemarketers from obtaining and selling consumers’ phone numbers to robocallers without their consent.

In a statement to media, Brown said robocalls “target the most vulnerable members of our society. This FCC poli-

cy would cut off robocalls at the source. It is critical that we protect Utahns from scams that can lead to them losing millions of dollars.”

In 2017, the commission reversed its stance on call blocking without consumer consent, allowing voice service providers to block certain calls “purporting to be from invalid, unallocated or unused numbers and numbers on a Do-Not-Originate list,” the report says. A Robocall Mitigation Database was started in 2021, and other methods and requirements have been implemented to curb the onslaught of calls. Those rules continue to be revised as the landscape evolves.

In 2022, 51 attorneys general, led by North Carolina Attorney General Jeff Jackson, Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita and Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost, created the Anti-Robocall Litigation Task Force to take legal action against companies that are part of what they call the “robocalls ecosystem.”

They began sending notices to service providers in November 2023. Eight providers were put on notice that month. Nine letters were sent earlier this month by the group. In total, 16 providers have been sent letters; many of the recent notices were “second and final notice” letters threatening legal action.

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Ryan Smith, Ryan Sweeney partner to launch sports tech investment fund

Utah Jazz and Utah Hockey Club owner Ryan Smith and Accel partner Ryan Sweeney have joined forces again to found Halo Experience Co. (HXCO), an investment firm that will specialize in technology startups operating within the sports and entertainment industries.

Smith co-founded Utah County tech giant Qualtrics with his father in 2002 and, after selling a majority interest in the company in 2019 for a reported \$8 billion, began to invest in the sports world. He bought the Jazz of the NBA from Larry H. Miller’s family in 2020 for \$1.66 billion and the Arizona Coyotes of the National Hockey League last year for \$1.2 billion. He relocated the hockey franchise to Salt Lake City, temporarily renaming it the Utah Hockey Club.

Smith recently relinquished his ownership stakes in Real Salt Lake of Major League Soccer and the Utah Royals of the National Women’s Soccer League.

Sweeney, who holds minority ownership in both the Jazz and the Utah Hockey Club, is invested in at least 25 companies as a partner at Accel, a San Francisco venture capital firm that invests in early and growth-stage companies. Accel holds equity positions in companies like Venmo, Braintree, Dropbox, Etsy, Facebook and Spotify.

Smith and Sweeney aren’t the first private investors to take a shot at the growing sports tech sector. They’ll face competition from firms like Sapphire Sport and Bluestone Equity Partners but believe their combined investment experience will give them an advantage, Smith told Sports Business Journal.

HXCO has a goal of raising up to \$1 billion to support about two dozen portfolio companies through each round of their growth trajectories, just as Sweeney’s Accel did for Smith’s Qualtrics.

Smith and Sweeney are the general

partners of the new joint venture, which will operate independently of Accel, Qualtrics and Smith Entertainment Group but will receive some support from Accel, the partners said.

“Sports is not just leisure and entertainment anymore,” said Sweeney in an interview with Sports Business Journal. “It’s a vertical in the same sense that you would talk about health care, you would talk about education, you would talk about government. Sports has become one of those big markets with trillions of spend.”

Sweeney described sports as touching “every facet of the economy” — social media, security, health and wellness, digital media, payments and talent — while Smith described the money going into sports right now as “insane.” His ownership in sports has afforded him a perspective to see the influence of new tech trends more closely.

“I’m watching this tech revolution hap-

pen with AI right now, and I’ve been investing a ton out of my family office,” said Smith, who no longer runs Qualtrics day to day but remains its founder and executive chairman. “Sweeney and I got talking, and it was just like, ‘I want to be a part of this. I want to be a part of the next phase of tech.’”

The partners said the name “Halo Experience” was chosen to represent the idea of seeking technology around the live experience, but it also conjures the halo effect, by which companies try proving their products in the highly public sports sector before moving them downstream to consumers.

“Sports now own the majority of the experience economy,” Sweeney told the magazine. “Coming out of COVID, the rush to the experience economy, both from businesses and consumers, is honestly unlike anything I’ve seen in my investing career.”

Pluralsight research finds that 79 percent of tech workers pretend to know more about AI than they really do

A new study from Draper-based technology workforce development company Pluralsight finds that a lot of executives — and even IT experts — pretend to know more about AI than they actually do.

Pluralsight’s recently released “AI Skills Report” explores the AI landscape and its impact on talent by examining the perspectives of executives and IT practitioners. This year’s report, based on a survey of 1,200 technology decision-makers and practitioners in the United States

and the United Kingdom, revealed that an overwhelming majority of executives and tech workers are often faking their familiarity with the complexities of AI. In fact, 79 percent admitted to the deception.

The industry is also rife with AI paradoxes. Despite 95 percent of tech executives citing AI skills as crucial for ensuring job security, 61 percent of tech workers said that using generative AI tools for work is seen as “lazy” at their company.

“In addition to the systemic misrepresentation of AI knowledge, Pluralsight also found that AI is complicating perceptions about how work is getting done,” said Chris McClellan, chief product and technology officer at Pluralsight. “Fears about AI supplanting jobs is becoming the new norm and employees are quietly worried that using AI in their

daily routine looks lazy. In this paradigm, organizations need to empower their workforce with AI training to truly drive innovation, enhance productivity and stay competitive in the evolving digital landscape.”

Employees and executives alike aren’t always upfront about their AI knowledge. However, the boss might be telling the tallest tales: C-suite executives admit to exaggerating even more (a whopping 91 percent) by pretending to have AI knowledge they don’t possess.

To combat employee insecurities over their AI knowledge, over half of companies are offering dedicated training to upskill staff in AI. That means they’re pretending for now, but it won’t be long before they’re truly knowledgeable on the subject.

Whether among executives or tech professionals, the fear of jobs being replaced by AI runs deep. Ninety percent of workers said that losing their roles to AI was at least somewhat likely. People are more afraid of being replaced by AI than they were a year ago when Pluralsight released its 2024 AI Skills Report, with 19 percent more respondents indicating that they felt it was “very likely” their role could be replaced by AI in the 2025 report.

Despite the fact that nearly half of organizations (49 percent) have actually added AI-

related jobs, companies are still developing five-year plans that include AI-driven staff reductions. By 2030, workers should expect the most impact in departments that handle analytics, content creation, billing, marketing and sales.

Amid fears about being replaced by AI, there is an almost unanimous (95 percent) agreement among tech executives that having AI skills is the “best way” to ensure job security. This is supported by the fact that 50 percent of employers list AI skills as “highly preferred” when looking for talent, while 20 percent list them as “mandatory.”

Additionally, 84 percent of companies said they would likely replace or outsource talent to support AI initiatives when they lack internal talent.

Pluralsight provides learning platforms dedicated to accelerating the technology skills and capabilities of the tech workforce. Thousands of companies, government organizations and individuals around the world use Pluralsight Skills to support technology skill development in areas like artificial intelligence, cloud computing, cybersecurity, software development and machine learning.

Finding an apartment in SLC is getting more difficult, research finds

How hard is it to find a vacant apartment in Salt Lake City in early 2025? According to the Rental Competitiveness Report from rental website RentCafe.com, finding rental is considerably more challenging in the area compared to the same time last year. In fact, Salt Lake City is one of the fiercest markets in the West, second only to Las Vegas.

Apartment inventory increased much more slowly in the past year, while more people chose to renew their leases than a year ago. According to the findings, renters in Salt Lake City typically stay for at least one year and 10 months, which also makes apartment hunting more difficult.

Here are some specifics from the RentCafe.com study:

Inventory growth: Salt Lake City’s apart-

ment stock grew by 1.22 percent, and while it’s over the national increase of 0.75 percent, it is way below last year’s 2.4 percent increase. Thus, more than half of all renters (59 percent) chose to remain in their current rentals, up 2.7 percent year-over-year.

Limited availability: Ninety-three percent of apartments are already occupied in the area, which has fueled competition even more. As a result, each apartment hunter must now compete with five others to secure a lease, the same as a year ago.

How fast apartments get leased: In Salt Lake City, a typical unit gets rented in 40 days, beating the national average of 43 days. It’s the fastest “lease-up” time among large western rental markets analyzed.



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Industry Briefs

Industry Briefs are provided as a free service to our readers. Company news information may be sent to brice.w@thecityjournals.com.

ARTS

• **The Gateway** in Salt Lake City has a pair of new art installations. One is a crosswalk design at the 100 South intersection and featuring lemons for summer flavor. The other is “Color Rain,” which features hundreds of colorful ribbons floating above Restaurant Row. Color Rain is on display for a limited time at the south end of the shopping center. The Gateway continues to support local artists by giving them a platform to showcase their works in various shop windows.

BANKING

• **TAB Bank**, based in Ogden, has closed a \$4 million asset-based lending and \$2.5 million equipment loan with **HydroEdge Solutions**, a Pennsylvania-based water transfer and fluid management services provider for the energy industry. TAB Bank structured the deal as an accounts receivable-only ABL facility, with an initial funding of \$4.4 million composed of both ABL and new equipment funding lines. The capital will allow HydroEdge Solutions to expand its operations, furthering its commitment to efficiency, safety and sustainability. HydroEdge specializes in delivering fluid management solutions, ensuring the seamless transfer of fluids from the source to the destination without leaks, interruptions or incidents. The company’s services include automation, trucking and water transfer.

CONTESTS

• The **Salt Lake Chamber** is accepting nominations until 5 p.m. June 20 for the **Athena Leadership Award** and **Pathfinder Awards**, which will be presented in November at the 225 Women & Business Conference and Athena Awards Luncheon. The Athena Leadership Award recognizes accomplished individuals who actively support women in attaining professional excellence and leadership skills. The Pathfinder Award is given to business and community leaders who “create new paths” and promote the development and recognition of women in business. Nominations may be made at <https://slchamber.chambermaster.com/eventregistration/register/15662>.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

• **The King’s English Bookshop** in Salt Lake City is **Utah’s “most popular small business,”** according to a survey conducted by business financing company **Advance Funds Network**, which

asked which small businesses people would be willing to drive more than an hour to reach. Coming in second was **Caputo’s Market & Deli** in Salt Lake City. Details are at <https://advancefund-network.com/devoted-drives-survey-uncovers-the-nations-most-visited-small-businesses/>.

• **Utah** is ranked No. 9 on a list of “**best states for older workers,**” compiled by **Seniorly**. It analyzed data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census Bureau and the Federation of Tax Administrators related to median income, income tax, remote work, labor force participation, business growth rate, and age-related workplace discrimination. Utah is No. 4 for median household income, at \$67,374; tied for 11th for older adults in the labor force, at 32.5 percent; and No. 13 for older workers working remotely, at 18.9 percent. The top state for older workers is Washington. The worst is Mississippi. Details are at <https://www.seniorly.com/resource-center/seniorly-news/best-states-for-older-workers-2025>.

• **Bryce Canyon National Park** is Utah’s **most popular park to visit during National Park Week**, according to a survey of travelers by **Gunther Volvo Coconut Creek**. Bryce Canyon was ranked No. 19 overall. Other Utah parks on the list are No. 36 **Zion National Park**, No. 122 **Dead Horse Point State Park**, and No. 192 **Goblin Valley State Park**. The top-ranked location overall is Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee. Details are at <https://www.gunthervolvocars.net/park-pursuits.htm>.

EDUCATION/TRAINING

• The **Saras AI Institute**, a Salt Lake City-based AI-exclusive, fully online, degree-granting higher education institute, is offering a new course called “**Powers of AI,**” an eight-week, beginner-friendly, online course designed for working adults who want to explore artificial intelligence. The course costs \$99 and offers a self-paced curriculum that covers AI concepts such as machine learning, neural networks, generative AI, prompt engineering and more. No coding or math experience is required. The course can provide credit toward a certificate in AI or a degree. The course is taught via weekly live Zoom sessions. Participants will receive a certificate of completion, and those who earn an A or B in the course may apply the experience as the first three credits toward Saras’ 18-month AI associate degree. Enrollment is underway for the May 26 session. Details are at <https://www.sarasai.org/lp/us/powers-of-ai>.

• **Nightingale College**, a Salt Lake City-based nursing education institution, has announced that its LPN-to-

RN Bridge Program has been named the No. 1 Licensed Practical Nurse-to-Registered Nurse program in Utah for 2025 by **PracticalNursing.org**, an authority in nursing-education rankings. In its announcement, PracticalNursing.org praised Nightingale’s program for excelling in curriculum quality, faculty expertise, flexibility and licensure exam readiness. PracticalNursing.org evaluates programs using accreditation and NCLEX pass rates, affordability, student support services, and career-advancement outcomes.

EXPANSIONS

• **Pinnacle Mergers & Acquisitions**, an auto dealership brokerage firm, has announced the sale of **Ocean Honda** of San Juan Capistrano in Orange County, California, by **Victory Automotive Group** to **Jerry Seiner Auto Group**, which operates dealerships across Utah and Nevada. It now will operate under the name Jerry Seiner Honda. Financial terms were not disclosed. This transaction marks Jerry Seiner Auto Group’s first acquisition in California and its first Honda dealership. Pinnacle represented Victory Automotive Group in the transaction.

PHILANTHROPY

• Associates and managers from 12 **Walmart stores** recently provided 36 faculty members at **Roots Charter School** in West Valley City with teacher appreciation baskets, and students were given Easter baskets containing candy and toys. The baskets were filled with water bottles, pens, markers, gloves, seed packets, candy, candles and more.

REAL ESTATE

• **HF Sinclair** has signed a 40,367-square-foot lease at The 324, a landmark redevelopment at the corner of 300 South and State Street in downtown Salt Lake City. The long-term lease is on the top floor of the five-story office building, which is owned and operated by Mortenson Properties and Hamilton Partners. Originally built in 1911, The 324 was recently renovated. The lease announcement was made by **JLL**, whose Jami Marsh and Amanda Lawson represented the landlord, with **CBRE** representing HF Sinclair.

RECOGNITIONS

• The **Ogden-Weber Chamber of Commerce** has announced that the “**Big Hat Award**” recipient this year is **Col. Michael “Drifter” Gette**, who has been the 388th Fighter Wing commander at Hill Air Force Base since June 2023. The award is presented by the Top of



Col. Michael Gette

Utah Military Affairs Committee. Gette will be honored during a May 29 event, although details have yet to be determined. Gette assumed command of the base’s F-35A Lightning II flying unit after serving as the vice commander of the 388th Fighter Wing for two years. He has been in the Air Force for 26 years. Before joining the 388th, he served as the chief of NORAD’s Future Operations Division at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado.

• A team called **Aloe** earned the \$20,000 grand prize at the **15th Annual Bench to Bedside** competition hosted by the University of Utah’s **Center for Medical Innovation**. Developed by students from the University of Utah and Brigham Young University, Aloe uses machine learning to detect asymptomatic rotator cuff tears early, aiming to prevent reinjury and improve long-term outcomes. This year’s competition involved 31 teams with over 600 attendees. A total of 140 student competitors participated, representing more than 30 academic disciplines and six universities (UofU, BYU, Utah Valley University, Northeastern Ohio Medical University, Montana State University and the National University of Singapore). In addition to Aloe’s grand prize, \$60,000 in milestone funding was awarded to 10 other award winners. Over the academic year, teams collaborate with health-care professionals and industry leaders to develop and prototype new medical technologies while building strategies for regulatory approval and market adoption. Sponsored by the **Crocker Catalyst Foundation** and **University of Utah Health**, the Bench to Bedside program has provided over \$1.5 million in funding since 2012.

• **Leina Jaramillo**, director of professional recruiting at Spherion of Utah, has been named the **Spherion “Top Direct Hire Recruiter of the Year”** nationwide



Leina Jaramillo

for her talent matching and client services. Spherion is a national recruiting and staffing company. Jaramillo has over 19 years of professional staffing and recruiting experience focused on executive, sales, marketing, finance, human resources, administration, technology and hospitality experience. She also has consistently ranked at the top of all recruiters nationally in Spherion’s 160 franchise locations.

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‘Dashboard’ report shows some resilience, warning signs

A still-strong labor market, slipping consumer confidence and shrinking labor force participation highlight a recently released Utah economic gauge.

Components of the March version of the Roadmap to Prosperity Economic Dashboard reflect the impacts of economic uncertainty that is a hallmark of early 2025.

The dashboard is produced in a partnership between the Salt Lake Chamber and the University of Utah’s Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute as a way to inform business leaders’ understanding of Utah’s economy. The tool prioritizes key data on the state’s economic outlook and actionable context for decision-makers.

Among the insights in the March report are Utah’s relatively strong labor market. The state’s February employment growth was fourth among states, at 1.8 percent,

while other states are seeing labor markets continue to moderate. Utah’s unemployment rate of 3.2 percent in February was the 11th-lowest among states. “Ongoing economic uncertainty continues to weigh on labor markets, both in Utah and nationwide,” the report states.

Utah consumers generally are more optimistic than the rest of the U.S. Utah’s consumer sentiment dropped 8 percent in March, but the figure for the U.S. was 11.9 percent. “Consumer unease continues to rise, with national consumer sentiment reaching its lowest level since November 2022,” the report says. “Consistent with historical trends, Utahns remained more optimistic, though economic and policy-related uncertainties weigh on confidence, both locally and nationwide.”

Meanwhile, Utah’s labor force partici-

pation rate has returned to levels seen before the COVID-19 pandemic after rising throughout recent labor market shortages. The state’s labor force participation rate began declining in 2023 and continued to edge downward throughout 2024 and into 2025. In February, the Utah rate was 68.4 percent, while the national rate was 62.4 percent. “The U.S. labor force participation rate remains below pre-pandemic levels, in part due to aging demographics,” the report states.

“As economic uncertainty continues, Utah’s labor markets are responding to the pressure with strength,” said Derek Miller, president and CEO of the Salt Lake Chamber. “Even with steep declines in both Utah and U.S. consumer sentiment, employment growth in Utah demonstrates our resilience and ability to adapt to shifting economic

conditions. Moving forward, we can prepare for additional changes and unease by remaining attentive to repercussions of applicable policies and seeking ways to continually innovate and promote growth.”

“While Utah’s labor market continues to demonstrate resilience, ranking among the top states for employment growth, there are signs of moderation and consumer unease,” said Natalie Gochmour, director of the Gardner Institute. “Utah has the strongest economy in the nation and is favorably positioned to weather a slowdown, but decision-makers must remain vigilant in the face of ongoing economic uncertainties and federal policy shifts that weigh on confidence locally and nationwide.”

The Roadmap to Prosperity Dashboard is available at <https://slchamber.com/resources/roadmap-dashboard/>.

Merrick Bank acquires Ally’s credit card portfolio and platform

South Jordan-based Merrick Bank, a wholly owned subsidiary of CardWorks Inc., has acquired the credit card portfolio and platform of Ally Financial, a Detroit-based banking institution. The credit card business moving to Merrick Bank includes \$2.2 billion in credit card receivables, the bank’s credit card division team and 1.3 million active cardholders.

CardWorks is a credit and payments industry company based in Woodbury, New York.

“This acquisition is a perfect example of what CardWorks does best: finding the right opportunities and executing with precision,” said Don Berman, founder and executive chairman of CardWorks. “We’ve worked with the Ally Card team for years as their servicing partner and bringing them under our roof just makes sense. It’s a win-win that expands our reach in the near-prime market and adds tremendous value for our stakeholders. I’m proud of our team for making this happen and excited about where we’re headed next.”

“We are thrilled to welcome Ally’s credit card customers and team members to the CardWorks family,” said CardWorks CEO Dan Pillemer. “This acquisition reflects our continued commitment to strategic expansion in the near-prime credit space and adds tremendous people and capabilities to our team.”

Founded in 1997, Merrick Bank services non-prime and near-prime consumers and is an FDIC-insured member of Utah’s industrial bank community. It serves millions of customers and 120,000 businesses nationwide through its credit card and recreational lending programs.

Staffing company finds businesses good, quality employees

By Becky Ginos
The City Journals

Spherion Staffing & Recruiting, with offices along the Wasatch Front, is now under new ownership. The company was previously owned by Ron Zarbock, who operated Spherion Utah for 18 years. Brothers John and Tim Larsen intend to continue Zarbock’s business model of helping local businesses with hiring challenges and connecting those seeking jobs with employment opportunities.

“We’re excited to get going,” said John. “We’ve been looking for a business we could do together and have autonomy and control so we could grow it so it remains meaningful. What could be more meaningful than to help people find work?”

John’s career includes experience in technology and HR solutions. He was also involved in executive leadership at Ford Motor Co. Tim has a background in finance and operations.

“I’m a CPA and I’m passionate about client services,” Tim said. “I love to get into the details to help them grow and solve problems. I have a natural inclination to try to help people.”

Tim said at one point he was between jobs and he realized how difficult it was to be out of work. “I felt it myself. So seeing someone else going through that takes me back emotionally to that place.”

Spherion works with large manufacturers, distributors and in the light industrial space. “There is a spectrum of ways we can help,” said John. “Clients don’t always want to fill a permanent position. There can be ups and downs of how many



John and Tim Larsen recently took ownership of Spherion Staffing & Recruiting with five locations in Utah. (Courtesy photo)

employees they need. We help them find high-quality workers to fill those roles. We can help with professional roles as well.”

The company also helps those seeking a job. “We play matchmaker,” said Tim. “If we don’t have a place for them, we can feature them to other businesses, even if there’s not a need with existing clients.”

In addition to running the business, Spherion regularly contributes to nonprofits. “We have a number of local organizations that we help,” Tim said. “We have offices in Layton, Ogden, Orem, Salt Lake City and Taylorsville. Each office is designated a local charity. Employees get paid time off to serve.”

Some hold workshops to help people with resume prep, interviewing techniques and how to present themselves when applying for jobs, he said. “We also donate to Horizonte School and Second Chance. Our core values are to strengthen the community and give back, either financially or by giving time.”

Primarily Spherion finds businesses that need people, John said. “Many struggle to find staff. Spherion’s goal is to find clients good, quality employees and be a resource for them.”

For more information visit www.spherion.com/utah.



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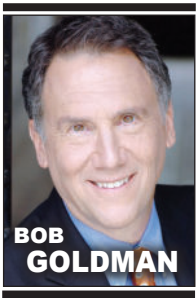
The stress mess

Feeling stressed at work?
I don't blame you.

The economy is looking rocky. The entire concept of job security feels like a quaint idea from another century. Your manager gives you too much to do and too little time to do it. Your chances for getting another job are fading fast.

Yes, you have many reasons for feeling stressed at work, but there may be hope. For all the bad news I bring you on a weekly basis — no need to thank me — Jancee Dunn, a columnist for The New York Times, has good news to offer. Case in point: Her recent article, “4 Ways to Stop Stressing About Your Schedule,” provides a quartet of practical techniques to fight stress at your job, leaving you more time to enjoy all the stress you experience everywhere else in your life.

According to the article, a prime generator of job stress is keeping up with a punishing schedule. “Sixty percent of



people surveyed by the Pew Research Center,” Dunn reports, “said they sometimes felt too busy to enjoy life.” (The fact they were kept busy answering dumb questions from the Pew Research Center was not considered. I'd research the matter myself, but I'm too busy.)

What can you do to remove the stress from what you do and don't do? Let Dunn and I take your hand to lead you to the land of the terminally tranquil.

No. 1: “Abandon the idea that you'll ever be all caught up.” Is keeping a “to-do” list one of things you do? Don't do it. No matter how much of your to-do list you do, there's always more that you won't do. And that will do bad things to your nervous system and your career.

Instead of stressing about checking off the boxes that you still have to do, focus on what you have done. For example, instead of worrying about the

critical deadline you missed or the important client you aggravated, celebrate the accomplishments that count, like the way you once again beat out the senior VP of marketing by scoring the last maple bar at the morning staff meeting.

Check that box and enjoy your artery-clogging lump of dough while the senior VP seethes with jealous rage. Then take the rest of the day off. You deserve it.

No. 2: “Ask yourself: Is this actually urgent?”

It takes nerves of steel to ignore a series of increasingly hysterical after-hours phone calls and texts from your manager, but is any so-called work emergency worth missing a new episode of “Selling Sunset,” especially when Chelsea's fight with Bre threatens the tranquility of the entire Hollywood real estate community?

My advice is to hide your phone and turn off your computer the minute you come home from work. Even better, hide your phone and turn off your com-

puter the moment you come into work from home.

You might also hide yourself. When your manager finds you huddled under your desk, blame the bad blood brewing between Chelsea and Bre. Now, that's urgent.

No. 3: “Consider whether you can bring your B game.”

Sorry to tell you, but all the advice about how you must work hard to get ahead in business is a bunch of hooey.

Bringing your A game to every situation will make you highly visible and highly vulnerable. Your co-workers will resent you since they will have to up their own games to compete. Your managers will worry that you're out to replace them.

Bob Goldman was an advertising executive with a Fortune 500 company. He offers a virtual shoulder to cry on at bob@bgplanning.com.

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UofU’s Sundquist named to *Time* magazine’s annual list of the world’s 100 most influential people

University of Utah Health researcher Wesley Sundquist has been named one of *Time* magazine’s 100 most influential people in the world for his lab’s research leading to a highly effective drug that prevents HIV infections.

The *Time* list recognizes the impact, innovation, and achievement of the world’s most influential individuals.

The drug, Lenacapavir, was developed at Gilead Sciences and is exceptionally effective at preventing HIV. A single dose provides protection for six months.

In multiple clinical trials involving tens of thousands of people, Lenacapavir has shown 99.9 percent to 100 percent efficacy in preventing HIV — results that Sundquist described as “spectacularly successful.”

If distributed broadly, the drug has the potential to dramatically decrease infection



University of Utah researcher Wesley Sundquist. Photo by David Titensor/University of Utah Health

rates worldwide. “It feels like our work has made a difference,” Sundquist added.

But the story of Lenacapavir started decades ago with basic, curiosity-driven research in Sundquist’s lab. The lab wasn’t specifically aiming to discover new therapies — rather, they were simply trying to

understand how the HIV virus particle is put together. They discovered that one of the key components of the virus is extremely sensitive to change, a prime target for drug development.

Sundquist consulted with biopharmaceutical company Gilead Sciences, which developed Lenacapavir. Sundquist’s collaborator at Gilead, Tomáš Cihlář, is a co-recipient of the *Time* honor.

“Today, we recognize Dr. Sundquist for his work that began more than 20 years ago as a quest to understand the structure of HIV and has now led to a medication that could prevent the spread of HIV worldwide,” said Dr. Rachel Hess, associate vice president for research at University of Utah Health. “This is an amazing example of fundamental research creating the environment to improve health around the globe.”

“By discovering fundamental aspects of HIV biology, Dr. Sundquist’s work has led to a lifesaving advancement in improving human health,” said Dr. Bob Carter, CEO for University of Utah Health and senior vice president for Health Sciences. “We’re honored that the global impact of his work has been recognized and incredibly proud that his work continues at UofU Health.”

Sundquist’s accomplishment is a testament to the critical role of basic science in forming the foundation of discoveries that save lives. “We view ourselves as, first of all, trying to understand the natural world, which I think has great intrinsic value,” Sundquist said. “But we also view ourselves as sort of the feedstock for new ways of approaching medicine.”

This story was furnished to the Salt Lake Business Journal by University of Utah Health.

Fervo Energy bumps capacity at Beaver Co. geothermal power plant

Fervo Energy has announced that its Cape Station geothermal power generating plant northeast of Milford in Beaver County has increased its capacity from 400 megawatts to 500 megawatts — all of which is now fully contracted.

The announcement comes with word that the final 31 megawatts of generating capacity has been sold in a 15-year power purchase agreement to Shell Energy North America for distribution to its retail power customers.

Shell Energy will become the first “offtaker” of power from Phase 1 of the Cape Station project — deemed to be the world’s largest enhanced geothermal systems development and set to commence operations in 2026. With the agreement, Shell Energy expands its renewable energy portfolio, which already includes wind, solar and battery storage.

Fervo had previously contracted with Southern California Edison and the Clean Power Alliance for purchase of

power from the Utah facility.

Fervo said that the increased capacity is due to technological advancements in well design and field development, including increased casing diameter and optimized well spacing using fiber optic sensing, allowing for a 100-megawatt capacity boost without additional drilling.

“We’re thrilled to work with Shell Energy,” said Dawn Owens, Fervo vice president and head of development and commercial markets. “This agreement demonstrates that Fervo is stepping up to meet the moment. As customers seek out 24/7 carbon-free energy, geothermal is clearly an essential part of the solution.”

The U.S. Department of the Interior announced plans to expand geothermal energy on public lands in 2024, including a goal of a carbon pollution-free power sector by 2035. The Bureau of Land Management approved Fervo’s Cape Station geothermal project as part of that initiative.



Aerial photo shows construction continuing at Fervo Energy’s Cape Station geothermal power plant near Milford in Beaver County. Fervo has increased the capacity of the plant to 500 megawatts of electrical power, all of which is contracted for purchase by retail utility companies. Photo courtesy of Fervo Energy.

PROPERTIES

from page 1

combined experience in sports leadership will elevate soccer within Utah and support the Club’s goal of winning championships.”

“We couldn’t be more excited to welcome the Miller family into the club,” Blitzer said. “We are aligned in our values and commitment to building a great culture and championship-level teams. Our sports teams are best when we have a strong, local partner, and Miller Sports & Entertainment will truly enable Real Salt Lake Holdings to accomplish our visionary goals. I’ve loved my experience in Utah, and this is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our strong fanbase and loyal soccer supporters.”

Steve Miller, chairman of the Larry H. Miller Co. board of directors, will serve as chairman and governor for RSL, with Blitzer serving as alternate governor. Steve Miller will also serve as chairman and governor for the Utah Royals FC, with Starks serving as the alternate governor.

“Our family is excited to join Real Salt Lake and the Utah Royals,” Steve Miller said. “We love the growth of soccer as a family-friendly and unifying experience in our state. We are grateful to partner with David Blitzer and the other dedicated investors in building these strong teams.”

The Miller family and MSE have been involved in Utah sports for more than four decades. MSE manages and operates the Salt Lake Bees, the Triple A affiliate of the Los Angeles Angels; The Ballpark at Amer-

ica First Square; and Megaplex theaters. The Millers owned the Utah Jazz from 1985 to 2020. The Larry H. Miller Co. is part of a group called Big League Utah hoping to land a Major League Baseball team for Salt Lake City, although MLB is years away from expansion and existing teams with stadium issues are working to get them resolved.

In a statement to a local media outlet, Smith said he wants to focus on the Jazz and the Utah Hockey Club.

“With so much growth on the horizon for Smith Entertainment Group — from enhancing the success of our major sports franchises with the Utah Jazz and Utah Hockey Club and supporting the reimagination of downtown Salt Lake City, to running the nation’s largest youth basketball program and recently launching a youth hockey program — now is the right time to tighten our focus on the NBA, NHL and other areas where we can make the biggest impact on our state,” he said.

A tech entrepreneur, Smith bought control of the Jazz in 2020 in a deal valued at \$1.66 billion. He bought hockey’s Arizona Coyotes last year and moved the team to Salt Lake City. It has operated under the Utah Hockey Club name since the move but is expected to announce a new name soon.

Blitzer’s sports involvement is broad and deep. He is the founder and managing partner of Harris Blitzer Sports & Entertainment, which includes in its portfolio the New Jersey Devils of the NHL; the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey; the Philadelphia 76ers of the NBA; and the Penn Medicine 76ers Training Complex

in Camden, New Jersey. HBSE properties include investments in several sports. Blitzer recently became the first person to hold team equity in the five major sports leagues of North America: the NBA, NHL, NFL, MLS and MLB. Bolt Ventures, which serves as the Blitzer family-office, also manages a portfolio focused on other sports, media and technology assets.

Financing for the RSL/Monarchs transaction was provided by J.P. Morgan and Zions Bank. The Larry H. Miller Co. was advised by Katten Muchin Rosenman, York Howell and Holland & Hart. Bolt Ventures was advised by Morgan Lewis. Clean Sheet Capital LLC, represented by its founder, Nishant Tella, served as the principal advisor to Bolt Ventures on the transaction.

“The future of Real Salt Lake is in great hands with the Miller organization and David Blitzer,” said Don Garber, MLS commissioner. “The Millers have a long-standing commitment to community, youth sports and sound business operations, and we have a proven history with David, one of the most accomplished sports owners in the world. Together, this group is perfectly positioned to strengthen the club and grow soccer in Utah and the region.”

“This powerful partnership between the Miller family and David Blitzer will elevate women’s soccer in Utah and continue to build fandom for the Royals FC,” said Jessica Berman, NWSL commissioner. “Miller Sports & Entertainment has consistently demonstrated commitment to building sport and community both on and off the pitch — aligning with our values at

the NWSL — and we welcome this new ownership group to the league.”

MSE announced that it will partner with Unrivaled Sports, a Blitzer-backed network of youth sports venues and programming that is led by CEO and Chairman Andrew Campion, an RSL Club investor. More than 190,000 Utah youth participate in soccer, baseball and basketball. RSL’s Junior Recreation Program involves nearly 100,000 active youth players in partnership with Utah Youth Soccer Association.

“Our family’s investment in and commitment to youth sports cannot be overstated,” said Steve Miller. “We remain grateful to promote health and wellness and the value of participating in sports for the rising generation.”

In addition to sports, the Larry H. Miller Co. is involved in businesses, community-building and philanthropy and oversees operations in real estate, health care, sports and entertainment, and investments.

Among changes soccer fans might see include a renovation of America First Field and the addition of restaurants, entertainment activities and other developments nearby. Several top-level professional franchises have been working in recent years to make their stadium areas year-round destinations by making them lively — and lucrative — during days and seasons without games.

The Zions Bank Training Center in Herriman occupies 42 acres and includes five grass fields, two indoor turf fields, a residential dormitory, and the 5,000-seat Zions Bank Stadium.

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Career Moves is provided as a free service to our readers. Company news information may be sent to brice.w@thecityjournals.com.

ASSOCIATIONS

• **Silicon Slopes** has appointed **Tiffany Vail** as chief operating officer. Vail will



Tiffany Vail

oversee core operations and spearhead the rollout of several initiatives designed to expand Silicon Slopes' impact across the Mountain West region. Her leadership will focus on scaling community engagement, supporting early-stage founders and advancing civic innovation. Vail is an executive and entrepreneur with experience in venture capital, consumer innovation and operational leadership. She most recently served as CEO of Brandless and previously co-founded travel technology startup Wander.

BANKING

• **Bank of Utah**, based in Ogden, has added **Jason Steenstra** as manager of its Lindon branch. Steenstra has over 15



Jason Steenstra

years of banking leadership experience and a background in strategic growth, business development and community engagement. Steenstra has led teams through mergers, opened new locations, built a strong portfolio and developed high-performing branches. He spent 12 years with Mountain America Credit Union, where he helped expand its pres-

ence in Idaho. After that, he spent four years with Umpqua Bank in the Coeur d'Alene market, where he helped build a successful portfolio, deepened small business growth and led his team through a successful merger. Bank of Utah has 18 full-service branches throughout Utah, trust teams in Ogden and Salt Lake City, and mortgage offices in Logan, Price, Vernal and St. George.

FOOD

• **Swig**, a Lehi-based beverage company, has hired **Jill Marchant** as chief



Jill Marchant

legal and administrative officer. Marchant has over 20 years of experience in corporate leadership and legal management, including as a former executive vice president and chief legal officer at Hallmark. Before joining Hallmark in 2018, she held senior legal leadership roles at Applebee's and Dine Brands and served as general counsel for Texas Roadhouse and Farm Credit Mid-America. Marchant graduated from Brigham Young University with a bachelor's degree in English and earned her Juris Doctor from BYU's law school. Swig has 100 locations in 14 states.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

• **Promontory Club**, a Park City-based entity operating three 18-hole golf courses, has hired **Lance Patterson** as director of golf. Patterson will oversee the courses and their respective practice facilities and Promontory's entire golf program, which also includes an 18-hole putting course, the Golf Academy at Promontory



Lance Patterson

and four simulator bays located inside The Hills Golf Clubhouse. Patterson has more than 25 years of experience leading golf operations and delivering member experiences, most recently serving as director of golf at Dallas Athletic Club, a 36-hole private facility. Promontory is a 7,200-acre recreational, private mountain community with 1,924 total homesites, with 974 homes built.

SERVICES

• **Arena Mail + Digital**, a Salt Lake City-based consulting firm specializing in political strategy and digital innovation, has promoted



Jonathan Schmieder

Jonathan Schmieder to partner, **Drew Collins** to senior vice president, and **Steven Ostrow** to senior vice president. Schmieder has been with Arena for a decade and is a strategist specializing in data-driven approaches to media and messaging. He has played a key role in developing innovative voter contact programs, enhancing engagement for political, nonprofit and corporate clients. At Arena, Collins leads clients through the digital advertising landscape, ensuring efficient and effective campaign execution. He has extensive experience in



Drew Collins



Steven Ostrow

campaign operations at the national, state and local levels, including holding roles such as digital director for the NRCC's Independent Expenditure unit, executive director of the Illinois Republican Party, and senior advisor to Gov. Bruce Rauner's political operation. Ostrow has been with Arena since 2019 and has political experience that includes serving as the RNC's regional political director for the Great Lakes states and executive director for the Michigan Republican Party.

TECHNOLOGY

• **Listen Technologies Corp.**, a Bluffdale-based provider of wireless listening solutions, has hired **Stephen**



Stephen Robinson

Robinson as regional sales manager for the eastern United States. He will work with Listen Technologies channel partners, consultants and end users through the region and will lead the eastern U.S. team selling the company's suite of solutions. Robinson is an experienced AV systems business development manager and engineer, with experience including work as an AV consultant and a consultant liaison at a manufacturer. Before joining Listen Technologies, he was a business development manager at a systems integration firm. Robinson has also held roles as a systems design engineer and has worked with government, education and commercial accounts.

Utah's large households have largest-in-the-nation median household income

Utah has a lot of people living in its middle-income households, and as a result, the state leads the nation in median household income. After adjusting for cost-of-living differences among states, Utah's median household income of \$98,336 ranks highest in the country, nearly 27 percent higher than the U.S. average of \$77,719.

Those numbers are contained in a new research brief from the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute at the University of Utah.

"For over a decade, Utah's unadjusted median household income ranked among the top third of states," said Natalie Roney, research economist at the Gardner Institute and lead author of the brief. "In the more recent past, Utah's household income ranked even higher, ranking first in 2022 and 2023 when adjusting for state-level cost of living. Utah's jumps in ranking largely result from higher-than-average economic growth."

Key findings from the brief include the following:

Utah's Median Household Income.

Utah's real median income increased from \$80,579 in 2000 to \$93,421 in 2023, a nearly 16 percent increase. After adjusting for localized cost-of-living differences among states, Utah's median household income of \$98,336 ranks highest in the country, ahead of Maryland (second), Massachusetts (third) and New Hampshire (fourth).

Utah Household Characteristics. Utah's demographic composition partly explains Utah's high ranking — Utah has the largest average household size and among the highest labor force participation rates. Larger households tend toward more workers, increasing the income potential for a given household.

The full policy brief is available online at the Gardner Institute website. In addition to the household income policy brief, the Gardner Institute has published a companion piece detailing how definitions of "income" differ and the importance of an appropriate definition when conducting policy analysis.

All West Communications names Nelson as CEO

All West Communications, a Kamas-based provider of broadband, video and voice services across Utah and Wyoming, has announced the appointment of Justin Nelson as the company's new CEO.

Nelson replaces Matt Weller, who will transition to become chief technology officer, focused on leading the technology and innovation strategies as the business grows.

The company said Nelson will concentrate on accelerating All West's fiber-to-the-home strategy across the Mountain West. The change follows the company's recent acquisition by Novacap, a North American private equity firm with a dedicated digital infrastructure strategy.

Nelson brings extensive executive leadership experience from the telecommunications and broadband industry. Most recently, he served as chief operating officer at HyperFiber, where he built and led a team that expanded the company's footprint to over 55,000

homes across three states. Previously, he served in various executive roles in telecom businesses and advised other fiber companies as a board member.

"I'm excited to join All West Communications, a company with deep community roots and a commitment to delivering exceptional connectivity and service," Nelson said. "I look forward to working closely with the talented team at All West to build upon their strong foundation to continue expanding our quality fiber broadband and local customer service to additional communities."

"We are thrilled to welcome Justin to All West and look forward to accelerating the company's growth under his leadership," said Francois Laflamme, chairman of All West Communications and senior partner at Novacap. "Justin's industry expertise and proven track record make him the right leader for this exciting stage of development."

Utah again tops for economic outlook

Brice Wallace
Salt Lake Business Journal

What lasts for 18 years?
Cars? Friendships? Careers? Marriages?

One constant for that long is Utah earning the top economic outlook among states in the “Rich States, Poor States: ALEC-Laffer State Economic Competitiveness Index.” The Beehive State recently — and again — took the top economic outlook spot, making it No. 1 for every single year since the index debuted 18 years ago.

The economic outlook is a forecast based on the state’s standing in 15 state policy variables. Data reflect state and local rates and revenues and any effect of federal deductibility.

Meanwhile, Utah finished No. 3 for economic performance, a backward-looking measure based on the state’s performance in three performance variables that are highly influenced by state policy.

The annual index is published by the American Legislative Exchange Council, a nonpartisan, nonprofit, voluntary membership organization of state legislators dedicated to the principles of limited government, free markets and federalism. It is co-authored by Reagan economist Arthur B. Laffer, policy expert Stephen Moore, and ALEC President and Chief Economist Jonathan Williams.

The economic outlook ranking is a forecast based on a state’s current standing in 15 state policy variables. Generally speaking, states that spend less (especially on income transfer programs) and

states that tax less (particularly on productive activities such as working or investing) experience higher growth rates than states that tax and spend more, the report says.

Just behind Utah in economic outlook are Tennessee, Indiana, North Carolina and North Dakota. The worst-ranked state is New York, a spot it has occupied for 12 consecutive years.

Utah finished No. 6 for average workers’ compensation costs, No. 7 for recently legislated tax changes, No. 10 for “remaining” tax burden, No. 11 for debt service as a share of tax revenue, No. 12 for top marginal corporate income tax rate, No. 13 for personal income tax progressivity, No. 15 for both property tax burden and tax expenditure limits, No. 16 for public employees per 10,000 population, No. 19 for top marginal personal income tax rate, No. 22 for state liability system costs as a share of state GDP, and No. 40 for sales tax burden.

Utah also benefited from having no estate/inheritance tax, a state minimum wage that matches the federal minimum, and being a right-to-work state.

“Utah claims the top spot in the economic outlook ranking for an unprecedented 18 consecutive years,” the report states. “Leading the nation in job and state GDP growth, the Beehive State’s economy isn’t just stable, it’s thriving. This sustained success is no accident as Utah’s leaders have consistently championed pro-taxpayer reforms, from enacting flat personal and corporate income taxes to eliminating estate and death taxes. Their forward-thinking approach to property tax reform has further cemented Utah’s reputation as a national model for economic competitiveness and

opportunity.”

Appearing on “The Hugh Hewitt Show” on the Salem News Channel, Williams was asked by Hewitt if Utah is “ever going to be dethroned?”

“Utah has got an incredible economic record,” Williams replied. “What they’ve done here, Hugh, is so special in the fact that they’ve done what many other states haven’t [or] have only dreamed of doing, which is real pension reform, addressing property taxes through their truth-in-taxation law, and becoming the first flat-tax state.”

Williams commended state legislative leaders — Senate President Stuart Adams and House Speaker Mike Schultz — for looking to keep Utah at No. 1 not just for the next year but the next decade. “And I think that kind of forethought and planning has been exactly what it has taken to keep them there now for 18 years in a row,” Williams said.

Utah finished behind No. 1 Florida and No. 2 Arizona in the economic performance rankings. Last was Louisiana. Among elements in the ranking, Utah was No. 1 for cumulative GDP growth from 2013 to 2023 and for nonfarm employment growth during that period, and No. 13 for cumulative domestic migration from 2014 to 2023.

The annual index aims to provide state lawmakers with clear, data-driven insights into how tax and fiscal policies impact economic competitiveness. It highlights the direct connection between free-market reforms — like cutting taxes, reducing debt and limiting government overreach — and stronger economic growth.

“Utah’s consistent top ranking is a testa-

ment to the principles that have guided our state for nearly two decades: low taxes, responsible spending and policies that foster innovation and opportunity,” Adams said. “But this isn’t just about rankings; it’s real people and real opportunities. A thriving economy means more jobs, better wages and a higher quality of life for all Utahns.”

Williams said the index “once again illustrates that Americans vote with their feet — leaving high-tax, high-regulation states in favor of those embracing low taxes, balanced budgets and worker freedom. The states leading our rankings thrive because they put the people first.”

On the Hewitt show, Williams said states in the bottom of the outlook rankings have big-government policies, high taxes and “then they play special favorites and they pick winners and losers based on who has the best lobbyist in the state capitol.” Meanwhile, states in the top 10 have a very free-market outlook, low taxes, incentivize entrepreneurs and small business “and it’s just a much different environment of getting government out of the way of businesses and individuals, versus having government be empowered to make all the decisions,” he said.

ALEC CEO Lisa B. Nelson said that to realize President Trump’s vision for a ‘Golden Age of America,’ the path to economic revival “must run through the states.”

“The 18th edition of ‘Rich States, Poor States’ demonstrates that states embracing free-market principles become magnets for families, job creators and opportunity,” Nelson said. “ALEC is proud to spotlight this competition and celebrate the states leading America’s comeback.”



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Calendar

Calendar listings are provided as a free service to our readers. Information about upcoming events may be sent to brice.w@thecityjournals.com.

April 29, 9 a.m.

Greater Cache Valley Economic Summit 2025, presented by Bank of Utah, in partnership with the Cache Valley Chamber of Commerce. Speakers include David Zook, county executive of Cache County; Michael Jeanfreau, a senior economist at the Utah Department of Workforce Services; and a representative from 47G. Location is Riverwoods Conference Center, 615 Riverwood Parkway, Logan. Details are at <https://campaign.documatix.com/DPS/Events/Registration?GUID=hGgrHRdziE3DPw s1Nnzbbg>.

April 29, 11 a.m.

“Reimaging Reentry Panel: Using Tech and Innovation to Unlock Human Potential,” a Silicon Slopes event. Location is The Stage, 2600 W. Executive Parkway, No. 140, Lehi. Details are at <https://app.silicon-slopes.com/events>.

April 30, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

2025 Worksite Wellness Conference, a Utah Worksite Wellness Council event with the theme “Well By Design.” Keynote presenter Estela Barraza will discuss “Building Employee Well-Being Strategies That Deliver ROI and Engagement.” Awards luncheon is noon-1:30 p.m. on April 29 and costs \$35. Location is Zions Bank Technology Center, Midvale. Conference Center, 7860 S. Bingham Junction Blvd., Midvale. Cost is \$195. Registration can be completed at <https://utahworksite-wellness.org/events/attendee-registration/>.

April 30, noon

“Warehouse Automation (With Robots) Lunch & Tour,” presented by the Silicon Slopes Consumer Chapter. Hosted by Robo3PL, event will feature a tour of the company’s robot-powered warehouse. Location is Robo3PL, 2575 W. 400 N., Suite 300, Lindon. Details are at <https://app.siliconslopes.com/events>.

April 30, 1:30-6 p.m.

2025 Business Expo, a Davis Chamber of Commerce event. Kickoff is at 1:30 p.m., with expo open at 2 p.m. Location is Davis Conference Center & Hilton Garden Inn, 1651 N. 700 W., Layton. Free. Details are at davischamberofcommerce.com.

May 1

“Putt at the Point” Mini Golf Tournament, a Point of the Mountain Chamber of Commerce event. Start times are 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Location is Megasphere, 1657 N. State St., Lehi. Details are at thepointchamber.com.

May 1, 9-10:30 a.m.

“Sweets & Strategies,” a Women’s Business Center of Utah networking event. Location is Roots Coffee, 774 S. 300 W., Salt Lake City. Details are at wbcutah.org.

May 1, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

National Small Business Week Award Ceremony, a U.S. Small Business Administration Utah District Office event. Guest speaker is Justin Everett, new SBA regional administrator. Location is Mountain America Credit Union, Tanner Building, 7167 S. Center Park Drive, West Jordan. Free. Details are at <https://www.sba.gov/events?district=39>.

May 1, 4-6 p.m.

“From Bias to Balance: Safeguarding PHI for AI Research,” a BioHive event focused on safeguarding PHI (protected health information) for advancing equitable AI innovation in health care. Location is bioMérieux, 515 Colorow Road, Salt Lake City. Details are at <https://lu.ma/2yntofp2>.

May 2, 8-10 a.m.

“First Fridays Speed Networking Event,” a multi-chamber event. Location is Legacy Retirement Center, 1617 Temple Lane, South Jordan. Cost is \$5. Details are at wjc-ut.com.

May 2, 9 a.m.-noon

Innovation Summit, a Women Tech Council event with the theme “The Age of AI” and featuring technology professionals, leaders, companies and community members sharing insights and strategies about the biggest trends impacting the technology sector, its workforce, and especially women in tech. Event also will recognize the Shatter List companies for their work toward breaking the glass ceiling for women in tech. Location is Zions Bancorporation Technology Center, Midvale. Cost is \$35. Details are at <https://www.womentechcouncil.com/events/talent-innovation-summit/>.

May 5, 8:30 a.m.

Silicon Slopes Marketing Summit, featuring keynote presentations, learning tracks and entertainment. Location is Utah Valley University, Clark Building, 800 W. University Parkway, Orem. General admission is \$150; VIP ticket is \$200. Details are at <https://app.silicon-slopes.com/events>.

May 6, 11:30 a.m.

Point of Leadership Speaker Series, presented by the Point of the Mountain Chamber of Commerce. Speaker Austin Collie, former NFL and BYU football star, will discuss real-world leadership lessons from the field, the locker room and beyond. Location is Karl Malone Training Center, 525 E. 200 S., Lehi. Details are at thepointchamber.com.

May 7-8

International Trade Summit, a World Trade Center Utah invitation-only event focusing on equipping companies and organizations with information on market diversification, supply chain resilience, global monetization and economic trends. Details are at <https://www.crossroad-stradesummit.com/>.

May 7, 14, 21; 11 a.m.-noon

“AI in the Workplace,” a three-part workshop series presented by SCORE Utah and the Women’s Business Center

of Utah. Each session provides hands-on learning, live demonstrations, and practical strategies to help integrate AI into a business while maintaining transparency, responsibility and efficiency. May 7 session is “Introduction to AI in Marketing” and the presenter is Ken Countess, email marketing coach. May 14 session is “AI in Recruitment and HR” and the presenter is Christina Archer, founder, The RN Network LLC. May 21 session is “Ethical Considerations & Future Trends” and the presenter is Leisa Wallace, business advisor and instructor, Women’s Business Center of Utah. Events take place online. Free. Details are at wbcutah.org.

May 7, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

“Mastering Financial Planning and Cash Flow Management,” a Park City Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau event. Location is Blair Education Center, Intermountain Park City Hospital, 900 Round Valley Drive, Park City. Details are at <https://www.visitparkcity.com/event/wasatch-back-business-university%3A-mastering-financial-planning-and-cash-flow-management/27708/>.

May 7, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Business Alliance Networking Luncheon. Location is Boondocks Fun Center, 525 Deseret Drive, Kaysville. Free (lunch is available for purchase). No RSVP needed. Details are at davischamberofcommerce.com.

May 7, 11:30 a.m.

“Lunch & Learn,” presented by the South Jordan and West Jordan chambers of commerce. Speaker Clay Neves will discuss “Seven Incremental Commitments to Assure the Sale.” Location is Legacy Retirement Center, 1617 Temple Lane, South Jordan. Details are at <https://sj-chamber.org/>.

May 7, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Salt Lake SBDC Client of the Year Award Ceremony, a Small Business Development Center event. Recipient is Kylie Dreifus of Shredhook LLC. Location is SBDC at Salt Lake Community College, Building 5, MCPC 101, 9750 S. 300 W., Sandy. Free. Details are at <https://clients.utahsbdc.org/events.aspx>.

May 7, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

“Wasatch Back Business University,” a Park City Chamber & Visitors Bureau event. Session title is “Mastering Financial Planning and Cash Flow Management.” Location is Blair Education Conference Center, 900 Round Valley Drive, Park City. Free, but registration is required. Details are at <https://www.parkcitychamber.com/events/>.

May 7, 6-8 p.m.

Marketing Clinic, a Small Business Development Center event that takes place online. Details are at <https://clients.utahsbdc.org/events.aspx>.

May 8, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Women in Business Luncheon, a Davis Chamber of Commerce event featuring an entrepreneurial women panel and with the theme “She Means Business: Lessons from Entrepreneurial Women.” Panelists are Bianca Cabral,

Cabral Landscaping and BCLEAN; Mina Lancaster, Two Chicks and a Toolbelt and “Better You Is Better Living” podcast; and Andrea West, Andrea West Designs. Location is Young Automotive headquarters, 613 W. 500 N., Layton. Cost is \$25 for members, \$35 for nonmembers. Details are at davischamberofcommerce.com.

May 8, 6-9 p.m.

Awards Gala, a SHRM Salt Lake inaugural event honoring Utah’s top human resources professionals. Location is Hale Centre Theatre, 9900 Monroe St., Sandy. Cost is \$40 for members, \$60 for nonmembers. Details are at www.slshrm.org/events.

May 8, 6-8 p.m.

“Business Essentials,” a Small Business Development Center event that takes place online. Details are at <https://clients.utahsbdc.org/events.aspx>.

May 9, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Veteran-Owned Business Conference, a ninth annual event aimed at connecting top-tier partners; detailing veteran-owned businesses and resources; and gaining access to resources from the Utah Veteran Business Resource Center (VBRC), the Veteran Business Outreach Center (VBOC), the Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs (UDVMA). Keynote speaker is Paden Sickles, a veteran and owner of SickFit. Location is Salt Lake Community College Student Center, 4600 S. Redwood Road, Taylorsville. Cost is \$35. Details are at utahvbrc.org/conference.

May 13-15

“Aerospace and Defense Acceler8 Wasatch 2025,” a gathering of aerospace and defense innovators. Activities include a reception, keynote presentation, breakout sessions, panel discussions, matchmaking and a pitch competition. Activities May 13 include a panel discussion about advanced air mobility and presentations about the Universities Space Research Association Center for Space Nuclear Research, the University of Utah Aerospace Hub, and growth and innovation for small businesses. Activities May 14 include panels discussing capital opportunities and resources tailored for aerospace and defense companies. Keynote speaker May 13 is Maj. Gen. Kenyon K. Bell, commander of the Ogden Air Logistics Complex at Hill Air Force Base. Location is Union Station, 2501 Wall Ave., Ogden. Free. Details are at <https://acceler8wasatch2025.eventbrite.com>.

May 13, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

2025 Zions Bank Wasatch Back Economic Summit, presented by the Park City Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau and the Heber Valley Chamber of Commerce and featuring three keynote speakers, six breakout sessions, breakfast, lunch and an afternoon mixer, and networking and sponsorship opportunities. Theme is “Embracing Understanding,

CALENDAR

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Empowering Our Future.” Location is Grand Hyatt Deer Valley. Cost is \$90. Details are at <https://www.parkcitychamber.com/wasatch-back-economic-summit/>.

May 13, 9-11 a.m.

“Pay the IRS Less Without Going to Jail,” a Small Business Development Center event that takes place online. Cost is \$20. Details are at <https://clients.utahsbdc.org/events.aspx>.

May 14, 9-10:30 a.m.

Breakfast and Women in Business, a multi-chamber event. Topic to be determined. Location is Legacy Retirement Center, 1617 Temple Lane, South Jordan. Cost is \$15. Details are at <https://wjc-ut.com/>.

May 14, 10 a.m.

“Talk AI Summit: Autonomous Agents, Innovation and the Future of Work,” a Silicon Slopes event focused on autonomous intelligence, AI-human synergy, and personalization at scale. Event takes place online. Free. Details are at <https://www.talkaisummit.com/tais25-registration63004765>.

May 14, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

“Chamber Connections,” a Davis Chamber of Commerce event. Location is Fat Cats, 2067 W. 1800 N., Clinton. Free (food available for purchase). Open to the public. No RSVP needed. Details are at davischamberofcommerce.com.

May 14, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Chamber Luncheon, a Point of the Mountain Chamber of Commerce event

in which legislators will provide an update on this year’s legislative session. Location is The Rooftop, 139 Hunter’s Grove Lane, No. 400, Lehi. Details are at thepointchamber.com.

May 14, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

2025 Women in Business “Thrive” Series, a Cache Valley Chamber of Commerce event that is part of a 12-month program. Speaker Nubia Pena, Utah Division of Multicultural Affairs, will discuss “Igniting Your Leadership Journey: A Foundation for Success.” Location is Logan Country Club, 710 N. 1500 E., Logan. Cost is \$25 for members and \$28 for nonmembers for individual events; \$375 for series (running through December) for members and \$400 for nonmembers. Details are at cachechamber.com.

May 14, 5-7 p.m.

“Business After Hours,” an Ogden-Weber Chamber of Commerce event. Location is Business Depot Ogden, 1150 Depot Drive, Ogden. Free for members and first-time guests, \$10 for nonmembers. Details are at ogdenweberchamber.com.

May 14, 6-7:30 p.m.

“Online Marketing Fundamentals,” a Small Business Development Center event that takes place online. Details are at <https://clients.utahsbdc.org/events.aspx>.

May 15, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

2025 Women & Friends STEM Summit: Mineral Resources & Earth Sciences, designed for sophomores, juniors and seniors in high school as well as undergraduate students in college. Activities include the summit, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and a roller skate social, 6-9 p.m.

Location is the student union building at the University of Utah and Millcreek Common. Details are at <https://www.usu.edu/uwlp/a-bolder-way-forward/bwf-events>.

May 15, 10-11:30 a.m.

“Business 101: Essential Steps for New Entrepreneurs,” a Women’s Business Center of Utah event that takes place online. Free. Details are at wbcutah.com.

May 15, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

2025 Mayors Lunch/Chamber Luncheon, a Davis Chamber of Commerce event featuring Davis County mayors spotlighting the growth, development, successes and challenges in their respective communities. Location is Davis Tech College, Allied Health Building, 435 S. Simmons Way, Kaysville. Cost is \$25 for members, \$35 for nonmembers. Details are at davischamberofcommerce.com.

May 15, 6:30-8 p.m.

“How to Start a Business 101,” a Small Business Development Center event. Location is Orem/Provo SBDC at Utah Valley University. Details are at <https://clients.utahsbdc.org/events.aspx>.

May 16, 8:30-10 a.m.

“Friday Connections,” a multi-chamber networking event. Location is Utah Trucking Association, 4181 W. 2100 S., West Valley City. Cost is \$5 for members, \$10 for nonmembers. Details are at chamberwest.com.

May 17

“Night for Joy,” hosted by the Chartway Promise Foundation and featuring food, beverages, live entertainment, a silent auction and raffle prizes. Proceeds

will support charity partners, including Make-A-Wish Utah, Ronald McDonald House Charities Intermountain Area, Primary Children’s Hospital, Ability Found and more. Location is Squatters Pub Brewery, West Broadway, Salt Lake City. Cost is \$50. Details are at <https://e.givesmart.com/events/HIY/>.

May 20, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Business Women’s Forum: “Leading with Soul: The Strategy Behind an Unbound Personal Brand That Leads to Fulfillment.” Presenter is Paige Garrity, co-founder of fulFILLed Lifestyle Co. Location is Ken Garff University Club, Rice-Eccles Stadium, 451 S. 1400 E., Salt Lake City. Cost is \$35 for members and \$50 for nonmembers by May 16, \$50 for members and \$65 for nonmembers thereafter. Details are at slchamber.com.

May 20, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Leadership Luncheon, a Cache Valley Chamber of Commerce event. Location is Logan Golf & Country Club, 710 N. 1500 E., Logan. Cost is \$20 for members and \$23 for nonmembers pre-registered; \$25 for members and \$28 for nonmembers not pre-registered. Details are at cachechamber.com.

May 21

Women in Business Golf Clinic, a ChamberWest event. Morning session is 8:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Afternoon session is 11:15 a.m.-3:15 p.m. Location is The Ridge Golf Club, 5055 S. West Ridge Blvd., West Valley City. Cost is \$95 for members by May 15, \$125 for nonmembers and for members thereafter. Details are at chamberwest.com.

see CALENDAR page 16



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Bret R. Evans (15131) SNELL & WILMER L.L.P.
15 West South Temple, Suite 1200
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101
Telephone: 801.257.1900
Email: brevans@swlaw.com

IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR DAVIS COUNTY, STATE OF UTAH

In the matter of the General Assignment for the Benefit of Creditors of **L9 SPORTS, LLC, a Utah limited liability company,**

Assignor.

NOTICE OF GENERAL ASSIGNMENT FOR BENEFIT OF CREDITORS OF L9 SPORTS, LLC AND DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING CLAIMS

Case No. 250700476
Judge Blaine Rawson

TO ALL CREDITORS OF L9 SPORTS, LLC AND OTHER PARTIES IN INTEREST: PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on April 17, 2025, L9 Sports, LLC, ("**Assignor**"), a Utah limited liability, as assignor, made a General Assignment for the Benefit of Creditors (the "**Assignment**") to MCA FinCo 4, LLC (the "**Assignee**"), as assignee, pursuant to Utah Code §§ 6-1-1 et seq. With the exception of the relationship created by the Assignment, Assignor and Assignee have no affiliation or prior relationship with each other.

Pursuant to the Assignment, Assignor transferred ownership of all of its rights in tangible and intangible assets to the Assignee for liquidation and distribution for the benefit of its creditors. The Assignee will liquidate the Assignor's assets and distribute the net liquidation proceeds to creditors of who timely submit claims as instructed below.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that all entities asserting any claim against Assignor must timely submit a proof of claim with all proper supporting documentation to the addressee listed below no later than July 31, 2025 (the "**Claims Bar Date**"). A proof of claim form is enclosed with this Notice.

Under Utah Code § 6-1-6, the claims of

all creditors, must be "clearly and distinctly stated and sworn to by the claimant, or by some person acquainted with the facts" and must include all evidence that the claimant would submit in support of its claim if the claim were objected to by another party in interest.

4914-0409-1948
Claims must be sent by United States Postal Service or email as follows:
MCA FinCo 4, LLC
c/o Bret R. Evans
SNELL & WILMER L.L.P.
15 West South Temple, Suite 1200
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101
Email: brevans@swlaw.com

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that any claimant who fails to timely submit a Proof of Claim Form so that it is **received** no later than the Claims Bar Date in accordance with the instructions set forth above shall be barred from sharing in any distribution of proceeds of the liquidation of the assets of Assignor and shall not receive any payment from the Assignee. DATED this 17th day of April, 2025. SNELL & WILMER L.L.P.

Enclosures:
1. Proof of Claim Form
/s/ Bret R. Evans
Bret R. Evans Attorneys for Assignee
4914-0409-1948
Bret R. Evans (15131)
SNELL & WILMER L.L.P.
15 West South Temple, Suite 1200
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101
Telephone: 801.257.1900 Email: brevans@swlaw.com

Attorneys for Assignee MCA FinCo 4, LLC IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR DAVIS COUNTY, STATE OF UTAH

In the matter of the General Assignment for the Benefit of Creditors of **L9 SPORTS, LLC, a Utah limited liability company,**
Assignor.

PROOF OF CLAIM FORM

Case No. 250700476
Judge Blaine Rawson

All entities asserting any claim against L9 Sports, LLC ("**Assignor**") must timely sub-

mit this Proof of Claim Form with all supporting documentation to the addressee listed below no later than July 31, 2025 (the "Claims Bar Date"). Any creditor who fails to submit a claim so that it is received no later than the Claims Bar Date will be barred from sharing in any distribution of proceeds of the liquidation of Assignor's assets of Assignor. Claims must be sent by United States Postal Service or email as follows:
4914-0409-1948
Name of Creditor
MCA FinCo 4, LLC
c/o Bret R. Evans

court judgments, mortgages, security agreements, and evidence of perfection of lien. Do not send original documents. Neither the Proof of Claim Form nor the supporting documentation will be returned to you. If copies of the documents are not available, explain. If the documents are voluminous or require an explanation, attach a summary. If additional evidence, such as witness testimony, publicly accessible documents, or otherwise are necessary to support your claim, please describe and refer to such additional evidence in an attachment. Do not include in your claim amount interest ac-

Name of Creditor		Account Number By Which Creditor Identifies Assignor
Creditor Address (where notices should be sent)		Other Creditor Identifying Information
Creditor Telephone Number	Creditor Email Address	
BASIS FOR CLAIM: ☐ Goods sold ☐ Retiree benefits ☐ Services performed ☐ Wages, salaries, and compensations (fill out below) ☐ Money loaned ☐ Personal injury/wrongful death ☐ Unpaid compensation for services performed ☐ Taxes ☐ Other (Describe briefly)	☐ Check box if you are aware that anyone else has filed a proof of claim relating to your claim. Attach copy of statement giving particulars. Check box if you have never received any notices from the court in this case. ☐ Check box if you have never received any notices from the court in this case. ☐ Check box if you have never received any notices from the court in this case. ☐ Check box if the address differs from the address on the envelope sent to you by the court.	Amount of Claim (US\$) ☐ Check box if the claim is secured If secured, describe property securing debt: ☐ Check box if secured claim is perfected If perfected, describe means of perfection: ☐ Check box if the claim is entitled to priority If priority, describe basis for priority:
	Date Debt Was Incurred _____	
I declare under penalty of perjury that the information on this Proof of Claim Form and any attachments is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and that the documentation and exhibits attached are true, correct, and complete copies of such documents.		
Print name of authorized signer:	Signature	Date

SNELL & WILMER L.L.P.
15 West South Temple, Suite 1200
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101
Email: brevans@swlaw.com
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED. Attach copies of supporting documents, such as promissory notes, purchase orders, invoices, itemized statements of running accounts, contracts,

cruing from the date of the assignment, attorneys' fees, exemplary damages, or court costs not already awarded by a final order of a court of competent jurisdiction as of the date of this Assignment.

Publishes: 4/28/25, 5/5/2025. 5/12/25, 5/19/25, 5/26/25, 6/2,25

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on the **14th day of May, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.** in the Davis County Administration Building at 61 South Main Street, Farmington, Utah 84025, Room 303. The Davis County Controller, Curtis Koch, will offer for sale at public auction and sell to the highest bidder pursuant to the provisions of Section 59-2-1351.1 Utah Code, the following described real property located in Davis County and now delinquent and subject to tax sale. No bid less than the total amount of taxes, penalties, interest and costs which are a charge on the real estate will be accepted.

- 01-172-0001 Cohen, Robert & Wendy, **Property address:** 3262 South Davis Blvd, Bountiful, UT.29 acres \$12,350.34
- 02-005-0011 DBFG Properties LLC & Butler, Dail V & Dail & Dail J, **Property address:** Mountain Side close to Centerville, UT 2.5 acres \$719.35
- 02-005-0014 Nelson, Laura May, **Property address:** Mountain Side close to Centerville, UT 1.00 acres \$346.26
- 02-005-0015 Nelson, Laura May, **Property address:** Mountain Side close to Centerville, UT 1.00 acres \$346.26
- 02-005-0018 Nelson, Laura May, **Property address:** Mountain Side close to Centerville, UT 1.00 acres \$346.26
- 02-005-0019 Nelson, Laura May, **Property address:** Mountain Side close to Centerville, UT 1.00 acres \$346.26
- 02-005-0023 Merrill, George K & Patricia H, **Property address:** Mountain Side close to Centerville, UT 1.00 acres \$346.26
- 02-005-0025 DBFG Properties LLC & Butler, Dail V & Dail & Dail J, **Property address:** Mountain Side close to Centerville, UT 1.00 acres \$346.26
- 02-035-0121 Grosshans, Lynne, **Property address:** 261 West Park Lane, Centerville, UT .00 acres \$5,841.27
- 02-049-0034 Tang, Kit Yu, **Property address:** 88 West 50 South Unit C-10, Centerville, UT .00 acres \$8,455.04
- 02-095-0083 Cityview Pineae Village 227 LP, **Property address:** Centerville, UT .01 acres \$17.87
- 03-056-0009 Tingey, Rolland C, **Property address:** 125 East 650 North, Bountiful, UT .21 acres \$13,979.65
- 04-177-0004 KJR LLC, **Property address:** Bountiful, UT .01 acres \$301.33
- 04-177-0008 KJR LLC, **Property address:** Bountiful, UT .04 acres \$253.74
- 06-012-0131 jensen, Richard C, **Property address:** 1950 North 800 West, West Bountiful, UT .01 acres \$120.41
- 09-022-0001 Dorius, Val, **Property address:** 1475 South 1000 East, Clearfield, UT .373 acres \$7,348.13

- 09-053-0035 Halls, Kenneth C & Susan E, **Property address:** Layton, UT 1.975 acres \$6,330.30
- 09-223-0020 Putnam, Daniel, **Property address:** 2441 North 1675 East, Layton, UT .34 acres \$19,293.33
- 10-092-0034 Rasmussen, Rex & Glenna, **Property address:** 3 Prows Circle, Layton, UT .23 acres \$8,953.46
- 10-266-0102 Stratus Health Solutions LLC, **Property address:** 890 West Heritage Park Blvd, #102, Layton, UT .00 acres \$6,215.36
- 11-189-0531 Looney, Jean Facer & Mark T, **Property address:** Layton, UT.006 acres \$70.72
- 12-049-0107 Del 12-049-0150 Craythorne Construction Company Inc., **Property address:** Syracuse, UT .006 acres \$72.85
- 12-049-0108 Del 12-049-0148 Craythorne Construction Company Inc., **Property address:** Syracuse, UT .06 acres \$557.86
- 12-148-0126 Patterson, Jill & Bob, **Property address:** 437 West 180 North, Clearfield, UT .12 acres \$9,376.51
- 14-044-0045 Alonso, Israel & Manuela, **Property address:** 4118 West 300 North, West Point, UT .815 acres \$13,113.59
- 14-048-0088 Freideman, Timothy J & Alejandra, **Property address:** West Point, UT .064 acres \$18.49
- 14-081-0132 De Witt, William F, **Property address:** 532 North 700 West, Clearfield, UT .19 acres \$1,541.66
- 14-351-0025 Swain, David, **Property address:** 2013 North 1400 West, Clinton, UT .22 acres \$13,485.43
- The above amount is representative of the taxes, penalties, and interest through May 14, 2025. It does not include any costs related to the sale such as advertising, mailings or title reports. For a current payoff, please contact the Davis County Treasurer's office @ 801-451-3243. Payment may be made in the form of personal check or cash.
- Once the County Auditor has closed the sale of a particular parcel of property as a result of accepting a bid on the parcel, the successful bidder or purchaser of the property may not unilaterally rescind the bid. The County legislative body, after acceptance of a bid, may enforce the terms of the bid by obtaining a legal judgment against the purchaser in the amount of the bid, plus interest and attorney's fees. Section 59-2-1351.1
- Keep in mind that the sale is a "buyer beware" sale. If you purchase property, you will later be provided with a recorded Tax Deed, which is similar to a Quit Claim Deed. It is your obligation to have researched each property you're interested in.
- 4-25, May 5-2, 5-9-2025.

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MORE DETAILS

CALENDAR

from page 13

May 21, 9-11 a.m.

“Franchising Unfiltered: Myths & Realities for Entrepreneurs,” a Small Business Development Center event. Presenter is Andrea Dobkin, entrepreneur, franchise expert and business consultant. Location is Salt Lake SBDC at Salt Lake Community College, Building 5, Room 101, 9690 S. 300 W., Sandy. Cost is \$20. Details are at <https://clients.utahsbdc.org/events.aspx>.

May 21, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Business Alliance Networking Luncheon. Location is Boondocks Fun Center, 525 Deseret Drive, Kaysville. Free (lunch is available for purchase). No RSVP needed. Details are at davischamberofcommerce.com.

May 21, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

“Tax Planning Clinic,” a Small Business Development Center event that takes place online. Details are at <https://clients.utahsbdc.org/events.aspx>.

May 22, 10:30 a.m.-noon

“Beyond SBIRs: NIH as Your Technology Development and Commercialization Partner,” a Utah APEX Accelerator event aimed at teaching attendees how companies and entrepreneurs can partner with the National Institutes of Health to strengthen their pipelines or solve development challenges. Event takes place online. Free. Details are at <https://utahapex.ecenterdirect.com/events/3336>.

May 22, noon

Mental Health Town Hall, presented

by Silicon Slopes and Promise2Live. Location is Silicon Slopes, 2600 Executive Parkway, No. 140, Lehi. Details are at <https://app.siliconslopes.com>.

May 22, 6-8:30 p.m.

2025 Distinguished Utahn Gala, a BYU Management Society Salt Lake Chapter event. Honoree is Fraser Bullock, a founding member of Bain Capital, co-founder of Sorenson Capital, mentor, COO/CFO of the 2002 Olympics, and leader of the 2034 Olympic Organizing Committee. Location is Little America Hotel, 500 S. Main St., Salt Lake City. Registration is open to all. Details are at <https://byums.byu.edu/salt-lake/>.

May 26, noon-1 p.m.

Women in Business Meeting, a Box Elder Chamber of Commerce event. RSVP the chamber for meeting location. Cost is \$10. Details are at boxelderchamber.com.

May 27, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Women in Business, an Ogden-Weber Chamber of Commerce speed networking luncheon event. Location is Jeremiah’s, 1307 W. 12th St., Marriott-Slaterville. Cost is \$25 for members and first-time guests, \$35 for nonmembers. Details are at ogdenweberchamber.com.

May 28, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

“Chamber Connections,” a Davis Chamber of Commerce event. Location is Fat Cats, 2067 W. 1800 N., Clinton. Free (food available for purchase). Open to the public. No RSVP needed. Details are at davischamberofcommerce.com.

May 28, 6-7:30 p.m.

“Driving Website Traffic for Free,”

a Small Business Development Center event that takes place online. Details are at <https://clients.utahsbdc.org/events.aspx>.

May 29, 5-7 p.m.

“Business After Hours,” a Salt Lake Chamber event. Location is Asher Adams Hotel, 2 S. 400 W., Salt Lake City. Free for members and \$30 for nonmembers until May 26, \$20 for members and \$40 for nonmembers thereafter. Details are at slchamber.com.

May 29

“Big Hat Award” Event, an Ogden-Weber Chamber of Commerce event. Award recipient is Col. Michael “Drifter” Gette, 388th Fighter Wing Commander at Hill Air Force Base. Details to be announced at ogdenweberchamber.com.

June 4, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Business Alliance Networking Luncheon. Location is Boondocks Fun Center, 525 Deseret Drive, Kaysville. Free (lunch is available for purchase). No RSVP needed. Details are at davischamberofcommerce.com.

June 4, noon-1 p.m.

“Solve the Business Puzzle,” a Women’s Business Center of Utah event with the theme “Cash Management and Succession Planning.” Event takes place online. Free. Details are at wbcutah.org.

June 5, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Employer Tax Workshop, a Small Business Development Center event. Location is Salt Lake SBDC at Salt Lake Community College, Building 5, MCPC 110, 9750 S. 300 W., Sandy. Cost is \$30 for early-bird registrants, \$35 thereafter.

Details are at <https://clients.utahsbdc.org/events.aspx>.

June 5, 9-10:30 a.m.

“Sweets & Strategies,” a Women’s Business Center of Utah networking event. Location is Roots Coffee, 774 S. 300 W., Salt Lake City. Details are at wbcutah.org.

June 6, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Golf Tournament, a Box Elder Chamber of Commerce event. Location is Eagle Mountain Golf Course, 960 E. 700 S., Brigham City. Cost is \$400 per foursome. Details are at boxelderchamber.com.

June 6, 8-10 a.m.

“First Fridays Speed Networking Event,” a multi-chamber event. Location is Legacy Retirement Center, 1617 Temple Lane, South Jordan. Cost is \$5. Details are at wjc-ut.com.

June 6, 8:30-11 a.m.

“Best of Davis County” Awards Celebration, a Davis Chamber of Commerce event recognizing top businesses, leaders and organizations in Davis County. Location is Young Automotive headquarters, 613 W. 500 N., Layton. Details are at davischamberofcommerce.com.

June 6, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

“A Bolder Way Forward” Summit, a third annual Utah Women & Leadership Project event focusing on making Utah a place where more girls and women can thrive. Location is Zions Bank Technology Center, 7860 Bingham Junction Blvd., Midvale. Registration can be completed at Eventbrite.com.



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2025 Utah SBA Award
Winners

Small Business of the Year
Alfonso Porras
Sir Walter Candy Company
Salt Lake City
F12

Veteran-Owned Small Business of the Year
Brian Brooker
Brooker’s Founding Flavors
Ice Cream
Vineyard
F9

Women-Owned Small Business of the Year
Amanda Danielle Carmickle
Ooh-La-La & Friends Salon
Vernal
F10

Rural Business of the Year
Tanner Thompson
Shirt Shop
Richfield
F1

Issue Sponsors:







Small Business

From small-town roots to big-time success: the 2025 Utah Rural Business of the Year

Tanner Thompson began studying entrepreneurship at BYU, which was a stepping stone towards his dream of owning a business while being able to live in his small, rural hometown. In 2014, he made that dream happen by purchasing Shirt Stop, a 30-year-old screen-printing business on Main Street, even if it meant a 240-mile round-trip commute from Provo every day.

Realizing his future was in Richfield, Tanner left school, moved home, and put his full energy into modernizing and expanding Shirt Stop. He upgraded online systems, focused on high-quality apparel, and secured major contracts with clients like Podium and the Utah High School Activities Association. His vision transformed a small-town print shop into a business with a national reach, all while maintaining deep community ties.

With growth came challenges, and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) played a key role in helping Shirt Stop scale. Tanner obtained multiple SBA loans that allowed him to purchase his building, ensuring the business remained in Richfield, as well as support other expansion efforts. Tanner maintained positive relationships with the SBA and his lenders which he used to obtain PPP funding when COVID-19 disrupted his small business. This support ensured he could sustain operations and retain his employees.



Tanner Thompson, founder of Shirt Stop, transformed a small-town print shop into a business with national reach. Photo courtesy of Tanner Thompson.

Today, Shirt Stop has grown far beyond its original storefront. The company now employs 70 people and has launched three sister businesses: Wildcat Fulfillment, Petal Lane and Swear Studios, all based in Richfield. By 2024, these businesses were generating millions in sales, proving that a rural business can thrive and expand beyond their city borders.

Tanner’s commitment to Richfield remains at the heart of his success. He actively supports local schools and charities, and he serves on the

Richfield City Council, Sevier County Travel Council and Sevier County Economic Development Council. His leadership has helped strengthen the local economy, creating jobs and opportunities in a town of fewer than 10,000 residents.

Now honored as the 2025 Utah Rural Business of the Year, Tanner’s journey is proof that entrepreneurs don’t have to leave their hometowns to succeed. With vision, perseverance and SBA support, Shirt Stop is a shining example of rural entrepreneurship at its best.

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SBA LENDERS

Ranked by SBA Utah Loan Dollar Volume 2024

BUSINESS JOURNAL

List

	Company Name Address	Phone Web	Number of SBA Loans in 2024	Total 2024 SBA Loan \$ Volume	Headquarters (City/State)	SBA Loan Contact
1	Mountain West Small Business Finance 2595 E. 3300 S. SLC, UT 84109	801-474-3232 mwsbf.com	140	\$142.7M	Salt Lake City, UT	Judd Blakesley SVP Senior Lending Officer
2	Mountain America Federal Credit Union 9800 Monroe St. Sandy, UT 84070	800-748-4302 macu.com	185	\$85.6M	Sandy, UT	Keler Soffe SBA Manager
3	Zions Bank 1 S. Main St., 12th Fl. SLC, UT 84101	800-974-8800 zionsbank.com	197	\$59.8M	Salt Lake City, UT	Grant Dahl, SBA Small Business Manager
4	Cache Valley Bank 101 N. Main St. Logan, UT 84321	888-418-5333 cachevalleybank.com	56	\$38.5M	Logan, UT	Ted Erickson Chief Credit Officer
5	Central Bank 75 N. University Ave. Provo, UT 84601	801-375-1000 centralbankutah.com	69	\$35.6M	Provo, UT	Jared Silverio, Manager & SBA Officer
6	First Utah Bank 3826 S. 2300 E., SLC, UT 84109	801-308-2265 firstutahbank.com	27	\$33.7M	Salt Lake City, UT	Brady Smith, VP Business Services
7	State Bank of Southern Utah 377 N. Main St., Cedar City, UT 84721	435-865-2300 sbsu.com	37	\$28.9M	Cedar City, UT	Eric Sawyer, SBA Product Manager
8	Intermountain Business Lending 5333 S. Adams Ave., Ste. B Ogden, UT 84405	801-627-1333 im504.com	31	\$28M	Ogden, UT	Caryl Eriksson CEO & President
9	America First Federal Credit Union 1344 W. 4675 S. Riverdale, UT	800-999-3961 americafirst.com	30	\$24.9M	Riverdale, UT	David Doria SBA Lending Manager
10	Bank of Utah 2605 Washington Blvd., 1st Floor Ogden, UT 84401	801-409-5000 bankofutah.com	26	\$24.5M	Ogden, UT	Brady Fosmark Chief Lending Officer
11	U.S. Bank 1575 S. Main St. SLC, UT 84107	801-534-6213 usbank.com	70	\$19.3M	Cincinnati, OH	Kevin Corless, Business Development Officer
12	Canyon View Federal Credit Union 6874 Center Park Dr. West Jordan, UT 84084	801-481-8800 canyonviewcu.com	34	\$18.7M	Salt Lake City, UT	Steven Mathews, Business Lending Manager
13	Key Bank 36 S. State St. SLC, UT 84111	801-297-5800 key.com	31	\$15.2M	Cleveland, OH	Jeremy Bills, Utah Market SBA Manager
14	Wells Fargo Bank 322 E. 12300 S. Draper, UT 84020	801-619-8840 wellsfargoworks.com	32	\$14M	Sioux Falls, SD	Nathan Callister Market Executive
15	J.P. Morgan Chase Bank 201 S. Main St., Ste. 300 SLC, UT 84111	801-364-3101 chase.com	27	\$12.4M	New York, NY	Keler Soffe SBA Sales Manager
16	Glacier Bank P.O. Box 27 Kalispell, MT 59903	800-735-4371 glacierbank.com	11	\$10.8M	Kalispell, MT	Dave McNutt, VP Commercial Loan Manager
17	Brighton Bank 93 W. 3300 S. SLC, UT 84115	801-467-5411 brightonbank.com	10	\$5.6M	Cottonwood Heights, UT	Brett Jensen SBA Administrator
18	Utah First Federal Credit Union 200 E. South Temple SLC, UT 84111	800-234-0729 utahfirst.com	2	\$4.2M	Salt Lake City, UT	Jeff Stringham, VP Commercial Services
19	Wasatch Peaks CU 4723 Harrison Blvd. Ogden UT 84403	801-845-0727 wasatchpeaks.com	3	\$930K	Ogden, UT	Greg Washburn VP Commercial Lending
20	Goldenwest Credit Union 5025 S. Adams Ave. South Ogden, UT 84403	801-621-4550 gwcu.org	1	\$763K	Ogden, UT	Diana Windley Senior VP
21	Cyprus Federal Credit Union 3876 W. Center View Way West Jordan, UT 84084	801-260-7600 cypruscu.com	10	\$591.6K	West Jordan, UT	Derek Money, Business Lending Operations Manager
22	D.L. Evans Bank 360 E. Gentile St. Layton, UT 84041	866-661-5463 dlevans.com	2	\$476K	Burley, ID	Maddie Bingham, Assistant VP Business Banking Officer
23	Deseret First Credit Union 143 E. Social Hall Ave. SLC, UT 84111	801-456-7000 dfcu.com	1	\$320.5K	West Valley City, UT	Brady Smith, VP Business Services
24	Holladay Bank & Trust 2020 E. Murray-Holladay Road Holladay, UT 84117	801-272-4275 holladaybank.com	2	\$225K	Holladay, UT	Paul Matthews CEO & President

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CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Listed Alphabetically

UTAH

BUSINESS JOURNAL

List

Chamber Name Address	Phone Web	Number of Members	2023 Annual Membership Fees/Rates	Operating Budget	Year Est.	Membership Services & Programs	Top Local Executive
American Fork Chamber 31 N. Church St. American Fork, UT 84003	801-472-7467 americanfork chamber.org	350	\$150- \$15,000	\$700K	1946	Networking, business-to-business relations, community events, advocacy	Josh Walker Co-President; Kristina Wesemann Co-President
Box Elder Chamber 6 N. Main St. Brigham City, UT 84302	435-723-3931 boxelder chamber.com	380*	\$75-\$4,000*	Proprietary	Early 1900's	Networking, advocacy, sponsorship opportunities, etc.	Monica Holdaway CEO
Cache Valley Chamber PO Box 3338 Logan, UT 84323	435-752-2161 cache chamber.com	584*	See Website	Proprietary	1920's	Certificates of origin, general problem-solving, marketing opportunities, networking opportunities & resources for business in our community	Jamie Andrus President/CEO
Cedar City Chamber 510 W. 800 S. Cedar City, UT 84720	435-586-4484 cedarcity chamber.org	391	\$500	Proprietary	1915	Business relationships & connections, advocacy, training, referrals, counseling, advertisement, etc.	Chris McCormick President/CEO
ChamberWest 3540 S. 4000 W., Ste. 240 West Valley City, UT 84120	801-977-8755 chamberwest.com	370+	\$350 - \$20,000	Proprietary	1961	Representing businesses in West Valley, West Jordan, Taylorsville, Kearns, Magna, and others. Business advocacy, leadership program, ribbon cuttings, monthly luncheons, certificates of origin, networking, Women in Business events, annual conferences, golf tournament, awards gala and more.	Barbara Riddle President/CEO
Davis Chamber of Commerce 450 S. Simmons Way, Ste. 220 Kaysville, UT 84037	801-593-2200 davischamberof commerce.com	500*	\$500- \$12,000+*	Proprietary	2001	Legislative Affairs, Women in Business, Leadership Institute Program, Military Affairs, Monthly Luncheons, Networking Groups, Lakesiders Ambassador Group & Ribbon Cuttings, Annual Awards Banquet, Business to Business Expo, Economic Summit, Golf Tournament, Board of Governors, etc.	Angie Osguthorpe President & CEO
Heber Valley Chamber 475 N. Main St. Heber, UT 84032	435-654-3666 gohebervalley.com	315*	\$150-\$400*	\$121,500*	2012	Press opportunities, discounts, referrals, advertising, workshops, networking, etc.	Dallin Koecher Director
Holladay Business Advisory Board 4580 S. 2300 E. Holladay, UT 84117	801-272-9450 holladay chamber.com	Proprietary	All active city businesses are members	No Fee	2003	The Holladay Business Advisory Board was established to serve as a forum for our local businesses and community partners to come together and discuss opportunities to improve communication and collaboration	Jason Woodland Chair
Hurricane Valley Chamber 63 S. 100 W. Hurricane, UT 84737	435-635-3402 hvchamber.com	186	Varies	Proprietary	*	Business promotion. Business education. Free advertising on Chamber website, FB page, newsletters, etc. Promotional opportunities. Monthly luncheons, networking opportunities, etc., Referrals	Orion Parker President
Murray Area Chamber 141 E. 5600 S., Ste. 300 Murray, UT 84107	801-263-2632 themurray chamber.com	120*	\$600- \$50,000*	Proprietary	1948	Business education & updates. Free ads on Chamber website, FB page, newsletters, etc. Bus ness promotional opportunities. Referrals. Networking opportunities, etc.,	Matt Gibbons President
Ogden-Weber Chamber 2380 Washington Blvd., Ste. 290 Ogden, UT 84401	801-621-8300 ogdenweber chamber.com	912*	\$225+*	Proprietary	1887	Business connections, information, operational savings, promotional opportunities, legislative connections, etc.	Chuck Leonhardt CEO/President
Park City Chamber/Convention & Visitors Bureau 1794 Olympic Parkway Park City, UT 84098	800-453-1360 visitparkcity.com	1,075	\$240	\$14M	1981	Exposure to visitors, website listings, B2B referrals, communications, government affairs, events, professional development	Jennifer Wesselhoff President/CEO
Pleasant Grove–Lindon Chamber 70 S. 100 E. Pleasant Grove, UT 84062	801-922-4540 pglindon chamber.org	210*	\$100- \$5,000*	Proprietary	1921	Marketing, network with local businesses, etc.	Eric Jensen President/CEO
Point of the Mountain Chamber 225 E. State Road Lehi, UT 84043	801-901-6664 thepoint chamber.com	320*	See Website	Proprietary	*	Regional & Local business networking, online visibility, advocate for cities, legislative issues, educational & training, motivational speakers, promotional with sponsorship opportunities	Mark Welcker President/CEO
St. George Area Chamber 136 N. 100 E., St. George, UT 84770	435-628-1650 stgeorge chamber.com	900*	\$375- \$1,071*	Proprietary	1954	Advertising & marketing, business & professional services, commercial & residential services, gov't advocacy, networking	Shawn Christensen President/CEO
Salt Lake Chamber 201 S. Main St., Ste. 2300 SLC, UT 84111	801-364-3631 slchamber.com	Proprietary	Variable	Proprietary	1887	Leadership programs, professional development, speakers bureau, advertising opportunities, sponsorship opportunities, certificates of origin	Derek Miller CEO
South Salt Lake Chamber 2531 S. 400 E. South Salt Lake, UT 84115	801-466-3377 sslchamber.com	112	\$300 Bronze, \$500 Silver, \$750 Gold, \$1K Executive	Proprietary	1952	Business & civic leader engagement; Board of Directors; annual golf touney & awards banquet; networking & visibility; business growth thru involvement; business open houses	Tereza Bagdasarova President & CEO
South Valley Chamber 9800 S. Monroe St., Ste. 806 Sandy, UT 84070	801-566-0344 southvalley chamber.com	486*	\$500- \$15,000*	Proprietary	2019	Business Institute, Business Accelerator Academy, Women in Business Network, Leadership South Valley, Young Entrepreneurs Academy, Silicon Slopes Sandy/Draper Chapter, Executive Forums, In the Know series; Titan Awards; Peak Awards; golf tournaments; Business After Hours	Jay Francis President/CEO; Rob Brough Chairman EVP Zions Bank
Spanish Fork Area Chamber 67 E. 100 N. Spanish Fork, UT 84660	801-798-8352 spanishfork- chamber.com	280	\$250- \$5,000	Proprietary	*	Networking, marketing, promotions, etc.	Kathleen Leavitt President/CEO
Sugarhouse Chamber & Community Alliance P.O. Box 530356 SLC, UT 84152	801-448-7292 sugarhouse chamber.org	63	\$300	Proprietary	1940's	Advocacy, large scale marketing campaigns, video services, "Business Beet", highlight businesses, "Sugarhousee Rocks concerts" in Monuments Plaza	Brandon Hill Erika Wiggins Co-chairs
Utah Valley Chamber 2696 N. University Ave., Ste. 220 Provo, UT 84604	385-482-2555 thechamber.org	291	\$5,000	\$1M	1985	The Utah Valley Chamber of Commerce is a member- driven organization whose mission is to build relation- ships, advocate principle-based public policy, promote business & community prosperity	Harvey Scott Chair



SOUTH VALLEY
CHAMBER

What We Do:



Connect: Business is done with people you know and trust. The Chamber is committed to connecting like-minded business owners, operators and leaders.



Educate:The Chamber offers a full suite of business education and professional development courses for businesses of all sizes through our Business Institute.



Advocate: The Chamber is the voice of business for the South Valley. We are committed to monitoring and taking action on local, state and national policies that impact businesses.



Grow: The Chamber offers many tools to help promote your brand and connect with potential customers. We do this by providing exposure through our online member directory, social media, and a variety of sponsorship opportunities.

SOUTH
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Who We Are:

The South Valley Chamber of Commerce (SVC) is committed to Connecting, Educating, Advocating, and Growing for businesses.

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The 5 Fundamentals

Small Businesses Starting Up Can Focus on Fundamentals to Access Capital

Entrepreneurship has boomed in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, many of these newly formed small businesses are expanding, creating jobs and contributing to Utah’s economy. Even as entrepreneurs innovate and launch exciting new ventures, it makes sense to remember fundamental steps for accessing capital to start on a path to success.

New Businesses on the Rise in Utah and the U.S.

A silver lining of the pandemic is that entrepreneurship has flourished as a shifting economic and social landscape prompted people to start new businesses at record rates. Between March 2020 and March 2021, 14,873 small businesses were established in Utah, up 18 percent from the 12 months prior. And from March 2021 to March 2022, new small businesses jumped another 10 percent, to 16,505 openings in the state, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) data.

That trend has only accelerated, with a record 5.5 million new business applications filed in the U.S. in 2023, according to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. New business applications grew 21.5 percent in Utah from December 2022 to December 2023.

Nationally, entrepreneurs have filed more than 21 million new business applications in the past four years — 440,000 new applications every month — according to a January 2025 SBA report.

The SBA’s 7(a) loan program is the primary program for providing financial assistance to small businesses and offers guarantees on loans to small businesses of up to \$5 million on reasonable terms and conditions. These loans are commonly used for acquiring land, purchasing equipment or working capital.

Of the SBA 7(a) loans approved by Zions Bank in the Utah district during fiscal year 2024, nearly 42 percent were made to businesses that were established after March 2020 when the pandemic began. These small businesses are borrowing modestly, as reflected by an average loan size of \$241,856 of the bank’s loan approvals in Utah.

The State is Fertile Ground for Startups



GRANT Dahl

A report released in March 2025 places the Beehive State near the top for startups. Booking.com for Business used data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the U.S. Census Bureau to look at which states were the best fits for startups. The study’s researchers developed a “startup opportunity score” out of 10 for each state, based on startups and population density as well as the 10-year survival rate of businesses. In Utah, there were 13,384 startups, or 382 startups per 100,000 residents in the state. The 10-year survival rate of Utah startups was 35 percent, pushing the startup opportunity score to 7.15. The report listed Utah No. 4, behind Nevada, Oregon and top-ranked Montana.

As new small businesses launch, grow, and seek access to capital, they should build a foundation based on five fundamentals:

FUNDAMENTAL NO. 1: SEEK SUPPORT.

Consulting with someone who knows a particular industry or sector can be invaluable in preparing to launch or expand a business. Support is also critical for entrepreneurs as they juggle duties, from bookkeeping to marketing. Identify knowledge gaps and seek out advice and training, if needed. It’s also helpful to get general advice from a business incubator. Look for free consultations and virtual classes on a variety of topics to help scale a business, including those offered by the Zions Bank Business Resource Center.

FUNDAMENTAL NO. 2: FOCUS ON BUILDING CREDIT.

Establishing a good credit history is critical to applying for funding to grow a business. It’s important to remember that lenders make decisions based on the “Five C’s of Credit,” which include character, capacity, capital, collateral and conditions. Character refers to industry experience and personal credit history, including a demonstrated willingness and ability to repay debts. Capacity is the business’s ability to generate positive cash flow and profit to cover business operations, including any debt

service. Capital is the owner’s cash or equity contribution to the business, which can vary depending on the loan type. For example, an SBA 7(a) loan typically requires a minimum of 10 percent down payment of the total project cost. Collateral refers to tangible assets pledged to secure the loan amount. Finally, lenders consider the local economic climate, competition, supplier relationships, and industry trends that could impact the business. Conditions also describe the intended purpose of the loan, such as whether the funds be used for working capital, additional equipment or inventory.

FUNDAMENTAL NO. 3: CONSIDER DIFFERENT FINANCING OPTIONS.

Growing a business takes capital, and there may be alternative routes to explore. A good lender can help find the right loan product to match a borrower’s goals and time frame. A few options to consider include the SBA 7(a) loan program mentioned above, as well as business lines of creditor business credit cards.

FUNDAMENTAL NO. 4: COME PREPARED.

Arrive prepared to meet with a lender with a complete loan package and a compelling pitch articulating the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal. It’s important to be able to explain the assumptions behind the numbers in a startup’s financial projections.

FUNDAMENTAL NO. 5: DON’T GIVE UP.

The time it takes to process a loan request depends on a variety of factors, including how quickly documents are provided to a bank. It’s a good idea to discuss expectations and deadlines early on when meeting with a banker. Remember to stay in contact with the bank and don’t give up if challenges or delays arise. Finally, bankers can help serve as advocates with loan underwriters. As bankers learn more about a business, they can help entrepreneurs meet credit requirements and successfully apply for capital.

Grant Dahl is senior vice president and SBA small-business manager at Zions Bank. He has nearly two decades of experience in SBA and small-business loan underwriting.

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The SBA 504 Loan Program: A Game-Changer for Small-Business Growth

Caryl Eriksson
InterMountain Business Lending



For small-business owners looking to expand, purchase real estate, or invest in heavy equipment, securing affordable financing can be a daunting challenge. Traditional bank loans often require high down payments and come with stringent requirements, making it difficult for entrepreneurs to grow their businesses. Enter the Small Business Administration (SBA) 504 loan program — a powerful yet underutilized financing tool designed to help small businesses thrive while fostering economic development in local communities.

The SBA 504 loan program provides long-term, fixed-rate financing for major business assets such as land, buildings and equipment. Unlike conventional financing options, which often require large upfront capital, the 504 program allows businesses to access affordable loans with as little as a 10 percent down payment. This makes it an attractive choice for businesses looking to preserve cash flow while making significant investments in their future.

A key advantage of the SBA 504 loan is its unique structure. It is a partnership between a Certified Development Company (CDC), a bank or private lender, and the business owner. Typically, the bank provides 50 percent of the loan amount, the CDC funds 40 percent through an SBA-backed loan, and the business owner contributes the remaining 10 percent. This shared risk approach incentivizes lenders to provide financing to businesses that may not qualify for traditional loans while offering favorable terms such as below-market interest rates and repayment periods of up to 25 years.

For participating lenders, the SBA 504 loan program offers significant benefits as well. By financing only 50 percent of the total loan amount, banks and private lenders reduce their risk exposure while still earning interest on their portion of the loan. Additionally, because the SBA-backed portion of the loan is subordinate to the lender’s share, lenders have a first lien position, providing added security. These advantages make the program an attractive option for financial institutions looking to expand their

small-business
lending portfolio
while minimizing risk.

The benefits of the 504 loan program extend beyond individual businesses. By enabling companies to invest in infrastructure, the program creates jobs, strengthens local economies, and revitalizes communities. The SBA estimates that for every \$90,000 in 504 loan funding, one job is created or retained. Given this multiplier effect, the program plays a crucial role in fostering economic stability and sustainable growth. Businesses that meet certain criteria, such as being rural-based, woman-owned, minority-owned, small manufacturers, or focused on energy efficiency, may be eligible for additional benefits.

Despite its advantages, the SBA 504 loan remains underutilized. Many small-business owners are unaware of its existence, while others hesitate due to perceived complexity in the application process. While it is true that SBA loans require thorough documentation, the benefits far outweigh the bureaucratic hurdles. Working with an experienced lender or a Certified Development Company can simplify the process and ensure that businesses maximize the advantages of the program.

Another challenge is the misconception that SBA loans are only for struggling businesses. In reality, the 504 loan is designed for finan-

cially sound businesses looking to expand.

Whether it’s a manufacturer purchasing a new facility, a doctor opening a new practice, or a retailer investing in modernized equipment, the program provides a cost-effective solution for businesses poised for growth.

As the economy continues to recover and evolve, the SBA 504 loan program stands out as an essential tool for small-business development. Policymakers and financial institutions should work together to raise awareness and streamline access to this valuable resource. By doing so, they can empower entrepreneurs, drive job creation, and build stronger communities for the future.

Take a closer look at the SBA 504 loan program. With its low-interest rates, long repayment terms, and minimal down payment requirements, it is one of the most effective ways to finance expansion. For small businesses with growth ambitions, the path to success may be just one 504 loan away.

Caryl Eriksson is the CEO of InterMountain Business Lending and brings nearly 30 years of SBA lending experience to the table. For more information about SBA 504 lending, contact Kalia Clark at kclark@im504.com.



Brooker's
Founding Flavors
Ice Cream awarded 2025 Utah
Veteran-Owned Business of the Year

Brian Brooker’s journey from military service to entrepreneurial success is a testament to vision, resilience and strategic growth. As a U.S. Army veteran and Iraq War officer, Brian spent eight years in the Judge Advocate General’s (JAG) Corps. However, his love for America started long before his military service.

While living near Colonial Williamsburg, Brian envisioned an ice cream parlor that combined rich, handcrafted flavors with the spirit of the American Revolution. But rather than rush into business, he took a strategic path — building financial stability, gaining expertise in sales, and studying the ice cream industry for over two decades. In 2018, that dream became a reality when he opened the first Brooker’s Founding Flavors Ice Cream in Vineyard, Utah.

Brian’s concept quickly gained

traction, leading to store expansions in Provo, Herriman and Saratoga Springs. But what truly set him apart was his ability to adapt and grow during challenges. While many businesses struggled during COVID-19, Brian expanded, proving his resilience and business acumen. Today, his company boasts 95 employees and over 100 unique flavors, all inspired by the nation’s founding era.

In 2024, Brian took his business to the next level by launching a franchise model, selling multiple franchise agreements that will lead to eight new locations and 160-200 jobs. This growth was made possible, in part, by the critical support of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Over the years, Brian has utilized SBA loans and lines of credit to fund expansion, secure new locations, and maintain financial flexibil-

ity. His strong financial management has also allowed him to successfully repay multiple SBA loans, demonstrating his business’s strength and sustainability.

Beyond business, Brian is committed to giving back. His company actively supports local community initiatives and offers discounts to military personnel, first responders and clergy, reinforcing his dedication to service.

Now recognized as the 2025 Utah Veteran-Owned Business of the Year, Brian’s story is a powerful example of how veterans continue to lead, inspire, and build lasting legacies. With SBA support and an unwavering commitment to excellence, Brooker’s Founding Flavors Ice Cream is on track to become a national brand — one revolutionary scoop at a time.



Brian Brooker, the founder of Brooker’s Founding Flavors Ice Cream, served in the U.S. Army. Photo courtesy of Brian Brooker.



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SBA Region 8 Women’s Business Center of Excellence

The Women’s Business Center of Utah (WBCUtah) has long been a cornerstone of support, education and empowerment for women entrepreneurs across the state. Recognized as the 2025 Women’s Business Center of Excellence, the organization earned this honor by consistently delivering high-impact programs, expanding access to resources, and driving real economic growth for women-owned businesses throughout Utah.

At the helm of WBCUtah is Ann Marie Wallace, a visionary leader and advocate for women entrepreneurs. Having served 14 years with the center, including 11 as state director, Ann Marie’s journey is one of both personal and professional transformation. She first connected with WBCUtah as a client launching her own small business before becoming an advisor and now is currently the driving force behind its extraordinary growth.

Under Ann Marie’s leadership, WBCUtah has expanded its reach to nearly every county, quadrupling the number of women served annually. The center has tripled its staff and budget, modernized its technology, and launched Utah’s first directory of women-owned businesses, ensuring greater visibility and accessibility for female entrepreneurs.

A key partner of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), WBCUtah plays a crucial role in connecting women entrepreneurs to SBA resources, loan programs and mentorship opportunities. Through its one-on-one business advising, specialized programming and educational training,



Members of the Region 8 Women’s Business Center of Excellence are working to inspire entrepreneurship for women-owned businesses throughout Utah. Photo supplied by WBCUtah

the center helps women at all stages of business ownership — from startup to scaling and sustainability. WBCUtah has hired remote team members from rural areas to better support women across the state and has launched multi-week intensive programs to address the specific challenges faced by solopreneurs, diverse business owners, and women-led companies looking to grow.

Recent milestones underscore WBCUtah’s commitment to

impact:

- Doubled the number of Utah women served annually, now reaching 1,500 business owners.
- Expanded the Utah Women-Owned Business Directory, growing from 1,000 to 3,300 listings.
- Developed 51-plus online business courses, making resources accessible statewide.
- Launched new accelerator programs, including those for solopreneurs and diverse business owners.
- Traveled over 10,000 miles

across Utah, hosting 34 outreach events to support rural entrepreneurs.

By empowering women to build confidence, create opportunities and achieve lasting success, WBCUtah is not just supporting businesses — it’s transforming Utah’s economy, one entrepreneur at a time. This award is a testament to the center’s dedication, innovation, and lasting impact on Utah’s women entrepreneurs.

From Passion to Prosperity: The 2025 Utah Women-Owned Small Business of the Year

Twelve years ago, Amanda Danielle Carmickle took a leap of faith, opening Ooh La La & Friends Salon in Vernal, Utah. Inspired by her mother, a fellow entrepreneur, Amanda envisioned a cozy, welcoming space that blended beauty services with a home décor boutique. However, within a year, she realized her true passion lay in salon services, leading her to pivot and focus solely on the beauty industry — a decision that set the foundation for long-term success.

Amanda’s dedication to high-quality service and innovation has helped her salon thrive. Over the years, she has expanded her offerings, specializing in premium hair extensions and skincare treatments. The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has played a vital role in Amanda’s journey. In the early stages, she turned to the SBA’s core resource partner, the Vernal Small Business Development Center (SBDC), for business counseling. Later, she obtained an SBA 504 loan, which enabled her to purchase and renovate her building. An additional SBA loan supported further expansion, helping her introduce new products and services. During the COVID-19 pandemic, PPP funding also provided essential support, allowing her to sustain operations and retain her team.

Beyond her own success, Amanda is committed to empowering others. She mentors and rents



space to independent stylists, helping them grow their businesses within her salon. Her collaborative approach has created a supportive environment for other beauty professionals, reinforcing the idea that success is best shared.

Amanda’s dedication extends beyond business. She actively gives back to her community by donating gift baskets to local charities, supporting high school sports teams, and sponsoring events like Hotel Haunt and Trees for Charity.

Now recognized as the 2025 Utah Women-Owned Small Business of the Year, Amanda’s story is a testament to passion, resilience, and the power of SBA support. Through hard work



OohLaLa: Amanda Danielle Carmickle founded Ooh La La & Friends Salon, winning the 2025 Utah Women-Owned Small Business of the Year. Photo courtesy of Amanda Danielle Carmickle.

and adaptability, Ooh La La & Friends Salon has become a pillar of Vernal’s beauty industry, proving that with vision and determination, success is always within reach.



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Sir Walter Candy Co. named Utah's 2025 Small Business of the Year

The journey of Sir Walter Candy Co. began over 25 years ago when Alfonso Porras was captivated by stories from his sister about Walter Zittle, a passionate New Jersey confectioner who had recently hosted her visit to America. Walter shared his extensive knowledge and recipes with Alfonso, igniting a lifelong passion for candy-making. Before his passing in 1992, Walter entrusted Alfonso with his personal collection of candy-making books, a gesture that laid the foundation for Sir Walter Candy.

In December 1997, Alfonso embarked on his entrepreneurial journey by crafting confections in a custom-built trailer and selling them at local farmers markets. His dedication and unique offerings quickly garnered a loyal customer base. By September 2000, his team celebrated the grand opening of their first retail store in Monrovia, California, expanding their reach and product line. Seeking a larger facility to meet growing demand, the Porras family relocated to Salt Lake City in 2008. This move allowed them to enhance their production capabilities and collaborate with local businesses, including providing products for Harmons grocery stores. Their commitment to quality and innovation led to the opening of a new retail location in South Salt Lake in 2016, offering a diverse range of artisanal candies and chocolates.

Throughout their expansion, Sir Walter Candy Co. has benefited from the support of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). He received SBA loans that facilitated the acqui-



sition and renovation of their current 36,000 square-foot facility, significantly increasing production capacity. Collaborations with organizations like the University of Utah Manufacturing Extension Partnership Center have further optimized their operations, resulting in a 20 percent increase in production capacity. These strategic improvements have positioned the company for sustained growth and success.

From a young boy's fascination with confectionery tales to leading a celebrated family-owned business, Alfonso Porras exemplifies the impact of passion, resilience and community support. Sir Walter Candy Co. continues to delight customers with handcrafted treats, honoring a legacy that began with a generous mentor's gift and has flourished through hard work



Sir Walter Candy Co. was founded in 1997. Photo courtesy of Sir Walter Candy Co.

and strategic partnerships.

In recognition of their remarkable achievements and contributions to the community, Sir Walter Candy Co. has been honored as Utah's 2025 Small Business of the Year. This accolade reflects their unwavering dedication to preserving the art of candy-making.

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Saluting our National Small Business Week award winners

The SBA Utah District Office is proud to recognize the outstanding small businesses and entrepreneurs who have been honored as National Small Business Week award winners. These individuals exemplify innovation, resilience, and dedication. Small businesses play a vital role in Utah, fueling job creation, driving economic growth, and enriching our neighborhoods. The SBA’s mission remains clear: to empower small businesses, provide critical resources, and help entrepreneurs succeed. By supporting small businesses through capital, counseling, and contracting opportunities, we are building a stronger, more competitive economy for



Utah and the nation. As we close out FY24, the SBA Utah District Office celebrates another year of strong support for small businesses across the state. Last year, over \$2.9 billion in SBA-backed capital, grants, and federal contracting dollars supported Utah’s economy and accelerated small business growth. Access to SBA capital remains a driving force for Utah’s small busi-

nesses, and the SBA Utah District Office is proud to have supported \$955 million in traditional lending to entrepreneurs. Recognizing that access to knowledge is just as critical as access to funding, the SBA provided over \$1.6 million in funding to its Utah Resource Partners, ensuring small businesses across the state receive free consulting and training opportunities. Beyond capital and counseling, the SBA’s contracting support and certificates for small businesses helped secure more than \$1.5 billion in federal contracts. A top priority of the SBA is to continuing to ensure entrepreneurs have opportunities and can navigate government procurement,



which strengthens not only small businesses but also the supply chain of the federal government. Together, we are not just fueling businesses—we are building a stronger, more competitive economy for Utah and the nation. Congratulations again to Utah’s 2025 National Small Business Week award winners.

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