‘Seven Brides for Seven Brothers’ was a hit

By Emilia Culebos and Devlils’ Advocate staff

After two months of hard work and many late night practices, the school musical “Seven Brides for Seven Brothers” was performed Nov. 15-17.

It was very well-received by large audiences all three nights. The leading roles were played by seniors Kamron Call (as Adam) and Mary Rice (as his wife, Millie).

The scripted hijinks of the main cast were very funny but they pale in comparison to the hilarity of the rehearsals, which included things like forgotten lines, wardrobe malfunctions, and the embarrassment at having to play the parts of couples.

True to their characters, the actors playing the six brothers were the source of laughter many times, even doing a spontaneous dance number in the middle of one dress rehearsal. It’s hard to count how many times they nearly injured themselves or their brides. The musical included a scripted fight that escalated to a full-on brawl all three nights. Fortunately, no one got hurt, but Jacob Francis did momentarily lose his microphone while jumping off the stage the second night.

On show nights, everyone worked together to pull off the play. Some members of the chorus pitched in to help with hair and makeup. The girls’ dressing room buzzed with the chatter of girls giving each other advice on their costumes and hair.

The opening musical number, “There’s No Business Like Show Business,” actually taken from “Annie Get Your Gun,” perfectly described the process from tryouts to rehearsals to the show’s final night.

By Brendon Henderson

Now that this year’s school play “Seven Brides for Seven Brothers” is over, let me take you on a trip backstage during its three nights and let you in on some things that transpired behind the scenes and that you weren’t able to see.

Let me start with opening night, Thursday, Nov. 15. Opening night is always electric. This being my third such experience, I can tell you that the feeling never goes away. Taking that stage and standing there looking out at the audience as your heart is pounding through your chest is a feeling unlike any other. The first night of the play went well with only a few minor mishaps, which we were able to laugh about later on.

Friday night was the complete opposite from Thursday, at least in my opinion. The first act started off great, but soon it went downhill. With mishaps in lines, dances, and in the songs, the opening act went anything but smoothly. To add to these mishaps, there was a breakup behind the scenes during intermission behind the scenes involving the brothers which actually resulted in one of the brothers walking off and leaving us thinking we’d have to go through the second act without him. But it soon became apparent that after a whole first act of butting egos, it was time to put those feelings aside and to please the audience with a great performance instead of pleasing ourselves by doing something stupid and trying to direct all eyes on us. It’s like one of my friends told me last year during “Footloose”:

By Juniper Roman

Through the week of Nov. 5-12, the FCCLA club held its annual food drive competition in our school. This year, club members collected 950 items of non-perishable food that will be given to the Grand County Food Bank and distributed to people in need in our community.

The winners of the food drive (the two first-hour classes that collected the most food, earning them a doughnut and juice party) were Ms. Melissa Meldrum’s class in first place and Ms. Ashley Violet’s class in second. Congratulations to those classes, and thank you to everyone who participated in this great cause!
FBLA fall conference held

On Oct. 25-26, members of the GCHS Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) club traveled to Salt Lake City to attend the Utah FBLA State Leadership Conference. A total of seven students traveled with adviser Mr. Steve Hazlett: chapter president Kris Kemp, vice president Juniper Roman, Andrew Huengentobler, Alex Tatton, Beilee Pilbosian, Asia Nielson, and Lily Hazlett. At the conference, the students learned the basics of being in FBLA and how to use the skills acquired in everyday life. They also got to participate in multiple workshops and listen to a really great keynote speaker.

If you’re interested in joining FBLA, please contact Kris, Juniper, or Mr. Hazlett!

FCCLA went ice skating

By Juniper Roman

On Nov. 7, a total of 11 FCCLA students from GCHS traveled to Provo to attend the Area 3 Activity, which was ice skating at Seven Peaks.

The Area Activity is a chance for students to get to know other people in their area. FCCLA adviser Ms. Jennifer McKay told all the GCHS students who attended that they had to meet two new people and be able to tell her their names and what school they attend. So, besides being a fun time, the event was also an opportunity to branch out in FCCLA and get to know some other people from around the area.

Students who attended said they had a fun time trying to stay on the ice instead of falling everywhere and it was actually really hard! Hunter Butterfield and Selena Butterfield were two of the first to get the hang of it and who could, by the end, turn without falling.

It’s not too late to join FCCLA so if you’re interested, please come to our lunch meetings every Wednesday.

GCHS Students of the Month for Nov. 2012

The GCHS Students of the Month is pleased to announce that the Students of the Month for November 2012 are Cassandra Lema and Brendon Henderson.

Cassie is a senior. She is the daughter of Joe Lema and Stephanie Schultz.

Cassie says her favorite classes are ProStart (culinary arts) and wood shop. “I love to do hands-on, creative things,” she says.

Cassie has worked at Moab’s Desert Bistro restaurant as a prep cook, line cook, and garde manager (food keeper). She says she hopes to attend a liberal arts school, namely Johnson and Wales University in Denver, and major in its culinary arts program. She is the current captain of GCHS’s new culinary team, which is getting ready to compete at multiple ProStart events throughout the school year.

Cassie has also been active in the school’s FCCLA club and is currently playing on the girls basketball team.

Brendon is a junior. He is the son of Sarah Henderson and Corbie Shumway. He says his favorite class is drama. “Acting is my favorite thing to do, and to have a whole class revolving around it is a dream come true,” he says. Brendon recently played the part of one of the brothers in the school musical “Seven Brides for Seven Brothers.”

Brendon has also been involved in student government, debate, cross-country, track, and the marching band. He is a member of the National Honor Society. Henderson also spearheaded a project to paint the school’s commons in the school colors of red and white this past summer, as part of an earlier campaign promise he’d made. He also enjoys making videos in his spare time.

Brendon said he hopes to pursue a career in the entertainment industry after graduating from high school. “I plan on going to college for four years at Southern Utah University, majoring in acting,” he says. “From there, I’ll be moving to Los Angeles and start on fulfilling my dream of being an actor in Hollywood.”

The Student of the Month program is sponsored by the local Elks Lodge under the direction of Frank Vaccaro. The high school coordinator is Richard Jenkinson. The students are also recognized by the Rotary Club and Grand County School District Board of Education. The program was started by the Elks to recognize students who were outstanding in the areas of character, leadership, service, citizenship and scholastic performance.

GCHS raises money for San Juan High School library after fire

In the wake of a Nov. 17 arson fire that destroyed the school library at San Juan High School, Grand County High School students have rallied to help their traditional rival.

GCHS students collected hundreds of dollars worth of change and currency in four large empty water jugs, each with the name of a staff member: principal Stephen Hren, associate principal Lance LeVar, math teacher Ed DeFrancia, and social studies teacher Hal Adams. The overall winner and final money totals were not yet available as of Dec. 1, but the person whose jug had the most money in will have to sing the school song at an upcoming basketball game while wearing a dress.
Mitt Romney wins mock election at GCHS Oct. 30, but Pres. Obama elected to 2nd term on Nov. 6

By Emilia Cubelos and Devils Advocate staff

In a mock election held at GCHS Tuesday Oct. 30, students and staff cast their votes for federal and state elections. Led by presidential candidate Mitt Romney, Republican candidates won every race in the mock election, which was spearheaded by GCHS senior Donna Snow, who enlisted the help of the Grand County Clerk’s office.

A total of 193 votes were cast: 183 by GCHS students and 10 faculty members. Broken down by grade level, 57 seniors, 56 juniors, 35 sophomores, and 35 freshmen cast ballots. The school has a total student population of about 450, meaning approximately 40 percent of the student body voted during the three-hour mock election.

More than 81 percent of the students who voted (150 out of 183) cast straight-party votes, with 93 of those being for the Republican Party, meaning that each Republican candidate garnered enough votes to win the student vote based on the straight-party votes alone.

In contrast, only one of the 10 faculty members who voted cast a straight party ballot, which was an all-Republican vote. A total of 115 ballots were cast for Romney (59.9 percent), with Pres. Barack Obama, a Democrat, coming in a distant second with 63 votes (32.8 percent). Libertarian candidate Gary Johnson was the top third-party vote-getter with nine votes (4.7 percent).

In Utah state races, Republican candidates, most of whom are incumbents, all won by similar margins. Gary Johnson was the top third-party vote-getter with nine votes (4.7 percent).

In Utah state races, Republican candidates, most of whom are incumbents, all won by similar margins.

In other real-life results, Orrin G. Hatch and Scott Howell became Utah’s senators. John Swallow is the new state attorney general. Also, incumbent Gary R. Herbert was elected governor, along with Greg Bell as lieutenant governor.

In fact, Republicans candidates swept nearly all of Utah’s statewide races, the only major exception being Democrat congressman Jim Matheson’s narrow defeat of Republican Mia Love in the 4th congressional district. However, Moab is part of the 3rd congressional district, so the GCHS students didn’t vote in the 4th district race during their mock election, although Rep. Matheson still represents Moab until January.

Also on Nov. 6, a team two reporters (Peter Smolders and Lotte Stegeman) from a weekly Dutch newspaper interviewed several GCHS students about the election, and profiled them in the Nov. 9 issue of 7 Days. The students whose photos and quotes appeared in that article were Dale Thomas, Mary Rice, Kris Kemp, Wesley Rodda, and Hunter Butterfield.

Anyone who is not happy with this year’s election results, keep in mind that others will have a chance in four years.

In Utah state races, Republican candidates, most of whom are incumbents, all won by similar margins.

By Hailey Zeller

On Nov. 2, GCHS students were dismissed to go and attend the Moab Folk Festival performance of a group known as SHEL. What better of a reason to get out of class than to go listen to talented people play music?

I think we all could agree that there’s nothing better than to listen to talented and passionate artists do what they love.

The folk band SHEL consists of four sisters from Colorado with the names of Sarah, Hannah, Eva and Liza, with the youngest sister only 19 years old.

Their performance turned out to be a great experience and they played to their highest of standards. Their music proved to be very rhythmically entwined and the girls’ voices sounded beautifully together.

I think that even for the students who didn’t really care to watch SHEL perform actually got into their music and liked it. I think that actually seeing the band SHEL live opened up the minds of the students in the audience and everyone was very in tune with SHEL and their music.

The instruments played throughout each of their songs consisted of a violin, bass, piano, mandolin, and the cello and drum. These instruments and their very talented voices these sisters brought a very young and inspiring type of music to a very beautiful and sophisticated type.

This group of sisters allowed themselves to feel the vibe of each song, which is visible to the audience and made the music much more appreciative to the listeners and the performers. Any performer that will play for a school obviously loves what they do and giving us as students, the privilege to listen to SHEL really benefits us to be more appreciative of different varieties of music. It could even be beneficial to more worldly ideas and self-appreciation.

I think we all could agree that there’s nothing better than to listen to talented and passionate artists do what they love.

I think we all could agree that there’s nothing better than to listen to talented and passionate artists do what they love.

I think we as a student body should give a hand to not only the performing group SHEL, but to our school administration for allowing such great performers to show us what they’re all about. I hope that in the future SHEL and many other folk bands will return and show the students of GCHS some other types of great music.
**Football team loses in semifinals to Manti**

The GCHS football team lost in the 2A semifinals on Nov. 3 in Cedar City, falling to the defending state champion Manti Templars, 58-15.

The Templars used a 49-point second quarter to earn their second straight trip to the state title game. Manti, which had led just 6-0 at the end of the first quarter, racked up seven more touchdowns during the second period alone to take a 55-0 halftime lead.

“I really don’t know what happened in the second quarter,” said GCHS quarterback Jacob Francis after the game. “I thought it would never end.”

Manti’s eight first-half touchdowns included three TD passes from Templar quarterback Connor Aste to different receivers, three short touchdown runs, and two defensive scores from blocked punt recoveries.

“We were able to get some big plays,” said Manti coach Cole Meacham. “Our special teams really did a great job.”

Grand’s head coach, Dennis Wells, said the Red Devils simply struggled to keep control of the ball during the first half of play.

“We just didn’t show up ready to play,” Wells said. “You have to take the game to the other team instead of waiting for them to bring it to you. Once we got behind by a couple of touchdowns, we had to start taking chances, and we kept losing the ball.”

The Templars recovered a total of four Grand fumbles and intercepted three passes during the contest. Manti scored only once in the second half, on a 45-yard field goal by Carlo Garcia, as the clock ran virtually non-stop due to the “mercy rule” having gone into effect because the Templars were leading by more than 25 points at halftime.

The Red Devils, who had managed to score 48 points against Millard during the previous week’s quarterfinals victory at Moab, weren’t able to score against Manti until early in the fourth quarter, when receiver Wesley Rodda caught an 8-yard pass from Francis in the end zone. A few minutes later, as time was expiring, Koi Cook was not able to make it to the ceremony, but he and Walston were both recognized during the Grand County High School fall sports awards ceremony held in the GCHS auditorium on Monday, Nov. 19.

GCHS also had two Academic All-State athletes from its girls soccer team. Donna Snow and Morgan Dalton were both recognized as recipients of the prestigious statewide honor Monday evening as well. In addition, Mary Rice of Grand made the Academic All-State cross-country team.

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**Boys basketball team starts season with two road wins, then a home loss to Gunnison**

By Mary Rice

The GCHS boys basketball team started its season with a solid win on the road against Maeser Preparatory Academy in Lindon, Utah. The Red Devils led the Lions throughout the game, although Maeser Prep came close to tying the score in the second half. Grand ultimately claimed a 53-37 victory.

Both teams had a sluggish first half as Grand outscored Maeser Prep 15-7 in the first quarter. But the Lions held their own in the second quarter, outscoring the Red Devils and sending Grand into halftime with a slim 25-20 lead.

Maeser Prep scored first in the third quarter, closing the gap to 25-22, but Red Devil junior Kaden Risenhoover added a basket to bring the score to 27-22. Scoring for the Lions and the Red Devils then stalled for a short time as both teams struggled to put the ball through the net. Eventually, Maeser Prep scored twice. Grand retaliated and senior Wesley Rodda scored in quick succession, followed by junior Nat Smith. That brought the score to 33-22 but Maeser netted a free throw to put the game at 33-26 as the third quarter ended.

Grand played tough defense and strong offense in the fourth quarter, surging to a wider lead on the play of the Red Devil junior trio. Koi Cook and seniors Dale Thomas and Rodda made shots in quick succession, bringing the score to 42-26 before Maeser Prep managed to get back on the board. The Lions scored only a few times more in the game, but Grand went on several scoring runs, besting the Lions by nine points for the quarter. GCHS senior Brett Walker and junior Trevor Bertuzzi added the Red Devils’ last points of the game, bringing the final score to 53-37.

“Our first half was pretty slow,” said GCHS head coach Travis Clark. “We led at the half 25-20 but we did not have a ton of energy, and we were not rebounding well at all. I think we really need to work on that rebound. Second half... we were much better with the rebounding. We pushed the tempo and the ball a lot more, which I think made the difference for us in the game. We had some great off-the-bench performances, and the kids played really well.”

The Red Devil junior varsity team also won its game against Maeser Prep by the score of 55-47. GCHS assistant coach Tony Chacon said he was happy with how his team played.

“Maeser gave a valiant effort, but once our team established the defense, we finally controlled the boards which let us come through with the win,” Chacon said.

The Red Devils’ second game was Tuesday, Nov. 27, at Green River. The Red Devils won that contest by the score of 59-47, with Thomas leading the way with 19 points.

Grand’s first home game was on Friday, Nov. 30, against the Gunnison Bulldogs. Although the game was close for most of the first half, Gunnison pulled away in the second half and ended up with a 48-36 win over the Red Devils. Cook led Grand with 12 points in that contest.

The Red Devil boys have several more pre-season games during December before starting their region schedule on Friday, Jan. 4 at Richfield.

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**Five GCHS athletes named Academic All-State**

Preston Walston and Kamron Call, seniors at Grand County High School, were recently named to the 2A Academic All-State team by the Utah High School Activities Association. They and the other members of the team were honored during the halftime of the 2A state championship game between Manti and San Juan, played at Pleasant Grove on Nov. 10. Call was not able to make it to the ceremony, but he and Walston were both named to the 2A Academic All-State team by the UHSAA at the halftime of the state championship game (see related story on this page).
Wrestling gets underway at Panguitch meet

Grand County High’s wrestling team was scheduled to begin its season at a 24-team invitational meet held at Panguitch, Utah on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1.

GCHS head coach Dennis Wells said that although the Red Devil squad currently has a couple of heavy weight divisions on the roster, he expects the team to be competitive this year.

“We have four wrestlers who placed at state last year, and who are ranked in the top thirds at the beginning of this year’s season,” said Wells.

Junior Edgar Gomez, a heavyweight, placed second in state last year and is currently the top-ranked heavyweight in 2A. Wells said, second, senior Alena Geiser, who placed third at state in the 120-pound category last year, is ranked third this year in the region. Junior Jacob Francis placed fourth at 132 pounds last year and is also ranked third, as is senior Trenton White, who placed fifth at 145 pounds last year and has moved up to 152 pounds this season, according to coach Wells.

Wells said the Red Devils should be especially competitive in the 120- to 152-pound range, as well as the heaviest weights (195, 220, and heavyweight).

A breakdown of Grand’s current roster (as of Nov. 19) is as follows, with each wrestler’s weight in pounds listed after his name: Justin Moore (106), Dexter Sheets (120), Gage Lindquist (120), Seth Holskyak (126), Shawn Fugal (126), Jacob Francis (132), Robert Alfred (132), Doyle Irvine (138), Ronnie Dolphin (145), Trenton White (152), Donovan Denton (171), Matt Brandenburg (182), Austin Day (195), Adam Flanders (195), David Bentley (220), Edgar Gomez (heavyweight), and Carlos Gomez (heavyweight). With four more athletes on the squad are returning from last year, there are a handful of new faces on the team, Wells said, adding that the 113-pound and 160-pound weight slots are both still open.

Wells is being assisted this season by coaches Kelly Sheets, Joe Day, and Jason Ramsdell.

The Red Devils’ first scheduled home match is a dual meet against the San Juan Broncos on Wednesday, Dec. 19.

Girls basketball loses home opener

The GCHS girls basketball team lost its season opener on Nov. 20 falling to Green River at Moab by the score of 45-20.

In the junior varsity contest played right before the varsity game, the Lady Devils had shown promise. Grand’s JV team defeated its Green River counterparts 42-35. However, the Lady Devils got off to a slow start in the varsity game, failing to score at all in the first quarter as the Lady Pirates built an early 14-0 lead.

“We weren’t quite as prepared as we should have been,” said GCHS head coach Rick Lopez. “Some of it might have been first-game jitters, but we seemed nervous and had trouble taking care of the ball.”

Lopez said the Lady Pirates played strong defense that hampered the efforts of the Lady Devils.

“Green River is always a good, solid, team,” he said. “They put that press defense on us right at the beginning, and we really struggled to move the ball.”

Grand trailed 35-7 at the start of the fourth quarter, but rallied to outscore Green River 13-10 in the final eight minutes of play.

Despite the low overall team scoring total, eight different players got on the board for the Lady Devils. They were led by freshman Madi Jones, who had five points for Grand. Fellow freshman Kylie Haycock added three points, as did senior guard Torrie Lopez, a senior.

Scoring two points each for Grand were Esme King, senior Alena Geiser, Teaven Fredericks, Alexandra Jones, and Symony Cal. Brook Schultz added one point on a free throw.

The Lady Pirates were led by Michaela Hughes, who scored 16 points in the game. Her teammate, Jamie Johnson, added 12 points.

The following week, the Lady Devils lost their second game, which was another non-region home game played on Nov. 27. In that contest, the Monticello Lady Buckaroos defeated the Lady Devils by the score of 20-15.

Grand was led by Lopez with 5 points, while Schultz added 4.

The Lady Devils have four non-region games during December, starting with a home game Tuesday, Dec. 4, against Pinnacle Academy. Region play will start Jan. 4 against Richfield at Moab.

UHSSA’s new alignment for 2013-15

The Utah High School Activities Association’s board of trustees recently approved a new classification alignment for Utah’s 136 member high schools, for the years 2013-15.

According to the final version posted on the uhsaa.org website, the number of 2A schools will drop from 22 to 24 next year, while the number of 3A schools will drop from 27 to 23.

For most sports, Grand County High will be placed in Region 15, as will Emery, San Juan, and South Sevier. Under the new alignment, Richfield will move to 3A, while 2A schools North Sevier and Wasatch Academy will move into the new 3A classification.

For football, there are currently two 2A divisions (North and South), each of which has eight teams.

The new alignment will divide the 3A classification into two separate classifications (3A A and 3A B) for football only, with a handful of 2A schools moving up to 3A for football, leaving just 14 schools in the 2A football classification, of which Grand will be one of the largest in terms of enrollment.

Red Devil swimmers compete in first meet

The Grand County High School swim team participated in their first-ever competitive swim meet, competing in a three-team event held at the West Millard Pool in Delta, Utah, on Tuesday, Nov. 20.

“We had a pretty good showing for our first meet,” said GCHS coach Brian Pierce, who noted that a total of 11 swimmers competed at the event.

Cedar City’s Canyon View High School, which had many more swimmers, dominated the meet with 213 overall points, while host school Delta High accumulated 45 points. Grand finished right behind Delta with 43 points.

However, Grand did outscore Delta in the girls’ division, with the Lady Devils scoring 26 points to Delta’s 8.

Sophomore Robin Willscheidt was Grand’s only individual race winner, taking first place in the 100-meter backstroke to 1 minute, 41.84 seconds. That time is equivalent to a time of 1:31.74 over 100 yards.

Because Millard’s pool is 25 meters long, all metric times and distances were later converted to yardage equivalents for comparison purposes on the Utah Swimming Coaches Association’s website, which comprehensively tracks high school swim teams and meets throughout the state. The website is located at www.uthswimcoach.com.

The highest individual finisher for the Red Devil boys was junior Jackson Knowles, who placed third in the 200-meter individual medley. Knowles also took fourth in the 100-meter freestyle, and swam one 50-meter leg in the 200-meter relay team for Grand. The Red Devil relay team finished second out of four teams in that race.

Also competing for the GCHS boys at the meet were seniors Elijah Sheets and Carlos Gomez as well as junior Trendon Helquist, sophomore Duncan Redhead and freshman Drake Hackney.

In addition to Willscheidt, the Lady Devil girls team was represented at the Delta meet by senior Gaby Meyer, junior Sierra Indergand and freshmen Kayla Weston and Katie Winget.

Each of Grand’s athletes competed in at least two individual events, and several also competed in one or two relays, coach Pierce noted.

Grand’s second scheduled swim meet was a region contest on Thursday, Nov. 29 at Richfield. That meet and others will be covered in next month’s issue of The Devils’ Advocate.

Debaters competed at Westlake High, getting ready for Arches Invitational

By Sarah Stalples and Anna Scherer

On Nov. 9 and 10, the GCHS debate team competed in their first tournament of the season, the Utah Debate Coaches Association’s Speech Arts Classic held at Westlake High School in Saratoga Springs. They left Friday morning as settled in for the four and a half hour drive.

The UCDA tournament was originally held at two other schools, Skyline and Olympus. One school was for debate, such as Public Forum and Lincoln Douglas, and the other for individual events such as Impromptu, Oratory, and Congress. But this year, the whole tournament took place at Westlake, and it was unlike any other.

While most state tournaments consist of two days, one for individual events and one for debate events, this was different. Debaters had to choose one event to do overall, and not split their time in that event both days. A total of 700 people were at this tournament, including many students from 5A schools. The GCHS debate team tried their hardest and one member, sophomore Robin Willscheidt, placed in Junior Varsity Oratory.

Grand took 14 students to the event, but unfortunately, only one of the team captains was able to make the trip due to previous arrangements.

The Red Devil team brought along two freshmen, and they would love to see more
Heading toward the ‘fiscal cliff’

The dust has barely settled from the 2012 election cycle and our nation’s politicians are back to the same old argument that has tied up Congress for the last two years: taxes. However, this time there is an added sense of urgency, even panic this time around due to the looming “Fiscal Cliff” that is approaching on Jan. 1, 2013.

Certainly the term sounds frightening, but it’s a fairly simple action: as of 2013, the Bush-era tax cuts and other economic stimuli will automatically expire, while funding for government programs will be cut significantly. These actions together have been coined the “fiscal cliff.” It sounds like much of what politicians have been debating about for years: in order to fix the budget, we have to cut spending and increase revenue. While that’s certainly true, the severity of the fiscal cliff has Republicans and Democrats alike panicked about what those measures will do to a fairly weak recovery.

As such, President Barack Obama has met with Republicans in Congress to try and work out some sort of financial compromise, but the clock is ticking and the memory of bitter partisanship is haunting everyone. At the hands of the 112th Congress’s session, the new Republican majority made a vow not to raise taxes, and that they would block any legislation that attempted to do so. However, Obama has taken a more rigid stance on raising taxes for the wealthiest Americans, a stance that he campaigned—and won—on.

Republicans have proposed closing loopholes in the tax system to raise revenue, while demanding that Obama cut government spending. Obama has cut some spending, but claims that closing loopholes isn’t going to raise enough money. So what can Congress do? Close loopholes, raise taxes, or cut spending?

Experts from around the world have weighed in, and political parties are going to like the answer: all of the above.

David Frum of Newsweek makes the bold claim that Republicans are more scared of the fiscal cliff than are Democrats, and so to avoid plugging over, they’re going to have to concede on their tax policy and agree to raise rates on wealthy Americans. The Economist, a typically more conservative publication, also agrees, endorsing Obama’s plan to raise taxes on American’s making over $250,000 a year, which is expected to bring in $1.6 trillion of new revenue over the course of the next ten years. While Obama claims that this would help raise more than $2 trillion of revenue over the next ten years, but the caveat to that plan is that it would cause taxes for every household to increase, with rates on the top 1% doubling. These plans will have to be put into place as quickly as possible in order to avert the possibility of a double-dip recession. The Congress can write in time trying to reform the tax code within the next month—the above measures are simpler solutions to hold off the problem until a more detailed solution can be found.

John Schoen of NBCnews.com. About $350 billion of this will come from Medicare and similar health programs.

Again, this is only a smaller deal being put in place to avert the fiscal cliff approaching on New Year’s Day. However, if the two warring political parties can come to an agreement in time, it may spell hope for the larger negotiations to start soon.

Dimple by Macrae Olsen

Don’t get overly stressed out during holiday season

Well it’s the holidays again, a time of good deeds, happiness, and joy, well so the commercials say. Frankly I don’t buy it one bit. I am so stressed I’m about to just explode! I’m so crushed between wrestling, school, friends, family time and everything else I found myself spiraling towards a pit of self-pity, sadness, and despair.

To be honest, halfway through typing that sentence, my mom came to school to give me some lunch money, we had a talk and she said some words that uplifted me, and I hope may uplift you as well. You happen to get stressed, because I know that this season causes stress more than most. Whether it be wrapping all your presents, hanging up Christmas lights, dealing with your family, making gift baskets, and many other things. Mom said this to me: “Dex, I know it’s rough but this season is about lifting other people up and doing good things,” Then it hit me. I felt so dumb! I was just like every other complaining whiny person that I try so hard to advise becoming myself!

Life has shown some curveballs at me, but instead of looking around at people committing extreme acts of charity and kindness all around me, I chose to think about all those people scouring around stores on Black Friday, complaining about having to make Christmas cards, and racing to put up their Christmas trees. By doing all this, I got lost in the stress and modeled my life after that and thought it was acceptable to succumb to my problems because it is the spirit of the season isn’t it?

Now, I know you’re thinking, “No it’s not, Dex,” but really, look around. Nowadays, everyone has an idea still of what this season is about (which is peace and good will to all men) but is that really what people through our choices and actions? Of course not! Look at the people trampling their other fellow humans to get the best deals on toys. I know there are many people that aren’t guilty of this, people that love the season, love to give to others, love to spend time with family, and hold true to the idea of the season.

To you people, I congratulate you. To the rest of us (which I know there are a ton of you) let’s try to be more like that! Instead of stressing over the material things, or our problems, let’s set this season be our little chunk of salvation. Instead of letting it cause stress, let’s use it as a time to escape it, and have it a little oasis from our problems if you will. If we focus more on relaxing, and doing good to others, I think that we will all see that this will be a great time of year, and not a dreaded one. I know that I myself definitely need to try this, and I hope anyone in my situation will, also. Until next time, Love, Dex Wayne

Point / Counterpoint: should Negro Bill Canyon’s name be changed?

There is currently an effort to honor one of Moab’s very first settlers, William Grandstaff, by changing the name of Negro Bill Canyon to Grandstaff Canyon. The use of the moniker “negro” is offensive to many people, creating embarrassment for our community. His name should be spelled correctly and his story told, including this unique individual’s contribution to history as well as his race.

That’s why I created a petition to USGS/Board of Geographic Names, Bureau of Land Management, and Grand County Council, which reads as follows:

“Change the name of Negro Bill Canyon to Grandstaff Canyon. Correct the spelling of his name, (from Granstaff to Grandstaff). Post a brief bio and history of his impact in the Moab area.”

If you agree with this proposal, please go to signon.org to join in the petition to change the name of the canyon to Grandstaff Canyon. Thank you.

Negro Bill Canyon has had its name since the 1860’s. This canyon will lose its history without its original name. If anything, the name already benefits early Moab settler William Grandstaff by reminding visitors that blacks were a part of developing the American west. In 2001, the proposal to change the name of Negro Bill Canyon was declined simply because it was offensive; it indicated blacks were included in the west’s history.

Not to mention, there are seven geographic places in Utah with the word “Negro” in the name. The other places have not been given as much negative attention as Negro Bill Canyon has, which is puzzling to me, and makes me wonder if this is the starting of an unnecessary argument. The name “Negro” simply means “black” in Spanish. Changing the name makes it seem as if one should be ashamed of being black. It is almost as if degrading someone’s culture that you need to change the name, rather than keep the original.
Sadie Hawkins dance held Nov. 10

European Retrospective 3: Planes, trains, and very small automobiles in Germany
By Henry Bagley-Gurtner

As we stepped once again out of the Deutsche Bahn (DB) passenger coaches into the railway station of Hamburg, my heart was beating wildly with anticipation. For within Germany’s second city lies the world’s largest model railway layout. Before I proceed any further, I must elaborate on a certain topic that people who know me personally are all too familiar with, and that is that I am a major model train nut. Anything and everything railway related will cause me to go into an absolute nerd/fan boy swoon, so I apologize if I ramble a bit.

The layout in question is known internationally as Miniatur Wunderland. The layout is located in an old warehouse along the river Elbe. The display by itself is an impressive work of engineering. All of the switches and signals are automated as well as the trains themselves; combine that with all of the other hundreds of animated tibbits and a fully functioning airport and you have a work of pure modeling genius.

The airport alone could be its own display. The planes taxi to the gates, the gates move into place, maintenance vehicles scurry around everywhere like little mice, and yes, the planes even take off (not literally, it’s a complex system of automated posts). The model landscapes represent multiple countries including Germany (obviously), Sweden, Norway, the United States, and Austria.

These landscapes are not scale models, but are selectively compressed to cover as much ground as possible in a minimum amount of space, and that’s saying something in this situation (for example, on the American portion of the layout Florida is directly below Las Vegas). This was certainly my personal favorite part of the trip, and I would gladly have spent all week there. However, I knew that the next day we were planning to take a little side trip on a slightly larger train somewhere else the very next day.

PS If you’re getting bored with all this talk of trains, just wait. Next month, it’s boats.

Sadie Hawkins dance held Nov. 10

‘Day of the Dead’ celebrated at Moab Multicultural Center
By Juniper Roman

By Nov. 3 and 4, the Moab Valley Multicultural Center held their second annual Day of the Dead celebration in Moab. The Day of the Dead is a Hispanic celebration of loved ones who have passed, but instead of mourning they celebrate and embrace their loved ones.

On Saturday and Sunday the staff of the Multicultural Center and many local volunteers worked to set up for the event.

Making flowers, setting up tables, and just working really hard to make this a beautiful celebration.

Also, many families came and decorated tumbas (graves) for people in their families that they wanted to honor and celebrate. Each tumba was decorated differently and was very unique for each family.

The celebration was organized and directed by Meagan DeMatteo, Leti Bentley, Nicole Shelnut and Edgar Fuentes. Together they brought their ideas to one and made the celebration amazing.

A group of children from the Multicultural Center Preformed, along with people from the Utah Opera.

During the festival, there were many stations with fun games and prizes. However, it seems as though the deeper we get into the film this main plot is changed. A character is introduced who was chosen of chicken mole and pesole along with chips and salsa and authentic Mexican cinnamon raisin bread.

This was a great celebration that had a lot of time and hard work put in to it, and it turned out great. Keep your eyes open for next year’s celebration.

The Film Grade movie review: 007 Skyfall
By Brendon Henderson

The Plot: The film 007 Skyfall (PG-13, released in theaters Nov. 9) is mainly focused around James Bond (duh) retrieving a hard drive that contains the names of MI-6 operatives. However, it seems as though the deeper we get into the film this main plot is changed.

A story of retrieving the hard drive is changed into a story of revenge as the main villain (Mr. Silva, portrayed by Javier Bardem) is determined to kill M, who is the leader of MI-6 and hard to make.

The Performance (Daniel Craig): Daniel Craig is unlike any Bond that has ever donned the signature tuxedo (Aston Martin DB5 with the ejector seat) it all culminated in creating a tremendous Bond film. With a few downfalls, the film overall serves its purpose of telling a unique story and transitions us back to the original Bond format that was introduced to us years ago. It’s a definite must-see from me, and I know that I will be going back to see it again.

Game review: Assassin’s Creed III
By Delaney Manley

Gameplay: 7/10
Story: 6.5/10
Graphics: 9.5/10

The newest installment in the highly extolled Assassin’s Creed franchise, Assassin’s Creed III brings the narrative to colonial America as it pertains to Connor Kenway, the most recently introduced protagonist in the series.

Candidly, although the obvious appeal of the Assassin’s Creed series is how characteristic each of its editions are (we are led to expect with each title a copious yet entertaining amount of rooftop climbing, intricate scenery and of course, assassinations), I’ve been waiting for something a little different.

Assassin’s Creed III delivers, but in a conflicting fashion. The gameplay has improved; new ‘walking’ and ship battles are positively received, but the new game has serious deficits.

The citizen quests exist only as fillers, the main missions are achingly linear, the entire first five hours are a tutorial and overall the gameplay feels staccato and disconnected (excessively, the quests jump from location to location de trop, Ain’t nobody got time fo’ that.)

Yet overall, I’m still pleased. Although the gameplay could be improved and the story could be elaborated upon (I feel as if Connor’s backstory was slightly forsaken), I’m still as in love with the series as I have ever been. The game still offers the beautiful scenery and fun of the previous installments and is well worth the time and money.

Club Fair held at GCHS Oct. 30
A club fair was held in the GCHS commons on Oct. 30. Representatives from the school’s various clubs, sports, and other extra-curricular activities were on hand to try to get new members to sign up. The event was a success, said many of those who helped organize it. If you didn’t get a chance to attend, there’s still time to join many of the groups involved. Ask a student government member for more information.

Students line up to have their fortunes told by Senora Lin Kolb during GCHS’s annual Sadie Hawkins dance, which was held in the school’s commons and cafeteria the night of Saturday, Nov. 10. Dozens of couples attended the girls’ choice event, many of whom also did a whole day’s worth of activities together. The money raised will help the junior class stage prom next spring.

Edgar Fuentes. Together they brought their ideas to one and made the celebration amazing.

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HOROSCOPES

Sagittarius (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22): You won’t know if it is winter or summer if you are happy! (HAPPY BIRTHDAY SAGITTARIUS!)
Capricorn (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20): If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant. -- Anne Bradstreet
Aquarius (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19): Guilt: the gift that keeps on giving. -- Erma Bombeck
Pisces (Feb. 20 - March 20): Perhaps you are a bear, or another hibernation animal on the inside, because all winter, you are half asleep!
Aries (March 21 - April 20): If you’re not under my tree on Christmas morning, I’m going back to bed!
Taurus (April 21 - May 21): Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire; it is the time for home. -- Edith Sitwell
Gemini (May 22 - June 21): No matter how cold the winter there is a springtime ahead -- Pearl Jam
Cancer (June 22 - July 23): When it snows, you have two choices: shovel or make snow angels.
Leo (July 24 - Aug. 23): These cold, gray, winter days are wonderful for savoring a bad mood, especially for summer babies like Leos!
Virgo (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23): One kind word can warm three winter months. -- Japanese Proverb
Libra (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23): Can I get a picture of you so that I can show Santa what I want for Christmas?
Scorpio (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22): Santa has the right idea; he only visits people once a year.

Top 10 Things We Love About Winter
10. Fuzzy Scarves
9. Burning Candles
8. Hot Chocolate
7. Eggnog
6. Lots of Deliciousness ...
5. Snowmen and snow angels
4. Phenomenal Books
3. Mistletoe c(;)
2. Winter Break!
1. CHRISTMAS!!!!

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