

# DAGGETT COUNTY NEWS

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 1ST, 2004

## COUNTY OFFICIALS AWARDED

Two county officials recently received recognition from their peers for their efforts on behalf of Daggett County. See page 5 for additional awards received by County Employees.

### 2003 Outstanding County Official Awards

Each year, the Utah Association of Counties (UAC) affiliate groups select an outstanding member from their group, based on their service, dedication, and consistent excellence over the past year. From this group one is chosen by the attendees at the UAC Convention, and the UAC Selection Committee as the Overall Outstanding County Official of 2003.

Daggett County was represented by Dennis Judd who was selected as the Outstanding County Attorney for 2003.

### New UAC Secretary

Daggett County Auditor/Recorder, RaNae Wilde was nominated for the 2004 Executive Officer position of Secretary and was elected by the Utah Association of Counties membership at the annual UAC Convention held in November. RaNae's successful bid was announced at the Closing Banquet of the UAC Convention held in St. George this past November.



## COUNTY AND TOWN NEWS

### Manila Water Line Improvement

Improvements to the water line will necessitate turning the water off to portions of Manila as new valves and lines are hooked up. The Town of Manila will do their best to notify those who will be affected by any shutoffs.

### Holiday Closures

The County and Town Offices will be closed on January 1st for New Year's Day and January 19th for Martin Luther King Day.

### Hepatitis A Immunizations

Tri-County Health will be providing free Hepatitis A Immunizations to anyone 18 and older on Thursday, January 8th, 2004. Come to the Senior Center or Dutch John Conference Hall between 3 and 6 pm.

## CONGRESSMAN MATHESON VISITS

On Wednesday, December 17th, 2003 Congressman Matheson and some of his staff visited Daggett County. They met with the students at Manila High School and Manila Elementary, plus they had lunch with the Seniors at the Manila Senior Center before visiting with the County Commissioners and the Mayor at the County Courthouse. The elected officials were able to discuss their plans for the future and learn more about Representative Matheson's plans for this next legislative session.



## 2004 COUNTY BUDGET APPROVED

County Commissioners approved a \$5.1 million budget for 2004. Property taxes account for about \$520,000 or less than 10% of the budget. Other items include the Jail's

revenue of \$1.75 million, which is generated by the housing of State, Federal and other inmates and is self-supporting, \$500,000 for Security on the Flaming Gorge Dam, which is a direct reimbursement of costs by the Bureau of Reclamation. The Road department receives \$520,000 for County B and C roads, which money can only be spent on those roads and is not supported out of property taxes collected. The Sheriff's Department, Emergency Management and Economic Development have been awarded several large grants that will be received throughout 2004.

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## DAGGETT COUNTY JUSTICE COURT

### Manila Precinct

A new year is a great time to review the past and commit to our goals for the future. My goal as Justice Court Judge is to be even more committed to living up to the Code of Judicial Conduct than I have diligently tried to in the past. Therefore, I thought it appropriate to briefly review the five Canons of the Code with you and let you know that if you would like more information I would be happy to provide it.

Canon 1: A Judge shall uphold the integrity & independence of the Judiciary.

Canon 2: A Judge shall avoid impropriety & the appearance of impropriety in all activities.

Canon 3: A Judge shall perform the duties of the office impartially and diligently.

Canon 4: A Judge shall so conduct the Judge's extra judicial activities as to minimize the risk of conflict with judicial obligation.

Canon 5: A Judge shall refrain from political activity inappropriate to the judicial office.

I enjoy living in Daggett County and love the freedom we have in this great land of America. May we all try harder to be good citizens the new year.

**Judge Claire Reed**

### Dutch John Precinct

Animal Cruelty - Abandonment

One of the little one's was nearly dead when I found her, and the other two were so weak they could scarcely walk. They had been on their own for at least a week, and with temperatures dropping to near-freezing nightly, and without food, it was a wonder that they were alive at all.

I had been contacted by a concerned individual that someone had abandoned three kittens at the moose ponds. Since I have a background in pre-veterinary medicine, and people know I have a few animals of my own, I sometimes get these calls. The lady who called was quite distressed; she said the kittens were starving, but so frightened that after two hours, she still couldn't coax them out of hiding. She had finally just left them some food and asked at the local business, who to call for assistance, and my name came up.

I called until dusk was falling on the moose ponds before I heard a very faint "meow" almost carried away by the strong winds. They were nestled at the base of a tree near the water. The kittens were so exhausted that the carrier I had

brought along wasn't necessary, they just fell asleep on the car-seats. When I arrived home, they didn't move, and I gently carried them into the "sick-room" and tried to make them comfortable. They seemed pathetically grateful for my help, and could only look at me pleadingly and try to purr. The weakest, a small black female, rib-thin with huge yellow eyes, had pneumonia. The other two weren't much better. They drank an inordinate amount of water, and gently lapped at the canned baby food I tried to coax them to eat. They had obviously been pets, not feral cats, because when they could stagger to their feet, they would attempt to stand and try to walk over to sit in my lap, purring feebly all the while.

If the kind woman who stopped for a photograph at the ponds hadn't seen them, I am convinced the kittens would have been dead within twenty-four hours. Apparently the person or persons who abandoned them didn't stop to think that if someone is looking for a pet to adopt, a deserted and infrequently visited group of ponds at an elevation of seven-thousand feet in the middle of a National Forest is not the first "pet adoption site" that springs to mind.

Utah Statute 79-9-301 of the Utah Code defines "cruelty to animals" in the following manner:

(1) A person is guilty of cruelty to animals if the person knowingly, recklessly, or with criminal negligence:

(a) fails to provide necessary food, care, or shelter for an animal in his custody;

(b) abandons an animal in the person's custody;

and continues to describe for several paragraphs other situations that would constitute the elements of cruelty. For this article's purposes only one issue "abandonment" will be discussed. Depending on whether the violation of Subsection (1) is committed intentionally, or knowingly; or recklessly or with criminal negligence, Section (2) discusses if the offence will be considered a "B" or a "C" misdemeanor.

A "B" misdemeanor may carry a fine of up to a thousand dollars, plus and eighty-five percent surcharge and additionally can include up to six months in jail; a "C" misdemeanor may have a fine of up to seven hundred and fifty dollars and can have jail time of up to three months.

Section (11) states that (a) "abandon" means to intentionally deposit, leave or drop off any live animal;

(i) without providing for the care of that animal; or

(ii) in a situation where conditions present an immediate, direct and serious threat to the life, safety, or health of the animal.

Continued on Page 3

## ANIMAL CRUELTY—ABANDONMENT (Cont'd)

(e) "Necessary food, care and shelter" means appropriate and essential food and other needs of the animal, including veterinary care, and adequate protection against extreme weather conditions.

Usually, when people think of animal cruelty, they imagine dog-fights, or some type of torture inflicted upon an animal. But many do not consider that leaving a pet by the road-side, in the hopes that "someone will find it and take it home" is a criminal action. They may delude themselves into thinking that this is a far better alternative than an animal shelter, where the animal may be put to sleep if not adopted. But abandonment is not a better choice.

Pets are not wild animals; they do not know how to fend for themselves and are bewildered by this action on the part of their owners. Left to their own devices, they wander about, looking for their care-givers and not understanding this abrupt change that has entered their usually routine lives. Yes, they do have hunting instincts; ask any sheep herder who has had to deal with abandoned dogs in the mountains, or game wardens who find packs of feral dogs taking down a deer. Feral cats may survive for a time trying to scrounge food from whatever sources they can, the same as the dogs, knocking over garbage cans or attempting to find another house-hold that will feed them; the attempts generally do not last for long, and the animal is killed by a car or dies of stress and starvation. Hardly a fitting end for a devoted pet, with a thousand years of domestication and human dependency encoded in its behavior.

When dealing with living creatures and their welfare, it is an important enough issue for the State of Utah to have laws governing what is rational, prudent and just, in specific instances. For this reason, abandonment of pets can be considered a criminal offence.

The kittens, you may ask, what became of them? After several weeks of medication and diligent care and feeding, they recovered and were brought to an animal shelter for adoption. But their case was the exception, not the rule. For each "happy ending" there are thousands of sad deaths. For anyone who loves their pet, who knows the joys and sorrows of being a responsible pet owner, a sympathetic chord strikes anew when they see a down-cast dog, wandering along the highway, looking hopefully at each passing car, one paw raised questioningly; or a group of abandoned kittens, huddled on the side of a deserted road.

During the winter season, especially the holidays, it is a time to reflect on the welfare of all living creatures. May the New Year bring a greater share of compassion to all.

**Judge Anne Schneidervin**

## WHAT IS THE LEPC?

The *Daggett County Local Emergency Planning Committee* held meetings before it was formally established on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of November 1999 by the approval of the organizational Bylaws by the Daggett County Commission.

### *Just What Is The LEPC?*

In October 1986, The Emergency Planning & Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA) was signed into federal law Utah code Annotated Section 63-5-5(5). EPCRA has two important provisions:

To provide for emergency response planning committees that will help plan for the safe response to accidental release of toxic chemicals into the air, land, or water.

The community right-to-know provisions of EPCRA will help to increase the public's knowledge and access to information on the presence of hazardous chemicals in their communities and releases of these chemicals into the environment.

### *Why Is This Important To You?*

If we work together we are able to do the following:

Proper planning lowers insurance rates.

Protect citizens by planning early & Public Education.

Compile a resource list & responsibilities list before disaster hits not during one.

Apply for Grants and Funding.



**"IF YOU FAIL TO PLAN YOU PLAN TO FAIL"**

### LEPC VISION STATEMENT

We as the LEPC are committed to mitigate, plan respond and recover in all hazards in order to protect in order to protect lives, property and the environment in which we live.

Our goal is to make our community a safe place to live by offering to our community a workable operational plan, training, and education for all emergency services (EMS, Sheriff's Office, Fire, Search and Rescue and Public Works) and the Public.

## COUNTY SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

Daggett County is still accepting applications for the following volunteer Board Positions until 5:00 pm on January 5th, 2004:

**Tourism Tax Advisory Board**-Only one position is currently available.

**Economic Development Board**-Three positions are available. A special thanks to Scott Taylor and Sandy Collett for their efforts on this Board and also to Oscar Martinez for his time and efforts during our recent Public Meetings.

**Sweetwater/Daggett County Fair Board**-Only one position is available. Position requires travel to Rock Springs for monthly Fair Board Meeting.

Applications and additional information are available at the Daggett County Courthouse or online at the new county web site at: <http://www.daggettcountry.org>.

### **County Red Cross Director/Liaison**

The Daggett County Commissioners would like to thank Eva Goss, for her help and dedication. We wish you well as you leave Daggett County. The person selected to replace Eva would represent Daggett County with the American Red Cross and work with the Red Cross in the event of any emergency within the county. This position requires the Red Cross "Introduction to Disaster Services", "Mass Care", and "Shelter Operations" Certifications. Training will be provided for those interested who are not currently certified. This position would also require attendance at monthly LEPC Meetings and other meetings as determined by the American Red Cross.

Applications will be accepted at the Daggett County Courthouse until 5:00 pm on Friday, January 16th, 2004. Applications and additional information are available at the Courthouse or online at the new site: <http://www.daggettcountry.org>.

## COUNTY WEB SITE IS MOVING!

The Daggett County web site is moving on January 2nd to: <http://www.daggettcountry.org>. There will be some updates and changes that should allow quicker download times for those on dial-up internet service. The monthly calendar that is a part of this newsletter is from the web site and will continue to be updated as new information becomes available.

Check out our new format starting January second. The old site will remain available until all the bugs are worked out of the new site and will forward automatically once everything is working properly. If you have any questions, problems or comments about the web site or any of the pages please contact Brian Raymond at 784-3218 or send an e-mail to [braymond@daggett.state.ut.us](mailto:braymond@daggett.state.ut.us).

## ENHANCED 911 SERVICE

The State of Utah is continuing to work towards creating a statewide Enhanced 911 service. Among other things this service would allow 911 operators to record 911 calls, locate the nearest cell tower that a call is originating from and other benefits that the regular 911 service cannot provide. This Enhanced service is not currently available in Daggett County, but the equipment is slowly being put into place through grants and other means to move us towards this goal. The Erich family has been volunteering their time and services 24 hours a day and seven days a week to answer the 911 calls for Daggett County and surrounding communities in Wyoming. We are grateful for their efforts and continued willingness to serve while this system is being put into place.

The enhanced 911 service requires dispatchers trained as EMTs to be able to answer the phones without distraction. It also requires expensive equipment that we still have not been able to purchase. When the switching and communications equipment are in place, and county addressing is complete, it will probably be most cost effective to route all of our 911 calls to the Vernal Call Center, which is already in operation and handling dispatch for the Sheriff's Department.

Although this is not finalized, preliminary studies show that the cost of this option will be significantly less than that of hosting the services within the county. Either way, we will have increased costs. To offset some of these costs the Daggett County Commission has passed a resolution to place a monthly \$.53 fee for 911 services on each land and radio line within the county to become effective April 1, 2004. We are fortunate that the Erich's have been so willing to serve our community so well and so long. Most communities within Utah and Wyoming have had this fee or some portion of it in place for several years. We look forward to continued improvement in 911 service in the coming years.



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## REVOLVING LOAN FUND

The Uintah Basin Association of Governments has many programs that can benefit the residents and businesses of Daggett County. We've discussed the Self-Help housing, HEAT, and Weatherization programs in the past. The Revolving Loan Fund or RLF program is for business owners, who wish to develop their business so that it will employ more people and be an asset to the community. It allows for more flexible financing terms than conventional loans and can work in tandem with regular commercial or Small Business Development loans. If you want to start, add on to or grow your business, the Daggett County Commission encourages you to check into this option. For more information contact Commissioner Collett or Brian Raymond at 784-3128 or Yancton Johnson of UBAOG at (435) 722-4518.

## 2003 COUNTY EMPLOYEE AWARDS

The following employees recently received their Five Year Awards for completing five years of employment with Daggett County during 2003: Kirk Brandt, Peter Butcher, John DeHart, Velma Lamb, Sara Lamb, Donna Lloyd, Nancy Pickering, Kenneth Rasmussen and Shirley Slaugh.

Ray Ruble and Clyde Slaugh recently received their **25 Year Awards**. Wow! Thanks to all of you for your service to the residents of Daggett County!

### Business Owners

#### This Advertising Space is Available for only \$25.00/month

"Save," "Free," "Discounted," "Buy One Get One Free/1/2 Price" and "Special Notices" can be used to grab the attention of Daggett County residents and inform them about your business.



#### Examples:

**Week 1: January 4-10, 2004**

Check out our New Year's Specials!

**Week 2: January 11-17, 2004**

Buy 6 months worth of ads and receive 10% off!

**Week 3: January 18-24, 2004**

New shipment of do-dads arrive!

**Week 4: January 25-31, 2004**

Bring in this ad for a Free "Whatever"!

**Call Brian Raymond at 784-3218 to get your advertisement in the next newsletter! Ads must be in digital format or camera ready.**

## TRI-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

### Manila Health Clinic Temporarily Closed

The contract with Evanston Hospital to provide medical services for Tri-County Health at the Manila Clinic has ended. The Town, County and Tri-County Health have been examining other options to bring health care to our area on a more regular and ongoing basis. Watch for further announcements as new agreements are put into place.

### Hepatitis Vaccinations

On January 8th, Tri-County Health will be sponsoring free Hepatitis A vaccinations at the Manila Senior Center and the Community Center in Dutch John from 3:00 to 6:00 pm. for any County resident 18 years of age and older.

### Vital Records

Tri-County health has the ability to issue certified copies of birth records after 1977 and death records for deaths occurring in the tri-county area after 1990. Records prior to these years are also available, but require and expedite fee.

In the fiscal year 2002-2003 Tri-County Health issued 3,980 Certified Birth and 332 Death certificates. Applications can be found at [www.tricountyhealth.com](http://www.tricountyhealth.com).

### Health and Safety

Christmas is past and New Years is fast approaching, so let's start out the new year right. Now is the time that live Christmas trees begin to dry out and become a real fire hazard. If your tree is no longer drinking up water it is time to remove it from your house.

Remember these tips to remain safe and stay healthy during the holidays and into the new year:

- Keep matches, lighters and candles out of the reach of children
- Avoid smoking near flammable decorations.
- Never burn candles near evergreens and avoid burning evergreens in the fireplace.
- Never leave lit candles unattended.
- Make an emergency plan to use if fire breaks out anywhere in your home, practice the plan and look for and eliminate potential danger spots.
- Make a resolution to do something to improve or maintain your health during 2004!

## DAGGETT COUNTY EMT ASSOCIATION

This has been quite a month for our EMTs. It has been very quiet on runs. We have a few exciting things to tell everyone. First we had a dinner party that was hosted by Roy and Anne Steen. We invited the Brost family from Spring Creek Ranch. They presented us with

a brand new portable suction device. They thanked us for helping them when they had a terrible accident last winter. Thank



you from all the EMTs. That suction will help us a lot. It sure is nice to know there are people who appreciate us and our skills.

The Dutch John EMTs have been working exceptionally hard over the past two years on finding money for a much needed ambulance. We received \$25,000 on an EMS grant last year, which was a good start but we needed \$100,000 for the new ambulance. Dave and Christy Jones accompanied Commissioner Chad Reed to the State Community Impact Fund Board and presented our problem to them. Because of their time and effort we were awarded \$75,000



towards the new ambulance. On December 5th, a 2004 Wheeled Coach Ambulance was delivered to the County. Thanks again to all those who were involved in this process!

We had scheduled a Basic EMT class to start on Jan 17th but we had to cancel as there were not enough people to justify the cost involved. We will try again in the spring or early summer. Anyone interested in taking the next class please contact Patty at 885-3513.

The volunteer Christmas party was a success. Thank you to all those who brought a dish (everything tasted great), and a special thanks to Leasha Stewart for all the time and hard work she put into making this a fun and successful party, and also thanks to Mark Wilson for hosting the party at the Red Canyon Lodge.

We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and that you have a very safe and Happy New Year!

## MANILA SENIOR CENTER

In January the Wednesday lunches at noon, Friday Dinners (2nd & 16th) and Tuesday Game Days (1:00 pm) will continue. There will also be quilting every Monday from 9:30 am to approximately 2:00 pm.

Special Activities in January include Hepatitis shots at the Senior Center from 3-6 pm on January 8th, a trip to Cruel Jacks's in Rock Springs (weather permitting) for dinner on January 12th and a Regressive Dinner (we'll be starting with Dessert) on Thursday, January 22nd. Lastly, there will be a Board Meeting on Wednesday, January 28th at 1:00 pm or when lunch is finished. If you have any questions or wish to sign up for any of these activities call 784-3158 or contact Ardyce Mitchell at 784-3592. A signup sheet is also posted outside the Senior Center for meals and trips. The calendar packet is available at the Town Office.

## THE CONNECTIONS PROGRAM

The Connections program will continue in January, and will resume operation in the Dutch John area. Jr. Jazz will also begin in January, so watch for more details.

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 & Wednesday evenings, except when there are Manila High School Basketball games. The Computer Lab is closed Monday evenings and open on Friday evenings from 6:00 to 7:00 pm.

Wednesday evenings we will hold computer instruction from 5:15 to 6:00 pm in the Computer Lab at Manila High School. January's instruction will center around using e-mail and the internet.



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.

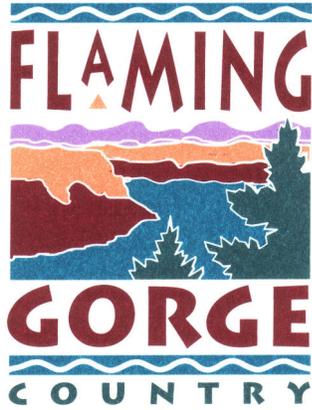
For more information contact Brian Raymond at 784-3218.

This space is available for \$15/month!






This Page Contained the Daggett County January 2004 Calendar



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IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED MULTIPLE COPIES OF THIS NEWSLETTER, WOULD LIKE INFORMATION ON ADVERTISING IN 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](mailto:BRAYMOND@DAGGETT.STATE.UT.US)

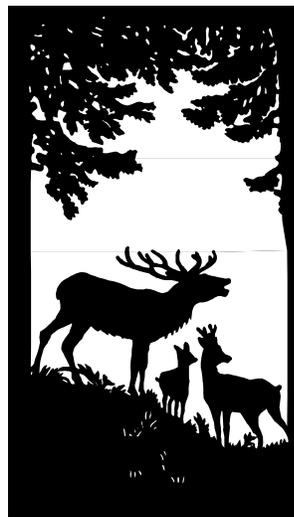
## UTAH WILDLIFE AND RIVERS FESTIVAL IS COMING JUNE 11-13, 2004

Committee members have been actively planning an exciting festival for the second weekend in June to commemorate the Green River that flows through our beautiful area and the wildlife that roam through the forests and towns in Daggett, Duchesne and Uintah Counties.

Vernal with it's many motels and museums, including the new Dinosaur museum scheduled to Open the week before the festival, will host many, but not all of the activities during the festival. Members of the Chamber of Commerce, County staff, Forest Service and Bureau of Reclamation have attended meetings to give input from Daggett County.

Among activities planned for Daggett County are a kids fishing tournament at the Moose ponds as part of Free Fishing Day on Saturday, June 12th. The Visitors Centers in the area will have activities planned for families to participate in including an Osprey viewing station at the Flaming Gorge Dam and Big Horn Sheep "Tour" in Sheep Creek, and special rafting opportunities on the Green River will be provided by the concessionaires who rent rafts. Family passports are being created to highlight these and other activities that are available to visitors and to keep them moving to enjoy at least of the few wonderful activities available in Daggett County, and create a desire for them to return again!

The idea of having a street dance or Park Dance in Manila and/or Dutch John has been discussed. A digital Photography Contest that would start in Manila and finish in Vernal is being developed. The weather outside right



now doesn't seem like summer, but June will be here before we know it and the planning and advertising has to be done now for this event to be successful. Volunteers are needed to help plan the Daggett County activities and to man these activities and information spots during the Festival. The next Tri-County meeting will be held in Vernal on Thursday, January 8th at 1:00 pm at the Uintah County Courthouse. A Daggett County planning meeting will be held in the Daggett County Courthouse on Tuesday,

January 27th, 2004 at 8:00 pm. If you are interested in getting involved or helping in any way, please contact Brian Raymond at 784-3218 or come to one of the meetings mentioned above. This can be a fun activity for you and your family, so get involved and have a good time!