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Airmen from the 4th Fighter Generation Squadron at Hill Air Force Base climb into a C-130J Super Hercules assigned to the 41st Airlift Squadron in Arkansas to participate in an exercise at Naval Air Station in Lemoore, California, on Aug. 7. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act calls for an increase of \$150 billion in defense spending. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Zachary Rufus)

OF NOTE



Final season pending

West Valley City's Maverik Center is gearing up for the final year of Utah Grizzlies hockey. The team has been sold and will be moved out of state following the 2025-26 season. The Grizzlies' home opener is scheduled for Oct. 25. (Tom Haraldsen/Salt Lake Business Journal)

Speakers: 'Big Beautiful Bill' likely to benefit Utah military, industry

Brice Wallace
Salt Lake Business Journal

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act could indeed be beautiful for Utah's military sector and for companies in the aerospace and defense industry.

The act includes \$150 billion in new defense spending, according to speakers during a recent webinar hosted by law firm Holland & Knight and the 47B Utah aerospace and defense industry association. The Trump administration and congressional Republicans have committed to a \$1 trillion military top line for fiscal 2026, said Daniel Sennott,

a partner at the law firm.

"Clearly, a lot of opportunity, particularly in the defense space, given the amount of money that's at play here," said Sennott, based in Washington, D.C.

Currently, the U.S. spends about 3 percent of its GDP on defense, but the administration wants it closer to 5 percent by the end of its current term. That would push the overall figure to \$1.4 trillion, up from the current \$895 billion. "There is a lot of room to grow there," Sennott said.

And the benefits likely won't be just for existing military contractors. The bill includes \$16 billion to expedite innovation for the warfighter.

"There's a lot of excitement about, as

an example, Silicon Valley now working with the Department of Defense on emerging technology that can be leveraged for the military," Sennott said. "Gone are the days, I think, of these acquisition programs that run for 10 years before the actual technology gets out to the warfighter, because in this era, that technology will probably be obsolete if we are spending five or 10 years in an acquisition process for it."

Webinar speakers broke the \$150 billion into several "buckets," many of which could benefit Hill Air Force Base and oth-

see BILL page 3

Salt Lake International rated No. 1 airport in United States

John Rogers
Salt Lake Business Journal

If you fly a lot as part of your job, you know that all airports are not created equal. There's nothing worse than finding yourself dealing with a bad terminal — especially if that's where your trip starts or ends.

But business travelers — in fact, all travelers — who spend much time at Salt Lake City International Airport have found a big difference here. And according to a new ranking from online travelers' aid service AirHelp, the Utah experience is the best in the United States.

Salt Lake City International Airport checked in as the best airport in America, according to AirHelp's grading system. Overall, the 114-year-old airport ranked eighth in the world, the only representative from the United States in the top 20.



Spacious arrival and departure lanes add to the appeal of Salt Lake City International Airport. The hub was rated the top airport in the U.S. in AirHelp's annual ranking of large airports for 2025. (Photo courtesy HOK Architects)

see AIRPORT page 3

Domo releases 'Data Never Sleeps: AI Edition' infographic

Domo, an American Fork-based AI and data products platform, has released a special edition of its popular "Data Never Sleeps" infographic. The new release focuses on AI and its growth over the past year. As an extension of Domo's annual Data Never Sleeps report, this edition provides a deep dive into the immense amount of AI data generated on the Internet every minute and its impact on our everyday lives.

"Over the past year, we've witnessed AI move from the periphery to the center of how we create, work and solve problems," said Ben Schein, senior vice president of product at Domo. "What's fascinating isn't just the technology itself, but how quickly people have woven AI into the fabric of their daily lives. This report showcases that transformation in real time, showing us the human behaviors behind the AI revolution."

Some highlights from the 2025 report include:

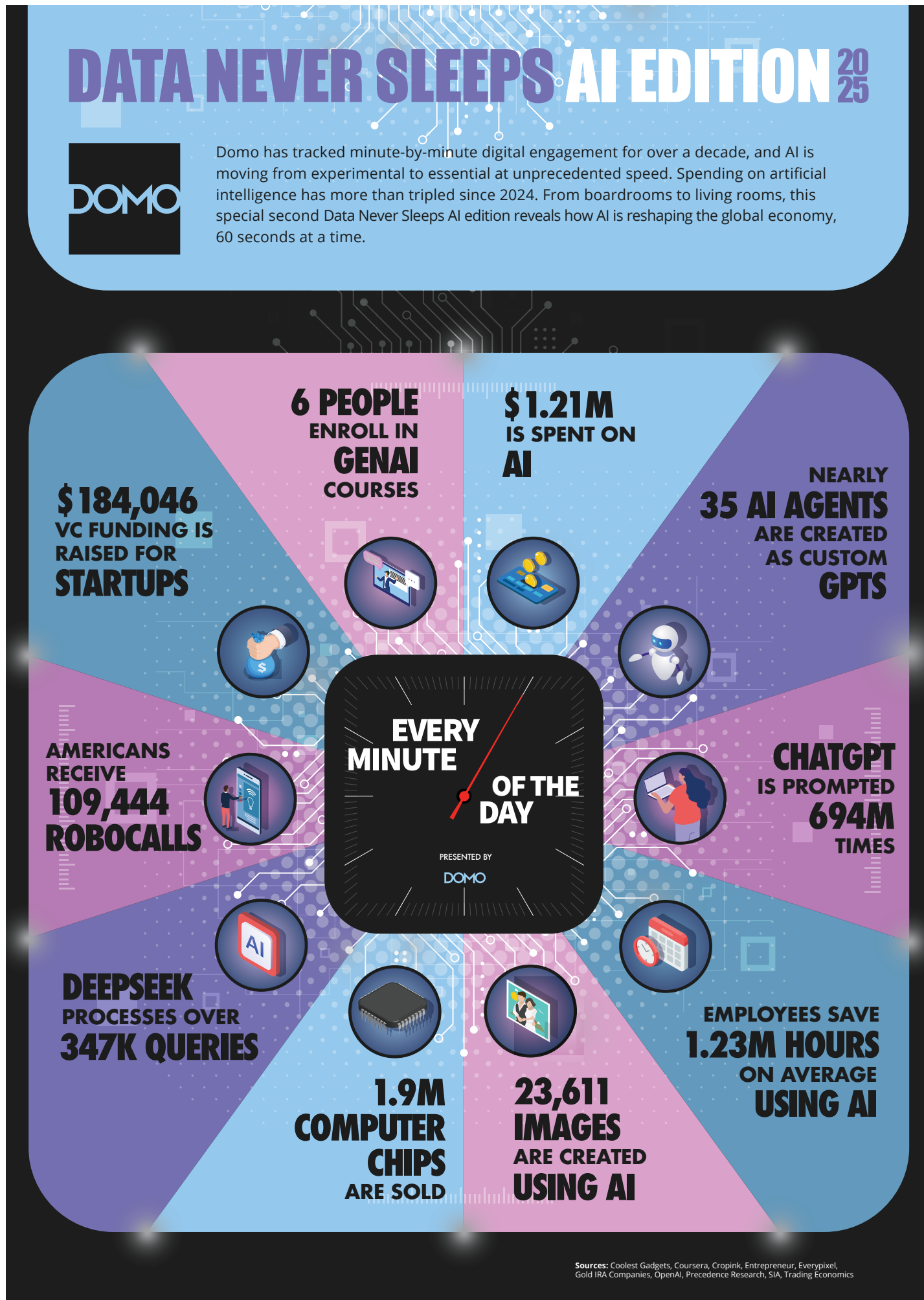
AI commitment: Global spend on AI every minute skyrocketed from \$293,000 last year to over \$1.21 million — a 312 percent increase. Additionally, AI startups raise an average of \$184,046 in venture capital funding, and 1.9 million computer chips are sold every 60 seconds.

AI breakouts: The past year has seen incredible breakthroughs in the AI space — from the rise of LLM DeepSeek, which now processes over 347,000 queries every minute, to Agentic AI, which also rose from the shadows.

Double-edged sword: For every productivity increase, organizations and individuals can use AI for irritating or illegal means, as Americans received 109,444 robocalls each minute.

Upskilling and productivity impact: As AI grows more common in the workplace, every minute, employees save 1.23 million hours, adding up to over 140 years of productivity gained, according to Domo. As the workforce continues to desire AI skills more, six people enroll in GenAI courses every 60 seconds.

"The data highlights the hunger people have for tools that amplify their capabilities," continued Schein. "Whether it's a student getting help with homework or an employee using AI agents to streamline their workflow, people are embracing AI not as a replacement for human intelligence, but as a partner in getting things done. At Domo, we're seeing this firsthand as our customers turn to AI to unlock insights from their data."



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Northwest Quadrant topic of community survey

Brice Wallace

Salt Lake Business Journal

The Utah Inland Port Authority and Salt Lake City want to know what people think about the city's Northwest Quadrant.

The authority is partnering with the city on a community survey, seeking feedback from residents, workers and businesses in the quadrant "to capture local perspectives on transportation, air quality, economic opportunity, health and infrastructure" as part of a broader baseline study now underway.

The results will shape future development, sustainability and transportation in west side neighborhoods. The feedback will be incorporated into the next phase of the study "and will ultimately play a significant role in guiding future UIPA and Salt Lake City plans in the area," UIPA said in announcing the survey.

Public input will be taken at inlandportauthority.utah.gov/baselinesurvey until Sept. 28.

"The Northwest Quadrant is a strategic economic growth point for the state, and it's important that the people who live and work here are given an opportunity to voice what they hope that future looks like," said Abby Osborne, UIPA's board chair and the chief of staff for the Utah House of Representatives. "We're building the foundation for long-term economic opportunity — not just for today's

residents, but for generations to come."

The baseline study will evaluate the impacts of current development trends on surrounding neighborhoods and help identify mitigation strategies to address traffic congestion, environmental concerns and economic disparities.

UIPA's Northwest Quadrant Project Area totals 16,000 acres generally south and southwest of Salt Lake City International Airport, flanking Interstate 80, although one strip is east of the airport.

UIPA has promoted the area as attractive for development because of its close proximity to three interstate highways, national railways and an international airport, "creating a prosperous nexus for growth in advanced manufacturing, life sciences, and aerospace and defense," it says on its website.

The Northwest Quadrant also is located among intermodal facilities, warehouse and distribution centers, a skilled workforce, and a supportive and expanding infrastructure, UIPA says. "Together, these factors enable companies to efficiently move and distribute goods, connecting them to major markets within the region, across the United States and beyond," the website says.

UIPA's Northwest Quadrant is one of 14 project areas in the state.

"We're appreciative of UIPA and their engagement with the city and our residents on the important land use, environmental and economic conditions and opportunities for the Northwest Quad-



Highways snake through an area of Salt Lake City, with the Northwest Quadrant in the distance. The Utah Inland Port Authority and Salt Lake City are seeking public input as they develop plans for the best use of the area. (Photo courtesy Utah Inland Port Authority)

rant," said Salt Lake City Mayor Erin Mendenhall. "We encourage community members and stakeholders to take the survey and follow along through the process. Ultimately, the baseline study, and the forthcoming preferred scenario study will help us align shared resources and policy opportunities toward meeting these goals."

Residents and workers in neighborhoods including Glendale, Jordan Meadows, Poplar Grove, Westpointe and Rose Park are especially encouraged to partic-

ipate. The survey is available in English and Spanish and takes less than 10 minutes to complete.

Almost since its inception, the inland port authority has faced blowback from critics who have claimed it was acting without the public being properly informed or allowed to participate in UIPA's processes. Protests led to some raucous meetings, but that generally has subsided. Authority board meetings include times for public comment, and written input also is accepted at any time.

BILL

from page 1

er Utah installations and its private-sector partners. Among them are \$9 billion for air superiority, including updating the fighter force and providing next-generation aircraft development; \$15 billion for nuclear deterrence modernization; and \$25 billion for the "Golden Dome" missile defense system. That \$25 billion "really is just a down payment," Sennott said. "That program overall is probably going to be in the hundreds of billions by the time that it's done."

Misha Lehrer, Holland & Knight senior public affairs advisor also based in Washington, spelled out other Utah

impacts of the OBBBA:

- Modernization of strategic forces, tied to work done at Hill, where some units support ICBM sustainment and modernization programs. "That means expanded opportunities in the industrial base involved in things like missile maintenance and advanced materials and system integration," Lehrer said.

- Supply chain improvements, pertinent to manufacturing and technology. The bill includes incentives for domestic sourcing, advanced manufacturing and reducing the reliance on foreign suppliers in order to strengthen the U.S. defense industrial base. That likely will range from precision components to cybersecurity solutions to ensure Department of Defense readiness and provide

more opportunities for Utah-based suppliers and tech firms.

- Industrial base expansion, in the form of growing and modernizing both physical and human infrastructure. Grants will be made available to upgrade facilities, invest in research and development, and expand workforce training. Lehrer described it as fostering "more opportunities to create an enduring pipeline of talent and industrial expansion in the state."

- Small-business innovation and grants, particularly for the "vibrant community of small and mid-sized defense contractors" that focus on emerging technologies and rapid prototyping. The bill boosts funding for small-business programs for nontraditional contractors "to facilitate additional small

businesses into the DoD ecosystem."

Sennott said the OBBBA money is available for four years, but the Trump administration wants to get the money out within the next 18 months. He foresees a rapid deployment of funding, likely before the congressional mid-term elections.

Utah's military and defense industry directly and indirectly supports over 173,000 jobs and contributed an estimated \$22.2 billion in GDP in 2023, according to a report released in January by the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute at the University of Utah. The defense industry that fiscal year directly provided 49,540 military and civilian jobs, and defense contracts totaled \$5.9 billion. Ten contractors accounted for \$5.2 billion of that total.

AIRPORT

from page 1

AirHelp establishes its rankings by weighing each airport in three categories: on-time performance, which accounts for 60 percent of the grade, and customer service and food and shops, which each count for 20 percent of an airport's score. The system ranked 250 airports in 68 countries, analyzing flights from June 1, 2024, through May 31, 2025.

"There are over 4,000 airports in our database, which we whittled down to 250, based on the busiest airports according to flight traffic, and most popular with air travelers," AirHelp said. "We aim to rank the world's major airports, but it's worth noting that some are excluded due to a lack of data."

Salt Lake City's overall score was 8.29, led by 8.3 marks in on-time performance and food and shops.

"A flight arriving within 15 minutes of its scheduled arrival time is considered on time," AirHelp explained.

"We calculated how many flights were on time and expressed this number as a per-

centage. The higher the score, the higher the percentage of on-time flights. For example, a score of 8.5 means 85 percent of flights were on time."

Salt Lake City's lowest grade was an 8.1 in customer opinion. That score was calculated on four factors: airport staff, wait times, accessibility and cleanliness.

In 2024, Salt Lake City International Airport set a record with 28,364,610 passengers served, up more than 5 percent from its previous record the year before.

Beginning in 2020, the airport began rolling out an expanded and modernized terminal that it called "The New SLC." The \$5 billion project has been opening in phases and will be completed in 2026. In addition to a new 909,000-square-foot hub and two concourses, the renovations also include expanding Salt Lake City's gate capacity from 45 to 94, more than doubling its flight capabilities. Designed by architecture firm HOK, the project showcases a terminal that is bright and spacious, with 50-foot glass walls that flood the space with natural light and offer sweeping views of the Wasatch Mountains.

With an overall ranking of 21st, the Los Angeles International Airport ranked as the

second-best airport in the U.S. The third-best airport in the U.S. was the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, which ranked 22nd in the world.

Cape Town International Airport in South Africa notched the global top spot in AirHelp's yearly report, scoring an 8.57. In an X post, the airport called its No. 1 ranking a "proud moment for South Africa and our country's airport networks."

Of the U.S. Airports rated by AirHelp, Newark Liberty International Airport was ranked the worst U.S. airport, with Fort

Lauderdale Hollywood Airport and Philadelphia Airport close behind. Newark's low score was heavily impacted by its poor on-time performance and issues with its air traffic control system, according to the AirHelp report.

Tunis Carthage Airport in Tunisia had the dubious honor of coming in last of the 250 airports rated worldwide.

Based in Berlin, Germany, AirHelp is an online service that helps airline passengers seek compensation for flight cancellations, delays or overbookings.



Passengers walking through terminal canyon. (Photo courtesy of Salt Lake City International Airport)

Utah consumers continue to spend despite tariff concerns

Utah continues to maintain economic momentum due to solid job growth and unfettered consumer spending, and despite concerns over tariff hikes, according to data released through the Salt Lake Chamber's July Roadmap to Prosperity Economic Dashboard.

The chamber dashboard, developed in partnership with the University of Utah's Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, is designed to give business leaders a continuing understanding of Utah's economy.

"Strong job creation and resilient consumer spending are fueling Utah's economic momentum," said Derek Miller, president and CEO of the Salt Lake Chamber. "While inflation pressures do add

some uncertainty, current trends point toward continued economic strength in the near term. Maintaining flexibility and foresight will help us weather potential headwinds, and we will continue to take proactive steps to address these challenges."

According to dashboard figures, Utah employment grew 2.3 percent year-over-year in June, outpacing the nation's 1 percent growth. Utah and U.S. employment growth trends began largely diverging in January 2025, with national job growth slowing and Utah's gains continuing to accelerate. Utah's growth in June ranks fourth-highest among states.

For the first time in four months, inflation in Utah was up slightly. After signs of moderating price growth early

in the year, inflation rose to 2.7 percent in June, stoking ongoing concerns of tariff-related price pressures. Inflation trends in coming months will influence interest rate policy and broader economic momentum.

Taxable sales in Utah have grown nearly 5 percent year-to-date through May, according to chamber numbers. Utah consumers and visitors continue to spend despite economic uncertainty. Anticipation of tariff-related price increases may have also prompted some consumers to buy ahead of potential price increases, accounting in part for the jump in sales.

"Utah's economy continues to demonstrate strength, as indicated in

higher-than-average job growth and increased taxable sales," said Natalie Gochnour, director of the Gardner Institute. "However, consumer sentiment data is mixed, likely influenced by concerns over tariffs and broader economic uncertainty, as is also reflected in the recent slight uptick in inflation. Despite these concerns, Utah's economic fundamentals remain strong, positioning the state for continued but moderating growth."

The Roadmap to Prosperity Economic Dashboard is updated monthly, tracking a number of leading measures and highlighting pertinent indicators. It can be accessed through the chamber's website at slchamber.com.

Huntsman announces plans to double size, capacity of its proton treatment center

The Huntsman Cancer Institute at the University of Utah has announced plans to double the size and treatment capacity of its Senator Orrin G. Hatch Proton Therapy Center. The center is the only hospital offering proton cancer therapy in the Intermountain West and serves patients from Utah, Idaho, Montana, Nevada and Wyoming.

Proton therapy is like traditional radiation therapy in that it uses invisible, high-energy beams to treat cancer. However, proton therapy is more precise. The radiation beam targets the cancer and stops at the tumor, causing less damage to healthy tissues. This makes it an especially appealing cancer treatment option for certain pediatric patients, who make up roughly one-third of Huntsman Cancer Institute's proton therapy recipients. It's also used to treat cancers of the brain and spinal cord, among others.

The second proton unit will involve the construction of an approximately

9,000-square-foot, three-story cement building — known as a vault — which will house the treatment facility and the equipment necessary for proton therapy. The new vault will be built adjacent to Huntsman Cancer Institute's existing proton unit, located on campus at the UofU as part of the university's health care system. The original unit opened in 2021.

"Since then, we've been able to offer this specialized radiation service to numerous pediatric and adult patients. Due to the success and rapid growth of our proton therapy service, we needed to limit this technology to only select types of cancer," said Dr. Matthew Poppe, fellow of the American Society for Radiation Oncology and clinical director of the Proton Therapy Center. The investigator at the Huntsman Cancer Institute is also a professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology at the UofU. "With this expansion, we will double our treatment capacity, allow-

ing a greater proportion of our patients to use this innovative technology," he continued.

"Building a new proton therapy vault is a game-changer for Huntsman Cancer Institute. With only one vault, we've had to be highly selective — treating patients who we believe will benefit most from this advanced therapy," said Dr. Amit Maity, professor and chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology. "Adding a second unit will significantly expand our capacity, allowing us to treat more patients and explore partnerships with affiliates and other hospitals. It's an exciting step toward making precision radiation therapy more accessible across our region."

The nearest alternative proton centers are located hundreds of miles from Salt Lake City — in Phoenix, Seattle or San Diego. Poppe says these locations have served as overflow referral centers when Huntsman Cancer Institute has exceeded capacity.

"That places a huge additional travel burden on our patients," said Poppe. "The construction of our second vault will allow all Mountain West patients who need proton therapy to receive it closer to home, without disrupting their coordinated multidisciplinary care."

With the expansion, Huntsman Cancer Institute physicians hope to treat additional cancers, including head and neck cancers and breast cancer.

The construction project, funded by Huntsman Cancer Institute, is expected to be completed in two and a half years.

"This is a major investment in the future of leading-edge cancer care in Utah and the Mountain West. It is a powerful step forward to serve our patients and communities and meet the needs of a growing population," said Mary Beckerle, CEO of the Huntsman Cancer Institute. "This project represents our unwavering commitment both to innovation, and to every person who walks through our doors seeking healing."

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USU's Space Dynamics Laboratory has new bosses at DoD

The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) has announced that Utah State University's Space Dynamics Laboratory (SDL) in North Logan will now be sponsored by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space Acquisition and Integration (SAF/SQ).

SDL, in its role as a DoD University Affiliated Research Center (UARC), previously operated under the Missile Defense Agency (MDA).

In 1996, the DoD formed UARCs to formalize long-term, strategic relationships with university-affiliated nonprofit research organizations to maintain and advance specific areas of engineering, research and development. Each UARC operates under the guidance of a primary sponsor and maintains a specific set of core competencies, which are specialized areas of expertise critical to advancing DoD technology needs.

"SDL's long-standing commitment to advance technologies for national defense reflects a deep alignment with SDL's core competencies and the space mission of the Department of the Air Force," said Jed Hancock, president of SDL. "We look forward to continuing our close partnership with the Department of Defense, delivering trusted research and technologies that secure our nation's interests."

Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories (AFCLR), a predecessor of the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL), awarded SDL its first contract in 1959. This marked the beginning of SDL's long history in space and defense research.



In an undated photo, Utah State University Space Dynamics Laboratory (SDL) employees at the lab's North Logan campus prepare the Atmospheric Waves Experiment for shipment to the Kennedy Space Center and an ultimate trip into space. SDL has been switched from sponsorship by the U.S. Missile Defense Agency to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space Acquisition and Integration. (Photo by Allison Bills, SDL)

SDL was designated as one of the original six UARCs and was sponsored by the MDA for nearly 30 years.

SDL will also continue in its role as a UARC partner sponsored by the U.S. Space Force.

SDL's research areas include advanced sensing and systems; autonomous systems and intelligent control; space mission design and operations; integrated command, control and data systems; modeling, simulation and phenomenology; and cyber

and networked systems.

SDL is headquartered on Utah State University's Innovation Campus in North Logan, with field offices in Ogden; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Chantilly and Stafford, Virginia; and Huntsville, Alabama.

Utah jobless rate up an 'insignificant' tenth of a percentage point

Although Utah's jobless rate ticked up slightly from June to July, it remains at a near-historic low and combined with other economic data, the change is considered statistically insignificant.

The July unemployment rate for the state rose from June's 3.2 percent to a seasonally adjusted 3.3 percent in July, meaning about 60,500 Utahns remain outside the workforce.

The July national unemployment rate

was also up a tenth of a percentage point to 4.2 percent.

Utah's nonfarm payroll employment for July was up an estimated 2.3 percent over the past 12 months, with the state's economy adding a cumulative 40,300 jobs since July 2024. The number of Utah residents holding jobs now stands at about 1,763,600.

"Robust job growth continues to fuel economic momentum, even as we see early

signs of moderation in hiring trends" said Ben Crabb, chief economist with the Utah Department of Workforce Services. "While the unemployment rate has edged up slightly, it remains near historic lows, underscoring the resilience of our labor market."

Utah's July private-sector employment recorded year-over-year growth of 2.1 percent — a 31,100-job increase. Seven of the 10 major private-sector industry groups posted net year-over-year job gains. The

overall gains were led by education and health services (up 19,600 jobs), construction (up 4,900 jobs) and leisure and hospitality (up 4,800 jobs). Trade, transportation and utilities (down 2,200 jobs) and other services (down 800 jobs) were the two areas that saw 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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Nonprofit spay/neuter clinic opens its doors in Millcreek

Tom Haraldsen

Salt Lake Business Journal

Temma Martin's personalized license plate reads "PETLADY." As it should. For nearly 30 years, she has been the voice for pet protection in Utah, both before and after they're born. Her latest efforts are part of the new nonprofit she has founded and created, "Operation Pawpulation" in Millcreek.

The clinic focuses on spay/neuter services, coming at a time when the numbers of dogs and cats in animal shelters have been increasing. She has championed adoption for decades, but has turned her efforts into prevention of unplanned litters for dogs and cats. Martin first became involved in this world while she was in college, concerned about animal welfare but not really thinking it would become her career.

"I didn't start in any other area or direction," she said. "When I was finishing my senior year of high school in Colorado, I got a little bit involved with animal rights stuff, like protesting research labs and more like actual animal rights than animal welfare. So I was sort of interested then, but when I moved back here, I worked at several businesses. When I worked at Golden Swirl's corporate office, I saw an ad in the paper for a job posted at the Humane Society of Utah in 1993 for an education director."

She worked for them for four years but felt she wanted to do more public relations, so after a short stint with the American Heart Association, she became media specialist for Salt Lake County Animal Services.

In that role, Temma Martin appeared on every local TV morning program — news or lifestyle shows — bringing dogs or cats on air who were waiting for adoption from the shelter. She brought on an estimated 5,000 animals over her career, and her name and face became synonymous with pet adoption in the Salt Lake market. It often meant going to the shelter in very early morning hours, waking up a pet to take them to a station, and all four local TV stations had segments with her regularly.

A countywide reduction of force led to her leaving the post in 2008. She was quickly approached by the Utah Animal Adoption Center, where she worked for one year, then joined Best Friends Animal Society.

Her messages about pet adoption helped. When the No More Homeless Pets coalition started in 1999, Utah shelters were alarmingly still killing almost 40,000 pets a year. But by 2020, with more and more no-kill shelters coming on line, that number had fallen to 829.

Good news, with numbers headed in the right direction toward making Utah a no-



Operation Pawpulation offers low-cost spay/neuter services to pet owners. (Photo courtesy of Operation Pawpulation)

kill state. Then COVID arrived, and things changed. Today, an average of 2,000 dogs and cats are euthanized in Utah.

"The numbers of animals killed has steadily increased, not just in Utah, but across the country," she said. "People are watching what feels like a pretty major backsliding of progress, and some of the reasons for that are there's a shortage of veterinarians. A lot of veterinary clinics are being bought out by corporations and private equity firms, and prices of all veterinary care have risen at a rate much higher than the rate of inflation."

Two years ago, she left Best Friends to start her own nonprofit using her own money. She bought a storefront in Millcreek that was once a boat repair shop to create a clinic offering spay/neuter services to pet owners at very reduced costs, a service that she says has "gotten outrageously expensive in a lot of places." She said the universe had something else in mind for her.

"I made some phone calls to clinics in Salt Lake County, and some of them are places I either am or have been a client," Martin said. "A cat neuter is the lowest. They're the least expensive and quickest surgery. And so on the low end, I believe it was just less than \$300 for a cat, but on the high end, for a large dog spay, one clinic said that it could be more than \$2,000. Most people can't afford that — it's a mortgage payment, a rent payment. So for a lot of people it's out of reach. And for some reason, even nationally, a lot of animal welfare organizations have shifted their focus away from spay/neuter, which is largely why I felt like I needed to go off on my own."

Shelter Animals Count, a trusted source for animal sheltering data, has reported that 28 percent of the 2.9 million dogs entering shelters in the U.S. were puppies under 5 months old. That was an increase of more than 31,000 from the year before. More than half of the felines en-

tering shelters were under five months old as well — 1.7 million. Those are signs of unwanted or unplanned litters of young animals given up to shelters.

"We can't solve this problem after all the pets are born," she said. "There will always be people who choose to buy pets, but there are so many pets in need outside of shelters. The only way we can get back on track is getting pets spayed or neutered and prevent the downstream

that creates animals in need."

Martin is proud of the 5,000-plus animals she took on TV for adoption, but "we can help a much larger number of animals by preventing them from being born. Coupled with the shortage of veterinarians, we need to refocus on spay/neuter as a normal part of pet ownership."

Operation Pawpulation is open on Thursdays. Call 801-509-8334 to set up an appointment or get more information.



Dr. Emily Kirkpatrick offers her veterinary services to Operation Pawpulation on Thursdays each week. (Photo courtesy of Operation Pawpulation)



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Beyond reclaims Bed Bath & Beyond name and stock symbol

Beyond Inc., the Murray-based company that started life as Overstock.com Inc. and adopted the Beyond moniker with its acquisition of bankrupt Bed, Bath & Beyond two years ago, has decided to use the well-known brand's value and rename its corporate entity.

Beginning Aug. 29, the company will become Bed, Bath & Beyond Inc. and change its common stock symbol to BBBY on the New York Stock Exchange.

In addition to the Bed Bath & Beyond brand, the company owns Overstock, buybuy BABY and a blockchain asset portfolio.

"Our name change is highlighting one of the most valuable pieces of intellectual property that investors and consumers know today and does not change our intense focus on growing revenue, achieving profitability in the near term, and monetizing valuable blockchain assets," said Marcus Lemonis, executive chairman and principal executive officer. "We remain laser-focused on growing the Bed Bath & Beyond brand, building Overstock.com back to a billion-dollar nameplate, and unlocking value within our blockchain assets, particularly tZero and GrainChain."

"Accelerating growth and profitability for the Bed Bath & Beyond brand requires capital allocation discipline, increased use of data science, improvements in our asset-light BedBathBeyond.com platform, and the return of some of America's most trusted consumer brands to its omnichannel offering," said Lemonis.

The Bed Bath & Beyond comeback is underway with its first store conversion in Nashville, Tennessee, which has experienced significant traffic and revenue alongside nationwide media coverage with a minimal capital investment, Lemonis said. Over the next 24 months, the company plans to convert additional Kirkland's locations into small- to midsize format Bed Bath & Beyond and buybuy BABY stores and will continue to accept Bed Bath & Beyond coupons, no matter how old, both online and in-store.

Beyond Inc. will continue to trade on the NYSE with ticker symbol BYON until the close of market on Aug. 28 and will begin trading with ticker symbol BBBY when markets open on Aug. 29. No action is required by existing shareholders with respect to the name and ticker symbol change.

Angel Studios sets shareholder vote on going public

Angel Studios Inc., the Provo-based film and television production and distribution platform that lets members of its Angel Guild decide on the films it will make, has set a date for its shareholders to vote to approve a business merger transaction that will result in Angel becoming publicly traded.

Stockholders of the company will meet virtually on Sept. 5 to decide if Angel should go ahead with a proposed merger with Southport Acquisition Corp., a special purpose acquisition company that is currently traded on the Over-the-Counter stock exchange.

Southport Acquisition Corp., led by Jared Stone as chairman and Jeb S. Spencer as CEO, is an investment firm, commonly called a "blank check" company, formed for the specific purpose of merging with or acquiring another business. The process allows companies to skirt the normal initial public offering process of becoming publicly traded.

"It's time to vote and it's important that our investors participate and help chart the future of Angel," said Neal Harmon, co-founder and CEO of Angel. "Together, we're reshaping the entertainment landscape by empowering audiences to champion, support and improve the stories they want to see make the world a better place. Thank you for being part of the movement to tell stories that amplify light."

The special meeting will be held at 10 a.m. Eastern time Sept. 5 via a live web-

cast at <https://www.cstproxy.com/angel/2025>. Stockholders of record as of the close of business on Aug. 1 will be eligible to vote on the proposed transaction.

If stockholders approve the merger, Harmon said, the transaction will close shortly after the vote and following completion of some exchange listing requirements, Angel Studios will begin trading under the ticker symbol ANGX. Angel Class A and Class C common stock will convert to the combined company Class A common stock. All Angel Class B and Class F common stock will convert into shares of combined company Class B common stock, which will continue to be privately held.

The proposed merger and public trading of Angel stock follows a period of substantial growth by the company. Since the merger effort was announced a year ago, Angel Guild membership has grown from 222,000 to approximately 1.5 million paying members across more than 180 countries. The firm's revenue grew to \$87.4 million in the second quarter of this year, compared to \$15.3 million in the year-earlier quarter. More than \$39 million of that is attributable to Angel Guild memberships.

"The combined company will be positioned to accelerate Angel's mission of empowering audiences to support stories that amplify light, while gaining access to public markets and broader capital resources," Harmon concluded.

DASH and S4i complete merger, form SMRTR, move to Utah

A pair of food and beverage industry service companies have merged and moved the combined company's headquarters to Cottonwood Heights.

DASH, an accounts payable automation and document management platform based in Germantown, Wisconsin, and S4i Systems Inc., a San Clemente, California, provider of food safety compliance and content management solutions, have combined to form SMRTR.

The newly combined organization will serve manufacturing and food and beverage companies across North America with integrated automation and compliance solutions, the firms said in a combined press release. The merger unites two established companies with complementary expertise in business process automation focusing on cloud-based solutions that help customers reduce paper usage and environmental impact while improving operational efficiency.

Both companies have developed strong relationships with organizations running enterprise resource planning systems, like SYSPRO, SAP, JD Edwards E1, In-

for, VIP Beverage and NCR. DASH was founded in 1998, while S4i Systems began in 2002.

"Our customers have consistently told us they want fewer vendors and more comprehensive solutions," said Susanne Moore, CEO of SMRTR. "This merger allows us to deliver exactly that: a complete automation platform that addresses both operational efficiency and regulatory compliance from a single source. We're bringing together decades of industry experience to solve problems that matter to our customers' bottom line."

SMRTR will maintain existing customer relationships and support structures in the product portfolios of both predecessor companies, the announcement said. Current customers will continue working with their established teams while gaining access to the expanded solution set. The company will operate with a fully remote workforce from existing locations and maintain the combined workforce of both organizations. All current customer contracts and support agreements remain in effect under the SMRTR brand.

Dallas firm acquires SLC's NOW CFO

CenterOak Partners LLC, a Dallas-based private equity firm, has completed its acquisition of NOW CFO of Salt Lake City. Terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

NOW CFO offers a suite of outsourced solutions including "controller as a service," staff accounting, interim CFO services and financial reporting services, with a primary focus on small and medium-sized business customers. The company operates in more than 20 states across the U.S. and uses a team of more than 500 full-time professionals domestically and abroad.

"This partnership with CenterOak marks an exciting new chapter for NOW CFO," said Randy Christensen, CEO of NOW CFO. "CenterOak's experience scaling services businesses makes them a natural

partner as we look to add talent and deliver even greater value to our customers."

"NOW CFO has a talented team with significant industry experience that is well-positioned for continued growth," said Mark Langer, managing director of CenterOak. "As the first institutional investor in the business, we plan to support management by investing in technology, business development and client engagement resources, while also expanding the company's geographic reach and service line offering through strategic acquisitions."

CenterOak Partners manages \$2.5 billion of equity capital commitments, with a focus on making control-oriented investments in middle market companies. The firm invests in business services, industrial services and consumer services companies.

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SLC among top U.S. metros in tech workforce growth, new study finds

The Salt Lake City metropolitan area saw a 2 percent increase in technology-sector employment in 2024, according to a new report from CompTIA Inc., a worldwide provider of information technology training and certifications, with offices in Salt Lake City.

The Salt Lake market added an estimated 1,405 jobs, the fourth-highest total among major metro markets.

The report, "State of the Tech Workforce 2025," projects a 3.8 percent increase for 2025 based on available information at the time of publication. That would add more than 2,700 jobs to the Salt Lake City tech workforce.

Meanwhile, technology employment across the United States continues to expand in depth and breadth. Despite an uneven economic environment for much of the past two years, CompTIA analysis found the U.S. tech workforce grew by 1.2 percent during 2024, adding approximately 72,500 net new workers to the base of tech employment across the economy.

The leading contributors to growth spanned the core pillars of technology: data, cybersecurity, infrastructure and tech enablement job roles. Some categories, notably software and web development, did lag due to market and technological disruption factors. The impact of artificial intelligence is growing rapidly

on a percentage change basis as seen in employer job listing data for AI positions and positions specifying AI skills.

CompTIA's report includes a comprehensive analysis of tech occupation salaries at five different percentile levels to better reflect earnings growth at different career stages and progressions. Cost-of-living-adjusted earnings provides another layer of insight. Across all tech occupation categories covered in the report, the 2024 median wage, also referred to as the 50th percentile or midpoint, was an estimated \$109,762 in the Salt Lake City market. That translated to a 112 percent premium over the overall median wage for all occupations.

Other Salt Lake City highlights from the 2025 report include:

- The economic impact of the tech sector in the state was \$13.1 billion.
- Tech employment represented 8.5 percent of the overall workforce.
- Utah had 7,552 tech business establishments.
- There were 2,181 job listings in the state in 2024 that mentioned AI skills.

At nearly 150 pages, CompTIA's "State of the Tech Workforce" includes information on employment, wages, business establishments, job postings, workforce diversity, emerging tech metrics and more. The report is available through CompTIA's website at www.comptia.org.

SLC's Nexus IT acquires BluePeak Technology Solutions

Salt Lake City-based Nexus IT, a national provider of managed IT, cloud, cybersecurity and compliance services, has acquired BluePeak Technology Solutions, an IT services provider based in Reno, Nevada.

Nexus IT was backed in the buyout by Diatomic Healthcare, a private equity firm based in Miami.

The transaction marks the eighth acquisition by Nexus IT in recent years and represents a "significant step forward in the company's mission to build one of the top 10 MSP/MSSPs in the U.S., particularly serving clients in health care, finance and other regulated industries," Nexus IT said in its announcement of the acquisition.

"Brian and the BluePeak team represent everything we look for in a partner: val-

ues-aligned, client-centric and committed to excellence," said Earl Foote, founder and CEO of Nexus IT. "This acquisition isn't just about growth; it's about deepening our ability to elevate IT for organizations across the nation. We're thrilled to welcome BluePeak, its team and clients into Team Nexus."

"Joining Nexus IT is a natural evolution for BluePeak," said Brian Gifford, CEO of BluePeak. "We now have the resources, expertise and infrastructure to deliver even more value to our clients, while preserving the trust and relationships we've built locally."

Concurrent with the acquisition news, Nexus IT announced a \$60 million investment from New York City-based private equity firm Metropolitan Partners Group.

To submit news items for the Salt Lake Business Journal, published each Monday, send email to: t.haraldsen@mycityjournals.com



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Work Daze

It's crack-up time at work

Everyone knows you're heading for it. Everyone is waiting for it. But please, when it happens, no temper tantrums, no emotional fireworks. If you're going to crack up, please do it quietly.

Really, it's the thing to do.

Remember Quiet Quitting? That used to be a thing. Quiet Quitters did just enough work to keep from getting fired, content to marinate in place while their company fell apart.

And then there was Burnout. That was a thing, too. Burnt-out hulks of their former selves, Burnouts smoldered in place until a sympathetic manager, burned up by their burnout, put them out of their misery by dousing them with unemployment.

While Quiet Quitting and Burnout were good in their day, the work world has moved on. What HR needs now is a new meme to conceptualize the current state of your professional and emotional decline.

Which could be summed up as too distraught to do even the minimum you can get away with (aka Burnout) and too depressed to start looking for another job (aka Quiet Quitting). If that sounds like you, congratulations, you qualify for "Quiet Cracking," the latest hot topic in HR circles. Or so I learned from "How to Respond to 'Quiet Cracking,' a New Workplace Threat" by writer Bruce Crumley on fastcompany.com.

If the vibes at your company bounce



BOB GOLDMAN

between "Severance" and "Squid Games," the discovery of a major new workplace ailment should keep the HR department busy — and employed — for months, or at least until the next big, buzzy workplace malady is invented.

I say, let the Human Resources Industrial Complex come up with programs to fight Quiet Cracking. We'll turn their wackadoodle solutions into something that can actually make your work life a whole lot better.

No. 1: Symptoms of Quiet Quitting you can feel — or fake.

If your company is slow to recognize new workplace threats, real or imagined, let them know they're missing the boat. Wander the HR department mumbling the key words from Fast Company's description of the Quiet Quitting phenomenon. Here's your mantra: "I'm disconnected ... I'm demotivated ... I'm detached ... I'm eroding"

Repeat until you get someone's attention or you actually are eroded, detached, demotivated and disconnected. Or, as we call it in HR, management material.

No. 2: Beware: training ahead.

Quiet crackers don't believe their man-

agers appreciate them or "provide paths for advancing in their work and careers." One way to resolve these problems would be lavish praise, big fat raises, and more time off, but in most companies, that's crazy talk. Instead, employers are advised to take a more economical route — "double down on learning and development."

In a word, training.

If one more off-site will send you spiraling downward from Quiet Quitting into Burnout, consider that companies are also advised to let employees "define some of the themes and contents of the programs themselves." If this offer is on the conference table, I say take it.

Develop a program in which the team gets together to plan an out-of-office experience that you all agree will reflect your feelings about your jobs. For example, to demonstrate the common complaint that the company doesn't provide opportunities for advancement, take your managers to the nearest swamp and sink them up to their necks in mud. This will demonstrate how you feel stuck in your job but are unable to move. (Don't worry about alligators; your managers will scare them away.)

No. 3: And the gold whatchamacallit goes to ...

When all else fails, employers are advised to "publicly recognize employee work and achievements." This will be a foreign concept to management, but their

skittishness could be lessened by viewing such behavior as a "low-cost, high-impact method for boosting morale and self-esteem."

We're not talking the usual "good job" and head pat, but a glitzy, blowout event like the Emmys or the Oscars. Possible award categories include "Most Hours of the Workday Spent Playing 'Assassin's Creed Shadows,'" "Continuous Use of One Paper Clip for More than 10 Years," "Longest Consecutive Days Stealing Lunches from the Break Room Fridge." The last award has two separate divisions — with and without tuna fish.

If, despite your labors, your company refuses to accept Quiet Quitting as a problem, explain that a recent Gallup study showed employee disengagement "costs global businesses \$8.8 trillion annually in lost productivity." If this doesn't get the company to accept Quiet Quitting, start walking around making duck sounds.

When an HR professional comes running, explain that you're experiencing a new work condition that requires immediate attention.

It's called Quiet Quacking.

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

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Industry Briefs

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AEROSPACE

• **Safran Defense & Space Inc.**, through its Salt Lake City-based Space Solutions business unit, has been selected by AstroForge to manufacture and deliver two EPSX00 electric propulsion systems for the company's upcoming Vestri asteroid mission, scheduled to launch in early 2026. AstroForge, a California-based startup, focuses on extracting valuable resources from asteroids, such as platinum group metals, including platinum, palladium, rhodium and iridium. Based in Virginia, Safran DSI will provide two complete EPSX00 systems, each comprising the PPSX00 thruster, a power processing unit, and a fluid management system. The propulsion systems will support AstroForge's mission to rendezvous with and analyze a target asteroid in deep space.

BANKING

• **TAB Bank**, based in Ogden, funded growth for 218 companies in the second quarter, with loans totaling \$66 million. Companies signed with TAB Bank for working capital, cash flow management through factoring, equipment purchases and small-business lines of credit. Businesses in the manufacturing, transportation, health care, food, fintech and toy/game industries selected TAB Bank as their financial partner. The largest deal was \$8 million for an Ohio company focused on global sourcing, supply chain management, manufacturing and nearshoring. TAB also provided equip-

ment financing to 140 companies, with a combined value of \$15.2 million, during the second quarter. TAB also funded 55 small to medium-sized businesses.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

• **Business intelligence analysts** are the Utah professionals most worried about being **replaced by artificial intelligence**, according to a study by outplacement and career development firm **Careerminds** and based on an employee survey. They are followed, in order, by copywriters, compliance officers, loan officers, paralegals, executive assistants, legal researchers, SEO specialists, insurance underwriters and sales development representatives.

Details are at <https://careerminds.com/blog/panicked-professions>.

• **Two Utah locations** are on an **"art district hotlist,"** compiled by printing provider **Rivers Art** and based on a survey of art lovers about the districts they most want to visit in 2025. They are **The Blocks Art District** in Salt Lake City, ranked No. 99 nationally, and No. 100 **Granary District**, also in Salt Lake City. The top-ranked location overall is Wynwood in Miami, Florida. Details are at <https://www.riverswallart.com/blogs/art-surveys/popular-art-districts>.

• **Three Utah locations** are on a list of **"top wild swimming spots"** in the U.S., compiled by photo book company **Mixbook** and based on a survey of local people. They are **Meadow Hot Springs** near Fillmore (No. 54 nationally), No. 96 **Upper Calf Creek Falls** in Grand Staircase-Escalante, and No. 138

Toquerville Falls near St. George. The top location overall is Uluwehi Falls in Kaua'i, Hawaii. Details are at <https://www.mixbook.com/inspiration/secret-swims-america-favorite-wild-swimming-spots>.

• **Utah** is ranked No. 17 among states for **"social cohesion,"** a list compiled by the **Utah Foundation**. That is the second-highest among states in the Mountain States region. The foundation defines social cohesion as "the foundational commonalities that allow a population to function effectively as a group and open the way for individuals to participate in that whole."

The foundation's Social Capital Index project analyzed four indicators: middle-class strength (Utah is best in the nation), limited English language proficiency among children (Utah is 19th-lowest), limited English language proficiency among adults (Utah is 28th-lowest), and population born in-state (Utah is 19th-highest). Utah's level of social cohesion decreased slightly from 2021 to 2025, typical in many Mountain states and the nation.

• **Three Utah locations** are on a list of **"most coveted active vacation destinations,"** compiled by nursing career and education platform **BetterNurse.org** and based on a survey. They are **Bryce** (Bryce Canyon National Park), ranked No. 20 nationally, No. 29 **Moab** (Moab and Arches National Park) and No. 50 **Springdale** (Zion National Park). The top-ranked location overall is Yosemite National Park in California. Details are at <https://betternurse.org/coveted-adventure-travel-destinations/>.

• **Four public buildings in Utah** are on a list of **"ugliest public buildings in the U.S.,"** compiled by the New Jersey Real Estate Network and based on a survey. It asked people to weigh in on everything from state capitols to post offices, court buildings and city halls. The results highlight a surprising variety of concrete-heavy, boxy, and occasionally brutalist designs, that haven't aged as gracefully as their architects may have hoped. Ranked Utah public buildings are **Logan City Hall**, No. 52 nationally; No. 62 **Salt Lake County Government Center**, No. 92 **Provo County Administration Building**, and No. 94 **Francom Public Safety Center**. The ugliest overall is the City of Flint Municipal Center in Michigan. Details are at <https://www.newjerseyrealestatenetwork.com/blog/ugliest-public-buildings/>.

• **Salt Lake City**, at No. 224 nationally, is the highest-ranked Utah location on a list of **"Best Cities for Urban Gardening,"** compiled by **LawnStarter**. The lowest-ranked Utah location is No. 471 South Jordan. The top-ranked location overall is New York City. Details are at <https://www.lawnstarter.com/blog/studies/best-cities-urban-gardening/>.

• **Salt Lake City**, at No. 373 nationally, is the highest-ranked Utah location on a list of **"Top Cities for Tree Huggers,"** compiled by **Lawn Love** and using 14 metrics. The lowest-ranked Utah city is No. 462 **Lehi**. The top city nationally is Nashville, Tennessee. The No. 468 city is Sparks, Nevada. Details are at <https://lawnlove.com/blog/best-cities-for-tree-huggers/>.

EDUCATION

• Starting this year, **Weber State University** will begin offering students in some disciplines a way to earn bachelor's degrees within three years. With recent approval from WSU's accreditation body, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, the university can now

offer bachelor's degrees that require around 90 credits versus 120 credits, which for decades has been the standard to earn a "four-year" degree. Starting this fall, WSU will offer a Bachelor of Applied Politics, Philosophy & Economics, which requires 90-91 credits. Pending accreditor approval, WSU plans to offer an accelerated bachelor's degree in sound production and recording that requires 93-94 credits. The university expects several more programs to offer accelerated bachelor's degrees within the next couple of years.

ENERGY

• **Waterford School**, a liberal arts college preparatory independent school for students in preschool through high school in Sandy, is believed to have the first commercially approved flywheel energy storage system at a school in the U.S. The Torus hybrid flywheel/battery energy storage system has been installed outside Waterford's Murray Science Center. The system provides harmonic smoothing for 45 geothermal shafts beneath the adjacent turf field that sustainably heats and cools the building. The 38,500-square-foot Murray Science Center opened in August 2023.

HEALTH CARE

• The federal government has reinstated the **Radiation Exposure Compensation Act**, or RECA, after expiring over a year ago, and **Intermountain Health's** Downwinders Clinic wants the community to know it is available to help families impacted by nuclear testing. The RECA statute provides family compensation for health issues encountered from radioactive fallout during the federal government's nuclear testing at the Nevada Test Site decades ago. The Downwinders Clinic is located in Intermountain St. George Regional Hospital's Cancer Center and provides education, health care assistance and help applying for RECA. The newly expanded version of the RECA compensation program's guidelines includes all of Utah now being included as an affected area. Previously, it was just select portions of the state and nothing north of Fillmore and Richfield. There is no charge for the help that the Downwinders clinic provides. Details are at 435-251-4760.

HOUSING

• The **Salvation Army Ogden Corps** has announced that the new **Silvercrest Senior Residence**, subsidized housing for low-income seniors 62 years and older, will open for tenants at 2655 Grand Ave. in October. The senior housing consists of 52 one-bedroom apartments, each with a kitchen, bath and living quarters to encourage independent living. Residents pay only 30 percent of their income for housing, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development pays the difference. The housing will offer on-site activities such as case management/service coordination, social gatherings, recreational activities and educational workshops. The residence includes seven open lounge areas, a large community room, a library, a wellness room, an exercise room, a private gathering room, a laundry room, a garden area with raised planter boxes for tenants, outdoor patio and an on-site surface parking lot with 43 stalls. Details are at ogden.salvationarmy.org.

INDUSTRIAL

• **Turner Industries**, based in Louisiana,



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has opened an operations facility at 3096 Davis Drive, Salt Lake City. The new office will serve as a strategic hub, allowing Turner Industries to expand its turnkey industrial services, including rope access and nondestructive examination and inspections, to both new and existing clients. The facility will also support ongoing site and project operations while serving as a center for hiring and training initiatives. For over 60 years, Turner Industries has provided turnkey industrial services and solutions to the companies that produce fuel, energy and materials. It focuses on heavy industrial construction, maintenance, turnarounds, pipe and module fabrication, equipment, rigging and specialized transportation, and associated specialty services. It operates 15 facilities and has more than 20,000 employees, including more than 100 working at industrial facilities in the Salt Lake City area and a core team opening the office. The Salt Lake City facility is Turner's first permanent location in Utah.

NONPROFITS

• **Ken Garff's Success in Education**, a philanthropic organization, has changed its name to **Ken Garff for Good**. It made the move, it said, "to better reflect the organization's history, mission and vision." For more than two decades, it has connected Utah students to over \$100 million in scholarships. The organization's programs are currently used in all 41 school districts across the state. Ken Garff for Good is a philanthropic entity of Salt Lake City-based Ken Garff Enterprises.

PARTNERSHIPS

• **Qualtrics**, an experience management company with headquarters in Provo and Seattle, has announced an expanded collaboration with **Stanford Health Care** to create AI agents that translate predictive insights into timely, targeted actions, reducing the administrative and coordination burdens placed on health care providers. Built on the Qualtrics XM Platform and developed in collaboration with Stanford Health Care, these agents aim to address challenges, including translating unified patient and operational data into timely, targeted actions that improve access, coordination and engagement. Operating under human supervision, the agents interact with patients and care teams in ways that are precise, proactive and context-aware.

PHILANTHROPY

• A team of three women from Springville won **Bank of Utah's** third annual "Where's the Wallet Cash Quest," with the team winning \$10,000 and the team donating another \$10,000 to the **Utah Kids Foundation**. Using weekly social media clues, the women found the wallet on the Yellow Fork Trail in Herriman. The Utah Kids Foundation is a nonprofit organization supporting Utah's special needs families and caregivers by providing medical supplies, support programs, disability-friendly events and an online support forum.

REAL ESTATE

• **FranklinCovey**, a company focused on organizational performance improvement, has signed a lease for the top floor of five-story Minuteman Plaza V at 13937 S. Minuteman Drive, Draper. The lease spans approximately 26,000 square feet in a space formerly occupied by Acima Credit. Brandon Fugal and Chris Kirk of **Colliers** represented FranklinCovey and Josh Smith and Angela Kroneberger of Colliers represented the property owner, **LD Bowerman Investments**, in the transaction.

RESTAURANTS

• **Bubbakoo's Burritos**, a Mexican-fusion concept, has opened its first Utah location at 37 W. University Parkway, Orem. The new location is locally owned and operated by **Loco Rico LLC**, a multi-unit and multi-brand operator with over 40 years of experience in the QSR space. This Orem restaurant will be the first of more than five to open in the state over the next three years. Bubbakoo's Burritos was founded in 2008 and now has more than 100 locations across the United States.

TECHNOLOGY

• **Orion**, a Nebraska-based provider of wealthtech solutions, has relocated an office from Provo to Lehi. The company said the new office is designed to foster collaboration and well-being, offering adaptive workspaces and communal areas, a pickleball court, bike shed, fire pit and on-site showers.

TRANSPORTATION

• **CW Flight**, a Salt Lake City-based private aviation company, is now operating out of Salt Lake City International Airport and Provo Municipal Airport. It offers Salt Lake's only Cirrus Certified Flight School, along with services that include aircraft management, pilot support, sales, maintenance, and curated flying adventures.

VOLUNTEERISM

• **More than 600 volunteers** from throughout Salt Lake City will join in unity to pack 170,000 meals in observance of **9/11 Day**, the federally-recognized Sept. 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance. All of the meals will be donated to **Utah Food Bank** for distribution to individuals and families in need in Salt Lake City. The service project will be held at the Jon M. Huntsman Center from 9 to 11 a.m. In its inaugural year, the Salt Lake City Meal Pack for 9/11 Day is one of 24 large-scale volunteer service projects being organized throughout the nation by the nonprofit **9/11 Day**, which began the observance in 2002. Across the U.S., more than 30,000 people are expected to volunteer at 9/11 Day's signature Meal Pack events, assembling more than 9 million shelf-stable meals for food-insecure Americans. The 9/11 Day Meal Pack Program is being sponsored nationally by the federal agency **AmeriCorps**, which oversees national service programs throughout the United States.

Unicoïn acquires controlling stake in SLC's Diamond Lake Minerals

Unicoïn Inc., a New York City-based digital currency platform, has acquired a 51 percent stake in Diamond Lake Minerals Inc., a Salt Lake City company specializing in the development of digital assets and SEC-registered security tokens.

Concurrently, the company will rebrand as DiamondLake Inc. to reflect its ongoing expansion and strategic focus on digital assets.

Unicoïn said DiamondLake Inc. plans to expand into the digital asset treasury business, inspired by the success of models like Strategy Inc. Acting on the projected growth of the alt-coin market, DiamondLake aims to implement strategies to secure significant stakes in emerging alt-coins, the company said in its announcement release.

"Strategy Inc. has spent over \$40 bil-

lion on purchasing bitcoins to achieve its current \$106 billion valuation," said Alex Konanykhin, CEO of Unicoïn. "We believe that the same results can be achieved much more cost-efficiently in the alt-coin segment, given the progress with the Stablecoin Act and other positive legislative regulatory developments."

"I've admired Unicoïn's leadership and strategy for years, and today marks a historic moment as our companies unite to shape the future of tokenization," said Diamond Lake CEO Brian J. Esposito. "Together with Unicoïn, our combined resources, expertise and vision will enable us to achieve remarkable things and demonstrate the true potential of tokenization to the world."

The transaction and rebranding are expected to close in the third quarter of 2025.

Post-purchase services company Route names Kobe CEO

Route, a Lehi company that specializes in post-purchase services for e-commerce companies, has named Eric Kobe its new CEO, succeeding Michael Yamartino, who will join the board of directors. The change was effective July 14.

Kobe brings decades of experience in e-commerce, fintech and insurance technology to his new role at Route. He created partnerships with e-commerce companies like Walmart, Wayfair and Peloton during his time in senior leadership positions at financial technology company Affirm and served as CEO at Groundspeed, an AI-driven insurance technology company. He most recently served as CEO of Koalifi, a consumer finance platform for brands and retailers.

"Route has an extraordinary opportunity to continue to redefine what shoppers expect after they click 'buy,'" said Kobe. "The team has built a platform that not only drives measurable growth for brands but also creates seamless, trusted experiences for their customers. I'm excited to build on this foundation and lead Route in shaping the future of post-purchase commerce."

"These past five years at Route have been a highlight of my career," said Yamartino. "Route is poised for amazing things in this next phase, so finding the

right leader was critical to me and the founders. Eric immediately stood out with his experience scaling companies, deep understanding of e-commerce and natural alignment with our culture. I couldn't be more excited to pass the baton to him."

"I'm incredibly excited to partner with Eric as we enter our next chapter of enterprise growth," said Evan Walker, founder and executive chairman of Route. "His proven ability to scale organizations and drive strategic innovation aligns perfectly with our vision for Route's future. Eric's leadership will undoubtedly propel us to even greater heights."



YOUR VISION. OUR COMMITMENT. BUILT TO LAST.



PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Company news information may be sent to brice.w@thecityjournals.com.

EDUCATION

• The **University of Utah's** David Eccles School of Business recently appointed **Jeff D. Davis** as director of the Master of Business Creation (MBC). The program provides founders with personal mentorship, applied curriculum, access to funding, marketing resources and more to help them grow their business while also earning an accredited master's degree. Davis is an experienced international executive, entrepreneur, investor, and professor of entrepreneurship and marketing. He has been a faculty member of the marketing department and a co-founder of the MBC program, and has led the MBC Global option since it launched last year. He enrolled the first global cohort in Africa starting in fall 2025 and will lead an expansion to Europe. Before joining the UofU, Davis built brands at Procter & Gamble in numerous product sectors and in several countries for 23 years. After that, he became an angel investor, board member and eventual CEO of Orabrush. He also is the founder of Molio. He earned a B.S. in marketing and a B.A. in German from the UofU. Davis succeeds **Paul Brown**, who stepped down after serving as co-director of the program since 2023. Brown will continue to serve as an instructor, mentor and strategic advisor to the MBC program and a faculty member in the Department of Entrepreneurship & Strategy. His experience outside the classroom includes practicing law as a partner of the Kirkland & Ellis law firm in Chicago, founding and co-managing Blue Cross and Blue Shield's \$300 million national venture capital fund, serving as a managing director at Sandbox Industries, and co-founding Upstream Ventures. His education includes dual bachelor's degrees from the UofU.

• **Salt Lake Community College** has named **Jamie Cooper** as provost of academic affairs and **Jason Wood** as vice president of Salt Lake Technical College, part of SLCC. Cooper has nearly 30 years of experience in higher education, joining SLCC from



Jamie Cooper



Jason Wood

York Technical College in South Carolina, where he served as executive vice president for academic affairs. His career includes leadership roles at The Evergreen State College and George Mason University, where he oversaw advising, multicultural services and academic operations. Wood has more than two decades of experience in higher education leadership, most recently serving as president of Southwest Wisconsin Technical College. Wood's career spans several institutions, including Central Wyoming College, Klamath Community College and Southwestern Oregon Community College. His education includes a bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University.

HEALTH CARE

• **Canary Speech**, a Provo-based voice biomarker health tech company, has appointed **Dr. Kang Hsu Jr.** as chief medical officer. He will lead the company's medical strategy, clinical innovation, and help the company's position in vocal biomarker technology. He will oversee Canary Speech's clinical direction, support product development, and work closely with strategic partners and major health systems, and contribute to the company's research efforts. Hsu has more than two decades of clinical, operational and digital health experience, most recently serving as associate vice president for acute medical informatics at Providence. He also has held senior leadership roles at Providence, St. Joseph Health and Meditech.



Kang Hsu, Jr.

INVESTMENTS

• **Sorenson Capital**, a Lehi-based early and growth-stage venture capital firm, has promoted **Eric Hilton** to partner. Hilton focuses on early-stage investments in B2B software. He joined the firm in 2015. Hilton's education includes earning a B.S. in exercise science from Brigham Young University.



Eric Hilton

LAW

• **Ballard Spahr** has added **Marcus Simon**, **Jonathan P. Rowe** and **Joshua W. Hoggard** in its Salt Lake City office. All three join from Dorsey & Whitney. Rowe and Hoggard are senior attorneys who work with Simon on strategic patent counseling, patent prosecution before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), and related services. Simon and his team work across an array of industries, including medical, health care, life sciences, higher education, energy, mining and aerospace. A significant part of the practice involves representing clients from outside of the United States before the USPTO. Simon has joined Ballard Spahr's Intellectual Property Department and Patents Group as a partner. He is an intellectual property attorney with more than two decades of experience in patent prosecution and counseling across industries. He was a partner at Dorsey & Whitney. Before practicing law, Simon earned a master's degree in materials science and engineering and worked as a materials engineer and fracture mechanics specialist in the aerospace industry. He earned his J.D. from the University of Utah. Rowe earned both a bachelor's and master's from Brigham Young University. Hoggard earned both a bachelor's degree and his J.D. from the University of Utah.



Marcus Simon



Jonathan Rowe



Joshua Hoggard

• **Ogletree Deakins**, a labor and employment law firm, has hired **Seth Ensign** for its Salt Lake City office as a shareholder. Ensign has more than a dozen years of legal experience, most recently as associate general counsel at private equity investment firm Fifth Partners for four years. His experience includes litigating complex employment and commercial matters. His practice focuses on employment law, including advice and counsel for employers on risk management, class actions, business torts, restrictive covenants, intellectual property

disputes, workplace policies, employee discipline, executive departures, and day-to-day operations. Ensign earned both his undergraduate degree and his J.D. from Brigham Young University.

• **Spencer Fane LLP** has hired **David R. Rudd** for its Salt Lake City office as an of counsel attorney in the Corporate and Business Transactions practice group. Rudd assists public and private companies operating in domestic and foreign markets with a range of corporate transactions and related financings, including mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, minority investments, strategic alliances, asset sales and purchases, private equity and venture capital investments, intra-company mergers and reorganizations, and debt and equity financings. He also advises clients on corporate governance, creating effective and compliant business strategies and systems for operations that benefit all key stakeholders. He spent more than a decade of his practice operating out of Mexico City. Outside of private practice, Rudd lectures at the University of Utah's David Eccles Graduate School of Business, presents at major conferences on international and domestic business and legal matters, and serves on the board of advisors and as a panelist in events sponsored by World Trade Center Utah. His education includes a bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University.

RETAIL

• **Sportsman's Warehouse Holdings Inc.**, a West Jordan-based outdoor specialty retailer, has appointed **Jennifer Fall Jung** as chief financial officer and secretary of the company. She succeeds **Jeff White**, who is serving in a consulting role to assist with the transition until Sept. 9. Fall Jung has over 25 years of experience in the consumer goods industry, including serving as executive vice president and CFO of The Duckhorn Portfolio Inc.; serving as CFO of Funko Inc.; holding a variety of roles at The Gap Inc., including senior vice president of corporate finance and investor relations; serving as CFO and senior vice president of Old Navy Global Stores and Online; and serving as head of international of Old Navy Global.



Jennifer Fall Jung

Opiniion acquires Chicago-based Rentgrata

Opiniion, a resident satisfaction software platform based in Lehi, has acquired Rentgrata, a Chicago-based peer-to-peer resident engagement tool.

The acquisition was backed by Five Elms Capital, Opiniion's Series A investor. RET Ventures, an early investor focused on real estate technology innovation, also remains as a stakeholder.

Founded in 2017, Opiniion's platform operates in the multifamily, student and senior housing sector, helping property managers collect real-time feedback, generate online reviews and improve resident experiences.

Rentgrata connects prospective renters with current residents, bringing trust and transparency into the leasing process.

"This strategic acquisition integrates two innovative proptech (property technology) solutions to create an industry leading, end-to-end platform designed to enhance the entire resident journey, from pre-lease to lease renewal to move-out," Opiniion said in its announcement of the transaction.

Together, Opiniion and Rentgrata will support over 2 million units across 9,000-plus rental communities nationwide.

"This acquisition is a major step for-

ward in redefining how properties attract, engage and retain residents," said Devin Shurtleff, CEO of Opiniion. "By bringing Rentgrata into the Opiniion ecosystem, we're creating one solution that addresses two critical stages in the resident journey: the initial prospect experience and the long-term resident relationship. It's a powerful convergence that reinforces our commitment to becoming the industry's first all-in-one resident operations platform."

"Joining Opiniion was a natural fit," said Ben Margolit, CEO and co-founder of Rentgrata. "We've always believed

in the power of authentic resident voices to shape leasing outcomes. With Opiniion, we can now extend that impact well beyond the lease signing, giving property teams smarter solutions to engage and retain residents."

"Opiniion and Rentgrata share a commitment to creating meaningful, measurable impact for property operators and renters alike," said Stephanie Schneider, partner at Five Elms Capital. "We're excited to support the acquisition and believe it further solidifies Opiniion as a leader in resident experience technology."

INNOVATE UTAH



A Springville startup has launched **Coach Blitz**, an all-in-one platform for managing soccer teams. The new company says its app goes beyond the

mere logistics of team management and centers on coaching itself. The platform is now available for iOS, Android and the web.

Designed by coaches, for coaches, Coach Blitz goes beyond scheduling. It supports real coaching tasks like planning practices, managing match-day decisions, tracking player development and analyzing performance throughout the season. It is designed to effectively handle management of team levels from tots in recreation leagues to high-level competition teams.

The app's core features were designed with insight from an Italian, licensed coach with professional experience and an American club coach with over a decade in youth soccer.

"Before Coach Blitz, I juggled paper notes, emails and memory. It made coaching harder than it needed to be," said a youth coach who uses Coach Blitz. "Now I plan practices ahead of time and manage games in real-time: subs, stats, timers — all from one screen. And at season's end, I can show each player and parent exactly what they contributed. They love that."

The app is free to use with the core features included. Advanced features are available through a paid Pro Plan. Coach Blitz subscribers receive regular updates to the platform, guided by feedback from coaches using the system in the field.



Applause, a Salt Lake City-based performance and engagement platform for the field services industry, has launched **Applause Scorecards**, a new product designed to transform how field service businesses track,

measure and improve technician performance. Applause Scorecards enables both field leaders and technicians to access real-time performance data, define key expectations and automate bonuses. As part of the existing Applause platform, technicians can view their personalized performance scorecards directly in the app they already use every day. "Today's field service teams need more than basic reporting; they need visibility, motivation and the ability to act in real time," said **Joel Rager**, vice president of product at Applause. "Scorecards bring structure and clarity to performance management, so both administrators and technicians know exactly where they stand. And because it's built into the Applause app, there's no learning curve or disruption, just immediate value."



Salt Lake City-based health supplement company **Better Being Co.** has launched a new product under its Zhou Nutrition brand. **Body Smooth** is a cellulite-support supplement designed to support the appearance and texture of skin. "Most cellulite products are creams or oils. **Body Smooth** works differently — it's a supplement that supports skin health from within," said **Caitlin Probst**, marketing director for Zhou Nutrition. "Rather than masking the skin's surface, our formula targets the nutritional factors that influence skin texture." **Body Smooth** features hyaluronic acid to maintain skin moisture, Zhou said. It includes Vitamin C, an antioxidant and cofactor in the body's synthesis of collagen. It also contains SOD-B Dimplex, a patented ingredient clinically shown to help reduce the appearance of cellulite on thighs when combined with a healthy diet and exercise. The product is available on the company's website and at retailers nationwide.



Smarty, an address intelligence provider headquartered in Orem, has introduced its **U.S. Property Risk Data** product. The new application programming interface-based (API) solution transforms FEMA's National Risk Index (NRI) into structured,

address-level hazard intelligence, enabling insurers, lenders and real estate platforms to model risk and evaluate exposure at high speed and massive scale. The API returns more than 465 NRI data fields across 18 natural hazards, plus economic and population data, geographic identifiers and community resilience scores. This comprehensive data set covers every major natural threat to U.S. properties, Smarty said. "The challenge is never simply accessing FEMA data; it's making it queryable at the individual property level," said Brent Francom, Smarty's director of product management. "We've essentially pre-computed the hazard profiles for every U.S. address, so a single API call returns everything you need for high-level risk assessment."



ELB Learning, a provider of immersive learning solutions based in American Fork, has launched a new service called **Sales Transformation & Enablement (ST&E)**. The service leverages behavioral science, advanced technology and talent optimization to equip enterprise sales leaders with data-informed strategies and buyer-aligned execution. ELB Learning said ST&E's approach bridges the gap between training and real-world sales execution and shortens the training-to-revenue time span. "Traditional sales enablement is no longer enough. It fails to prepare teams for the complexity of today's sales environment," said **Andrew Scivally**, CEO of ELB Learning. "ST&E is designed to diagnose, design and activate systemic change by aligning strategy, talent and execution in a way that drives performance. When we've applied this approach, over 60 percent of teams have closed deals before their quota periods began. That is the kind of outcome we are delivering to our customers."



Event management platform **Stova** is rolling out its **Event Intelligence**

Suite, a powerful new business intelligence analytics system that gives event professionals real-time, holistic visibility across every event. Stova is headquartered in Bluffdale. Built within the Stova platform, the suite empowers event professionals to make faster, data-driven decisions with confidence, the company said. The platform's key features include instant key performance tracking, global engagement mapping, registration trends over time, marketing conversion metrics, event performance analytics and interactive data filters. Planners and marketers get on-demand answers, not just data dumps, empowering them to optimize performance, improve ROI and scale faster and smarter, Stova said. "Event organizers need true visibility. Stova's Event Intelligence Suite pulls relevant data together into an intuitive and customizable view delivering insights that power event professionals to move faster and smarter," said **Kirk Ziehm**, CEO of Stova.



Salt Lake City-based **Lender Toolkit**, a mortgage automation technology company and creator of the Mortgage Efficiency Cooperative, has announced the launch of its **IT Services** offering, designed specifically for lenders using ICE Mortgage Technology's Encompass loan origination platform. In its effort to eliminate inefficiencies and unify disconnected mortgage workflows, the new offering adds a layer of support for independent mortgage banks (IMBs) seeking to improve performance, reduce costs and align their technology with business goals, the company said. "Lenders told us they were tired of juggling disconnected vendors and solving the same problems over and over," said **Brett Brumley**, CEO of Lender Toolkit. "We listened. With IT Services, we're not just solving Encompass challenges; we're diagnosing the root cause across the entire tech stack. It's all part of our commitment to being the one partner lenders need to scale efficiently."

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CALENDAR

Information about upcoming events may be sent to brice.w@thecityjournals.com.

Aug. 25

“Powers of AI Course,” an eight-week online AI course presented by the Women Tech Council, in partnership with Saras AI Institute. Course is beginner-friendly and designed for working adults. Event takes place online. Cost is \$99. Details are at <https://www.sarasai.org/lp/us/powers-of-ai>.

Aug. 26-27

“Meet the Resources/Access to Capital,” a Small Business Development Center event. Sessions take place Aug. 26, 8:30-11:30 a.m., at Southwest Technical College, 757 W. 800 S., Cedar City; Aug. 27, 8:30-11:30 a.m., at Garfield County Commission chambers, 55 S. Main St., Panguitch; and Aug. 27, 1:30-4:30 p.m., at Beaver City offices, 30 W. 300 N., Beaver. Details are at <https://clients.utahsbdc.org/events.aspx>.

Aug. 26, 11:30 a.m.

Professional Development Series, a ChamberWest event. Speaker Stafford Palmieri Sievert, consultant at Exit Factor and founder of Fidens Strategy, will discuss “AI Unlocked: How Businesses Like Yours are Thriving with Smart Bots.” Location is Grace Co., 6748 S. Redwood Road, West Jordan. Cost is \$35. Details are at chamberwest.com.

Aug. 26, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Women in Business, an Ogden-Weber Chamber of Commerce 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.

Aug. 26, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Women in Business, a South Valley Chamber of Commerce event. Speakers Angie White, co-owner of Beddy’s, and Stephanie Rendon, senior director of operations at Beddy’s, will discuss “Conversations That Matter: Empowering Every Voice, Creating a Place for All.” Location is Magnolia Event Center, 1117 S. Jordan Parkway, South Jordan. Cost is \$23 for members, \$35 for nonmembers. Details are at southvalleychamber.com.

Aug. 26, 2-7:30 p.m.

“The Foundry Challenge: Contestant Presentations and Awards Dinner,” presented by 47G, in collaboration with The Leonardo and focused on the future of manufacturing. Event is a pitch competition empowering underserved STEM entrepreneurs in advanced manufacturing. A track for attendees includes an 8:30 a.m. keynote presentation and 5:30 p.m. awards and dinner. Location is The Leonardo, 209 E. 500 S., Salt Lake City. Details are at <https://events.47g.org/foundry>.

Aug. 26, 2-5 p.m.

Job Fair, a Utah Valley Chamber of Commerce event. Location is Utah Valley Convention Center, 220 W. Center St., Provo. Free for job-seekers. Details are at thechamber.org.

Aug. 27, 9-11 a.m.

AI Revenue Summit, with the theme “Building the Next Generation of AI-Powered Revenue Teams.” Keynote

speakers are Sanjin Bicanic, partner, Bain & Co.; and Dave Elkington, founder and CEO, Signals. Details are at <https://www.airevenuesummit.com>.

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

“Chamber Connections,” a Davis Chamber of Commerce event. Location is Davis Chamber of Commerce, 450 S. Simmons Way, Suite 220, Kaysville. Free (food available for purchase). Open to the public. No RSVP needed. Details are at davischamberofcommerce.com.

Aug. 27, noon-1:30 p.m.

“Crossroads of the World: Peru,” a World Trade Center Utah event hosted in partnership with the Governor’s Office of Economic Opportunity and the Salt Lake Chamber. Location is World Trade Center Utah, 60 E. South Temple, Suite 300, Salt Lake City. Free, but registration is required. Details are at <https://lu.ma/ocbk6w0r>.

Aug. 27, 4-6 p.m.

HealthTech Hub Collider Event, a BioHive event focused on the collision of AI in health tech. Topic is “Will AI Become the Trusted Health Care Resource Instead of the Physician in Five Years?” Location is Lucid Software, 10355 S. Jordan Gateway, No 300, South Jordan. Details are at <https://lu.ma/18c9kl02>.

Aug. 27, 5-6:30 p.m.

“Connect After Hours,” a South Valley Chamber of Commerce event. Location is The Ballpark at America First Square, 1111 S. Ballpark Drive, South Jordan. Cost is \$15 for members, \$25 for nonmembers. Details are at southvalleychamber.com.

Aug. 27, 5-7 p.m.

“Connect After Hours,” a South Valley Chamber of Commerce event. Location is The Ballpark at America First Square, 1111 S. Ballpark Drive, South Jordan. Cost is \$15 for members, \$25 for nonmembers. Details are at southvalleychamber.com.

Aug. 27, 6-7:30 p.m.

“Facebook/Instagram Ads: Create and Manage Ads like a Pro,” a Small Business Development Center event that takes place online. Details are at <https://clients.utahsbdc.org/events.aspx>.

Aug. 28, 9-11 a.m.

2025 Annual Meeting, a Park City Chamber & Visitors Bureau event featuring breakfast, a look at marketing plans for the upcoming fiscal year, highlights and successes from the past year, an update from the Utah Office of Tourism, recognition of outgoing board members and officers, and awarding of the Myles Rademan Spirit of Hospitality Award to an outstanding community member. Location is Pendry Park City, 2417 W. High Mountain Road, Park City. Cost is \$60 (\$500 for a table of eight). Details are at <https://www.parkcitychamber.com>.

Aug. 28, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

GTM Live, a Fullcast event featuring expert-led sessions, networking and roundtables. Speakers include Matt Volm, RevOps Co-op; Clint Betts, Silicon Slopes; Jon Bradshaw, AI Utah; Aditya Gautam, Meta; and Catherine Bennett, Utah Business. Location

is Silicon Slopes, 2600 Executive Parkway, No. 140, Lehi. Details are at <https://www.fullcast.com/content-type/newsroom/>.

Aug. 28, noon-1 p.m.

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

Aug. 28, 6-7 p.m.

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

Aug. 29, noon

“Friday Conversation,” a Silicon Slopes event. Speaker is Jeff Burningham, founder and chairman, Peak Capital Partners. Location is 2600 Executive Parkway, Suite 140, Lehi. Free. Details are at <https://app.silicon-slopes.com/events>.

Sept. 3, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Acquicon 2025 (Acquisition Conference), hosted by Acquisition IQ, bringing together high-performing entrepreneurs, investors, and M&A service providers from around the country. Event offers an immersive experience for leaders looking to grow through acquisition, prepare their company for a powerful exit, or explore capital and structuring strategies at the highest level. Event includes master classes, expert panels and networking. Speakers include Jamie Miller, communication and negotiation expert; Jerilyn Mallari, tax strategist; Adam Campbell, fund architect; Paul Hickey, IPO versus VC strategist; Reid Tileston, ETA and acquisition master class; John Curtin (Now Exit), host of the sell-side exit panel; and a funding panel discussion. VIP dinner takes place 5:30-9 p.m. Location is Karen Gail Miller Conference Center, 9750 S. 300 W., Sandy. General admission is \$325. VIP experience is \$675. Inner Circle VIP is \$1,499. Details are available at <https://acquicon.live>.

Sept. 3, 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.

Sept. 3, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

“Wasatch Back Business University: Branding,” a Park City Chamber/Bureau event. Location is Blair Education Conference Center, 900 Round Valley Drive, Park City. Cost is \$10 (registration is required). Details are at <https://www.parkcitychamber.com/events/>.

Sept. 4, 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. Free. Details are at wbcutah.org.

Sept. 4, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Hill AFB Area Veterans Job Fair. Location is Davis Conference Center, 1651 N. 700 W., Layton. Details are at rmvets.com/HILL0925.

Sept. 4, 3-7 p.m.

“Exploring Possibilities Conference,” a Women’s Business Center of Utah event. Keynote speaker is Kimberly O’Connell, founder and owner of Brixley. Event also features a speed pitch competition, networking, local vendor booths and the announcement of the Southern Utah Entrepreneur of the Year. Location is Courtyard by Marriott, 1294 S. Interstate Drive, Cedar City. Cost is \$60. Details are at wbcutah.org.

Sept. 5

24th Annual Ogden Rescue Mission Charity Golf Tournament, hosted by TAB Bank. All proceeds support the Ogden Rescue Mission helping people experiencing homelessness in Northern Utah. Location is Wolf Creek Resort in Eden. Details are at <https://tabbank-orm.betterworld.org/>.

Sept. 9, 9-11 a.m.

Business Women’s Forum 2025: “From Passion to Policy: Women’s Guide to Civic Participation.” Presenter is Hoang Nguyen, Utah state representative, managing partner of Sapa Investments and CEO of Dragonfly Wellness. Location is Ken Garff University Club, Rice-Eccles Stadium, 451 S. 1400 E., Salt Lake City. Cost is \$25 for members and \$50 before Sept. 2, \$50 for members and \$65 for nonmembers thereafter. Details are at slchamber.com.

Sept. 10, 7 a.m.-4 p.m.

Restaurantology 2025, a Savory event for restaurant operators and industry executives. Location is The Depot, 13 N. 400 W., Salt Lake City. Free. Details are at Restaurantologysummit.com.

Sept. 10, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

“Chamber Connections,” a Davis Chamber of Commerce event. Location is Davis Chamber of Commerce, 450 S. Simmons Way, Suite 220, Kaysville. Free (food available for purchase). Open to the public. No RSVP needed. Details are at davischamberofcommerce.com.

Sept. 10, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

“Let’s Do Lunch,” a South Valley Chamber of Commerce event. Cost is \$23 for members, \$35 for nonmembers. Details to be announced at southvalleychamber.com.

Sept. 10, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Chamber Luncheon, a Point of the Mountain Chamber of Commerce “Taste of the Point” event featuring food samples from chamber members. Location is Osier Park, 385 N. Osier Ave., Lehi. Details are at thepointchamber.com.

Sept. 10, 5-8:30 p.m.

Annual Awards Gala, a ChamberWest event. Theme is “Vintage Vegas.” Reception begins at 5 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. Location is Viridian Event Center, 8030 S. 1825 W., West Jordan. RSVP deadline is Aug. 29. Details are at chamberwest.com.

Sept. 10, 5-7 p.m.

“STEM by Step: Your Mentorship Journey,” a BioHive Women in Technology and Science event. Location is Blackrock Neurotech, 630 Komas Drive, No. 200, Salt Lake City. Details are at <https://lu.ma/w9x474ec>.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Elizabeth Horton is the Successor Trustee of the CLARAJO STERNER FAMILY TRUST AGREEMENT (the "Trust"). ClaraJo Sterner, the Trust Grantor, died on or about July 15, 2025. Creditors of the Trust and Estate of ClaraJo Sterner are hereby notified, pursuant to the Utah Uniform Probate Code and the Utah Uniform Trust Code to deliver or mail their written claims to the Trustee's attorney, Benjamin P. Thomas with the law firm of Strong & Hanni, at 102 South 200 East, Suite 800, Salt Lake City, UT 84111 or otherwise present their claims as required by Utah law within three (3) months after the date of the first publication of this Notice, or be forever barred from presenting the claim. This Notice is intended to be valid against any creditor of the above-named trust and also against any creditor of the estate of the deceased Grantor.

DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION: August 25, 2025.

Dated August 15, 2025.

STRONG & HANNI

/s/Benjamin P. Thomas

Benjamin P. Thomas

Attorneys for Trustee

102 S 200 E Ste, 800 Salt Lake City, UT 84111

Crown Castle is proposing to increase the height of an existing telecommunications tower to 104 feet at the following site: 120 West 1000 North, Bountiful, Davis County, UT 84010 (lat: 40-54-10.46; long: -111-52-57.55). The tower is not expected to be lighted. Any interested party that believes the proposed action may have a significant impact on the environment may file a Request for Environmental Review (Request) to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Such Request may only raise environmental concerns. Information regarding the project may be found under file number A1326708 on the FCC website www.fcc.gov/asr/applications. The Request must be filed with the FCC within 30 days of the notice being posted on the FCC website. The FCC requires that all Requests be filed electronically at www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest. The Request must also be served upon Crown Castle by mailing a copy to 2000 Corporate Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317 ATTN: Regulatory Department.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPOINTMENT AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of Janet Walton

Deceased Probate No. 253700345

Steven L. Walton, whose address is 1746 Jeppson Way, Farmington, Utah 84025, has been appointed Personal Representative in the probate case styled *In the Matter of the Estate of Janet Walton*, which probate case is pending in the Second Judicial District Court in and for Davis County, State of Utah, as Probate No. 253700345. Creditors of the Estate are notified to (1) deliver or mail their written claims to the personal representative at the address above; (2) deliver or mail their written claims to the personal representative's attorney of record, J. Scott Brown at the following address: 111 East Broadway, 11th Floor, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111; or (3) file their written claims with the Clerk of the District Court in Davis County, or otherwise present their claims as required by Utah law within three months after the date of the first publication of this notice or be forever barred.

/s/ J. Scott Brown

J. Scott Brown

Attorney for Personal Representative

111 East Broadway, 11th Floor

Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

(801) 363-4300

ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPOINTMENT AND

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Case No. 253700363

SECOND DISTRICT COURT – FARMINGTON

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DAVIS COUNTY, STATE OF UTAH
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
MARK GARY ADAMS, a deceased person.
Tammy DePaolo whose address is c/o Clint R. Hansen, Fabian VanCott, 95 South State Street, Suite 2300, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111, has been appointed personal representative of the above-entitled estate. Creditors of the estate are hereby notified to: (1) deliver or mail their

written claims to the personal representative at the address above; (2) deliver or mail their written claims to the personal representative's attorneys of record, Clint R. Hansen, Fabian VanCott, 95 South State Street, Suite 2300, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111; (3) file their written claims with the Clerk of the Court of the Second Judicial District Court, Davis County; 800 W. State St. Farmington, UT 84025 or (4) otherwise present their claims as required by Utah law within three (3) months after the date of first publication of this notice, or be forever barred.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of Kristine Kay Will, Deceased

Probate No. 253700432

Second Judicial District Court, Davis County, Utah

Notice is hereby given that Deena Lyn Will, whose address is 9284 E Aster Dr, Scottsdale, AZ 85260, has been appointed Personal Representative of the above-entitled estate.

All persons having claims against the decedent are required to present them in writing to the undersigned Personal Representative or to the Second Judicial District Court, Davis County, Utah, on or before November 8, 2025, or said claims shall be forever barred.

Publishing: August 11, 2025, August 18, 2025, August 25, 2025

Deena Lyn Will

Personal Representative

9284 E Aster Dr

Scottsdale, AZ 85260

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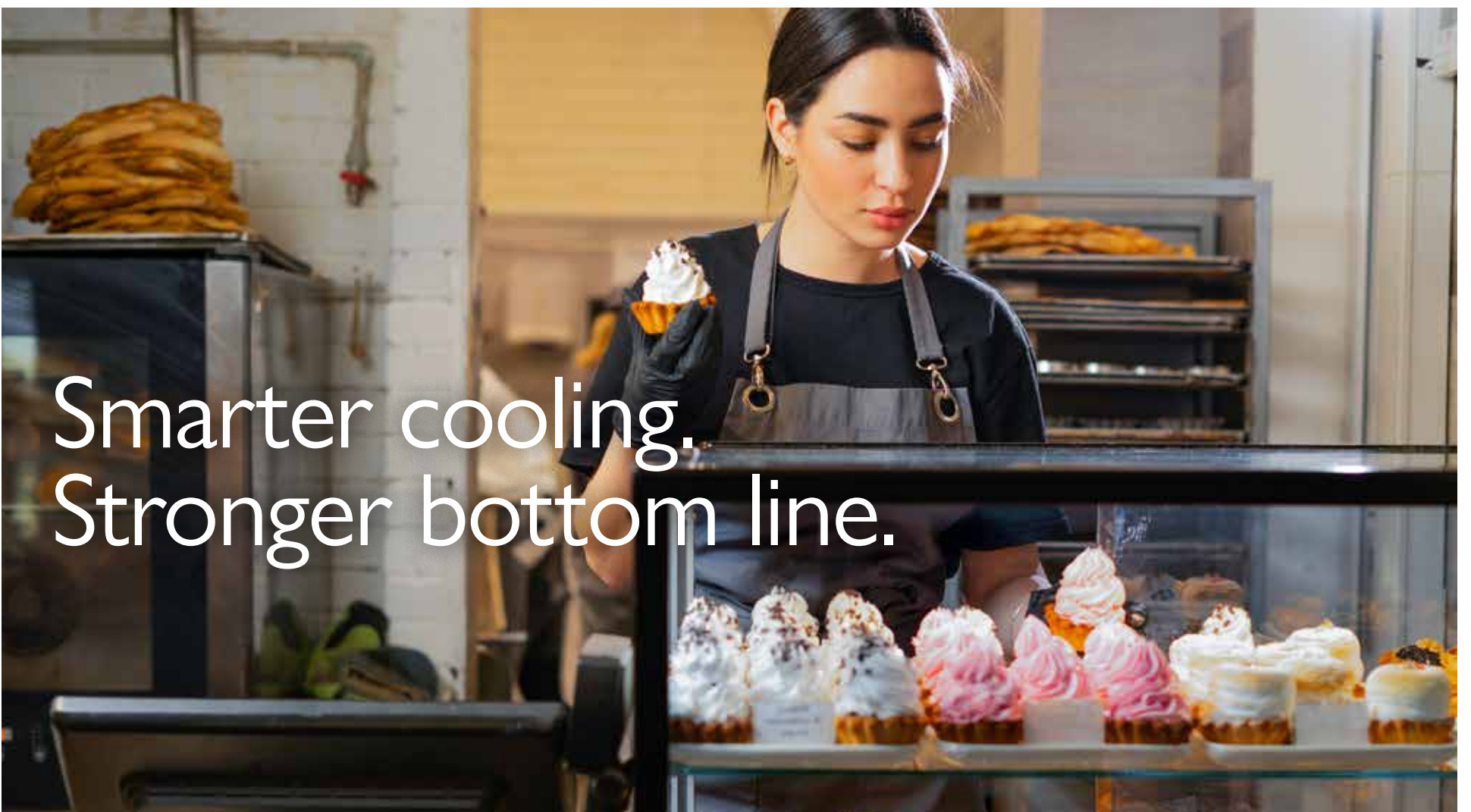
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Advocate: The Chamber is the voice of business for the South Valley. We are committed to monitoring and taking action on local, state and national policies that impact businesses.



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 VALLEY CHAMBER

Who We Are:

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

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