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Stephenson crowned Miss Nephi 2014

By Rebecca Dopp

Times-News Correspondent

Karlie Stephenson, daughter of Jeff and Kim Stephenson, was crowned Miss Nephi 2014 at a pageant held April 15. She performed a piano solo for her talent. She was also the winner of the Community Service Award for her jean drive, Letters from Home to servicemen and women, and her No Texting while Driving campaign. She received a \$900.00 scholarship from Nephi City.

First attendant is Jenny Gibson, daughter of Jason and Angi Gibson. She performed a vocal solo for her talent. She received a \$500.00 scholarship from Nephi City.

Second attendant is Megan Foster, daughter of Shawn and Pam Foster. She performed a piano solo for her talent. She received a \$400.00 scholarship from Nephi City.

Jordan McPherson received the Miss Photogenic Award. Megan Brooks received the Spirit of the Pageant award.

The new royalty will participate in parades, city events and other activities throughout the year.

Public hearing for annexation in Mona City will be May 13th

By Myrna Trauntvein

Times-News Correspondent

A petition has been filed with Mona City proposing the annexation of an area into Mona City and a public hearing will be held to take comment on that proposal on May 13 at 7 p.m. at Mona City Hall.

On March 25, the Mona City Council received notice of certification from Lyla Spencer, city recorder, concerning a petition requesting annexation of approximately 35 acres into the city.

The name of the petition is the Riley Park Group LLC annexation petition.

Park has proposed building a convenience store/gas station at the city's only entrance/exit to the I-15 freeway on the northeast side of the city on property he owns which is currently located in the county.

He wants to annex the property the station will be located on into Mona.

"I have been advertising the annexation as required by law," said Spencer. "The notice must be published for three weeks."

She said that the soonest the hearing could be held would be at the first meeting of May which is the 13th.

"We will not have advertised long enough by the second meeting of this month which would be on April 22," said Spencer.

The proposed annexation begins at the intersection of the easterly right-of-way line of Interstate 15 and travels along that easterly right-of-way, then west, then south to the southerly right-of-way line of State Road



MISS NEPHI 2014 ROYALTY • Karlie Stephenson, center, was crowned Miss Nephi 2014 last Tuesday night. Her attendants are Jennifer Gibson, right, 1st attendant, and Megan Foster, 2nd attendant. They will reign over city events and activities over the next year. Photo by Austin Dopp

County addresses mental health concerns with CUCC

By Myrna Trauntvein

Times-News Correspondent

There were more hospitalizations last year for mental health issues than the year before.

Brian Whipple, Director, and Farrell Marx, Finance Director, Central Utah Counseling Center (CUCC) representatives, met with Juab County Commissioners on Monday.

CUCC gives service to Juab, Millard, Piute, Sanpete, Sevier, and Wayne Counties.

Marx and Whipple provided an update on mental health concerns in the county.

One of those, said Whipple, is that each county is required to pay a 20 percent match to all state monies which translates into a \$273,000 match with Medicaid dollars.

Medicaid has continued to grow in the state and some centers have been concerned that

they could not meet the match.

"We asked for \$6.8 million and we got \$6.4 million," he said.

They met with Senator Ralph Okerlund several times, to discuss the concerns that they had.

Okerlund is a senator in the Utah State Senate and currently the Majority Leader. He represents District 24 which includes Beaver, Garfield, Juab, Kane, Millard, Piute, Sanpete, Sevier, Utah, Wayne Counties.

If the county were to cease to make their contribution to the program, Medicaid funds for mental health clients would not exist, Marx noted. Costs have been steadily climbing over the past year and a half, necessitating a draw from the agency's reserve fund.

If the county is unable to pay, the state will not pay and if the state does not pay, the federal government will not pay. The program counts on the support of the match coming from each

county.

Marx said that, for 2014, everyone has paid their match. One problem with the setup is that the counties operate on a calendar year and the mental health program operates on a fiscal year.

"We will have our budget done in June," he said.

"What if a county is not able to pay?" asked Rick Carlton, commissioner.

Whipple said that had never happened but there was no way that any county could back out of the program.

"By statute, counties are responsible for mental health and substance abuse issues concerning their residents," he said.

One year ago, he said, CUCC hired a person who works to get people stable and back in their communities in order to reduce hospital time. The person works to get the time between admittance and discharge shortened.

It costs approximately \$1,200 per day of hospitalization.

"There used to be a shortage of rooms," said Marx.

He noted that hospitals in the state are no longer experiencing a shortage of beds and now seem eager to keep patients for as long as they can.

CUCC is trying to move the clients into psych units rather than keeping them confined to the more costly forms of hospitalization.

Whipple said that the expansion of youth homes in the county has placed a dramatic strain on the system as far as in-patient liability.

In 2007, he said, it cost about \$7,000 to provide service for the youth who needed help. Now, in 2014, there were more youth needing service than there have

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Vote not taken on eminent domain case in Mona

By Myrna Trauntvein

Times-News Correspondent

It was listed on the agenda as the "Final Vote on Eminent Domain Vs. Herman Young and Sons Inc. Property" but, after discussion, a vote was not taken.

Commissioners have a goal to build a frontage road to force trucks into using that road, rather than Old Highway 91, to provide a bit more safety for regular travelers using Highway 91. In order to build the roadway they need three and one half acres of property belonging to Herman Young and Sons, Inc.

"We will consider all of this information and will get back to you," said Chad Winn, commission chairman, at the conclusion of the meeting.

Michael R. Carlston, attorney with Snow, Christensen & Marineau, Salt Lake City, representing Herman Young and Sons Inc. Property, and Gordon Young, representing the Young property

owners, met with Juab County Commissioners to discuss the proposed taking of the Young property.

Winn said that the commission had been under a lot of pressure to build an alternate road to Highway 91 but commissioners did not like to resort to eminent domain and force Young to give his property to the county.

"A life has already been lost," said Byron Woodland, commission chairman. "The person who died was one of our friends."

A price could not be placed on the life of a person, said Woodland.

Highway 91, he said, was the route used by county school buses and he had concerns for the lives of children if the gravel hauling trucks continued to use the highway to haul gravel.

Trucks come out of the gravel pits on the east of the freeway and travel along Highway 91 to Santaquin before using that freeway entrance.

A secondary problem to public

safety is the fact that the county road gets damaged by all the heavy trucks.

"I don't think there will be an increase in safety," said Young.

Carlston said that they were "skeptical" that truck drivers and the companies who employed them would use the frontage road unless the county found some way to force them to do so.

It would not be practical for truckers to use the alternate route unless the county was willing to pave the road and in view of the fact that the additional mileage required for truckers to use the road would result in one to one and a half fewer runs per day.

"It happens that I am involved quite often in condemnations of property," said Carlston. "It is sobering, in a sense."

Eminent domain is the right of a government or its agent to appropriate private property for public use, with payment of compensation. The property may be taken either for govern-

ment use or by delegation to third parties who will devote it to public or civic use or, in some cases, economic development. The most common uses of property taken by eminent domain are for government buildings and other facilities, public utilities, highways, and railroads; however, it may also be taken for reasons of public safety.

Winn said he was concerned a number of years ago when the supreme court allowed private business to use eminent domain.

Carlston is chair of the Real Estate Practice Group.

"We have some information for you to talk about," said Carlston. "This is a unique and complicated property."

He and Young had asked the opinion of a consultant and had questioned whether, on their own, the gravel hauling businesses involved would use the alternate road on a voluntary

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