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AMERICAN LEGION

Ceremony honoring Korean War veterans in Provo

BY JACOB NIELSON

Daily Herald

The American Legion Dean Mendenhall, Provo Post 13 will hold a ceremony this week to honor 14 veterans who served in the Korean War and one who served in World War II.

The event will take place at 6 p.m. Thursday in the Historic Courthouse 3rd Floor Ballroom in Provo.

"We honor veterans every day. All throughout the year. But with the 250th legacy, we want to honor our constitution, flag and under that we want to make sure that our veterans get recognized," Post 13 member and former American Legion Vice Commander Randy Edwards said. "As they're getting older we want to make sure that they are recognized and honored throughout our community."

Edwards said the Korean War is an unknown war for many, and as its veterans continue to age, Post 13 wants to ensure they are given the proper respect. The honorees, each members of Post 13, will receive a medal and an honorary lifetime membership in American Legion.

Several prominent American Legion leaders will be in attendance, including National Commander Dan Wiley.

"Just come," Edwards said. "There's no fee or anything. We just want to get as many people there as we can to recognize our Korean veterans."

'Not going to become easier'



National economist Tim Mahedy speaks at a Bank of Utah economic forecast event Thursday in Lehi.

JACOB NIELSON, DAILY HERALD

Experts speak on outlook of Utah's housing affordability at Lehi economic forecast event

BY JACOB NIELSON
Daily Herald

The outlook on housing affordability in Utah County and along the Wasatch Front remains bleak as the calendar turns to 2026, according to two experts.

The Bank of Utah held an economic forecast

Tim Mahedy said inflation is easing and contributions to GDP growth continue to improve, but he warned there is still volatility in the labor market and that borrowing rates remain high.

This has a direct implication for Utah because population growth and a business-friendly environment are keeping demand to live here high, but high prices and financing costs are putting pressure on developers to meet that demand, according to Mahedy.

"You are in a situation where you have made it very hard to develop," he told the Daily Herald. "I think, unfortunately, that's going to continue at the very time that we need more houses. ... It is not going to become an easier

environment for homebuyers or for people trying to build things."

According to NerdWallet, the average interest rate on a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage in Utah was 5.68% APR on Monday. Data from Zillow says the average home value in Utah County is \$535,628, up 2.5% from last year.

The high rates reflect what Mahedy described as a "structural shift" in 10-year Treasury and federal funds rates. From the 1980s to 2020, Treasury and federal rates trended down, but since COVID-19, rates have risen sharply and then stagnated.

Please see ECONOMY, Page A5

Utah's Prop 4 repeal effort files 200,000 signatures, may go back to voters



Voters cast their ballots at the Salt Lake County Government Center in Salt Lake City on Election Day on Nov. 5, 2024.

PHOTO BY SPENCER HEAPS FOR UTAH NEWS DISPATCH

BY KATIE MCKELLAR
Utah News Dispatch

The effort to repeal Utah's voter-approved, anti-gerrymandering law known as Proposition 4 hit a big milestone Sunday night as supporters submitted more than 200,000 signatures to county clerks for verification.

But the effort is still far from over.

The question of whether the repeal will appear on this year's November ballot still stands. Even though the group Utahns for Representative Government has filed well over the 140,748 signatures required, clerks still need to verify whether they're

valid. And they have to meet specific thresholds in at least 26 of Utah's 29 Senate districts.

Plus, the opposition group Better Boundaries — the original sponsors of Proposition 4 in 2018 — still has time to encourage voters to submit a request to their clerk's office to remove their signatures. Depending on when they signed, voters have up to 30 days after they signed to request removal, or up to 45 days after their signatures are posted to the lieutenant governor's website, according to Utah law.

We likely won't know for at least three weeks whether the question qualifies — but

the Utah GOP cleared a major hurdle when it turned in its final batches of signature packets before its 5 p.m. deadline Sunday evening.

After delivering totes full of signature packets to clerks offices that night, the Utah Republican Party announced in a news release that Utahns for Representative Government had submitted "well over" 200,000 signatures from voters across Utah.

"We are deeply grateful to the more than 200,000 Utahns who added their names," Utah GOP Chair Rob Axson said in a prepared statement.

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