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**NEWS RELEASE**

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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***  
SOUTH JORDAN, UT – 2013

**Memorial Unveiling - 75th Anniversary Commemorating 1938 Jordan High School Bus Accident**

**South Jordan, UT**-The community is invited to join together on Monday, December 2, 2013 at 1:00 pm, at the South Jordan Community Center/Heritage Park at 10778 South Redwood Road to unveil a memorial and commemorate the 75th anniversary of one of the most tragic events in South Jordan's history.

December 1, 1938 dawned as a snowy, foggy, eerily quiet day. While a school bus headed through the dense winter storm toward Jordan High School, a loaded Denver and Rio Grande freight train rolled north toward Salt Lake City. Near the railroad crossing at 10200 South and 400 West, the driver stopped the bus. He opened the door to look beyond the thick fog, but did not see the "Flying Ute" train engine pulling over 80 train cars approaching at over 50 miles per hour. At 8:43 a.m., the wet rubber tires of the bus strained up the gentle grade and pulled slowly forward across the tracks. Upon seeing the bus, the train crew immediately applied the brakes, but the collision was inevitable. This tragic accident killed 23 children and the bus driver. The 15 survivors faced a lifetime of serious physical injuries and emotional scars.

This bus/train accident sent the community and the nation into mourning while various religious, charitable and governmental organizations rallied to support the area. Local and national media coverage brought an outpouring of sympathy for the victims and their families. Business and governmental investigations combed through massive amounts of data to determine what practical improvements could be made to avoid similar catastrophes. Countless generations have benefitted from railroad crossing laws and mechanical crossing arms. Often taken for granted is a mandatory requirement for bus drivers to not only stop at railroad crossings, but also to open their door and driver side window to look and listen for oncoming trains. Resulting from the disaster in this small Utah town, these national regulations are still in place today, making the lives of many school children much safer.

More information is available at the Gale Center of History and Culture (10300 South Beckstead Lane) and in the book, "Of Dugouts and Spires" also available at the Gale Center.

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*The City of South Jordan, one of the fastest growing cities in the United States, is located 20 miles southwest of Salt Lake City, and home to 56,000 residents. In 2010 and 2012, South Jordan was named the #18 "Best Place to Live in America" by Money Magazine.*



First in State

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