

DAGGETT COUNTY NEWS

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4 JULY 1ST, 2003

SELF HELP HOUSING

Self-Help housing is coming to Daggett County. The Uintah Basin Association of Governments (UBAG) with help from a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) has purchased 7 lots in the Harpers Landing subdivision.

Several families are already qualified and anxious to get started, but we need a few more families to get the project off the ground. We hope to have 6 or 7 families qualified and ready to begin construction in September or October.

Each family or individual in the program will be required to complete 35 hours a week to build their new home. Time donated by family,

friends, or community members counts! A construction foreman is hired to help, so you don't have to be a professional carpenter in order to help with the construction of your new home.

We have scheduled an informational meeting for Wednesday, July 16th at 6:30 pm in the Commission Chambers at the County Courthouse. If

you have any interest or questions concerning this program, they will be answered during this meeting. If you can't make the meeting or would like to receive information before that time, please contact Lisa Nielsen at (435) 722-4518, (435) 789-7270 or orubaog@ubtanet.com or call Brian Raymond at the County Courthouse at 784-3154.



FAREWELL SUPERINTENDENT ERICKSON

Daggett School District Superintendent Gerold Erickson has accepted a position at the NUES Center in Heber, Utah. He was given a warm send off at a celebration marking 30 years of service in Daggett County.

On Friday, June 27, 2003

educators, friends, family, and former Board members attended to share a few memories and wish Superintendent Erickson well in his new position.

The search for a new superintendent has begun.



FIRE NOTES

No Fire Restrictions are in place at the current time, so enjoy those holiday barbecues and remember that any fireworks that leave the ground or explode are illegal in the State of Utah. Let's have a safe and fire free summer! Don't let



this happen to your home!

The Manila Fire Department meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Manila Firehouse. Volunteers are welcome!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

JUSTICE COURT	2
SHERIFF'S OFFICE	3
SENIOR CENTER	4
EMT AWARDS	5
DAM EXERCISE	6
CALENDAR.	I1
RODEO	I2

DAGGETT COUNTY JUSTICE COURT

Dutch John Precinct

Marijuana and Drug Paraphernalia (Part 2)

Last month we noted that Utah law says that if you are found guilty of possession of marijuana, drug paraphernalia, and other non-prescribed medications you will lose your driver's license for six months, even if you weren't driving a vehicle at the time.

Judges get to hear all sorts of reasons people have for their possession and use of marijuana and other illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia. Here are some of the more common reasons, along with why they don't hold up in court:

1. "I don't have a problem, this is just recreational."

Answer: Tennis is recreational. Bowling is recreational. Fishing is recreational. Doing drugs is NOT recreational. Hint: The first three are legal. Legal activities can be recreational. Illegal activities cannot be considered in the same category. What if someone thought shop-lifting was recreational? Or spray-painting graffiti on the side of a building was recreational? I think you get the idea.

2. "I suffer from back-pain (migraines, stress, depression, HIV, cancer, glaucoma, etc.). However, I refuse to go to a doctor because they might put me on an addictive drug, so I self medicate." **Answer:** You are in such pain that you are willing to go on the streets and buy an illegal drug to treat it and yet you won't go to a licensed MD who could treat you with a specific, legal medication for your condition? Please. This is an absurd defense. It takes two people for someone to get addicted to a medication: you and your doctor. Doctors worry about addiction even more than the individuals taking the medicine do. They can lose their livelihood if they are dispensing medications thoughtlessly. The State Medical Board tracks this type of thing, and asks doctors some very uncomfortable questions if they think an impropriety is occurring. Drug dealers don't have to worry about this (although they have other concerns.) However, whether or not you become addicted to their illegal product is not one of them. And, yes, marijuana can be psychologically addicting. That's why Marijuana/Narcotics Anonymous exists.

3. "It's not hurting anyone." **Answer:** Au contraire. At nearly every conference (including our 2003 Justice Court Update) Judges listen to experts who tell of the psychological and physical effects of illegal drugs, including marijuana, the most common drug with which we deal. Family, friends, and employers suffer. Not being in control means it is easier to have an accident and hurt yourself or someone else.

Another object to keep in mind is that you are supporting the criminal element by buying their products. Selling pot is an

easy way for gangs and drug dealers to make money. These are generally not very nice people. You can read newspaper accounts everyday of gangs and dealers involved in killings over drugs. No, if you re-think the premise of consumption being harmless, you'll see it's not as innocuous as you once thought.

4. "I was just experimenting!" **Answer:** Unless you are wearing a white coat and involved in a bona-fide bio-chemistry study at an accredited laboratory, the Court doesn't consider it an experiment.

5. (Although this is the most unusual, it is heard fairly often from those over 30): "I guess I'm still just a kid. I always promised myself that even though I have to grow old, I don't have to grow up." **Answer:** WHAT? Some people may call this a "Peter Pan syndrome" but in actuality it is just plain irresponsibility. Plenty of people have a happy, youthful outlook without taking narcotics. You can be one of them—with a valid license! Or, you can be a perpetual adolescent who appears in courts and can't drive a car.

Please think it over very carefully next time someone offers you a joint, or you are attending a party where drugs are available. You can be charged with just being knowingly present in such a situation. Appearing in court is an expensive and embarrassing situation for most individuals—and not being able to drive for six months can seriously impact your job and social life!

This column reflects the opinions of Judge Schneidervin. It in no way purports to be a comprehensive guide to legal matters. Judge Schneidervin makes no representations as to the validity and accuracy of the information provided, other than it is correct to the best of her knowledge. You are encouraged to seek competent legal counsel for any specific questions you may have.

Manila Precinct

The summer is upon us and we are seeing many visitors come into our beautiful county. It is again time to be more aware of our surroundings. The traffic is considerably greater, which means we must be more alert and watchful. I think we get a little lax during the winter months. Try to be a little more patient, being considerate and using good judgment. If we obey the laws and set a good example it could make a difference how visitors act. We may have to remind others that we are law abiding citizens and expect the same from them. This is not outer space and we do belong to the United States of America, so the same laws apply here as anywhere else in the State of Utah or the United States.

Judge Claire Reed

DAGGETT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Daggett County Patrol Boat

The Daggett County Sheriff's Office has received a 1989, 22' Farallon boat, equipped with two Yamaha 150 outboard engines, radar, gps, depth sounder and etc. through a cooperative agreement with the State of Utah Division of Parks and Recreation. This boat was given to the Daggett County Sheriff's Office for use on the Flaming Gorge Reservoir until it is no longer needed. Daggett County Sheriff's Office will be spending time on the lake this summer enforcing safety laws, and rules. The boat will also allow the Sheriff's office to better assist with search and rescue on the lake. Due to State budget cuts the Sheriff's office will no longer have a State Parks Officer to call upon when needed.

The Sheriff's Office would like to thank the Utah State Parks and Recreation Division for providing us with a boat to use on the Flaming Gorge Reservoir.

SUMMER SAFETY

Summer is a fun time to enjoy the great outdoors. It's also a time when more injuries and deaths occur. Take a few minutes and prepare yourself for the hazards like too much sun, lightning & carbon monoxide poisoning.

Too much sun can lead to irritating sunburns, skin cancer, dehydration and can drain you of your ability to think clearly. Wear a hat and apply sunscreen before going out in the sun and at regular intervals. Remember that the altitude in Daggett County increases the harmful affects of the sun.

Lightning is a major summertime danger. Avoid being out in the open or on the water when lightning approaches. For more information about this hazard go to www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov.

Carbon monoxide can happen to those camping, boating or having a barbeque. Make sure all fires and engine compartments and heaters are vented properly.

LEPC TIP OF THE MONTH – HELPING CHILDREN COPE WITH DISASTERS

This tip is brought to you by the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the American Red Cross have prepared a brochure to help you help your children cope with disaster. Ultimately, you should decide what's best for your children, but consider using these suggestions as guidelines:

Helping Children Cope with Disaster

Earthquakes...Tornadoes...Fires... Floods...Hurricanes... Hazardous Materials Spills Disaster may strike quickly and without warning. These events can be frightening for adults, but they are traumatic for children if they don't know what to do.

During a disaster, your family may have to leave your home and daily routine. Children may become anxious, confused or frightened. As an adult, you'll need to cope with the disaster in a way that will help children avoid developing a permanent sense of loss. It is important to give children guidance that will help them reduce their fears.

Children and Their Response to Disaster

Children depend on daily routines: They wake up, eat breakfast, go to school, play with friends. When emergencies or disasters interrupt this routine, children may become anxious.

In a disaster, they'll look to you and other adults for help. How you react to an emergency gives them clues on how to act. If you react with alarm, a child may become more scared. They see our

fear as proof that the danger is real. If you seem overcome with a sense of loss, a child may feel their losses more strongly.

Children's fears also may stem from their imagination, and you should take these feelings seriously. A child who feels afraid is afraid. Your words and actions can provide reassurance. When talking with your child, be sure to present a realistic picture that is both honest and manageable.

Feelings of fear are healthy and natural for adults and children. But as an adult, you need to keep control of the situation. When you're sure that danger has passed, concentrate on your child's emotional needs by asking the child what's uppermost in his or her mind. Having children participate in the family's recovery activities will help them feel that their life will return to "normal." Your response during this time may have a lasting impact.

Be aware that after a disaster, children are most afraid that--

- a.. the event will happen again.
- b.. someone will be injured or killed.
- c.. they will be separated from the family.
- d.. they will be left alone

Next month watch for Part 2 of the brochure "Advice to Parents: Prepare for Disaster."

DUTCH JOHN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dutch John residents are meeting regularly to plan for the future of Dutch John. Input was given to the County Commission in regards to the location of a cemetery in Dutch John. Public Hearings were held in June and plans are moving forward to complete the cemetery this summer.

Information was shared about facility usage applications for county facilities and the restriction of alcoholic beverage usage at county facilities, due to changing state laws and liability issues.

Several sub-committees have been formed including: Parks, Incorporation, and Planning & Zoning. Other sub-committees will be formed as the need arises.

The next meeting will be held Thursday, July 17th at 7 pm in the Dutch John Conference Center. All residents are welcome to attend.

Don't forget the 2nd Annual Dutch John Celebration on July 4th at the Conference Hall. Activities start at 3:30 pm-be prepared to get wet! Contact Grace Breer for more info at 885-3355.

THE MANILA SENIOR CENTER

There were 41 seniors honored for their service to the community at a luncheon at the Senior Center on June 11th. Yancton Johnson and Loretta Jensen, RSVP Specialist for the Uintah Basin Association of Governments were on hand to present award certificates and door prizes to those in attendance. The theme for the day was: "This Land Is Your Land." Six hundred and seventy hours were recorded as having been donated to the Daggett School District, the Connections program, other Seniors and the community in general. All this time spent helping one another helps make our communities and the County a better place to live. We encourage seniors (and anyone else) who would like to get involved but don't know how, to contact Judy Archibald at the Manila Town Office at 784-3143. If you haven't achieved Senior status yet contact Brian Raymond at 784-3154. The



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD

The Economic Development Board has begun work on updating the County Action Plan or Community Development Plan as it has been called in the past. As we review what's been accomplished in the past, we saw that those items with a lot of community support were accomplished, while other projects are still on the wish list. Board meetings are open to the public and are held on The Fourth Tuesday of each month at the County Courthouse at 6 pm.

As we continue to examine the documents from the past we are also preparing information and ideas for public comment at a series of Community Meetings in September and October. We hope you'll participate and share your thoughts and ideas of the future of Daggett County at these Meetings. Watch next month's newsletter for more information.

Lion's Club is looking for help with the Cow Country Rodeo and the Seniors are making a quilt to raffle off during Labor Day weekend.

The Manila Senior Center is open to all County residents and visitors. Lunch is served every Wednesday at noon. There is a \$3 suggested donation for those 60 and over and a mandatory fee of \$5 for anyone under 60. The first and third Friday of each month (except July 4th) dinner is served at 6 pm. On July 23rd there will be a Tri-County Picnic at the Park at noon. For all these meals, please call 784-3158 and leave a message at least 24 hours in advance to ensure that the volunteer cooks prepare enough food for everyone. Also feel free to drop in for Game Day every Thursday at 1 pm.

CONNECTIONS

The 21st Century Community Learning Center's Connections Summer program is running again this summer. The school age program meets Monday-Thursday: 8 am to 12 noon at Manila Elementary and includes arts and crafts, library, science experiments, soccer and baseball.

The Evening program meets at Manila High School and runs 6-7:30 pm Tuesday through Friday evenings. The gyms are currently being renovated, but we do have access to the Elementary Gym. The Weight Room and Computer Lab are open for those Jr. High age and older. Younger children should be accompanied by an adult. For more information contact the Site Facilitator, Carol Slauch at 784-3361. Summer programs end July 23rd.

PUBLIC LANDS

Many people know that Daggett County has very little private land, but most people do not realize that only 7% of land in Daggett County is privately owned. An article in the Salt Lake Tribune quotes Utah Association of Counties Associate Director Mark Walsh as saying: "Property tax is the basis by which counties support themselves, and when you have as badly eroded the private property tax base as you have in Daggett County, where is the county going to go?"

Counties receive some money from the Federal Government for Federally owned land, but the amount is much smaller than what would be received from a private landowner. House members Bishop and Cannon have co-sponsored a bill with Rep. McInnis, R-Colo., that would require PILT money to be distributed as authorized in the 1976 PILT Law. Despite a 20% increase in 2003, the Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) brought in a meager \$65,645 to Daggett County, which is less than \$.20 an acre.

MOSQUITO SPRAYING

Aerial mosquito spraying in Daggett County was completed last week. Utah is one of only four states in the continental United States that had not confirmed any cases of the West Nile Virus by the end of 2002.

Tri-County Health Department continues to encourage residents to be proactive in not allowing mosquitoes the chance to lay their eggs and continue the breeding cycle. The recent rains may have created some breeding grounds, so check for standing water in buckets, used tires, barrels, gutters and other such places. Water in animal drinking troughs should be changed often and not left to stand longer than five days. A vaccine for horses is available and highly recommended.

Birds, especially crows, are carriers of this disease. To report wild birds that have died of mysterious causes, call (877) 592-5169. Birds that have died of known causes do not need to be reported.

EMT PERSONNEL RECEIVE STATE PEDIATRIC AWARD

Daggett County EMT's David & Christy Jones, Peter & Shawna Butcher, Roy Steen, Rick Ellsworth, Chris Collett, Cher Maras, John Larsen, Patty Schwartz and Jim Warenski, MD were recognized on May 19th for the EMSC Pediatric Team Incident of the Year for 2002.

These individuals were all involved with the delivery and stabilization of a premature baby born at the Flaming Gorge Lodge in May of 2002. The baby born 13 weeks prematurely survived suctioning with a ketchup bottle and resuscitation efforts throughout the ambulance trip from the Lodge in Greendale to the Hospital in Vernal.

The baby's parents were staying at the Flaming Gorge Lodge and were preparing to have dinner at the restaurant when the baby made his unexpected

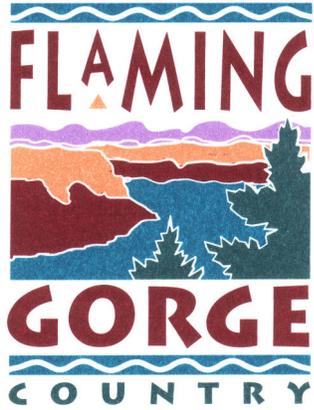
appearance. Lodge co-owners David and Christy Jones had recently completed their EMT training and happened to be in the restaurant at the time to provide a first re-

sponse. Dr. Warenski was a guest at the Lodge, who was able to provide additional assistance.

The Dutch John ambulance took the baby to the hospital and the Manila ambulance was called in to transport the mother. Thanks to the efforts of these dedicated Emergency Medical Service personnel, the baby not only survived but is doing well. Their resourcefulness and quick thinking earned these EMTs the recognition of their peers as "exceptional examples in the field of emergency medical services." They have also

earned the heartfelt thanks of grateful parents and a young baby.





DAGGETT COUNTY

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ANTI-TERRORISM EXERCISE WAS HELD JUNE 2-4TH

“Exercise, Exercise” started the full Scale Anti-Terrorism Exercise at the Flaming Gorge Dam on June 2-4. The event was sponsored by the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Over 200 people and 19 different agencies participated in the two-day exercise. The joint exercise used different scenarios and included all levels of government local, state and federal. Training and exercise are critical to the planning



process. This exercise will assist emergency management, security and responders to see what in the current Emergency Operational Plan (EOP) will work and what changes need to be made to address the Weapons of Mass De-

struction (WMD) & Terrorism Annex of the facility, county, state and national response plans.

A “hot wash” or debriefing was held on the 4th of June to discuss lessons learned from the exercise and ideas for improvement. A formal written report will be issued in July by Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education.

The injured hostages and victims, EMT's , Search and Rescue and Red Cross volunteered time to help make this simulated exercise a success. Victim/Hostage Harriett Dickerson of Dutch John, said, “It was an interesting experience. I really enjoyed it. I think all the agencies involved learned a lot from the exercise.” The Daggett County Commission, the Utah Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security, the County Emergency Services and the Daggett County Sheriff's Office would like to thank everyone that participated in the exercise.



(left) Sheriff Campbell and other leaders from the FBI and the Utah Highway Patrol plan their next move.