



In brief

USU

Kennedy named VP for federal, state relations

Michael J. Kennedy, a Utah State University special assistant to the president for state and federal relations since 2007, will hold the new title of vice president for federal and state relations.

The USU Board of Trustees approved the change Jan. 8. USU President Stan L. Albrecht said the title reflects an expansion of Kennedy's responsibilities and is in line with titles of those in comparable positions at other state institutions. His salary level will remain the same.

Kennedy will continue to work at a federal and state level on legislative issues pertinent to USU and assist the university in gaining federal and state funding for academic programs and research projects. USU received \$123 million in state and federal funding in the 2007 fiscal year.

Kennedy graduated cum laude from Harvard University in 1999 with a bachelor of arts in government. Prior to coming to USU, he was director of legislative affairs with Lee & Smith, P.C., a Washington, D.C., lobbying firm, where he worked for USU and other Utah entities. He also served as chief operating officer with Nutrition, as an associate with The Boston Consulting Group and as a legislative intern in the office of Sen. Robert F. Bennett.

Valley

Snow in forecast throughout week

It could end up being a snowy week in Cache Valley with a series of storms rolling in on the heels of one another.

The National Weather Service forecasts 1 to 3 inches of snow tonight, and says there's a chance of snow every day this week.

Once again it looks like Southern Utah will bear the brunt of the front coming through — snow accumulations of up to 16 inches in the central and southern mountains is expected by noon today.

The weather service issued a winter weather advisory for the areas on Tuesday afternoon.

A winter storm that will soon reach Utah pounded California and Nevada Monday with high winds and heavy rain and snow.

Utah

10-year-old boy dies in apt. blaze

SOUTH SALT LAKE — Authorities say a 10-year-old boy has been killed in an apartment complex fire in South Salt Lake.

South Salt Lake Fire Chief Steve Foote says the boy died of smoke inhalation Monday. Authorities say the fire at the Royal Gardens Apartments was reported a short time after noon and that fire crews responded quickly, extinguishing the fire a short time later.

Correction

Truck in rollover was hauling cattle

A brief that ran on page A3 in Saturday's edition mislabeled the type of animals involved in a truck rollover. Thirty-six cattle were being hauled in a tractor trailer traveling to JBS Swift in Hyrum on Thursday evening. An inadvertent editing error may have led some readers to believe sheep were involved in the incident; none were.

Prof helps write rangelands book

By Kim Burgess
staff writer

The head of Utah State University's Department of Wildland Resources has contributed to a book on the world's rangelands, which constitute 40 percent of the Earth's surface but are rapidly disappearing.

Johan du Toit, who serves as lead editor and a contributing author of "Wild Rangelands," says that across the planet these landscapes are "losing their capacity to support wildlife and livestock, as well as to provide the ecosystem services — water,

food, fuel, carbon storage — on which millions of humans depend."

In response, du Toit and colleagues assembled an internationally recognized group of ecologists, economists and sociologists involved in rangelands research to write the book. Commissioned as a joint venture of the Zoological Society of London and the New York-based Wildlife Conservation Society, it was published this month in a special series on conservation and practice by Wiley-Blackwell of Oxford, England. "Wild Rangelands" discusses

the challenges of conserving wildlife while raising livestock in these regions, which include deserts, tundra and other semi-arid places. The book also offers ideas on planning, approval and funding of rangeland projects on all continents.

Globally, wildlife resources are decimated in most rangelands outside of protected areas, du Toit says, because of hunting to eliminate animals that compete with and predate on livestock. In addition, these areas face mounting development pressure as sources for oil and gas extraction as well as lands

for biofuel crop cultivation.

"Habitat change and loss then follow, closing options for wildlife populations to return to their former numbers and natural ranges," du Toit said. "There's increasing concern and debate about the appropriate or inevitable uses of rangelands, including livestock, wildlife, both or neither."

He added that the debate will likely continue because of the diverse value judgments that are involved.

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Braden Wolfe/Herald Journal

Duck, duck, goose Dallyn Steenerson, left, and Kali Anderson, both of Logan, are surrounded by a gaggle of hungry geese and ducks at Canyon Entrance Park (First Dam) in Logan on Saturday afternoon.

USU launches new science series 'Origins'

Herald Journal staff report

Utah State University is launching a new Science Unwrapped series, "Origins," for spring 2010.

The free, monthly presentations, offered in a family-friendly format, focus on how varied scientific disciplines began.

The first presentation, titled "Seeing Double: The Origins of Cloning," will take place at

7 p.m. on Jan. 29 in the Emert Auditorium, Room 130, of the Eccles Science Learning Center.

The featured speaker, Ken White from USU's Department of Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Sciences, was involved with cloning the first member of the horse family, a mule named Idaho Gem that was born in 2003. During his Science Unwrapped lecture, White will discuss how this new technol-

ogy works and its implications for the future.

At a glance, other upcoming "Origins" presentations include:

• Feb. 26, "Sum of its Parts: The Origins of the Colorado Plateau" with Joel Pederson, USU Department of Geology.

• April 2, "Math's Paper Trail: The Origins of Mathematics and Origami" with Robert Lang, origami artist, physicist and engineer, Alamo, Calif.

Started by the college in February 2009, Science Unwrapped is designed to introduce science in a relaxed, entertaining manner. Previous presentations have drawn several hundred participants to each event, with attendees ranging in age from 4 to 80.

For more information, call 797-3517, visit www.usu.edu/science/unwrapped or view the Science Unwrapped at USU group on Facebook.

Agendas

✓ The **River Heights Planning Commission** will meet at 7 p.m. at 520 S. 500 East. Agenda items include:
• Discussing a landscaping ordinance.

✓ The **Providence Historic Preservation Committee** will meet at 6 p.m. at 15 S. Main. Agenda items include:

• Discussing grant applications.
• Discussing museum possibilities.
• Discussing creation of an Old Rock Church foundation.
• Hearing an update on the Web site.

✓ The **Logan Municipal Council** will meet at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 290 N. 100 West. Agenda items include:

• Considering approval of a change to the booting ordinance deleting the timeframe allowed for removing a booting device.
• Conducting a public hearing on proposal to increase costs for park reservations and golf cart rentals.

Considering a resolution approving the 200 pre-disaster mitigation plan: Bear River Region, Utah, as required by the Federal Disaster Mitigation and Cost Reduction Act of 2000.

• Conducting a public hearing on budget adjustments to buy defibrillators, crash training at the airport and road improvements.

• Considering a resolution authorizing Logan City, Cache County and the state of Utah to borrow funds from the Utah Drinking Water Board and execute a promissory note in the face amount of \$1,425,000 in connection with Logan's acquisition and installation of a micro-turbine power generator to be used with Logan city's drinking water system.
• Workshoping 2009-10 budget adjustments.

✓ The **Richmond City Council** will meet at 7 p.m. at Richmond City Hall.

See AGENDA on A6

EnergySolutions appeals to NRC to 'downblend' waste

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Salt Lake City-based EnergySolutions Inc. is appealing to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to let it blend more potent low-level radioactive waste with the materials it already disposes of in Utah.

The company told the NRC last week that it doesn't think it will need additional state approval for the "downblending" if it gets the NRC's OK.

The company wants to mix higher concentrations of low-level radioactive waste with lower concentrations but still keep the overall classification at a level — Class A — that allows it to dispose of the material at a site in Utah's west desert. Class B and C wastes are currently banned in Utah.

The NRC currently forbids the method but is considering a change. The Salt Lake

Tribune reported last week from Rockville, Md., that the agency is expected to make a decision on the matter in the spring.

"I don't know what would trigger" the company to have to notify the state or seek its approval, EnergySolutions Senior Vice President Tom Magette said at Thursday's public meeting with NRC staff.

"We're talking about Class A waste coming into a facility that is licensed to dispose of Class A waste," Magette said later. "This notion that there is some new thing ... I don't think is correct."

State officials last week issued a statement opposing the blending. Utah Radiation Control Director Dane Finerfrock said that while the state currently doesn't forbid blending, it could pass a law to prohibit it and EnergySolutions would have to comply.

Essay/poetry contest announced

Herald Journal staff report

Creative Communication has announced its spring 2010 essay and poetry contest and is encouraging local writers to submit their work.

Thousands of dollars in prizes and awards will be awarded to Cache Valley poets, writers and schools. Essay contest divisions include grades three through six; seven through nine; and 10 through 12, with 10 top winners in each division. Essays must be no more than 250 words on any non-fiction topic; deadline is Feb. 17.

Poetry contest divisions are grades kindergarten through third grade; four through six; seven through nine; and 10 through 12, with 10 top winners in each division. Poets can enter one original poem, in English, of no more than 21 lines; deadline is April 13.

To enter an essay or poem, visit www.poeticpower.com or mail your entry, labeled "Poetry Contest" or "Essay Contest," to 1488 N. 200 West, Logan, Utah, 84341. Include the author's name, address, city, state, ZIP code, current grade, school name, school address and teacher's name. Selected entries of merit will be invited to be published in an anthology.

There is no entry fee to enter the contest or required purchase to be published. Teachers who have five or more students published will receive a free book. Schools with 15 or more students accepted qualify to apply for a \$250 language arts grant. To view the students in your area who were selected as winners in previous contests or to view the schools in your area who were awarded a \$250 grant, visit www.poeticpower.com/awards.html. For more information, call 713-4411.