[DATE] [WP] [TITLE (2-3 WORDS MAX)] [SHOW IT'S FOR]
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04/17 WP Utah Food Bank ATC
DL

Higher fuel prices mean it's getting more expensive to provide hunger relief in Utah.

KUER's Devyn Latorre has more

[CLIP]

The Utah Food Bank has a fleet of trucks that traveled nearly 800,000 miles last year bringing food to people in need.

They relied on diesel to do so.

Julian Paredes {puh-RED-es} is a spokesperson for triple A.

[CLIP]
{DIESEL PRICES ARE CURRENTLY AVERAGING ABOUT 530 A GALLON. A YEAR AGO, DIESEL PRICES IN UTAH WERE AVERAGING ABOUT 350 SO IN THE COURSE OF A YEAR, DIESEL PRICES ARE ALMOST $2 A GALLON MORE EXPENSIVE ACROSS THE STATE.}

Now that prices have gone up, it's costing a lot more to continue delivering food at the same rate.

Heidi {HIGH-dee} Cannella {Cuh-nell-uh} is the Utah Food Bank's Communications Director.

[CLIP]
{IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND SUPPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY FOR THESE TIMES. WE'RE STILL DOING THE SAME WORK, BUT IT'S CAUSING US CONSIDERABLY MORE WHERE WE WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT WE CAN CONTINUE TO SERVE AT THE LEVEL WE HAVE}

But, she said that the Utah Food Bank is still committed to operating at the same level.

Devyn Latorre, KUER News.

03/25 WP Olympic Lessons ATC
DL/SH

Utah 20-34 Olympic organizers are reflecting on what they learned from the Milan Cortina games.

KUER's Devyn Latorre {luh-TOR-ee} has more.

[CLIP]

Utah's next Olympics are 8 years away, but leaders are already busy preparing. Many of them went to Italy to learn about how the event operates.

Scott Doughman is the Director of Strategic Initiatives & Olympic Planning at the University of Utah.

He spoke on a Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute panel, and shared a key takeaway from his experience.

[CLIP]
{PLAN EARLY. PLAN EARLY. PLAN EARLY. IF I HAD A LITTLE CLICKER FOR THE NUMBER OF QUESTIONS I ASKED, IT PROBABLY WOULD HAVE EXCEEDED 10,000 AND THAT WOULD PROBABLY BEEN MY NUMBER ONE RESPONSE FROM THESE AMAZING ITALIANS THAT WERE PART OF THE, YOU KNOW, PRODUCTION OF THE WHOLE THING.}

Doughman says he wants to make sure "all bases are covered" before competitors arrive at the University, which is set to house the Athlete Village in 20-34.

Based on what she saw in Cortina, Park City council member Tana Toly says her city needs to get moving on things like transportation.

[CLIP]
{WE WANT TO HAVE THAT TYPE OF INFRASTRUCTURE READY TO GO, YOU KNOW, A COUPLE YEARS BEFORE, SO WE EVEN KNOW THAT IT'S WORKING, AND WE CAN GET THESE THE TRIAL AND ERROR OUT BEFORE THE OLYMPICS COMES.}

She thinks teamwork between Utah's host communities will help make that happen.

Devyn Latorre, KUER News.

03/20 WP Record High Heat ME
DL

Spring is coming at us faster than usual. And Utah is hitting record high temperatures.

KUER's Devyn Latorre {luh-TOR-ee} has more on what's going on.

[CLIP]

Meteorologist Hayden Mahan {MAY-han} is with the National Weather Service.

[CLIP]
{IF WE GET 81 DEGREES OR WARMER…THAT WOULD BE THE WARMEST MARCH TEMPERATURE EVER RECORDED. PREVIOUS RECORD BEING JUST 80 DEGREES.}

High pressure in the Southwest is causing the heat. But Mahan says this kind of pattern usually doesn't happen until mid-summer.

For the past few days, Utahns have been soaking in the sun. Salt Lake City resident Josh Daum {DOM} sits on a bench in Sugar House Park with his sunglasses on. He says he is still wishing for the cold.

[CLIP]
{IT'S NICE. YEAH. I MEAN, IT'S DEFINITELY SUPPOSED TO BE WINTER RIGHT NOW, SO I'D RATHER BE SKIING. I'D RATHER IT BE SNOWING TWO FEET THIS WEEK. BUT HERE WE ARE.}

But the chances for snow anytime soon are slim. According to Mahan, the dry weather and warm temperatures are expected to continue until the end of the month.

Devyn Latorre, KUER News.

03/16 WP JBS Strike ATC
DL/ML/MWNB/AP

Workers in Colorado went on strike this morning {Monday} at one of the country's largest meat packing plants.

And as KUER's Devyn Latorre {luh-TORE-ee} reports, that means the company's facility in northern Utah will be ramping up production.

[CLIP]

JBS halted all processing at the Greeley plant last week.

Jennifer Martin is an associate professor in the college of agricultural sciences at Colorado State University.

MARTIN: The trickle-down effects of a processor not receiving cattle for harvest impact the entire supply chain.

Martin says a beef backlog would hit feed lots first, then ranchers and producers.

But J-B-S says it will adjust cattle deliveries during the strike to minimize disruptions to the regional beef market.

The company also has a plant in Hyrum, in Utah's Cache {CASH} County. The roughly 1500 workers there are *not* planning a strike.

Taner {TANNER} Atwood is the business agent for their union.

He says cattle that would go to Greeley are being sent to Utah instead. So employees were called in to work Saturday – and he thinks that'll continue as long as the strike lasts.

ATWOOD: Some people are happy for the extra money. Obviously, as you come into spring, the last thing you want to do is be stuck at work on a Saturday. So it's really a mix.

Colorado union leaders say this is the first slaughterhouse strike in the U.S. since the 1980s.

Devyn Latorre, KUER News

03/11 WP Mendenhall Leg Response
DL/HRB

Salt Lake City Mayor Erin Mendenhall feels better after this year's legislative session.

Last year, she called lawmakers "punitive" for what she thought was overbearing bills.

At a round table this morning {WED}, she called those same lawmakers "partners."

KUER's Devyn Latorre {luh-TORE-ee} has the details.

[CLIP]

This year's legislative session ended last week. Mendenhall called it the most productive yet.

[CLIP]
{I AM THANKFUL TO GOVERNOR COX, PRESIDENT ADAMS, SPEAKER SCHULTZ AND OTHER STATE LEADERS WHO HAVE REALLY PARTNERED AND WORKED WITH US, RATHER THAN AGAINST US.}

One hot topic has been the Great Salt Lake, which is reaching critically low levels.

So one area the Mayor and her team focused on during the session was water conservation.

Angela Price is the Legislative Affairs Director for Salt Lake City Corporation. She spoke about one bill where the two levels of government collaborated.

[CLIP]
{THIS BILL WOULD ALLOW FOR IN YOUR WATER CONSERVATION PLAN FOR THE WATER THAT YOU'RE CONSERVING GOING TO THE GREAT SALT LAKE TO BE COUNTED AS WELL. AND SO THAT WAS A REALLY BIG VICTORY FOR US.}

And this was a bill that failed last year.

The City was also happy with the lawmakers approach to homelessness, public safety and economic development.

These are all areas that have raised tensions between Salt Lake City and the State in past years.

Devyn Latorre KUER News.

03/04 WP AI Task Force ME
DL

Artificial Intelligence is advancing fast.

While that comes with opportunities, it also comes with anxieties.

KUER's Devyn Latorre {luh-TORE-ee} has more on how Utah leaders are working to change people's minds, and get them excited about AI.

[CLIP]

The goal of Utah's new Pro-Human Artificial Intelligence Task Force is exactly what it sounds like. Make the state's AI use, quote, "human-guided" and "human-enhancing."

The task force has seven members and includes people in government, education and tech.

Margaret Busse {bus-see} leads the Utah Department of Commerce and is one of the co-chairs on the task force.

[CLIP]
{WE WANT TO CREATE A PATH FORWARD THAT IS, SOMETHING THAT BUILDS TRUST IN THESE TECHNOLOGIES, THAT WE CAN REAP THE REWARDS FOR PEOPLE. AND THAT'S WHAT WE'RE REALLY TRYING TO DO AS WE DEPLOY THIS INITIATIVE. 14 seconds}

Jefferson Moss is the other co-chair.

He works for governor Spencer Cox in the Office of Economic Opportunity and says the push comes from the top.

[CLIP]
{THE GOVERNOR FELT VERY STRONGLY THAT WE NEEDED TO REALLY LEAN IN MORE TO MAKE SURE THAT THERE'S THAT COLLABORATION AND CONTINUING TO PUT THE RIGHT SYSTEMS IN PLACE. 10 seconds}

Moss says the state wants to drive innovation.

But it needs the right infrastructure to do that.

So far, the task force has outlined six areas of focus, and says it will give more updates in the future.

Devyn Latorre, KUER News.