

THE UTAH UTARDIAN

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BLM TO IMPROVE WESTWATER TAKEOUT

Grand Junction BLM, in concert with Moab BLM recently announced improvements to the take out north of the Westwater Ranger Station. The new ramp will be approximately 10 miles long and almost reach the Colorado River. Rafters will use a Unit Crane to hoist their rafts from the river to the ramp. The crane will be fee operated, and a 40-hour training course will be required for operation.

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WEISHEIT GOES BERSERK IN MOAB

Colorado Plateau river guide founder John Weisheit apparently went off the deep end on Main Street in Moab recently. Dressed as a Humpback Chub, Weisheit, according to authorities, was running through traffic shouting "what shall I do with the money?"

It is believed he was referring to the defunct CPRG treasury of nearly one-million dollars. Close friends felt that the pressure of guarding the CPRG name and funds were a heavy burden on Weisheit and he "just cracked."

John, expected to make a full recovery and return to his normal self, is currently recovering in Bermuda drinking Mai Tais, sitting on the beach and communing with a Toucan.

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INTERIOR TO REQUIRE CONCESSIONAIRES TO USE CADILLACS

In a move to bolster the ailing American auto industry, provide safe customer transport and to take advantage of soaring Outfitter profits the Interior Department will require River Outfitters to transport all customers to and from the river in current model year Cadillac Seviles. An Interior spokesperson told *The Utardian* that "Sure we expect to hear complaints from commercial outfitters, but come on, those guys are living the life of Riley, spending winters in Mexico, driving new Porsches, and buying development properties. Besides, it's high time the paying public rides in comfort.

In a related story, the Interior department will continue to use forty-grit toilet paper in their public toilets. Managers are also considering requiring private river runners to own new model year vehicles.

While lightning strikes at the bottom of the canyon are rare, according to park officials, "backcountry users can help reduce risk by getting off the water as soon as thunder is heard and not stand in the river or other pools of water during a storm."

"Avoid seeking shelter near trees and bushes that rise above others and avoid cave entrances," they add. "If in an open area during a storm, it is recommended to assume the lightning position which will reduce the chances of getting a direct strike. Individuals should squat or ball up to be as low as possible, without lying flat on the ground. Wrap your arms around your legs, keep your feet together, and if possible use a sleeping pad or other insulated object to sit on; avoid sitting on backpacks with metal frames."

Park records show that serious injuries and fatalities have occurred in the past as a result of lightning strikes. Visitors to the park are reminded that if the sound of thunder follows a lightning flash within 30 seconds or less, they should seek shelter in a building or vehicle, or proceed to the nearest bus stop to get on a park shuttle.