



SLUG MAG

SaltLakeUnderGround

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Angela Garcia

Contributor Limelight Editorial Intern

Angela Garcia's witty social media voice, meticulous fact-checking and innovative spirit make her an incredible Editorial Intern. Though Angela is most passionate about film, she can apply her exceptional writing skills to just about any subject, including the Utah Gay Football League (on page 18).



Grace Simpson

Contributor Limelight Contributing Writer

As a climber, cyclist and all-around outdoor adventurer, Grace Simpson was wellequipped to write about adaptive outdoor climbing (on page 14). She tackles writing assignments with ease, using her boundless creativity and copy editing experience to make *SLUG* a brighter, bolder publication.



First Annual Summer Issue: SLUG showcases the beauty of our state's environment and outdoor community by highlighting organizations and sports that get Utahns outside! On this month's cover, SLUG illustrator Brett Ferrin shines a light on the outdoor activities that radiate through Utah culture. Find more of his colorful, geometric designs on Instagram at @brett.ferrin.

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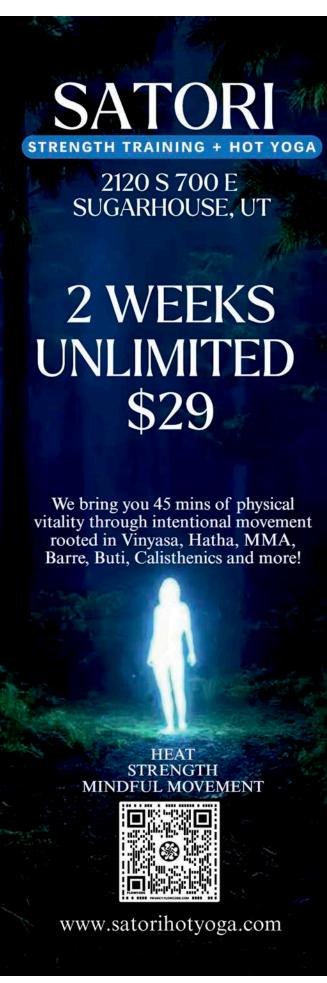
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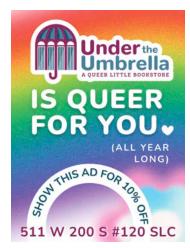






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Photos by Gabriel Kogami

"50 states, 50 trees" project: an endeavor

to create a map of the United States using

native wood from each state. More than

decoration, Davies' map sought to engage

and educate his audience about forms of

biodiversity found across the country. With

the project now complete, Davies continues

to share his love of nature with new and

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Davies

was stuck in an existential crisis. Stan-

dard work hours had disappeared when

the world moved online, replaced with

constant online expectations. "I was at a

breaking point," Davies says. "I was in

a career that I was not aligned with or

fulfilled by, and I didn't think I could do

At first, Davies coped the same way

many of us did by stress-watching online

content, but the additional time spent

online made things worse. Eventually, Davies turned to his passion for nature

and sharing his love for it with others.

"It all started with posting tree facts on

Instagram. I knew I was onto something

because when I would talk to my friends,

they kept asking when I was going to post

Like many Utahns, Davies had learned to

love the outdoors by going on camping

trips with family, and while that cultivat-

ed his love for nature, Davies admits he

my next tree fact," Davies says.

interesting creative projects.

it anymore."

Justin Davies is a Utah-based content had "more of an artist's entry point [but] no creator whose work focuses on improvreal, in-depth knowledge." ing peoples' connections with nature. His online presence was jump-started by his

Two events changed that. The first was a book by Robin Wall Kimmerer titled Braiding Sweetgrass. Kimmerer, a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, presented the idea that plants and animals are mankind's original teachers and ignoring their lessons can result in species loneliness: a shared yearning for connection to other forms of life.

The second event was an experience Davies had with a tree. "I was trail running, pushing up a switchback. I stopped for a breath, and this tree caught my attention ... I'd probably passed it countless times, but I finally saw it," Davies says. "I interacted with it in a way that I hadn't before. I was really drawn in[to] where and why it grows, the ethnobotany of it, even its traditional uses."

Davies' experience brought the lessons from Braiding Sweetgrass to life. He moved on from posting simple tree facts to his more ambitious 50 states project. What "started with a quaking aspen tree that I cut into the state of Utah," says Davies, turned into a comprehensive map. With each new piece of the map, Davies added to his own knowledge, all the while sharing that information with his audience. "What I've found is this ... thrill of discovery that this thing I didn't have a relationship with [before] — I'm now thinking about [it] in a different way," Davies says.

The thrill of discovery applies to more than just the appearance of a tree. It can apply to its medicinal properties, its scent and even its taste. "It harkens back to species loneliness. We have this narrow view of flavors and where food comes from, since often places were settled by people who brought food and ingredients from elsewhere," Davies says.

Davies has made pine cone jam, bread with sawdust and even ice cream from the odiferous Bradford pear tree. His work continues to resonate with his nearly two million YouTube followers. "I am delighted by people who say 'I had no idea I cared this much about trees and suddenly I do.' I want people to feel openly curious about nature. We're so used to our usual rhythms. I want people to see a tree in a way they never have before," Davies says.

Find Justin Davies on YouTube or TikTok at @justinthetrees, on Instagram at @justindavies and online at rangenative.com.



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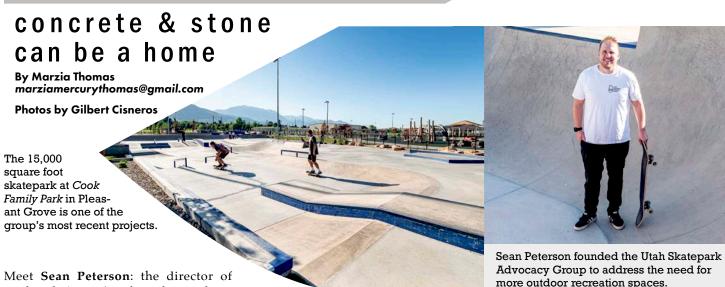






UTAH SKATEPARK ADVOGAGY GROUP





product design at Awardco and street skater behind Utah Skatepark Advocacy Group. The collective is made up of passionate skaters from all over Salt Lake Valley who are fighting hard to build and renew spaces for the local skate community to thrive. Peterson began skating at age 8 after receiving a skateboard for his birthday. Hailing from the small town of Richfield in Southern Utah, Peterson didn't have any nearby skateparks to practice at, so he primarily learned at the loading docks behind his local Kmart. At 13 years old, Petersen decided to fill this gap for his fellow young outdoor recreation enthusiasts.

After reaching out to the city of Richfield through a lot of hard work and patience, he succeeded in his guest and the first skatepark in his town was built. During his middle and high school years, Peterson skated the metal Skatewave ramp until he later moved to Provo to attend Brigham Young University. Throughout his life, he held onto his love for the sport and passed it onto his own kids. He noticed that the same problem he faced in Richfield kept arising: There was simply not enough space for the ever-expanding skate community in Utah. "We're entrepreneurial [and] driven, and I think that it bleeds into our skate community a little bit. That kind of chip on the shoulder. We look at California ... Texas ... the East Coast, getting all these great

skateparks, and we want a part of that. We want a piece of that," Peterson says.

In August 2021, Peterson created the Insta-

gram page @goskateutah, a digital landscape of deep boarding knowledge and a skater's oasis. He originally used the page to post about existing skateparks and their history as well as to garner attention for areas that could benefit from a new park. The account exploded in popularity, as skaters began reaching out to each other in the comment section in support of the endeavor and flooded into his DMs asking for guidance on how to build a park near them. "It's a community effort. It's all about the skate community getting together," Peterson says. His main function is educating the public on how to accomplish these goals as well as petitioning for grants to build and refurbish skateparks. He's also a communicator between the skate community and the government, finding a middle ground between building features wanted by skaters and fitting the improvements into a reasonable budget.

Peterson has inspired countless others by bringing together a strong social media presence. "You can be the difference maker in your community," he says. He and his coalition often approach the state themselves and present their case for why they believe skateparks are of utmost importance. Peterson's official involvement began in 2022 with the building of a park in Holladay and has since had widespread and rapid growth. Since then, 14 new skateparks have been built because of the community group and there are plans for upcoming projects in Millcreek, Moab, Provo, Santaquin, Vernal, Glendale and Washington City.

Peterson reports there is still a need for skate centers in North and South Salt Lake as well as downtown. He also shares that there is less and less pushback against the building of new parks due to the old stigma of skaters being "delinquent" dying out and the increasing need for outdoor third spaces. "Skateparks are essentially a playground where young people and adults can have this community area to go to progress, learn from each other, learn skatepark etiquette, and learn the ins and outs of the basic tricks. Oftentimes, you'll go to a skatepark, and you'll see a high schooler helping a middle schooler that is stepping on a skateboard for the first time, [teaching them] how to ollie and how to do tricks," Peterson says.

To learn more about the skate alliance and how to build a new skatepark in your area, visit *utahskateparkadvocacygroup.com* or @goskateutah on Instagram.





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UTAH'S FORMER SHARPSHOOTING FORWARD, MINNESOTA'S FUTURE STAR

By wphughes • william@slugmag.com

love," Pili says of her early athletic

years growing up in Anchorage,

Alaska. Her passion for competi-

tion shines through beyond the

sport of basketball and she left

her high school achieving 13 state

championships spread across

basketball, volleyball, shot put,

discus and wrestling. When it came

time to chose colleges, she elected

It was a great school, just a fun college envi-

ronment," she says. "Basketball wise, I really

best basketball eras the college

has ever seen. She averaged

21.1 points, 2.4 assists and 6.6

rebounds per game, all with blis-

tering efficiency, shooting 56% from

the field and 41% from the three-point

line. At season's end, Pili had collected

a Pac-12 Player of the Year Award and a

The 2023-24 WNBA season was easily the most viewed in the league's history. For those who partook in that viewership, you may be crumpling the page (or shaking your screen, however you enjoy this publication) and yelling that this massive increase happened because of the rise of Iowa phenom Caitlin Clark. While Clark is certainly a generational talent, she isn't the sole reason the league shines as brightly as it does now. Viewership has consistently climbed since 2020, and it wouldn't require *Moneyball*-esque insight to predict the WNBA would soon get its day in the sun. The talent pool of women's ball has widened, meaning many heavy-hitting colleges are no longer facing smooth rides to the NCAA Championship game. Among those is Minnesota Lynx forward Alissa Pili.

enjoyed playing with the team and making lifelong friends over there." It's only a matter of time before Alissa Pili cements her-Pili's transfer to the University of Utah also self in WNBA transcended the school's athletic resourchistory. es. "When I answered the transfer portal, I was looking for somewhere that I knew was gonna utilize me in the right ways and also support me outside of basketball," she says. "I wanted to be surrounded by people who cared about me, who poured into me and believed in me ... That's why I chose Utah." Family and community support are a core element not only to women's basketball but to Pili herself. As a Samoan and Iñupiat woman, Pili's heritage and culture are parts of her identity that she continues to honor at every opportunity she gets. Pili's time at the University of Utah marked one of the



bid to the NCAA Tournament, a feat that had only happened twice for the college since 2010. This skill and raw talent resulted in being picked eighth overall in the 2024 WNBA draft to one of the most decorated teams in the league's history which, at the time of writing, is undefeated at 9-0 in the 2025 season. Her rookie season with the Lynx included a 20-point outing against the Phoenix Mercury and supporting the team in winning the league's first in-season tournament. "Winning Commissioner's Cup was really fun," she says. "I was popping the champagne bottles."

The 2025 season brought new energy to Pili and allowed her to hone her skills at the highest level. "I went into this training camp super confident. I always get butterflies before I do anything that I care about — but I wasn't nervous, I felt prepared. We have a very talented team, and to even be on this team and make the roster is a huge opportunity," Pili says. In a league where the talent level on each team goes deep into the bench, playing any minutes on the court is an incredibly valuable opportunity that Pili does the most she can with. It's undeniable that Pili has already made her mark on this sport, both in Utah and back home in Alaska. It's only a matter of time before she does the same on the national stage.







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ONE WHEEL? NO PROBLEM!



Words and Photo by Tyson Call • tysoncall@me.com

Anyone with a keen eye in any major city for the past few years is likely to have seen a new kind of vehicle cruising down the street, bike lane or trail. With a deck and rails like a skateboard and one large, go-kart sized tire in the middle, Onewheels have existed for just over 10 years. They are self-balancing, utilizing accelerometers, gyroscopes and a battery-powered, brushless hub motor to keep the rider stable. SLC is lucky enough to have its own Onewheel shop: 801Wheel, offering retail, repairs, customization and accessories, all of it run and started by **Stoker Jonz.**

Jonz first saw a Onewheel in Costa Mesa, California and got hooked. He rented one for a few hours and immediately decided to buy one. Shortly after that, he had the idea of servicing them. "I changed a couple of tires for some homies, and I was like, 'There's other people out there. Let's do a little weekend gig,'" Jonz says. This quickly turned into a shop space on Major Street, which he has had for a little over four years now.

Utah has proven to be fertile ground for the new and burgeoning sport. With ample city bike lanes and mountain trails (legally, it classifies as an e-bike), Utahns have been quick to adopt it. "Onewheeling does have very surf-like qualities and very snowboard-like qualities," Jonz says. "A lot of the muscle mechanics and such are relative to even skateboarding and all the other board sports — but it is something that should be respected as a board sport all [on] its own." Ionz says that many of his customers use them to run with their dogs, commute to work, ride with their kids or even run errands. Some even use them for chores on their ranch like going out to feed horses or milk cows, replacing ATVs as a means of transportation.

Every Wednesday, dozens of riders of all ages and genders gather for a group ride hosted by 801Wheel. "[The rides are] stoke-

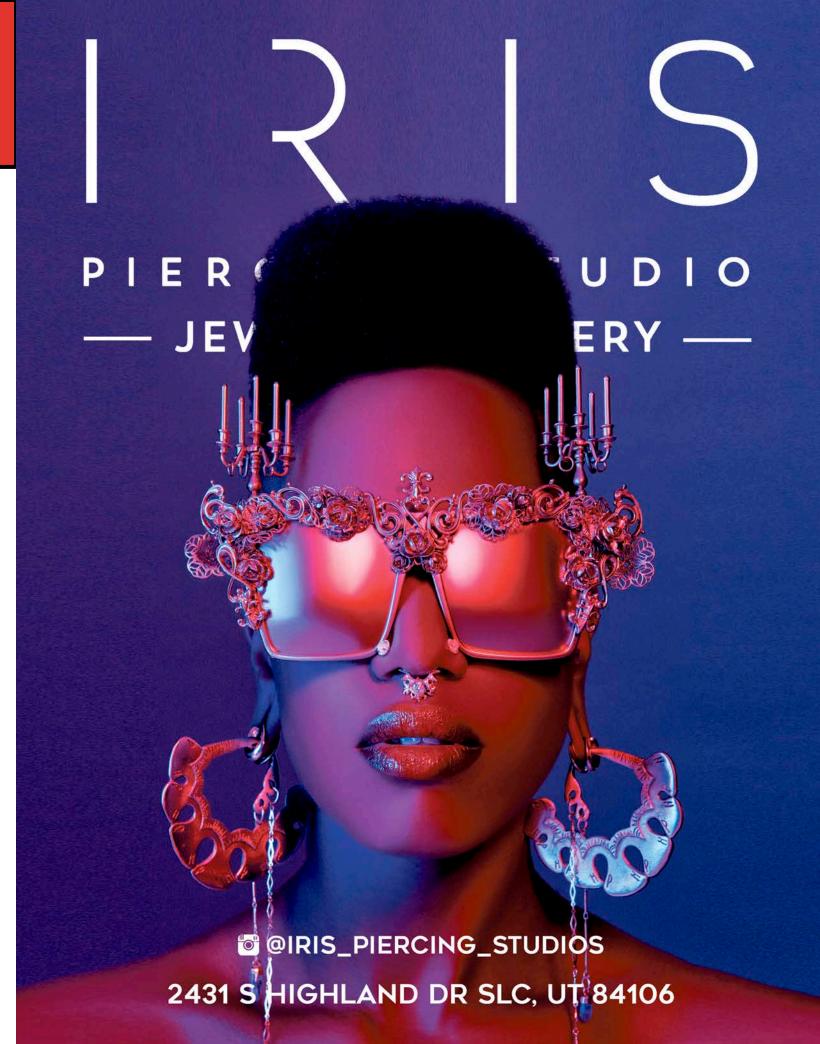
filled chaos and always an adventure," Jonz says. "We do require smiles, but that comes naturally. You're going to meet new people in the community, make new friends, explore new territories ... You show up to any one of these group rides and one of those riders is gonna say, 'Yeah [you] can take [my Onewheel] for a mile."

This summer, Jonz has organized a treasure hunt and board giveaway meant to encourage people to get out and explore. "We're placing markers throughout Salt Lake, Davis, Weber, Utah and Summit counties. We've got 12 markers hidden out there and every week we release a clue to go find those markers. If you capture all 12 of those markers, you're going to be put into the drawing." The full details can be found on Instagram at @801wheel.

For riders who are looking to increase the speed or range of their board(s), Jonz offers nearly every type of upgrade possible. "Tires are a simple but significant upgrade. There are many options and it really comes down to [rider] preference, but that would be a serious, significant and very noticeable upgrade right off the bat," Jonz says. "Foot pads are another immediate upgrade that should be made to most, if not all, boards that will help with the foot fatigue and increase the control of the board." In addition to these simple upgrades, Jonz offers swaps of all other major components, which provides the rider with something that no one else has.

Onewheeling is relatively new when compared to other board sports, and Salt Lake City is lucky to have a thriving community and shop to help Utahns achieve a kind of Zen while riding, which Onewheelers





Climbing is a widely enjoyed sport in Utah, one that appeals to people due to the focus, strength and trust it requires. It's a sport that can feel intimidating, especially because of the inherent risks, but the *National Ability Center (NAC)* in Park City is committed to making climbing accessible for individuals of all abilities and redefining what it means to be an athlete.

The *NAC* offers year-round adaptive programs, such as skiing, biking and climbing, to individuals with physical, cognitive and developmental disabil-

ities, as well as those facing mental health challenges. At the heart of the program is instructor and climbing specialist Jill Boylan, whose career in sport accessibility began with

an education in recreational therapy and a profound love for climbing.

Boylan explains that the program works to meet the needs of climbers with disabilities by using adaptive techniques and equipment that make climbing accessible. These adaptations include specialized harnesses, pulley systems and side-by-side climbing. "Sometimes we will have a climbing specialist climbing alongside somebody and physically moving their feet to every hold," Boylan says. "This way they can focus on using their strength for other movements ... Climbing is possible for all bodies."

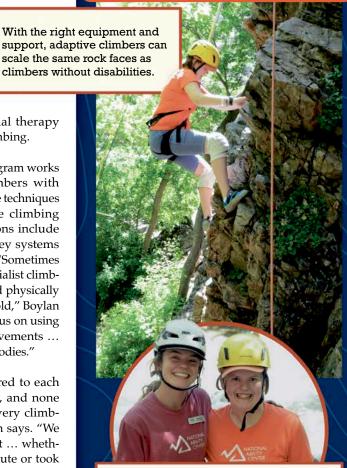
Training sessions are tailored to each climber's individual goals, and none are too small. "We meet every climber where they're at," Boylan says. "We celebrate every achievement ... whether they climbed an entire route or took two steps up the wall. Maybe next time they'll take three." Some climbers visit the *NAC* once, while others return multiple times to reach their goals.

Adaptive climbing requires careful planning and creative problem-solving. Coaches consider the physical, mental and sensory needs of each climber to ensure every climb is successful. They choose routes and equipment to help climbers feel comfortable and confi-

Outlooks AN INCLUSIVE

THE NATIONAL ABILITY CENTER IS CHANGING UTAH'S CLIMBING CULTURE

By Grace Simpson • simpson.ograce@gmail.com
Photos by Kevin TK Frantz



National Ability Center climbing specialist Jill Boylan (left) and adaptive climber **Penni Duzy** (right).

dent, while also managing risk. Climbing can be a dangerous sport, but the *NAC* doesn't eliminate the risks; they want to help people navigate it. "Adaptive athletes want to push themselves just like anybody else," Boylan says.

At the *National Ability Center*, climbers have the opportunity to train indoors or outdoors, depending on their preferences and the season. The *NAC* collaborates with *The Front Climbing Club*, which features many accessible walls. For outdoor climbs, they visit popular Utah crags in Big Cottonwood Canyon and occasionally make excursions to other locations, such as Moab. These areas have many difficulty levels and wall heights, making

A common misconception about adaptive sports is that they are somehow easier because of the adaptations the athletes use to help them complete the tasks. Boylan pushes back on this opinion, explaining that adaptations do not make climbing easier; they make it possible.

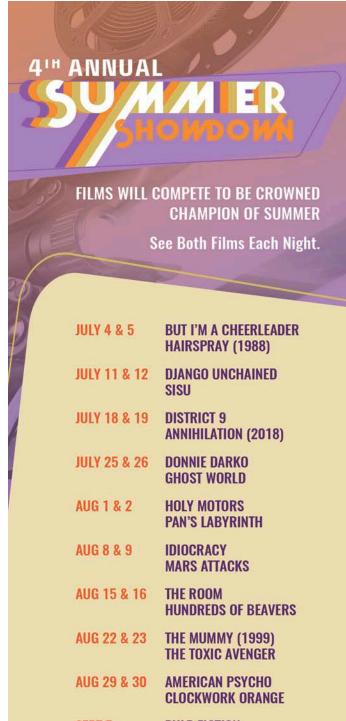
them ideal for both beginners and more

seasoned climbers.

One story in particular stands out to Boylan. She was at *The Front* with a young boy with a physical disability when somebody approached them and asked what he was doing. Without missing a beat, the boy looked down and replied, "What does it *look* like I'm doing?" Boylan explains that this moment perfectly captures what adaptive climbing is all about. "He didn't see himself as limited," she says. "He saw himself as a climber."

In a state celebrated for its outdoor activities, the *NAC* is committed to providing everyone with the opportunity to participate in these experiences. The work the *NAC* is doing with climbing specialists like Boylan is creating an accessible outdoors for everyone. When people see someone with a disability climbing alongside others, their perception of who belongs in these spaces will begin to change, and the outdoors will become more inclusive.

The *National Ability Center* offers more than just climbing instruction, featuring alpine sports, cycling, rafting and horseback riding. They also host camps, have veteran programs and train with competitive teams. For more information about their mission and programs, visit *discovernac.org*.



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NYJAH Huston is arguably one of the greatest skateboarders of all time. Ever since he was a child, he was making waves in skateboarding and as he grew up, he continued to push the limits of skating both in the streets and in the world of competition. This brings us to the *X Games*, which came to Salt Lake City for the first time from June 27-29.

SLUG reached out to Huston to check in before the competition and ask him some questions. Prior to this year's games, Huston was tied for the most *X Games* gold medals of all time. He has been dominating the competition scene for quite some time and he thinks he can seize the record for most gold medals of all time in SLC. In his earlier years, he might have been a bit more nervous before a competition started, but now he feels pretty calm, albeit with a healthy set of nerves. When I ask if he had any pre-competition superstitions or routines, he says, "Before a contest, it's really just making sure my body feels ready, eating some good meals — my go-to solid meal is rice, chicken and veggies — and stretching a lot."

The X Games are one of the biggest competitions in skateboarding history and have been around since 1994. One part of the X Games Huston notes he enjoys is the format of the 45-second run: "I do think it's cool that they've kept that, because it gets a little repetitive sometimes when we're skating this classic Street League format and all the Olympic qualifier events and stuff," he says. "It's nice to go back and skate that original, simple 45-second run where you can just put all your focus into that."



For the longest time, Huston was a staple rider for Element Skateboards, but a few years ago he started his own company, Disorder, and has been making a skate team full of heavy hitters. Recent additions include Clive Dixon and Alex Midler. A few years ago, the Disorder team put out a full-length video and as forwhat is in the future for Disorder, Huston says, "We're about to put out a video that should be up on Thrasher within the next couple weeks, so that's really exciting. Things are going good." Be on the lookout for that video, as it is sure to have some mind-blowing skating in it.

After the X Games, Huston has a full plan ahead for this summer and the near future. "Throughout the rest of this year and next year, my main goal is to do as much street skating as possible, as much filming as possible," he says. "I'm doing a lot of road trips. We're actually planning one out to Salt Lake City." Just like many skateboarders, Huston grew up watching skate videos, so he cares about making the kind of "proper skate videos" that got him into skateboarding in the first place. Owning Disorder gives him that control, and I can't wait to see what he comes out with.

He ends our chat by naming his five favorite skaters of all time: "Paul Rodriguez, Chris Cole, Mark Appleyard, Heath Kirchart and Ishod Wair." All you youngin's out there read-

Find out the results of this year's games online at xgames.com and keep up with Huston on

RYAN Sheckler has been a household name for every young skater who grew up during the early 2000s. Whether you know him from his MTV show Life of Ryan or his dominating skate career, anyone who was young during that time period knew him as a skateboarding icon. At 35 years old, it is awesome to still see Sheckler competing, and he was a big highlight for the 2025 *X Games* roster in Salt Lake City. Even after all this time competing, Sheckler says, "The excitement is still there. My body feels good and, on top of that, I get to finally compete in front of my wife and my kids. So that definitely adds a new fire to everything." I ask about his pre-games routine and he says he puts in as much preparation as possible, but overall he's just thankful for still being able to skate and compete. "Utah always brings a good crowd," Sheckler says.

The *X Games* are special to those who grew up in the golden era of action sports. "I always hold X Games to a really high regard just because, you know, that's kind of where I turned pro," Sheckler says. "Some of my best performances have been at *X Games*. A lot of my best memories with other athletes have been at X *Games*. So for me, the *X Games* [are] probably the most important. I just love it." After the competition is over, Sheckler says he will be happy to head back to the Airbnb and chill with his family. Beyond competing, he plans to hit some street spots while in Salt Lake. "If I see something that looks cool and I'm feeling it, I'm gonna get out of the car or I'm gonna approach it and I'm gonna try to get a clip," he says. Be on the



lookout for Sheckler hitting many of the spots Salt Lake has to offer in the week after the competition.

As we age, life changes and exciting new moments happen. For Sheckler, some of his biggest achievements in life have just come to fruition. Over the past few years, Sheckler has settled down and gotten married, had two daughters and started a new skateboarding company called Sandlot Times, after the 1993 movie The Sandlot. One of the most unique things Sheckler wanted to do with his skateboarding company is create a brand that the younger generation can rely on and use. Sandlot Times does some awesome things to shake up the current offerings of skateboard deck sizes for kids by making boards that are actually kid-sized. Sheckler says, "I saw all the smaller skateboards out there and they were way too long, the width was skinny and it just wasn't right to me. I knew I really wanted to focus on getting this new generation on a board that felt super comfort-

able." This is a big change from

how kids boards are traditional-

ly made, helping to make skate-

boarding more accessible to

younger generations.

Finally, I ask Sheckler what's next in his future. He's got some big plans for Sandlot Times, a Red Bull tour, a new movie about anti-child trafficking and work with his other sponsors. But most importantly, he says, "I'm just super stoked [to] watch my kids grow up. Honestly, being there for my kids growing up has been super rad." Find out the results of this year's games online at xgames.com and keep up with Sheckler on Instagram at @shecks.



By Angela Garcia • angelagr15@outlook.com || Photos by Roberto Valdez

Though

the UGFL

plays flag

football,

they tackle

inequality

with full

contact.

In the world of sports, people often talk about impossible moments. Take the New England Patriots' miraculous comeback during the 2017 Super Bowl. Many attribute it to **Tom Brady**, but a comeback like that isn't possible without a strong team backing you up. That's what the Utah Gay Football League (UGFL) is all about encouraging and strengthening community through sportsmanship, camaraderie and doing the impossible.

Originally founded in 2006 under the name Mountain West Flag Football League, the UGFL is a nonprofit flag football league aimed at creating an encouraging athletic space. More than just recreation, the league is a safe haven for the queer community. The group puts on events and fundraisers to give the community visibility, uses the money from fundraisers to give scholarships to gueer student athletes and has even begun partnering with local bars like The Green Pig Pub and Kiitos Brewing for post-game socials. In fact, the rebrand from Mountain West Flag Football League to the Utah Gay Football League was done to be more identifiable as an organization made by the LGBTQ, for the LGBTQ.

Head Recruiter AJ Woolsey fondly recalls her first venture into the league: "I came to practice one day — in jeans," she says. "I was like, 'I'm just gonna see what it's about,' and instantly fell in love and found a family, found a community." Participating in the league brought her a sense of purpose. She says, "This is a sport I never thought I would be able to play ... and it's just helped me grow so much as a human." It was that growth that motivated Woolsey to take on the role of head recruiter.

For a long time, the league was mostly male players. In fact, Sponsorship Manager Lokelani Kuoha was the only female player for a period of time. Woolsey's goal was to encourage more women, trans and nonbinary players to join the league. She began tabling at events like SLC Sapphic Nite Out and worked with the UGFL board to create separate practices for newcomers so they would feel less apprehensive about starting a new sport. Woolsey explains, "For the first time ever, we have planned newcomer practices for brand new people to come out and learn ... and that has been wildly successful in my opinion." According to Woolsey, the league has grown a third in the last year. The growth isn't

Kuoha and City Leader Derek Evans talk about being on the travel team and participating in national events like the Gay Bowl. Kuoha sees these events as something enriching. "I feel like [being on the travel team] really builds the strongest relationships with teammates and friends because you're practicing for months together, and then you actually travel together and play these high-stakes, high-adrenaline games," Kuoha says.

just local either, but national as well.

"It's like a mini Pride weeka better word — pride that comes from not

The Utah Gay Football League puts on

just meeting out-of-state gay leagues, but seeing them absolutely demolish stereotypes about gay people in sports. Evans explains, "It's a deceptively high level of football because you think, 'Oh it's a bunch of gays playing. How serious[ly] can they take it?' And then you get on the field and there's ex-NFL practice squad players ... You're getting to share the field with the top 1% of athletes in the world and most of them are LGBTQ+. It's like, 'Yeah, gays can

play football too."

events and fundraisers to give visibility

to the LGBTQ+ sports community.

The UGFL stands as a pillar for the gay sports leagues and giving back to the community. Find them at @utahgayfootballleague on Instagram and at *utahgayfootball.com*. If you want a chance to show your support, the UGFL will be hosting a pool party fundraiser on July 19. Here's hoping we get to see more players, more teams and more gay sports leagues in the near future.



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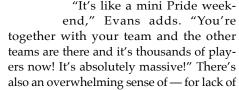
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Race Towards Tomorrow

By Alton Barnhart • altonboy2009@gmail.com

Underneath blue tarps and army blankets sits a '54 Studebaker Commander in my backvard. Partially exposed to the elements, this casket of rustic racing stripes was once a rumbling triumph on both track and salt. Partnering side by side idles the wildride jalopy that is the '31 Chevy Coupe. The junkyard shell traded for a Schwinn, a Malibu hood repurposed into the roof, a distributor poozled from a speedboat and bumper stickers padding the sheet metal interior doors like globe-trotting luggage makes it a true one-ofa-kind. These two vehicles may seem like outdated heaps, but those who look inward see a status symbol of a prominent lifestyle still hitting Utah's roads today.

Once someone applied heavy tinkering to an unfinished garage product, a new culture was born. An outward projection to express personality, hot rodding is the truest form of rebellion. Although splitting the subcul-

Rustic yet fashionable, the '31

Chevy Coupe rumbles with

raftsman perfection!

ture into subcultures over time, the interest in classic Americana cars (1972 and older) still stands. "There was an infinite amount of pride in your car," said Rob Van Canneyt, historian and correspondent of the Stags Car Club. "What you represented gave way to having like-minded kids to do something besides get in trouble." With that, there seems to be a split demographic that I've seen, with different approaches to the Utah car culture: the Traditionalists and the Trailblazers.

The Stags Car Club has been making noise since the late '50s. At 45 members strong, this group builds their hot rods as rolling testaments to a bygone era, especially when a club member's daily driver is up for a plaque. "We look at these cars and discuss, does it support hot-rodding? Does it reflect on us the direction of where we want to go?" says Plaque Committee Chairman BJ Burkdoll. This straight-laced persona stresses all articles in the club, whether through their picker's paradise of a clubhouse converted from a decommissioned service station, or the 1940 Chevy that's gone through many coats of house paint and horsepower. "We kind of looked around and were like, 'Well, who's got a motor?'" says Dale Hammon, one of the club's oldest members. "The car is probably in the best condition now." It's this respect and dedication that gave them their very own exhibit in the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA)

> Deviating from the orthodox, there are the weekend mechanics who second their crescent wrenches for fine-point pens, taking those familiar bends in bodies and fully reimagining them. Case in point: Dave Kindig, the owner of the Kindig-it Design custom shop in Millcreek and host of the televi-

Motorsports Museum in Pomona, California.

sion show Bitchin' Rides. "[If] you're hot-rodding, you're asking for problems right out the gate," Kindig says. "You're building modern technology into a classic car, so you're pretty much prototyping." Twenty-six

years ago, Kindig quit his daily 9-5 to focus on his passion of redefining the hot rod genre. It was his creative young self who toyed with Legos and Hot Wheels that bloomed into project after project. "Before I started my business, street rods were the biggest thing," Kindig says. "Those guys were taking what they loved when they were a kid, when they didn't have the budget to afford the good parts, they were hacking up hot rods." His latest ride, the "TwelveAir," is a 1953 Corvette that started as polished aluminum sheets and took home the 2024 Don Ridler Award. A high-end concept turned out to be an automotive homage.

Dave Kindig's "Twelve Air"

and respect for the past

Nowadays, Utah's car culture is changing... yet still holding up the pitter-patter of loud motoring. All car modifications are an above-thelaw taste of freedom. Fifty years from now, when the Utah Senate kills all possibility of resurrecting a race track and the elites kick motorheads off the Salt Flats, I hope to still see a few kids fumbling around with the rusted shells of junkvard finds in their garage. In the words of Kindig: "There's an ass for every seat ... We gotta keep rock-n-rolling and see what the future brings."



Venture out this summer and stay in a cabin, pitch a tent, or just come play for the day. Camp Tracy is located in Millcreek Canyon, offering a great place to unplug and relax with family and friends. There's lots to do, with classic camp activities and some new adventures that all can enjoy.

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Register online at millcreekcommon.org

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If you asked Bryce Anderson and Doug Hintze about their early days at Landed Footwear, they'd say, "You're looking at And outdoor enthus and sampling to produce the first models And sampling the first

ion-forward, environmentally conscious sneaker company after realizing they needed a shoe that could be worn from town to trail and for every activity in between.

Landed Footwear was designed with the outdoors in mind. As an ode to the classic sneaker look we all know and love, these shoes satisfy the casual style that most active outdoorsy people aim for while also delivering performance and comfort. "Growing up in Utah and spending time in the Pacific Northwest, these environments have definitely influenced the design of these shoes," Anderson says.

While Hintze was attending Utah State University for a degree in design, he began working at Walking Comfort, a local shoe retailer owned by Anderson. Their love for shoes kept them in contact even after Hintze moved away to continue his schooling. "Doug [Hintze] called me one day with the idea of Landed after watching people slide around in their Vans and Converse while hiking. Those shoes just weren't made for the outdoors," Anderson says. As hikers, trail runners and mountain bikers, Hintze and Anderson have noticed more people accessing the outdoors since the pandemic — many of whom are doing



Landed Footwear's outsole is designed for grip and traction, while their insole absorbs impact and provides support.

mance was the most crucial aspect of designing an everyday outdoor shoe. With a proprietary outsole designed for extra traction and grip and a mini polymer plate to increase rigidity, these shoes have the stability one needs to tackle any activity. For Anderson, comfort was his primary focus — during his product research for Landed, he noticed that many of the popular sneakers on the market lack support and comfort. The insoles were designed with dense foam footbeds to absorb impact and provide support. "Together, we melded functionality and comfort into Landed Footwear," Anderson says.

They didn't stop there. Landed Footwear is also striving to be an environmentally friendly, sustainable company. With materials made to last, as well as materials derived from recycled products and leftover scraps from other shoe companies, Landed does its best to reduce environmental impact. "We're always working with our manufacturing partners to find the next best materials and continue improving," Hintze says. These shoes were created to last but also break down when their life has ended. With EcoPure's patented additive, the shoe's rubber soles are designed to biodegrade just a few years after entering a landfill.

Anderson and Hintze continue to improve the design of Landed Footwear's shoes based on customer feedback. "It's rewarding to get great feedback, and it's also rewarding to get bad feedback and then work to improve the product to make it something people love even more," Anderson says.

While Landed Footwear's shoes were designed for everyday wear, Hintze shares, "It's been interesting to see different niche groups, groups we hadn't anticipated, become interested in Landed." Onewheelers and disc golfers are among the surprise groups to fall in love with Landed's unique design. The company is currently working on a hightop model after receiving feedback from some of the



By Mallory Meados @mallory_michele_ **Photos by Derek Brad**

professional Onewheelers they sponsor.

Anderson and Hintze hope their shoes can open people up to the rest of the world, serving as a platform for connection. "Our tagline is 'Time to Explore,' and that doesn't just have to mean getting outdoors; it can also mean going out and exploring new areas and cultures and meeting new people. Walking a few steps in someone else's shoes — that's what the world needs more of. Being inclusive and open to connection that's what we want this shoe to represent," Anderson says.

You can check out Landed Footwear's products online at landedfootwear.com, on their Instagram page @landedfootwear or in-store at Walking Comfort, which has locations in Centerville and Draper.



Doug Hintz (left) and Bryce Anderson (right) designed a shoe that combines casual style with practical outdoor use.



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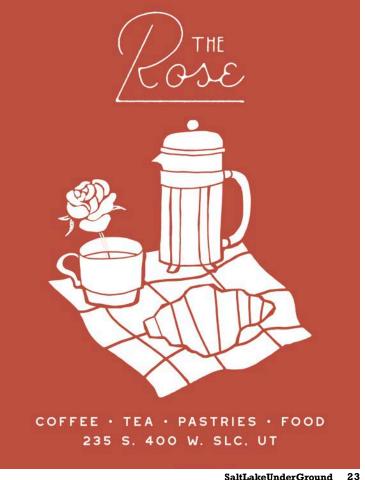
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Outdoor Table for Four: SLC Patios Worth the Wait

By Christian Ledek sea.ledek@gmail.com

Ruth's Diner

ruthsdiner.com

Get yourself up Emigration Canyon Drive and take part in a traditional diner experience that's unlike any other at *Ruth's Diner*. Not only was **Ruth Evans** a handsome woman (the website's words, not mine) she was a one-of-a-kind spirit whose diner was bound to succeed. Seriously. It opened in 1930 but was shut down, so Ruth bought a trolley car to move her diner up to where it's been since 1949. That alone makes the establishment worth trying. When you're seated outside under the natural shade of the tall canyon trees, biting into warm, fluffy, buttery, syrupy pancakes (\$12.50) and your server Charlie fills up another fresh, hot cup of coffee (\$4), you'll be glad you did. With a wide menu full of Day and Evening delights, there's something for everyone at *Ruth's Diner*.

Siegfried's Delicatessen

siegfriedsdelicatessen.com

Downtown SLC is increasingly becoming the place to be. Siegfried's Deli has been there since 1971. Boasting itself as the only German restaurant within the city limits of Salt Lake, it gives off the vibe of a bodega. Besides "German bodega" being a solid band name, the city staple serves up tasty sandwich selections including reubens, salamis, turkeys and the like. Where this place shines brightest is the Haus-

mannskost, or traditional German cuisine. I highly recommend the schnitzel (\$8.50-\$14). Whether it's on a plate or in sandwich form, you cannot go wrong. They also make their sausages (\$12-\$13) fresh EVERY DAY FROM SCRATCH. Maybe you get some with a side of potatoes (\$5) and spaetzle with gravy (\$5) while enjoying the closed off outdoor patio and feel like you've been transported to Berlin?? Yeah, maybe you will. Or, you'll order what you want when you go, and you'll still enjoy the experience immensely.

Finn's Cafe

finnscafe.net

Originally opening in 1952, Finn's Cafe brings a Scandinavian flair with their fare. Do Norwegian waffles (\$12) with cardamom and lingonberries (yum) sound good? How about a Benedict Royale (\$19) where you get smoked salmon with two poached eggs on toasted English muffins (hell yes) topped with Finn's own Hollandaise sauce? Or maybe even Chilaquiles (\$15, drooling, oh my God) with chorizo? Yeah, you didn't see that dish coming, did ya?? Outdoor seating is tucked away with rose bushes and plenty of shade covering. The variety and quality that Finn's Cafe offers knows no bounds. Plus, the husband and wife duo of Finn and Vickey are always thrilled to chat with regulars and newcomers... and Vickey collects fresh rosemary from their garden (ADORABLE) for

the house vinaigrette! Have a good doggo that wants to join? Don't fret, out on that patio, you're all set.

Moochie's Meatballs and More

moochiescheesesteak.com

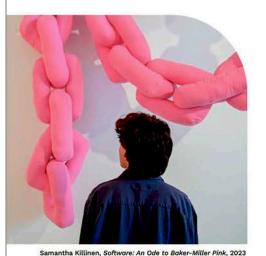
Look, I get it, you're a well-informed foodie who's heard of Moochie's before and the fact they were featured on Guy Fieri's Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives... so why the fuck haven't you been yet?? Moochie's is the Philly cheesesteak TRUTH in Utah — bar none. Let me drive the point home further: If my life depended on it — like, if there was a villain twirling his mustache saying, "I'll let you live if you can procure a sensational cheesesteak!" — I'd bet it all on Moochie's. I'm talking about a hot, gooey, meaty, cheesy miracle of a sandwich (\$7.19 for 6" or \$13.49 for 12") so delicious it could convert a Philly purist mid-bite. If the only way I live is by blowing someone's mind with a cheesesteak, Moochie's isn't just my Hail Mary — it's my full-blown resurrection. Also, the fried ravioli (\$3.99) will blow you away, too.

Four patios, countless calories and zero regrets. Whether you're brunching in a canyon, schnitzeling downtown, lingonberry-ing with the locals or cheesesteaking for your life, these patios are serving up some forking great options.



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Rippey, This is the Only Way, n.d.

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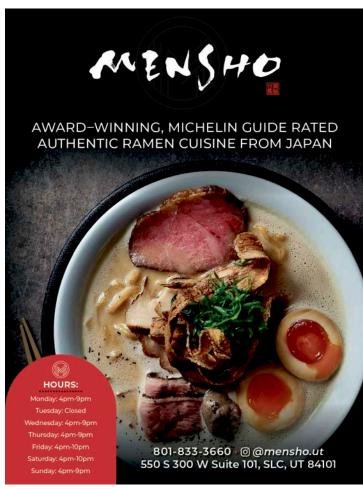
Clayton Rippey's Explorations in Abstraction

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On Tuesday, July 15, join *SLUG* for an intimate night of Latin R&B and jazz (with effortless pop influences) from Detzany and **Jazzy Olivo**, plus opening artist **Chac Xol**. *SLUG Localized* is sponsored by *Riso-Geist* at hosted at *Kilby Court*. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and and tickets are only \$5!

Local Mexican-American singer-songwriter Detzany finds her roots through sound, as she blends Latin R&B and hip-hop with her bilingualism. Growing up in Utah as a first-generation American is never easy, but Detzany navigates her way through it by following in the footsteps of her creative family. While her sister picked up talents in orchestra and band, her parents always had some kind of music playing in their household. Detzany draws inspiration from her family's creativity, choosing to cultivate those talents while staying true to her cultural background.

"I'm very honored to be able to immerse myself in music at such a young age. I'm really grateful for all of the experiences that I've had [which have] made me who I am as a musician and an artist," Detzany says. After graduating from her performing arts high school, Detzany moved on to Utah Valley University to pursue vocal performance and music production, which is where she met her current bandmates.

With inspiration from other bilingual Mexican-American artists like **Kali Uchis** and **Selena Quintanilla-Pérez**, to name a few, Detzany's unique fusion of hip-hop with her soulful essence personifies a genre of its own. This genre can be described to listeners as cinematic, sultry, nostalgic and feminine.

The local artist has already made strides in the reality TV world by having her songs featured in shows like *Vanderpump Rules, Love Is Blind* and *Influenced*. This caught Detzany by complete surprise, as the experience itself had been a surreal moment for the upcoming Latin artist.

"I just didn't have the intention for it to blow up that big, I definitely did have a feeling where I was like, 'I definitely see this on a film.' It's very cinematic, sonically," Detzany says. Her 2020 single "Way Out" was was featured in season six, episode two of *Love Is Blind* and garnered thousands of streams from new listeners around the country.

Detzany has a few live performances featured on her YouTube channel, including one broadcast by **Love Radio** where she sings "Fling," "Horas y Horas" and "Parasite." Spanglish is one of her many charms, and throughout these songs Detzany flawlessly shifts between languages as she grooves to funky jazz beats with her beloved band.

Salt Lake City's music scene is very diverse. While many local artists gain recognition for their music and achievements, Detzany touches on some of the obstacles she faces as a Latin artist: "Salt Lake has become much more diverse over these last few

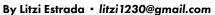
years. Before then, there wasn't an audience for me. That just wasn't the forefront of Salt Lake. It's definitely diversified a lot, but there is definitely a lot more work to do," she says. "I think there needs to be more exposure for Latino artists, and support as well."

Within Salt Lake City's massive Latinx community, Detzany is a gem that shows just how diverse Latin artists can be. She finds a way to blend multiple genres while simultaneously creating her own.

Detzany's latest venture is the production of new music. "This new music I'm creating represents me as an artist. It's a lot more in Spanish, and I feel like it's a storytelling project," Detzany says. She also describes how her new music will be a way of telling the stories of the women who came before her, while also exploring her own experiences with heartbreak and grief.

Make sure to catch Detzany's next performance with *SLUG* (along with even more Latinx local artists) at July's *Localized* show at *Kilby Court* on July 15. For more updates on new music or future performances, make sure to follow Detzany on Instagram at @detzany_.





Dominican-American Latin jazz artist Jazzy Olivo explores her roots in music and the singer-songwriter process as a local Salt Lake musician. Olivo grew up in the Dominican Republic (DR) and was raised around music. With her father as a mentor, Olivo was musically inclined from a young age. She has always been into music for as long as she can remember, with her neighbors in the DR complaining about her vocalizing with the pigeons as early as 6:00 a.m.

"I didn't know what I was doing, I just knew what I was doing was amazing. It made my heart feel good. I knew I rhymed. I knew I was able to memorize things. I've always been the singer, the talker, the actor, the entertainer, the everything, but singing and music is what really connected me with everything," Olivo says. At the age of 17, Olivo moved to Utah, where she pursued her music career with renewed vigor in hopes of a better life and a brighter future for herself.

Olivo was scouted to join the Latin reality TV show *La Academia USA*, representing the state of Utah. Eventually, she won sixth place in singing, then returned home to pursue further vocal studies and dive into her acting career in Mexico City, where she sang in Broadway productions such as *Hairspray*, *Chicago* and *Aladdin*.

"I lived [in Mexico City] for five years doing Broadway, and I came back home to Utah, and I said, 'You know what? I am done being so many other characters — I want to be my own.' I started writing new music, and here I am today," Olivo says. By creating Latin jazz fusion music and incorporating elements such as Taino trumpets and bolero (a Cuban music style characterized by a slower tempo, strong rhythm and melody), Olivo can seamlessly integrate her Dominican roots into her songs, creating music that nourishes the soul.

"I can bring some more jazz or Mexican ballad[s] to give it that punch. It's a world of music that is very effervescent and very passionate. It's about life. It's about resilience and all different levels and turning something usually dark into something melodic and beautiful," Olivo says.

Olivo's music is bilingual, incorporating both English and Spanish. She wants to introduce her culture and her native language to listeners, whether they understand it or not. Her main goal is for her listeners to be able to feel the music rather than try to dissect it as a whole. Olivo's music process is quite unique as her synesthesia allows her to visualize notes or melodies, and she can manifest that imagery from her brain into her music for all to hear. Her songwriting process begins with

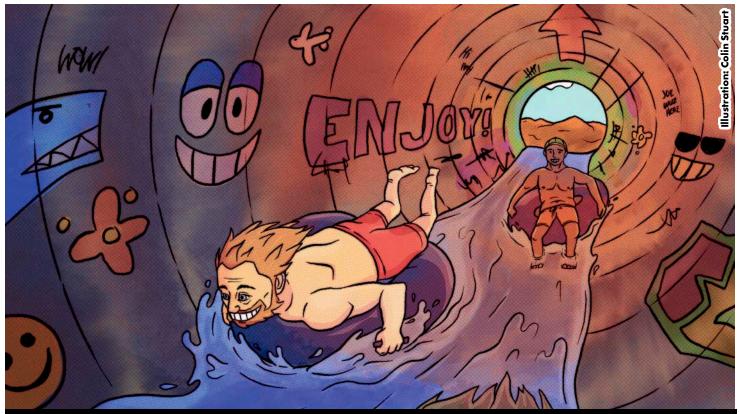
a melody, and from there, it evolves as she adds a rhythm for the song.

Olivo experienced a period of silence in her music career following the passing of her partner, Courtney Isaiah Smith, a local jazz musician who co-founded Jazz Vespers, a weekly event hosted by First *Unitarian Church of Salt Lake City.* Smith was and continues to be Olivo's biggest motivation for creating new music. Smith had encouraged her to write down everything she was feeling and to convert her feelings into music; he was one of the reasons why she wrote her most recent song, "No." Olivo is currently working on producing more music that Smith had left unfinished, including a song that features a duet of him and Olivo. "We have to put our hearts out there and his heart is in all of this music, and I think Courtney has more to enchant people with," Olivo says.

Follow Jazzy Olivo on YouTube and Instagram at @jazzyolivomusic where she posts new music, upcoming shows and day-inthe-life, vlog-style videos. Join SLUG and other listeners at Olivo's Localized performance on July 15 at Kilby Court, where she will be debuting "velvety wonder," her first-ever love song dedicated to loving herself.

shooting the Tube!

By Mike Brown • mgb90210@gmail.com 🖿



Yes Mike, the tube still exists! Kids these days continue to use the drainage pipe under I-215 as a summer waterslide, just like Mike Brown did in the '90s.

When I was a kid, we didn't call it "goin' tubin'!" because obviously that terminology did not even exist in the '90s. It was called "shooting the tube." And if you grew up on the mean streets of East Salt Lake like I did, then you know what shooting the tube is, but since most people reading this do not, I shall explain.

Honestly, I don't even know if the tube exists anymore — I did not have the time nor fortitude to research that for this article. But what it is (or was) I believe to be a sewage drain of sorts that runs under the I-215 freeway at the top of *Tanner Park*, kind of near Suicide Rock.

Side note: I have no idea how Suicide Rock got its name — that could be another decent article — but it's a big rock that people decided to vandalize with graffiti and since it was just a giant stupid rock, no one cared. As far as I know, no one actually committed suicide on Suicide Rock, but I could be wrong. Also I still really like the band Suicidal Tendencies.

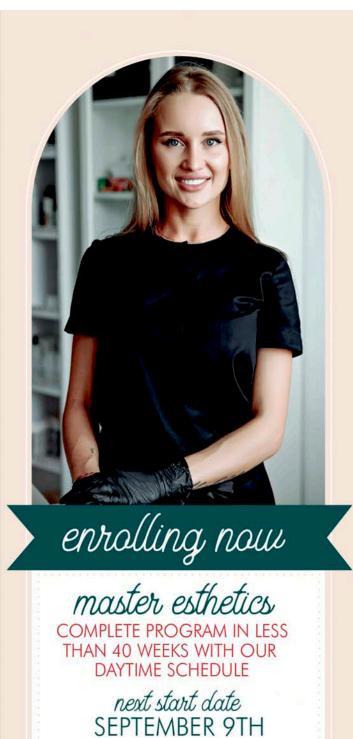
Anyway, the tube would drain water like a small river and was full of spiders and looked like a perfect place to get murdered. Logically, it was a safe place for us East Salt Lake kids to have some shenanigans. Someone built this makeshift floodgate with a rope on it and it would back up the water, then you would pull the rope and a blast of water would shoot you down the tube, catapulting you into a pool at the end.

It was exhilarating.

This was the kind of shit you had to do for fun before the internet, and by God was shooting the tube fun as shit. I remember that you'd be advised to wear jean shorts instead of a swimsuit because the chance of your ass getting shredded was like, one hundred percent.

Now that I think about it, shooting the tube was the most white trash waterslide in existence — no irony lost on my part for growing up in one of the most privileged suburbs in America — but there's still a brilliance to the engineering of whoever built the gate that would block the water at the top.

As I'm typing this, nostalgia is flowing through my tiny brain like the water shooting down the tube and all that Tanner Park had to offer. From the boring Mormon cookouts and Little League Baseball games and other church events, to rumors of Satanic rituals taking place there at night that my straight-edge friends would try to record on a camcorder (because they were too lame to go to parties), Tanner Park does hold a special place in my cold, cold heart. If the mayor isn't busy doing anything, she should designate the tube as a Utah historic landmark.



perform

* CHEMICAL PEELS

*** LASER HAIR REMOVAL**

* SKIN REJUVENATION

* TATTOO REMOVAL

OF ADVANCED

SKINCARE

* MICRODERM



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SKYDIVE THE

S&S PRESENTS

JULY 2025

Earthgang - 7.12 Twilight Concert Series - Gallivan Center

Sierra Ferrell - 7.17 Twilight Concert Series - Library Square | Kevian Kraemer - 7.18 The Complex

Heart Attack Man - 7.23 Soundwell | SCOWL - 7.24 Soundwell | CAAMP 7.24 Granary Live

Scene Queen - 7.29 Soundwell | Band Of Horses - 7.30 Ogden Twilight | Olivia Dean 8.1 Soundwell

The Acacia Strain - 8.3 The Complex | late night drive home - 8.3 Soundwell Waxahatchee - 8.6 Twilight Concert Series - Gallivan Center | Wasia Project - 8.6 The Complex

Jamie XX - 8.7 Ogden Twilight | Julie - 8.7 Soundwell

Mt Joy - 8.12 Twilight Concert Series - Library Square | Men | Trust - 8.12 The Complex

KILBY COURT

7.2

7.12

7.14

7.16

7.22

7.23

7.24

7.25

7.26 7.27

7.28

Sunny Day Soap Opera +Windsock + DustDust BATTERY + Iollzing + Bobo

eardrums + gapyear + mypetspider + kick ass EmJay Hink + Rachel Jenkins + Cutie 7.5 The Pelicants + The Anchorage + Sindar SPYHOP Presents: Burnout, Almond Extract, Dane Lane and the Ghouls Roo Nostalgia + ZekeUltra Boyfriend Sushi Town + Windsock + Early Bird 99.9FM KUAA Presents

An Evening With: Caroline Rose Chegoya + The Shaky Calls Lake Effect + Sunnies

Orthodox

mypetspider + self proclaimed celebrity+ dead butterflies The Madeline + P.S. Destroy This + Molotov Dress Jaxen Hanks + Body Double

+ Francco Villar Keep Flying

Old Mervs

Mustard Service

BashfortheWorld

Mansionair Charlotte Lawrence

METRO MUSIC HALL

URBAN LOUNGE

The Drag Cookout: AJA! (of RuPaul's Drag Race)	7.3
Declaration of Resistance: A Community Education, Dance, and Networking Event	7.4
Reapers of the Sky + Graveyard Violet + Dead Feedback + Eyes of Eva	7.11
Starfarer + Runestomper + CΔTH∇DE	7.12
Silent Theory	7.13
Nekromantix	7.16
iMAYDAY!	7.17
The Emo Night Tour	7.18
Voodoo Glow Skulls	7.19
No Horizon - EP Release	7.25
Dram Me To The Runway	7.26
Spineshank	8.2
Tina Burner (of RuPaul's Drag Race)	8.8
A'Whora (of RuPaul's Drag Race UK)	8.16
Clan of Xymox	8.18
The Sword	8.20
Deadly Sins - Cabaret Mega Show!	8.30
Attack Attack!	8.31
Bit Brigade Performs Mega Man X	9.2
OSEES LOW TICKETS (LOW TICKETS)	9.9
OSEES ON TICKETS ON TICKETS 90.9PM KRCL Presents: Santigold	9.10
Kombread (of RuPaul's Drag Race)	9.12
	The same of the sa

Sapphic Factory: Queer Joy Party	7.5
Aurhe + Drusky + The Stoats	7.10
Metalcore Night	7.11
Twilight After Party: BlockParti	7.12
John Garcia (of KYUSS)	7.13
Ben Kweller CONTICKETS	7.14
Open Mike Eagle	7.15
Twilight After Party: The Mountain Grass Unit	7.7
Quiet Oaks + Strange Familia + Boyfriend Sushi Town	7.18
This Will Destroy You	7.19
99.9 FM KUAA Presents: Gold Celeste & Vinyl Williams	7.22
Built To Spill LOW TICKETS	7.23
99.9 FM KUAA Presents: Frankie and the Witch Fingers	7.24
FRIDAY NIGHT FEVER: DANCE THROUGH THE DECADES	7.25
Paper Flowers: Remembering Fleetwood Mac	7.26
SadGirl & The McCharmlys	7.28
Starmy Album Release + Broke City + King Niko	8.8
Little Hurricane	8.10
Red Elvises	8.14
SAVE THE DATE! Psych Lake 2025	8.15-16



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