

Communities come together for cleanups

By Nancy Spurlock
Uintah Basin Standard

If you're used to seeing the Duchesne Beautification Committee lining the streets in their green T-shirts doing clean up projects, you'll now be seeing double. Concerned citizens in Roosevelt have now formed The Clean Team.

Darlene Garrison with Duchesne County Area Chamber of Commerce is involved with both groups and believes there's a place for anyone in the county who'd like to help.

"I think one of the most important things that I feel, not just about this project, but any volunteer project is that any individual can volunteer," Garrison said. "Our group and the group in Duchesne have individuals who are unable to physically help us, but what they do is work on the computers, tracking hours and mileage, monetary and supply donations, and they maintain a record."

Record keeping is as important as manual labor in a volunteer organization. If the groups want to apply for grant money they already have their hours documented.

"Those hours are worth money," Garrison said. "By maintaining and tracking those hours, you can use those to show the support and pride in the community."

Not everyone who volunteers is interested in the same thing or has the same strengths. Having a variety of people allows more projects to get done in various areas.

One part of the Duchesne community that's benefited recently from the renewed interest in volunteerism is the Theodore Cemetery.

"In '89 there was a Scout project that put the monument up," Duchesne Beautification Committee member RoJean Rowley said. "Right after they put it up, it was shot up and vandalized. So, a year ago Carol (Thomas) said to me that she was feeling so bad 'cause her uncle was up here. She said we need to do something... so we took it on. We also got two Boy Scouts to do these projects."

"We're separating the irises," Rowley continued. "We're just cleaning up and maintaining and trying to get it back to where people will remember it. We just hope that with all this work, that people will respect it, and respect the people who are buried here. All this work and then to vandalize it. It just breaks your heart."

The groups in Duchesne and Roosevelt meet weekly to discuss or carry out projects. Their spring cleanup efforts are in full-swing.

The Clean Team will be meet today, Tuesday, at 8 a.m. at the empty lot by the Roosevelt post office for a cleanup. They encourage interested members to wear their team T-shirts. They are available for purchase at Black Eyed Susan's for \$5.

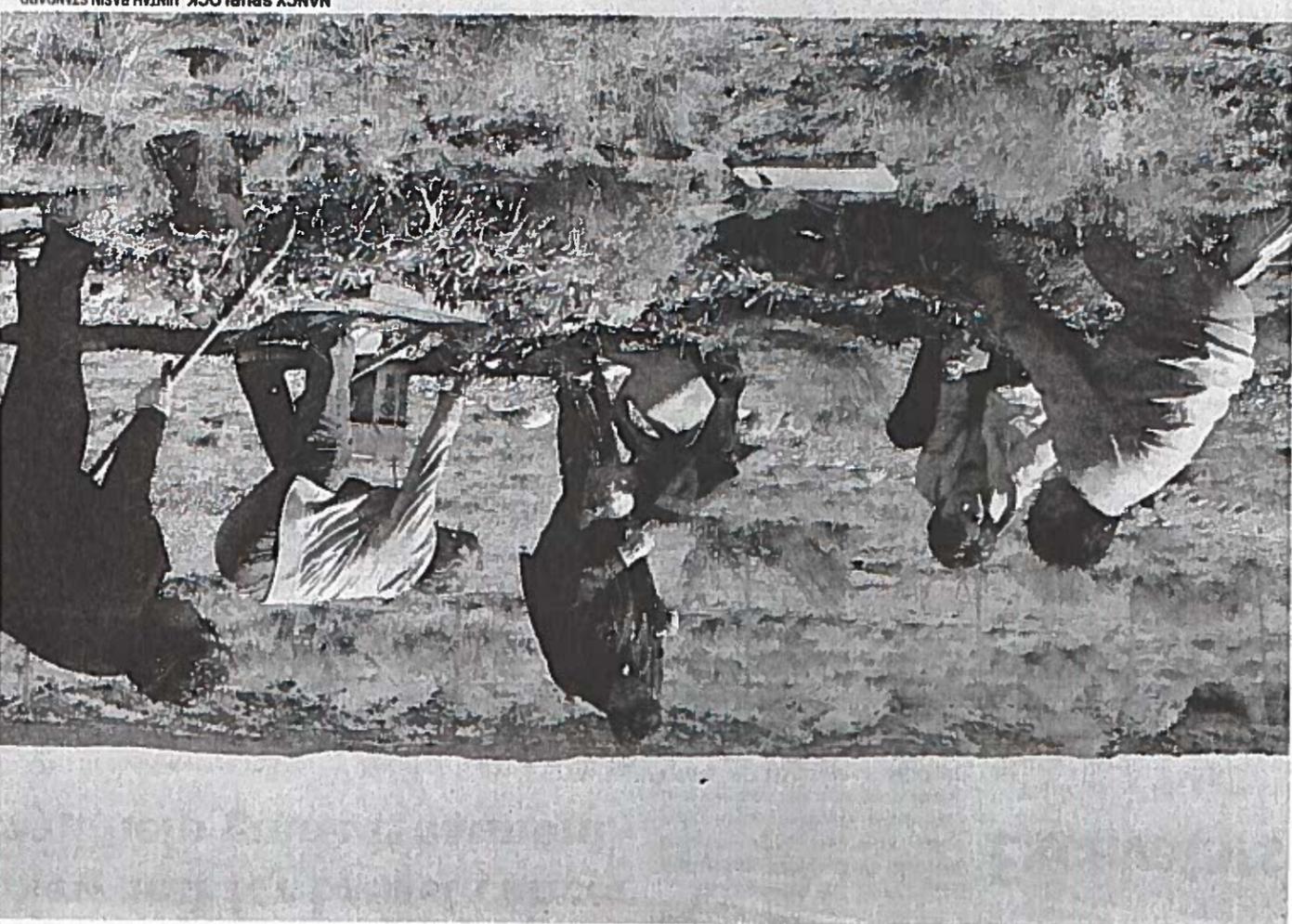
"One group will meet in the morning for the ladies that don't work, and there will be another group that will meet in the evening for those of us that do work," Garrison said.

Roosevelt's city-wide cleanup begins April 25 and go through May 2. City residents can take garbage to the K & K Sanitation transfer station in Ballard free of charge during that time, excluding April 26.

K & K's hours are weekdays 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Proof of Roosevelt City residency - such as a current utility bill and a photo ID - will be required for free dumping. Certain items will not be accepted, including tires, batteries, and hazardous waste and the offer does not extend to contractors, demolition, or industrial waste.

The city is encouraging



NANCY SPURLOCK, UINIAH BASIN STANDARD

Duchesne Beautification Committee members **Dea Skewes**, **Yogi Nielsen**, **J.B. Skewes**, **Rolean Rowley**, **Carol Thomas**, and **Darlene Garrison** clean up the Theodore Cemetery. The cemetery above Duchesne City - used from 1906-1914 - was in disrepair and had fallen prey to vandalism.

church and neighborhood Roosevelt to Vernal. Meeting bring it. Black Eyed Susan's owner Terry Rohrer is the contact for more information at 435-722-4215. "We welcome groups, the School parking lot. Garbage bags and orange vests will be supplied, anyone with their own vest should do it, and it just makes a huge difference." Anyone who would like to learn more about the Duchesne Beautification Committee or The Clean Team can contact Darlene Garrison at 435-722-4598.

groups to participate and to assist those with special needs. The third annual U.S. Highway 40 Cleanup is set for May 2, beginning at 8 a.m. Volunteers will remove debris from the Joka turn-off west of

County building closed due to natural gas leak

By Geoff Liesik

The Duchesne County Administration building was closed Friday because of a leak in its 2-inch natural gas service line.

Duchesne County Commission Chairman Kent Peatross said the leak was found Thursday night after the county's clerk-auditor, Diane Freston, reported smelling natural gas in her office. Peatross said a patch placed on the service line some time in the past had failed, leading to the leak.

County officials contacted Questar Gas, which sent employees to the building to investigate. Peatross said Questar employees estimated the line was losing 20 percent of the gas it was supposed to carry into the county building.

Questar declared the building unsafe for occupancy, prompting commissioners to order the shutdown on Friday.

Peatross said he'd only received one citizen complaint as a result of the emergency closure. It came from a man seeking to

pay vehicle impound fees at the county Assessor's Office, the commissioner said.

Crews arrived Friday afternoon and repaired the leaking line. The county office building re-opened on Monday.

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NO. 2418

County reports good news on tax values

By Nancy Spurlock
Uintah Basin Standard

A recent report by the Duchesne County Assessor's Office of the sum of taxable values has offered some surprising information.

"There's a little bit of a difference, which was very surprising to us because we were expecting everything to go down because of the recession," said Duchesne County Clerk/Auditor Diane Freston said.

"We even had a higher centrally-assessed value really, which blew us away," she said. "It's a great thing."

The assessor's report lists the different taxable entities in the county as compared to the

previous year. Subtotals show how much value there was in real, personal, and centrally-assessed properties. Freston said if all of the entities take their certified rates, then rates will go down. If an entity exceeds its certified rate, and the certified rate is made up of last year's dollars plus new growth, then new growth would be shown in the property figures.

"The county is doing good," Freston said. "We're on track with the budget, the way we usually are. The rates most likely will go down. There's other variables, but as I look at each of the entities, they're all higher, so that's good."

The levy for the Duchesne County School District isn't finished yet because the state has

to have all the values from all the counties to figure the state school rate, Freston said.

"They won't release any rates until they're all in," she said. "Some of the counties are having some problems with the assessing and collecting. ... They're not going to release ours until they're all able to be released. That's what they're waiting on."

When assessed values are up that usually means tax rates are down, and many times it means the dollar is the same.

Freston said the Neola Park Special Services District is the only entity that she's aware of that plans to raise its tax rate.

"I don't know to what extent right now," she said. "They were only getting around \$20,000 and they're going to up it. They're trying to do some aggressive things on their park. They've already put some playground equipment in and that's some expensive stuff. That and just their operating and maintenance expenses."

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County to farmers: Adjust sprinklers, avoid problems

By Nancy Spurlock
Utah Basin Standard

Duchesne County commissioners have received numerous complaints about errant irrigation sprinklers, and they're looking to do something about the problem.

When misdirected, the sprinklers used by farmers pound the pavement or hit vehicles passing by instead of irrigating crops, causing structural damage to county roads and creating safety hazards for motorists.

Deputy Duchesne County Attorney Jonathan Stearmer and the commissioners believe many farmers are unaware of the hazards the off-target sprays of water create. They are considering sending letters to farmers informing them of their responsibilities and giving them options for handling the matter properly.

"There's sprinklers everywhere on the county road," Commissioner Kent Peatross said. "I think we'd have to write a letter to each individual who is in violation."

Under the state traffic code it's not necessary to send a letter, but the commissioners feel such a step is the proper way to handle the situation for now. Stearmer referred to one traffic and two transportation codes that specifically cite how to deal with such negligence and hold the farmer accountable.

"In Transportation Code 303, and I'm paraphrasing

here, it basically says a person may not willfully or carelessly permit water under the person's control to escape in any manner that results in damage to the public highway," Stearmer said. "The person that violates this section is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

"These codes are enforceable," Stearmer continued. "This is state code. If one of our deputies is driving down the road and sees this, they can just pull over, stop at the landowner's and cite them."

However, in fairness the commissioners want to work with farmers instead of against them.

Adding shields to or adjusting sprinkler heads are simple solutions to avoid damaging road surfaces or creating driving hazards, and avoid a citation.

"That would control the water so it does not escape in a manner that results in damage," Stearmer said. "That's how I'm viewing it. The water is escaping where it's supposed to be going."

County commissioners said they chose to address the issue in a newspaper article as a courtesy measure, and will follow up with warning letters. If they receive more complaints after notification has been made, they will direct the sheriff's office to begin issuing citations.

"The county is trying to juggle all aspects and still protect the public," Commissioner Ron Winterton said.

Utah senators oppose Sotomayor nomination

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch says he will vote against Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor.

The Republican sits on the Senate Judiciary Committee

and record are at odds with the principles about the judiciary in which he believes.

Despite opposition from Hatch, GOP leaders and other conservatives, Sotomayor's confirmation is all but as-

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Declining property values not part of 2009 tax bill

By Nancy Spurlock
 Uintah Basin Standard

Duchesne Property Assessments

TYPE	2008	2009
Residential	\$518.2 m	\$579.7 m
Commercial	\$78.6 m	\$99.8 m

After paying their 2009 property tax bill, Duchesne County property owners may have been shaking their heads over the amount their homes, businesses and land were valued at this year.

Assessor Greg Garff said that is understandable because the assessed property values for 2009 do not reflect the rapid economic downturn that has gripped the nation for almost a year now.

2009's property tax payments were due Monday, Nov. 30. Property owners received their tax disclosure notices in July, but the value of the property was determined months before, in late 2008 and in January 2009, Garff said.

In accordance with state law, Garff's office uses figures from the sale of property prior to Jan. 1 to help determine the assessed values for the upcoming year. Although foreclosures and declining property values are not as dramatic locally as they have been in other areas of the state, there is a marked difference from the county's property values of late 2008—the time it was being valued for tax purposes — compared to July 2009, which is when tax disclosure notices were

mailed. "We're looking at the sales that we can find on the MIRS (Multiple Listing Service) or other sources for the first quarter of the year trying to see a trend and making some preemptive adjustments to match that," Garff said. "If it shows that we're going down, we're going to stay as close to the statutory level as we can, but on the low side."

SEE VALUES on page 5

Public hearings

Officials to take comments on industrial matters

A-4

Donations needed

Shop with a Cop event off to a slow start

A-8

Be charitable before wealth makes thee covetous.

—Sir Thomas Browne

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UBS Dec 1, 2009

VALUES

Continued from page 1

"Statutorily we're required to keep our values between 90 and 110 percent (of fair market value) with 100 percent being optimum. This year I'm looking at 90 to 91 percent as the number I'm trying to keep it at."

Garff is currently working on the 2010 property tax roll. He said he does anticipate that taxable values will likely be lower next year because of the continued decline in the real estate market.

"We're starting to see more foreclosures which is going to drive the values down. We'll be trying to make those adjustments for next year, all indications are that those values will be going down," Garff said.

However, Garff noted that lower property values don't always mean that property taxes will decline. "Each taxing entity is allowed to collect the same dollars as the previous year, so the tax rate goes up," he said.

Another factor in the formula that determines property tax rates is centrally assessed property such as utilities and large companies — which pay a large share of the county's property tax bill, but mainly when business is good.

"If centrally assessed property rates go down faster than locally assessed values it shifts the tax burden to individual property owners," Garff said.

When it comes to disputing property tax assessments, the time is past, at least for this year's assessment. In fact, complaints about 2009 property tax assessments should have appealed months ago. Board of Adjustment hearings were held the week of Sept. 3. The dates and times scheduled for the hearings are advertised on tax disclosure notices that are mailed in July. By the time the final property tax bill is mailed in October, it is usually too late to appeal.

"At this point, unless there's an error on the county's part or some circumstance why they couldn't come in, we're not making any adjustments," Garff said. "We can talk any time about values if we need to for next year, though."

For more information on property tax assessments, call Duchesne County Assessor Greg Garff or his staff at (435)

Dodd named top volunteer

By Nancy Spurlock
Uintah Basin Standard

Chuck Dodd has been named the Duchesne Beautification Committee's Volunteer of the Year.

Committee member Cheryl Ponath said Dodd—even though he's not a committee member—was the obvious choice.

"I just saw him out and about, everywhere," Ponath said. "I thought he lived in a half dozen different houses, because he was doing the work at them all. There were several people who noticed the same thing and when we were talking about the award, we said we have to recognize Chuck Dodd."

Dodd moved to Duchesne in 1973 and worked in the oil field. He also owned the Wells Club Steak House, but had to retire after 18 years when he was told he had cancer.

"I'm a cancer survivor now," Dodd said. "I had an operation in American Fork and I had a reaction to the medication ... I was legally dead 15 minutes. They gave me CPR and shocked me and brought me back. Ever since then I have energy that you would not believe and I cannot sit still."

He may have excess energy,



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Chuck Dodd has been recognized by the Duchesne Beautification Committee as its Volunteer of the Year.

but this 72-year-old's first priority is caring for his wife, Mary.

"My wife is an invalid and I take care of her," Dodd said. "I have to have something to do when I'm not though, so I'll run over and mow a neighbor's yard. If I see an old lady and her grass is getting tall, I don't say anything I just go cut it. Then I come home again to check my wife."

The spring's fierce winds have kept Dodd from fishing—his favorite hobby—but it's also kept him busy in his clean-up efforts.

"If something is busted in the middle of the street ... I get a flat shovel, a broom, and sweep it out," Dodd said.

His efforts seem to be paying off because people have noticed that if Dodd cleans an area, the people in that area start taking care of their yards.

"He sees a need and he does it, he just fulfills that need," Ponath said. "We knew he'd inspire other people to get involved."

Clean-up work is what Dodd attributes to keeping him in good health.

"That's my way of exercising," he said. "I've got exercise machines in the back bedroom, but I very seldom get on that, because I'm not accomplishing anything as far as making the town look nice."

"I feel like an artist doing a painting," he added. "When he looks at it and when he gets done with it, then he just goes back by it a few times and then it starts coming into light, it shows something. Since I made this my home, I like to see it look nice."

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Vernal Express
May 12, 2009



Duchesne County Clerk/Auditor Diane Freston administered the oath of office last Monday to Ron Winterton of Roosevelt. Winterton replaces Rod Harrison as Duchesne County commissioner. Following the swearing-in, Commissioner Kent Peatross was elected as commission chairman for 2009. The commissioners also divvied up their assignments for the coming year.

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Emergency services SSD funding now in question

By Nancy Spurlock

Duchesne County commissioners met last Monday with board members from Special Service District No. 3, representatives from local fire departments, and the county's emergency management director to discuss unexpected budget concerns.

SSD No. 3 - tasked with providing unified fire and emergency medical services - was formed to allow the county to use mineral lease funds to improve training for Duchesne County's firefighters and encourage firefighter retention. All the firefighters in the county are volunteers and are vital to the community, especially when incidents like the Neola North Fire or hazardous materials spills occur.

"I felt like the only way we can help any of our communities get any benefit out of the energy industry... is to funnel lease money's back into emergency programs," said Duchesne County Commissioner Kent Peatross.

The district was formed in the fall of 2007, but didn't receive funding until the middle of 2008. Roger Marett, chairman of the SSD's board, put together a projected budget for 2009 and realized the entity would come up short of

the money it needs to operate.

"We'll have more expenses than we have income," Marett said, expressing concern for the district's future. "Currently with money's coming in, the bills that have to be paid are being paid."

The county has the ability now to allocate \$1 million to the district out of mineral lease funds, but in the current economic climate, commissioners just don't know how long that money will be available.

"If that money is there for the next 10 years or if it's there for this year, is the fear," Peatross said.

The commissioners have reason for concern. Not only did the mineral lease money drop over \$700,000 from the first fiscal quarter to the second, but with every fire comes increased cost. Every resource it takes to fight a fire is at risk of being damaged and having to be replaced. Also, the cost of fire retardant foam has increased.

"If they fight a wildland fire today that goes on the same length of time as one from a year or two years ago, it's going to cost more money because of inflation," Duchesne County Com-

SEE SSD on page 4

SSD

Continued from page 1

Commissioner Kirk Wood said. "That's one of the concerns of the people in the district, 'Are we going to be able to keep adding more money into the district every year to make those costs?'"

After a lengthy discussion, the group concluded there are only three options: eliminate the district; allocate more mineral lease money to the district; or go through the process of recreating the district as a taxing entity. The third option is the least popular.

"That's the last thing I'd want to do," Peatross said.

Marett agreed.

"Every time we create a special service district, we create another level of government," he said, confirming his opposition to creating a district with the power to levy taxes.

"The commissioners have a decision to make so that's where we are at," Marett said. "We are going to keep moving along... and take care of what has to be taken care of."

Peatross said his hope was that last Monday's discussion would give the parties involved a better understanding of the alternatives facing the county and the SSD.

"We're hoping to have it resolved by July," he said.

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Uintah Basin Standard
Mar 17, 2009

**Reaching
for the
crown**

*Duchesne
to play for
state football
championship*
B-12



Uintah Basin

Standard

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November 10, 2009

Vol. 100 No. 45

THE

Lack of public input, higher taxes doomed bond issue

By Andre Salvail
Uintah Basin Standard

It's back to the drawing board for the Duchesne County School District following the voters' defeat of a \$49 million bond-issue proposal to build three new schools.

School Board members interviewed for this story say a countywide anti-tax mood — coupled with a perception that the district rushed the plan through without allowing the public to help formulate it — effectively doomed the proposal.

Indeed, voters spoke loudly against the district's Nov. 3 ballot item, with 58 percent opposed compared with 42 percent in support, complete but unofficial results show.

The margin was 524 votes, with 1,699 against it and 1,175 supporting it. As many expected, voters in Altamont voted heavily in favor of the proposition while voters elsewhere in the county overwhelmingly rejected it.

School Board member Kim Harding said he thought the vote would be closer. He said the property-tax component of the plan likely was the overriding cause of the defeat. Had the

DUCHESNE COUNTY BOND RESULTS

AREA	FOR	AGAINST
Duchesne City	69	408
Altamont	508	109
Myton	70	186
Tabiona	26	72
Fruitland	3	60
Neola	54	96
Absentee	37	50
Roosevelt 1,3,4	114	175
Roosevelt 2,5,6	188	278
Roos: County	106	265
Total	1,175	1,699

plan passed, a countywide property-tax increase would have paid the debt service on the bonds over a 20-year period starting in 2014.

"I felt like the tax was probably the deciding factor," Harding said. "But I also I know that each community had different issues. I think the School Board needs to get into a discussion

SEE ELECTION on page 3

ELECTIONS

Continued from page 1.

now with each community and find out what voters are really wanting."

In two other Utah school districts last Tuesday, voters passed bond referendums to build new schools. However, those plans did not call for a tax increase, while Duchesne's did, estimated at \$65 annually per \$113,000 of assessed value.

Roosevelt-area voters came out strong against the measure, with 408 for and 717 opposed. The outcome was similar in Myton, Tabiona, Fruitland and Neola. In fact, Altamont was the only precinct where a majority of voters supported the district's proposal, and by a big margin - 508 for, 109 against.

Countywide, turnout was around 29 percent unofficially, according to the Duchesne County clerk's office. Turnout was high in Altamont, about 47 percent, and lower in Duchesne and Roosevelt, at 29 percent and 24 percent respectively.

Had the item passed, Altamont stood to gain a new \$18 million high school. In

Roosevelt, a new \$40 million campus for Union High School and an \$11 million elementary school to alleviate overcrowding at East Elementary would have been built. The \$49 million bond issue would have been combined with another \$20 million to allow the school district to forge ahead with a \$69 million building plan.

How the school district plans to counter the defeat has not been determined. A School Board meeting will be held at Tabiona High School on Thursday, Nov. 12.

"I'm suggesting that we put everything on hold," Harding said. "We're really a divided county. We've still got to do something to meet our needs, and there's no money to meet them. I'm excited to move ahead, get a new plan and make some new decisions."

School Board member Gordon Moon said he learned a few things from the election. "Voters want a voice early in the discussion of where and when we build new schools," he said. "They want us to be conservative with our money."

He said it's likely that even with extra input from the community earlier this year, the school district would have

come up with the same plan that was offered last Tuesday. "I feel that we would have come to the same conclusions," Moon said.

The district's immediate needs have not changed, he said. Union and Altamont high schools are still pushing 60 years old, and a new elementary school is sorely needed in Roosevelt to alleviate overcrowding at East Elementary.

Still, Moon said, "We need to look thoroughly at all of the alternatives that were brought forward in this process."

Conley Moon of Duchesne, a teacher and one of few people in the county to openly voice opposition to the school district's request, said to him, the whole process was rushed.

"The positive thing to come from this is that the school district will reevaluate and find out from the public what their needs are," he said.

OTHER DUCHEсне COUNTY RACES

Roosevelt Mayor: *Vaun Ryan (unopposed) 653

Roosevelt Council: *David Labrum 548, *Lane Yack 384, Philip Armstrong 316, Rachel Morgan 210

Duchesne Mayor: *RoJean Rowley 255, Clint Park 216

Duchesne Council: *Rodney Rowley 303, *Carol Thomas 222, Terry Stephenson 191, Paul Tanner 186

Myton Mayor: *Kathleen Cooper 88, Adrian David Vanos 24

Myton Council: *Larry Dye 76, *Wayne Gingell 73, Wendy Chase 46, James Harmston 22

Altamont Mayor: *Clyde Watkins 54, Kim Thacker 15

Altamont Council: *Todd Anfinson 57, *Robert Gordon 27, Lee Hill 14

Tabiona Mayor: *Ronnie Giles (unopposed)

Tabiona Council: *Scott Stewart 36, *Rick Wilberg 32 (both unopposed) (*) elected

New liner installed at county landfill

By Nancy Spurlock
Uintah Basin Standard

The Duchesne Wasatch Blue Bench Landfill newest cell is in the process of being lined in order to meet the state emission requirements.

The three-part liner is a low-permeable barrier, which is laid down under engineered landfill sites. It retards the migration of leachate – the liquid that drains or “leaches” from a landfill – and its toxic constituents, into underlying aquifers or nearby rivers.

“We are required by the state to line the garbage so nothing ever gets below the surface, and doesn’t get into any water sources,” said landfill supervisor Hal Giles.

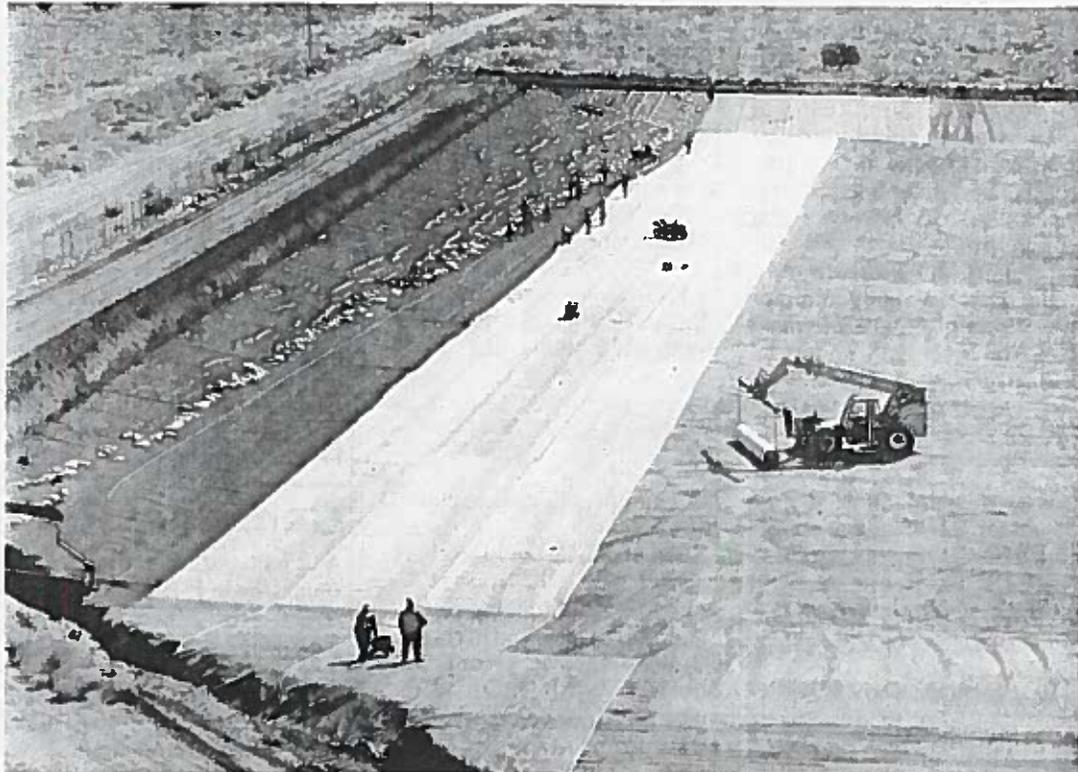
Modern landfills generally require a layer of compacted dirt with a minimum required thickness and a maximum allowable hydraulic conductivity, overlaid by a high-density polyethylene geo-membrane. The new liner will cover over 558,000 square feet, according to Val Thurgood, superintendent for Hughes General Contractors.

“It should be lined, weather permitting, two weeks at the outside,” Thurgood said. “All of the garbage that comes in here will be contained in this cell, including the liquid that’s a byproduct of it.”

The dirt excavated for the liner hole will be spread on a daily basis across incoming garbage in the previous cell.

“The rule is it has to be covered every night ... 6 inches of dirt over the top of the new garbage a day,” landfill director Glen Murphy said. “When the wind really blows, they just dump dirt on the garbage all day to try to keep it contained.”

The landfill receives four to six semi-truck loads a day from Wasatch County alone



NANCY SPURLOCK, UINTAH BASIN STANDARD

Crews have begun lining the newest cell of the Duchesne Wasatch Blue Bench Landfill. The liner meets new state emissions requirements.

and almost that much from Duchesne County. It fills up quickly at that rate.

“The liner they are dumping on right now was put in at approximately ‘05,” Duchesne County Commissioner Kent Peatross said. “It was supposed to last for about 10 years, but now here we are, about five years later and it’s filling up so fast. That’s the reason we’re doing the new one.”

The cells eventually take on a pyramid shape as they fill with earth-covered garbage.

“Now the interesting thing about all of this is as you get more of those cells stacked around on the side of each other, they are going to last longer,” Peatross said. “As they grow this side will come up, but we’ll stack it on the side of this one. So we stack them against

each other, that’s the reason they’re designed like they are right next to it, so you can stack them up.”

The garbage growth rate is monitored closely and Giles makes a daily report, gridding where the trash is dumped and tracking the tonnage.

“Hopefully about the time we need to put in a new liner, they’ve dug a big enough hole,” Murphy said. “The construction company comes in, and

their job is to smooth it out, lay the liner, put in the drain lines that are required, and to cover it so that we don’t damage it driving the dozer or something across it. Then we start over. So that is the whole cycle.”

“Protecting the environment is what we’re doing,” Thurgood said. “That’s the whole purpose behind lining these, is to keep the so-called contaminants out of the groundwater and from getting into the grade.”

Family Literacy Center, Learn to Speak English Class, 7:15 until 8:15 p.m., Roosevelt Junior High School
Centro Familiares Para Aprender Ingles, Roosevelt Junior High School, 350

oeste 200 Sur, los lunes, los miercoles, y los viernes 7:15-8:15 de la tarde

Incident Command Systems course, UBTA-UBET Communications building in Roosevelt

Duchesne County Preschool - Child Find developmental testing for preschool children ages 3-5, Altamont Clinic

Altamont Choir Fundraiser "Altamont Idol," 6 p.m. both nights, AHS

Saturday, April 25

Classes on Paleontology, Archeology, Native American Culture and more will be at U.S.U. for anyone 10 yrs of age and older

AA meeting, 7 p.m. at the Alano Club, 144 E. 300 S., Roosevelt

NA meeting, 8:30 p.m. at the Alano Club, 144 E. 300 S., Roosevelt

Roosevelt Baptist Church, southern catfish fry fundraiser, 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., 402 Hillcrest Drive

Duchesne City Spring Clean Up, 9 a.m.

American Legion Yard Sale, Myton Post 5, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. in the Stewarts Parking Lot, northeast corner

Uintah Basin Back Country Horsemen "Wells Draw Lost Ride," 10 a.m., Hwy 40 to the Pleasant Valley Road and follow the UBBCH signs all the way to the old stage stop

Theodore Cemetery Dedication, Duchesne, 2 p.m.

USU Graduation and Community BBQ, Roosevelt Junior High School, 2:30 p.m., BBQ 4:30 p.m., Constitution Park

Begin Roosevelt City/Community Clean-up (Through May 2)

Sunday, April 26

Roosevelt and Vernal LDS Institute fireside, 6 p.m. at the Glines Chapel on East Hwy 40 in Vernal

Monday, April 27

Al Anon Meeting, Alano Club, 144 E. 300 S., Roosevelt, 7 p.m.

Bingo, Crossroads Senior Center, 12:30-3 p.m.

Family Literacy Center, Learn to Speak English Class, 7:15 until 8:15 p.m., Roosevelt Junior High School

Centro Familiares Para Aprender Ingles, Roosevelt Junior High School, 350 oeste 200 Sur, los lunes, los miercoles, y los viernes 7:15-8:15 de la tarde

Basic Spanish language skills 7 weeks course begins, Uintah Basin Applied Technology College in Vernal, 6-9 p.m.

Noxious weeds targeted

By Nancy Spurlock
Uintah Basin Standard

The Duchesne County Weed Control Board has established an ordinance intended to control noxious weeds and provide a means of enforcement and cost collection.

Noxious weeds are plant species designated by agricultural authorities as injurious to agricultural and/or horticultural crops, and/or to humans and livestock. Most have been introduced into a foreign ecosystem either by accident or mismanagement, but some are also native species.

Typically, noxious weeds multiply quickly and have an adverse affect on desirable plants. They can also injure livestock or humans, either by contact or when ingested.

"We used to just have one flat category of 18 species, but now they've broken 'em down like a lot of the other states have done," said county Weed Control Supervisor Ron Johnson.

Uncontrolled growth of noxious weeds can cause economic damage. That is why Utah law established a statewide noxious weed control program. The state relies on the counties to be the primary party responsible for implementing noxious weed control.

"There's just some species in the state that we don't have yet that are really severe," Duchesne County Commissioner Kent Peatross said. "If that should show up and you have homeowners that don't care or don't recognize the seriousness of the situation, the county has the ability to go in and demand that they spray it or we spray it and send them a bill.

Some of these are so serious that we've actually found situations where the environmentalist and agriculture get on the same page," Peatross added.

Prevention, preservation and protection of lands that are not presently infested is the first line of defense against

The following plants are identified as noxious weeds by Duchesne County:

Bermuda Grass
Field Bindweed (Morning Glory)
Perennial Pepperweed (Tall Whitetop)
Canada Thistle
Dyer's Woad
Johnson Grass
Leafy Spurge
Musk Thistle
Scotch Thistle
Yellow Star Thistle
Quack Grass

aggressive noxious weeds. Prevention requires awareness and action by land managers as well as the general public, to recognize, report, and control new infestations before they have a chance to expand.

"There's a few of them on there that are poisonous to people, and quite a few of them are poisonous to livestock," Johnson said. "We've tried in the past to make it public to people."

The Weed Control Board holds a meeting every spring to determine whether it's going to target individual species or an area for mandatory spraying.

"Those that can't afford to have us do it can come in and rent (the equipment)," Johnson said. "I do have a four-wheeler spray unit that they can put on their own machine, two of them actually."

If you'd like more information about noxious weed species in Duchesne County or renting spray equipment contact Ron Johnson at 435-822-2703.

Four hurt in rollover

Uintah County sheriff's investigators are still looking into a Sunday afternoon crash that injured four people.

Cpl. Brian Fletcher said the crash happened about 3 p.m. on the Deep Creek Road in Dryfork Canyon.

were factors in the crash. He said more information will be released once the investigation is complete.

- Geoff Liesik

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NANCY SPURLOCK, UINTAH BASIN STANDARD,

Scout Troop 258 leader Mike Rowley helps Scouts Brian Madsen and Tom Rowley gain service hours as they hang a plaque on a light pole in Duchesne. The Duchesne Beautification Committee held an "Adopt a Light Pole Painting" contest and raised over \$7,500 to paint the light poles by selling sponsorship for the 34 poles. Most were purchased in memory of a loved one but some were purchased as advertisements for businesses or just sponsored by individuals. Committee member Cheryl Ponath anticipates that the plaques will be up "for approximately 10 years or until the light poles need painting again."

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Uintah Basin Standard
June 9, 2009

SSD No. 3 will remain

Special Service District No. 3 is a non-taxing district in Duchesne County that channels federally distributed mineral lease money into county firefighting and emergency response services. It was recently under consideration of being dissolved due to funding issues. However, since the funds are still available, the district is not currently in jeopardy.

"We decided that we are going to keep the district in place," Duchesne County Commissioner Ron Winterton said. "Right now, we do have funds in there, so we're going to let them continue administering those funds. They're going to

continue with the obligations that we have financially with the incentive programs for the firefighters."

The incentive money is what is paid to the fire departments for training. The district is considering making cuts in areas such as travel expenses for meetings in an effort to lower their expenses.

The district is governed by Rod Harrison and two other members, Altamont Mayor Clyde Watkins and Uintah Basin Medical Center Assistant Administrator Roger Marett.

— Nancy Spurlock, *Uintah Basin Standard*

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State incentive program aided 2 Basin firms

Two Duchesne County companies were among the 23 Utah small businesses to benefit from the Rural Fast Track Program during its first year, according to the Governor's Office for Economic Development.

Brad Knight Construction, a commercial building construction company was awarded a \$50,000 post-performance grant to expand into the foam insulation industry. The company added six employees in 2008.

McMullin Heating and Cooling was also awarded a \$50,000 post-performance grant to expand its facility and hire additional employees in order to keep up with the demand for services and reduce the need for hiring out of state contractors. It added three employees in 2008.

In all, the performance-based grants created 94 new full-time jobs and millions of dollars of economic development in some of the smallest of Utah communities, according to the GOED.

The Rural Fast Track Program (RFT), which was passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr., offers help to rural Utah companies that are at least 2 years old and in a growth mode.

"Utah's small businesses are the backbone of our economy," Huntsman said in a press release. "When a company adds one or two or even a dozen new employees to their payroll in a small rural community, that growth can have a major impact for good. These jobs and the continued economic prosperity of

our Utah companies have never been more vital to the state than at this time."

RFT provides an efficient way for existing, small companies to receive incentives for creating high paying jobs in the rural areas of the state to further promote economic development. Under this program, 20 percent of the Industrial Assistance Fund may be used to get companies to expand in rural Utah. Although Rural Fast Track funds are limited, the structure of the program ensures incentives will be available each year to a number of firms.

The program is designed specifically for businesses in communities with a county population less than 30,000 people, and with an average county household

income of less than \$60,000.

"The Governor's Office of Economic Development is pleased that it has been able to assist so many companies in the past year and we look forward to helping more firms in the coming year," said GOED executive director Jason Perry. "Combined with hard work and these resources, the Utah business community can keep our state economy strong even in the face of trying times."



Two industrial projects given go-ahead by county officials

By Lacey McMurry
Uintah Basin Standard

Duchesne County Commissioners voted earlier this month to deny the appeal of a neighboring landowner who objected to a permit being granted to a local concrete company for construction of a Tabiona gravel pit.

Richard Kennedy, the landowner, owns land adjacent to the property of Levaughn and Karla Gines, owners of Crossroads Concrete and the property where the gravel pit will be built.

Kennedy had appealed the

conditional-use permit because of concerns about dust, noise and truck traffic associated with gravel pits. A letter written to county commissioners by Kennedy's attorney also expressed concern that the gravel pit would lower the value of Kennedy's property.

Duchesne County commissioners unanimously adopted findings to sustain the Planning Commission's decision to issue the permit, providing that Crossroads Concrete owners meet a list of conditions.

Those conditions included provisions for dust and noise control, as well as a require-

ment for reclamation after all gravel from the pit is extracted.

Kennedy still has until the first week of January to appeal the commissioners' decision in district court.

The Duchesne County Planning and Zoning committee also made a decision earlier this month about a proposed shale pit operation in Pleasant Valley.

On December 2, the committee voted to grant a conditional-use permit to Dusty Larson.

The pit will primarily be used to produce materials for oilfield road construction.

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