



The Soldier's Sword

MAY 2026 | QUARTER 4 EDITION

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THIS ISSUE OF

The Soldier's Sword

WAS WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY THE LANGUAGE ARTS STUDENTS OF

EskDale High School

TRACK SEASON WRAP-UP!

This school year marks the second season of track and field since 2019. Last year's track season was the first and marked the return of sports in general to EHS.

Gretchen Baker has taken on the difficult role of coach for the high school's track and cross country teams and has done a fantastic job. The athletes are all very grateful that they have someone who is willing to coach.

Emma Baker is a sophomore and the only athlete who has been on the team both this year and last year. Her events have included 100m dash, 300m hurdles, 400m dash, 1600m run, 2000m steeplechase, 3200m run, discus, and javelin. Her main events, however, were 100m and 400m dash, 1600m and 3200m run, and javelin. Emma also achieved several personal bests throughout the season. "Track has taught me a lot of patience and how to not cry even when I wanted too. I am grateful that I get to exercise with a team and that I get to meet people I've never met."

Alexa Crouch is a junior and went into this season having no clue what she wanted to do, but knew she wanted to do what she hadn't expected. Her events included 100m dash, javelin, discus, and shot put. She did all four events each meet. Alexa also achieved personal bests at every single meet she went to in at least one event. "This year has taught me about commitment when you don't feel like it, trying new things, and telling that inner voice to 'shut up' when it tells you 'you can't do that.' I am very grateful to have the opportunity to be the athlete I didn't think I could be."

Landon Crouch is a freshman and has enjoyed being on a team this season. Landon went into this year thinking he would be a "one and done" event athlete, but that was not the

case by the end of the year. He competed in 100m dash, javelin, discus, and shot put throughout the year and even achieved a personal best at every single meet. "Doing track has taught me about having determination in everything I do. I am grateful that I can have a consistent exercising plan and have people to do it with."

Britton Faber is a freshman who only joined track this year in order to hang out with his friends. But in the end, he also became a very good athlete. Britton participated in javelin, shot put, discus, and long jump. Britton is a very passionate athlete who cares very much about showing what he could do to his team. "Track has taught me about working hard to achieve my dreams. It gives me a productive hobby and something to do after school."

Remi Perea is a junior who joined the team later in the season, but still put in her best work for the team. She only attended one meet but participated in javelin, discus, and shot put. She was happy for the opportunity to be on a team. "Track taught me about being on a team and also about helping each other with the tent, ha ha! I am grateful for the encouragement I got all year from everyone on the team."

Strattun is a

freshman this year. He went to two meets throughout the season and attended many practices out of school. He competed in 100m dash, 200m dash, 300m hurdles, and long jump. "Track has taught me how to be healthier. I am grateful when I get to see my family at the meets and hear them cheer me on."

Our Soldiers did very well this year and had fun. Three of our team members even made it to state! Emma Baker made regional champion in the 3200m run, 300m hurdles, and 1600m run and will be attending state on the 15th and 16th of this month. Alexa Crouch made regional champion in shot put and will also be headed to state on the 15th, along with Landon Crouch who made it to state in javelin and will be attending state on the 16th. Britton Faber wanted to go to state as well, but unfortunately getting into state is very difficult and he aspires to make it next year.

Way to go EskDale Track athletes 2026! We hope to see you next year, Soldiers! ♡

By Alexa Crouch



GBNP FIELD TRIP

Recently the 9th and 10th graders went on a field trip to the Great Basin National Park. The whole trip revolved around the subject of water in Earth science. So we all talked with Camerine who told us what we would be doing and when and where. What we would be doing is studying and identifying the life forms in the water which would hopefully tell us how polluted our water is. Where we did this was near the Great Basin camp ground. And we did this on April the 21st.

Now some Questions for our group involved.

Q: What was your favorite part of the field trip?

Curtis: The milkshakes

Britton: It felt like an adventure, man

Luis: Milkshakes

Emma: I liked holding the snake

Strattun: Drinking creek water and holding the snake

Landon: I liked walking in the park on the trail

Q: Would you want to do it again and why?

Curtis: You bet your boots, the milkshakes

Britton: No, those bugs fuel my nightmares

Luis: Yes, because we leave school and the milkshakes

Emma: Yeah, because it was fun

Strattun: Yes, I would because of the snakes and milkshakes

Landon: Sure it was really fun and I did like the not-at-school school day

Q: What did you find interesting?

Curtis: The big bug thing

Britton: The milkshakes and the lady was fun to talk to

Luis: The different types of bugs

Emma: I thought the skulls and bugs were really cool

Strattun: I found that the different kinds of bugs

we didn't know about were in the creek

Landon: I liked learning about how pollutant tolerant our water is or kinda is

Q: Did you enjoy it overall?

Curtis: yes

Britton: Milkshakes yes, big scary bugs NO!

Luis: Yes

Emma: yeah

Strattun: Si

Landon: Yes

Now I have interviewed everyone involved on the student side of things. There were a lot of yeses but there was a No. I do think everyone had fun that day, even Teresa and Camerine. We had fun and want to do it again. Being able to do what you've been learning about for weeks makes the class more fun. Field trips always give us students something to look forward to. ♡

By Landon Crouch

HUNCHBACK AT THE HALE



On April 7, 2026, EskDale and Baker schools went to the Hale Centre Theatre in Sandy to see *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. The HCT offers limited student matinee

tickets to schools all over, and we are so happy we were able to go. It was also fun and random that we were able to get tickets the same day as Baker school got their tickets, so we all rode up in the bus together which was a unique experience.

Many loved the show! I asked all of the students three questions: **What was your favorite part, What was your least favorite part? and Who was your favorite character?** Here are some answers.

Alexa—Getting to experience seeing a play I have never seen before. Getting stuck on the road for an hour because of sheep herders. Probably the girl (I don't remember her name).

Ella—What wasn't my favorite part, nothing, Phoebus or Quasimodo.

Stratton—When it ended, When it ended, The gypsy.

Landon—Probably the scene right before intermission, The graveyard scene, Claude Frollo.

Clara—The Hellfire part, When Quasimodo led him to the gypsies, Esmerelda.

Camber—Hellfire song, When it ended. The pope or Esmerelda.

Isaac—The Bells of Notre Dame, The fact that it ended, Claude Frollo.

Eligh—Hell Fire song, The end of the play, no one.

Aron—Quasimodo dying, Quasimodo birth, Quasimodo.

Luis—the fire, the drive, Claude Frollo.

Britton—THE FIRE. I didn't have one, Quasimodo.

The show was wonderful!!!, and everyone had fun! ♡

By Stran Elmer

SPRING CONCERT / LAST DAY PARTY

Coming up we have the Spring Concert, at 7:30 pm UT, on Thursday, May 14th. It's this concert we have in the auditorium, where we have the 5th and 6th grade string class from Baker School come and play with our orchestra. We play a number of songs with them and some without them. The numbers we will play with them are Frere a Jacques, Can Can, Sword Dance, Sourwood Mountain, and Perpetual Rock motion. The numbers that our orchestra here in EskDale will play alone are Danza de mi Corazon, Force of Nature, Dragon Hunter, Ghost Riders in the Sky, Country Hoedown, Ghost Riders in the Sky, and Swashbucklers Saga. We will also have a duet by two of our viola players.

Afterwards, our choir sings songs that we have been working on for state. We will sing Old Dan Tucker, Reflection, The Fox, Fly Away, and Elijah Rock. We will also have the 8th grade promotions, honor rolls, and track

awards being handed out.

This is where the 8th graders get a certificate saying they're moving on to high school. Honor roll recognizes students with high GPAs. Track awards are medals for the athletes' achievements this season.

We are close to the LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!!!! On the last day of school, we are going to have a highway clean-up. This is where we go clean up a chosen set of miles along Highway 50 and also the red road to EskDale, if we have time. We're going to break into groups and clean with our groups. This is a service project the school has participated in for many, many years. After highway clean-up, we go back to the school for the last day party. For



the last day party, we'll have pizza and ice cream. We will also sign yearbook. Can you believe the school year is over? Happy summer! ♡

By Clara Faber

MT WHEELER POWER PRESENTATION

On Thursday May 7th the Baker and Garrison school came to EskDale for a Mt. Wheeler Power safety presentation. All of us gathered in the library where they explained to us why you should not touch power lines or house wires without the proper safety tools and certifications.

First they started with a hot dog representing a human finger with house voltage and a Jacob's ladder, both of which can send you to heaven with same day delivery. They also demonstrated that a GFIC outlet is the safest outlet around water because of the instant trip of the outlet not causing electrocution.

Then we all headed outside so they could show us what powerline voltage can do to you and why you should not play around with them, because they are just as deadly as house power. They showed us pictures of what happens when you touch a power line. They also explained how a pole starts on fire and how that can bring a whole system down. A big thank you to Phil, Austin, and Jeremy for giving us this safety presentation. ♡

By Curtis Young



USF 'S COMEDY OF ERRORS

On Apr 16, 2026, the Utah Shakespeare Festival performed a play called *The Comedy Of Errors*. It was the last full stop of their Utah tour. They performed in the EskDale Auditorium, and both EskDale High and Baker Elementary schools came to watch.

It was a great experience, and they performed very well. They didn't have many actors so some people played more than 3 roles! The actors were Mikki Pagdonsolan, who played Dromio of Ephesus and the servant, Giuseppe Picipicella, who played Duke Solinus, Angelo, Merchant, and Courtesan, Gianna Porfano, who played Luciana and Balthazar, Emily Michelle Walton, who played Adriana and second merchant, Christian Watts, Antipholus of Ephesus, and Emilia, Zay Williams, who played Antipholus of Syracuse, Egeon

and pinch, and Jerie Gutierrez who played Dromio of Syracuse, Gaoler, and officer.

I asked some of my classmates who watched the play how they liked it.

Emma: It was really good, the actors are really good.

Landon: It was pretty good.

Curtis: It was good. Very funny.

Ella: I liked it a lot.

As you can see we really enjoyed watching USF perform. We really hope they can come and perform again.

By Britton Faber

STATE SOLO & ENSEMBLE

On April 25, 2026, Emma Baker and Ella Faber of EskDale High attended State Solo/Ensemble in Provo, Utah. Emma sang her solo from *The Pirates of Penzance*, "Poor Wandering One." I performed a flute solo called "Offertoire." Both were accompanied by the amazing Cindy Delgado, and both received superior ratings.

Emma sang in the seminary right next to Provo High School, and I performed in a classroom inside the school. In between our performances, we went and listened to several other performances. Salem Hills High School had several bass and tenor solos that sounded very lovely. It was quite a treat. We also listened to somebody play a cello solo and it was incredible. Absolutely fantastic.

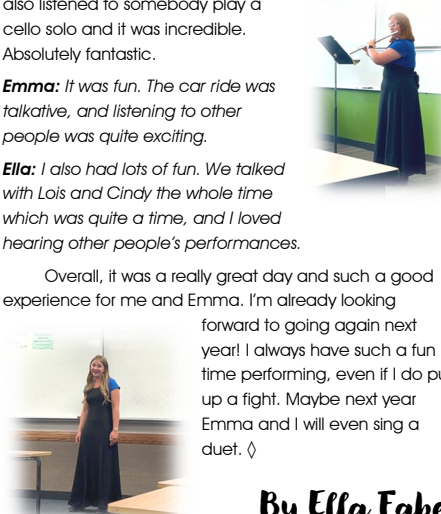
Emma: It was fun. The car ride was talkative, and listening to other people was quite exciting.

Ella: I also had lots of fun. We talked with Lois and Cindy the whole time which was quite a time, and I loved hearing other people's performances.

Overall, it was a really great day and such a good experience for me and Emma. I'm already looking

forward to going again next year! I always have such a fun time performing, even if I do put up a fight. Maybe next year Emma and I will even sing a duet. ♡

By Ella Faber



REGION & STATE CHOIR

On April 13th, we took our choir to our region competition in Monroe, Utah held at South Sevier High School. We performed three songs for the judges: Old Dan Tucker, Reflections, and Elijah Rock. In order to progress on to state, choirs must earn at least two 1 ratings (out of three total ratings.) We were able to earn all 1s, which is a superior rating.

Thus, on May 8th, we went to Salt Lake City, Utah to attend the UMEA State Choral competition held at Libby Gardner Concert Hall. We had a warm up in a different room before we performed in the main concert hall for the judges. After that, one of the judges gave us feedback about our performance. We earned a superior rating!

After that we went to the mall to eat before we headed to Parklane Senior Living where we performed a concert for the residents there, including long-time Snake Valley resident Denys Koyle.

My experience with region was fun. State was quite nerve-wracking, but I still had fun. Now I will be asking one person from each grade these questions: **How was the region and how did you feel about state?**

Clara—Fun and terrifying. Same as the other.

Eligh—it was good, I liked it.

Maddie—naps on the bus were great. I'm looking forward to sleep

Emma—pretty fun and got a lot of things. It was fun, but the ride back home was horrible.

Remi—it was good. I was nervous with everyone getting sick right before. ♡



By Aron Huerta

EVERYBODY HAS A STORY: CRAIG BAKER



Craig Baker has lived nearly his whole life in Baker, Nevada. He grew up in Baker, went to high school in Ely, then went on to college at UW and then UNLV. He has a bachelor's degree in business from UNLV. He raced dirt bikes a lot during his time in college. After college he came back to Snake Valley to ranch. He's got lots of fun stories about racing through the desert on dirt bikes.

How was growing up in the 80s different than it is now?
It wasn't a digital world, there were few computers.

What did you do for fun as a kid?
Camping and motorcycle riding, fishing some.

What do you do for fun now?
Ride motorcycles, visit with my kids.

What is your favorite college story?
Racing motorcycles because I had time to do that.

When did you start dirt bike racing?
I was 19, I started riding when I was 5.

Which race was your favorite? Why?

1991 Rhino Rally, in Saint George. I got a bad start, but finished 5th overall, and we went down dutchman's draw where I gained a bunch of positions.

What is your favorite place you've traveled to?
Spain because I got to go with my kids.

What is your favorite Adam Sandler movie?
I don't know, probably Happy Gilmore.

Which kind of dinosaur was your favorite to ride back in the day?

I think the triceratops were the most fun to ride, and they were short enough to get on, you could climb up their face shield.

Well there you have it! Craig has lived a pretty cool life! Thanks so much for answering my questions, it must be pretty fun to reminisce on all those dinosaur riding days! Craig still goes out riding his dirt bike every Sunday, and competes in desert races occasionally. ♡

By Emma Baker

TEACHER FEATURE: LOIS FABER

performances.

Lois Faber is the orchestra and chorus teacher in charge at EskDale High School. She also teaches guitar, drama, and private lessons. Thanks to her skills at teaching the students how to perform and play instruments, they've come a long way. She never fails to get her students ready for performance whether that be singing, orchestra, or plays.

It is amazing how well she deals with all the noisy middle, and high school students. Then again she is also a mother so she has some experience. She has taught here at EskDale High School officially since 1975. If my math is correct that's 50 to 51 years of teaching depending what month she started. It's no wonder why her choirs and orchestras do quite well during

Now let's get on with some questions that need to be answered by her.

What's your favorite piece you composed?
Show Me Your Glory

What is your favorite piece you've played? Czardas

How did you get into teaching music and choir?
I always loved music and wanted to teach others to love it too.

How many kids do you have? I have 7 kids; 5 boys 2 girls

What was it like when you did the first musical?
The first major one was Les Mis, and it was intense and taught me a lot about Broadway musicals. ♡



By Isaac Duran

TEACHER FEATURE: KATH HAYWARD

We got the opportunity to do the teacher feature for our geography teacher Kath Hayward. She also teaches Financial Literacy, Computer Tech, Junior High Reading, CCA for junior high and for 10th grade, and Health for both junior high and high school. We asked her some questions.

What do you do out of school?
Spend time with my Grandkids

What's your favorite part about school?
Working with the students

What's the best advice you've ever given or received?
Nothing ventured nothing gained

YOU HAVE TO PICK who is your favorite student?
Each one when I'm tutoring

What is your favorite thing to do in your free time?
Probably read

What made you want this job?
Seeing and working the kids

What makes a good day at school?
When kids understand what



they're working on

Favorite animal and why?
Cats because they are soft

When's your birthday?
August 30th

Did you always want to be a teacher?
Yes since 8th grade

If you got to be one super hero, who would it be?
Mr. Incredible ♡

By Maddie Urquidez
and Strattun Gilleland

YEAR-END WRAP UP & SUMMER PLANS

The 2025-2026 school year is coming to a close, and I can't wait! Summer is personally my favorite season, and I can't wait to go swimming. This year we don't have a graduation class so sadly we won't have a graduation, which is very disappointing because I love the food after them. However, we will get a little school party after we complete our yearly highway cleanup with the *Keeping Utah Beautiful* litter clean up program.

For summer I plan on going to girls camp and FSY and I can't wait! I might also get to hang out with family, and I'm so excited! I also wanted to know what my classmates were doing for summer break.

Q: What are your plans for summer break?

Clara: Working and just staying home.

Aron: I might work at Eligh's ranch or with my brother.

Eligh: Work and maybe convince my dad to let us go to Canada.

Stran: work

Isaac: Work and hopefully save up to buy a pc

Britton: work and help my dad build a patio

Strattun: I am going to work and see family

Emma: I'm gonna work on the ranch

Luis: work

Curtis: work maybe go to Pennsylvania

Ella: work work and work

Alexa: swimming, working, and chillaxing

Remi: swim, work on stuff I need, and prepare myself for my upcoming senior year

Q: What is your favorite part of summer?

Clara: no school

Aron: Swimming cuz its relaxing

Eligh: get to hang out with my family, and my birthdays in summer, and make money

Stran: no school

Isaac: The heat

Britton: no school

Strattun: not having to see people

Emma: i love going swimming and sleeping in and i love all the plants

Luis: I get to work

Curtis: it being summer

Ella: not having homework

Remi: I like seeing family and having an excuse to eat ice cream and swim

Alexa: the fact I can go swimming

Q: What was your favorite thing we did this year and why?

Clara: I loved the sub zero presentation we did for Flex Friday.

Aron: the musical it was so fun

Eligh: Hunchback of Notre Dame, doing the Pirates musical, and the banquet.

Stran: Hale theater because it was a really nice performance

Isaac: the banquet

Strattun: probably the trips because I don't have homework

Britton: probably honor's choir

Curtis: all the choir stuff cuz i like doing that

Emma: my favorite things were sports and the musical

Luis: talk to Colton about work

Remi: making our astronomy project and being in charge of Flex Friday cuz I had power

Alexa: i liked anything the whole school did cuz its fun to hang out

Ella: the musical was fun By Camber Perea

FINAL PROJECT FUN

It's the end of the fourth quarter so every grade has some sort of final project in at least one of their classes. For instance, every year in Sharon's English classes we read some of Shakespeare's plays. When we finish reading them, Sharon has each of us do a project. This project could either be write an essay about one of the plays we read or memorize a selection of lines, approved

by Sharon, to recite to the class. This year, the junior high read *A*

Midsummer Night's Dream, the ninth and tenth read *Much Ado About Nothing*



and *Julius Caesar*, and my eleventh grade class read *The Tempest* and *Henry V*. Some memorized, some did essays, and everyone is graded on how well they did.

In Teresa's astronomy class with the juniors, we also had a big project, which was to design and make a Moon colony. It had to have protection from radiation and space objects falling to the surface, water, food, air, a way to stop their bones from getting weak, living areas, oxygen, and other essentials. We made an underground colony with an exercise place, farm, apartments, store, hospital, school, and an elevator to the surface. On the surface are solar panels, communications, power storage, landing bay, and airlocks. It was really fun to make.

For Teresa's Earth Science class, the ninth and tenth grades had stream table projects. This was where they had a neighborhood built that they flooded, and then they had to redesign and plan and test how their project could withstand another flood.



Another fun project students had was in the junior high history class. They picked a snippet of history they had learned about this year and wrote and made a short, silly and informative film about it. They chose the California Gold Rush. You can find their hysterical historical video project on the school's YouTube channel. By Remi Perea

SCIENCE FIELD TRIP

We are going on a science field trip on the 9th of May. We will be going to Crystal Peak, fossil mountain and some sand dunes. The Jr. high science (7th and 8th), Earth science (9th and 10th), and Astronomy classes (11th) are going on this trip. We will look at the geology, the rock layers, and look for key fossils like brachiopods, gastropods, crinoids, cephalopods and trilobites. We will get there by taking two Suburbans. Everybody will bring lunch, water, and good shoes. We hope everybody has fun! By Eligh Young

By Eligh Young



DATES TO REMEMBER:

August 10, 2026

Registration for the new school year,
EHS Study Hall, 1-5pm

August 19, 2026

The 2026-2027 School Year
commences!