

May 26, June 1, 2024

# Downtown district a boon to SLC backers say — but at \$221 per home?

Advocates worry sales tax hike will hit low-income residents hardest, but proponents say plan will revitalize the city.

By ROBERT GEHRKE | The Salt Lake Tribune

The average Salt Lake City household will pay about as much for the new downtown sports and entertainment district as they would pay for a monthly Netflix subscription or a large pizza — or, for some, the difference between keeping the lights on or not.

Assuming the Salt Lake City Council approves raising the sales tax in the city by 0.5 percentage points, the average tax burden will grow by \$220.87 per year, or \$18.41 a month, according to

calculations by The Salt Lake Tribune and reviewed by people familiar with tax policy and the budget process.

That may not sound like much, but low-income advocates contend that helping to pay for a hockey arena and entertainment district will only add to the strain on families already squeezed by high housing costs and inflation.

"For the people we serve, they cannot afford it," said Bill Tibbitts, deputy

Director of DISTRICT, A4



TRENT NELSON | The Salt Lake Tribune

Mayor Erin Mendenhall returns as Smith Entertainment Group's Mike Maughan tells the Salt Lake City Council about a plan to transform downtown with a sports and entertainment district.

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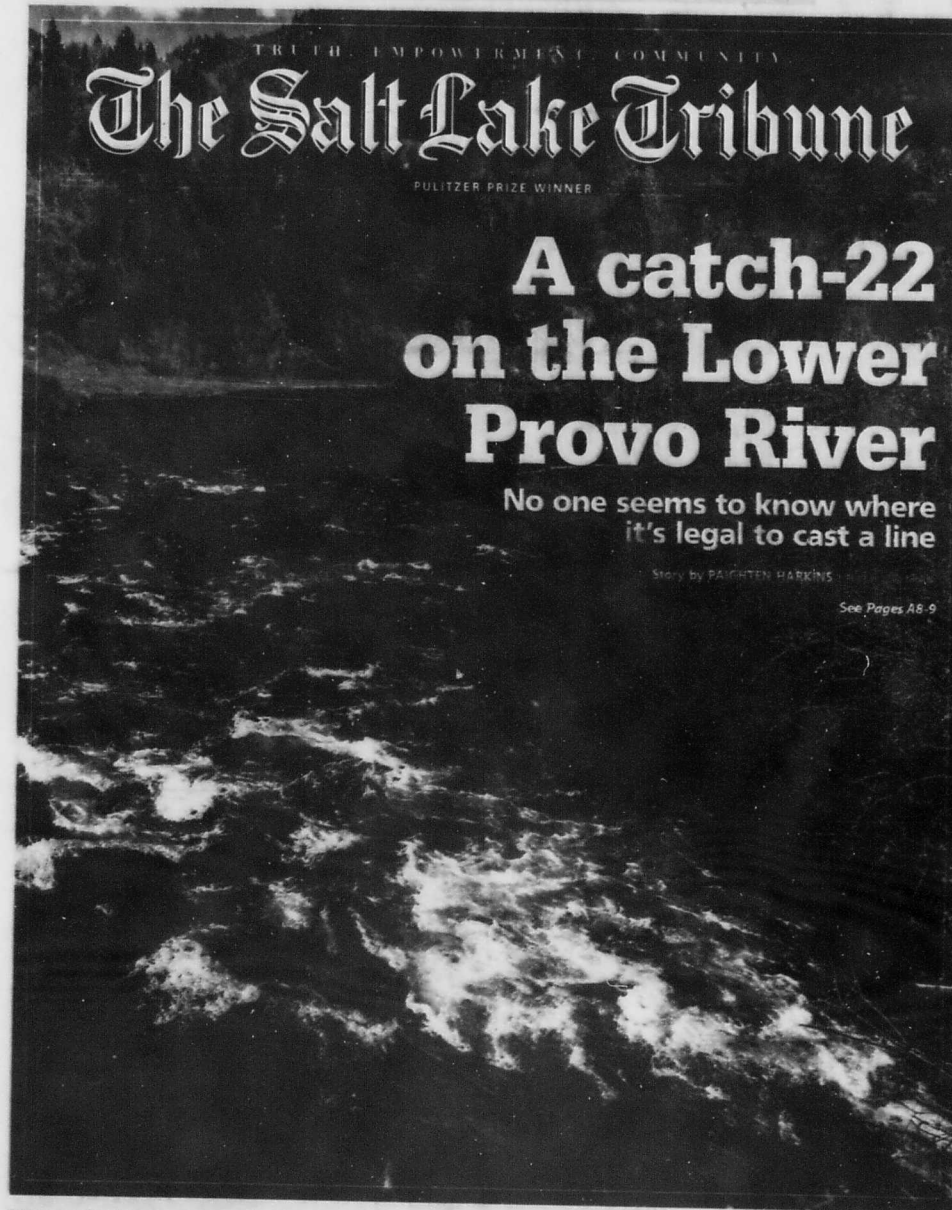
PULITZER PRIZE WINNER

# A catch-22 on the Lower Provo River

No one seems to know where it's legal to cast a line

Story by PAIGHTEN HARKINS

See Pages A8-9



TRENT NELSON | The Salt Lake Tribune

The Lower Provo River flows in Provo Canyon where access to the blue-ribbon fishery is in legal limbo stemming from confusion over state law, navigable water, private property and disputed easements.

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