

The Times - News

Serving East Juab County - A Nice Place To Live!

Volume 105, No. 49 • www.nephitimesnews.com

December 5, 2007

Single Copy Price

75¢

Commissioners keep up the "crops or craps" water fight with Nevada

By Myrna Trauntvein

Times-News Correspondent

"The Snake Valley Hydrologic Basin is almost entirely in Juab County," said Cecil Garland, a water user from Juab County's West Desert.

Garland, Dennis Timm, Kathy Hill and Ken Hill met with Juab County Commissioners to request that the commission keep fighting to preserve the water of the county.

"The ultimate question is, can one state take water from another state?" said Garland.

The most immediate threat is the proposed groundwater pipeline from Las Vegas (Clark County) to Snake Valley (White Pine County). Many of West Desert residents fear a project such as this could result in another Owens Valley disaster.

That was a scenario where rural communities and entire ecosystems were devastated so that urban areas could thrive.

Timm and Garland have bordering ranches in and both said they were already having problems getting enough water to maintain the fields they needed to provide a livelihood.

"We are in an extended drought," said Garland.

Greasewood can put roots down 60-feet to reach ground water, he said. Greasewood plants grow in alkaline or saline soils. Greasewood grows in association with other alkaline plants such as shadscale, saltbush, halogeton and salt grass.

Livestock utilize greasewood for winter and early spring browse.

"The greasewood plants are dying," he said.

The Report of Investigation 254, Utah Geological Survey, A Division of the Utah Department of Natural Resources, indicated that there needed to be concern.

If water is pumped out of the



FLOOD POND DEEPENED • While you weren't looking the U.S. Forest Service has deepened the flood control pond at Jenkins Flat in Salt Creek Canyon as part of their fire mitigation program. The pond, created after the floods of 1983 - 84, has been full for the past few years with soil and rocks washed down the canyon by Salt Creek. It has now been deepened and will be instrumental in helping control the debris in next Spring's run off due to the fire.

aquifer, he said, there will be great problems.

"The discharge is greater than the recharge," Garland said.

The Southern Nevada Water Authority has proposed a system of 146 water-supply wells in south-central and south-eastern Nevada to supply water to the Las Vegas area.

Costing about \$2 billion, SNWA plans to drill 146 water production wells in south central and southwestern Nevada that will produce up to 200,000 acre-feet of new water supply. Receiving just over 4-inches of annual precipitation, the Project will allow SNWA to meet its future water needs for one of the driest and fastest growing areas in the United States.

The SNWA Project has raised concerns in Utah.

Most of the groundwater development occurs within the boundaries of Nevada, except one segment of the Project, which will draw 20,000 to 25,000 acre-

feet of water from Snake Valley located in eastern Nevada and western Utah with most of the valley located on Utah's side of the border.

Also of concern is the belief that the groundwater aquifer in Spring Valley, located west of Snake Valley, is connected to the Snake Valley aquifer, which may further adversely impact Snake Valley ground water levels.

will need additional water by 2015 SNWA when its existing resources will be exhausted.

There is opposition to the SNWA Project by the environmental community and ranchers in the Snake Valley. Their concern is that pumping will lower the groundwater table damaging the valley's ecosystem and ranching enterprises.

Garland said he told the Utah

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Head-on accident claims life of Shane Hall

By Myrna Trauntvein

Times-News Correspondent

One person was killed and another injured Friday night, November 30, in a head-on collision south of Payson near Santaquin.

A dump truck, a Ford F-250 pickup and a Geo Metro were involved in the accident, said Agent Cori Start, Utah Highway Patrol spokeswoman.

Shane Udall Hall, of Nephi, age 24, died in the accident.

Shawn Hall, 20, also of Nephi, brother of the victim, was driving north in a red and black Geo Metro at about 8:30 p.m. on State Road 198 between Payson and Santaquin when the car was hit head-on by a Ford F-150 truck.

Shawn Hall was flown to Utah Valley Hospital in critical condition.

Start said Hall's brother Shane Hall, 24, also of Nephi, was riding in the passenger side of the Geo Metro. Shane Hall was pronounced dead at the scene.

"Before the accident the steering locked up on the truck," said Start.

The driver had regained control but by then the truck was over the center line of the two-lane road and it collided with the Geo Metro.

"The roads were wet," said Start.

The driver of the pick-up truck received minor injuries in the crash and both lanes of the road were closed for about an hour.

The Utah Highway Patrol on Saturday released the names of two men involved in the car accident on Friday.

Loss of hay bales from trailer caused fatal accident south of Nephi

By Myrna Trauntvein

Times-News Correspondent

A Gunnison man was killed Tuesday near Nephi when a hay bale fell off a trailer and hit his vehicle.

Utah Highway Patrol Sgt. Hoby Metz said Vern L. Hatch, 71, was killed in the accident, which occurred on State Route 28 about four miles south of Nephi.

A passenger in the van, 46-year-old Maxine Hatch, daughter of the victim and also of Gunnison, was injured in the accident and was transported to Central Valley Medical Center in Nephi by East Juab County Ambulance.

"The condition of the roadway was wet," said Metz. "But it was a loss of load that contributed to the crash."

"A 2006 Dodge pickup with two occupants was pulling a goose-neck flatbed trailer loaded with four large straw bales northbound. The accident was near mile marker 36," said Metz.

He said each of the bales weighed about 850 pounds.

As the two vehicles were passing each other, the single strap holding the straw bales and securing them to the trailer gave way.

"Two of the bales, on the left side (the driver's side), toppled onto the roadway," said Metz. "The first bale rolled off the

See **Accidents** on page 2



CROPS OR CRAPS • Cecil Garland, Dennis Timm, Kathy Hill and Ken Hill from the West Desert Area of Juab County met with the Juab County Commission on Monday to plan strategy to continue the fight over water with the SNWA Water project which, if completed, will deliver water to Las Vegas.

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