

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Democracy is on the line

Should we as a nation be concerned for our democracy? Are millions of our citizens being conned by one of the greatest con artists of our time? Are we a nation where the same laws apply to everyone or not? Six judges of the highest court in our country have just granted immunity to our former president for criminal acts committed while serving as the leader in America's highest office. These judges are federal employees and are paid high wages with our tax dollars to protect our country's freedoms and democracy. Trump refused to accept the country's vote to remove him from office in 2020. He flooded social media with the big lie that he lost the presidency through voter fraud. He instigated a mob of thousands to storm the capitol, destroying property and causing bodily harm to those standing guard and the occupants. This unruly mob threatened to hang our vice president and came prepared to do so, sending the occupants fleeing to safety in fear for their very lives. The instigator of this violence, whether it be John Doe off the street or the president of the country, should be held accountable and prosecuted, not given immunity. After this criminal activity, he still controls our Supreme Court and Republican legislators. His 2016 rallies were filled with

the promises to drain the swamp in Washington. Instead, he filled his cabinet with unsavory associates anxious to bow down to his wishes. He doesn't believe in our government intelligence and openly praises the dictators for being smart. His rallies are filled with lies and hateful, derogatory name-calling for any opponent.

He has vowed to be a dictator for one day when he wins the 2024 election. Or if he should lose, there will be a blood bath. These are his own words, not fake news. He is unfit to hold the office of President for another term, and is an embarrassment to America.

Laraine White  
Sunset

### The dangers of Senate Bill 258

Senate Bill 258 passed this March by the Utah Legislature after it was snuck in at the last moment. It is a dangerous Bill for rural Utah counties — urban Utah counties are exempt. The Bill allows wealthy investors to buy rural County's undeveloped land, appoint their own Mayor and Council, and write all their own laws regarding land use, zoning, health, safety, building code inspection, police, fire service, roads and utilities. They can do all this without anyone living in their "town".

They legally have just about every power a normal city has. If their new city causes safety hazards, this law does not require them

to pay for infrastructure upgrades — that's for your County and its taxpayers to figure out. If their investment fails (by not getting 100 residents after 6 years) the "city" or whatever mess they've built on the land reverts to your County, which then must figure out what to do with it using more taxpayer money.

The day this bill went into effect, a group of resort developers submitted a prepared application to make their own "city" a half mile from Moab after local law denied their application for their privately owned and operated sewage treatment plant their massive resort needed. SB 258 was passed last minute to dissolve to push it through. If the project had been more moderate, they would have been able to build without their new law.

Now, the rest of rural Utah counties are stuck with this Bill. It was sold as an affordable housing bill for rural communities; however, the developers just have to "intend" to build some affordable housing — they don't actually have to follow through. Instead, the housing could be 100% luxury condos for vacationers. But the power the Bill grants is not limited to California-style resort developers — refineries, block-style housing... it all goes. As it stands now, if you complained to your County Commission, they would say, "There's nothing we can do — the state legislature took that power away." The only way forward is to write your state

representative to repeal SB258.

Carole Conriquez  
North Ogden

### Loyalty to Trump has a price to pay

In a room full of avid supporters, Donald Trump casually announced that his supporters need only vote for him once and never again. Trump dreams of autocracy and power. He has laid out his plans to cement power around himself clearly and shamelessly, doing little to conceal those aims. Trump's dangerous goals of attaining autocracy are within reach as long as Americans are

willing to casually dismiss the dangers a second Trump presidency would yield while believing Trump's empty promises and equally void claim to possessing family values.

Trump lays claim to religious and moral authority while openly denigrating women, mocking people with disabilities, and ridiculing those on the margins of society that are in most need of its protections. His respect for the rule of law is apparent in his repeated appearances in courtrooms and repeated convictions by a jury of his peers.

It is long past time for all Americans to take stock of the man aspiring to rid our nation of the need for future

elections and of a peaceful transfer of power that has long been the bedrock of our democracy. Our democracy has never before been so fragile. Never before has a presidential candidate so casually threatened to undo the traditions and processes that lay at its heart. Loyalty to the party line might just translate to a forfeiture of our democratic future this election year. In a state where loyalty to the Republican Party reigns supreme, voters should ask themselves what that loyalty will risk to their families, their community, and our country this election year.

Maren Williams Warnick  
Syracuse



## Standard-Examiner

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### NOTICE OF PROPOSED TAX INCREASE OGDEN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The OGDEN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT is proposing to increase its property tax revenue.

- The OGDEN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT tax on a \$421,000 residence would increase from \$1,247.36 to \$1,301.54, which is \$54.18 per year.

- The OGDEN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT tax on a \$421,000 business would increase from \$2,267.93 to \$2,366.44, which is \$98.51 per year.

- If the proposed budget is approved, OGDEN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT would increase its property tax budgeted revenue by 5.90% above last year's property tax budgeted revenue excluding eligible new growth.

All concerned citizens are invited to a public hearing on the tax increase.

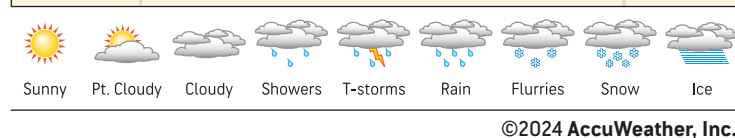
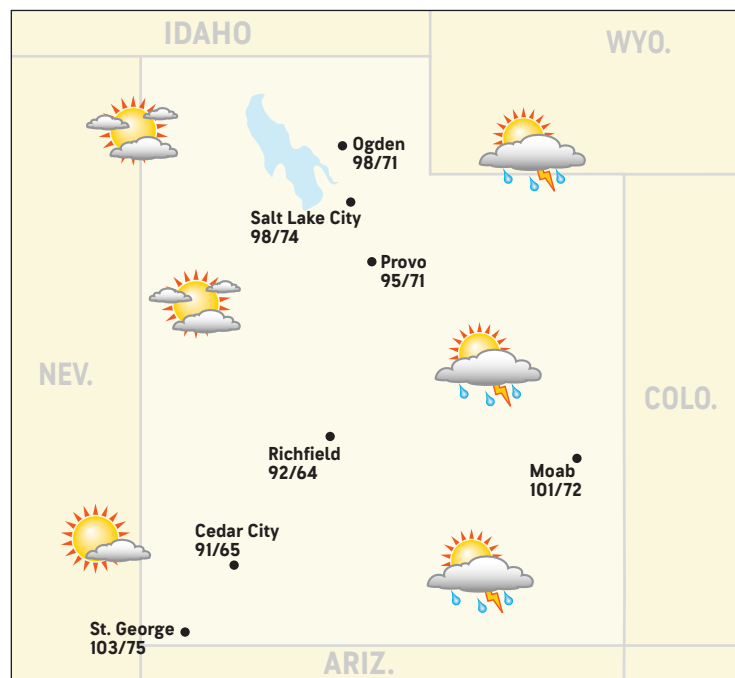
#### PUBLIC HEARING

Date/Time: 8/15/2024 6:00 P.M.

Location: Building 1 Board Room  
1950 Monroe Blvd  
Ogden

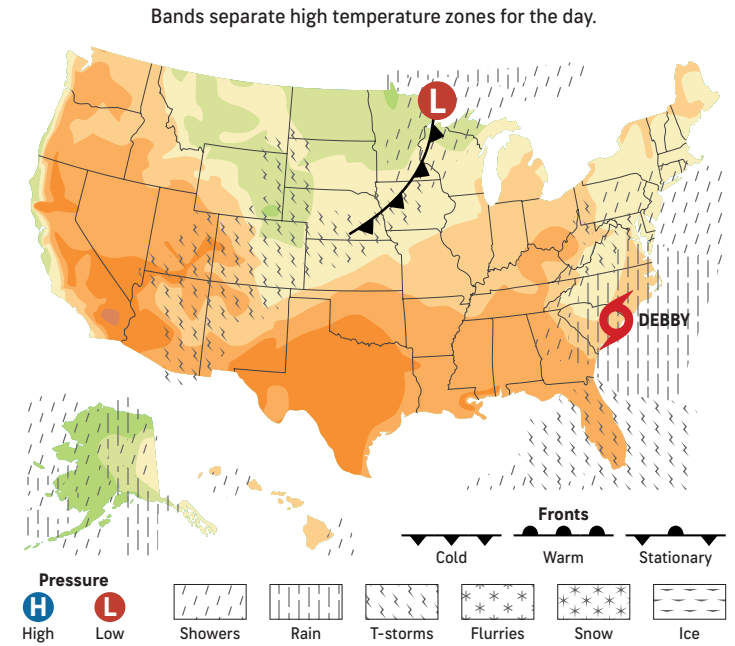
To obtain more information regarding the tax increase, citizens may contact OGDEN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT at 801-737-7299.

#### Forecast for Thursday, August 8, 2024



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**NATIONAL SUMMARY:** Debby will continue to produce flooding and isolated tornadoes in eastern North Carolina today. Flooding rainfall from Debby can expand westward to the southern Appalachians and northward into part of the mid-Atlantic. Thunderstorms can bring flash flooding and damaging wind gusts to northern Arizona and western New Mexico.

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#### 5-DAY FORECAST

