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The Humboldt Sun

Winnemucca, Nevada

Your Source for Community News

VOLUME 38, ISSUE 37

WEEKDAY EDITION



COMMUNITY NEWS

More than 400 people attended the American Red Cross' Summer Safety Fair on April 21 at the Winnemucca Convention Center.

Pages 10-13

NEVADA LEGISLATURE

The 74th session of the Nevada Legislature entered its 14th week on Monday. A complete schedule of this week's hearings can be found inside today's Sun.

Page 14



SPORTS

Lowry High School hosted a 1A/2A/3A track & field meet Saturday in Winnemucca, the final tune up before regionals this weekend.

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Local Weather

Tue 5/8 82/42
Mainly sunny. Warm. High 82F. Winds SSW at 5 to 10 mph.

Wed 5/9 84/46
Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 80s and lows in the mid 40s.

Thu 5/10 83/43
Mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the low 80s and lows in the low 40s.

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Shaping young lives



FORREST NEWTON • The Humboldt Sun

Back row, from left, Ron Beck, Joan Clemison, Jessie Westmoreland, Jeffrey Setzer, James Gilboy, Janet Kennedy, Michele Doyle and Michael Clark. Middle row, from left, Lynda Walton, Brant Corak, Jane Davidsaver, Ruth Alcorta, Amorita Maher, Lynn Ludlow, Brent Riemersma, Dolores Detweiler, Jeri Billingsley, Raquel Aberasturi and Nikki Bengochea. Teachers not available for photo, Lynn Cunningham and Diana Maxson. Front row, from left, Lowry Senior Class Secretary/Treasurer Kelly Casale, senior class President Michael Forney, senior class Vice President Kelsey Mann, McDermitt Combined Schools student body President and student class Vice President Katie Hill and student body Vice President Elisa Dave. For more photos from the event, see Page Nine.

Students nominate teachers for their dedication

By Forrest Newton
The Humboldt Sun

WINNEMUCCA — Teachers from around Humboldt County were honored April 26 by the senior classes of McDermitt Combined School and Lowry High School for their influence in their lives.

Superintendent Del Jarman said he and McDermitt Principal John Moddrell met with seniors in their respective schools and asked them to nominate up to six teachers. These included two teachers from their elementary years of K-4, two from the middle school years of 5-8 and two from their high school years.

"If they nominated somebody they had to write a paragraph," Jarman said. "They actually had to write a paragraph of why this teacher was so special."

A total of 205 seniors came up with 156 nominations. The seniors made their selections in December and the nominations were sealed in envelopes. The

people that were actually picked from all the nominations were on more than one ballot, he said.

"It is a very special night, I think, for teachers," Jarman said. "It kind of grows in stature as its been done a couple of times. Because that's from the kids and that's pretty daggone special."

— See **TEACHERS**, Page Two —

Planning commission approves conditional-use permit for proposed landfill on Jungo Road

Company must still obtain several more permits for solid-waste facility

By Jennifer Larson
The Humboldt Sun

WINNEMUCCA — Humboldt County could be accepting solid waste from the San Francisco Bay area hauled by rail to a landfill off Jungo Road.

The Regional Planning Commission approved an application for a conditional-use permit submitted by Jungo Land & Investments, Inc. during their April 12 meeting at the courthouse. The permit allows development of a long-term solid waste disposal site approximately 25 miles west of Winnemucca in the proximity of Desert Valley.

"I'm glad to have their business in Humboldt County," said planning commissioner Rich Brown.

The landfill will be prohibited from receiving hazardous waste and seeks only to dispose of solid waste from areas outside the county. The applicant is a subsidiary of Norcal Waste Sys-



JENNIFER LARSON • The Humboldt Sun

The Humboldt County Regional Planning Commission approved an application for a conditional-use permit submitted by Jungo Land & Investments, Inc. during their April 12 meeting. Pictured are George McGraft (left) and Don Gambelin, vice president of Jungo Land. They attended the Landfill Committee meeting on April 23 to discuss development of a long-term solid waste disposal site approximately 25 miles west of Winnemucca.

tems, Inc. Vice President of Jungo Land & Investments Don Gambelin said they would make the site available to Humboldt County waste if that is the desire of the

governing board. He said medical waste would stay out of the solid waste stream that comes into landfills now. Gambelin noted that because California is pretty restrictive, they have a

process for removing hazardous household waste like spray paint cans at the front end. There is no sorting or processing at this end, he said.

— See **LANDFILL**, Page Two —

Clearing the air — Smoking ban affecting local businesses

By Mara Hegarty
The Humboldt Sun

WINNEMUCCA — The Nevada Clean Indoor Air Act, which banned smoking in certain areas, has been in effect for six months now, and officials and businesses are weighing in with the results in Humboldt County.

According to Nevada State Health Division Public Information Officer Martha Framsted, there have been violations in more populated areas, but businesses in Humboldt County have so far been compliant with the smoking ban.

"The majority of the complaints I am hearing are from Carson City and Washoe and Clark counties," said Framsted.

Nevada State Health Officer Linda Anderson agreed, adding that she was "very surprised" at the ease of the transition in rural Nevada.

The Nevada Clean Indoor Air Act, which took effect in December, prohibits smoking in public places, including grocery stores, restaurants and bars that serve food; the ban has caused combination restaurant-and-bar establishments either to ban smoking or to stop serving food.

— See **BAN**, Page Two —

Local man bound over on drug charges

By Forrest Newton
The Humboldt Sun

WINNEMUCCA — John Eugene Smith was bound over to 6th Judicial District Court from Union Justice Court May 2 for trafficking in a controlled substance.

Judge Gene Wambolt said that there had been enough evidence presented during the preliminary hearing to believe that there had been a crime committed and that Smith could have committed it.

Officers from the Nevada Department of Public Safety Investigation Division's Trident Task Force testified that they had set up drug buys in December 2006 and February 2007, both of which were consummated in Winnemucca.

Detective Andy Rasor said he was the lead investigator of the operation. The methamphetamine that was transferred in the first instance measured out at 6.9 grams gross weight and in the second instance measured at 15.3 grams gross weight.

Smith was bound over on four counts, including the charges of trafficking in a controlled substance-level I, conspiracy to violate the Nevada Controlled Substances Act, trafficking in a controlled substance-level 2 and another count of conspiracy to violate the Nevada Controlled Substance Act.

Attorney Steve Evenson of Lovelock represented Smith at the preliminary hearing and Deputy District Attorney Michael Bongard represented the state's interests.

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LANDFILL

(Cont. from Page One)
"Our plan is to haul waste in from southern California," Gambelin said.

He said they foresee construction commencing in approximately three years, with operations and receipt of trainloads to start one to two years thereafter.

Gambelin added that schedule takes into account the long lead time necessary for railroad engineering and construction. Union Pacific Railroad has committed to providing rail service to the Jungo landfill via the former Western Pacific Rail line running from Gerlach.

"They're excited about having that business," Gambelin said, referring to Union Pacific.

He noted that Jungo Land intends to draw its workforce from Winnemucca and surrounding areas. They anticipate needing 20 to 25 full-time employees. Gambelin said activity at the development will effectively occur 24 hours a day, seven days per week. However, he explained that activity levels will be the greatest when trainloads are being offloaded. When the train set arrives, they will be very active for about an eight- to 10-hour period.

Jungo Land expects to receive one trainload a day, five days per

week, Gambelin said. No noise or light from the landfill will be heard or seen from town.

Development of the disposal site will occur incrementally. He added the plan is to construct between 15 to 20 acres of lined disposal cells once every two years over a 40- to 50-year period until all the lining systems are in place. The landfill is expected to operate for at least 100 years.

"I find it hard to believe it's going to last," said planning commissioner Bob Edwards, referring to the disposal site's life expectancy.

Gambelin said they have another landfill in Lincoln County accepting waste from the Los Angeles area.

The development will utilize lined disposal cells, leachate removal structures, rainwater management facilities, landfill gas collection and flaring equipment to protect natural resources.

Planning Department Senior Technician Sandy Hammargren reviewed the staff report, noting the office received a soils report from a rangeland management specialist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The report states the soils in the area were not ideal for this type of facility.

She said they also received

comments from county Road Superintendent John Russum regarding help with maintaining the road should the traffic increase. Hammargren said a condition of the use permit is dust control.

Jungo Land plans on building much of their rail yard using non-railroad workers, Gambelin said. He noted that no federal land is involved as the disposal site and support facilities will occupy one section privately owned by Nevada Land Resource Company.

According to Gambelin, they currently have a purchase option with NLR. Access to the disposal site will occur via a new private road that will be constructed on railroad land and run along the south side of the rail line from the Jungo Road crossing to the development.

In addition to the rail yard and landfill structures, he said they will use temporary buildings for administrative and equipment maintenance needs. A four-strand barbed wire fence will be erected along the perimeter of the property. Water needed for construction and operations will be provided by onsite wells pursuant to a permit from the state engineer.

Planning Commissioner Catherine Cole Ferandelli questioned if it would be possible for

Jungo Land to share their recycling efficiencies with the community in order to embark on that locally. Gambelin told them the potential is there. If there is a container load of recyclables that gets shipped back, he said it will be easy to add into the stream they already have markets developed for.

The Regional Planning Commission's approval is the first step in the process. There are a number of permits and approvals that Jungo Land must obtain and comply with in order to develop and operate the solid waste disposal site. They will also need to obtain other permits from the state of Nevada and the federal government.

Gambelin attended the Landfill Committee meeting with George McGraft to report on Jungo Land's future development.

Humboldt County Administrator Bill Deist said that the ordinance needs to be modified in order to establish a second waste disposal site locally.

"The only approved landfill is the regional one," he said.

Landfill Committee Chairman Joyce Sheen noted that they make recommendations to the county commission and Winnemucca City Council.

TEACHERS

(Cont. from Page One)

The teachers had been notified early enough for them to invite friends and relatives to attend the banquet to share in this special occasion.

Not all teachers decided to go to the podium and make a speech but several did.

"It's a wonderful thing that students still remember me," said Winnemucca Grammar School teacher Jane Davidsaver.

"I'm only as good as the material I'm given to teach," said Lowry High School teacher Janet Kennedy. "And the material that I have been given to teach are the youth of Winnemucca, Nevada. They are the most outstanding people I've ever met and been privileged to be around."

"It means a lot coming from these students because they're really the ones that know what goes on in our classrooms," said McDermitt Combined School

teacher Amorita Maher.

"We want to make an impact. We want to make a difference in someone's life," said Jessie Westmoreland, a former kindergarten teacher and now the Northern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program Coordinator.

One teacher even began to go to the podium but quickly turned away when her emotions overcame her.

Jarman said he had seen this done in three or four school districts during his career. It had been a popular event in those areas, and he wanted to try it here.

He remembered a teacher who was ready to retire and decided to stay on another year because of being one of the chosen ones. Another teacher he knew said this was why she kept on teaching even after 22 years.

He said he asked Job Opportu-

nities in Nevada Branch Manager Jackie Kearns to put together a subcommittee to come up with criteria to be used to select the senior's choices. It took her about five weeks to get everything set up, she said.

The committee eventually decided on the three criteria of impact, presence and discipline before looking at the nominations.

"If wasn't knowledge. It wasn't teaching methods," Kearns said. "It was impact. I'm glad we did that because when we got into the nominations that (impact) was hitting us all the time."

Presence meant not just standing in front of the class but being present to the class or student.

They also ended up with the word discipline, but had considered organization.

"And we didn't mean by discipline that everybody sat there

with their hands folded, but that there was controlled chaos in the classroom," Kearns said.

After having decided on the criteria, they dove into the nominations.

The school district was not out any money for the event. The Mining Industry Foundation for Lowry High School funded the evening to the tune of \$3,500 and has committed to funding future annual banquets, as well.

School board President Jerry Pfarr handed out the awards and shook hands with the winners, congratulating them on behalf of the board of trustees.

After the ceremony he said he felt it was important not only for the teachers but for the students.

"It allows students to reflect on the teachers that have made a big impact on their lives," he said. "It's awesome that the teachers were able to be honored."

BAN

(Cont. from Page One)

"They are making choices in their business practice and going one way or the other," said Anderson. "I hope it continues."

The transition has not been as fluid with businesses in the Washoe County area, according to Washoe County Health Officer Bob Sack, who says a crackdown on noncompliant businesses could be in the works.

Compared with the single complaint that has been filed in Humboldt County, Washoe officials said they have received approximately 200 complaints concerning violations in Reno since December. Clark County officials have received 2,000 complaints in the Las Vegas area.

Humboldt County District Attorney Russell Smith said that there is one non-compliant business in Humboldt County. The business has received a verbal warning from the state health department. Smith said they were still in violation, so they are going to receive a written warn-

ing. After that, said Smith, the next step is legal action.

"It's a crime, so we'd prosecute the business owner," he said, adding that the case would then be turned over to the public health department.

Some establishments are complaining that the ban has led to a drop in business.

Berry-Hinckley, the parent company of Winner's Corner convenience stores, reported a definite decrease in slot machine usage at all of the 33 Winner's Corner stores statewide since the smoking ban went into effect.

According to Adam Carlson, a marketing manager and public relations representative for Berry-Hinckley, gaming within the stores is down 25 to 50 percent in the first quarter of 2007.

"We expected it to go down initially and then climb back up slowly," said Carlson of the gaming, and added that the smoking ban "does have an impact."

"We have the same concerns

as all business owners," he said. "That sales would suffer because customers aren't allowed to smoke, which they've been accustomed to doing."

Grocery chain store Raley's Supermarket and Drug Centers has slot machines inside; though the new smoking ban outlaws smoking in grocery stores, Raley's representatives said they have not seen an impact.

"The Nevada Clean Air Act has not had a significant impact on slot machine play in our stores," said Raley's spokesperson Amy Johnston.

Other, smaller local businesses have been affected in various ways.

The Player's Bar is an example of an establishment that has had to adjust because of the smoking ban. The Player's sign used to read "Player's Bar and Grill," but however, since the smoking ban, Player's owners have opted to stop preparing food to allow their customers to continue to smoke in the bar.

"It has definitely slowed daytime business, but it hasn't affected business at night or on the weekend," said employee Jen Wright, adding that Player's was mainly a bar that had served food on the side. Wright added that business would have been hurt more if the owner had decided to ban smoking to continue serving food.

"For us it was the right decision," she said.

Other businesses opted to ban smoking and continue serving food.

"If anything, business has been better," said Las Margaritas owner Jose Meza. "More couples come and sit at the bar, and customers say it is nicer now."

Meza said he has had only two complaints from smoking customers and that people have now adjusted to the new rule.

"The customers who smoke respectfully smoke outside. It's cleaner," he said, adding that the smokeless environment is also healthier for employees.

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