



## In brief

### Utah

#### Budget crunch hits police hiring

**SALT LAKE CITY (AP)** — Salt Lake City police may have to continue running a smaller force because of budget constraints.

Chief Chris Burbank says the department is considering options before the next round of hirings scheduled for July.

The department was not able to hire a new class of recruits in January because of budget reductions. Burbank says that could happen again this summer, leaving the city with as many as 30 fewer officers.

Burbank says the issue is simply a lack of money right now — there isn't enough.

"It's not a matter of anyone saying, 'That's a bad idea.' It's just a budget question now. Is there enough money?" Burbank said. "I don't know if I'd say I'm confident (that the new applicants will be hired in July). I feel like I have good support."

The Salt Lake City Police Department sorts through applications of potential new officers twice a year. The new hires are sent to the police academy for training before becoming full-time members of the department.

Burbank says there are currently 16 officer vacancies because of January's hiring delay. He says that's about six more than the usual number of open spots.

#### Poisoned eagle making recovery

**SPRINGVILLE (AP)** — A bald eagle is being nursed back to health after being found near death from high levels of heavy metals, including lead and mercury.

The bird has gained two pounds since it was found in early March and taken to Great Basin Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education in Springville.

The eagle was emaciated and had a broken wing. The lower part of the wing needed to be amputated, but the bird is eating on its own now.

Officials believe the eagle may have been poisoned by tailings from old mine operations found in Utah's mountains.

The bird was found near Deseret Chemical Depot, which volunteered to pay the medical bills. Depot officials do not believe the bird was poisoned on the Army property.

## Agendas

✓ **The Preston City Council** will meet at 4:30 p.m. at 70 W. Oneida St. Agenda items include:

- Considering approving bills and previous meetings' minutes.
- Considering approving business licenses for Tracy Moser, Forrest Broadhead, Kody Golightly, Bart Bodily, Theon Merrill and Ryan Bodily.
- Discussing the water connection at 204 S. State St.
- Discussing greenhouses at 660 S. State St.
- Discussing a census proclamation.
- Discussing a mutual aid agreement for police protection.
- Scheduling a date for a fiscal year 2010 budget hearing.
- Discussing an I & I study.
- Discussing proposed ordinances for secondary water and impact fees.
- Discussing the Preston Community Food Pantry.
- Discussing city and county impact fees.
- Discussing a final plat for Country Club Estates.
- Hearing reports from the mayor and councilmembers.
- Holding an executive session to discuss personnel and litigation.

## 2 Aggies win Goldwater awards

By Kim Burgess  
staff writer

Two Utah State University students have won a prestigious math and science scholarship that will pay for two years of their education at the school.

Taren McKenna and Cody Tramp were recently chosen as 2009 Goldwater Scholars, while another Aggie, Brian Myers, received an honorable mention.

Nationally, 1,097 students applied for the scholarships

and 278 were awarded, including three in Utah. The state's other Goldwater Scholar is at Brigham Young University.

Each of USU's 2009 honorees are members of the Honors program and involved in research projects.

• McKenna, a 2007 gradu-



McKenna



Tramp



Myers

ate of Sky View High School in Smithfield, has the added distinction of being half of the only pair of USU siblings to

receive the award. Her older brother, Logan, was a Goldwater Scholar in 2006 and is currently a doctoral student at Washington University in St. Louis.

McKenna, a sophomore in physics and math, also hopes to go to graduate school, and then conduct research in thermo-nuclear energy generation and teach at a university.

• Tramp, a Wyoming native, is planning on a doctoral

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## Valley employment



Eli Lucero/Herald Journal

John Hoth fills out an application to work at the new Wal-Mart on Wednesday in Providence.

## Wal-Mart hiring

### New Supercenter seeks to fill 340 positions

By Emilie H. Wheeler  
staff writer

Nearly 350 Cache Valley residents will find new jobs this month and in May as Logan's new Wal-Mart gears up for its opening date.

Wal-Mart officials are currently taking applications both online and at a hiring center that has temporarily been set up in Providence. The new Supercenter has a tentative opening date of June 17, store manager Russell Hall said, and plans to hire 340 employees.

Individuals are being recruited for all areas of the new store, including supervisory positions. Wal-Mart is looking for both full- and part-time employees. Hall said the store plans to hire about 65 percent of its employees into full-time positions.

Applications have been brisk.

"We're right on our schedule, and there has been a good response," Hall said.

Hall, who is moving from a Layton Wal-Mart where he was a co-manager, said the Logan

store will hire about half of its needed employees by May 11. At that point, Wal-Mart will take over the building from contractors and begin getting the store ready to open in June.

As the Logan area's jobless rate steadily climbs, more residents may be interested in these types of jobs. Earlier this month, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics announced a 4.4 percent unemployment rate in February for the area, an increase from January's 3.8 percent and December's 2.9 percent. Rates below 4 percent are typically considered healthy for communities.

The retail giant began building Cache Valley's second Superstore last summer after securing necessary building permits. It was first announced there would be a Wal-Mart in Logan's south end in 2005.

About 176,000 square feet, the big box sits on the northeast corner of the property bordered by 1200 South and the old Macey's building, which is now occupied by several businesses.

Hall told The Herald Jour-

nal this store will be "unique" in several ways. South of the building, several mature trees have been left standing, and that area will be established as a wetland area, he said.

Inside the store, there are a handful of "sustainability features." Its cement floors have been made from recycled materials, and the store will be lit by sunlight throughout the day, Hall said, as skylights will cover the entire ceiling.

Additionally, this Wal-Mart will be one of two in the entire company to host a fly shop.

"It will be a separate area toward the front of the store and exclusive to fly fishing only," Hall said. "It'll be a great resource for fly fishermen."

Those who would like to apply can go online at [walmartstores.com/Careers/7745.aspx](http://walmartstores.com/Careers/7745.aspx) or visit the hiring center in Providence at 517 W. 100 North. It is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

E-mail: [ewheeler@hnews.com](mailto:ewheeler@hnews.com)

## USU hires new VP of Student Services

By Kim Burgess  
staff writer

Utah State University's new vice president for Student Services says he will focus much of his work on improving opportunities for under-privileged students.

James D. Morales' appointment to the position was announced Friday at USU's Board of Trustees meeting. He will replace Gary Chambers, who is retiring in June.



Morales

The son of migrant laborers, Morales stated in a press release that he loves higher education because he gets to work with young people and help them achieve their dreams.

"My experience as a Latino and coming from a disadvantaged background, I see myself as a role model," Morales said. "I look forward to connecting with the students and helping them succeed."

Morales added that he applied at USU because of its national reputation as a research institution and its mission of making education accessible.

Currently, he is associate vice chancellor for enrollment at the University of Minnesota, Morris. Over the past 16 years he has also held administrative positions at the admissions offices of the University of Connecticut and University of Minnesota, Duluth.

In 1991 he earned a bachelor's degree in speech communication from the University of Utah followed by a doctorate in higher education policy at the University of Minnesota in 2000.

In his new role, Morales will oversee a number of

See USU on A6

## SLC considers payday lender restrictions

**SALT LAKE CITY (AP)** — Salt Lake City is considering regulations on payday loan businesses.

The City Council is scheduled to vote April 21 on a measure to restrict the check-cashing outlets from moving closer than a half-mile from one another.

Officials hope the regulation would lead to fewer people seeking the quick cash, which can come at a very high cost from the controversial lenders.

"It is time that we send a

message," councilman J.T. Martin said.

Salt Lake City has been wrestling with the issue for nearly four years. Many other cities along the Wasatch Front have already imposed regulations on payday lenders.

The city can have some control of how many payday lenders there are and where the shops can be located, but council members say it's up to the Legislature to curb payday lenders' sky-high interest rates.

"We're nibbling at the cor-

ners," councilman Van Turner said. "The real problem is the high interest."

Check-store managers defended the industry during a public hearing last week.

Wendy Gibson says the stores fully disclose all loan terms and are highly regulated through unannounced annual audits. "It's going to limit my customers' access to credit," Gibson said of the city's half-mile proposal.

Opponents of payday loan stores have accused the industry of lobbying against a legis-

lative proposal to cap interest, which was killed in committee earlier this year.

Attorney Frank Pignanelli, a former mayoral candidate and a lobbyist for the Utah Consumer Lending Association, said the accusation is too broad. Pignanelli said rules have been tightened since the first legislation that policed payday-loan businesses was passed 10 years ago.

"To say it's been ignored is incorrect," he said. "It's always been very pro-consumer."

# Obituary

## Ronald (Jake) Jacobsen

LOGAN, Utah — Ronald (Jake) Jacobsen passed away April 10, 2009, at the University of Utah Medical Center, Salt Lake City, Utah, of complications related to cancer. He was surrounded by his loving family.

Ron was born May 3, 1945, in Payson, Utah, to A.V. and Decema Larsen Jacobsen. He was the second of three boys.

Ron attended Jubah High School where he was very active in rodeo, winning several buckles in Bronco Riding. He graduated in 1963. He then joined the Army National Guard Reserves. He also attended Utah State University.

Ron married Marilyn Otsson and they were later divorced. Ron worked for the Rio Grande Railroad in Grand Junction, Colo. He drove trucks for many years. He retired from Thiokol ATK after 17 years of service.

Ron met and married the love of his life, Lynda Swenson. They were married Oct. 4, 1973. The marriage was later solemnized in the Logan (Utah) Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Ron was an elder in the Woodruff Ward. Ron enjoyed fly fishing with his boys in Alaska. He enjoyed trying flier. Ron was an avid reader and enjoyed discussing the books and articles he read. Ron had a wonderful, dry sense of humor. Ron was friends with everyone and everyone was his friend.

Ron was preceded in death by his parents and sister-in-law, Teresa Jacobsen. Ron is survived by his sweetheart, Lynda; children, Ben (Valerie), Ronald (Brian), John (Sandra) and Joshua (Debra). He also leaves behind his greatest treasures, his five grandsons, Jordan, Tony, Gavin, Alex and Dax. He is also survived by two brothers, James Jacobsen and Scott Jacobsen, along with numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. He is survived by his Uncle Morgan and Aunt Pauline Larsen.

Funeral services will be held at noon Tuesday, April 14, in the Woodruff Ward Chapel, 993 W. 10th South, Logan, Utah. A viewing will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, April 13, at the Allen-Hall Mortuary, 34 E. Center St., Logan, and prior to services from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the church. Interment will be in the Logan City Cemetery. Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.allenmortuaries.net](http://www.allenmortuaries.net).

**Idaho Lottery**  
**Sunday**  
 Pick 3: 5-0-7  
**Saturday**  
 Powerball: 07-28-35-46-49 (20)  
 Wild Card 2: 15-16-19-24-27  
 Ace of Clubs

# Free

Continued from A1

being killed when the commander of the nearby USS Bainbridge made the split-second decision to order his men to shoot, Vice Adm. Bill Gortney said. The lifeboat was being towed by the Bainbridge at the time, he said.

A fourth pirate was in discussions with naval authorities about Phillips' fate when the rescue took place. He is in U.S. custody and could face life in a U.S. prison.

The rescue was a dramatic blow to the pirates who have preyed on international shipping and hold more than a dozen ships with about 230 foreign sailors. But it is unlikely to do much to quell the region's growing pirate threat, which has transformed one of the world's busiest shipping lanes into one of its most dangerous.

It also risked provoking retaliatory attacks. "This could escalate violence in this part of the world, no question about it," said Gortney, the commander of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command. Abdullahi Lami, one of the pirates holding the Greek ship anchored in the Somali town of Gaan, said: "Every country will be treated the way it treats us. In the future, America will be the one mourning and crying," he told The Associated Press. "We will retaliate (for) the killing of our men."

Jamac Habeb, a 30-year-old self-proclaimed pirate, told the AP from one of Somalia's piracy hubs, Eyl, that: "From now on, if we capture foreign ships and their

respective countries try to attack us, we will kill them (the hostages)."

"Now they became our number one enemy," Habeb said of U.S. forces. Phillips was not hurt in several minutes of gunfire and the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet said he was resting comfortably on a U.S. warship after receiving a medical exam.

"I'm just the byline. The real heroes are the Navy, the Seals, those who have brought me home," Phillips said by phone to Maersk Line Limited President and CEO John Reinhardt, the company head told reporters. A photo released by the Navy showed Phillips unharmed and shaking hands with the commanding officer of the USS Bainbridge.

Obama said Phillips had courage that was "a model for all Americans" and he was pleased about the rescue, adding that the United States needs help from other countries to deal with the threat of piracy and to hold pirates accountable.

Phillips' 17,000-ton ship, which docked with the 19 members of his crew Saturday in Mombasa, Kenya, erupted into wild cheers. Some waved an American flag and one fired a bright red flare skyward in celebration. "We made it!" said crewman ATM Reza, pumping his fist in the air.

The ship had been carrying food aid bound for Rwanda, Somalia and Uganda when the ordeal began hundreds of miles off Somalia's eastern coast Wednesday. Crew members said they saw pirates scrambling into the ship with ropes and hooks from a small boat bobbing on the surface of the

Indian Ocean far below. As the pirates shot in the air, Phillips told his crew to lock themselves in a cabin and surrendered himself to safeguard his men, crew members said.

Phillips was then taken hostage in an enclosed lifeboat that was soon shadowed by three U.S. warships and a helicopter in a standoff that grew by the day. The pirates were believed armed with pistols and AK-47 assault rifles.

Talks to free him began Thursday with the captain of the USS Bainbridge talking to the pirates under instruction from FBI hostage negotiators on board the U.S. destroyer. The pirates had threatened to kill Phillips if attacked.

A government official and others in Somalia with knowledge of the situation said negotiations broke down late Saturday. The stumbling block, Somali officials said:

American's insistence the pirates be arrested and brought to justice.

Phillips jumped out of the lifeboat Friday and tried to swim for his freedom but was recaptured when a pirate fired an automatic weapon into the water, according to U.S. Defense Department officials speaking on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to talk about the unfolding operations.

On Saturday, pirates fired a few shots at a small U.S. Navy vessel that had approached, but the U.S. sailors did not return fire.

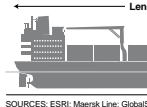
The U.S. Navy had assumed the pirates would try to get their hostage to shore, where they could have hidden him on Christmas Island, which has a lawless soil and been in a stronger position to negotiate a ransom.

Somalia's government, which barely controls any territory in the country, welcomed the news of

## Captain freed from pirates

U.S. Navy Seals rescued the captain of the Maersk Alabama in a lifeboat Sunday, ending a five-day standoff between the U.S. Navy and Somali pirates. The Alabama's crew successfully carried emergency food relief from Djibouti to its intended destination, Mombasa, Kenya on Saturday.

**Maersk Alabama**  
 Type: Container ship  
 Capacity: 1,100 containers  
 Crew: 20  
 Width: 62 ft.  
 Displacement: 17,000 tons  
 Speed: 18 knots  
 Length: 509 ft.



SOURCES: ESRI; Maersk Line; GlobalSecurity.org AP

Phillips' rescue. "The Somali government wanted the drama to end in a peaceful way, but any one who is involved in this latest case had the choice to use violence or other means," Abdulkhadir Walayo, the prime minister's spokesman, told the AP. "We see it will be a good lesson for the pirates or any one else involved in this dirty business."

Worried residents of Harardhere, another port and pirate stronghold, were gathering in the streets after news of the captain's release.

"We fear more that any revenge taken by the pirates against foreign nationals could bring more attacks from the foreign navies, perhaps on our villages," Abdul-lahi Haji Jama, who owns a clothes store in Harardhere, told the AP by telephone.

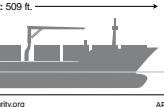
Pirates are holding about a dozen ships with more than 200 crew members, according to watchdog International Maritime Bureau. Hostages are from Bulgaria, China, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, the Philippines, Russia, Taiwan, Tuvalu and Ukraine, among other countries.

The Navy said Phillips was freed at 7:19 p.m. local time. He was taken aboard the Norfolk, Va.-based Bainbridge and then flown to the San Diego-based USS Boxer for the medical exam, 5th Fleet spokesman Lt. Nathan Christensen said.

Christensen said Phillips was now "resting comfortably." The U.S. Boxer was in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Somalia, Christensen said.



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# U.S. travel ban could bury Cuba in tourists

HAVANA (AP) — A push in Congress to do away with U.S. travel bans on Cuba could set off a flood of American visitors to the long-forgotten island.

But many wonder if a country where foreigners have long complained about lousy food, sluggish service and iffy infrastructure is ready for an onslaught of Americans unseen since the days of Meyer Lansky and Al Capone.

Cuba has about as many hotel rooms as Detroit and most are already full of Canadians and Europeans. Experts say droves of Americans could drive up prices, unleash calls for more flights and cruises than Cuba can handle and force the government to tighten visa restrictions to regulate the stampede.

"There is great pent-up demand," said Bob Whitley, president of the United States Tour Operators Association, which

opposes the travel ban. "It will have to be controlled by officials in Cuba, but also by U.S. tour operators to make sure the infrastructure is up to it."

Bills in the U.S. House and Senate would effectively allow all Americans to visit. Trips for U.S. citizens with relatives here already got easier last month. Cuban-Americans can now come annually instead of every three years.

Cuba began encouraging international tourism after the fall of the Soviet Union, and its top feeder countries are Canada, Britain, Italy, Spain and France. Foreign tourist visits jumped 9.3 percent last year to a record 2.35 million, generating \$2.7 billion or 11 percent more than 2007, the government says.

Despite the global economic downturn, international visitor rates have increased 4.5 percent through February as compared to the first two

months of 2008. An influx of Americans could create a lodging crunch. The communist state has partnered with foreign companies such as Spanish chain Sol Melia to offer about 46,000 hotel rooms across an island about the size of Pennsylvania.

Some 17,300 of those rooms are concentrated in the beach resort of Varadero, 90 miles east of Havana.

Cuba plans to build 30 new hotels nationwide to tap into the market for boutique accommodations. Some of those have been completed, but many aging properties have been shut down for remodeling, leaving the total number of rooms flat since 2006.

According to Smith Travel Research, the 349 hotels in Miami and Hialeah alone have about as many rooms as all of Cuba. The city of Detroit, with 42,000-plus hotel rooms, is not far behind.

# USU

Continued from A3

units, including the Academic Resource Center, Admissions/Recruiting office, Campus Recreation, Financial Aid and Student Wellness Center.

At Friday's meeting, USU President Stan Albrecht said Morales "will be a great addition to our senior administra-

# Awards

Continued from A3

degree and career in genetics. His ultimate goal is to use cutting-edge science to help create organs and tissue for transplant recipients.

The USU junior is majoring in cellular and molecular biology and biochemistry. He received a Goldwater honorable mention in 2008.

Myers entered USU as a National Merit Scholar after graduating from Woods Cross High School in 2006. He is majoring in physics and computer science and hopes to pursue graduate studies in physics.

He really does reflect the changing demographics and the changing face of the state of Utah," Albrecht added.

Morales brings his wife, Tari, and their four children who range in age from 12 to 21. His official start date is yet to be determined, but will be sometime during the summer.

**E-mail:**  
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USPS 241-820  
 Published every Monday through Sunday morning by  
 Cache Valley Publishing LLC  
 75 West 300 North, P.O. Box 487, Logan, Utah 84323-0487  
 Utah phone (435) 752-2121 Toll Free (800) 275-0423 or (888) 259-7631

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