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OF NOTE



A new weekend getaway?

Houston-based low-fare carrier Avelo Airlines has announced it will begin nonstop service from Salt Lake City to the Charles M. Schulz Sonoma County Airport in Santa Rosa, California, this fall. The airline said it will offer one-way fares as low as \$57 to the Bay Area airport. Avelo will operate the route twice weekly on Thursdays and Sundays, beginning Oct. 24, utilizing the Boeing Next-Generation 737 jetliner.

347 NEW JOBS FOR EMERY COUNTY

Wolverine Fuels to reopen Fossil Rock mine

Brice Wallace
Business Journal

The revival of an underground coal mine in Emery County is expected to result in 347 new jobs and an investment of \$286 million over five years.

Wolverine Fuels LLC, based in Sandy, plans to restart mining at the Fossil Rock development. It acquired the mine from PacifiCorp several years ago and has been studying its return to operations for the past five years, according to Marc Maglione, Wolverine's chief financial officer. It currently is rehabilitating and developing the mine, he said.

"We are committed to safety, environmental stewardship and community engagement in all our operations, which makes Utah a great fit for our expansion," Carson Pollatro, the company's chief executive officer, said in a prepared statement.

Maglione discussed the project with the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity board, which awarded a tax credit of up to \$8.9 million over five years

for the project. He said the mine probably will have about 400 employees at full operation. The company has found employee recruitment to be a challenge, so it is going outside Utah to find the qualified, skilled workers it needs, he said.

Most of the coal the mine will produce will be used at PacifiCorp's Hunter power generation plant. The mine's expected life is 10 to 15 years, which co-



incides with that of the remaining years of the plant. "So, these assets will kind of roll off into the sunset together, if you will," Maglione said.

Wolverine also operates the Skyline mine near Scofield and the Sufco mine in Sevier County, the latter producing coal since 1942, first as a room-and-pillar mine but as a longwall operation since

1985. Wolverine's primary market for its high-BTU, low-sulfur coal is domestic utilities, although it also has coal shipped to Japan, and it also has industrial customers. GOEO documents indicate the company contributes approximately \$220 million to state and federal revenues per year via payroll taxes, excise taxes, property tax payments, sales and use taxes and other contributions.

"Historically, given the quality specifications of Wolverine's product, it has been able to blend with coal produced by other producers to create a saleable product which has enabled supply to utilities and industrial customers in Utah and abroad," GOEO documents say.

The company has over 1,000 employees, of which 95 percent are in rural Utah.

"In terms of support roles, for every single role we create, our studies in the

see WOLVERINE page 14

Utah, 5 other sites take next step in landing Sundance Film Festival

The committee that will decide where the Sundance Film Festival will be held following its 2026 season has selected the six sites it will begin visiting as it makes its decision. And Park City/Salt Lake City has made the list.

The Sundance Institute announced earlier this year that it will consider alternate sites for the festival when its contract with Park City expires following the 2026 rendition. Sundance began its site selection process with a Request for Interest from possible candidates in the spring. The Request for Proposals phase for select locations was next, to which the Utah Host Committee — the coalition working to keep the Sundance Film Festival in Utah — responded in June. Site visits will be held in the coming weeks with an announcement expected late this year or early in 2025.

The other five finalists competing in the next phase are Atlanta; Cincinna-

ti; Boulder, Colorado; Louisville, Kentucky; and Santa Fe, New Mexico. These cities survived the cut from among cities throughout the country.

The Utah committee responded to Sundance's Request for Proposal with a "Two Cities, One Experience" approach — the two cities being Park City and Salt Lake City. While the festival has always held screenings and events outside Park City, the committee's plan expands that experience and formally includes venues in the capital city.

The restructuring will provide opportunities to utilize additional venues and reach new audiences, the committee said. This new plan offers new ways to secure and expand upon the approximately \$4 million in financial assistance the festival currently receives from government

see SUNDANCE page 14

UTAH JOBLESS RATE TICKS UP FOR 2ND CONSECUTIVE MONTH

For the second consecutive month, Utah's unemployment rate inched up one-tenth of a percentage point to 3 percent in June, according to data released by the Utah Department of Workforce Services (DWS). Prior to May, the jobless rate had stayed steady since late 2023. June's figure translates to about 54,300 Utahns still looking for work.

The national June jobless rate also increased slightly to 4.1 percent.

Utah's nonfarm payroll employment for June increased an estimated 2.4 percent since June 2023, with the state's economy adding a cumulative 41,400 jobs since. Utah's current job count stands at 1,766,500, the department said.

"The June numbers show another month of robust jobs growth," said Ben Crabb, chief economist at DWS. "For the last year, job expansion has been concentrated in construction, private education

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News

Utah delegation bows to IOC demands before award of 2034 Winter Games

As expected, in the early hours of Pioneer Day in Utah, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) voted in Paris to award the 2034 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games to Salt Lake City.

But the announcement of the award was not without drama. When the Utah contingent, led by Gov. Spencer Cox, arrived in Paris to make what it expected to be a mostly ceremonial bid presentation and accept the IOC's coronation, it was met with some complicated political wrangling. The IOC demanded that Utah's bid leaders sign an agreement to pressure U.S. federal officials to end an ongoing investigation into suspected doping at the Summer Games in Tokyo four years ago.

The IOC is upset about the investigation by the FBI into Chinese swimmers being allowed to compete in Tokyo despite testing positive for banned drugs. The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) accepted Chinese swimming officials' explanation for the positive tests and concluded their probe. IOC President Thomas Bach wants to make

sure WADA remains the top authority on doping cases and added a clause to Salt Lake's host contract, effectively demanding that local organizers — including Cox — push to shut down the investigation or risk losing the Olympics.

"That was the only way that we could guarantee that we would get the games," Cox said in a statement following the announcement. If the U.S. does not respect the "supreme authority of WADA," the governor said, "they can withdraw the games from us."

Once Utah bid leaders agreed to the amendment, the IOC voted 83-6 to award the games to the capital city. Salt Lake was the only candidate after the IOC gave it exclusive negotiating

rights in a fast-track process last year.

Among those making the Paris on-stage presentation for Salt Lake City were Cox, Salt Lake City Mayor Erin Mendenhall and Alpine skiing great Lindsey Vonn. In downtown Salt Lake City, fans gathered at 3 a.m. to watch

a broadcast of the announcement live from Paris.

Utah's quest to host the Winter Games for a second time began with the 2012 formation of an exploratory committee to consider a future bid. The current Salt Lake City-Utah Committee for the Games, which formulat-

ed and presented the bid that resulted in the award, was created in February 2020. Salt Lake was named America's choice in 2018 and was named as pre-

ferred host by the International Olympic Committee in November 2023.

"Our strategy remained steadfast for over 20 years," said Jeff Robbins, Utah Sports Commission president and CEO. "Utah has stayed ready, willing and able to host another Winter Games and the time has finally come as we welcome the world back to Utah for the 2034 Olympics and Paralympics."

The Salt Lake City bid was strengthened by the preparedness of the host city and features no new permanent venue construction and the use of sites that have been well-maintained as community facilities since the Winter Games in 2002.

"Today's decision by the International Olympic Committee is as much about the Olympic and Paralympic movement as it is about Salt Lake City-Utah," said Fraser Bullock, committee president and CEO. "We are proud to show the world how our living legacy brings value to our communities, enriches the lives of youth, and helps contribute to the world of sport."







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Gardner projects population, economy growth ahead of 2034 Olympics

With the award to host the 2034 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City's hip pocket, the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute at the University of Utah released a fact sheet comparing Utah during the 2002 games to what it is likely to be during the 2034 event. The study details the significant demographic and economic growth that has occurred in the state since Salt Lake first hosted the games in 2002 and projected growth through 2034.

"The data show that in 2034, Utah will be larger, older and more racially and ethnically diverse than when Utah first hosted the world 22 years ago," said Natalie Gochmour, director of the Gardner Institute. "By 2034, Utah's population will have almost doubled from 2002. Nearly half of the Utah population in 2034 will not have experienced the 2002

Olympic Winter Games, creating an extraordinary opportunity for us to cement the Olympic legacy for generations to come."

Key findings from the fact sheet include:

Population Size: By 2034, Utah's population will have almost doubled from 2002. Utah's population is projected to reach 4.1 million by 2034, increasing by 1.8 million residents from 2002's population of 2.3 million, a 76.4 percent increase.

Population Characteristics: One in six Utahns in 2034 will be school-age and able to welcome the world. Projections show there will be 665,561 school-age Utahns in 2034. Additionally, nearly one in every three Utahns will be a racial or ethnic minority in 2034, compared to one in 10 in 2002.

Utah Economy: The Utah economy, as measured by jobs, will be almost twice as large in 2034 as the economy in 2002. Analysts project 2034 will include an increase of 1.3 million jobs from the 1.4 million jobs in 2002.

International Engagement: Utah's international engagement continues to expand and deepen. Since 2002, Utah's international exports have increased from \$13 billion to \$17.4 billion, a 33.9 percent increase. In 2002, international visitors to Utah totaled approximately 610,000, in comparison to 777,000 in 2019.

New Infrastructure: Utah has had considerable infrastructure growth since 2002. Regional commuter and light rail expanded by adding over 100 miles of new track. In 2023, Salt Lake City International Airport completed Phase II of the airport's redesign, opening 13 new gates. In 2002, Salt Lake City International Airport reported 18.6 million passengers; in 2022, a record amount of 25.7 million passengers were reported.

The full fact sheet from the study is available on the Gardner Institute website.

Salt Lake Tribune workers form union

Newsroom workers at *The Salt Lake Tribune* have voted to seek union representation and have received word from the newspaper's management that it will voluntarily recognize those efforts. In July, a "supermajority" of the publication's reporters, photographers, web designers and artists organized the Salt Lake News Guild to represent their interests in negotiating a labor contract.

Labor laws allow for ownership and management to simply recognize the union organization and proceed to negotiate with it to draft a labor contract. *Tribune* CEO and Executive Editor Lauren Gustus notified the guild that the paper will recognize it as representing the workers and proceed to contract negotiations, thus avoiding a National Labor Relations Board polling of the employees.

The Salt Lake News Guild, consisting of "more than 70 percent" of *Tribune* news staff members, has affiliated with the Denver Newspaper Guild and the Communications Workers of America unions and are being advised by them.

"*The Salt Lake Tribune* has been an essential news source in Utah for more than 150 years," said Jeff Dempsey, an audience manager at the *Tribune* and one of the organizers of the guild. "Our goal with the union is to work in equal partnership with management to ensure it remains essential for the next 150 years and beyond."

"This is a watershed moment for the *Tribune* and its employees," members of the guild organizing committee said in a statement responding to the paper's acceptance of the guild as representing the workers. "As a nonprofit newsroom, our first commitment is to informing our community. The journalists and production team are the lifeblood of the *Tribune* and there is no question that readers will benefit when we are organized and our work is respected and valued."

"We are grateful that *Tribune* CEO Lauren Gustus and the board of directors

recognized our crucial contributions to the *Tribune* and our service to the community and we are excited to be a partner in making our already essential publication even better," the committee said.

In their original letter to *Tribune* management seeking recognition, Salt Lake News Guild organizers expressed concern on a number of issues, most notably the pressure from management to generate "page views" for the online edition of the paper.

"Ultimately, the *Tribune's* newsroom workers produce the journalism that compels donors, subscribers and advertisers to offer monetary support," the letter said. "We inform the public, offer nuance to Utah's civil discourse, serve as watchdogs over those in power, explore the beauty of our state, inspire readers and amplify voices of the marginalized."

Despite what they consider to be excellent journalism, the union organizers feel they have little impact on the number of viewers the *Tribune's* website generates.

"But tying professional performance to metrics, over which we have limited influence, results in adverse returns. It fishes for eyeballs beyond Utah's borders, sullies our brand and disincentivizes meaningful journalism that serves our true audience," the letter continued. "We are deeply concerned about journalists who have lost their jobs, at least in part, over page-view quotas largely beyond their control, and others who have quit or considered quitting due to burnout."

Tribune management and guild representatives will now proceed to contract negotiations, which typically take several months.

"Gaining recognition is a first step, but it is a critical one," the guild committee said. "The credit goes to all of our colleagues who banded together and pledged to support each other to make the *Tribune* an even stronger, more vibrant and invaluable Utah institution."

Twin D acquired by St. Louis company

Azuria Water Solutions, a St. Louis-based provider of technology-enabled solutions for the water industry, has acquired Twin D Inc., a pipeline maintenance service provider based in Layton. Twin D will operate as part of C&L Water Solutions, an Azuria company.

Twin D was founded in 1991 by brothers Dave and Mark Denny. Today, the family-run business delivers assessment and spot repair services to municipi-

palities, local utility suppliers and engineering firms. Specializing in recurring maintenance plans for waste and storm water systems, Twin D performs work in Utah, Idaho and Wyoming.

Twin D employees and facilities will remain in place and will continue as part of Azuria. Dave Denny and sons Nate and Aaron Denny will remain in their leadership roles under the new ownership.

Gotcha Covered names Dunsmuir CEO

Experienced home improvement and franchise industry executive David Dunsmuir has been named president of Gotcha Covered, a custom window treatment company operating in the U.S. and Canada from its base in American Fork. Gotcha Covered is a member of the Five Star Franchising platform of home service brands.

"Gotcha Covered and Five Star Franchising stand out for their amazing growth and the high quality of service and solutions they offer customers and franchise owners," Dunsmuir said. "I'm proud to join Gotcha Covered and will be committed to elevating the brand's excellence and building a team culture based on transparent communication and trust."


Dunsmuir succeeds Paul Linenberg as president of Gotcha Covered. He brings more than 20 years of experience to the position, including roles in sales, operations and leadership at Home Depot,

Cabinets to Go and Re-Bath.

"I could not be more pleased to know that David will take the reins and lead Gotcha Covered into a bright future," said Linenberg. "His impressive skill set, combined with his focus on the people aspect of business, give me the ultimate peace of mind to allow me to step away knowing that Gotcha Covered is in the right hands. I look forward to watching the continued success of Gotcha Covered from afar over the years to come."

Founded in 2009, Gotcha Covered provides homeowners and businesses with soft and hard window treatments, including a variety of blinds, draperies and smart home products.


Five Star Franchising has more than 1,500 home service locations throughout North America with brands including Five Star Bath Solutions, Gotcha Covered, Bio-One, Mosquito Shield, 1-800-Pack-outs and Card My Yard.




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CORPORATE FINANCIAL REPORTS

The following are recent financial reports as posted by selected Utah corporations:

Zions

Zions Bancorporation NA, based in Salt Lake City, reported net earnings applicable to common shareholders of \$190 million, or \$1.28 per share, for the second quarter. That compares with \$166 million, or \$1.11 per share, for the same quarter a year earlier.

Zions operates banks in 11 states.

The company reported that net interest income rose \$11 million from the first quarter. It was up slightly year-over-year. Customer-related noninterest income was \$154 million, down from \$162 million in the year-earlier quarter. Average total deposits during the most recent quarter was \$74.2 billion, up from \$69.6 billion a year earlier.

“Second-quarter results demonstrated continued improvement in our net interest margin, effective expense management, strong credit quality as reflected in continued low loan losses, and strengthened capital,” Harris H. Simmons, chairman and CEO, said in announcing the results.

“Notably, tangible book value per share has increased by 20 percent over the year-ago period. Subsequent to quarter-end, we successfully converted our deposit accounts at Zions Bank, California Bank & Trust and Vectra Bank Colorado to our new core processing system, TCS’s BaNCS platform, marking the substantive completion of our multi-year FutureCore project. The conclusion of this large-scale modernization project positions Zions Bancorporation at the forefront of the industry in our ability to post transactions in real time and to deliver exceptional experiences to our customers.”

SkyWest

SkyWest Inc., based in St. George, reported net income of \$75.6 million, or \$1.82 per share, for the second quarter. That compares with \$15.4 million, or 35 cents per share, for the same quarter a year earlier.

Revenue in the most recent quarter totaled \$867.1 million, up from \$725.6 million in the year-earlier quarter.

SkyWest Inc. is the holding compa-

ny for SkyWest Airlines, SkyWest Charter and SkyWest Leasing, an aircraft leasing company. It has a fleet of approximately 500 aircraft connecting passengers to over 240 destinations throughout North America.

“We are pleased with our continuing progress towards organically rebuilding our levels of captain availability,” Chip Childs, CEO, said in announcing the results. “This opens the door to pursue and monetize the multiple pathways available to us to recapture and regrow small and underserved markets over the coming years. I want to thank our people for their solid operational execution.”

FinWise Bancorp

FinWise Bancorp, based in Murray, reported net income of \$3.2 million, or

24 cents per share, for the second quarter ended June 30. That compares with \$4.6 million, or 35 cents per share, for the same quarter a year earlier.

The company said the decrease from the prior quarter was primarily due to increased compensation cost driven by increased spending on business infrastructure to support the payments and bank identification number initiatives and enhance governance and lower non-interest income primarily resulting from acceleration of servicing fee amortization due to increased early payoffs of SBA loans.

FinWise Bancorp is a bank holding company that wholly owns FinWise Bank, a Utah chartered state bank, and FinWise Investment LLC.

The company said loan originations in the most recent quarter were \$1.2 bil-

lion, about the same as in the prior-year quarter. Net interest income was \$14.6 million, compared to \$13.7 million for the second quarter of the prior year.

At the end of the most recent quarter, total deposits were \$429.2 million, up from \$332.5 million in the year-earlier quarter.

“FinWise delivered another strong quarter, driven by continued growth in loan originations, solid revenue and stable credit quality,” Kent Landvatter, CEO, said in announcing the results.

“These results highlight the strength and resiliency of our existing business, as they do not include any benefit from

see EARNINGS next page



The Utah Division of State Parks has broken ground on a new and enlarged visitors center at Antelope Island State Park. The existing 5,600-square-foot center will be converted to a 27,000-square-foot complex with added restrooms, office space, an enlarged gift shop, enhanced and updated educational and interpretive displays, a 200-person conference room and a catering kitchen. The project also includes a large-format theater that will feature the documentary “Secrets of Great Salt Lake” and accommodate over 200 people. The existing building, which will also be extensively renovated, will serve as a learning center for K-12 students and university institutions. Along with funding appropriated by the Utah State Legislature, the project received additional support when the Larry H. & Gail Miller Family Foundation donated \$2.2 million to the Antelope Island Learning Center and Utah Water Ways for water conservation and educational outreach efforts. The funding will be routed through the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation to create an educational curriculum for the Antelope Island Learning Center. Additional support came from Friends of Antelope Island, a nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to assisting the state park with improvements for the benefit of visitors.

BUSINESS JOURNAL

SALT LAKE BUSINESS JOURNAL

PO Permit 891-300

The Salt Lake Business Journal is published weekly by Loyal Perch Media LLC, 9500 S. 500 West, Suite 205, Sandy, Utah 84070. Application to mail at periodical postage prices at Salt Lake City, UT. Postmaster: Send address changes to: Salt Lake Business Journal, 9500 S. 500 West, Suite 205, Sandy, Utah 84070.

For information about distribution please email hello@thecityjournals.com or call our offices.

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Subscription rate: \$85 per year.

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PHONE: 801-254-5974

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Our mission is to provide actionable news to C-level business executives throughout the Wasatch Front region.

PUBLISHER

Designed, Published & Distributed by:



Domo's 'Data Never Sleeps' shows amazing impact AI has on everyone's daily life

American Fork-based business intelligence and data visualization company Domo has released a special version of its popular Data Never Sleeps infographic (right), focused on the proliferation of artificial intelligence (AI). The report provides a deeper dive into the immense amount of AI data generated every minute and the impact this brings into our everyday lives.

“When ChatGPT brought large language models (LLMs) into the spotlight, it opened everyone’s eyes to just how impactful AI can be. We’ve seen a flood of AI applications emerge as a result,” said Ben Schein, senior vice president of product at Domo. “Domo has reported on data volumes for over a decade and the way AI has impacted data creation rivals that of the early days of social media platforms. This special AI edition gives a glimpse at just how much volume we’re seeing in this AI boom.”

Some highlights from the “Data Never Sleeps: AI Edition” report include:

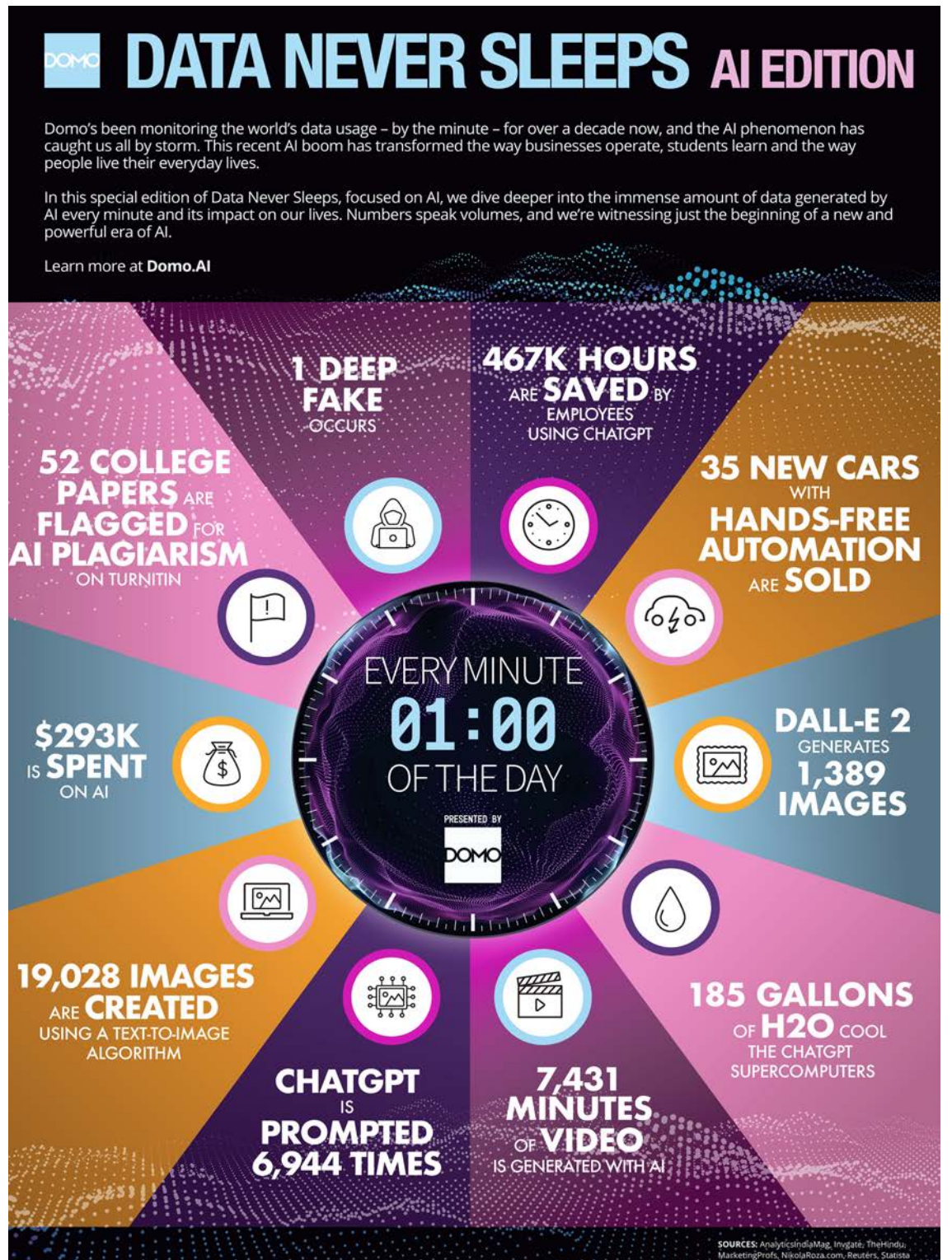
Automation Domination: Moving beyond conversational use cases, users are increasingly using LLMs to design, drive and more. Every minute, Dall-E 2 generates 1,389 images

and 19,028 are created by other text-to-image platforms, while 7,431 minutes of AI-generated video are created. Worldwide today, 35 new cars with hands-free automation are sold each minute.

Pros and Cons of AI: While AI is incredibly beneficial for many scenarios, other applications are not so noble. Every minute, employees save 467,882 hours of work using ChatGPT. However, some are taking advantage of its writing capabilities for schoolwork, with 52 college papers flagged for AI plagiarism on Turnitin every minute.

The Price We Pay: Nothing is free, especially when it comes to technology, where \$293,000 is spent on AI every minute. In addition to the monetary expenses, up to 185 gallons of water are used to cool down the heat generated from ChatGPT supercomputer’s computational power.

“The data highlights the various ways AI is impacting all facets of life, from simple to complex tasks, and the resources it takes to support its computing power,” said Schein. “We’re just in the beginning of this new era and with our own customers using Domo.AI, we’re experiencing firsthand the power that AI and data bring to unlocking business impact.”



EARNINGS

from previous page

recently announced strategic partnerships and expansion strategies. Our team has also delivered, ahead of schedule, on multiple initiatives, including the launch of our first Payments partner, the start of our Credit-Enhanced Balance Sheet program and the launch of our first card product. Additionally, we remain on schedule to be operational with our Payment Hub platform later this year. Looking ahead, we remain excited about future growth opportunities and are steadfastly committed to executing on our strategic goals to further enhance value for our shareholders.”

Beyond

Beyond Inc., based in Murray, reported a net loss of 42.6 million, or 93 cents per share, for the second quarter ended June 30. That compares with a loss of \$73.5 million, or \$1.63 per share, for the same quarter a year earlier.

Revenue in the most recent quarter totaled \$398.1 million, down from \$422.2 million in the year-earlier quarter.

Beyond is the owner of Overstock, Bed Bath & Beyond, Zulily and other online retail brands.

“During the second quarter, we delivered on our commitments as we increased our

active customer base while improving average order value,” Dave Nielsen, president, said in announcing the results. “We believe that further calibration of our operating systems, technology, and data analytics, specifically customized to each of our three brands, will yield efficiencies and ultimately the growth and results I expect.”

“We have made significant progress in the past 150 days and will continue to execute on our plan to achieve growth and profitability,” said Marcus Lemonis, executive chairman. “We are building each of our brands to leverage their legacy strengths while leaning into vast white space, which will allow us to incrementally monetize these assets. We intend to utilize our intellectual property, vendor relationships and technology platforms to generate significant capital returns through strategic and financially accretive partnerships and joint ventures.”

Adrienne Lee, chief financial and administrative officer, said the company improved its gross margin profile and continued to reduce its fixed cost base.

“We are now more than two-thirds of the way through our plan of reducing fixed expenses by \$45 million on an annualized basis,” Lee said. “We made meaningful progress during the second quarter and expect our financial performance to improve across the balance of the year.”

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Back-to-school shoppers may get a recess from inflation

As families prepare for the 2024-25 school year, forecasters are penciling in a drop in back-to-school spending. Total K-12 spending is expected to decline from \$41.5 billion in 2023 to \$38.8 billion this year, with back-to-college spending falling from \$94 billion to \$86.6 billion, according to the National Retail Federation.

Families stocking up on school essentials plan to shell out an average of \$875 for primary and secondary school students and \$1,365 for college students, the NRF reports. That's slightly down from \$890 and \$1,367, respectively, in 2023.

The projected dip may be a sign of weakening consumer demand coupled with slowing inflation. Overall prices dropped from May to June for the first time since the start of the pandemic. And over the past 12 months, wage growth has outpaced inflation. Average unadjusted weekly earnings grew 4 percent over the past year, compared to 3 percent annual inflation. This means families are

finally regaining some of the purchasing power lost to pandemic-era inflation.

When it comes to back-to-school expenditures, you might notice greater price relief in what you pay for goods — physical items like textbooks, computers and smartphones — compared to the cost of services — intangible offerings like tuition and haircuts. That's because goods prices have largely stabilized, while service prices continue to climb.

Some examples of services that have become more expensive over the past year include elementary and high school fees, daycare and preschool tuition and haircut prices, according to Consumer Price Index data. Meanwhile, goods like smartphones, computers, children's shoes and college textbooks have gotten cheaper.

Will the cooling prices of early summer continue? If so, back-to-school shoppers may get a longer recess from inflation. The July Consumer Price Index, which will be released on Aug.

14, will provide more insight. If the index continues to slow, it would be a strong case for the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates in the next few months.

Here are a few ways to sharpen your budgeting skills and help keep back-to-school spending in check:

- Make a plan. Before you hit the stores or shop online, have a clear idea of what you need and how much you want to spend.
- Budget for the big picture. Don't budget for each item individually.

Instead, decide what your child will need and pick a dollar amount to cap your overall spending.

• Involve children. Use back-to-school shopping as an opportunity to teach kids about budgeting. Letting children have a say in shopping decisions can help them learn invaluable money lessons.

Robert Spendlove is senior economist for Zions Bank, a division of Zions Bancorporation NA, in Salt Lake City.



ROBERT SPENDLOVE

Misawa Homes acquires majority interest in Logan's Visionary Homes

Misawa Homes Co. Ltd., a worldwide home construction company based in Tokyo, has acquired a 51 percent interest in Logan-based Visionary Homes. Visionary will be a part of Misawa Homes America Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Misawa Homes Co.

Visionary Homes, a 20-year-old homebuilder in Utah, is the latest in a series of acquisitions by Misawa of U.S.-based homebuilders. The investment in Visionary Homes is Misawa's first within the western U.S.

Visionary Homes has a large Utah footprint with 30 active communities from Logan to St. George serving both first-time and second-time homebuyers.

"Visionary Homes looks forward

to leveraging the Misawa partnership to grow, explore new technologies and cutting-edge building practices cultivated in Japan, and collaborate on best practices shared among other builders in the portfolio," said Jeff Jackson, Visionary founder and CEO. "The Misawa partnership provides a wonderful opportunity for the future of the company. We started as a small custom homebuilder that was completing only a handful of homes per year. Reflecting on two decades of planned growth across the state, coupled with the dedication of our team members, makes this strategic partnership a cornerstone that will fortify our position as a premier builder in Utah and paves the way for our expansion into neighboring markets."

Foreclosures down from first half of 2023

ATTOM, a California-based curator of land, property and real estate data, has released its "Midyear 2024 U.S. Foreclosure Market Report," which shows there were a total of 177,431 U.S. properties with foreclosure filings — default notices, scheduled auctions or bank repossessions — in the first six months of 2024. That figure is down 4.4 percent from the same time period a year ago but up 7.8 percent from the same time period two years ago.

"In contrast to the first half of 2023, foreclosure activity across the United States experienced a decline in the first half of 2024," said Rob Barber, CEO at ATTOM. "In addition, U.S. foreclosure starts also decreased by 3 percent in the first six months of 2024. These shifts could suggest a potential stabilization in the housing market; however, monitoring these evolving patterns remains crucial to understanding the full impact on the real estate sector."

States that saw the greatest increases in foreclosure activity compared to a year ago in the first half of 2024 included South Dakota (up 93 percent), North Dakota (up 86 percent), Kentucky (up 73 percent), Massachusetts (up 46 percent) and Idaho (up 30 percent).

Nationwide, 0.13 percent of all housing units (one in every 794) had a foreclo-

sure filing in the first half of 2024.

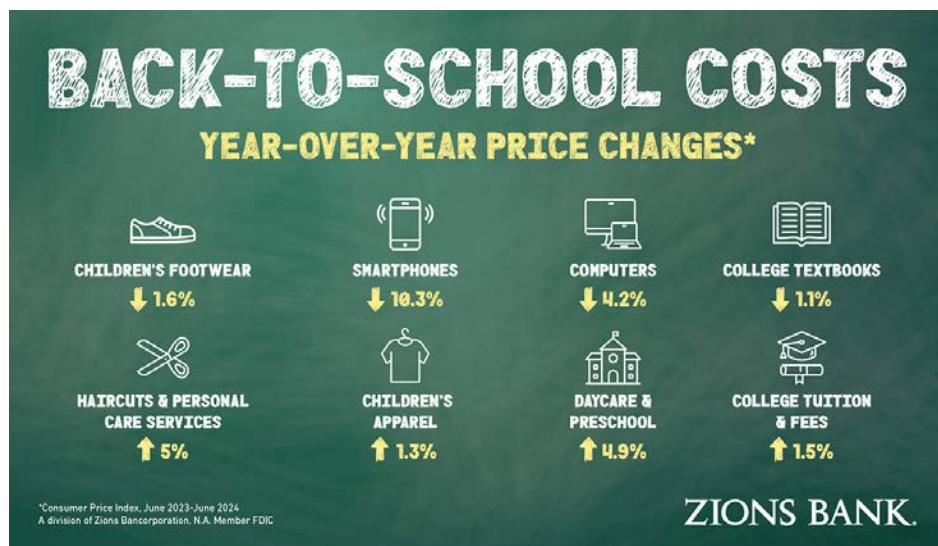
States with the highest foreclosure rates in the first half of 2024 were New Jersey (0.21 percent of housing units with a foreclosure filing); Illinois (0.21 percent); Florida (0.20 percent); Nevada (0.19 percent); and South Carolina (0.19 percent).

Other states with first-half foreclosure rates among the 10 highest nationwide were Maryland (0.19 percent); Connecticut (0.19 percent); Delaware (0.18 percent); Ohio (0.18 percent); and Indiana (0.16 percent).

Utah had 1,214 properties (0.1 percent) enter foreclosure proceedings in the first six months of 2024, the report said.

Among the 224 metropolitan statistical areas with a population of at least 200,000, those with the highest foreclosure rates in the first half of 2024 were Lakeland, Florida (0.32 percent of housing units with foreclosure filings); Columbia, South Carolina (0.31 percent); Atlantic City, New Jersey (0.28 percent); Cleveland, Ohio (0.27 percent); and Spartanburg, South Carolina (0.27 percent).

A total of 130,369 U.S. properties started the foreclosure process in the first six months of 2024, down 3.5 percent from the first half of last year and down 32 percent from the first half of 2020.



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Work Daze

Are you young enough to retire?

You've been waiting forever. Is today the day you finally do it?

Let's check the calendar.

Do you have a big meeting today?

A critical lunch? A major nap break in the supply closet that you simply cannot miss? "No." "No." And "Maybe."

If your calendar for today is a big black hole, I have a suggestion.

Make today the day you retire.

Sure, you're not at retirement age, whatever that may be. (Don't ask Warren Buffett.

He's 93 and counting.) What's important is that you're still young — and isn't that the best reason of all to grab the first HR nerd who will listen to you and say, "I quit. I quitty-quitty-quitty-quit-quit-quit?"

All that remains is turning in your card key, your parking pass and your collection of embarrassing T-shirts from the 75 motivational off-sites you have attended, and off you go. In one swell foop, you've achieved the dream: early retirement.

If you're honest, retirement has been on your mind since the day you started working.

Way back then, traditional retirement age was 65. After climbing the org chart and slipping into the sweet C-suite lifestyle, you'd celebrate your 65th birthday by making a speech or three, and the company would send you off with a fancy gold watch and a basket of RSUs.

Today, they send you off with a 100-page NDA and an ironclad noncompete. As for the watch, forget the gold Patek Philippe. You're lucky if you get a plastic Timex and a spare battery.

Considering today's puny retirement packages, you won't be surprised to learn that many workers no longer expect or even want a traditional retirement.

According to "You Should Never Retire," a "Bartleby" column in *The Economist*, "almost one in three Americans say they may never retire." Are they delusional? Are they crazy? Are you? "No." "No." And "Maybe." Either way, if an early retirement still remains a goal, realize that it will take a lot of work — the kind of effort usu-

ally associated with the young. Here are three reasons why the question today is not whether you are old enough to retire; it's whether you are young enough.

No. 1: Retirement is more work than work.

One good thing about having a job is that "What should I do today?" is never a question you have to answer. Without a manager to tell you what to do, making these difficult everyday decisions requires youthful energy, unless, of course, you have a

helpful partner who will provide a daily to-do list or you own a parrot.

No. 2: Expect to start generating.

Your goal in retirement will be to become the type of employee your company wanted you to be when they hired you: a young, energetic big-idea generator. If you don't want an early retirement to lead to an early grave, you'll have to generate decades of big ideas to keep you busy — and breathing.

To put it bluntly, you have to think out of the box, unless you want to end up in a box.

No. 3: It's foolish not to be foolish.

Given the endless years that face the retired young, it's definitely a time let your freak flag fly, especially when planning retirement activities.

Some retirees switch from companies that can't make money to charitable nonprofits that don't try to. Admirable, but it does sound like work. Better to put 100 percent of your efforts into a foolish hobby, such as amassing a major collection of Hummel figurines or collecting museum-quality examples of paper clips through the ages.

If you do decide to go all-in on a foolish retirement goal, make sure it is not too foolish. There's nothing that can shorten an early retirement more than the decision to fulfill your long-time dream of hang gliding off the top of Everest.

Can't decide whether you are young enough to retire? Consider a retirement that does not involve leaving your job. You still go to work. You just don't do any work while you're there.

Retiring from work at work lets you doze through the day and when it's quitting time, step briskly into the world

with zero responsibilities and no obligation to ever return.

Of course, if you're working from home, you will have to return, but don't rush back. Take a walk. Buy an ice cream cone. Pick a comfy park bench and curl up for a nice, long snooze. If your early retirement plans blow up, you

may be sleeping there regularly, and it would be good to get some practice.

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

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BOB GOLDMAN

Ford to lead National Ability Center

The National Ability Center, a Park City-based nonprofit that provides adaptive recreation and outdoor adventures for disabled persons, has named Willie Ford as CEO.

Ford is the co-founder of Givego, a platform that connects everyday athletes with professionals for on-demand coaching and mentorship. He also held senior roles at Cake, an electric motorcycle and scooter company, and POC, a company designed to protect the lives and reduce the consequences of accidents for athletes.

"For the past eight months, we have worked diligently to identify a leader who can help us achieve an elevated level of success. After reviewing over 100 applications, we found a leader who truly stood out through his connection to our team, mission and values, and who shares our

vision for the future," said David O'Brien, board chair at the National Ability Center. "Not only is Ford's leadership experience exceptional, but his time within the outdoor industry will be invaluable to our organization."

Ford also served as vice chair of The High Fives Foundation, an adaptive sports foundation, and served on the boards of UNH Friends of Skiing and The Shane McConkey Foundation. Ford is a University of New Hampshire graduate and was a two-time NCAA All-American on the school's ski team.

"My personal love for outdoor recreation combined with my previous nonprofit experience, led me to my purpose — working with and empowering people of all abilities," said Ford. "The impact I have seen firsthand is what drove me to this opportunity where I can contribute to making a positive impact on people of all abilities. The National Ability Center has immense potential ahead, supported by an incredible team and excellent facilities."



Willie Ford

Pegasus buys Utah uranium project

Pegasus Resources, a mining and mineral exploration company based in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, has finalized a deal with KD Prospect to acquire the Jupiter Uranium Project in Emery County. The Jupiter Project encompasses 48 unpatented claims and is situated near "well-maintained" infrastructure, providing easy access for future operations.

The Jupiter property is a historically significant Utah uranium project, first developed by Atlas Minerals beginning during the state's uranium boom in 1972.

This purchase gives Pegasus an undivided 100 percent interest in the uranium project, for which it will pay 2.2 million Pegasus common shares and an immediate payment of \$25,000 and \$75,000 upon regulatory approval. Pegasus will then pay \$100,000 for every increment of 500,000 pounds of uranium discovered, up to a maximum of 2.5 million pounds.

"The acquisition of the Jupiter Project ... presents an exceptional opportunity for Pegasus and our investors," said Pegasus CEO Chris Timmins.

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FROM THE COACH

Consider the vital importance of influence in leadership

The eyes of the world are on the upcoming election of the president of the United States. Recently, many of us intently observed the first debate between President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump.

One notable business leader, Mark Cuban, not only watched the debate, he decided to use artificial intelligence to decide who won.

Cuban asked ChatGPT which candidate was best for the presidency based on “communication skills, clarity, problem-solving abilities and overall professionalism.” The AI tool gave Biden high marks for his “extensive experience in public service,” “empathy” and “social awareness.” However, the 81-year-old scored poorly due to a lack of “coherence and clarity” and “focus and consistency.”

On the other hand, Cuban noted that ChatGPT criticized Trump for using “hyperbole and exaggeration,” targeting his “grandiose claims” that might “raise concerns about his reliability.” Further, it called attention to his “lack of specifics,” and avoidance of “providing detailed plans or solutions.”

In conclusion, Cuban said that ChatGPT stated, “It would be challenging to decisively hire either candidate without further evaluation of their professional capabilities and specific job fit.” Thus it appears that even artificial intelligence was indecisive choosing between Trump and Biden, who has now left the race.

While this is hardly surprising, I think we, as Americans, and the global community are facing a “crisis of confidence” in leadership. So much of successful leadership is a function of how those who are being led respond to their leader. Leadership implicitly is a series of acts of influence. That influence extends not only to followers and subordinates but to anyone who is interested or engaged with that leader. For the president of the United States, that might literally include anyone — and everyone — in the world.

Regardless of our political leanings, we are desperate for leaders who are honest, accountable, transparent, competent, confident and courageous. The

policies they espouse are, of course, important, but often it is how those policies are decided upon, communicated and implemented that carries the greatest influence. This is true for occupants of the Oval Office, but it is equally true for any of us who have leadership roles. That includes business leaders and those who guide community and other enterprises — and it includes parents as they lead their children.

To achieve the positive influence we require as leaders, the following characteristics are essential:

- Communication of strong, articulate, well-thought-out positions regarding key issues, decisions and progress.
- Energetic but reasoned debate that clearly addresses the rationale behind our positions, policies and actions.
- Respect for dialogue and decorum even when arguments are intense.
- Remembering always that we represent and serve others, demonstrated by listening intently and seeking to understand what they care about.
- When we err in judgment or make mistakes, having the courage to step up and admit our errors. In that regard, we should be our own toughest critics.
- And finally, when credit is deserved — and bows are taken — we express sincere gratitude for those who made our success possible.

Now you may or may not attribute these characteristics to either Joe Biden or Donald Trump, and that is not my intention here. Instead, it is to suggest that those characteristics should describe how each of us should exert our influence as leaders.

In my career-long study of notable leaders, I have observed that many of the truly great leaders made a concerted effort to define core principles by which they would influence others. One of the best in that regard was our first American president, George Washington. He set forth the following guiding principles for himself:

- Respect for your fellowman, regardless of their social status. That respect is manifested in courteous behavior and politeness, with avoidance of any behaviors that might offend or

insult others.

- Humility and modesty. Emphasis here is on listening more than you speak and avoiding boastfulness or drawing excessive attention to oneself.

- Consideration and kindness, including generosity, and living by the Golden Rule.

- Decorum in society. Always exhibiting appropriate posture and demeanor in social situations, including both in speech and actions.

- Self-control and temperance. Avoid reactivity, anger and impatience. Take care in conversation to not interrupt others or speak too loudly or with too much emotion.

The point here is not that George Washington offered the ultimate all-encompassing list of leadership characteristics, but rather that he recognized that to bring about adoption of his ideas and decisions, he needed to be a person

others could admire and follow. He needed to pay at least as much attention to how he was seen by others as he did to specific policies and decisions.

My counsel as a coach to business leaders is that leadership always includes both *content* and *process*. Content consists of decisions, policies and actions. Process consists of how a leader approaches exercising his or her influence. And process is often more important than content.

Policies and platforms matter, but statesmanlike influence is also desperately needed. In our complex and sometimes dangerous world, it may well be that such influence is actually what will guide us safely through.

Richard Tyson is the founder, principal owner and president of CEObuilder, which provides forums for consulting and coaching to executives in small businesses.



RICH TYSON

YouScience annual report finds lingering career gaps for women in STEM fields

YouScience, an online career development and training platform based in American Fork, has released its annual “2024 Female Students and STEM Report,” in collaboration with Ford Next Generation Learning, an initiative working to reshape high school education to better align with the demands of the modern workforce. The report highlights critical insights into career exposure gaps among female students across the nation for a variety of in-demand jobs as well as offers actionable solutions to bridge these gaps in the STEM field careers.

The career exposure gap identifies the mismatch between students’ abilities and interests, revealing overlooked career options. This analysis is based on anonymous data from 233,000 female middle and high school students in the United States, collected in 2023.

Women play a crucial role in filling high-paying, in-demand STEM careers, the report concludes. Yet, they account for just 34 percent of the STEM workforce. The YouScience and Ford report reveals that significant exposure gaps are experienced by female students beginning

in middle school and continuing through high school.


The report found that females are experiencing an 87 percent exposure gap in advanced manufacturing careers, a field projected to have 2.1 million unfilled jobs by 2039. It also found an 87 percent exposure gap in computer and technology professions, including careers like computer programmers, software developers, information cybersecurity analysts and others.

The findings said there is a 55 percent exposure gap in architecture and construction careers, a problem accentuated by the housing shortage and the booming construction industry

The report found a 30 percent exposure gap in the health science careers, including careers in a dental field experiencing a nationwide worker shortage.

With next-generation skill sets for engineers critically lacking, the data showed a 22 percent exposure gap in engineering, creating a risk that nearly one in three engineering roles will remain unfilled annu-

see **YOUSCIENCE** page 14




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INDUSTRY BRIEFS

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AGRICULTURE

• The **Utah Farm Bureau** has kicked off its 2024 **Murray Park Farmers Market**, the longest continuously running farmers market in the state (begun in 1981) and the **South Jordan Farmers Market** next to South Jordan City Hall. The Murray market currently hosts 27 farmers selling a wide variety of products, including peaches, plums, corn and tomatoes. It runs Fridays and Saturdays through Oct. 26. With 24 farmers, the South Jordan market runs through Oct. 12. Market hours are 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Murray market this year will feature a children's program called POP ("Power of Produce") Club, with funding from **Utah's Own** and **Zions Bank**. The program was developed by national nonprofit **Farmers Market Coalition**. Saturdays through Oct. 26, children of all ages are invited to participate in a fun activity and receive \$2 "POP Bucks" to spend on fruits and vegetables at the market. The funding for the program enables 50 children per market day to receive POP Bucks. Participation is free. National Farmers Market week, through Aug. 11, will include an Aug. 10 Farmers Market Bingo and crafts at both markets.

APPAREL

• **Kizik**, a Lindon-based hands-free footwear brand, has hired **Elizabeth Drori** as chief marketing officer. Drori has led marketing efforts for global omnichannel brands, specifically across the apparel and footwear categories. Drori joins Kizik from Sperry, where she served as global chief marketing officer and general manager of the Sperry e-commerce business. Prior to Sperry, she led marketing for Walmart's fashion business and held roles at Converse and Boston Consulting Group, where she was a senior marketing leader and consultant, respectively.



Elizabeth Drori

ASSOCIATIONS

• The **Utah Manufacturers Association** has added **Tulinda Larsen** as senior advisor. She will play a role in

assisting **UMA** with workforce grant applications and implementation, as well as working with the **UMA** team to create a consortium for Utah's cut-and-sew manufacturing industry. She also will support a new proposal application to the National Science Foundation's Experiential Learning for Emerging and Novel Technologies (ExLENT) program. Larsen previously served as president of the Utah Advanced Materials and Manufacturing Initiative (UAMMI), currently known as the 47G UAMMI Institute.



Tulinda Larsen

• Utah defense and aerospace association **47G** has appointed **James Taylor** as executive director of the **47G Institute**. He succeeds **Tulinda Larsen**. Taylor has managed multiple industry initiatives through his career at LSI and has secured



James Taylor

billions of dollars of federal grant funding for his clients.

BANKING

• **FinWise Bancorp**, the Murray-based parent company of FinWise Bank, has appointed **Susan Ehrlich** to the company's board as well as to the bank's board of directors. Ehrlich has over 25 years of experience in lending, banking and payments across fintech, financial services and retail. She currently serves as partner of Core Innovation Capital, an early-stage fintech venture capital firm. Ehrlich has also served on the board of directors for the Boeing Employees Credit Union and Petal Card. She has also served as the board chair of the Financial Health Network (formerly CFSI) and was a member of the Consumer Advisory Council of the Federal Reserve in Washington.



Susan Ehrlich

CONSTRUCTION

• **Stack Homes**, a Salt Lake City based modular builder, has changed the name of its manufacturing division from **Stack Modular Development** to **Polaris Modular**. The company said the new

name reflects its evolution from direct-to-consumer home sales to servicing developer's residential and commercial projects. The **Stack Homes** product line remains within **Polaris Modular's** portfolio of designs. **Stack Homes** was founded in 2019. It entered the market selling luxury, sustainable single-family homes and accessory dwelling units direct to consumers throughout the western United States. In 2023, **Stack Homes** acquired a modular manufacturing company to expand its production capacity to 720 homes per year on their production line.

• **Helix Electric**, an electrical contractor specializing in design-build and electrical projects throughout Nevada and Utah, has promoted **Nathan Sawyer** to operations manager. He will be responsible for developing, driving and overseeing the budget and P&L, ensuring the company stays on its financial performance track, among other duties. Sawyer has been with **Helix** for three years, with leadership and expertise in electrical contracting. Sawyer's education includes a degree from the University of Utah.



Nathan Sawyer

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E-COMMERCE

• **Beyond Inc.**, the Midvale-based owner of **Overstock**, **Bed Bath & Beyond**, **Zulily** and other online retail brands, has announced **Overstock's** grand reopen-

ing. The revived brand's lineup includes closeouts, liquidation, factory direct and reverse logistics merchandise, as well as expanded new and legacy categories. Plans for the site feature millions of products in a variety of categories.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

• **Several Utah cities** are on lists of the "U.S. Cities with the Fastest Internet," compiled by **ISP Reports**, an authority in Internet service provider data transparency. Among cities with 1 million or more residents, **Salt Lake City** is No. 1, with an average speed of 6,467 Mbps. Among cities with 500,000 to 999,999 residents, **Provo** is No. 3, with 5,168 Mbps. Among cities with 100,000 to 249,999 residents, **West Valley City** is No. 1, with 9,490 Mbps. Among cities with 50,000 to 99,999 residents, **Layton** is No. 1, with 9,805 Mbps; **Orem** is No. 2, with 9,692 Mbps; and **Murray** is No. 3, with 9,331 Mbps.

• **Orem** is ranked No. 72 on a list of 100 "hidden gem" cities for business startups, compiled by **MarketBeat.com**. It surveyed business executives in order to create the list. It said Orem "offers a unique environment for startups, particularly in technology, education and healthcare. The Business Resource Center at Utah Valley University provides essential support, including mentoring, funding and coworking spaces. Orem's strong academic presence, vibrant community and supportive business environment make it a hidden gem for new businesses." The top location is **Sebring, Florida**. Details are at <https://www.marketbeat.com/originals/americas-top-100-hidden-gem-cities-for-startups/>.

• **Lehi** is ranked No. 80 on a list of "Leading Cities for Quality of Life," compiled by **LawnStarter**. It compared 500 of the biggest U.S. cities based on 16 categories, including life expectancy, unemployment rates, state rankings of workers' rights, and food security. **Lehi** is the highest-ranked Utah city. **Salt Lake City** is No. 259. The lowest-ranked Utah city is **West Valley City**, at No. 457. The top-ranked city overall is **Redmond, Washington**. The bottom-ranked city is **Flint, Michigan**. Details are at <https://www.lawnstarter.com/blog/studies/best-quality-of-life/>.

• Sixty-seven percent of surveyed Utahns indicate they occasionally yell

see BRIEFS next page

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from previous page

at virtual assistants like Siri, Alexa and Google Assistant, according to **Gameland.gg**. The national figure is 32 percent yelling on a weekly basis. The highest number, 77 percent, is in Wisconsin. The lowest is 17 percent, in Oregon. Among all virtual assistants, Siri is the biggest troublemaker in Utah. Nationally, women are more prone to snapping at their virtual assistants compared to men, with 62 percent of women and 53 percent of men acknowledging this behavior. Details are at <https://gameland.gg/comparison/virtual-assistant-frustration>.

• **Three Utah locations** are on a list of the 125 “top picnic gems” in the U.S., compiled by **Mixbook**. It commissioned a survey to uncover and rank the ultimate off-the-radar picnic spots across America. Utah locations are No. 22 **Antelope Island State Park**, Syracuse; No. 56 **Big Cottonwood Canyon**, Salt Lake City; and No. 102 **Red Butte Garden**, Salt Lake City. The top spot overall is Leu Gardens in Orlando, Florida. Details are at <https://www.mixbook.com/inspiration/discover-americas-hidden-picnic-gems-top-125-off-grid-spots-for-your-next-outdoor-adventure>.

• **Anxiety levels** across Utah have risen 6 percent over the past five years, putting Utah at No. 5 among states, according to a study by **A Mission for Michael**. It analyzed anxiety and stress levels over the past five years to determine if Americans are becoming more or less anxious. The highest increase is 7 percent, in Louisiana. The smallest is in Hawaii, at 3 percent. The study revealed that the average percentage of frequent mental anxiety increased from 12 percent in 2019 to 17 percent in 2024 across all counties in America. In Utah, residents of Carbon have experienced the greatest rise in anxiety levels over the past five years, with an 8 percent increase, while residents in San Juan and Utah counties experienced the least rise, at 4 percent. Details are at <https://amfmtreatment.com/rising-anxiety-levels-across-america/>.

• **Utah Valley University** is ranked No. 2, the **University of Utah** is No. 7, **Utah State University** is No. 24 and **Weber State University** is No. 28 on the **2024 College Singles Index**, compiled by **RentHop**. It ranked the 100 largest schools by their desirability for single students, considering the possibilities and costs for dating, tuition and housing. Details are at <https://www.renthop.com/research/renthop-college-singles-index-2024/>.

• **Fifty percent of surveyed Utahns** indicate they will be **cutting back on their air conditioning use** this summer in order to cut costs, according to **BadCredit.org**. That compares with 47 percent nationally. The lowest figure for any state is Alaska, at 25 percent, while the highest is 75 percent in Nebraska. Most of those nationally who are cutting

back plan to use fans (57 percent). Details are at <https://www.badcredit.org/studies/americans-adjust-air-conditioning-use-to-lower-costs/>.

EDUCATION/TRAINING

• **Southern Utah University** has named **Lucia Maloy** as general counsel. She will serve as SUU’s chief legal officer and oversee the university’s Office of Legal Affairs. Maloy has served in a legal counsel capacity for SUU since 2020, most recently serving as associate general counsel for the Office of Legal Affairs. Before joining SUU, Maloy practiced as a civil litigator for the Utah Attorney General’s Office. Prior to law school, she worked as an athletic trainer and taught sports medicine courses in NCAA Division I and II programs. Maloy’s education includes a Master of Science degree in exercise science from Brigham Young University, and she graduated from the J. Reuben Clark Law School at BYU in 2015.



Lucia Maloy

ENERGY

• A team of energy industry professionals, **rPlus Energies**, based in Salt Lake City, has closed on over \$1 billion in construction debt financing for its **Green River Energy Center** project subsidiary. Located in Emery County, the project is comprised of 400 megawatts of solar PV and 400 MW/1,600 megawatt-hours of battery storage and has a power purchase agreement with PacifiCorp. Five financial institutions are contributing to this debt financing deal as coordinating lead arrangers: **Crédit Agricole Corporate and Investment Bank**, **KeyBanc Capital Markets**, **MUFG Bank Ltd.**, **Truist Securities Inc.** and **Wells Fargo Securities LLC**, with MUFG acting as administrative agent for the lenders. **Norton Rose Fulbright** served as lead counsel to rPlus. **Dorsey & Whitney** served as special Utah counsel. The lenders were represented by **Winston & Strawn**, with support from **Snell & Wilmer** on Utah law matters.

FRANCHISING

• **Five Star Franchising**, a Springville-based platform of home services franchise opportunities, has named **Colt Florence** as senior vice president of franchise development. He will lead the franchise development sales and marketing teams to further accelerate new and existing franchise owner growth as the platform eyes future home service brand acquisitions. Florence has more than a decade of experience in franchise development and sales, includ-



Colt Florence

ing leadership positions with franchise brand platforms. Florence graduated from Weber State University. The company also announced several other promotions: **Missy Wright**, vice president of franchise development at Five Star Franchising; **Tyson Bills**, vice president of marketing at Five Star Franchising; **Wanda Hoegren**, vice president of operations at Gotcha Covered; and **David Dunsmuir**, brand president at Gotcha Covered.

GOVERNMENT

• The **Utah Center for Immigration & Integration**, part of the Governor’s Office of Economic Opportunity, has added **Pakiza Munir** as global talent coordinator and **Aila Amer** as a Utah Citizenship Initiative project fellow. Munir supports the center’s global talent initiatives. Originally from Afghanistan, Munir has a master’s degree in economics and extensive experience working with human rights organizations. Pakiza’s passion lies in advocating for equal opportunities across gender, race, and background. Amer will support the center’s Utah citizenship initiative. She has a master’s degree in educational leadership and policy, complemented by experience in government and academic settings, and she is passionate about fostering inclusive environments and supporting communities from diverse backgrounds.

• The **Salt Lake County Library Board** has announced the appointment of **Joey McNamee** as director of the **County Library**. After a national search, the board voted in favor of the appointment, and Salt Lake County Mayor Jenny Wilson has ratified the decision. McNamee succeeds **Jim Cooper**, who retired in February after 23 years. McNamee has been serving in an interim capacity as the library director since February. McNamee

has two decades of experience at state and county departments. She was appointed as associate director for the Salt Lake County Community Services department in 2022 after working in Salt Lake County’s Aging and Adult Services division for more than a decade, most recently as the associate division director. McNamee’s education includes a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Utah. The County Library has 18 full-service branches, reading rooms in Alta and South Main Clinic, the Viridian Event Center, and service in the Salt Lake County Jail.



Pakiza Munir



Aila Amer



Joey McNamee

• **Salt Lake City** has announced its 2024 awardees through the **2024 SLC Community Food Microgrant** program. This year, the second the program has been offered, the grant program provided over \$40,000 in funding to increase residents’ access to fresh, healthy, affordable and culturally relevant food. Community groups engaged in projects that address one or more of the grant priority categories (growing food, inclusive outreach, dignified food access, and healthy food environments) were selected for up to \$5,000 of funding. Awardees in 2024 are **‘Aikona, Fill the Pot Ministries, Food Justice Coalition, Missio Dei Community, New American Goat Club, Proyecto Xilonen, Salt Lake City Community Fridges, Salt Lake City Food Not Bombs, Somali Community Self-Management Agency and Vanavil Community Garden**. Also, 62 individual residents or households were awarded \$250 each to support their own home food production efforts.

HEALTHCARE

• **Intermountain Health**, based in Salt Lake City, has named four new members to its Board of Trustees: **Mario M. Carrera**, **Russell “Chip” Childs**, **Seraphine Kapsandoy-Jones** and **Randal K. Quarles**. Outgoing board members are **Spencer Eccles**, with 42 years of service; **Scott Anderson**, 19 years; **Neal Berube**, 13 years; and **Crystal Maggelet**, seven years. Carrera has 35 years of experience in media, marketing and management and works to enhance the life and economic well-being of Latinos and community at-large through leadership development, advocacy and policy research. He most recently served as the president and CEO of the non-profit and nonpartisan Colorado Latino Leadership, Advocacy and Research Organization. Childs is CEO and president of SkyWest Inc. He has served as president since 2014. Kapsandoy-Jones is vice president of population healthcare and clinical operations at Centene Corp. She has 20 years of nurs-



Mario Carrera



Chip Childs



Seraphine Kapsandoy-Jones



Randal Quarles

see BRIEFS page 12

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INDUSTRY BRIEFS

from page 11

ing practice, leadership, clinical informatics, and healthcare information technology experience. She earned a Bachelor of Nursing and Ph.D. from the University of Utah. Quarles is chairman and co-founder of The Cynosure Group and was vice chairman of the Federal Reserve System from October of 2017 through October 2021, serving as the system's first vice chairman for supervision, charged with ensuring stability of the financial sector. He also served as the chairman of the Financial Stability Board and was a key architect of the Fed's crisis response in March 2020. Intermountain Health is a nonprofit system of 33 hospitals, 385 clinics, medical groups with some 4,600 employed physicians and advanced care providers, a health plans division called Select Health with more than 1 million members, and other health services.

• **Renew Biotechnologies**, a Provo-based biotech company, has appointed **Steven Abbott** as chief operating officer to lead subsidiary Wasatch BioLabs' transition, from its current research and development phase into full-scale commercial operations. Abbott has over 15 years of experience in the biotechnology and life sciences industries, most recently serving as vice president of lab operations at Flagship Biosciences Inc. Prior to that, he held leadership positions at Q2 Solutions, including director of genomics business development and director of global genomics lab operations.



Steven Abbott

HOSPITALITY

• **LivAway Suites**, based in Lehi, has opened its first hotel located in the Salt Lake City metropolitan area, in West Jordan. The 126-suite hotel was built in just over 12 months. The hotel developer is **West77 Partners**. LivAway has had eight groundbreakings over the past 11 months and plans to break ground on 20 more locations over the next year.

INSURANCE

• **MGIS**, a Salt Lake City-based provider of disability insurance for doctors, has named **Jim Wrage** as vice president of sales and distribution. Wrage has over three decades of experience at Principal Financial Group, most recently as national vice president of benefits and protection. Wrage succeeds **Kurt Meyer**, who will retire at the end of 2024. Meyer was with the company for 11 years.



Jim Wrage

INVESTMENTS

• **After.com**, a Provo-based company offering an online platform that helps families navigate end-of-life services, has raised \$10 million for its Series A funding round, led by **HIPstr**, the early-stage investment arm of **HighPost**

Capital LLC. After.com said it intends to use the proceeds to enter new markets, add talent throughout the organization, and further enhance its marketing efforts to support both the pre-need and at-need business segments. The company was founded in 2020 and serves customers in Arizona, Southern California, Colorado, Oregon, Utah and Washington.

INTERNATIONAL

• During **Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's** recent visit to Utah, government officials signed a **memorandum of understanding (MOU)** between **Utah and Kyiv Oblast**, the Ukrainian province surrounding the capital city of Kyiv. As a result of the MOU, Utah and Kyiv Oblast commit to working more closely in multiple areas, including industries such as aerospace and defense, technology and life sciences, energy diversification and academia. In 2008, the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs opened a Ukrainian consulate office in Utah to support Ukrainian nationals living in the state, foster economic development between Utah and Ukraine, promote cultural exchanges and host visiting Ukrainian diplomats.

MEDIA

• **Michael J. Fox**, former executive director of the Utah Press Association, died July 2 at age 77 of Parkinson's disease. Fox was born Sept. 24, 1946, in Heber City, to Richard and Lois Fox. He grew up in Heber, graduating from high school there in 1964. He and his wife, Nancy, had one child, Cameron. Fox went into painting and sold some prize pieces on his website, "Dancing Fox," and also at showings in a St. George gallery. He worked for NAC (Newspaper Agency Corp.) and Utah Press Association, where his tenure was marked by his unwavering commitment to the press's role in the community.



Michael Fox

NONPROFITS

• **Switchpoint**, a St. George-based nonprofit organization dedicated to combating homelessness and extreme poverty, has received a \$1.8 million grant from the **Olene Walker Housing Loan Fund**, a \$1 million grant from **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** and a \$1 million grant from the **Larry H. & Gail Miller Family Foundation**. The funds will support the completion of Phase 2 of Switchpoint's Fairpark Deeply Affordable and Permanently Supportive Housing project, located at 130 N. 2100 W., Salt Lake City. Switchpoint purchased the property in June 2022. Phase 1 of the project, completed in May 2023, included property acquisition and renovation, resulting in 91 studio units, which are now fully occupied by seniors and veterans experiencing homelessness. Phase 2 of the project will focus on several improvements and a two-story addition of 2,858 square feet. Switchpoint has developed five affordable housing projects (with 266 units) since 2020.

PARTNERSHIPS

• **Opinion**, a Lindon-based company offering an automated tool for property management companies to collect authentic real-time feedback from residents, has partnered with **Lift Residential**, a Cottonwood Heights property management company. Lift Residential will be utilizing Opinion to not only provide better customer service but to put a greater emphasis on finding solutions to residents' needs.

• **Awardco**, a Lehi-based provider of employee recognition and rewards solutions, has announced partnership with employee experience platform **Speakap**. The partnership allows users of both platforms to integrate their employee recognition programs into their existing communication channels, simplifying and streamlining employee recognition and making it more accessible, impactful, and visible to all employees.

REAL ESTATE

• The **Eagle Mountain Medical Office Building** development at 4263 N. Pony Express Parkway, Eagle Mountain, is expected to be completed during the third quarter of 2025 and will be occupied by several regional physician groups. The announcement was made by **JLL Capital Markets**, which arranged equity placement for the 24,655-square-foot project. JLL advised **Fort Street Partners** to secure the equity through **Chestnut Healthcare Real Estate**. The two-story project will be built on a 1.72-acre site.

RECOGNITIONS

• **Intermountain Health** is ranked No. 2, behind only the Mayo Clinic, in a **Hospital AI Readiness Index**, compiled by **CB Insights**. It considered the top private-sector health systems in the U.S. (by hospital count) and ranked them based on how prepared they are to adapt to a rapidly evolving AI landscape across innovation and execution. Details are at <https://www.cbinsights.com/research/ai-readiness-index-healthcare-hospital/>.

• **Five Star Bath Solutions**, a Springville bath remodeling franchises, has been named one of the **"Top 150 Brands for Multi-Unit Owners"** by **Entrepreneur Magazine**, ranking No. 139 on the list. The rankings identify brands that most appeal to prospective franchisees interested in multi-unit ownership in addition to current franchisees who are looking to expand their business portfolio. In the past two years, the brand has opened over 150 new territories. Since July 2023, Five Star Bath Solutions has increased its total locations by nearly 100, with an additional 23 multi-unit owners.

RESTAURANTS

• **Milkshake Factory** has opened a store in Pleasant Grove. It is the first franchise of the Pittsburgh-based company, which opened in that city in 1914. The franchise owner is **Micah Keith**.

RETAIL

• **Sportsman's Warehouse Holdings Inc.**, a West Jordan-based outdoor specialty retailer, has named **Susan Sanderson** as senior vice president of marketing, e-commerce and loyalty. She

is responsible for the company's digital and traditional marketing, e-commerce, brand strategy, omni-channel experience, and loyalty programs. Sanderson has more than two decades of experience as a corporate officer, principal consultant and agency strategist. Her recent roles include



Susan Sanderson

senior vice president of enterprise marketing at Party City Holding Inc., chief brand and customer experience officer at The Vitamin Shoppe, and acting deputy vice president of brand experience at Walgreens Boots Alliance.

• **Smith's Food & Drug** has opened a new Smith's Marketplace store at 744 N. Main St. in Heber City. The 123,000-square-foot multi-department store offers a full line of grocery products along with apparel, household goods, outdoor garden center and sporting equipment. Smith's has hired 88 new employees in addition to approximately 135 associates who have transferred from the current Smith's store in Heber City and other area stores. In a first for Smith's, the \$40 million Heber store has been equipped with sustainable CO2 cooling technology. During construction, Smith's required the builder, **R&O Construction**, to recycle 90 percent of the project's total non-hazardous waste as part of Smith's "Zero Hunger/Zero Waste" initiative.

TECHNOLOGY

• **Health Catalyst Inc.**, a Salt Lake City-based provider of data and analytics technology and services to healthcare organizations, has entered into a five-year term loan facility for up to \$225 million with **Silver Point Finance**, the direct lending business of **Silver Point Capital LP**. The financing consists of an initial term loan facility in an aggregate principal amount of \$125 million and a delayed draw term loan facility of \$100 million. Health Catalyst borrowed \$125 million of the initial facility and said it will use net proceeds, together with cash on hand, to refinance its existing convertible notes, which mature in 2025 and for working capital and general corporate purposes. Proceeds of the delayed draw facility may be used to fund Health Catalyst's inorganic growth strategy. **Lazard** acted as sole placement agent and financial advisor to the company in connection with the credit facility, and **Latham & Watkins LLP** acted as legal advisor.

• **Zartico**, a Salt Lake City-based technology company, has added **Regine Lawton** as chief technology officer and expanded the role for **Nicole Brownell**,



Regine Lawton

who will now serve as both chief experience officer and chief product officer. Lawton has over three decades of experience leading digital transformations and driving innovation, including Modern Technologies Consulting, Aero-Vironment, Technicolor and Apple Computer. Brownell

Calendar

Calendar listings are provided as a free service to our readers. Information about upcoming events may be sent to brice.w@thecityjournals.com. The submission deadline is one week before publication.

Aug. 6, 9-11 a.m.

“Ms. Biz,” a Women’s Business Center of Utah event that is a four-week class for aspiring entrepreneurs or those in the beginning stages of running a business. Classes are once per week for two hours. Event takes place online. Free. Details are at wbcutah.org.

Aug. 6, 10-11:30 a.m.

“Starting Your Business 101,” a Small Business Development Center event that takes place online. Details are at <https://clients.utahsbdc.org/events.aspx>.

Aug. 6, 2-3:30 p.m.

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

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

“Urgent: New Business Mandate: The BOI,” a Small Business Development Center event focusing on the mandatory BOI reporting required by the Corporate Transparency Act. Event takes place online. Details are at <https://clients.utahsbdc.org/events.aspx>.

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

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

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

“Marketing for Massive Influence,” part of the four-part “Power Growth for Business” series presented by Park City Business University. Location is Blair Education Conference Center, 900 Round Valley Drive, Park City. Free, but registration is required. Details are at <https://www.parkcitychamber.com/events/>.

Aug. 7, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

BYU/BioUtah Co-Sponsor Networking Luncheon, hosted by the Brigham Young University College of Life Sciences. Keynote presenter is Gary Crocker. Location is BYU Engineering Building, Room 204-206. Free. Details are at <https://members.bioutah.org/events/details/2024-byu-bioutah-co-sponsored-networking-lunch-5598>.

Aug. 7, 2-4 p.m.

International Market Update, a Park City Chamber/Visitors Bureau event focusing on the chamber/bureau’s activities in international markets and featuring presentations from representatives from Australia, Mexico, Brazil, Europe and Canada. Representatives from the Utah Office of Tourism and Ski Utah will provide updates on international visitation trends to the state, with a specific emphasis on the ski industry. Location is Doubletree by Hilton, 1800 Park Ave., Park City. Details are at <https://uk.eventsforce.net/parkcity/70/register>.

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

Women in Business Luncheon, a Davis Chamber of Commerce event. Cost is \$25 for members, \$35 for nonmembers. Details to be announced at davischamberofcommerce.com.

Aug. 8, 5-7 p.m.

“Business After Hours,” an Ogden-Weber Chamber of Commerce event. Location is Peery’s Egyptian Theatre, 2415 Washington Blvd., Ogden. Free for chamber members and first-time guests, \$10 for nonmember guests. Details are at ogdenweberchamber.com.

Aug. 8, 5-7 p.m.

“Business After Hours” Mixer, a Park City Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau event. Location is Mountain Trails Foundation, 5792 Highland Drive, Snyderville. Free. Details are at <https://www.parkcitychamber.com/events/>.

Aug. 8, 6-8 p.m.

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

Aug. 8, 6:15-8:15 p.m.

24th Annual WIB Summer Social, a Women’s Business Center of Utah event. Location is Cactus & Tropicals, 2735 S. 2000 E., Salt Lake City. Cost is \$65 (\$75 late fee). Details are at wbcutah.org.

Aug. 13, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

2024 Pacific Islander Business Summit and Expo, a summit providing resources, pathways, career opportunities, investment strategies, navigating contracts and an artificial intelligence workshop, concluding with an awards gala. 6-9 p.m. Location is Utah State Capitol, 350 State St., Salt Lake City. Cost is \$120 for the gala only, \$50 for the summit only, \$160 for both events. Details are at <https://www.upichamber.org/upic-programs/2024-pacific-islander-business-summit>.

Aug. 13, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Professional Growth Series, a ChamberWest Women in Business event. Speaker Carmell Clark will discuss “I’m Worth It: How to Negotiate for More.” Location is Embassy Suites, 3524 S. Market St., West Valley City. Cost for members is \$25 by Aug. 8, \$35 for nonmembers and for members thereafter. Details are at chamberwest.com.

Aug. 13, 1-2 p.m.

“Human Resources: Retention and Tough Conversations,” a Women’s Business Center of Utah event. Speaker is Sarah Bronson, founder of Silver Pro Solutions. Event takes place online. Free. Details are at wbcutah.org.

Aug. 13, 5:30-7 p.m.

“From Founder to Future: Business Succession, Selling and the Exit,” a Silicon Slopes event featuring three panelists who have bought, sold or continued to run family businesses in Box Elder County: Todd Thornley, owner of Thornley Real Estate Network; Ian Folau, president of Baton Strategies; and Tyler Vincent, owner of Burt’s Auto Body and

Glass. Location is Utah State University’s Brigham City Extension, 989 S. Main St., Brigham City. Details are at <https://app.siliconslopes.com/events>.

Aug. 14-16

Elite Leadership Summit, an Elite Entrepreneurs event with the theme “Level Up Your Leadership.” Location in Park City to be announced. Cost is \$1,697. Details are at <https://growwith-elite.com/elite-live-august/>.

Aug. 14, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

AI Revenue Summit, a virtual event hosted by Signals and featuring information about AI’s role in modern digital strategies, including topics such as “AI for Revenue Growth,” “GTM Productivity with AI” and “AI for Everyday Applications.” Free. Details are at airevenuesummit.com.

Aug. 14, 11:30 a.m.

WIB Lunch Meeting, presented by the Mountain West, South Jordan and West Jordan chambers of commerce. Presenter Heather Higgins will discuss “LifeSync: A Soulistic Approach to Life Management.” Location is Legacy Retirement Center, 1617 W. Temple Lane, South Jordan. Cost is \$15 for members, \$20 for nonmembers. RSVP deadline is Aug. 12. Details are at sj-chamber.org.

Aug. 14, noon-1:30 p.m.

Membership Luncheon, a Utah Valley Chamber event. Location is Provo Marriott Hotel & Conference Center, 101 W. 100 N., Provo. Details are at thechamber.org.

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

“Coffee Chat with the CEO,” a Park City Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau event in which CEO Jennifer Wesselhoff is available for an informal conversation. Location is Park City Chamber & Visitors Bureau, 1850 Sidewinder Drive, Suite 320, Park City. Free and open to the public, but registration is required. Details are at <https://www.parkcitychamber.com/events/>.

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

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

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

Chamber Lunch, a Davis Chamber of Commerce event. Speaker Mike Brian, author, will discuss storytelling. Location is Boondocks, 525 Deseret Drive, Kaysville. Cost is \$25 for members, \$35 for nonmembers. Details to be announced at davischamberofcommerce.com.

Aug. 15, 3 p.m.

“Third Thursday @ Three,” a Kinect Capital startup pitch event. Location is Kiln, 2701 N. Thanksgiving Way, No. 100, Lehi. Registration can be completed at Eventbrite.com.

Aug. 15, 6-8 p.m.

“How to Start a Business 101,” a Small Business Development Center

event. Location is Orem/Provo SBDC at Utah Valley University. Details are at <https://clients.utahsbdc.org/events.aspx>.

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

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

Aug. 20, 7:30 a.m.-noon

Third Annual Housing Summit, a ULI (Urban Land Institute) Utah event. Theme is “Private and Public Solutions for Strong Communities.” Keynote speaker is Nolan Gray, urban land use regulation expert and research director at California YIMBY. Location is Ken Garff University Club, Rice-Eccles Stadium, 451 S. 1400 E., Salt Lake City. Costs vary. Details are at <https://utah.uli.org/events-2/>.

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

Leadership Luncheon, a Cache Valley Chamber of Commerce event. Location in The Riverwoods Conference Center, 615 Riverwoods Parkway, Logan. Cost is \$25 for members and \$32 for nonmembers registered online, \$28 for members and \$35 for nonmembers not pre-registered. Details are at cachechamber.com.

Aug. 21, 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Chamber Golf Classic, an Ogden-Weber Chamber of Commerce event. Check-in and breakfast begin at 7:30 a.m., followed by 8 a.m. shotgun start and 1 p.m. lunch and awards presentation. Location is Mount Ogden Golf Course, 1787 Constitution Way, Ogden. Cost is \$250 for individual golfers, \$1,000 per foursomes. Details are at ogdenweberchamber.com.

Aug. 21, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

2024 WBN Golf Scramble, a Utah Valley Chamber of Commerce Women’s Business Network event. Registration and light breakfast begin at 8 a.m., followed by shotgun start at 9 a.m., and lunch, awards and networking at noon. Location is Fox Hollow Golf Club, 1400 N. 200 E., American Fork. Details are at thechamber.org.

Aug. 21, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Business Boot Camp, a South Valley Chamber of Commerce event. Speaker Brett Ashton, marketing specialist at Target River, will discuss “May We Have Your Attention, Please? How to Best Capture the Audience You’re Looking For Through Social Media.” Location is Salt Mine Productive Workspace, 7984 S. 1300 E., Sandy. Cost is \$35 for members, \$55 for nonmembers. Details are at southvalleychamber.com.

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

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

CALENDAR

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Aug. 21, noon-1 p.m.

“Solve the Business Puzzle: Bookkeeping Made Easy,” a Women’s Business Center of Utah event. Presenter is Kara Laws, CEO of Launched. Event takes place online. Details are at wbcutah.org.

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

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

Aug. 21, 6-8 p.m.

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

EMPLOYMENT

from page 1

and health services and the public sector. Public-sector hiring is now starting to cool and the unemployment rate, while low, has been slowly ticking upward. With inflation trending in the right direction, an interest rate cut later this year is not out of the question and would stimulate continued job growth in the state.”

Utah’s June private-sector employment recorded a year-over-year expansion of 2.1 percent, or a 31,300-job increase. Seven of the 10 major private-sector industry groups posted net year-over-year job gains. The overall gains are led by education and health services (up 13,000 jobs), professional and business services (up 7,900 jobs) and construction (up 5,700 jobs). Financial activities with a 400-job loss and information services (down 500 jobs) were the only sectors with year-over-year job losses.

Additional employment data tables and analysis, including county unemployment rates, can be accessed at <https://jobs.utah.gov/wi/update/index.html>.

BRIEFS

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Nicole Brownell

now is responsible for the full life cycle of the customer experience, from oversight of Zartico’s product vision, strategy and product development, to how Zartico products reach the hands of the customers.

• **TourismIQ,** a platform designed for destination marketing professionals, has launched. Based in Provo, it was co-founded by tourism industry veterans **Adam Stoker** and **Colby Remund**. TourismIQ aims to be a dedicated digital meeting place where industry experts can collaborate, share resources, discuss job openings and more.

• **Clozd,** a Lehi-based provider of win-loss analysis software, has appointed **John Thimsen** to its board of directors. Thimsen is chief technology and product officer at Mason. He previously was chief technology officer at Qualtrics and before that was part of the founding Amazon Alexa team and played a role in bringing the Amazon Echo to the market.



John Thimsen

Aug. 22, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

“Path to Prosperity,” a national workshop series presented by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Small Business Administration and Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. that aims to provide small businesses, including farmers and ranchers, the resources and tools they need to grow. Location is South Salt Lake Community Center, 2531 S. 400 E., South Salt Lake. Free. Details are at <https://business.utah.gov/event/path-to-prosperity-utah/>.

Aug. 22, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Agile Roundtable, a Silicon Slopes event in which participants co-create the agenda with topics they want to discuss. Location is Weave, Lehi. Details are at <https://app.siliconslopes.com/events>.

Aug. 22, noon

“Communicate with Confidence: Creating Confidence, Connection and Resiliency,” a Utah Department of Workforce Services event. Presenter is Carolyn Williams, keynote speaker, communication consultant, life coach and travel connoisseur. Event takes place online. Registration can be completed at <https://tinyurl.com/hr6fcxsf>.

Aug. 22, noon-1 p.m.

Women in Business Meeting, a

SUNDANCE

from page 1

entities, as well as the \$2 million in cash and in-kind support from local, corporate, foundation and individual donors.

“We’ve been fortunate to host the Sundance Film Festival and witness some of the greatest films made over the past 40 years. And now, we are committed to working in partnership on a new vision of ‘Two Cities, One Experience’ with a shared goal of reinvigorating the festival with an even greater tradition for storytelling over the next 40 years,” said a combined statement from Mayor Nann Worel of Park City, Mayor Erin Mendenhall of Salt Lake City and Mayor Jenny Wilson of Salt Lake County. “At the heart of our proposal is a commitment to ensuring it remains an inspiring showcase of independent film, bringing together audiences and creators from all walks of life.”

“As we very carefully consider this important decision for our festival, we believe these six finalists allow us the best opportunity to not only secure a sustainable future for our festival, but also to build upon its legacy while continuing to support the next generation of storytellers and highlight bold new works of art,” said Ebs Burnough, Sundance Institute board chair, and Amanda Kelso, Sundance Institute acting CEO, in a joint statement. “We are grateful to all the communities who have expressed interest and been a part of the process, and we have valued the opportunity to learn about the uniqueness of each location. We look forward to the site visits in each of the finalist cities.”

The Sundance Institute emphasized that each of the finalist cities have strong arts communities with varied cultural backgrounds and potential for growth.

Actor Robert Redford founded the festival in 1978 and it has grown significantly since its inception. Redford, who stepped back from the Sundance spotlight years ago, expressed concern in 2016 that the festival as it existed might have outgrown Park City and was thinking about ways for it to evolve. He and his daughter, Amy Redford, who is on the current board, have been involved in the relocation process, according to an April announcement about the search.

Box Elder Chamber of Commerce event. Contact the chamber for location and other details. Cost is \$10. Details to be announced at boxelderchamber.com.

Aug. 22, 4-6 p.m.

Everyday Entrepreneur Program, presented by The Mill and the South Valley Chamber of Commerce. Program takes place weekly over 10 weeks through Oct. 24. Location is The Mill at Salt Lake Community College, Miller Campus, 9690 S. 300 W., Sandy. Cost is \$400 for South Valley Chamber members, \$600 for nonmembers (need-based scholarships are available). Details are at <https://themillatllcc.com/education/everyday-entrepreneur-program/> or southvalleychamber.com.

Aug. 22, 5-7 p.m.

“Business After Hours,” a Salt Lake Chamber event. Location is Fice Gallery & Boutique, 160 E. 200 S., Salt Lake City. Free for members and \$30 for nonmembers before Aug. 19, \$20 for members and \$40 for nonmembers thereafter. Details to be announced at slchamber.com.

Aug. 22, 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. 23

Chamber Golf Tournament, a South Valley Chamber of Commerce event. Locations is River Oaks Golf Course, 9300 Riverside Drive, Sandy. Details to be announced at southvalleychamber.com.

Aug. 27-28

2024 Utah Outdoor Recreation Summit, featuring a kickoff dinner, educational content and outdoor activities.

WOLVERINE

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past have identified that we create a ratio of 3-to-1 to 5-to-1 extra roles within the community,” Maglione said, referring to truck drivers, vendors and workers who service equipment. “So, when we say we employ 1,000 people directly, there are probably about 4,000 to 5,000 involved in what we’re doing.”

“We’re excited about this project,” Jordan Leonard, an Emery County commissioner, told the GOEO board. “Carbon and Emery county have always been energy-based and want to support the state and other states with their energy production. ... I think it’ll be a huge impact economically, not only with mineral lease monies but employment and other growth that might come from it.”

The state incentive is part of the Rural Economic Development Tax Increment Financing (REDTIF) program.

The project is expected to result in new total wages of nearly \$334.7 million over five years and new state tax revenue of over \$55.1 million during that time. The new jobs are expected to pay an average of \$84,768.

“Utah’s rich resources make this a great place to welcome Wolverine Fuels’ expansion,” Ryan Starks, GOEO’s executive director, said in a prepared statement. “The company’s commitment to safety, sustainability, and community aligns well with the state’s supportive regulatory environment and skilled workforce. We’re especially pleased to see companies like Wolverine Fuels stimulating rural Utah’s economy.”

Location is Ruby’s Inn, Bryce Canyon. Cost is \$199. Details are at <https://utahoutdoorsummit.com/>.

Aug. 27, 8-9:30 a.m.

“CFO Roundtable,” an ACG (Association for Corporate Growth) Utah event featuring a discussion about valuations and current market trends. Not open to service professionals. Location is Lockton Offices, 2750 Cottonwood Parkway, Cottonwood Heights. Details are at <https://www.acg.org/utah/events/2024-summer-acg-utah-cfo-roundtable>.

Aug. 27, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Salt Lake SHRM Benefits, 401(k) & Wellness Summit, featuring updates on the latest laws, trends, and technologies in the benefits and wellness landscape. Location is Salt Lake Community College, Gail Miller Conference Center, 9750 S. 300 W., Sandy. Details are at <https://slshrm.org/events#!event/2024/8/13/salt-lake-shrm-annual-401k-and-benefits-summit>.

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

Women in Business, an Ogden-Weber Chamber of Commerce event. Location is Jeremiah’s Lodge & Garden, 1329 W. 12th St., Marriott-Slaterville. Cost is \$25 for WIB members and first-time guests, \$35 for nonmembers. Details to be announced at ogdenweberchamber.com.

Aug. 27, noon-12:30 p.m.

“Urgent: New Business Mandate: The BOI,” a Small Business Development Center event focusing on the mandatory BOI reporting required by the Corporate Transparency Act. Event takes place online. Details are at <https://clients.utahsbdc.org/events.aspx>.

Aug. 27, 2-5 p.m.

Utah Valley Job Fair, a Utah Valley Chamber of Commerce event. Location is Utah Valley Convention Center, 220 W. Center St., Provo. Free for those seeking employment. Employers must register

see CALENDAR next page

YOU SCIENCE

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ally through at least 2030.

“The persistent career exposure gaps highlighted in the report underscore a critical need for enhanced guidance and support for female students in STEM-related fields,” said Amy Miller-Weiland, vice president of professional services and learning and development at YouScience. “Our data-driven insights reveal significant disparities that must be addressed to cultivate a diverse and skilled workforce prepared for the demands of the future economy.”

“The solutions outlined in this report must be applied promptly. We can no longer overlook young women who have the aptitude but have not been exposed to these opportunities,” said Cheryl Carrier, executive director at Ford Next Generation Learning. “We are now equipped with the knowledge to do better, so we must.”

YouScience, in collaboration with the Women Tech Council, has also released a report examining career exposure gaps for female students in Utah. The report compares these gaps to those faced by students nationwide.

Both reports can be accessed through the YouScience website.

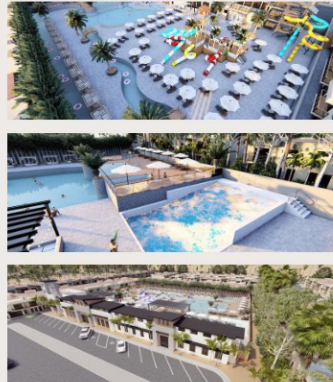
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CALENDAR

from previous page

before Aug. 20, 5 p.m. Details are at the-chamber.org.

Aug. 28, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

“Advanced Tax Strategies for Founders,” a Silicon Slopes event. Speakers from Bernstein’s wealth strategies team — Tom Pauloski, senior national director of the Institute for Trust and Estate Planning, and Ashley Velategui, national director of planning and research — will provide strategies to reducing income and transfer tax. Location is Silicon Slopes, 2600 W. Executive Parkway, Lehi. Details are at <https://app.siliconslopes.com/events>.

Aug. 28, 5-8:30 p.m.

Annual Awards Gala, a ChamberWest event. Theme is “Denim & Diamonds.” Location is Viridian Event Center, 8030 S. 1825 W., West Jordan. Details are at chamberwest.com.

Aug. 28, 5-7 p.m.

“Connect After Hours,” a South Valley Chamber of Commerce event. Location is Boondocks, 75 Southfork Drive, Draper. Details are at southvalleychamber.com.

Aug. 28, 6-7 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>.

Sept. 3, 2-3:30 p.m.

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

Sept. 4, 9-11 a.m.

2024 Annual Meeting, a Park City Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau event. Location is Pendry Park City, 2417 High Mountain Road, Park City. Details to be announced at <https://www.parkcitychamber.com/events/>.

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

Business Alliance 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. 4, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

“Operational Excellence for Sustainable Success,” part of the four-part “Power Growth for Business” series presented by Park City Business University. Location is Blair Education Conference Center, 900 Round Valley Drive, Park City. Free, but registration is required. Details are at <https://www.parkcitychamber.com/events/>.

Sept. 9, 8:30 a.m.

12th Annual Gail Miller Utah Leadership Cup. Location is Hidden Valley Country Club, 11820 S. Highland Drive, Sandy. All proceeds will help Salt Lake Community College students. Details are at www.slcc.edu/golf.

Sept. 10, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Employer Workshop on Hiring and Retaining Individuals with Disabilities, a Utah Department of Workforce Services event. Location is Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 250 N. 1950 W., Salt Lake City. Free. Registration deadline is Sept. 5. Details are at <https://tinyurl.com/2p9sfauf>.

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

Business Women’s Forum 2024. Presenter Sara Reed, vice president of people and talent at Western Governors University, will discuss “Discovering Your Career Compass: Navigating Opportunities with Self-Knowledge and Confidence.” Location is Ken Garff University Club, Rice-Eccles Stadium, 451 S. 1400 E., Salt Lake City. Cost is \$35 for members, \$50 for nonmembers. Details are at slchamber.com.

Sept. 11, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

“Financial Wellness in the Workplace,” facilitated by the Utah Worksite Wellness Council and featuring information about the importance of offering financial resources as part of wellness programs and how to enhance an offering to include a comprehensive financial wellness program for all employees. Panelists are Deon Spiker, mortgage banking, Utah Housing Corp.; Melissa Ceballos, Elevated Financial Wellness; and Jenny Sass, my529. Location is Wheeler Farm,



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6351 S. 900 E., Murray. Cost is \$35. Details are at <https://utahworksitewellness.org/events/2024-financial-wellness-networking-event-attendees/>.

Sept. 11, 5-7 p.m.

“Business After Hours,” an Ogden-Weber Chamber of Commerce event. Location is BMR Auto Detailing, 2108 S. 1100 W., No. 1, Ogden. Free for chamber members and first-time guests, \$10 for nonmembers. Details are at ogdenweberchamber.com.

Sept. 11, 6-7:30 p.m.

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

Sept. 12

UMA Manufacturing Conference, a Utah Manufacturers Association event. Location is Zions Bancorporation Technology Center, Midvale. Details to be announced.

Sept. 12, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Women in Business Luncheon, a Davis Chamber of Commerce event. Location is 525 Deseret Drive, Kaysville. Cost is \$25 for members, \$35 for nonmembers. Details are at davischamberofcommerce.com.

Sept. 12, 6-8 p.m.

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

Sept. 13

Chamber Golf Tournament, a South Valley Chamber of Commerce event. Locations is Glenmoor Golf Club, 9800 S. 4800 W., South Jordan. Details to be announced at southvalleychamber.com.

Sept. 16, 7 a.m.-2 p.m.

Utah Valley Chamber Golf Classic. Location is Riverside Country Club, 2701 N. University Ave., Provo. Details to be announced at thechamber.org.

Sept. 17-18

Utah STEM Fest, offering students opportunities to engage with interactive experiences. Location is the MACU Expo Center, Sandy. Details to be announced at <https://www.utahstemfest.com/>.

Sept. 17, 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

ACG Utah Golf Tournament, an ACG (Association for Corporate Growth) Utah event. Location is Eagle Wood Golf Course. Details to be announced at <https://www.acg.org/utah/events/2024-acg-utah-golf-tournament>.

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