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Logan Lurker arrested after 20 thefts

By CATHERINE MEIDELL & RACHEL A. CHRISTENSEN
assistant news editor, news editor

A suspect in the case involving a series of burglaries through student housing near USU was apprehended Thursday morning and is now in jail, Logan Police Lt. Jeff Curtis said.

Aaron Foote, a 32-year-old male living in Orem, was booked into Cache County Jail Thursday afternoon on three counts of second-degree felonies, for burglary and one parole violation. Curtis said, "Additional charges are anticipated" in relation to the recent serial burglaries of off-campus student housing.

Logan Police received a call at about 4 a.m. Thursday for a burglary taking place near 590 Canyon Road, Curtis said. Officers responded and began tracking the suspect. Foote then went into a house, which Curtis said he believes was an effort to elude police. Curtis said Foote left the house and police located him in his truck around 550 N. 700 East.

Police were able to recover property from that morning's burglary, including laptops and a cell phone,

Curtis said.

During a six-week time period, more than 20 burglaries have been tied to this case. Curtis also said detectives are in the process of trying to locate property stolen in these burglary cases.

The Utah Statesman previously reported that an unknown male, now recognized as Foote, would enter unlocked apartments near USU's campus in search of cash and valuable electronic equipment. Foote was caught snooping in apartments on a few occasions and would pretend to know one of the apartment's residents or claim he entered the wrong apartment on accident. Many of the thefts were executed while apartment residents were asleep.

Student housing affected by the burglaries include Kampus Korner, Oakridge, Old Farm, Garden Courts and Pine View apartments. A burglary reported at Twin Creek Apartments, located west of Logan Regional Hospital, could also be related to the multiple thefts. Curtis said students must lock their doors on a regular basis as a precaution against theft predators.

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AARON FOOTE

Dean selection committees pursue efficient search

By PETER BROWN
staff writer

USU is planning to hire two new deans by April 1. One dean will govern the newly formed Caine College of the Arts, and the other dean will replace Dean Yolanda Flores Niemann in the college that will include humanities and social sciences.

"The (USU) president has asked the search and screening committee to complete the campus interviews of candidates by Spring Break," Provost Ray Coward said. "The search and screening committee has tentatively identified the first two weeks of March to complete the campus interviews."

Coward said this will be an internal search only. One of the reasons for this is that with two new col-

leges forming, it'll take time to "get their legs and set their courses," he said. He said the committee's missions and branding require time and organization, and internal candidates may have more credibility and already be in a position to lead a group forward to a new vision.

USU President Stan Albrecht said he wants the college to "hit the ground running" and wants to avoid any delays that could be caused by a long national search followed by a period of adjustment and assimilation by an outside candidate.

Also, USU is eager to minimize the cost of a national search in these "tough economical times," Coward said.

■ See DEANS, page 4

CEU afraid affiliation will deplete budget

By RYAN WARE
The CEU Eagle

From chancellors to tuition waivers, to financial exigency, the College of Eastern Utah's Senate addressed, in its regular meeting Feb. 4, issues that may affect the college in the next few months.

Enrollment is up at CEU. According to preliminary numbers stated by interim president Mike King, headcount is up 13 percent and full-time-equivalence enrollment is up 11 percent. Budget-related figures put the Price campus up 6 percent and the San Juan campus up 27 percent.

The college senate "postponed consideration of the proposed revision to the tuition-benefit policy so that we (senate members) could try to get answers to three critical questions about how the cost of the benefit will be accounted for under the Utah State University regional-campus system," according to Susan Neel, college senate chair.

"Right now, the various campuses in the USU system must reimburse Logan for any courses taken by employees and their dependents from other campuses," she said. "This could pose a serious drain on CEU's budget."

"We are waiting to hear from the administrators in Logan if this would be the case for CEU after the merger. Also, we are trying to determine if the employee tuition benefit counts toward the state-mandated 10 percent limitation on tuition waivers."

The college senate is "waiting for a determination from the Regent's Office and the Utah Attorney General's Office. Until we (college senate members) have clear, concrete

answers to these questions, it is not possible to make a good decision about the proposed change," she said.

King briefly talked about financial exigency.

"Financial exigency means financial urgency," King said. "The college is able to ignore current policies with a financial exigency in place. Financial exigency is last resort tool."

According to The Herald Journal's Kim Burgess, "It (financial exigency) would have to be considered if the legislature enacts a 5 percent budget cut the next fiscal year."

In another agenda item, Greg Benson, interim vice president of academic affairs, discussed the future USU-CEU chancellor position. As a member of the search committee, he said the USU-CEU chancellor search is underway. In order to form a better job description, Benson has been compiling a list of issues with CEU as well as professional qualities the three-person team will be looking for. He is hoping to finish the list in February and looking to have a chancellor in place by July 1.

As CEU moves into USU's picture, the memorandum of understanding in place allows internal governance to exist as is until administration at USU says otherwise. This is a concern that has yet to be more thoroughly addressed.

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Editor's note: As the relationship between the College of Eastern Utah (CEU) and USU solidifies, we feel it's important for Aggies to understand what is going on in Price and how CEU views the possible merge. This article was published Feb. 11 in The CEU Eagle.



YOLANDA FLORES NIEMANN will carry out her current position as dean of the HASS Department through July 1. One committee has been organized to select the future dean of HASS and another committee will select the dean for the new art college. Photo courtesy of USU Media Relations

Inside This Issue

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Robert Turbin's torn ACL could take him out for the entire 2010 season.

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Forgot Valentine's Day is around the corner? There are still ways to celebrate for the last-minute planners.

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ClarifyCorrect

The policy of The Utah Statesman is to correct any error made as soon as possible. If you find something you would like clarified or find unfair, please contact the editor at 797-1762 or TSC 105.

Celebs & People

Michaels fights lawsuit over diet supplement

LOS ANGELES (AP) – Celebrity trainer Jillian Michaels fired back Thursday at a false advertising lawsuit filed against her over a diet supplement, calling the claim baseless and saying she still supports the product. “My reputation and credibility are of the utmost importance to me,” Michaels said in a statement to The Associated Press. “This baseless lawsuit is entirely without merit and is being handled by my legal team.”



JILLIAN MICHAELS

Christie Christensen of Lake Elsinore, Calif., sued Michaels on Tuesday and is seeking class-action status for the claim. Michaels is a hard-charging, no-nonsense trainer best-known as one of the stars of NBC’s hit reality show, “The Biggest Loser.”

Nat'l Briefs

Utah lawmakers want federal land returned

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) – Conservative Utah lawmakers want to spark a U.S. Supreme Court case that could ultimately allow states to develop resource-rich parcels of land that are now off limits where the federal government is the landlord.

The lawmakers said Thursday they will attempt to trigger an avalanche of legislation in the West through the use of eminent domain, which governments use to take private property for public use.

More than 60 percent of Utah is owned by the federal government, and policy makers here have long complained that federal ownership hinders their ability to generate tax revenue and adequately fund public schools.

Utah spends less per student than any other state and has the nation’s largest class sizes.

Legislation was introduced in the Utah House on Thursday allowing the use of eminent domain on federal land. The effort has the full support of Republican Attorney General Mark Shurtleff, who would have to defend the law.

The proposals include setting aside \$3 million for a legal defense.

LateNiteHumor

David Letterman, Feb. 10, 2010 Top 10 Things You Didn't Know About "Survivor."

10. None of us ever paid taxes on our winnings.
9. 90 percent of all contestants are bartenders, the other 10 percent – cocktail waitresses.
8. Many contestants go on to do great things, like host boat shows.
7. We use our wits, our stamina and any four-star hotel in the area.
6. A scorpion once climbed up my pants and stung me in the nuts.
5. Appearance on the show was a condition of my parole.
4. Winner gets \$1 million; everyone else gets a tote bag and ringworm.
3. To compete with “Lost,” we’ve added hatch, a polar bear and a really fat guy.
2. Being on “Survivor” is almost as hellish as being on Letterman.
1. Several contestants later posed for Playboy – and I’m one of them.

Intel ties between UK and US in jeopardy

LONDON (AP) – Intelligence ties between London and Washington have been jeopardized by a British court’s disclosure that a terrorism suspect was beaten and shackled in U.S. custody, diplomats and security officials said Wednesday.

Fears in the United States that Britain can no longer be trusted with secrets is prompting an urgent assessment of relations between the allies and – according to some sources – has already slowed the flow of sensitive information from the U.S.

Britain’s Court of Appeal on Wednesday authorized the release of a previously secret summary of CIA documents detailing the treatment of former Guantanamo Bay detainee Binyam Mohamed. Mohamed was arrested in Pakistan in 2002 and, according to the British court, subjected to “cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment by the United States authorities.”

Foreign Secretary David Miliband fought for two years to block publication of the seven-paragraph summary, insisting that would violate a long-standing rule that nations don’t disclose intelligence shared by their allies.

The White House said Wednesday the British court’s judgment “will complicate the confidentiality of our intelligence-sharing relationship.”

Experts warn the ruling could hurt Britain’s ability to defend itself against terrorism, and represents the most serious challenge to intelligence cooperation since double agents during the Cold War.

The court’s ruling has also raised new questions about whether British spies were complicit in torture.

In a rare public statement – his first since October – MI5 director Jonathan Evans used an opinion article in the Daily Telegraph newspaper to stress the importance of British intelligence ties to Washington, insisting the relationship has saved lives in the U.K.

“We cannot protect the U.K. without the help and co-operation of other countries. The U.S., in particular, has been generous in sharing intelligence

with us on terrorist threats; that has saved British lives and must be protected,” Evans wrote, in Friday’s edition. “We must hope, for our own safety and security, that this does not make them less ready to share intelligence with us in the future.”

The released document is a judge’s summary of 42 classified documents shared by the CIA with MI5 – Britain’s domestic spy agency – during Mohamed’s questioning in Pakistan in May 2002. Evans acknowledged it described “unacceptable actions,” but rejected claims his agency had been complicit in the detainee’s alleged torture.

Experts say that – following the disclosure – allies may no longer trust British assurances that intelligence information will be kept secret.

“I suspect that for some while at least, the U.S. authorities are going to be much less generous with the material they share and much more calculating about protecting their own interests,” said Nigel Inkster, a former assistant chief of Britain’s MI6 overseas spy agency.

Some British diplomats say restrictions on the information shared with London by Washington are already in place. The officials, who demanded anonymity to discuss intelligence issues, said the U.S. would never withhold details on threats to life, but American officials probably are already withholding some information they would have shared before.

“This is more serious than the Cambridge spy ring, this is more serious than Robert Hanssen,” said Bob Ayers, a London-based former U.S. intelligence officer. “This has the potential to be far more damaging.”

Hanssen was an FBI agent caught in 2001 selling secrets to Russia. The Cambridge spy ring was a group of upper-class Britons who spied for the Soviet Union from the 1930s, exposing details of colleagues stationed overseas.

Any change in trans-Atlantic ties risks seriously undermining British counterterrorism efforts, experts say.



ACCUSED AL-QAIDA associate Aafia Siddiqui is seen in the custody of Counter Terrorism Department of Ghazni province in Ghazni City, Afghanistan. Jury selection began Wednesday, Jan 13, at federal court in New York, where Siddiqui is on trial and is accused of grabbing a U.S. Army officer’s rifle in Afghanistan in July 2008 and firing at U.S. soldiers and FBI agents. AP photo

Inkster said that, to the best of his understanding, there isn’t a single major British counterterrorism operation over the last decade that hasn’t benefited from “game changing” assistance from U.S. agencies.

“The government has to think about the long term implications of the damage to trust in a relationship that has been pretty crucial to U.K. security over many years,” he said.

Mohamed’s case also focused scrutiny on MI5’s insistence that it doesn’t collude in torture.

In a draft judgment, the Court of Appeal accused the agency of withholding information from ministers and the judiciary, disregarding human rights and failing to disavow harsh interrogation techniques.

A paragraph containing the criticisms was removed from the final judgment after the intervention of government lawyer Jonathan Sumption, who argued in a letter to the three appeal judges that the claims were unsubstan-

tiated.

“They will be read as statements by the Court that the security service does not in fact operate a culture that respects human rights or abjures participation in coercive interrogation techniques,” Sumption wrote.

Evans said claims about the conduct of MI5 were “so far from the truth that it couldn’t be left unchallenged,” and said he expected extremists would seek to exploit the criticism.

“For their part our enemies will also seek to use all tools at their disposal to attack us. That means not just bombs, bullets and aircraft but also propaganda,” the spy chief wrote.

Lawyers acting for Mohamed – along with media organizations, including The Associated Press, who demanded the seven-paragraph summary be released, said they were unaware Sumption had been in contact with the judges. They said they plan to complain to the courts about his actions.

Air Force: Nuclear problems were administrative

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) – The Air Force on Thursday blamed administrative problems for the decision to remove an Air Force squadron overseeing an underground nuclear weapons cache, detailing another instance of questionable oversight even after the military took steps to correct similar issues.

Ron Fry, spokesman for the Air Force Materiel Command, said the problems were related to a failed inspection. But a nuclear expert suggested it appears the problems ran deeper, based on the Air Force’s decision to reassign five non-commissioned officers.

The Air Force on Jan. 27 decertified the 898th Munitions Squadron at Kirtland Air Force Base, which maintains an estimated 2,000 nuclear warheads inside a bunkered storage facility.

Fry said the 898th Munitions Squadron was included in a regularly scheduled nuclear surety inspection in November involving its parent unit, the 498th Nuclear Systems Wing, as well as the 377th Air Base Wing – all based at Kirtland.

The two wings and the unit all failed the inspection, Fry said, but initially it was decided that the

squadron wouldn’t be decertified. Fry said the problems were mainly administrative, such as handling of paperwork and documentation. He declined to elaborate.

A reinspection was scheduled for mid-February. But late last month Brig. Gen. Everett Thomas, commander of Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center – the overseer of Air Force nuclear surety – recommended the squadron be decertified to allow time to identify the root cause of its problems.

As part of the action, five senior non-commissioned officers were reassigned to other duties, but Fry wouldn’t disclose details. A senior NCO, such as a senior master sergeant or chief master sergeant, acts as a supervisor.

Hans Kristensen, a longtime watcher of nuclear weapons issues at the Federation of American Scientists, based in Washington, said the removal of the NCOs is a likely indication the squadron’s problems ran deeper than one failed surety inspection.

Another inspection is planned in June, the earliest the 898th could be recertified. Fry said members of another squadron based elsewhere have arrived at Kirtland to take over the 898th’s duties.

Kirtland is one of two major storage areas for Air Force nuclear weapons. The other is Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

The New Mexico unit was the military’s third since 2003 to be temporarily stripped of its duties over concerns about how the weapons were handled or documented.

In August 2007, nuclear cruise missiles at Minot Air Force Base, N.D., were mistakenly loaded onto a B-52 bomber and flown to a Louisiana base. The foul-up cost a colonel his command and was cited by Defense Secretary Robert Gates as contributing to his decision to fire Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael Moseley and Air Force Secretary Michael Wynne.



ROBERT ANDERSON, CO-FOUNDER of the activist group Stop the War Machine, reads a warning sign at the edge of Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, N.M., on Thursday, Feb. 11. AP photo

Ex-President Clinton undergoes heart procedure

NEW YORK (AP) – Former President Bill Clinton had two stents inserted in one of his heart arteries after being hospitalized with chest pains, an adviser said Thursday.

Clinton, 63, “is in good spirits and will continue to focus on the work of his foundation and Haiti’s relief and long-term recovery efforts,” said adviser Douglas Band.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton left Washington and headed to New York to be with her husband, who underwent the procedure at New York

Presbyterian Hospital.

Stents are tiny mesh scaffolds used to prop open an artery after it is unclogged in an angioplasty procedure. Doctors thread a tube through a blood vessel in the groin to a blocked artery, inflate a balloon to flatten the clog, and slide the stent into place.

That is a different treatment from what Clinton had in 2004, when clogged arteries first landed him in the hospital. He underwent quadruple bypass surgery because of four blocked arteries, some of which had squeezed almost completely

shut.

Angioplasty, which usually includes placing stents, is one of the most common medical procedures done worldwide. More than half a million stents are placed each year in the United States.

With bypass or angioplasty, patients often need another procedure years down the road because arteries often relog.

“It’s not unexpected” for Clinton to need another procedure now, said Dr. Clyde Yancy, cardiologist at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas

and president of the American Heart Association.

The sections of arteries and veins used to create detours around the original blockages tend to develop clogs five to 10 years after a bypass, he explained. New blockages also can develop in new areas.

“This kind of disease is progressive. It’s not a one-time event, so it really points out the need for constant surveillance” and treating risk factors such as high cholesterol and high blood pressure, he said.

Prof. awarded for national parks research

By MEGAN ALLEN
staff writer

A USU professor received the 2009 Regional Director's Award for Natural Resource Research by the Intermountain Region Office of the National Park Service.

Jack Schmidt is a professor in the watershed science department and specializes in stream geomorphology. The award recognizes his outstanding contributions in the field of watershed science. The letter Schmidt received about the award stated that the National Park Service (NPS) chose him for his research on "the factors that determine the formation of river channels and floodplains, and describing the transformation of rivers."

Schmidt started researching with the NPS in 1984. He started research in the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon and that led to other research opportunities in the Snake River of Grand Teton National Park, the Rio Grande in Big Bend National Park and the Green River around Dinosaur National Monument.

"Nobody plans to be doing this," Schmidt said. "If life turns out that you're this lucky, be glad."

Schmidt said he has been working on a unique problem.

Each park Schmidt has been working in has a large river that runs through it, presenting a significant problem.

Big rivers are difficult and expensive to study, Schmidt said. He said he must do everything he can to follow the NPS's motto of "preserve and protect, unimpaired for future generations."

Schmidt said the biggest problem is that all the big rivers are heavily devel-

designing efforts to protect downstream resources in Grand Canyon National Park. He was a part of the Glen Canyon Dam high flow experiments in 1996, 2004 and 2008. He is currently co-leading a project that will summarize and synthesize the work of lots of Grand Canyon river sci-

He also studies the effects of dams and diversions, and helps develop policies that will protect the value of the rivers and national parks.

Schmidt said he got started with his research by taking a risk. He said he started out with no money, a borrowed boat and not

from the NPS, Schmidt said the research was done cooperatively with many other groups. Big ones included are the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the World Wildlife Fund and the state governments of Utah and Texas.

"I love contributing to what these organizations are doing," he said.

Schmidt said he isn't trying to make a big deal of the award.

"I do what I do," he said. "I don't think twice about it. I feel very lucky to have the privilege to run so much of the research in the national parks program."

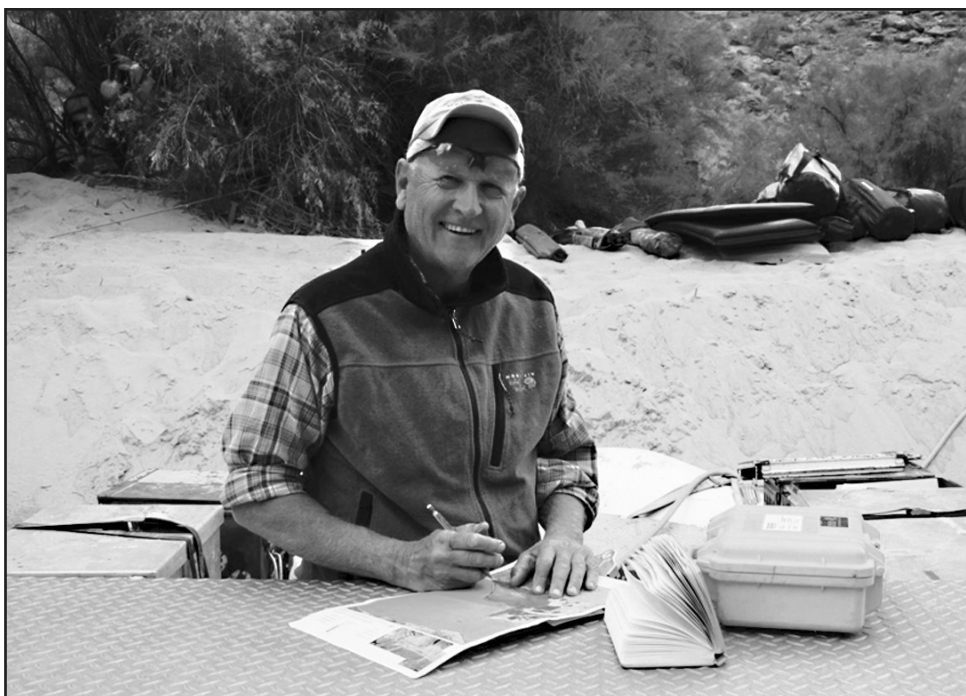
Luecke said, "It is great to see Jack recognized by the National Park Service for his contributions to our understanding of the large river systems of the western United States."

Schmidt said he wants to protect these great rivers and keep them beautiful.

"The big rivers of the west are the icons of the continent," he said. "Westerners identify with them. They want them to be beautiful, but they want to use every drop of water in them. You just can't have both and that's what keeps me busy."

Schmidt will formally receive the award in a ceremony to be announced at a later date. By receiving this regional honor, he is eligible for a national nomination.

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JACK SCHMIDT, professor in the watershed science department, said it's important to create awareness of rivers' and national parks' value. His research encompasses river systems and how they transport a variety of sediments to ultimately create habitats for organisms. *photo courtesy of Jack Schmidt*

oped. Lee's Ferry, Jackson Lake and Flaming Gorge are areas of the national parks that are highly developed and bring a lot of tourism and traffic.

"We need to pressure society to recognize the value of the rivers and parks," Schmidt said.

Schmidt is world-renowned for his research on the Colorado River system and has been instrumental in planning and

entists.

"Having faculty, like Jack, who care deeply about our environment makes Utah State a great place to work," said Chris Luecke, watershed science department head. "His research findings are important to land management agencies."

Schmidt's research focuses on how rivers work, transport sediment and create environments.

enough food. He had to figure out how to survive.

"I jumped on my first river research trip and never looked back," he said.

Schmidt was quick to give a lot of the credit for his award to others, saying a lot of the work was done by graduate students.

"If it weren't for them, then this wouldn't have happened," he said.

While the award came



A USU PANEL of first-generation college students will speak to Latino families during their visit to USU as a part of Saturday's event aimed to educate the attending families on the importance of higher education. Workshops, a bridge-building competition and calculator competition will be among the day's events. *Utah Statesman illustration*

Latino community invited to day of higher ed

By MEGAN BAINUM
staff writer

In an effort to raise higher education awareness to Latino families, USU is holding an event all day to offer information about what the school has to offer.

Jen Putnam, the director of admissions, said, "This is the first year we are holding the event, and we are really excited about how things are turning out."

When asked why USU is putting this on now and not a previous year, Putnam said it is all about the expected growth.

"There will be more students graduating who are interested in a higher education than ever before, and we want them to know the students are welcome here," Putnam said.

Moises Diaz, the director of Multicultural Student Services, said the idea just started out as a conversation and with the help of James Morales, vice president of Student Services, it became more of a group effort with many different departments, including admissions and GEAR UP being involved.

"All of the departments usually just do their own thing and even though there are more departments that could probably be involved, things have worked out well," Diaz said.

Latinos are the largest minority group on campus, and Putnam said there is a culture barrier because a lot of students are the first generation

to go on to higher education.

There will be a current USU student panel Diaz said, consisting of those who have firsthand experience coming to college as a first generation student. Diaz said students of the panel will talk about their challenges, their successes, and their ups and downs of attending school. They will also discuss some resources that have helped them start out.

Diaz said it is more of an educational outreach than a recruitment effort. The day will focus on providing information that is helpful to people who are less knowledgeable about education. He will also be speaking to the families and giving a presentation to share what information parents should be aware of and "help improve access to higher education," he said.

The day will also consist of rotating workshops and bridge-building competitions, along with calculator competitions. Putnam said the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) will organize the bridge-building contest and around to high schools to get clubs involved in the competition. Putnam said the students from SHPE wanted to help high school students realize that math and science can be cool.

"The winners will be announced at the end of the day," Putnam said. "We're hoping this will keep the kids excited throughout the day."

The Latino Family Day will be held Saturday from 9 to 2 p.m. in the USU Ballroom. Admission is free.

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Briefs

Campus & Community

Safety regulations more strict for 4-H

The four h's in the 4-H program stand for head, heart, hands and health. USU Extension 4-H aims to protect 4-Hers heads and improve their health through its new helmet regulation program effective Jan. 1, 2011. The program will require all Western youth riders to wear helmets while competing in 4-H sponsored shows.

According to Colette Floyd Tebeau, USU Extension 4-H equine program coordinator, helmets are already worn by English competitors but not by Western riders.

"We want to allow people plenty of time to understand the new ruling and give them time to purchase a certified helmet that works for them," she said. "Many other states have already adopted a mandatory helmet policy, and we feel it important to follow suit. We want to be proactive in protecting our 4-H youths, encouraging riders to wear helmets every time, every ride."

The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association through the Committee on Sports Medicine, the Canadian Medical Association and the American Medical Equestrian Association/Safe Riders Foundation recommend that approved, fitted and secured helmets be worn during all rides by all horseback riders.

According to the Equestrian Medical Safety Association's Web site, a fall from 2 feet can cause permanent brain damage. A horse elevates a rider 8 feet or more above the ground. A human skull can be shattered by an impact of four to 12 miles per hour.

Prof. to speak on his newly published works

Steven R. Simms, a professor of anthropology at USU, is the next speaker at HASS Hour, a series provided by the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences.

Simms will be featured Thursday, Feb. 18, and activities will be under way at 5:15 p.m. During his presentation, Simms will provide insights into his forthcoming book "Traces of Fremont."

HASS Hour is open to everyone and is held at Hamilton's Steak and Seafood the third Thursday of every month. It features USU faculty from the college's departments and programs discussing a variety of topics from their areas of expertise, presented in what is called the "TimePiece."

The event has been called an hour of good food, good company and intellectual engagement. HASS Hour begins at 5:15 p.m. with the "TimePiece" beginning at approximately 6 p.m.

Simms said his "TimePiece" includes a 10-minute audio-video presentation featuring select readings and photography from Traces of Fremont, all set to music. Fliers for the new book will be available, as well as copies of Simms' previous book.

"Traces of Fremont" will be published in March 2010, and presents a focused look at Fremont society and its art work.

Nutrition center open to students in need

USU's Val R. Christensen Service Center Student Nutrition Access Center is now open.

Students can visit the USU Trailer Park unit 106 every Monday from 3 to 6 p.m., if they are in need of food assistance.

Service center leaders and students Jordan Hunt, Varuna Ponnameperuma and David Knighton have organized the Student Nutrition Access Center as an extension of the Cache Valley Community Food Pantry.

Students can get more information and fill out an application online.

The student leaders will continually evaluate the program in order to most effectively serve students over the longterm. For specific questions or feedback, contact Hunt at hunt.jordan@aggiemail.usu.edu.

USU and GNU sign partnership

BY USU MEDIA RELATIONS

GongJu National University in Seoul, South Korea, recently signed an agreement to collaborate in the delivery of education programs to teachers and prospective teachers in Korea with Utah State University's Emma Eccles Jones College of Education Human Services.

GongJu National University president Woo-Soo Jeon, GongJu, director of Teacher Education Yang-Hwan Sol, and Kwon Oh-Sung, dean of planning affairs at GongJu, visited USU and spoke at the signing ceremony. USU Provost Raymond T. Coward and Mike Freeman, associate dean of the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services, signed the agreement from USU.

Students from GongJu come to the United States for

various reasons, according to Edwin Jenson, director of concurrent enrollment at USU. Undergraduate students come for the semester-long practicum experience in local schools, and potential graduate students come because a U.S. teacher licensure allows them to be more competitive for education positions in international schools as well as in Korea. He expects that other practicing teachers will come for a sabbatical experience.

"Their experience in the U.S. schools will be a valuable entry in their applications for employment as teachers in Korea as well as other countries, and also their English ability will be highly prized," Jenson said. "Their experience here in U.S. schools will be very valuable in their applications for employment."

The first cohort worked as teachers at Ogden City School District in fall 2009. The second cohort is expected to arrive mid-

February and to work in Logan City School District.

The competition for employment as an educator is keen in Korea, Jenson said. Placement rates for graduates are approximately 10 percent. Korean students who major in teacher education are in the top 10-15 percent of their university classmates. They are highly skilled in critical skills—math, science and computers, which are the high-demand subjects in the United States also.

Jenson said that teachers and principals from Ogden City School District told him the Korean students serve as role models for local students who also are English second language learners. He said everyone was awed both at how well the South Korean students learned the language, but, more important at how well they taught.

Zoot Suit Riot



JEFF LYONS, a member of USU's jazz bands, plays his bari-saxophone during the Skyroom's Jazz Night, Thursday. Students, USU staff, faculty and members of the community danced, listened to jazzy tunes and enjoyed a three-course dinner. Proceeds were given to the Larry Smith Jazz Scholarship fund. **PETE P. SMITHSUTH** photo

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Deans: Committees prepare to choose

■ continued from page 1

The dean of science, Jim MacMahon, will serve as the committee chair for the search committee working to find the replacement for Niemann. Carol Strong, dean of Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services, will serve as the chair of the committee that will find a dean for the Caine College of the Arts, MacMahon said. Both committees will form and put together a job description to be sent out internally among USU faculty, MacMahon said.

"The president has mandated that this be a fast search," MacMahon said.

Niemann will retain the position as dean of HASS until July 1. Until then, the future deans will work with the Office of the Provost to create a set of circumstances so the two colleges can "hit the ground running," Coward said. After that point, when the arts disagggregates to form a college, the selected appointees will assume their new responsibilities as deans of the two colleges.

Coward said that prior to July 1, one of the responsibilities of the faculty in the arts college, including humanities and social sciences, will be to determine its official name.

MacMahon said any faculty member may potentially become a dean.

"But it would be unusual for somebody to become a dean who is not a full-time professor. Department heads are generally prime

candidates, but it is not limited in any way. Anyone can apply. And that is important."

Candidates will be asked to participate in an open forum, where faculty, staff and students are encouraged to ask them pertinent questions to better determine their leadership qualities, management styles and vision.

"Faculty and students will be involved in the campus interviews," Coward said. "Their perceptions of the strengths and weaknesses of the candidates will be solicited, collected and shared with the president."

MacMahon said he has never seen a search where faculty wasn't involved.

"The faculty will have direct access to the search committee, up until the committee gives their list over to the president," he said.

Coward said, "We are delighted that Dr. Flores Niemann will remain at Utah State. She is a capable and experienced higher education administrator, and we look forward to employing her many skills on behalf of the university. At this point in time, we have not yet determined in exactly what position we will use her valuable skills. However, I am absolutely confident that she will make important contributions to the future of this university."

— peter.brown@aggiemail.usu.edu

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Ladies gore Spartans in San Jose

By STEVE CLARK
staff writer

Utah State bounces back from a 20-point loss against Louisiana Tech to dish out a 20-point victory of its own Thursday night against San Jose State.

In San Jose, the Aggies fought off the Spartans for a 66-46 win. Amber White led all scorers, with 12, and LaCale Pringle-Buchanan came off the bench and finished with a double-double, with 10 points and 10 rebounds. Thirteen Aggies saw playing time and all but three got on the board.

"We're really young in the bench," head coach Raegan Pebley said, "but when they play well, we win most of the time. With any team, the deeper they are, the more success they're going to have."

WAC Standings

Women's Basketball

Fresno St.	10-0	19-5
Nevada	7-3	13-11
La. Tech	6-3	15-6
NMSU	6-4	16-8
Boise St.	4-6	15-9
USU	4-6	12-11
Idaho	3-6	5-17
Hawaii	3-7	9-14
SJSU	1-8	5-17

THURSDAY'S RESULTS:

USU @ SJSU. – 66-46

USU shot well from behind the 3-point line, once again capping the night off 6-11, which is a 54.5 shooting percentage. Pringle-Buchanan led the team with two 3-pointers. With the Aggies' strong 3-point presence, it would appear obvious that they are playing toward that strength.

"No, we're actually continuing to try to stay more balanced," Pebley said. "We don't want to become just a 3-point shooting team. I think when you do that you become really vulnerable. That's just how it worked tonight, and we'll take it."

Although USU won the game by a large margin, the Spartans came out in a press that frustrated the Aggies. Pebley said San Jose's man and zone trapping presses was disrupting,

■ See **DOMINATION**, page 6



JUNIOR FORWARD AMBER WHITE led the Aggies in scoring with 12 points in Thursday night's victory over the Spartans of San Jose State 66-46. White was followed by LaCale Pringle-Buchanan, who scored 10 point. *PETE P. SMITHSUTH photo*

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Bye, bye Boise



JUNIOR FORWARD POOH WILLIAMS goes up for a shot against Boise State when the two teams met at the Spectrum Jan. 16. Williams scored 10 points during Thursday night's rematch, which the Aggies won 72-67. *PATRICK ODEN photo*

By TYLER HUSKINSON
staff writer

Senior guard Jared Quayle led the Utah State Aggies over the Boise State Broncos, 72-67, Thursday night, scoring 14 points and grabbing nine rebounds. The Aggies (19-6, 9-2) moved into first place in the Western Athletic Conference with the help of Fresno State, who defeated New Mexico State in Fresno, 84-63.

For the second-straight game, the Aggies faltered somewhat on defense. At the end of the first half, the Aggies led 35-31, allowing the Broncos to shoot 52 percent from the floor and 62.5 percent from 3-point land.

"We didn't defend real well in the first half," Aggie head coach Stew Morrill told 610 KVNU. "The problem is, they (the Broncos) are quite capable of beating you, it's not like they don't have good players. They have played a lot of games like this where they came up on the short end."

The Aggies had trouble scoring in the paint, during the first half. Uncharacteristically, the Aggies only scored six points down low, while the Broncos had 12 points.

"That was discussed in the locker room – that we had no post play," Morrill said. "We were a mess. We're making some poor post moves."

The Aggies came out firing in the second half, out-scoring the Broncos 12-4 in the first five minutes. Junior forward Tai Wesley scored nine of the Aggies first 10 second-half points

and finished the night with 13 points and six assists. The Aggies pushed their lead to 16 points midway through the second half, but struggled with turnovers, committing nine in the second half, alone. "We didn't handle the ball very well," Morrill said.

Wesley and sophomore guard Jaxon Myaer were the only Aggies to not commit a turnover.

In the final five minutes of the game, the Broncos made a desperate run to win. The Broncos slowly chipped away until they cut the Aggie lead to two points with 12 seconds remaining in the game.

Bronco's senior guard Anthony Thomas fouled Quayle with six seconds left in the game. Quayle made the first but missed the second of his free-throws, putting the

WAC Standings

Men's Basketball

USU	9-2	19-6
NMSU	8-3	15-9
La. Tech	7-3	19-5
Nevada	6-4	14-9
Fresno State	6-5	13-12
SJSU	5-6	12-11
Idaho	3-8	11-12
Hawaii	2-8	9-14
Boise St.	2-9	11-13

THURSDAY'S RESULTS:

USU @ Boise St. – 72-67
Fresno St. vs NMSU – 70-61

■ See **NINE STRAIGHT**, page 6

Turbin tears ACL

Last season's breakout Aggie star could miss out on entire 2010 campaign with knee injury

By ADAM NETTINA
staff writer

Utah State running back Robert Turbin suffered a tear in his anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) last week, according to The Salt Lake Tribune. Turbin, who was named Second Team All-WAC in 2009, underwent successful reconstructive surgery Feb. 4, but it is still unclear how long the junior-to-be will be sidelined for.

As a sophomore last season, Turbin rushed for 1,296 yards and 13 touchdowns, adding another 418 yards and five scores as a receiver out of the backfield. Turbin is expected to miss spring practice and, according to sources cited by The Salt Lake Tribune and The Desert News, could miss the entire 2010 season.

Utah State head coach Gary Andersen has been reluctant to comment on Turbin's injury, which apparently occurred during off-season conditioning drills last week. The second-year head coach told Salt Lake Tribune writer Tony Jones that Turbin was already in the process of making the

"speediest recoveries ever" and expressed optimism that Turbin would be back to 100 percent – if not in 2010, than in 2011. If he misses the 2010 season due to the knee injury, Turbin is expected to be granted an extra year of eligibility by the NCAA.

Turbin's injury puts a damper on the team's otherwise bright outlook for the 2010 season. Fortunately, the Aggies are deep at running back position. Michael Smith, who averaged 6.3 yards per carry in spot duty last season, returns, along with promising sophomore Kerwyn Williams. Senior Derrvin Speight and local product Josh Flores are expected to contribute as well.

The Aggies return to the practice field on March 23 and are scheduled to play their annual spring game on April 24. Andersen's team will take the field for the first time in the 2010 season, when they travel to Norman, Okla., to take on the Sooners on Sept. 4.

– adam.nettina@aggiemail.usu.edu

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This Friday's matchup



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Connor H. Jones

And the topics are...

1. Thoughts on Aggie men's basketball
2. Super Bowl
3. NBA's all-star weekend
4. Winter Olympics
5. Play of the week



FRESHMAN JAYLYN WEST, from La Quinta, Calif., returns the ball at Wednesday's tennis match against in-state rival Weber State. West beat her opponent 6-2, 6-0. *PETE P. SMITHSOUTH photo*

Aggies stampede Wildcats

By KAYLA CLARK
staff writer

USU's women's tennis team swept Weber Wednesday, winning all seven of its matches. "This is an in-state rival, and over the past years, a lot of the matches have been very close," head coach Christian Wright said. "It was nice to make such a clean sweep of all of the points. All the girls were very intense and very focused. I'm very proud of them."

Utah State dominated the singles competition, sweeping all six points. Junior Hailey Swenson, in the No. 1 position, prolonged her perfect season with her victory over the Wildcat's No. 1 Keya Jenkins, winning 6-2, 6-1. Swenson now has a 3-0 singles record and a combined 6-0 season record. At the No. 2 spot, freshman Jaclyn West beat WSU's Greyce Farias - 6-2, 6-0 - while classmate Kristina Voytsekhovich beat Elsie Beneke - 6-0, 2-3, 6-3 - at the No. 3 spot. Sophomore Monica Abella, freshman Taylor Perry and senior Britney Watts swept the last three singles points in the fourth, fifth and sixth positions, respectively. Abella winning 6-4, 3-6, 7-6, Perry 6-0, 6-2 and Watts beating WSU's Alyssia Pyne, 6-0, 8-0.

The Ags continued to dominate in the doubles competition, snatching all three doubles wins for the point. The No. 1 pair of Swenson and West beat the Wildcat's Caroline Druggie and Brittny Moore, 8-5. With the win in this match, the pair continued their winning streak. Their record this season is a perfect 3-0. Abella and Voytsekhovich played in the No. 2 spot, defeating the Wildcat's Greyce Garia and Elsie Beneke, 8-4. Watts and Perry, who are new partners, played in the No. 3 position. The two defeated the Wildcat's Jenkins and Markay Mullen to secure the team's doubles point, battling through two sets for a final score of 8-7, 8-6.

The team will head off to face UNLV in Las Vegas, Nev., on Friday and then to Riverside to continue the action, playing University of California Riverside on Saturday Feb. 13. The Aggies now have a 2-1 record thus far in the season. When asked about his outlook for these upcoming matches, Wright said if the girls play with the intensity they showed in the Weber match, they will do very well again. He said his one concern is adjusting to the elevation, about 2,000 feet above sea level.

- kayla.clark@aggiemail.usu.edu

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Men look to take down SJSU

By TYLER HUSKINSON
staff writer

The Utah State Aggies finish their two-game road trip on Feb. 13 against the San Jose State Spartans and Western Athletic Conference leading scorer, Adrian Oliver. The Aggies are looking to extend their nine-game winning streak.

When the two teams met earlier at the Spectrum, junior forward Nate Bendall and sophomore forward Brady Jardine hit career-highs, scoring 20 and 17, respectively. The Aggies (19-6, 9-2) defeated the Spartans, 77-58.

Aggie head coach Stew Morrill was concerned about the quickness of the Spartans four-guard line-up. However, the Aggies exploited the Spartans' lack of size and scored 24 more points in the paint than the Spartans.

Aside from Oliver, who scored 19 points, senior guard Mac Peterson was the only Spartan to score in double-figures, with 11.

This time, Morrill is still concerned about

the Spartans' four-guard line-up and about the Aggies ability to defend and play with energy.

"The energy factor is what I am concerned about with San Jose," Morrill said. "If we're tired, we've got no chance. They can flat score. They've beaten New Mexico State and Louisiana Tech. They can really score the ball on their home court. It's gonna be a big challenge, but it's nice to go in there with one under the belt."

The Spartans have also played exceptionally well at home, sporting a 9-1 record at the San Jose State Event Center. The big key for the Aggies to grab a win on the road against the

Spartans will be improved defense.

"I didn't think we played near as well defensively as we're going to need to," Morrill said. "Our defense needs to get back to where it was."

Aggie junior forward Tyler Newbold said, "We're going to have to play a lot better defensively down there if we want to win."

Tip-off against the Spartans is slated for 8 p.m., Feb. 13.

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Meet the Challenge



USU (1 - 6)
@ SAN JOSE ST. (12-11)
Stew Morrill (12th year)
Greg Graham (5th year)



Feb. 13, The Events Center, 8:00 p.m.

USU probable starters

C - Nate Bendall	10.1
F - Tai Wesley	13.3
F - Tyler Newbold	8.6
G - Pooh Williams	7.8
G - Jared Quayle	12.3

SJSU probable starters

C - Chris Oakes	11.3
G - Adrian Oliver	22.3
G - Justin Graham	10.0
G - Robert Owens	10.2
G - Mac Peterson	9.2

Domination: Ags shoot 54.5 from 3-point range to beat SJSU

■ continued from page 5

but once they the Aggies were able to settle down and break it consistently they could actually convert for scores.

"Overall, I think we did a really good job of all elements of the game," Pebley said. "We out-rebounded them, we shot well, we finished at the free-throw line and we did a good job of holding a team on the road to under 50 points."

After a 74-54 loss to a talented Louisiana Tech team last Saturday, the Aggies took this week of practice seriously.

"We had really competitive practices with each other," Pebley said. "I was probably harder on the team this week than I've been in quite a while. There was a lot of yelling, there was a lot of holding them to high expectations, but they responded well. This team works hard. They just have to be forced to see how well they can perform."

The difference between Saturday's game

Meet the Challenge



USU (11-11)
vs. NEVADA (9-9)
Raegan Pebley (6th year)
Jane Albright (2nd year)



Feb. 13, Lawlor Events Center, 3:00 p.m.

USU probable starters

C - Lydia Whitehead	6.9
F - Nicole Johnson	3.5
G - Tahara Williams	6.5
G - Alice Coddington	8.6
G - Amber White	12.2

Nevada probable starters

F - Kayla Williams	7.1
F - Shavon Moore	11.2
G - Tahnee Robinson	15.5
G - Johnna Ward	9.7
G - Amanda Johnson	4.5

and Thursday's game was obvious, according to Pebley.

"It's good to see our kids with that spring in their step and that confidence again," he said.

USU will take that confidence to Reno, Nev., Saturday, as it shoots for a win against the Wolf Pack.

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Nine straight: Ags take sole possession of first place in WAC

■ continued from page 5

Aggies up by three.

The Broncos had a chance to tie the game, but junior guard Tyler Newbold fouled Thomas. Thomas missed the front-end of a one-and-one and Newbold hit two free throws to seal the victory.

As surprising as the final surge by the Broncos may have been to others, Morrill was not all surprised.

"It's really funny to me, in basketball, how one team might have 18 or 19 wins and another team might have 10 or 11 and you automatically assume that one team is a whole lot better than the other is," Morrill said. "It's not that way, especially on the other team's court. Anybody is capable of beating anybody in this conference."

The Aggies did, however, have a balanced offensive attack as normal. Newbold scored 11 points to go with four rebounds and three assists, while junior forward Pooh Williams chipped in 10 points.

"I refuse to feel bad about this game," Morrill said. "We won. We got a road win. It was kinda ugly, but let's take it and move forward."

The Aggies face the San Jose State Spartans on Feb. 13. The Spartans will be looking to end a three-game losing streak.

Tip-off against the Spartans is set for 8 p.m. at the San Jose State Event Center.

- ty.d.hus@aggiemail.usu.edu

Gymnasts take on No. 4 Utah

BY USU ATHLETICS

Utah State's gymnastics will take on No. 4 Utah on Friday, Feb. 12. The start time for the in-state meet between the Aggies and Utes is 7 p.m. at UU's Huntsman Center Salt Lake City.

Friday is USU's sixth-straight meet against a ranked opponent and Utah is the highest-ranked opponent, the Aggies have faced this season. Utah State will also be battling its third in-state opponent of the year, after already taking on Southern Utah on Jan. 22 and BYU Utah, Feb. 5.

"We're excited to get the feel of a big crowd and the excitement that goes with

a big meet like this against an in-state opponent," USU head coach Jeff Richards said. "We're also using this meet to help us prepare for the conference meet since there's so much enthusiasm from the crowd. It really helps them control their nerves, focus on their routine and compete to the best of their abilities."

The Aggies take a 1-7 record into Friday's meet, after finishing third in the BYU tri-meet with No. 20 Denver, posting a 190.475.

Individually, senior Heather Heinrich is sixth in the WAC and 13th in the North Central region in vault with a 9.765 average. Heinrich is also tied for 110th in the

nation on vault. Heinrich is also ninth in the league and 15th in the region (37.792) and junior Lyndsie Boone is 10th in the conference and 19th in the region (37.825). Junior Jackie Dillon and sophomore Haley Hogan are tied for the team leading average on bars with 9.650, tying for 15th in the WAC and 27th in the region. Sophomore Rachel Flessner is 13th in the conference and 14th in the region on beam (9.556) while freshman Amanda Watamaniuk had a 9.650 on floor, officially performing for the first time in the BYU tri-meet, ranking tied for ninth in the league and tied for 25th in the region.

Yemen announces truce with rebel militants



A SAUDI SOLDIER on Mt. Doud, Wednesday, Jan. 27, a high strategic position occupied by houthi rebels from Yemen that was retaken by the Saudi military a week ago. Mt. Doud is in the southern Saudi province of Jizan, near the border with Yemen. AP photo

SAN'A, Yemen (AP) — Yemen's president on Thursday declared an end to military operations against northern rebels after reaching a cease-fire agreement that could bring the country's six-year conflict to a close.

After years of sporadic fighting with the militants, Yemen has come under international pressure to quickly end the war and free up resources to confront a separate threat from an al-Qaida offshoot that has set up operations there over the past year.

"We have decided to halt military operations in the northwestern region ... to stop bloodshed, bring peace to the region, the return of displaced people to their villages, reconstruction and achieve national reconciliation," President Ali Abdullah Saleh's office said in a statement.

The truce will take effect at midnight (2100 GMT) on Thursday, the statement said.

Several earlier cease-fires quickly disintegrated, mainly because the rebels said their demands were not addressed, and it was not clear whether the truce announced Thursday would hold. But the rebels and the government have come under international pressure to end the conflict this time, and both sides appear eager to do so.

Last week, the government presented the

rebels with a detailed cease-fire agreement after the militants accepted the government's terms.

According to Yemeni authorities, government and rebel representatives would sit on committees that would oversee the truce.

The president's office cautioned Thursday that the halt to military operations depends on the Shiite militants' commitment to observing the government's conditions. Yemen has demanded the militants to disarm, release captured soldiers and property, clear mountain hideouts, abide by the constitution and vow not to attack Saudi Arabia.

Neighboring Saudi Arabia was drawn into the conflict in November after rebels crossed the border and killed two Saudi border guards. Some 133 Saudi soldiers have died in the fighting.

The rebels announced a unilateral cease-fire with Saudi Arabia in late January. However, the Saudis responded cautiously to the rebel announcement, and demanded militants pull back from border positions and return five missing soldiers.

The rebels say their community of Shiite Muslims from the Zaydi sect suffer discrimination and neglect and that the government has allowed ultraconservative Sunni extremists too strong a voice in the country.

Thailand to deport crew of North Korean weapons

BANGKOK (AP) — Thai authorities dropped charges Thursday against a foreign plane crew accused of smuggling arms from North Korea, easing a diplomatic jam but leaving open the vexing question of where the multimillion dollar illicit arms shipment was headed.

The five-member crew from Kazakhstan and Belarus was arrested Dec. 12 when the Ilyushin Il-76 cargo plane they were flying from the North Korean capital Pyongyang landed in Bangkok. Thai authorities, acting on a tip from the United States, found 35 tons of weapons on board — a violation of U.N. sanctions against North Korea.

The U.N. Security Council discussed the incident Thursday, and Japan's U.N. Ambassador Yukio Takasu said afterwards that the committee monitoring sanctions against North Korea was working on a letter that will remind Pyongyang of its obligation to comply with the ban on exporting or importing weapons.

At the meeting, Takasu said, council members discussed whether a reminder letter was enough and whether the sanctions committee could "do something more" if there is no response to the letter or the government in question doesn't "do anything concrete." He said no decisions were made, calling it an "issue we really have to think about (for) the future."

The crew were released from prison and handed over to immigration police Thursday evening for deportation.

Thailand and some independent arms trafficking experts say flight documents indicated the plane's cargo — listed as oil drilling equipment — was headed for the Iranian capital Tehran. The crew claimed they were ignorant of what they were really carrying.

Iran's Foreign Ministry has denied the weapons were destined for its shores.

Much is still unknown, and with the plane's crew released, the answers are unlikely to be found. "Most likely the investigation will dwindle into obscurity," said Peter Danssaert, a researcher for the Belgium-based International Peace Information Service, which has published a report on the affair.

Some have speculated the weapons — which reportedly included explosives, rocket-propelled grenades and components for surface-to-air missiles — were meant to continue on to radical Middle Eastern groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah, which Iran has bankrolled and supplied with weapons in the past.

A major puzzle that lingers is why the plane landed in Bangkok for refueling.

"Why fly through Thailand?" asked Brian Johnson-Thomas, a co-author of the International Peace Information Service's report.

He pointed out in a telephone interview that the plane's circuitous flight plan — through Sri Lanka, Azerbaijan and Ukraine — substantially increased its risk of interception. In addition, Thailand's close ties with the U.S. made it likely to follow Washington's lead in cracking down on such shipments.

The U.N. imposed sanctions in June banning North Korea from exporting any arms after it conducted a nuclear test and test-fired missiles. North Korea is believed to earn hundreds of millions of dollars every year by selling missiles, missile parts and other weapons to countries such as Iran, Syria and Myanmar.

In the absence of an alternative explanation, Johnson-Thomas, who has also done research for

the United Nations and the EU, said the affair may have been a setup: a way for Washington to pressure Thailand to extradite alleged arms trafficking kingpin, Russian Viktor Bout, who has been in Thai custody for almost two years.

The plane was once linked to a company controlled by Bout, and its high-profile seizure

put the spotlight on the problem of illicit arms trafficking.

Thai media have cited other analysts and diplomats making similar speculations.

Bout was arrested in March 2008 in Bangkok in a U.S. sting operation, and Washington is seeking his extradition on terrorism charges.



TWO OF THE DETAINED CREW members of the seized Ilyushin Il-76 cargo plane from Kazakhstan, identified as flight engineer Alexander Zrybnev, foreground center, and navigator Viktor Abdullayev, background second from right, are escorted to a criminal court in Thailand. AP photo

American Indian tribes get \$1B in stimulus funds

WASHINGTON (AP) — Seventy-six American Indian tribes across the country will share \$1 billion in economic stimulus money to help create jobs and revitalize Indian communities.

The money, announced Thursday, will allow tribes from California to Florida to issue low-interest bonds for projects such as health care centers, water plants and wind farms.

Deputy Treasury Secretary Neal Wolin said the tribes will be able to issue either traditional tax-exempt bonds or special Build America Bonds for designated projects. Build America Bonds are taxable but interest payments are subsidized. The bonds are intended to help states, local governments and tribes build

schools, hospitals, roads and other infrastructure.

The money cannot be used for casinos or other gaming projects.

The bond authority announced Thursday is the second round of economic stimulus money awarded to Indian tribes. A total of 58 tribes received \$1 billion in similar bond authority last fall.

The Pueblo of Acoma tribe in New Mexico will use about \$7 million in tribal economic development bonds to develop a wind farm that is expected to produce about 15 megawatts of electricity from 10 wind turbines. The tribe is using \$5 million from the first round of grants to build a steel production facility.

Chandler Sanchez, gover-

nor of the Pueblo of Acoma, said the tribe has been developing reservation lands in western New Mexico for many years as part of its effort to create jobs and gain economic independence.

"I am excited about the prospects of developing renewable energy technologies here at Acoma that are made attainable" through the Treasury's bond initiative, Sanchez said in a statement.

Other projects include \$30 million for the Navajo nation of Arizona, Utah and New Mexico for renewable energy and retail facilities; \$30 million for the Ute tribe in Utah for housing; and \$27.2 million for the Delaware Nation in Oklahoma for retail, industrial, housing and other projects.



ILLINOIS GOV. PAT QUINN, center, is joined by U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., left, and other politicians as they gather in historic Union Station to announce that Illinois will receive more than \$1 billion in stimulus money for the development of high speed rail in the state during a news conference, Friday, Jan. 29, in Chicago. Quinn says that'll create 6,000 jobs. AP photo

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Friday Feb. 12

- Recyclemania, all day.
- Softball vs. Maine and Idaho State, St. George, 11 a.m.
- Women's tennis at UNLV, 2 p.m.
- International Film Series, Old Main, 6 p.m.
- Jazz Night, Skyroom restaurant, 7 p.m.
- Women's gymnastics at Utah, 7 p.m.

Saturday Feb. 13

- Track at Washington State Open
- Women's tennis at UC Riverside
- Softball at St. George, 11 a.m.
- Women's basketball vs. Nevada, 4:30 p.m.
- Jazz Night, Skyroom restaurant, 7 p.m.
- AFC Valentine's Day Concert, Kent Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- Men's basketball at San Jose State, 8 p.m.

Monday Feb. 15

- Recyclemania, all day.
- Gymnastics vs. Southern Utah, Spectrum, 7 p.m.

No classes Mon.

The Registrar's Office would like to remind everyone that Feb. 15 is the President's Day holiday and there are no classes. On Feb. 16 everyone should attend Monday schedule.

Hike for Haiti

The ORC will be hosting a Hike for Haiti on Feb. 17. Come hike up Green Canyon anytime between 6 p.m. and midnight with a candlelight vigil at 10 p.m. Cost is \$10 which includes gear rental and refreshments. All proceeds go to Hope for Haiti. Sign up at the ORC.

Film festival

Ignite your passion for adventure. The Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour will exhilarate you with amazing big-screen stories when it comes to the Kent Concert Hall at 7 p.m. on Feb. 18-19.

Biker to speak

Guest speaker Dominic Gill is traveling the world, talking about his trip from Alaska down to the tip of South America on a tandem bicycle. Feb. 18 at noon in the Eccles Conference Center. Please RSVP to 797-3679.

Relay for Life

Relay for Life registration begins Feb. 24 on the TSC Patio from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and see how you can help the American Cancer Society in their battle against cancer.

Nominate USU E.O.Y.

Nominations are now open for USU Employee of the Year Award. The guidelines for nomination and evaluation may be found at <https://www.usu.edu/hr>. The deadline for nominations is Feb. 25. If you have any questions, contact Maria Boyer at 797-5475.

You need to know...

Undergraduate Research and Creative Opportunities (URCO) grants are due at noon on Feb. 15, electronic submission. Info at <http://research.usu.edu/undergrad>.

A **Hunger Banquet** will be held on Feb. 16 at 6 p.m. in the East Ballroom. Dinner will be served and the cost is \$2.

Join the **Black Student Union** on Feb. 16 on the TSC Patio for a macaroni and cheese cook-out from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost is \$3. On Feb. 17 at 12:45 visiting professor Sean Elias will speak.

USU Extension will present a series of personal and family **financial management workshops** beginning Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. To register, call 752-6263.

USU **Cycling Road Team** is looking for recruits. Come Feb. 15 or 17 at noon or 5:30 p.m. at the Spin Room in the Fieldhouse. Talk to Tommy. Learn to train and race bikes.

Religion in Life Devotional will be Feb. 12 at 11:30 a.m. in the Institute Cultural Center. LDSSA **Olympic Opening Ceremony Night** is Feb. 12 at 6:30 p.m.

On Feb. 13 the **men's basketball** game that is away will be broadcast in the Institute. Come enjoy free food and cheer on the Aggies. The **Nordic United Fun Race** series has its last race on Feb. 13 at Sherwood Hills. Registration is \$5 for members, \$8 for non-members. Registration starts at 9 a.m. For more info visit www.nordicunited.org.

Psi Chi and Psychology Club Social/Fundraiser will be held March 3 at 6 p.m. in the Education Atrium. Come eat pizza and help out at the women's basketball game.

Learn how to dance Salsa. **Salsa Club** will meet Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. in dance Room 215 in the HPER. Cost is FREE. Presented by LSU and DSA.

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More FYI listings, Interactive Calendar and Comics at **AggieTownSquare**
www.aggietownsquare.com

Almanac

Today in History: In 1999, the five-week impeachment trial of Bill Clinton comes to an end, with the Senate voting to acquit the president on both articles of impeachment: perjury and obstruction of justice. The prosecution needed a two-thirds majority to convict but failed to achieve even a bare majority.

Weather

Saturday's Weather
High: 35° Low: 25°
Snow showers



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Sweet or sour on Valentine's

By TAM ROUNDS
staff writer

Valentine's Day – Love it, hate it or don't care either way? This question was posed to students on campus last week and the results were:

51 percent don't care ...
39 percent love it.
10 percent hate it.

Of the 150 students polled, 52 percent were male, 48 percent female, 57 percent were single and 38 percent had a significant other. Three percent couldn't classify their "relationships," creating the need for the establishment of the category "It's complicated." The majority of respondents were juniors – 39 percent – 24 percent were seniors, 23 percent sophomores, 10 percent freshmen and 4 percent were graduate students.

As some people might guess, those of the don't care opinion did not expand on their answer, whereas students of the love it and hate it attitude generally argued for the correctness of their belief.

Most of the Valentine's Day haters mentioned a popular acronym that reflects their experience of the holiday: SAD, or Singles Awareness Day. Sophomore Kylie Kirschner said, "Valentine's Day is a slap in the face to singles."

USU junior Sean Lambert has hated V-Day since he started working retail.

"It's too commercialized," he said. "All of the materialism takes away from what the holiday should really be about – the true meaning."

He suggested that if people merely did something for another from the heart, then he wouldn't really have a problem with the holiday.

Spencer Booth, junior, has loved Valentine's Day since the fourth grade. He said, "Will you be my Valentine? was the opening line to get a girlfriend for the next few months." He believes that V-Day should be made into a time-off holiday.

"I want to take the whole day to treat my woman to the best day of her year," he said.

Booth, who is single, added "Send the Valentine's Day haters my way, I'll smooth it out."

He also suggested that females could take the initiative that is normally expected of men on this holiday.

"Boys want to be surprised with rose petals leading to a romantic evening," he said. "Perhaps a steak dinner, done medium, candles – I'd like to be romanced too."

For students not prepared to cook romantic meals, the choice of restaurants is slightly limited this year, due to Feb. 14 falling on a Sunday. Still, there are local establishments which normally operate seven days a week and several others are specially opening their doors to accommodate lovebirds. They include:

- Angie's Restaurant
- Black Pearl China Bistro & Sushi Bar
- Chili's Grill & Bar
- El Toro Viejo Mexican Restaurant
- The Factory Pizzeria
- Formosa Restaurant
- Indian Oven Authentic Indian Cuisine
- The Iron Gate Grill
- Le Nonne
- Olive Garden Italian Restaurant
- Ruby Tuesday
- Sherwood Hills' Belle Monte Restaurant
- Texas Roadhouse
- Wingers

Another option is to ring in Valentine's Eve, Saturday night, with dinner out and spend the day with your Valentine doing something he or she loves. That may comprise of a day of skiing at the Beav, catching up on favorite TV pro-



CARL WILSON photo illustration

grams on Hulu or playing video games. Maybe something practical is called for, like being a study buddy for an upcoming test. Men can always sweep a woman off her feet by sweeping, mopping, doing the dishes, laundry or any household chore and honey-do list item.

There are options for singles or haters as well. SAD is an opportunity to reach out to everyone, single or not, and let them know they are loved, appreciated and cared for. And any of the aforementioned activities can be done by all. Remember back in elementary school, when students brought Valentines for everyone in the class, even the teacher? Who says that tradition has to be left behind? And that brings up another point, perhaps professors wouldn't mind a box of Sweethearts.

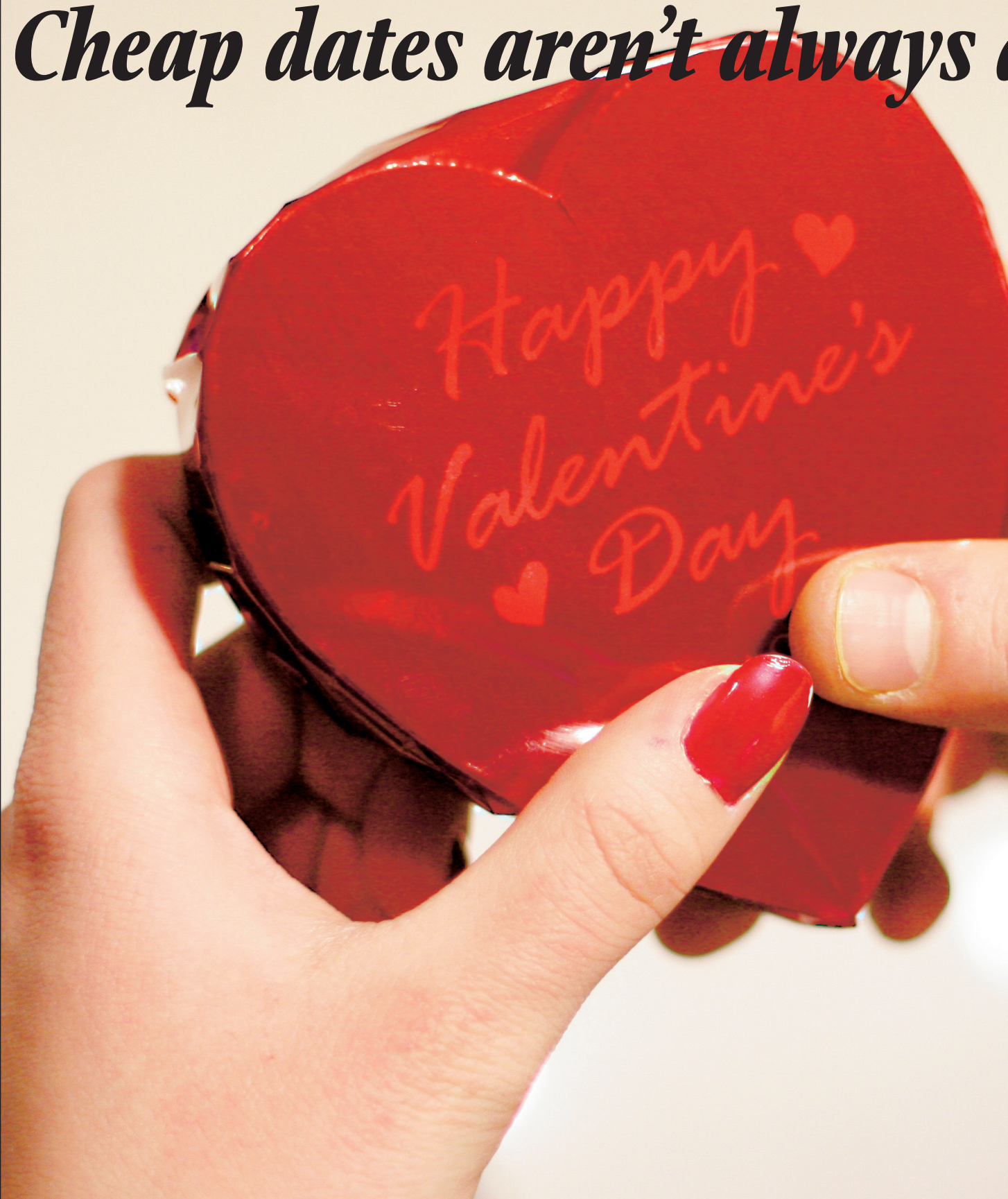
Singles who are looking to find someone or are looking to forget someone might try an unconventional alternative, a love spell. According to www.mydearvalentine.com:

– White Candle Spell – First, find a white candle that provides ample space for inscribing. With the thorns from a white rose, engrave "All my love come to me" three times on the candle. Light the candle. While watching the candle burn, visualize one's true love.

– Wash Away Love Spell – To forget a bad experience with love and to bring love anew, concentrate on receiving love.

■ See SWEET page 11

Cheap dates aren't always a bad thing



Valentine's Day is approaching, and as starving college students, we often don't have the money to do some big, fancy date. The solution? Do something more simple, but still fun. These are some ideas for dates \$5 and under.

– Fingerpainting (if you already have the materials).

– Bake cookies – you can get the refrigerated stuff from the store and cook it together. Or just eat the cookie dough.

– Have a movie marathon: "Star Trek," "Lord of the Rings," the six-hour "Pride and Prejudice."

– Pour hot chocolate in a thermos, go to the park and act like kids: swing on the swings, have a snowball fight, play on the slides (best on a sunny day).

Then take out the hot chocolate (or coffee or tea) and warm up.

– Go to Poetry and a Beverage. Each of you writes a silly poem about one another and reads it on stage.

– Go to the animal shelter and pretend you want to adopt a dog. Spend time with it, walk it around and give it some love. Then put it back.

– Cook breakfast together in your pajamas and watch cartoons. Then go back to bed.

– Have a game night. Have people bring their favorite game from when they were kids and play them all.

– Go to one of the Guitar Club activities. The club does tributes to different bands – get a new perspective on music.

– Spend time at Cafe Ibis during its music nights. Buy a hot chocolate or Italian soda, and talk.

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Page 10 **A&EDiversions** Friday, Feb. 12, 2010

A different way to donate

By DELAYNE LOCKE
 staff writer

For the past five years, the Mountain Ridge Helicopter School has been graduating professional pilots specializing in the art of helicopter flying. Besides flying instruction, the school holds many events that include the community such as a Valentine's flights and Christmas flights. This month's activity on the schedule will give the public a chance to donate blood, but not just in any regular doctor's office, though. This event will be held in Mountain Ridge's own helicopter hanger.

The school director of Mountain Ridge Helicopter, Jessica Parker, said they wanted to give back to the community.

"I hope it's becoming a staple in the community that we do these flights every year, and so we thought what a better way to help out our community than with a blood drive."

The blood drive will take place Feb. 12 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Logan airport, which is located at 2500 N. 900 West FL-15 and can be reached at 752-3828. The Red Cross will be there to take the donations. The public can sign up at www.mountainridge-heli.com. Participants will be able to sit in the newly built hanger, which will give an up close, larger-than-life look at the helicopters, just feet away from the donating chairs.

During this event, Mountain Ridge will have prize drawings every hour and each participant will receive a sticker from Mountain Ridge for donating, as well as treats from the Red Cross. The grand prize will be a drawing for a free half-hour helicopter ride, that all who donated blood will be entered to win.

"We are hoping for an awesome turn out to support the Red Cross," Parker said. The hanger is approximately 10,000 square feet and was built by the owners of the school Jean and Vaughn Carlston.

Parker said, "We are very lucky to have a facility that is as beautiful as this to operate out of."

Besides the flight school and the hanger space, the company houses a commercial operation that runs out of the upstairs of the building which will bring bigger helicopters in and out of the airport.

The helicopter school itself has 26 students at this time - it takes 12-18 months to graduate.


The most rewarding thing about the school was the "good instructors," said Brad Erickson, a current student at Mountain Ridge Helicopter. "They teach it very simply and understandable, even though it's a lot of information in a short period of time. You get a very good, sound understanding and it's one on one. You learn at your pace and not by their pace. It's convenient, a local good airport and mountain flying time."

With his license, he plans to go into the field of agriculture.

Erickson put it simply by saying, "Why not have an office in the sky?"

Mountain Ridge truly brings this saying to life, "The helicopter approaches closer than any other vehicle to fulfillment of mankind's ancient dream of the flying horse and magic carpet." By inspiring many and reaching new heights, the Mountain Ridge Helicopter School will continue to bring bright futures for many and a smile to the communities face.

- delayne.locke@aggiemail.usu.edu



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Book takes reader into realm of the unknown

Neil Gaiman is one of my favorite writers because he mixes genre and audience so fluidly with books that fit into one category melding easily into others. One of his juvenile works, "Coraline," was recently made into an animated 3-D movie, starring Dakota Fanning. One of his earlier novels, "Stardust," became a film in 2007, starring Ian McKellen, Claire Danes and others. "Stardust" comes in both novel and graphic novel form. "Stardust" is about the son of an Englishman from the fictional village of Wall and a woman from the land outside Wall, beyond the wall that separates the village from everywhere else. The boy, Tristran, has some strange qualities about him as a result and, eventually, finds out where he came from by leaving Wall in search of something entirely else - a fallen star with which he will win the heart of the loveliest girl in the village. Part fantasy, part romance, part venture into the realm of the unknown, "Stardust" was the first novel by Gaiman I read, solely because I saw a preview for the movie, and I've been hooked on him ever since. "Stardust" is one of the more benign of his adult novels, but it still does contain a smattering of mature material.

His most recent work, "The Graveyard Book," is another highly recommended and more innocent adventure in the same vein, only without so much romance involved. It was after all, intended to be written for children. (Then again, so was "Harry Potter.") "The Graveyard Book" is about a young boy who is orphaned after his family is murdered and, subsequently, raised by the inhabitants of a nearby graveyard. Both books as well as others by Gaiman can be found at any local bookstore.

No money to buy books for recreational reading? There are still several options that cost you nothing and offer lots to choose from, some more unconventional than others. I first got this week's book, "Stardust," using bookcrossing.com, an interactive Web site that uses a "catch-and-release" method to disperse books around the world. There are thousands around the United States and more than 200 here in Logan. Logan's Bridgerland Literacy Center, located in the Logan Library at 225 N. Main Street, has a bookshelf outside its office. Anyone can borrow any book, which has a bookcrossing.com identification number inside it, and read it, then return it to Bridgerland Literacy or release it "into the wild," at any other location, using the ID number inside the book to tell readers on bookcrossing.com where they can find that book if they are interested in reading it. Readers are encouraged to register their own books - perhaps that you have already been read or occupy a shelf, unread for years and release them for other readers, as well.

A similar, if smaller, project has started on USU's campus, by all accounts mysteriously. I'd love to hear from whoever is responsible for it. The shelf in the far southeast corner of The Hub, where the coffee cart used to be located, holds a small two-shelf bookcase, with a sign (last time I checked) inviting students, faculty or passers-by to take a book and leave a book, so there is always something available to read. At last visit, it held two books and a few newspapers and magazines. I have a book in my possession that I picked up at the book-trading station, titled "The Island of Lost Maps." I've never heard of the book or the author, but it caught my eye and I look forward to sharing with you in my next column the results of my venture outside familiarity.

I'd love to see that shelf taken advantage of more frequently, but please, to perpetuate the process, leave something if you take something.

A more common, and more official, way to borrow books is through a library. I personally find the Merrill-Cazier Library confusing and labyrinthine, especially for finding "fun" books. It works great for academic and research purposes, and I'd bet it is a cozy spot to do actual reading once you have a book in hand, but I recommend the Logan Library for obtaining said reading material.

The library offers library cards at no cost to anyone over the age of 5 who lives within Logan City limits. It has a manageable organizational system and the ability to borrow from other libraries if it doesn't have the book you want. The relatively new online system is also user-friendly and convenient. More information can be found at <http://library.loganutah.org>.

If none of those options sound right for you, try setting up a book swap with friends using a Facebook event page or group, or just by word of mouth. I'd also recommend used book stores, either for stocking your personal library or finding books to use for any of the swaps mentioned here. Books of Yesterday, located at 87 N. Main Street, has a (huge) basement full of reading material for just a few dollars per book.

- pulcre.puella@gmail.com



Chelsey Gensel
Book Review
Grade B-
"Stardust"
by Neil Gaiman

'Valentine's Day' writes a love letter to the environment

The star-studded romantic comedy "Valentine's Day" is expected to generate plenty of green at the box office this weekend.

But it's green of a different kind that could set "Valentine's Day" apart in Hollywood.

The Warner Bros. movie, directed by Garry Marshall and featuring a raft of stars including Julia Roberts, Ashton Kutcher, Anne Hathaway and Jessica Alba, took "green filmmaking" to a new level, according to people involved in the project.

The film - which follows the interwoven lives of a group of characters coping with romance and heartache over a single Valentine's Day - was shot entirely in Los Angeles and features such landmarks as the Beverly Wilshire hotel, Los Angeles International Airport and University High School on the Westside.

Most notable, however, were the lengths to which producers went to reduce their "carbon footprint" through extensive use of solar-powered and biodiesel generators, reusable water bottles, hybrid vehicles and composting of food waste, among other steps. Warner Bros. is even creating a video documenting the practices in the hopes that it will spur green standards for future productions.

"There's no doubt that, with the exception of solar panels, these practices can be implemented on a majority of our films," said Jon Romano, sustainable production manager for Warner Bros. Pictures.

Warner Bros. says it's impractical to expect each of the green practices used on "Valentine's Day" to apply to all productions, given solar-powered lighting isn't always feasible nor composting available at every locations. But, Romano said, "It's certainly going to be a model."

Hollywood, of course, has a long way to go before it can tout its environmental record. The industry's routine use of

use carbon-belching private jets to ferry stars, for example, doesn't comport with a green mandate.

Still, some producers are paying more than lip service to the hype, prompting equipment suppliers, vendors and film crews to change how they operate. Most studios have taken steps to reduce energy costs and some, such as Warner Bros., have hired environmental managers who work with productions to help identify and carry out sustainable practices.

"There has been a dramatic increase over the past five years in terms of film, TV and commercial projects incorporating sustainable practices," said Lauren Selman, founder of Reel Green, a firm that advises filmmakers on green production practices. "A lot of people are sharing information right now. It's a hot topic."

Part of what's driving the change is awareness about the effects of global warming, highlighted in such films as Al Gore's 2006 Academy Award-winning documentary "An Inconvenient Truth" and sensationalized in such blockbusters as 2004's "The Day After Tomorrow."

"It's not just for PR," said producer Marshall Herskovitz, president of the Producers Guild of America, which has hosted forums on green production and has been working with studios to develop sustainable standards. "There are a lot of people committed at every level of this industry who feel that the government has not taken the lead it should, and we have to do it ourselves."

There are also business reasons for jumping on the green bandwagon. Studios and producers can save money by adopting basic habits, such as eliminating plastic water bottles.

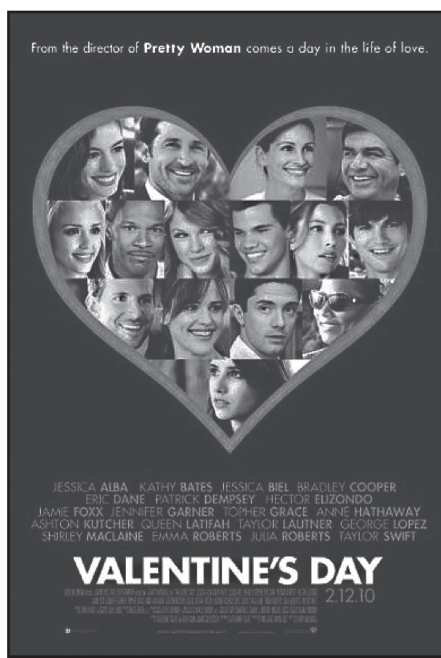
In "Valentine's Day," producers used 350 reusable water bottles, eliminating 21,000 plastic bottles and reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 67 metric tons, according to a "carbon audit" by Warner Bros.



Richard Verrier
LA Times

Reel Reviews

"Valentine's Day"



Other steps included using solar-powered generators at the production base camp, saving an estimated 19 metric tons of carbon dioxide. Rental trucks and set lighting generators were powered by biodiesel fuel. Caterers used biodegradable plates, cups and utensils to serve cast and crew meals during the 55-day shoot. Most of the 25 tons of waste collected through the filming was either composted or recycled.

And stars were supplied with hybrid rental cars to travel to the set. Only one star had to be asked to not show up in a limo, according to the film's producers, declining to identify the actor.

"We had a pretty hip group of actors," said Diana Pokorny, the film's executive producer.

With the exception of solar panels, which proved more costly than conventional generators, the sustainable practices did not add to the cost of the film, executives said. The studio declined to disclose the film's budget, but sources say it is less than \$50 million.

Each department was encouraged to come up with ways of eliminating waste, from reducing excess film to recycling coffee grinds.

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Sweet: Enjoying the day of love

continued from page 3

Place one's hands under running water and wash with soft soap. While washing, keep self open to love.

- Love Mantra - Take a plain sheet of paper and write the sentence "(name of one's love) loves (one's name)." For example, Tom loves Rosina. Now, write the sentence in reverse order: Anisor sevol mot. On a fresh piece of paper, write the same reverse order sentence but this time without any space in between: Anisorsevolmot. Keep this paper and seven

times a day, loudly call out the letters of the sentence individually - "A N I S O R." When one secures his or her lover, throw away the paper in a lake.

For people who loathe Valentine's Day, they can simply ignore it. Or, this year provides another option: Chinese New Year happens to fall on Feb. 14. It is a fabulous opportunity to experience another culture and its traditions of celebration.

- tam.r@aggiemail.usu.edu



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A package from a mysterious woman

During our most recent Christmas break, my mother came home from her school with a box chock full of violin music.

"Can you use any of this?" she asked. "Someone left it in the office for me."

Could I ever. There were etude books, sight-reading books, show pieces, trios, duets and complete compilations of violin sonatas. I estimate there was a thousand dollars worth of music in the happenstance box. I was having a heyday, as I rummaged through the newly acquired bonanza, though a question weighed heavily on my curiosity: to whom did I owe my gratitude? My only direct clue was a return address on the box: Margaret Shields, Groton, Vermont.

Who was this Margaret Shields? I sniffed the corrugated cardboard and inhaled some tawny hairs. Achoo. Crazy-cat lady? I wiggled some random packets of Splenda. Diabetic? I thumbed through some yellowed pages of anciently editioned music. Mummy?

Why was she getting rid of this music? Was it hers? Was it stolen? Was she trying to throw away a blighted past? Was she in a coma? Was she dead?

Ho hum. I decided to mail off a thank-you card to the elusive address on the package, telling Ms. Margaret a little bit about myself and how I came across her collection. I did not expect a response, because, for all I knew, Margaret Shields was a pseudonym for an at-large musical criminal trying to throw off the FBI's latest lead.

Weeks passed. Have you ever had one of those days in which everything you sought went rot? A day when nothing goes right, stresses pile upon stresses and people generate perplexing problems? A day when discouragement prances around the fringes of your mind as you wonder to yourself: What in blazes am I doing with this pathetic life of mine?

I may or may not have been having one of those days when I got a card in the mail from the oh-so-mysterioso Margaret Shields.

I read: "What a delightful surprise your ever-so-kind note was today. Although it has been years since I could claim I was a professional musician, my passion never left. I taught for nine years before my life drifted into the world of business, but playing for myself was always both relaxing and bolstering. When my hands started going bad, I still tried but found it too painful to play."

Jeeppers. Of all the stories I had concocted, this one, the true one, peeled my heart like a potato. I identified with her loss. Do you know the training and devotion it takes to play an instrument, reader? The lifetime of rehearsing and practicing? The toil and sacrifice? Can you possibly comprehend? I can. I would be utterly devastated if I had to permanently give up my violin or music. It is such a vital part of me, it would be a nightmare to lose it due to physical pain.

So apparently Margaret Shields (who lives in Vermont) has a cousin (who lives in El Paso) whose mother used to play for the El Paso Symphony Orchestra (of which, ironically, I used to be a part.) And this cousin, the temporary possessor of the box of music, knew a child in her neighborhood (on the Westside) who suggested that the music be donated to a nearby elementary school, and specifically to the music teacher at this school (who happens to be my mother.)

The next bizarrely fortuitous part of the story we already know. My mother brought the box of music home and I claimed it. I brought select bits of it back to Logan for my students. What a roundabout travel of interconnected randomness.

As I proceeded to read her note, Ms. Shields told me how she bittersweetly parted her violin and piano to some promising young talents. She also mentioned how grateful she was that her collection of music ended in my hands. She expressed how much she enjoyed reading about my ambitions and plans.

Lastly she wrote: "I sincerely wish that you have a long and enjoyable life with music. It touches our souls so completely. And, thank you for your note – it means so

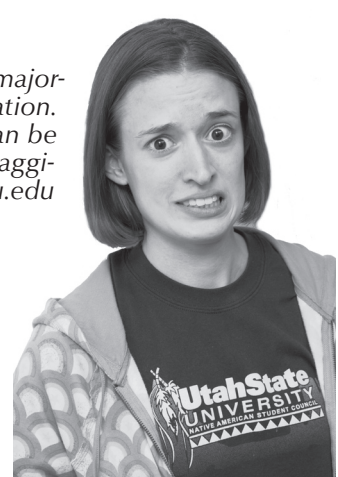
very much."

I try not to let sappy situations affect me, but, wow, Margaret Shields, a stranger of destiny, had given a part of herself to me. Her music. Her story. My sour day boosted into an exultant celebration of appreciative happiness. I needed her note oh-so-much. It was only a small gesture, yet it was insanely comforting. It let me know that I might be doing something right in this frenetic existence of mine.

And that was that, I thought, though I may have had a gut feeling that our coincidental relationship would continue. And it did, most recently, when I received another package in the mail. I ripped it open to find, joy beyond joy, a Harvard Music Dictionary (a huge referential resource of musical knowledge) from none other than Ms. Margaret Shields.

I smiled inwardly as I pulled out another blank thank-you note, more than ready to pen some updates about my life, musical and non. I believe we are going to become good pen pals, this Ms. Shields and I.

Melissa Condie is a senior majoring in music education. Question or comments can be sent to her at m.condie@aggiemail.usu.edu



What do you know about Valentine's Day?

– In the United States, 64 percent of men do not make plans in advance for a romantic Valentine's Day with their sweethearts.

– On Valentine's Day, 73 percent of people who buy flowers are men, while 27 percent are women.

– Of U.S. women, 15 percent send themselves flowers on Valentine's Day.

– About 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are exchanged every year. That's the largest seasonal card-sending occasion of the year, next to Christmas.

– The Italian city of Verona, where Shakespeare's lovers, Romeo and Juliet, lived, receives about 1,000 letters addressed to Juliet every Valentine's Day.

– Hallmark has more than 1,330 different cards specifically for Valentine's Day.

About 3 percent of pet owners will give Valentine's Day gifts to their pets.

– Valentine's Day is big business. Consumers will spend an average of \$77.43 on Valentine's Day gifts this year. E-commerce retailers expect to rack up about \$650 million in sales of food, candy, flowers and other Valentine's Day gifts. Of

that amount, about \$350 million will be for gifts and flowers and another \$45 million will be spent on food – including chocolate – and wine.

– California produces 60 percent of American roses, but the vast number sold on Valentine's Day in the United States are imported, mostly from South America. Approximately 110 million roses, the majority red, will be sold.

– Alexander Graham Bell applied for his patent on the telephone, on Valentine's Day, 1876.

– On Feb. 14, 1929, sir Alexander Fleming introduced his mold byproduct, called penicillin, to cure bacterial infections.

– The first photograph of a U.S. president was taken on Feb. 14, 1849, in New York City by Matthew Brady. President James Polk was the subject of the famous picture.

– The first televised tour of the White House aired on Feb. 14, 1962. First Lady Jackie Kennedy hosted the tour.

– The oldest known Valentines were sent in A.D. 1415 by the Duke of Orleans to his French wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London. It is still on display in a museum in England.

information gathered by Tam Rounds

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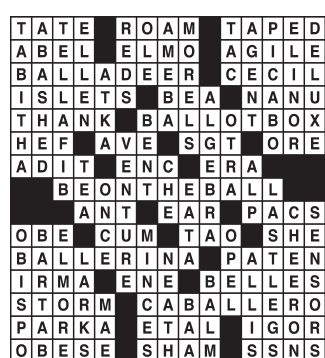
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Textbook Wanted
I am looking for the textbook "Freeing the Natural Voice" by Kristen Linklater. Price negotiable, but not above \$30 (the bookstore price). If you have the book, please call at (435) 245-0664.

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1. Lincoln
2. Washington
3. F.D. Roosevelt
4. T. Roosevelt
5. Truman
6. Kennedy
7. Jefferson
8. Eisenhower
9. Wilson
10. Reagan

*Greatest leaders

Source: C-SPAN



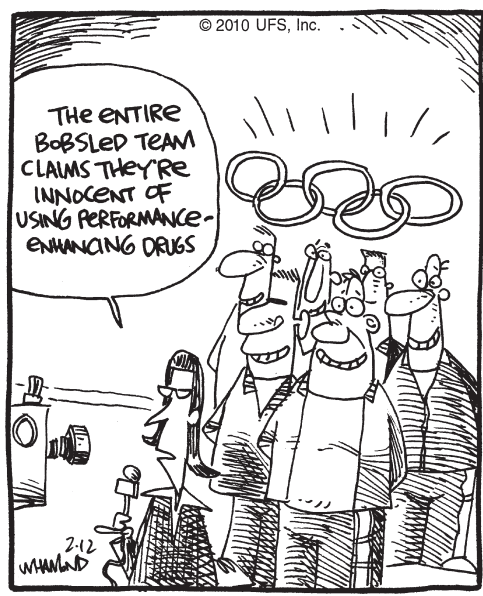
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TimeOut

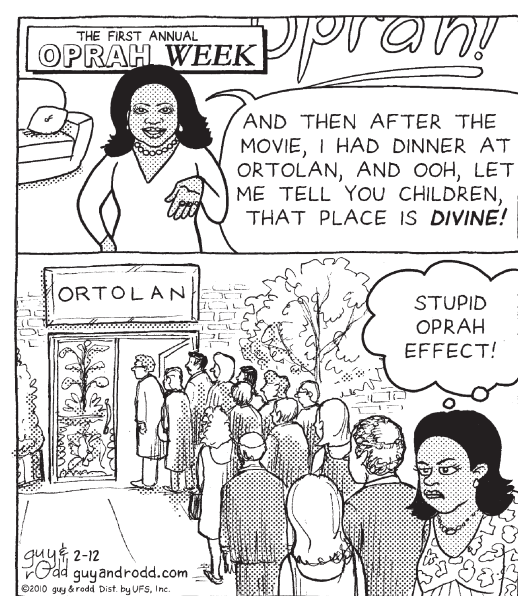
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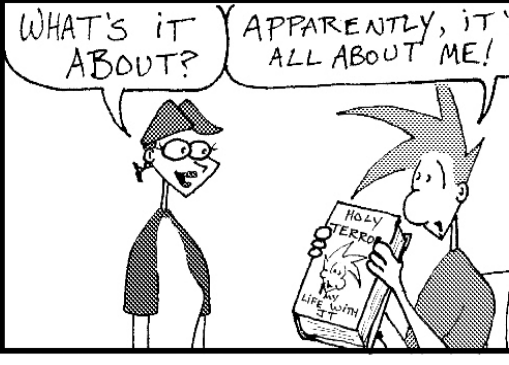


Scotch Steve • Steve Weller

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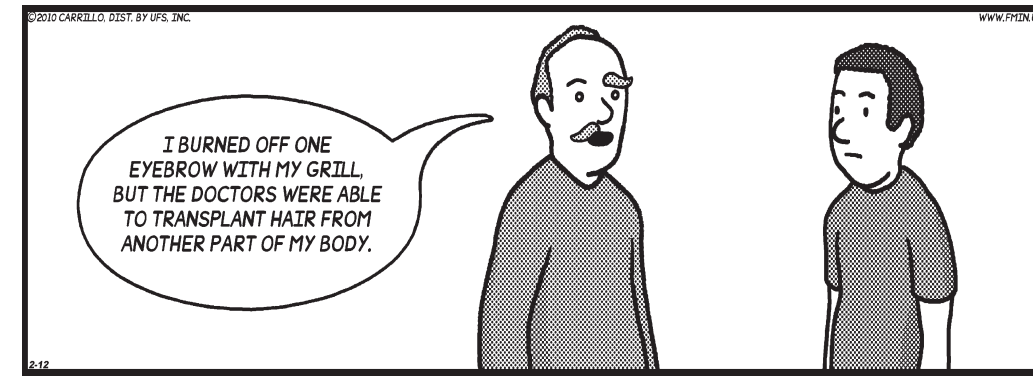
IT & Tea • Joseph Gould



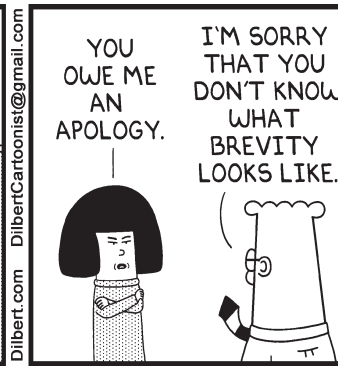
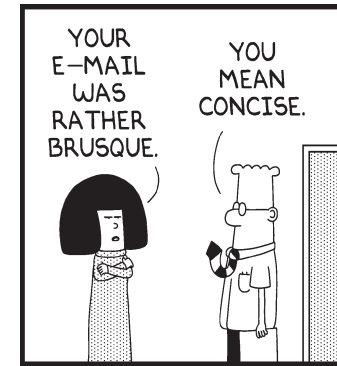
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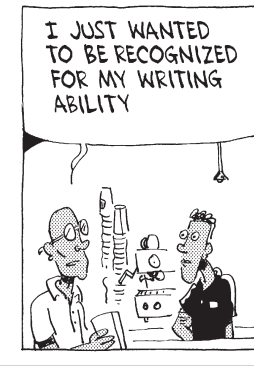
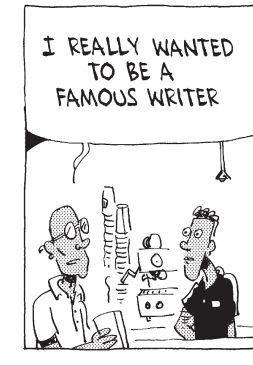
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By Gary Cee

70 Extra large?
71 Con
72 Three-part nos.

DOWN

1 "Bewitched" role
2 Hangdog
3 Lie
4 Actress Barkin
5 Ruby and others
6 65-Across's "Bravo"
7 Microscopic organism
8 Provençal cuisine delicacies
9 Middle x
10 One taking a little off the top?
11 Street going downhill?
12 Emma's "Sense and Sensibility" role
13 Ritzy
14 Aleutian island
22 Course with x's
25 Inclination
26 Other, in Spain
29 Risky undertaking
33 Drink from a bag
35 Fidel's friend
37 Finsteraarhorn, e.g.

39 Start of many a story
40 "Do I dare to peach?"; Eliot
41 Near-exhaustion metaphor
45 Root for
46 Radar guns, e.g.
47 San Luis, California
48 Bill for shots
49 Author Leonard
51 Chops finely

53 European auto
56 Carefree
57 Bard's "below"
59 "... forgiven"
62 Lip soother
64 West who said "To err is human, but it feels divine"
66 Repeated nursery rhyme opener

SUDOKU

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

WESTATES Theatres

UNIVERSITY 6

1225 N 200 E (Behind Home Depot)

- DEAR JOHN* (PG-13) 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30
- WOLFMAN* (R) 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20
- AVATAR* (PG-13) IN DIGITAL 3D 2:15, 5:30, 8:45
- PERCY JACKSON* (PG) 1:00, 4:20, 6:50, 9:20
- WHEN IN ROME* (PG-13) 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
- VALENTINE'S DAY* (PG-13) 1:00, 4:00, 6:35, 9:10

TUESDAY NIGHTS ARE STUDENT DISCOUNT NIGHTS AT UNIVERSITY 6 ALL TICKETS ARE MATINEE PRICE WITH STUDENT ID

MOVIES 5

2450 N Main Street

- EDGE OF DARKNESS* (R) 4:10, 7:05 Fri/Sat 9:35
- ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) 4:00, 6:30 Fri/Sat 9:00
- LEGION (R) 4:00, 6:40 Fri/Sat 9:20
- THE BLIND SIDE (PG-13) 4:10, 6:50, Fri/Sat 9:30
- TOOTH FAIRY* (PG) 4:15, 6:55 Fri/Sat 9:25

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US and Afghan troops ring Taliban stronghold

NEAR MARJAH, Afghanistan (AP) — U.S. and Afghan forces ringed the Taliban stronghold of Marjah on Thursday, sealing off escape routes and setting the stage for what is being described as the biggest offensive of the nine-year war.

Taliban defenders repeatedly fired rockets and mortars at units poised in foxholes along the edge of the town, apparently trying to lure NATO forces into skirmishes before the big attack.

"They're trying to draw us in," said Capt. Joshua Winfrey, 30, of Tulsa, Okla., commander of Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines.

Up to 1,000 militants are believed holed up in Marjah, a key Taliban logistics base and center of the lucrative opium poppy trade. But the biggest threats are likely to be the land mines and bombs hidden in the roads and fields of the farming community, 380 miles (610 kilometers) southwest of Kabul.

The precise date for the attack has been kept secret. U.S. officials have signaled for weeks they planned to seize Marjah, a town of about 80,000 people in Helmand province and the biggest community in southern Afghanistan under Taliban control.

NATO officials say the goal is to seize the town quickly and re-establish Afghan government authority, bringing public services in hopes of winning support of the townspeople once the Taliban are gone. Hundreds of Afghan soldiers were to join U.S. Marines in the attack to emphasize the Afghan role in the operation.

A Taliban spokesman dismissed the significance of Marjah, saying the NATO operation was "more propaganda than military necessity."

Nevertheless, the spokesman, Mohammed Yusuf, said in a dialogue on the Taliban Web site that the insurgents would strike the attackers with explosives and hit-and-run tactics, according to a summary by the SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors militant Internet traffic.

In preparation for the offensive, a U.S.-Afghan force led by the U.S. Army's 5th Stryker Brigade moved south from Lashkar Gah and linked up Thursday with Marines on the northern edge of Marjah, closing off a main Taliban escape route. Marines and Army soldiers fired colored smoke grenades to show each other that they were friendly forces.

U.S. and Afghan forces have now finished their deployment along the main road in and out of Marjah, leaving the Taliban no way out except across bleak, open desert — where they could easily be spotted.

The Army's advance was slowed as U.S. and Afghan soldiers cleared the thicket of mines and bombs hidden in canals and along the roads and fought off harassment attacks along the way by small bands of insurgents. Two U.S. attack helicopters fired Hellfire missiles at a compound near Marjah from where insurgents had been firing at the advancing Americans.

Marines along the edge of the town exchanged fire with insurgents. There were no reports of casualties.

"I am not surprised at all that this is taking place," said the battalion commander, Lt. Col. Brian Christmas. "We are touching their trigger-line," referring to the outer rim of the Taliban defenses.

A far greater obstacle lies in the hundreds, if not thousands, of mines, makeshift bombs and booby traps which the Taliban are believed to have planted around Marjah.

"This may be the largest IED threat and largest minefield that NATO has ever faced," said Brig. Gen. Larry Nicholson, commander of Marines in southern Afghanistan.

A British soldier was killed in a bombing Thursday in Helmand province, the Ministry of Defense announced in London. It was unclear whether the soldier was part of the Marjah operation.

In eastern Afghanistan, the spokesman for Paktia province, Roullah Samoun, said five Americans were wounded when a suicide attacker wearing a border police uniform blew himself up at a U.S. base near the Pakistan border. A U.S. statement said "several" U.S. service members were injured in an explosion at a joint U.S.-Afghan outpost in Paktia, but gave no further details.

To combat the mines around Marjah, Marines planned to use their new 72-ton Assault Breacher Vehicles, which use metal blows to scoop up hidden bombs or fire rockets to detonate them at a safe distance.

Once the main attack begins, U.S. commanders are eager to avoid civilian casualties, hoping instead to win over support of the Pashtun townspeople, who are from the same ethnic group as the majority of the Taliban. American officers have been instructing troops to hold their fire unless they are sure they are

shooting at insurgents and not innocent villagers.

On Thursday, Afghanistan's interior minister, Hanif Atmar, met with a group of tribal elders explaining the goals of the operation and asking for their support.

"This operation is designed to open the way for those Afghans who want to join the peace process and to use the military power against those foreign terrorists who are hiding here," Atmar told the elders during a meeting in Lashkar Gah, the Helmand provincial capital about 20 miles northeast of Marjah.

The elders told Atmar that their support depended on how the operation was carried out and whether a large number of civilians were killed or injured in the fighting.

One elder, Mohebullah Torpatkai, said that if the operation improved the lives of civilians, "we the people of Marjah will fully support it."

As the Marines waited for battle, they received their first mail delivery since arriving in the Marjah area.

Some Marines burned their letters after reading them, either because they didn't want to carry any extra weight or have the letters fall into the wrong hands if they lost them in the fighting.



AFGHAN TROOPS FIGHTING alongside the US 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines regiment play a march song and clap their hands on their front line outposts on Thursday, Feb. 11, 2010, on the outskirts of Marjah, Afghanistan, where NATO commanders are planning a major offensive against the Taliban in the coming days. AP photo

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