Utah-Regional

The latest happenings from in and around the Beehive State

News Briefs

Garn, Berman Discuss Debate Issue

SALT LAKE CITY (UPI) — The campaign manager for Sen. Jake Garn, R-Utah, says Democratic challenger Dan Berman is mistaken in his claim that Garn has refused to debate the issues. But Berman says Garn is "hiding behind his advertising agency."

Mike Leavitt said Thursday Garn has scheduled nine debates with the Salt Lake City lawyer prior to the Nov. 4 general election. "We feel that's adequate."

Earlier in the day, Berman told a news conference he sent a letter to the GOP incumbent on Sept. 29 challenging Garn to a series of debates. Berman said he has never received a response to the challenge, and accused Garn of passing up at least four invitations from groups eager to hear the candidates discuss the issues.

Those groups were the Salt Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, the Salt Lake Rotary Club, Brigham Young University, the University of Utah and Weber State College, Berman said.

"We did not accept those invitations for various reasons," Leavitt said. "The particular one is that Jake was busy in the Senate taking care of his duties."

But Berman said, "If Jake Garn is going to run on the slogan "Jake Garn Speaks Up for Utah," he ought to do that. He ought to come out from behind his advertising agency, support his record, present his ideas and give the people of this state a choice."

Officials Vote Themselves Pay Hike

CEDAR CITY, Utah (UPI) — Valley View Medical Center in Cedar City may be sold to Intermountain Health Care, according to the small hospital's adminstrator, Reginald Hughes.

Hughes said IHC is considering buying the Cedar City facility at a purchase price that could vary from one dollar to $500,000.

He explained that a sale for one dollar would allow lower costs at the hospital, thus reducing prices for citizens. Iron County taxpayers have already paid for the hospital once, Hughes said. A high sale price would be passed along in costs to users.

He also pointed out that the hospital may need up to $1.5 million in remodeling to meet building standards.

But County Commissioner S. Garth Jones thinks some of the money taxpayers put into the hospital should be returned.

"We want to be fair to those people who in the past paid for the hospital in tax monies," Jones said.

Taxpayer Conference Trip Gets OK

SALT LAKE CITY (UPI) — The Utah Board of Examiners has decided to send two state employees to a posh resort in South Carolina to participate in a conference on saving taxpayer money.

The board — comprised of Gov. Scott Matheson, Attorney General Robert Hansen and Lt. Gov. David Monson — said it would allow Thomas Proctor and Russell F. Gardner to attend a conference at Hilton Head, S.C.

Officials said the trips would cost the state about $1,582.

Proctor is director of the State Bureau of Recovery Services, while Gardner is deputy director. They will attend the National Welfare Fraud Association meeting, which begins Sunday.

Gardner noted the bureau returns more than $1 million to state taxpayers every year through its efforts to recover money from fathers who are delinquent in their child support payments.

Official Mulls Selling Medical Center

OGDEN, Utah (UPI) — Weber County Commissioners — including two who leave office in January — have voted themselves and eight other elected officials a $7,000 annual pay raise retroactive to Sept. 1.

Commissioners Thursday voted to boost their pay 28 percent to an annual total of $32,251.

The county attorney's pay will jump to $35,251 and the pay of the sheriff, assessor, treasurer, clerk, surveyor, auditor and recorder will increase to $31,502.

Two of the three commissioners voting for the pay hike will leave office next year — Doug Hunt and Robert Bowen. Hunt made the motion for the pay hikes.

"I think this is a red letter day when we can bring these salaries somewhere in line with private industry," said Hunt, who recently lost a primary race to become the Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor.

"I'm not ashamed, I'm proud to make the motion," Hunt said.

Both Hunt and Bowen will realize $2,333 in additional pay before their terms end.

Wounded Wolf Search Under Way

LOGAN, Utah (UPI) — Cache County authorities Thursday were looking for a wounded animal believed to an escaped pet wolf which has attacked several farm animals.

A spokesman for the Cache County Sheriff's Office said the wolf was shot and wounded by Nibley youth Wednesday after it killed a sheep.

The animal escaped from its owner in the Hyrum area Tuesday night and has allegedly killed a calf, some chickens and the sheep.

Mrs. Judy Jones said her son shot the wolf with a .22 rifle after it came onto her property and attacked the sheep. But the wolf was only wounded and ran off.

Authorities throughout the county were searching for the wolf.

The sheriff's spokesman said it is the same animal which escaped from property owned by Utah State University last week and was captured in north Logan.

The sheriff's office said it wasn't sure who owned the animal.

Medical Center Gets $2.6 Million

SALT LAKE CITY (UPI) — The National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute has awarded a $2.6 million grant to the University Medical Center to fund heart research.

Project director D. J.A. Abildskov said the work is intended to study electrical currents which control the pumping of the heart. Recording the electrical impulses is very important in the diagnosis of heart disease, he said.

Hospital officials also announced the Utah Copper Division of Kennecott Minerals Co. has given the center a $50,000 check to help finance expansion of the facility.

University President David P. Gardner said the medical center has received $13 million so far in gifts to the expansion project. The project involves an addition to the center's treatment facility, a new parking terrace and an education and research building, he said.

Police Offer $5,000 Reward For Rifle Information in Sniping

SALT LAKE CITY (UPI) — Salt Lake City Police Chief E. L. Willoughby offered a $5,000 reward Thursday for information leading to the recovery of a 30-30 rifle used in the sniper slayings of two young black men near a city park last August.

Willoughby said information from Cincinnati and other police departments has led detectives to believe that the prime suspect in the crime, Joseph Paul Franklin, may have bought and sold the murder weapon in the Salt Lake area.

"We want to know if anyone has sold or bought weapons from this man," Willoughby said while brandishing a flyer featuring Franklin's photograph. "We know he does buy and sell guns in areas where he travels, and he may have sold the weapon we are seeking."

Willoughby said the flyers will be distributed within an 850-mile radius of Salt Lake City.

"We don't want to be looking all over the U.S.," Willoughby explained, "if the weapon is right here in our back yard."

Franklin became the object of a massive manhunt in the Cincinnati area after he escaped police in nearby Florence, Ky. The 30-year-old Franklin, who changed his name from James Clayton Vaughn in 1976, was being held in the Florence police station for questioning involving a report that the car he was driving was stolen.

Police said two .30-06 rifles and a .44-caliber Magnum single-action Ruger revolver and a .357 magnum pistol were found in the brown 1975 Camaro Franklin was driving.

Ballistics tests revealed none of the weapons were used in the Salt Lake City killings, Willoughby said.

Willoughby said Salt Lake City detectives have confirmed Franklin was in the city from Aug. 10 to Aug. 21. The car confiscated in Kentucky has been placed at the shooting scene, he added.

"We have reason to believe he (Franklin) may have returned to the scene during the confusion after the shootings to see what was going on," Willoughby said "but that is not certain."

Investigators have talked with Franklin's father James Vaughn of Mobile, Ala. Willoughby said and are now developing a personality profile of the suspect.

"A motive is starting to develop," Willoughby said. "There is some reason to believe that he (Franklin) hates blacks." But he refused to elaborate.

Willoughby said recovering the weapon used to kill Ted Fields, 20, and David Martin, 18, would be a major step toward solution of the shootings. Both men were gunned down while jogging near a Salt Lake City park the night of Aug. 20.

Cincinnati police want Franklin for questioning in the sniping slayings of two black youths who were killed with a .44-caliber Magnum rifle June 8.

Willoughby said federal investigators also want to question Franklin in connection with the sniper shooting of civil rights leader Vernon Jordan.

"I don't know if they want him for shooting Jordan," Willoughby said, "but the things that they (the FBI) are doing would certainly indicate they are interested in the man."

FBI Studies Snipings

CINCINNATI (UPI) — The FBI in Indianapolis intends to check the possibility that a 30.06 rifle used in the shooting last May of civil rights leader Vernon Jordon may have been sold by a suspect in other sniping attacks on blacks in five cities, it was reported today.

The Cincinnati Enquirer said in a copyright report today that Indianapolis FBI agent Steve McVey said there is a "good possibility" Joseph Franklin placed the ad for the gun which appeared in the Enquirer's classified section June 7.

Police believe Franklin, 30, was born in Mobile, Ala., and given the name James Vaughn.

The hunt for the elusive suspect, who uses a number of aliases, has intensified since Sept. 25, when he was brought to the Florence, Ky., police station for questioning but escaped about 5½ hours later.

Police said Franklin climbed through a window in the police station when the interrogating officer stepped briefly from the room.

Franklin's 1975 brown Camaro linked him to the Aug. 20 sniper slayings of two black joggers in Salt Lake City. A license plate number provided by a Salt Lake City motel owner matched that on the Camaro.

Police also want to question Franklin in sniping shootings in Cincinnati, Johnstown, Pa., Indianapolis and Oklahoma City.

In the June 7 ad, a Remington 700, 30.06-caliber rifle was offered for sale. Prospective buyers were directed to respond to a telephone number at the Florence Motel. The motel operator said the number was in a room registered to Ed Logan, who gave a Evansville, Ind., address, which turned out to be fictious.

On May 29, Jordon was shot and wounded in Fort Wayne, Ind., with a 30.06-caliber rifle.

"There's a good possibility that Logan and Franklin are the same man," McVey said. "It has to be checked out. We definitely want to run it down."

The day after the ad appeared, two black teenage cousins were killed by a sniper in Cincinnati.

Cincinnati Homicide Sgt. Paul Morgan said police also are investigating whether a hitchhiker picked up by a motorist in the vicinity of the Cincinnati slayings shortly after they occurred might have been Franklin.

Data on Minorities Released

BOULDER, Colo. (UPI) — Recently released data based on a survey of more than 500 colleges and universities in 10 Western states indicates minorities and women are making only marginal employment gains, according to a Colorado-based higher education consortium.

Paul Albright, communications director for the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, Thursday said the previously unpublished data showed minority faculty in the 10 states totaled 7,755, or 8.8 percent in 1977, up only from 7,151 or 8.0 percent in 1975.

He said among administrators at the institutions, minorities made slightly higher gains, increasing their ranks from 8.6 percent to 9.5 percent between 1975 and 1977.

Albright said women made the biggest gains, although also minimal, rising from 22.6 percent in 1975 to 23.6 among faculty and increased more than two percent in adminstration from 21 percent to 23.9 percent.

He said the WICHE survey was based on the latest available data furnished by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Albright said institutions surveyed were in 10 of WICHE's 13 member states — Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, News Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

He said data for Nevada and Alaska were considered confidential because of the small number of affected individuals, and the EEOC had no statistics for Hawaii.

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