



'March Mayhem' announced

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ST. GEORGE - At fire station seven in Dixie Downs on Wednesday morning, representatives from different youth organizations came to announce "March Mayhem in the Desert," a basketball benefit for the Children's Justice Center and youth organizations.

Ron Current, director and founder of IMPACT, said three St. George City Council members were at the announcement, not only to hear about the event, but also to hear what each organization represents.

IMPACT is an organization that reaches out to adults in the gang life.

"We're working backward, but it's time for a change, to try something different," Current said.

Alii Alo, known as Bear, is an outreach counselor for TEAMRAW Youth Outreach program at the Youth Crisis Center. He said this event has been the collaboration of IMPACT, TEAMRAW and The School of Life Foundation.

Bear reaches out to the youth to help keep them away from gangs and drugs.

"It's going to be a good family event," he said. "It's also an opportunity to put the word out on TEAMRAW."

Jack Rolfe is president and founder of The School of Life Foundation, which donates a life skills workbook to youth organizations.

"It's all principle and value based," Rolfe said.

He added Wednesday was exciting and there was a positive atmosphere there.

"There was such a great feeling there," he said. "You feel like there's going to be a lot of momentum that's going to come from this."

The St. George Fire Department was also there. They will be participating as a basketball team and playing against IMPACT.

Capt. Darren Imlay said there will be four teams and two games.

"We're part of it to play the game and to help raise money," he said. "They're all great organizations and this is just another way for the fire department to get involved in the community in a positive way instead of fire suppression."

Bear said his team, "Team Tragedy," will take on the Washington County High School All Stars.

"This is good for the high school kids because it's their last exhibition before they go to college - they're leaving with a bang," he said. "For our team, they haven't had a chance to play on an organized team and this a chance for them to show their skills."

Already the tension is high between the teams.

"It's a grudge match," Imlay said.

Current's team, "Boys from the Hood," were already calling the fire department team "All Stars" out.

"We told them they better have a hose by the door because we're going to light them up," he said.

Councilman Jon Pike was one of the council members at the announcement of the event. He said it seemed like a good idea to him.

"It's a chance to bring these different groups together and have some fun," he said. "It gets these kids off the streets and shows them how they can contribute in positive ways."

Current wanted to thank Fire Chief Robert Stoker for letting his men come out to play.

The event will take place at Snow Canyon High School on March 22 at 11:30 a.m. The donation is \$2 per person and \$5 per family.

Current said 50 percent of what is raised will go to the Children's Justice Center. The rest will be divided among TEAMRAW and IMPACT.