

MOAB SUN NEWS

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EVENT / BUSINESS

Grand Summit aims to unite Moab community, drive local economy

Business summit on Aug. 20 has panels on local needs, managing tourism

STAFF REPORT

Moab Sun News

"This is really about listening to each other and bringing your opinions, bringing all your experiences to the table to highlight and discuss," said Cassie Oliver, executive director of the Moab Chamber of Commerce.

She's looking forward to the Grand Summit, Moab's annual business and economic conference. This year's event takes place on Tuesday, August 20 with panels and discussions at the Red Cliffs Lodge; tickets are available online at www.grandsunsummitmoab.com.

Panelists this year include U.S. Representative John Curtis and Utah Director of Tourism Natalie Randall, among other state-level and local leaders.

Moab attracts millions of tourists each year, functioning as a gateway community to Southeast Utah. Still, Oliver highlighted the importance of holding events like the Grand Summit for a rural community like Moab.

"It's really easy for us to get forgotten," Oliver noted. "When we can do something annually that really showcases the businesses in our community... that actually has a bigger impact than it would in a larger city because we know everyone. Our community is tightly knit."

This year's summit will feature two distinct tracks: one catering to tourism-driven businesses and another focusing on businesses not directly tied to tourism. This dual approach reflects Moab's diverse economic landscape.

"It's really important for us as a community to understand the travellers that are coming to our area and new ways to attract and manage tourists," Oliver explained, "but if we don't have the services that help our community, then the people in the community don't stick around."

Tourism-focused sessions include an update on Grand

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EVENT

Moab Music Festival showcases Colorado River-inspired composers

Composer Roydon Tse spoke to us about his new work and why landscape matters to music

MAGGIE MCGUIRE

Moab Sun News

For over 30 years, the Moab Music Festival has been known for its unique blend of captivating music combined with breathtaking natural landscapes. This year, the festival is shining a spotlight on the Colorado River, a vital resource that flows through Moab and the surrounding region.

After a competition sponsored by the fes-

tival's Commissioning Club and a matching grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, two talented composers—Maya Miro Johnson and Roydon Tse—were selected to create original works inspired by the river's beauty and significance.

These world premiere compositions will be performed during the multiday festival at the Colorado Currents concert on August 31 held at Red Cliffs Lodge. The concert will also feature works by other renowned com-

posers, including Salt Lake City's John Costa and Dine composer/pianist Connor Chee.

Additionally, attendees will have the opportunity to engage in a pre-concert panel discussion exploring the festival's commissions, the importance of Colorado River stewardship, and the cultural significance of water in the Hopi Nation.

This week, we spoke to Roydon Tse about his composing process, his connection to Moab,

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MOVE OVER, DELICATE ARCH: THIS COSTUME ROCKS

Mrs. Utah Petite 2024 Eva Salcedo wore a stunning costume inspired by Arches National Park for the pageant, winning best costume in her division. Salcedo, a soldier in the Army Reserve, visited Arches after a 9-month deployment and found it to be a place of healing and reconnection.

"I had the most unbelievable experience and it was an opportunity to reconnect with myself after being gone for nearly a year at that point," Salcedo said in a conversation with the Moab Sun News. "I called it my oasis."

The costume was designed and crafted by Kennedy Gasper in the Philippines, a specialist in pageant costumes. It took seven months to create the custom-made, hand-beaded design, with Salcedo providing measurements and inspiration photos of sunsets. The result was a lightweight but intricate costume that required assistance to put on. Salcedo expressed her satisfaction with the final product, stating that it fit perfectly and captured the beauty of Arches National Park.

[Kennedy Gasper]

COMMUNITY

Keeping the magic bus rollin'

Elders at the Canyonlands Care Center rely on donations to maintain activity program

MAGGIE MCGUIRE

Moab Sun News

It's no secret that Moab residents like to get outside. The area is known for its landscapes and outdoor recreation, which drew many of our town's residents here in the first place. But what if you couldn't get outside to see the red rock any more?

For the residents of the Canyonlands Care Center in Moab, the 'Magic Bus' has allowed these community elders, many over 90 years old, to get outdoors and explore the place they have lived and loved.

"We're all getting older," said Beth Logan, chairman of the Moab Healthcare Foundation,

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[Courtesy photo]