

The Richfield Reaper

Celebrating 130 years

\$100

TRAIL DAYS



DAVID ANDERSON/RICHFIELD REAPER

Michael Allrunner performs a traditional dance during the inaugural Trail Days celebration Saturday at the Richfield City Park. The event featured several different entertainers as well as ways to enjoy local trails.

Finding one's inner hero on the trail

By David Anderson
Editor

The inaugural Trail Days event featured events, entertainment and at least one real life superhero as it was hosted Friday and Saturday.

"It's been great," said Matt Creamer, Richfield City manager and committee member for the event.

The event included 99 people who participated in the Rooster Ride, a bike ride that offered

courses ranging in length from 33 to 100 miles. There was also a motorcycle poker run, which drew approximately 30 riders.

"It was a big success," Creamer said. He said the hope is to grow and expand the event.

"We've had quite a few good suggestions along the way," Creamer said. There was also a pair of ATV rides, a golf tournament and a fly-in/car show at Richfield's airport.

"We had a great turnout this year," said Adam Robinson, air-

port manager. This is the second year for the fly-in/car show, but Robinson said he wanted to tie it together with Trail Days.

Another pre-existing event that was tied to Trail Days was the Fishlake Relay, which drew 28 teams this year.

One of the teams — Ava's Avengers — ran the race to help raise money and share a message of hope.

"Anyone can be a superhero," said Andy Wright. "You just

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Taxes rising

Monroe working to save street infrastructure

By David Anderson
Editor

MONROE — Anytime someone says the words "tax hike," it can be a little scary.

Monroe City is in the process of raising taxes in order to pay for road improvements throughout the town.

"We haven't had a tax increase here for 38 years," said Allison Leavitt, city recorder. As oil and construction prices have continued to rise, the town's class c road funds haven't been able to keep up, Leavitt said. The result is that Monroe's roads are in need of maintenance and refurbishment.

Monroe is raising property taxes by 100.28 percent, or from \$94.30 to \$188.82 on a home valued at \$150,000. The bump in tax rates will be on Monroe City's portion of the property tax bill.

"We've had some years where we've put off doing a road project and combined it with the following year," said Monroe Mayor Johnny Parsons. He said the city has consolidated annual road maintenance in an effort to save on mobilization fees charged by contractors, trying to stretch the budget.

One of the last major road endeavors undertaken by Monroe involved using rotomilled material, covered with a double-chip seal.

"They said we would get five to eight years out of it, we've got 15," Parsons said.

The proposed project would utilize a roads inventory, completed by Jones

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Renew or undo

Richfield voters to have choice on PAR tax

By David Anderson
Editor

Voters in Richfield City will have the chance to decide whether or not they want a funding source for the city's parks and recreation program to continue.

The park, arts and recreation tax was established after voters supported it in 2011. The tax adds one tenth of one percent onto everything sold in Richfield City.

"It's been a great funding source that's pretty painless," said Matt Creamer, city manager. "It's a small amount."

For example, the tax adds 40 cents to a \$400 grocery bill, or \$10 to a \$10,000 purchase.

"We would have struggled mightily without it," Creamer said. He said the funds have been used to help improve recreation infrastructure, and keep programming in place.

The tax is required to be reauthorized by voters every seven years. It generates some \$230,000 annually for the city's parks, recreation facilities and programming.

The PAR tax will be the only item that is specific to Richfield City on this year's ballot.

The tax has allowed many improvements to the city's parks and recreation infrastructure, as well as allowing the pool to continue operating, Creamer said. Some of the PAR tax has been used to purchase equipment, such as mowers and golf carts for Cove View Golf Course.

The tax has allowed for upgrades to the city's pool, like a new roof, air handling equipment and an Aquatrack. It has also helped in maintenance of the city's bicy-

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FIRES

Two fires caused extensive damage Monday evening. One home was destroyed as well as a loader in the separate cases.

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QUOTE

Quote of the week — "No wonder farming is so hard."

— David Anderson

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WEATHER

Check the current five-day forecast at richfieldreaper.com

Date	High	Low	Prec.
Aug. 21	91	62	.25
Aug. 22	81	52	
Aug. 23	86	53	
Aug. 24	87	56	
Aug. 25	89	54	
Aug. 26	89	57	
Aug. 27	87	64	
Aug. 28	51		

Water year precipitation to date, 4.89; to the same date last year, 5.05; all of last year, 7.10.



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Reality stars visit Salina dancers

By Trina Willardson
Staff Writer

SALINA — A pair of reality TV stars visited a Salina dance studio Friday evening.

Ava Cota, 13, and her mother, Jeanette, most notably known from the TV show Dance Moms spent the evening with 30 dancers from N & B Dance Factory & Gym in Salina, Friday.

While Cota is typically recognized for being on Dance Moms, she has also appeared on other TV shows such as So You Think You Can Dance, The Bold and The Beautiful, as well as appearing in four music videos, where she worked with high profile choreographers and singers that include Kristin McQuaid, Grace Vanderwaal and Jena Rose.

"Being 5'10" at the age 13 has made certain aspects of being a dancer difficult," Cota said to the participants of the master class. "I was cut from a dance team for being too tall and have been criticized for being too thin ... Yet, I truly



TRINA WILLARDSON/RICHFIELD REAPER

Ava Cota, left, and mother, Jeanette, of Dance Moms instructs and inspires local dancers in Salina, Friday.

believe that no matter what you look like, you can do anything if you put your mind to it and work hard.

"It's important to me to show people that you can be different and you can do what you love to do," Cota said.

Cota is an advocate for anti-bullying and discusses the topic with dancers during her master classes. She has also started a social media movement for teens

called #13Reasons4Me and #13ReasonsofLove-Movement. The goal of this is to help others lift themselves up, as well as lift others up during times of need, Cota said.

N & B Dance Factory & Gym originally opened in Salt Lake City and later relocated to Salina. It has been open for 38 years and is owned and operated by Natalie Christensen Porter and Isabella Christensen and offers a variety of dance,

tumbling, trampoline and technique classes for ages two and up.

"It was so great to have them visit our studio," said Porter. "They are kind, humble people and offered so much insight and inspiration to the participants."

Another master class will be announced at a later date.

For more information contact Porter at (435) 979-0126 or visit nbdancefactory.com.

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RIVALRY WEEK!