



Film details nuclear testing effects

By Brian Ahern

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ST. GEORGE — Few places could relate to M.T. Silvia's DOCUTAH film "Atomic Mom" as much as St. George.

Screening this afternoon as one of DOCUTAH Film Festival's best in show films, "Atomic Mom" tells the story of filmmaker M.T. Silvia's relationship with her mother — a woman haunted by her work with the military in the 1950s during the Atomic Testing Program in the Nevada desert. Eastward winds brought radiation from those tests to Southern Utah, exposing thousands of residents to material that led to thyroid,

IF YOU GO

What: Screening of "Atomic Mom."
Where: Eccles Fine Arts Center.
When: Today at 12:55 p.m.
The Cost: \$6.

breast and numerous other forms of cancer.

"We're all downwind, but nobody knows that better than the people of St. George," Silvia said.

There's even a segment in the film that deals specifically with St. George. Just 23 years old when she began work at the test site, Silvia's mother was a biologist who examined the effect the blasts had on animals. In the film, Silvia's

mother describes witnessing the devastating consequences of the tests on animals in St. George in 1953.

"She talked about fields and fields of dead sheep," Silvia said. "They would put animals a certain distance from ground zero when they detonated the bomb to see how far the reach was."

The film depicts Silvia's mother's crisis of conscience, when after decades of silence she finally decided to tell the truth about the experiments and their effects.

Southern Utah Downwinder

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Filmmaker M.T. Silvia, left, and her mother are shown in a still frame from the DOCUTAH film "Atomic Mom." The film details Silvia's relationship with her mother, who worked at the Atomic Testing Program's Nevada Test site in the 1950s. SUBMITTED IMAGE



Southern Utah University 1961 graduates Kent Bishop, left, and Mont Crosland with his wife, Carolyn Robb Crosland, look through an old college yearbook at the 50-year club reunion Friday. JENNIFER WEAVER / THE SPECTRUM & DAILY NEWS

50-year club reunites 1961 SUU graduates

By Jennifer Weaver

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CEDAR CITY — Battling over the ax with Dixie State College, raising money for a new flagpole by selling portions of it by the inch and witnessing a foreign exchange student break his arm sledding down the hill at the college cabin are just a few memories the 1961 graduates of Southern Utah University shared Friday at a 50-year club reunion.

Rod Decker, Fred Whicker, Kent Bishop and Mont Crosland gathered at the SUU Alumni House to receive special recognition with a commemorative pin at a gathering to honor the 1961 graduating class of then College of Southern Utah. The entire student body of CSU was approximately 350, and it was the year the mascot changed from the Bronco to a Thunderbird. It was also the first production of the Utah Shakespeare Festival on the campus, "The Taming of the Shrew," directed by festival founder Fred C. Adams.

"Fred Adams was teaching and he'd only been here a year or two. He told me, 'Kent, you can't get your associate's degree unless you take a humanities class,' and I said, 'Oh really,'" Bishop said. "So he put me in 'Taming of the Shrew' ... I played Petruchio, and to this day can't remember one single line. That's how dedicated I was."

Despite a lack of love for the theater, Bishop earned

 See **CLUB**, Page C2

Scout project to benefit tribal interpretive center



Chuck Saling and Brandon Schow collect vegetables grown in a community garden at Anasazi Valley on Friday. Schow, a ninth-grader at Dixie Middle School, is helping preserve the area. SAMANTHA CLEMENS / THE SPECTRUM & DAILY NEWS

By Kevin Jenkins

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IVINS — An Ivins Boy Scout is calling for volunteers to help develop a trail and, in the process, build greater harmony between local descendants of various American Indian tribes and their neighbors.

"This area is to educate people about Indian tribes and where they lived," 14-year-old Brandon Schow said Wednesday, as he discussed plans to develop an interpretive

IF YOU GO

What: Service project for tribal interpretive center.

Where: Anasazi Valley, southwest of Ivins on Old Highway 91.

When: Sept. 24, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For information: Call Brenda or Brandon Schow at 652-9802.

center near the Anasazi Valley Trailhead southwest of Ivins.

Schow is completing the requirements to achieve Scouting's

Eagle rank, and his service project will not only help him obtain the top status, but also help fulfill plans for a place where residents and tourists can visit replicas of tribal homes and learn about native cultures.

"It's just sacred land," Schow said. "We'll have an opening prayer and every rock will be turned sacredly — except for the gravel."

 See **SCOUT**, Page C2

Car hits building



Emergency personnel walk past a car that crashed into the McDonald's on Sunset Boulevard and Dixie Drive on Friday. No injuries were reported as of press time. SAMANTHA CLEMENS / THE SPECTRUM & DAILY NEWS

Motorcyclist injured in accident

By Nur Kausar

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ST. GEORGE — An ambulance transported a motorcyclist to the hospital Friday from 200 East near the corner of St. George Boulevard for head injuries he sustained when he collided with a car.

St. George Police Sgt. Albert Gilman, at the scene with several other officers and EMTs, said the motorcyclist was turning left out of a parking lot toward St. George Boulevard while a white U.S. Post Office car turned right on 200 East.

Gilman said he suspects the vehicles parked along the east side of 200 East and the short distance between the parking lot exit and the intersection may have contributed to the accident, along with the timing.

The motorcyclist suffered from head lacerations but was conscious and alert,



St. George Police Department Sgt. Albert Gilman moves a custom motorcycle that was involved in an accident on 200 East in St. George on Friday. JUD BURKETT / THE SPECTRUM & DAILY NEWS

Gilman said.

The driver of the car did not sustain injuries. The

car's front bumper fell off but the vehicle could still be driven.

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Scout

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The land is a part of the nonprofit Sun Hawk trust, adjacent to the government-owned trail head, and was donated by a private land owner during the 1980s for the betterment of native peoples, Schow's uncle, Chuck Saling, said.

Saling is the president of a local Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints congregation comprising descendants of the Paiute, Sioux, Navajo, Arapaho, Polynesian and Puebloan cultures, and although the church is not involved in the service project Saling said he is working with the trust to build the interpretive center and overcome divisions he sees arise between local tribal members.

"I had a Paiute say there will never be a hogan built on this site. I said, 'Just watch,'" Saling said.

"(The tribes) don't like other tribes. They need to get over that," he said. "They have never really had a multicultural project where they've come together. ... They have different talents and they all have something to add. I'm hoping this is something they'll do."

Saling has set up a teepee at the site and is working with the caretakers of the trust land to



Brandon Walker Schow, 14, poses at Anasazi Valley, the location of his Eagle Scout project Friday. SAMANTHA CLEMENS / THE SPECTRUM & DAILY NEWS

harvest trees for a hogan, a wickiup and a longhouse nearby.

"(The trail) will make a nice, clean flow to the village and help to keep guests in the respected areas to prevent harm to all native plants that will be

used for teaching," Schow said in a flier about the service project.

Volunteers are invited to gather at Anasazi Valley on Sept. 24. The trail head is located southwest of Old Highway 91 near the entrance to Kayenta, and

the project will take place from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Schow asked those who have shovels to bring them along.

Saling said he would like to see the day when the humble interpretive site becomes a tourist draw where American Indian youths can teach the old dances and artisans can sell traditional crafts. The property was at one time being developed for theatrical productions about native heritage, and was dedicated toward that end by one of the LDS church's general authorities in January 1988.

The hope was that it would someday become a tourist mecca similar to the Polynesian Cultural Center in Hawaii, focused on Native American culture, Saling said.

While those plans appear to have settled into the dust, Saling said he will do what he can to improve conditions for cultural interpretation.

Caretaker Betty Jake said she would like to add a "Walk with The Ancient Ones" amid the rock art and remains of old cultures on the land, with actors portraying historical figures such as Wovoka and Crazy Horse.

"You can't walk on this land without feeling something, knowing that the ancient ones were here," she said.



Southern Utah University 1961 graduate Mark Russell gives 1961 graduate Mont Crosland a commemorative pin at the 50-year club reunion on Friday. JENNIFER WEAVER / THE SPECTRUM & DAILY NEWS

Club

Continued from C1

a degree in history and political science from SUU and taught at Cedar High School for 30 years. Also becoming a teacher was Whicker, who graduated with an associate's degree and later received a teaching certificate from SUU. Those degrees enabled Whicker to experience his 43rd year of teaching at Cedar High School this year. Whicker's fondest memory of his college alma mater was meeting his wife. He also recollected living across from an old dairy farm where his SUU classmates would go and steal milk.

Crosland graduated from SUU with a degree in business and was the second vice president in the student government. He went on to complete a master's in business administration from Utah State University. He was in industry for a period of years before returning to SUU to teach in the business department. He then took a position with Eastern Washington University for three years before returning

to Utah where he started a financial planning consulting business in Salt Lake City. He retired from there in 1998. Sculpting has kept him busy ever since, including the hand cart and Thunderbird sculptures on the campus of SUU.

"We put up a new flagpole on the football field and put a time capsule in it, and the time capsule is missing," Crosland said. "I think it's buried under 10 feet of soil or something because it should've been opened this year."

Decker graduated from SUU with an associate's degree in political science, but went on to receive graduate and doctorate degrees that allowed him to enjoy 44 years teaching at SUU serving as a dean and interim provost prior to his retirement in August 2009. Though Decker had opportunities elsewhere, he chose to stay with SUU.

"I loved the area, but most important I think is the friendships that were developed between faculty and staff and the interaction with students. It's just exceptional," Decker said.

Volleyball

- September 15th vs. UMKC at 7:00 pm
- September 17th vs. SD at 1:00 pm
- Homecoming Game

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- September 17th vs. Texas-SA at 6:00 pm
- Homecoming Game
- Tailgating starts at 4:00 pm

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A still from the DOCUTAH film "Atomic Mom." SUBMITTED PHOTO

Film

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Michelle Thomas said she's captivated by the story, adding that the plight of people like herself is now better understood thanks to brave people like Silvia's mother.

"I'm so grateful," Thomas

said. "The importance of documentaries like this is incredible, especially when a first-hand witness shows that much courage."

Though the local connection "Atomic Mom" had with Southern Utah made it an appealing choice for DOCUTAH, festival director Phil Tuckett said it was the film's compelling personal story that convinced him to put it in the festival.

"I gravitated strongly to the idea of a mother and a child who have gone through life with this secret," he said. "It was just too good to pass up."

After receiving high marks from DOCUTAH audiences throughout the week, "Atomic Mom" will have its final festival screening today as one of the 28 best in show films.

Thomas said she hopes to be among those seeing the film.

"It's so paramount that people, especially young people, learn this story," she said. "For so many people it's just been conveniently forgotten."

"Atomic Mom" will screen today at 12:55 p.m. at Dixie State College's Eccles Fine Arts Center.

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