

# The Times - News

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## BLM employees urged to use caution after incident

By Myrna Trauntvein

Times-News Correspondent

A government worker was threatened on Interstate 15 near Mona when two men pulled out a weapon.

They also held up a sign that read: "You need to die."

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is now warning its workers in Utah to be on alert after the threats made to the BLM wrangler.

"We are not presently removing logos from our vehicles, but it may be helpful to note that the majority of BLM vehicles in Utah do not have logos on the doors anyway but do have government plates," said Megan Crandall, BLM-Utah spokesperson.

The incident occurred on I-15 south of Nephi near Mills at approximately 11 a.m. Tuesday when two men twice pulled up alongside a marked BLM truck, said Crandall.

"We are continuing our investigation and I do not have additional information at this time," said Crandall. "It would be inappropriate for me to offer the name of the employee who was threatened."

The Utah Highway Patrol is investigating the report, said Utah Highway Patrol Sgt. Corey Housekeeper.

He said that the BLM employee was driving his agency vehicle and pulling a trailer with a load of horses and burros when two men came up alongside the wrangler in a dark blue Dodge truck and flipped off the man.

The wrangler was driving north on Interstate 15 near Mills when the pickup pulled up alongside. Following the flipping off incident, the pickup fell back and the wrangler continued driving north. However, just a few minutes later, the pickup reappeared. The truck slowed down before the men came up beside the BLM officer again. The men, now wearing hoods, held up a sign, apparently scrawled on a piece of paper, that read, "You need to die." One of the men pointed what appeared to be a Glock handgun at the wrangler.

No one was hurt and the men sped away. The BLM agent reduced his speed and let the truck pass, before exiting the interstate.

"Threats to BLM employees will not be tolerated and we continue to work closely with local law enforcement to investigate the incident," said Crandall.

UHP troopers searched the area for the truck and the agency has posted a statewide alert.

"It will be difficult to find the men since there could be thousands of trucks that fit that description," said Housekeeper.

Following the Juab County incident, the agency sent an email out to its employees which stated: "We never know in life when we will cross paths with these types."

They warned employees to "be prepared to encounter unfriendly."

Both Crandall and Housekeeper said that the threat was



**YOU'RE CAUGHT** • On Monday, Diego Carmona was caught wearing his seat belt by Nephi City Police Officer Doug Anderson and was rewarded a Creamie ice cream bar and a pen. The Utah Highway Patrol has partnered with the Creamies Ice Cream Company to reward high school students for committing to wearing their seatbelt throughout the school year. JHS student body officers and other law enforcement officers handed out the treats to all those who were buckled up. Juab High School went from 40% seatbelt usage earlier in the school year to 70% usage. Photo by Rebecca Dopp

## Nephi City begins preparations for annual budget

By Myrna Trauntvein

Times-News Correspondent

Nephi is on a fiscal budget year and that means that it is time to begin work to prepare the 2014-2015 annual budget for review.

"State statute requires that a tentative budget for the upcoming fiscal year (ending June 30, 2015) be filed with the governing body at the first regular council meeting in May of each year," said Randy McKnight, city administrator.

The Utah Uniform Fiscal Procedures Act, relating to the fiscal procedures of cities necessitates a tentative budget for each fund for which a budget is required by law, a tentative cash budget for each utility fund and a tentative cash budget for such other special funds as the city council may require.

By Myrna Trauntvein

Times-News Correspondent

The teen apprehended in Juab County after a shootout between her partner and Juab County deputies has pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Megan Dakota Grunwald, 17, Draper, faces 12 charges, including aggravated murder and attempted aggravated murder, connected to a deadly high speed chase.

After the two county crime spree, Utah County Sheriff's Sgt. Cory Wride was dead and Deputy Greg Sherwood was seriously wounded.

She pleaded not guilty Monday to all the charges including aggravated murder.

Grunwald's not guilty plea Monday came as no surprise to prosecutors.

"We've given them thousands of documents and so it is going

to take them a little while to go through," said Tim Taylor, Utah County Deputy Attorney. "They need to be able to understand what they have, what the case is. But we do want to sit down with them and discuss everything that we have out there."

The teen remains behind bars. Her defense attorney, Dean Zabriskie, said he expected a trial may be set for August. Taylor, prosecutor, said a trial would probably last several weeks.

Grunwald quietly affirmed her "not guilty" pleas to all 12 counts she is facing. She will be back in court on June 2 for a scheduling conference and it is expected that a trial date will be set at that appearance.

"There will be testimony offered if this matter goes to trial that the gun was turned on her in more than one occasion," said Zabriskie. "That her choices were reduced to comply or give

up her own life and then things just spun out of control."

He described the teen as terrified as she and her boyfriend, Garcia-Juaregui, 27, attempted to evade officers through two counties, all the way from Eagle Mountain to Nephi, on January 30.

The 17-year-old girl has been charged as an adult in connection with the Jan. 30 crime spree. Jose Angel Garcia-Juaregui, her boyfriend, was injured in a shootout with deputies in Juab County and died the next day.

The teen has been charged as an adult with aggravated murder, a first-degree felony, for her alleged role in the death of Wride.

She is also charged with attempted aggravated murder for the shooting of Sherwood, a second count of attempted aggravated murder for shots being fired at a Utah Highway Patrol

trooper, and aggravated robbery for a carjacking in Nephi.

Additional charges levied against Grunwald include discharge of firearms, obstructing justice, criminal mischief, accident involving property damage, possession or use of a controlled substance and failure to stop at command of police.

Garcia-Juaregui, is believed to have fired the weapon used in the killing and wounding of the officers and police charge that Grunwald acted as the getaway driver that day.

Prosecutors have talked to an additional witness from that day and are also seeking to learn more about Grunwald's life before the criminal events.

"The scheduling conference will allow us to, when we come back next time, hopefully set a

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See Grunwald on page 5

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