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February local option sales tax distribution is down 2.5 percent from last year

By Myrna Trauntvein

Times-News Correspondent

The February local option sales tax distribution is down 2.5 percent from last year and that level was down from 2008.

While the numbers are reported in February, the percentages are actually for December's monthly sales.

Randy McKnight, city administrator, reviewed the findings of the League of Cities and Towns as reported their March 2010 newsletter in an article entitled: "The Long Road Back to Flat."

"Blair Painter's analysis of Nephi's sales tax is that it is down about 10 percent when compared with the same time last year," said McKnight. "And that was down from the year before."

In all, he said, sales tax receipts were down 20 percent from two years ago.

On the positive side, it is becoming more and more apparent that the recession is now over and the bottom came during the late spring or early summer of 2009.

"However, sales tax revenue is still in decline compared to last year," read McKnight. "And, keep in mind that last year was well below the previous year."

In real dollars, February's distribution has dropped over 20 percent from 2007. Slowly consumer purchases are increasing leading us back to a level of flat sales tax distribution.

"It is still long road to get back to flat however, sales tax revenue for Utah's cities and towns has been lower than the previous year in 21 of the last 22 months," he said.

The question is, what can be expected in the next four months?

The economic recovery is sending mixed signals. The concern of the nation's consumers is that unemployment make take months or years to recover. There may be no job growth until that occurs.

January's retail sales increased by .05 percent from December and is up 4.7 percent over January of last year.

In January, consumers purchased more electronics and

See Tax on page 5



RECESSION HAS HIT HARD • Nephi had a 2.5% decrease in February and a 20% decrease in sales tax receipts from 2008 figures city council hears. On the positive side, it is becoming more and more apparent that the recession is now over and the bottom came during the late spring or early summer of 2009. Welcome news to our area.

Ute Stampede Mammoth Parade committee is getting an early start on preparations

By Myrna Trauntvein

Times-News Correspondent

It is already time to plan for the Mammoth Parade for July's annual Ute Stampede.

Carolyn Ford, chairman of Nephi's event, reported to Nephi City council members on the preparations which have already been made and other preparations that will come in the next few weeks.

"I sent some forms out to bands," said Ford. "This year, I made the form so that one-half will be returned and they can

keep one half."

That will make it so that the participants will have all the information about participation, including the date and time, on hand.

"I have already sent out 10 invitations to bands," said Ford.

She said that a half-price ticket for the participant, she hoped, would be a good draw. Parents and families of the parade participant would still pay the full price.

"Send the invitation directly to our band at the high school," said Brent Bowles, council member.

Ford said she is still looking for a participant to serve as an outstanding focus, she said. She hopes for something that is outstanding and a little different.

"It will be hard to top those helicopters from last year," Ford said.

Last year, the motorcycle law enforcement group who perform drills with their motorbikes, was unable to participate because of a prior commitment. This year, she said, she plans to contact them early.

Robert Painter, council member, suggested that Ford contact the Utah Highway Patrol and

invite the UHP motorcycle drill team.

"I liked receiving the anonymous nominations for the grand marshal last year," Ford said. "That was a nice experience to read about the different nominees."

The same plan will be used this year, she said. There were many good nominations and the final selection was made difficult because of the fine people who were nominated.

See Parade on page 2

Nephi will host the Babe Ruth League World Series Regional Tournaments this summer

By Myrna Trauntvein

Times-News Correspondent

Ten teams participating in the Babe Ruth League World Series Regional Tournaments this summer will come to Nephi for play-offs.

Jay and Amy Maughan, chairpersons representing the local baseball league, attended Juab County Commission meeting to

garner support for the event.

Part of the Pacific Southwest Region games will be played in Nephi. The Major/60 will be held in Nephi beginning on July 26.

"It will be a four-week tournament and will bring approximately 600 people to our area," said Amy Maughan.

Players come from throughout the district, she said.

"We will even have players from Guam."

This year, she said, the participants will be staying in local motels and will not be housed by local residents. That should be a boon for the local innkeepers.

Jay Maughan said one problem was that the local host group, Juab Baseball, was starting out in the hole and needed funds.

LuWayne Walker, commissioner, said that he thought the county had donated \$500 in the

past. At least, his recollection was that, two years ago, that was what had been contributed.

"We are starting out \$350 in the hole this year," said Amy Maughan. "We are just trying to figure out the budget."

It takes a bundle of money, approximately \$3,000, to host

See Baseball on page 5

Eight contestants will vie for Miss Nephi 2010

The Miss Nephi 2010 Scholarship Pageant will be held on Tuesday, March 16. The theme for the evening is "Going back to the 80's." The pageant will begin at 7 p.m. with Miss Nephi 2009 Makenzie Benson and Miss Teen Utah Angelia Layton

as the emcees. Admission will be \$4.

Ariel Gee is the daughter of Wade and Alley Gee. She will be doing a movie presentation of her love for softball.

Makell Rindlisbacher is the daughter of Troy and Trisha

Rindlisbacher. She will be performing a Piano Solo.

Krystal Day is the daughter of Todd and Cheryl Day. She will be performing a dance and tumbling routine.

Emma Clement is the daughter of Ondi and Tina William-

son. She will be singing a musical number.

Lauren Jones is the daughter of David H. and Sally Jones. She will be performing a Piano Solo.

Camie Jacobsen is the daughter of Wade and Diane Jacobsen. She will be performing a

lyrical dance routine.

Kassandra Christensen is the daughter of Mike Fowkes and Lori Christensen. She will be performing a vocal solo.

Katie Llewellyn is the daughter of Steve and Shannon Graves.



Ariel Gee



Camie Jacobsen



Emma Clement



Kassandra Christensen



Krystal Day



Lauren Jones



Makell Rindlisbacher



Katie Llewellyn



Daylight Saving Time Begins March 14; don't forget to set your clock forward one hour.

