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Nephi City road projects are near completion

By Myrna Trauntvein

Times-News Correspondent

'Tis the season for roadwork and a great deal of it is being done in Nephi.

"As the summer winds down, several street maintenance projects are underway or have recently been completed," said Randy McKnight, city administrator.

One of those is to chip seal roads.

"One of the most effective ways to prolong the life of a road is to chip seal the surface," said McKnight. "The downside is that it is messy."

Bitumen is a liquid when it is hot and hard when cold.

"It is important that we apply chip seals at the hottest time of the year, as this ensures that the new seal will become strong and long lasting," he said.

Firstly a thin layer of bitumen is spread onto the existing road. Then a layer of sealing chip is applied onto the bitumen. The sealing chips are rolled into the bitumen to provide initial bond. The road is then re-opened to traffic. Loose chips are swept up.

"It is helpful to prolong the life of the roadway but it is also problematic," he said.

Wet road conditions will affect the bond between the bitumen and the road. This could lead to chip seal failures. It is important that the weather cooperates.

"We try to asphalt our roads, on a rotating basis, once every three years," said McKnight.

Asphalt/concrete pavement mixes are typically composed of 5 percent asphalt/bitumen cement and 95 percent aggregates (stone, sand, and gravel). Due to its highly viscous nature, asphalt/bitumen cement must be heated so it can be mixed with the aggregates at the asphalt mixing facility.

The use of preservation seals on asphalt pavements is a crucial part of any effective pavement management program. It is important to optimize the use of available budgets to extend the life of city pavements as much as possible. The street system is a valuable asset.

Blair Painter, city recorder, said that the city had laid the equivalent of 10 acres of seal coating this year.

Another way of dealing with road maintenance is to seal just the cracks in asphalt pavements. It is one of the most effective methods of preventative maintenance. Crack sealing is typically performed on working cracks and involves thorough crack preparation and placement of high-quality materials.

"It is best to do this work in winter when the cracks have separated," said McKnight.

Preparation is typically limited to "blowing out" the cracks with compressed air. Before sealing, the crack must be completely free of dirt, dust, and other materials that might prevent bonding of the sealant.

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HEY GUYS, DIDN'T YOU GET THE WORD? • This maple on North Main seems to be saying this to the slowpokes to the north, but word is that the trees in the canyon are already starting to turn. The weather man is calling for more summer weather for the rest of the week with some showers, but most of us will welcome the cooler days of fall.

JSD held Truth and Taxation hearing to explain tax fluctuation

By Myrna Trauntvein

Times-News Correspondent

More funds will be available to enrich Juab School District schools this coming year but it will not cost the taxpayer above and beyond what it cost last year.

"If you look at the FY16 proposed rates," said Darin Clark, Juab School District Business Administrator, "you will see that the total rates set by the District actually decrease from .006808 to .006491."

However, even though the rate is decreasing, the increase in property values within the district is large enough that the district will generate more tax revenue.

"This increase in revenue is why the law requires that we publish a notice of a tax increase and hold a Truth-in-Taxation Hearing," said Clark.

The total property value times the rate equals the tax revenue.

The actual value in 2014, was \$737 million x .006808 for \$5.01 million; the proposed property value for 2015 is \$791 million x .006491 equaling \$5.13 million.

In the compare column (the theoretical rate from the tax notice, assumes the same total revenue as last year); \$791 million x .006366 equals \$5.01 million.

In order to further explain what he was discussing, Clark shared his tax notice as received from the county clerk/auditor with those in attendance.

"This may be more clear by looking at my Tax Notice," said Clark. "If you look at my notice and compare the Juab School District (JSD) taxes I actually paid last year (which I

labeled with a circled 1) to the 2015 Proposed Taxes (which I labeled 3), you'll see that this tax decreases from \$655.82 to \$625.28."

But, the change in tax column says Clark's taxes are increasing by \$12.04 (which he labeled 4).

"This is because, instead of comparing to what I actually paid, the comparison is to a theoretical amount that I would pay if the district collected the same dollars this year as we did last year (the amount labeled 2, or \$613.24). Therefore, my theoretical tax increase is \$12.04, or 2 percent, even though the actual amount I pay for these levies will decrease by \$30.54."

He said to note that his property value did not change from last year to this year. The property tax on his property remained stagnant from 2014

to 2015.

"If a taxpayer's property value increases, the comparison will be slightly different," he said.

Clark said, to summarize: The rate set by the district school board (total Juab School District rate) is decreasing.

"If a taxpayer's assessed valuation did not change, their tax related to the JSD rate will decrease compared to what they paid last year," he said. "The district will increase total tax revenue by approximately \$130,000 due to a significant increase in total taxable values in the district."

The increased revenue that Juab School District will realize from the district-wide increase in property valuation,

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Stranded hikers successfully rescued in two separate incidents

By Myrna Trauntvein

Times-News Correspondent

Four male hikers in two separate hiking parties were rescued and brought to safety with the assistance of the Juab and Utah County rescue crews.

The first incident involved two male juveniles and the second involved two young men in their early 20s.

"The two teen males were located with the valuable assistance of the Utah Department of Public Safety Aero Bureau helicopter; and ultimately, the two male juveniles were air lifted to safety from the summit of Mt. Nebo," said Juab County Sheriff Douglas Anderson.

On Monday, August 17, at approximately 6:30 p.m., the

Sanpete County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call from a male juvenile who with another male juvenile were stranded on the ridge line of Mt. Nebo between the north and middle peak, said Anderson. The male reported a medical condition which prevented them from walking off the mountain.

The call was dispatched to the Juab County Sheriff's Office and rescue units were activated.

"Helicopter pilots from the Utah Department of Public Safety located the hiker," said Anderson. "Due to the darkness and the strong prevailing winds, it was determined that neither an air or ground rescue attempt would be safe or feasible."

A decision was made to airlift provisions, medication and warm weather gear to the young men on

the summit with the use of a helicopter, he said.

A care package with provisions was successfully delivered and their rescue retrieval was postponed until daylight the next morning.

"Both men were successfully air lifted off the ridge by helicopter at approximately 6:30 a.m. the next morning on August 18 and transported to the Central Valley Medical Center for a medical assessment," said Anderson.

"In addition to, and simultaneous with the rescue operation on Mt. Nebo, rescue units also received a report of overdue hikers in the vicinity of the Loop Road Summit Trail," said Anderson.

He said that rescue crews searched diligently and ultimately observed flares that were set off by the lost hikers near the

Summit Trail.

"Juab County Rescue units were flown into an area proximate to where the hikers were located and rescue members hiked to their location," he said.

The male hikers, identified as 20-year-old Adam McBeth of Columbia, Pennsylvania and 21-year-old Erik Keller of Springville, were found in good condition but had become lost and disoriented.

The hikers were directed to a nearby road access name Nebo Creek Road, said Anderson.

"The hikers, with rescue members, hiked to the access road where they were picked up by Utah and Juab County Sheriff's deputies," said Anderson. "The hikers were delivered in good condition to family members."



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