

The Herald Journal



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Bridgerland's Daily Newspaper

Logan, Utah \$0.50

Weather



High: 35
Low: 25
Rain, snow likely

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Update

Oscars



AP photo
Brad Pitt is shown in a scene from "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button."

'Button' on top with 13 nominations

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" is the Academy Awards heavyweight with 13 nominations, yet the shadow of Batman loomed large with the absence of "The Dark Knight" in the best-picture race.

An epic romance that earned a best-actor nomination for Brad Pitt and a directing spot for David Fincher, "Benjamin Button" was joined in the best-picture category Thursday by the Richard Nixon tale "Frost/Nixon," the chronicle of gay-rights leader Harvey Milk in "Milk," the Holocaust-themed drama "The Reader" and the rags-to-riches crowd-pleaser "Slumdog Millionaire."

The Batman blockbuster "The Dark Knight" had picked up so much momentum from honors by Hollywood trade unions that awards watchers

See OSCARS on A8

Quick read



Go to The Herald Journal Web site, www.hjnews.com, to cast your vote on today's survey question. See Tuesday'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 been in a car wreck in the last 5 years?

- 1) Yes
- 2) No

Tuesday's survey results

Do you limit your driving or outdoor activity on red air days?

Answers	Number	Percent
1) Driving	20	5
2) Activity	48	12
3) Both	127	31
4) Neither	218	53

Total Responses: 413

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Obama orders closure of Gitmo

WASHINGTON (AP) — Breaking forcefully with Bush anti-terror policies, President Barack Obama ordered major changes Thursday that he said would halt the torture of suspects, close down the Guantanamo detention center, ban secret CIA prisons overseas and fight terrorism "in a manner that is consistent with our values and our ideals."

"We intend to win this fight. We're going to win it on our terms," Obama declared, turning U.S. policy abruptly on just

his second full day in office. He also put a fresh emphasis on diplomacy, naming veteran troubleshooters for Middle East hotspots.

The policies and practices that Obama said he was reversing have been widely reviled overseas, by U.S. allies as well as in less-friendly Arab countries. President George W. Bush said the policies were necessary to protect the nation after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks — though he, too, had said he wanted Guantanamo

closed at some point.

"A new era of American leadership is at hand," Obama said.

Executive orders signed by the new president would order the prison camp at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, shut within a year, require the closure of any remaining secret CIA "black site" prisons abroad and bar CIA interrogators of detainees from using harsh techniques already banned for military questioners.

That includes physical abuse such as waterboarding, a technique that creates the sensa-

tion of drowning and has been termed torture by critics at home and abroad.

For the signing ceremony, Obama was flanked in the Oval Office by retired senior U.S. military leaders who had pressed for the changes.

Underscoring the new administration's point, the admirals and generals said in a statement: "President Obama's actions today will restore the moral authority and strengthen

See GITMO on A10

Icy roads wreak havoc



Utah Highway Patrolmen Tom Schneider, left, and Ben Jensen investigate a wreck Thursday morning on U.S. 89/91 in Wellsville.

Freezing rain blamed for dozens of valley wrecks

By Matthew K. Jensen
staff writer

County roads were coated in a thin layer of ice Thursday when freezing rain formed — something meteorologists say is rare to see in Utah. Valley law enforcement agencies reported dozens of vehicle crashes Thursday morning and afternoon — most around 10 and 11 a.m., after the freezing rain began to fall.

Utah Climate Center meteorologist Marty Booth said the

freezing rain that caused the commotion is partly fueled by the valley's strong inversion.

"Freezing rain is a weather event that normally happens on the East Coast," he said. "It rarely happens here in the West. But the main reason that we've seen it today is the strong inversion."

Booth said the moisture forms in the upper atmosphere as rain but freezes when contacting the colder surfaces of the valley floor.

"Freezing rain can be very deceptive," he added. "If

you're outside driving it looks like rain and it hits your car's windshield but the road surfaces are so cold that it actually is forming a small layer of ice."

Salt Lake and Utah counties also reported light traces of freezing rain Thursday, Booth added, but not as much as was seen in Cache Valley.

"I would attribute that to how strong the inversion gets here during the winter," he said.

By early afternoon Thursday, Cache County Sheriff

Lt. Matt Bilodeau said deputies and medical crews were responding to four injury crashes and 23 property crashes — all of which took place within three hours.

Utah Highway Patrol Sgt. Tony Hutson said troopers were busy at the mouth of Sardine Canyon on Thursday morning dealing with multiple accidents reported about one mile south of the intersection of U.S. Highway 89/91 and State Road 101.

See ICY on A10

Stargazing in the daytime?

Students get to study night sky inside portable mini-planetarium

By Devin Felix
staff writer

Laura Swift is so passionate about astronomy that she quit her job at Salt Lake City's Clark Planetarium and moved to Cache Valley to teach the subject — as a volunteer.

Now she's looking for a job — something to pay the bills while she travels around the valley doing presentations for children and adults with the Cache StarHouse, a portable mini-planetarium.

"I moved up here to do this because I think it needs to be done," Swift said.

The star house is an inflatable dome, about 12 feet high and 15 feet in diameter when full. A fan keeps a steady flow of air entering the dome through a short tube and people



Students enter the Cache StarHouse at the South Cache 8-9 Center on Wednesday.

enter and exit through a tunnel.

Students sit around the edges, while a projector in the center shines stars on the inside of the dome. The projector operator can shift the stars' locations and positions to simulate what can be seen at different latitudes and in differ-

ent seasons.

Swift and the StarHouse were at South Cache 8-9 Center for three days this week presenting shows to students in the daytime and the public at night.

See STAR on A10

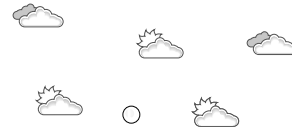
Tunnels in Gaza back in business

RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Hundreds of workers toiled in southern Gaza on Thursday to repair dozens of tunnels dug under tents or fake greenhouses while smugglers brought in food and fuel just days after Israel ended a barrage of bombs and missiles aimed at cutting off the supply route from Egypt.

The renewed smuggling underscored how difficult it could be for the Israeli military to meet one of the key goals of its three-week offensive: preventing Hamas militants from bringing weapons into Gaza through the porous Egyptian border.

Some 1,285 Palestinians, most of them civilians, died in the Israeli operation, launched Dec. 27 to end Hamas' rocket fire on southern Israel and to cut the group's suspected arms route from Iran.

See GAZA on A10



Local temperatures

Cache Valley weather station reports for Thursday.

City	High	Low	Prc	City	High	Low	Prc
Logan	30	13	.09	Preston	31	14	.10
Logan Peak	31	25		Smithfield	29	18	.13
KVNU	30	15	m	Wellsville	30	12	.15
Mendon	32	15	.15				

Moderate

Sunrise: 7:47 a.m.
 Sunset: 5:30 p.m.
 Humidity: 77 percent
 UV Index: 1 (Low)
 Conditions: Overcast
 Record High: 49 (1970)
 Record Low: -12 (1962)
 Dew Point: 20 degrees



New
Jan. 26

At 3 a.m. Pluto is 8.904 degrees north of the moon. At 7 a.m. Venus enters Pisces and at 8 a.m. the planet Uranus is 1.394 degrees south of Venus. In the northeastern sky at 8 p.m. you'll be able to find the Great Bear, Ursa Major, rising above the horizon.

astronomy@rocketmail.com

Temperatures indicate Thursday's high and overnight low.

State Temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Prc
Brigham City	33	17	.09
Cedar City	50	33	.01
Delta	47	22	.01
Escalante	47	29	
Flaming Gorge	47	20	
Heber City	42	28	.01
Kanab	60	36	trc
Moab	45	25	
Ogden	36	23	.03
Price	42	24	trc
Provo BYU	43	30	.01
Richfield	54	30	.02
Salt Lake City	38	26	trc
St. George	63	45	
Zion N.P.	65	48	

National Temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Prc	City	Hi	Lo	Prc
Albany, N.Y.	32	15	cdy	Las Vegas	69	53	cdy
Albuquerque	59	33	cdy	Los Angeles	73	62	.01
Atlanta	53	26	cdy	Memphis	62	34	cdy
Baltimore	43	13	clr	Miami Beach	68	43	cdy
Birmingham	58	24	cdy	Milwaukee	28	15	sno
Bismarck	31	0	sno	Mpls-St Paul	28	11	cdy
Boise	33	28	.01	New Orleans	67	36	cdy
Boston	33	17	cdy	New York City	37	20	cdy
Charlotte, N.C.	50	21	clr	Oklahoma City	76	28	cdy
Chicago	33	14	sno	Omaha	51	24	sno
Cincinnati	48	24	cdy	Philadelphia	42	20	cdy
Cleveland	35	18	cdy	Phoenix	75	60	.11
Columbia, S.C.	55	20	clr	Pittsburgh	37	18	cdy
Concord, N.H.	34	0	cdy	Portland, Maine	34	9	cdy
Dallas-Ft Worth	60	33	cdy	Portland, Ore.	45	32	cdy
Denver	67	37	cdy	Providence	33	14	cdy
Detroit	28	18	cdy	Rapid City	59	26	clr
Fairbanks	10	-18	sno	Richmond	50	16	clr

Great Falls

Houston	76	39	cdy
Indianapolis	47	23	cdy
Jacksonville	57	22	clr
Kansas City	64	27	cdy
Las Vegas	69	53	cdy
Los Angeles	73	62	.01
Memphis	62	34	cdy
Miami Beach	68	43	cdy
Milwaukee	28	15	sno
Mpls-St Paul	28	11	cdy
New Orleans	67	36	cdy
New York City	37	20	cdy
Oklahoma City	76	28	cdy
Omaha	51	24	sno
Philadelphia	42	20	cdy
Phoenix	75	60	.11
Pittsburgh	37	18	cdy
Portland, Maine	34	9	cdy
Portland, Ore.	45	32	cdy

Houston

Providence	33	14	cdy
Rapid City	59	26	clr
Richmond	50	16	clr
Sacramento	55	49	1.12
St Louis	58	25	cdy
San Diego	75	58	rn
San Francisco	54	51	.45
Seattle	39	33	cdy
Syracuse	30	19	rn
Tampa	60	34	clr
Topeka	65	19	cdy
Tucson	64	59	.20
Tulsa	71	25	cdy
Washington	41	19	clr

National temperature extremes
 High 85 at Mineral Wells, Texas
 and Wichita Falls, Texas
 Low 6 below at Lewiston, Maine
 and Houlton, Maine