

Nov. 24, 2008 Vol. 21 No. 25

The Nation's Imaging and Radiation Therapy Biweekly

advance

for Imaging and Radiation Therapy Professionals[®]

RSNA



**WHAT'S
IN IT
FOR
YOU**

ALSO INSIDE: Complete coverage of the SDMS annual conference. Plus, find out what it's like to live and work in the great states of the Southwest Region in ADVANCE Extra!

www.advancweb.com/rad

XT
RENEW NOW
800-355-1088

#BXNCZMQ# *****5-DIGIT 85392
#S850MIL42 XX9# P-18 P91
MICHAEL MILLER
11530 W DANA LN
AVONDALE AZ 85392-3434



**RSNA Conference
Issue**

Michelle Bump with her family on the beach at Utah's Bear Lake. *courtesy Michelle Bump*

Life's a Beach in the Southwest

The states of the Southwest Region boast some of America's best small cities, year-round recreation and plentiful opportunities for technologists *By Sarah Long*

Medical imaging professionals in the Southwest states of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah have access to a variety of practice settings, from premier medical centers to small community hospitals to independent imaging centers. The Southwest Region is also known for its vibrant communities, plentiful jobs, excellent schools and affordable housing. For instance, an impressive number of Southwest towns were recently recognized by *Money* as some of America's best small cities.

Fort Collins, Colo., earned a spot on the top 10 list at No. 2, thanks to roads with bike lanes, microbreweries and restaurants in the historic district, bioscience and tech companies that offer employment, excellent schools and a brand-new cancer center at the award-winning Poudre Valley Health System. Other Colorado cities making the list include Highlands Ranch at 12th, Loveland at 33rd, Westminster at 44th and Longmont at 50th.

Arizona is represented on the list by four cities. At 28th is Gilbert, where new

development projects include the Freestone Recreation Center, a new regional mall called SanTan Village, and a planned Mormon temple, according to *Money*.

Chandler, at 30th, hosts an annual Ostrich Festival, as a nod to the ostrich farms that used to dot the area. Scottsdale, at 47th, is home to the FBR Open Golf Tournament, the best-attended event on the PGA Tour.

Utah's two representatives on the *Money* list are Orem, a family-friendly city at the base of Mt. Timpanogos in Wasatch Range, which ranked 63rd; and Sandy at 83rd.

But don't rely on magazine rankings to judge the character of the region. Just ask some of the RTs who live there.

ADDRESSING NEEDS

In Arizona, the demand for imaging professionals is growing to meet the needs of current and anticipated residents, said Julie Hughes, MS, RT(R), CRA, system director of radiology services at Scottsdale Healthcare in Scottsdale, Ariz.

"Arizona has a local radiology admin-

istrators group that meets quarterly to discuss issues relevant to urban areas," Hughes said. "There also is a rural administrators group that meets two times a year to discuss issues that are relevant to the rural hospital community."

Scottsdale Healthcare is a community-based hospital system made up of three hospitals ranging from a Level 1 trauma facility to a NICU Level 3 unit to a new medical-surgical facility. The hospital system offers the opportunity for cross-training in CT, IR and MRI, Hughes said. "We only require that they are willing to take their advanced registry upon completion of our training module."

Those interested in pursuing continuing education and career advancement in the Southwest will find opportunity at every turn.

Most facilities have a yearly evaluation of employee goals, and pay raises can be dependent upon the goals a technologist achieves, said Deb Noel, RT(R)(M)(T), of Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center in Phoenix.

Michelle Bump, RT(R)(M), of Inter-

mountain Southridge Clinic in Riverton, Utah, also serves as secretary for the Utah Society of Radiologic Technologists.

The society hosts three conferences each year: The winter conference, on Feb. 21, is worth three Category A credits; the two-day spring conference held May 15-16 is worth 13-14 credit hours; and the fall conference in November is worth seven credits.

The New Mexico Society of Radiologic Technologists rewards its members by awarding free year memberships to long-time members. Irene Slugaj, RT, of Lac Cruces, with 12-year membership, is the most recent award winner.

Whether cross-training at work or attending conferences, Wynn Harrison, MEd, RT(R), CNMT, a professor in the department of radiologic sciences at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah, feels there are plenty of ways to keep on top of industry advancements.

"We have opportunities in diagnostic radiology as well as in the many other professions in radiologic sciences such as nuclear medicine, radiation therapy, sonography, etc.," he said. "There are some very exciting newer opportunities as well. PACS administration is big these days, and RTs with computer experience have the knowledge to make it work in the radiology department."

However, some opportunities may depend on the area, said Kristi Lutjelusche, BRS, RT(R), a radiologic assistant at Radiology Imaging Associates. Lutjelusche is based at The Medical Center of Aurora, North Campus in Aurora, Colo., and also serves as the board chair of the Colorado Society of Radiologic Technologists.

HAVING FUN

Southwest residents can agree they are blessed with great weather.

"What state offers our range of climates?" Hughes asked. "We have desert temperatures, mountains, hiking and snow skiing. Over 335 days of sunshine

per year, friendly people and all types of relaxation are available in Arizona."

Technologists also expressed an appreciation for the diversity of cultures in the Southwest.

"Our Native American culture and the Grand Canyon make Arizona a popular destination," said Hughes, who lives in Phoenix. "This past weekend there was a Celtic festival in Tucson, a Serbian festival in Phoenix, and an Arab-American festival in Glendale. All of these are in easy driving distance for a day trip. Native American functions are a different activity that is family-oriented."

For Noel, the region's cultural diversity is reflected in her job.

"Taking care of others may mean that I learn a new way of communicating," she said. "Also, you can find tons of history in Arizona, back to the wild, wild West."

Noel enjoys driving two hours out of town in the winter months to go sledding, eating at Phoenix's fine-dining

establishments, taking in the gorgeous sunsets, checking out local car shows that feature antiques and catching Broadway performances at the many theatres around town.

Lutjelusche loves to go out and eat, but likes to stir things up at home in Aurora, Colo., as well.

Bump says there's plenty to love about her home state of Utah.

"I love that we have all four seasons. I love that I can be downtown or in the mountains within 30 minutes from my house," she said.

Harrison echoes Bump's appreciation for the outdoors, particularly snow and water skiing, hiking, camping and visiting Lake Powell.

"We live in Layton and there is an area called restaurant row—many wonderful places to eat and enjoy an evening," Harrison added. ■

Sarah Long is a frequent contributor to ADVANCE.

Southwest Region Advertiser Index

ADVANCE your career in the Southwest Region with these facilities. Our special Southwest section details what it is like to live and work in the Southwest Region—and these highlighted employers want you to know about their exciting job openings. If you're looking for a job in these featured states, think of these facilities first. And, remember, when you respond to an ad in ADVANCE, you are helping to keep ADVANCE coming FREE to imaging and radiation therapy professionals all over the nation. Our magazine is FREE because of the support of these and other advertisers. Happy job hunting!

ARIZONA

Kingman Regional Medical Center
www.azkrmc.com.....31

COLORADO

Womens Imaging Center31
Memorial Hospital
www.thememorialhospital.com 31

NATIONAL

Navix Diagnostix Incorporated
www.navixdiagnostix.com41
Resources On Call.....BC
CJ Ventures
www.rehaboptions.com.....37
Club Staffing Incorporated
www.clubstaffing.com.....40

Team Staff Rx

www.teamstaffrx.com38

Medical Staffing Network36

Vein Clinics of America
veinclinics.com.....40

Aureus Medical Group
www.auresmedical.com.....39

Titan Medical Group
www.titanmed.com41

RSI Medical Staffing
www.rsimedical.com.....38

MEDRelief Staffing - Advanced Health
www.medrelief.com41

Banner Health
www.bannerhealth.com41

Rapid Temps
www.rapidtemps.com.....37