

THE BLANDING BRIEF

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

PHOTO CREDIT: LANE PALMER.

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BLANDING CITY INTRODUCES QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Blanding City is excited to introduce the first issue of *The Blanding Brief*. This quarterly newsletter will provide community information and news to keep you briefed on the great things going on in our community.

It will highlight City events, sports registrations, fun features, community reminders, Citizen of the Year, Employee of the Quarter, City news, projects, and much more.

Our hope is to help you as the community feel more informed about what is going on with City projects, events and programs.

We invite you to come in and speak with staff and City officials about ideas, concerns, or things you would like to see in the community.

Take a look inside and enjoy!

Community Calendar

- NOW - July 23** Swim Lesson Registrations for July 24 - August 4
- JULY 17 - AUG 9** Flag Football Registrations 1st & 2nd grade
- Tackle Football Registrations 3rd-6th Grade
- SEPT 1 - OCT 3** Girls Basketball Registrations 3rd - 6th Grade
- SEPT 4, LABOR DAY** Last Day of the Pool Season
- SEPT 30** Fall Festival
- NOV 4** Bears Ears Marathon

When is the Pool Heater Getting Fixed?

The big questions on everyone's mind this summer is, "What happend to the pool heater and when is it going to be fixed?"

The short answer is that the new part just got in and is getting fixed now!

The long answer is that the City does annual inspections on the pool equipment and keeps a stock of spare parts for maintenance. Unfortunately, the part that broke

is not a typical part that we keep in stock. Think of it like a transmission in a car. We inspect certain things for annual maintenance, but this was something deep inside that should not have broke and we do not keep spare parts for. As such, we had to wait for several weeks for the new part to be ordered and installed.

The heat should be back on soon. Thanks for your patience!

Tip of the month



Did you know that you can sign up online to pay your monthly utility bill?

Online bill pay and autopay saves you time and gives you more flexibility with paying your bills.

All you need is the internet, your account information, and an email address.

Steps to sign up:

1. Visit online at www.blanding.city
2. Click on "Pay/View My Utilities Onlie"
3. Complete the registration form.
4. Pay your bill OR set up autopay.

City Office Hours

If you have questions or need help with something, contact us at:

Monday - Thursday
7:30am - 5:30pm

Friday
7:30am - Noon

(435) 678-2791

cityoffice@blanding-ut.gov
50 W 100 S, Blanding, UT

www.blanding-ut.gov

Fourth of July Celebration

- Stars & Stripes -



The 2023 Independence Day Celebrations were busy! The long-standing Edge of the Seaters Melodrama kicked things off on June 30th and their performances ran throughout the celebration. Their show was titled "Here Come the Cows...or Never Say Moo in Grayson."

Diving for Dollars was a hit, as well as the first of our many sports tournaments.

The celebrations saw a 6 on 6 volleyball tournament, Mini Madness, Midnight Madness, the annual 5k, a 4 on 4 outdoor volleyball tournament and the disc golf tournament.

We had large turnouts for many of these events, with Midnight Madness finishing at 7am on July 4th!

This year also saw two new events. The Bears Ears Farms had a grand opening that was certainly grand! With food, activities, booths, music, a climbing wall and more the event was well attended. They had well over 700 visitors!

This was also the first year of the Grayson Music Festival. They had several bands show up as well as vendors at Centennial Park. Both events are welcome additions to our yearly schedule.

Our celebrations wouldn't be complete without many of our other traditional events, such as the ATV Poker Run, Jackpot Horsegames, Chalk Art Competition, Kids Games, Scales and Tails, the quilt show and more. The many vendors in the park also make the celebrations

more eventful and fun.

The Mayor's Prayer Breakfast was well attended. We appreciate our speakers, Phil Lyman, Nidia Jones and our Outstanding Citizen of the Year, Andrea Jeppesen.

The theme for the parade was "Stars and Stripes" and our floats represented the theme well with patriotic floats and presentations.

The turn out for the band and fireworks this year was also one of the best and most energetic that we have seen.

We want to thank our sponsors, volunteers, vendors and participants. Each of you make these events what they are. We can't wait to see you next year!

Outstanding Citizen of the Year

- ANDREA JEPPESEN -

Blanding City proudly announces Andrea Jeppesen as the recipient of the 2023 Outstanding Citizen of the Year award.

This honor recognizes Andrea’s unwavering dedication and selfless commitment to the betterment of her community.

Andrea has dedicated countless hours in the elementary school, Family History Center, provided her musical talents to assist others, and created memorable events that bring people together within the community.

“Her tireless dedication and genuine care for others make her the epitome of an outstanding citizen. Blanding City is privileged to honor Andrea with this well-deserved award,” said Mayor Logan Monson.

"Be the person that initiates, that starts the conversations, that does the inviting, the gathering. See people. See a need. Go do your small part."

- Andrea Jeppesen



Blanding Revives Huff to Bluff as Bears Ears Marathon



Hanging on the wall inside the San Juan Wellness Center is a plaque with the names of the past winners of the former Huff to Bluff Marathon. Often, City Staff are asked, "When are you going to bring back Huff to Bluff?"

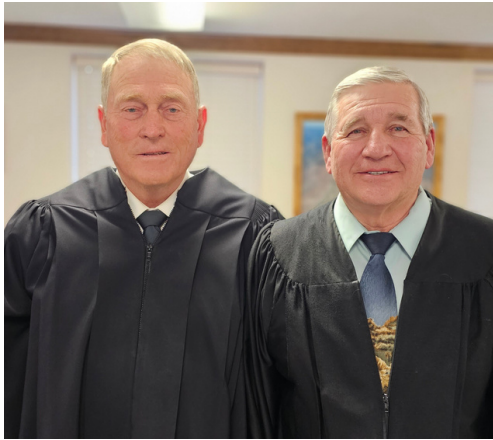
After looking into what it would take to undergo such an effort, the City decided that it would be a fun event to revive, but with three exceptions:

1. Hold it in the cool and more consistent weather of the fall.
2. Introduce a Half Marathon option.
3. Rename it to attract visitors.

The hope is to provide opportunity for more locals to participate by introducing a half marathon and to attract visitors to support economic development and local businesses in Blanding and the surrounding areas during the shoulder season.

Big thanks to our sponsors UNHS, Energy Fuels, and Utah.com!





Mayor & Council Appoint Justice Court Judge

On April 25, 2023, Mayor Logan Monson made his recommendation to the Blanding City Council to appoint Kelly Laws as the new Justice Court Judge.

After the announcement of Judge Lyon Hazelton's retirement from the Blanding Justice Court, the search for

applicants as the new judge began.

Judge Laws is a long-time resident of Blanding City and previously spent 18 years serving on the Blanding City Council and 20 years on the Transportation Special Service District.

Employee of the Quarter

Have you interacted with or seen a city employee who has done an outstanding job in the community?

Now you can make recommendations for Employee of the Quarter!

Each person nominated either or selected as the employee of the quarter will also be considered for employee of the year.

Both the quality and the quantity of recommendations for employee of the quarter and Employee of the year will be taken into consideration by City Administration and the Mayor.

Submit recommendation at: www.blanding-ut.gov/greatemployees



Meet the Manager

Do you know that Blanding's City Manager has open office hours for the public to come meet with him to discuss questions, concerns, or share ideas about what you would like to see in the community?

Open Office Hours

Every Monday from Noon to 3pm

Set an Appointment

You can set up another time to meet with the City Manager by simply emailing cityoffice@blanding-ut.gov. Put in the email subject line, "Appointment with City Manager."

Semi-Annual Meetings

The City Manager is also planning to hold two open house/round table meetings each year for residents and businesses to have group discussions about things you would like to see in the community. Look for those dates in the next issue of *The Blanding Brief*.

What is the City Manager's Role?

The City Manager is the Chief



Administrative Officer for the City. He is appointed as the Mayor's designee to implement executive priorities, oversee City departments and staff, and manage the day-to-day operations of the City. The City Manager also oversees the implementation of legislative priorities, policies, ordinances, and the annual budget approved by the City Council.

Who is the City Manager?

David Johnson was made the Blanding City Manager in January 2021. He grew up in the military and earned degrees from BYU and the University of Utah. He has worked for three other municipalities, and previously worked for private and non-profit organizations. He is married with 4 kids who attend Blanding Elementary, ARL and San Juan High.