

News line

Section of I-215 closes this weekend

A bridge demolition and replacement will cause full freeway closure on I-215 this weekend.

From 8 p.m. today until 6 a.m. Monday, I-215 East from 3300 to 3900 South will be closed while crews replace the bridge. Between 9 a.m. and noon today, rolling closures are expected on Wasatch Boulevard as the new bridge is transported to its temporary location before it is installed. Wasatch Boulevard will also be closed for two to three hours while the bridge is being installed.

Ogden celebrates Heritage Elementary

OGDEN — Ogden School District celebrated its newest addition, Heritage Elementary School, with a grand ceremony on Thursday.

Heritage Elementary, at 373 S. 150 West, is 77,000 square feet, two stories high and cost \$10,954,058. It will hold 700 students. MHTN was the architect.

Kids will try out their new digs on the first day of school Monday.

The new school will house students from the old Lynn Elementary School, built in 1960. The new building will also be home to the Advanced Learning Academy for gifted and talented students who have previously been at Heritage Elementary School.

Diabetes fundraiser at Wheeler Farm

The Tri-County "Walk to Cure Diabetes" will take place Saturday at Wheeler Historic Farm to raise money for research to fight type 1 diabetes.

As many as 3.5 million Americans have the disease. It is most often diagnosed in childhood, strikes suddenly, lasts a lifetime and is potentially deadly, according to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International, which is heading walks in communities across the country.

Last year, combined, it raised \$94 million to fund diabetes research. Utah hopes to raise more than \$1 million through three walks, including one in Utah County and another in Logan in September.

For information, go online to walk.jdrf.org or call 801-530-0660.

Daylong conference for cancer survivors

SANDY — The Utah Cancer Action Network is hosting a free, daylong conference for cancer survivors Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The conference, held at the Salt Lake Community College Larry H. Miller Campus, 9750 S. 300 West in Sandy, features help navigating health care and insurance systems and a chance to meet other survivors. The keynote speaker is Scott Burton, comedian, author and osteosarcoma survivor.

Davis libraries open at 1 p.m. today

FARMINGTON — All branches of the Davis County Library will open at 1 p.m. today.

Staff training will be held at 8 a.m. in the North Branch, located in Clearfield, meaning no staff members will be available in other branches until the afternoon.

Some of the training will focus on customer service.

Utah Guard to honor 360 for Iraq service

Some 360 Utah soldiers will be honored this weekend for their service in Iraq.

The Utah National Guard's First Battalion, 145th Field Artillery, will hold a freedom-salute ceremony Sunday at 10 a.m. at Abravanel Hall. The Guard will present Freedom Salute Awards to those who served from June 2007 to May 2008. Members of the 1-145th performed military police duties at Camp Bucca, Iraq, one of the largest detention facilities in the country.

Clock ticking for health-reform panel

Lawmakers are stymied in hunt for long-term solutions

By James Thalman
Deseret News

With just three scheduled meetings remaining, the only clear-cut piece in the mural-size jigsaw puzzle of health-care reform before a special legislative task force is much more individual responsibility in personal well-being.

Task force members on Thursday got about a thousand more pieces of reality that must be built into the coming self-centered era of a new and improved, cost-contained, easily accessible, transparent, market-driven, prevention-oriented health-care system.

Being reminded yet again just how tediously complex a task it is to rein in health-care costs, lawmakers were once again left searching for metaphors in sizing up how the effort is

going.

Co-chairman Rep. David Clark, R-Santa Clara, picked silver BBs as his metaphor of choice.

"There isn't one out there for us," Clark said, repeating an assessment he's made since the Legislature got serious about taking on the health-care crisis this past spring. "Maybe it's a shotgun shell with silver BBs. No other state has a plan that will translate to another state. Some states have a lot more and a lot less money. Whatever design is best for this state, it will require the collective force of a lot of little individual pieces working together to make it all work."

Cadillacs, TV clickers and cheap bandages are elements that best describe the situation for task force co-chairman Sen. Sheldon Killpack, R-Syracuse.

"If you've ever used a cheap Band-Aid, they work for a minute then fall off," Killpack said. "We need to be patient and look for long-term solu-

tions. In a remote-control society, we expect with a click we'll have the answer. This is not going to be that."

In response to suggested options for finding the so-far elusive affordable, bare-bones medical plan for small companies, the self-employed or single individuals, Killpack noted, "If you have Cadillac accessories on every plan, you're never going to have an affordable one."

The meeting got down to brass tacks when legal advisers described the federal pitfalls — U.S. government-required medical services and tax issues that arise as plans are developed and practices are refitted to contain costs and make access more available and affordable for everyone — particularly the 300,000 uninsured Utahns.

Offering serious premium payment subsidies of \$800 to \$1,200 targeted at employees who need to get healthier will translate to the small-scale workplace and can be done without any extra money from the employers, rep-

resentatives of private industry and medical care groups told the task force.

No matter what improvements are made or how much additional responsibility is given to employees for managing their own insurance, a raft of federal guidelines have to be accounted for first, task members were told.

Still, after months of discussions, some were showing signs of frustration. Rep. David Litvak, D-Salt Lake, said a lot of the issues that have been addressed so far are in the "better than nothing" category, "but I'm not hearing comprehensive reform anywhere. A more affordable product is fine, but that isn't system reform to me."

The task force is scheduled to meet three more times — Sept. 18, Oct. 13 and Nov. 20. Members and their advisers will have between then and January to draft reform proposals into legislation.

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Former UVU President William Sederburg hands a ceremonial key to the university to interim president Elizabeth Hitch Wednesday.

UVU bids fond farewell to president

By Jens Dana
Deseret News

OREM — For more than an hour and a half, a procession of faculty and students flocked around Utah Valley University President William A. Sederburg on Wednesday to wish him well in his new role as Utah commissioner of higher education.

History will probably remember Sederburg's legacy as his ability to shepherd then-Utah Valley State College through its transition into a university. But as far as Sederburg is concerned, his real legacy is found in the work of the numerous administrators, faculty members and university students who will carry on to build UVU's reputation across the nation.

"I will miss you a great deal," he said Wednesday to hundreds gathered on the

fourth floor of the new UVU library. "But I'll be back — just like the Terminator — in my new role as commissioner."

Sederburg officially handed over the key to UVU to Elizabeth Hitch, who was selected to be interim president. Hitch, who served as vice president for academic affairs, joined UVU in July 2007 with more than 35 years of experience in higher education. She said this will be a "pretty easy year" because of the quality of staff and faculty working at the university.

"We know exactly where we're going," she said. "We know exactly what we're all about."

Sederburg took over then-UVSC's helm in June 2003 after completing a nine-year stint as president of Ferris State University in Michigan. In his five years as UVSC president, Sederburg fos-

tered many positive advancements beyond the move to university status, including a new library and a major baseball diamond.

Sederburg is widely known across campus and in the community for his brand of humor and approachable nature.

"He's truly been a friend of the students," said Joseph Watkins, UVU student body president.

Jack Zenger, a member of the State Board of Regents, said a committee of 16 representatives from the board, the UVU board of trustees, UVU faculty members and community members has been formed to conduct a nationwide search for a new university president. He said it hopes to whittle down the field of applicants to five candidates in five to six months.

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COLLEGE

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neers in Utah's growing high-tech economy."

Brown credits the program's success to efforts of Utah's engineering initiative, which provides much-needed resources to the program.

U. students also are noted as having the least amount of debt upon graduation — only 41 percent hold an average of nearly \$14,000 when compared to their national counterparts. Parents' loans are not included in the survey.

A skip south along the Wasatch Front, Westminster College is being hailed as one of the West's best deals, offering students a quality academic experience for their money. The private, liberal arts school ranks 13th out of 15 schools in the Western states for amount of grant money and financial aid given to students.

Westminster also earned a spot as No. 19 in the category of "Best Universities - Masters," which rates schools based on degree options. The school boasts a 77 percent freshman-retention rate and 10:1 student-to-faculty ratio, as well as a 57 percent graduation rate.

Westminster President Michael Bassis said he is pleased to be ranked by the publication, but he encourages prospective students to consider more when deciding facets of an education.

"We understand that this particular publication is important to prospective students and their parents, but we also realize that the rankings are not fully representative of the type of learning that actually occurs once a student enters college," he said, adding that readers should look at individual learning environments, accessibility of faculty, campus communities and the out-

comes achieved by graduates.

Weber State University landed a spot on the list as the 53rd best place to earn a degree, boasting a 71 percent student-retention and a 41 percent graduation rate. Southern Utah University also was mentioned on the list, but it wasn't ranked.

Brigham Young University again placed among the best national universities, offering a wide range of undergraduate and graduate degree possibilities, also emphasizing research. U.S. News, using categories developed by the Carnegie Foundation, groups 262 schools as national universities, and BYU ranks 113th. The private university ties with Texas Christian University and the University of New Hampshire.

The U. ranks 127th on the same list, tied with New Jersey's Institute of Technology and the University of San

Francisco.

The Marriott School of Business at BYU's Provo campus is noted as one of the best programs in business academia, ranking No. 35 in the country, with its accounting program earning fourth place in the nation.

U.S. News provides the rankings to give higher-education seekers an idea of what they'll find at various schools. The data presented are compiled using quantitative measures by experts as well as what the publication calls a nonpartisan view of what matters in education. Lists are compiled including statistics and surveyed information.

Harvard, Princeton and Yale often top the list, as they have been around the longest, collect the most money and maintain a great deal of selectivity, according to the report. More on the publication can be found online at usnews.com/colleges.

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HAFB wins praise for its green initiatives

By Joseph M. Dougherty
Deseret News

HILL AIR FORCE BASE — Is Hill Air Force Base turning a shade of green? No, not the sickly shade of green. The environmental shade of green.

Over the past few years, base officials have been striving to reduce their carbon footprint by converting landfill gas into electricity and by purchasing steam heat from the Wasatch Integrated Waste Management District's incinerator.

In the fall, the base plans to install ground-based solar panels.

Tuesday, Rocky Mountain Power president Rich Walje recognized Hill's participation in the electric utility's Blue Sky program, which allows customers to purchase renewable energy. Hill Air Force Base is the largest purchaser of renewable energy among Rocky Mountain Power's 27,000 customers in Utah, Wyoming and Idaho who participate in the Blue Sky program.

The base has committed to buying 750,000 kilowatt-hours of Blue Sky energy each month. The average home uses about 770 kilowatt-hours of electricity a month, said Rocky Mountain Power spokesman Jeff Hymas.

Green power is still a small part of Hill's total electrical usage, which is an average of 20.5 million kilowatt-hours a month.

Of the hundreds of thousands of dollars Hill spends each month on electricity, its green power spending accounts for about 3.6 percent, said David Abbott, the base's utility manager.

Despite that small contribution, Walje said, those 750,000 kilowatt-hours will have significant impacts to the environment over the next year.

In 12 months, the renewable energy purchase will avoid 9,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions, which is equivalent to driving 19.2 million fewer miles or planting 3,535 acres of trees, Walje said.

"The magnitude of what Hill Air Force Base is doing is very impressive," he said.

Abbott said the base has a presidential mandate to have 5 percent of its energy come from renewable sources by 2012.

"This agreement with Rocky Mountain Power helps us meet that goal ahead of schedule," he said.

Maj. Gen. Kathleen Close, commander of the Ogden Air Logistics Center, said Hill is constantly looking for ways to reduce energy.

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