

# SOUTHERN UTAH NEWS

KANE COUNTY, UTAH

VOLUME 75, #39

COLOR COUNTRY'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

MAY 9, 2007

60¢

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## KANAB WEATHER

May			
Date	High	Low	Prec
1	82	50	
2	80	46	
3	76	50	
4	66	41	
5	58	30	Tr
6	66	39	
7	70	37	

Courtesy: Wayne & Stacy Grosz

## Animals invade airwaves

By Dixie Brunner

No one would question Hal Abrams and Judy Francis' love for and devotion to animals. They've eaten pet food, played with cat toys, lived in a doghouse, and crossed the nation on behalf of animals.

But what they're doing now is the cat's meow, in terms of reaching and educating animal lovers nationwide.

Abrams and Francis own and operate Animal Radio®, the most listened to animal programming in the United States. They reach an audience of nearly two million people weekly in almost 100 cities. Broadcasting from their radio studio in Kanab, Utah, the couple is considered the preeminent stars of radio pet programming.

"Our mission is to educate people about animals and pet care, and reduce surrenders," said Francis.

To the couple, radio was a natural medium for getting their message to the largest audience.

Animal Radio® Executive Producer Abrams had an extensive background in radio. Over 20 years ago, he worked as a radio personality on KPWR Power 106 FM in Los Angeles. Abrams co-starred on the morning program with Jay Thomas, (later of Cheers, Mr. Hollands Opus and Murphy Brown fame). Abrams said the popular program in the

large market really gave him a head start in his radio career success.

Abrams discovered a great radio listener draw was to publicize and perform stunts to attract attention for different causes. One such stunt he performed while a radio personality in Anchorage, Alaska, changed his life focus. For a ASPCA fundraiser, he lived in a doghouse with several dogs for a period.

"I just kind of made a connection," said Abrams. "I wanted to create a fun program to help the animals."

His animal radio show began simply from his apartment in 2001 in Ventura, CA. This was accomplished by sending a radio signal to a satellite, with the content subsequently distributed to radio affiliates.

Francis joined Abrams in the venture in 2003, while still broadcasting in California. The fun format of the weekly program featured pet news, pet care, animal behavioral experts and celebrity guests. Abrams' many years in radio and some TV sitcom roles such as "Head of the Class," paid off. He could contact celebrities who shared his love of animals.

The formula was successful, and the show really took off in

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Judy Francis and Hal Abrams broadcast their Animal Radio® program from their studio in Kanab. Photo by Dixie Brunner.



Even Jack Sparrow showed up in Kanab for the Greyhound Gathering, fresh off the Black Pearl from Pirates of the Caribbean.

## People have fun, but dogs are greyt

By Dixie Brunner

The weather was unpredictable, as opposed to the Greyhound owners attending Kanab's annual Greyhound Gathering.

"Quite predictably, we love Greyhounds," commented Jerry Tucker of Tucson, Arizona. "But we would come here, even if there was no event. It's so beautiful."

"I can't imagine any other breed," said wife Kathy Tucker of greyhounds. "They are the best kept secret."

But Jerry and Kathy are

dogged by their love of Greyhounds. The two dogs they travelled with, Zolla and Annie, are the third and fourth Greyhounds the couple has adopted.

They came to Kanab to enjoy the many dogs representing the breed, and interact with fellow Greyhound owners.

"They are the easiest breed of dog to care for," said Jerry. He said the positive aspect of the dogs having been selected for the racing industry is they're in

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## Dinosaur excavation site tours scheduled for May 11

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument is teaming up with the Utah Museum of Natural History to conduct public tours of an actual dinosaur excavation on Friday, May 11, in conjunction with Utah's Prehistory Week Celebration.

The site is a hadrosaur bone

bed containing an unknown number of species, but probably at least two dinosaurs. The bones occur in the upper portion of the Wahweap Formation in rocks that date to about 80 million years ago, when the region

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