

**FOCUS**

**Dance Fever**

Showcase of local talent at main event, 4



**FEATURE**

**Senior Dance**

For senior sweethearts everyday is Valentine's, 5



**EDUCATION**

**Street Smarts**

Local Educator named outstanding teacher, 8



**Spanish Fork Press**

Utah Press Association

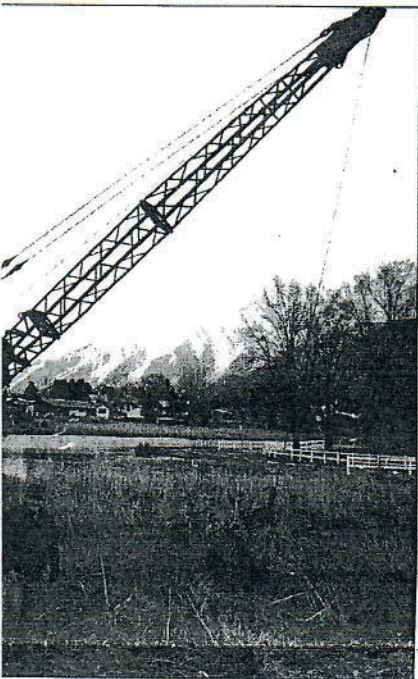


Judged Best Weekly Group 1 Newspaper in Utah

Number 09

Thursday, March 1, 2001

50 cents



School District, stands with Mayor Randy Brailsford of Spanish Fork at Salem Pond, where work on a "wetlands classroom" has been extremely generous with his time and heavy equipment at the site in preparation for a boardwalk around the area.

**Classroom planned at wetland Park**

"wetlands classroom." The wetland will have a boardwalk observation deck enabling to walk around the area, first-hand the pools, vegetation and wildlife that make up a liv-

ing wetlands ecosystem. The "outdoor classroom," which will be called Salem Wetlands Park, will be next to Salem Pond. A coordinating wetlands curriculum that coincides with Utah's Core Curriculum and teaches children about the value and role of wetlands, is planned.

The proposed wetlands park area, about half a block from Salem Elementary, has taken some abuse in the last few years, said Roxanna Johnson, grant writer for Nebo School District. People have worn a foot path through the wetland that no longer lets water get to some areas. Some people have even used the site for dumping. The location has become an eyesore and a nuisance, said Salem Mayor Randy Brailsford. The ground needs to be leveled so water can flow freely into the area, and so that vegetation can grow easily.

**acquisition**

Anderson family played a major role in the decision to purchase the news- paper. Lane's Dad, Mr. Anderson, has agreed to help

**our HERITAGE**

**The Life Blood of the Community**

by Lane Henderson  
After much agonizing, I have committed myself to sell the weekly newspaper that I love.

For more than 20 years now, I've worked 50 plus hours a week. I worked to scrape every column inch of advertising and for every single subscriber, I've seen this paper grow into a prime example of hometown community journalism at its brightest and best.

But now it's time to let her go. My family and I have answered another call to serve our faith in the wonderful country of Italy. We will relocate on or around the first of July. Until our departure, I will remain the local publisher for Pulitzer Newspapers. My hope is that the transition will be smooth and the great citizens of this area will embrace old values with a new look.

I can tell you in four words the best way to sell your newspaper: Get a qualified buyer that will keep the integrity and free voice of independent newspapering in place. Pulitzer answered the call.

One must also keep in mind that standard operating procedures can differ from one owner to another. One publisher may believe in a large editorial staff and top notch production. Another may be more concerned with circulation development. A third may believe the bulk of the dollars need to go towards marketing and sales. Pulitzer has established the playing field and will keep the hometown spirit alive and vibrant with added resources that will streamline production and quality capabilities.

The newspaper office will move to 42 East 300 North, around the corner from J-Mart Publishing. J-Mart will continue to operate as printing,

copying and design specialists. I will maintain the ownership of the publishing company and my parents will continue to operate the business until I return in three years. In other words, we will still print anything you want, including business forms and wedding invitations.

The value of a hometown paper first struck me several years ago while I, as a young man, was living in the northern part of Italy. Being away from a small Utah town and thrust into a large urban area is difficult enough, let alone being separated from family and friends. Next to letters from mom and dad, my most anticipated piece of mail was unquestionably The Spanish Fork Press.

Woven through its pages was the history and happenings of a community steeped in pioneer heritage and laced with tidbits of everyday life. From the lead story to the smallest classified ad, one could glean information about the town and about its people. Area correspondents kept me informed on the happenings in Leland and the water turns in Palmyra.

Where else but in a small hometown publication could you read about Blake's first birthday or about Kyle Bufton's granny shot from half court at the basketball game.

It seems a small paper can, over the course of a lifetime, report on and print the name of every citizen within the boundaries of its readership. The printed page will tell all: when you were born, if you earned a spot on the honor roll, how many touchdowns you made in your football career, when you graduated from high school and college.

It carries lines concerning when you served in the armed forces, if you volunteered to carry your religion to others, and what girl you chose to

marry. Later it will announce the birth of your children. It will brag about your advancements in the work place, and it alerts the town to your appointment as president of the Kiwanis Club.

When the time comes and you are called back home to a higher station of existence, the paper will tell the community of your demise and state in a few concentrated lines all of your achievements from birth to death.

No other media source does such a thorough job of reporting on the important things of life. T.V. and radio certainly can't feature each of its listening audience and even the large daily newspapers fail to focus on the individual.

In generations to come when social scientists seek information about "our town," and "our time," they will thrash through the fluff and underbrush of large media sources and look deep into the pages of small hometown papers. Hidden within the lines and among the faces will be the life blood of America... the true story of real people who lived, loved and died in everyday society.

I know that small community newspapers are often taken for granted, but just ask the people of any small town that have lost their local newspaper-or never had one. They know the virtues-and the benefits.

This newspaper has always been a chronicler of small-town life and no matter how big we get we will always be your hometown newspaper. It's hard to compete or beat a community's journal of history as it happens.

The bottom line to all of this is simple. Read all about it in The Spanish Fork Press.

**Water issues considered; Irrigation fees triple**