Jr. Jazz and Sportsmanship

As a father of three Jr. Jazz participants, I have the great opportunity to watch my boys play each week. Ryker, who loves to play basketball, has had a lot of fun, but the lessons and experiences he has enjoyed this year go far beyond basketball. Ryker has a teammate named Jeremy, who loves to play basketball too, but whose height has prevented him from playing with kids his own age in other leagues. This year he came to West Point so he could play with his own age group. I attended the first few games and noticed that Jeremy, who always plays hard, found it difficult to dribble the ball without it getting stolen. He also had a hard time ever getting a shot off, because he is so much smaller than the other kids. It was probably about the fourth game of the season; Jeremy’s teammates were desperately trying to get him the ball. Every time they did the ball was either stolen or blocked. During a timeout, Jeremy was very frustrated and sad. He had been accidentally hit in the face and was just about ready to quit. Dustin, a teammate, came to the sideline and convinced Jeremy to come back onto the court. Although it was a close game, he and the rest of the team were determined to get Jeremy the ball and help him score. When the opposing team’s coach realized what was happening, he told his players to let Jeremy get the ball. Jeremy finally got the ball, dribbled it in (escorted by his four teammates) and after a few failed attempts shot the ball in. The crowd for both teams went wild. Jeremy was so happy he jumped on Dustin’s back; high fives went all around, even for the players on the other team! As I scanned the crowd I realized many parents, including Jeremy’s dad, were shedding tears. In all my years of watching and participating in sports, this was the most touching thing I have ever seen. The game was close, but neither team cared who won or lost because they were just so happy for Jeremy. This superior sportsmanship has carried through with this team since that game. A couple weeks after Jeremy made his first shot, an opposing player was having a similar hard time. Our team, quickly remembering Jeremy’s experience, started encouraging the player to shoot the ball. He shot and missed, but when our team got the rebound, they passed it right back to him. He shot again and scored! Once more, neither team cared about winning or losing, everyone was just happy. We have a great recreation program with first class individuals running it. They are outstanding people with whom we are proud to have the children of West Point associate. As the Mayor of West Point, or better yet the father of one of the boys on this team, I would like to commend Shawn Fessler (Jeremy’s Coach), Matt VanKomen (the opposing coach), Recreation Director Kelly Ross, and both of these 4th Grade Jr. Jazz teams. They made this season memorable and taught every one of us watching that game one of life’s most important lessons.

Gary Hill, City Manager
New Staff Member
West Point has a new City Planner. Chad Wilkinson will be at City Hall Monday through Friday, 8am to 12 pm. If you have any questions about zoning, development, or codes please call him at 801-614-5356.

Easter Egg Hunt!
Annual Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday April 23rd 9am @ Loy Blake Park!

Youth Councils Notes:
Thanks to all the residents who entered the “Why I Love My City” essay contest. Winners will be contacted and awarded at the City Council Meeting March 1st @ 7pm
March’s thought for month: Perseverance
“With ordinary talent and extraordinary perseverance, all things are attainable”
-Thomas Burton

Davis & Weber Company Canal Company Irrigation and Secondary Water Users
The Davis and Weber Counties Canal Company will begin to pressurize the secondary water system beginning April 1, 2011 and secondary water service will begin approximately April 15, 2011, weather permitting. It is the user’s responsibility to ensure that their systems are secure and ready to receive water by April 1, 2011. Additional time may be needed to repair leaks and charge all the lines in our service area. All residents should make sure their secondary water valves are closed before April 1, 2011. It is the responsibility of each water user to maintain their own isolation valve and replace it if necessary. Owner is responsible for any damage caused by their system failures. Customers who have a two-inch or larger connection and are using the pressurized irrigation water must follow the large users watering schedule. To request a large-users schedule or in case of an emergency with your secondary water system, call the office at (801)774-6373 or (801)698-6374 on weekends, holidays or after regular office hours. Irrigation Users: Please make sure your gate or siphon is ready to accept water by April 1, 2011.

Youth Baseball and Softball
Registration for baseball and softball will be from March 1st to March 31st for all youth grades pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Players receive a jersey and a hat. Cost is $35.00 for pre-k through 2nd grade, $45.00 3rd through 12th grade. Register on line or at City Hall.

Take Pride in West Point
Take Pride in West Point Day will be May 7th so mark your calendars now. The way to have a great day is with a great turnout. More information to come.

Seniors......
AARP is bringing their Driver Safety Class to City Hall! The class will be on April 7, 2011, from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Please call 801-776-0970 to make a reservation. Seniors, also remember to RSVP for the Senior Luncheon. It will be March 21, 2011, at 11:30 am, at City Hall.