

In brief

Logan

Canyon pipeline work to continue through Aug. 22

Crews will continue working on the Logan city water pipeline adjacent to U.S. Highway 89, from the mouth of Logan Canyon to Dewitt Springs, which is about three miles east, through the Aug. 15-22 week.

Traffic in both directions will be halted while blasting operations are conducted intermittently throughout the week, according to the Utah Department of Transportation. Delays of up to 15 minutes should be expected.

Motorists should reduce speeds in the construction zone and be prepared to stop at any time.

For a complete list of Utah Department of Transportation projects, go to www.udot.utah.gov.

Idaho

Diamond Rio still on at fair tonight

A Diamond Rio concert will take place tonight at 8 p.m. at the Franklin County Fairgrounds. Josh Everson will open the event.

Preston Area Chamber of Commerce President Vicki Golightly said some have called her office unsure if the concert is still planned, perhaps due to confusion about changes in chamber leadership. However, the concert is still on.

Golightly said the best seats have been going fast. Those who want to stand close to the stage should purchase tickets ahead of time. The deadline to purchase tickets at the chamber is 6 p.m., but they will also be available at the gate.

Tickets range in price from \$10 to \$40. The most expensive tickets are for standing in the arena and the cheapest are up in the bleachers. Those with seats in the arena should bring their own chairs.

Tickets may be purchased at the Preston Area Chamber of Commerce or by calling 208-852-2703. Proceeds will benefit county businesses.

Preston cuts on garbage pickup

Due to high gas prices, Preston has tightened up its garbage pickup policy.

The Idaho city will only collect garbage on appointed days and times.

In the past, City Clerk Jerry Larsen said the city would make a special trip to pick up garbage during the week if someone requested it. Crews would even return on garbage pickup day to pick up trash if someone failed to put it out on the curb, he said.

Agendas

✓ The InTech Collegiate High School Board of Governors will meet at 10 a.m. at 1787 N. Research Parkway. Agenda items include:

- Hearing a bookkeeper's report.
- Hearing a treasurer's report.
- Discussing approval of USU partnership MOU.
- Discussing approval of school sign concert.
- Discussing approval of employment agreement forms.
- Discussing approval of a change in policy language.
- Discussing approval of dress code.
- Electing board officers.
- Conducting an executive session to discuss personnel.
- Hearing committee reports.
- Hearing a report from the curriculum and program committee.
- Hearing a report from the enrollment and retention committee.
- Hearing a report from the public relations committee.
- Hearing a principal's report.

Logan schools plan property tax hike

By Devin Felix
staff writer

Logan City School District plans to raise its property tax rates next year to correspond with a decrease in the taxes assessed by the state.

If the taxed budget is approved, the total property tax rate going to the school district will remain the same, said Zane Woolstenhulme, the district's business administrator.

"Because the state dropped their

rate, we have to raise the one we set," Woolstenhulme said.

The district's Board of Education will conduct a public hearing to discuss the taxes at 6 p.m. Aug. 26 in the district offices, 101 W. Center St.

Part of the total schools' property tax rate is established by the state, while the rest is established by districts' boards of education.

Last year, the rate established by the state was 0.00125. This year, that rate will be 0.001311,

which means the district will have to increase its rate to maintain the same revenue. The tax rates established by the school district will increase a total of 0.00061 to make up the difference.

The total property tax rate assessed for schools in the city will remain at 0.007304.

Under the proposed rate, a primary residence with a market value of \$170,000 will be assessed \$682.92 per year.

The law requires the district to

advertise the proposed change as a property tax increase because the tax rate established by the district will be increasing, even though the total rate will remain the same.

The district's property tax revenue from new growth and other sources will increase from about \$11.5 million to about \$12.3 million, according to the district's notice advertising the change.

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On campus

Planting to conserve



USU students (left to right) Rebecca Beutler, Shannon Mills and Sarah Peel work on the landscaping in front of Old Main on Thursday.

USU 'going green' with water-wise landscaping

By Kim Burgess
staff writer

Flower beds at Utah State University are "going green" with the addition of new water-wise plants.

Drought-resistant species like Russian sage, chocolate flower and penstemon were recently placed in a plot near the fine arts building. Work on the bed in front of Old Main will continue through today.

When it is complete, the school will have eight xeriscaped plots, including a few managed by the plant science faculty.

The change has dramatically cut water use, said campus gardener Brian Daines, who leads the landscaping crew.

The new perennials only need sprinkling every seven to 10 days, compared to every other day for the flowers that used to grow there. Other maintenance, like weeding, is roughly the same.

"Since we're a university, we probably need to be on the forefront of things like this," Daines said.

Also supportive was USU horticulture senior Rebecca Beutler, who is working with the landscaping crew for the third year.

"Conserving water is a very good idea, especially during the summer," Beutler said as she dug a hole for a plant.

The university began the switch to xeriscaping five years ago and is making strides on other sustainability projects. "Green" cleaning products are now the norm and four hybrid cars were purchased to replace aging vehicles, university officials said.

Much of the effort began in March 2007 when USU President Stan Albrecht signed the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment, pledging to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Later that year, a sustainability council was formed to investigate ways USU can become more environmentally friendly.

"It's a good idea because of things like air quality in Cache Valley," said Nat Frazer, dean of the College of Natural Resources and chair of the council. "We all live here in Cache Valley, and we all want our quality of life to be as high as possible. Ultimately, it is also more cost efficient."

For more information on USU's Sustainability Initiative, go to www.usu.edu/sustainability.

Pair tied to July beating case held on 5 charges

By Matthew K. Jensen
staff writer

The two suspects tied to a brutal July beating case remain incarcerated after a 1st District Court judge bound the pair over on five charges including a first-degree felony for aggravated kidnapping.

Antonio Luis Medina, 20, and Stephanie Lynn Smith, 18, were arrested July 26 and charged with several counts after Logan police suspected their involvement in the kidnapping and beating of a 23-year-old woman who escaped from the couple and fled into a Logan Main Street electrical store in late July.

Employees there said they found the woman visibly shaken and in need of help. Logan police have said Medina and Smith returned to the store 20 minutes later looking for the woman and they were arrested.

The two suspects appeared Thursday morning before Judge

Clint S. Judkins, where two police witnesses and the alleged victim were questioned by attorneys about the incident.

Smith's count of aggravated assault was bumped up to a second-degree felony. Smith pleaded guilty to the charge. Sentencing for the woman is scheduled for Sept. 22.

Medina is being held without bail until Aug. 19. Smith's bail is set at \$5,000.

Cache County attorney Barbara Lachmar requested the defendants have no contact with one another, the woman or her family.

Police say on July 19, the two attacked the 23-year-old woman, hitting her with several objects and tying her down. Reports indicate the woman was told she was being taken to Logan Canyon, where she feared she would be murdered.

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Utah turns back request to drill near Spiral Jetty

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Utah regulators have sent back two applications from a Canadian company that wants to drill for oil in the Great Salt Lake near the famed Spiral Jetty art installation.

Brad Hill, planning manager for the Utah Department of Natural Resources, says Pearl Montana Exploration Ltd. of Calgary, Alberta, didn't respond to several key questions about how the company planned to carry out the drilling projects.

Without that information, the state couldn't move ahead. The two applications to drill have been sent back to the company.

"It's hard to approve something when you don't have anything to approve," Hill said.

In a five-page letter, Gil Hunt, the state's associate director for oil and gas, said the company can refile its application some time later — but should do more home-

work first.

"Please make the necessary investment and professional effort necessary to match the challenges presented ahead by this project," Hunt wrote.

In January, the company submitted applications to drill two exploratory wells about five miles from Spiral Jetty, a 1,500-foot coil of basalt rock and soil built by artist Robert Smithson in 1970.

The proposal drew thousands of public comments, including from artists and conservationists who worried the project would threaten the jetty.

The company was asking the state to allow it to drill the wells from barges near Rozel Point.

The company never provided the state with diagrams it asked for with details about drilling rigs, barges, staging areas or equipment that would be used in case of a spill.