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The winners and the losers

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Losers: Give Jaime Alvarado credit for being creative, but please catch him so he can't do it again. When the 27-year-old American citizen was arrested last year on charges related to drug dealing, he gave authorities a false name and told them he was an illegal alien, officials said. Rather than a long prison sentence, he got deported to Mexico. His mistake was to come back, using his U.S. passport, and get arrested in Utah again. This time he had to prove his citizenship to be released. As of Friday, police still were trying to re-arrest him.

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Oleg Voloshin,Afp/Getty Images

A photo released by Moscow's Institute for Medical and Biological Problems on November 4, 2011, shows the six members of the Mars500 crew after they emerged from the Mars500 isolation facility.

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Losers: While we're on the subject of head-scratching criminal behavior, police in Davis County are trying to sort through details of a one-man crime spree that ended in a low-speed chase on a stolen front-end loader as it flattened security fences and gates. The suspect eventually was caught. Police believe he also stole one car from a dealership and another from a private residence earlier the same day. Maybe there is something in the early November air.

Winner? Loser? The BLM says expanding a coal mine near Bryce Canyon National Park would harm the environment, but it also would help struggling local economies. That is the classic dilemma of the American West. The region needs jobs and the nation needs the natural energy resources buried in its ground, but the natural beauty is fragile and unique.

Winner: Six would-be astronauts emerged from a 520-day isolation experiment this week, seemingly healthy and not stir-crazy. The mission was done to see whether humans could survive a trip to Mars and back without suffering undo psychological strain. The next experiment ought to involve governments and private investors seeing if they could raise enough money to pay for a mission to Mars. However, this crew consisted of Chinese, Russian and Italian astronauts. The United States, despite its proud heritage of space exploration, has shown little official inclination to attempt a Mars trip.