

# Daily Herald



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## Cougars fall to Bearcats

Cincinatti blows out BYU 90-68 **SPORTS, B1**



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### MAPLETON

# Civil suit filed against treatment center resolved

**DAILY HERALD STAFF**

A civil case filed against a Mapleton teen residential treatment center and other defendants by the family of a boy who died by suicide at the facility has been resolved.

Kathryn and Joshua Silvers filed a wrongful death and medical malpractice suit against Discovery Ranch and several medical professionals after their 17-year-old son, Biruk Silvers, died Nov. 5, 2024.

The 3rd District Court in Salt Lake City granted a joint motion to dismiss the case with prejudice on Feb. 25.

"The tragic death of Biruk Silvers at Discovery Ranch Academy led to

serious claims that were ultimately resolved," said Alan Mortensen, an attorney representing the Silvers family, in a statement to the Daily Herald. "Our hope is that this resolution prompts meaningful scrutiny of youth treatment programs and reinforces the imperative of transparency, safety, and accountability in institutions entrusted with vulnerable children."

Discovery Ranch Executive Director Clint Dorny affirmed in an email sent to the Daily Herald that the case had been resolved. He added that a Utah Division of Child and Family Services case against Perry Garso,

who was Biruk's therapist at Discovery Ranch, was fully nullified, and that Garso was exonerated of all findings.

Garso's exoneration comes following Salt Lake Tribune reporting in November that Utah's child protective services had found Discovery Ranch health care workers had physically neglected Biruk.

"There were no other legal actions and there are no unresolved agency actions against our program regarding the tragic death at Discovery Ranch in November of 2024," Dorny said.

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A sign at the front entrance of Discovery Ranch in Mapleton is photographed Nov. 18, 2024. **JACOB NIELSON, DAILY HERALD**

# COOP CLEARS

Springville amends chicken policy, allows for more hens for larger lots



**CHARLIE NEIBERGALL, ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Chickens walk in a fenced pasture at an organic farm in Iowa.

**BY JACOB NIELSON**  
Daily Herald

Springville Mayor Matt Packard said during Tuesday night's city council meeting that he's received more emails regarding the city's chicken code than anything relating to utility fees or property taxes combined during his tenure.

The hot topic in the Art City came to a resolution when the city council unanimously approved to amend the code to make the amount of hens allowed on a residential property based on square footage.

Previous code, established in 2014, allowed six hens in any residential lot regardless of size, but the city said questions were raised concerning the interpretation of the ordinance. The council determined the updated code will allow six hens for properties less than 11,999 square feet, 10 hens for properties 12,000 to 15,999 square feet and 16 hens for properties more than 16,000 square feet.

The council made a number of changes to the city staff's updated proposal for amendments, ultimately reducing rules and opting for more hens per property size.

The city's original proposal suggested a maximum of 12 hens for properties 16,000 square feet or more, eight for 12,000 to 15,999 square feet, six for 8,000 to 11,999 square feet and four for less than 8,000 square feet.

"I'm good with it being 12. I wouldn't mind it being more," Councilman Jake Smith said. "I wouldn't mind seeing Springville being on somebody else's list is higher than everybody else. I like that, actually."

Please see **CHICKENS**, Page A6

### PROVO



**COURTESY PROVO POLICE**

An aircraft is shown after making an emergency landing in a Provo field Tuesday.

# Small aircraft lands in field

**DAILY HERALD STAFF**

A small aircraft made an emergency landing in a west Provo field Tuesday, but police said the pilot managed to ground the plane without injury or any apparent damage.

The plane suffered an apparent engine failure near West Mountain, prompting the pilot to coast it into an emergency landing in a field west of Provo High School and near the airport, according to Provo police. The pilot was the only occupant of the aircraft.

"A great outcome!" police said.

### UTAH

# Rep. Owens will not seek reelection

**DAILY HERALD STAFF**

Utah Rep. Burgess Owens, who represents Utah's 4th District, covering much of southern and western Utah County, announced Wednesday he will not seek reelection in the upcoming midterms this year.

"After prayer, reflection, and many long conversations, I have decided that I will not seek reelection in 2026," Owens said in a post on social media. "I will complete this term fully committed to my work in Washington D.C., and then step away from elected office."

His announcement comes after the Utah Supreme Court rejected state lawmakers' efforts last month to appeal a previous district court judge's decision to restructure the

Please see **OWENS**, Page A6

# House passes resolution 'admonishing and censuring' judge

**BY KATIE MCKELLAR**  
Utah News Dispatch

With the stated purpose of sending a message to voters not to retain 7th District Judge Don Torgerson when he's up for a retention election in 2028 or to pressure him to resign, the Utah House on Tuesday voted to approve a resolution "admonishing and censuring" the judge.

One of Utah's most powerful Re-

publican lawmakers, House Speaker Mike Schultz, was a fiery driving force behind the resolution HR8 — which has the effect of sending a strongly worded message but no lawful impact otherwise.

Schultz, R-Hooper, has been outspoken against Torgerson over comments he made during open court proceedings on a child pornography case.

During a sentencing hearing in May, Torgerson twice referenced the 22-year-old defendant's "privilege," KSL-TV reported. The judge also said he had "seen worse" depictions of child sexual abuse after watching two videos the defendant possessed showing children being raped and abused, though the judge had also added he didn't mean to "minimize"

what the defendant did.

"You can't defend what was said. ... What was in that video, I can't even say on this House floor. But I promise you it was one of the most disgusting acts ever imagined. And for a judge to say afterwards, 'I've seen worse,'" Schultz said before trailing off.

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