

DAGGETT COUNTY NEWS

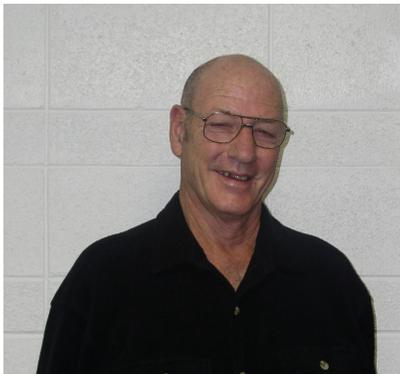
VOLUME 1, ISSUE 8

NOVEMBER 1ST, 2003

NEW COMMISSIONER APPOINTED

Stewart Leith was selected by the remaining Commission members from a list of three candidates submitted to them by the Republican Party to fill the remaining term of Commissioner (Walters) Jacobsen. Commissioner Leith was sworn in on October 6th and has been hard at work ever since.

Commissioner Leith is retired from the Bureau of Reclamation where he worked at the Flaming Gorge Dam for 15 years. He has lived in various areas throughout the county including the Town of Manila where he served on the Town Council for about 4 years and also served as Manila Fire Chief for 10 years.



Commissioner Leith's specific areas of responsibility will include Mental and Public Health, Emergency Services including Ambulance, Fire, 911, CEM, LEPC and Communications, the Library Board, The Children's Justice Center, the Museum and Work Force Services.

COUNTY AND TOWN NEWS

Holiday Closures

The County and Town Offices will be closed on November 11th for Veteran's Day and on November 27th and 28th for Thanksgiving Day.

New Landfill Hours

November 1st starts the Winter Schedule for the landfill. The Dump will be open the 1st Saturday of the month from 9am to 2 pm and every Monday (except holidays) from 9am to 12 pm.

Flu Shots and Immunizations

The Tri-county health Nurse will be giving flu shots and immunizations at the Flaming Gorge Health Center on the following dates: November 12th and 26th and December 10th from 10-11:15 am and 1- 3pm.

HOUSING PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

Uintah Basin Association of Governments (UBAOG) home programs are available for Daggett County residents.

HEAT

The Home Energy Assistance Target program is a federally funded Energy Assistance Program designed to meet the rising costs of home heating. Applications are available at the County Courthouse or by calling (435) 781-2021.

Weatherization

Resources are still available for low income families to lower their utility bills and improve the comfort of their home through weatherization and education. This program is available to homeowners and renters (with the landlord's approval and participation).

There are income qualifications and limitations to the amount of work that can be done under this program. Applications are available at the County Courthouse or for more information please call the UBAOG Energy Coordinator, Don Horrocks at (435) 722-4518.

Self-help Housing

Several lots are still available for those interested in building a nice home with built in equity. Due to the recent arrival of winter weather we are looking to begin construction in the spring of 2004.

There are income qualifications for this program. Applications are available at the County Courthouse by contacting Brian Raymond (784-3218) or from Lisa Nielsen of UBAOG at (435) 722-4518.

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DAGGETT COUNTY JUSTICE COURT

Manila Precinct

It's that time again for the Manila Justice Court, as the fall and winter weather brings a decrease in our workload, there are fewer people traveling to our small community, so consequently it slows down the amount of citations issued. We, therefore, become optimistic that everyone is obeying the law. Don't be under the illusion that the officers are not out there doing their job at this time of year, because they are. The court spends most of this time working on things that need to be completed by the end of the year. We still have court on the first Monday of the month with the County Attorney present. Our office hours are Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. till 11:00 a.m. at the County Courthouse, (435) 784-3216. The Manila Justice Court welcomes visits or telephone calls if you are in need of help or have questions to be answered.

Judge Claire Reed

Dutch John Precinct

Winter Driving Safety

"A four-wheel drive can't stop any faster than a regular vehicle." Mike Hanlon

Winter has officially made its appearance with the first snowfall of the season. The Utah drought has caused many people to embrace the long over-due moisture, but with it comes the annual re-education of drivers.

People with four-wheel drive vehicles often feel more comfortable when driving, certainly the traction can be better, but they still must take into account stopping distance and the actions of other drivers. Driving defensively at this time of year is not a matter of choice, it is mandatory for one's safety.

An oft-seen citation during the winter and early spring months is operating a vehicle at speeds higher than existing conditions allow. If an accident is involved, this is coupled with the mandatory Utah State accident-fee (an additional \$30 fee), which seems to add insult to injury for the party involved. "But I was going the speed limit!" many drivers will exclaim in disbelief. They have failed to add the effects of moisture on the road into the equation, and the results may be disastrous. Not only black ice, but slushy roads, sudden emergence of animals on the roadway, stalled cars, and other driver's actions all play a role. One can drive as carefully as possible, and still have another driver lose vehicular control and cause a wreck.

Utah Code 41-6-46 states, in part:

(1) A person may not operate a vehicle at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent under the existing conditions, giving regard to the actual and potential hazards then existing, including when:

- (a) approaching and crossing an intersection or railroad grade crossing;
- (b) approaching and going around a curve;
- (c) approaching a hill crest;
- (d) traveling upon any narrow or winding roadway; and
- (e) special hazards exist due to pedestrians, other traffic, weather or highway conditions.

Subsections (b) through (e) are especially applicable in Flaming Gorge Country.

Please realize that the normal speed limit may drastically change when snow and ice are involved. Maintain plenty of room between vehicles to allow for additional stopping distance. Keep a cell phone with you in case of emergency, it can be a life-saver.

Please have a safe and enjoyable holiday season at the Gorge!

Dutch John Justice Court

Judge Anne Schneidervin

DAGGETT COUNTY WEB SITE

The Daggett County web site is available at <http://www.dsdf.org/county>. The monthly calendar that is a part of this newsletter is part of the site and is updated as new information becomes available. The calendar also has links to meeting agendas and pages with additional information about the entry.

Other information included on the website includes County job postings, these newsletters and links to other government related sites. Check it out today!

TAX INFORMATION

Tax notices have been mailed and taxes are due by December 1st to avoid a late fee of \$10 for each notice or 2%, whichever is greater. Any taxes not paid before January 16, 2004 shall bear interest on a per annum basis from January 1, 2004.

If you are interested in making monthly payments during 2004 for next year's property taxes, please check the box in the lower right hand corner of your Tax Notice and a coupon booklet will be sent to you or you may visit the Daggett County Treasurer's Office at the County Courthouse at 95 North 1st West; Manila, UT 84046-0219.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS (EMT)

Daggett County EMTs provide important medical services to our county. The County Commissioners have recently hired Shawna Butcher as the County EMT Director and Patty Schwartz as the Assistant Director. They will coordinate the recruiting, training and scheduling of EMTs throughout the county. They will also seek grants for training and new equipment. They will work under the direction of Commissioner Leith to ensure that the Ambulance service efficiently and effectively covers Daggett County.

EMTs are kept busy through the summer months, but begin to slow down now as the tourists leave our area. During this slow period, training increases to help prepare for the busy season next summer. EMTs, fire crews and Search and Rescue recently attended a training with Air Med held at the Flaming Gorge Lodge. Several EMTs completed recertification training during October and many EMTs will attend additional training in November at the EMS Association Conference in Salt Lake City.



On November 15th there will be an Ambulance Operations class at the Dutch John Firehouse to recertify current drivers and train anyone in Daggett County interested in becoming an ambulance driver. In January an EMT Basic class will be offered. A grant has been received to allow high school seniors to take this course free of charge. After you've completed the course you will be able to work as an EMT while attending college. Anyone interested in participating in either of these classes should contact Patty Schwartz at 885-3513.



HAZMAT & WMD AWARENESS TRAINING

In October several Hazardous Materials (HazMat) and Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Awareness classes were scheduled and attended by county residents. The Daggett County Office of Emergency Management and the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) arranged for SGT. Larry Wehrli from the State Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security to bring the training to the county. The classes are offered in various places throughout the state by HMI (Hazardous Materials Institute). The addition of the WMD training to the course is fairly new.

Awareness training is required by OSHA for all first responders. The addition of the Weapons of Mass Destruction training was interesting to many who were taking the refresher course. There were 9 persons trained in the 8 hour class for first time training, 19 attended the refresher courses. Several jurisdictions and agencies had employees that participated. There were representatives from the County, the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Forest Service that completed the competency level required by the State for certification.

MANILA SENIOR CENTER

This month in addition to the Wednesday lunches (cancelled November 26th) and Friday Dinners there will be a Progressive Dinner on November 15th at 5 pm, A Dinner at the Flaming Gorge Café on November 24th and a Pizza Party and Senior Christmas Tree Decorating Party on December 1st. Call 784-3158 to attend or contact Ardyce Mitchell at 784-3592 for more information.

THE CONNECTIONS PROGRAM

The 21st Century Community Learning Center's Connections fall programs are now running. The afterschool program is in full swing.

The evening program consists of Open Gym, Weight Room and Computer Lab and will be open from 6-7:30 pm on Tuesday & Thursday evenings and 6:00-7:00 pm on Monday and Wednesday evenings, except when there are Manila High School Volleyball games. The Computer Lab is also open on Friday evenings from 6:00 to 7:00 pm, except holiday weekends.

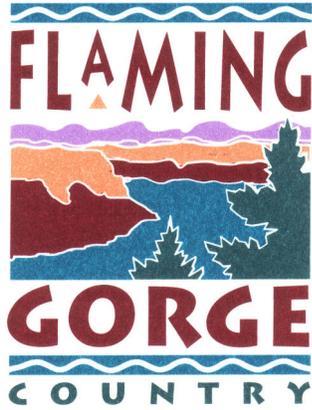
Wednesday Evenings (except Nov 26th) we will hold computer instruction from 6:30 to 7:30 pm in the Computer Lab at Manila High School. November's instruction will center around using spreadsheets.

Starting in January,

Advertising or coupon space (3" wide x 2.25" tall) and (3" wide x 4.5" tall) will be available to advertise your Daggett County business to local residents.

All advertisements or coupons should be camera ready or in digital format.

For more information contact Brian Raymond at 784-3218.



DAGGETT COUNTY

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IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED MULTIPLE COPIES OF THIS NEWSLETTER, KNOW OF A RESIDENT OF DAGGETT COUNTY NOT RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER OR DO NOT WISH TO RECEIVE FUTURE COPIES, PLEASE CALL OR E-MAIL BRIAN RAYMOND: AT 435 784-3218 OR BRAYMOND@DAGGETT.STATE.UT.US

PUBLIC MEETINGS GENERATE IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE AREA

The Economic Development Board recently held two public meetings and received comments by mail to help in the development of a Daggett County Action Plan. The comments have been compiled and are now being reviewed by the Board members. Another public meeting will be held in December or January to review the comments received and begin finalizing the elements of the Action Plan.

Areas that were examined included infrastructure, services and activities that could be developed or improved to improve or maintain the quality of life for those living in or visiting Daggett County. Discussion was generated concerning what businesses could be helpful to the area and how can the County and Town can support these businesses. The Board also examined some of the issues causing people to move out of our area and the many reasons people have chosen to live in Daggett County.

Almost 170 different ideas were generated during this process. Many were items that the Board has discussed to some degree, while others came as a complete surprise. Some ideas can be worked on quickly while others are not really feasible or will take years of planning and work to complete. Funding needs and options will also be a critical issue as the ideas are evaluated for inclusion in the Action Plan.

Listed below are the top ten ideas as voted on by those who attended the meetings or indicated their top priorities on the written surveys. Thanks to all who participated!

1. Develop the Winter Sporting Activities
2. Change County Name from Daggett County to Flaming Gorge County
3. Adequate Utilities-Water, Sewer and Natural Gas
4. Garbage Disposal Options/County Dump Expansion
5. Create Biking and Walking Trails w/benches, signs, etc.
6. Housing needed for Seasonal Employees
7. Bridge or Ferry across the Lake
8. Construct/Mark and Map ATV Trails
9. Face Lift for the County-Clean up and Fix up properties
10. Improve Medical Services-Doctors, Pharmacy, Eye Doctors & Dentists

Other top ranking ideas included more promotion of the area, improving roads, a bank or credit union for the area, and a golf course. A complete list of the ideas generated is available by contacting Brian Raymond at (435) 784-3218.