



Lighting the Dark Ages

Group brings history to life with flair, chivalry

LAYTON — "LAY ON!" the marshal shouts and the wand is removed.

The parry begins. A knight in shining armor defends his honor with a duct-taped sword. Lords and ladies gather round to witness a grueling fight to the death.

On the evening of May 11, the courtyard surrounding Dudley's old English country inn, Layton, was like a scene from a Shakespearean play — or maybe "Monty Python's Holy Grail." Ladies languished in flowing medieval gowns and other artists did handiwork while knights and lords joined in armored combat on the lawn.

This Middle Ages fantasy is the reality of the Society for Creative Anachronism, an international organization of about 10,000 members who play out history with authentic chivalry and haroldry from another place in time.

They study the economic, social and political history of Europe and parts of the Orient from about 410 to 1600 A.D.

The SCA is a non-profit research organization said Anna Zauberkunstler, Kearns, known in the mundane world as Janene Brown. She is the minister of the list for the principality of Artemisia in the kingdom of Atenveldt.

"History was one of my worst subjects in school. All of this has made history come to life for me," said Craig Anderson, Layton. Anderson has dubbed himself Lord Kraygun.

"People play from all walks of life," he said. With computer programmers to day laborers playing the game, Lord Kraygun says there are no real-life social or economic boundaries for participants.

Even children play this grown-ups' game. The SCA has a children's guild for 2 to 14-year-olds. They gather together to hear stories and learn of courtly graces and medieval heraldry.

Chivalry is the most visible of the society's activities. "This is the only game where the dead have to walk off by their own power," one player said.

Different forms of armored combat are practiced with swords of the weight and size equivalent to period weapons. The weapons are blunt and often wrapped in duct tape to absorb some of the blow.

Although the object of the fights is to kill the opponent with a weapon's blow, the society puts safety first.

Armored fighters heading into battle are checked to make sure their joints and body parts most susceptible to injury are covered. Some of the fighters have been in the society long enough to have bought or built shining suits of armor. Others wear pads taped to their body's with — what else — duct tape.

See SOCIETY on page 15



Sir Michael the Lucky (left) doesn't live up to his name as he is vanquished by Sir George in a battle.



Senior calendar

Silver Age Senior Citizens Center, 34 E. 100 North, Kaysville, 546-2201

A free blood pressure clinic is held on the first Thursday of the month from 11 to 11:30 a.m.

A trip to Wendover is planned for June 6. Call the center for details.

When the Autumn Glow Center opens the Silver Age Center will close.

Heritage Senior Citizens Center, 562 S. 1000 East, Clearfield 773-7065

The free blood pressure clinic will be held the first Thursday of each month at 10:15 a.m.

There are still openings in many of the classes at the center. Sewing and tailoring are taught at 9 a.m. on Mondays and knitting is taught the same day at 1 p.m.

Oil painting classes are held at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, needlework at 9 a.m. on Wednesday and bingo at 12 p.m. Wednesdays. A porcelain doll class is taught on Thursdays. Call the center for more information or to sign up for the classes.

Hillside Center, 5051 S. 1900 West, Roy, 773-0860

A free blood pressure clinic is held on Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

June 14 the center will sponsor a trip to a cheese factory north of Logan, with a stop at the Bluebird Cafe before continuing up to Franklin, Idaho where lottery tickets are sold. Call the center for reservations.

A trip will be taken to Wendover on Tuesday, June 26. Call for reservations.

The owner of an authentic handcart will visit the center on Monday, June 18 to talk about the use of the pioneer handcart. A spaghetti lunch will be served.

The seniors will attend the American Fork Arts Festival on July 11.

All senior citizens in the area are invited to join the center.

There is swimming for senior citizens at the Roy Recreation complex at 9 a.m. daily.

Lapidary, quilting, crochet, and pinocle are at 9 a.m.; bingo at 10:30 a.m.; a sing-a-long at 12:30 p.m. Porcelain doll and figurine class, leather work and computer classes are taught at 1 p.m. on Mondays.

Ceramics beginning painting and pinocle at 9 a.m.; advanced yoga at 10:30 a.m.; ceramics, duplicate bridge, 1 p.m. Wednesdays.

A beginning square dance club starts on Wednesdays in September. Call the center to register.

Ceramics and pinocle are at 9 a.m. with blood pressure clinic from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Thursdays.

Autumn Glow Senior Center, 81 E. Center, Kaysville, 544-1250

Center officials hope to have the center open by the first of June. Senior citizens of the county are invited to make use of the center.

Following is a schedule of the regular classes and activities. Lunch will be served daily at 11:30 a.m.

Monday: Water exercise class at Layton Surf 'N Swim from 7:45 to 8:45 a.m. Quilting from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and oil painting from 10 to 11 a.m.

Tuesday: Ceramics from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.; quilting from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; exercise class from 10 to 11 a.m.

Wednesday: Water exercise at Layton Surf 'N Swim from 7:45 to 8:45 a.m., ceramics from 7:45 to 8:45 a.m., ceramics from 1 to 4 p.m., and quilting from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Thursday: Porcelain class from 9 to 11:30 a.m.; exercise class from 10 to 11 a.m. and bingo at 12:30 p.m.

Friday: Water exercise class 7:45 to 8:45 a.m. and ceramics from 1 to 4 p.m.

Other activities include cards, pool and jigsaw puzzles. Bridge and pinocle will be played and if there is enough interest classes in bridge will be offered.

Activities and classes that are planned for the future include knitting, silversmithing, lapidary, arts and crafts, woodcarving and china painting.

Informational and educational presentations will also be offered, such as arthritis seminars, diabetes seminars and legal programs dealing with issues that are pertinent to the elderly.

A monthly blood pressure clinic will be held the first Thursday of every month at 11 a.m.



Protected by a knight's sword, ladies in waiting, (above) do needlepoint and other stitchery arts. Lord Kraygun (right in right photo) bashes Sir Fitz with a pole-arm practice weapon during battle on the lawn at Dudley's in Layton.



Stories by Donna Brown
Photos by Robert Regan

Society for Creative Anachronism

- **WHAT:** Non-profit research organization that studies Medieval social, economic and political history.
- **WHO:** About 100 to 150 participants are involved in Salt Lake and surrounding areas in what is known as the barony of Loch Salaan. The 24-year-old international organization has a worldwide membership of about 10,000.
- **WHEN:** The society sponsors weekly fighter practices and monthly local activities like dances, feasts and tournaments.
- **WHERE:** Beginning June 1, weekly fighter practices will be held in Sugar House Park from around 7 p.m. to dark.
- **REQUIREMENTS:** All that is required of members is 'an attempt to wear a costume and an attempt to participate. All you have to do is show up and try to entertain yourself,' said Crystal Southwick, Salt Lake.
- **INFORMATION:** Loaner costumes and more information are available through Kay Robison, kingdom arts and science officer at 972-3673.

Standard-Examiner graphic

Resident a knight by night

LAYTON — A man dressed in black and chain mail met me at the door. I fumbled a little with my notebook and hesitated briefly before accepting his hand.

"You must be Lord Kraygun," I said with all the composition I could muster after the initial shock. He must be, I thought; who but a lord would lounge around in a suit of armor?

Craig Anderson wasn't lounging that May 11 evening; he was preparing for a battle at a Layton restaurant a demonstration given by the Society for Creative Anachronism.

By day, he is a plant operator at Thiokol. His wife, Debbie, works for Varsity Contracting. Together they are raising their five children.

By night and on some weekends, they are known by members of the SCA as Lord Kraygun and Sabrina, subjects in the barony of Loch Salaan. Lord Kraygun and his wife

are two of about 12 society members in Davis County.

He has been involved with the society for about nine years. Lord Kraygun began playing after he watched a fighting demonstration. He said the armored combat didn't look that hard. They invited him to try it.

"Not as easy as it looks," he said, "but it was such a rush I was hooked."

Lord Kraygun has designed for himself a suit of armor that weighs 63 pounds. The major portion of the costume is a chain mail shirt and headdress. Chain mail is a series of wire circles linked together to make protective clothing and jewelry. He wears a 14-gauge steel-spun dome helmet. Anderson makes costumes and period jewelry to sell.

The lord in armor makes frequent appearances to his children's schools in full armor to demonstrate the fighting technique.