

OUTDOORS

FINDS

Grab your board and hit the water

Competition » Flow-rider Utah in Ogden is hosting the National Wave Loch Flow Tour, with events for flow-boarders, kneeboarders, body boarders and drop knee riders, on July 24 beginning at 10 a.m. Winners advance to the national championships in San Diego. Pre-registration is \$35. There is no fee to watch the event. Call 801-528-5374 or visit www.flowriderutah.com for more information.

Big striped bass caught at Lake Powell

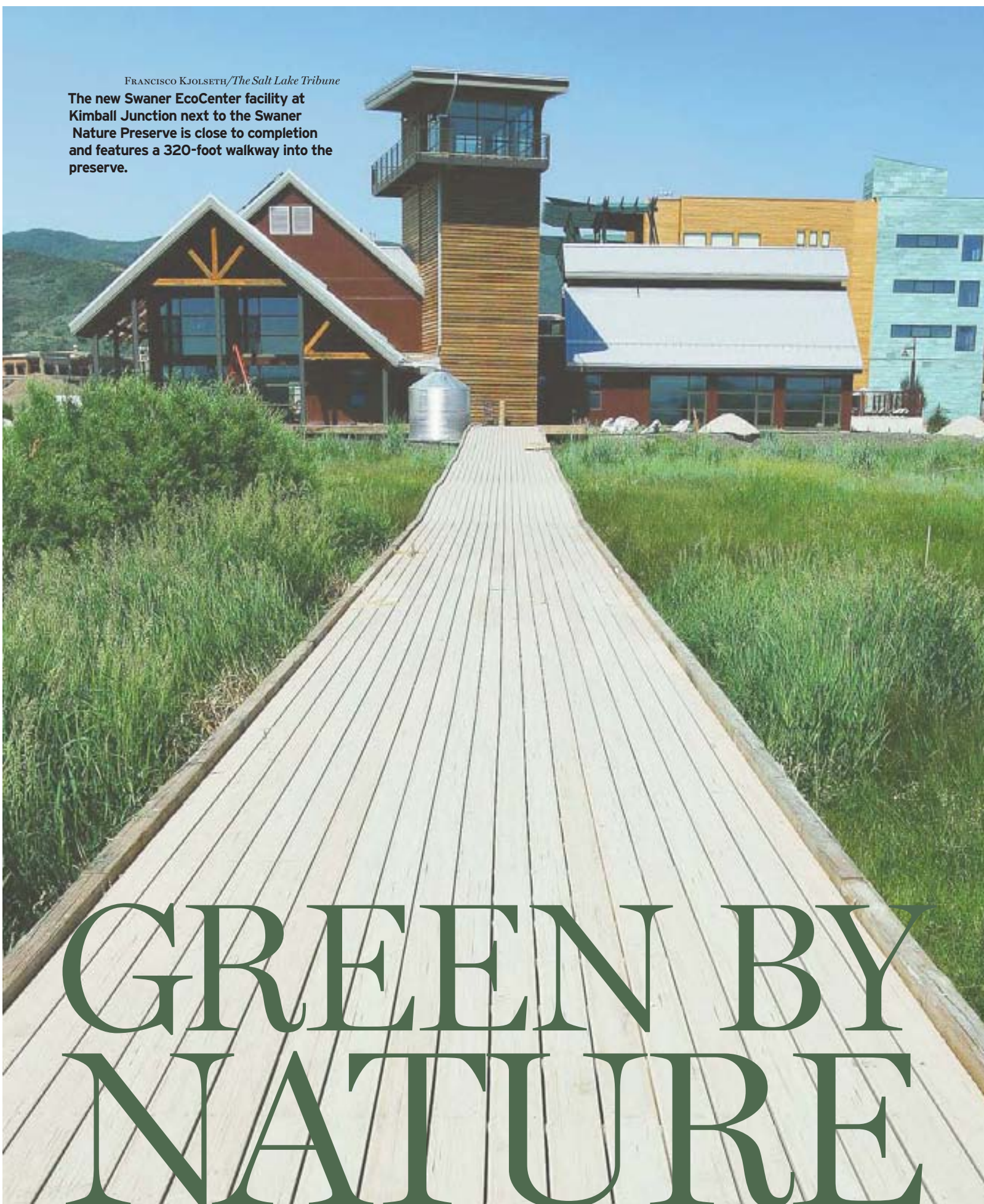
Fishing » Robert McAden of Greenehaven, Ariz., recently caught this 36-pound striped bass at Lake Powell. He used anchovy bait, which isn't how the biggest striped bass are typically caught at Powell, but shows that the big fish can be caught anytime and anywhere on the reservoir. McAden's son, Jason, and grandson, Michael Ryan, were with him when he caught the trophy.



Albion Basin road opens Saturday

Camping » The Albion Basin road and campground at the top of Little Cottonwood Canyon will open for the summer season on July 19. The Town of Alta is sponsoring free shuttle service to reduce traffic on the road in the basin. The shuttles will operate on weekends and holidays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 30-minute intervals into September. Reservations at the campground can be made at www.recreation.gov or by calling 1-877-444-6777. Some first-come, first-served sites are available.

FRANCISCO KJOLSETH/The Salt Lake Tribune
The new Swaner EcoCenter facility at Kimball Junction next to the Swaner Nature Preserve is close to completion and features a 320-foot walkway into the preserve.



GREEN BY NATURE

BY BRETT PRETTYMAN
The Salt Lake Tribune

Park City » The sounds of backhoes, power saws and air hammers often mix with nature noise here.

Much of the construction chaos lately has centered at the site of the new Swaner EcoCenter. Between the sounds of building, the calls of killdeer and red-winged blackbird could be heard coming from the

Swaner Nature Preserve in the Snyderville Basin on a recent summer day.

For years, the only structure on the preserve was a little kiosk on the edge of the land south of Interstate 80.

When the Swaner EcoCenter opens sometime this fall — likely the middle of October, at the earliest — it will not only educate and entertain people of all ages about the natural world around them, but will be “the

greenest building in Utah.”

“The focus has been on protecting the land first,” said Colleen Rush, chief executive officer of the Swaner EcoCenter. “But there has always been an eye toward the day when there would be a state of the art facility to help teach people about conservation and environmental issues.”

The Swaner Nature Pre-

See **NATURE**, E2

Take a tour of the center

Get a look at the Swaner EcoCenter through a slideshow
www.sltrib.com/outdoors



Learning out in the open

The Utah Botanical Center's new classroom is close to ponds and wetlands that will be used to teach visitors the importance of conservation for wildlife and people. To find out more, see Page E8.

BRETT PRETTYMAN ON FISHING WITH FAMILY

“Seeing all the snow when entering Yellowstone via the south entrance in mid-June made me think any chance of hitting the rivers would be a washout anyway. . . . Leave it up to my nearly 4-year-old daughter to save the day.”



Read his column » E3

VOICES

‘American’ what? David who?

Vince Horiuchi » “To be honest, I didn’t actually watch ‘American Idol,’ Julianne Hough said about fellow local performer David Archuleta’s meteoric rise. More TV news on Page E2.

Read the blog » Online at blogs.sltrib.com/tv

But who will the crowd root for?

Sean P. Means » The NBA announced that Iran’s national basketball team will play this month in the Rocky Mountain Revue, the annual summer basketball confab hosted by the Utah Jazz.

Read the blog » Online at blogs.sltrib.com/culture

VINCE HORIUCHI » TV CRITIC

Undercover comic sniffs out rumors

Beverly Hills » When ABC president Stephen McPherson took the stage Wednesday for the Television Critics Association press tour, he immediately was barraged with questions by a reporter from some Sarasota paper.

"There are rumors that ABC is actively courting Jay Leno for 11:30. Is there any truth to those rumors? And if so, I have a follow-up," the reporter asked.

"I don't really feel comfortable answering that in this forum," McPherson responded.

The reporter then asked, "Is it McPheerson or Mc-

Phoorson?"

"Uh, it's McPherson."

"If that were to happen, would Ted Koppel [of ABC's 'Nightline'] get fired, or how would that work?"

"Yeah, it would be doomsday for Ted," McPherson said.

"If you were to even talk to Jay Leno, wouldn't that be like contract conflict, wouldn't that be illegal?"

"It's possible, but . . . do you have any other questions?" a visibly annoyed McPherson asked.

Long pause.

"How do you keep your

hair so nice?" the reporter asked. That "reporter" in the audience of critics was, in fact, ABC late-night talk-show host Jimmy Kimmel.

Before Kimmel was kicked out of the room, he asked his boss one more question. "Are you at all afraid that if you do replace Jimmy Kimmel, he might do something crazy to you or your car?"

The comic host, who has had a tremendous run of attention for his funny "I'm [expletive deleted] Ben Affleck" Internet viral video, needn't worry. "[Jimmy Kimmel Live!] creatively is firing on

all cylinders, and we're hugely supportive of it," McPherson said.

But as for Leno leaving NBC's "Tonight Show" and rumors he is shopping at other networks, "It's a question for NBC," McPherson said. "I can't believe they're letting this guy go at the top of his game."

Signs of life » "Scrubs," the NBC sitcom that has bounced to ABC for one more season, could stay for longer, the ABC president said.

The show about a group of hospital interns has had bad

ratings, mostly because NBC had been moving its time slot around and starting the last couple of seasons at odd times of the year. ABC picked it up for the eighth and, perhaps, last season.

"We do think there's an opportunity beyond [the contracted one season]," McPherson said. "We do think it will not, hopefully, be a one-season situation, but we'll take that one step at a time," he added.

Vince Horiuchi writes about TV. E-mail: vince@sltrib.com.

**RECREATION ROUNDUP**

COMPILED BY JILL GILLMAN

Editor's note: These events are compiled from many sources and may change. Check with organizers when possible.

BASKETBALL

Dimple Dell Fitness and Recreation Center, 10670 S. 1000 East, Sandy, is registering for Lights Out, an ongoing monthly basketball shooting competition for ages 16 and older. Competitions will be the second Friday of every month starting at 6:30 p.m. at the center. The cost is \$4 per month or \$18 for the rest of the year. Contact Lyndsey at 801-495-1480 ext. 7.

The center is also registering for a men's competitive basketball league with games on Wednesday evenings. The cost is \$350, and the league is limited to eight teams. Registration deadline is July 28; games begin Aug. 6. Contact Lyndsey at the above number.

Cottonwood Heights Recreation Center is offering rookie basketball lessons for kids ages 3 to 5. Four classes are \$38. Register at www.wasatchfamilyfitness.com or at 801-581-9438.

BIKING, BOATING, CAMPING, CLIMBING, HIKING**Wasatch Mountain Club**

The club offers weekly events. Visit www.wasatchmountainclub.org for more information.

PING PONG

Dimple Dell Recreation Center is holding its summer ping-pong tournament July 19 at 10670 S. 1000 East, Sandy. Matches will begin at 10:15 a.m.; the fee covers a two-match guarantee and a T-shirt. Contact Lyndsey at 801-495-1480 ext. 7.

SOFTBALL

Registration has begun for men's and coed fall softball, which begins the week of Aug. 26. Games will be played at the Redwood Recreation Center, 3100 S. Redwood Road, West Valley City; cost is \$255 and includes seven games. The deadline to register is July 18. Visit www.recreation.slco.org/redwood or call 801-974-6923 for more information.

The Redwood Recreation Center is also registering for girls accelerated softball. The deadline is Aug. 22; games begin Sept. 8. The cost is \$300 for eight games. Call 801-974-6923 or visit www.recreation.slco.org/redwood.

VOLLEYBALL

Dimple Dell Recreation Center is registering for coed volleyball. The deadline is July 24, and games begin on July 31. The cost is \$210 per team. Contact Lyndsey at 801-495-1480 ext. 7 for more information.

Volleyball Open Gym is also available every Friday night from 6 to 9 at the Dimple Dell Fitness and Recreation Center. The cost is \$5 and everyone is welcome to attend. Contact Lyndsey at the above number.

The Blazing Coed Classic Outdoor Volleyball Tournament will be held at the Dimple Dell Fitness and Recreation Center on Aug. 9 at 9 a.m. The fee is \$15 for UOVA members and \$20 for others. Pre-registration is due by Aug. 8 at 5 p.m. Register online at www.activityreg.com or at www.uova.com.

The Park City Recreation and Utah Outdoor Volleyball Association is hosting a doubles volleyball tournament on Friday. Divisions include men's and women's open, A, B and Novice, and a junior's division. Registration is at 8 a.m. at Treasure Mountain International School, and play begins at 9 a.m. An entry form is available at www.uova.com.

MORE LISTINGS

See the complete Recreation Roundup listings at www.sltrib.com/outdoors.

Nature preserve gets even greener

» Continued from E1

serve was created in 1993 when the Swaner family honored Leland S. Swaner by dedicating 190 acres of family property as a wildlife preserve. The land, which runs on both sides of Interstate 80 just east of Kimball Junction, has grown to more than 1,200 acres in a series of acquisitions and donations.

"Our original goal to set aside open space grew to active land conservation and restoration, and field trips to teach children about the local ecology," said Sumner Swaner, son of Leland and president of the center. "With the opening of the new Swaner EcoCenter, we are moving into a new era. We will elevate people's awareness of both local and global environmental issues on a scale we couldn't have dreamed of 15 years ago."

A land donation on the preserve's western edge by the Newpark Corporation provided a spot for the 10,000-square-foot facility without losing any of the protected property.

Swaner officials wanted more than a building full of dioramas and stuffed animals.

"We wanted to be a leader in green building and nature education at the same time," Rush said. "It made sense to set an example for protecting nature, since that is what we are all about."

The goal was achieving the nationally recognized LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environment Design) platinum certificate, which means meeting certain requirements that the center must demonstrate work for one year.

Among the many "Green Design" features at Swaner EcoCenter: solar power generation, radiant floor heating, recycled and natural material content for many of the building materials, rooftop water collection in cisterns for use in toilets and irrigation, and native and drought-tolerant landscaping.

To show people that going green works, and how it works, the EcoCenter includes numerous information panels. For example, a window cut into the wall shows

the scrap denim material used for insulation.

The center also offers items like a two-story climbing wall for people more interested in the nature than the green. Participants can climb through the wetlands and see and hear wildlife as they go.

An observation tower will be outfitted with spotting scopes for visitors to view the 80 species of wildlife that have been documented on the preserve. A 400-foot pier takes visitors into the preserve, where the sounds of construction and I-80 melt away.

A 50-seat theater can be used for special presentations, lectures, private parties and, possibly, Sundance Film Festival events.

When the \$8 million EcoCenter opens, visitors will be charged an entrance fee and can choose from various membership options. Staffers are planning school field trips, family programs, after-school enrichment classes, stargazing parties, lectures and films, and traveling conservation exhibits.

The center will be paid for with donations, although the entire amount has not yet been raised. Construction was possible only because Bank of Utah provided financing to cover the gap in funding.

"The community has been amazing, and as more and more people hear about the center, they want to help. They have been waiting for the green space of the preserve to be developed like everything else around here," said Laura Wall, development director of the EcoCenter. "When they realize the land is protected and will never have houses on it, they get excited and want to be a part of the EcoCenter."

Brett Prettyman writes about the outdoors. Contact him at brettp@sltrib.com or 801-257-8902.

PHOTOS BY FRANCISCO KJOLSETH / The Salt Lake Tribune

Top photo, Laura Wall, left, director of development for the new Swaner EcoCenter facility at Kimball Junction, and assistant Christin Aucunas. Bottom photo, the new Swaner EcoCenter facility at Kimball Junction, the greenest building in Utah, overlooks the Swaner Nature Preserve where it is nearing completion.

**About the Swaner EcoCenter**

History » The Swaner family created the Swaner Nature Preserve in 1993 to honor Leland Swaner, who served on the state wildlife board and on an advisory committee for the Bureau of Land Management.

Land » The original land donation came from the Swaners, who ran cattle on the land. They recognized the changes the cattle made and wanted to return the land to a natural setting.

Trails » There are 10 miles of trails on the preserve.

Wildlife » Eighty species of wildlife have been documented on the land, including deer, elk, moose, fox, coyote, beaver and sandhill cranes.

Information » For more information, visit www.swanerecocenter.org/

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