

# 40 years and counting Man proves dedication to job

Glenn Grant Farrer has worked for the company that is now known as Nabors Well Services Co. for the past 40 years and is still going.

He began working there on June 1, 1973, and during the past 40 years has never taken a sick day and only two weeks of vacation over that entire span of time, company officials said.

"Glenn is what you call a dedicated worker and you will find him on weekends and holidays covering for others, so that they can have time with their families," company officials said.

He is known as the go-to person if someone has a question on what needs to be done, and safety is always at the top of the list when it comes to his crews, according to Nabors officials.

He has brought many men

that started as laborers on his crew to supervisor positions. He has a firm belief that you need to teach them the whole job, so that they can advance and be productive.

"Success is simple – do what is right . . . the right way . . . at the right time." His famous saying is "Don't sweat the small stuff because it is all small stuff."

Farrer is the definition of work ethics and few can claim such a day in and day out record, said his supervisors at Nabors.

Farrer is also the proud father of five sons and one daughter. Phillip is a doctor, Kevin played professional football, Neil is a consultant for Berry Petroleum Corp., Kerry is self employed as a contractor, Tony works for Price Auto as a mechanic and

KayCee works for McDonalds. Farrer adopted Tony and KayCee when they were very young and has raised them on his own for the past 12 years. He has residences in Orangeville and Roosevelt, which allows him the flexibility on being where the work is.

He is honored and respected by all that deal with him.

Farrer is also known for his generous heart and is always donating to such things as Angel Tree, Run Walk and Roll for disability equipment, school projects, taking food to the elderly, giving to families in need for Christmas, donating for parties for Headstart, taking care of the elderly neighbors, donating to the food bank, paying fees for elementary children who don't have money for extra curricular activities, and much much more.

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TRENT NELSON | The Salt Lake Tribune

## ASHLEY'S GIFT

# A liver for LuLu

Two daughters, Ashley Maynard, left, and LuLu Badger, right, and their mothers, are forever linked by a 'wonderful, yet horrible' donation.



STEVE GRIFFIN | The Salt Lake Tribune

With her husband, James, at her side, Liz Badger cries softly as she carries her daughter, LuLu, to an operating room Jan. 15 at Primary Children's Medical Center for liver transplant surgery; LuLu's grandparents, her big brother Jonah and friends follow.

By HEATHER MAY | The Salt Lake Tribune

**Murray** » Liz Badger is scouring every cupboard and drawer, tossing enough kitchen containers, blankets and clothes to fill at least a dozen bags for charity.

This time, though, she's not nesting before bringing a baby home from the hospital. She's working off her anxiety about taking her dying daughter back.

In a pink bedroom down the hall, 13-month-old London slumbers most of the day, in end-stage liver failure.

Affectionately called LuLu, the dark-haired, dark-eyed girl is one of the sickest children on the pediatric transplant waiting list in the

western United States. Without a new liver soon, her doctors fear, she won't make it.

Her family mostly stays home to avoid germs so she remains healthy enough for surgery. They watch movies. They play games.

They wait for someone else's child to die. Liz's cell phone is always within reach.

But part of her hopes it won't ring, not yet. LuLu is sick but stable. And in the silence there is solace: Another family has another day with their baby.

The phone is quiet for now, but not for much longer. The life of another dark-haired, dark-eyed girl also is fading.

Please see LULU, A10

"A lot of my emotions are tied up in thinking about that family and praying for that family. It's amazing in someone's darkest hour they can say, 'Take what you can from this person that we love and give life to [up to] eight other people.'"

### LIZ BADGER

On Jan. 5 while waiting for a liver for her daughter LuLu.

### Love strikes when you least expect it

**Couples** » Looking for love in all the wrong places? Try the workplace. For Valentine's Day, *The Trib* is highlighting a handful of Utah couples who have found love with professional colleagues. » D1



The Associated Press

### Man sets hugs record in Vegas

**Las Vegas** » A 51-year-old Ohio man has embraced the Valentine's Day spirit faster than anyone before, giving 7,777 hugs in 24 hours for a new world record. Jeff Ondash, who sought the squeezes under the costumed alter ego Teddy McHuggin, broke the record of 5,000 hugs Saturday outside the Paris Las Vegas hotel-casino on the Las Vegas Strip. Ondash also holds the one-hour hugs record with 1,205.

## Firms gear up for Bennet gets cash

**Politics** » Senate donations proper say system exploit

By MATT CANHAM | The Salt Lake Tribune

**Washington** » Sen. Bennett received \$100,000 in campaign contributions last year linked to defense companies that his help obtaining centrally directed earmarks. While no other lawmaker from Utah could match that amount, all but one state's delegation of defense earmarks for contributors. The option was Rep. Jason Chaffetz, who didn't request marks at all.

A review by *The Salt Lake Tribune*. Please see EA10

## Brain drain sa Salt Lake County

By JEREMIAH STETTIN | The Salt Lake Tribune

Carolyn Bass does spell check.

She got along just fine for 40 years ago, when Salt Lake County put her in motion in the motor vehicle division. Back then, she didn't need pesky lawyers to do the job of a paper.

But this longtime resident, who became the first information county Assessor's Office, has

Please see C10

HI 46  
LO 33

Today » Mostly cloudy » B12

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Review	B5
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VOL. 279 | NO. 120



**Note to readers** » In hope of encouraging organ donation, Liz and James Badger allowed *The Salt Lake Tribune* to follow their daughter LuLu and her wait for a liver. In January, by coincidence, the newspaper separately covered the decision of Ashley Maynard's family to donate her organs. As the two stories intertwined, the families agreed to *The Tribune's* continued reporting.





STEVE GRIFFIN | The Salt Lake Tribune  
Liz Badger blows bubbles and her daughter, Lulu, tries to catch them as they wait for Lulu's liver transplant surgery to start at Primary Children's Medical Center.



STEVE GRIFFIN | The Salt Lake Tribune  
Camie Lacey, left, and Liz Badger hold hands as they look at pictures and tell stories about their daughters at Primary Children's Medical Center. Liz's daughter, Lulu, received a portion of the liver from Camie's daughter, Ashley Maynard, after Ashley was fatally injured in a car accident. The families were united after the Badgers attended Ashley's funeral in Vernal.



STEVE GRIFFIN | The Salt Lake Tribune  
Resting calmly in the arms of her dad, James, Lulu receives a kiss on the head from her big brother, Jonah, moments before she is taken to an operating room at Primary Children's Medical Center for her liver transplant. The Badger family had been waiting for surgery to start for about 30 hours.

### Lulu

Continued from A1

“I love you, mom” • Nearly 200 miles away, Camie Lacey drives her daughter, Ashley Maynard, to her bus stop in a small eastern Utah town on Jan. 5. It isn't their routine, but it's too cold for her 12-year-old to walk. As the bus approaches, Ashley steps out of the car and says, “I love you, mom.”

deceased organ donor. When her kidneys started to fail in December, she jumped to the top.

Liz learned LuLu's ideal match would come from a child. That kept her up at night. Will he or she have been ill for months? Or will the death be unexpected?

“I will be sick for that mom that wants to die because her baby is no longer in her arms,” Liz wrote at about 2 a.m. in late December during LuLu's third extended hospital

“The best part of Ashley was her heart, her soul, and then her brain, her intelligence. I knew she wasn't going to come back.”

CAMIE LACEY  
Mother of Ashley Maynard

intensive care unit.  
The sister of 7-year-old

Primary Children's, where doctors left her in a medically induced coma, controlled her temperature and increased her blood pressure to move blood through her brain.

But days later, her brain is still swollen.

Camie, 35, already knows it's time to let go. She's been looking in Ashley's eyes every day and can't find her daughter.

“The best part of Ashley was her heart, her soul, and then her brain, her intelligence.”

### Donations kept anonymous to protect families

Families that receive organs are not told the donor's sex, age or home state to prevent them from tracking down a donor family through obituaries or online social media. Family members of donors are given more, but limited, information. Utah recipients are encouraged to write thank-

in the morning, Ashley stops responding. The swelling has forced her brain stem into her spinal column.

She is pronounced dead around noon on Jan. 13. On a ventilator, her heart continues to beat. Ashley will give her heart, pancreas, kidneys and liver.

Camie can't part with her eyes.

She lays in bed with her daughter. She bathes her and combs her hair.

time, LuLu's 100 could not her 12-year-old to walk. As the bus approaches, Ashley steps out of the car and says, "I love you, mom."

Camie sees her wait for one car to pass by. Realizing Ashley doesn't see the next one, Camie calls out her name and watches Ashley turn toward her. The car strikes Ashley, and she rolls onto the hood, then falls to the street.

Camie knows there is little hope when she gently pushes up Ashley's eyelids in the Vernal emergency room: The sparkle is gone.

In the coming days, Camie will pray for her firstborn to let go.

#### ■ ■ ■

**Time running out** » At 2 months old, doctors diagnosed LuLu with Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency. The rare genetic disorder traps a protein in her liver, causing scars and preventing it from controlling infections, filtering toxins and processing food.

As she grew, LuLu didn't have the fat, dimpled fists of a healthy baby. Every protruding vertebra in her back was a reminder of the food she couldn't eat. The disease made her nauseous and prevented her from digesting the nutrients she eventually had to take through a tube.

Yet her belly was swollen. High blood pressure in the veins leading to her liver caused fluids to leak into her abdomen, which had to be drained by a needle.

Before her first birthday, it was clear she needed a liver transplant.

Liz and her husband, James, both 28, were determined one of them would give their daughter life for a second time. In theory, a surgeon could remove a portion of one of their livers for LuLu. "I want us to have matching scars," Liz wrote in November on a blog chronicling LuLu's illness. "I want her to be able to look at me whenever she feels self-conscious and see how proud I am of my scar."

But both parents were ruled out, and doctors at Primary Children's Medical Center in Salt Lake City put LuLu on the waiting list for a

that wants to die because her baby is no longer in her arms," Liz wrote at about 2 a.m. in late December during LuLu's third extended hospital stay for an infection and care that had her kidneys working again.

"I would want to die, too. And that is why I feel heartbroken tonight and every night as I lay thinking about this wonderful yet horrible process of organ donation."

#### ■ ■ ■

**Letting go** » At LuLu's weekly appointment on Jan. 8, Liz sings the Bob Marley song "Three Little Birds." LuLu likes to shake her belly up and down to the words: "Don't worry about a thing, 'cause every little thing gonna be all right." Today, Liz wants to calm LuLu, who has just thrown up, and convince herself that the lyrics are true.

Linda Book, Primary's medical director of liver transplantation, tells her and James, "I know you're anxious to get this finished and get her well."

Liz struggles to agree. "We are," she says, thinking of where the liver will come from, "but it's a strange spot to be in."

Just down the hall, unknown to Liz and James, Ashley lies still in the pediatric

*Mother of Ashley Maynard*

intensive care unit.

The sister of 7-year-old Samantha, 5-year-old Abigail and 13-year-old stepdaughter Danyael, Ashley is in sixth grade at Vernal Middle School. She is the type to comfort a crying classmate at lunch and to correct her Sunday school teacher's grammar.

She dreams of becoming a veterinarian. As a younger child, she toted around a toy bat dressed in doll clothes, trotted through the house pretending to be a horse and made nests in the backyard.

The crash fractured her skull and stopped her heart. Emergency room physician Aaron Bradbury was just ending his shift at Ashley Valley Medical Center, where severe trauma cases are unusual. Hearing an ambulance was on its way carrying Ashley, he stayed to help.

Several of the staff resuscitating Ashley knew her. When they found a pulse — she may have gone up to 20 minutes without one — Bradbury felt something like regret.

"I knew what was going to be in store for the family," he said later. "She might die in the ICU or she could persist in a vegetative state for years."

Ashley was flown to

day and can't find her daughter.

"The best part of Ashley was her heart, her soul, and her intelligence," Camie says later. "I knew she wasn't going to come back."

#### ■ ■ ■

**The most difficult thing to do** » Refusing to let Ashley become an organ donor, Camie felt, would be like killing another child. She asks doctors for reassurance that the drugs keeping Ashley paralyzed and sedated aren't ruining her organs.

Camie has a choice. If she turns off the ventilator and Ashley's heart stops quickly, she could likely donate her liver and kidneys. But if she survives longer than an hour, low blood pressure and oxygen would damage her organs.

If Camie waits and Ashley's brain stops first, doctors can keep her on life support and more lives can be saved. Camie, a member of the Church of Christ, starts to pray for Ashley's brain to stop. She also hopes families awaiting a call don't feel guilty.

"It's got to be the most difficult thing to do — wait for another child to die," Camie says later. "I can't imagine the feeling."

To better assess Ashley,

aries or online social media. Family members of donors are given more, but limited, information. Utah recipients are encouraged to write thank-you letters, but are told to include only first names and general information about their lives.

The letters are sent to Intermountain Donor Services, which checks to make sure donor families wish to receive them. It is rare for families to meet. Intermountain underscores the gravity of sharing identities by requiring both families to sign forms holding Intermountain harmless against legal claims.

—Heather May

doctors stop administering the drugs sedating her, and she begins showing primitive responses, blinking and coughing.

Camie runs into her room and kisses her, asking, Are you going to be my miracle baby? She is so close she can taste a salty tear from Ashley's eye.

Ashley's father, stepfather, aunts and uncles gather at her bedside. She isn't awake. But for the first time, Camie feels Ashley is there, spiritually, to hear them say goodbye.

After her last visitor leaves

Camie can't part with her eyes.

She lays in bed with her daughter. She bathes her and combs her hair.

#### ■ ■ ■

**'Can you say a little prayer?'** » At 3 the next morning, Gina Wisner's pager wakes her up.

A transplant coordinator at Primary Children's, she confirms the liver offered to LuLu is a good match, then dials Liz.

Liz cries, thinking of the donor's family.

Wiser consoles her, sharing how tissue donation helped her own family cope with the death of her 14-year-old brother, Zachary. "This is a good thing," Wiser tells her.

Behind the scenes, the symphony of donation is playing out.

Intermountain Donor Services must find a home for the donor's organs, and the transplant surgeons must be in the room at the same time to remove them.

As LuLu's family waits more than 30 hours in the hospital, they hold and play with her as much as they can. She sits on a mat on the floor as James and Liz blow bubbles into her startled face.

When surgery finally starts, at noon on Jan. 15, LuLu's 8-year-old brother, Jonah, her parents and grandparents say goodbye. "LuLu's about to get a liver. Can you say a little prayer in your heart?" Liz asks Jonah as she touches his chest.

Jonah folds his arms and bows his head.

The surgery lasts for about 10 hours. Chief pediatric surgeon Rebecka Meyers works on disconnecting LuLu's bumpy, scarred liver. At the same time, Willem Van der Werf, Primary's surgical director for liver transplants, is removing organs from the donor.

Once he divides the liver for LuLu and a baby in California, Van der Werf walks the soft, pink left lobe to LuLu, whose room is next door.

"You just want her to move without being connected to anything," James says of his post-surgery hopes. "I want her to be able to wrestle with Jonah. [Go] on a simple walk."



STEVE GRIFFIN | The Salt Lake Tribune

Liz Badger, right, cries softly as she is comforted by one of her best friends, Kathryn Senton, shortly after Liz's daughter, LuLu, started a 10-hour liver transplant surgery.



STEVE GRIFFIN | The Salt Lake Tribune

Liz Badger, left, gently places Camie Lacey's hand on her daughter LuLu's stomach, where she received the transplanted liver from Lacey's 12-year-old, daughter Ashley Maynard, after Ashley was struck by a car and killed.



ONLINE » LIZ BADGER'S BLOG ABOUT LULU • LIVERFORLULU.BLOGSPOT.COM



Doctors, nurses and hospital staff fill the Badger family's room as they examine Lulu to ensure she is healthy enough for liver transplant surgery at Primary Children's Medical Center.

STEVE GRIFFIN | The Salt Lake Tribune



Transplant surgeons carefully expose Lulu Badger's damaged liver in a sterile field at the start of a 10-hour donor-recipient liver

STEVE GRIFFIN | The Salt Lake Tribune

**Not everyone can donate**

Utah may have a large percentage of people willing to donate — more than 70 percent — but actually becoming a donor is rare.

In 2009, there were 66 potential donors younger than 18, according to Intermountain Donor Services. Nineteen families agreed to donate.

To become an organ donor, a patient must die in a hospital while on a respirator and the cause of death

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Liz and James Badger hold hands as they see their daughter, Lulu, for the first time following her liver transplant surgery at Primary Children's Medical Center.

STEVE GRIFFIN | The Salt Lake Tribune

At midnight in the ICU, Liz places a gloved hand over Lulu's already-shrunken abdomen and on top of her new liver. She quietly says a prayer of thanks to her daughter's "donor angel."

For at least six months, But Liz and James feel compelled to go to Ashley's funeral to pay their respects. They need to know about the girl who saved Lulu's life.

Three days after Lulu's surgery, they leave her in intensive care to drive 170 miles east through the night and snow to Vernal.

**'She's dying a hero'** » Officially, Liz and James only know Lulu received the left segment of a liver. But they're convinced they've seen their angel.

They arrive early at the viewing, being held at a stake center offered by the LDS Church, and are alone with Ashley, in her white casket with images of horses, for a half hour. Liz gently strokes her cheek, holds her hand and touches her where her liver was.

Without knowing it, they had been praying for each other for days. Invited to stay as the casket is closed, Liz and James listen as the family prays for the driver who hit Ashley and the people who received her organs. "They watch as Camie kisses Ashley for the last time.

On the morning of Lulu's surgery, Liz received an e-mail from her sister urging her to read a story in *The Salt Lake Tribune*.

Thank you, Liz says, I am sorry you had to die.

At the funeral, Camie guides them to sit among Ashley's relatives. "She's a piece of our family," Camie says of Lulu. "They always will be."

Liz stares at Ashley's quiet smile and reads about her family's decision. "I always had a feeling in my heart that my little girl would one day become a hero," William Antico, Ashley's father, told the newspaper. "She's dying a hero."

An LDS bishop comes in and, seeing Liz and James' tears, asks how they know Ashley. The couple, also members of the church, hesitate. They hadn't planned to explain their connection to Ashley, wanting to keep the day's focus on her.

After the bishop asks for a third time, Liz whispers, "We believe Ashley was the donor for our baby."

Organ donation is anonymous to allow families to give and accept freely, without the pressure of knowing each other, says Karen Hannahs, a family liaison for Intermountain Donor Services.

To protect families from difficult emotions that can accompany donation, Hannahs advises them against meeting

for more than an hour, the mothers occasionally touch their matching letter. A pen-dant.

Transplant surgeons carefully expose Lulu Badger's damaged liver, in doctor's hand, at the start of a 10-hour transplant surgery to replace it with a portion of Ashley Maynard's donor liver at Primary Children's Medical Center. Below right: Camie Lacey shares a photo of her daughter, Ashley Maynard.

STEVE GRIFFIN | The Salt Lake Tribune

Liz wants a picture of Ashley to sit next to photos of her children. She vows to Camie she will raise a daughter to make her proud: Ashley, she says, has set the bar.

"I wish more than anything she was alive," Liz says. Camie comforts Liz. "You can be OK, because I'm OK," she says. "I've spent my whole life trying to get me and my family, my kids, to heaven, and I got one there."

Bradbury, Ashley's emergency room doctor, now says he is comforted she lived so that she could save five other people. Camie is proud that a boy in Canada has her heart; a baby girl in San Francisco has part of her liver; a Minnesota woman has one kidney while a Utah woman has the other, along with her pancreas.

Intermountain Donor Services confirms Lulu has Ashley's liver.

There will always be a risk she could reject it, though the chances are highest in the next year. A lifetime of anti-rejection drugs will bring their own problems. But within days, Lulu will be home, rolling on her stomach, finally hungry, eating cereal and cupcakes and chocolate. She will jump higher in her bouncy swing and laugh louder. Liz will feel Ashley gave Lulu not only life, but some of her own zest to fully live it.

For now, holding Lulu in the hospital, Liz points to Camie and tells her baby, "You can say, 'Mama.' She gave you life, too." Camie kisses Lulu's bandaged stomach, saying, "I love you, sweetheart." In the room, she can feel Ashley again. "The sparkle is back."



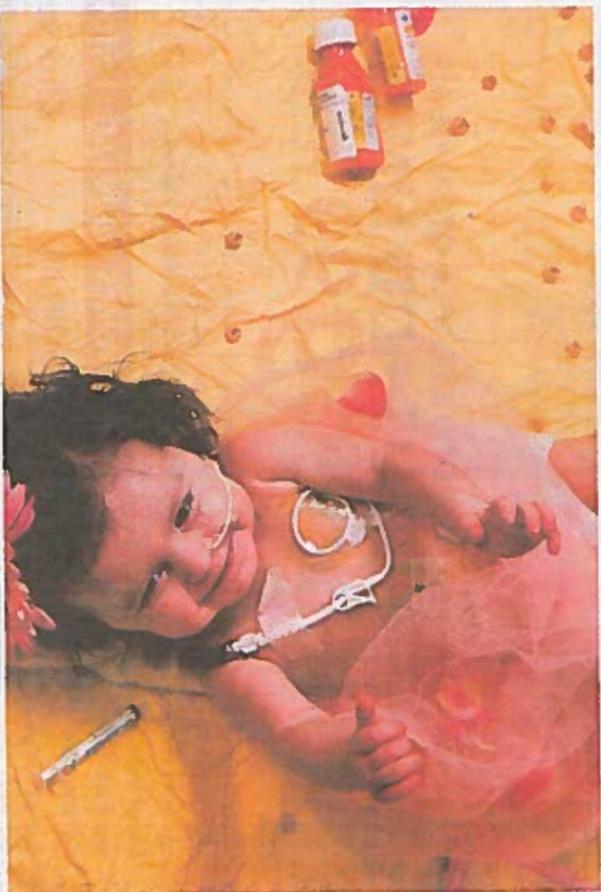
hmay@sltrib.com

—Heather May

At peace » Driving to the stake center, Camie prays,

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Lulu Badger smiles and giggles at her dad, James, as the Badgers prepare to leave Primary Children's Medical Center 19 days after her liver transplant surgery. Describing Lulu's life now, her mother, Liz, says, "It really is like there is a part of Ashley in her, this spark she didn't have before."

STEVE GRIFFIN | The Salt Lake Tribune

# A new ear for the New Year

By Lacey McMurray  
Vernal Basin Standard

May 29, 1982.

I was a newborn that day and too young to remember the moment for myself. But I've heard the story many times.

It was my brother's second birthday. Dustin had just been given with a set of headphones — the kind with the giant pads that cover the entire ear and block out competing sounds.

My mom, Therena, said she and my dad already had a nagging suspicion that Dustin might have hearing loss. Their fears were confirmed the moment the headphones were placed over his ears.

"He heard the music and got this huge smile and big wide eyes and a look of amazement on his face," my mom said. "That's when we knew for sure."

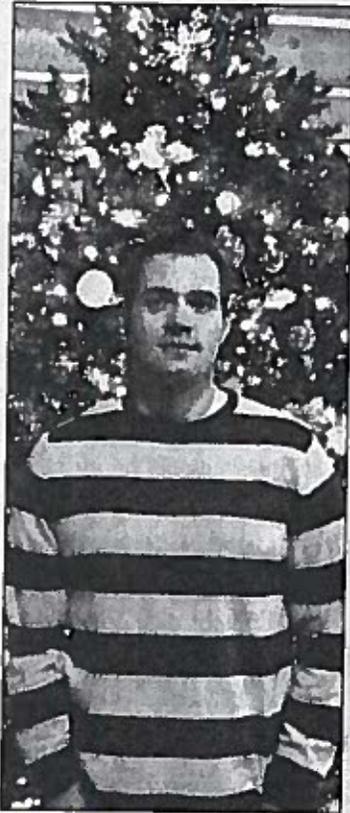
Shortly after that, Dustin was diagnosed with severe to profound hearing loss. In his left ear, he was virtually deaf. In his right ear, he could hear at about 80 decibels — the volume produced by a vacuum cleaner. An average person hears at 10 decibels — the rustle of a pile of leaves.

After his diagnosis, Dustin learned sign language for some of his basic needs and was fitted with a hearing aid. He started speech therapy and by the time he turned 4, he could finally talk.

Over the years, hearing aid technology unquestionably improved. Still, for Dustin, there were all too many frustrations and limitations. There was the week-long family vacation to the lake, when his hearing aid broke on the first day. For the rest of the week, he was effectively shut out from the cheerful banter, stuck in his own silent world.

Large group settings were also especially difficult.

"In those types of situations, all I can hear is a cacophony of sounds," he said. "It's like I'm listening to a flock of seagulls. It's completely chaotic and I



Dustin Morrill has lived with severe to profound hearing loss since he was a toddler. Two weeks ago doctors in California turned on an hearing device that was implanted in Morrill's right ear. The expectation is that the former Neola resident's hearing will improve dramatically.

can't distinguish what anyone is saying because every sound is being amplified equally."

Three months ago, Dustin found out about a new offering for the hearing impaired. The Food and Drug Administration had recently approved the Esteem — the world's first fully implantable hearing device. The technology was so new that at that time that only 400 people in the United States had undergone the surgery to have the device implanted.

After more research and communication with Envoy Medical — the company that developed

the implant — Dustin learned he was an ideal candidate for the procedure. He had the surgery and was sent home to heal. Two weeks ago, he flew to San Jose to have the hearing implant turned on.

The result, according to my mom, was the second birthday headphone experience all over again — just in time for Christmas. There was that same look of wonder on Dustin's face. All of a sudden, he could hear things he had never heard before.

As they left the surgical center, Dustin turned to my mom and asked, "What's that sound? Is there a river here?" He had noticed the sound of cars rushing down the highway, something he had never been able to pick out.

"On the plane on the way home, I kept asking mom if I was talking really, really loud," Dustin said. "She kept saying, 'No, I can barely hear you,' and I couldn't believe her. It sounded like I was shouting."

Carl Geisz, U.S. sales manager for Envoy Medical, said the implantable hearing device works for people with sensorineural hearing loss — or about 85 percent of people who have a hearing impairment. Eligible candidates must have a baseline level of hearing and a certain word recognition score. Unfortunately, the surgery costs about \$30,000 and isn't yet covered by insurance companies.

The surgery itself can take anywhere from four to seven hours. Surgeons make an incision just behind the ear, peel back part of the scalp, and attach a sensor to the small bones in the middle ear. A sound processor is also implanted behind the outer ear, under the skin. People who get the surgery can hold a small remote up to their head to adjust the device's volume or turn it off completely.

Geisz said the reason the technology works so well is that it uses the patient's eardrum as a natural microphone and the body's natural anatomy to reduce



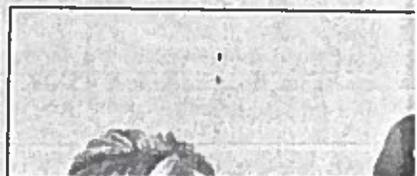
A biomedical engineer from Envoy hearing device. Morrill, who grew up and underwent surgery to receive the new

background noise, distortion and feedback.

"It's a very different concept than a hearing aid," he said. "Our outer ear and ear canal do a lot to channel sounds and help in distinguishing speech, and hearing aids bypass that. The response has really been overwhelming and there have been a lot of great stories already about how people's lives are being changed."

For Dustin, the pain from the surgery was minimal. The procedure wasn't without its inconveniences though. After the surgery, it was necessary for him to be completely deaf for six weeks. Doctors are unable to turn the implantable hearing aid on until the swelling diminishes.

But because Dustin was completely deaf in his left ear and the hearing device wasn't turned on in his right ear, he began to experience auditory deprivation — similar to the phantom pains experienced by those who have had a limb amputated.



# for ear

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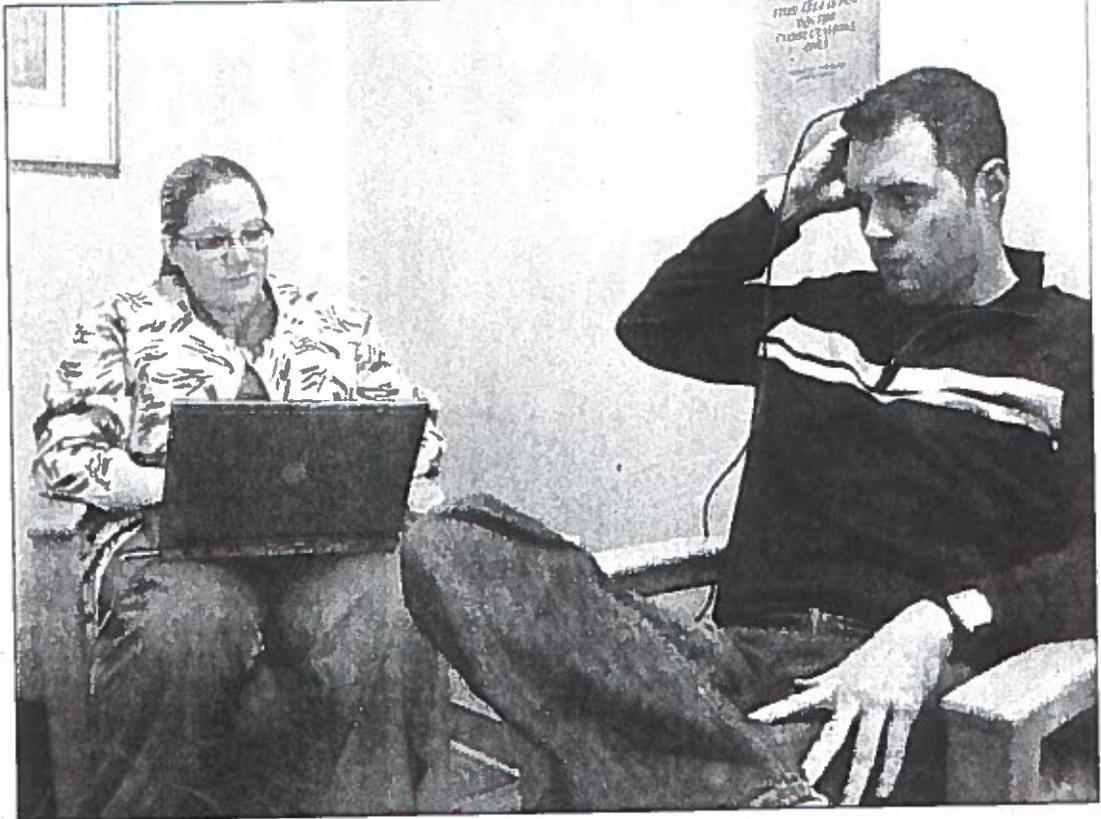
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A biomedical engineer from Envoy Medical adjusts the settings on Dustin Morrill's fully implantable hearing device. Morrill, who grew up in Neola, recently became one of the first people in Utah to undergo surgery to receive the new technology.

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"It's a very different concept than a hearing aid," he said. "Our outer ear and ear canal do a lot to channel sounds and help in distinguishing speech, and hearing aids bypass that. The response has really been overwhelming and there have been a lot of great stories already about how people's lives are being changed."

For Dustin, the pain from the surgery was minimal. The procedure wasn't without its inconveniences though. After the surgery, it was necessary for him to be completely deaf for six weeks. Doctors are unable to turn the implantable hearing aid on until the swelling diminishes.

But because Dustin was completely deaf in his left ear and the hearing device wasn't turned on in his right ear, he began to experience auditory deprivation — similar to the phantom pains experienced by those who have had a limb amputated.

Sometimes, he could hear a high-pitched buzzing. At other times, it sounded like a very loud, very out of tune orchestra was playing in his head.

"They were really not good at all," he said with a laugh, recalling the sounds.

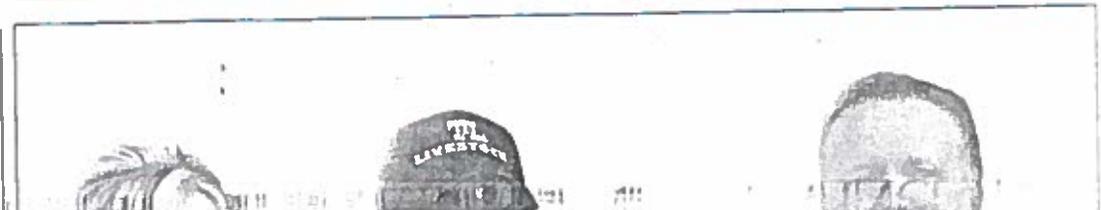
Even now that the hearing implant has been connected and turned on, Dustin still hasn't reached the level of hearing that will someday be possible. His body has to adjust to the new technology and learn how to hear in a new way.

Today, he can hear most sounds about as clearly as he could with his hearing aid. Some sounds, like the sound of his own voice, are much louder. Within the next few weeks, the expectation is that his hearing will improve by leaps and bounds. Because his body is still adjusting to the new technology the loudest he has been able to turn the implant on so far is a level three, even though it goes all the way up to a level 10.

Dustin doesn't yet know exactly how much his hearing will improve, but the two short weeks since the hearing implant was turned on have already given him hope for a brighter future. He no longer has to worry about losing a job because he didn't hear his alarm go off or sleeping through the warning call of a shrill fire alarm.

"People who aren't hearing impaired don't realize all the drawbacks of wearing a hearing aid," Dustin said. "If you do something as little as smile really big, you get loud squealing feedback. You are always conscious of everything you do and every movement you make and how that might affect your hearing aid. From a vanity standpoint, it's also not very conducive to self confidence."

Now, thanks to modern technology, many of those problems are non-issues. In many ways, my brother has been offered a new beginning, and that's the best Christmas gift yet.



# Ashley's gift: A liver for Lulu

## TWO MOTHERS AND THEIR DAUGHTERS ARE FOREVER LINKED BY A 'WONDERFUL, YET HORRIBLE' DONATION.

*Editor's note: This is the first part of a two part story about Ashley Maynard and her family's gift of organ donation. Part two of the story will appear next week in the Vernal Express.*

**By Kenne Mv**  
**The Salt Lake Tribune**

*A lot of my emotions are tied up in thinking about that family and praying for that family. It's amazing in someone's darkest hour they can say, 'Take what you can from this person that we love and give life to [up to] eight other people.'"* -- Liz Badger

Murray's Liz Badger is scouring every cupboard and drawer, tossing enough kitchen containers, blankets and clothes to fill at least a dozen bags for charity.

This time, though, she's not nesting before bringing a baby home from the hospital. She's working off her anxiety about taking her dying daughter back there.

In a pink bedroom down the hall, 13-month-old London slumbers most of the day, in end-stage liver failure.

Affectionately called Lulu, the dark-haired, dark-eyed girl is one of the sickest children on the pediatric transplant waiting list in the Western United States. Without a new liver soon, her doctors fear, she won't make it.

Her family mostly stays home to avoid germs so she remains healthy enough for surgery. They watch movies. They play games.

They wait for someone else's child to die. Liz's cell phone is always within reach.

But part of her hopes it won't ring, not yet. Lulu is sick but stable. And in the silence there is solace. Another family has another day with their baby.

The phone is quiet for now, but not for much longer. The life of another dark-haired, dark-eyed girl is also fading. 'I love you, mom' Nearly 200 miles away, Ca-

mie Lacey drives her daughter, Ashley Maynard, to her bus stop in a small eastern Utah town on Jan. 5. It isn't their routine, but it's too cold for her 12-year-old to walk. As the bus approaches, Ashley steps out of the car and says, "I love you, mom."

Camie sees her wait for one car to drive by. Realizing Ashley doesn't see the next one, Camie calls out her name and watches Ashley turn toward her. The car strikes Ashley, and she rolls onto the hood, then falls to the street.

Camie knows there is little hope when she gently pushes up Ashley's eyelids in the Vernal emergency room: The sparkle is gone.

In the coming days, Camie will pray for her firstborn to let go.

Time running out  
At 2 months old, doctors diagnosed Lulu with Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency. The rare genetic disorder traps a protein in her liver, causing scars and preventing it from controlling infections, filtering toxins and processing food.

As she grew, Lulu didn't have the fat, dimpled fists of a healthy baby. Every protruding vertebra in her back was a reminder of the food she couldn't eat. The disease made her nauseated and prevented her from digesting the nutrients she eventually had to take through a tube.

Yet her belly was swollen. High blood pressure in the veins leading to her liver caused fluids to leak into her abdomen, which had to be drained by a needle.

Before her first birthday, it was clear she needed a liver transplant.

Liz and her husband James, both 28, were determined one of them would give their daughter life for a second time. In theory, a surgeon could remove a portion of one of their livers for Lulu.

"I want us to have matching scars," Liz wrote in November on a blog chronicling Lulu's illness. "I want her to be able to look at me whenever she

feels self-conscious and see how proud I am of my scar."

But both parents were ruled out, and doctors at Primary Children's Medical Center in Salt Lake City put Lulu on the waiting list for a deceased organ donor. When her kidneys started to fail in December, she advanced to the top.

Liz learned Lulu's ideal match would come from a child. That kept her up at night. Will he or she have been ill for months? Or will the death be unexpected?

"I will be sick for that mom that wants to die because her baby is no longer in her arms," Liz wrote at about 2 a.m. in late December during Lulu's third extended hospital stay for an infection and care that had her kidneys working again.

"I would want to die, too. And that is why I feel heart-broken tonight and every night as I lay thinking about this wonderful yet horrible process of organ donation." Letting go  
At Lulu's weekly appointment on Jan. 8, Liz sings the Bob Marley song "Three Little Birds." Lulu likes to shake her belly up and down to the words: "Don't worry about a thing, 'cause every little thing gonna be all right." Today, Liz wants to calm Lulu, who has just thrown up, and convince herself that the lyrics are true.

Linda Book, Primary's medical director of liver transplantation, tells her and James, "I know you're anxious to get this finished and get her well."  
Liz struggles to agree. "We are," she says, thinking of where the liver will come from, "but it's a strange spot to be in."

Just down the hall, unknown to Liz and James, Ashley lies still in the pediatric intensive care unit.

The sister of 7-year-old Samantha, 5-year-old Abigail and 13-year-old stepister Danyael, Ashley is in sixth grade at Vernal Middle School. She is the type to comfort a

crying classmate at lunch and to correct her Sunday school teacher's grammar.

She dreams of becoming a veterinarian. As a younger child, she toted around a toy bat dressed in doll clothes, trotted through the house pretending to be a horse and made nests in the backyard.

The crash fractured her skull and stopped her heart. Emergency room physician Aaron Bradbury was just ending his shift at Ashley Valley Medical Center, where severe trauma cases are unusual. Hearing an ambulance was on its way carrying Ashley, he stayed to help.

Several of the staff resuscitating Ashley knew her. When they found a pulse -- she may have gone up to 20 minutes without one -- Bradbury felt something like regret.

"I knew what was going to be in store for the family," he said later. "She might die in the ICU or she could persist in a vegetative state for

**Can you help?**  
A community fundraiser will be held March 6, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Vernal Middle School. Proceeds from the evening will be donated to the Maynard family, as well as three other families with children who have medical problems. A portion of the proceeds will also go to Intermountain Donor Services and Primary Children's Medical Center. Doors open at 5 p.m., and a raffle will be held. Tickets are \$7 at the door. More than a dozen local entertainers will perform.

years."

Ashley was flown to Primary Children's, where doctors left her in a medically induced coma, controlled her temperature and increased her blood pressure to move blood through her brain.

But days later, her brain is still swollen. Camie, 35, already knows

it's time to let go. She's been looking in Ashley's eyes every day and can't find her daughter.

"The best part of Ashley was her heart, her soul, and then her brain, her intelligence," Camie says later. "I knew she wasn't going to come back."

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# Ashley's gift: A liver for Lulu

## TWO MOTHERS AND THEIR DAUGHTERS ARE FOREVER LINKED BY A 'WONDERFUL, YET HORRIBLE' DONATION.

Editor's note: This is the second part of a two part story about Ashley Maynard and her family's gift of organ donation. Part one of the story ran last week in the Vernal Express.

By Heather May  
The Salt Lake Tribune

A lot of my emotions are tied up in thinking about that family and praying for that family. It's amazing in someone's darkest hour they can say, "Take what you can from this person that we love and give life to [up to] eight other people." — Liz Badger

Refusing to let Ashley become an organ donor, Camie felt, would be like killing another child. She asks doctors for reassurance that the drugs keeping Ashley paralyzed and sedated aren't ruining her organs.

Camie has a choice: If she turns off the ventilator and Ashley's heart stops quickly, she could likely donate her liver and kidneys. But if she survives longer than an hour, low blood pressure and oxygen would damage her organs.

If Camie waits and Ashley's brain stops first, doctors can keep her on life support and more lives can be saved.

Camie, a member of the Church of Christ, starts to pray for Ashley's brain to stop. She also hopes families awaiting a call don't feel guilty.

"It's got to be the most difficult thing to do - wait for another child to die," Camie says later. "I can't imagine the feeling."

To better assess Ashley, doctors stop administering the drugs sedating her, and she begins showing primitive responses, blinking and coughing.

Camie runs into her room and kisses her, asking, "Are you going to be my miracle baby? She is so close she can taste a salty tear from Ashley's eye."

Ashley's father, stepfather, aunt and uncle gather at her bedside. She isn't awake. But for the first time, Camie feels Ashley is there, spiritually, to hear them say goodbye.

After her last visitor leaves in the morning, Ashley stops responding. The swelling has forced her brain stem into her spinal column.

She is pronounced dead around noon on Jan. 13. On a ventilator, her heart continues to beat. Ashley will give her heart, pancreas, kidneys and liver.

Camie can't part with her eyes. She lays in bed with her daughter. She bathes her and combs her hair.

"Can you say a little prayer?" At 3 the next morning, Gina Wisler wakes her up.

Wisler's pager wakes her up. A transparent coordinator at Primary Children's, she confirms the liver offered to Lulu is a good match, then dials Liz.

Liz cries, thinking of the donor's family.

Wisler consoles her, sharing how tissue donation helped her own family cope with the death of her 14-year-old brother, Zachary. "This is a good thing," Wisler tells her.

Behind the scenes, the symphony of donation is playing out.

I Intermountain Donor Services must find a home for the donor's organs, and the transplant surgeons must be in the room at the same time to remove them.

As Lulu's family waits more than 30 hours in the hospital, they hold and play with her as much as they can. She sits on a mat on the floor as James and Liz blow bubbles into her startled face.

When surgery finally starts, at noon on Jan. 15, Lulu's 3-year-old brother, Jonah, her parents and grandparents say goodbye. "Lulu is about to get a liver. Can you say a little prayer in your heart?" Liz asks Jonah as she touches his chest.

Jonah folds his arms and bows his head.

The surgery lasts for about 10 hours. Chief pediatric surgeon Rebecca Meyers works on disconnecting Lulu's bumpy, scarred liver. At the same time, William Van der Wert, Primary's surgical director for liver transplants, is removing organs from the donor.

Once he divides the liver for Lulu and a baby in California, Van der Wert walks the soft, pink left lobe to Lulu, whose room is next door.

"You just want her to move without being connected to anything," James says of his post-surgery hopes. "I want her to be able to wrestle with Jonah. [Go] on a simple walk."

At midnight in the ICU, Liz places a gloved hand over Lulu's already-shrunken abdomen and on top of her new liver. She quietly says a prayer of thanks to her daughter's "donor angel."

Caring for Lulu's head, she says: "You did it. You got a new liver."

"She's dying a hero."

Officially, Liz and James only know Lulu received the left segment of a liver. But they're convinced they've seen their angel.

On the morning of Lulu's surgery, Liz received an e-mail from her sister urging her to read a story in The Salt Lake Tribune.

Liz stares at Ashley's quiet smile and reads about her family's decision. "I always had a feeling in my heart that my little girl would one day become a hero," William Antico, Ashley's father, told the newspaper. "She's dying a hero."

Organ donation is anonymous to allow families to give and accept freely, without the pressure of knowing each other, says Karen Hannah, a family liaison for Intermountain Donor Services.

To protect families from difficult emotions that can accompany donation, Hannah advises them against meeting for at least six months.

But Liz and James feel compelled to go to Ashley's funeral to pay their respects. They need to know about the girl who saved Lulu's life.

Three days after Lulu's surgery, they leave her in intensive care to drive 170 miles east through the night and snow to Vernal.

They arrive early to the view jump higher in her bouncy swing and laugh louder. Liz will feel Ashley gave Lulu not only life, but some of her own zest to fully live it.

For now, holding Lulu in the hospital, Liz gently strokes her cheek, holds her hand and touches her where her liver touches her.

"Thank you, Liz says, I am sorry you had to die. Camie kisses Lulu's ban-daged stomach, saying, "I love you, sweetheart."

In the room, she can feel Ashley again.

The couple, also members of the church, hesitate. They had planned to explain their connection to Ashley, wanting to keep the day's focus on her.

After the bishop asks for a third time, Liz whispers, "We believe Ashley was the donor for our baby."

In tears, the bishop embraces them, insisting Camie will want to know.

At peace.

Driving to the stake center, Camie prays, wondering how she will make it through the day. When she walks into the room, James and Liz see her answer: James and Liz are standing next to Ashley's coffin.

A relative eagerly tells Camie their little girl got Ashley's liver, and Camie instantly feels at peace.

The two mothers hold each other and cry.

Without knowing it, they had been praying for each other for days.

Invited to stay as the casket is closed, Liz and James listen as the family prays for the driver who hit Ashley and the people who received her organs. They watch as Camie kisses Ashley for the last time.

At the funeral, Camie guides them to sit among Ashley's relatives.

"She's a piece of our family," Camie says of Lulu. "They all ways will be."

A week later on Jan. 26, Camie and Liz sit on a couch, holding hands at Primary Children's, and Liz says a prayer of thanks to her daughter's "donor angel."

Will raise a daughter to make her proud! Ashley, she says, has set the bar.

"I wish more than anything she was alive," Liz says.

Camie comforts Liz. "You can be OK, because I'm OK," she says. "I've spent my whole life trying to get me and my family, my kids, to heaven, and I got one there."

Bradbury, Ashley's emergency room doctor, now says he is comforted she lived so that she could save five other people.

Camie is proud that a boy in Canada has her heart; a baby girl in San Francisco has part of her liver; a Minnesota woman has one kidney while a Utah woman has the other, along with her pancreas.

Intermountain Donor Services confirms Lulu has Ashley's liver. There will always be a task she could reject it, though the chances are highest in the next year. A lifetime of anti-rejection drugs will bring their own problems.

But within days, Lulu will be home, rolling on her stomach, finally hungry, eating cereal and cupcakes and chocolate. She will jump higher in her bouncy swing and laugh louder. Liz will feel Ashley gave Lulu not only life, but some of her own zest to fully live it.

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At peace.

In hopes of encouraging organ donation, Liz and James Badger allowed The Salt Lake Tribune to follow their daughter in January, by coincidence, the newspaper separately covered the decision of Ashley Maynard's family to donate her organs. As the two stories intertwined, both families agreed to The Tribune's continued reporting.

Donations kept anonymous to protect families.

Families who receive organs are not told the donor's sex, age or home state to prevent them from tracking down a donor family through obituaries or online social media. Family members of donors are given more, but limited, information.

Utah recipients are encouraged to write thank-you letters, but are told to include only first names and general information about their lives. The letters are sent to Intermountain Donor Services, which checks to make sure donor families wish to receive them.

It is rare for families to meet. Intermountain underscores the gravity of sharing identities by requiring both families to sign forms holding Intermountain harmless against legal claims.

Not everyone can donate. Utah may have a large percentage of people willing to donate - more than 70 percent - but actually becoming a donor is rare.

In 2009, there were 66 potential donors younger than 18, according to Intermountain Donor Services. Nineteen families agreed to donate.

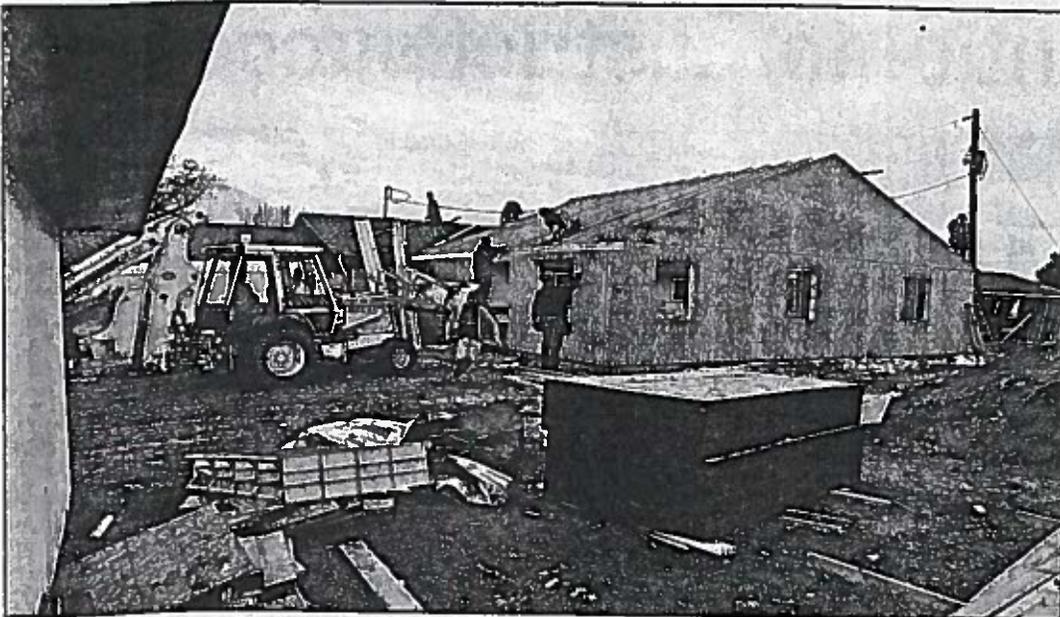
To become an organ donor, a patient must die in a hospital while on a respirator and the cause of death typically must be a head injury, spokesman Alex McDonald said.

That explains the shortage of organs. As of the end of January, 390 Utahns were awaiting a transplant. As of November 2009, 238 Utahns had received a transplant.

For more information about donation, go to [yesliver.org](http://yesliver.org).

- Heather May

- Heather May



STEVE PURO, UINTAH BASIN STANDARD

Roof trusses are placed and roof sheathing goes quickly onto the Jeff and Diana Hanke home. The addition is being completed with donated materials, funds and volunteer labor to help the Hanks while Diana Hanke fights stage two lymphoma.

# Basin home make-over brings new meaning to Thanksgiving

**By STEVE PURO**  
 Uintah Basin Standard

Cancer. It is a word that can send a primal shiver through a person's soul.

Looking into the eyes of Diana Hanke, who is battling the disease, you see the pain, the struggle, and the hope and determination to fight the disease.

The lives of the Jeff and Diana Hanke family of Neola, with their five children ages 14, 8, 6, and twins at 4, changed forever during the last week of June 2012 when Diana was diagnosed with stage two lymphoma.

"There is a change in your life from that day when you learn there is cancer in the family," Jeff said. "We have always been planners. Here is our three-year plan, here is our five-year plan. This is where we want to be in 20 years. And now, suddenly, you're just looking forward to the next day and then the next day."

The Hanks had been planning for years to change homes, move, or add on to their existing home. They had filled their house with a family of five even

the side effects. "The loss of hair, the change in appetite, the loss of appetite, the loss of physical strength, and even a change in the way she holds her pencil all take a toll," he said. "She reached a point where she almost lost the ability to walk. Physical therapy has helped with that, but the walking is still hard."

Diana said the inability to keep up with her kids was the hardest part.

"When my legs got to that point, I just wanted to be with my kids and go with them, and I couldn't," she said. "After the therapy, I have regained hope that I will get my feet and hands back eventually."

During her four sessions of chemotherapy, neighbors and friends came to help Diana at the house.

"When Annette Miller was over helping to clean, I happened to show her the plans for the home addition," Diana said. Miller and Essie Zager talked about what might be done to help. They discussed it with their spouses Bart and Kenyon and decided that they wanted to complete the addition for the Hanks as a community project

special account set up at Union High School. Checks can be made out to Union High school for that account at the finance window and all donated funds will go directly to the Hanks and the project."

During the construction, Diana has continued fighting the disease.

"The fear that I wouldn't be there for my children, especially where we had just had the twins, was the hardest part," she said. "They had just turned 4 when we found out about the cancer. To think there was a possibility I wouldn't be there for them was my greatest fear when I was told I had cancer."

The chemotherapy has been a roller coaster of emotions too, according to Jeff.

"You go through a couple of days and think, 'wow, this isn't going to be that bad,'" he said. "Then all of a sudden you are wondering if you can really endure this for another three or four months, or however long it is going to be. It's difficult." After doing the first four sessions of chemotherapy the doctors were able to report that there was marked improvement and some of the

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The Hanke had been planning for years to change homes, or add on to their existing home. They had filled their house with a family of five even before the twins were born. With the arrival of the twins, the Hanke found themselves with closets overflowing, dressers in the hallways and the bedrooms full. The three girls were in one small room and the two boys in the other.

"Finally last spring we decided to add on," Diana said. "We had blueprints and everything drawn up and ready to go the last week of June. Now was the time."

The planned addition was intended to give more space for the family, a family room, larger kitchen space, another bathroom and another bedroom. Jeff had gone to town to get the building permit for the addition on the same day that Diana had gone to the doctor to find out why she wasn't feeling "right."

"I had returned and was waiting for her to come home when we got a call from the doctor's office that said we needed to come to his office," Jeff said. Diana was grateful that Dr. Gregory Staker did not hesitate to order a CAT scan for her. The quick response medically helped to identify the aggressive non-operable lymphoma around her lungs and above her heart.

"The medical response was to begin treating the cancer as though it was stage four. From that point on we put everything off," Diana said. "We'll do the addition later, sometime when we can."

Jeff said the biggest challenge dealing with the cancer were

and even a change in the way she holds her pencil all take a toll," he said. "She reached a point where she almost lost the ability to walk. Physical therapy has helped with that, but the Diana said the inability to keep up with her kids was the hardest part.

"When my legs got to that point, I just wanted to be with my kids and go with them, and I couldn't," she said. "After the therapy, I have regained hope that I will get my feet and hands back eventually."

During her four sessions of chemotherapy, neighbors and friends came to help Diana at the house.

"When Annette Miller was over helping to clean, I happened to show her the plans for the home addition," Diana said. Miller and Essie Zager talked about what might be done to help. They discussed it with their spouses Bart and Kenyon and decided that they wanted to complete the addition for the Hanke as a community project.

"The Hanke were really humble and didn't want to call upon other people for that level of help and assistance. We had to convince them," Zager said. "Their kids had so many emotions they were dealing with, too. First the illness of their mom and second the disappointment of not building the new section of the home. We felt strongly that we wanted to make that addition happen."

Eventually the Hanke yielded and the two ladies began organizing construction.

"Once you get people that energetic in the community, you can't shut them down," Jeff said. "It's awkward in one aspect to think about how much time, effort and energy they're putting in. It's amazing."

Bart Miller volunteered to serve as contractor for the project.

"We looked for support from a wider base. People have banded together to get the project started," Zager said. "Many people and companies have donated truss packages, framing packages, paint, windows, doors, concrete, and labor. Restaurants have donated food on days when volunteer crews have been at the Hanke's home building the addition."

Miller and Zager also helped coordinate fund-raising events to help with costs of the construction.

"People can still contribute to the make-over project," Zager said. "There is a tax deductible

and even a change in the way she holds her pencil all take a toll," he said. "She reached a point where she almost lost the ability to walk. Physical therapy has helped with that, but the Diana said the inability to keep up with her kids was the hardest part," she said.

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"You go through a couple of days and think, 'wow, this isn't going to be that bad,'" he said. "Then all of a sudden you are wondering if you can really endure this for another three or four months, or however long it is going to be. It's difficult." After doing the first four sessions of chemotherapy the doctors were able to report that there was marked improvement and some of the spots of cancer on the lungs were completely gone, according to Hanke.

"We hadn't really known for three months if it was even working," Jeff Hanke said. "It was good news to hear that there is notable progress. We will take the little improvement as a good sign."

Diana is regaining focus and hope now for the future.

"I draw my strength from the prayers, the hugs, from the support of other people," she said.

"I also find strength from my belief in God and Jesus Christ's power through the priesthood. Not only in blessings for me, but that it can also help the doctors."

"One thing, I think, is that our family has been there above and beyond," Jeff said. "I know what our children have seen. They've learned a life lesson in reality time of what it means to be a contributor to your community and society. You just gain strength and gain desire for the next day because of that. You can get through it because there are other people who are willing to help and support."

He looks forward to the time when he and his family will be able to support and help someone else.

"Our friends ... it's hard to even describe how many people want to share in the burden and help. I don't think you can ever repay or thank enough for any time or effort that has been contributed ... especially this time of year," he said.

# Broken back doesn't stop Perry

HORSE AND GIRL WERE PART OF EACH OTHER'S HEALING PROCESS.

By **VIAnn Prestwich**  
 Uintah Basin News Service

When a horse develops bowed tendons, his racing days are typically behind him. When a girl breaks five vertebrae, her racing days are often finished. But in this case both the horse and the girl beat the odds and are moving faster than ever.

Last December, 16-year-old Angela Perry was a passenger in a car driven by her sister as the two headed to classes at Uintah High School.

"I was putting a paper in my book bag," Perry said, describing what happened that morning. "I reached for the (seatbelt) buckle, my hand was less than an inch away from having my seatbelt done up when we hit ice."

The car skidded, flipped and then flipped again. The car roof just over Perry's head sustained significant damage. When the vehicle stopped and Perry regained consciousness she was sitting on the plastic console in the middle of the older model Pontiac Sunbird.

"I moved over to my seat and then one of the neighbors came and my sister called Mom," Perry remembered. "My back didn't feel that great. It felt weird."

She was flown to the University of Utah Regional Medical Center in Salt Lake City where she underwent surgery on her back, followed by a stay in the hospital's Intensive Care Unit. Even though 80 percent of accident victims who sustain injuries similar to Perry's end up paralyzed, it never occurred to the vivacious teen that her horseback riding days could be over.

At the same time that Perry was wearing a brace to protect her back during her recovery, her horse "Mississippi" was

struggling with bowed tendons he developed earlier in the fall. This condition stems from excessive strain to the tendon and often results in tearing of the tendon. Frequently horses afflicted with this problem never completely recover. But Perry and Mississippi weren't going to let anything stand in their way.

"They kind of healed each other," said Shana Witbeck, who was Perry's 4-H leader for several years.

The horse and girl who spent everyday together before the accident were a crucial part of each other's healing process.

"There is not anyone who can love a horse more than she does," Witbeck said. "When my son and Angela were small they would do tricks on their horses. Sometimes Angela spent more time riding under the horse or standing up on the horse than riding normally!"

Perry's love for horses never waned and as she got older she participated in 4-H and rodeo.

While wearing the back brace, Perry doctored her rodeo horse and exercised the wounded mount, but was not allowed to climb on his back.

Finally on April 30 – just a little over four months since the accident – the doctor gave Perry permission to get back in the saddle.

"We didn't get home from Salt Lake until 9:30," Perry explained. "I was dying to ride. So I hopped on the horse that night!"

Perry and Mississippi qualified for the Utah High School State Rodeo Finals – an accomplishment that was against the odds from several perspectives.

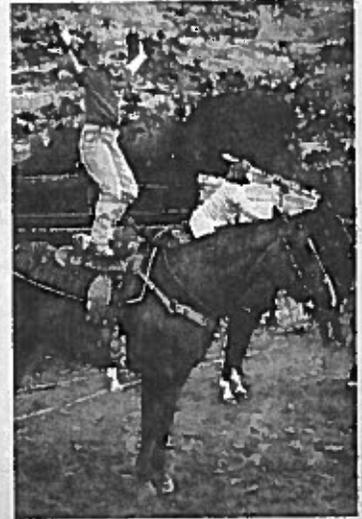
"She healed miraculously well," Witbeck said. "The doctors have been totally amazed. That



Angela Perry didn't let something like a broken back stop her from qualifying for the state high school rodeo finals held earlier this month. Perry was in a car accident in December and experienced a miraculous recovery.

desire to be back on her horse and be able to ride again have helped her. There just wasn't going to be anything else in her world."

Unwilling to brag about herself, Perry just shrugs when asked how she overcame such critical injuries.



As a youngster Angela Perry spent hours on her horse perfecting and performing trick riding, pictured. Her determination honed at such a young age served her well recently while recovering from a broken back.

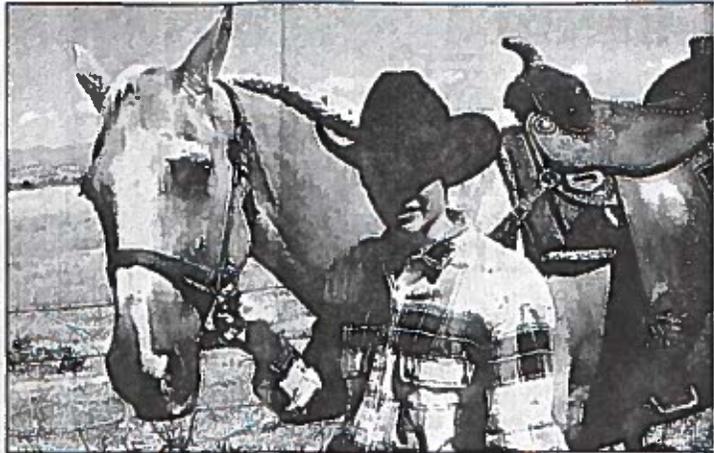
"She doesn't like sympathy," said her mother, Kristine Perry. "Angela's just a 'let's get it done' person."

And you have to agree that what Angela Perry got done this year was nothing short of miraculous.

Vernal Express

# Angela Perry

SS.



Angela Perry and her horse Mississippi each struggled physically but have made a comeback to the high school rodeo circuit.

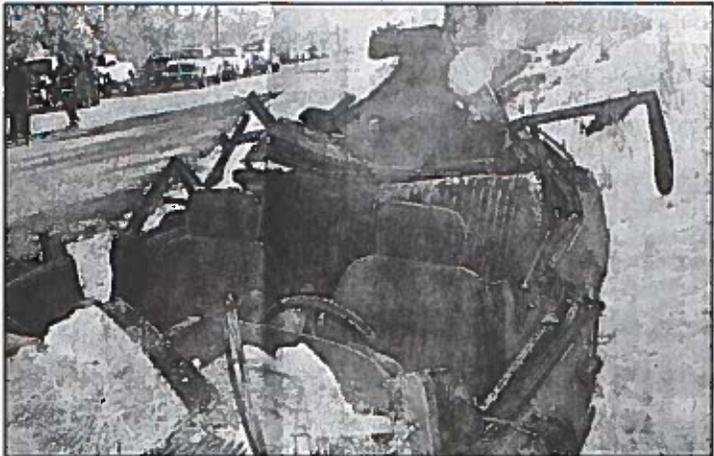
Angela Perry didn't let something like a broken back stop her from qualifying for the state school rodeo finals held here this month. Perry was in a car accident in December and experienced a miraculous recovery.

As a youngster Angela Perry spent hours on her horse perfecting and performing trick riding, pictured. Her determination honed at such a young age served her well recently while recovering from a broken back.

Her determination to be back on her horse and to ride again have helped her. "There just wasn't going to be anything else in her world." She is unwilling to brag about herself, Perry just shrugs when asked how she overcame such physical injuries.

"She doesn't like sympathy," said her mother, Kristine Perry. "Angela's just a 'let's get it done' person."

And you have to agree that what Angela Perry got done this year was nothing short of miraculous.



Firefighters and rescue crews had to cut the roof off the car that Angela Perry was riding in last December. The crash broke five of Perry's vertebrae.

# Basin LIFE

TRIP TO DISNEY WORLD FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLER

## Caden Nelson makes a wish that comes true

By Therena Morrill

Children are notorious for making wishes. Jiminy Cricket said that, "when you wish upon a star ... your dreams really do come true." For Caden Nelson, instead of wishing on a star he let the Make-A-Wish Foundation take care of making his dream come true.

Caden, a fourth-grader at Roosevelt Middle School, suffers from Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. He was diagnosed with the degenerative disease at just 8 months old — that's when Caden's mother, Amy, found out she was a carrier of the genetically transmitted disease.

The happy, easy-going boy was able to walk on his own until the age of eight, but now he's confined to a wheelchair. "Caden gets weaker every day," said Amy. The disease will continue to progress, making him more disabled as time goes on. Doctors anticipate his life expectancy is less than 25 years.

But Caden is all boy and even though his body has a difficult time doing what he wants it to do, his mind is filled with the typical thoughts of a 10-year old. Science is his favorite subject in school. He doesn't like to read, but he likes looking at the 50 fish that live in a tank at his house. When his father, Derek Nelson, a Roosevelt City Police officer, asked Caden if he wanted to ask the non-profit organization Make-A-Wish for a fantasy-filled trip, Caden said "sure!" just like any ten-year-old boy would.

Within two weeks of contacting the organization via e-mail, Caden and his family of four were told they could take an all-expense vacation to any place Caden chose. He didn't need to think about it very long. He wanted to go to Florida to meet the

counter with sharks at Cape Canaveral Beach. Just moments after Amy told her son that she would like to see a shark, people on the beach began screaming "Shark!" —

just like in the movies. Derek was in the water with Caden's 7-year-old sister Kenzie when the dorsal fins of two of the creatures were spotted. It was all pretty exciting but Derek



**RUBBING SHOULDERS WITH CELEBRITIES** — Caden Nelson, a Roosevelt boy who suffers from muscular dystrophy, was given a dream trip to Disney World by the Make-A-Wish Foundation. He is pictured here with his parents, Derek and Amy Nelson, and his sister, Kenzie, as the family posed for a picture with Mickey and Minnie Mouse.

Crocodile Hunter." Unfortunately, the celebrity was unwilling to facilitate the boy and his wish.

"I thought 'why did he put himself on the list?' (of celebrities who don't want to be contacted by Make-A-Wish)." But he was only briefly disappointed and then went about the task of deciding on his second

choice — a wish that became a reality. Last month the family went on a trip to Orlando, Florida, to visit Disney World, Sea World, Universal Studios and many other famous attractions in the area.

Caden swam in the ocean, watched the manatees, ate all the free ice cream he could hold, posed for pic-

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## Uintah Basin Standard

April 27, 2004 -- Page 13



**MEMORIES OF A LIFE TIME** — Ten-year old Caden Nelson said his favorite souvenirs from his trip to Florida are his two stuffed toys, Mickey and Minnie Mouse. Notice the real alligator head on his right shoulder, another memento from his dream vacation.

tures with about a billion Disney characters, and even went on an air boat ride through the swamps where he saw alligators in the wild. Caden wore a special badge to the theme parks that entitled him and his family unlimited rides and an immediate spot right at the front of the line.

Caden remembers one of many highlights of the trip — a close en-

never saw his would-be predators because he didn't have his glasses on. Caden said he was glad he was on the shore building sand castles at the time.

Amy said the Make-A-Wish Foundation paid for everything, including giving the family \$1,000 cash for food and souvenirs. They were housed at Give Kids the World — a 51-acre resort for kids with disabilities and their families who are visiting Florida, compliments of Make-A-Wish. The Nelsons stayed six nights in their own villa that had all the comforts of home plus a whole lot more.

"Every night at the dinner table they had a special prize for the kids," said Amy. Everything from toys to candy, videos to picture frames. The entire complex is run by 1,500 volunteers who try to provide disabled children with all the magic that is possible to muster up in one place. It really was a dream-come-true.

"I want to tell the Make-A-Wish people thank-you," Caden said as he sat with an alligator head souvenir on his lap. Without them, Caden most likely would not have ever been able to feel the splash of a wave hitting him in the face or the taste of the ocean's salt water. He would not have been able to ride what is now his favorite ride — the roller coaster in the Animal Kingdom at Disney World.

For Caden Nelson, life goes on. His teacher still requires him to read for 20 minutes every night even though he doesn't like to read. The electric wheelchair that makes it possible for him to be mobile without someone's help is still being repaired, even though he thinks being without it is a big inconvenience. But one thing is for sure. Once upon a time a 10-year-old boy made a wish ... and generous people behind the scenes worked hard to make that wish come true. And Caden Nelson will always remember.

# Child's death helps save the lives of five people

By **LIBERTY MONTAGUE**  
Vernal Express

After the death of Vernal resident Ashley Lauren Maynard in January, her organs were donated and helped saved the lives of five others.

"I just knew it was right to donate her organs, I actually approached the hospital about it. There's no reason to put good organs in the ground," said Camie Lacay, Ashley Maynard's mother.

Ashley was hit by a car while walking to the school bus on Jan. 5. She was in critical condition for several days before dying on Jan. 13.

Ashley's heart went to a little boy in Canada. Ashley's family knows the surgery went well but they cannot find out any more details due to Canadian law, which says a recipient cannot have contact with a donor.

"Ashley had a big heart. They say your life ends when your heart stops beating and her heart never stopped," Lacay said.

Ashley's pancreas and one kidney went to a woman in Salt Lake City who was suffering from diabetes and had given up hope until she received the organs. Ashley's other kidney went to another woman.

Ashley's liver was split in two. One half was given to a woman and the other half was given to a 13-month-old girl, London Kate Badger, also known as "Lulu."

Lulu was diagnosed with Alpha 1-Antitrypsin Deficiency, a genetic liver disease, when she was 2 months old. In December 2009, Lulu's parents were told about her liver failure and need for a transplant.

While Lulu was in the hospital for two days in January waiting for a transplant, her mother Lizzie Badger read an article in the Salt Lake Tribune about Ashley Maynard's death and the organ donations.

"Looking at her picture in the paper, I just knew Ashley was our angel. It hadn't been confirmed yet but I just knew, in a spiritual way, that she was the one that was saving London's life," Badger said.

The Badgers went to Ashley's funeral without the intention of meeting anyone. Badger said she was glad when she found out Ashley was the donor because it was good to know the liver came from an extraordinary child.

Badger said she had a hard time — and sometimes still does — with the fact that someone else had to die so her daughter could live. She said that there were no other options after family was tested to see if anyone was a match to be a living donor.

Badger became friends with Lacay, and Lacay went to meet Lulu in the hospital a week after Ashley's funeral. The two mothers keep in contact over e-mail, text and phone calls.

"Even though we went to the funeral without the intention of meeting anyone we came away with a beautiful relationship," Badger said.

The Badger family has photos of Ashley in their home, one in Lulu's bedroom and another in their family room so they can always remember Ashley and her gift of life.

"Lulu has done well with accepting the new liver," Badger said, "except the way the anti-

rejection medication makes Lulu ill." During the interview with the Vernal Express, Badger was with Lulu at an emergency room because Lulu gets sick rather easily now.

The Badger family has another child who is 4 years old and free of Alpha 1-Antitrypsin Deficiency. But because it is a genetic disorder they risk a one in four chance of having another child with the same problems Lulu has faced. So they chose not to have any more biological children.

"It would be selfish to have another child and take another liver from someone else who needs it, when we know that a transplant could be necessary if we had another child," Badger said. "I don't feel like there's a choice. It was hard to go through this once."

Ashley's grandfather, Jerry Maynard, said he and the rest of the family are gradually coping. Knowing that five other people were saved because of Ashley helps to ease the pain.

Nov. 7 was Ashley's 13th birthday and relatives, along with the Badger family, released balloons to honor her memory.

"Ashley was just the sweetest little girl you ever met, she was giving and caring," Maynard said.

Maynard said his wife died three months prior to Ashley's death and Ashley was having a hard time with it because she was so close to her grandmother. She was raised by her grandparents until she was 7.

"She would have definitely wanted to help people with her organs; she wanted to be a Veterinarian and was really into that," Maynard said. "In fact, she would have wanted them donated to a horse. She loved animals, and was intelligent with animals and

wildlife and she thrived on that kind of stuff."

Lacay said Ashley's family and Lulu's family are going to get together in January around the anniversary of Ashley's death and Lulu's transplant to honor Ashley's memory and celebrate Lulu's transplant.

Lacay said donor families are advised to not have contact with recipients for the first six months; it was just an unusual circumstance for her to get to know the Badger family. Now that time has passed, Lacay is trying to get updates on transplant recipients to see how they are doing.

Ashley and Lulu's story will be featured in the Nov. 23 issue of Woman's World magazine.

"People don't give organ donation a thought until it's right up on you, but it's more than just a box you check for a driver's license," Lacay said.



London "Lulu" Kate Badger is pictured in her Halloween costume this year. She spent the previous Halloween in the hospital due to liver failure. (Submitted Photo)



Ashley Maynard of Vernal died on Jan. 13 of this year from injuries received when a car hit her on Jan. 5. She was 12. Her organs were donated and made a difference in the lives of five people.



Relatives of Ashley Maynard gathered on her birthday, Nov. 7, at Vernal Memorial Park to release balloons. Each family member wrote loving messages to Ashley on the balloons. (Submitted Photo)

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NO. 0547

# Disability doesn't impede creativity



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Roosevelt resident Ron Asay built this custom V-8 trike Ron, then sold it on eBay. Asay is nearly finished with the frame of a second trike and has his motor on a stand in his shop.

## In spite of

## paralysis,

## Roosevelt

## man builds

Out-of-pocket, Asay said he's invested about \$10,000 in his machine.

Asay's father, LaVell, is extremely proud of his son's creation. In fact, once he starts talking about the trike with others he brings them over to Asay's home for a ride. Asay humors his dad and takes perfect strangers for a spin.

"I go over and he puts me to work," LaVell Asay said. "I just do what he wants me to do."

scoop on his trike was created from the gas tank of a motorcycle.

Asay is currently working on his third trike, another wind-ripping V-8. He is building it from the frame up, welding tubular metal together to support the weight of the motor, and two perpendicular bucket seats. The frame must support a back axle and two wide fenders as well as have the ability to accept the front-end of a motorcycle.

The first V-8 that Asay built sold

"I don't like it if it doesn't look good," Asay said, adding, "it will look good or it won't be done."

Asay's father said he was tinkering from the time he was just a kid, when he mounted an old washing machine motor to a trike. Since then he's been fond of anything with a set of wheels and a motor that blows the wind through his hair.

Before the crash that left him paralyzed, Asay was a motorcycle mechanic. After the crash, he had to



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# man builds custom trikes

By Cheryl Mecham  
 Uintah Basin Standard

Ron Asay knows that life looks a little different from a wheelchair.

He's been using one for 30 years since a traumatic vehicle crash left him paralyzed, leaving him without legs or fingers that work. But Asay's eyes still see possibilities and his hands can hold the tools that shape metal into the things he dreams about.

The electric blue custom trike that sports shining chrome, blue flames and black upholstery would be a remarkable for anyone to build. But for a man to do it from a wheelchair is jaw-dropping feat.

Such is the work of this Roosevelt man, who used the front end of a Chevy Caprice; the aftermarket forks, rim and front fender for a Harley-Davidson motorcycle; and back wheels from Summit Racing Equipment to create a custom trike. The painstaking work took nine years to create.

Asay's trike can't go anywhere unnoticed. It's a head-turner, drawing crowds wherever it is parked. But even when it's sitting next to other polished vehicles at car shows it stands apart and wins awards — taking first place in the motorcycle division at the Basin Rod and Custom Club car show last summer as well as the Chamber of Commerce "Choke" Award.

How fast is it? The trike's motor — a bored out 2.8-liter Chevy V-6 sits behind the rear seats. Ron said he's pushed it up to 80 mph, but it wasn't built for speed. The V-8 custom trikes he builds are. They are a different design than Ron's trike, which was built to accommodate his disability.

Getting behind the wheel from a wheelchair is made easier with a multi-directional bucket seat that moves to the far left to give him easy access and a throttle/brake control lever near the powered steering wheel. Asay can move downward for speed and push forward for braking. An electric arm raises and lowers the hood providing easy access to the motor.

Asay confessed he's better at design and motor work than body work. His friend, Connie Warren, showed him the ropes and did most of the final sculpting on Asay's trike. Once it was painted, Warren told Asay he'd donate

a few airbrushed flames on the fenders. Asay doesn't do upholstery work either. He purchased the front bucket seat and the rear one was created by Dave Richmond of Old West Antiques and Upholstery in Roosevelt.

Custom trikes sold in Las Vegas can go for as much as \$30,000 to \$40,000, and that's without modifications for the physically disabled. However, Asay's insurance company will only offer liability coverage on his trike because they have no criteria for value.

Ron Asay



"I go over and he puts me to work," LaVell Asay said. "I just do what he wants me to do."

If anyone comes by Asay's garage they're going to be enlisted to help out, his father said. Asay's brother, Ken, his daughters, Sharilynn and Shayleen, and his wife, Korinne, have all put in numerous shop hours. But, now that Asay has built a contraption that suspends a frame horizontally and turns it 360 degrees, he can manage most of the work on his own, though help is always appreciated.

Because Asay cannot use his fingers, he must use his two hands together to hold and manipulate tools. His shop has several machines he has designed to assist in holding metal in place while he works on it. He's half inventor, half mechanic.

Asay, chuckling, said his shop hours go from after breakfast until dinner time, Monday through Friday. And while he shops for some parts at wrecking yards, he'll also bend metal, machine parts or "buy pieces and parts off of the Internet." In fact, the wind

the ability to accept the front-end of a motorcycle.

The first V-8 that Asay built sold on eBay for \$12,000. He said he built it for about half that, but didn't try to count up all the man hours it took to construct the vehicle. Not having adequate strength in his arms or being able to use his fingers causes him a lot of frustration, he confessed, and makes the process a lot slower. His desire for perfection also makes for slow going, but doing the job right is something he will not compromise on.

Now retired from American Express, Asay has the time to build whatever his mind conceives.

"He does neat work," his father said. "He does it till it's just right."

*The first V-8 that Asay built sold on eBay for \$12,000. He said he built it for about half that.*



Working with a mask on to protect his lungs, Ron Asay sands his custom trike before completion. Because he cannot use individual fingers to hold tools, Asay holds them between his two hands. The process is long and often frustrating, he admits, but the time and effort he put into the project gave him pleasing results.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

JULY 9, 1978

*Contains Julie Merino Article?*

# Empire

Sunday MAGAZINE OF THE DENVER POST

**NEW LIFE ON THE  
OLD TRAIL** page 10





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**The house that  
Grandma built**



Though she had no carpentering experience, Flora Hall, 74, remodeled her Vernal, Utah, home with little assistance. She installed these windows.

"I DIDN'T plan to remodel my home by myself," explains Flora Hall, a spunky 74-year-old widow in Vernal, Utah. "But I could never find a carpenter when I needed one, so I knew if the job was to get done, I had to do it."

Flora moved into her house in 1969, shortly after her husband died. She had been so taken by the acre of land surrounding the house, where she could finally have her lifelong dream

of raising animals, that she didn't realize how very inadequate her tiny home was.

The kitchen and living room were too small for her needs and there was no dining room. The bath was in terrible condition and in a poor location and there were no inside stairs to the attic rooms.

Flora decided to make some changes.

But most of her projects were la-

beled "impossible" by friends and neighbors. And they had reason to be skeptical. Flora did not live in a flimsy tract house. Her home was framed in heavy 6-inch-square solid beams, each one 8 feet high. These beams were covered with chicken wire and then coated with cement!

That didn't stop Flora. She gathered together the few simple tools she had acquired over the years and made a home workshop in a small closet that is now under the stairs. Assorted hammers, screwdrivers and chisels are neatly arranged on peg-board hooks. Her only power tools—a circular saw, a drill and a sander—sit on a shelf.

It wasn't long before she traded in her Chrysler Newport for a pickup truck so she could haul materials from the lumberyard.

In the beginning, she found the hardest job was knocking the concrete off the walls. She used a chisel and sledgehammer, but the work was strenuous and slow.

"My arms and back were really sore at first," she says. "But I decided I couldn't baby myself so I kept working. After about a week, my muscles didn't ache anymore."

If chiseling concrete was the hardest job, tearing out the solid beam wall supports had to be the most challenging. How did this 4-foot-11, 104-pound woman tear out these 8-foot beams?

"I found that if I took my wrecking bar (crowbar) and started prying one way and another at the bottom and top, I could pry the beam loose," she explains. "The trick is to jump out of the way at the right time so the beam doesn't fall on you."

"My neighbors are always worrying about me. They're afraid I'm going to hurt myself. But I haven't even smashed a thumb."

"Last winter I had to climb up on the roof to do some repairs. I didn't know how slippery it was until I was already on the roof quite a distance from the ladder. Then I realized I couldn't get back."

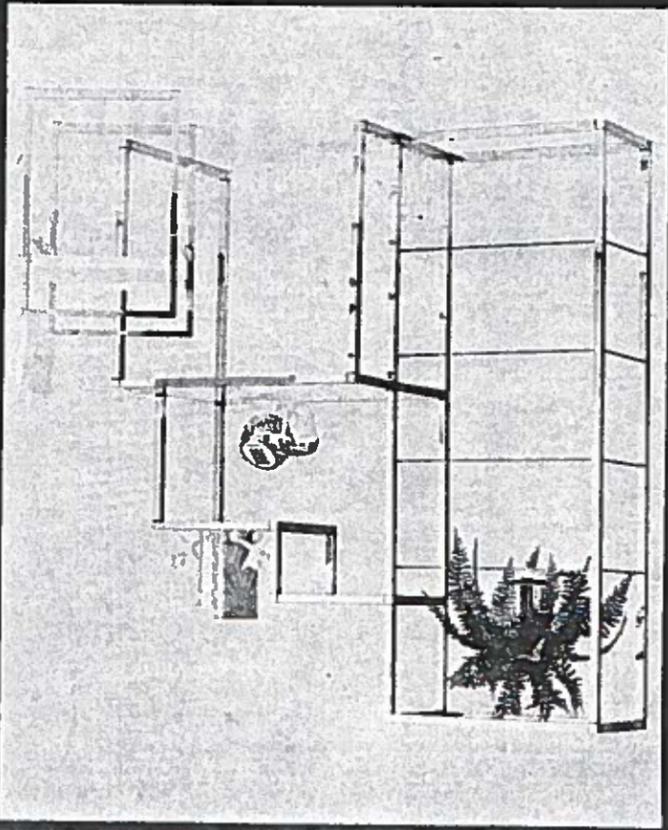
"It was evening and getting cold, so I began calling for help. The only one that heard me was the neighbor's dog. He began barking. Finally my neighbor came outside to see what the problem was. I called to her from the roof. When she saw me, she screamed and ran for help."

"Soon neighbors came running from all sides. One man to get a big rope. They all looked so funny frantically running around my yard."

By JULIE MERINO  
Photography by the author

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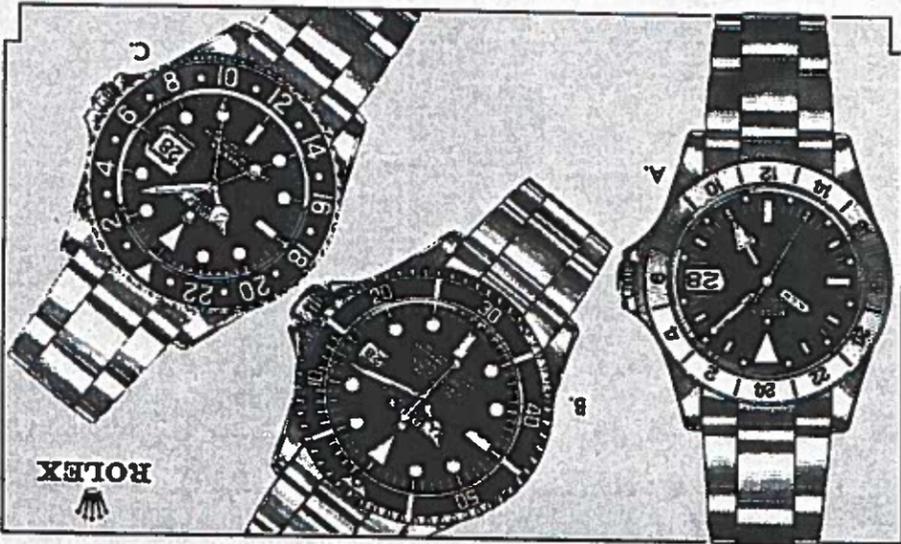
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*Mrs. Hall, mixing "mud" to finish dry wall, tackled projects friends thought impossible.*



*Using a butcher knife, handsaw and sander, Mrs. Hall built the china cabinet herself.*

## **GRANDMA** *continued*

"By this time I had worked my way back to the ladder and was safely climbing down. I still think they were disappointed they didn't get to use the ropes."

Flora has had some assistance with her remodeling. A plumber helped her with the pipes in the kitchen and bathroom. She even had a carpenter hang one of her doors.

"I watched him carefully while he was doing it and asked him a lot of questions," she says. "Then I hung the next door by myself and did a better job than he did!"

Friends are always offering to help, but Flora prefers to do things herself, her way.

Her church, too, often volunteers assistance. But Flora says, "As long as I can do it myself, I should. If I ever get to where I can't, then maybe I'll call on them."

Sometimes there is heavy work that she can't possibly do alone. Then she calls on her lifelong friend, Merle Oakes, another widow.

"Merle is younger than I am—she is only 71," Flora says. "Together we haven't found anything we couldn't lift or do."

A son and daughter live in California. They would like to see a lot more of their mother, but when they want to visit, they have to come to Vernal.

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Flora can't leave her work on the house. Most of her 14 grandchildren and 35 great-grandchildren have visited the comfortable "house that Grandma built."

So far Flora has added a spacious living room, enlarged her kitchen, relocated her bath, converted a bedroom into a dining room and built stairs to the loft bedrooms.

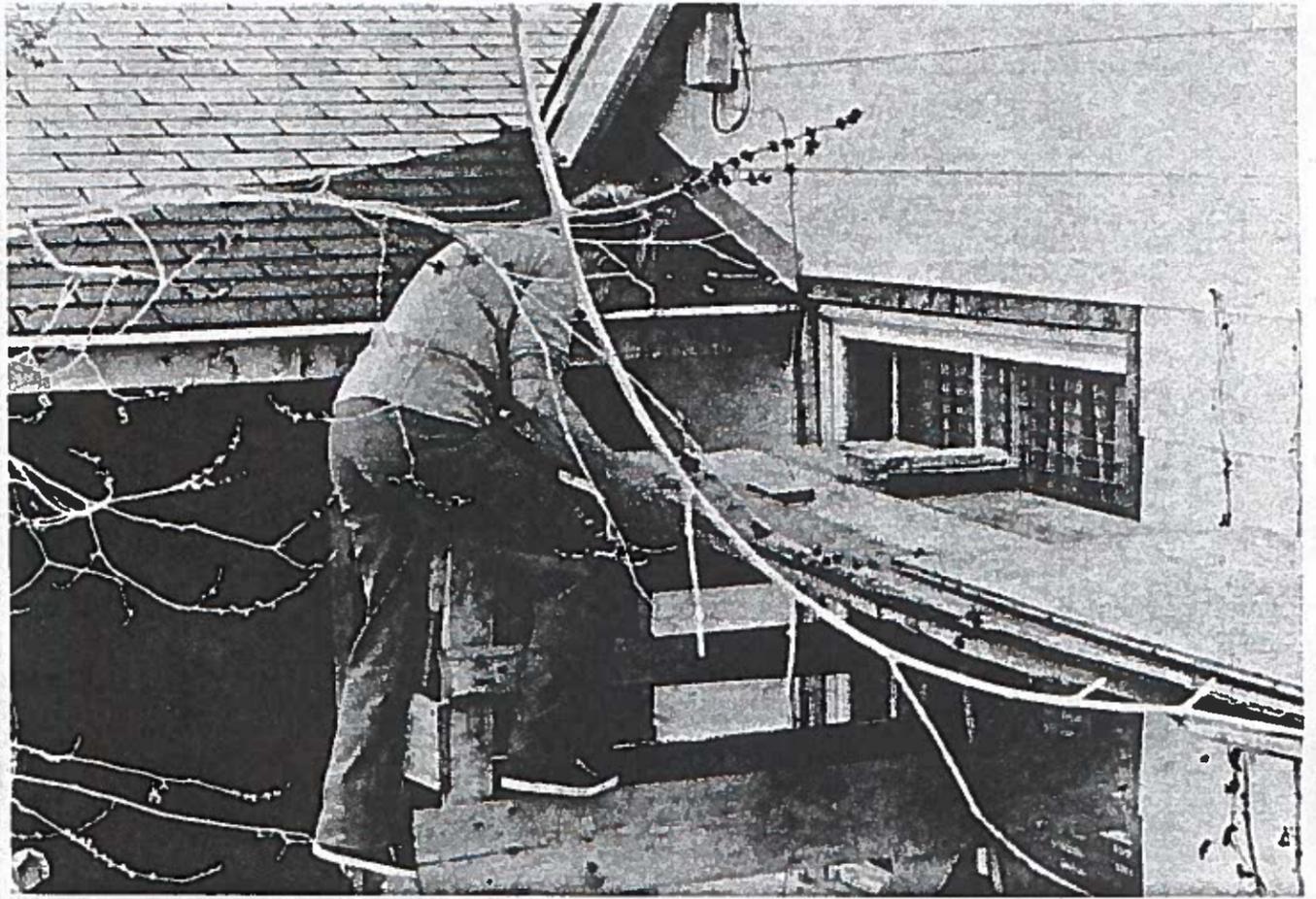
She is especially proud of her custom-made china closet. She drew the design on wood and cut out the rough shape with a handsaw. Then she whittled away the graceful curves with a butcher knife and finished the job by sanding the wood smooth.

"Sometimes the work goes slow," she concedes. "I tell my friends that at first I worked very hard and fast, but as soon as I found a place to sit down, the work went slower."

Flora is planning more building projects. This summer she wants to add covered porches on the front and back of her house. Next she plans to remodel her garage.

"When I started out, I didn't know how far I would go. There is still so much to do. But it means a lot to me to have an interest." Smiling, she adds: "I only hope I can get it finished before I die." ■

The author lives in Vernal, Utah.



To install new siding, Mrs. Hall worked from scaffolding for hours. She says she has much yet to do.

**STALLS**

In plush earth tones or  
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# Family turns tragedy into learning opportunity

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lmarett@dentonva.biz

On June 3, 2015, Steven Chet Goodrich was killed when the Burdick Materias street sweeper he was driving was struck from behind by an SUV. Goodrich was 25 at the time of his death, and left behind his young wife, their six-months old son, his parents, two sisters and a grieving extended family.

The Crash Highway Patrol reported that there was "little to no evidence of braking," before the SUV slammed into the street sweeper, partially ejecting Goodrich from the vehicle and causing injuries which led to his death at the scene.

How could this have happened? The driver of the SUV admitted that she was texting on her cellphone at the time of the crash.

Though they are still grieving the loss of Chet Goodrich, his family has chosen to take their tragedy and turn it into a learning



COURTESY THE GOODRICH FAMILY

Bodie and Baylor Goodrich are pictured here with a photo of Chet Goodrich, who passed away on June 3, 2015, when the street sweeper he was driving was struck by a woman who was texting on her cell phone while she drove. His family is now using their experience to teach others about the dangers of using a cell phone in the car.

A8

Tuesday, November 4, 2010

## TEXTING

Continued from A1

opportunity. The Stop to Talk, Stop to Text campaign is sponsored by Chet's former employer, Staker Parron, and focuses on educating drivers on the dangers of using their cellphones while driving.

The campaign came to Allamont High School on Thursday, Oct. 27, where the Goodrich family attended to deliver their message.

"We're starting this at Allamont because Chet went to school here," said Leo J. Goodrich, Chet Goodrich's uncle who has spearheaded the campaign. "I'm a little bit nervous, because we've given this presentation to adults before, but this is our first time talking to kids about it. I just hope that it will make an impression. If we can get even one kid to put down their phone, to stop texting while driving, we'll never know who it might save."

During the presentation, Leo J. Goodrich focused on the dangers of distracted driving and alerted alarming statistics with the students. He used the Longhorn football team to give students a visual of the data. Nearly 80 percent of the team admitted to texting and driving. "Those that said they hadn't were too young to drive. When Leo J. Goodrich asked how many of the boys had ridden with someone who was texting and driving, 100 percent of the team stepped forward.

Every day, nine teenagers die from texting and driving. Experts say that it takes a minimum five seconds to pick up your cellphone and glance at it, even if you don't respond to a text or answer a call. At speeds of 66 mph, this means that you have traveled the length of

a football field while looking at your cellphone instead of the road.

"A lot can happen in that much distance," said Leo J. Goodrich. "An animal can dart out in the road. You can swerve into the other lane. You could drift off the side of the road and end up in a ditch. You could also hit and kill someone else. A football field is a lot of distance when you're not looking at the road."

Goodrich also taught students that there are three kinds of distracted driving: visual, which takes your eyes away from the road; manual, which takes your hands off the wheel; and mental, which takes your thoughts away from driving. Texting while driving causes all three kinds of distractions.

While the statistics are alarming, they're impersonal, and the Goodrich family wanted to be sure that the students at Allamont knew that the dangers of texting and driving are entirely personal.

"I know that most of you at this point are probably thinking, 'This kind of thing doesn't happen to me. This kind of thing can't happen to us.' But seven years ago, Chet was you," said Tasha Whiting, Chet Goodrich's older sister. "Chet would wake up every morning and drive to Allamont High School. Chet was no different than any of you, and unfortunately, that means that this tragedy could happen to any of you."

Chet Goodrich's other sister, Shalane Sorrensen, recounted the impact that his death had on her and her family members. Sorrensen recalled that the whole experience began with an early morning knock on her door. "I opened the door and instantly knew that something was wrong," Sorrensen



Leo J. Goodrich, 18, EDU

said. "The look on my uncle's face told it all. Shalane, Chet has been in an accident. I was thinking we were going to the hospital and eventually Chet was going to be OK. My uncle pulled me into a hug and the words I never wanted to hear came out of his mouth: 'Shalane, he didn't make it.' I couldn't breathe. My body was shaking. I then had to call my husband, who was also Chet's best friend, and tell him that Chet had been killed and that he needed to come home as soon as possible."

The family's pain only got worse in the days that followed. Sorrensen recounted

"Things got more real as we went to the mortuary for the first time. As the mortician opened two big doors into a room full of caskets, I kept saying over and over, 'I can't do this.' How are you supposed to pick out a perfect casket for your 25-year-old brother?" said Sorrensen. "My family had

to do so many hard things in the last couple of days, but walking into the room where my brother's lifeless body was, was the hardest thing I've ever had to see.

The bruises on his face, the broken bones, I wanted the lady that did this to him to be there. I wanted her to see our heartbroken family, to see the pain we were going through, to see his son reaching for his dad's lifeless body."

Whiting reminded the students that whether or not they text and drive is all about choices.

"Choices are something that we all wake up blessed with every day." Whiting said. "On June 3, 2015, we were all given the same day. We were all given choices to make. My little brother chose to go to work, he chose to kiss his wife goodbye, and he chose to text."

"Happy Birthday." On June 3, 2015, a lady woke up with the opportunity to make choices. She woke up and made the choice to get

in a vehicle with substances in her body that would later affect her judgment. She then made a choice to text on her cellphone while driving. "This choice took many choices away from our family: the moment she hit and killed my little brother. That choice in that moment changed our lives forever."

Chet Goodrich's wife, Bodie Goodrich, stood on stage with their son, Baylor, as Chet's sisters delivered their messages. A picture of Chet Goodrich was displayed on the screen, and Bodie Goodrich held Baylor as he pointed to his father.

The powerful visual, along with the words of his sisters, ensured that there wasn't a dry eye in the Allamont auditorium on Thursday afternoon.

"The statistics may not mean a lot to you guys. I know they didn't when I was your age. So instead of statistics, every time you get in a vehicle, I want you to think about your choices and how they may affect not

only yourself but those who are in your vehicle and all of the other drivers on the road," said Whiting. "I want you to think for a moment, if you are making choices to text, change your music, Facebook, Snapchat, or even to pick up your phone while you were driving, and imagine if you were the person who had hit my little brother. It's not worth it."

Each student was asked to take the 'Stop to Talk, Stop to Text' pledge in honor of Chet Goodrich and his loss. They were each given a window decal to remind them to put their cellphones away while in the car.

"We don't want anyone else to go through what we've been through," said Leo J. Goodrich. "There is nothing so important that it's worth the risk of using your cellphone in the car. There's nothing that's worth risking your life or someone else's. It's not worth it."

Vernal Express

# Hats off to interesting and engaging hunter safety instructor

By VIANN PRESTWICH  
[viannprestwich@comcast.net](mailto:viannprestwich@comcast.net)

Fragments from a low-point bullet still float around in Terry Shiner's leg. When teaching hunter education in Vernal, Shiner openly talks about the bullet wound right below his knee. His goal in discussing the accident is the hope he can prevent this type of injury to ever happen to anyone taking his class.

"I was young," Shiner confessed, "22 or 21-years-old. Was rabbit hunting. My gun was in the scabbard. I didn't take the bullet out from the hammer. I slipped."

With help from his dad, Shiner walked out to get help. The original diagnosis was the leg would have to be removed. The young man was taken to Salt Lake City and doctors

saved his extremity.

This wasn't the only time a bullet pierced Shiner's body. While shooting with the police department a bullet ricocheted and hit him right below the ribs.

"There was a little blood," Shiner said, "But not much."

These stories and others are not the only reason students in the Vernal Hunter Education Class stay awake and alert. Shiner speaks enthusiastically and personally.

The Fish and Game gave him an outstanding teaching award for the relaxed, entertaining and informed class he has been providing.

Although much quieter, Mona Lee Shiner is just as involved in providing an educational experience for the dozen or so classes the couples provides every year.

"I mostly do all the paperwork," Mona Lee explained. "He is good at reaching kids. Dealing with them."

Both of the teachers agree that their purpose in spending 20 to 40 hours a month on hunter education is to help provide a quality safety course and a safer environment for all hunters.

"We just feel it is important to keep these kids informed and educated so they know how to properly handle a gun and so they aren't scared of them," Mona Lee Shiner said. "I haven't really been comfortable with guns. But I am learning. It is a rewarding experience to see the light in these students as they understand more and more."

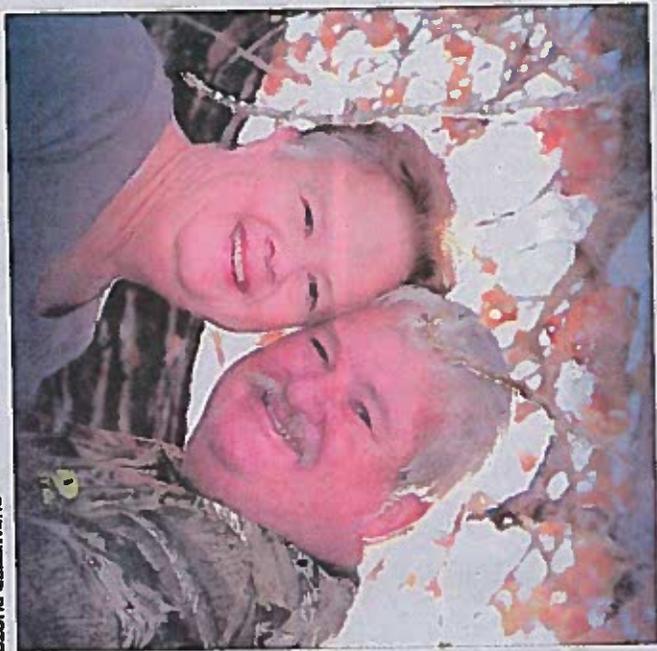
The couple has two children which is the reason they originally started dedicating so much time to the safety program. One of their daughters, Catrina, couldn't find a hunter safety class which would fit her schedule. Shiner decided to get certified to teach and provide the right schedule.

This is not the only certification Terry Shiner has. The Vernal native spent over two decades as a member of the Sheriff's Jeep Pose Search and Rescue. In this capacity he certified to be an underwater diver.

The first body he recovered was in Bottle Hollow. "I had just gotten married and come back from our honeymoon," Shiner remembered. "My wife said, 'I've never seen you so green.'"

Shiner would sooner give recreationally with his daughters, Marilee and Catrina, than look for bodies. He wouldn't mind seeing his five grandchildren eventually learn more about the sport.

In 2012, Vernal City Department of Water Quality presented Terry with the Outstanding Collection Operator. Mona Lee works



SUBMITTED PHOTO  
 Terry and Mona Lee Shiner have joined forces to teach hunter education in Vernal.

for Utah County School District caring for babies while the parents get a High School diploma or for adults in the ESL (English as a Second Language) program.

To sign up for a <http://wildlife.utah.gov/hunter-education.html>. Completion of a basic hunter education course is required to obtain a hunting license in Utah for anyone born after Dec. 31, 1965.

Hats off to a couple who are dedicated to providing and education in safety to hundreds every year.

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HU341

# Expressions

## Implant changes little girl's life

By Carol Jewart  
Express Writer

Payton Slaugh was diagnosed with Phytomeglovirus (PMV) at the age of two weeks and by the time she was nine months old her communication skills were not that of a normal child. Her parents, Trent and Julie Slaugh, decided signing was the solution to their daughter's deaf, silent world.

"Deaf kids learn just like hearing kids do," said Julie. "By repetition and consistency."

Payton lived in a silent world until Julie and Trent had the opportunity to have her tested for a cochlear implant. A cochlear implant is a device that restores some level of hearing to severely to profoundly deaf adults and children who derive no benefits from hearing aids. The cochlear implant is surgically implanted underneath the skin behind the ear with stimulating arrays consisting of a single channel or a multichannel electrodes placed near or within the cochlea.

The operation was costly, but as the plight of this small girl spread throughout Vernal, donations poured in from numerous service projects and organizations. In a few years \$30,000 was finally available for the surgery, which took place in May of 1998.

"Since hearing her first sounds, Payton has made rapid progress," said Kathy Johnson, who had been Payton's teacher for many years. "Payton has never had the ability to hear anything, even hearing aids didn't really help her. But since day one, with the cochlear implant, Payton has been able to hear. You knew right away that she could hear because she would point to her ears and smile. She has made so much progress since then and functions so well with her first grade class."

When Payton began the first grade she was provided with an aid, Stephanie Ross, who would sign and help her to pronounce words and understand their meanings.

"I was very fortunate to have opportunity to work with Payton," said Ross. "I dare say she has taught me a lot more than I will ever be able to teach her."

"It makes me smile, because everytime I goof up on a sign, she just gives me a funny look and shows me the sign I just did, shakes her head 'no,' then does the correct sign while nodding 'yes.' My favorite is when she takes my hands and helps me do the sign."

"For the first little while, I used a lot of sign, until I realized she didn't need, or want it. It wasn't hard for me to see that she really wanted to just listen and talk. She is working very hard at both."

Before the implant, her mother said Payton babbled a lot of baby talk but spoke no true words. Payton knew that people around her could talk, so she tried to talk.

"Payton has changed so much since the implant. She uses very little sign now," said Johnson. "The only signs we use with her are the ones Payton already knows, to make sure she understands what's going on in class. Most of the time when we talk to her in the class, it's oral, without the sign."

Payton gets very upset when she can't



Payton puts on her cochlear implant device



First grade teacher at Davis Elementary Mrs. Sheffer holds the microphone for Payton when she was Queen for a Day.

hear. There's been a few times at school when the implant's word processor, which runs off double AA batteries, gets low and



Elizabeth Sheffer pushes Payton on the swing at the Davis Elementary school-ground.

she gets upset because she can't hear. "I can hear now," said Payton. "I feel fine."



Payton Slaugh and Stephani Ross share a sign of love.

The kids at school are very good at helping Payton. Some of them want her to sign to them but she says, "no!" She just wants to talk to them.

"Payton never gets discouraged," says Ross. "We just make each other laugh about discouraging things. She is so cheerful. To be honest, I have come to school, discouraged with other things going on and just being around her and her cheerful attitude, picks me right up. I love it! It's a quick, natural high and I'm lucky enough to get a dose of it five days a week."

Mrs. Sheffer, Payton's teacher, makes all her students feel special. At the beginning of school she made every student in her class a king or queen for a day. This gave all the students, including Payton, an opportunity to get up in front of class and to talk and answer questions the other students asked.

"I just want everyone to know how happy she is to be able to hear," said Julie. "I wanted to update the community on her progress and let them know how grateful we are that Payton is able to function so well."

"I wish every deaf child in our area could have a cochlear implant and make the amazing progress Payton has," said Johnson.

A Dinner to be held at the Vernal High School on Friday, December 10, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. A dance. A Sather on Friday taken begin inform Th Uintah Comm the pu begin A Highway for do Ch be out twelve 1347. He ed by the As public rio. Tl ist. Ke admis Go tour w suppes 789-2. Sit for LI the ch the ter slon fo D lesson caferet For 7 Shona A A senior 10 a.m 789-2. Hi To J the Cr Expre for 0 v Expre ject it noon.

**14 Vernal Express** Wednesday, February 4, 1998



Paul Yoder, Pepsi representative; Gloria Johnson, The Fox, FM 98.5; Julie Slaugh, mother; Peyton Slaugh, 4 years-old recipient and Bruce Barlow, Store Director at Smiths were all participants in the \$600 donation to help restore hearing to a deaf little girl.

Tuesday, March 10, 2015

# Local girl dances solo, 9 months after losing foot in accident

GEOFF LIESIK, KSL NEWS

Phillip Sizemore was working in North Dakota when he got the first call from his wife.

"I just kept calling him and telling him, 'She's alive. Drive safe,'" Heather Sizemore said.

"Longest 15 hours you can think of," Phillip Sizemore added, describing the drive to get to Primary Children's Hospital in Salt Lake where doctors would eventually have to amputate his 7-year-old daughter's leg below the knee.

Alissa Sizemore, of the Vernal area, was playing with a group of other kids on May 6 when Naples police say she ran past a pair of garbage cans sitting at the curb and into the street near the intersection of 460 East and 1500 South.

The driver of a UPS truck approaching the stop sign at 460 East hit Alissa, coming to a stop with the truck's right front tire on the girl's right foot.

"Immediately, we knew that her foot was gone," Heather Sizemore recalled.

Alissa, who has taken dance lessons since she was 4 years old, was determined to return to the dance studio in spite of her injury. She still went through periods of self-doubt and issues with body image, her mom said.

"A lot of it was, 'I'm not me anymore,'" Heather Sizemore said. "I told her, 'You're still you. A prosthetic or a (lost) leg doesn't change who you are. You're still Alissa.'"

Before being fitted with a prosthetic, Alissa heard the Colbie Caillat ballad "Try." The song, with lyrics that emphasize finding



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Alissa Sizemore performs her first solo for Powerhouse Dance Studio on Feb. 28 in Vernal. Alissa, age 8, had to have her right leg amputated below the knee in May 2014 after her foot was pinned under a UPS truck. She chose Colbie Caillat's "Try" for her solo, which earned her a first-place win.

beauty in oneself despite physical imperfections, resonated with Alissa.

"It's a song that I found when my mom and dad first saw me dancing without my leg," said Alissa, who decided to dance her first solo at Powerhouse Dance Studio's recital this past weekend.

"I went to the dance teachers and I said, 'I want (the solo routine) to be her,'" Heather Sizemore said. "Show her — with or without the leg — she can still dance. They took my idea, the concept, and did a beautiful choreography for her."

So there Alissa stood Saturday, alone on the floor in front of a gym filled

with friends and family who didn't know what they were about to see.

"It just seemed like it would be really nice to show me without my leg," Alissa said, describing the point in her routine where she removed her prosthesis and danced without it during the second half of the song. Alissa received first place in the Dance Novice Queen Solo Contemporary Mini category (for ages 7-8) with her solo performance.

"I knew things were going to change in a big way," Phillip Sizemore said, "but I didn't think she'd come to this point this fast."

Alissa, now 8 years old, worked with Taunia



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Taunia Wheeler kisses Alissa Sizemore on the head during the awards presentation after Alissa's first-place solo performance, which was done for Powerhouse Dance Studio in Vernal on Feb. 28.

Wheeler, Havana Lambert and Dena Cloward to get back into form for the weekend's solo and group performances.

Wheeler, the director of Powerhouse Dance Studio, described Alissa as "probably one of the most courageous human beings I've ever met."

"Nothing will keep that

little girl down. She is a light to everybody," Wheeler said. "I get so emotional when I look at her and consider the battle that was hers in the past nine months, going from no leg to a prosthesis to dancing in a matter of months."

Heather Sizemore said her only goal for Alissa this year was to get her back

into dancing simply for the pleasure of it.

"The fact that she was able to get out there in front of everybody on Saturday was just overwhelming," she said. "I know I've got a pretty strong little girl. She's been everybody's strength, letting everybody know that she was still going to dance."

# Roosevelt Man Uses CPR to Save Roommate

STORY BY JACK GILLUND

[jjgillund@ubmedia.biz](mailto:jjgillund@ubmedia.biz)

For more than two minutes, Christopher "Chris" Branchley applied chest compressions to the beat of the Bee Gee's hit "Staying Alive." His knowledge of cardiopulmonary resuscitation, may be the only reason 53-year-old Kim Jenkins is alive today.

"I'd just come home from the hospital," Jenkins said. "I was home for about 10 minutes and then ..."

Even though she has had low blood pressure and low cholesterol, Jenkins was at the hospital in late June for a stress test that her doctor had ordered. She said that almost as soon as she got home, the hospital called her and said they had found something abnormal and she should go to the University of Utah emergency room as soon as possible. Walking down the hallway of her home, she collapsed. That's when Branchley's training kicked in.

"In the oilfield, you get trained, you get certified (in CPR) every year," he said. "They're big on safety. Big on making sure everybody goes home every night."

Still, he never thought he would need to use it.

"I never thought about it," he said. "I was just glad I knew it when the time came."

"She walked down the hall," Branchley continued. "I prob-

ably sat there about another 10 seconds."

It happened just that quick, the 62-year-old retired oilfield worker said.

"I didn't hear her hit the floor," he said. "It was just a weird experience."

Following the training he received as an oilfield worker, Branchley immediately called 911. He then made sure the front door to the house was unlocked and open and began to apply chest compressions.

"She wasn't making much noise. She was just totally out, totally unconscious," he said.

"I called 911. I opened up the front door. The lady was trying to talk to me so I put her on speaker and said I need someone here now."

Emergency personnel were on scene in a matter of minutes Branchley said.

"That's one thing I have to give them kudos for," he said.

"They were here immediately, the ambulance, the police.

Many thanks needs to go out to those guys."

Branchley said, once emergency personnel arrived, paramedics took over. They

"shocked" Jenkins twice at the scene and loaded her into the ambulance. Still, if it wasn't for his quick reaction and

knowledge of CPR, Jenkins, even if she had survived, may not be the person she is today.

"My philosophy has always



Roosevelt resident, Chris Branchley used his knowledge of CPR late last June to help save his roommate's life.

SEE Local News on A2

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UBS - Feb 19, 2019

## Local Hero

Continued from A1

been calm down and get it down," Brenchley said. "You can stress about it later."

According to verywell health (<https://www.verywellhealth.com/before-you-take-a-cpr-class-1298417>) "When cardiac arrest occurs, it is essential to start cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) within two minutes. After three minutes, global cerebral ischemia (the lack of blood flow to the entire brain) can lead to

progressively worsening brain injury. By nine minutes, severe and irreversible brain damage is likely. After 10 minutes, the chances of survival are low."

"I still have a hard time believing I had a heart attack," Jenkins said. "With low blood pressure and my cholesterol is low, it doesn't make any sense."

"Train your kids," Brenchley said. "If she would have been alone, she would have been gone. It's nice to have somebody there that's got training."

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# Boy gets new playground to go with new heart

By LIBERTY MONTAGUE  
Vernal Express

Michael Milton's second chance at life came in March 2010 when he received a new heart; one donated by the parents of another child who died.

One year later, Clarissa Milton still has to keep a close eye on her son, who cannot go to the park to play because of his ongoing medical issues. So on Saturday, the Make-a-Wish Foundation granted the 4-year-old Maeser boy's wish and gave him his very own playground.

"When he had the chance to make the wish I asked him what was it he wanted more than anything," Clarissa Milton said. "The big thing Make-a-Wish does every year is a trip to Disneyland, but he can't go. He can't be around people. He can't go to the park, so we picked him to have his own park."

Michael has had to overcome challenges, but he and his mother have a lot of support from family. Michael's aunt, Teresa Crowley, had the playground set up at her house because Clarissa Milton had to give up everything to care for her critically ill son before and after the transplant.

"She left her job, everything she owned had either been foreclosed or repossessed, it's here because we aren't going anywhere and he can come use it whenever he wants," Crowley said. "If we ever move away, we would sell her our house so she could have a place."

While Michael enjoys his personal playground, there is still a concern about the potential for a life threatening infection.

"We don't have our fence up yet and if neighbor kids come and play on (the playground), then it's contaminated," Crowley said. "We also can't put wood chips or sand down at the bottom of it because of animals. He can't at all be around cats and that would be the last thing we would want to have a cat use it for, a litter box, so we need to get a rubber mat or rubber chips."

Milton has had difficulty finding an apartment to move into with her son. She pays extra rent each month for the place they're in now because she had the landlord install new carpet and paint the apartment to protect her son's fragile health.

The family struggles with medical bills as well. Michael needs medication that would cost his mother \$600 a month if she loses her Medicaid coverage.

"We are fighting to keep Medicaid as a secondary insurance because if she can't keep it then there is (the) rent and she would have to move in with us," Crowley said. "We are looking into building an extra house on our land so they have a place that's up to what they need."

Crowley said the miracles with Michael began when his mother was eight weeks pregnant and the doctor couldn't find the boy's heartbeat. The doctor decided to check for a heartbeat one more time before performing a procedure to treat an incomplete miscarriage and found the sound of Michael's heart.

Then, mid-pregnancy, Mil-



LIBERTY MONTAGUE, VERNAL EXPRESS

Michael Milton, who underwent heart transplant surgery in March 2010, enjoys his new tire swing Saturday. Because of the risk of infection, Milton cannot go to community parks to play.



LIBERTY MONTAGUE, VERNAL EXPRESS

Teralene Slaugh presents Michael Milton with a poster Saturday that shows his request for a new playground from the Make-a-Wish Foundation has been granted. Slaugh volunteers with the Make-a-Wish Foundation of Utah for the Uintah Basin.



LIBERTY MONTAGUE, VERNAL EXPRESS

ton had an ultrasound and it was discovered that Michael only had half a heart. It explained why his fetal heartbeat was so faint.

Since birth, Michael has had four open heart surgeries and about 30 other surgeries, in addition to heart transplant surgery.

Michael is only allowed to be around his brother and cousins. His weakened immune system is acclimated to them and his mother and aunt know what to look for when it comes to protecting Michael from germs.

"I watch my kids almost as closely as we watch Michael because he's around them all the time," Crowley said. "If they show the slightest sign that they might be getting sick, I make sure Michael isn't around them till it's gone."

Milton said the experience has always been hard, but she

can't allow herself to break down too much when some new problem presents itself. She needs a level head to deal with the life or death situations, she said, and she's grateful to have her son.

"We were lucky we caught it before he was born," Milton said. "I met a couple whose kid had a heart condition and they didn't know but right after she was born she turned blue. We were lucky to have known because Michael would have died without surgery."

Michael's first surgery took place when he was 3 days old. It was scary at first, Crowley said, but now they've weathered surgery so often that it's become routine.

Even though he has had a transplant, Michael still has frequent visits to the hospital.

"He doesn't mind going to

the hospital," his mother said. "He has all these cute nurses and he gets cookies at midnight if he wants."

Milton and Crowley both feel strongly about organ donation after being touched by it on such a personal level.

"Our biggest mission now is to tell other people the good of organ donation," Crowley said.

Milton said she hopes the family who donated their child's heart to her son knows how much good they did.

"When you get your driver's license, of course, you sign on as a donor because you are in a rational state of mind," she said. "You can think 'Would I do this? Yes, I think I would.' But people need to make that decision for their whole family when they are calm."

"Nobody should have to make that decision in the

The new playground brought nothing but big smiles for Michael.

middle of a tragedy," she said. "The doctors have to ask, and they have to ask fast, right when they tell you something terrible happened."

Milton acknowledged that before her son needed a transplant, she probably would have refused to donate her own children's organs if presented with the situation.

"But after being on the other side, somebody's baby died so my baby could live," she said. "His life was saved by someone else's decision. A stranger's family decided for him to live. I hope they know how amazing that is, to give that to somebody they don't even know. Somebody cared enough to save his life."

## Boy gets new playground to go with new heart

By Liberty Montague  
Vernal Express

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LIBERTY MONTAGUE, VERNAL EXPRESS

Michael Milton, who underwent heart transplant surgery in March 2010, enjoys his new tire swing Saturday. Because of the risk of infection, Milton cannot go to community parks to play.



LIBERTY MONTAGUE, VERNAL EXPRESS

Terlene Slaugh presents Michael Milton with a poster Saturday that shows his request for a new playground from the Make-a-Wish Foundation has been granted. Slaugh volunteers with the Make-a-Wish Foundation of Utah for the Uintah Basin.



LIBERTY MONTAGUE, VERNAL EXPRESS

"He has all these cute nurses and he gets cookies at midnight nothing but big smiles for Michael. The new playground brought middle of a tragedy," she said. "The doctors have to ask, and after being touched by it on strongly about organ donation Milton and Crowley both feel with the life or death situations, She needs a level head to deal if he wants."

Since birth, Michael has had four open heart surgeries have her son.

## Mishap mutilates hand, not spirit



CHERYL MECHAM, UINTAH BASIN STANDARD

The Nyberg family has spent a year recovering from the trauma that sliced through their family when a piece of wood Darrin was ripping at Darrin's Custom Cabinets kicked back and pulled his hand into a table saw, critically injuring him just before his wife, Blair, gave birth to Creedyn, who is now 11-months-old. The couple's 3-year-old son, Kyler, is sitting on his dad's lap.

By Cheryl Mecham  
Uintah Basin Standard

The day dawned like an ordinary summer day. It was July 2, 2009, and bees wove in and out of the wildflowers near Darrin's Custom Cabinets in Lapoint. Farmers were cutting and bailing hay in the nearby fields as Darrin Nyberg finished a piece of

pizza and turned to the table saw in his shop to finish a small job a customer needed that afternoon.

Nyberg, 26, flipped on the saw's power switch, double checked the measurements he had jotted down for the job and began. He was pushing the wood through the blade of the saw when it kicked back and pulled his hand into the spinning teeth. In

the blink of an eye: an ordinary day became a nightmare.

"It happened so fast," Nyberg said.

His brother, Daniel, also an employee, had turned and was watching Nyberg just at the moment the accident occurred. He knew what had

SEE NYBERG on page A-4

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Uintah Basin Standard  
Aug 10, 2010

could comprehend it.

"The employees were all

looking at it... and then I looked

at it again," Nyberg recalled.

The 3/16-inch wide blade

had chewed through the out-

side edge of his left palm, sever-

ing the little and ring fingers,

mutilating the middle finger

and taking off the end of his

thumb.

In the first minutes of panic

and horror, Nyberg saw his

father's tractor pulling up to

the haystack just outside of the

cabinetry shop. With the kick

of adrenaline jolting through

him Nyberg bolted out the bay

doors running toward his dad.

Employee Bill Castner, a former

military man, was pulling off

his belt and followed Nyberg.

Castner took hold of Ny-

berg's arm and cinched his belt

around the bicep as a tourni-

quet, a rag worked as a second

tourniquet near the wrist.

Nyberg's father thought his

sons were "horsing around" as

he says they're apt to do when

they get together. When he re-

alized they were responding to

a real emergency, Dale Nyberg

jumped into action, loading his

disastrous and critically hurt

son into a pickup truck.

"Everyone was crying. It was

bad," Blair Nyberg said, adding

brothers, Dax, who also works

in the shop, sited through the

sawdust for the severed fingers.

He had just read a safety pam-

phlet two days before which

advised putting digits in a cup

of water — not ice. He found

each severed finger, including

the ring finger was circled with

his brother's wedding band.

Employees called Uintah

Basin Medical Center and told

the emergency room a man with

a badly mangled hand would

be arriving within minutes.

On the drive to the hospital,

Nyberg said his thoughts were

panicky.

"I thought there's no way

they're going to put this thing

together," he recalled. "I've

lost my whole career. I've got

this business... what's going

to happen? How can I take care

of my family?"

Nyberg's wife, Blair, was

8 months pregnant at the

time. She'd been at the shop

of keeping them.

After five days of good strong

pulses in each digit, Nyberg was

told he had a 90 percent chance

of keeping them.

tears were shed.

happened before his brother

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After five days of good strong

waiting," he said.

"I was holding my breath,

reconstructive surgery months

later, he was told to eat pizza the

day before operation because

it is dense in carbohydrates,

which open the blood veins,

He was shocked, remembering

that an hour before the accident

he had pizza for lunch.

During the surgery a tendon

was removed from the inside

of Nyberg's leg and placed

in his middle finger. Again he

wore a plastic cast molded to

hold his finger in the correct po-

sition to protect the tendon.

The second surgery set

him back not only physically,

but emotionally. He said after

weeks of learning to adapt to

the hand and beginning to man-

age on his own, he felt like he

was starting all over again.

Blair Nyberg admitted that

every once in a while she had a

day where she asked, "Why did

this have to happen?" But she

shrugged off the question.

"I had to be strong," she said.

"I had to be positive. I tried to

be super-positive."

Nyberg's doctor allowed 12

weeks for recovery before the

third surgery. That's when syn-

thetic knuckles were set into

the fingers. This time Nyberg

was prepared, he knew he'd feel

down for a time, he knew it was

a set back that would help him

move forward.

up and get moving," he said.

Physical therapy helped

his grip grow stronger. The

exercises he practiced gave his

fingers strength and dexterity.

His grip went from zero to 60

pounds per square inch, he

said.

"A man's grip is 160 psi, a

woman's is 90," he said.

Nyberg said his physical

therapist believes that his

progress has come about

because he got right back to

work and found ways to use

his hand. At his last therapy

session, Nyberg's strength had

increased 10 percent, and he

expects it to keep building as

he uses his hand.

"In my opinion it's a mir-

acle," Nyberg's father, Dale,

said. "I know two or three

people who have had their

hands mashed or cut and they

ended up losing fingers. It was

a miracle that we got the doctor

we did, too."

Nyberg returned to

working shortly after a table

saw accident that severed

the ring and little fingers of

his left hand, mutilated his

middle finger and chewed

through his palm.

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# RJHS 8th grader preps for second open heart surgery

By Linda Fisk  
News-Gazette file

Most 14-year-old boys have a lot of things on their minds: video games, school work, girls sports and everything else teen-age boys think about. But for Roosevelt Junior High 8th grader Wesley Casper, his thoughts must dwell on a task deeper and less a happier complication than most of the years.

On Sept. 26, Wesley will undergo his second open heart surgery at Primary Children's Medical Center. Even with VAD-TECH assistance, which is basically a multitude of artificial limbs, defects and across the heart defect, a severe aortic and aortic defect. With nine major surgeries under his belt, Wesley's short life so far hasn't been easy. But that hasn't stopped him from keeping a positive outlook on life.

"Despite all these surgeries, he has a really good attitude," said Draper Casper, Wesley's mother. "He's always been positive and when the doctors are going to fix him, he's always fought the doctors about what they need to do and he's gonna have every surgery and been fine. I, of course, am a mom. He tells

me 'Mom, this is my normal, but it's not normal to go into surgery this much.'"

Wesley underwent a five open heart surgery at only five months old. For more than 37 years, his heart has functioned normally. "Then last year, he started having more problems. After a failed catheter surgery attempt to replace a pulmonary valve earlier this summer, the decision was made to go forward with open heart surgery again. Both of the main arteries in Wesley's heart go into the right side, which is called a double outlet right ventricle heart.

Casper said one of the hardest things about this procedure has been Wesley's awareness of what is happening. "When he had the first open heart procedure, he was very young and didn't realize the magnitude of the aortic leak. Now at 14, the emotions are different and he has had to learn to live with the idea that he might have complications from the surgery.

"When we left the doctor's office when he found out he would need another heart surgery, he asked me if he was dying. That's when it hit me that he



14-year-old Roosevelt resident Wesley Casper will undergo open heart surgery on Sept. 26. This will be his second heart surgery.

By Linda Fisk

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## CASPER

Continued from A1

is involved in this and he has thoughts and feelings," Casper said. "He's probably scared out of his mind because the doctor is telling him that it's going to hurt, that he's going to be in pain and there is the chance he could die. He is contemplating life and death when most kids are worrying about playing sports or school."

Wesley isn't the only one in the Casper family with a disability. Sister Ryann, 8, is autistic and his brother Smokey, 2, has a kidney defect that will probably mean a kidney transplant sometime in the future.

With so many challenges, Casper admits that some days are hard for her as a mother. But the community has rallied around this family and that support hasn't gone unnoticed by the family. She posts information on her Facebook page to keep friends and family updated about Wesley's condition and donations to their GoFundMe account have been much needed.

"I want to let people in this community know we appreciate their support. Sometimes we think you have to do something big and huge to show support for people, but most of the time, a hug is all it takes to get you through that one

moment where you think everything is falling apart and I'm not going to make it," she said. "We're close to the finish line. We appreciate all the support."

The family is hopeful that after the surgery, Wesley will have 20-30 years before he has to consider

having another one. He will have to get some of his heart valves replaced in the future, but if they get the right placement, they can do it through the catheter surgery, which is less scary. As he grows, they will deal with things as they happen, she said.

"Even though it feels lonely and that we're doing it by ourselves, I know we're not," Casper said. "I've watched this community rally around so many people in the past and here they are doing the same thing for us."

# Soldier's donation is a lifesaver

By **Walter Piestrom**  
Vernal Express

Few people volunteer to have hollow needles stuck into their bone and a liter of liquid marrow pulled from the sensitive pelvic area. **Rory Mele** not only volunteered for this procedure, but he's willing to undergo the same steps again if asked.

"I couldn't not do it," Mele said. "Someone needed it."

Mele, a 2004 Uintah High School graduate, is a member of the Nevada National Guard, now living

in Cedar City, Utah. 2nd Lt. Mele was at an officer leadership course in Fort Lewis, Washington in June 2010 when he first heard about the National Marrow Donor Program and the Department of Defense's call for registry volunteers.

Few of those attending the course registered. Of those who do register at that venue and across the country, only one in 540 will ever be asked to donate marrow. In a statistic abnormality, Mele received a hit less than a year later. Mele, a platoon leader in the

1864th Transportation Company, had been determined a compatible donor for a woman in the East.

Bone marrow is the soft, fatty tissue inside bones. Stem cells are immature cells in the bone marrow that give rise to all of blood cells.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, bone marrow is transfused into the recipient. This helps recreate and replenish T-cells and white and red blood cells that are killed during

SEE MEET on A2



Mele

SUBMITTED PHOTO

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Vernal Express

Feb 29, 2012

# MELE

Continued from A1

chemotherapy. The woman who needed Mele's help has a potentially terminal illness.

Matching a potential donor is a simple process. The surgical procedure that removes this lifesaving fluid is often intimidating to potential volunteers, especially since there is anesthesia, needles and the potential for considerable soreness.

"The doctor told me that pain was very personal," Mele explained. "Some (donors) deal with pain that can be described as 10 out of 10. Others have pain described as a one or a two. That was where I was at. Not that bad."

Mele explained that when he donated last October the pain wasn't severe, but he did become extremely fatigued. "I slept a lot the first week,"

Mele explained.

Even with the fatigue, Mele would find a break in his schedule and, if asked, donate again. The young man's to-do list would be fatiguing without adding "donate blood cells."

Besides his work with the National Guard, Mele is an Assistant Director for Proctor/Foster Care at Youth Health Associates. He and his wife, Rose, are Foster Parents at Youth Health Associates.

They have parented teenage boys who were making their way back from a more severe lockdown environment.

"My wife did most of the work with them," Mele said proudly. "Because I was gone so much. It's work."

The couple is expecting their first baby and so are only fostering juveniles during emergency situations.

Mele's willingness to serve has been apparent since he was young.

"He was nice to everyone," Mele's mother Kym said. "He was good to the special ed kids. He knew everyone's name. One day my husband came home after the two of them went to Wal-mart. Greg (Mele's father) said he wasn't going to the store with Rory again, because he knew everyone and talked to everyone. Took us forever."

John Snyder, owner and operator of Mr. S Clothing in Vernal, has known Mele since he was a young boy. Snyder also expected that Mele would be the first to sign as a donor.

"He's always been excellent at what he does," Snyder said. "He was a phenomenal young man."

Mele did excel as a wrestler. He did graduate with honors from high school. He was in the top 10 percent of his graduating class at Fort Sill, Okla., however, he laughed at the word "phenomenal."

"I've been given a lot," he said. "I've had a lot of opportunities, and when much is given, much is required. I know that sounds cliché, but it's true."

Already the soon-to-be-father feels he has been given much through this experience.

He quoted the letter he received from the donation coordinators.

"Your recipient is doing well, her recovery is proceeding as expected, and she was able to be discharged from the hospital before the holidays so she was able to go home and enjoy the holiday season with her family. Also your cells engrafted in her on 11/11/11. I personally can't think of a more impressive "second-birthday" than that! :o)"

"She received the transplant the day after it was harvested from my pelvic bone and less than a month later it began to work!" Mele explained. "That feels good."

For the next year Mele will be informed at approximately 3 month intervals how the recipient is doing.

At the end of the year, if the two of them agree, they can meet.

"I don't know if I want to meet," Mele mused. "I've got to think about it."

He may need to think about meeting the person whose life he saved. He didn't have to think twice about saving it.

# Spotlight shines on two local heroes

By LACEY McMURRY  
Vernal Express

They would probably never label themselves as heroes. Yet, last week, two Duchesne County residents were publicly recognized for the acts of bravery they executed without hesitation when the moment of need arrived.

On March 8, the Greater Salt Lake chapter of the American Red Cross lauded Duchesne County Sheriff's Deputy Brandon Adams with the 2012 first responder's hero award. Adams received the award for his part in last summer's rescue of a victim who had crashed her car into a large sinkhole on a road near Tabiona.

The sinkhole was 25 to 30 feet deep and almost as wide. It was filling up quickly with water, but Adams didn't hesitate to throw on a harness and ask to be lowered by rope into the yawning hole. In the back of his mind, he was formulating a contingency plan for the course of action he would take if the sides of the sinkhole collapsed on top of him.

"I tried to take the best precautions I could and not think about how much danger I was in," Adams said. "The way I look at it, if my family was in trouble like that, I would hope other people out there would do the exact same thing."

Luckily, the walls of the sinkhole held. When Adams reached the bottom of the pit, he could tell that the crash victim, Heidi Paulson, was badly injured.

With a lot of skill and some on-the-spot adjustment and improvising, Adams was finally able to get Paulson safely back above ground.

At last week's awards ceremony, Paulson and Adams were able to reconnect again for the first time since the accident.

"It was an emotional reaction to meet her again and see that she was all right," Adams said. "In law enforcement, you see a lot of hard things. Sometimes it's nice to be able to help people out and see some happy endings."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Duchesne teenager Devin Whitehead, who rescued his younger siblings from a house fire in December, was recognized for his heroism at a Red Cross awards ceremony last week.

The second local resident honored by the Red Cross last week is Duchesne teenager Devin Whitehead.

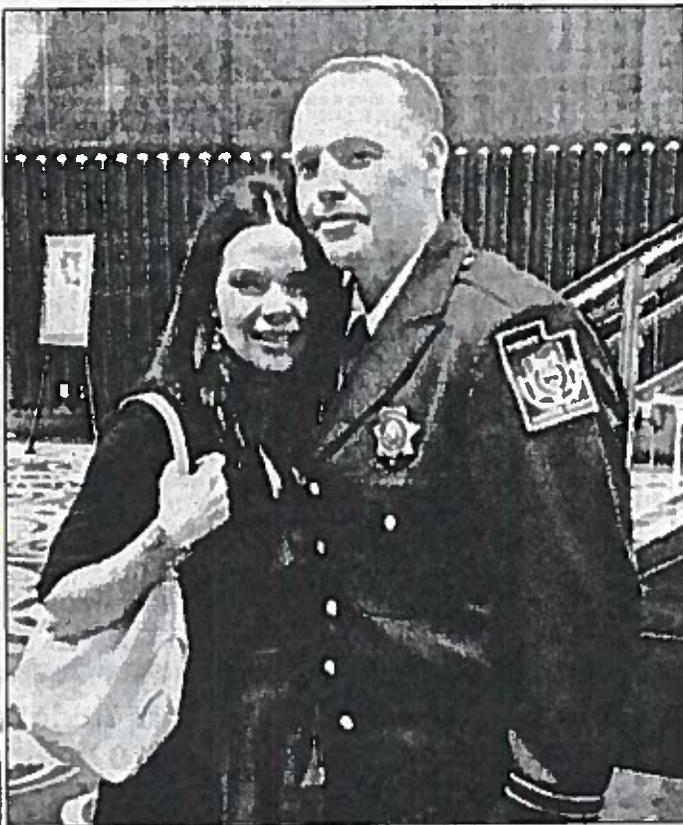
In December, Whitehead was babysitting his two young siblings when their house caught fire.

The teen grabbed his terrified sister, Jessica, and deposited her outside. Then, he risked his life to go back

inside for his little brother, Ronnie. He burned his hands on the doorknob and couch, but got his brother out safely. Through the pain of his injury and the freezing cold winter temperature, Whitehead carried his two siblings half a mile to the nearest road to seek help.

For his courage and heroic action in saving the life of his siblings, Whitehead was awarded the 2012 family hero award.

Adams and Whitehead received their awards at the Red Cross annual heroes'



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Duchesne County Sheriff Brandon Adams stands with Heidi Paulson, an accident victim he helped rescue after her car crashed into a 30-foot deep sinkhole on Tabiona Roadway. Adams and Paulson were reunited at a Red Cross awards ceremony last week where Adams was given an award for his bravery.

awards event. Teresa Zundel, director of communications for the American Red Cross, Utah region, said a total of 14 Utahns were honored for their bravery this year.

"The heroes' events are the

dearest to our heart because our heroes embody the courage and compassion which is the very essence of the American Red Cross, and it is our honor to honor them," she said.

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Vernal Express  
Mar 14, 2012

# Student beats the odds to graduate

By LIBERTY BEST  
lbest@ubmedia.biz

Misti Foley stepped out of her wheelchair and walked alongside her graduating class on Friday evening to receive her diploma, something she earned through hard work and dedication despite having a life-threatening illness.

Despite multiple days of missed school due to surgeries and illness, the 19-year-old came out on top Friday. Misti, who doctors say is not expected to survive past this summer, has not let her Downs Syndrome, heart conditions or oxygen tank stand in her way of graduating with the class of 2016.

This year gave Misti new opportunities and new experiences, as well as routine triumphs. She won the Special Olympics trials, for instance, something



LIBERTY BEST, VERNAL EXPRESS

Misti Foley and her mother, Sandy, get ready for Misti's graduation from Uintah High School. Misti, who has a terminal illness, has worked hard to get to where she was able to graduate and make memorable milestones in her school years.

her mother, Sandy Foley, said she enjoyed immensely. She was also excited for prom and was designated Prom Queen.

"All my teachers still love me so much, I will still visit my friends. My teachers, they remember me a long time, they always work so hard with me. I like all my teachers," Misti said. "Miss Chandler, she's the best. She's the best teacher ever."

Misti has gotten better at several school subjects over the past few years. She once struggled with reading, for example, but now it's one of her favorite things to do. She also plans to continue with what she learned in her flora-culture class.

"I worked so hard at school," she said. "Last time I got all A's."

Sandy said she does well in

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May 26, 2015

# GRADUATE

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her flora class and that it's a great way for students like her daughter to learn science. She calls her daughter her "little scholar." She loves everything school had to offer her, and graduation meant a lot to the family.

"She doesn't even want to stay home when she's sick, she's really stayed with it," Sandy said. "It's been a long haul, but she's been determined and she figured there was no way she was going to quit."

Misti has been grateful for the teachers and peer tutors at Uintah High School, those who were willing to work with her and gave their time to help her reach her goal. Misti said one peer tutor stood out to her. As a friend and mentor, Shane Esplin has been there for her and was first to volunteer to push Misti's wheelchair during graduation, but Misti decided to walk.

Esplin has known Misti since they were both sophomores and have developed a friendship through peer tutoring that impacted both their lives.

"She's always nice to everyone, she has such a special spirit about her. She really worked really hard to get where she is right now, and I'm really proud of her," Esplin said.

Now that Misti has graduated high school, she plans to take a vacation to California to visit her sister and celebrate by playing at Disneyland.

Faced with life-threatening challenges, Misti still keeps a smile on her face and plans to continue enjoying what life has to offer as long as she is able.



Misti Foley pulled herself out of her wheelchair to join her classmates and receive her diploma.

# Flood relief effort connects Utah boy with Nebraska farms

SUBMITTED BY NEBRASKA FARM BUREAU

When six-year-old Kai Baldwin of Vernal saw a news clip of flooding in Nebraska, he couldn't hold back the tears. "How will they get home and save their animals without a bridge?" he asked his mom. "We have to send them our money!"

Touched by her son's desire to help, Kai's mom, Kristin Forbis, researched a reputable source where a donation could be sent, and the pair invited friends and family to empty their pockets and add their change to Kai's piggy bank donation of \$3.21. The donations would be sent to the Nebraska Farm Bureau Disaster Relief Fund, to help farmers, ranchers, and rural communities.

"I let him set his own goal, and Kai decided a new bridge would cost \$60," said Forbis. "Kai walked our neighborhood gathering change and was ecstatic as he counted every nickel and penny." Forbis also posted the fundraiser on her Facebook page and Kai raised \$285.28, she said. The check was sent to the Nebraska Farm Bureau Disaster Relief Fund along with Kai's 'Dear Nebraska, I'm sorry you got flooded...' card and all his hope that a bridge could now be fixed.

Enter Jesse Wise of Culpeper, Virginia, a farmer who raises hay on 200 acres and feeds it to his cow/calf pairs. He also owns Wise Services and Recycling, a scrap metal recycling business. Recently, a customer had Wise scrap a functional temporary bridge, and Wise thought he would find a home for the bridge somewhere in Nebraska.

"I knew people were hauling hay to Nebraska; I didn't have enough hay to share, and I wanted to help. So, I wondered if Nebraska could use the bridge we scrapped. Believe me, I had a lot of dead silence on the phone as I tried to find the bridge a home," Wise laughed. "It's not every day you get a call saying, 'I have a bridge for you, can you use it?'" he said.

After getting nowhere, Wise called staff members from the Nebraska Farm Bureau, which manages the Nebraska Disaster Relief Fund. The Foundation began working with Cedar County Commissioner Craig Bartels who lives near Belden, Nebraska.

"There is a good chance that at least two bridges, if not more, will need to be replaced in Cedar County," said Bartels. "We have several miles of road in Cedar County that is completely washed out and in need of repair.

With all the rain that



Kai Baldwin raised funds for Nebraska flood relief

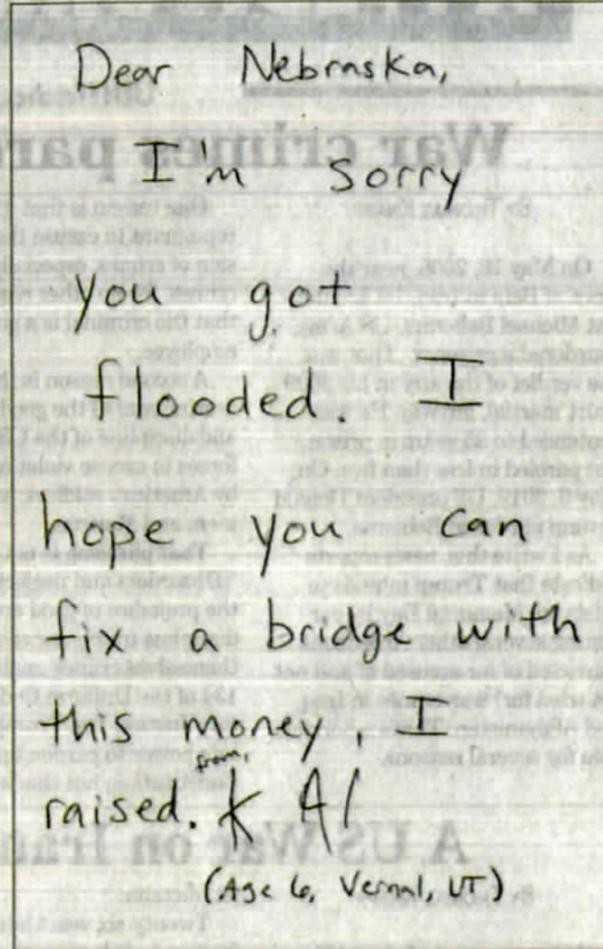
continues to fall, and all the mud, it is hard to fix those well-traveled roads, and now the less traveled ones are in need of repair, too."

Two months after floods devastated Nebraska causing billions of dollars of damage, road crews are working hard to repair 3,300 miles of roads that were closed due to flood damage. According to the Nebraska Department of Transportation website, it is estimated that 27 state bridges were washed out or damaged. The number of county bridges damaged

is still unknown.

It costs a lot to load a bridge and transport it across the country, but Jesse Wise put the pieces together. The cost to get the bridge to Nebraska is being split by Wise Services and Recycling, who donated the bridge; Neff Crane Rental, who donated their crane time to load the bridge onto a truck; and Read Transportation, who is transporting the bridge from Culpeper to Coleridge.

Talk of bridges had died down in the weeks leading up to the day Kai received



a Thank You card in the mail from the Nebraska Farm Bureau with a note attached to call for updates. "I was told that just days after receiving Kai's donation the Nebraska Farm Bureau staff received a call that Mr. Wise of Virginia had a bridge to donate. They immediately thought of Kai and after a few seconds of silence said to me, 'It's Kai's bridge!' and that left me just speechless," Forbis said.

As for Kai, he hasn't seemed surprised with the announcement of the bridge donation, as if a hard-working stranger across the country donating a bridge is the most natural thing he's ever heard of.

The Nebraska Farm Bureau Disaster Relief Fund continues to seek financial donations to meet the growing aid requests coming into the Disaster Relief Fund. To donate,

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# Young dancer getting nationwide attention

By DOUG RADUNICH  
dradunich@ubmedia.biz

With a touching story and desire to never give up, Alissa Sizemore, a young dancer from Vernal, is becoming quite the well-known sensation across the country.

In May 2014, Alissa, who has been dancing since age 4, had to have her right leg amputated below the knee after her foot was pinned under a UPS truck. Now 8-years-old and sporting a prosthetic leg, Alissa performs with Powerhouse Dance in Vernal.

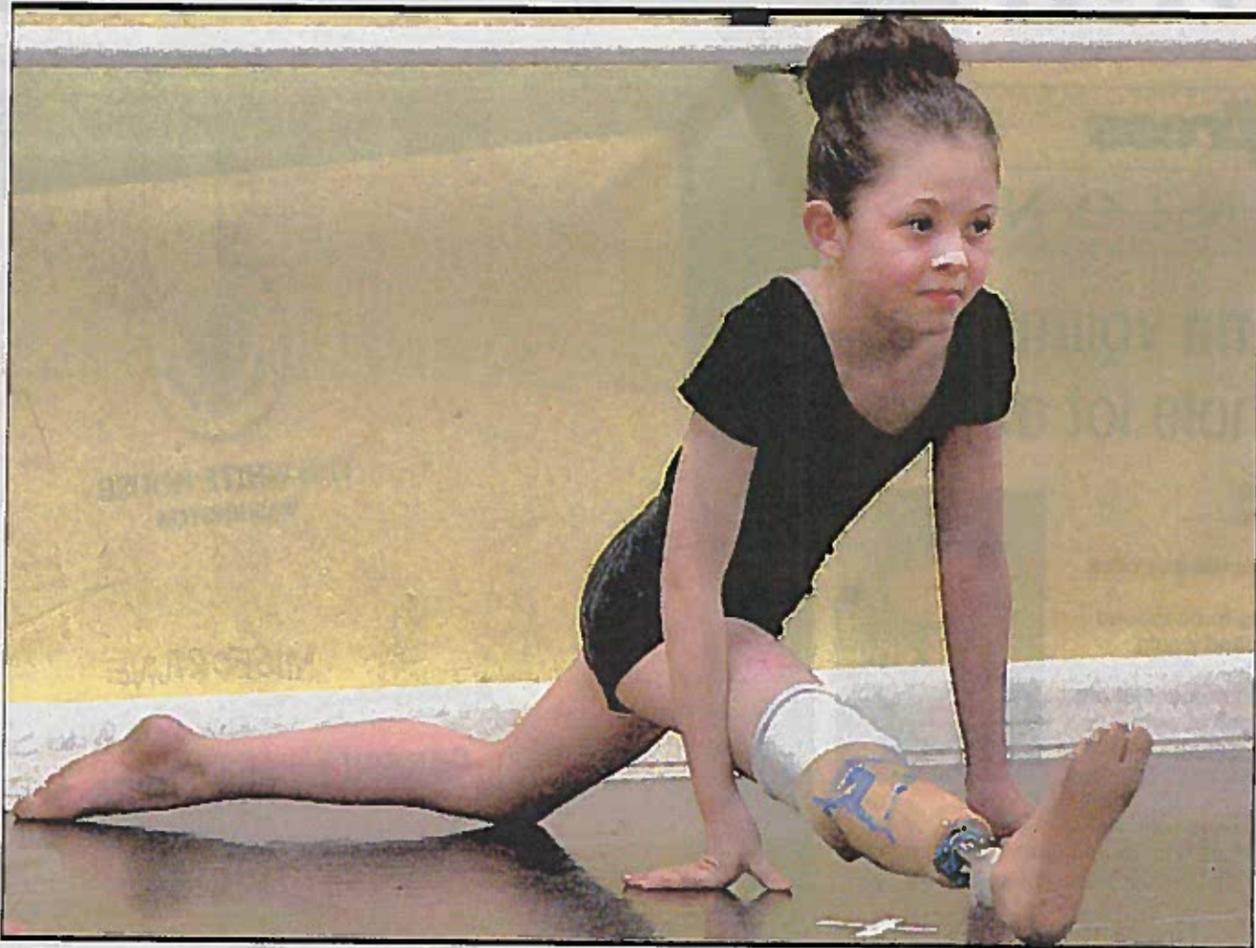
Most recently, Alissa and her family were invited to watch ABC's "Dancing with the Stars" live in Los Angeles on April 20. Noah Galloway, a former United States Army soldier, model, athlete and current dancer on the hit television program, invited Alissa to be his guest after learning of her and her story.

Galloway, who also uses a prosthetic leg, was injured during the Iraq War and lost his left arm above the elbow, and left leg above the knee. His "No Excuses" Charitable Fund teamed with Kenneth Cole fragrance to bring Alissa and her family out to Los Angeles for the show. Galloway is currently the face of the brand's newest fragrance, Mankind Ultimate.

Heather Sizemore, Alissa's mother, said Galloway and others from "Stars" learned about Alissa through People Magazine. The popular celebrity news source interviewed Alissa earlier this month.

"They had seen her article on [People.com](http://People.com), as well as the music video she was in," Heather said. "People Magazine called us and did the interview over the phone, and they were also at the shooting of 'Dancing with the Stars.' They did a follow-up story on Alissa being invited to the show by Noah. We got to watch the show and sit up on the front row."

Aside from getting front row seats for the show, Alissa and her family also got meet Galloway and his partner, Sharna Burgess, after the show. As an added bonus, Sizemore and her



Alissa Sizemore warms up for ballet class at Powerhouse Dance Studio in Vernal. With her remarkable story gaining notice, Sizemore was invited to attend a live showing of "Dancing with the Stars"; appeared in a Utah-based band's music video; and was interviewed by several major news outlets.

made it in to the video. My daughter Cyley got to fill in and be a stunt double for the video, so when figuring out the choreography, she helped dance for them to see how it looked."

Alissa recently performed at Powerhouse Dance's "Sleeping Beauty Ballet," held April 15-16, and the company's dance review on April 21. She studies jazz, contemporary, lyrical and ballet, and would love to take on hip-hop.

What's next in store for Alissa is still yet to be determined, as she continues to inspire and reach others through the power of online media.

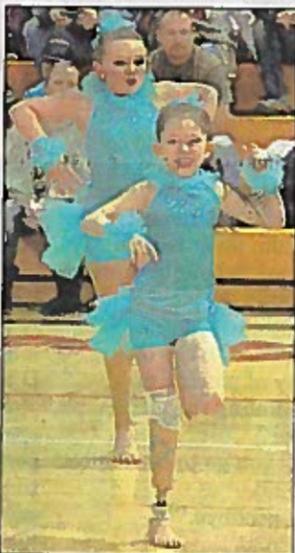


Company director Tania Wheeler works with Alissa Sizemore during ballet class at Powerhouse Dance.

All photos courtesy of KSL News

mom met Amy Purdy, a former "Stars" contestant who also attended the show.

Purdy is an actress, model and Paralympic bronze medalist in snowboarding. She lost both of her legs below the knees after contracting a form of



Alissa Sizemore performs with her team from Powerhouse Dance Studio in front of a live audience.

bacterial meningitis, and was a source of inspiration to Alissa while she was in the hospital.

Adding to her growing fame, Heather said NBC Nightly News and ABC World News also learned about Alissa, and asked to do pieces on her story.

"NBC Nightly News flew a reporter out to Vernal last week, and they came to her dance practice and ballet," Heather said. "ABC World News also did a Skype interview and story with Alissa."

Alissa made another impact online when she was featured in a new music video for Gentry, a Utah-based tenor trio. The song, titled "Dare" and released April 2, is a single for Gentry's debut album.

Heather said the band came across the well-known video of Alissa's recent solo performance, which took place at Vernal Junior High, on Facebook. Alissa had danced to the inspirational Colbie Caillat ballad "Try," both with and

without her prosthetic leg.

"The band called me and said they had a concept for following three different stories, and they knew they wanted one to be about a dancer," Heather said. "They saw the video of Alissa dancing, and said it would be great for their song. She was kind of the main star of the video."

Excited to be in a major music video, Alissa and her family went to Salt Lake

City for filming over March 12-13. The video can now be found on YouTube.

"It was neat to watch it being filmed and how it all works, and they tried to figure out a little choreographed piece in there," Heather said. "They had a plan to show Alissa at a certain point, and so on. There was also a lot of freestyling and dancing from Alissa, and a lot of that