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BRAG Governing Board Visits Niagara Bottling Facility in Brigham City



Members of BRAG's Governing Board toured the new Niagara Bottling plant in Brigham City on September 26, 2018. Among other innovations, the plant utilizes forklifts guided by a Geographic Positioning System (GPS) to retrieve and stack pallets of filled water bottles with unbelievable precision (above).

On Wednesday, September 26, 2018, members of BRAG's Governing Board visited the new Niagara Bottling plant west of Brigham City. The plant produces approximately 1.5 million 1/2 liter bottles per day, and fills and labels the bottles for around 15 different companies. The bottles are labeled as having spring water, filtered water, purified water, or other water characteristics based on the need of the vendor.

Members of the Governing Board were able to watch fully automated, driverless forklifts carry pallets back and forth,

stacking them in perfect rows in the warehouse (see photo on page 2). The forklifts are guided by a Geographic Positioning System (GPS) that tells them where to pick up products and where to stack them. There are also sensors on the forklifts that transmit their exact position in the warehouse so collisions can be avoided.

The plant utilizes state of the art, custom machinery to manufacture bottles and lids at an exceptional rate, then fills them with various mixtures of water for

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CALENDAR

- **January 24, 25, & 26, 2019 - Homeless Point in Time Count.**
Come help BRAG staff locate and document those who are homeless in Box Elder, Cache, and Rich Counties. This is critical for understanding homelessness in the region and finding ways to help those who are homeless. If you are interested in helping with the count, or have any questions, contact Stefanie Jones at 435.752.7242 or stefaniej@brag.utah.gov.

BRAG Services

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specific companies based on their needs. They boast the lightest weight 1/2 liter bottle and cap ever produced. Also, over 98% of the water bottled at the Niagara plant stays in the State of Utah (statistics courtesy of Dave Payne, Brigham City Plant Director).

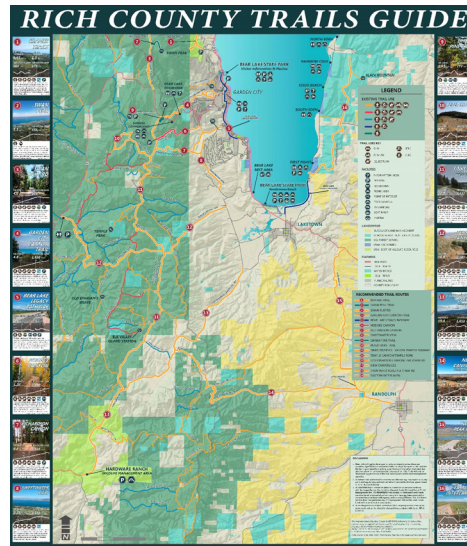
The bottling facility itself is 257,441 square feet sitting on a 21 acre site, and they currently have 58 employees. They also have an agreement for 450,000 gallons of water per day from their main source, though they may not currently be using the full amount at this time.

Staff at the Niagara bottling plant are excited to be in Box Elder County and say they have been impressed by the community and the quality of workers from the area. For more information, visit www.niagarawater.com



Niagara's top-of-the-line bottling facility in Brigham City includes fully automated fork lifts that navigate the large facility un-manned and guided by a sophisticated Geographic Information System (GIS). This photo shows how accurately the fork lifts stake the thousands of filled bottles.

Rich County Adopts First Ever Trails Plan in 2018!



As part of Rich County's new trails plan, BRAG staff created a Rich County Trail Guide (above) for use by residents and visitors. The guide highlights 16 motorized and non-motorized trails in the area.

Trails are continuing to grow in popularity across Utah due to their recreation, health and economic benefits. This is no different in Rich County where the recently adopted Motorized and Non-Motorized Trails Plan is helping steer the development and maintenance of trails throughout Bear Lake Valley. The plan was developed by planners from the Bear Lake Regional Commission and BRAG's Community & Economic Development team along with input from the Rich County Trails Steering Committee

which included local, state and federal agencies.

The plan identified existing trails needing maintenance and future trails necessary for meeting the growing demand for single track trails in the area. The plan has already set in motion a number of trail improvement projects, including Garden City, Hodges and Richardson Canyons as well as two new single track trails overlooking Bear Lake.

Interested in visiting trails in Rich County? Check out bearlake.org/cat/bike-trails or stop by the Bear Lake Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau office in Garden City to pick up a copy of the Rich County Trails Guide (shown above). The guide, developed by BRAG staff, provides a map displaying the different types of trail uses (e.g., motorized, pedestrian, bike, horse) as well as 16 trail profiles of commonly used trails in the area. The profiles provide a starting point for those unfamiliar with the nearly 200 miles of developed trails in the county.

If you have any questions about the Rich County Trails Plan, contact Mitch Poulsen with the Bear Lake Regional Commission at 435.946.2198.



A view of Bear Lake from a peak that can be accessed by a proposed trail system in the Rich County Trails Plan. This trail system consists of two loops: The first is a 1-mile loop just below the Bear Lake Overlook and visitors center (called the Bear Lake Overlook Trail). The second is a ~3-mile loop called the Sunrise Rim Trail which also begins at the visitors center, but ties into the existing and popular Limber Pine Trail, accessed from Highway 89. The views from both of these trails are spectacular!

Roger C. Jones
Executive Director, BRAG

Population Growth Leads Utah's List of Challenges and Opportunities

How often have you heard these reports lately?

- "Enrollment Growth Strains Education Budgets"
- "More Funding Needed for Roads"
- "Housing in Short Supply with Rapidly Rising Prices"
- "No High Density Housing in my Backyard"
- "Employers Scramble to Find Skilled Workers"
- "Utah Water Shortage Looms"

Headlines like these have been in the news a lot this year as Utah continues to lead the nation in population growth rate. Although birth rates in Utah are declining, they still lead the nation and are the main contributor to the State's population growth. Also, more people are moving in than moving out ("net in-migration") at a rate higher than most states, Utah ranked ninth. Utah also has the lowest death rate. In 2016 there were 35,000 more births than deaths.

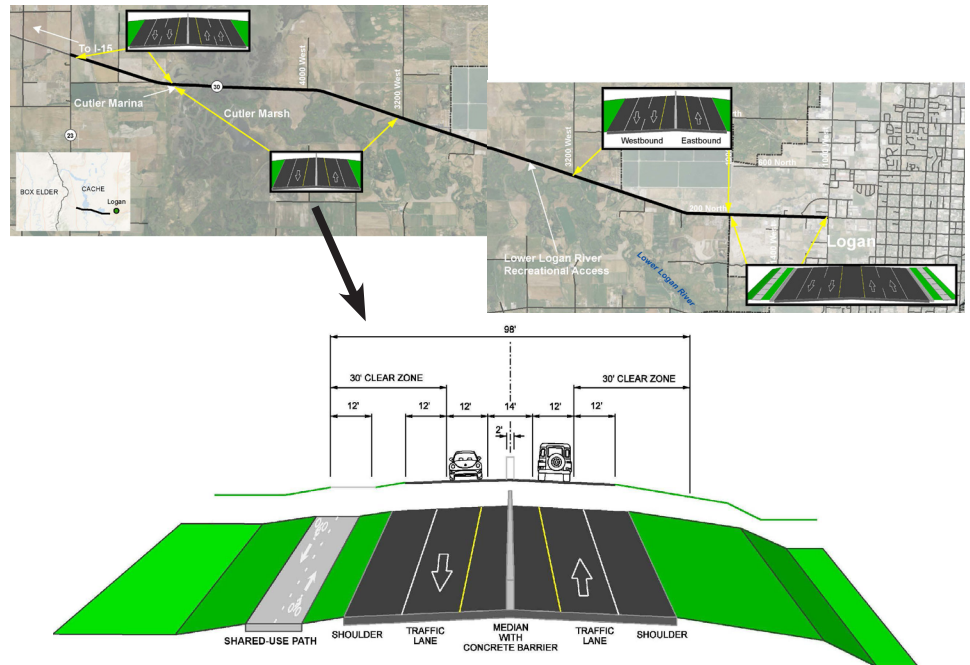
With all these challenges brought on by the rapid growth, are there any bright spots or opportunities? Most would agree that Utah's booming economy has brought investment from around the country and many new jobs. State and local government economic development efforts have made it possible for our younger residents to find jobs here resulting in a more dynamic economy and more tax payers to help meet the growth challenge.

Surprisingly, CNBC announced earlier this year that Utah is the number one state for high-paying jobs after adjusting for the lower cost of living.

Governor Gary Herbert's "Utah Life Elevated 2020" growth strategy focuses on four main areas: 1) effective and efficient government; 2) affordable thriving communities; 3) qualified workforce; and 4) equitable and competitive tax revenue. These are worthy goals to work on in any situation.

Maximizing the opportunities that come with all the population growth will take leadership and planning by state and local government officials along with public support.

State Route 30 Design Approved by UDOT



In October of this year, the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) completed an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for improving State Route 30 in Cache County. The selected alternative is the Highway Action Alternative (top graphic), which integrates a shared use pathway on the west side, and provides passing lanes east and west of the sections in Cutler Marsh. (Graphics courtesy of UDOT, 2018).

Changes are coming to Valley View Highway also known as State Route (S.R.) 30 in 2021. In early October, the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) approved plans to improve the current and long-term safety and traffic congestion along a section of S.R. 30 between S.R. 23 and 1000 West in Logan.

Based on two UDOT corridor studies from 2015 and 2016, that section of S.R. 30 was operating over capacity due to the growth in Cache Valley and increasing freight traffic. In addition, the section was causing above-average accident rates and a high frequency of roll-over accidents. This prompted UDOT to begin a two-year process of gathering data, collecting local input and developing alternatives for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS considered the environmental impacts of expanding the highway

through the sensitive wetlands of Cutler Marsh, adjacent farmlands and recreation accesses.

Based on the EIS, UDOT released the Record of Decision (ROD) which outlined its process and rationale behind selecting the "Highway Action Alternative and the Separate Pedestrian and Bike Alternative" design. The design, which has the least environmental impact, consists of a separated 12-foot-wide trail paralleling the south side of the highway and a combination of two through five lanes. The highway will also have a 14-foot-wide median with a median barrier and 12-foot-wide shoulders.

Visit www.sr30study.com or in person at the Logan Library or the Cache County Clerk's Office for more information about the study and final design.

Governing Board Member Highlight



Mayor Mike Leonhardt

was born in Logan, Utah and raised in Montpelier, Idaho. He moved to Garden City in 2000, and has a great love for Garden City (Bear Lake). Before being elected in 2018, Mike served as the volunteer

Fire Chief, the Chamber of Commerce President and on the City Council for 10 years. He loves seeing new businesses come to Garden City, seeing current businesses grow and expand, and describes Garden City as a growing community.

Mike is married to Tami Leonhardt and they have 7 kids and 14 ½ grandkids...meaning one is on the way! Mike graduated from Bear Lake High School. He then studied business education through online courses at Utah State University and is now the owner of Leonhardt Beverages (Pepsi Cola) in Montpelier, Idaho. Mike loves to ride his Harley Davidson with his wife all over the country. When he's not riding his Harley, he likes to hunt as well.

New Employees



Tania Nunez-Garcia works for BRAG's HEAT program. She is originally from Mexico, but grew up in North Carolina, so she enjoys various traditions from those areas. Tania has been married for 2 years and 6 months, and is studying Web Design and Development at USU. She enjoys cooking, doing outdoor activities like backpacking, camping, and rock climbing, and is learning how to ski. So far she can get off the lift without falling! Tania loves working at BRAG!



Scott McComb is from Madison, Wisconsin. Five years ago he high-tailed it from the dairyland to the mountains and deserts of Utah and hasn't looked back. He recently earned his master's degree in Bio-regional Planning at USU. He has been with BRAG for the past three years before coming on as a full-time Regional Planner. His skills include hiking up ridiculously steep mountains, truckin' around the canyons of southern Utah, and writing.



Lucas Martin works with the Human Services department at BRAG where he has worked for the past 3 years. He graduated from Utah State University and has lived in Logan for the past 16 years with his wife Carena and their 7 children. He loves to spend time with his children, read, tell stories, and play board and card games.

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HEAT Program 2018-2019

The HEAT (Home Energy Assistance Target) Program will begin November 1, 2018 and be open through April 30, 2019 or until federal funds are exhausted.

The HEAT Program is a federally funded assistance program designed to help low-income, elderly and disabled households with home energy costs. The benefit amount is based on household income, household size, type of fuel used and energy burden. HEAT benefits are a one-time payment and will help pay a portion of your fuel bills over the cold winter months.

Beginning November 1, 2018 call to schedule your HEAT appointment.

- Cache County Residents: (435) 713-1444
- Box Elder County Residents: 1-435-723-1116
- Rich County Residents: 1-877-772-7242

Please submit articles or ideas to
Karen Merkley at karenm@brag.utah.gov
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