

The Herald Journal



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Bridgerland's Daily Newspaper

Logan, Utah \$0.50

Weather



High: 32
Low: 7
Mostly cloudy
- Page A10

Update

Civil War

Union soldier's bones found at Maryland site

SHARPSBURG, Md. (AP) — Cutting through a cornfield where soldiers were literally blown to bits on the bloodiest day of the Civil War, a hiker spied something near a groundhog hole: fragments of bone and a metal button, clotted with red clay.

He brought the remains to the visitors center at Antietam National Battlefield, where they were turned over to experts who made a stunning discovery: They belonged to a Union soldier from New York state.

The remarkable find 146 years after the soldier perished is a reminder that the battlefield at Antietam is "ground that was basically changed forever by what happened on it," Superintendent John W. Howard said Thursday.

Many of the nearly 3,700 soldiers killed in the pivotal 1862

See BONES on A10

Correction

Page 1 headline may have confused

The Cache County Attorney's Office has charged the local chapters of the Sigma Nu fraternity and Chi Omega sorority with felony hazing in connection with Michael Starks' November death. The office does not have plans to charge the organizations' national headquarters. A headline in Thursday's edition of The Herald Journal may have implied the local chapters would not be charged.

Quick read



Go to The Herald Journal Web site, www.hjnews.com, to cast your vote on today's survey question. See Tuesday's paper 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
Should official public meetings be opened with a prayer?

- 1) Yes
- 2) No

Tuesday's survey results
How many resolutions did you set for 2009?

Answers	Number	Percent
1) None	189	67
2) Just one	48	17
3) Several	46	16

Total Responses: 283

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Movies.....Cache Sports.....B1
TV.....C10

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Obama: 'Act boldly and act now'

President-elect urges Congress to fix economy

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Barack Obama implored Congress to "act boldly and act now" on Thursday to fix an economy growing perilously weaker, and leading lawmakers set an informal goal of mid-February for enacting tax cuts and government spending that could cost as much as \$1 trillion.

Some Democrats grumbled

about the incoming administration's proposed tax cuts, and Republicans warned against excessive new spending, both sides signaling the incoming president they intend to place their own stamp on the economic recovery effort.

But there was little or no disputing the need for action, and Obama's remarks coincided with a pair of government reports showing fresh weakness in an economy already in crisis. A fresh reading on unemployment was expected to bring even more bad news today. "If nothing is done, this recession could linger for years," with unemployment reaching double

digits, Obama said in a speech at George Mason University in suburban Virginia. "A bad situation could become dramatically worse."

Less than two weeks from taking office as the 44th president, Obama has become increasingly vocal in recent days about the need for steps to revitalize the economy, even though he has continued to defer to President George W. Bush on matters of foreign policy.

Obama's aides and congressional Democrats have been at work for weeks on legislation to create new jobs, help the unemployed, cut taxes, and aid cash-strapped states. The measure is likely to

Z IS FOR ZAMBONI

Delve into the mystery behind the ice machine

— Cache

LOW-SCORING WIN

USU men hold LaTech to 37 points in Ruston

— B1



On campus

'Evolutionary Gem'

USU professor's Darwinian theory study appears in Nature magazine

By Kim Burgess
staff writer

Research led by a Utah State University professor is among the best evidence of Darwin's evolutionary theories, according to Nature magazine.

Edmund "Butch" Brodie Jr., a faculty member in USU's biology department, studies garter snakes' ability to eat highly poisonous newts. The amphibians are so toxic that one could kill dozens of humans.

The work was listed among 15 studies that Nature called "Evolutionary Gems" for demonstrating that Charles Darwin's ideas are supported by evidence.

The article, printed in the January 2009 issue, is subtitled "A resource from Nature for those wishing to spread awareness of evidence for evolution by natural selection." It was compiled to recognize the 200th anniversary of the famed evolutionary biologist's birth.

"Given that the concepts and realities of Darwinian evolution are still challenged, albeit rarely by biologists, a succinct briefing on why evolution by natural selection is an empirically validated principle is useful for people to have on hand," the Nature editors wrote in their introduction.

Brodie's work adds to that validation by showing that garter snakes and newts have been evolving together since the last ice age ended in 12,000 B.C.

During that time, the newts have grown more toxic, while the snakes have developed greater resistance to the compound, allowing them to continue eating the amphibians.

For most of millennia, the evolutionary arms race between the two creatures was a draw. The snakes succeeded in eating some



Photo courtesy USU Public Relations and Marketing

A garter snake eats a newt in this undated photo.

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But recently one group of snakes won hands down. A team headed by Brodie discovered that garter snakes in the San Francisco Bay area have an exceptional resistance to the newt's toxin.

Basically, the snakes can eat with abandon; no newt can do them in.

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See GEM on A10

Gaza aid halted after Israel attack on workers

JERUSALEM (AP) — The U.N. suspended food deliveries to Gaza and the Red Cross accused Israel of blocking medical assistance after forces fired on aid workers, killing two, as the threat of a wider conflict emerged with Lebanon.

With violence unabated in Gaza, the U.N. Security Council approved a resolution Thursday night calling for an immediate and durable cease-fire between the territory's Hamas rulers and Israeli forces. The vote was 14-0, with the United States abstaining, and it followed three days of intense negotiations between ministers from key Arab nations and Western powers.

Israel and Hamas are not party to the resolution and it will be up to them to stop their military activities. But the resolution — which will allow for the opening of

border crossings to Gaza — was supported by the United States, Israel's closest ally, and Arab nations with close ties to Hamas.

Early Friday, an Israeli airstrike flattened a five-story building in northern Gaza, killing at least seven people, including an infant, Hamas security officials said. It was one of more than 30 targets struck before dawn by Israeli warplanes. It was not immediately clear whether the owner of the

destroyed house was linked to Hamas. Militants in Lebanon fired several Katyusha rockets into northern Israel early Thursday, including one that tore through the roof of a nursing home and injured two people. Israel responded swiftly with mortar fire, raising the possibility of a two-front conflict.

About 750 Palestinians and 13



AP photo

A puppet stained with red paint is seen backdropped by the Palestinian flag during a protest Thursday against the ongoing Israeli military operation in Gaza, in Bucharest, Romania.

Israelis have died in the 13 days of fighting in Gaza, an assault launched by Israel in an attempt to halt rocket fire from the territory,

controlled by the militant Islamic Hamas. Hamas said it fired 25

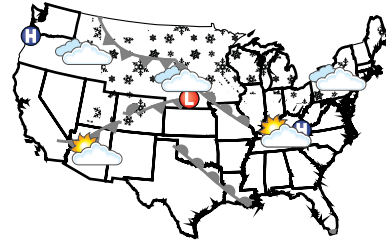
See GAZA on A10



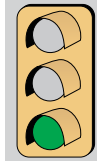
TODAY
Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Highs in the lower 30s. Lows 5 to 10.

SATURDAY
Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 20s. Lows near 10.

EXTENDED
Partly cloudy through Wednesday, clearing Thursday. Highs around 30. Lows 10 to 15.



Air quality advisory



Cache Valley air quality forecast for today

Red: Air alert. Unhealthy for sensitive groups. Active children and adults, and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should limit prolonged outdoor exertion.

Yellow: No health advisory. Moderate air action: reduce driving; use transit; consolidate trips.

Green: It's OK to drive and spend time outdoors.

Source: Utah Department of Environmental Quality (www.airquality.utah.gov)

Considerable



Full
Jan. 10

At noon the moon lies in Gemini. At 9 p.m. Vesta, an asteroid, lies in Cetus. Early tomorrow morning at 2 the asteroid Vesta will be 17,455 degrees south of the star Hamal, and two hours later the moon is closest to the Earth at perigee: 0.002390 AU (222,189 miles).

astronomy@rocketmail.com

Temperatures indicate Thursday's high and overnight low.

State Temperatures		Hi	Lo	Prc
Brigham City	44	22		
Bryce Canyon	41	10		
Cedar City	52	20		
Fillmore	50	25		
Kanab	52	22		
Laketown	47	34		
Ogden	47	32		
Price	35	13		
Provo BYU	44	18		
Richfield	48	13		
Salt Lake City	46	32		
Tooele	49	26		
Vernal	36	13		
Wendover	45	25		
Zion N.P.	59	29		

National Temperatures

	Hi	Lo	Prc	Otk
Albuquerque	57	28		cdy
Anchorage	0	-20		clr
Asheville	43	32		clr
Atlanta	57	40		clr
Baltimore	41	33	.10	cdy
Billings	53	40		cdy
Boise	48	39		cdy
Boston	40	28	.09	cdy
Buffalo	24	m		cdy
Charleston, S.C.	67	41		clr
Charlotte, N.C.	55	38		clr
Cheyenne	55	39		cdy
Chicago	21	12		sno
Cincinnati	24	24	.02	cdy
Dallas-Ft. Worth	74	40		cdy
Denver	63	39		cdy
Detroit	31	23		sno
El Paso	66	33		clr

Fargo	3	-5		sno
Honolulu	80	71		cdy
Houston	77	44		cdy
Indianapolis	22	17	.01	cdy
Kansas City	35	16		cdy
Key West	74	63		clr
Las Vegas	59	39		clr
Little Rock	57	35		cdy
Los Angeles	68	49		cdy
Louisville	31	28		cdy
Memphis	49	39		cdy
Miami Beach	75	60		clr
Milwaukee	21	14		sno
Mpls-St Paul	12	-2		sno
Nashville	43	40		cdy
New Orleans	74	52		cdy
New York City	38	35	.01	clr
Norfolk, Va.	52	41	.07	clr
Oklahoma City	62	35		clr
Omaha	27	8		cdy

Orlando	72	43		clr
Philadelphia	42	37	.03	cdy
Phoenix	66	43		cdy
Portland, Ore.	51	51	.34	cdy
Reno	60	31		cdy
San Antonio	61	40		cdy
San Diego	63	50		clr
San Francisco	63	46		clr
San Juan, P.R.	84	73	.06	clr
Seattle	49	48	1.62	cdy
Sioux Falls	19	-1		sno
Syracuse	29	29	.02	sno
Tampa	72	49		clr
Washington	42	33	.10	cdy
Wichita	50	27		cdy

National temperature extremes:
High 86 at Fallurrias, Texas
Low -20 at Babbit, Minn.

Prayer

Continued from A1

One of those is Councilman Jay Monson, who said he'd be happy to pray any time no other volunteer steps up.

"I believe in prayer at the beginning of public meetings," Monson said. "I was a member of the State Board of Education for three years and I was a county commissioner and then a councilmember and we always had a prayer."

Monson said prayer was part of Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr.'s inauguration last week and is a practice of the Utah Legislature and the U.S. Congress. When he was a professor at the University of Cairo in Egypt, he said the first thing people heard each morning in the Muslim community was the call to prayer.

"In all the countries of the world prayer is common," Monson said. "Whether they believe in the same supreme being that I do, I still think it's my prayer; I really do believe we're all one when it comes right down to it. ... In our community of churches, I believe that's the common bond that ties us altogether. So I'm firmly committed to prayer."

However, Monson said he doesn't believe anyone who's uncomfortable — whether by attending a

meeting or as an elected official — should feel they need to participate in prayer. He said he doesn't see any harm in allowing agnostics or atheists in participating in their own way either.

"I hope we do have volunteers from religions other than the predominant religion in Utah because whatever religion a person belongs to they would have a right to have a comment and offer a prayer," he said.

Logan City Attorney Kymer Housley said courts have stated prayer is allowed as part of a city's opening ceremony if there's a neutral policy to ensure all have equal opportunity to participate.

"You don't review somebody's prayer for content," Housley said. "You just have to open it up to anyone that wants to — atheists, agnostics, anyone."

That was just as true under Logan's former policy as it is under Swenson's new one, he said.

Swenson said her husband, Doug, was among the original founders of Cache Community Connections and enjoyed visiting services of other denominations and giving to know religious and civic leaders of Cache Valley.

"I also enjoyed those associations with people for whom we both have the greatest respect," she said.

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Bones

Continued from A1

battle were buried in nearby cemeteries five years later, but the New York soldier's remains were somehow overlooked until now.

The handful of bone fragments, iron uniform buttons and U.S. belt buckle help bring into focus the story that battlefield rangers strive to tell.

"These armies were made up of people, of men who fought here," Howard said.

The soldier's identity may remain a mystery. Howard said he was young, probably between 19 and 21, based on the condition of teeth in a recovered jawbone. A National Park Service archaeologist and Smithsonian Institution anthropologist were the ones who confirmed he was a soldier.

And he apparently was no fresh recruit. Five iron buttons found along with textile fragments included some from a coat issued in New York and others bearing the "Excelsior" slogan of federal uniforms, an indication that he had served long enough to replace the lost originals.

The soldier could have served in any of 24 New York regiments that fought in the field where fierce small-arms and artillery fire obliterated cornstalks and men alike.

"We've always worked with the number that there's somewhere between 140 and 200 missing in action here, and some of them, because of the volume of fire, they just ceased to exist as an entity — they were just totally destroyed," Howard said.

About 23,100 soldiers were killed, wounded, captured or declared missing at Antietam on Sept. 17, 1862. Days later, the dead were buried less than three feet deep in the rocky soil, marked by crude wooden headboards.

Five years later, most were dug up and reburied — the Union soldiers at the Antietam National Cemetery and the Confederates in nearby towns.

Gaza

Continued from A1

rockets and 12 mortars at Israel on Thursday.

The conflict has left hundreds of thousands of Palestinians in Gaza increasingly desperate for food, water, fuel and medical assistance, and the situation was expected to worsen as humanitarian efforts fall victim to the fighting.

Simon Horner, of the European Commission aid department, said 60 percent of Gaza's 1.4 million people have no electricity, and fewer people every day have access to clean water. The sewage system is in danger of a failing, which could lead to an outbreak of disease, and medical services were under severe stress.

Obama

Continued from A1

she said at a news conference, and Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, at a difference appearance, agreed there was enough time to get the job done.

"But we ... don't want to make big mistakes that exacerbate the — the problem we already have, which is a dramatic, eye-popping deficit," he added.

"The inability of the U.N. to provide assistance in this worsening humanitarian crisis is unacceptable," said Michele Montas, a U.N. spokeswoman.

She said according to reports, the attack on the U.N. truck, which killed two Palestinian workers, took place during a three-hour humanitarian lull announced by the Israel Defense Force. Four U.N. Relief and Works Agency local staff have been killed in the conflict.

In Geneva, the International Committee of the Red Cross said it would restrict aid operations to Gaza City for at least one day after one of its convoys came under Israeli fire at the Netzarim crossing during the three-hour lull in fighting Thursday. One driver was lightly injured.

The World Health Organization said 21 Palestinian

medical workers have been killed and 30 more injured since Israel began its offensive.

The Israeli military said in a statement that it cooperates closely with foreign aid groups to help civilians, and said Hamas uses civilians as human shields.

During the lull in fighting Thursday, Palestinian health officials dug out 35 bodies from several areas around Gaza that had been engulfed by battles or struck by Israeli air attacks since Israel launched its offensive against Hamas, said Moaiya Hassanain of the Palestinian Health Ministry.

At least 24 Palestinians were killed in Gaza on Thursday, including three elderly people fleeing their home, according to Hassanain.

He estimated the death toll around 750, and U.N. officials say about half were civilians.

businesses to create jobs. "If I'm a business person, it's unlikely if you give me a several thousand dollar credit that I'm going to hire people if I can't sell the products they're producing," he said.

Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon added, "Just giving people \$500 or \$600, while certainly welcome when there is all this economic hurt, may not be the best stimulus." He cited evidence that taxpayers used money from the last economic stimulus measure to pay down their debt rather than make new purchases.

Gem

Continued from A1

former doctoral students, Shana Geffeny, built on his work, eventually discovering the molecular basis for the snakes' ability. Geffeny, who is now at the Stanford School of Medicine, showed that the reptiles have a change in a particular sodium channel, which prevents the newt poison

from binding to their cells. This research, published in Nature in 2005, was highlighted as an "Evolutionary Gem" — number 14 on the list.

Also included in the article are studies that examine the origin of feathers and the spread of animals from water onto land.

To see the full list, go to www.nature.com/nature/news/pdf/evolutiongems.pdf.

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