

Daily Herald

The place to bring everyone together

Steve Densley | Posted: Thursday, August 4, 2011 12:05 am

As I sat under the stars at the charming Sundance Outdoor Theater last week watching the popular "Sound of Music" production, I noticed on the theater wall the Utah Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau's new motto of, "Utah Valley, Bring Everyone Together." It was a great night and a great production put on by Utah Valley University. It's a must see for families that would love to get out and experience a delightful night, great entertainment and a chance to bring everyone together.

Last week I met in Los Angeles with Chamber Presidents from around the nation and several asked the question, "What do people do in Utah Valley? I love to respond to that one. Some of our own citizens often forget what a great experience this valley can be.

Let's take a look at some of the neat locations and events we can share. The next time your kids come in moaning that there is nothing to do, sit down with them and give them the short list of the valley's adventures. The possibilities are endless.

What about the water adventures. There is the great Seven Peaks Water Park that is packed with fun and can be teamed with the Provo Pioneer Park pool, SCERA Pool and Orem Recreation Center Pool, along with a dozen others including a great American Fork City Pool. If you don't like pools what about floating the Provo River in a tube or even taking the time to fly fish on one of America's top ten rated rivers. You can wind surf on Deer Creek along with water skiing. You can sail boat on Utah Lake and even take lessons. The last time I counted coming down Provo Canyon, I saw 15 water falls not including Bridal Veil Falls. You can even surf in Provo at the Provo Beach Resort complete with surf board and fun.

The canyons in our valley are some of the best in the world. Provo Canyon has an unmatched charm as does American Fork Canyon. You have the Alpine Loop and a great look at nature at Cascade Springs. You can take a walk to Stewart Falls or you can really get the gang together and hike Timp. Nebo is a delight and certainly Payson Lakes can be an adventure all its own. It always amazes me how many of our citizens have never hiked one of the largest tourist attractions in the valley, Timpanogos Cave. The Grateful Dead even have a song about Utah's caves.

What about our great museums with Thanksgiving Points Museum of Natural Life Dinosaur adventure, and get ready for the new children's museum in the future. There is the popular Hutchings Pioneer Museum, The BYU and UVU Museums of Art, Museum of Peoples and Cultures, Bean Life Science Museum and the Museum of Paleontology. The Crandall Print Museum is a must as is the Springville Art Museum. For those kids who love sports there is even the BYU Legacy Hall Museum. If the kids want a neat Saturday drive, take them to the historic Camp Floyd in Fairfield. We have several Utah Daughters of the Pioneers Museums scattered from one end of the valley to the other and don't miss Orem's Heritage Museum of History at the SCERA.

See some great concerts at BYU and at UVU as well as taking advantage of the SCERA Theater of the Arts and the Amphitheater. The Covey Center for the Arts has now become the place to go for programs and concerts in Provo. They even have a whole concert series on the top of a parking garage in downtown. There is Comedy Sportz, Hale Center Theater, Payson Theater, Springville Playhouse, the Utah Valley Symphony and the Valley Center Playhouse in Lindon.

If you want some real excitement try sky diving, para sailing in Lehi or even off Y Mountain. Try a fun night at the Owls Baseball game at Brent Brown Field. We have some great walking, biking and hiking trails as well as even getting onboard the Heber Valley Railroad up Provo Canyon. You can go climb cliffs at Rock Canyon or learn how at the Quarry Boulder Course in Provo.

If you get tired of all this excitement go play some of the best courses of golf in the state. The Thanksgiving Point Course has been ranked the best in Utah along with Riverside and the new Club House, Hobble Creek, Sleepy Ridge, Talons Cove, Spanish Oaks, and a ton of other great adventures on the links.

We have some of the great festivals in the west with the famous Freedom Festival at Provo along with the Story Telling Festival and Summerfest in Orem and the Folk Fest in Springville. We have the Salmon Supper in Payson, Salem Days and the great Fiesta Days complete with a rodeo in the south as well as Tulip Festival in the north and the Latinoamericano at the Historic Old County Building. The festivals go on with a great deal of diversity. I could go on for days about the great events and places to see in our valley but space won't allow.

This is an extraordinary place to live and to work from great shopping to great nature. Next time somebody comes up to you and says, "What the heck is there to do in Utah Valley?" take them aside and give them a lecture about Americans place to "Bring Everyone Together." If you forget how neat it is then take the time to pull up UtahValley.com and get the rest of the story. I think your going to like it.

- Steve Densley is president of the Utah Valley Chamber of Commerce.