

# The Times-News

Serving East Juab County - A Nice Place To Live!

Volume 117, No. 17

April 24, 2019

Single Copy Price



## Council examines options for changes in some utility rates

By Myrna Trauntvein

Times-News Correspondent

In the work session on April 9, the city council examined the options for changes in some utility rates and documentation was provided at Tuesday's council meeting to make the necessary changes.

However, it was decided by the council not to just double the cost for using the stock pipe from \$150 per season to \$300 per season. It was decided that the city should put in a card reader and a meter so that users paid for the water they actually used.

Seth Atkinson, city administrator, said that the stock water fee could be doubled, as had been suggested, or it could be metered.

"I think the card reader is the best way because it is more equitable," said Skip Worwood, council member.

Larry Ostler, council member, said that a \$300 flat rate was still a bargain. He knew of one person who filled his tanker in Nephi and then took the water out of the county to use at his business.

However, he said, the city did not know what the card reader would cost.

"I think that \$300 is a drop in the bucket for someone who uses the water and makes millions," Kent Jones, council member said.

Rust Finlinson, power superintendent, said that using the meter would also promote conservation.

"I support the meter," said Justin Seely, council member.

Atkinson said that the meter would be paid for over time by the users actually paying for the water they took from the pipe. That initial expense would be recovered by the city.

The change in the stock pipe water usage will mean that the master fee agreement adoption will be addressed at the first council meeting of May.

The first rate that was examined was from the Electric Fund.

"Due to fluctuations in wholesale pricing, the costs of providing electric service have sometimes exceeded collected revenues," said Atkinson. "Many cities, including those in the UMPA group, have instituted something called a 'power cost adjustment' or PCA."

This is basically a premium charge instituted on the wholesale charge for power.

This PCA would contain an operating and capital component, said Atkinson. The operating component would be enough to fund personnel, materials, debt service, and smaller capital projects.

"The capital component would consist of enough funding for larger capital projects such as line extensions, new or replacement substation equip-



**FATAL ACCIDENT** • Kenneth R. Nielson, age 39, of Delta and Lena R. Tanner, age 39 of Delta were killed in this accident on Highway 132, 8 miles east of Leamington in Juab County when their vehicle was hit by a service truck westbound when they tried to pass a semi in heavy fog.

## Delta couple killed in three-vehicle accident

By Myrna Trauntvein

Times-News Correspondent

On Wednesday, April 17 at 8:52 a.m. two people died in a three-vehicle accident.

The deceased driver is Kenneth R. Nielson, age 39, of Delta, the deceased passenger is Lena R. Tanner, age 39, of

Delta.

Utah Highway Patrol said that the accident occurred on SR-132 at Mile Post 14.

"The accident occurred eight miles east of Leamington, in Juab County, when a 2002 Chevy Suburban was traveling east, in heavy fog," according to the UHP report.

The Suburban was passing

(in a passing zone) a semi that was also traveling east.

"The Suburban met a westbound 2017 Peterbuilt service truck," said the UHP report. "The service truck attempted to avoid a collision but met the Suburban nearly head on."

The male driver and front seat passenger of the Suburban died as a result of the

crash, a child who was in a car seat in the back seat was flown by helicopter from the scene to Utah Valley Hospital and is expected to survive.

The driver of the service truck sustained no injuries and is cooperating with the investigation.

All occupants were wearing seatbelts.

## BLM saw Easter weekend numbers rise at sand dunes

By Myrna Trauntvein

Times-News Correspondent

Easter weekend at the Little Sahara Sand Dunes attracted more visitors this year than it has for many years.

Each year there is an Easter weekend pilgrimage to Little Sahara but the Bureau of Land Management says they're seeing an upward trend in numbers from the last couple of years.

More than 18,000 people set up camp, turning Little Sahara into a literal city. The BLM expected that more than 20,000 would show up by the weekend's end.

Thousands more people who didn't want to pay to get into the park are in the surrounding areas.

"You see these groups all together down below, and it creates this big sprawl that's quite phenomenal when you look down," said Hannah

Cowan, the public affairs specialist for the BLM West Desert District.

She also said that sand fans are showing up earlier than ever, likely because the weather forecast was favorable. She said that some began making the trek to the dunes as early as the Monday or Tuesday before Easter weekend, to stake out their spot.

Doug Anderson, Juab County Sheriff, said that it had been a long winter and people were just happy to be out in the beautiful weather.

"Every year more people come to our county to visit than live in our county year round," Anderson said. "That gives law enforcement quite a challenge."

Sand Mountain is always one of the busiest spots in Little Sahara and riders in dune buggies, on sand rails, on off road ATVs, double wides, on quads and dirt bikes made good use of the sand paradise.

Cowan said that the national sand area features 60,000 acres of rolling dunes.

"We just want the holiday to be safe for everyone who comes to the Dunes," said Anderson. "We do all we can to make it a safe area for families. We want the site to be family-oriented."

He said that law enforcement officers were on the lookout for illegal drugs and alcohol in order to screen out those who could cause unsafe conditions.

"It is illegal to drive an ATV while under the influence of alcohol or drugs but the biggest issue is that those driving DUI are a hazard," said Anderson.

He said that law enforcement geared up to keep visitors to the Sand Dunes safe. With sand fans in the neighborhood of 20,000 flocking to the Dunes, it takes a great deal of help to keep the weekend safe for all who like to use

the area to recreate.

"It was a multi-agency operation," said Anderson. "There were officers from many agencies throughout the state here to help out."

Law enforcement officers were on duty at the Sand Dunes from the Utah Highway Patrol, Nephi City Police Department, the sheriff's office, Utah State Parks and Recreation, the Utah County Sheriff's Department, the Department of Public Safety Alcohol Investigators, the Juab Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team and other participants from law enforcement agencies state-wide.

In addition, the Juab County Ambulance Association was on hand as was AirMed.

"We had a mobile dispatch center at the Dunes," said Anderson.

"We would like to caution folks to wear helmets while they are out on the sand," he said.

See Rates on page 2



96 South Main

Nephi, UT 84648

Deadlines: Monday 12 noon

Phone

(435) 623-0525

Office Hours

M-F- 9:30 to Noon

1:00 to 5 p.m.

Our Website

nephitimesnews.com