

# The Herald Journal

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**LEARNING TO SWIM**  
Cache Valley kids get in, get wet at Aquatic Center lessons — C1

## Weather



High: 95  
Low: 55  
Sunny skies  
— Page A8

## Update

### Economy



**Inflation spreads:** Laurie Palmer of Portland, Ore., checks her sales receipt after checking out at Wal-Mart. Coming price increases from manufacturers may leave retailers with no choice but to pass those hikes onto strapped consumers.

## As costs surge, inflation's next front is retailers

NEW YORK (AP) — Coming to a store near you: Even higher prices.  
Most inflation this year has come from food and fuel, as retailers resisted passing along the higher prices manufacturers charged them, but coming increases from companies such as Johnson & Johnson and Hasbro Inc. may leave them with no choice.  
"While these increases have not for the most part been passed on at the retail level, it is inevitable that they will be at some point," said Dean Baker, co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research. "Car dealers and other retailers cannot continue to absorb rising costs at the wholesale level and not pass some of these increases on to consumers."  
Sherwin Williams Co. on July 17 announced its third price increase in eight months. The company has been having "difficult discussions" with retailers, Chris Connor, chairman and CEO, said on its quarterly conference call.  
The price increases are "well supported with facts in terms of why the company needs them."

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## Greatest Hits

Articles and visual presentations receiving the most "hits" at hjnews.com for the week of Friday, July 18, through Thursday, July 24:

1. LDS Church History Vacation (2,245)
2. Logan man accused of rape, drug possession (1,179)
3. USU digging for clues (766)
4. Our View: Taser incident touched local nerve (711)
5. Rhiannon Hansen (644)
6. Carroll enjoys big game (613)
7. Logan plans booting fee hike (583)
8. Scenic Byway effort chugs on (577)
9. Logan Scouts find missing boy (454)
10. Napoleon Dynamite Festival (446)

\* Article from previous week continuing to get "hits."

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# County takes 'big hit'

## Cache revenues to be decreased by \$213,273 thanks to sales tax snafu

By Charles Geraci  
staff writer

Cache County will be taking an unexpected hit to its sales tax revenue this year.  
The Utah State Tax Commission recently notified the county that over the past several years some telecommunications providers

have inaccurately reported their sales at the county level instead of the municipal level. The affected filing periods are from January 2005 through November 2007.  
"As a result, for this period of time, there has been an over-distribution of sales tax to counties and an under-distribution to cities and towns," wrote Rodney G. Marrelli, executive director of the commission, in a letter to the county.  
The county's revenues will be decreased by \$213,273, which will be reflected in a much lower July sales tax payment, according to County Executive Lynn Lemon.  
"It is a big hit," Lemon said.

"There was nothing we could do about it. In essence, they're telling us that they overpaid us for those three years, and they're going to make the adjustment."  
For 2008, the county has budgeted \$4 million in sales tax revenue, and there is approximately the same amount in reserves.  
"If there's a shortage, we'll just fund it out of the reserve," Lemon said. "So I'm not at this point in time thinking we're gonna go back and cut the budget."  
However, Lemon said the adjustment will "definitely affect us next year when we do our budget."  
Marrelli noted that since some

taxpayers still have not begun reporting sales tax at the local level, another adjustment will occur in the next few months, though it "will not be as large as the current adjustment."  
The net effect of the change, according to Lemon, will be about \$70,000 less in sales tax per year.  
"I'm concerned because I thought that our general sales tax revenue was greater than it is, but it makes me realize that it's just another area that we've got to be very concerned about," Lemon said. "We've got to be very careful as far as how we budget and spend the funds."

## HOMETOWN

Cache people, places & things



Photos by Alan Murray/Herald Journal

Michael Piep, Utah State University mycologist, botanist and assistant curator for the Intermountain Herbarium, talks with a group about plant life along the Limber Pine Trail in Logan Canyon on Saturday. Below: Piep shows a group of hikers the red elderberry along the trail.

## Flowerly wonders: Hikers learn all about plants' mysteries with expert USU mycologist

By Matthew K. Jensen  
staff writer

Just yards into the trail, botany expert Michael Piep explains the practical uses of several Logan Canyon plants — one for musical flutes, another for tea and ice cream.  
Piep, a botanist and assistant curator for the Intermountain Herbarium at Utah State University, led a nature walk with a group of 20 through the Limber Pine Nature

Trail at the summit of the canyon Saturday morning.  
Hikers moved through damp passes of spruce and Douglas fir, out into sun-warmed meadows dotted with sego lilies and mountain mahogany and up to the highlight of the trail — a 2,500-year-old limber pine, which, up close, looks more like stone than wood.  
Technically a mycologist — one who studies fungi — Piep began

See PLANTS on A8



"A big monster that's swallowed money and hopes": The Khan Bani Saad Correctional Facility, about 12 miles northeast of Baghdad, is seen with unused building materials sitting nearby.

## Report: Empty prison in Iraq desert a \$40 million 'failure'

BAGHDAD (AP) — In the flatlands north of Baghdad sits a prison with no prisoners.  
It holds something else: a chronicle of U.S. government waste, misguided planning and construction shortcuts costing \$40 million and stretching back to the American overseers who replaced Saddam Hussein.  
"It's a bit of a monument in the desert right now because it's not going to be

used as a prison," said Stuart Bowen, the special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction, whose office plans to release a report today detailing the litany of problems at the vacant detention center in Khan Bani Saad.  
The pages also add another narrative to the wider probes into the billions lost so far on scrubbed or substandard projects in Iraq and one of the main contractors accused of failing to deliver,

the Parsons construction group of Pasadena, Calif.  
"This is \$40 million invested in a project with very little return," Bowen told The Associated Press in Washington. "A couple of buildings are useful. Other than that, it's a failure."  
In the pecking order of corruption in Iraq, the dead-end prison project at Khan Bani Saad is nowhere near

See PRISON on A8

