

OPINION PAGE

Wave's editorial position:

School's Out When?

The Issue:

School District adopts new "Early Out" day for teacher collaboration

We Suggest:

Support the new program by being involved with your children's teachers.

The Wasatch County School District is continually working to find ways to provide the best educational opportunity for our children.

Building new, state of the art schools is one way to help ensure our kids have a positive learning experience.

The school district's newest venture, which was approved at the school board meeting yesterday, is another key to providing an exceptional learning and teaching environment.

Beginning with the 2007-08 school year, each school in the district will adopt an "Early Out" day. Every Wednesday our children's school day will end one hour earlier.

This new program has not been

implemented to give teachers one more hour in the day to be off work and run personal errands.

Rather, the teachers will use this hour to meet and collaborate with their same-grade counterparts on the elementary level and same-content colleagues on the secondary level to help improve individual and collective student results.

The program, while new to most of the schools in our district, has been in practice at Heber Valley Elementary School and, according to the teachers, labeled very successful thus far.

We appreciate the Wasatch County School Board's actions in endeavoring to take an individualized approach to our children's education.



BAXTER BLACK

ON THE EDGE OF COMMON SENSE

Coon Dog Names

One of the hazards of marrying a redneck, an east Texas long-suffering wife told me, is the husband's habit of naming their children coon dog names; Buck, Jake, Sal, Missy, Hoot, Booger, Blue, Red, Blackie, Lady, Bubba, Sweetie, Smokey, Tank, Scooter, Jimbo, or Ring. I know people named Cratus, Cretia, Eulafern, Ysidro, Helmut and Orville, but I've never heard those names mentioned in hunting dog shows on the Outdoor Channel.

We're working on a website addition, a "Hall of Fame" with pictures of animals named Baxter. It includes many dogs, horses, cats, and some steers, but also included are mules, swine, reptiles, ferrets, snakes, fish, birds and one beetle - black, of course! In my case, I'm not sure if having a hamster named after you is a compliment, But naming your first-born after a dearly departed good hunting dog is surely meant to be an honor. "Eat your Gerber's, Badger, you want to grow up big and strong and be able to drool."

Naming after animals is an ancient traditional ritual. I had a Chinese virology teacher named Fu Ho Chow and a pharmacology teacher named Dr. Heron. There's a state in Mexico called Chihuahua, a country called Turkey, a river named Salmon, and of course, states christened Carolina and New Hampshire.

I've always been intrigued by the popularity of naming kids after towns in Wyoming; Cody, Douglas, Chayenne, Kaycee, Sheridan, Jackson, Powell and Laramie. So far they've avoided Thermopolis, Chugwater and Baggs, but an unusual name can make a kid unique; Englebert, Dweezil, Pinky, Elvis, Ejulio, Bunny or Babbette. Indians are perhaps

the most ardent practitioners of naming after animals; Sitting Bull, Little Squirrel, Roan Horse, Buffalo Bill (sorry), Crow, Elkhorn, Deer Slayer, Eagle Feather, Big Foot.

So, regarding the east Texas Lady's concern about her husband's choice of coon dog names for kids, it could be worse. She could have married an astronomer who insisted on naming his children after constellations, or a doctor naming his kids after surgical procedures, Mike Kroscope, Lipo Suction, And Angio Plasty.

Or a geologist who chose names from natural formations. "These are my children Alluvial, Tectonic, Strata and our new baby, Hemisphere."

Or a corn farmer - Hy and Stubbie Enough, Enough! Stick with names that are named after a baseball cap and a ceremony - Bill and Mary.

Letters to the Editor

- The Wasatch Wave welcomes letters to the editor.
• When submitting your letter, please include your full name, signature, address and daytime telephone number. Anonymous letters will not be published.
• Letters sent by e-mail or fax must also be accompanied by a copy of the letter (sent by U.S. Mail) containing the author's signature, verifying authenticity.
• The Wave reserves the right to edit and/or condense letters. Letters are limited to space availability. However, please restrict your Letters to no more than 500 words. Letters containing libelous material will not be printed.

SUDOKU!

The Wave now offers a new feature to our readers... a weekly Sudoku puzzle. The object to solving the puzzle is to enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces. Every row must contain one of each digit. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square.

The answer can be found on page A5

Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9 in various positions.



Letters

From The Wave's Readers

Thanks from Chamber

Editor: The Heber Valley Chamber of Commerce/Convention & Visitors Bureau (Chamber/CVB) would like to thank all who contributed to this year's annual Easter Egg Hunt. This year the egg hunt was held on April 7.

We felt the event was a big hit with the children and their parents. Approximately 2000 children attended. The Chamber/CVB purchased \$2000 in candy and toys for the hunt. Donations from local businesses supplemented the rest. The businesses who donated candy and toy-filled eggs and/or made a financial donation are:

The Homestead Resort & Spa, Delta Stone/R.J. Enterprises, Balance Wellness & Therapeutic Massage, Water from the Moon, First American Title Company, Mountain House Grill, Dunbeck & Gordon, Moonbeam Gallery, Wasatch & Summit County Children's Justice Center; Redmond Minerals, Inc., Curb It Recycling, UPS Store, Comcast, Papa Murphy's, Midway Montessori School, Heber City Theatres, IHC Heber Valley Medical Center, Heber Ranch Supply, Zions Bank, Mountain American Credit Union, Wave Publishing and Curves.

Our sincere appreciation also goes out to Wasatch County Search & Rescue. Each year, this group of volunteers sacrifice a morning of sleeping in with their families to operate this traditional event. They create the course, set out the treats and control the crowds. This event could not take place without their help. We also recognize the many great sacrifices these volunteers make year round to rescue those who find themselves in need while recreating in our county.

We'd also like to recognize Jeanette Capson for her very special role in this year's Easter Egg Hunt. We thank her for taking on this awkward, but needful role. Without her service, the Easter Bunny could not have made his annual appearance.

As this event continues to grow in popularity, the Chamber/CVB will continue to count on the donations of its members and the Wasatch County Search & Rescue to keep this great tradition going. We are so grateful for their generosity and commitment to the children of our community and the Easter Egg Hunt.

Jason Giles, Tish Dahmen & Connie Keith Heber Valley Chamber/CVB

In Favor of Wal Mart

Editor: I am so happy that someone spoke up in favor of WalMart and another big box coming to Heber.

Jerry from Charleston, wrote in April 18 letter to the editor, but said he couldn't vote because he lives in the county.

I bet many in Kamas, Oakley, and Wallsburg and those in Silver Summit would love to have the Big Boxes close to them. We could lose out on all the tax money to someone else.

I have lived in many small towns in

California and Utah that have grown to larger ones, but the growth is inevitable so why not reap the rewards right here.

Wal Mart does not have an adverse affect on our night sky, it didn't in St. George, it offers some things that we can't buy in Heber.

I signed the petition only thinking it was fair to give all a chance but forgot about the neighboring towns. I signed so I could vote for the sq. footage increase, not against Wal Mart.

Marilyn Dews Heber City

Message from UVSC Administrator

Editor: Today I had the opportunity to gather in my office with some students, colleagues and community members to participate in a moment of silence in a show of mourning to honor the victims at Virginia Tech and support all those who were affected in this tragedy. I couldn't help but reflect on how powerful community is in times of tragedy. I hope we never have to experience something like the shootings in trolley square, Columbine High or Virginia Tech, but if something horrific ever did happen there is no doubt in my mind the residents of Heber Valley and the surrounding communities would unite in the truest form of community to heal and move forward. Our family has had the pleasure of being part of this wonderful community now for just a little more than a month. I want to express my appreciation and gratitude for the warm welcome and support we have received as we relocated from Springville.

The UVSC Wasatch Campus seeks to serve the needs of Wasatch and Summit county residents through offering academic degrees and cultural and educational programs. The greatest success in education is through a true partnership. I am very appreciative to the Utah PTA, Wasatch County PTA, local PTA councils and educators that provided the support to make the Reading Conference (hopefully 1st annual) such a success. The conference was held last Saturday on April 21 at our Wasatch Campus. Several nationally recognized experts in literacy presented on how to help our young children become readers now and experience the joys and successes that come with increasing literacy skills and abilities over a lifetime.

I would like to express sincere appreciation to Marilyn Kofford of the state PTA organization, Jen Kelson and Debbie Jones of the Wasatch PTA council, and Doug Gardner from our campus for their commitment of time and resources to make this event successful. Those who attend this conference truly experienced something that will impact their lives and their children's lives forever. This is what education is all about and this is the very kind of experience we at the Wasatch Campus want to continue to provide to the communities.

Shad E. Sorenson, UVSC-Wasatch Admin. Heber City

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Wedding articles: \$15.00; one year olds, thank you notes: \$10.00; obituaries (1 photo): \$25.00

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