

In brief

Envision Cache Valley meetings get going today

The latest round of Envision Cache Valley meetings starts today. Franklin and Cache county leaders have encouraged that all residents attend in order to offer feedback on how they'd like the valley to change — or not change — over the coming decades. The results of the process will provide feedback for local government entities as they look to make policy changes.

Meetings today include: Hyrum, 2 p.m., Hyrum City Building, 83 W. Main St.; Smithfield, 5:30 p.m., Senior Citizen Center, 315 E. 600 South; Preston, 5:30 p.m., Robinson Building, 186 W. 2nd North; North Logan, 7:30 p.m., North Logan Library, 475 E. 2500 North; and in Clarkston, 7:30 p.m., Clarkston City Hall, 50 S. Main St.

On Wednesday, meetings will be in the following locations: Richmond, 2 p.m., Pepperidge Farm, 901 N. 201 West; Dayton, 5 p.m., Westside High School, 775 N. West Side Highway; Nibley, 5:30 p.m., Nibley City Council Room, 625 W. 3200 South; Providence, 7:30 p.m., Elementary School, 91 E. Center St.; and for Cache County, 7:45 p.m., Historic Courthouse, 199 N. Main St. in Logan.

Meetings on Thursday include the following: Wellsville, 5:30 p.m., Tabernacle Theatre, 75 S. 100 East; Millville, 5:30 p.m., The Pavilion (Providence S. Stake Center St.), 360 E. 450 North; Mendon, 7:30 p.m., Mountainside Elementary School, 235 E. 125 North; and in Logan, 7:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, 255 N. Main St.

Logan

Two arrested in connection to tire slashings

Logan police arrested two men Friday in connection to more than a dozen tire slashings.

Avellino Gutierrez, 21, and José Anthony Hernandez, 18, each face 10 counts of misdemeanor criminal mischief.

Police records show 14 vehicles were vandalized, mostly in the morning hours, near 200 W. 500 South in Logan between May 5 and May 12.

Logan Police Capt. Jeff Curtis said detectives followed up on several leads from residents living near the area where tires were damaged to locate the suspects.

The defendants are charged with both class-A and class-B misdemeanors, depending on the dollar amount of damage that was done to each vehicle.

Curtis said detectives have interviewed the defendants and said at least one has admitted to the crimes.

He added that police discovered the men were under the influence of controlled substances the evenings the acts allegedly took place.

UHP to students: Buckle up, have some ice cream

The Utah Highway Patrol and law enforcement officers from agencies throughout the state are again passing out ice cream as a reward for high school students who buckle their seat belts.

As part of the Click It for Creamies campaign, officers will pass out Creamies ice cream bars today to students at Logan High School wearing their seat belts as they leave the school's parking lot. The officers were at Sky View High yesterday and will be at Mountain Crest tomorrow.

Officers will be at Box Elder High on Thursday and Bear River High on Friday.

Court debates child interviewing

By Matthew K. Jensen
staff writer

Forensic interview technique for use with child abuse victims was the subject of debate in 1st District Court on Monday morning where the case against a Logan man accused of multiple counts of felony sex abuse of a child is under way.

John Poff, 27, was arrested in December and later bound over to answer to five counts of first-degree felony aggravated sex abuse of a child. He pleaded not guilty to the charges in February.

Poff's defense attorney, Randall Richards, called to the stand expert witness Don Bell, who highlighted parts of transcribed interviews between the alleged victim and a Division of Child and Family Services counselor he said were "troubling."

Throughout his testimony, Bell, a retired Salt Lake City Police sergeant, stressed the interviewee was answering "leading and suggestive" questions and said the child gave few free-narrative responses, answering mostly "yes or no" questions.

Bell said the alleged victim "adopted the interviewer's idea" on several notions after successive interviews and accused DCFS counselor Melissa Spencer of not establishing ground rules before each discussion with the child.

"Every forensic interviewing process that I'm familiar with has some sort of ground rules that are discussed before questioning," he said. "She's asking (the child) to confirm what she already believes."

He said that confirmatory bias "has no business being in a forensic interview."

Bell said establishing ground rules with a child is key to getting accurate and true statements during an interview.

Prosecutor and Cache County Deputy Attorney Barbara Lachmar cross examined Bell. Answering her questions, Bell did say, however, that a lack of ground rules doesn't mean anything a child says will be untruthful.

Spencer also testified, saying she believes she's qualified to properly interview a child victim.

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Valley roads

Hauling change to 100 E.



Eli Lucero/Herald Journal

A truck carrying a section of the new bridge that will be built on 100 East in Logan travels down Main Street on its way to the construction site Monday morning.

Bridge under construction; residents' reactions mixed

By Karen Lambert
staff writer

Logan residents lined up Tuesday morning along 100 East to watch five trucks bring more change to their neighborhood — in the form of 85-foot-long girders.

By late afternoon, five cement beams were in place over the trickling Logan River, forming the first half of the foundation of a new bridge. Trucks will bring in the other five today starting at 9 a.m.

Jose Bravo, superintendent with Build, Inc., said the bridge, including a widened roadway and sidewalk, is on schedule to be completed mid-July.

"(It's going) really, really good," Bravo said. "We don't have any problems."

Thomas England, who grew up in a home on 100 East and now lives in the house next door to his childhood abode, said he's seen many changes over the 69 years he's been alive. Where large cranes now cut into the horizon, he can remember

seeing past a narrow bridge to property where a neighbor raised chickens and grew carrots to make carrot juice.

"I'm not too in favor of (the changes), but now that it's all coming in I'm getting used to it," England said. "I think the project's going to be beautiful down here."

However, Michelle Atwood and her husband, who together own the Pebble Creek apartments next to the project, don't like to lose their quiet street.

"It was really nice to have a nice secluded area," she said. "No one really knew our apartments were out here."

But, Atwood was out watching progress along with her 20-month-old son and many neighbors. She said she can often hear the construction from one of the eight units where she lives.

Lance Young said his car was blocked in by the Utah Department of Transportation project, and so he took the time to watch the parade of large trucks. Nine months ago, he and his family bought their home

along 100 East in Logan without hearing anything about the plans to change the street into a major thoroughfare.

"It will make the area nice," he said. "Our biggest concern is if it will be safe for our kids."

UDOT crews transported the girders starting at 9 a.m. Monday, prompting road closures and a police escort. The girders are needed to complete the \$13.2 million project expanding 100 East to create an alternative thoroughfare through Logan to Providence.

Closed intersections this morning will include 200 North and Main Street, and 300 South and Main Street. Crews will also temporarily close the intersection of 300 South and 100 East. UDOT plans to widen 100 East from 300 South to 500 South.

The new bridge will allow 100 East to connect with Gateway Drive and eventually allow the road to extend all the way to 1200 South (Providence Lane) in Providence.

Agendas

✓ The Logan Municipal Council will meet at 5:30 p.m. at 255 N. Main Street in Logan.

Agenda items include:

- Hearing questions and comments for the mayor and council.
- Hearing mayor and staff reports.
- Hearing the Stamp Out Hunger Proclamation.
- Hearing the parks and recreation strategic plan.
- Determining the date of the next meeting.
- Holding a public hearing and determining whether to approve a proposed budget adjustment for FY 2009-10 appropriating \$3,773 for the remainder of the ULGT safety grant.
- Holding a public hearing and debating whether to approve a proposed transfer of property to the Logan City School District Located at 1000 W. 800 South.
- Holding a public hearing and considering a non-monetary donation of a surplus city vehicle, a 2000 Ford Crown Victoria to the Cache Metropolitan Planning Organization.
- Holding a public hearing and discussing a proposed ordinance adopting a zone change of Edge-

hill Court, 0.98 acres located at 474 N. 600 East and 644 E. 500 North.

- Holding a public hearing and debating a proposed ordinance amending title five of the Logan Municipal Code placing density limitations on non-depository financial institutions adding sections 5.19.010 and 5.19.020.
 - Discussing whether to approve a budget adjustment for FY 2009-10 appropriating: \$20,300 for the creation of the 600 West Special Improvement District (SID); \$18,963 for the Library's 2009 CLEF Grant; \$3,000 for Community Development's CLG Grant; \$25,000 for Logan City Fire Department reimbursement for services provided in California maintenance.
 - ✓ The Providence Historic Preservation Commission will meet at 6 p.m. at 15 S. Main.
- Agenda items include:
- Discussing the preface needed for the history book.
 - Hearing an update on the pioneer monument.
 - Discussing the information for

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USU awaits go-ahead for new engineering degree

By Kim Burgess
staff writer

Utah State University administrators hope to launch the region's first master's program in aerospace engineering this fall.

On May 15 the school's Board of Trustees approved the program. The proposal now heads to the State Board of Regents in August.

If it gets the green light there, roughly 20 students will begin taking aerospace engineering classes during fall semester. Demand is expected to increase by 50 percent over the next five years, according to documents from the department of mechanical and aerospace engineering.

David Geller, assistant professor in the department, said the new program is basically a reorganization of an existing master's degree in mechanical

engineering with an aerospace specialization.

By changing the name and tightening the list of required courses, students will graduate with a more marketable degree, Geller said.

In comments to the Trustees, Byard Wood, the head of the department of mechanical and aerospace engineering, said that job opportunities are strong in the field.

Among them are openings at Hill Air Force Base, ATK, Boeing, Lockheed Martin and NASA. In fact, statistics show that 25 percent of NASA's workforce will reach retirement age in the next five years.

Geller said he imagines that about a third of the students entering the master's program will already have jobs in engineering.

To accommodate them, many of the classes will be delivered online.