

The Herald Journal



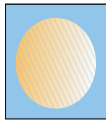
Vol. 99 No. 214 Friday, August 1, 2008 Bridgerland's Daily Newspaper Logan, Utah \$0.50

TEENS IN ACTION
Youth Council gives young people chance to participate, perks included.



— A3

Weather



High: 97
Low: 55
Sunny
- Page A10

Update

Gay marriage

Massachusetts lets out-of-state gay couples wed

BOSTON (AP) — Joy Spring and Carla Barbano spent the day before their wedding the way many brides do: relaxing and primping at a spa.

But unlike most, their wedding day had to wait until Gov. Deval Patrick signed a bill Thursday that repealed a 1913 law that had blocked gay couples from outside Massachusetts from marrying here.

"We're being recognized as a married couple," said Spring, of Middletown, N.Y., who planned to wed Barbano, her partner of seven years, at a ceremony Friday in Provincetown.

Supporters of the repeal of the law, which banned couples from marrying in Massachusetts unless their unions would be legal in their home states, say lifting the ban was not only fair but will have economic benefits.

A state study estimates that more than 30,000 out-of-state gay couples — most of them from New York — will wed in Massachusetts over the next three years. That would boost the state's economy by \$111 million and create 330 jobs, the study estimated.

Opponents say Massachusetts

See WED on A10



Today's headlines

• Joy Riding

— See A10

Quick read

Go to The Herald Journal Web site, www.hjnews.com, to cast your vote on today's survey question. See Friday's newspaper for results and a new question.

Important note: This is not a scientific survey. Results simply reflect the opinions of some of the people visiting the newspaper's Web page.

Today's question

Have you ever urinated in a public swimming pool?

- 1) Yes
- 2) No

Tuesday's survey results
Have you ever canceled a newspaper or magazine subscription over content you considered offensive?

Answers	Number	Percent
1) Yes	108	36
2) No	190	64
Total Responses: 298		

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www.hjnews.com



Red fire bugs invade Utah from Europe

By Kim Burgess
staff writer

A European relative of the Box Elder bug has taken up residence in Salt Lake City, its first appearance anywhere in North America. The red fire bug is slightly smaller than its local cousin and has striking black and red markings along its body and wings. Since April, it's been found in the Sugarhouse and Cottonwood Heights neighborhoods of southeastern Salt Lake City — but a Utah State University insect expert thinks it's likely to spread to Cache Valley and beyond.

"I feel like anywhere Box Elder bugs can live, they have a good chance of surviving," said Erin Hodgson, USU's extension entomologist.

The critter's migration could be a slow process. Hodgson describes



Courtesy Utah State University Extension

it as "more of a walker than a flier."

No one is certain how the red fire bug first got to the Beehive State, though Hodgson hypothesizes that it arrived on imported plant material.

Those hoping that competition from the newcomers will reduce

the number of Box Elder bugs are probably out of luck. The two species feed on different types of seeds, putting them in separate niches. Red fire bugs favor mallow, linden and lime seeds, while Box Elder bugs prefer the seeds of their namesake tree. Hodgson imagines most likely

For more information on red fire bugs...

Look Online

hjnews.com

there will be plenty of food to go around for both bugs.

The good news — red fire bugs are harmless and unlikely to damage gardens.

Like Box Elder bugs, the new insects can be irritating, gathering by the thousands in backyard and invading homes.

"They will probably be just a nuisance," Hodgson said.

For more information on the red fire bug or to report a sighting of the insect, contact Hodgson at 797-5689 or erin@biology.usu.edu.

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Valley recreation

Swimming in debt



Meegan M. Reid/Herald Journal

A pair of youngsters participate in swim lessons at the Logan Aquatic Center last month.

Rising Aquatic Center expenses causing budget woes

By Emilie H. Wheeler
staff writer

Rising operational costs at the Logan Aquatic Center have caused expenses to now double revenue, and the division's fund could exceed budget by nearly \$50,000 this year.

Since the pool opened in 2001, revenue has peaked and then decreased, while expenses have continued to pile on. In fiscal year 2008, \$636,117 was budgeted for the facility, while only about

\$317,000 was brought in through admission and other fees.

That's to be expected, said Logan Finance Director Rich Anderson, along with programs and facilities like parks and libraries.

"That's just not a service that we can expect to pay for itself," he said. "Those are services the citizens have requested."

Increased maintenance, chlorine and personnel costs have caused the expense side of the budget to increase from just over \$325,000

in 2002 to the more than \$636,000 this year, and the challenges are evidenced by this year's final figures.

Anderson said preliminary numbers show the Aquatic Center could have gone \$46,000 over budget this year, although an audit in October will show whether that is actually the case.

"This year it's most likely that the Aquatic Center will go over budget by some amount," he said.

See CENTER on A10

Small jet crashes in Minnesota; eight killed

OWATONNA, Minn. (AP) — A small jet crashed Thursday while preparing to land at a regional airport in Minnesota, killing eight people, including casino and construction executives.

Authorities initially thought nine people may have been aboard the Raytheon Hawker 800, which went down about 9:30 a.m. about 60 miles south of the Twin Cities.

But by late evening, Department of Public Safety spokesman Doug Neville said it had been confirmed that eight people were on board.

The plane was carrying two pilots. Seven people were dead at the scene. One died later at a hospital.

Severe weather had been moving through southern Minnesota earlier Thursday, but witnesses and the National Weather Service said the storms were subsiding at the time of the crash.

The charter jet, flying from Atlantic City, N.J., to Owatonna, a town of 25,000, went down in a cornfield northwest of Degner Regional Airport, Sheriff Gary Ringhofer said. The wreckage was not visible to reporters because tall corn obscured the crash site.

The debris was scattered 500 feet beyond the airport's runway. Late Thursday, the Dakota County coroner was on the scene working to identify victims.

See JET on A6

U.S. death toll in Iraq hits all-time monthly low

BAGHDAD (AP) — The monthly U.S. toll in Iraq fell to its lowest point since the war began, with 11 American deaths as July drew to a close Thursday after the departure of the last surge brigade.

Iraqis also are dying at dramatically lower numbers with the war in its sixth year. July saw the lowest civilian toll since December 2005, though a series of suicide bombings this week and rising ethnic tensions in northern Iraq reflect the fragility of the security successes.

An Associated Press tally shows at least 510 Iraqi civilians and security force members were killed in July, a 75 percent drop from the 2,021 deaths in the same period last year as the U.S. troop buildup aimed at quelling rampant Sunni-Shiite violence was nearing its peak.

The drastic decline in violence over the past year has led

► **Bush touts security gains in Iraq** — Page A2

to increasing optimism among American commanders, who have been wary of declaring success after past lulls proved short-lived. It also has become a key issue in the U.S. presidential campaign. "The progress is still reversible," President Bush said Thursday in Washington. But he said a new "degree of durability in gains" should permit him to announce further U.S. troop reductions later this year.

The last of five combat brigades sent as part of the so-called surge returned home in July, leaving about 145,000 U.S. troops in Iraq. That is still higher than the roughly 130,000 to 135,000 who were



AP photo

A U.S. Army soldier from Hammer Company, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment stands guard near two suspected terrorists in Nahr al-Imam, about 60 miles north of Baghdad, in Iraq's volatile Diyala province on Wednesday.