

## 200th unit train of Altamont crude oil leaves SLC

The 200th unit train bearing Altamont crude oil from the Uintah Basin left Salt Lake City Friday for the Chevron Oil Company refinery at Richmond, California.

THE TRAIN left the Chevron refinery delivery point by Union Pacific for Ogden from whence it goes by Southern Pacific to Richmond.

The unit train system was inaugurated in January, 1974, as a means of delivering the thick Uintah-basin crude to the

To remove a ceramic tile use a glass cutter and score an "X" on it. Tap it lightly (but hard enough to do something) at the center. This should loosen it and/or crack off enough of it to give you working space. Use a chisel to dig out the rest.

refinery.

THE TRAINS usually have been operating in 36-hour cycles. Each train has about 70 tankers. Each tanker is loaded with about 530 barrels of crude.

The crude is piped to Salt Lake City from the Uintah Basin by Chevron Pipeline Company.

THE CRUDE, which turns to a thick lard at temperatures of less than 90 degrees, is heated when it goes into the pipeline.

Its temperature is maintained by three heating stations en route to Salt Lake City. It is heated once again as it is put into the tank cars.

If the crude should thicken by the time the train reaches Richmond, the cars are heated with steam to reliquify the crude for delivery to the refinery.

# ALAMONT HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS



MRS MAY 26, 2009 # 0193

## AHS graduates to walk on Thursday

Graduation ceremonies for Altamont High School students are set for May 28 at 7 p.m. in the gymnasium.

The 33 students who will take part in the ceremonies are: Stetson Christensen, Kane Stevenson, Talon Carter, Brynlee Oman, Ashley Lamb, Frankie Miles, Jennica Miles, Carly Thacker, Stephanie Jenkins, Ty Taylor, Brandon La Verne, Amanda Gallegos, Rachel Lyte, Blake Shiner, Gentry Miles, Blake Bess, Heather Mathisen, Hailey Pugh, Emily Thacker, Cole Butterfield, Nicholas Burton, Shayla Frandsen, Melissa Bristol, Chase Seeley, Brett Jensen, Daniel Bruce, Chelsi Pass, Dylan Thomas, Andrew Starfield, Shelby Bird, Whitley Lisonbee, Elyse England, and Weston Rowley.

The valedictorian for the Class of 2009 is Brynlee Oman. The salutatorian is Frankie Miles.

The guest speaker will be Lily Eskelsen, vice president of the National Education Association.

Altamont High School's commencement exercises are set for May 28 in the school's gymnasium. This year's valedictorian is Brynlee Oman. The salutatorian is Frankie Miles.

After 60 years

# Mohlman's store will close its doors

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Basin St. 4-3-71

"After 24 years, we find it necessary to close shop," begins an announcement from Dee and Minnie Lue Roberts, owners of the Mohlman's Store in Altamont.

The Roberts have carried on a tradition begun 60 years ago, when Glenn Mohlman started in the grocery store business. His first store was in Tabiona, then Altonah. He moved to Altamont in about 1951. When Mohlman was ready to retire, in about 1966, he sold the store to the Roberts, who had both grown up in the Uintah Basin, but were living in Salt Lake. Mohlman's widow, Florence, lives in Las Vegas.

Roberts remodeled the store about 19 years ago in response to increased business as the oil activity in the area picked up. They added a department store, carrying toys, domestics, clothing, and tools.

"This has not been an easy decision to reach, but economic pressures have made it a necessity. We thank those of you who have supported us over the years, and we appreciate your friendship and patronage," the announcement continues.

"Over the years we have tried our best to serve this community with the lowest possible prices on grocery, meat, produce and non-food items, while trying at the same time to provide you with the quality, service and variety you deserve."

Besides regular weekly sales, and the promise to meet any advertised price in the Basin, Mohlman's sponsored such traditional events as the annual Santa's Parade. Held early in November, the event was an "adults only" evening to preview the new Christmas toys and gifts. There was lots of food, door prizes and entertainment throughout the evening.

The store attempted to carry everything, from seed and bedding plants in the spring, to veterinary supplies and deli lunches. They carried craft supplies, electronic items, victorian gift items, and health foods. A customer could even order lumber.

The Roberts plan to stay in the area. They also operate a trucking business. They may continue to use the store building for the trucking operation.

They agonized over the decision for some time. "We are sorry to you for having to close, but we cannot continue to run at a loss because of increased operating costs and because of reduced business volume brought about by increased competitive pressure by larger retail outlets in neighboring communities that are perceived to have better prices, or more variety, etc."

"Again, thank you for your past support and continued friendship."

They will begin liquidation this week.

# AHS educator dies at school

by Geoff Liesik  
Jintah Basin Standard

A teaching assistant at Altamont High School died last Monday after she suffered an apparent heart attack at the school.

Jeanne Pearl Beal, 54, was discovered just before 9 a.m. by a student in the classroom where she facilitated the electronic delivery of Utah State University courses, said Altamont High Principal John Huitt.

"She would have had some students in class but they were busy getting ready for the region drama meet," Huitt said. "One of her students walked in to ask her about taking a class and found her."

A woman who was signing in at the office to work as a substitute in the school's cafeteria happened to be an EMT, Huitt said. She performed CPR on Beal with the help of a teacher until an ambulance arrived.

The school district called in counselors from Northeastern Counseling Center to meet with students Monday and Tuesday. It was the first use of the district's crisis response team, a multidisciplinary group of volunteers that was recently created through the efforts of Duchesne School District Director of Student Services Bruce Guymon.

"I have to really thank Bruce Guymon," Huitt said, noting that Guymon was able to have additional counselors at the school within 30 minutes of being notified of Beal's death, which helped students and faculty.

One recommendation by those who met with students was that they put their feelings about Beal in writing to help them deal with their grief.

"Her time here was well spent to help mold young minds and teach us to be respectful young men and women," wrote former student Kyle Kettle.

Altamont senior Lance Walker, one of Beal's current students, wrote that she taught him that despite life's difficulties, "in the end, things will work out."



Jeanne Beal

"I love her so much," Walker wrote. "Very few women have had as great an influence on me as she did."

Beal, an Altamont High graduate, had worked for the district for more than 14 years, according to Huitt. She was "always in great spirits," he said, but had a difficult time emotionally after her mother

died in October.

"She took great care of her mom," the principal said, "which is a challenge in itself. She was always there for her mom."

Beal is survived by her husband, Larry, five children, and seven grandchildren. Her eighth grandchild is due in August. Funeral services were held Saturday at the Altamont LDS Stake Center.

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# AHS graduation slated for May 29

By Aldon Rachele

Graduation ceremonies for Altamont High School students are set for May 29 at 7 p.m. in the gymnasium.

The keynote speaker will be Craig Tew, who is retiring

after a long teaching career at Altamont.

The 33 students who will take part in the ceremonies are: Baily Allred, Michael Ames, Aimee Ashby, Michael Bess, Bowdy Brinkerhoff, Brett Broadhead, Terry Lee Brown, Austin Burton,

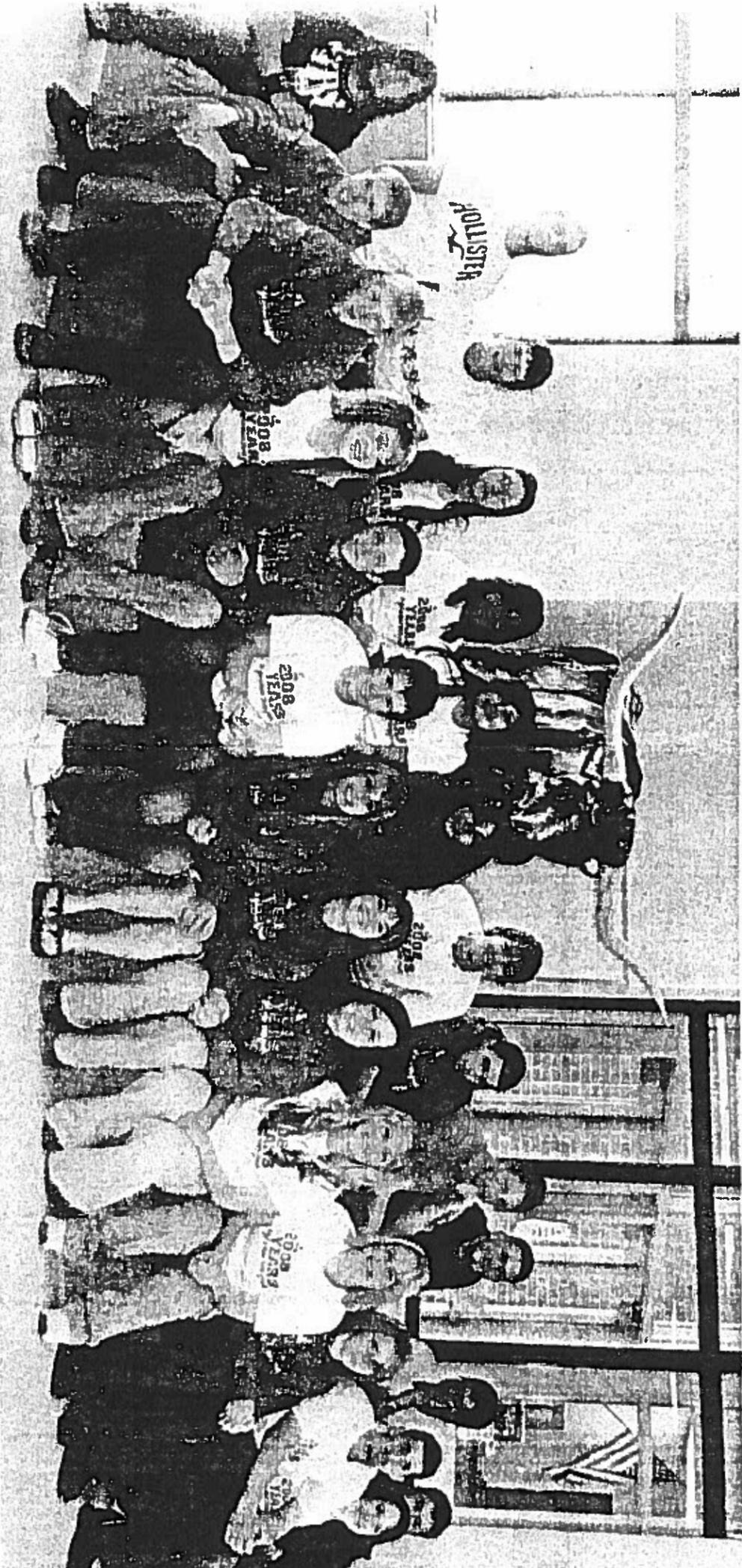
Melissa Carroll, Richard Checketts, Tyson Christensen, Nikki Cook, Joey Draper, Chet Goodrich, Zachary Goodrich, Billy Hardinger, Raquel Hardman, Keeshla Hatch, Coy Hogan, McKenzie Lindsey, Victoria Manning, Jonathan Meeks, Levi Miles,

Malcolm Miles, Alayna Monsen, Naphawan Paoboonprung, Kyle Pugh, Jessica Sorensen, Kenzi Sorensen, Darrell Jordan Stevenson, Landon Thomas, Echo Walker, Jessica Weber.

Altamont's 2008 valedictorian is Kenzi Sorensen. The salutatorians for 2008 are Richard Checketts, Alayna Monsen and Echo Walker.

After graduation the senior class will see a movie in Roosevelt and then go bowling and swimming in Duchesne. They will have breakfast in Altamont at 6 a.m. on May 30.

Prior to graduation a senior trip will be held in Moab on May 23-24, with a river running activity.



Altamont High School graduation ceremonies are set for May 29 in the school's gymnasium. This year's valedictorian is Kenzi Sorensen and the salutatorians are Richard Checketts, Alayna Monsen and Echo Walker.

# Foy, Bullethead shoot down opponents

By ALDON RACHELE  
arachele@ubmedia.biz

Altamont's McKay Foy is on his way to joining his Foy brothers as a Four-time State Champion after winning his third title at the 2A State Mat Meet earlier this month as a Longhorn. He pinned Tyler Scheurn in 3:11 at the 145 pound state championship match in 2018. Scheurn is from North Summit High School in Coalville.

Foy started the state meet with a 1:19 fall over Kaden Madsen from Gunnison and pinned Hunter Joseph from Beaver in 1:05. Foy reached the state title match when he beat Slade Sheriff from Millard in a 3:01 fall.

"I used a cradle to win my state championship match on a pin. I used cradles and a bar arm in the other matches," Foy said. "It feels great to be a Three-Time state champ. Yes, the bonus points (two extra for a pin) were a huge part of winning the state title and everyone on the team helped out with every single point we needed to win the 2A state championship."

Altamont won its first ever 2A State Crown after many years as the 1A State Champs.

In 2017 Foy won his second title at 145 pounds in a 6-3 win over Matthew Taylor of Duchesne. Foy also pinned Tyler Perelle of Rich in 1:22 and he reached the title match on a pin in 2:41 over Tyler Draper from Monticello. Foy won his first crown when he pinned Austin Trapp from Pitte in 2016. Foy had a pin over Spencer Squires of Monticello in 0:28. He pinned Barlow Pace of Wayne in 1:07.

Jate Frost of Union downed Dyllin Broughton of Delta 6-3 for first place at 145 pounds in the 3A State Meet and also beat Isaac Rees of Morgan in 0:29, pinned Bo Bushnell of South Summit in 1:36 and beat McKay Meccarillo of Emery 5-2.

Bullethead placed fourth for Union at 220 pounds when he lost to Jackson Schugk of Juab 5-3.

Bullethead opened the meet on a 6-2 win over Tyler Banks of Summit Academy and pinned Jason Hemmingson of Manti in 3:33. Bullethead lost to Chase Trussell of Morgan in 1:53 on a fall. Trussell went on to win the state crown. Bullethead edged Kemmer Jones from South Sever 7-6. Bullethead reached the third place bout and ended up fourth.

"I actually placed 4th in the state tournament for the 3A 220 division and not third. I lost 5-3, as he got a near-fall and takedown on me which gave him the 5 points he needed. I got a take down and escape that set me at



Altamont coach Steve Sanderson holds the 2A State Meet trophy and Mike Foy was named coach of the year for AHS.

PHOTO BY LEESA STANSFIELD

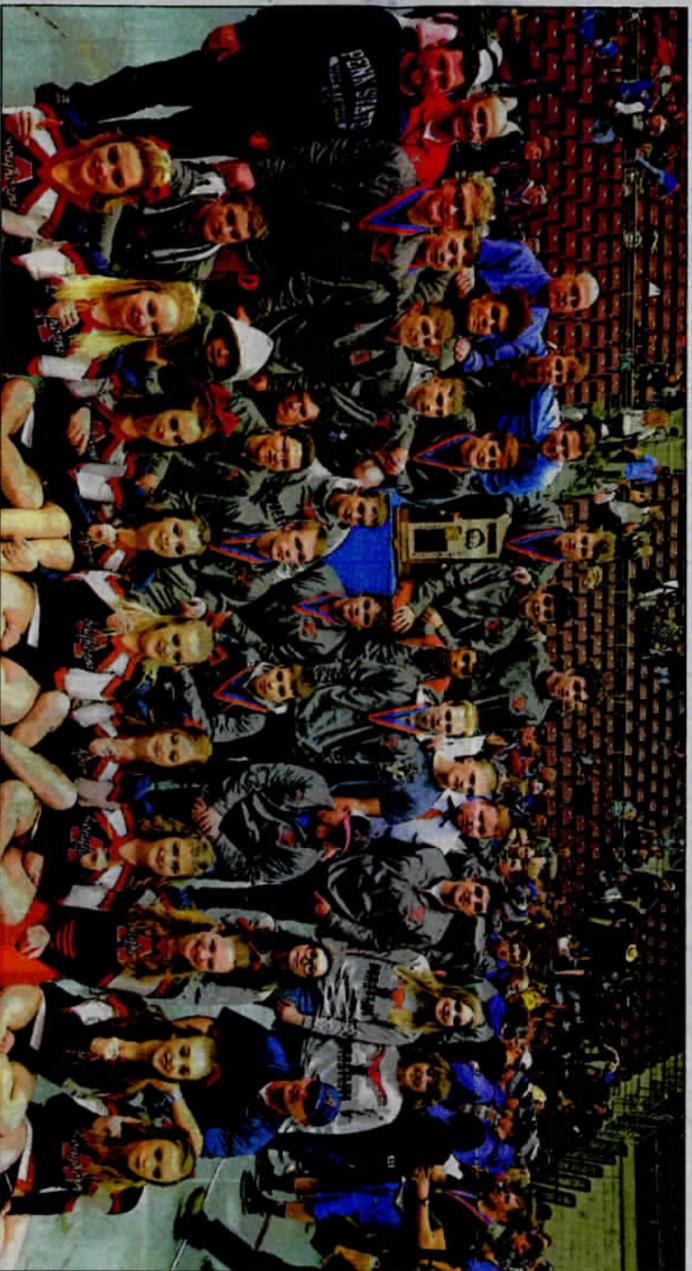


PHOTO BY LEESA STANSFIELD

Altamont won the 2A State Mat Meet with 244 points. North Summit was second at 240. McKay Foy and Danny Thompson from Altamont took first places at the 2A State Meet.

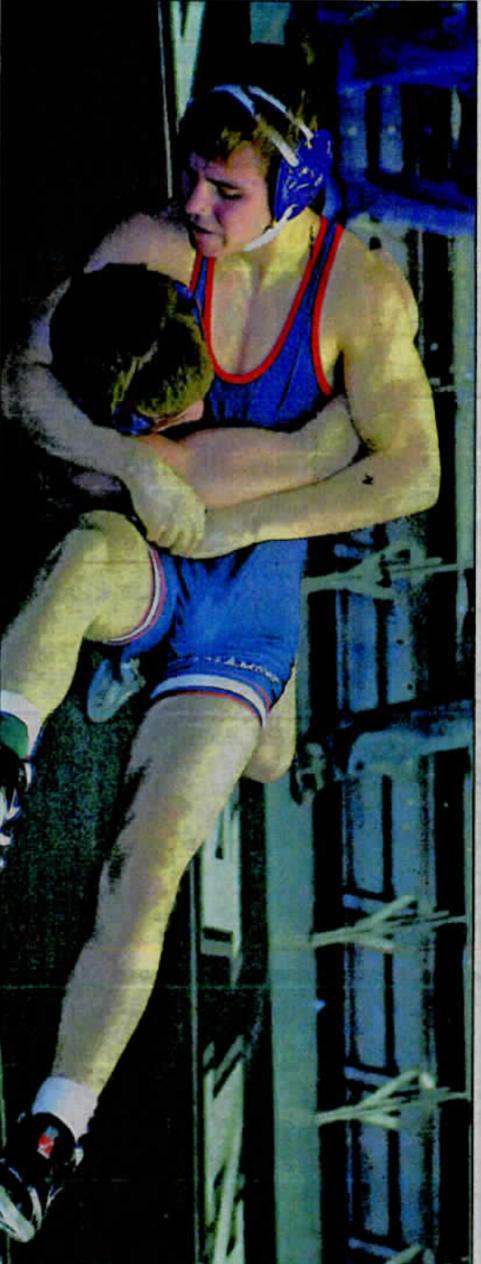


PHOTO BY LEESA STANSFIELD

Dean Thompson from Altamont takes part in a wrestling bout at the state meet.



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Feb 20, 2018

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"I actually placed 4th in the state tournament for the 3A 220 division and not third. I lost 5-3, as he got a near-fall and takedown on me which gave him the 5 points he needed. I got a take down and escape that set me at 3. It's my 1st year placing in a state meet and it feels good knowing that I finally qualified for state. I've been wrestling only since my freshman year. I took this sport on because I wanted it to keep in shape for football but I've grown to love it." Bullethead

SEE AHS MATTEMEN on B5



Altamont coach Steve Sanderson holds the 2A State Meet trophy and Mike Foy was named coach of the year for AHS.

PHOTO BY LEESA STANSFIELD

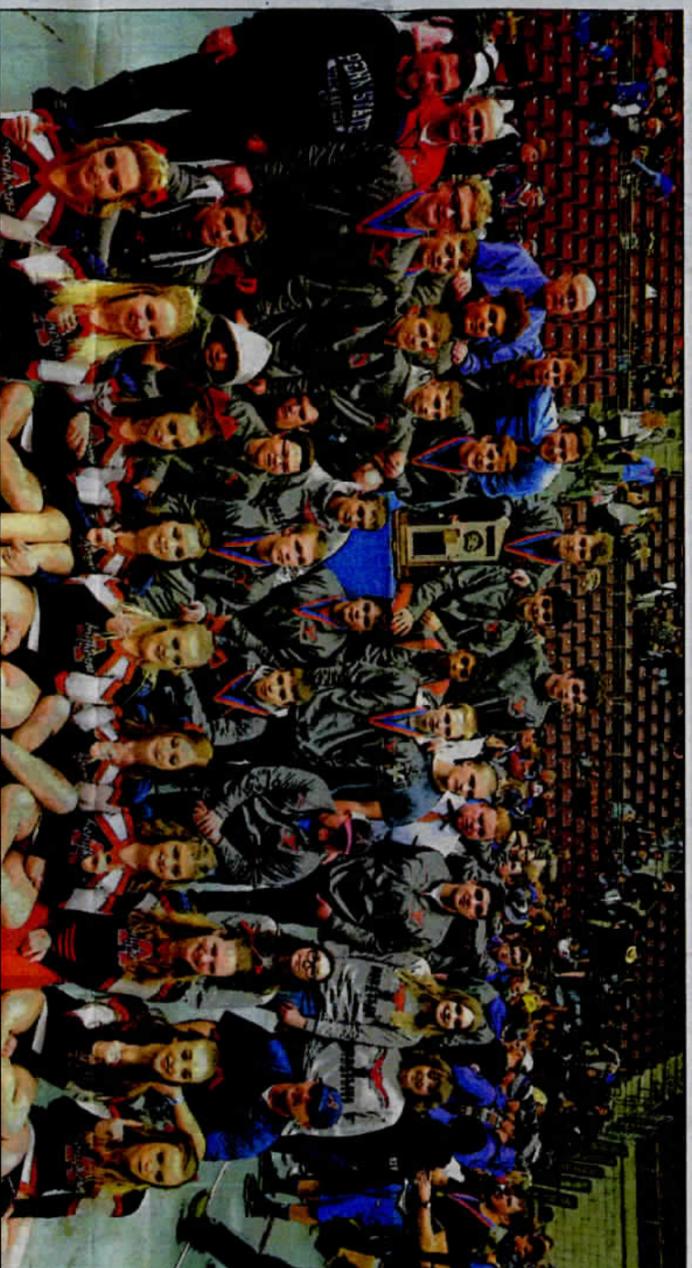


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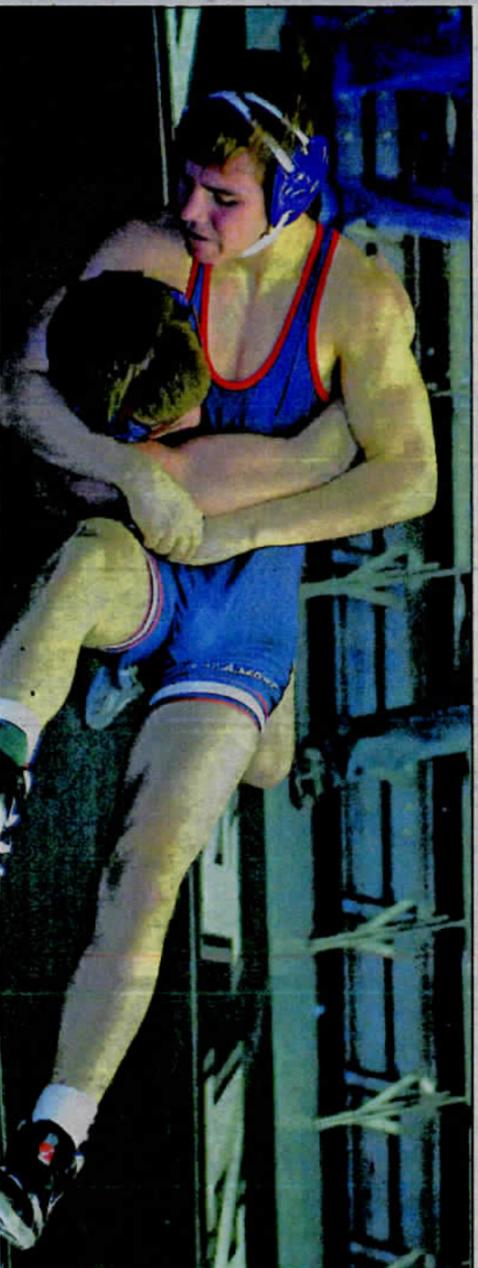


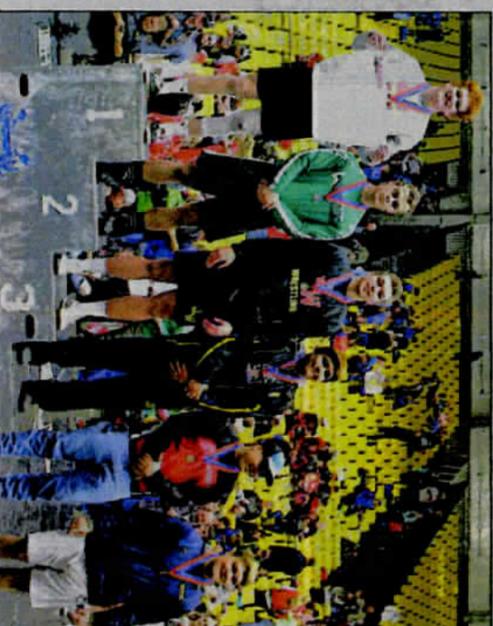
PHOTO BY LEESA STANSFIELD

Dean Thompson from Altamont takes part in a wrestling bout at the state meet.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Nolan Bullethead from Union High School in a match against Uintah.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Union's Nolan Bullethead placed fourth at 220 pound division at the 3A State Meet. Jate Frost from Union was first at 145 pounds.

# Altamont No. 1 at 2A State Meet

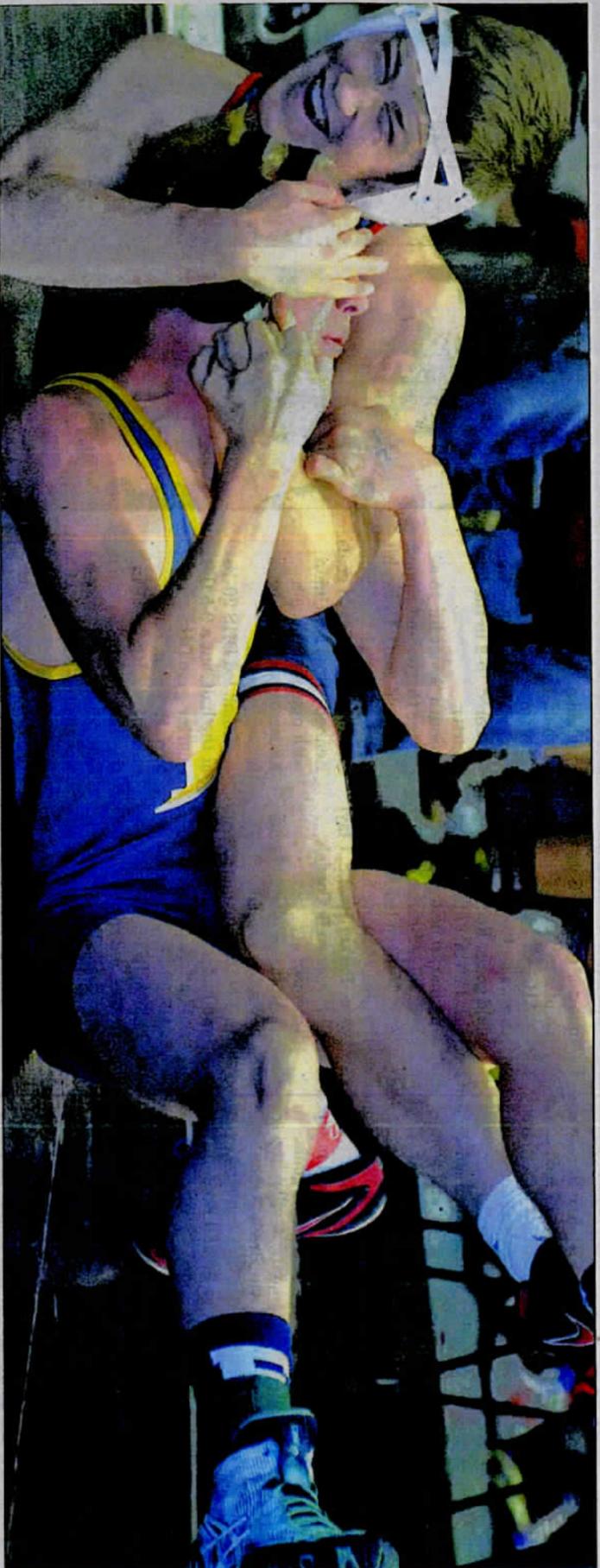


PHOTO BY LEESA STANSFIELD

Danny Thompson of AHS took the 152 pound championship at the 2A State Meet.

## AHS MATMEN

Continued from B4

head is pleased with some great coaches down at Union High School in Roland McCook, Coach Hunsaker, Gregg Robbins, Shane Frost, Bullethead said. "I had one pin in my second match against a Manti kid where I used a half-Nelson. He started in the bottom position and I broke him down and was able to get him in the half nelson, which I pinned him and got the win."

The other state champion from Duchesne County was Altamont's Danny Thompson, who pinned teammate Heeston Murdock in 31 seconds for the

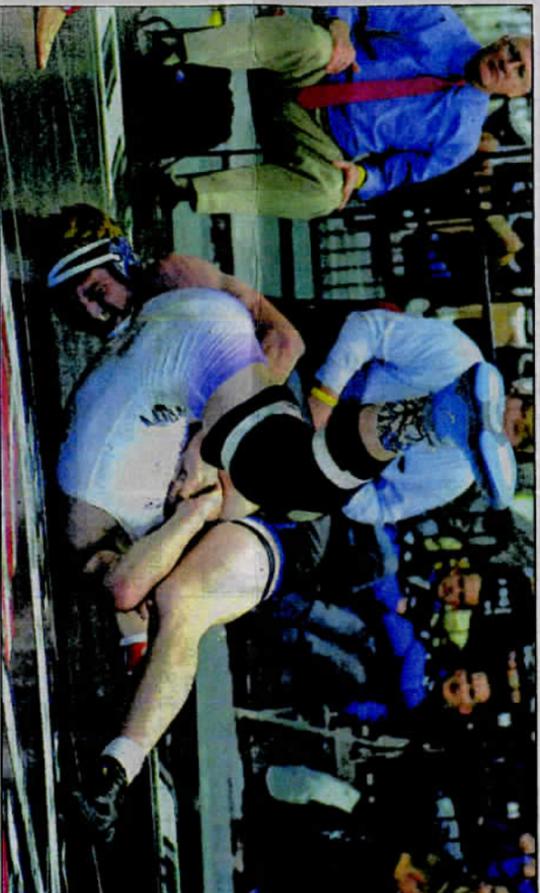


PHOTO BY LEESA STANSFIELD

McKay Foy of Altamont works on getting a pin for his third state title as AHS coach Steve Sanderson (left) checks it all out.

152-pound crown. Danny Thompson also pinned

Josh Peterson of Enterprise and Karson Brunson

of North Sevier. Last year Danny Thompson was sec-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Foy's are happy with McKay Foy a three-time state champ at 145 pounds.

ond at the 1A State Meet (Frost is from Randlett in Uintah County.) Cab Deets

and Gavin Ayotte won state titles at Uintah in the 4A class.



PHOTO BY LEESA STANSFIELD

Coach Steve Sanderson (right) and Danny Thompson (left) are happy with the first place results of AHS and Thompson.



PHOTO BY LEESA STANSFIELD

Tristan Farmsworth of Altamont.

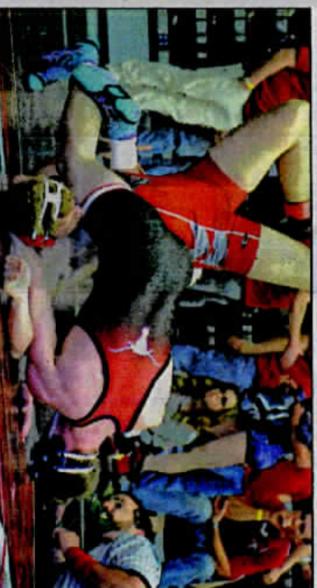


PHOTO BY LEESA STANSFIELD

Wyatt Jessen from AHS is busy on the mat as he tries to get a pin. He got the pin.



PHOTO BY LEESA STANSFIELD

AHS' Mac Thacker who is a freshman competes in the 285 pound match.



PHOTO BY LEESA STANSFIELD

Russell Mitchell from Altamont competes at the 2A State Meet.



PHOTO BY LEESA STANSFIELD

Cash Robb of AHS pins his matman.

# Altamont celebrates class of 2015

By Andrew Weeks  
aweeks@ubmedia.biz

ALTAMONT – Forty-one seniors received their diplomas in front of a packed auditorium Friday night at Altamont High School.

Before the ceremonies, students gathered in the hallways to chat before filing outside to have their class picture taken. Girls wore red cap and gowns, while the boys donned the color blue. One boy peeled back his gown to reveal the Superman logo, interpreting what these students may have been feeling on their special day.

"It's hard to leave. I loved getting involved here at the school," said graduate Katie Sorensen, noting that she was involved with FFA the whole four years while at the school.

Sorensen plans to pursue a cosmetology degree at Taylor Andrews in Ogden, with the ultimate goal of returning to the Basin to find a job. She eventually would like to open her own beauty shop.

The next step in Randy Strawn's life is attending USU Eastern in Price, where he plans to study welding. He's already received a \$600 certificate from UBATC and said he looks forward to pursuing his career goals. Does he plan to find work in the Basin? Probably not, he said.

But the Basin is home, now and in the future, to Mariah Shiner.

"I see myself coming back here," she said. "It's pretty hard to leave the Basin."

She hasn't quite decided what she wants to pursue, but plans to attend college in Rangely, Colo., and maybe do something in the agriculture field. Those are the classes she enjoyed most at Altamont. While in high school she participated in FFA and rodeo.

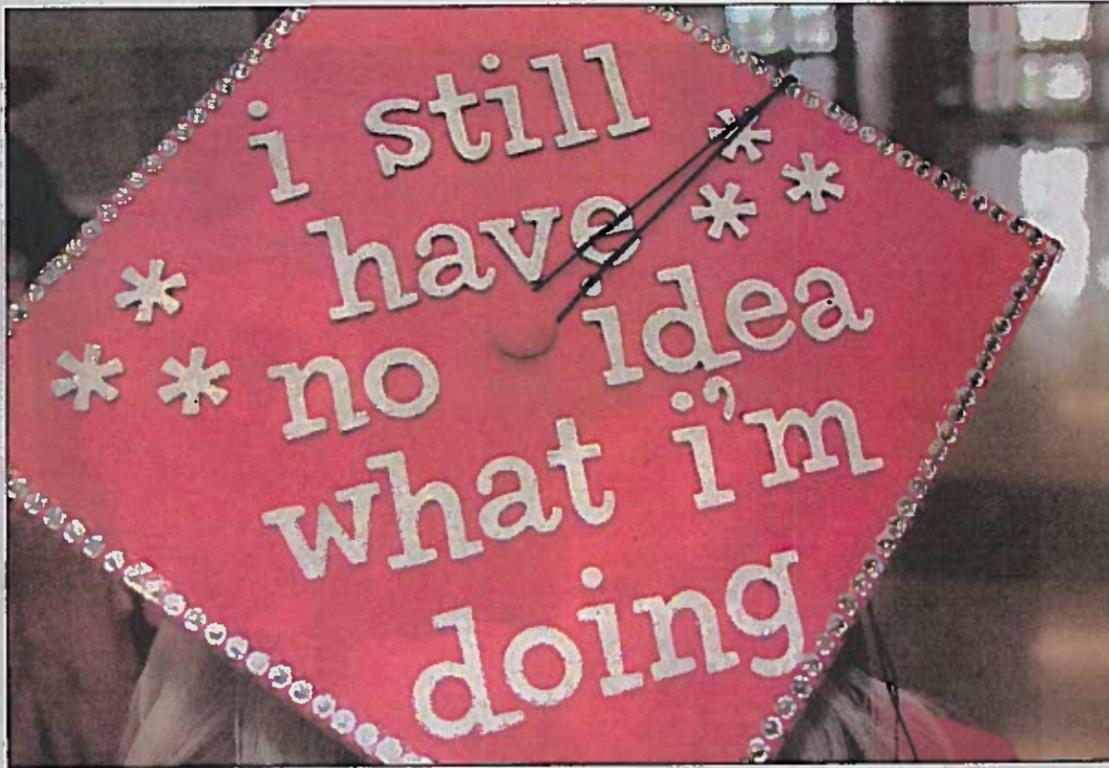
After their class picture, students filed into the school to await commencement ceremonies.

Speakers included Salutatorian Steffani Steeley and Valedictorian Alyssa Brunson. Kelsey Justice, senior class president, welcomed the group, while Kim Campbell gave the keynote address.

Campbell donned her own cap, which audience members recognized from a Dr. Seuss story, and took a selfie – err, rather a "groupie" – on stage with the Class of 2015.

Audience members laughed and cheered at a video presentation of the students, and a few minutes later the seniors were walking the line, shaking hands, giving hugs, and receiving their diplomas. When they turned their tassels, a stream of confetti and balloons was released on stage and another round of celebrations began.

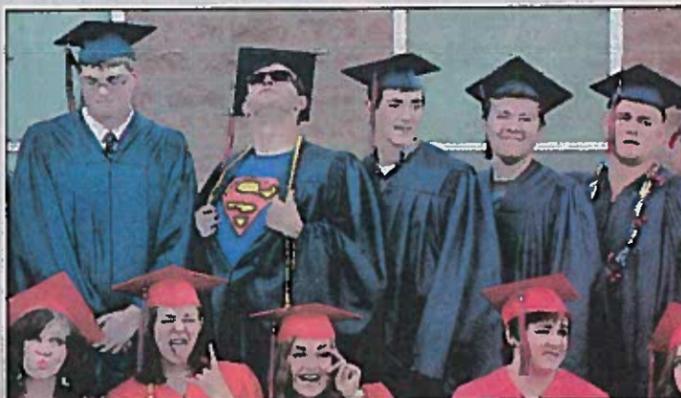
You did it, Principal Janalee Goodrich said. Congratulations.



Mariah Shiner's cap tells how she feels about the next chapter of her life: She hasn't quite decided what she's going to pursue, though she does plan to attend college in Rangely, Colo. Other students decorated their caps with emblems or sayings.



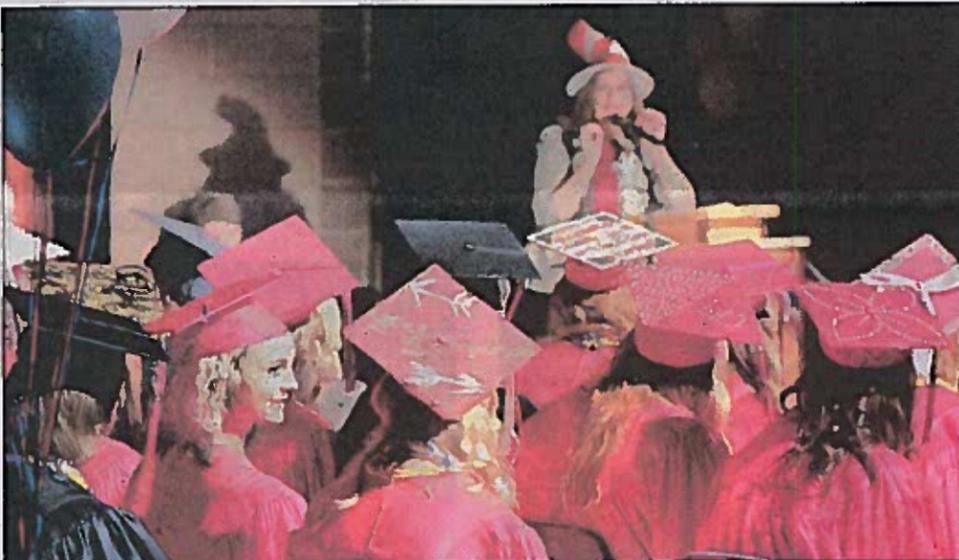
A child finds the balloons at graduation more interesting than the ceremonies.



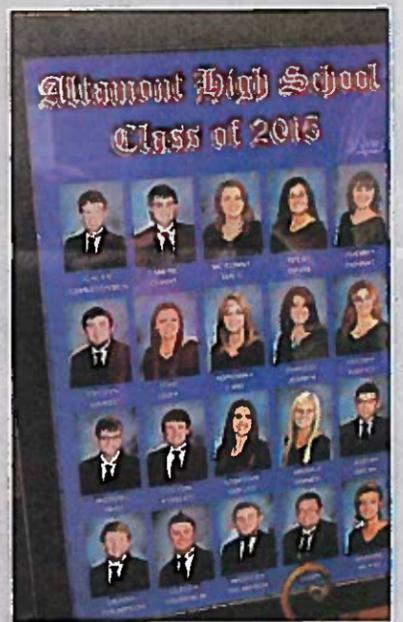
This graduate is having some fun while waiting for class pictures to be taken Friday night.



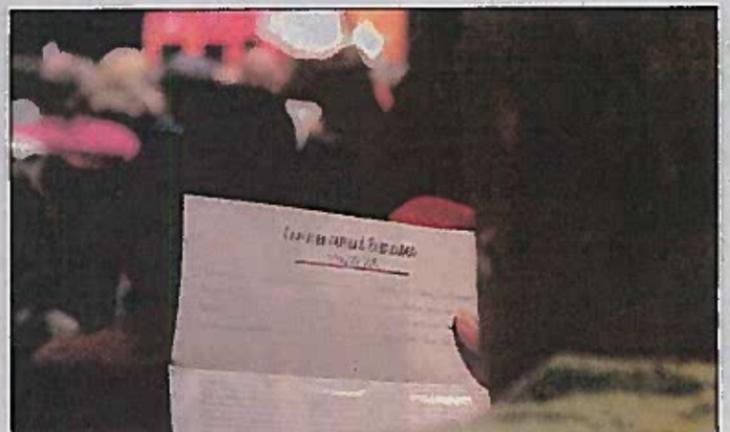
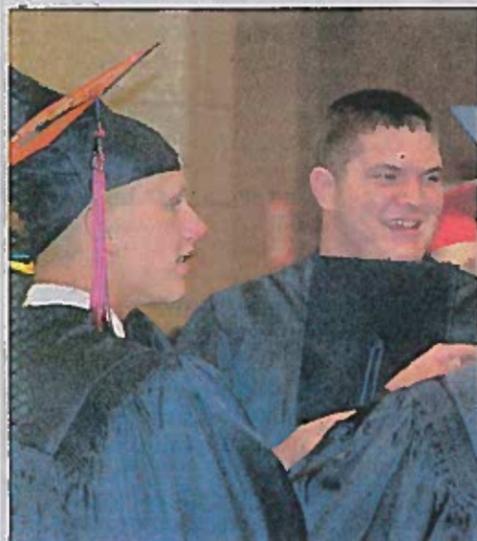
Diplomas await the graduates on stage at Altamont High School on Friday.



Kim Campbell, keynote speaker at graduation ceremonies, dons a Dr. Seuss hat while talking to the seniors.



Pictures of the graduates greet visitors outside the auditorium at the school.



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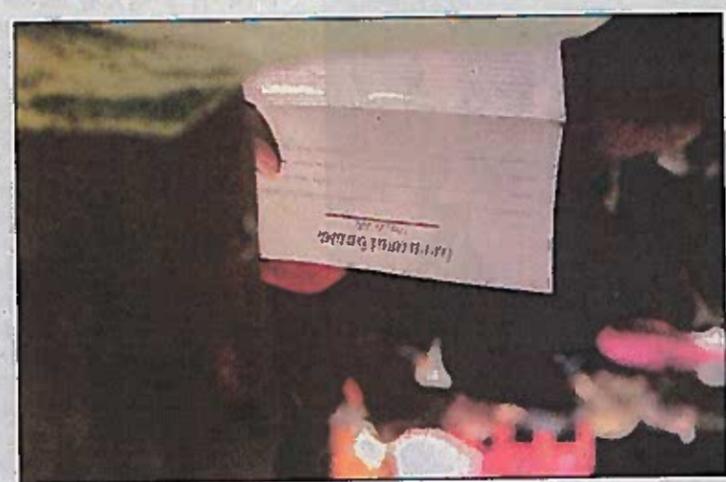
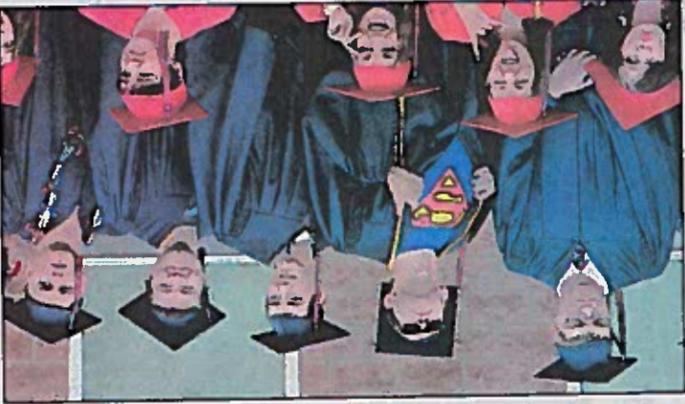
Randy Strawn, with his cap off, chats with friends before graduation ceremonies Friday in Altamont.



Katie Sorensen gets ready for graduation Friday night at Altamont High School.



A child finds the balloons at graduation more interesting than the ceremonies. This graduate is having some fun while waiting for class pictures to be taken Friday night.



An audience member reviews the program before commencement ceremonies at the high school.



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# Sports

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

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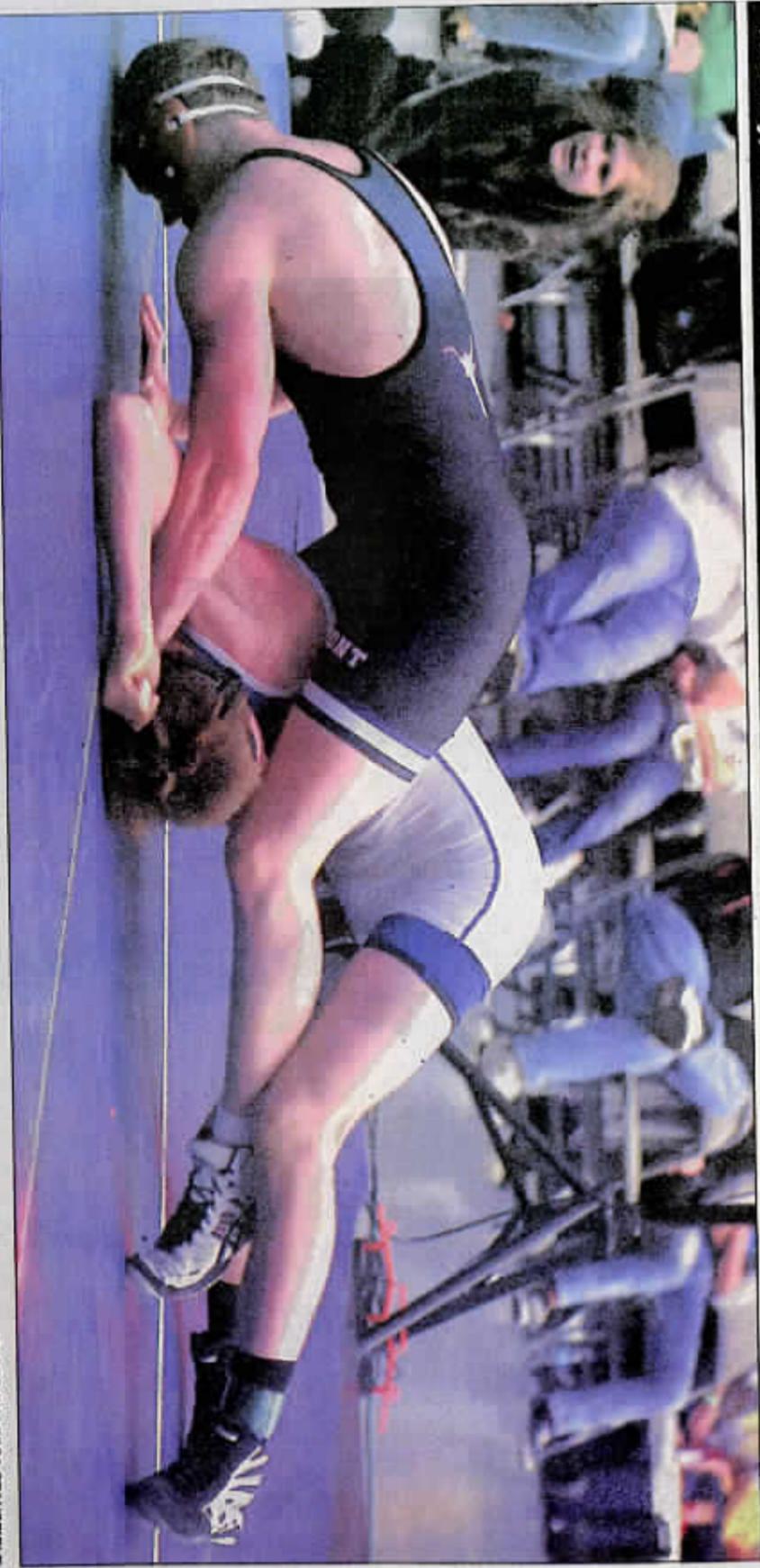


PHOTO BY LEESSA STANSFIELD

Domanik Stansfield of Altamont battles a matman at a wrestling tournament. Stansfield overcame injuries to compete at the state meet.

## Altamont claims eight state mat titles

By ALDON RACHELE  
arachele@ubmedia.biz

Altamont won its 8th state championship in wrestling when the Longhorns bagged the 2017 title in a good battle with the Duchesne Eagles last month. They beat Duchesne 198.5 to 187.

The Longhorns captured their first mat crown in 1994 under then coach Steve Cox. Altamont won its first state title under Coach Cory Allred in 2004. After Wayne won championships in 2005 and 2006, Altamont nabbed the 2007 state crown. Duchesne under Coach Brandon Moat won a state title in 2008. The Eagles won their first state wrestling team title in 1981.

Monticello bagged the state crown in 2009, and then Altamont won three straight team championships from 2010 to 2012. Monticello was the state champ in 2014 and Duchesne won two crowns un-

der Ken Lynn in 2015 and 2016.

Allred coached Altamont to its 8th state crown and his 7th as the mat coach at Altamont in 2017.

"Altamont is back on top as the Longhorns edged Duchesne 198.5 to 187 for the 1A State championship at Utah Valley University in Orem.

One of the key matches was a wild 19-14 win by Altamont's Wyatt Jessen over Duchesne's Steven Skewes at 160 pounds to lock up the team title for the Longhorns. Jessen won his second mat title.

Jessen was at full strength at just the right time and became a state champ. He entered the championship bout on a pin in 4:45 over Paul Deanda from Monticello. Skewes pinned Kyler Bredgaard of Wayne in just 37 seconds. Altamont and Duchesne combined for eight state championships with the Eagles pocketing five crowns and Longhorns

bagging three."

Other Altamont state champs were McKay Foy, 145, and Cody Miles, 195. Foy won his second state title on a 6-3 win over Duchesne's Matthew Taylor. Miles had the fastest pin in a title bout as he pinned Wyatt Weston from Rich in 40 seconds.

Altamont had 15 wrestlers place in the meet and seven matmen finish in fourth place.

The Longhorns beat then No. 1 rated Duchesne 39-34 at Altamont during a dual meet earlier in the season.

"Russell Mitchell put Altamont up 39-28 when he won the 220 pound match on a pin in the first round.

"We gave Duchesne 12 points on two forfeits out of the gate, but we still won anyway. Mitchell got in a double leg for the take-down and put his opponent on his back for a pin. It was a pretty good fall,"

SEE 6-TIME CHAMPS on CS



PHOTO BY LEESSA STANSFIELD

Wyatt Jessen of Altamont was the outstanding wrestler at the 1A state meet. He won his second state title when he beat Steven Skewes from Duchesne.

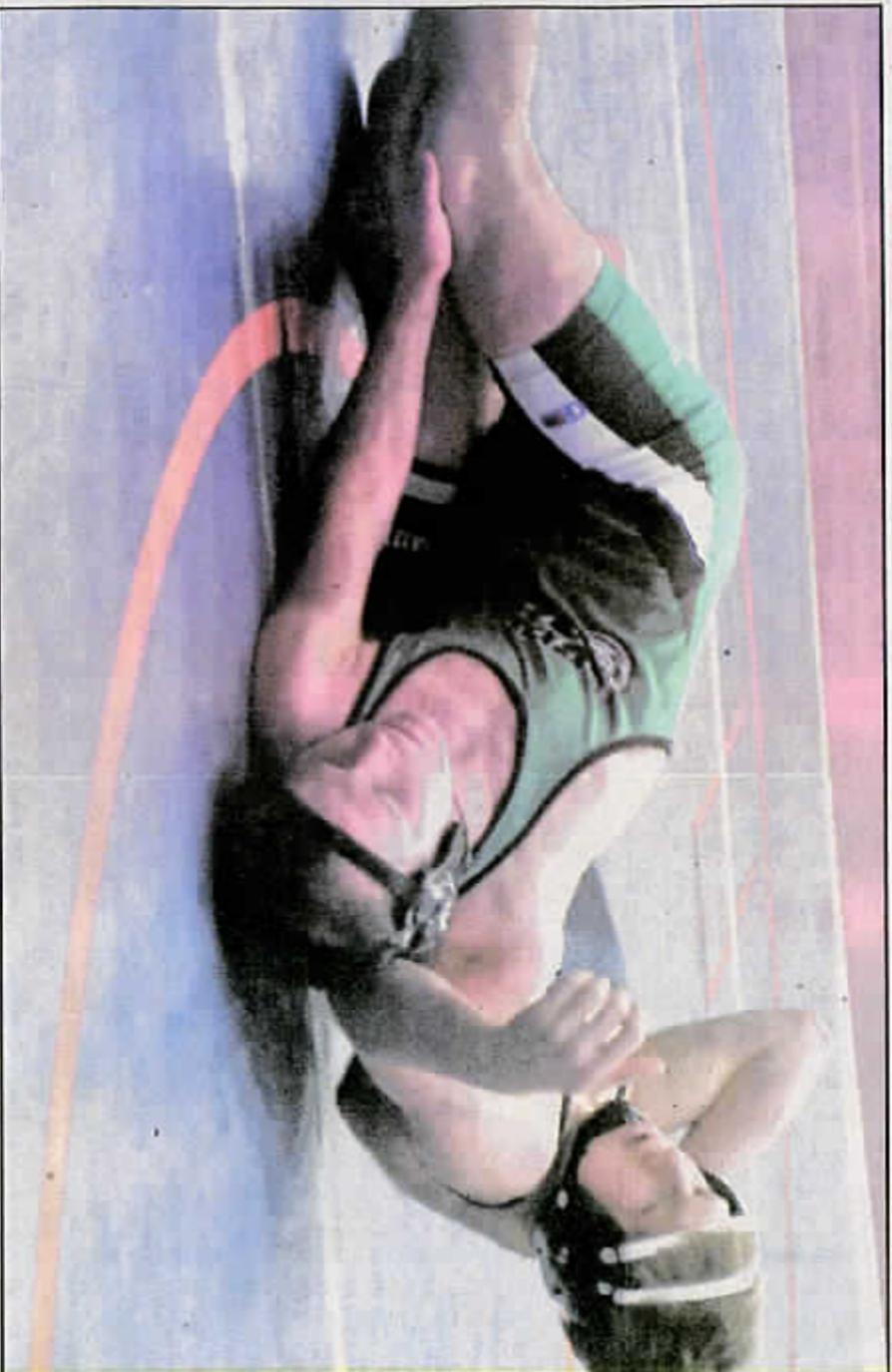


PHOTO BY LEESA STANSFIELD

Danny Thompson of Altamont battles an opponent in a tournament match.

### 8-Time Champs

Continued from C1

Alfred said, "McKay Foy from Altamont recorded a technical fall and came close several times on getting a pin in his match." Duchesne has 12 seniors

and Altamont only three seniors.

Alfred gave credit to Altamont's new wrestling technician Steve Sanderson for doing a good job and helping them to do better on the mat. Sanderson is a former head coach

from Wasatch High School where he guided the Wasps to several state championships.

Altamont had Hunter Webb win by a decision at 106 pounds and freshman Dean Thompson from Altamont won the 120 pound bout on a pin. AHS' Jessen McKinnon and Hunter Thacker, also from Altamont, won on pins.

AHS' Danny Thompson posted a major decision versus his Duchesne matman. Cody Miles from Altamont won on a pin at 195 pounds.

\*Altamont and Duchesne both won 1A Divisional crowns. Altamont won the A-Division with 308 points and Duchesne was the B-Division winner.

Both Duchesne and Altamont had champions with Dean Thompson, 120;

Jessen McKinnon, 132; Danny Thompson, 138; McKay Foy, 145; Wyatt Jessen, 160; Domanik Stansfield, 182; Cody Miles, 195 from Altamont and Colby Harper, 113; David VanTassel, 120; Matthew Taylor, 145; Stockton Moat, 152; Steven Skewes, 160; Gatlin Thompson, 182; Adrian Carrillo, 220; and Aaron Verduzco, 285.

Four-time state champs are: Altamont's Bryson Foy, Rylee Foy, Kyle Foy (three Foy's are brothers) and Duchesne's Brandon Moat and David VanTassel. Three-time state champs are: Altamont's Zach Hatch, Colten Miles, Brady Farnsworth (he lost a bid for a fourth title as a senior) and Duchesne's Cody Moat, and Cory Er-canbrack.

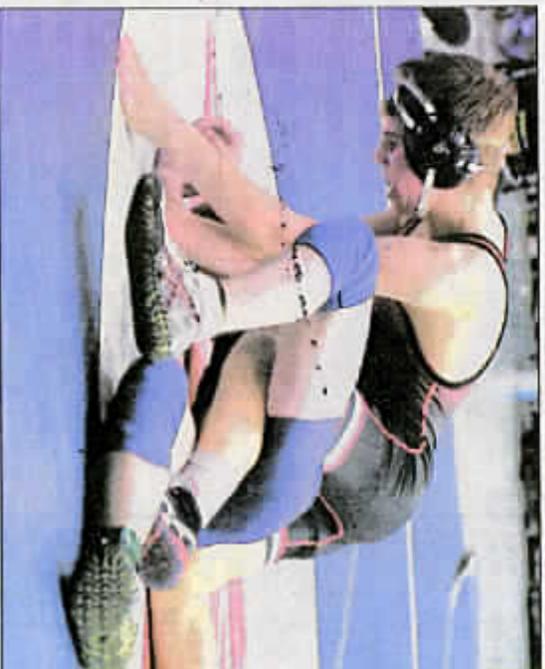
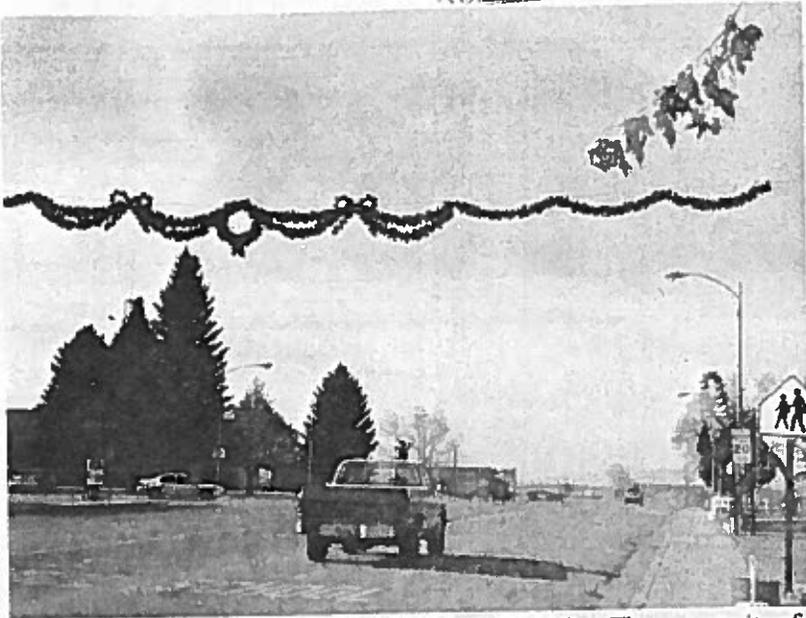


PHOTO BY LEESA STANSFIELD

Dean Thompson was only a freshman at Altamont High School and placed 2nd at the state meet. Fifteen AHS Longhorns placed at the 1A State Meet.

US Standard  
17 Dec 2002

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**ALTAMONT GETS THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS** — The community of Altamont succeeded in raising over \$6,000 for the purchase of Christmas lights and decorations for their main street. "We just worked as a community and city, there's a book committee, and Altamont Longhorn Days Committee who also helped and there have been lots of donations received," said Norita Tidwell, a member of the book committee. "We appreciate everyone's contributions and help." Last Friday the main street was decorated for Christmas with ornaments on each pole and a large garland that goes across the street. "We actually had to have Moon Lake Electric put in two new poles. It's been quite a project," said Tidwell.

# Altamont grand marshals to lead parade

## Ruth Thacker

Ruth Thacker, 84-years young, moved to the Uintah Basin in 1931. She was born Dec. 21, 1918, to Pearl Wilkins and Joe McIntire in Price. She had two sisters that both died at the age of nine from appendicitis. She was 4-years old when her dad died. Her mother married Orsen Monsen when she was seven. Now she belonged to a family with four brothers Ross, Morris, Grant and Frank.

In 1932 her family moved from Mt. Emmons to Altonah. She was in the eighth grade. That was the year she met and started dating the love of her life, Wesley Thacker. They rode a horse or bob sleigh to many dances and activities.

They were married Sept. 23, 1937 and shared a double wedding dance with Ross and Velma Monsen. Their marriage was solemnized in the Salt Lake Temple Oct. 4, 1938. They lived with Wesley's parents for the first few months of married life. In Feb. 1938 they bought a two room log cabin from Wesley's uncle. But as their family grew, by 1951, they added on to modernize and enlarge the space!

Ruth helped with Wesley's small dairy and farm, as she always helped with his projects, even as the projects got bigger.

Ruth worked in the primary, re-



Colleen Thacker

lief society and scouts. She kept the home fires burning when Wesley started pipelining in 1951. Although she traveled with him and the family from coast to coast, she usually had the kids back to Altamont for the school year.

Ruth is a great cook and still enjoys mixing bread and cinnamon rolls for her family and friends. She helped raise five children and has watched the numbers grow into 19 grandchildren, 43 great grandchildren, and two great great grandchildren. Now she has 91 members of a close and loving family.

She still keeps her own home in Altamont and stays active in her baking and attending family activities.



Leena Bowden

## Leena Bowden

The pioneer spirit is still alive in 92-year old Leena Bowden of Altonah. Leena was born on March 3, 1911. She and her family traveled by wagon to Altonah in 1917, where she has made her home since that time. Her family came to Altonah to herd sheep. She recalls the good old days of washing, pulling, cording, batting and spinning the wool to knit their socks and gloves. She tells stories of settling land and neighboring with the early Native Americans.

Leena married Clinton Bowden on Aug. 7, 1929. They have two children, Willard Bowden and Norita Tidwell. They raised their family on the family homestead in Altonah where they milked cows, herded sheep and range cattle. Leena has

eight grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren, and 14 great great grandchildren.

Leena enjoys her yard and flower gardens. She loves embroidering, piecing quilts, and attending her church meetings. Her greatest joy is spending time with her family.

### **Glen Hershell Iorg**

Glen was born Oct. 13, 1923 in Upalco. He was the fourth in a family of 12, six brothers and six sisters. He went to elementary school in Upalco. He attended high school in Roosevelt and worked at several jobs before he married Donna Vee Hansen on April 24, 1943. He had two children, Glenna Vee and Donal, and has five grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

He went into the Army) in 1943 during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. After Basic Training he was sent to Germany in the infantry. He was there during the fighting in France and went over the bridge during the "Battle of the Bulge" into Germany. He was wounded there, taken back to England, and then back to the United States. He was in several hospitals where they did many operations on his leg over the next year and longer.

When he came out of the service he started ranching and spent all of his time since then getting more land and building up his cow herd. He has been very successful at this and has spent the rest of his life doing what he liked best. He was cattleman of the year in 2001.

He will be 80 years old in October.



Glen Herschel Iorg

### **Colleen Thacker**

Colleen Turner Thacker was born on May 30, 1923 in Holden, Ut. and was raised in the Salt Lake area until she was nine years old when she came to Boneta. She attended elementary school in Boneta and high school in Altamont.

She married Earl A. Thacker in February of 1939 and they moved to a farm in Talmage where she has lived ever since. They worked very hard on the farm and milked cows. In the early years on the farm she would separate the cream from the milk. Each week she would walk a mile with a small bowl of cream to the cream testing station in Talmage to sell it for their small income.

During World War II they had a daughter and in 1945 Earl was called into the service. She was expecting their second child at this time. Earl's father and family, who were not in the war, helped with the farm. They had to sell their cows, horses and

tractor to be able to pay off all debts so she could financially survive while he was gone.

She loves people and enjoys visiting with anyone she meets. She has many talents and has always enjoyed cooking (especially pies and rolls), crocheting, reading, camping, family reunions, raising a garden and lots and lots of canning. She has held many church positions: relief society, MIA, primary teacher, visiting teacher, cub scout leader and library assistant. She worked for Duchesne School District as a cook in the Altamont and Duchesne schools.

She has three children, 14 grandchildren, 26 great grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild. She enjoys visiting with all and never misses sending each something for their birthdays, including spouses.

She does temple work each week, and enjoys the trips she takes with the Wilkins Tour group. She was having a little back problem one year during one of these trips and someone said, Colleen you should try using a cane. She replied she had a cane but stated that it wouldn't fit in her suitcase. We have had a lot of good laughs over this.



Ruth Thacker

# ALL AMUN I FLOR CLASS OF 2014



# Basin Life

Tuesday, November 29, 2016

Standard B1



The Altamont Longhorns collected 21,158 food items during their food drive this year.

Photos Courtesy of Altamont High School

## Altamont High collects 21,000 items in annual food drive

LEENICHOLE MARETT  
lmarett@uidesmedia.biz

It's been a hard year in the Basin, but you'd never know it from the results of Altamont High School's annual food drive.

Last year, students at the school collected more than 10,000 food items in the days leading up to Thanksgiving.

This year, they more than doubled that number, collecting a total of 21,158 food items for donation.

"Last year, I would never have believed that you'd collect 10,000 cans," AHS Principal Dean Wilson told the student body on Tuesday, Nov. 22. "This

year, I didn't think there was even a prayer that we'd actually make it to 21,000 in a down economy. You've proven me wrong again and again, and I'm so proud."

Wilson gathered the entire student body in the commons at AHS on Tuesday morning to speak to them about what their donations mean to the community.

"I know that some of you don't know what it means to be really hungry, but I know that some of you do," said Wilson.

"I know that some of you come hungry to school. Some of you know what it's like to come home at night and wonder what's for dinner, or if you'll get

dinner. It's been a hard year, and I know that some of you have experienced that in your own homes."

While most of the items collected in the food drive were donated to the Roosevelt food pantry, truckloads of food were taken directly to 21 families in Altamont.

"Because of your generosity, we were able to spend the morning delivering trucks full of food to 21 families right here in Altamont," Wilson told students. "That's 21 families who get to have Thanksgiving dinner this year that wouldn't have had that without you. What you've done here is amazing. You've made a tremendous dif-

ference here in Altamont, but also in the Basin as a whole."

Though the food drive was conducted by students at Altamont High, the entire community participated in collecting food for donation.

"It really is amazing," said Jackie Loertscher, whose children attend Altamont High.

"I think parents were better prepared this year. They knew this would be coming, so when the case lot sales came around, they stocked up on cans."

Following Wilson's remarks on Tuesday morning, the students formed two assembly lines to transport thousands of cans, cases of water, boxes of ramen noodles, and more

to an entire caravan of trucks waiting in front of the school. Students and staff then drove together to the food pantry in Roosevelt, where the donations were delivered just in time for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Emotions ran high as Wilson again thanked the students for their generosity.

"I truly believe that we have the best students in the world," said Wilson. "Most of you will never know what it means to go hungry, and I'm grateful for that. I know that some of you do know, and you've donated anyway. I'm blown away by what you've done here. Thank you. You'll probably never know how much you've helped."



Altamont High School students collected more than 21,000 food items in their food drive this year. Students lined up to transport the donations from the school's commons to trucks waiting outside.

Sydney Abegglen carries cans to a truck waiting in the parking lot.

Students formed two assembly lines from the commons to a caravan of trucks in front of Altamont High so that they could pass food items out to be loaded and taken to the Roosevelt Food Pantry.

# Altamont High moves in

By Steve Puro  
 Uintah Basin Standard

Registration looms this Thursday and Friday. Construction dust still covers the floor, counter tops need to be installed, and countless details are yet to be complete. But, last Saturday was moving day for the tenants of the new Altamont High School.

Students, faculty, administrators, and community volunteers joined in with carts, hand trucks, pickups and trailers to begin transporting stored classroom supplies to their new locations.

"We got lots of help from the community," said John Huitt, Altamont High School principal. "There was a lot of stuff!"

During transition to the new school the contents of entire classrooms were stored in the old AHS gym, which was saved as part of the new building.

"A large majority was in the elementary school and we had three storage units outside the building, too," Huitt said.

People were busy carrying boxes, pushing loaded carts, and unloading trailers and trucks on Saturday. "I'd like to get as much in today as possible," Huitt said. "I don't know if we can get it all."

Altamont High senior



STEVE PURO, UINTAH BASIN STANDARD

Principal John Huitt and helper push a cart loaded with boxes of stored classroom materials to their new location. Huitt shared the excitement of moving in with teachers and students who helped in the move.

Blake Thompson and junior Waylon Jessen were part of the moving team.

"I like the new school a lot," Jessen said. "It's bigger and looks more efficient to handle the more students we are getting."

Thompson will be part of the first graduating class from

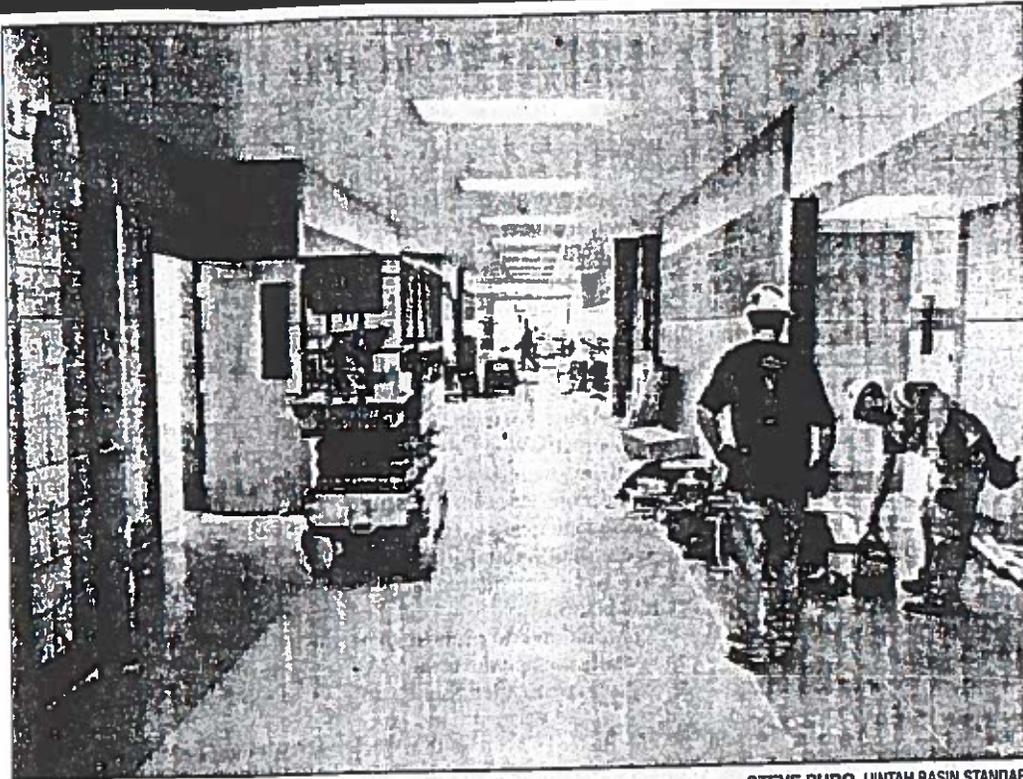
the new school.

"The school looks great," he said. "It feels awesome to be in the first class to graduate from here."

Teachers were equally thrilled to be moving in, according to Huitt.

"The teachers come through and see their rooms

## Uintah Basin Standard



STEVE PURO, UINTAH BASIN STANDARD

Construction workers and equipment shared the halls and classrooms with students, teachers, and community volunteers as Altamont High School students and staff began moving in last Saturday.

for the first time, they are just so excited," he said.

Lori Oman, teacher for integrated science, biology, and chemistry was busy moving boxes of materials into her new classroom.

"The room is beautiful," she said. "We still need a couple of countertops installed, but we're really excited."

Because of final inspection by the fire marshal, registration at AHS has been pushed back to Aug. 16 and 17. Parents and students are invited to come to the new school on those days to register between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m.

When school starts on Aug. 23, there will be an opening assembly in the new gym, according to Huitt. From there students will be guided to the various classrooms throughout the school.

"The school is kind of in five zones," Huitt said. "It just so happens I have five student



STEVE PURO, UINTAH BASIN STANDARD

Science teacher Lori Oman moves in her teaching supplies during moving day for Altamont High School. Oman kept most of her boxes in the entry way of her classroom to allow construction workers access to the areas of her room which still need attention.

body officers and each of them will have maps to help direct everybody."

"I'm just excited for the new year and new building," he said.

## SCHOOL WORKING TO CORRECT DEFICIENCIES

# Altamont High principal speaks out on school's accreditation

RHC 0193

9 April 2002

Utah Basin Standard

not scanned

By Therena Morrill

A recent story in the Salt Lake Tribune regarding schools around the state that are or have been in "accreditation hot water" dedicated one paragraph to Altamont High. The article dealt with warnings issued by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges to two Utah public high schools and six private schools. Altamont High was listed on the warning list due to "Lacking evidence of a school mission statement and because its principal, Kirk Brotherson, doesn't have an administrative license," according to the Tribune article.

When a school is issued an accreditation warning the administrator has an opportunity with his next annual report to show he is acting to correct the undesirable situations. A school's accreditation can be dropped if the administrator fails to show any evidence of improvement for two or more consecutive years.

When a school loses its accreditation, students' earned credits from that school will not be accepted by the state. Duchesne County School District Superintendent John Aland said he was aware of the warning Altamont High was issued. "We're going to work to get Altamont back on approved status. I won't let them lose their accreditation," he said.

Brotherson said information that Altamont High does not have a school mission statement is incorrect. He said the school has had a mission statement for several years.

All school principals are required to submit accreditation reports to the state Office of Education on an annual basis. The mission statement is supposed to be included in those reports.

"I was filling out the report (last

fall) on line and I kept losing it every time I got to a certain place. After about ten times I got mad. It could be

that when I finally submitted the report I failed to include the mission statement. I just don't know," Brotherson said.

He explained that as soon as he was notified last November that Altamont High had been issued the warning, he met with the Utah accreditation panel in Salt Lake and gave them a copy of the mission statement. Panel members told him they would correct their records.

SEE ALTAMONT HIGH on page 3

fall) on line and I kept losing it every time I got to a certain place. After about ten times I got mad. It could be



NOTHING LEFT TO SAVE — Myton firefighters douse the dying flames of a blaze that destroyed the Stan Meacham residence last week. Family members were home getting ready to go to school and to work when fire erupted from a wall. (See story on page 3.)

# ALTAMONT HIGH

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Continued from page 1

Brotherson said he never heard anything further from the panel regarding the mission statement. "That's why I was surprised to see it [the warning] in the paper," he said.

Connie Amos, accreditation specialist for the state Office of Education, was contacted by the *Uintah Basin Standard* and said a check of the school's file confirmed "the mission statement is here."

In regard to the second aspect of

the accreditation warning — the issue of Brotherson's lack of administrative certification — Brotherson acknowledged that he has not yet completed the requirements to receive that certification.

He explained that when a school administrator is hired in the state of Utah, they are given three years from the hiring date to obtain certification, and can work as an administrator during those three years. Brotherson has been principal at Altamont High for a little less than two years. Prior to that, he taught math and science and coached for 32 years at a public school in Nevada.

"I was also a principal for two years at a small school in Nevada, right out of college," he said.

Brotherson has a masters degree in physical education with a related field of administration. When he retired from teaching in Nevada a little more than two years ago, he decided to move to the Altamont area, where he owns a farm, and was hired as principal at Altamont High. He has since paid a required fee and received a Utah teaching certificate for physical education and chemistry, but has not yet completed the requirements to obtain his administrative certification.

Amos said that when an administrator without certification is hired, it is his responsibility to verify in a yearly report that he is enrolled in a program for certification. She said Brotherson has not provided verification of any classes he is taking or has taken. "Last year and this year we have received no verification," she said.

According to Amos, the second reason Altamont High received the accreditation warning was because section 6 of the principal's report, which is the section where he is required to present an action plan that includes at least six educational goals for students, didn't meet the state standard.

"The committee felt he had indicated by his choice of words when filling out section 6 of the report that he had not taken them [the goals] seriously," Amos said.

Amos said four of the six goals Brotherson listed were good and appropriate, but he demonstrated a "flippant attitude" in two of the goals. The committee responsible for reviewing the reports submitted by school administrators includes 25 principals and superintendents from around the state who concurred that the written report showed "a lack of attention to administrative duties."

Brotherson said, "If I can be helpful [to the school], I want to be. But if I am a detriment to the school ... I don't want to be the one to cause the school to be on restriction."

# Altamont High races to completion for first day of school

By Steve Puro  
Uintah Basin Standard

It was said by Duchesne School District Superintendent David Brotherson during the ground breaking ceremony for the new Altamont High School in May 2011 that the old school represented the heart of that community.

Now, the heart transplant of building a new school is nearly complete as the school year approaches and the citizens of Altamont will be astonished with the result, according to Altamont High School Principal John Huiitt.

Built as part of the Duchesne School District's master plan, the new Altamont School will be the showcase of the district until other schools are completed as part of the building plan, according to Kim Harding, school board president.

"Altamont has been deserving of such a facility, and now they are going to have it," he said.

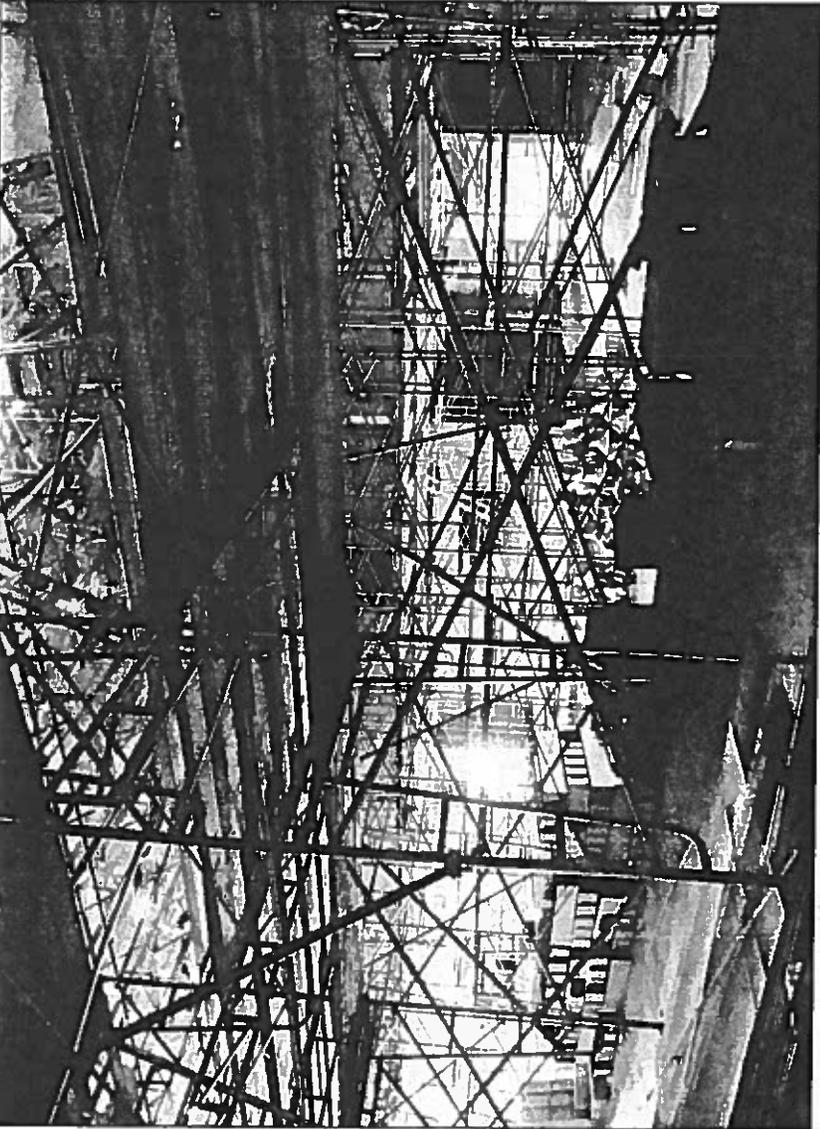
Construction on the halls, classrooms, commons, cafeteria and gymnasium will all be completed by the start of school, according to Westland Construction's project manager for Westland Construction.

"The construction is going well," he said. "The commons areas is definitely the showcase of this project. There's a Longhorn logo in the floor in the commons. Exposed trusses and turnbuckles are going to look great in there. It's going to look great."

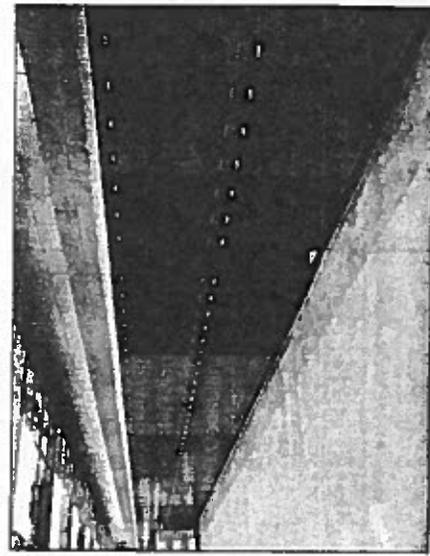
One new look-visitors to the school will instantly recognize is the lack of a vinyl or tile floor.

"The polished concrete floors were chosen by the district in this school instead of the traditional vinyl flooring that requires so much maintenance," Christensen said. "We looked at schools that have had polished concrete floors for eight or nine years and it still looks as good as it did on the first day."

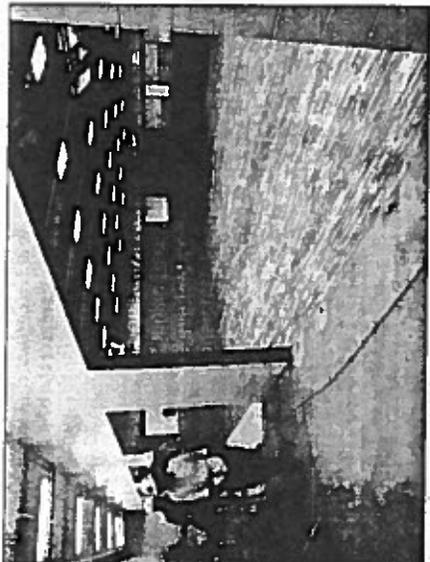
Big changes are also taking place in the gym.



STEVE PURO, UINTAH BASIN STANDARD  
The new auditorium at Altamont High School will be the last section of the school to reach completion, sometime in the fall.



STEVE PURO, UINTAH BASIN STANDARD  
Hall lockers are being installed in the school's colors. Grid work has begun for the suspended ceilings and the interior of the school is expected to change rapidly in the next two weeks.



STEVE PURO, UINTAH BASIN STANDARD  
The new gymnasium at Altamont High School has been sealed and is awaiting striping. New guard rails will color coordinate the school's colors in the ductwork, trusses, doors and bleachers.

"The gymnasium is being sealed now and it's going to look great with the school colors tying in to the duct work, bleachers, and railings," Christensen said. "It's going to look really sharp."

The finish is always the most exciting part of a project because it moves so quick as it comes together, according to Christensen.

"It's deceiving. It really moves fast once they start putting in the ceiling grid," he said. "They also start on doors, hardware, and cabinets then." Christensen said some of the challenges face in the project included installing the football field first and building so close to the footprint of the existing school as construction started.

"I really like the overall look of the new building," he said. "There was a lot of back-and-forth dialogue as the building was designed and it was very valuable in the final outcome." Christensen envisions the commons area and auditorium to be great new facilities for the community to use. The auditorium will finish later in the fall after school has started.

The project was originally expected to be complete in October or November of this year, according to Chris Houghton, president of operations for Westland Construction's Veranal office.

"The original target date from the construction bid was November, but we thought we could bring the project in before the start of school," he said. "The auditorium will take some time in the fall to complete."

"We are going to finish strong," Christensen said.

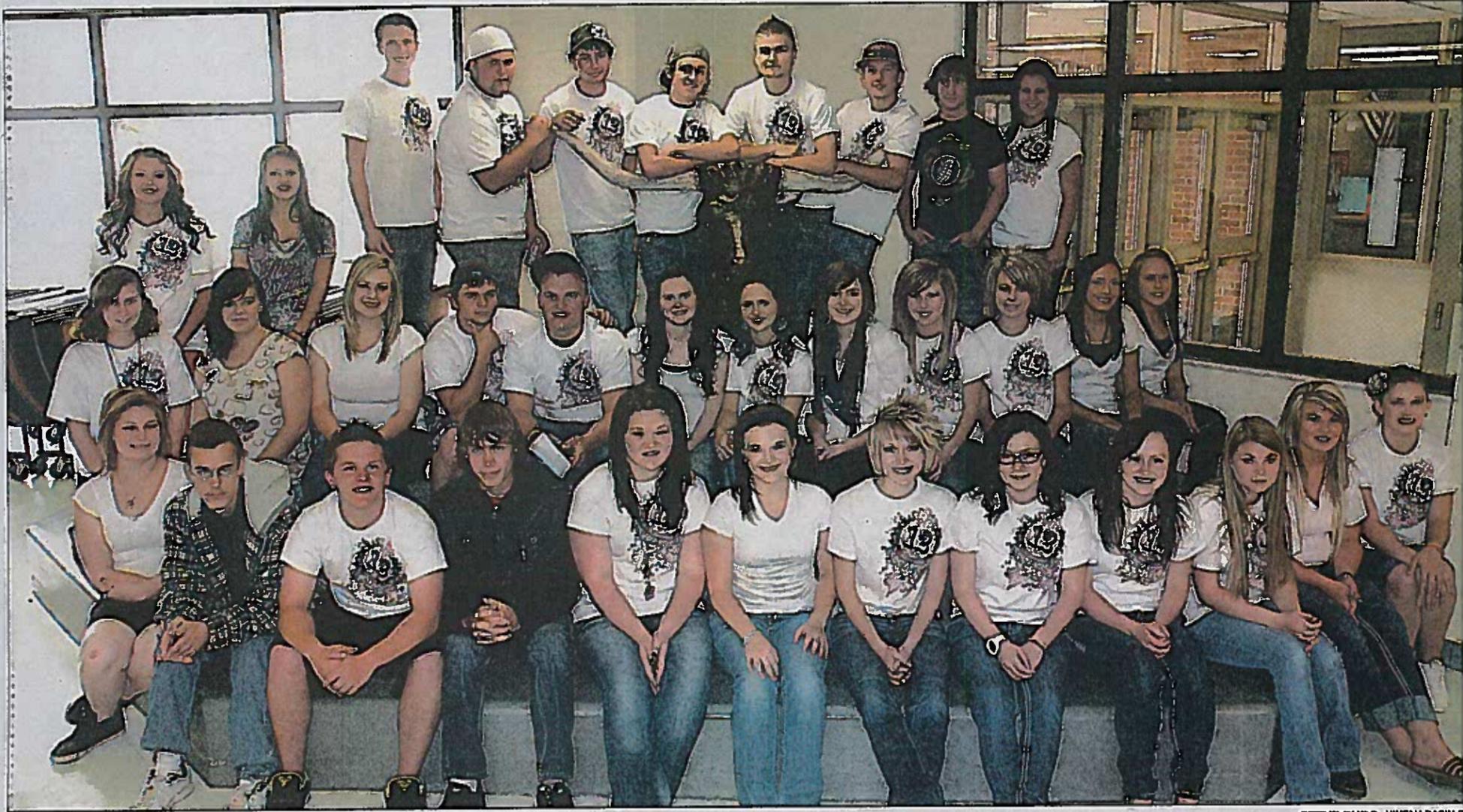
No one is happier than Altamont principal John Huiitt.

"Everything is just incredible," Huiitt said. "It's so big compared to what we have had. It's just beautiful. Westland has done a great job."

People are going to be amazed and students are going to be lost on the first few days according to Huiitt. "People are going to just love it," he said.

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# Altamont High School class of 2012



STEVE PURO, UNTAX BASIN S

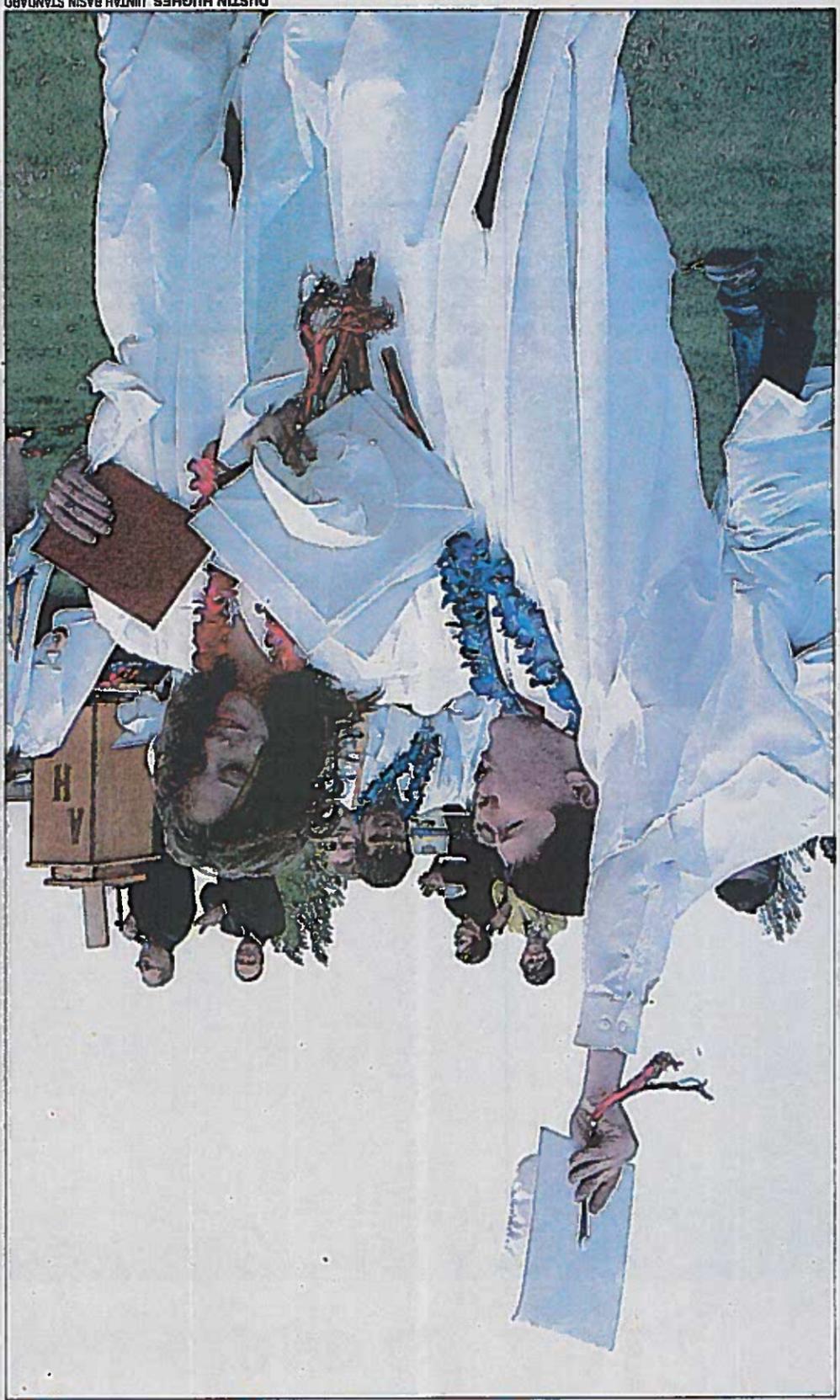
Altamont High School will graduate 40 students this week during commencement exercises at their school. The graduate nominees are: Kelby Anfinson, Ricky Back, Jordan Benson, Rosi Bess, Roxanne Bess, Jacie Bird, Tyrell Brinkerhoff, Tyler Brunson, Matthew Carroll, Kelsi Cook, Shelby Cook, Thomas Fausett, Marissa Funk, Austin Gallyer, Austin Giles, Shalane Goc, Kenneth Hardman, Celeste Hicken, Dezarai Jessen, Erin Justice, Morgan Kynaston, Audrey Mathisen, Jennifer McCombs, Heather Meyers, Jessica Miles, Shania Neilson, Dathan F. Lesli Potts, Mclane Rowley, Amalia Sorensen, Kiely Sorensen, Jasmyn Stansfield, Jacob Stevenson, Mckayla Thacker, Staci Thayne, Stephani Thayne, Auri Timothy, Cassidee W. Cheyann Wardell, Robert Wood

Hullinger Mortuary

Congratulations  
Class of 2012!

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DUSTIN HUGHES, UINTAH BASIN STANDARD



DUSTIN HUGHES, UINTAH BASIN STANDARD

Above and at left, students from the Altamont graduating class of 2012 celebrate their commencement with cheers and a dance. This was the last class to go to school in the old building; the new school should be ready to welcome students next school year.



DUSTIN HUGHES, UINTAH

Above, students from Altamont Class of 2012 celebrate their commencement.



DUSTIN HUGHES, UINTAH

Above, the Altamont High School graduating class listens to their keynote speaker Friday's graduation ceremonies.

# Altamont High School dedicated

By Steve Puro  
Uintah Basin Standard

The new auditorium at Altamont High School was packed Nov. 30 as members of the Duchesne County School Board, school district administration, contractors, architects and hundreds of excited students came together for the official dedication and ribbon cutting of the new school.

Completion of the new facility was ahead of schedule, according to Chris Houghton, Westland Construction operations manager.

"The original plan was to be in the school in December, but we were able to have the students in the new building at the beginning of the school year while areas of the school were completed," he said.

During the course of the dedication program, musical numbers were provided by the elementary students and by the high school choir.

The first speaker was Kim Harding, Duchesne County School Board president.

Harding led the students in a round of cheering for the work performed by the contractors, construction workers and architects.

"If you really like your new school, stand up now and let them hear your appreciation," he said.

SEE ME on A5



Above, Altamont Elementary students offered a musical number before the speakers took the podium.



At left, Students and guests were invited to enjoy some ice cream and to explore the new building after the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Altamont High School on Nov.30.

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# AHS

Continued from A1

The yelling and cheering were deafening.

Harding recognized school district employees who went beyond their normal full-time job duties to make the new Altamont High School building a reality.

Harding challenged the students to identify who the most important group was in providing the funds for the \$23 million project.

"I want to know if you students know where that money comes from," he said. "I have a \$50 bill I will give to the student with the correct answer."

Hands went up around the auditorium.

It was a seventh-grader, Parker Rust, who identified the property taxpayers of Duchesne County as the providers of the funds.

Harding pointed out that Altamont and Duchesne were county rivals, but the financing of the new building was a partnership of all the communities in Duchesne County and tax funds paid by private owners and businesses across the county.

"It's good fun to have a rivalry, but in everything else having to do with education in the county, we are all sailing on the same ship," he said.

Harding re-emphasized the fact that property taxpayers from Roosevelt, Fruitland, Tabiona, and all areas of the

county contributed funds to the new school.

"I hope that you students remember where this building came from, that you respect it, that you take care of it," Harding said. "Don't ever forget the sacrifices made by the citizens of Duchesne County to allow you to have this new building."

Superintendent David Brotherson, himself an Altamont alumnus, directed the ribbon-cutting ceremony and offered his remarks about the new school.

"If you take advantage of the individual attention from teachers that you can receive going to school here, you can do anything you want," he said.

Brotherson shared the fulfillment of the opportunity to open the "spectacular educational facility" with everyone who had taken part in the planning and construction.

"This is the culmination of over four years of planning and development to provide a state of the art educational facility, so that all of you can achieve in your goals and dreams," he said.

Larry Henry, a 30-year educator and former principal of Altamont High School, was given the honor of cutting the ceremonial ribbon.

A cheering multitude counted down from 10 until Henry snipped the ribbon with the scissors. The ovation was deafening as the sliced fabric drifted to the ground.

Altamont resident and school board member Doug Swasey

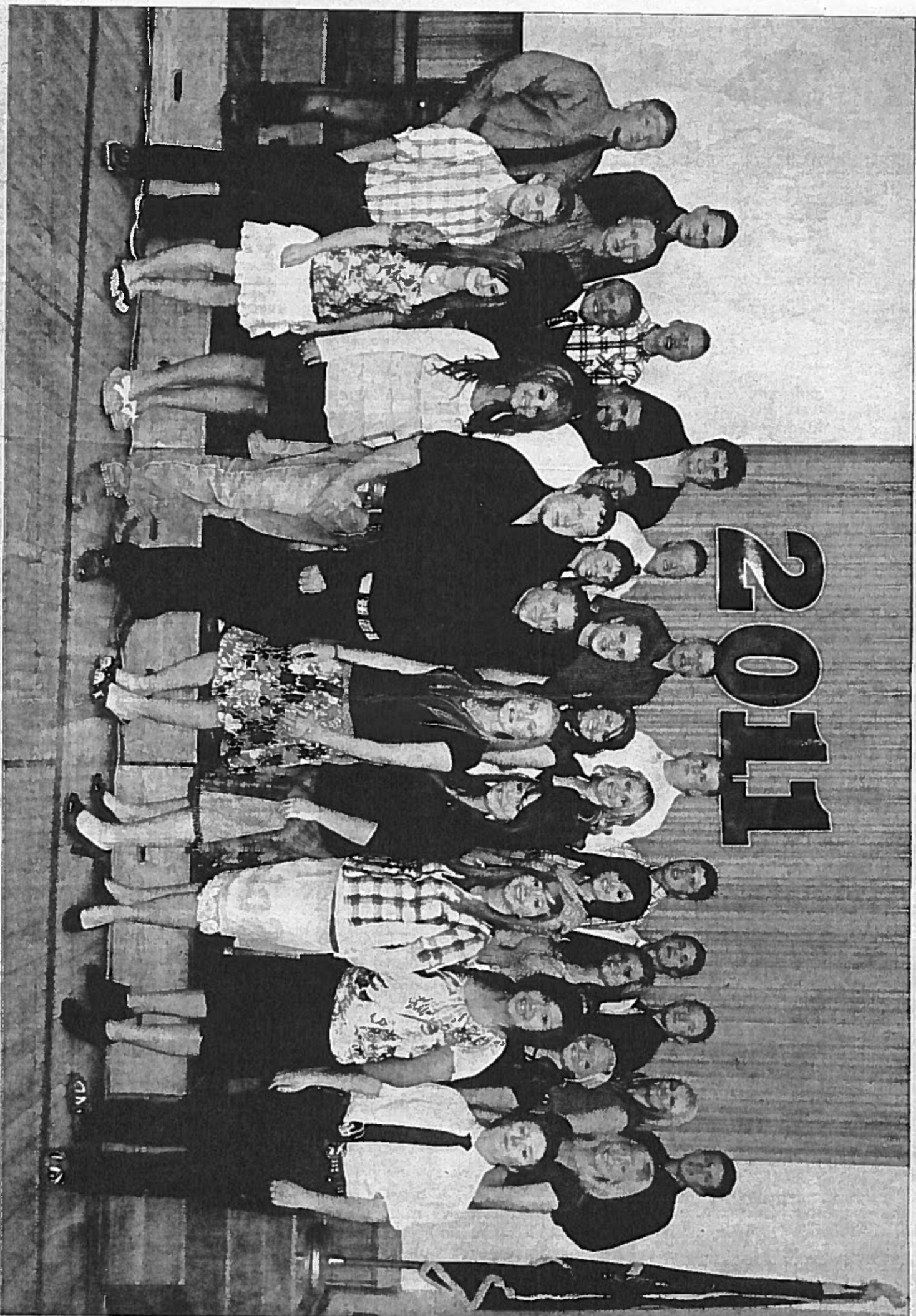
offered the closing benediction and a blessing on the new building.

"This new building is the center and lifeblood of the community," he said.

Henry reflected on the sig-

nificance of the building in relation to its residents after the ceremony.

"The building is great, but the students are greater," Henry said.



# Altamont High School set to graduate 38 seniors

One of the last classes to graduate from Altamont High School before a new campus is built will hold its commencement exercises Friday.

The graduation ceremony will be held in the school gym beginning at 7 p.m. Whitney Fieldsted is the class valedictorian. Coy Burton is the salutatorian.

The candidates for graduation are: Caleb Bird, Zaquri Brinkerhoff, Brooke Broadhead, Cuyler Brundage, Coy Burton, Kalob Burton, Whitney Christensen, Raymond Cook, Whitney Fieldsted, Cassandra Gardner, Shayla Goode, Rylee Goodrich, Kadea Harrison, Sherranne Hatch, Veno Hatch, Zachery Hatch, David Ivie, Mackenzie Jackson, Dalton Lamb, Dakoda Lindsay,

Deejay Madsen, Quincee Mathews, Jayla Miles, Landon Miles, Savana Miller, Mason Morris, Taylor Nielsen, Michael Perry, Brandon Rowley, Dalton Smith, Jesse Smith, Jaydi Stevenson, Stacy Taylor, Brady Thacker, Shelby Theyrne, Robert Thomas, Taylor Thompson, and Lance Walker.

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LEE MARETT, UINTAH BASIN STANDARD

DCSD Superintendent Dave Brotherson and School Board Member Mark Thacker were both on hand to present diplomas to the graduates of Altamont High School.

## Altamont High School graduates celebrate a new beginning

By LEE NICHOLE MARETT  
 lmarett@ubmedia.biz

ALTAMONT – Altamont High School said farewell to another group of graduates and sent them off to pursue their futures. Forty seniors graduated in a commencement ceremony held on Friday, May 23 in the AHS auditorium.

The 2014 Salutatorian, Nikole Lemmon, was the first speaker of the evening. She reminded her fellow graduates that while graduation may be a time to think fondly of the past or plan for the future, commencement is about celebrating exactly where they are today.

“I could stand up here today and talk about everything we’ve done up to this point. I could talk about the future and where we’re going to go, but I’m not. Tonight, if but for a moment, is not about yesterdays or tomorrows, but rather a time to celebrate today. We’re here to take a breath and revel in what we have become,” said Lemmon.

Following her brief remarks, Lemmon played an original piano composition, “Right Now is About Today,” the message of which echoed the words of her speech.

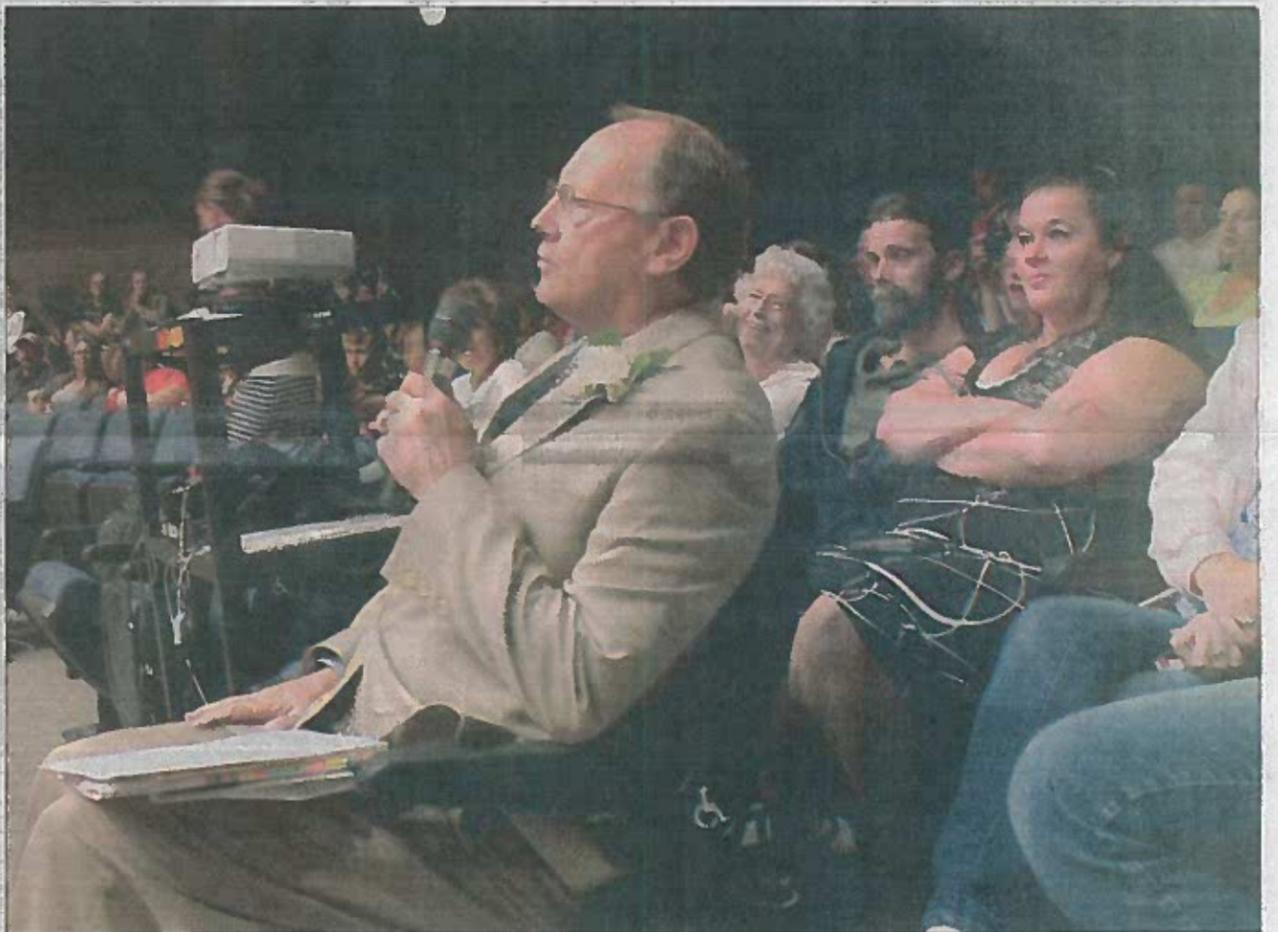
DaNelle Thacker, Valedictorian, emphasized the fact that graduation is an opportunity to go forward and try something new.

“Perhaps my favorite quote in life is, ‘If you do what you’ve always done, you’ll get what you’ve always got.’ We’ve got to exceed expectations, leave our comfort zones, and ultimately do something we haven’t done, something new,” said Thacker.

Keynote speaker and AHS teacher, Larry Henry, began his speech by saying to the audience, “I don’t really want to speak to you, so I’m not going to.”

Henry then left the pulpit, walked off the stage, and took a seat in the front row of the auditorium, facing the graduates. He addressed all of his remarks directly to the graduating class, sharing words of wisdom from Winnie the Pooh and Dr. Seuss. He didn’t speak to the graduates about what kind of careers they would pursue, but instead about what kind of people they would be.

“I want to talk to you about the law of reciprocity. The law of reciprocity says that everything you do comes back to you. A kind act or a kind word never goes unnoticed or unrewarded. Don’t let yourself,



LEE MARETT, UINTAH BASIN STANDARD

Keynote speaker and AHS Teacher Larry Henry left the podium for a seat in the front row so that he could speak directly to the 2014 graduating class. His words of wisdom included quotes from Winnie the Pooh and Dr. Seuss.

or let anyone else tell you that what you do doesn’t matter, because it does. You make a difference,” Henry said.

Duchesne County School District Superintendent Dave Brotherson and School Board Member Mark Thacker were on

hand to distribute diplomas to the graduates. “As you leave high school and start to make the decisions that will

determine your future, never forget who you are or where you came from,” Thacker said. “Remember your community, and be grateful for it.”





DUSD Superintendent Dave Brotherson and School Board Member Mark Thacker were both on hand to present diplomas to the graduates of Altamont High School. LEE MARETT, UTAH BASIN STANDARD

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Salutatorian Nikole Lemmon encouraged the 2014 graduating class not to fret about the future, but to focus on today.

LEE MARETT, UTAH BASIN STANDARD

Senior Class President Steven Gilbert conducted the 2014 commencement ceremonies at Altamont High School.



LEE MARETT, UTAH BASIN STANDARD

AHS Valedictorian DaNelle Thacker reminded the graduates that high school isn't the end, but rather the beginning of the rest of their lives.



LEE MARETT, UTAH BASIN STANDARD

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LEE MARETT, UTAH BASIN STANDARD

# Altamont High project begun

By Steve Puro  
Uintah Basin Standard

With bleachers full of patient and polite students, Duchesne County School District officials and school board members joined with contractors and architects to break ground last Tuesday on the new high school in Altamont.

Kevin Madsen, principal architect with KMA Architects, explained that a lot of feedback was received in the design process of the building. Teachers, students, coaches, custodians, school board members, school district administrators, and a design committee worked to address the future needs of the community, he said.

"The new facility is three times the size of the existing facility," Madsen said. "The cost is \$21 million, and it's going to take 16 months to build!"

Madsen thanked the school board for its efforts

SEE ALTAMONT on page A-2

Altamont Elementary School student Jackson Tippetts turns some dirt last Tuesday at the official groundbreaking for the new Altamont High School. The \$21 million campus is expected to take 16 months to build.

STEVE PURO, UINTAH BASIN STANDARD

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GRAPHIC: KMA ARCHITECTS

A rendering by KMA Architects shows an inset of the front entrance for the new Altamont High School. The school will be 152,000 square feet — three times the size of the existing campus.

# ALTAMONT

Continued from page A-1

to make the new school a reality, “especially Doug Swasey and Kim Harding, who pushed this project.”

The new school will be built around the existing facility and construction will move forward even while students are in class next year.

Madsen noted that a school building is often considered a second teacher in the education of students. The environment it creates, he said, should foster and encourage an atmosphere of learning.

Chris Houghton, construction manager for Westland Construction, commented on the excitement in the Upper Country for the new school.

“I can tell this is going to be a real big impact on the community and a nice addition to

the community,” Houghton said.

Stan Houghton, founder and president of Westland Construction, added that the district and design team worked tirelessly to provide for the necessities of the school, while keeping within the budget constraints.

Brent Brotherson, a former student and teacher at Altamont High School, spent 46 years in the existing building.

“This is a really, really momentous occasion, really momentous occasion,” he said. “This is something we have waited so long for. You know the loss of a school would be the loss of a community.”

The new 152,000-square-foot building will make it possible for even more students to become involved within the campus. Altamont High School presently has 85 percent of its

students involved in athletics or extracurricular activities, according to Brotherson.

Doug Swasey, a member of the Duchesne County School Board and graduate of Altamont High, said the first class to graduate from the existing school was the Class of 1955.

“Each one of you kids should be excited to because it’s history,” he said. “We’ve been 61 years waiting for this particular event. Let’s enjoy it, let’s support it, and let’s support each other in the rest of the county when they need it.”

Duchesne Schools Superintendent Dave Brotherson said the hardest part of the construction process will be tearing down the old school, which holds memories for so many in the area.

“You’re very blessed to be from this community,” Brotherson said. “You have the op-

portunity to have a new school. I have had that opportunity at Roosevelt Junior High, to see it elevate the level of academics and scholastic achievement.”

School board members recognized the ceremony as an important day for the town of Altamont.

“We’re just happy for the students of Altamont today and hope their academic performance over the years will be worthy of a \$21 million building,” school board member Greg Wheeler said.

Board President Kim Harding added that “it’s a pretty big deal for a community this size to get a facility like this.”

Construction manager Chris Houghton said Westland plans to turn the new building over to the school district early in the summer of 2013. Students should begin school there in the fall of 2013, he said.

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# Altamont High School welcomes new teachers

By NIKOLE LEMMON  
Altamont High School

Seven new faces can be seen in the halls as Altamont High School welcomes new staff members.

We would like to introduce the amazing additions to our staff in this edition of the Longhorn Bull Talk.

Abigail Hart, coming from Las Vegas, is teaching biology, chemistry, and seventh and eighth grade science classes. She studied at Southern Utah University, obtaining a bachelor's degree in biology education.

Teaching ninth-grade earth systems, is Annissa Maxfield. She graduated from Brigham Young University with a degree in earth and space science education. She also went on to get a teaching degree from Utah State University.

New to the math department is Andy Jensen, formerly a teacher at Union High School. He graduated from Weber State University with degrees in human performance and mathematics. Jensen is performing double duty as he will be coaching the boys' basketball team also.

Jill Hicken, also coming



SUBMITTED PHOTO/NIKOLE LEMMON

New band teacher Bethany Brinton has the beat as she instructs her seventh hour band students.

from Roosevelt, teaches health, character education, and physical education. She double-majored in health education/promotion and human movement science at Utah State University with a minor in Spanish. Hicken is also filling

in as the Lady Longhorns' head volleyball coach.

Looking to enhance the music program is Bethany Brinton from Murray. She earned her bachelor's degree in music education from Southern Utah University.



SUBMITTED PHOTO/NIKOLE LEMMON

New Earth Systems teacher Annissa Maxfield, believes in hands-on learning. Standing with students (second from left) during hands-on project.

Shana Oman, originally from Duchesne, is interning as a school counselor. She obtained her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Utah.

Mary Ellen Kettle is stepping in for JanaLee Goodrich,

due to an injury, as principal of AHS. She has an extensive list of academic achievements including a degree in education technology, a master's in curriculum, and a certificate in administration.

Combined with the already

ambitious, caring staff at Altamont, students can expect the best from each class. We are so glad to have these new teachers and are excited for the new ideas, contributions, and spirit they bring to our school!

The Longhorns have had a successful, involved week celebrating clubs and two home victories. FCCLA, FBLA, and FFA officers encouraged membership with free cinnamon rolls, ice cream, and root beer floats during lunch. These clubs are thriving with amazing advisers. They are Carrie Faussett (FCCLA), Melanie Brunson (FFA), and Monica Wells (FFA). We are excited to see the progress and accomplishments coming throughout the year.

The Lady Longhorns started the first game in the gym with a win against Green River on Thursday. Both JV and varsity girls put their hearts into the game and it showed. Also claiming a win was the football team Friday against Millford.

Pride increased in many Longhorns as they left the field with a victorious 32-8 on the scoreboard. All athletes would like to issue a great thanks to the many proud supporters of the Altamont Longhorns!

# ALTAMONT HIGH

## CLASS OF 2015

Adrianna Iorg	Alyssa Brunson	Audrey DeHart	Baxter Sorensen	Brady Farnsworth	Cal Christensen	Cody Mitchell	Colby Goodrich
Colton Rowley	Derrik Thompson	Hailey Christensen	Jaime Helms	James Warr	Jazlyn Miles	Justin Snow	Katie Abegglen
Katie Sorensen	Kelsey Justice	Kelsey Davis	Madison Thomas	Mariah Shiner	McKelle Zeeman	Michael Reid	Phyllis Jessen
Randy Strawn	Raquel Broadhead	Rylee Foy	Sharee Wood	Shaydon Spalding	Shianne Frazier	Shonia McKinnon	
Stacey Lindsay	Steffani Seeley	Talon Gines	Tamiric Curry	Tanner Nelson	Slaton Thompson		
Tori Huff	TyLee McConkie	Westley Thompson	Zach Anfinson				

*Congratulations*



# Altamont honors Durell Farnsworth

Durell Farnsworth has been chosen as the Legendary Cowboy for this year's Altamont Longhorn Days Celebration.

Born on July 26, 1935, in Mountain Home, Farnsworth was the 10th of 11 children. His father passed away when he was 5, and so he learned to look up to his older siblings and mother.

After graduating from Altamont, Durell bought the land he still lives on in 1958. He married Linda Butler on January 18, 1963. Together they had four children: Sherry, Chip, Tonya, and T.J. The couple has

13 grandchildren.

Farnsworth started a beef herd in 1966 and got into Texas Longhorns in 1981. He worked construction and ranched on the side. He also owned a variety of other animals including fallow deer, miniature horses, and Linda owns a few miniature donkeys. Yes, the Farnsworths' has been home to quite a menagerie.

Farnsworth is friendly and

outgoing person whom everyone loves. He is full of life and teases everyone. He enjoys ranching, being with his family, judging for International Texas Longhorn Association shows, and likes to travel and meet new people.

Farnsworth said he is honored to be selected as the Legendary Cowboy of the Year for the Altamont Longhorn Days celebration.



Durell Farnsworth

Altamont Basin Standard  
24 July 2007 RHC 0193



# Uintah Basin Standard

July 24, 2018

Published for the Uintah Basin and Bob West

Vol. 109 No. 30

## Altamont Longhorn Days featured five days of fun-packed activities

BY LISA DELEON  
ldeleon@ubmedia.biz

For 2018's Altamont Longhorn Days, participants were encouraged to "Celebrate Big Time in a Small Town." Festivities kicked off on Monday, July 16, with the Children's Theater musical auditions for the performances of Rock Bottom which were given on Saturday. Monday evening featured activities for Family Fun Night starting at 6:30 p.m., which included animal chases, vendor booths, face painting, bounce houses, a barrel train ride, volleyball, and other activities. At dusk, an outdoor movie, "The Greatest Showman," was featured on the big screen. Also featured Monday night was Altamont's Got Talent open auditions and a dodgeball tournament.

Tuesday morning, July 17, started off with a "Patriotic" play show at 10:00 a.m., followed in the afternoon by arts in the park, painting in the park, and youth and girls three versus three basketball tournament.

Wednesday, July 18, featured a play show in the morning, with boys three on three basketball tournament in the afternoon.

Thursday evening's activities included a co-ed volleyball



SEE Rodeo on A3

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## Rodeo

Continued from A1

tournament, sponsored by the AHS Volleyball Team, followed by the Moon Lake FFA Scholarship Jackpot held at 6 p.m. at the Altamont Rodeo Grounds.

Friday morning started with the children's bike race at 11 a.m. with prizes offered to winners. In the afternoon, a softball tournament was held with proceeds to benefit the AHS Girls' Basketball team. The big event for Friday was the rodeo beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 21, the final day of Altamont Longhorn days was packed with activities, starting bright at early at 6 a.m. for the Park 2 Park 8.5 mile run, followed by the 5K Fun Run/Walk/Strollers and 1 mile kids race at 7 a.m. A

pancake breakfast followed at 8:00 a.m. Sign-ups for the Ranch Rodeo began at 9:30 a.m. The Children's Theater Musical performances of "Rock Bottom" were presented at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

The flag raising and parade was held at 5 p.m. on Main Street, followed by horseshoe pitching, vendor booths, an auction in the park, and a barbecue and dutch oven dinner. A concert was presented from 6:30-8:30 by Dyer Highway, a country music quartet of four siblings.

The planned fireworks were canceled due to fire danger and the fire department not being on hand due to their assisting with wildfires. However, a dance was held on the football field for ages 14 and up.

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UIN

## ZONING ISSUE PROMPTS STATE INVOLVEMENT

# Altamont may face arbitration over trailer

by Preston McConkie

An Altamont woman is claiming the town must either undo a zoning change to her lot or compensate her for its lost value and at least one state official thinks she may have a case.

Last Tuesday, the Altamont Town Council considered a letter from the office of the Utah Property Rights Ombudsman saying staffers there had looked over a complaint involving a

former two-house mobile home park owned by Mary Bateman, and that they believe "it may raise issues that may need arbitration."

In question is whether Altamont, by rezoning the former mobile home park lot so it could legally hold only one dwelling, improperly "took" private property without just compensation. According to documents cited by the Ombudsman's Office, federal and state law generally prohibit government entities from arbitrarily outlawing a property's former legal use unless they are willing to pay owners for their loss.

"When we're deciding what to do about this, the one thing I hope I never hear is how it impacts your house," Altamont Mayor Clyde Watkins told the council concerning the ombudsman's letter. "I would only want to hear how it impacts the people of Altamont and the community."

Councilmembers concluded that their alternatives were either to submit to arbitration by the state or face a possible lawsuit.

Arbitration by the ombudsman's office is non-binding and the office is a neutral party, never issuing opinions of which side is right, but explaining laws and

court precedents so both sides can understand their obligations.

If Altamont were to turn down arbitration and be sued successfully, it might be ordered to either pay Bateman for the loss of property value or income, or to rescind its zoning change. However, if Bateman were to mount a lawsuit against the town it would be a long and costly process.

An unofficial guide to property rights, linked to from the state Web site, cautions that "... it may be worth saying that there is little hope of gaining much by moving from the local, county or municipal land use process to

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# Arbitration over trailer park decision

"When we're deciding what to do about this, the one thing I hope we can agree on is how it impacts the community," Altamont Mayor Tom Atkins told the council during the ombudsman's hearing. "I would only want to do what impacts the people of Altamont and the community." Council members concluded that the best alternatives were to submit to arbitration or face a possible

arbitration by the ombudsman. The office is non-binding and is a neutral party, never taking opinions of which side is right or explaining laws and

court precedents so both sides can understand their obligations.

If Altamont were to turn down arbitration and be sued successfully, it might be ordered to either pay Bateman for the loss of property value or income, or to rescind its zoning change. However, if Bateman were to mount a lawsuit against the town it would be a long and costly process.

An unofficial guide to property rights, linked to from the state Web site, cautions that "... it may be worth saying that there is little hope of gaining much by moving from the local, county or municipal land use process to

the courts. If the system seemed abrasive and aggravating before, mounting a lawsuit will make you look back on those hearings before the planning commission with nostalgia."

Bateman's son, Rod, who lives in a camp trailer on his mother's property, has already begun collecting "nostalgic memories" of his own. He planned to be at the council meeting last week when the arbitration offer was discussed, but missed it because it was held a day before the normally scheduled town council meeting.

Rod Bateman said his own efforts to argue the matter have foundered, with the town ignoring repeated requests for copies of council minutes. At its meeting last week, the council deferred action on Bateman's formal request for information, with members saying it wasn't specific enough about which meetings or ordinances were wanted. The council also instructed town clerk Melba Markham to charge 50 cents per page for all copies she eventually provided.

In September, Mary Bateman's land was among several lots zoned in the past for use as mobile home parks that were rezoned to residential. None of the lots had been used as mobile home parks for some years and town officials said the involved property owners agreed to have their land rezoned. The change was prompted by the re-opening of one mobile home park that had neighbors fearing other parks would open, damaging property values.

However, the zoning change could affect the resale value of Bateman's land, not just its rental potential. And it immediately makes it illegal for the land to continue housing the camp trailer occupied by Rod Bateman, who said living there allows him both to look after his mother and for the family to pool their money because he's paying

his mother rent.

At the Town Council's Nov. 15 meeting, mother and son challenged the Altamont's claim that the zoning change had been made with her permission. The town clerk said she'd received verbal approval for the rezoning over the telephone from Mary Bateman, but Rod Bateman claimed his mother had been worn down by threats from a water district and demands she get a business license, and had said she just wanted the issue to end.

"Then from now on, would you please make all communication with this office in writing," Markham told the Batemans, adding that letters would end any argument over who said what.

At the same meeting verbal sparks flew between Rod Bateman and Councilman Ole Olsen, with Bateman accusing Olsen of repeatedly driving past his mother's property taking pictures. Olsen accused Bateman of threatening to assault him. The meeting ended with a handshake and an agreement to forget the past, and with Mary Bateman formally requesting the town give her a business license and return the property to its old zoning category.

At its next November meeting, though, the council upheld the zoning change.

Calls from the Standard to the Altamont Town Office throughout the past week for comment on the issue were unanswered. The town's clerk does most of her work from home, and the town office has no answering machine. Altamont Councilman Todd Anfinson said at the next council meeting he plans to suggest the town get an answering machine.

The Altamont Town Council will hold an executive session Dec. 27 to further discuss their options concerning the zoning issue. The town's part-time attorney is expected to be on-hand to offer advice to the council.

BIG DREAMS IN A SMALL TOWN

# Altamont musician wins \$100,000 recording contract

By Patty Weaver

It was a normal Saturday spent running errands when Katy Barton stopped by to pick up her mail. An envelope with a Branson, Missouri postmark caught her eye. She quickly opened it she read, "Thank you for entering Fowler All-Night Sing Talent Contest. The votes have been counted and the winner is Katy Lou Barton."

Katy has spent the past four months in a bit of a whirlwind, commuting from her home in Altamont to Branson and Nashville, Tennessee. Each time she successfully wooed audiences and judges she took another step toward the pot at the end of the rainbow — a \$100,000 recording contract.

It all began in July, just after the 29-year old aspiring country-western singer wrapped up a series of performances as a cast member in the Outlaw Trail Festival production of *Oklahoma!* It was Katy's niece who told her about the prestigious 50-year old talent contest that was responsible for launching the careers of the Oak Ridge Boys and over 300 other recognized names in the country and gospel music industry.

The first step in entering was a phone call. Katy was required to sing a song over the phone to qualify to become one of the 3,000 contestants in the first round of competition. Judges were impressed enough with her rendition of Patsy Cline's "Sweet Dreams," that they asked her to send in a demo tape. Then she got word that she would be going to Branson for the contest.

Round one was held on July 13 at the Fowler Video/Studio Theater in Branson. Katy was accompanied by a live band as she sang 'Independence Day,' by Martina McBride.

Recordings of each contestant are placed on the Internet and also shown on television in Missouri. A panel of judges scored her on-stage performance and those who caught her on the Internet submitted their votes.

A producer from Fowler's studio called Katy in August to let her know she was one of the 185 finalists who would be singing in Nashville, Tennessee.

"It is never a sure thing in this business. I really just hoped and prayed all those long, hard hours of work would pay off. I just hoped," Katy said. She hoped and she sang.

On Sept. 6, at Shoney's Hotel at Opryland in Nashville, the finals got underway to a packed house.

"The final round was a mess," Katy recalls with a laugh. When introducing Katy the announcer got her information wrong. Then her music jumped and skipped, on the third try her music abruptly stopped half way through her song.

While the sound technician was trying to fix the problem, Katy won over her audience by remaining unfazed throughout the technical

difficulties and telling jokes. The fourth time was a charm and she finished her number.

Katy's parents, Donna and Jack Barton, accompanied their daughter to the final round of competition.

"I always knew that she was a good singer, but didn't realize how good of a performer she could be," said Jack.

Then came the wait. Katy can't sit still for long, so she used the competition as a spring board. She recorded a few demos and started knocking on doors. She sang at the New Mexico State Fair and went to Texas to sing in "some big dance halls."

Then came the letter in the mail announcing that she had won the recording contract.

Katy will compose words and music for all of the songs on the CD she will record. "It will be a combination of country western and Christian music," Katy said. Her friend, Mikki Marshall, of Roosevelt, will help with some of the composing. "I have got a good month of work that I will have to do before I go to the studio in December or January."

She will be in the studio recording for about two weeks. It's expected that her CD will be released for sale sometime in April, a single will be sent to different radio stations to play for the public.

"From here, I still don't know where it will lead, but it is a good foundation to get in some doors. I

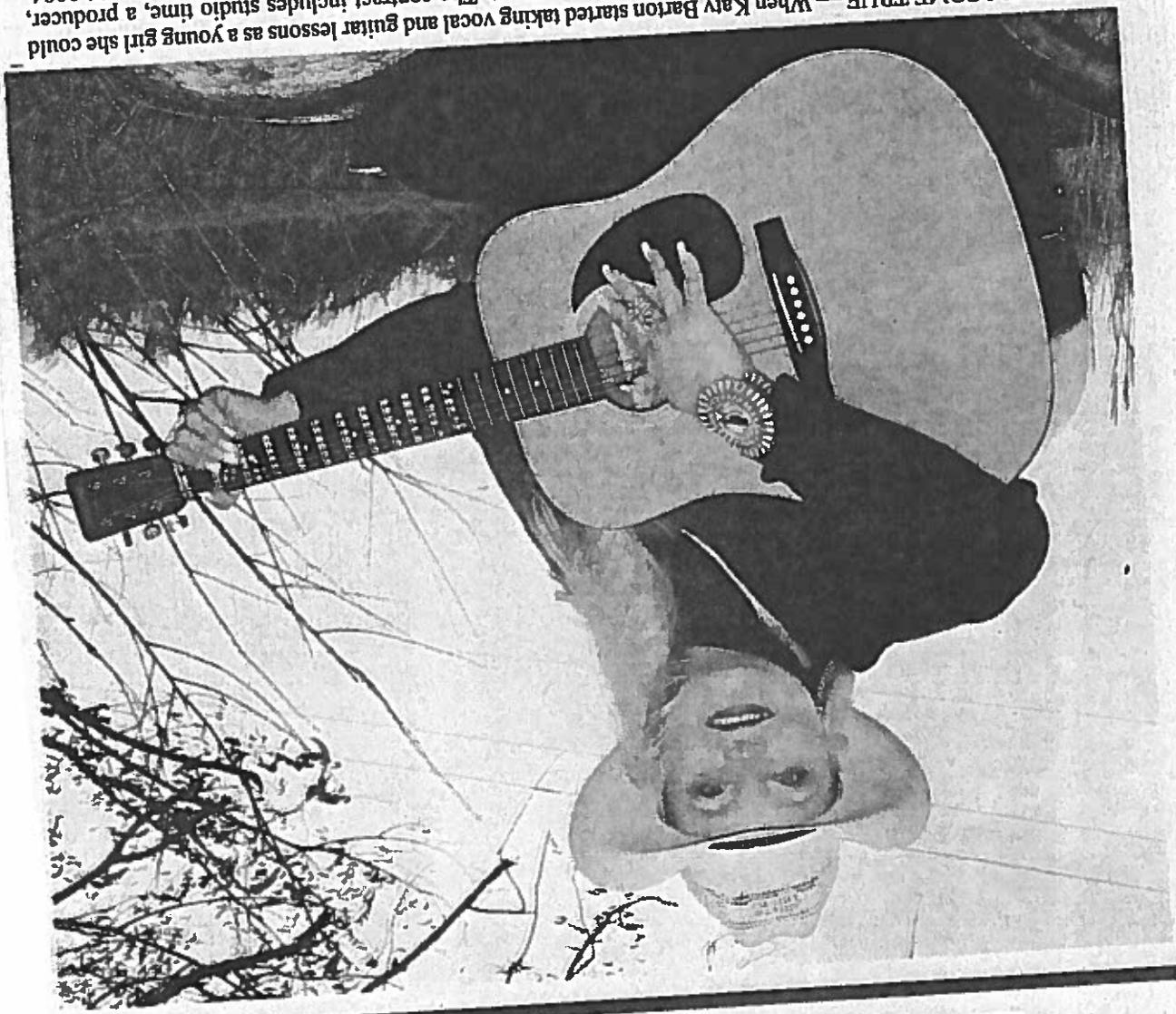
have worked on this a long time and I am pretty excited," she said with a smile. Katy said she can relate well to the song "Big Dreams in a Small Town," by the country-western group Restless Heart. Those who think that coming from a small town will hold them back, can learn a lesson from Katy, who said that following her dream was aided by the community she came from.

"I couldn't have done it without all of the support from the community. People were so great to help me with buying raffle tickets and things. It was so overwhelming how much support I got," she said. "It doesn't matter the size of the town, what matters is the size of the talent," she said.

Her message to other aspiring song writers is that dreams do come true. She recalls the queen contests she participated in as a teenager at Altamont High. "I didn't do it to be in a pageant, I did it to perform."

Katy's niece, Kateari, wanted to know just one thing when Katy told her she had won the talent contest. She asked Katy when she was going to get "the bus," — you know, the one just like the big stars who travel from state-to-state in their very own bus. So, look for Katy's CD due out in April and then look for a black and gold bus with the name 'Katy Lou' on it. Oh, and one more thing, don't forget to follow your dreams.

# Basin LIFE



**A DREAM COME TRUE** — When Katy Barton started taking vocal and guitar lessons as a young girl she could only dream that she would win a \$100,000 recording contract. The contract includes studio time, a producer, musicians, and back-up singers. She will initially make 2,000 CDs and 1,000 cassettes for distribution in mid-2004. Her songs will also be made into music videos.

# Altamont names Jenkins lege



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Howard Jenkins has been chosen as Altamont Longhorn Days' Legendary Rancher for 2010.

By Jennifer Oleen-Rook  
The Edge Magazine

Howard Jenkins has lived in Bluebell longer than any other resident there, but that's not what makes him legendary. Jenkins has made a name for himself through his dedication to working the land, raising cattle, serving his community, and being an honest man.

The fifth of eight patriotic kids, Jenkins began working cattle when he was just 5 years old.

"I started milking when I was five and then when I was six I took the cows out and herded them all day and milked them at night. I've ridden a horse all my life," the 80-year-old said.

When his five older siblings went off to serve in the armed forces during World War II and moved away, the bulk of the family's farming and ranching chores fell upon Jenkins' shoulders.

Jenkins met his wife, Fontella, of Mt. Emmons, in the fourth grade. He married his childhood sweetheart in 1950 and together they raised three

children: Gary (Paula), Sherri (Ron Giles) and Bruce (Toni). They have 17 grandchildren, 32 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great grandchildren.

Jenkins started out milking cows, but eventually switched over to raising beef cattle. "Everybody had cows when I was growing up," he said. "That's just what we had and what we did. It's a changing world we live in now."

Like most ranchers, Jenkins took employment that took him off the ranch when it was necessary.

"Raising beef cattle is good, but it's barely a living some years, so I did what I needed to feed my family. I've worked on an oil rig for a couple of winters and I worked for the creamery in Altamont for a lot of years as well," he said.

The Jenkins family has raised and trained horses for years. In 1976 they began chariot racing and soon had horses running in flat saddle races as well. Recently, Jenkins' 2-year-old mare "Mountandewcando" won a race in Farmington, N.M.

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Uintah Basin Standard  
July 14, 2010

# es Jenkins legendary rancher

By Jennifer Oleen-Rook  
The Edge Magazine

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The Jenkins family has raised and trained horses for years. In 1976 they began chariot racing and soon had horses running in flat saddle races as well. Recently, Jenkins' 2-year-old mare "Mountaindewcando" won a race in Farmington, N.M.

A past president of the Duchesne County Cattleman's Association, Jenkins has also belonged to the Altamont Roping Club. He helped build and rebuild the rodeo arena in Altamont.

For the past 30 years Jenkins has served as the president of the Bluebell Community Club. He oversees the Bluebell Cemetery and Park and has spent countless hours maintaining and improving both.

Jenkins loves to grow a big garden, irrigate and raise hay, and run cattle on the 800 acres he still owns in Bluebell, just one mile north of where he was

born. He also enjoys getting out on his horse to ride and spend time in the mountains.

"We ran cattle on the mountain for years and up in Wyoming," he said. "I've fished a lot of lakes and streams in these mountains."

Together Howard and Fontella Jenkins enjoy ranching but also make time for trips to the Vernal temple and spending time with family.

Howard Jenkins said he is honored to be named Longhorn Days Legendary Rancher of the Year and is happy to represent the only home he's ever known, and the land he loves.

Uintah Basin Standard  
30, Dec 2006

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# Altamont Park renovation a reality due to cooperation

By Joni Crane

Altamont and the communities of Altonah, Mountain Home, Talmage, Bluebell, Upalco, and Boneta will soon be the beneficiaries of a beautiful new playground, which could be completed in time for Longhorn Days in July.

Sarina Brotherson of Boneta, and Randall Thacker of Altonah, originally spearheaded the effort, but are quick to point out that the project is successful because of all the selfless people and organizations that have stepped up to work together.

Thirty years ago Brotherson's mother Sherrie Holgate and a group of friends started the original park project. The park served the surrounding communities, but has passed its prime.

"The park was in dire need of renovation and everyone wished it could be updated and repaired," Brotherson said.

The Altamont Town Council asked for community volunteers to form a grant committee that would explore ways to fund this renovation. Brotherson, a member of the committee, said they learned of a grant offered by Gametime, Inc., an Alabama-based playground equipment company.

The committee submitted an application for Gametime's "Fighting Obesity Through Play Grant" - the same grant that helped Bluebell purchase play-

ground equipment for its park - and was awarded \$30,000.

Not long after receiving the grant, the Uintah Basin Medical Center decided to donate \$500,000 to local communities to promote active lifestyles.

"Their intention was to improve the quality of life in the communities they serve," Brotherson said. "The donation to Altamont City was specifically designated for physical fitness improvement."

The town, in turn, donated \$30,000 to match the Gametime grant and offered another \$4,555 to help with fuel costs for delivery, groundcover, a concrete barrier, and a professional installation crew to help the volunteers.

Then the Uintah Basin Applied Technology College got involved.

When Robert Meeks, director of the college's CDL program learned it would cost \$7,500 to ship the play equipment to Altamont, he came up with his own plan. Meeks approached UBATC's board and received permission to donate the school's new semi-truck to transport the playground equipment to the Uintah Basin. And Mike Wolf, safety director for DJ Services, agreed to donate his time to drive the load. Altamont is contributing about \$3,000 for fuel.

"If we can pick up the equipment for only \$3,000, then the \$4,500 savings can be used for more, and better equipment,"

Meeks said. "That means that with the matching monies the park committee can add about \$9,000 of equipment to their order."

Meeks said the equipment will be picked up in January and installation will begin in March.

The new playground will have two play areas. One for children under 5, called "Imagine Acres," and another for children ages 5 to 12 called the "Crescent Loop." Families will be able to sit and watch kids at both locations at one time.

"Randall Thacker has helped pick out and research all the play equipment," Brotherson said. "He is motivated to get safe equipment for the children. He is extremely dedicated to community service and would do anything for anybody."

Brotherson said Altamont Mayor Clyde Watkins is excited about the project, too.

"He keeps saying that he can't wait to see the kids' faces at Longhorn Days," Brotherson said. "This city council has a new vision for our area, and they seem really motivated to better the community."

Brotherson believes that when the time comes to erect the new playground equipment "a ton of volunteers that will show up" to help put it all together.

"It has been fun to watch how a community can once again come together 30 years later and make this happen again," she said. "It's neat to me, to be following up on something my mom started years ago."

The playground committee has only one need remaining: benches to put around the park. Anyone who would like to help with a donation to make this last wish possible can contact Sarina Brotherson at 454-3465 or 828-3465.

# Altamont Recreation District creation begins

By STEVE PURO  
spuro@ubmedia.biz

DUCHESNE —The Duchesne County Commission cleared the way for the development of the Altamont Special Service District to be organized as a recreation district. The SSD was presented as Duchesne County Resolution 13-17.

Annissa Maxfield, secretary of the proposed recreation district, presented the ordinance information to the county commission.

"The recreation district would make available funds to take care of the parks in the district and to fund the Altamont Longhorn Days," Maxfield said.

Commissioner Kent Peatross said the proposed district would overlap existing SSD's in the Altamont area. Commissioner Ron Winterton clarified the SSD could be a taxing district.

"That's why we wanted to specify this is a recreation district," Maxfield said. "The ordinance language has been changed to reflect recreation designation."

Advertising for a public hearing about the new SSD would

SEE DISTRICT on A3

## DISTRICT

Continued from A1

run four weeks prior to the Dec. 4 hearing. A link will be created on the Duchesne County website prior to the advertising to allow citizens to examine the SSD proposal and the locator map delineating its boundaries.

Peatross suggested

moving forward with the creation of the SSD pending the approval of the documents by the county attorney.

"There are recreation districts already established in Neola and Tabiona," Peatross said.

A motion was made by commissioner Peatross to approve Resolution 13-17, which passed unanimously.

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UBS Oct 29, 2013

# Altamont school parents gearing up for election

By Andre Salvail  
Uintah Basin Standard

A sense of urgency has overcome the community of Altamont, where parents and school officials are planning a massive campaign to garner support for the Nov. 3 countywide tax election to help pay for a new school building.

During a meeting at the school's auditorium Thursday, parents and school officials met to exchange information about the existing school's declining physical condition and to seek ways to get more support across the county for the upcoming referendum.

Committees are being formed to start a phone bank to call voters and urge their support; to get nonvoters registered before the Oct. 15 eligibility deadline; and to ask businesses to display signs reminding people about the election and what it means to the community.

The call to action in Altamont is spurred by widespread fears that most voters in the Duchesne area will oppose the \$49 million proposal to build three new schools in the county, including a new \$18 million building for Altamont High. Duchesne High moved into its new building in 2004.

Additionally, there is a measure of anti-tax sentiment throughout the county and a feeling that a recession is a bad time to raise taxes and embark on new building projects.

Jana Lee Goodrich, principal of Altamont Elementary School, is working to organize volunteers for get-out-the-vote efforts. She said the elementary school's enrollment has been growing fast and those students will need a better and bigger high school in the near future.

She expressed the sentiment of many at the meeting when she explained that the high school is the heart of the community.

"The thing that's so unique about Altamont is that our people are here to stay," she said, noting that generations of families have passed through the halls of the high school.

"The whole community revolves around the school," she said. "Our school is our community. Our community is our school."

Her comments were a response to the question of "consolidation" – the concept of merging Altamont High

## Informal committee: Consolidation won't save district operating costs

students into Duchesne and Union high schools and dropping plans for a new school building.

Earlier on Thursday, an informal committee created three weeks ago by the board met to explore the potential cost savings of "consolidation," a dirty word in the Altamont area.

The four-man committee determined that the savings the district would receive from the closure of Altamont High in operating expenses would be equally offset by the loss of Necessarily Existent Small Schools funding the district receives from the state.

The committee concluded that "the closure of Altamont High and the subsequent transfer of those students to other high schools in the district would not have a financial impact on the operating expenses of the district," according to a letter prepared by committee member Bart Morrill a CPA.

At the Altamont High meeting, Duchesne County School Board members Gordon Moon, Kim Harding

and Doug Swasey sought to assure the crowd that the the board and the district's administrators favor construction of a new high school for Altamont.

At their Sept. 10 meeting, some board members, responding to questions from the crowd, thought it would be a good idea to appoint a committee to examine whether consolidation would save the school district in operational costs over the long run. Armed with such information, voters could make a more informed choice at the polls, they said.

Goodrich said she was glad the district is moving past the consolidation issue.

"Personally, as a mother of teenagers, the safety issue of my children getting into a vehicle and driving to Roosevelt and back all winter long just mortifies me. It's scary," she said.

Principal John Huitt, who is in his first year at Altamont High, opened

SEE ALTAMONT on page 4



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Rust-colored water flows into a sink in the science room at Altamont High School. The problem is caused by corroded plumbing at the school, which was built in the late 1940s. Students don't drink the same water, fountains at the school have filtration systems.

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Sept 29, 2009

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# ALTAMONT

Continued from page 1

the meeting with a power-point presentation showing dilapidated conditions at the school, including crumbling ceilings, ramps that don't meet federal codes for the disabled, rusted water pipes and boilers that are continually undergoing repairs.

"It's not in good shape," Huitt said. "The school has been remodeled several times and there are parts of it that are coming apart. Once you start remodeling this school, it's probably going to cost a lot more than to rebuild because

you will have to bring everything up to code."

The Nov. 3 referendum seeks to raise \$49 million through a bond issue that would be paid off by a countywide property tax increase.

That money would be coupled with another \$20 million - of which the district has already saved \$8 million - for an overall \$69 million construction project involving three new school buildings.

The estimated price tags are as follows: Altamont High, \$18 million; Union High, \$38 million; and a new Roosevelt elementary school to ease overcrowding at East Elementary, \$11 million.

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# Altamont schools raise \$22,700 for Swaseys

in May. But there were complications, and the 59-year-old spent 10 weeks in a coma.

"At one point they told us that there was little or no chance that she would wake up," Doug Swasey told the Uintah Basin Standard two weeks ago.

Now Sandra Swasey may be able to leave the hospital this week and return home.

Her students, hundreds of whom she has taught over two decades, wanted to ensure that when she did come home her house would be properly equipped for what is sure to be an extensive recovery. So, during homecoming week, they participated in a walk-a-thon, a calling blitz that sold 1,250 dozen cinnamon rolls, and a health fair as part of a fundraising effort for Swasey.

They set a goal to raise \$10,000 and then shattered it with the help of the community.

"It's just been an awesome experience," said Altamont teacher Carrie Fausett, who serves as the adviser for the school's Family, Career and Community Leaders of America chapter, which organized the fundraising events.

Sandra Swasey, through her daughter, told the students Thursday that their service "means more than you'll ever know."

"I'm overwhelmed by the gracious generosity you've shown for me and my family," she said. "It's wonderful to live in such a great community where people care about each other so much."

"It's phenomenal what they did."

— Doug Swasey

By Geoff Liesik  
 Uintah Basin Standard

There were still tears on Doug Swasey's cheeks 30 minutes after students from Altamont High School and Altamont Elementary School presented him with a check Thursday for \$22,700 — the results of their fundraising efforts during homecoming week.

"I can't describe it," Swasey said about the emotions he was feeling. "It's phenomenal what they did," he added.

Moments earlier, Swasey's wife Sandra and one of the couple's daughters, Tiffanie Brown, addressed the elementary and high school students via a video link from Sandra Swasey's hospital room at Intermountain Medical Center in Murray.

"I'm glad to see so many of you kids gathered together," said Brown, speaking on behalf of her mother, whose voice could barely be heard over the speakers in the auditorium. "I wish I could be there with you."

Swasey, a fourth grade teacher at Altamont Elementary, underwent surgery to repair a cerebral arteriovenous malformation in her brain shortly after the 2009-10 school year ended



Geoff Liesik, Uintah Basin Standard  
 Doug Swasey, left, and his daughter Stephanie Mecham, far right, accepted a \$22,700 donation Thursday from Altamont High School Family, Career and Community Leaders of America chapter members Koyia Sorensen, Shonia McKinnon, Averece Oman, Dayna Sorensen, and Lacy Murray.

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Wintch Basin Standard 11 Sep 2001

RHC 0193

**Business As Usual**

# Altamont station changes hands

By Katie Hansen

Stevenson's, Altamont's only gas station and convenience store recently changed hands and is now open under new management, with a new name.

This summer Doug Swasey, an upper-country native, purchased the gas station, convenience store and café, located just outside Altamont, from Nick and Ann Stevenson.

The store, which is being managed by Reed Swasey has been dubbed Swasey's Other Place. The Swasey

family also operates Swaseys, a grocery store in Altamont.

Reed noted that the store will continue to operate as a gas station and convenience store, explaining that it is something every community should have. According to Reed Swasey, business hasn't been too bad in the two weeks it has been open.

The café, which is slated to open in the near future, will be managed by Val Thacker.

Store hours will be 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Saturday, except on high school game nights, when the store will we open for an extra hour.

# ATION

RHC 0193



**DRESSING THE PART**—Paula Jenkins, a teacher at Altamont Elementary, is dressed just right for Thanksgiving Day.

## Altamont teacher dresses the part

When introducing a new social studies unit to her fifth grade students, Paula Jenkins at Altamont Elementary tailors an appropriate costume for the time period, and dresses for the part. Noting that fifth graders often have a hard time understanding the sequence of historical events, Mrs. Jenkins decided on a visual way to emphasize historical happenings in American history. A timeline posted in the classroom also relates important events to periods in the history of our country.

So far this year, Paula has dressed as a Native American and then as a woman in the time of Columbus. During the Native American unit the students each prepared a report on a particular tribe. They constructed small models of typical Indian dwellings and displayed them in the library. Written reports were also assigned during the explorers unit, with each student researching a specific early explorer. Studying American history in this way gives the students opportunity to develop numerous skills — reading, research, speaking, writing, and art. And the students are wondering, "Who will our teacher dress as next?"

Wintub Basin Standard 20 Nov 2001

# Altamont teacher retires, receives service award

Craig Tew recently retired from teaching at Altamont High School after 31 years on the job. He was an example and inspiration to the hundreds of students who had the opportunity to learn from him during his career. He had a love for his students and for agriculture that truly showed in his work and his interaction with others.

For his dedication to the school, the community and to agriculture, the Duchesne County Farm Bureau on Oct. 29 presented him with the Service to Agriculture Award.

Craig was born and raised in southeastern Idaho. He was one of 10 children: five boys and five girls. His family had a potato farm, and his parents taught their children early how to work hard. His father was an excellent farmer, and you could say farming is in Craig's blood — he truly loves it.

After graduating from Ricks College, he attended Utah State University where he graduated in Agricultural Education. It was there that he met his wife, Bonnie, who was originally from Carbon County.

After obtaining his degree, Craig taught for one year at Roy High School on the Wasatch Front, then came to the Uintah Basin. The first year he was here, he taught half the day at Altamont and half the day at Duchesne, then spent 29 years teaching full time at Altamont. He taught Biology, Animal Science, Equine Science, Plants and Soils and lots of welding. In fact, at the time of his retirement, it was estimated that 75 percent of the welders in the Basin had been through Craig's program at Altamont High.

He passed his love of agriculture to his students, many of whom still farm or ranch in the Altamont area. Craig was

also busy during the summer months helping with 4-H and FFA projects. He has sheared countless lambs and trimmed too many calves to count in preparation for the county fair.

He loved to help young people as well as tease them. And his students all loved to tease him right back. He was awarded Soil Conservation Teacher of the Year for his outstanding teaching, but he is quick to say that he was not in education to win awards, but because he loved the young people and helped them gain the knowledge and skills to be successful in agriculture and in life.

Craig and Bonnie live on a small farm in Bluebell where they raised sheep and five children. They now have seven grandchildren, six boys and one girl.

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NOV 10, 2009

# THE Uintah Basin Standard

## Altamont Teacher Takes Gold Medal In Competition

# It's off with the apron and on with the kilt for Talmage bagpipe player

The unusual sound of bagpipes is a familiar one at Altamont Junior/Senior High School where Tom Rather, a woodshop teacher there, regularly practices playing during his free time; and practices well. Last month Rather took a first place gold medal at the 30th Annual Arizona Scottish Highland Games & Gathering in solo competition in the two-four march.

"This is an unusual accomplishment," said David Barclay, professional bagpipe teacher and player, and long time member of the Utah Pipe Band formed in 1939; one of the oldest continually organized pipe bands in Utah.

"Tom's really excelled quite quickly as the norm goes for pipers, because of his dedication and his interest in his Scottish

heritage," said Barclay, "I'm very proud of him. He's from an isolated area and doesn't get heavy tutoring like some of the others. He's only been playing over a year with tutoring and usually it takes two or three years to accomplish what he has. I'm very pleased and proud of what he's done."

Rather and his wife Tammy moved to Talmage 3 years ago from California to accept the teaching position at Altamont high school. The couple live with their three small children on a 60-acre ranch where they raise quarter-horses and cattle.

Rather's interest with the pipes began after hearing a bagpipe performance in Cedar City by the Southern Utah University pipe band several years ago.

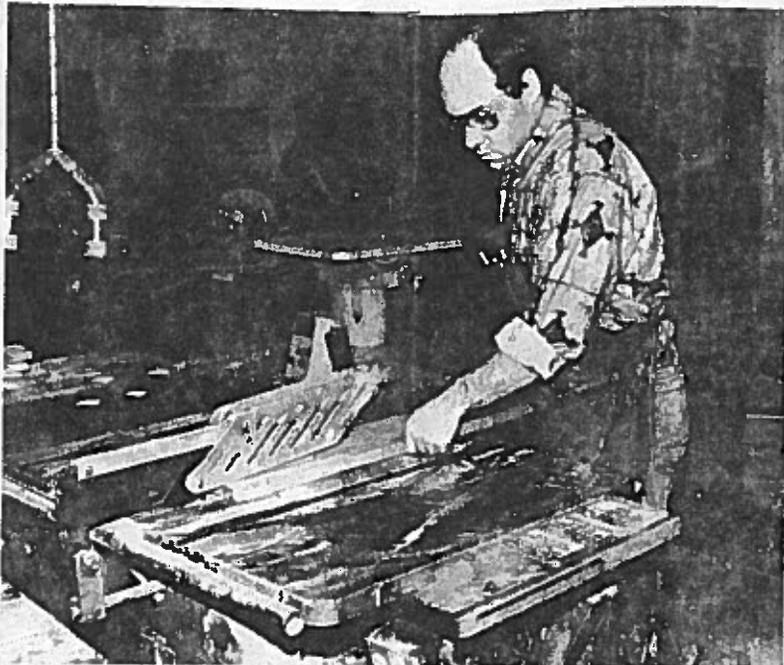
"The music stirred me in a way nothing else ever had, and I decided there and then I would someday learn to play," said Rather.

Rather borrowed a set of pipes his brother had purchased while on a Mormon mission to England. After unsuccessfully trying to locate a bagpipe teacher in the Basin, Rather bought some books and tapes to teach himself.

"They are so loud I would tell him to practice outside and he would for hours on end when the weather was warm," recalled his wife Tammy.

"You can hear the pipes quite a distance away, and if the wind is blowing the sound can be carried even farther," said Rather. "They were meant to be played outdoors. They are very loud. They sound most dramatic when the tune is carried by the wind and heard from a distance, at least that's the way my wife enjoys them the most. She says they sound mystical when carried by the wind. When I first started playing, all the cattle in the neighboring fields would run over and line up along the fence to listen. That was kind of amusing.

Eventually Rather located a professional teacher, Barclay, a man who takes pride in his Scottish heritage and a family



AT WORK--Altamont High shop teacher Tom Rather works at one of the woodcutting machines in the school's shop class.

## BAGPIPE PLAYER

continued from page 11

have said they would like to learn to play, but it takes a lot of commitment. I feel like I'm too much of a beginner myself to start teaching others, but if one of the kids is really serious about it, I'll help out what I can."

Rather said that the history of piping is a long and dramatic one. The bagpipe has been around before Roman civilization, but is associated by most people with Scottish history. In their battles the Scots always had pipers in their regiments to play before and during battle to rally the men and give them courage and to remind them of what they were fighting for. The pipes were considered to be an instrument of war by the conquering English who banned their playing when they defeated the last of the Scottish resistors.

"I couldn't have achieved what I have with the pipes if it wasn't for my Mom's support. She really encourages me and has helped me in more ways than I'll ever be able to repay her. She's a very talented woman herself and really enjoys the arts. She's always had an appreciation for history and entertainment and the bagpipes epitomizes her interests."

# Basin Life

history of piping.

"David was surprised at how much I had taught myself, but not surprisingly I had developed some wrong techniques and gotten into some incorrect habits I had to overcome," said Rather.

Because the drive between Barclay's home in Bountiful and the Basin takes about six hours round trip, Rather doesn't have the opportunity to visit Barclay as often as he would like. "If I could I would go more often for lessons, but it's just impossible because of distance and time. What we've done that's really worked out well is to tape the lessons with my camcorder, then I can repeat the lessons over and over until I get it down. Then I make another trip to record a new lesson.

"I get teased about it sometimes especially when I play in traditional costume. Once I played for the Relief Society at Moon Lake Ward, and the ladies wanted to know what I wore under my kilt. I think all bagpipers get asked that one," Rather said. "I have a few kids at the school who

Continued on page 20



AT PLAY—Bagpipe player Tom Rather, a Talmage rancher and Altamont High shop teacher spends his free time practicing the bagpipes, a hobby he took up just a few years ago.

### JED CURRY EXCELS DESPITE CHALLENGES

# Altamont teen gains national recognition for achievements

By Therena Morrill

It's not often that a story originating in the Uintah Basin Standard generates national interest, but then again, it's not often that you read about a teen-ager like 16-year old Jedediah Curry. Last October the Standard ran a feature story on the Altamont teen as he was finishing up the requirements for his final Boy Scouts of America merit badge. He was awarded that 123rd merit badge Dec. 28 at a Court of Honor in Altamont, and the bells of fame have been ringing for him ever since.

Very rarely does a young man ac-

complish the formidable goal of earning every merit badge the Boy Scouts have to offer. It takes perseverance and hard work to pull off such a feat. But his story is even more remarkable when you read the details of his life—a life with no small number of challenges. You see, Jed combats cystic fibrosis, a genetic disease that drains your energy and damages vital organs of the body, especially the lungs.

He also pricks his finger five times a day to check his blood sugar levels, and then injects himself with insulin to treat his Type 1 diabetes.

And then there's that little problem with the asthma that flares up

People have written from across to thank Jed for giving them courage to set their goals high in spite of their challenges.

every now and again.

But Jed is no cry-baby. He refuses to let anything deter him from the goals he has set for himself. Even though he must take at least 15 to 20 pills several times each day, and spends at least an hour a day hooked up to a machine that breaks up the mucus in his lungs, he still finds time to swim, run track, play on the Altamont High baseball team, perform in school drama productions, work with his grandpa after school, and earn all 123 merit badges. Now he's being held up as a source of inspiration all over the country as word of his incredible determination and invincible spirit has spread through the channels of the media.

Jed was hesitant to give his first interview to the Standard, and asked that his illnesses be mentioned only briefly. The story did run and recognized his ability to overcome his physical limitations in the pursuit of accomplishing his goals.

According to Jed, Salt Lake Tribune reporter David Noyce saw the story in the Standard and drove to Altamont to interview him for a similar story that ran in the Tribune on Dec. 26. The story catapulted the modest teen into hero status, and he

SEE JED CURRY on page 3



A RARE ACCOMPLISHMENT — There was a special guest at a recent Court of Honor in Altamont. ... Presiding Bishop of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints presented Jedediah Curry with his 123rd and final Boy Scout merit badge. Ironically that last merit badge, for Radio, was the first one he started more than five years ago. Jed's merit badges completely cover his sash and even the shirt sleeves of his Scout uniform! Jed is the son of Doug and Penny Curry.

*Uintah Basin Standard  
22 Jan 2002*

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NO. 0193

## JED CURRY

Continued from page 1

began to receive well-deserved recognition.

A radio disc jockey in Birmingham, Alabama read the Tribune story on the Internet. He called Jed at home at 6:30 a.m. on Dec. 27 and surprised him by interviewing him live, on the air.

"I was really sick that day and could barely talk," Jed said. "It was really weird. He [the disc jockey] said he just decided to call me. He wanted to know why I wanted to get all those merit badges."

After the radio interview, a newspaper in Chattanooga, Tennessee, the Chattanooga Express, re-ran the story from the Tribune. Ever since, Jed has been receiving letters from people all over the country who have been inspired by his story.

There's the doctor in Maine who is confined to a wheelchair, who wrote to say he found courage to endure his own struggles through reading of Jed's

experiences. There's the little boy in Arizona just beginning his scouting years, who wrote to say that Jed had inspired him to also earn all the merit badges available.

People have written from California to Maine, from Illinois, to the southern states of Kentucky, Tennessee, and Alabama, just to thank Jed for giving them courage to set their goals high in spite of their challenges.

Jed will be the guest speaker for The Diabetic Clinic in St. George in April, where he will address 60 kids in grades 7-12 who all suffer from diabetes.

You can see Jed at the state capitol on Jan. 23 as he meets Governor Leavitt and receives an award from Senator Beverly Evans.

This fall, Jed will hear if he won the National Boy Scout of the Year Award, for which he was nominated by the local area-wide chapter of the America Legion. He has already received the King's Peak Scouter of the Year Award.

The *New Era*, a magazine published by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints for youth, will feature Jed in the near future.

If you visit the Primary Children's Hospital in Salt Lake, you will see Jed's smiling face plastered on a big bulletin board where the patients with cystic fibrosis can see it. The bulletin board is covered with the newspaper clippings of Jed's story and pictures of him through the years as he worked his way through the scouting merit badge program.

"They have designed the bulletin board to inspire other patients," explained Jed's mother, Penny Curry. "Jed has decided to talk more openly about his illness because he can see that it helps people who have similar problems."

That's just the kind of guy Jed is—easy-going, always smiling, and ready and willing to help someone along the way.

"A scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent." And now Jed Curry can add "famous" to the list.

# Altamont teenager drowns in Sandwash

A 14-year old Altamont boy drowns in Sandwash Reservoir while swimming with a friend Sunday night, July 7.

According to Duchesne County Sheriff's reports, at around 7:30 p.m. Lloyd Whitehead and a younger friend were swimming in the north end of the lake, not too far from shore, when Whitehead's companion turned and saw he was gone, and began screaming for help.

Approximately 45 people aided in

the search, according to investigators. Whitehead's body was found approximately 90 minutes later in 15 feet of water not far from shore by a diver with the Altamont ambulance crew.

It's unknown why the youth suddenly went down, according to the report. There was no undertow, and his body had not become entangled in anything.

Lloyd is the son of John Whitehead and Pam Whitehead. Funeral services are pending.

*Uintah Basin Standard*

*9 July 2002*

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NO. 0193

Altamont Theater Presents

# Main Street Express

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GRAND OPENING July 19th

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UBS 6 July 2004 RHC 0193

## GET THE GENEALOGY BUG!

# Altamont's Family History Center hosts open house this month

The Family History Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Altamont is having an open house throughout February. There will be displays on family histories, Scandinavian research and culture, computer programs, obituaries, and tips on organizing your family history.

In addition, genealogy novices will discover that doing family history research isn't daunting at all thanks to the ideas that will be available to help you catch the "genealogy bug." Helpful resources at the open house include a "where do I start folder," and ideas on ways to help children want to get involved in doing family history.

Three videos will be shown on the importance of families, keeping the past alive, and instruction from the prophets and apostles concerning family history. Various "mystery people" will be displayed in the building, and those who attend the open house can try their sleuthing skills to see if they can discover the identities of the mystery people, said librarian Marlene Roberts.

There will be hands-on computer interaction with the genealogy programs and Internet. Bring your membership number and confirmation date (you can obtain this from your



**USER FRIENDLY** — Elaine Kappen and Marlene Roberts assist Joan Goodrich, at the computer, working on the Paf 5.2 and Temple Ready.



**FAMILY HISTORY SUPPORTERS** — Staff members of the Altamont, Utah, Family History Center: First row: Telitha Parry, Susan Wimmer, Marlene Roberts, Amelia Christensen, JoAnn Miles. Second row: Pat Wilcox, Raija

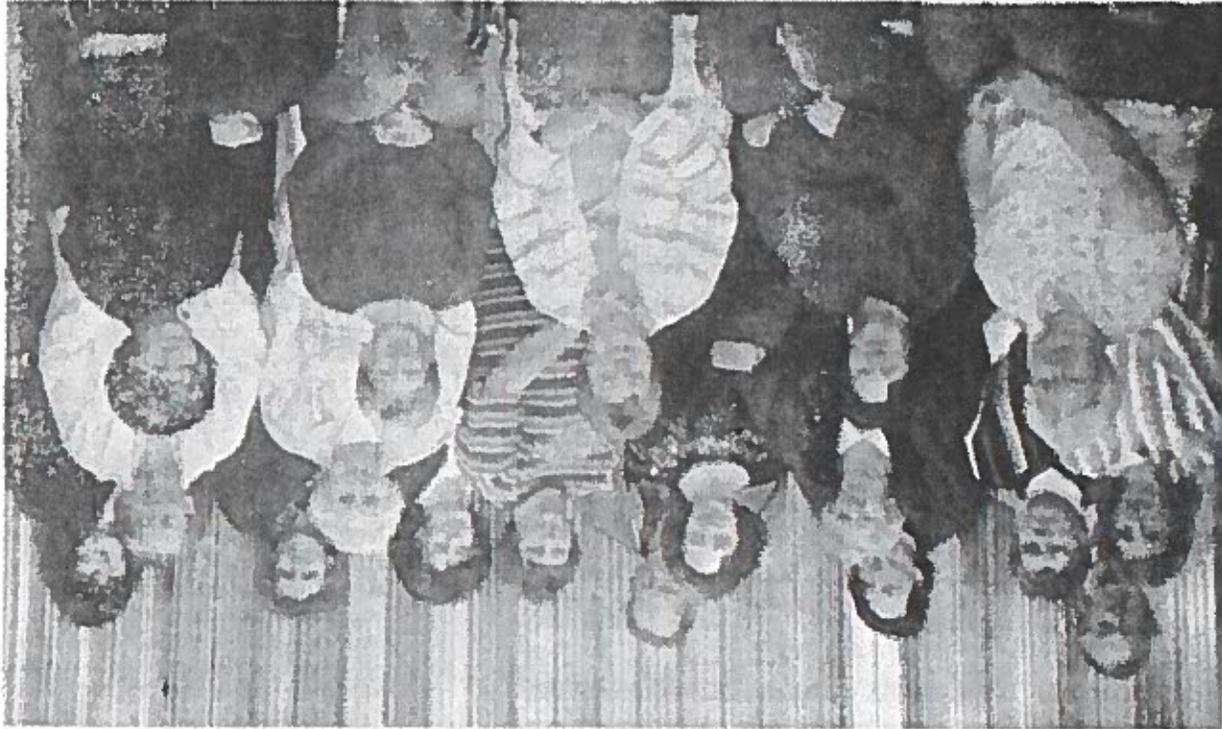
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Tealinda Parry, Susan Wimmer, Marlene Roberts, Amelia Christensen, JoAnn Miles. Second row: Pat Wilcox, Kaja Maxfield, Grace Cook, Vanece Larsen, Jacqueline Stansfield, Lucille Gram, Ruth Winkler. Back row: Perry Maxfield, Diana Spaulding, Aulien Larsen, Judy Frandsen, Carolyn Miles, and Brenda Lamb. (Not in picture: Doug Holgate, High Council Representative, Elaine Kappen, Tammy and Christine Ledbetter and Karen Sorensen).



bishop or ward clerk), and you will be guided into your current ordinance data.

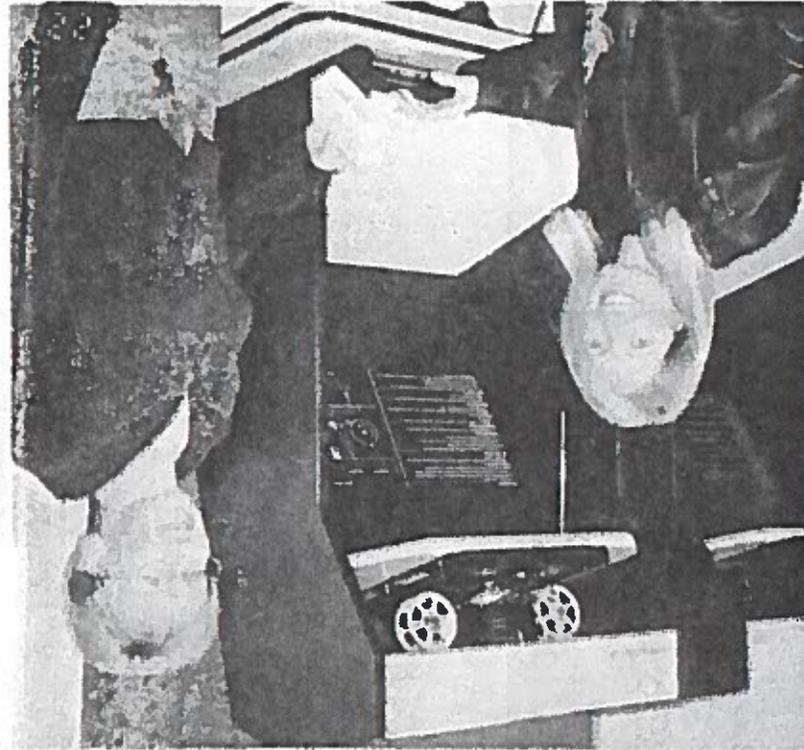
The Family History Center in Altamont also has many of the Utah LDS ward records throughout the state where the early pioneers settled. Are any of your ancestors on the ward record of Clover Ward 1882-1941, Oak City Ward 1862-1941, Millford 1880-1941, Deseret Ward 1877-1945 or others? Be sure to stop in and check out these records. Thumb through current obituary books for a deceased loved one or friend, and research the up-to-date cemetery records at the Family History Center in Altamont.

There are three Family History Sunday School classes going, teaching the Par 5.2 program and internet. Anyone wanting to learn these programs may set up an appointment during the week.

A staff of 22 librarians and an internet specialist, Brenda Lamb, are on hand to help in the programs.

The open house will run throughout February, on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Door prizes will be given away. A grand prize drawing will be held at the end of the month.

**MAKING THE MOST OF MICROFILM** — Amelia Christensen, staff member at the Family History Center in Altamont, helps Sharon Roberts West view a microfilm.



# Altamont: Hub of the Upper Country and a "young" settlement

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the Mormon Pioneers into the Salt Lake Valley the Uintah Basin Standard in conjunction with the Duchesne County Sesquicentennial Committee will publish stories detailing contributions made by those who settled and pioneered Duchesne and Uintah Counties.

Those who have histories of early Uintah Basin settlers of any nationality, religion or ethnic origin are invited to submit them for consideration to Shar Benson 722-2545, Norma Denver 722-3320 or Lori Evans 722-4441.

The City of Altamont, which was settled much later than most of the cities of Duchesne County, and also much later than its predecessors, Altonah and Mount Emmons, owes its existence to the value placed on schooling by early settlers of the area.

The LeRoy Thacker family was among some of the first settlers in the early 1900's and bought the ground where the Altamont High School is now located. They built a home there and lived in it for six years. They sold that ground to the school board to build a school. LeRoy was the custodian of that school for 15 years.

With the opening of the centralized high school in 1935 for the seven surrounding towns: Altonah, Mt. Emmons, Bluebell, Upalco, Mt. Home, Talmage and Boneta, Altamont was formed through the consolidation of schools, in order to offer the students a more adequate education.

After the location was decided, between Altonah and Mt. Emmons, a contest was held to name the new area. Clarence Snyder came up with the name of "Altamont," using the word Alta from Altonah and Mount from Mount Emmons, was decided upon. This spelling of the name continued for several years until the school was operating. Then the "u" in mount was dropped, because the school children continually misspelled the name.

The name also seemed appropriate, since the plateau on which the new community was established was in a position to overlook the valley to the south

with no pay at all to get the town incorporated.

Altamont is much more than just an eight block area with a population of approximately 200 people. It is also the namesake and center of the famous Altamont-Bluebell oil field; a Stake Center for the LDS Church; a center for the "upper Country" schools; U.S. Post Office; community park, and community activities. It is a branch headquarters for REA's Moon Lake Electric, Uintah Basin Telephone Exchange, First Security Bank and a shopping center for the "Upper Country." Altamont has also been a base for many successful contractors.

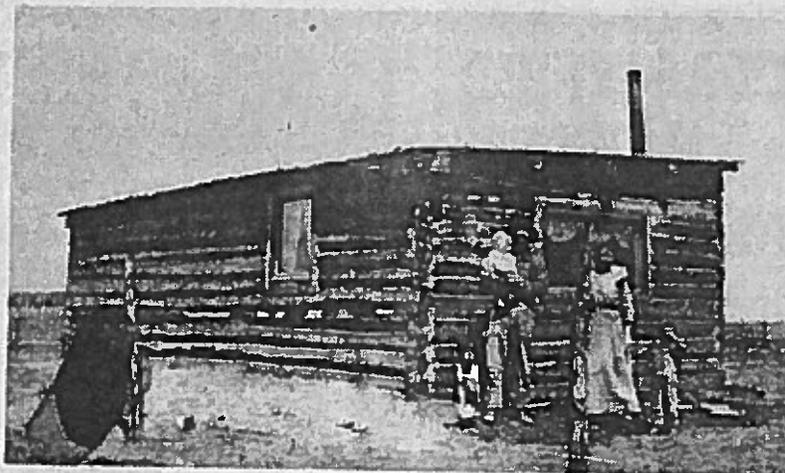
Altamont rodeos have been a historic tradition for many years. At first the rodeos were held in many of the towns making up the upper country area. Then in about 1945 the LDS Church bought some ground from Melwood Wall west of Altamont City to be used as a rodeo ground. Money from admissions were used to gradually build up the grounds.

The Altamont Roping Club was organized and they began to get involved in organizing the rodeos, and used the grounds for their own activities as well. Rodeos will probably always be a part of the Altamont area heritage.

Maybe some old-timers will

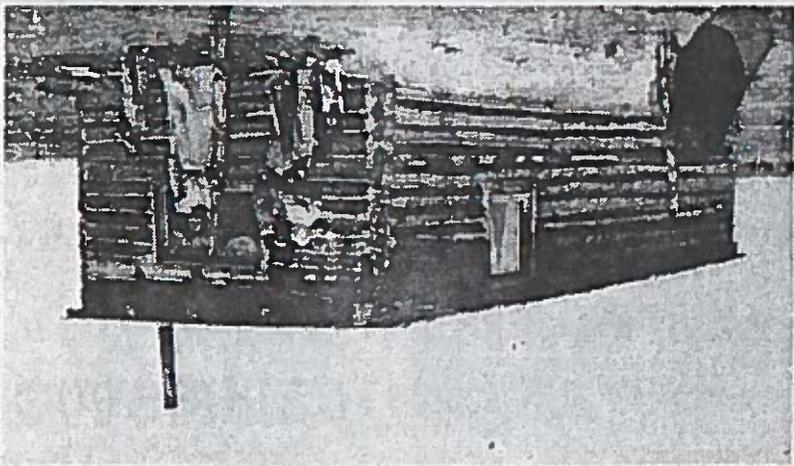
remember the Pioneer Day that was held in Altamont on July 25, 1936. A parade depicting the crossing of the plains by the Utah Pioneers was held. Mt. Emmons and Altonah citizens trained oxen for the event. Following the parade, a program was held on the campus of the Altamont High School. Loud speakers were installed at various points to accommodate the immense crowd. The big feature of the celebration was the Indian village, where the Indians in full regalia demonstrated the ceremonial dances. Climaxing the day was an evening dance with special floor shows.

In the early 1970's the official 24th of July Altamont Longhorn Round-up Days began when queen contests for Miss Altamont have been held, parades, games and contests, fireworks, rodeos, fashion shows, sunrise breakfast, suppers, dances, bicycle races, baby shows, children and adult talent shows, pet shows, children's theater, baseball games, watermelon busts, beard contests, candy drops, and baseball games. The Altamont Longhorn Days is an event that the Upper Country look forward to whether they perform or just watch. And many long-gone residents also like to come back for the celebration to renew old acquaintances and enjoy the festivities.

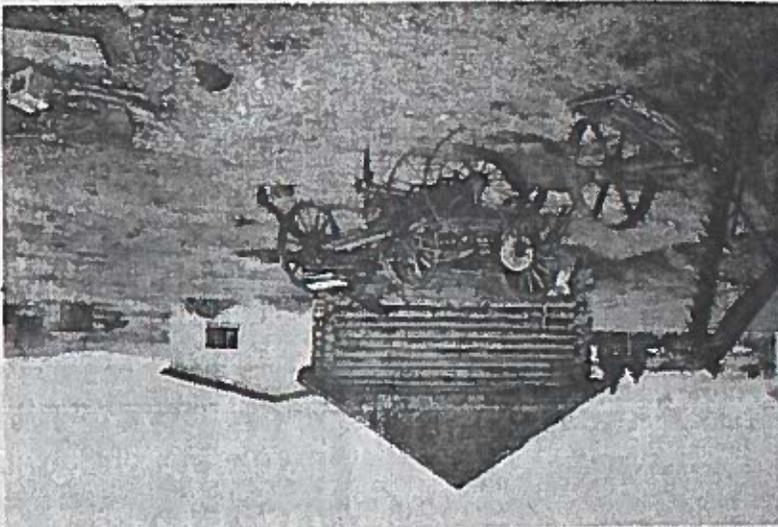


PIONEERS--LeRoy and Wealtha Thacker and children Wesley and Howard in their first home in Altamont.

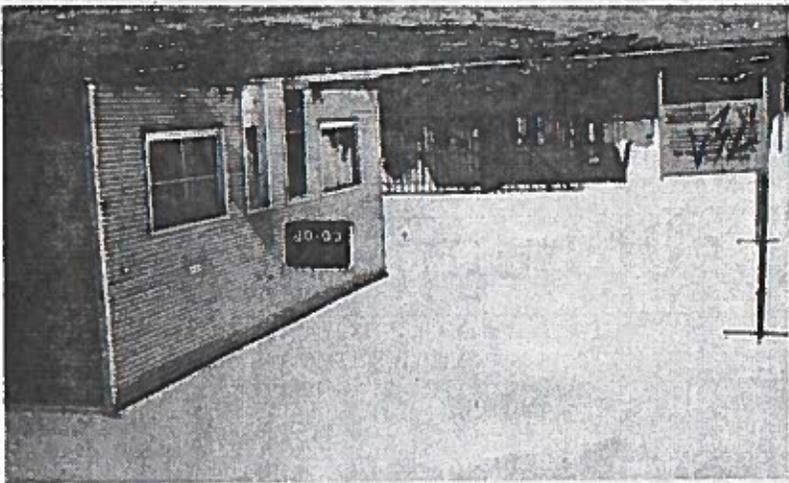
probably always be a part of the Almont area heritage. Maybe some old-timers will renew old acquaintances and enjoy the festivities.



PIONEERS—Leroy and Wealva Thacker and children Wesley and Howard in their first home in Almont.



FIRST FARM EQUIPMENT—Pioneer Machinery on Wesley Thacker property on Almont Main Street.



A FIRST--Almont was home to first Rural Electric Cooperative office, later changed to Moon Lake Electric Association.

centralized high school in 1935 for the seven surrounding towns: Almont, Mt. Emmons, Bluebell, Upalco, Mt. Home, Talmage and Bonita. Almont was formed through the consolidation of schools, in order to offer the students a more adequate education.

After the location was decided, between Altonah and Mt. Emmons, a contest was held to name the new area. Clarence Snyder came up with the name of "Almont," using the word Alta from Altonah and Mount upon. This spelling of the name continued for several years until the school was operating. Then the "u" in mount was dropped, because the school children continually misspelled the name.

The name also seemed appropriate, since the plateau on which the new community was established was in a position to overlook the valley to the south, and both town names that went into the name Almont meant "high." Less than 44 years old, the City of Almont has made a lot of progress during the short time of its existence since July 8, 1953 when it was officially born and a town council began to govern.

When the Duchesne County Commissioners approved the application for Almont to become an incorporated town, the 128 residents, which had only 34 qualified voters, began to plan and organize themselves into a corporate body that meant business. Selected on that first council were LaFarge Dasturp, president; Leland Stevenson, Waldo Hansen, Jewel Kolb, Lindon Farnsworth and Lindon Hansen, trustees and Gene Baxter, clerk. Don Nyberg was the justice of the Peace and Tom Clark was the city marshal and were the first peace officers to be appointed at Almont. Those men were all possessed with vision and determination—the best known qualities for getting things done.

The people of Almont have worked hard to make a success of it. Some of the first councilmen dug into their own pockets and worked





Staff Sgt. Tom Bowman of Layton and Private 1st Class Steve Killian of Idaho Falls, Idaho, both members of the 3rd Platoon, 624th Engineer Co. of the Utah Army National Guard based in Springville, lay a block in the rising walls of an amphitheater being erected at Altamont Town Park. The Guard was in town June 6-8 and will return to help finish the job in July.

# ANG lends hand building Altamont park pavilion

By Preston McConkie

About a dozen Utah Army National Guard soldiers were in Altamont over the weekend helping bring to life the vision of the town's late mayor, Chip Allred, who wanted to see Longhorn Days skits and concerts performed on a solid stage.

"We've always just done performances from flat-bed trailers," said Marilyn Winn, who along with Kristy Sorenson has helped spearhead fundraising and organizing volunteers to build an amphitheater in Altamont Town Park.

Out of approximately \$40,000 needed for the project, more than \$25,000 has already been raised. Volunteers and supportive businesses also got the 36-by-44 foot concrete slab laid and cured in time for a platoon of National Guard engineers to begin building walls.

In addition to support walls,

the back of a stage area. According to Winn, the structure will resemble the amphitheater in Roosevelt's Old Mill Park.

On Friday, a dozen members - mostly noncommissioned officers - of the 3rd Platoon, 624th Engineer Co. based in Springville arrived in green trucks and camouflage fatigues, fired up a portable concrete mixer, and began anchoring re-bar and laying masonry blocks.

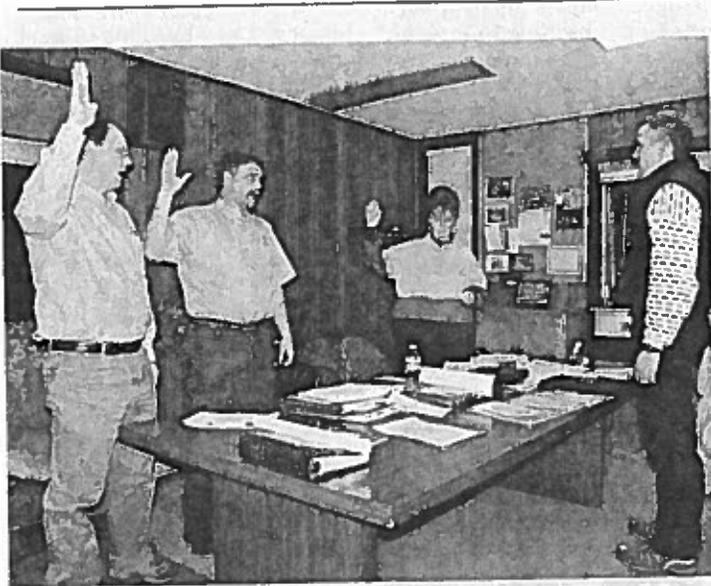
The platoon was there both to build and to train; on Saturday one soldier noted that the platoon didn't work as quickly as professional masons. None of the men interviewed work full-time in construction, instead they hold jobs ranging from electrician to office worker to college student.

But what the soldiers lacked in speed they made up for in low cost and the spirit of service. Their work was done with care and precision. And by learning

"vertical construction" methods, the soldiers prepared to do humanitarian work when deployed to needy or war-torn areas.

The platoon's contribution was arranged through the help of Lori McNease with Dinosaurland RC&D, which works to bring money and labor together with worthy public projects. The platoon will return in July to help finish the job.

Donations to finish paying for the pavilion can be made to the Chip Allred Fund at Mountain America Credit Union.



After being appointed to interim offices during 2007 and then elected in November, three of five members of the Altamont Town Council were sworn into office Wednesday by Altamont Town Clerk Melba Markham. From left to right are Councilman Larry Henry, Mayor Clyde Watkins, Markham, and Councilman Robert Gordon. Councilman Todd Anfinson was absent from the year's first council meeting, as was David Rust, who replaced appointed Councilman Brent J. "Ole" Olsen.

UBS 15, JAN 2008 RHC 0193

## New memorial dedicated



JOHN PLESTINA, UINTAH BASIN STANDARD

Veterans line up on Veterans Day in front of the statue of the soldier that was placed last week at The Upper Country Veterans Memorial in Altamont. From left are Raymond Cook, Duchesne County Sheriff Travis Mitchell, Larry Beal, American Legion Post 53 Commander Eric Call, Harry Fieldstead, Jerry Thacker and Veal Tucker.

## Area veterans honored with new statue

By JOHN PLESTINA  
jplestina@ubmedia.biz

ALTAMONT—Paying tribute to local veterans is a theme that helped inspire **The Upper Country Veterans Memorial**, placed in front of Altamont Elementary School on Veteran's Day 2008.

Five years later, American Legion Post 53 honored the area's veterans on the 85th Veteran's Day, originally Armistice Day.

The 2013 observance was

special because Post 53 added the life-size bronze soldier to the memorial. The statue was delivered and placed at the memorial Nov. 4.

The \$28,000 statue was purchased from a company in Provo called Big Statues, Post 53 Commander Eric Call said. Matt Glenn is the artist.

The statue was funded by donations from area veterans.

The remainder of the memorial was dedicated Nov. 11, 2008

SEE ALTAMONT on A7



JOHN PLESTINA, UINTAH BASIN STANDARD

**Erwin Rust**, a World War II veteran and the area's oldest veteran recites a poem as American Legion Post 53 Commander Eric Call holds the microphone.

**A7**

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

### ALTAMONT

Continued from A1

and was funded with a \$26,000 grant through the Uintah Basin Association of Governments.

The ceremony included

a poem by Erwin Rust, a World War II veteran and the area's oldest veteran and Altamont Elementary School children singing the national anthem and the songs of each of the services as the service flags were raised individually.

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UBS - NOV 12, 2013

# Blaze damages Altamont home

By **CHERYL MECHAN**  
Uintah Basin Standard

The family of a 10-year-old Altamont boy who died last month in a crash has suffered another loss.

The home of Jaxon Miles' stepfather and mother, Jim and Cheri Smith, caught fire last Tuesday, according to Altamont Assistant Fire Chief Kelly Bird. The fire began about 1 p.m., Bird said, in a crawlspace beneath the home and destroyed two rooms before crews could extinguish it.

"We had it contained but it took us a while to get into

where the hotspots were," he said Wednesday, noting that the cause of the fire is under investigation.

The family believes construction work being done on the home caused the fire, said Cheri Smith's sister, Melody Brady. There was extensive water and smoke damage to everything, including family photos, she said.

Brady said her son Skyler Brady was at work 10 minutes from the Smith house when the fire broke out and drove over to see if he could help. Skyler Brady, Miles' sister Destini Nielson and friends Mark Thacker and Jade Stevenson entered the Smith

home repeatedly, Melody Brady said, trying to save what they could.

The four threw Jaxon Miles' belongings out his bedroom window so they would not be destroyed by smoke and fire, she said.

Miles died Nov. 7, one day after he was thrown from the pickup truck he was riding in when it crashed on state Road 87 near the Ruvola Dugway turnoff. His brother, Malcolm Miles, was driving the truck and told investigators he'd fallen asleep at the wheel.

Melody Brady said the family is grateful for the community support following Jaxon Miles' death and now the fire. She said her brother-in-law doesn't want anyone to set up a donation fund for the family.

Geoff Liesik contributed to this report.

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Vernal Express  
Dec 8, 2010

# Longhorn parade honors Fishers

Brent and Katharine "Kathy" Fisher were selected as grand marshalls for the Longhorn Days parade in Altamont. The parade was held Saturday as part of the many festivities for Longhorn Days.

"The upper country is proud to have such a hard-working, dedicated, and loving family to represent it in this year's Longhorn Days celebration," said Annissa Maxfield, secretary for the Longhorn Days Committee.

Brent Fisher is the second son of five children born to George Jr. and LaRue Maxfield Fisher. Katharine Hart-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Brent and Kathy Fisher

man is the oldest daughter of three children born to J. Bruce and Anna Olsen Hartman. She lived in Mt. Emmons and attended school in Altonah and Altamont.

They both attended Altamont High School, graduating in 1960. They were

married the summer of 1961. Brent worked on many construction sites as a crane operator for the Operation Engineers. Kathy attended Beauty College in Salt Lake, taught kindergarten and raised her two daughters, Angie (Matthews) and Stacy Lynn (Krissman).

They currently run a ranching operation that raises and sells beef cattle.

Some of the most enjoyable times the Fishers have are when they move cattle to and from the high Uintas with their extended family. They have five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

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UBS July 31, 2012

# Brent and Donna Brotherson set to be 2018 Longhorn Days Grand Marshals

BY STAFF REPORTS

Brent and Donna Brotherson have been chosen to be the Grand Marshals of the 2018 Longhorn Days Celebration.

Brent was raised in Boneta, Utah where his grandfathers homesteaded. He is one of six children born to Bill and Beth Brotherson. He graduated from Altamont High School and went to Brigham Young University. The next year he left to serve a mission to the Navajo people in the American Southwest. He came back and finished his degree in botany with a minor in math. He then went to teach school in Panguitch, Utah. As soon as the opportunity presented itself, he came back to the Uintah Basin and started teaching first at Union High School and then Altamont High School. All together he worked in education as a teacher, coach, assistant principal and counselor for

40 years before he retired in 2010.

Brent also served on the Central Utah Water Conservancy District Board for 20 years, during which time he helped our area with water issues. He fought many battles to keep other areas of the state from taking more of our county's water rights and was able to get \$1 million from the state to help with Duchesne City's water among other benefits for our county.

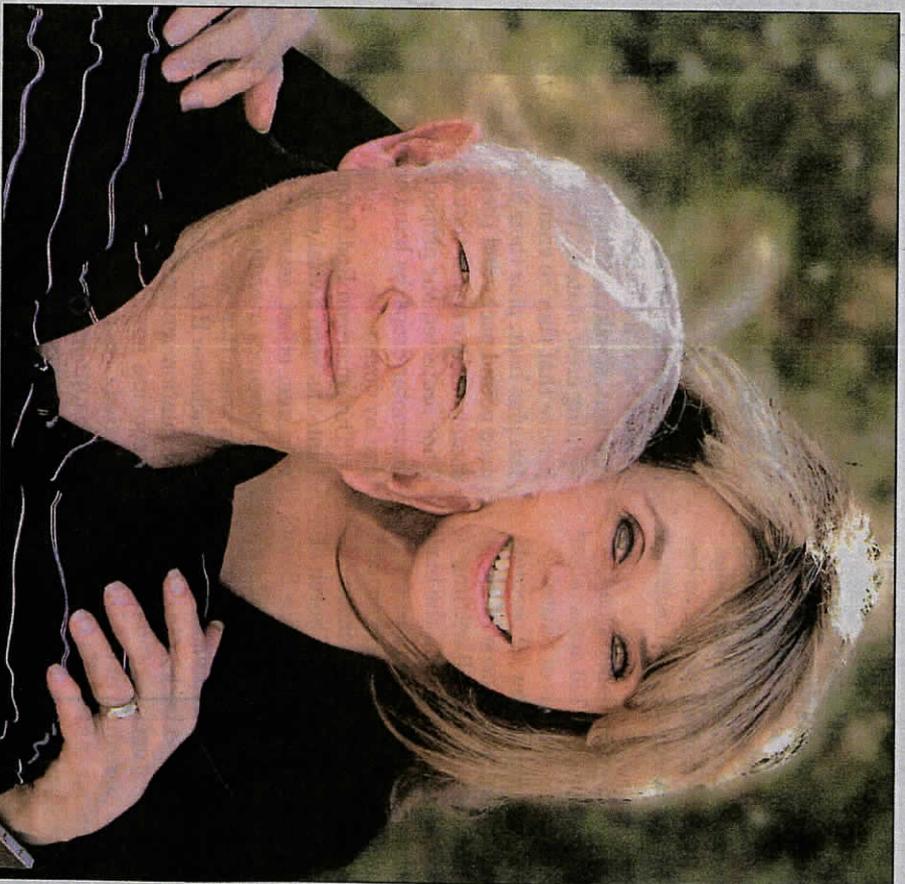
Donna was raised on a farm in the small town of Wrentham, Alberta, Canada. She is one of seven children of Everett and Edna Myers. She graduated from Raymond High School and then attended Brigham Young University after graduation.

Brent and Donna met at Brigham Young University and were married August 21, 1969, in the Cardston Alberta Temple. They are the parents to five children. Randy (Serena) Brotherson, Brad

Brotherson, Kim (Merlin) Rasmussen, Matt (Kassidy) Brotherson, and Michelle (Ryan) Lindsey all of Boneta, Utah. They have 18 grandchildren that love to spend time at their house. Family time is important and they have enjoyed having their family all close by.

Brent was raised on a ranch and has always loved ranching so naturally they began their own ranch as soon as they returned to the Uintah Basin. They have been able to expand their ranch over the years and their children have also become more involved in ranching as well. Brent and Donna have also served many years as active members in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Brent and Donna are honored to be the 2018 Longhorn Days Grand Marshals. They are proud to be a part of such a great community filled with so many good people.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

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NO. 0193

MS- July 17, 2018

## ALLRED CREATES 12-VOLUME BOOK OF MORMON SERIES

# Captain Moroni a comic book hero

By Therena Morrill

Michael Allred, the 1980 senior class president of Altamont High, has found a way to use his creativity and talent in a unique way. The author of such Marvel Comics super hero characters as Red Rocket 7, Mad Man, and the Atomics, Allred has moved into the realm of religious literature. His latest creation is a 12-part series called "The Plates of Brass," the world's first Book of Mormon "graphic novel" — akin to an upscale comic book but with a thicker format, upgraded paper quality and a binding.



Michael Allred was class president at Altamont High. He now lives in Oregon and is a comic book author.

Allred has come a long way in a life of diversified interests. As a high school student in Altamont, he played football, basketball, and ran on the track team, as well as served as class president.

"I'll be honest with you, I didn't really do a lot of playing on the basketball team. But I loved football," Allred said, adding that he played in the state tournament and was an All-State running back.

He lived in Bluebell for three years until graduating and moving to Rexburg, Idaho to attend Ricks College. His mother, Rae Bell Jenkins, and sister Glenda Jenkins still reside in Bluebell.

While at Ricks, Allred worked as a disc jockey on a local radio station. When he met a recruiter who explained how Allred could have a broadcasting career in the Air Force, while traveling the world and having "free babies", he and his new wife Laura were convinced. He signed on the dotted line and began an Air Force career.

Allred began drawing comic book characters as a past time while teaching television production to public affairs officers at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. He was later stationed in Europe working as a TV reporter for the Air Force Radio and Television Network when the Berlin Wall came down. That event inspired him to attempt to write a screen play about the end of the world called Dead Air.

It was during this time that Allred noticed the level of sophistication and quality of work that was taking place in the comic book industry. He decided to tell the story of Dead Air through the graphic novel medium instead of on the screen. His hobby became ever more important, eventually leading him to a successful career as a comic book author and illustrator.

Over the years he has worked independently and with Marvel Comic Books drawing, among others, such characters as Spiderman, Captain America, Iron Man, and Thor.

Now the 42-year-old artist who lives in Reedsport, Oregon with his wife Laura and their three children, has found a way to share his religious convictions through his livelihood. His inspiration for drawing scriptural "Superhuman heroes" began with an experience he had viewing the 12 original Book of Mormon paintings by artist Arnold Freeburg.

"He drew them so heroically and powerfully," Allred said.

"I asked myself 'what if Freeburg had drawn thousands of illustrations instead of just the 12?'"

Allred said he plans to draw every single event in the Book of Mormon for his series. "If something happened that I can draw, I will."

Obviously I believe this is the most significant thing I will ever do," Allred said, referring to the Book of Mormon series. "I've been really careful to keep as close to the actual scriptures as possible."

With the exception of developing or eliminating some character dialog, he has done just that.

"I got a letter from the First Presidency (of the Mormon Church) ask-

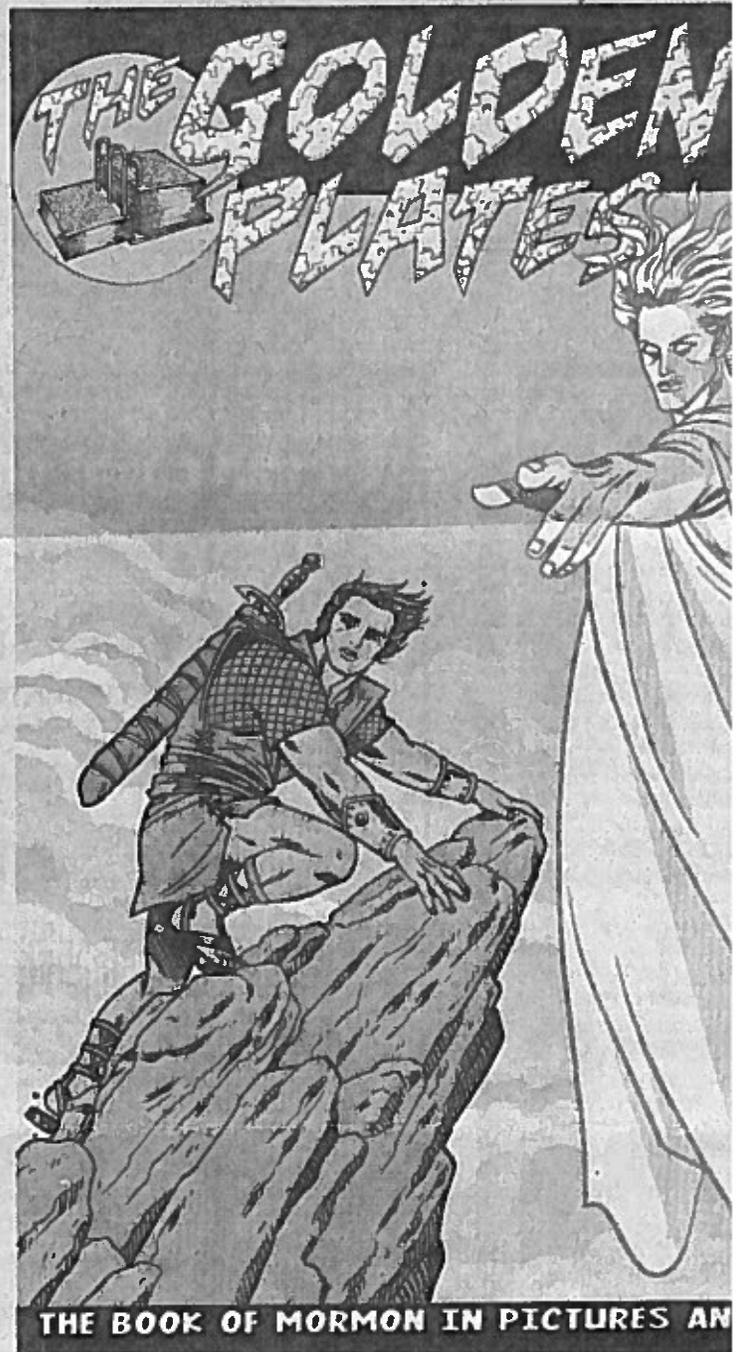
ing me to 'remember that this book is sacred'," Allred said. "That has absolutely been a concern that has remained in the forefront of my mind."

For him, one of the crowning moments of the Brass Plates series came when a friend told him he heard a reporter on a Salt Lake radio station say that Allred's work was "faithful to the scriptures."

The front inside cover of volume one records his own personal conviction that the Book of Mormon is a

true scriptural account of people who lived on this continent. "It creates a truth toward a deep of what all existence is."

Volume One of the series are available in stores that carry I Allred intends to have published every other next two years.



THE BOOK OF MORMON IN PICTURES AND

PLATES OF BRASS — A learning aid for kids who are visual learners. Or just a fun way to teach kids about the Book of Mormon. Michael Allred, an Oregon man with ties to the Uintah Basin, has a new volume comic book series hit store shelves earlier this month.

RHC 0193  
US 30 Nov 2004

ED CREATES 12-VOLUME BOOK OF MORMON SERIES

# ptain Moroni a comic book hero?

Morrill

Allred, the 1980 senior of Altamont High, way to use his creativity n a unique way. The au-Marvel Comics superhero s Red Rocket 7, Mad Man, omics, Allred has moved m of religious literature. eation is a 12-part series e Plates of Brass," the rst Book of Mormon vel" — akin to an upscale but with a thicker forded paper quality and a



Allred was class president at Altamont High. He now lives in Oregon and is a comic book author.

As he came a long way in a life of varied interests. As a high school athlete in Altamont, he played basketball, and ran on the track team as well as served as class president.

Honest with you, I didn't love playing on the basketball team. But I loved football," Allred said, adding that he played in high school and was an All-American.

Allred lived in Bluebell for three years before moving to Idaho to attend Ricks College. He was a member of the Ricks College football team, and his wife, Blenda Jenkins, still resides in Idaho.

At Ricks, Allred worked as a radio announcer on a local radio station. He met a recruiter who offered him a job. Allred could have had a long career in the Air Force, but he was leaving the world and having a new life, he and his new wife were convinced. He signed on the line and began an Air Force career.

Allred began drawing comic book characters as a past time while teaching television production to public affairs officers at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. He was later stationed in Europe working as a TV reporter for the Air Force Radio and Television Network when the Berlin Wall came down. That event inspired him to attempt to write a screen play about the end of the world called Dead Air.

It was during this time that Allred noticed the level of sophistication and quality of work that was taking place in the comic book industry. He decided to tell the story of Dead Air through the graphic novel medium instead of on the screen. His hobby became ever more important, eventually leading him to a successful career as a comic book author and illustrator.

Over the years he has worked independently and with Marvel Comic Books drawing, among others, such characters as Spiderman, Captain America, Iron Man, and Thor.

Now the 42-year-old artist who lives in Reedsport, Oregon with his wife Laura and their three children, has found a way to share his religious convictions through his livelihood. His inspiration for drawing scriptural "Superhuman heroes" began with an experience he had viewing the 12 original Book of Mormon paintings by artist Arnold Freeburg.

"He drew them so heroically and powerfully," Allred said.

"I asked myself 'what if Freeburg had drawn thousands of illustrations instead of just the 12?'"

Allred said he plans to draw every single event in the Book of Mormon for his series. "If something happened that I can draw, I will."

Obviously I believe this is the most significant thing I will ever do," Allred said, referring to the Book of Mormon series. "I've been really careful to keep as close to the actual scriptures as possible."

With the exception of developing or eliminating some character dialog, he has done just that.

"I got a letter from the First Presidency (of the Mormon Church) asking me to 'remember that this book is sacred'," Allred said. "That has absolutely been a concern that has remained in the forefront of my mind."

For him, one of the crowning moments of the Brass Plates series came when a friend told him he heard a reporter on a Salt Lake radio station say that Allred's work was "faithful to the scriptures."

The front inside cover of volume one records his own personal conviction that the Book of Mormon is a

true scriptural account of an ancient people who lived on the American continent. "It creates a domino effect that leads all that accept it as the truth toward a deep understanding of what all existence is about."

Volume One of the Plates of Brass series are available at local bookstores that carry Desert Books. Allred intends to have a new volume published every other month for the next two years.



PLATES OF BRASS — A learning aid for kids who are visual learners? Or just a fun way to teach kids about the Book of Mormon? Creator Michael Allred, an Oregon man with ties to the Uintah Basin, said his 12 volume comic book series hit store shelves earlier this month.

## FAMILY CIRCLE

## Christmas spirit is alive in Thacker family year round

Submitted by Tammy Meacham

Imagine my surprise, thumbing through the Jan. 15, 2002. Family Circle magazine, and finding two of my own family folks featured in the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Halo Awards, a section of the magazine devoted to people in the world making a difference. People who deserve special recognition for their extraordinary efforts to help others.

Alton Thacker is my father's uncle, making him my great. And a "great" uncle is what I've always thought him to be. I am a Thacker! And proud to belong to this fun loving, amazing clan, who settled in Altamont before there was a town.

Alton was the baby of the family that consisted of 14 children born to Leroy and Wealtha Thacker. Three children passed away in their infancy, and today, nine of them are still with us, as we gather together every year for a family reunion at Yellow Pine Campground above Altamont.

Alton, and wife Cheryl, now call Sandy, Utah, their home but, three siblings still reside in the Basin: Larue Stevensen, and Jim Thacker are in Altamont and Anna Lee Mathews lives in Roosevelt.

In getting together with his amicable bunch each year it is easy to see where Alton's taste for hard work and his spirit for good-will comes from. The Thacker family grew up with a work ethic handed down from two choice parents who endured and weathered the challenges of feeding and clothing their large family. Music was the highlight at the end of a day's toil and labor. Every child, including mother and father, played a musical instrument and sang.

The family earned extra money entertaining at the local dances, and the old time music comes alive today when these brothers and sisters get together with their instruments and their love for the music. Alton learned to play the trumpet, banjo, and mandolin. He enjoyed the illustrious position as the high school drum major and also enjoyed a good game of ball on the Altamont High basketball team.

As in most cases, no good man is ever complete without a good woman. Alton met his life's companion Cheryl in their last years of high school. Cheryl grew up in Bluebell, with her parents Walter and Cleona Remington. She has one sister, Jean Remington Reidhead, who resides in Bennett with her husband Jim. She has four brothers, who all live out of the area except one, Kent Remington who resides in Mt. Emmons with his wife Gwenn.

Cheryl's sister Jean Reidhead, remembers her as having an outgoing personality and that she was a very good student. Cheryl was the valedictorian of her graduating class. She loved music, playing the guitar and piano and singing with Alton.

Alton's sister Anna Lee Mathews recalls the day that Alton came home to his mother in a very good mood. "He turned up a dancing gig on the radio, grabbed my mother by the arms and danced her around the room singing, 'in two weeks I'm going to be a old married man'."

In two weeks, at age 17, they were married. Alton worked in construction moving the family to where ever the work took them. They lived in Dutch John while Alton operated the backhoe in the building of the Flaming Gorge Dam.

When the job was finally finished, he was the last backhoe in the building of the Flaming Gorge Dam. Alton and Cheryl decided early in their marriage that dragging their children around from place to place was not the life they wanted so, while still young man in his early twenties he decided to become a barber. He and Cheryl worked hard to get his education in barbering, with Cheryl working for a man named Ronald Pugh, an optometrist, who would later invite the Thackers to join him in a trip to Mexico to distribute eye glasses to the needy there.

Alton soon set up show on the BYU campus, and later opened his own shop in Orem, while Cheryl used her time and many talents to raise their four boys and three girls.

Daughter Kim Bradley resides in Vernal with her husband Jim and their children. Kim remembers her mother's cooking and sewing talents and her involvement with many outside projects, including numerous church callings and her position as chairman of the Miss Utah Pageant and being a hostess for the Miss America Pageants.

Alton and Cheryl met many people in their business, who would later become a part of their huge humanitarian efforts. The Thackers went to Mexico many times with professionals in the optometrist field, including Dr. Scott Kowallis of the Roosevelt Vision Clinic.

On one particular trip, Alton asked fellow friend and humanitarian Ed Whetton of New Mexico, about the work he was doing to help the needy there at Christmas time. Ed told him that he was trying to help over 120 families for the holiday. And that in Mexico, it wasn't help with toys and goodies, but with survival items like food, clothing, blankets, and personal hygiene items. He told Alton that he was trying to gather a couple of sewing machines together to give to the families so they could help themselves make the needed items.

Alton's daughter Kim, said that Ed was hoping for five or six machines, but her dad got busy and through donations, he gathered close to one hundred machines. She said that it really touched something deep inside of him — a life-long desire to help others.

They formed the Tiny Tim Foundation, a humanitarian effort aiding the needy. And that desire burns bright today. Alton and Cheryl make about ten trips a years from their home in Sandy, to Casa Grandes, Mexico, a town of 125,000 residents, filling a trailers with much needed items like wheelchairs, medical equipment, furniture, school desks and chairs, coats and bedding. They have spent countless hours soliciting and then retrieving medical supplies from generous doctors, dentists and health care businesses.

With the help of other volunteers, they have built a hospital with updated equipment in an area that was unbelievably bad condition. Even when Alton suffered a major heart attack, the Thackers marched on.

Kim said that her dad's newest dream is to start a "Happy Factory" organization of volunteers who could make wooden toys for children in places where toys are an unobtainable luxury. Alton and Cheryl and many of their children and grandchildren are in Mexico this Christmas, spreading the real message of peace on earth and good will to men.

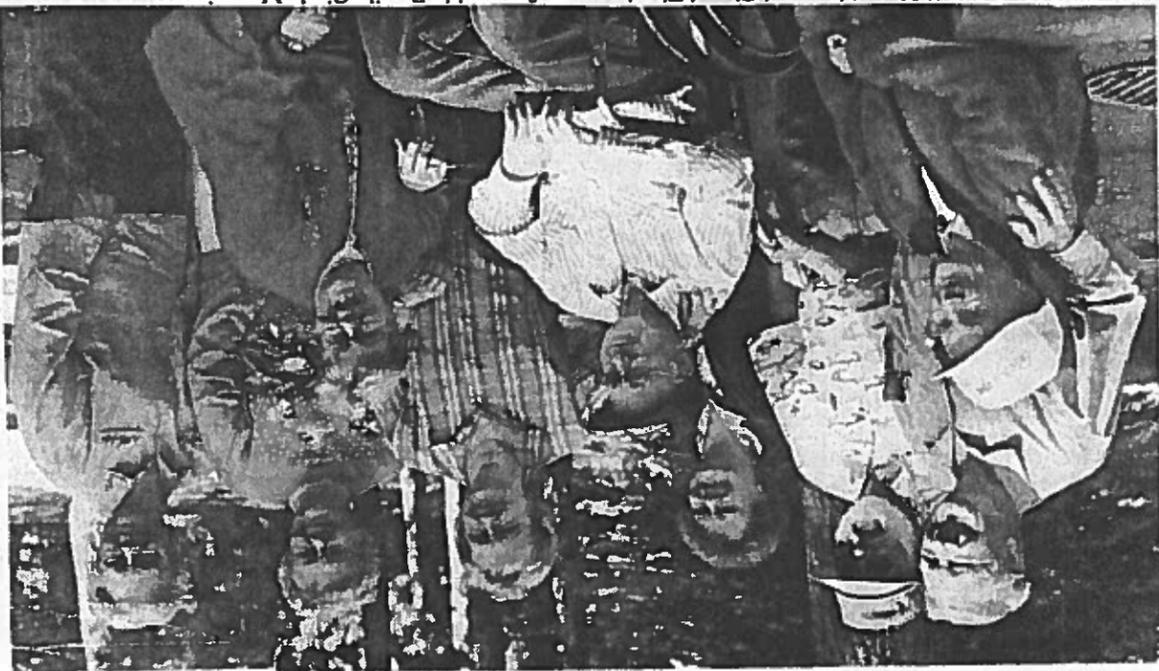
Just two people, who inspire their friends and their families to clean out their closets regularly and give what they can, doing what they can to make a huge difference in the lives of others.

Years ago, at the family reunion, Alton gathered my tiny daughter up in his arms. He ran her little fingers through his snowy white beard. As she giggled with delight, he

said to her, "Do you know who I am? I'm Santa Claus! Santa Claus on summer vacation." Later out of earshot, my daughter said to me, "Mama, is he really Santa Claus?" I looked down into her wondering little face with her eyes all aglow, and said "Yes, honey, he truly is the real Santa Claus!"

Anyone wishes more information about the Tiny Tim Foundation can contact the Thacker's at: Tiny Tim's Foundation, 8750 South Oakwood Park Circle, Sandy, Ut. 84094 — 1-801-566-0604. They welcome any church, civic or humanitarian donations.





**ALTAMONT FAMILY** — Alton and Cheryl Thacker were featured in Family Circle Magazine as part of the annual halo awards, a section of the magazine that honors people who do good in the world. Pictured at a Thacker family re-union are, from left to right (standing) Fred, Alton, Della, Lorna, Stella, and Patty. Sitting from left to right are LaRue Stevensen, Jim Thacker, and Anna Lee Matthews.



**WEDDING DAY** — High school sweethearts, Alton Thacker and Cheryl Remington, of Bluebell, were married at age 17, and have spent a life-time together helping those who need help.

**THE REAL SANTA CLAUS** — Alton and Cheryl Thacker make about 10 trips each year to Mexico, pulling their trailer behind them, to distribute medical supplies, clothing, bedding, and other needed supplies.

# CIB approves funding list

The state Community Impact Board approved more than \$2.5 million in grants and loans for projects in Altamont, Roosevelt and Vernal during its Sept. 2 meeting.

Altamont was awarded a \$526,200 grant and a \$527,000 zero-percent interest loan to be paid in 30 years. The funds will be used to replace 7,600 linear feet of sewer line, 85 sewer connections and 28 manholes.

The upgraded area will include Uintah Basin Medical Center's clinic in Altamont, both schools in the town, the LDS church and many businesses.

Roosevelt received a \$500,000 grant and a \$350,000 zero-per-

cent interest loan to be paid in 30 years. The funds will provide a system of major transmission lines to feed major secondary water users by connecting the Big Sand Wash Pipeline at Lagoon Street and 1000 West. After construction of the pipeline, the surface streets will be restored to preexisting conditions.

The Uintah County Municipal Building Authority was approved for more than \$700,000 in grants and loans for mandated upgrades at the Vernal Regional Airport.

The building authority received a \$711,000 zero-percent loan to be paid over 20 years to install a specialized perimeter fence around the airport. The

fence will prevent wildlife from entering the property, which has proven to be a liability and a danger to aircraft.

A \$7,500 grant will also be used for a storm water study at the airport and will analyze and assess the need of potential upgrades to meet new state Department of Environmental Quality requirements for storm water containment.

The CIB awards grants and low-interest loans to cities, towns and counties impacted by mining and the extraction of oil and gas on federal land. Projects funded by the board are intended to benefit rural Utah by creating safer, more livable communities.

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# ALTAMONT HIGH CLASS OF 2018



ABBOTT,  
KASON



ALLRED,  
TAYLOR



BECK,  
JAZZALIN



BELNAP,  
CHRISTIAN



BENSON, LANE



BIRD, MARLEE



BOYD, HANNA



BRAMAN,  
RILEY



CHRISTENSEN,  
BRAYDEN



CHRISTENSEN,  
CLAYL



DAHLBERG,  
TANZEE



GILBERT,  
CASON



GILBERT,  
HAYDYN



GILES,  
BRONNA



GREENE,  
TRISTEN



HANSEN,  
ZACHARY



JESSEN,  
DEKLYN



JESSEN,  
EMMETT



JUSTICE,  
MCCALL



LOERTSCHER,  
SARA



MARTINEZ,  
BENJAMIN



MEGAN,  
PHELPS



MELO, KAYCEY



MILES, CODY



MILES, VENNA



MITCHELL,  
RUSSELL



MOORE,  
SARAH



MORRIS,  
MINDY



MURDOCK,  
OLIVIA



MURRAY,  
TREYGIN



NELSON,  
SHANTEL



ODRISCOLL,  
SHELBYLYN



OLDROYD,  
JOSHUA



PAGE, MACEE



PETERSEN, LEA



RASMUSSEN,  
SANDRA



REID,  
ALEXANDER



RICHINS,  
CAMBRY



ROWLEY,  
HOLDEN



RUST, PARKER



SANDOVAL,  
CELICIA



SHEETS,  
ABIGAIL



SMART,  
JASON



SMITH,  
ELIZABETH



SORENSEN,  
MEREDITH



STAGG,  
NATHANIEL



THACKER,  
HUNTER



THOMPSON,  
DANIEL



THURGOOD,  
CHELSIE



WALL,  
BAILEY



WOODBURY,  
LOGAN

## ASSUMED OFFICE IN SEPTEMBER

# Watkins new Altamont mayor

By Aldon Rachele

Clyde Watkins, 46, is the new mayor of Altamont after he was sworn in last month. He replaces Chip Allred, who passed away after suffering a heart attack Aug. 12. Allred had replaced ex-mayor, Travis Mitchell, who moved out of the Altamont city limits.

"I have been a councilman for over 12 years, and when I was asked to become mayor I gladly accepted. I have always enjoyed assisting people," said Watkins, who provides technical assistance to cities, towns and home owners' associations in his position with Rural Water Association of Utah.

Watkins is going from a councilman's responsibilities involving assigned tasks to one of overseeing all departments as mayor. The mayor is paid \$250 a month, but the money isn't why Watkins took the office.

"I took the position of mayor for the satisfaction of community service," he said. "I appreciate how the council and citizens from our small town always come together and work on each issue that is placed before them. I hope they will continue to work as a group in the future as they have

in the past."

Watkins views being mayor as a learning experience.

"I have a chance to view things and see it from the whole instead of as an individual councilman,"



NEW MAYOR - Clyde Watkins is the new mayor of Altamont. He is pictured with his grandson and Yankee fan, Kaden.

he said.

Mayor Watkins reported that a secondary water system for Altamont is almost complete and a new street light system was recently installed. They are in the process of removing the old poles. The Altonah Book Club contributed \$4,000 for new Christmas

decorations, which will hang from the new light fixtures.

He is married to Rosean, who works for Home Health in Roosevelt. They have two children and besides spending time with them, Clyde likes to assist Rosean with the yard.

"I like to hunt as a family in the outdoors. I also love to work with my hands and build things. Over the last few years I have made changes in our home through remodeling," he said.

Altamont also has two new councilmen, Larry Henry and Robert Gordon. Other members of the town council are Matt Melinkovich and Brian Thacker. Melinkovich runs Matt's Grill in Altamont and Speedy Satellite. Thacker is a seminary teacher at Altamont High School, and Henry is Altamont Elementary School's principal. Gordon works for the state, specializing in teacher training. Henry and Gordon were sworn in last Wednesday.

The town council meets once a month on the second Wednesday. Anyone who wants to contact the new mayor can call him at 454-4550 or his cell phone at (801) 360-0312.

# Confrontation mars Altamont bike race

By Geoff Liesik  
Uintah Basin Standard

It was supposed to be a fun event for kids — a bike race on Main Street in Altamont.

Instead, the kick-off event for the annual Longhorn Days celebration last Monday led to a confrontation of sorts between the race's organizer and Duchesne County Sheriff Travis Mitchell.

Mitchell said he was informed that state Road 35, which serves as Altamont's Main Street, had been blocked for the race and went to investigate.

"I'd already told my sergeants that when we got the call (from the race organizer) we were not going to let them have the bike race on Main Street," Mitchell told the Uintah Basin Standard on Friday. "But we didn't get the call to have that discussion with them."

Jenny Dixon, who has organized the race for four years, maintains that she did contact Central Dispatch in advance to request that sheriff's deputies come shut down the road as they had in years past. She said a dispatcher put her in contact with someone she believed was a deputy and she relayed her request.

But when race time came and no one showed up to provide traffic control, Dixon said she enlisted the help of a few volunteers and closed the road, creating a small detour around the race route, and got the event underway.

Dixon said she didn't recognize Mitchell, who was not in uniform, when he approached her just as the final race was about to begin.

"All of a sudden this guy is there and he's yelling at me," Dixon said. "He was like, 'What right do you have

SEE BIKE RACE on page 4

## BIKE RACE

Continued from page 1

to do this?"

Dixon said when she told Mitchell she had OK'ed the road closure with the sheriff's office he responded, "I am the sheriff's department."

"It was just such a shock," Dixon said. "I just kept thinking, 'Who are you?' ... When he handed me his card and I read, 'Travis Mitchell,' then I knew who he was, but that was practically at the end of the conversation."

The brouhaha drew the attention of most people at the race, including Longhorn Days organizers Marilyn Winn and Kristi Sorensen, who both talked to the sheriff. Winn said Mitchell appeared to be so angry that she "thought his head was going to explode."

"He was a first-class jerk," she said, adding that Mitchell left Dixon in tears. "All he cared about was his story."

Mitchell admits to being "pretty direct" during his interactions with Dixon, Sorensen and Winn.

"But I wasn't yelling or anything like that," the sheriff said. "Marilyn and those guys got defensive immediately because they felt like we let them down because we hadn't showed up. It kind of escalated real fast there."

Mitchell said he was able to determine that Dixon's call for the road closure had been routed to a Utah Highway Patrol trooper, not a sheriff's deputy, because the road she was seeking to close for the race is a state road. He added that the Utah Department of Transportation has informed sheriffs throughout the state that closing down state roads and highways for events should be something that happens on a very limited basis.

"Locally, we try not to block these roads except for parades or other large events that are well attended by the public and

cannot be practically held in other areas," Mitchell said in a letter sent to the Standard. "Small events, such as bike races, that require complete blockage of the road, and that have much smaller attendance, need to be held on side roads, such as city streets or county roads."

"I've been trying to get them to move it off Main Street for years because it really doesn't have that big of a crowd," Mitchell said. "For the amount of people that are watching that, compared to shutting the highway down, it's just not a practical situation."

Winn said she told the sheriff that race organizers had no problem taking their event off Main Street in the future, but that she did have a problem with the way he handled the situation.

"We had no idea this was illegal," she said. "We had gone through the proper channels. We thought we had officers who had agreed to come."

Uintah Basin Standard  
July 27, 2010

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## Road closures require notice

Dear Editor,

This past week a bike race was held in one of our communities. The organizers called our dispatch center for officers to block traffic, but none showed up. At that time the organizers went ahead and blocked a state highway and held the race.

I was informed and went to check on the situation.

I informed the organizers that they were in violation of state law for blocking a highway, but since they were almost done, I let them finish the race and did not issue any of the citations that certainly could have been issued.

In the process, I upset several people for which I did, and do apologize. I believe that it would have been more upsetting to have shut the race down and issued citations, which would have required a trip to court and a possible fine.

What I believe needs to be addressed here, for the public and specifically for individuals that are involved in organizing events, are some things that I hope will be helpful.

The first is that events held on state highways create some specific problems and are governed by state law. The ability to block off a state road is very limited and cannot be done by just anyone that wants to. As our state and county population has grown, there have been more events on the state roads which have caused UDOT to place more limitations on that happening.

Locally, we try not to block these roads except for parades or other large events that are well attended by the public and cannot be practically held in other areas. Small events, such as bike races, that require complete blockage of the road, and that have much smaller attendance, need to be held on side roads such as city streets or county roads.

Having these events on main thoroughfares is not practical, nor is it fair to the motoring public that are not involved. Where possible we always try to provide an alternate route when we have parades.

The main thing is that there must be peace officers there to block the roads, otherwise it is a violation of the law.

We will try to be as supportive as possible for these events, but there are a couple of things that I would ask. Please do not wait until the day of the event and then call

dispatch to request officers to assist, as was the case in the above situation. We need to be able to ensure that we have an adequate number of officers to deal with the event.

In the event described above, the dispatchers thought that since it was a state highway, a state UHP officer should be the one to contact. The organizer was put in touch with an officer in Vernal, but no information was relayed over here to Duchesne County.

What needs to happen is that if our officers are needed for an event, call the sheriff's office in Duchesne at 435-738-2015. Inform them that you have an event and what it is and request officers to assist. They will get your name and number and one of our supervisors will call back and get the information that we need.

Again, please call a week or more in advance. It is also important to know that there are different law enforcement agencies in the Basin, all dispatched out of the Vernal dispatch center. The agency having jurisdiction over the area concerned is the one that needs to be contacted.

Organizers of events to be held on any public street or highway should step back and look at how their plans would impact the general public that may be traveling through, or not involved in their event. Again, we will be as supportive as we possibly can if we know about an event and have time to plan for it.

I hope this clarifies things a little.

Travis R. Mitchell  
Duchesne County Sheriff

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**SCAVENGER'S PARADISE** — The rural setting of the Treasure Emporium consignment shop in the old Nelson-Ricks Creamery doesn't bother owner Catherine McDonald. She and her family moved to Altamont when they felt Heber City was getting to be too big. All kinds of goodies can be found in the country store.

## BARGAIN HUNTING IN THE BASIN

# Country store offers hidden treasures

By Karen Ady

No one wants to be called a cheap-skate, but we're all looking for ways to save a few bucks. Searching for a never-used saddle or a closeout set of china? Discount jewelry or free used clothing? The Treasure Emporium has those and other cheap thrills that will allow you to live large and spend small.

Housed in the old Nelson-Ricks Creamery in Altamont, the Treasure Emporium is a country store-flavored consignment shop with an eclectic

inventory of one-of-a-kind treasures.

Owner/operator Catherine McDonald, her husband Kelly and their four kids, purchased the historic old building three years ago for the sweeping square footage. Kelly needed a shop for his construction business and furniture making sideline. "I was thinking 'we really need a place to showcase his work,'" Cathy says.

Kelly's furniture sold so quickly that there was soon plenty of room for other artists to bring their products to sell and a small business was

born.

The family had to move a 6,500 pound dairy tank out of the former creamery to make room for handcrafted furniture, antiques, t-shirts and art. They even made a space for a free clothing exchange.

Cathy charges a flat ten percent commission on everything but clothing. Instead of trying to make a buck off other people's discarded Gap jeans, Cathy just wants to bring those who need clothes together with those who have extra. Her only stipulation is that everything be in good condition.

Nearly everything in the store is brought in by local craftsmen or people who just want to sell their used belongings without the hassle of having a yard sale. Painted wooden signs, doll furniture, books, videos and houseplants fill the shelves and tables of the makeshift showroom.

Under the expansive roof of the steel building are handmade, reasonably priced items that in other types of stores can cost big bucks.

Area artisans have found that consignment shops are the perfect place to display their work. A Duchesne County teen made enough money from the wooden quilting frames which he makes and sells at Treasure Emporium to buy a used car. Now the proceeds from his quilting frame sales go to pay for car insurance and gas.

Antiques are a hot item these days and Cathy says they sell fast. But there is always plenty of new furniture to browse through. Rustic lawn furniture sits beside an oak quilt rack. Shelves of kitchenware are offset by old lamps.

Framed oil paintings are hung under large samples of wall murals that the artist will customize to fit any decor. Items range from cut-price dollar store items up to the pricey-ended curved front antique dresser.

A recent home and garden show held at the Treasure Emporium turned the usually sleepy country store into a Mecca for Saturday shoppers around the Basin. Pony rides, concessions and tented booths endured breezy weather that eventually disintegrated into a spring hailstorm.

# Basin LIFE

## THE TIMOTHY'S LOVE NO COINCIDENCE

# Couple comes to earth together for a match made in heaven

By Karen Ady

It's been said there's no such thing as a coincidence. And that seems to be the case with Val and Lucy Timothy, an Altamont couple who share the same birthday and have been married over 50 years. They were delivered on the same day in the same hour by the same doctor but they don't consider it a coincidence.

The two didn't meet for 17 years after they were born, not until Val was injured in an auto accident in August of 1950. After lying unconscious for nine days, he returned to school two weeks late in September.

"We jumped from heaven holding hands."

Their first contact was when Lucy went to a football game in Roosevelt where Altamont was playing. She was in the principal's office with her friend when she met the still bald-headed Val.

Their first date was at a UBIC dance. It was Oct. 6, 1950, and Val had just been released from the LDS Hospital where he had to have a silver plate placed over the hole in his skull. They went to the famous Fred and Kelly's drive-in there in Salt Lake where the food was served by roller skating waitresses, and that's where they were engaged.

Val asked Lucy when her birthday was. When she answered July 17, 1933, Val started laughing and said his was July 17, 1933, but she thought he was teasing. After reviewing their

birth certificates they found their births were even in the same hour. Lucy was 40 minutes older so Val always teases that his wife "robbed the cradle."

The story goes that James and Vivian Powell of Bluebell were blessed



Lucy Powell



Val Timothy



IT WAS MEANT TO BE the same birthday, in the Timothy, an Altamont c

with a beautiful baby daughter at 5 p.m. The baby was delivered by a midwife but there were complications with the birth which led someone to run to Therman where the only phone was Dr. Lorraine Miles.

Meanwhile Dr. Miles had delivered a bouncing baby boy for Presley and Clara Timmons at Roosevelt at 5:40 p.m. but immediately for Bluebell to take Mrs. Powell. Who would have thought that these two boys would someday meet, fall in love and start a family of their own?



**IT WAS MEANT TO BE** — You know your love was meant to be when you get engaged and find out you have the same birthday, in the same hour and the same doctor attended your births. That's the case with Val and Lucy Timothy, an Altamont couple whose love is no coincidence. They will both turn 70 on July 17.

with a beautiful baby daughter, Lucy, at 5 p.m. The baby was delivered by a midwife but there were complications with the birth which required that someone run to Thernings Store where the only phone was and call for Dr. Lorraine Miles.

Meanwhile Dr. Miles had just delivered a bouncing baby boy, Val, to Presley and Clara Timothy of Roosevelt at 5:40 p.m. but left immediately for Bluebell to take care of Mrs. Powell. Who would have ever thought that these two babies would someday meet, fall in love and have a family of their own?

The Timothys married in 1951 and three years later Val was called to an LDS mission to the Central States. He answered the call to serve his church and left Lucy with two young daughters. Lucy got a job at Mountain Bell to help the family make ends meet.

Now the parents of seven children, 32 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren, the Timothys live in Altamont where they relocated when Val retired 11 years ago. For 32 years Val was a foreman and quality control specialist at Hercules, Inc. in Bacchus, Utah, building missiles during the cold war with Russia.

Lucy worked outside the home as a bookkeeper and medical assistant for many years, as well as teaching preschool when her children were young. Designing and decorating for her family and friends has been a favorite pastime.

The importance of a strong, enduring marriage is something Lucy

likes to pass along to her children and grandchildren. "I always tell them that marriage is the most important decision in their lives and it is a major commitment. It's the foundation of a family that makes a nation strong. Sure marriage is a risk and it requires a lot of work and constant care, but the rewards are great and the end will be better than the beginning. Don't have a long memory, try to forget and forgive."

Lucy claims that she and Val aren't one bit alike and yet they enjoy doing the same things. They both put the interests of the other before their own creating a harmony in their relationship. Lucy gives the credit to Val, "he's not very hard to please."

Their daughter Valerie sums up the family's belief that the unusual circumstances surrounding their parents birth was not an accident. "My dad always said, 'We jumped from heaven holding hands.'"

## Uintah Basin Standard

July 24, 2007 • www.ubstandard.com

### Roberts are Longhorn Days grand marshals

Dee and Minnie Lue Roberts have been selected this year as the grand marshals for Altamont Longhorn Days, the annual 24th of July celebration.

Dee was born in Roosevelt, to Ray and Thelma Roberts on July 24, 1933. He graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1951 and entered the Navy during the Korean War, where he served four years.

Minnie Lue Jessen was born to Lee and Florence Jessen on January 29, 1934. She graduated from Altamont High School in 1952. She was employed at the Commercial Bank of Utah for several years, at which time she moved to Salt Lake City and was employed at Blue Cross and Blue Shield. The couple met 1958 and married on August 22 of that year.

The Roberts bought a home in Salt Lake City and lived there with their two daughters, Maxie and Diana. Dee was employed at Capital Chevrolet. In 1967 they decided to move back to the Basin and purchased Mohlman's Store in Altamont. The Roberts made it their goal to enlarge and improve the store until it was considered one of the nicest shopping areas in the vicinity.

During this time the couple became certified as EMTs and Dee was the fire chief. They were instrumental, along with the rest of the community, in helping raise funds for a new fire engine.

Dee has served as Sunday School superintendent, Elders Quorum president, bishop for seven years, and stake president for nine years in the LDS Church. He now serves as the Altamont Stake patriarch.



Dee and Minnie Lue Roberts are the 2007 Altamont Longhorn Days grand marshals.

Minnie Lue has also served in many Church callings.

In 1991, the Roberts retired from the store. It was purchased by Doug and Sandra Swasey. At this time the Roberts started their own trucking company. They were also temple workers in the Vernal Temple.

In 1999 they were called to serve for 19 months in the Durban South Africa Mission.

This was one of the highlights of their life. Since returning from their mission, the Roberts have been enjoying life in Altamont and continued their work in the temple.

The Roberts are the proud grandparents of seven grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. Their greatest joy in life is spending time with their family and friends.

# Does road cut through arena?

By Preston McConkie

Altamont's annual Longhorn Days will still include its traditional bull-riding and animal roping in July, despite the possibility the Altamont Roping Club's arena sits partially on a class-B county road.

That was the only clear decision to come out of a meeting last Monday morning between nine club members and Duchesne County Commissioners Rod Harrison and Kirk Wood. Meanwhile, county workers are digging through paperwork and club members are quizzing local old-timers for evidence that the arena may have been built before the north-south road that approaches it.

"For now we'll just keep going the way we've been going," said Harrison, near the end of the

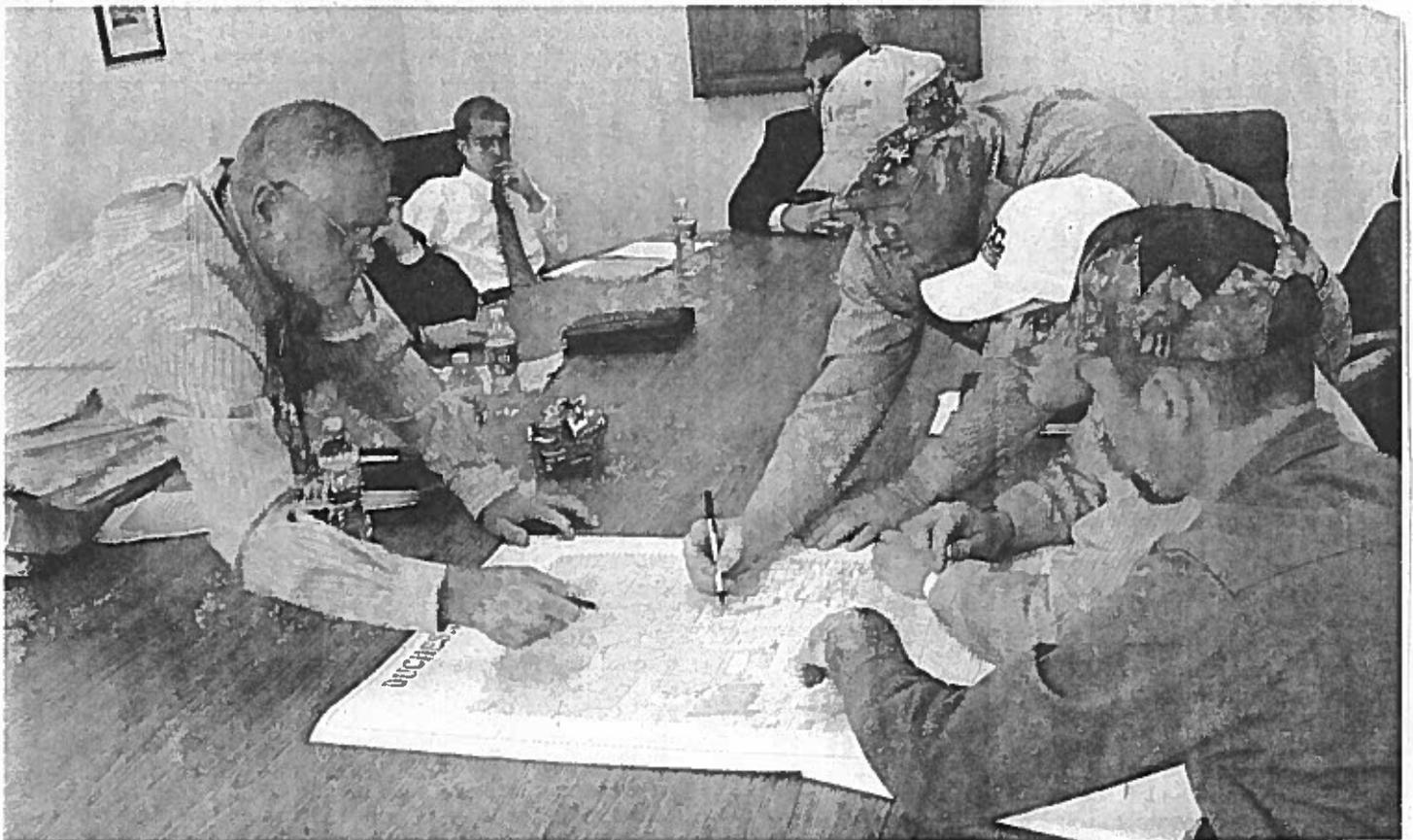
meeting. "If it is a public road, then we've just been allowing you guys to be using it, and we could shut it down any time we want to. Let's just keep allowing it for this year."

Commissioners said they had no personal desire to force the roping club to remove bull chutes and holding pens that encroach on the road under its current classification. Weeks earlier, believing the arena was owned by Altamont Town, the county had discussed buying the property, which adjoins a county gravel pit, then using it as a community rodeo facility.

That plan fell through when the group learned the ground was private property of the roping club.

Like many public-use proper-

SEE ARENA on page 4



Duchesne County Commission Chairman Rod Harrison and County Roads Director Glen Murphy look over a road classification map with Trent Richins and Grady Taylor, president and vice president of the Altamont Roping Club, during the commission's morning work session last Monday. A complaint from an Altamont resident had led the commission to warn the club its roping arena was built in the right-of-way of a county B road, but the road's status is now in doubt.

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# ARENA

Continued from page 1

ties in the area, the arena was formerly owned by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, then turned over to a community club. A public park in unincorporated Bluebell is owned and run by just such a volunteer organization, and for the same reason was not allowed a county-administered revitalization grant last month.

During last week's meeting commissioners suggested both the roping club and Bluebell park club discuss forming a "recre-

ation district," or a taxing entity that could receive ownership of the lands, and would be run by elected committees. Those committees would use small amounts of property tax money to keep up facilities and run community celebrations.

Other proposed solutions included the county downgrading the road to a class-D road, which has a narrower right of way and would not be cleared of snow during winter. Although some Altamont residents use the road passing the arena to reach their homes, club members said there is access from the north that was used long before the southern

road was established.

County attorneys also said if the arena turned out to be older than the road, then the county could vacate its right of way and let the club reclaim it and gate it shut to establish it as private property.

"We don't care if anyone uses it," said club president Trent Richins. "We just don't want to have to tear down the chutes."

Harrison said the road was designated a county road in 1976 along with all other county B roads. But a question arose whether it was originally graveled at the request of an oil company using it to access wells,

or whether it was improved because the county believed it to be a public road.

Wood said he knew the corrals had been there since at least in 1973, when he moved to the area and became a member of the roping club.

Like a number of thorny issues the commission must wrestle with now, this one is a gift from former administrations. Harrison and Duchesne County Roads Director Glen Murphy both recall the arena-road situation being discussed by their predecessors as an issue that had to be solved "some day."

# Dr. Swasey honored by CEU for numerous accomplishments

College of Eastern Utah in Price celebrated their 65th anniversary with a recognition dinner and dance on Sept. 20. Drew Swasey, formerly of Altamont was named one of the "Distinguished Alumni of the Decades." His wife Melissa Clark Swasey accepted the award because he was training in Texas and was unable to attend. Melissa was also recognized

as a former student body officer.

Captain Drew N. Swasey M.D. attended schools in Altamont, Utah. In high school Drew played football and was a wrestler for four years. He was named Athlete of the year during his senior year. Drew was awarded a Presidential Scholarship at CEU. Before graduating he served an L.D.S. mission in the Philippines. He received his Associates degree from College of Eastern Utah in 1996.

Drew worked as a wild fire fighter during the summers. He became a member of the Logan Hotshot crew. He was given the "Hotshot of the Year" award while there and also earned special recognition from USDA for a safety plan that he co-authored for Hotshot crews.

He received his Bachelors of Science degree from Utah State University in Logan in 1998. He was accepted as a student at Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland.

Drew joined the Air Force after he was accepted as a student at USHSS and graduated from that institution in May of 2002. Dr. Swasey completed his medical internship in General Surgery with 74th Medical Group, Wright Paterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio.

He is now training in aerospace medicine in San Antonio, Texas and will assume duties with the 34th Fighter Squadron at Hill Air Force Base as a flight surgeon on Oct. 1. Drew now resides in Layton with his wife Melissa and their 13-month-old daughter Mia.



**MAKING HIS MARK** — Former Altamont High graduate Dr. Drew Swasey was honored as the Distinguished Alumni of the Decades by the College of Eastern Utah. Swasey will assume his duties as a flight surgeon at Hill Airforce Base next month. He and his wife Melissa Clark live in Layton and have a 13-month old daughter. He is the son of Dixie Swasey.

Utah Bain Standard 30 Sep 2003 RHC 0193

# Marett set to check out at Altamont Elementary

By Geoff Liesik

When Edythe Marett first set foot in the library at Altamont Elementary School five decades ago it was simply filled with books and magazines.

Now the small room with its meticulously cataloged shelves has a row of sleek Apple computers that sit, gleaming white, on desks arrayed along one wall. Marett, who will retire from her post as Altamont Elementary's librarian and media specialist when the final bell rings this Friday, has lived through the technological revolution that has seen books supplemented by filmstrips, which were replaced by VHS tapes then DVDs and now micro-flash drives.

"I confess that I feel I am more of a librarian than I am a media specialist," said Marett, who dabbed the moist corners of her eyes with a handkerchief throughout an interview last Tuesday night following a school activity. "I didn't cut my teeth on computers like teachers now."

Marett began her career with the Duchesne County School District in the 1950s as an English and business teacher at Duchesne High School. At the time, the superintendent was "very library-minded," according to Marett and

instituted a policy that put a certified teacher-librarian in each school in the district.

Marett had grown up around books. When her grandparents' neighbors had to move back to Virginia, Marett's grandfather purchased all their books. She was always visiting the house to get something new to read.

"It seemed like a gift from heaven when I was offered the opportunity to be a librarian," Marett said, "although I enjoyed being a high school teacher when I was there."

The new job required the fledgling librarian to continue her education above the certifications she'd earned to teach high school. She had to become a certified elementary school teacher. She also needed various library science courses to round out her training.

Marett took classes at universities in Salt Lake City, Provo, and Seattle. She also spent countless hours working on correspondence courses from Texas Tech. But the part that intrigued her the most were the travel study trips that have taken her to at least 25 countries around the world.

Marett has had the opportunity to visit Russia on several occasions, seeing the country

SEE MARETT on page 4

"I'm probably the only name she remembered," Henry said jokingly when told of the praise.

Marett acknowledged that she's come close to retiring on two occasions in the past; once in the late '80s when experienced teachers were being offered incentives to retire as a means of saving school districts money and again about 5 years ago.

"When I was able to back out, it was a sigh of relief," she said describing her feelings after her close call with retirement in 1987.

This time around, however, Marett doesn't anticipate reconsidering her decision to leave.

"I just had the feeling that this was the time," she said of the choice she made not to long after the beginning of the year.

"I want to travel more, as long as I'm able to do that. Some of my best friends are people I've met on study trips."

Henry said he'll miss Marett, not only because of her skill as an educator, but because of their longstanding friendship.

"We share some interests. We both love books; we're both addicted to books," he said. "I'm sad to lose her experience, but I'm glad that she can go on and spend some time with family now. ...I've always valued her."

## MARETT

Continued from page 1

under heavy Soviet control, watching as that control began to slip, and then seeing former Soviet countries in their present state. She's also been to Israel, Easter Island, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and France, bringing her experiences home to the students at Altamont Elementary each year.

"I think the children are still just as precious as they always were," Marett said. "They love to come to the library and the teacher's love to come to the library."

Altamont Elementary Principal Larry Henry called Marett a research resource. He said any teacher can request material to complement their lesson plan and Marett will find it, usually within 24 hours. She also teaches students how to research topics using various methods.

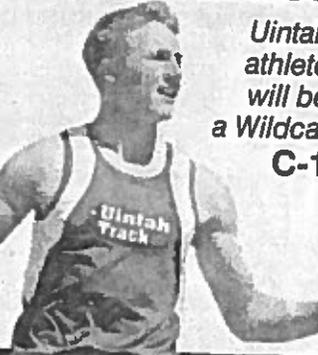
"She's kind of an educator's educator because she sets an example," said Henry, whom Marett considers one of the best administrators she's worked with during her career.

"I always prayed that he wouldn't retire until I retired," she said, citing Henry's love of the children's literature as one of the things that makes him so good at his job.

NO. *4015*

# Ute's Morgan to run at WSU

Uintah athlete will be a Wildcat C-1



# Standard

*37, May 2008 RH*

NEWSPAPER www.ubstandard.com • 50¢



Altamont Elementary School librarian Edythe Marett is retiring from the Duchesne County School District after more than 51 years as an educator. Marett, who has spent her summers traveling the world for pleasure and to further her own education, donated this globe to the students of Altamont Elementary at a school activity last Tuesday.

U-TAH COUNTY LIBRARY  
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*DL93*

July 17, 2013

# Explosion rocks Altamont

By **Steve Puro**  
spuro@ubmedia.biz

**ALTAMONT** - An overnight explosion at an **EP Energy** well location about a mile from Altamont destroyed the tank battery associated with the well site.

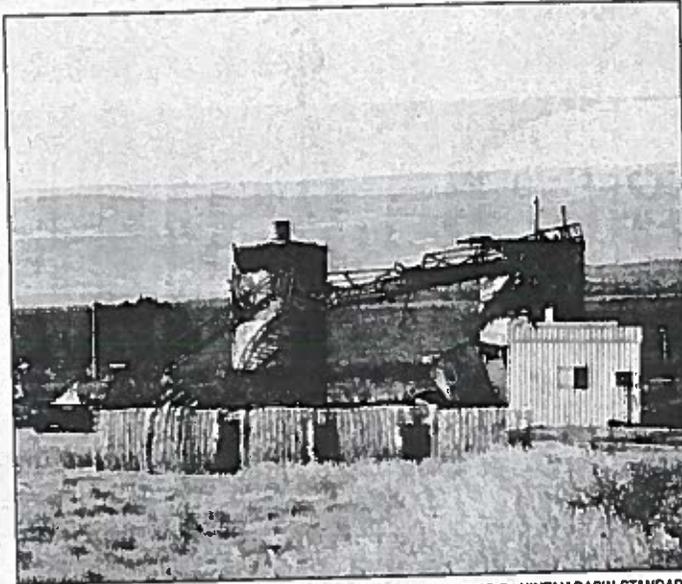
The blast shook houses and rattled residents of the rural community in Duchesne County's Upper Country around 12:15 a.m. Tuesday morning, July 16.

**Joe Sager**, Production Manager for EP Energy's Altamont Operations, said the explosion remains under investigation at this time.

"We are assuming a lightning strike hit the tank battery and caused the explosion," Sager said. "One tank was completely displaced from its location and we suspect it was the tank which took the direct hit."

Downtown Altamont resident **Mystie Taylor** reported that the blast felt as if someone had run into her home.

Both **Sager** and **Art Pike**, EP Energy Communication and Com-



STEVE PURO, UINTAH BASIN STANDARD

No one was injured, and no other property was damaged when this tank battery exploded early Tuesday morning.

munity Relations Officer (**Houston**), were thankful for the rapid response of the **Upper Country Fire Department** in getting the fire under control.

"Our gratitude and praise for the first responders," **Pike** said. "They were able to quickly get the fire under control and extinguished."

"No one was on location when the incident

occurred," **Sager** said. "Our first priority is always the safety of the community, its residents and our personnel."

"There doesn't appear to be any impact to the local community," **Pike** said. "We are moving forward with the cleanup of the incident and looking to mitigate any environmental impacts."

The incident remains under investigation.

UINTAH COUNTY LIBRARY  
REGIONAL ROOM  
FILE FOLDER  
NO. 0193

# Fausett earns national FCCLA recognition for excellence

By STEVE PURO  
spuro@ubmedia.biz

Carrie Fausett, the Family and Consumer Science teacher at Altamont High School and advisor for the FCCLA at Altamont HS, was named one of the National Master Advisors of the year by the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America national office.

Fausett, a teacher with 28 years of experience has worked with FCCLA for 26 years. She was one of five advisors nominated in the state of Utah who are part of the 6400 teachers who advise FCCLA nationally.

Over the past seven years the Altamont chapter of the FCCLA has sent students to the national competition every year and the AHS group has been a 4 star chapter member for the past 12 years.

"I have some amazing kids that do amazing projects," Fausett said. "They have to research a project or topic and



STEVE PURO, UINTAH BASIN STANDARD

Carrie Fausett, teacher at Altamont High School and advisor for the FCCLA at Altamont HS, was named one of the National Master Advisors of the year by the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America national office. The award will be presented on July 10 at the National Leadership Conference.

then make a presentation about what they have learned."

Projects have included energy drinks, children, com-

munity service, interpersonal communications and financial fitness, to name a few.

Of the 30 or so annual members in the groups, usually there are 15 to 20 that compete.

"We have also competed and won in Parliamentary Procedures too," Fausett said.

Fausett enjoys the support of school administration in her efforts in the FCCLA.

"She is amazing," AHS principal John Huitt said. "It seems like every year we have one or two students who qualify for nationals in FCCLA. It's all due to her. She is always here and always working with the kids. She does a phenomenal job."

Fausett downplays the attention from the award, but Huitt says it was a timely recognition.

"Not only have we recognized her work, but now she is being recognized nationally for the hard work she does," Huitt said. "It is well deserved."

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DUSTIN HUGHES, UINTAH BASIN STANDARD

Fire crews from Altamont and Roosevelt worked to fight a fire at the Altamont High School Friday.

## FIRE BREAKS OUT AT ALTAMONT HIGH SCHOOL

# Old gym catches fire while students out on spring break

By Dustin Hughes  
Uintah Basin Standard

**ALTAMONT** – An apparent construction accident caused a fire at Altamont High School Friday. Damage was limited to a gymnasium that was already slated to be demolished, and no students were in danger as the school was on spring break, said Altamont Fire Chief Greg Miles.

It happened shortly after noon Friday, Miles said.

He said crews were tearing down the old gymnasium at the high school, when a spark from their equipment caught the roof on fire.

“They were actually getting ready to bring it down,”

Altamont Principal John Huitt said of the building that caught fire. He said the old gymnasium wasn’t being used any more.

The fire was not going to keep school from reopening Monday after spring break, Huitt said.

Most of the damage was to the exterior of the old gym roof, Miles said. He said the construction was such that there were several layers of material firefighters had to cut through to douse the fire.

Altamont High School is the scene of massive construction of a new high school complex.

The new school buildings were not damaged, Miles said.

He said firefighters were focused on containing the blaze so that it did not damage the new buildings.

“We definitely don’t want it in that new school,” he said.

“In the grand scheme of things, nobody got hurt, and if any part of the building was going to catch fire, this was the one,” Huitt said. He said the new construction didn’t look as though it had been affected by the flame.

“We were real lucky there,” Huitt said. “That’s the ultimate thing – that nobody got hurt.”

Firefighters from Roosevelt responded with a ladder truck to provide aid, Miles said.





Altamont Fire Chief Greg Miles, left, and Duchesne County Emergency Management Director Mike Lefler, far right, stand with 30-year firefighting veterans Verl Tucker and Rudy Munsen, who were honored for their service at the Wednesday's meeting of the Altamont Town Council.

## Firefighters honored for 30 years' service

By Preston McConkie

Altamont Fire Chief Greg Miles got choked up and teary-eyed as he presented four plaques

commemorating 30 years' public service each to four firefighters at Wednesday's meeting of the Altamont Town Council.

Miles recalled that the Al-

tamont Fire Truck Committee was formed on May 5, 1977, and when the actual volunteer fire association was formed the following year, it was joined by Verl Tucker, Rudy Munsen, Lewis Faussett and Dee Roberts.

"These are four guys who were there from the beginning, and were there ever since," Miles said.

Since that time Miles said the association has bright green trucks instead of red trucks, more powerful water pumps, better safety equipment, and a new fire station built in 2002. But many things remain the same.

"We train together the same, we put our pants on the same way," Miles said. "We still hurry to the fire and put the wet stuff on the red stuff."

Roberts was unable to attend the ceremony, as was Faussett, who says he hopes to rejoin the association after he returns from an 18-month LDS mission in Nauvoo, Ill.

Tucker recalled in the 1980s when the department upgraded from notifying firefighters by telephone calling-tree, to issuing each of them pagers.

"The first time I had that pager I went out on a church hay ride," Tucker said. "The whole time I was on that tractor, I was thinking, if that pager went off, how would I ever get back?"

Fortunately there was no fire page that night.

Duchesne County Emergency Management Director Mike Lefler attended the meeting and passed on the thanks and good wishes of the Duchesne County Commission.

"I've been in the fire service for a few years," Lefler said. "Not as long as these guys, but long enough to appreciate what they've done. I want to express my thanks and appreciation."

Miles said that, while there are still 14 firefighters in the Altamont department, "we could really use more active members."

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# Flags will fly high in Altamont thanks to efforts of patriotic teen

Mrs. Carters Second Grade Students at Altamont Elementary School are "frequent flyers" without even boarding a plane and leaving the school grounds. As a follow-up to an earlier presentation about the U.S. flag, Altamont High FFA member Steffani Jensen returned to explain the importance of properly caring for, and storing the United States flag.

Just like caring for the clothing they wear, students were informed about different ways to keep the flag looking new and bright. When asked if it was important to fly the flag, students enthusiastically responded, "Yes!" Each student was asked to join the "Frequent Flyers Club", and pledged to encourage their families and community to "frequently" fly and display the flag

on the appropriate holidays. Steffani's interest in promoting pride and respect for flags began last July when she and her sister Carley Jo attended an Altamont Town Council meeting and presented a Utah State flag to the town. The flag was purchased with money the girls had saved. The sisters asked town officials to fly the State flag along with the U.S. flag at the town office building.

Steffani asked the Town Council if they would give permission and support her in a project to replace the worn flags which line the streets of Altamont during appropriate holidays and celebrations. The Town Council not only gave their support but commended Steffani for her effort and community interest. Flyers were placed in local businesses to

encourage members of the community to sponsor a flag in honor of our local veterans.

Steffani also enlisted the help of local American Legion members to get the information out. Families and businesses responded by providing the necessary funds to purchase new flags, paint and recondition the existing flag poles and stands, brass plates attached to the pole identifying the individual sponsor and the honoring veteran, and a protective sleeve to cover the flags during storage.

All labor was donated by volunteers from Altamont High School and the community. "I would like to thank the Altamont FFA and student volunteers, Altamont city, Coastal Oil, Kim Lindsay, Eugene

Jensen, Dallas Jensen, Craig Mitchell and those who sponsored flags in honor of our veterans," Steffani stated.



KNOWLEDGE PAYS OFF--"California Gold Rush" was the theme for Altamont Elementary School students Brett Wood, Sid Thayne, Asa Jessen, Heston Farnsworth, and Ramsey Miles, judged 1st place in Jr. Group Performance at History Fair.



HISTORY FAIR WINNERS--Altamont Elementary School students Kelsey Fieldsted and Lance Frandsen show off trophy and blue ribbons won at History Fair. They took 1st place in Jr. Group Projects, and 2nd All Around Show. They will go to State.

# Former Altamont coach remembers bear story, and when player forgot his shoes for ball game

By ALDON RACHELE  
arachele@ubmedia.biz

**ALTAMONT**—Keith Stanworth was the head basketball coach at Altamont High School from 1963-1965 and saw his Longhorns beat Manila, Tabiona and Duchesne in his first year at the school and also had a player, Paul Atwood out of action because of an attack by a bear. He coached at Altamont in various sports for four years. Stanworth also worked 40 years for U.S. Forest Service and was struck by lightning four times.

Stanworth said he was struck by lightning because of being among rows of trees. He took care of campgrounds at Yellowstone and Rock Creek.

"I'm not going to get any better and so I have learned to live with it," said Stanworth.

The lightning strikes have damaged his voice, back and other areas.

The bear attack was

reported in the Uintah Basin Standard and is as follows:

"Altamont High is not having a good year, but one of the most unique alibis in history is available if Coach Keith Stanworth would want to use it."

## The Bear Was Tough

"One of his best prospects, Paul Atwood, got into a battle with a bear last spring and came out second best by quite a margin. After months of trouble Paul is still limping badly after being bitten many times and clawed by an irate bear only a few miles from Altamont. But don't bet that this courageous youngster won't make a comeback.

"Tuesday he was out on the floor shooting baskets and while he can hardly get around on the bum leg, he can still hit the bucket."

So when you hear that Stanworth is putting out a

'bear story' you can bet your last token that it is not like the usual bear stories coaches love



SUBMITTED PHOTO  
Keith Stanworth (left) was Altamont's basketball coach in the 1960s. Also pictured are Altamont basketball players from 1964 in Kim Cartrette, Jim Riley and Blake Rust. The AHS ball team in the 1963-64 season defeated Manila, Duchesne and Tabiona. They tied for fourth place with Tabiona in region play.

to use." (The bear story was emailed to the Uintah Basin Standard by Anne Stanworth

who is putting together her husband Keith Stanworth's life story. The book should be out

before Christmas)

"Paul Atwood was going to be my main guy on the bas-

ketball team. He found a mama bear and it chased him up a tree. He fell out of the tree and the bear bit his feet and ankles. He never played basketball again," said Stanworth.

Stanworth opened the 1963-64 season with an 84-55 Altamont win over Manila. Blake Rust led AHS with 22, Kim Cartrette added 20 and Larsen netted 15.

"When warming up one time in Manila we broke the basket with glass all over the place. The game was delayed two hours while we installed a side basket for play," he said. "One year Manila didn't have a team because most of their students were girls. I remember having to follow a snow plow to get home."

Stanworth won't forget when an Altamont player forgot his basketball shoes — a 13-inch size.

"No one in Manila had that big of foot and so we had him

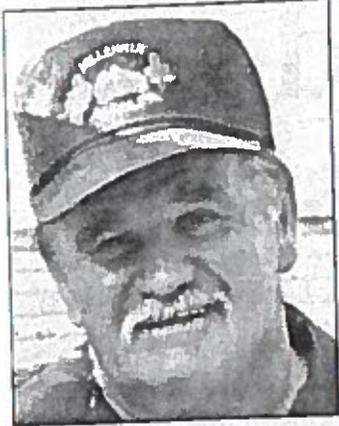
SEE BEAR on C6

UINTAH COUNTY  
REGIONAL  
FILE FOLDER  
NO. 0193

Sept 17, 2013  
UBS

C6

Tuesday, September 17, 20



Former Altamont basketball coach Keith Stanworth plans to publish his life story, which will include stories about his coaching days at Altamont.

lay bare foot in the game," he said.

According to the Uintah Basin Standard, Stanworth replaced Rodney Tuller as head basketball coach at Altamont High School. (Actual last name is Tueller, who was head basketball coach at Utah State University from 1979 to 1988 with a 136-71 record – took USU to two NCAA meets).

"It was hard to replace such a well-known coach at

Altamont in Tueller. He moved from Altamont to Logan High School and then coached at USU. While at AHS he taught drivers' education and his wife did a dancing class," said Stanworth. "When I first coached at Altamont they had only 30 students."

Altamont also beat Tabiona 68-48 with Rust leading the way with 21 points and Billy Jessen added 15. LeVere Fabrizio was tops for Tabiona with 21 and Danny Fabrizio added 13.

"Tabiona's jump circle in

its old gym was in the foul shooting area. We (Stanfield and Bennett Josie, Tabiona's coach) ran the press and had scores in the 90s because the gym was so small. They had the THS studentbody on a small stage behind the basket and teams had a hard time shooting free throws with them screaming," said Stanworth.

Stanworth recalls refereeing games at Milford and Porterville near Cedar City. "The ladies had yarning needles that they would poke you in the leg and say 'some-

thing bad' about you," he said.

The Longhorns lost to Union 67-61 and to Uintah 70-55. Lance Luck led Union with 24 and Richard Curry had 22. Rust led AHS with 24. The game was close until the fourth quarter according to the Standard.

Altamont knocked off Duchesne 66-48 behind Cartrette's 22 points. Ronald Tollefson led DHS with 20. AHS beat Manila 78-50. Cartrette led Altamont with 22.

Tabiona beat Altamont 78-61 and Union beat the Long-

horns 57-45. Rust and Cartrette led the way at 14 vs. Union. Ruben Sixkiller netted 14 for Union. Danny Fabrizio was the top Tiger at 19 and Jessen led AHS with 14.

Uintah downed Altamont 102-62 in the last game of the season. Rust led Altamont with 18 points. Tabiona upset Union 61-59 behind LeVere Fabrizio's 13 counters.

Altamont had to play larger schools such as Union and Uintah as there were only Class A and B back then. Altamont also played Manila, Tabiona and Duchesne plus practice games with teams from Heber City, Price, Castle Dale, Rangely, Colo., and other schools.

"We won at Wasatch in Heber City and kicked the 'heck' out of them with the UCLA press. My Altamont team was short but quick. They were a good basketball team for little Altamont High School. We beat Union one year, but Uintah's 6 foot 4 inch, 200 pound Walker twins could beat us just by themselves. Emery had two 6 foot, 7 inch twins and we played them. Both teams took state," he said.

Stanworth also coached the first wrestling team at Altamont as well as baseball and track plus gymnastics.

"One year we had a track made for us in some pasture land, which made the land owner upset because he couldn't water it the way that he had been doing in the past. However, we had some kids that went to the state meet that year and did very well," said Stanworth.

After his years at Altamont he coached sports at Cedar City Junior High and is proud that they went on to take state at Cedar High School. He is a graduate of Hurricane High School. He attended Dixie College and Utah State University. He got his masters from BYU.

"At Altamont my center was 5 foot 11 and I had a 6 foot 10 player at the junior high in Cedar City," he said. "I enjoyed coaching at Altamont."

Sept 7, 2004

# Basin LIFE

## FUND-RAISER TO DIG WATER WELLS

# Altamont-area residents send "well-wishes" to Africa

By Therena Morrill

Ninety American dollars long way in Africa, where the poorest countries in the world are located. For \$90, the lives of thousands of African villagers changed forever—that was 20 years ago when humanitarian services drilled a fresh water well in the little village of Nikkie in Nigeria.

Tom and Jean Thacker of Altamont were serving as missionaries for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Nikkie when the well was drilled. Tom remembers the difficult life for the villagers before they had that fresh water source.

"In the dry season, they would carry water five or six days to take it back to their homes," he said. "Now that one well serves water for 5,000 people."

Since returning home from his mission four years ago, Thacker has had a dream—to bring fresh water sources to other villages of South Africa. Now he is serving as Altamont Stake president, Tom Thacker is in a position to recruit help from the people of Altamont Stake to raise money for that dream.

President Thacker said he challenged the five Altamont-area congregations to raise as much money as they could by Nov. 1. The funds will be used for the LDS Church Humanitarian Fund, which has agreed to be the executive sponsor of the project.

Janice Bird of the Bluebell Community is excited about the prospect of helping the people of South Africa.

"Think of all those people who could channel their energy into their lives if they didn't have to spend their time looking for water," she said. "It is such a

need and what a service to be able to help other people improve their lives.

The Bluebell Community is hosting a fund-raising day on Saturday, Sept. 11, at Bluebell Park. A slate of activities has been planned to help fund the drilling of new wells. Beginning at 10 a.m., there will be a raffle, followed by a basketball tournament and games at 5 p.m. Dutch oven cooking begins at 6:30 p.m. The dinner is \$3 and includes a full meal of scones, dessert, and homemade roasts. The proceeds from the fund-raising will go to the wells.



**DAILY CHORE** — This is a picture of a young girl on her way to get water. She is accompanied by friends. Even in cities much of the water comes from wells or is trucked into their homes and stored in big plastic barrels. The most common way to store it is in 5-gallon jugs.



**NOT SO-UP-TO-DATE EQUIPMENT** — This is the tri-pod that held the drill bit. Elder Tommy Thacker is pictured.



**HEADED TO MARKET** — These young Nigerian girls are carrying food to market. Water is carried much in the same way, but water is usually held in jugs that are balanced on heads.

# S Africa



Picture of a young girl is accompanied by the water comes from homes and stored in big iron way to store it is in



These young Nigerian girls are carried much in the same way, but what are balanced on heads.

By Therena Morrill

Ninety American dollars can go a long way in Africa, where many of the poorest countries in the world are located. For \$90, the lives of thousands of African villagers were changed forever — that was five years ago when humanitarian service agencies drilled a fresh water well in the little village of Nikkie in Nigeria.

Tom and Jean Thacker of Altamont were serving a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Nikkie when the well was drilled. Tom remembers how difficult life for the villagers had been before they had that fresh water source.

"In the dry season, the women would carry water five or six miles a day to take it back to their families," he said. "Now that one well provides water for 5,000 people."

Since returning home from their mission four years ago the Thacker's have had a dream — to bring more fresh water sources to other poor villages of South Africa. Now that he is serving as Altamont Stake president, Tom Thacker is in a position to recruit help from the people of the Altamont Stake to raise funds for that dream.

President Thacker said he challenged the five Altamont-area wards to raise as much money as they could by Nov. 1. The funds will be given to LDS Church Humanitarian Services, earmarked for drilling projects. The church's humanitarian department has agreed to be the executors of the project.

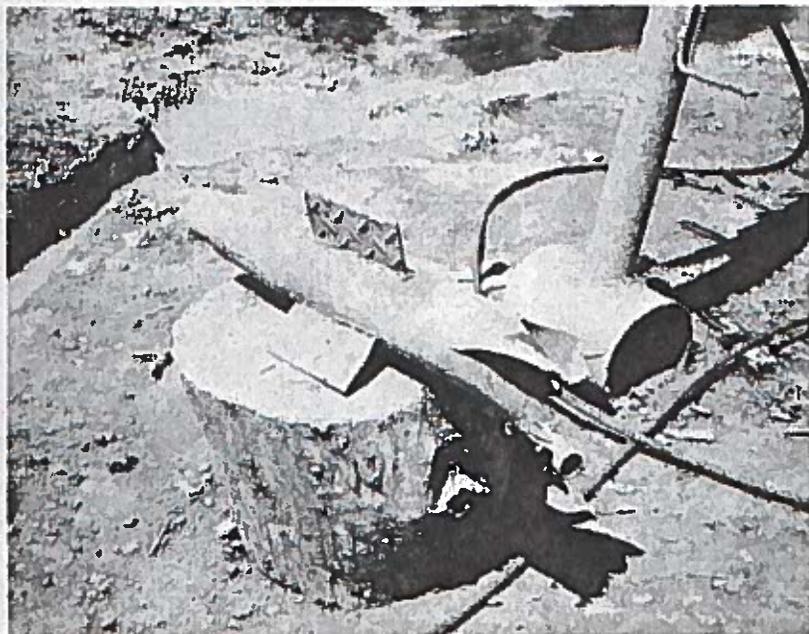
Janice Bird of the Bluebell Ward is excited about the prospects of helping the people of South Africa.

"Think of all those people who could channel their energy differently in their lives if they didn't have to spend their time looking for clean water," she said. "It is such a great need and what a great service to be able to help people in other countries improve themselves."

The Bluebell community is hosting an all-day fund raiser on Saturday, Sept. 18 at the Bluebell Park. A full slate of activities has been planned to earn money to send to Nikki to help fund construction of new water wells. Beginning at 9 a.m. there will be a yard sale, followed by a basketball tournament at 3 p.m., games at 5 p.m. and a Dutch oven cook-off at 6:30 p.m. The cost of the dinner is \$3 and it includes a full meal, scones, dessert, and homemade rootbeer. All of the proceeds will go to the fund for drilling the wells.



READY TO GO — Elder Thackeray and Elder Thacker (right) are pictured at the site of the finished water well. This photo was taken on the day that they finally got the well working. The water well must be hand-pumped, but it is still a modern convenience to villagers.



MACHINERY — This is the bit that drilled the well. The drill was operated by four men. Most of the water wells are located far from the villages.

ALTONAH RANCHER NAMED LEGENDARY COWBOY

# Jessen Honored as Pioneering Cattleman

Veteran Duchesne County rancher Gary Jessen will be honored as 2004's Legendary Cowboy by the Altamont Longhorn Days celebration, the Upper Country's annual nod to the July 24 state Pioneer Day holiday.

The 68-year-old Jessen is well known for his contributions to the local and state beef cattle industry. His influence as a breeder of registered polled Herefords reached a national audience during the 1970s and 1980s.

Born in Roosevelt, and reared in Altonah, where he's been a lifetime resident, Jessen graduated from Altamont High school in 1964. He gained statewide attention as an exceptional high school basketball player. Jessen's name appeared frequently in the pages of The Standard, The Salt Lake Tribune and Desert News as a member of the state All-Star team.

He married the former Rosalee Brown in 1967, and alongside his mother Florence Jessen, the newlyweds assumed responsibility for the family's ranching and dairy operation after the death of his father, Lee Jessen in 1968. The elder Jessen was also a school bus driver for the county at the time of his death, a job that Gary also assumed and continued for more than 20 years.

During the 1980s, Jessen expanded the family ranch into a 1,200 acre package and began traveling the Western states to acquire and build the first registered polled Hereford herd in the area. As a compliment to his commercial cow-calf operation, Jessen provided top quality bulls and heifers to area ranches.

He was the first purebred operator in the state to embrace the emerging bovine genetic engineering technology, placing several top performing dams in the embryo transplant program at Colorado State Uni-



versity. He was also a familiar face at the Brigham Young University performance testing program, and his show cattle regularly took top honors at the state and national levels.

At the height of his operation's productivity in the polled Hereford business, Jessen liquidated his herd of almost 500 cattle in 1981, shipping them to nine states and Canada.

Like all dedicated cattlemen, Jessen couldn't stay out of the business for long. He began assembling the purebred Angus herd he now oversees in 1984, albeit a more manageable herd size. He also continues to operate a small commercial cow-calf herd.

Among his peers in the cattle business, Jessen enjoys a stellar reputation as an honest businessman with a keen eye for quality and a progressive philosophy. His friends, neighbors and customers routinely seek Gary's advice and rely on his sharp ranching instincts to guide and enhance many of their own business practices.

His Altonah ranch is often cited as an example of an efficient, well-maintained operation, and he's a stickler for meticulously mended fences and being a good neighbor. He currently operates his Benchmark Angus ranch with daughter Gina and a son-in-law Chad Stevenson and their three children.

The Jessens have been honored twice as the Duchesne County Cattlemen's Association Cattleman of the Year, and Gary served as the president of the Utah Polled Hereford Association. The Jessens have also been twice recognized by the Soil Conservation District, among other honors.

Gary and Rosalee share four children, eight grandchildren and are expecting their sixth great-grandchild in October.

July 20, 2004

UBS

# 0193

# Gas leak forces evacuation at Altamont schools

BY DUSTIN HUGHES  
*Uintah Basin Standard*

ALTAMONT – Students got a day off after a natural gas leak forced the shutdown of elemen-

tary and high school classes in Altamont Thursday, Jan. 24. Bruce Guymon, Duchesne County School District's director of student services, said that school officials ordered an evacuation of the school and class cancellation as a precautionary measure. Students who normally ride the bus were bused home, while parents were notified to pick up other students, Guymon said.

School officials got the all clear from utility workers late Thursday night, and decided to hold school Friday, Guymon said. No one was injured, though

SEE LEAK on A11

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[www.ubstandard.com](http://www.ubstandard.com)



DUSTIN HUGHES, UINTAH BASIN STANDARD  
Emergency crews responded to Altamont High School and Elementary School after a gas leak Thursday.

## LEAK

Continued from A1

ambulances and the fire department were on hand. The Duchesne County Sheriff's Office was on hand to direct traffic and secure the scene.

The Church of Jesus Christ Latter-day Saints church across the street from the school sheltered the younger students from the freezing weather until their parents or guardians could pick them up.

Janalee Goodrich, principal of the elementary school, said the children and staff handled the emergency very well.

"We were able to get them all home safely and in

a timely manner," she said.

Mike Lefler, director of emergency management for the county, said representatives from Questar Natural Gas were on hand to trace the source of the leak. The gas leak was not inside any of the school buildings, Lefler said.

Lefler said the school's evacuation plan worked well, and cited the sheriff's office, ambulance and fire departments for their parts.

Duchesne County Sheriff Travis Mitchell said the leak was reported at 10:51 a.m. Thursday.

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DATE

NO. 0193

UBS Jan 29, 2013

# Going, going, gone...

By Steve Puro  
Uintah Basin Standard

First it was construction and now the destruction is in full swing at the Altamont High School campus. Westland Construction Project Superintendent Ben Collings sees the work moving toward completion now. "We're working on getting the building wrapped up to be ready for school to start," he said. "We're moving right along toward getting it buttoned up."

The exterior is being finished as the old building is torn down, making access possible to the freshly exposed new building. "Lockers are installed in half the building," Collings said. "Ceilings have the grids installed in three-quarters of the building." Kitchen equipment should be arriving in the next couple of weeks according to Collings. "We will be there and ready for school to start," Collings said.



The last section of the old gym at Altamont High School stands straight before the pushing starts.



Exit doors swing wide open, seeming to let the memories of years of activity escape as the structure begins to collapse under its own weight.



Groaning and snapping, the structure collapses toward the ground.

UBS -

Tuesday, May 30, 2017

# ALTAMONT HIGH CLASS OF 2017



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REGIONAL ROOM  
FILE FOLDER  
NO. 0193

# Altamont High celebrates Class of 2017



Students from Altamont High School received their diplomas during the 2017 graduation ceremony Friday May 26, at Altamont High School.



Altamont High School bid farewell to the Class of 2017 at their commencement exercises on Friday, May 26, at Altamont High School.



Marissa Goodrich and Jasmine Hall take a selfie before the start of the Altamont Graduation Ceremony Friday evening.



Jasmine Hall shows her surprise when she gets to the end of the graduation line and realizes her brother is there to greet her. Jory Hall has been away serving in the United States Air Force.



Seniors at Altamont High School spent time getting ready before their commencement exercises on Friday, May 26.



Salutatorian Shaylee Rowley finishes off her speech with a dance at the Altamont High School graduation ceremony on Friday, May 26.



Students from Altamont High School received their diplomas during the 2017 graduation ceremony Friday May 26, at Altamont High School.



Altamont High School bid farewell to the Class of 2017 at their commencement exercises on Friday, May 26, at Altamont High School.



Marissa Goodrich and Jasmine Hall take a selfie before the start of the Altamont Graduation Ceremony Friday evening.



Jasmine Hall shows her surprise when she gets to the end of the graduation line and realizes her brother is there to greet her. Joy Hall has been away serving in the United States Air Force.



Seniors at Altamont High School spent time getting ready before their commencement exercises on Friday, May 26.



Salutatorian Shaylee Rowley finishes off her speech with a dance at the Altamont High School graduation ceremony on Friday, May 26.



The audience and Principal Dean Wilson had an epic surprise as Jessen McKinnon (an Altamont Wrestler) walked out on stage in his wrestling uniform, tie and cap to receive his diploma. Dean tossed him over his shoulder and spun him around a few times as just one example of the relationship he has formed with the kids during his time as Principal. Altamont will miss the class of 2017.



Altamont principal Dean Wilson congratulates graduates during the 2017 graduation ceremony. Students from Altamont High School received their diplomas during the 2017 graduation ceremony Friday March 26, at Altamont High School.

ALL PHOTOS BY: ROBERT DALLERBY, JAMIEA SZ

## Grant will allow UBTA-UBET to bring DSL to Whiterocks and Altamont

UBTA-UBET Communications is working to bring high quality broadband service to the communities of the Uintah Basin. In November 2002, UBTA applied for a grant from the Rural Utilities Services to assist with this project in several communities.

The intent of the Community-Oriented Connectivity Broadband Grant Program is to offer financial assistance for broadband service in rural, economically challenged areas where broadband does not currently exist. A total of over \$20 million was awarded with over \$8.2 million going to 13 Native American and Native Alaskan communities.

UBTA was awarded \$104,708 for the Altamont project and \$363,677 for the Whiterocks project for a total of \$468,385. UBTA feels that bringing broadband to the Uintah Basin will offer communities additional education and healthcare opportunities, enhance economic growth, pro-

vide additional employment and ensure that rural consumers can enjoy the same high-speed telecommunication services that are available in urban areas.

This funding will allow UBTA to establish a Community Center in Altamont and Whiterocks. The Community Center will provide free access of broadband service (DSL) to the public with extended hours during the workweek and on Saturday. UBTA will also provide broadband services to critical facilities such as medical clinics, public schools, and fire stations in Altamont and Whiterocks.

Additional funding will increase the rate that broadband services will be available to many other communities. In 2003, UBTA will apply for more grant funding with hopes of bringing this type of service to other remote areas.

*Uintah Basin Standard  
27 Mar 2003*

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RHC 0193

Uintah Basin Standard 20 May 2003

## Grants to aid UBTA in bringing high-speed Internet to Whiterocks and Altamont

Uintah Basin Telecommunications Association, Inc. recently received two grants totaling \$468,385 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development. In addition they will also receive \$71,760 in matching funds from other funding partners.

The grants will be used by UBTA to benefit the cities of Altamont in Duchesne County, and Whiterocks in Uintah County. The community-oriented connectivity grants and matching funds will be used to fund infrastructure, Internet costs and operating costs in both cities.

UBTA will use one grant of \$104,708 and matching funds of \$17,208 to extend DSL-based services to the residents, businesses and community facilities of Altamont. Initially UBTA will connect the schools, clinic, community center, fire and police facilities of the area with broadband services.

The benefits to the 178 residents of Altamont from this connectivity include enhanced educational opportunities, increased social and community interaction, improved emergency services, and better medical services.

The second grant, in the amount of \$363,677, with \$54,552 in matching funds, will be used by UBTA in Whiterocks. The population of Whiterocks is 341, consisting of approximately 96 percent Native Americans. UBTA intends to provide the basic infrastructure to bring advanced telecommunications services to the area which will improve the quality of life and enhance economic development.

The initial connections will be the community center, a business, a Head-Start facility, and the post office. The construction of this project will facilitate UBTA's efforts to collaborate with the Northern Ute Tribe to extend service to the tribe.

"This high-speed technology infrastructure is an investment in the future of the people who live in these rural areas of Utah. Through broadband connections there will be a bridge providing access to specialized information and consultations that will benefit the people in both counties," said John R. Cox, Rural Development state director.

Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced these grants as two of the first broadband community grants to be awarded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The grants, given in 40 communities and 17 states, total \$20 million with over \$8.2 million benefitting 13 Native American and Native Alaskan

July 14, 2010

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NO. 0193

# Fieldsteds honored by Longhorn Days

By Jennifer Oleen-Rook  
The Edge Magazine

As original as Longhorn Days themselves, it's only natural that Harry and Beverly Fieldsted be honored as grand marshals of the Altamont Longhorn Days celebration this year. The Fieldsteds are well-known and much loved in the tight-knit community they grew up in.

Born in Boneta, Harry Fieldsted was raised in a farming and ranching family. World War II was raging by the time he turned 18, so he enlisted and served in the South Pacific on an ammunition ship in the Maritime Service.

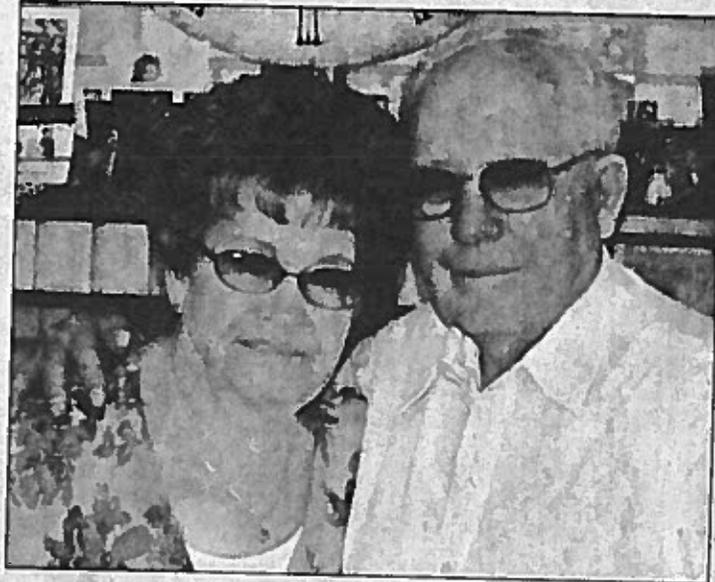
When he returned home, he rediscovered an old childhood friend, Beverly Holder, who had grown up in Mt. Emmons. She was Beverly Shiner by this time, but the war had made her a widow.

Her husband, Burke Shiner, was killed in the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium, leaving Beverly and their small son, Bill Shiner.

Since they were out of high school and Harry was no longer "that snoot-nose kid who was a year younger than she was," Harry and Beverly hit it off and soon began dating. They were married in 1946 and added three more boys to the family.

Bill, Terry, Gary and Tony all kept the Fieldsteds busy and involved in the community. Harry worked hard milking cows and eventually got a herd of his own and began running them on his dad's land.

He taught his sons to work hard and enjoy life. Harry and Beverly spent a lot of time in the mountains with their boys



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Harry and Beverly Fieldsted will serve as grand marshals for Altamont Longhorn Days 2010.

and taught them life's lessons as they worked side by side on the family land. Bill, Terry and Gary raised their families in Altamont and still live on family-owned land in the area as well.

The posterity of Harry and Beverly Fieldsted now number 80 and include grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren, with more on the way.

"We've had a very good life here in Altamont," Harry says. "We've both been involved in the community as much as possible, we've always taken an active part and been involved in everything. We feel it's a huge honor to be named grand marshals for Altamont Longhorn Days 2010."

The Fieldsteds sold all their cows and retired from ranching in 2003. They went on a mis-

sion for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to Nauvoo, Ill. They have always been very active in the church, serving in many leadership positions. They recently retired as temple workers after 16 years.

Harry says he enjoys retirement, but he's not quite ready for a senior citizen group just yet. He is proud to represent Altamont as grand marshal and with his bride of 63 years at his side, he is sure to enjoy every minute.

"We know some of the best people in the world here," Beverly says. "This is an easy place to live. It's quiet and country. It's not too far from the mountains one way and the store the other way. We're sorta centered between the mountains and the shopping and I like that. I love this community and have enjoyed serving any way I can."

# Thaynes chosen as Longhorn Grand Marshals

Harry and Carrie Thayne of Talmage have been chosen to be Grand Marshals for the 2002 Longhorn Days Parade in Altamont.

Harry was the first-born son of Alma and Myrtle Thayne who lived in a little log cabin in Mt. Home at the place where the Brent Walker family presently resides. A midwife named Mrs. Mandridge delivered him on April 24, 1919.

Until he was five years old, Harry was raised in mining camps in Latuda, up the canyon from Price.

His family moved back to Mt. Home in a wagon. It took two days to get from Price to Duchesne. Harry still remembers it was in the early spring and the Duchesne city streets were full of water.

The family had to ford the Duchesne River and in those days the mail road to the upper country went through Utah instead of Blue

Bench, to Talmage, past the house that the Thaynes now live in.

Harry farmed with his dad and herded cows until he was 18 years old.

In the meantime, a little girl named Carrie Taylor was born at home in Delta on Aug. 10, 1922 to John M. and Caroline Pearl Taylor.

When Carrie was six years old, her family packed up covered wagons with flour, bread, squash, butter and plenty of warm bedding and headed, with a herd of milk cows, to Duchesne County. That was in early November.

It took two weeks to get to Duchesne. Carrie will never forget that they arrived in Duchesne on Thanksgiving Day. They ate flour mush (which they called porridge) and slept in a small vacant house that had one bed and a stove.

The Taylors lived in Duchesne two years and then moved to Midview, which is now called Bridgeland.

Six years later, they moved to Arcadia and farmed there. This is where Carrie met and married the boy from Mt. Home.

To this union have been born ten children.

The Thaynes have led a full and happy life, not one without adversity

SEE THAYNES on page 17

**HAPPILY MARRIED**—Harry and Carrie Thayne, Grand Marshals for the Altamont Longhorn Days Parade, have been happily married for over 63 years.

AHC 0193

Walker Gavin Standard  
23 July 2002

# THAYNES

Continued from page 9

and struggle. They lost three daughters and Harry has survived cancer twice. Carrie has struggled with a disease for years that has taken its toll on her health.

Through all of this and many other trials and happy times, they have stayed strong and have built a legacy of faith for their 172 family members. They have been married for 63 years.

Carrie said she has always enjoyed her service in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, including a full-time mission to Alberta, Canada and her service in the communities wherever they have lived.

Carrie said they have always had good neighbors and even though they feel that they never really did any-

As Harry worked to provide for his family, he helped build Geneva Steel, Union Carbide's uranium mill, tunnels between Strawberry Reservoir to Current Creek, and one from the Duchesne River to Starvation Reservoir.

Harry said he never did get rich or find one drop of gold, but through his service for 30 years in scouting, serving the needs of his family and through his missionary work, he feels he is a "very rich man."

Harry and Carrie live together in the home in Talmage, loving and taking care of each other, growing a garden to share with neighbors and making dozens of quilts for all of their many grandchildren. Their example of faith and endurance to all that are fortunate enough to know and love them is incredible.

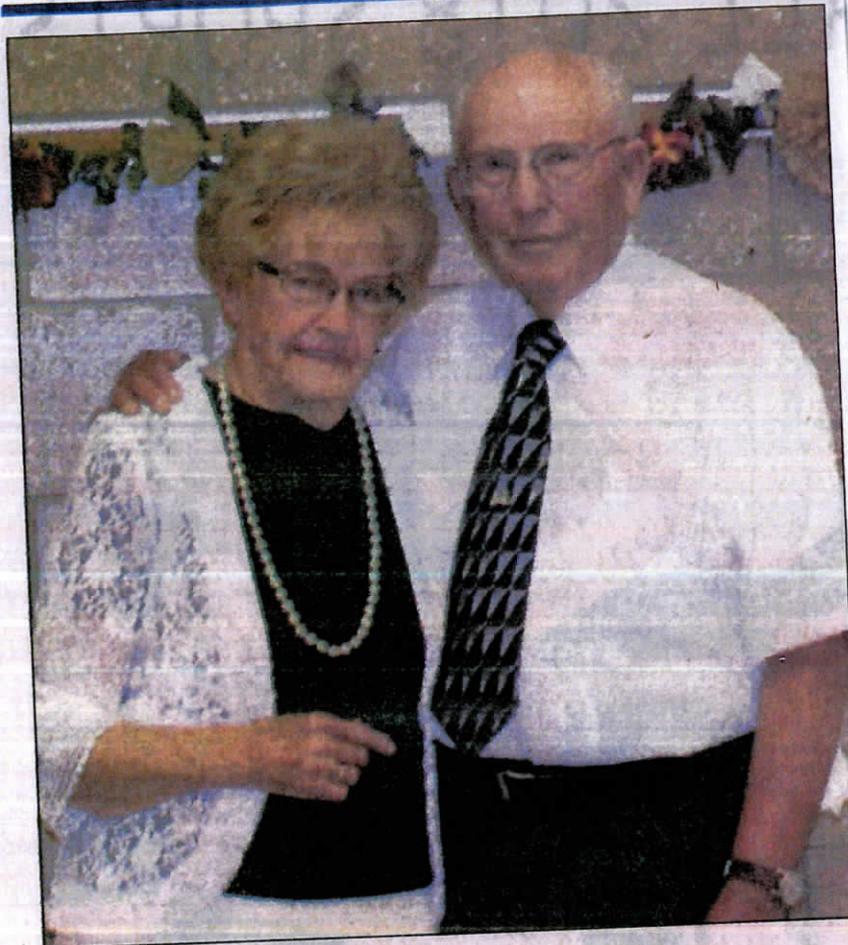
Their words of advice to everyone... "What makes life beautiful is when you love each other, your friends and family. Treat everyone like you want to be treated and be



# BIG

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*Winton basin standard*  
*23 July 2002*



## Harry & Beverly Fieldsted

Harry and Beverly Fieldsted of Altamont, Utah, will celebrate 72 years together on November 28, 2018.

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WBS - NOV 27, 2018

# Hats Off to Monica Wells bringing to life Altamont's FFA program

By VIANN PRESTWICH

This year's president, Katie Sorenson, claimed that Wells is involved with everyone.

"She doesn't pick out certain people just to help," Sorenson said. "She cares about everyone. I've thought about becoming an ag teacher, because she makes it so much fun."

Wells was involved in the FFA program while attending high school in Price, Utah and as a college student at Utah State University where she was a state officer. As she was getting her degree in agricultural education she met her husband, Jason. They have a 2-year-old daughter and another due in October.

Wells credits her past experiences with giving her the background to revive the Altamont program. She

Colleagues are often the worst critics of their co-workers. Conversely, if a colleague, who is fully aware of the challenges of a particular profession, gives unsolicited praise, this commendation must be viewed as reliable.

Monica Wells, the FFA Advisor and teacher at Altamont High School, received such voluntary praise from Darin Jenkins, 16-year veteran ag teacher in Tabiona.

"I have great admiration for her," Jenkins said of his counterpart in the neighboring school. "She's a fireball. She has turned that program around, taken it from nothing to one of the top in the state."

Wells started in Altamont four years ago and has not only earned the respect of other FFA Advisors, but she has also garnered admiration from students and their parents.

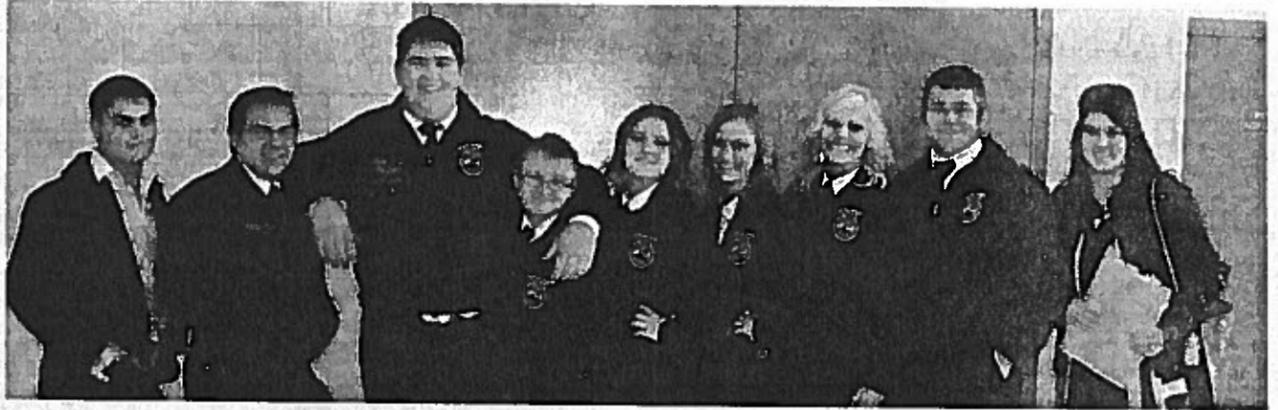
Dana Stagg is one of those parents. Her son, Steven, is on the FFA State Officer Team. Dana credits Wells for motivating and giving her son the opportunity to succeed.

"Monica is an excellent teacher," Dana said. "I can't say enough good about her. She stepped into a program that was close to dead. Now the kids are interested and the FFA enrollment has doubled."

Steven Stagg expressed his own gratitude for Wells when he said that she not only gave him the application to apply for an office, but she also gave him the confidence.

Others students echo Steven's statement.

"She's helped me know what some of my goals can be," Mariah Shinner, last year's FFA president and this year's vice-president, said. "She pushes all of us and understands what we can do and how this can help us. She's a great lady."



Pictured are: Cole Murray, Dainen Parry, Steven Stagg, Brian Ivie, Shonia McKinnon, Tylee McConkie, Mariah Shiner, Rylee Foy and Monica Wells.

also gives a lot of credit to her students.

"The kids are really good in Altamont. They are excited about FFA. They didn't understand all the opportunities FFA had to offer," Wells said. "Once we started going to state conventions and leadership

conferences, they got the vision and started planning bigger things."

Bigger things include the national FFA convention and time-consuming fund raisers such as the concession stand at the Longhorn Days as well as a scrap metal drive.

"It is just all about the kids for me," Wells said. "I don't know. I know I'm not from Altamont, but to me it is home, so it's all worth it."

"I sub at the high school," Dana said. "And those teachers don't make enough, especially someone

like Monica."

Hats off to all good teachers. Hats off to Monica Wells as she grows the Altamont FFA program.

Contact [viannprestwich@comcast.net](mailto:viannprestwich@comcast.net) to suggest an individual or group who should be featured in the Hats Off section.

*It's Finally Summer*

## Time For A Blowout Summer Sale!

**Over 100 Vehicle Inventory  
Come See the Naples Auto Team!!!**

## CLIMATE

Continued from A4

manently shackling any opportunities for dynamic economic development in the future. The faithful have even attempted to stop the oldest energy heating source known to man - wood burning - in their jihad against humanity.

Now, here's what is scientific: Man's observational abilities are still limited and flawed. Because our observational capabilities are limited and flawed, the charts and models necessary to calculate and predict climatologic occurrences are necessarily just as limited and flawed, because people made them.

Could it be detrimental to pump the very carbon dioxide molecule that mammals exhale into the

<p><b>\$10,995</b> 2007 Chevrolet HHR LT Leather, Sunroof</p>	<p><b>\$13,995</b> 2012 Dodge Avenger SXT Low miles</p>	<p><b>\$28,995</b> 2008 Dodge Ram 2500 Turbo Diesel Quad Cab</p>	<p><b>\$9,995</b> 2007 Jeep Compass Limited Edition, Nice!</p>	<p><b>\$36,995</b> 2013 Ford Expedition EL 4 WD</p>
<p><b>\$37,995</b> 2011 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 HD Crew Cab Duramax 4x4</p>	<p><b>\$18,995</b> 2004 Lexus GX470 4.7 Liter, 3rd Row Seat, Leather, Sunroof</p>	<p><b>\$21,995</b> 2010 Ford F150 Crew Cab, XLT</p>	<p><b>\$26,995</b> 2008 Chevrolet 2500 Crew Cab</p>	<p><b>\$16,995</b> 2008 Jeep Grand Cherokee 4WD, Laredo</p>

# Hats off to providing history and entertainment

By VIANN PRESTWICH  
 viannprestwich@comcast.net

The marquee on the old Altamont Theatre came to life a couple months ago. Bulbs which haven't been lit since the theater closed three decades ago were burning bright. If Carolyn and Laird Smith have their way, the sign will be shining every night, and an evening at the movies won't mean a 20-mile drive for locals.

"Once we get it opened, we'll show three movies per day," Carolyn said confidently. "Except when we have a wedding there or when we have bands or other groups."

Besides having a screen for movies, the renovation will include a stage in front of the big screen for live entertainment.

There are several motivations compelling the couple to restore the once-busy historic place of entertainment. The incentive Carolyn speaks of the most is the desire to bring back a bit of history.

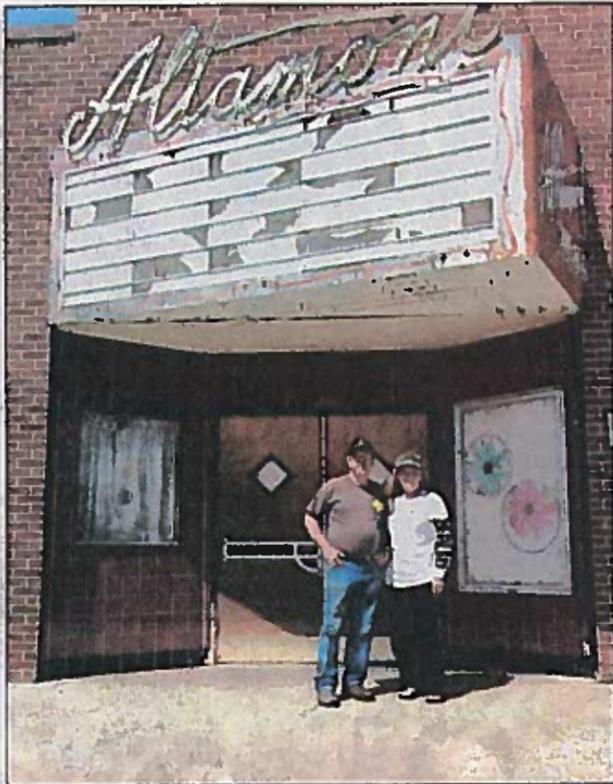
"I was born and raised in Altamont," Carolyn said. "I used to go to the movies. Cost me 25 cents. My siblings and I would work hard to have money to go. We were always excited. The movies were Altamont's highlight. There was no other entertainment."

In an effort to keep the "feel" of the building, the Smiths are preserving as much of the theater as possible.

"Any town, big or small, needs to keep part of its heritage," Carolyn said. "Buildings are an important part of the legacy of an area."

The Smiths lived in Altamont for 20 years and raised all four of their daughters in the community. Laird works as a commercial welder and Carolyn spent 25 years in the medical field and 15 years as an orthopedic nurse.

"I got burned out," she admitted. "I enjoyed the job and my colleagues, but



To the surprise of Laird and Carolyn Smith as well as the electricians, the lights on the Altamont Theatre's sign still worked after sitting idle for 30 years.

"I was ready for a change."

The couple started their change ten years ago when they bought the theater after more than a decade of trying to make the purchase.

"The family just wasn't ready to sell," Carolyn said. "Finally in 2005 we got a price and a loan."

The couple remodeled the kitchen and with the help of their daughters, they ran a catering business out of the store front. This was while both Laird and Carolyn had full-time jobs.

"Mom is a hard working lady," Larissa Smith said of her mother. "She finds time to get it all done."

Food for Christmas parties, weddings and commercial businesses such as Six Lakes Fishing and Wildlife Preserve came out of the kitchen.

Eventually, the Smiths sold their Altamont home and moved to Vernal. They are, however, ready to move back and become full-time theater managers.

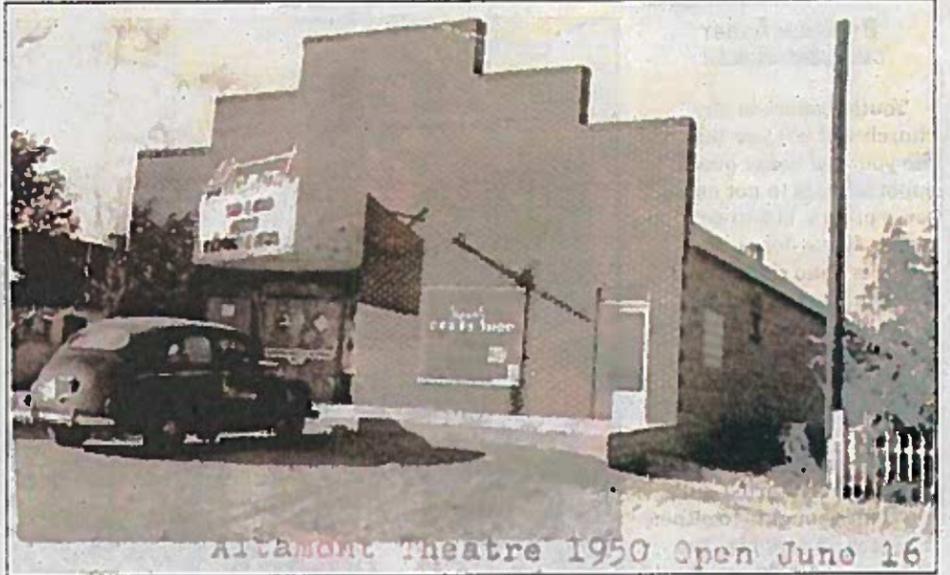
Although the building inspector assured them, the

building was sound, there are still major improvements to be made. At one point, vandals broke in and destroyed various items.

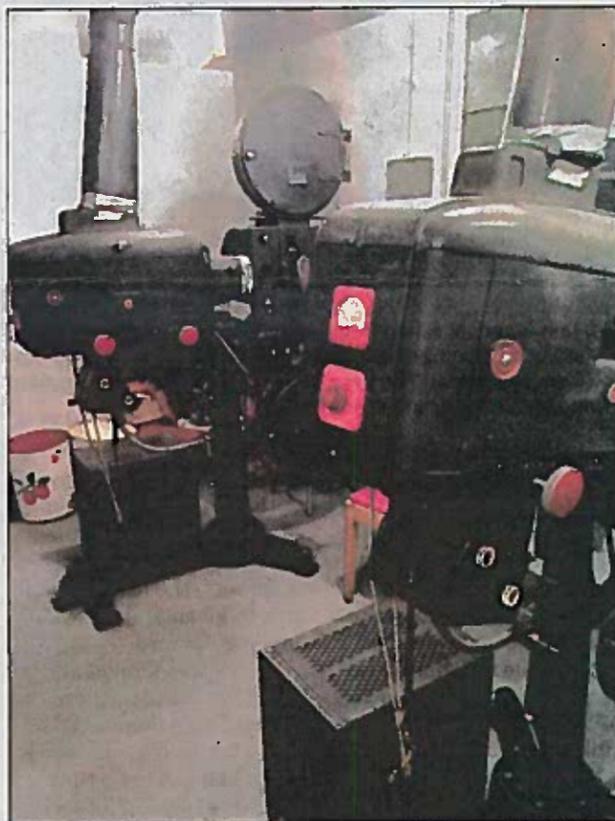
The furnace and electrical system needs to be professional redone. The projector must be replaced as movies aren't even released in a format compatible with the 1985 films last shown in the theater. The roof leaks and the seating will be replaced.

Since buying the building, Carolyn has been preserving every historic item. She has scrapbooks of ticket stubs and other articles. The front of the building used to hold a hair salon. The chairs from this section have been preserved, as well as old lighting sconces, garbage cans and other items to be displayed. Individuals interested in helping with the restoration can contribute at Mountain America, at the Altamont restoration account."

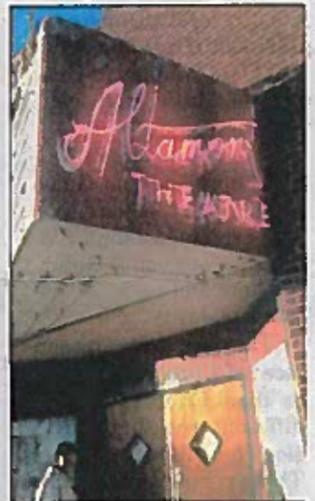
Hats off to a couple providing a place of entertainment as well as preserving a town's legacy.



The Altamont Theatre originally opened on June 16, 1950.



Some of the original projection equipment still remains in the old Altamont Theatre.



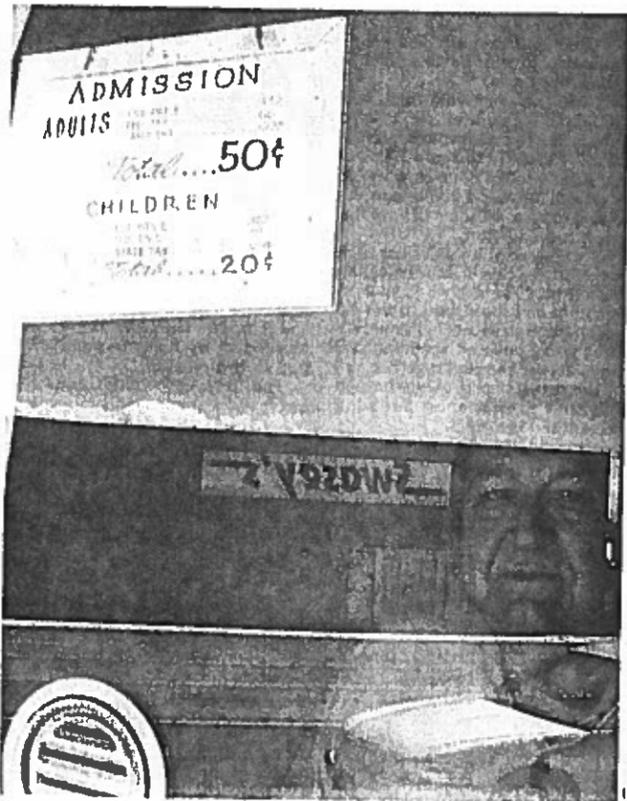
The Smiths are renovating the old Altamont Theatre.



Original admission to the Altamont Theatre was 50 cents.

REVIVING HISTORY TO CREATE BUSINESS

# Historic Altamont movie house gets new life



**CAN'T BEAT THOSE PRICES** — Nearly 50 years since Rex Fowler sold tickets at the Altamont Theater his stepdaughter, Carolyn Smith, is reopening the building to the public as a bakery/deli. The days are long gone when you could see a movie for 20 cents.

By Karen Ady

There's been a lot of water under the Lake Fork bridge since Judy Garland sang the legendary Trolley Song in the film Meet Me in St. Louis, at the Altamont Theater. The year was 1946 and the Christensen family had built a new movie house in Altamont to provide recreation for the rural community.

Fast forward to 2002. The once majestic brick building has been vacant for nearly 20 years. Vandals have burnt the movie screen, ruined the red theater seats and broken doors and windows, a \$50,000 loss to the owners.

The current owner of the Altamont Theater, Carolyn Smith, had her eye on the stately old theater ever since she married her husband, Laird, and moved to Altamont in 1980. Laird is a welder and truck driver for Ned Mitchell Construction and Carolyn is a nurse at the Uintah Basin Medical Center, and runs on the Altamont ambulance as an EMT.

Now the couple are adding another job to their already busy schedules—owners and operators of a new bakery and deli, "Main Street Express"—which will be housed in the old theater.

"I had been trying to buy the building since 1989," Carolyn said. The owner, Doris Christensen, had mixed feelings about selling the property that had once belonged to her parents. Eventually she felt that she was simply getting too old to maintain the building's security and do the upkeep on the nearly 50-year old building.

A lot of work was in store for the new owners before they could be ready to open to the public on Monday, July 19. Besides cleaning and hauling out junk, the Smiths spent two years scraping gum off all surfaces of the old theater.

"We could build a bubble gum factory with what we got off the seats," Carolyn said.

The theater seats had to be broken off their rusted bolts and thrown away due to damage caused by flooding while the building was vacant and the pipes froze and broke. Two new seats, still in the boxes, were found while cleaning and will be worked into the restaurant décor.

For one night. She didn't have enough money," it reads. Now in her 80s, Lois doesn't remember getting in to see a show called Target Zero for half the usual ticket price. She does recall when her daughter, at age 16, sold candy at the theater.

And she recalls that she was one of the first customers at the furniture store housed at the front of the theater. She bought a bedroom set and a GE electric stove—both of which she still has and uses. She still lives on the corner by the theater.

Records for Wednesday, May 16, 1956 show the receipts totaled \$64.04 even though ticket prices were only 15 cents, 24.5 cents (tax included) and 49 cents. There were 221 people in attendance to see Warner Studio's The McConnell Story starring Alan Ladd and June Allyson. The weather was listed as "pleasant" and under the opposition category "mutual meeting" was recorded.

On another occasion a record 290 people came out to see Billy the Kid. An old receipt shows the rental price for the movie Please Don't Eat the Daisies was \$40 for a three-day run. Another found receipt records the purchase of 210 gallons of diesel fuel at 16 cents a gallon—the total bill was \$35.

The handwriting on the old papers was familiar to one person sifting through the old records with the Smiths. Rex Fowler recognized his mother's handwriting on the forms as well as his dad's figuring.

Rex is Carolyn Smith's stepfather. Rex's dad, Jesse A. Fowler of Altonah, and Miles H. Christensen were partners in the movie business beginning in 1951 up to 1975.

Rex worked at the theater when he came back from the Korean War and after he finished his education at the University of Utah in February 1956. "I sold tickets here a lot of times," he remembers. "I sold candy and popcorn when I could help out."

Now retired from Moon Lake Electric Association after 38 years, Rex finds himself reading a record for Monday, Jan. 23, 1956, written in his own handwriting. It states that The Treasure of Pancho Villa played to a night of stiff opposition. Cold weather and an FFA meeting combined to thwart moviegoers in Altamont. The remarks at the bottom in Rex's even handwriting reads, "Many more like this and it's 'adios' to show business."

The Altamont Theater was the place to be in a small town, according to Rex. "You could take your girlfriend out to a movie and get a ham-

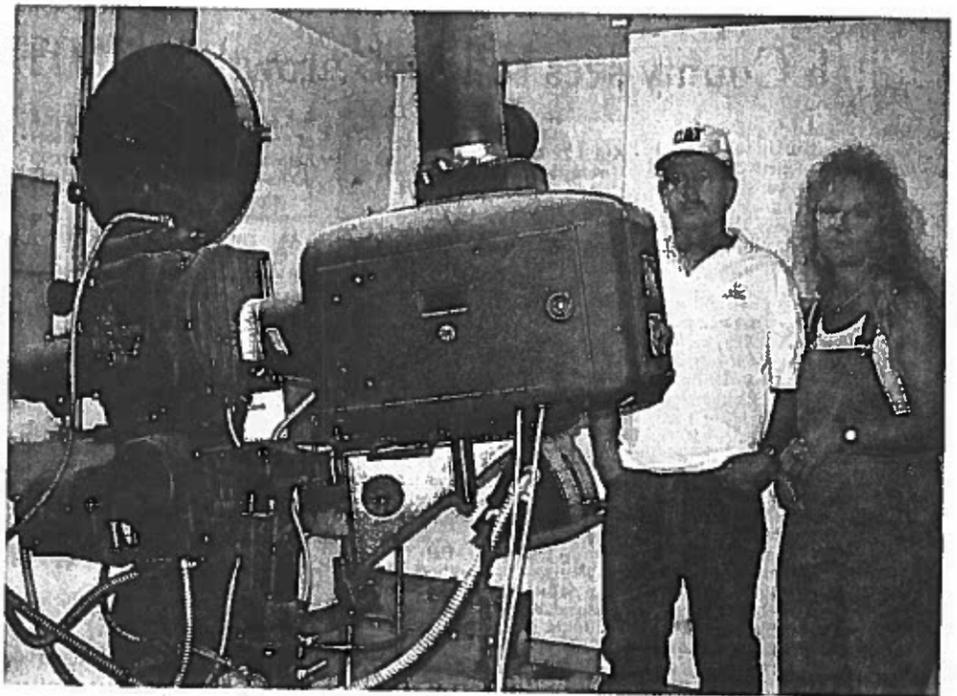
burger and a malt for less than \$5," Rex recalls. Of course, in those days you'd have to drive into Roosevelt to get a malt.

The Main Street Express coffee shop is scheduled to open next week on July 19 in time for Altamont Longhorn Days. The Smiths are still trying to finish up some plumbing, put on some trim, and move in the rest of the kitchen equipment. Once they get the handicap ramp in place they'll be ready for business. "Then we just need people," Carolyn said.

The Smiths plan to offer sandwiches, Navajo tacos, scones, special salsas and dips, ice cream, shakes, smoothies, and sodas, as well as popcorn, homemade caramel corn, brownies, cinnamon rolls and doughnuts.

Within the next year they intend to finish renovating the main hall of the theater. Their dream is to terrace the sloping floor and use the expansive space for a steak house. The stage will house live entertainment and Hollywood movies on weekends.

**MEMORIES OF A FAMILY BUSINESS** — Rex Fowler revels in nostalgia as he rummages through the past. The new owners of the Altamont Theater have uncovered detailed records of the theater owned by the Fowler and Christensen families where Rex sold tickets, popcorn and candy in his youth. When the building is finished being converted into a restaurant the memorabilia will be available for customers to peruse.



**THE OLD PROJECTORS** — Restaurant owners Laird and Carolyn Smith of Altamont will convert the projector room into a place to display memorabilia on the old Altamont Theater. The couple worked for two years cleaning and renovating the 50-year old building. Their deli/bakery, Main Street Express, opens July 19.



## Clarification

The Altamont Theater was built in 1946 by Leland and Larue Stevenson, not the Christensen family as reported in last week's edition. The Stevensons sold the theater to Jesse Fowler in 1951.

UBS 20 July 2004

# GM Owner Loyalty Sale

shop GMC.

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# Bartons to be honored at reception May 24 at Altamont High

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After 37 years of teaching and serving the students and community, Donna and Jack Barton will be retiring this spring. They will be honored at a reception on May 24, at 7 p.m. in the Altamont High auditorium.

Jack and Donna Barton exemplify what is best about being a teacher and serving their students and community. They believe that teachers touch lives forever. They feel that their greatest measure of success is the students that have finished high school, achieved college degrees and become good citizens and raised their children to be good people. Since they have taught three generations of some families, they know better than anyone how well some of those students have turned out. A social worker once remarked that to change a child you need to start with the grandparents. Mr. and Mrs. Barton have done exactly that. They have taught, encouraged, disciplined and loved all the pupils in their charge for all their professional lives. On indication of their success is that of the teachers in Altamont Elementary and High School, 10 were their students.

Mr. Barton started teaching in Altamont in 1965. After that he taught Head Start in Ft. Duchesne for 4 years, and was elected Duchesne County School Board Member during this time. He then taught Adult Education for one year, and History at Union High School for a year. He has been back at Altamont ever since, teaching History.

He has also been the debate coach 1 year, History Club advisor 11 years, Student Council Advisor 7 years, School Counselor 4 years, Junior Prom Advisor 13 years, Athletic Director 6 years, Cheerleader Advisor 2 years, Boys Basketball Varsity Coach 2 years, Junior Varsity Basketball Coach 7 years, Varsity Football Coach 2 years, Junior Varsity Football Coach 7 year, Girls Volleyball Coach 4 years, Girls Basketball combined Varsity and Junior Varsity Coach 7 years and Model United Nations Club Advisor.

Jack has also served the community in numerous ways: Duchesne County Library Board Member, UEA State Peer Reviewer 2 years, Salary Negotiator DEA, PTA president and vice-president 1966-68, Booster Club president and vice president 1973-75, coached innumerable Little League Baseball and Jr. Jazz Basketball teams, served in the Altamont First Ward Bishopric, been advisor to some student European trips, and taken many groups of students to Washington, DC, and Williamsburg, VA. He was the technical advisor for the Jensen Historical University in Roosevelt. He received his B.S. from the University of Utah and Masters of Education from Utah State University.

Donna Barton has taught English, Speech and Drama, Spanish, P.E. and the Gifted Class in Altamont High beginning 1965. Her achievements have been numerous: 13 State Forensics Championships, 4 State Drama Championships, Best One Act Play at State 1969, Best One Act Play at Region several times, Member Utah Delegation to National Education in Rural American 1984, Member of Professional Advisory Commission of the Utah State Board of Education 6 years, Chairman of the Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission 1983, Sterling Scholar Advisor 15 years, President of the Utah High School Speech Arts Association 1981, Delegate to the National Federation of Speech, Drama, and Debate 1981, Member Duchesne County School District Career Ladder Development Committee 1984, selected member of Egypt-Israel Seminar sponsored by University of Utah and Utah State Board of Education 1985. She has also taught at Utah State University in Roosevelt for 15 years.



Jack Barton



Donna Barton

Mrs. Barton has been active in UEA and NEA over many years. She served as UEA president and was a state delegate to the NEA National Representative Assembly two years, and was a member of the UEA Resolutions committee two years. She coached volleyball, softball, and was drill team and cheerleader advisor. She received her B.A. from the University of Utah, Master of Education from Utah State University and Master of Arts from Utah State University.

Mrs. Barton has published numerous articles and books including: My Horses Had Wings, 2000; Memoirs of the Once Silent Uintah Mountains, 1996 Centennial Project, Forgotten Ways, 1996 Project; Grammar Simply Put: A Simplified Method of Grammatical Study, 1995. "Pioneer Medical Practices in the Uintah Basin 1905-1945" "Spoon Jar Kitchens," 1991, in the Outlaw Trail Journal Winter-Spring 1992. "Isabella Samson Muir Pioneer," 1988, "The American Frontier & Nineteenth Century Women," 1986, "Water-Egypt and Israel," 1986; and Sammy Star 1960



Woodpecker's nostrils are narrow slits that prevent flying wood chips from landing in their noses.

# Tuckers named grand marshals over Altam

Submitted by Sandy Bywater

Vearl and Jackie Tucker have been chosen to serve as the grand marshals of Saturday's Altamont Longhorn Days parade.

Vearl Tucker was born on Sept 5, 1934, in Cleveland, Utah, and lived most of his life in the little town of Elmo, Utah. He was the eldest brother to two brothers and one sister. His parents, Vearl Dee and Emma Loa Ward Tucker were hard working.

Vearl's father worked as a carpenter and in the coal mines. He also worked in construction and as a school bus driver for 15 years. Vearl's parents taught him the value of hard work and he never was idle. Emma was a homemaker and taught her children to live the principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to be honest in their dealings with their fellow men.

Vearl grew up serving his family and neighbors. He graduated from North Emery High School in Huntington and then went on to college at Utah State University in Logan. He left college in 1956 to serve a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Northern States Mission. At that time, this area covered parts of Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan and Nebraska.

When Vearl began college, he joined the U.S. Army Reserves and was active for three years, achieving the rank of sergeant. Upon returning from his mission, he completed ROTC, graduated from Utah State University with a degree in agricultural education, was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Armor Branch and married Grace Jacqueline (Jackie) Willard—all in the month of June 1959.

Jackie was born on December



Jackie and Vearl Tucker

16, 1932, in Terre Haute, Ind., to Pearl Harmon and Carrie Cromer Foreman Willard. She was the youngest of six girls and willingly admits to being spoiled rotten.

Her family was very close and always did things together. Her parents were converts to the LDS Church. In 1941, her family moved to Chicago, where she attended school at Greene Elementary School and Kelly High School. She graduated in June 1949 and worked as a legal secretary in Chicago. This is where she developed a love for always wearing dresses and

three-inch heels.

Jackie married Vearl on June 18, 1959, in the Logan Utah Temple.

By January 1960, they were in Bamberg, Germany, with the U.S. Army's 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment. Vearl's unit patrolled 85 miles of the East German border. They lived in Germany for 20 months and then returned to Logan, where he taught at Utah State University for one year.

In August 1963, the couple moved to Mt. Emmons. He was hired as the vocational agriculture teacher at Altamont High School and taught for 24 years.

He was affectionately known by the students as "Colonel" Tucker.

Upon retiring from full-time teaching in 1987, Vearl hauled crude oil, drove truck for the construction of Upper Country Water, and drove school bus for 11 years. He has driven on many school trips to every corner of the state of Utah, as well as neighboring states.

Vearl has served as a volunteer firefighter for 30 years and as an EMT for 12 years. He served in the Utah Army National Guard for 24 years. During this time, he served as the company commander in Vernal for seven years and engineer equipment officer for the 1457th Engineer Battalion in American Fork for two years.

He retired from the National Guard in 1987. He has been a member of the American Legion for 23 years and has served as Post commander for five years. He is presently serving as the Post chaplain. Vearl has a deep abiding love for his country and has talked to many youth groups concerning patriotism and respect for the flag.

Jackie was a stay-at-home mom. While caring for the couple's seven children, her home and spacious yard was a central meeting place for all the neighborhood kids. Many happy times were shared here by friends and family of the Tuckers'.

In 1972, Jackie went to work for Moon Lake Electric Association in Altamont as a part-time cashier. She began full-time employment in 1977, retiring in 1998, where she was still known for wearing dresses and high heels.

If you don't recognize her from this description, you will know her as the woman who calls everyone "honey," "doll,"

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# id marshals over Altamont Longhorn Days



Vearl Tucker

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If you don't recognize her from this description, you will know her as the woman who calls everyone "honey," "doll,"

"sweetheart," "angel," or many other terms of endearment. She has also been a devoted "Avon Lady" for over 20 years.

The Tuckers have served faithfully in many callings in the LDS Church. They have held many positions in the church, from teacher to temple worker. The church has been their whole life. They were called as CES missionaries to the Singapore Mission, serving in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, from September 2005 to March 2007. They were called as temple workers in the Vernal Utah Temple when it was dedicated, and are still serving in that capacity.

The Tuckers are the proud

parents of seven children: Sandy (Randy) Bywater, of Upalco, Utah; Janae (Bryant) Austin, of Mapleton, Utah; Julie (Kaye) Seeley, of Bluebell, Utah; Angie (Scott) Ellingsford, of Evanston, Wyo.; Vearl Gene (Dawn) Tucker of Rifle, Colo.; Bill (Amie) Tucker of Gunnison, Utah; and Patty (Brian) Weaver of Provo, Utah.

They have 29 grandchildren - 30 in September - and eight great-grandchildren. Their family is the joy of their lives.

The Tuckers are pleased and honored to have been chosen as the grand marshals of the Altamont Longhorn Days parade and dearly love the people of the Upper Country.

# Goodrich chosen for Altamont job

By Geoff Liesik  
 Uintah Basin Standard

The Duchesne County School Board has chosen **Janalee Goodrich** as the new principal for Altamont Elementary School.

Goodrich is a first grade teacher at Altamont Elementary. She will replace Larry Henry, who is retiring at the end of the school year after 34 years as an educator.

"I'm excited about being a principal who lives in the community that she'll be a principal in," Goodrich said. "I think it's important to be around the kids outside of school and be a part of their lives and their families' lives."

Goodrich was one of four applicants interviewed by the school board last Tuesday for the position. A hiring committee had narrowed the pool of candidates down from approximately 20.

Henry said he's confident Goodrich will excel as an administrator.

"I think she'll do fantastic," he said.

Goodrich has taught for 15 years in first grade and special education at elementary and high schools in the district. She's spent the past 11 years at Altamont Elementary, but also taught at Duchesne and East elementaries and at Altamont High School.

Goodrich has earned bachelor's degrees in elementary education and special education. She also holds a master's degree in elementary education and an administrative endorsement.

Henry came to the Duchesne County School District in 1982, but began his career as an educator in 1975. He taught for three years in Australia and was a math teacher for four years in Utah County before becoming the principal of Altamont High School.

Henry moved on from the high school to be the principal at Myton and Altamont elementaries before taking a special education post in the district office. He returned to the helm of Altamont Elementary in 2000.

"I figured it was time for a change, and made that decision," he said of his choice to retire, adding that he's still considering his future options.

He eschewed any larger tribute to his time in education with a nod to one of his favorite poets.

"I'll just finish with an Eliot poem conclusion; 'not with a bang, but a whimper,'" Henry said of his desire to avoid the spotlight. "I enjoy T.S. Eliot poetry. Isn't that what he said? 'This is the way the world ends, this is the way the world ends, not with a bang, but a whimper.'"

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Uintah Basin Standard  
 May 5, 2009

# Jessens named Grand Marshals of Longhorn Days 2017

SUBMITTED BY  
ANISSA MAXFIELD

Merlin Frank Jessen and Phyllis Reay Jessen have been chosen to be the Grand Marshals of the 2017 Longhorn Days Celebration.

Frank was raised in Boneta, Utah. He is one of five children of Asa William "Dick" Jessen and Afton Barrett Jessen. He graduated from Altamont High School in 1966. In

high school, he was active in basketball and baseball and also enjoyed wrestling.

He married his high school sweet heart, Phyllis Reay on June 24, 1966.

Phyllis was raised in Altonah, Utah. She is one of five children born to Dean Alexander Reay and Margaret Heggie Reay. She graduated from Altamont High School in 1966. In her high school days, she was a cheerleader all four years. And she competed in the American Legion

Oratorical and extemporaneous speaking. She also served as a representative of Altamont High School's Girl State.

Frank and Phyllis were married June 24, 1966, in the Salt Lake City Temple. After they were married, they moved to Salt Lake City where Frank was employed by Wycroff Company as a long-haul truck driver. He was employed there for 14 years. While they lived in Salt Lake they became parents to six children.

When they returned home to Altonah to the family ranch, their seventh child was born.

Deana (Rob) Lindsey of Altonah, Dixie (Richard) Williams of Spring Creek, Nevada, Jennifer (Clay) Miles of Mountain Home, Frank Jessen Junior of Altonah, Kevin (Kristy) Jessen of Altonah, Misty (Garrett) Taylor of Mountain Home, Austin (Lacie) Jessen of Roosevelt.

Frank continues to do what he loves, which is

driving truck. In 1994, he was named "Driver of the Year" by the Utah Safety Counsel for the State of Utah. Then, in 2008, he earned his "5 Million Accidents Free Miles" award given by the American Trucking Association for Outstanding performance as a professional driver.

Phyllis, while Frank was on the road, taught dance lessons to many children in the Basin. She also returned to school to earn her nursing degree and worked at Uintah Basin Medical Center until they started their own trucking company, Tomahawk Trucking, Inc. She is the office manager for Tomahawk Trucking, Inc. and enjoys time spent sewing, working in the yard and being with the grandchildren.

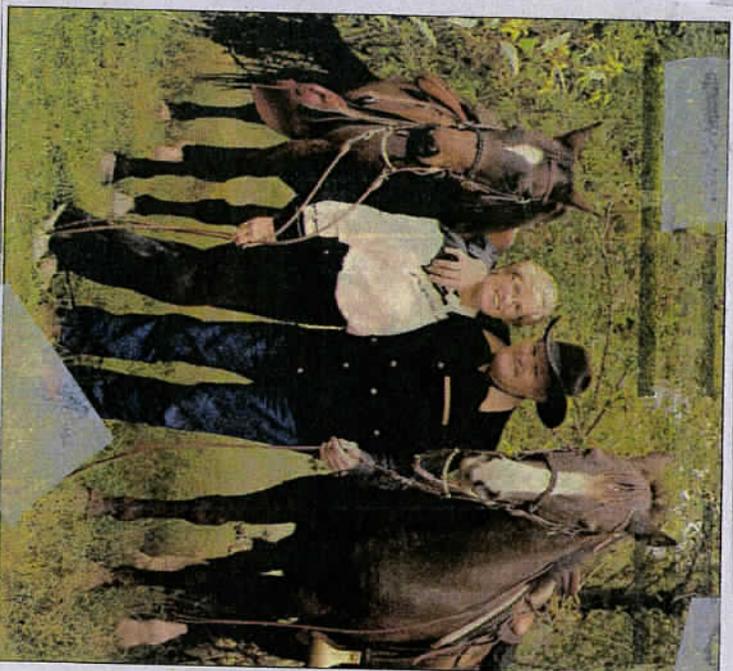
Tomahawk Trucking, Inc. has served the Uintah Basin transporting propane, crude oil, Y-grade materials, condensate, flat-bedding oil field equipment and hauling cattle since 1999 and continues to do

so.

Frank and Phyllis also run their own cattle ranch. Which is really their first love. They enjoy working on the land and with the animals and have instilled this knowledge and love for hard work and integrity in their children and grandchildren.

Frank and Phyllis have built an incredible legacy. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last year with friends and family. They have 29 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren, the majority of which live very close to them. Their family enjoys any time they can spend together. They are great examples to their posterity and all those who have the privilege to know them.

Frank and Phyllis are honored to be the 2017 Longhorn Days Grand Marshals for the community they have been a part of and loved their whole lives.



Frank and Phyllis Jessen were named Grand Marshals of Longhorn Days 2017

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WCS-July 25, 2017

# Tidwells selected as grand marshals

Junior and Norita Tidwell, lifelong residents of the Upper Country, have been selected to serve as the grand marshals of Altamont Longhorn Days 2009.

Junior was born in Roosevelt to Henry and DeLaine Tidwell. Norita was born in Altonah to Clinton and Lenna Bowden. Both Junior and Norita graduated from Altamont High School.

The couple married in December of 1959 and will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary this year. They are the proud parents of four daughters: Lonja (Ron) Barnsworth; Madonna (the late Mardell) Brinkerhoff; Cyla (Darrin) Allred; and Manalee (Lee) Goodrich.

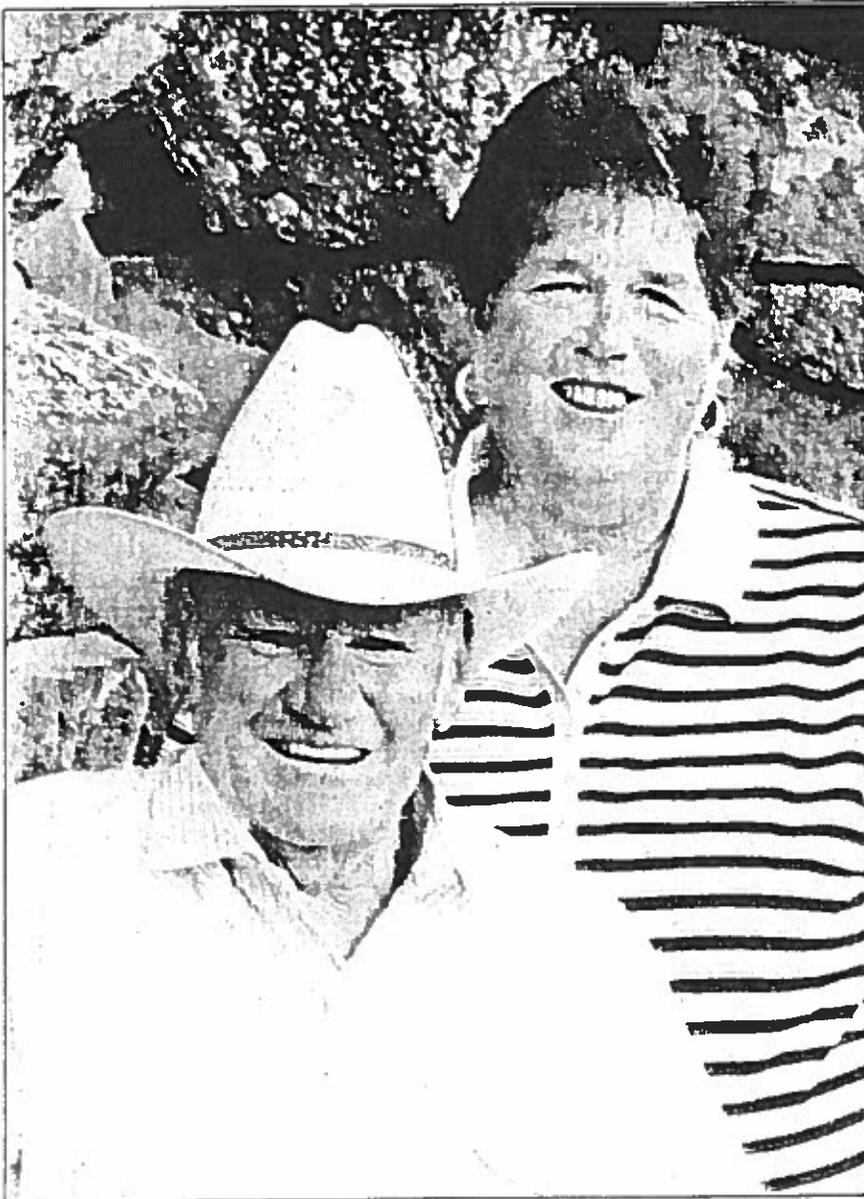
The Tidwells' family continues to grow. They have nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

The couple spent their early years together following various construction jobs. In 1968,

Junior and Norita bought the Bowden Homestead in Altonah and began ranching. Since then their time has been spent raising Angus cattle and various crops.

The Tidwells enjoy watching

and supporting their kids and grandkids as they participate in school and community activities. In their spare time they enjoy doing temple work for the LDS church and spending time with their family.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Junior and Norita Tidwell will preside over Altamont Longhorn Days as the event's grand marshals.

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Uintah Basin Standard

# Ralphs named grand marshals for this year's Longhorn Days

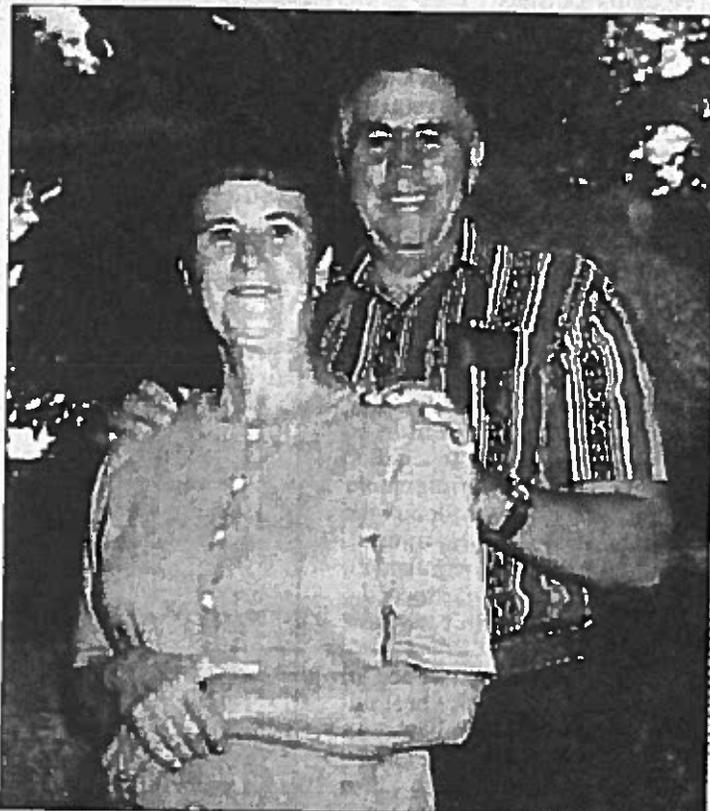
Kenneth and Elaine Ralphs have called the Altamont area home for most of their lives, so it's only natural that they be honored as grand marshals of this year's Longhorn Days celebration.

Kenneth was born in Roosevelt and raised in Altonah. He graduated from Altamont High School in 1956 and went on to pursue an education at a vocational college in Salt Lake and a job in construction.

Elaine was born in Brigham City and graduated from Box Elder High School in 1959. She and Kenneth met and married in 1960. In 1972, they moved to the Uintah Basin and started a cattle ranch in Altonah.

Over the years, the couple has provided invaluable service to their community. Kenneth has served on the board of directors for the Farm Bureau and the Duchesne County Cattlemen's Association. For the past decade, both Kenneth and Elaine have served as instructors and leaders for the Boy Scouts of America. They have also volunteered their time for their church at the Vernal Temple for the past three years.

Kenneth and Elaine have three children: Dennie Ralphs, Kelly (Brian) Whitlock, and Toni (Michael) Adams. Today,



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Kenneth and Elaine Ralphs have been select as the Grand Marshals for the 2011 Altamont Longhorn Day's Celebration.

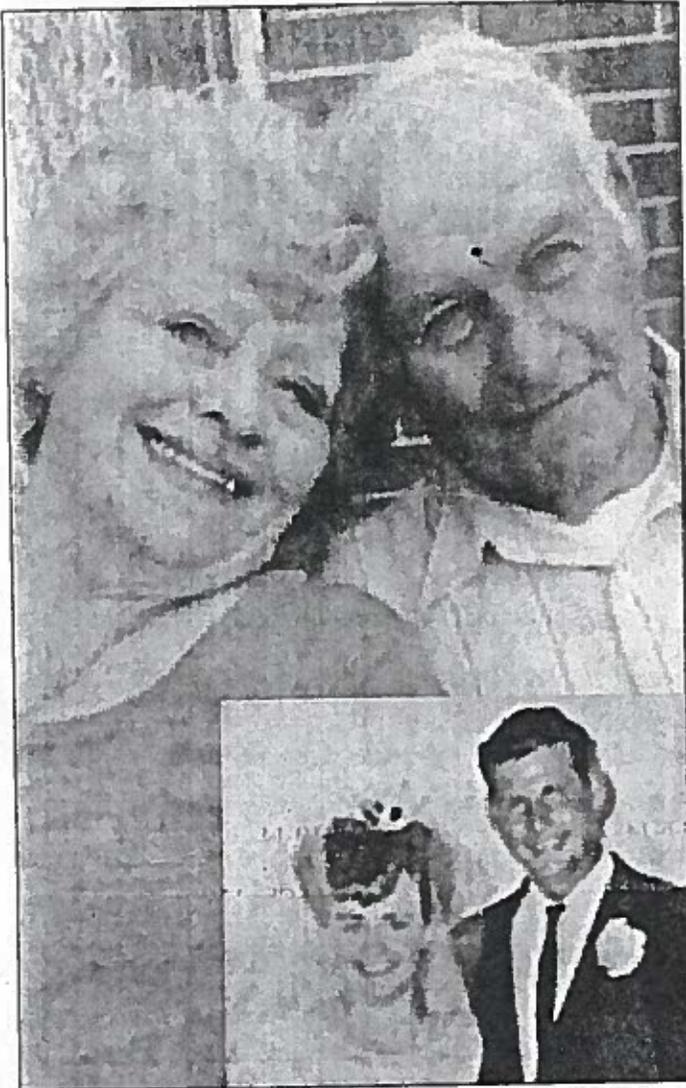
they also have 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. One grandson has served a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, one is currently on a mission, and

a third is preparing to leave on a mission.

One of Kenneth and Elaine's greatest joys is camping, fishing and spending time with their grandchildren.

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UBS July 19, 2011



Leon and Dixie Harding of Altamont, Utah, celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary June 13, 2014, with family and friends in Layton, Utah. Congratulations Mom and Dad. We love you! Love, Dixon, Terry, Kamee, and the rest of the Crew.

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UBS - July 8, 2014



# Basin LIFE

## Uintah Basin Standard

July 20, 2004 - Page 1

### ALTAMONT LONGHORN DAYS

# Six days of fun in the Upper Country

# Altamont grand marshals named

An Altamont couple will be honored by the Upper Country community at this year's Altamont Longhorn Days celebration.

Lloyd and Peggy Walker of Altonah will preside as grand marshals over the parade, which will be held on Saturday, July 24.

Curtis Lloyd Walker, Jr. was born and reared in Mountain Home. He is the son of Curt and Ida Walker, and the oldest of six children. The family made a living on a farm in Mountain Home. His father operated heavy equipment and taught this trade to his sons. Running bulldozers and other heavy equipment became a life-

long career for Lloyd. He went to school in Mountain Home until he was in junior high. At that time, the Mountain Home school was moved to Altamont. Lloyd graduated from Altamont High School in 1968.

Lloyd was active in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and was president of the seminary during his senior year. In April, right before his high school graduation, he got a construction job operating heavy equipment.

Peggy LaRue Ralphs Walker was

SEE WALKERS on page 21



Lloyd and Peggy Walker of Altonah will preside as grand marshals over the

ment. Animal lovers can show off all that their pals have to offer at the pet show starting at 4 p.m. at Altamont City Park. Entry is free and prizes will be awarded. For more information call Melody Gardner at 454-3610 or Tyina Farnsworth at 454-3661.

Starting at 6 p.m. there will be a co-ed volleyball tournament at the Altamont High gym. The entry fee is \$60 per team and the event is open to athletes of all ages. For more information contact Lori Barnum at 454-3810 or Deana Lindsey at 454-3108.

Thursday, July 22, is music and entertainment night featuring "Stampsede" in the Altamont High School Auditorium. Tickets are \$7 and the show begins at 7:30 p.m. Lovers of the old west and its folklore can see cowboy poets Brenda "Sam" Delesau and Don Kennington perform on Thursday as well. For more information contact Sherry Holgate at 454-3736.

The Altamont Longhorn Days Rodeo will start at 7 p.m. on Friday, July 23, at the Altamont Rodeo Arena. This is only the second time in about a century that the rodeo has not been held on Saturday. Make a note of it and tell all of your friends. The event is sponsored by the Altamont Rodeo

SEE LONGHORN on page 21

Altamont's annual summer event will offer something for everyone.

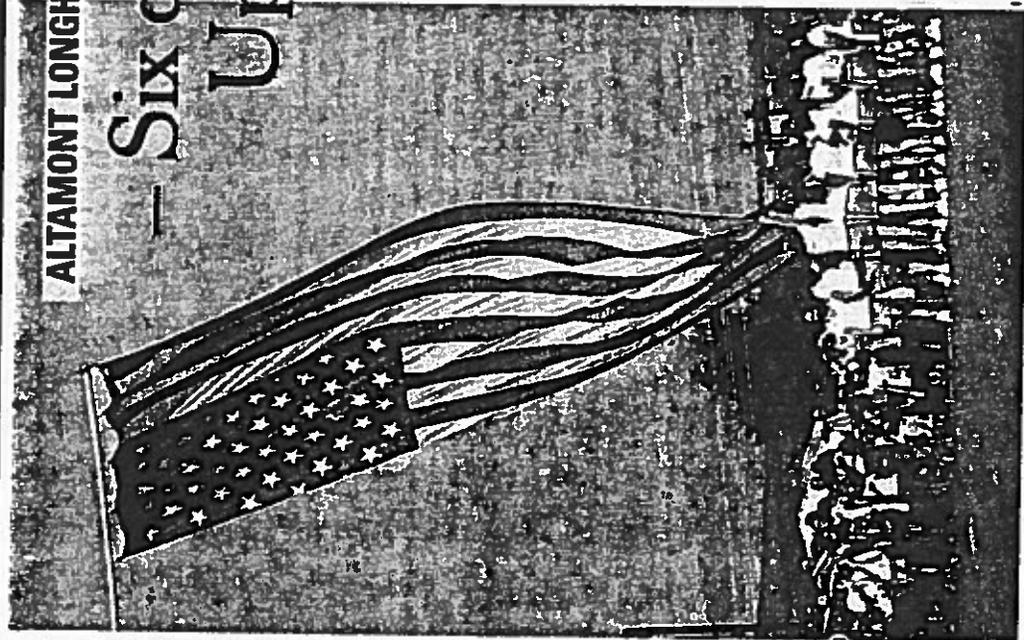
Whether it's competitive sports or just fun and games Longhorn Days has it all. The festivities begin on Monday, July 19, with a bike race, which begins at the Altamont State Center at 5 p.m. Sign-ups are at 4 p.m. and the entry fee is only \$1. Contact Brenda Parry for more information at 454-3962.

After the race, bring the whole family down to Altamont City Park for Family Fun Night. Beginning at 6 p.m., there will be dunk tanks, greased pole climbs, pie and watermelon-eating contests and other events guaranteed to bring laughter to young and old alike. Contact Stephanie Johnson at 454-4005 or Charity Stilson at 454-4014.

On Tuesday, July 20, there will be a baby show and a 9-on-3 basketball tournament. The baby show starts at 10 a.m. in the Altamont High auditorium. For more information contact Loren Timothy at 454-3089.

The 9-on-3 co-ed basketball tournament will start at 6 p.m. at the Altamont High gym. The entry fee is \$45 per team for ages 18 and up, and \$30 per team for ages 12 and under. For information call Debbie Thyne at 454-3211.

Wednesday, July 21, will feature a pet show and a co-ed volleyball tour-



# ALTAMONT HIGH SCHOOL



## Longhorns to honor 30 graduates

Thirty seniors are expected to graduate from Altamont High School on May 28. The ceremony will be held in the gymnasium at 7 p.m.

Graduating from Altamont High School are: Kolby Jack Allred, Rachel Jean Bess, Russell Mardell Brinkerhoff, Traci Renea Brown, Weston Cole Burton, Morgan J. Carroll, Rachel Dunsmore, Brady James Enman, Morgan Rachel Fieldsted, Nicole Dee Fisher, Bryson Foy, Casandra Louise Green, Kellie Rae Jessup, Sydnee Justice, Kyle Aaron Kettle, Dalan Joseph Knight, Jacob Rusty Lindsay, Krystal Suzann Meyers, McKlaine McKinnon, Larissa Fay Miles, Shaycee Cheri Miles, Miranda Jan Morris, Shelby Montana Pratt, Kelsey Lynn Pugh, Sydni Lyn Samuels, Garrett Wesley Sorensen, Waylon Tony Thompson, Danielle Preslee Vaughn Kracht and Mary Wilcox.

The valedictorian is Morgan Rachel Fieldsted and the salutatorian is Dalan Joseph Knight. The graduates and the guests will hear from keynote speaker Brent Brotherson, who is retiring from Altamont High School after 40 years of teaching.



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UBS May 18, 2010

UBS

# Altamont Longhorns back as champs

By ALDON RACHELE  
arachele@ubmedia.biz

Altamont is back on top as the Longhorns edged Duchesne 198.5 to 187 for the 1A State championship at Utah Valley University in Orem on Saturday. Altamont and Duchesne combined for eight state championships with the Eagles pocketing five crowns and Longhorns bagging three.

One of the key matches was a wild 19-14 win by Altamont's Wyatt Jessen over Duchesne's Steven Skewes at 160 pounds to lock up the team title for the Longhorns. Skewes won a state crown last year, but Jessen had a record of 7-2 heading to the state meet because

SEE THE CHAMPS on C2



Altamont won the 1A State Mat Meet championship at Utah Valley University. The Duchesne Eagles placed second.

PHOTO BY LEESA STANSFIELD

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

David VanTassel joins Brandon Moat (right) as the only 4-Time State Champs at Duchesne. Moat won his titles in the 1990s.

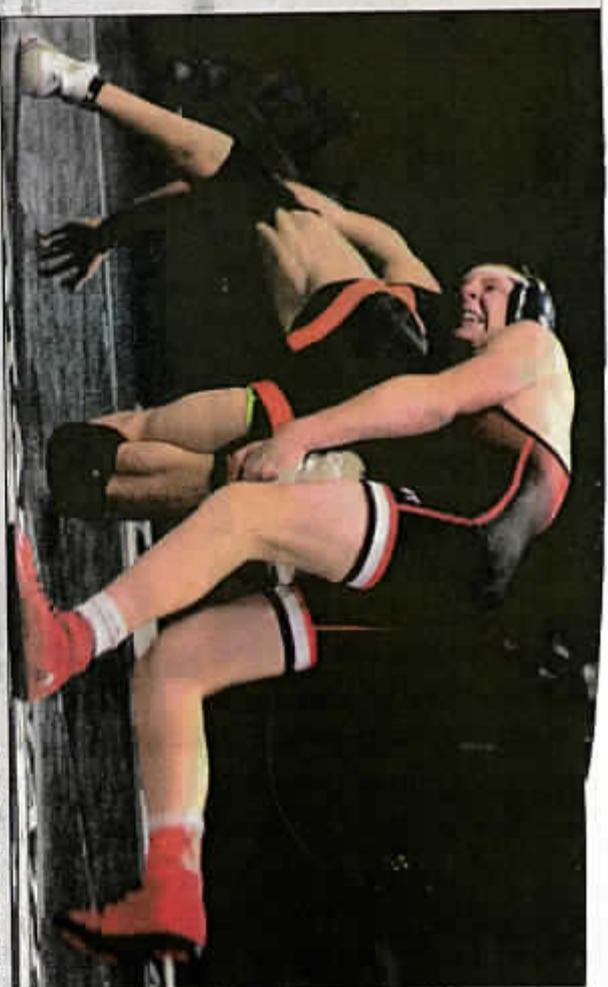


PHOTO BY LEEA STANSFIELD

Jessen McKinnon from Altamont battles Shardon Bradford from Monticello at 132 pounds. McKinnon placed 2nd.

## THE CHAMPS

Continued from C1

of injuries.

Jessen was at full strength at just the right time and became a state champ. He entered the championship bout on in 4:45 over Paul Deanda from Monticello. Skewes pinned Kyler Bredgaard of Wayne in just 37 seconds.

David VanTassel from Duchesne became a four-time state champion as a senior when he nipped Altamont's Dean Thompson, a freshman, 1-0 at 120 pounds. Thompson won his semi-final match, 15-0 over Ronnie Chico of Whitehorse and VanTassel pinned Mason Wells from Wayne in 1:17.

"I did have knee surgery and I missed about four weeks of the season. It had been a discouraging season with everything that happened but with the help of my friends and family and coaches I was able to achieve my dream. I am the 2nd person to ever win 4 state titles from Duchesne so knowing that is a real accomplishment to me," VanTassel said.

The other 4-time state champ from Duchesne is Brandon Moat from 1990-1993 at 112, 119, 130, 135. Brandon Moat was also DHS' wrestling coach several years ago.

Altamont's Cody Miles had the fastest pin in a championship bout when he pinned Wyatt Weston from Rich in 40 seconds at 195 pounds. Miles also had a pin in 55 seconds versus Gage Wilcox of Monticello. "I used a head lock and pinned him. Becoming a

state champion is a good accomplishment and I will have to work hard next year to get my second. The team just needs to do what they do best and wrestle like they know how and we will be a state champ team," Miles said.

Colby Harper from Duchesne won the 113 pound title on a 14-8 win over Kaden Beckstead of Panguitch. Harper defeated a teammate from DHS in Ethan Clayburn.

Shardon Bradford of Monticello won the 132 pound title over AHS' Jessen McKinnon 12-6 and Zach Musselman, also from Monticello, defeated Altamont's Danny Thompson 4-2 at 138 pounds. Thompson beat DHS' Wesley Powell to reach the championship and Musselman downed Tristen Green from Altamont. McKinnon reached the title match on a pin of Kayden Draper of Monticello.

Altamont's McKay Foy was given a close battle from Matthew Taylor from DHS, but won his second crown 6-3 at 145 pounds and Duchesne's Stockton Moat won his second crown when he beat Brayson Wilcox from Monticello 6-3. Moat pinned AHS' Tyson Norman in 1:01 to reach the championship bout. Foy pinned Tyler Draper, Monticello, in 2:41 and Taylor beat Spencer Squires from Monticello.

Gatlin Thompson from Duchesne defeated Altamont's Dominik Stansfield at 182 pounds 8-2 for a second title. Stansfield also overcame injuries this season. Stansfield pinned Chad Valentine of Monument Valley in 2:14 and

Thompson beat Jaden Larsen from Rich. Aaron Verduzco from DHS won his second state crown when he pinned Parker Knudsen, Monticello, in 3:36. Verduzco had a 30-second pin of AHS' Kalvin Stevenson.

Taking second places were: Altamont - Dean Thompson, 120; McKinnon, 132; Danny Thompson, 138; Stansfield, 182; Duchesne - Taylor, 145; Skewes, 160. Earning third places were: Duchesne - Darton Birt, 126; Powell, 138. Bageing fourth places were: Altamont - Hunter Webb, 106; Kellen Campbell, 113; Heston Murdoch, 126; Green, 138; Norman, 152; Mitchell, 220; Stensson, 285; Duchesne - Alfred, 170.

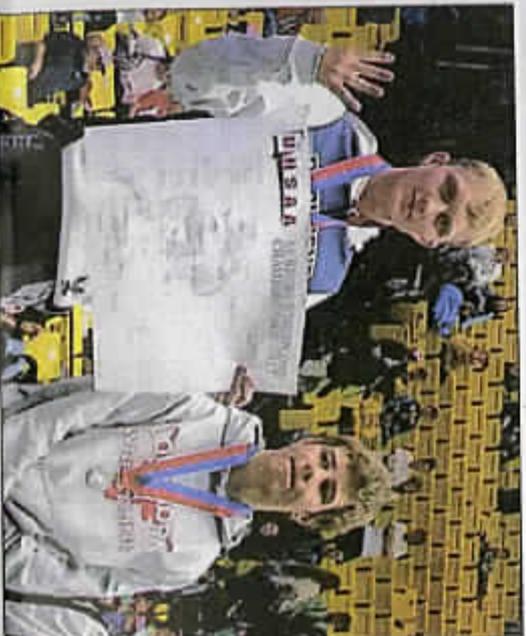
Altamont had 14 wrestlers place in the meet and seven matmen finish in fourth place.

### Union Results

Union had Jate Frost place third at 126 pounds and McKay Richards earned fourth at 138 pounds. Kautusi placed sixth at 220 pounds.

Frost pinned his first two opponents, but then lost by one point to Jayce Lind from Juab 5-4. Frost beat Casey Shiner of Carbon for third.

Richards won his first two matches with one over a former Roosevelt matman in Chase Armstrong 6-4. Richards lost to another wrestler by the name of Holden Richards of Bear River 5-4 in the battle for third. Kautusi won three matches on pins and then lost the fifth place clash to Messersmith of Juab.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Duchesne's David VanTassel celebrates his fourth state championship on the winners' stand. Also pictured is second place matman Dean Thompson from Altamont. VanTassel won the 120 pound crown 1-0.

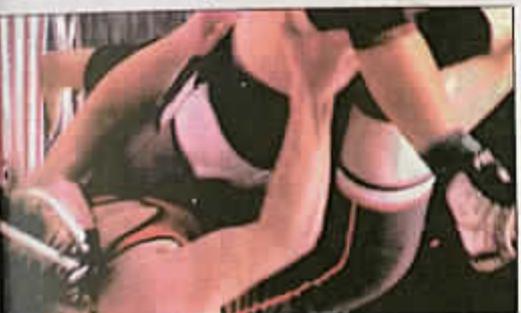


PHOTO BY LEEA STANSFIELD

Wyatt, Jessen from Altamont and Steven Skewes of Duchesne are upside down on the mat. Jessen won 160 pound state championship 19-14.

Sept 21, 2004

# Basin LIFE

## MARY ELLEN KETTLE NEW PRINCIPAL

# Vision and high expectations will mark new administration at AHS

By Karen Ady

She doesn't know their names yet — she only met them three weeks ago — but already she calls them "my kids." Her kids, all 245 of them, make up the student body of Altamont High School. And she is Mary Ellen Kettle, their new principal.

The Duchesne County School District hired Kettle, the first female principal in the history of Altamont High School, to fill a vacancy created when outgoing principal Kirk Brotherson relocated to Nevada.

Kettle has set a tough goal for

herself in her new administrative position — to learn the names of all the students at Altamont High by the end of the school year. In the same way that she drives herself to excel, the sky is the limit when it comes to her expectations for Altamont High School.

In the various assignments she's had as an educator in her 14-year career, Kettle has come in contact with many schools from across the state. From her visits to schools noted as under-performing as well as those rated as "exemplary," she has brought a high set of expectations to her new position.

"When we look across the nation we see schools that are rated as exemplary schools. There shouldn't be a school in the nation that doesn't say, 'how can we become an exemplary school?'" she said.

"In order to do that we have to have programs that are exemplary, academic programs above and beyond the norm. It takes a joint effort with parents, students and teachers, state and local support — that's something we all look towards. I know it's a lofty goal."

Her self-defined career description signifies her desire to work and improve education for kids. "I perceive my job as helping these kids become capable people," she said, "and to be capable of contributing to society. She said schools can do that three ways — academically, behaviorally, and socially — the basic ways to learn.

An award-winning educator, Kettle knows a lot about how people learn. She has a bachelors and masters of education from Utah State University as well as an administrative supervisory certificate completed in part during two summers spent living on the Logan USU campus.

She has teaching experience at all levels and in widely varying settings. She has taught in a small, rural grade school and on the other end of the scale has presented to groups at national conventions in Chicago and Minneapolis that attracted 20,000 - 30,000 educators.

She has coordinated a Title One program for Uintah School District and has worked on an intervention team for the state office of education. She teaches method classes for USU-Uintah Basin and trains other teachers through an organization called Core Academy, teaching them the best practices in delivering core curriculum.

As principal, Kettle makes an effort to visit every classroom everyday in the school that includes the seventh through 12th grades. "I try to personally talk with teachers everyday, to make some kind of contact everyday," she said. "Many of our conversations stem around making decisions on what is best for kids educationally."

Making school a very positive experience for kids and making sure schools are stepping forward positively is another one of Kettle's priorities. "If we have kids who are engaged in learning, that is interesting we don't have behavior problems. Academics has really and truly got to be a primary focus."

Altamont staff are reporting an increase in cooperation and good citi-



**SHE'S EXEMPLARY** — Mary Ellen Kettle says she's just a farm kid but she's not fooling anybody at Altamont High School where she's the new principal. Kettle's sterling credentials and outstanding work history set her apart as an administrator with a vision for greatness for her new school.

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Uintah Basin Standard

September 21, 2004 -- Page 13



MEETING HER NEW KIDS — Students at Allamont High are finding out that their new principal enjoys meeting them personally and finding out their names. Kettle said she feels that Allamont is a community that is very supportive of their school.

friendship among students, due in part to an administrator with a sense of humor. An incentive for students to meet the district dress code has been provided by the new principal in the form of a "school uniform" (mechanic-style coveralls) which Kettle has made available to students wearing shirts that don't meet the top of the popular low-rider jeans. Kettle grew up in Duchesne and now lives on a farm in Roosevelt with her husband, Mike, a truck driver. The couple have three grown children in Utah and one son in California. Over the years the Kettles have worked hard to accomplish business, career and family goals. "We try to organize and plan, we get up early and work late," Kettle said. "We believe in a really good work ethic. Work is important and the quality of work is important." The quality of Kettle's work in education has earned her numerous prestigious awards, none of which she voluntarily talks about. In 2002 Kettle met the criteria for the highest award given to teachers — the Presidential Award in elementary mathematics. She traveled to Washington D.C. along with three other award recipients from Utah to accept the award. Signed by President George W. Bush, though she was named Utah Conservation Teacher of the Year, Kettle said her most choice experiences are right within the classroom. "We teach a lot of conservation in

fourth grade," she said. "To impress upon her students how valuable soil is she would give them an imaginary grid for 360 acres and have them develop a town. Once they got the required infrastructure in place, such as schools and hospitals, they would see there is very little land left for farming or food production. "This assignment has a real tie to a real world," she said. She also had her students make compost in the soil. Making school tie into real life for students today is right in line with Kettle's objective as an educator. "I like working with kids," she said. "You always believe that through all your many and varied life experiences you have something to help them along the way."

classroom as a fun, hands-on way to address the issue of declining top

March 1, 2005  
UBS

## CHANGES AT FORMER CAFE

# Matt's Grill keeps sizzle on main street

By Cheryl Mecham

There's no marked change on the outside of the building which bares the sign "Oman's Café," but there's plenty new on the inside:



**AT THE COUNTER** — Matt Melinkovich, new owner of Matt's Grill (Former Oman's Café) serves customers at the counter. Renovations and new menu items have kept food traffic coming into the fast food restaurant that was originally opened three decades ago by Orlan and LaWana Oman.

bright red and blue walls, four new booths, a 52-inch big screen TV, fooseball table accessible through a new wood-trimmed entrance, all due to the creative inclinations of Matt and Sami Melinkovich, new owners and operators of Matt's Grill.

A new sign has been ordered. A food warmer will arrive any day. New chairs to frame the small square tables in red and blue have been picked out. Curtains will frame the tops of the new windows (soon to be installed), and Sami is planning on stenciling a contrasting checkered pattern over the new paint.

"We've been extremely busy," said Matt, not talking about the remodeling and improvements to the café, but referring to business itself. There's been plenty of foot traffic coming in and out since the Melinkovichs took the reigns of the well-established busi-

arch 2005

ness which has stood on main street in Altamont for the past 31 years. (See related story "Oman's close doors after 31 years Café doors re-open as Matt's Grill.")

Each time Matt drove past the building marked "for sale," ideas started clicking in his head. It was only a matter of time and he and Sami were signing papers to close on the property, which includes a floral shop on the east end.

The young couple (both 25 years-old) reverberate enthusiasm, though their days can turn into long work hours. Matt, owner of Speedy Satellite, an independent Dish Network installer was looking for a place to house his business. The café was large enough to accommodate a big screen TV to display satellite programming, which seems well-suited in the billiard room, a place of interest for pool and fooseball enthusiasts. Food and entertainment go well together.

Sami, an ultra-sound technician works for Uintah Basin Medical Center two days a week and Basin Clinic, an urgent care facility in Vernal two days a week. She gives all her time off to Sami's Flowers-N-Things, the floral shop. Currently, Sami's mother Debbie Thayne and Carolyn Lund are working in the floral.

Sami is an Altamont native, Matt hails from Pinedale, Wyoming where he completed high school and went on to earn a bachelors of science in civil engineering from the University of Wyoming. While in Wyoming he was friends with Jim Thayne, Johnny Thayne's

SEE MATT'S GRILL on page 19

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## MATT'S GRILL

Continued from page 13

brother.

Matt partnered with Johny to begin a wireless Internet business in Heber. Sami was living in Salt Lake City at the time but eventually the two met. They were married March 19, 2004. Life has moved at a pretty quick pace since then. They moved to Gillette, Wyoming for a time and Matt worked as a field engineer for PCA Engineering. Sami worked at Campbell County Memorial Hospital. When the opportunity presented itself to move back to the Basin, they jumped at the chance. Outside of work the young couple enjoys cross country skiing and the sporting events in Altamont.

While some things have changed inside the old "Dairy Freeze" - as it was known to many - some haven't, such as a menu based on fast food items and the cook herself, Wilda Stevenson, whose smile has greeted customers coming for a hamburger or milk shake for the past 28 years. She said she isn't sure what it is that's kept her at the grill for almost three decades. "I don't know!" she says with a laugh. "I just like working ... either that or the money, I guess that's why we work isn't it?"

The 63-year-old says she's been thinking about retiring, but she's sure that she'll miss visiting with the school kids and people who come in for burgers and fries.

Matt's Grill caters to all, though they are genuinely responsive to the junior high and high school crowd, indeed, red and blue happen to be the Longhorn's school colors. Altamont High is planning their Senior Fund Raising Dance at Matt's Grill on March 25.

Matt said he has always dreamed of owning his own business, and even played "Matt's Café" when he was a kid inside the backyard play house. With that kind of an imagination and the new energy found inside Matt's Grill its sure to keep attracting business.

UBS 1 March 2005



STEADY HELP — Wilda Stevenson, cook at Oman's Café and now Matt's Grill has been flipping burgers and serving up fries and smiles for the past 28 years. The long-time Altamont resident says she wouldn't have stayed working so long, but she just likes it.

1185

# Altamont's Foy wins national mat title

By ALDON RACHELE  
arachele@ubmedia.biz

McKay Foy from Altamont placed first at the 2018 National Wrestling Championships in the 145 pound class. He won the High School National Finals in Virginia Beach this March in the Junior Division by beating Michael Weber from Montana 7-1. Both are three-time champs in high school wrestling. Last year Foy was also a national champion.

"I hit two cradles and a takedown in the championship match. It was a goal for me to be an All American. The top eight wrestlers gain All American status. There were 129 wrestlers in my weight class. I had to win seven matches to get the title," Foy said.

Altamont was able to take nine wrestlers to the tournament.



PHOTO FROM FOY FAMILY

McKay Foy (left) took first place at the High School National Finals at Virginia Beach. Also pictured is his dad Mike Foy.

"I would like to thank my coaches and teammates as without them I wouldn't

be successful. They pushed me to win the national championship," Foy said.

Foy became a three-time state champion in the 2A State Meet that was held

in February at Richfield. He won 1A state titles as a freshman and a sophomore.

UNTAH COUNTY  
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NO. 0193

# Memorial organizers get state warning

By ViAnn Prestwich

No one at the Utah Division of Consumer Protection is prepared to say exactly how they learned that money was being raised for a veterans' memorial in Altamont, but they are willing to discuss a letter that was sent suggesting that the fundraising comply with state law.

The Upper Country Veterans' Memorial Committee secured land between the high school and elementary school in Altamont and has begun construction on a memorial that will honor veterans from the Upper County communities.

Besides asking the public to help identify those who qualify

to have their names etched into a memorial brick, the organizers were trying to raise \$150 per brick.

"Maybe someone thought we were going to take the money and run off to Las Vegas," said Eric Call, a member of the memorial committee, laughing at the idea that such an attempt would be feasible in a town the size of Altonah or Altamont.

"It's interesting that they even heard about what we were doing," he said.

Call explained that there wasn't a stop work order issued and he felt confident that the project would soon be in compliance

SEE MEMORIAL on page A-4

## Dedication Ceremony

The Upper Country Veterans Memorial will be dedicated on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. As part of the event there will be a flyover by two helicopters from the 1st Battalion, 183rd Aviation Regiment of the Idaho Army National Guard.

The helicopters - an Apache gunship and a Blackhawk tactical transport helicopter - will then land in Altamont for a static display, allowing those attending the dedication to tour the aircraft.

The flyover and display were made possible because Staff Sgt. Tammi Mitchell, daughter of Duchesne County Sheriff Travis Mitchell and his wife, Terri, is an Apache crew chief in the Idaho Army National Guard. Tammi Mitchell, who graduated from Altamont High School, has served in Afghanistan. Her name is engraved on the Upper Country Memorial.

Those attending the dedication are asked to bring their own chairs.

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Oct 14, 2008

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## Judge OKs \$1,500 request

Two defendants can hire private investigator

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# MEMORIAL

Continued from page A-1  
with state law.

Division of Consumer Protection Executive Assistant Shauna DeWolf, who signed the letter from the state, was vague about how the agency received any information about the fundraising campaign in the Uintah Basin.

"Maybe a consumer called," she said, "or our auditor came across it."

Division Director Kevin Olsen was also unsure why money to build a local memorial would be questioned, but he wasn't shy about suggesting that people shouldn't fear his office.

"A lot of people don't understand the law so they fear us," he said. "Generally we will get information from a lot of sources, someone calls, we read it in the paper, maybe even on the radio. When we hear that someone is soliciting, it is our job to make sure the organization is truly a charitable organization."

The director explained that his goal is to support charitable organizations.

"These kinds of donations are a sizable portion of the economy. These organizations do a great service," Olsen said. "We don't want to discourage that kind of work. We do, however, want donors to have confidence in their donations. As long as that confidence is protected, then the dollars will come in. If people lose that trust or that confidence then they won't donate money. We don't want to be viewed as bad guys; we want to be viewed

as partners in bolstering that confidence."

Both DeWolf and Olsen want consumers to check the division Web site, [www.dcp.utah.gov](http://www.dcp.utah.gov), for organizations that are registered entities.

"Consumers often call us to see if a certain organization is registered," DeWolf said, "We're not about closing someone down. We're about finding them so they can register."

Organizations that refuse to register can be fined \$500 per violation. Each piece of mail soliciting a donation can be considered a violation.

Duchesne County Commission Chairman Rod Harrison has helped the Upper Country fundraising committee. He recognizes that there is some discrepancy about whether or not the veteran's memorial fundraising even qualifies as an organization that requires registration.

"We'll sort it out," Harrison said. "I'm sorry that people got concerned."

Because there are several members of the committee collecting applications for the memorial, an exact count of how many names have been submitted has not yet been compiled. Call's best guess was "close to 200." Sherri Holgate, who spearheaded the original project, thinks the number is closer to 400.

"We've had a better response than we ever thought we would," Holgate said. "People are coming out of the woodwork. We haven't had the time to get together."

Holgate said she's found a newspaper clipping from World War I which showed 16 or 17 men from Altonah who served.

"We need to add those names," she said enthusiastically and then explained how there was a sincere attempt being made to verify each name and that the veteran was honorably discharged.

The memorial is fashioned in such a way that bricks can be added as names are obtained and verified. Without an additional

building permit, the wall cannot be more than 6 feet high, which should accommodate 500 bricks.

"Hopefully we have enough room to take care of everyone," Call said.

One woman called Holgate with her father's name. The man had served in World War II and moved from Utah into Idaho. Because of his love for the Uintah Basin he has always kept a Uintah Basin Standard subscription. After reading about the memorial, his daughter decided that she would surprise him by adding his name.

"I feel like people are more patriotic than we give them credit for," Holgate said, suggesting one reason for the outpouring of support.

The organizers are hoping that the majority of the names will be in place for the memorial's dedication on Veterans' Day, Nov. 11. This is a traditional ceremony in Altamont with the local schools in attendance. This year, however, there will be several added features in honor of the new memorial.

The committee, which consists of Call, Holgate and her husband, Doug, and Ted Kappen Call want to hear from anyone who might have additional names. They are especially interested in the names of Upper Country boys who were missing or were killed in any war the U.S. was involved in.

Individuals can contact: Eric Call at 435-454-4596 or 435-733-0034; Sherrie or Doug Holgate at 435-454-3736; or Ted Kappen at 435-454-3758.

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UBS Oct 14, 2008 RHC



# Education

B-2

## Moab educator tapped to lead Altamont High

By ViAnn Prestwich  
Uintah Basin Standard

When Altamont High School reopens on Aug. 24 the new principal, John Huitt, will be walking the halls, getting acquainted with students, and helping to continue programs that have already been established.

"Altamont is already doing a great job," Huitt said. "I just want to keep that going. I want to sit down with the staff and see what their goals are. My goal is to help them and be the best principal I can."

Huitt believes his eight years as assistant principal in Moab will help him be a good principal.

"I've had some really excellent role models in education," Huitt said, mentioning people he worked with in Grand County, and during the 10 years he spent in Filer, Idaho, as a teacher and coach.

"We felt like he was what Altamont needed," said Duchesne County School Board President Nancy West. "He's willing to go with the teaching strategies that the district is hoping to encourage and use over the next year."

West joined the Altamont School Community Council in reviewing the applications of 19 principal-hopefuls. Five of those applicants were interviewed. Parents from the council sat in on the interviews and offered input.

"The school board did make the final decision," West said, "but having good input was important."

Also important was the fact that Huitt knows the direction the district wants to go in. In an effort to better understand the area, Huitt has already at-

teached on a football scholarship. When he got hurt, however, he started to work construction in California where he'd moved with his wife. Eventually the father of two, and now grandfather to three, returned to college and got not only his teaching certificate but a master's degree.

"I like dealing with the kids," Huitt said cheerfully. "I enjoy being around the kids. I love their enthusiasm."

Not all of his interactions have been joyful, however. Once while he was acting as dean of students at Filer High School the police came to his office. The officers felt that because Huitt had a good relationship with a particular student he would be the best one to inform her that her mother had just been shot and killed.

"Definitely that was the worst day in my entire career," Huitt said, still sounding solemn years after the event.

The cheerfulness immediately returned to the new principal's voice when he spoke of happier days. One of the most noteworthy was the day



John Huitt has been chosen as the new principal of Altamont High School.

he got to coach his grandson as the football team won a state championship football game.

"I've had some great moments," Huitt said with a laugh. "When students write and say I was an influence, that is always special."

### GIVING THE COMMUNITY SOME INPUT

When choosing a new principal for Altamont High School, the Duchesne County School Board took recommendations from the Altamont School Community Council.

"This council met ahead of time and read through the applications and found ones that they thought looked good for the area and the district's goals," said Duchesne County School Board President Nancy West.

In reality the council was not obligated to help with finding a new principal. The state Legislature passed a law in 2000 requiring that there be a council to act as a liaison between parents and the school, and to develop plans to improve the use of funds from the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration.

Two years later the Legislature passed a second bill mandating several changes in the duties and membership of the school com-

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*Uintah Basin Standard*

*July 21, 2009*

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Two years later the Legislature passed a second bill mandating several changes in the duties and membership of the school community councils in Utah. The duties were expanded, but nowhere in this list is the committee required to help find a new principal. However, because the group is well organized, West felt they were the logical assembly to give input for a high school administrator.

Each council consists of school employees, including the principal, and parents or guardians of students attending the school. High schools must have a minimum of six parents and five employees, elementary schools must have a minimum of four parents and three employees.

Councils may be larger than the minimum, so long as there are more parents or guardians than school employees.

Members serve for two year with the exception of the principal, who is an ex officio member.

According to the law, all council members, except the principal, are elected. Employees vote for employees, and parents or guardians vote for parents or guardians. The selection of council members should be made no later than July 1, prior to the start of the new school year.

Anyone interested in being on a school community council should contact the principal where his or her child attends school.



John Huitt has been chosen as the new principal of Altamont High School.

he started to work construction in California where he'd moved with his wife. Eventually the father of two, and now grandfather to three, returned to college and got not only his teaching certificate but a master's degree.

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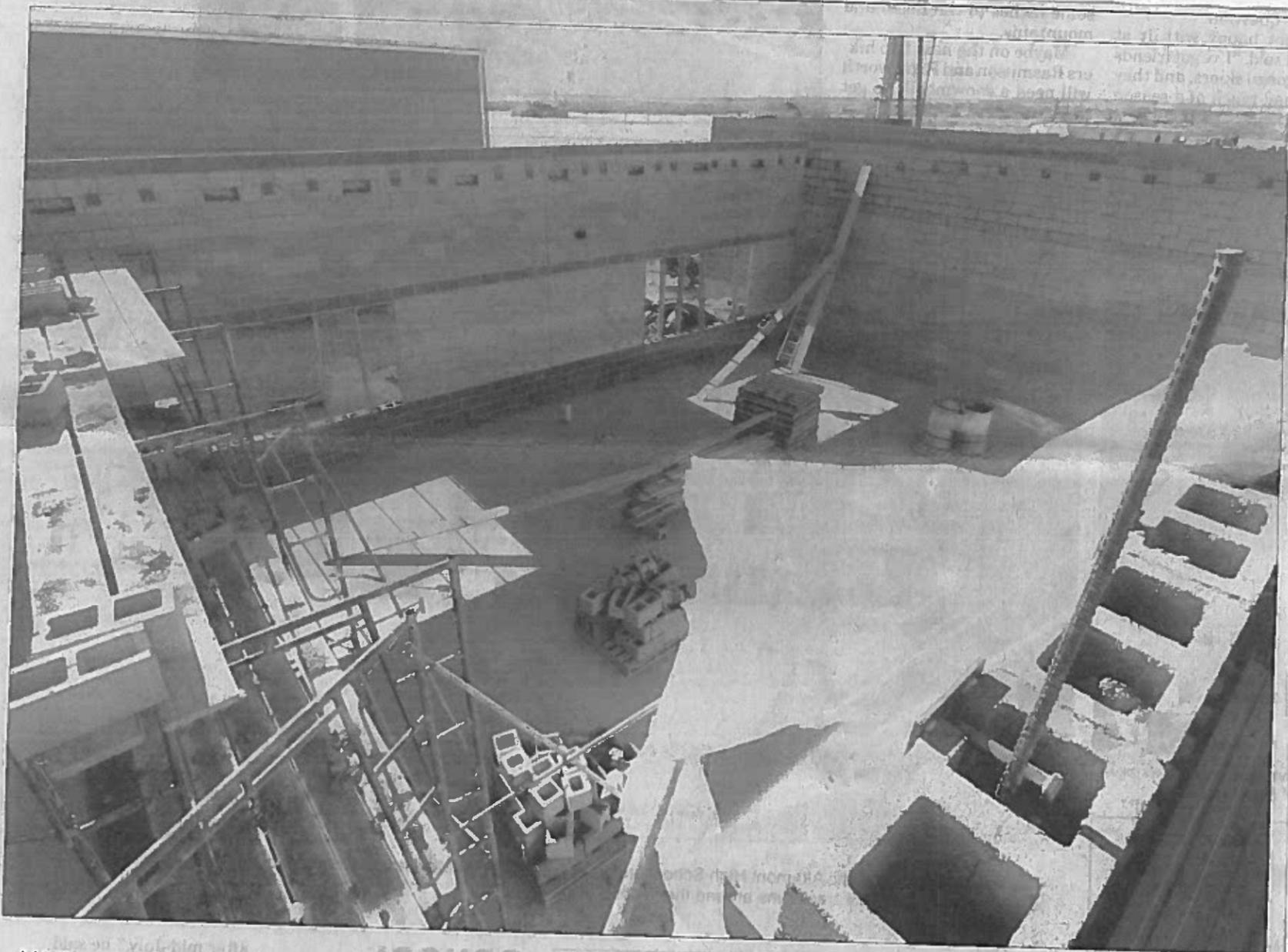
Also important was the fact that Huitt knows the direction the district wants to go in. In an effort to better understand the area, Huitt has already attended several meetings. One of his personal goals, however, is to help each student find an interest and a passion.

"I am a strong believer in getting young people involved," he said. "Maybe it's music, or drama, or sports that interests them, but everyone needs something. I certainly did and that's what helped me."

The native of Carbon County admitted that he struggled a little bit in high school.

"Most people thought I was going to go ahead and work in life," Huitt conceded. "That would have been great, no problem, but it wasn't something I wanted."

For a time, Huitt went to col-



STEVE PURO, UINTAH BASIN STANDARD

A bird's eye view into one of the new classrooms at the Altamont High School construction project gives a feel for the size of the teaching spaces. While the square footage of the new Altamont High School may be smaller than larger schools, it has all the features of a larger school according to Project Manager Chris Houghton.

# New Altamont High takes shape

By Steve Puro  
 Uintah Basin Standard

The skyline in Altamont is changing as the new Altamont High School rises above the town. A large construction crane dominates the view as walls continue to rise.

Mild winter weather has enabled the construction crews to move forward and regain some of the time lost when the project hit some unexpected delays earlier in the year.

"We had water table issues," Westland Construction Operations Manager Chris Houghton

said. "We had some soils issues and a phone line that ran through the middle of the building that we had to get moved."

Despite those setbacks, the construction has been able to keep moving forward in some areas as problems were resolved in others.

"We were really worried about it there for a while as we came in to winter," Houghton said. "This winter has been nice and has helped us pick up a lot of time."

Houghton is grateful to the community for their support during the project.

"That's one of the things that is nice about

doing this job," he said. "It's such a large part of the community. The water company, the city, the power company, they all do whatever they can to help push things along."

The project just wouldn't be as far along as it is without the great contractors working on the school according to Houghton.

The building is being built in phases. Houghton expects that some parts of the project will be ready for "punch list" and inspection beginning in May.

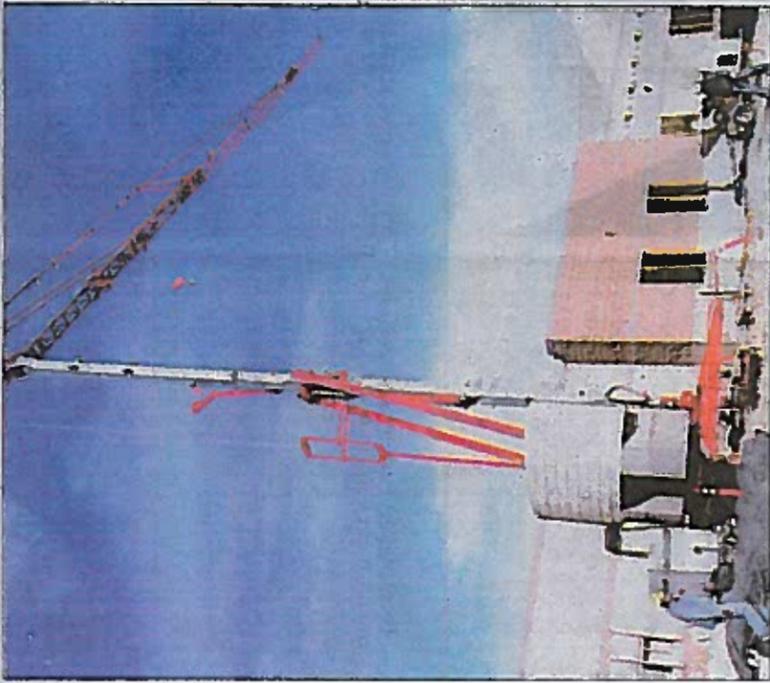
Inspections will start at the gym and kitchen

SEE SCHOOL on A-2

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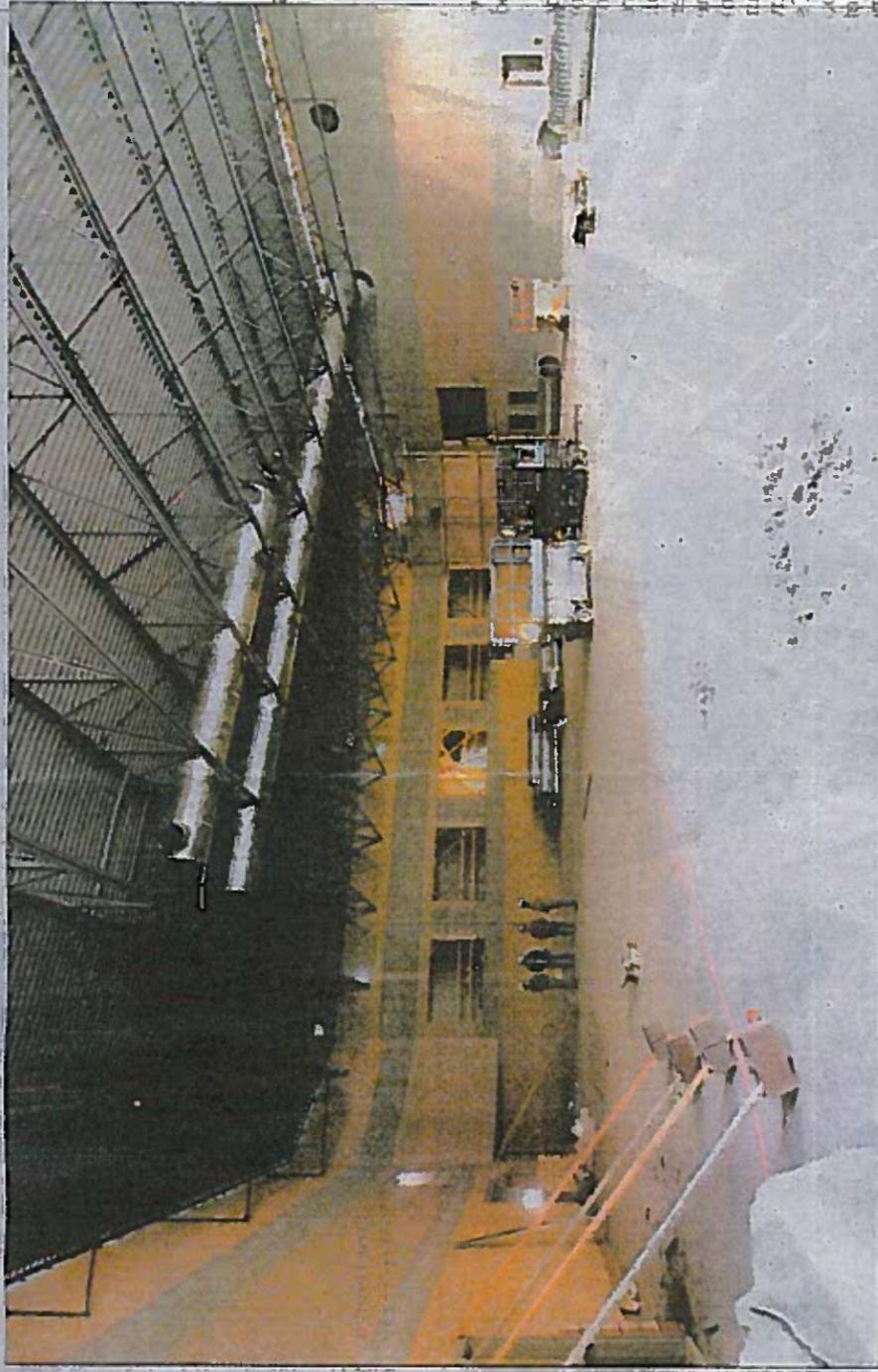


Workers and equipment at the scene of construction.






STEVE PURO, UTAH BASIN STANDARD  
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The new gymnasium in the Altamont High School project is taking shape. Mechanical work has begun in the facility as duct work is set in place. An indoor track runs around the second story.

STEVE PURO, UTAH BASIN STANDARD

## SCHOOL

Continued from A-1

areas according to Houghton, because that is where there are the most mechanical areas to be completed.

Now seven months into construction and with registration for fall of 2012 looming on the horizon, Houghton is optimistic at this point for a timely completion of the school.

"Barring any problems or snags we should be handing the keys to the district sometime

after mid-July," he said.

When Westland Construction began working on the Altamont school, there was a general feeling of working on a smaller project. That perception has changed over the course of construction.

"It's a full scale school. It's smaller in square footage, but they've got everything a big school would have," Houghton said. "They've got top notch everything in there. I think they are going to be real happy with it."

16b  
792

# New pipe irrigation system to save Altamont residents water & feuds

By Leslee E. Whiting

about 40 acres and just kind of grew up, minus a real plan, around an irrigation system dug out of the ground by the first settlers. Construction is now underway to pipe the water that flows through open

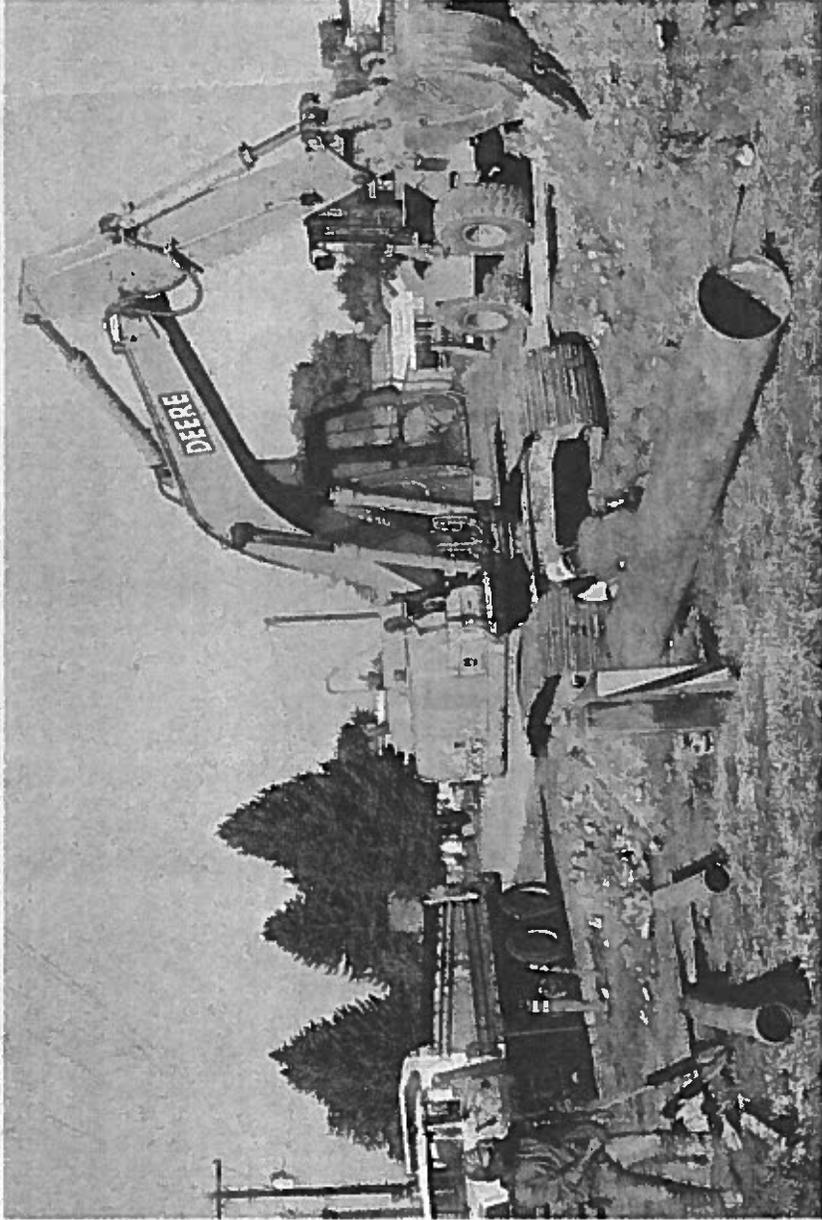
The Town of Altamont sits on

ditches to lawns, gardens and farms of about 70 families who live inside and just outside of the town limits.

It's estimated that just over one-third of the irrigation water was lost as it made its way down the dirt-lined canals, so the need for the pressurized water system was evident, said Altamont Mayor Travis Mitchell.

"This is really needed for two reasons, one is the issue of getting rid of the open ditches (for safety) and the other is conservation. The engineers estimate that we are losing about 33 percent of our water coming down the ditch," he said.

There's also a third reason — more water in the ditch and better control of that water should alleviate some of the disputes over the precious commodity.



**PIPING OPEN DITCHES** — Altamont Town officials say the community's new piped and pressurized irrigation system should be on line in early November. Crews from Johansen Construction out of Mount Pleasant began laying pipe late last month. Epic Engineers was retained to determine all the details related to a successful endeavor. The project is about 10 percent complete so far, said Altamont Mayor Travis Mitchell.

"Over the years we've had some pretty good knock-down drag outs ... in some areas the ditches aren't adequate and water flow isn't used the way it should be," explained Mitchell, who is a veteran deputy sheriff in addition to being mayor. "Everyone getting their fair share is always an issue."

Thanks to \$626,000 in low-interest loans and grants from the Community Impact Board and the Community Development Block Grant program, Altamont irrigators will see their water shares fulfilled — for some it will be the first time, said Mitchell.

Everyone in Altamont who owns land owns water shares because they are on the Bureau of Indian Affairs Water System. Because it is BIA water, the water shares stay with the land when it is transferred or sold. To help pay for the new piped irrigation, all water assessments are going up, but in amounts "that are reasonable," according to Mitchell.

"The price depends on the amount of property they own ... they are

projecting less than a yearly total of \$180 per acre, but all of this is still being figured out."

Regardless of cost, this is a project that Altamont residents have rallied around.

"We are pretty excited to see it finally come and to get it done. The community has been really good on this, we've had a lot of support," said Mitchell. The little hurdles we have had to jump over have been really easy because the biggest share of people have wanted it really bad."

The project has taken five years from drawing board to reality, Mitchell explained. They were off to a good start when the engineering firm they hired closed after the owner retired. Then there were delays due to technical issues with rights-of-way settlements, and finding funding sources is always time-consuming.

The piping basically comes down the existing ditches. It begins about one mile above town, goes to a storage pond on A hill, enters Altamont Town on the north and branches out with different laterals, said Mitchell.

# New upper Altamont area history book

Residents of the upper Altamont country have a new history book titled, "Harvest of Memories". The book's 819 pages cover the history of Altamont, Altonah, Upalco and Mount Emmons, from the years of 1905 to 1988.

The work to gather the information for this history book began in 1984 when the committee sent out letters to members of the community asking them for their family histories and photos. Other information, included in the book, was gathered from used newspaper clippings, and long time resident's memories. Additional information

such as the history of the industries in the area, and the struggles they went through to establish in the area, are also included.

Members of the book committee raised money to cover the printing costs through various fund raisers. They sponsored bake sales, made quilts, started the annual Christmas fair, catered dinners, auctioned cedar chests, and a clock. The committee also pre-sold many copies of the history book.

The committee which gathered the information to put the book together comprised of various members of the community. The

book committee members are as follows; Norrita Tidwell, Violette Lott, Colleen Biesel, DeLaine Tidwell, LaRue Fisher, Gwen Fisher, Bernice Atwood, Melva Allred, Verna Allred, Lois Jones, Kathy Fisher, Helene Oman and the late Helen Mitchell.

The book, which went through many unavoidable delays, is full of many interesting facts about the history of the area. According to one excerpt from the book, "In 1819, when the area was still owned by Mexico, Altonah was a

boom town with hotels, saloons and various stores." According to one of the committee members, "One year a building caught on fire. The wind swept the shingles from the roof through the town of Altonah, catching most of the other buildings on fire. We had no firemen back then, and no available water to put the fire out. The fire literally destroyed the town. With no income left in the area, most people moved out."

Another interesting fact, included. Continued on page 3



COMMITTEE MEMBERS--Pictured are some of the members of the Altamont, Upalco, Altonah and Mount Emmons Book committee. The Committee worked many long hours to get the book put together. They are back row l to r; Violette Lott, Norita Tidwell, Colleen Biesel and Gwen Fisher. Front; DeLaine Tidwell, Bernice Atwood, LaRue Fisher.

U. B. S. Dec. 31, 1991

# 0193

## HISTORY BOOK

continued from page 1

ed in the book, was that the town of Upalco was one of the first in the state to receive electricity and is named after its source Utah Power and Light Company.

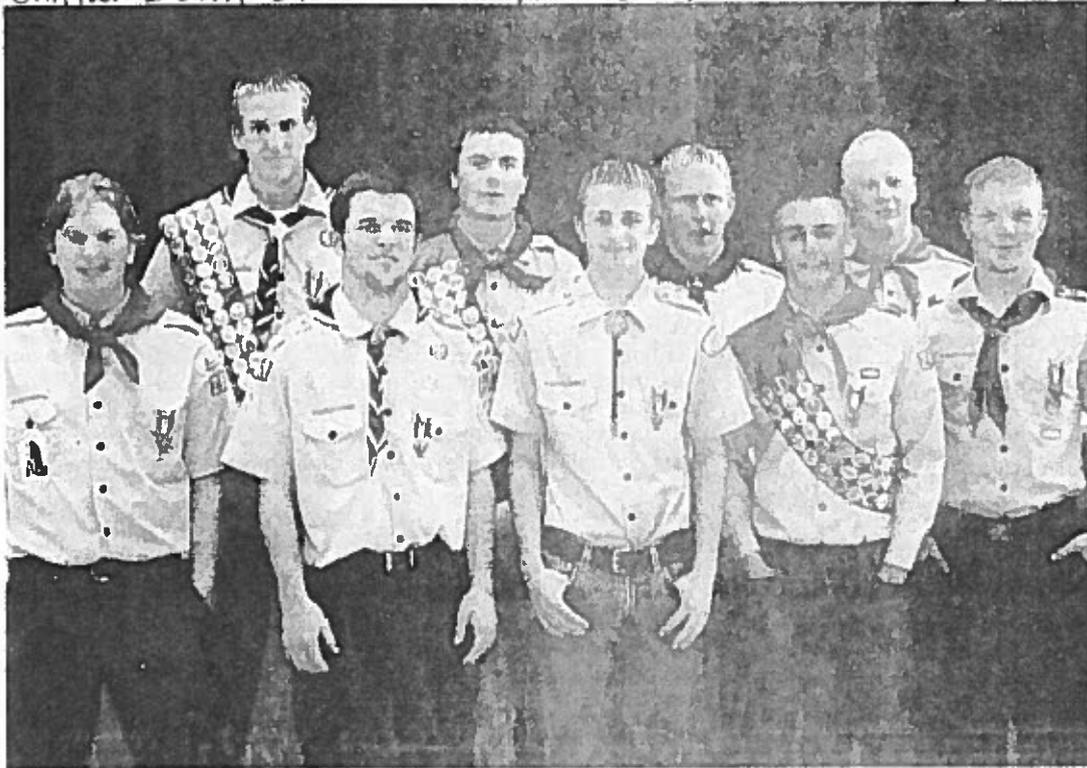
The committee members stated they were pleased with how the book had turned out. "It looks nice, the overall quality of it is pretty good," Norita Tidwell said. "We had to cut down on pictures because the publisher said we would have to print two volumes if we used them all."

The committee members will be selling the book at the old Alexander's Cafe across the street from Swaseys in Altamont. Members of the committee said, "There are plenty of books, come and get them."

FAMILY HISTORY--Publisher Craig Ashby, pictured with Norita Tidwell, book committee member, is looking through the new Altamont, Altamont, Upalco and Mr. Emons history book for the Ashby family history. The books are currently on sale at the old cafe across the street from Swasey's in Altamont.



Wintah Basin Standard 1st, Mar 2007 KHC 0198



No joke! There were nine Eagle Scouts at the Altamont Stake Eagle Court of Honor on April 1. They are Dallan Christensen, Daniel Lindsay, Jake Farnsworth, Nick Samuels, LaDell Brinkerhoff, Erik Carlson, Tait Mitchell, Bryce Fisher, and Randy Bird.

UBS Mar 1, 2005  
RHC 0193

## ALTAMONT CAFE OWNERS RETIRE

# Omans say goodbye

By Cheryl Mecham

There's been a lot of burgers flipped on Oman's Café grill on Altamont's main street over the past three decades, an important era for all the young and old alike who came hungry, either for food or a job.

Orlan and LaWana Oman estimate they cooked over 300 head of local beef and employed about 85 people while they operated the café. Now pleased with their business' contributions to their community they can happily close their doors and get on with... grand-parenting. "Orlan and the boys built the

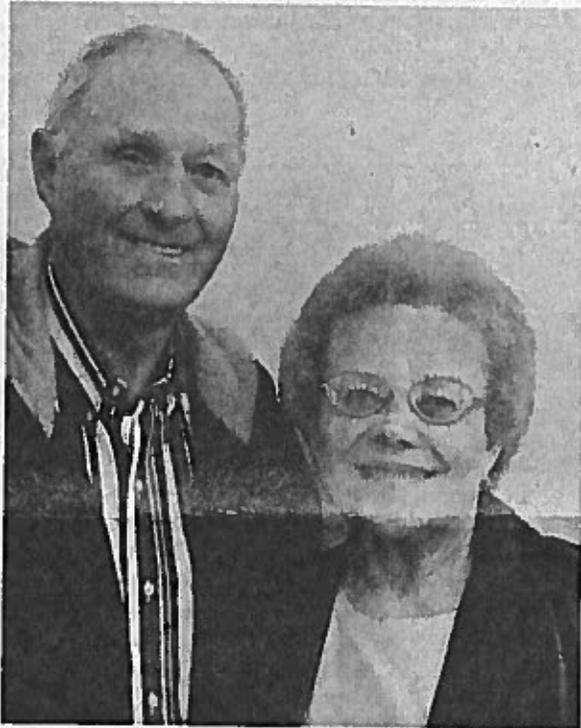
mother, Alice. The building lot, LaWana reported was an old pasture that bordered main street. Oman's fast food café would actually be an addition to that building. Fashioned in cinder block, mortar, rock and brick, the buildings were created with the familiar materials of Orlan's trade. Bit by bit the Oman's paid as they went, only having to borrow against the equipment inside.

The doors officially opened Jan. 2, 1974 and there was free ice cream for all to celebrate.

Hamburgers cost 50 cents, an ice cream cone sold for 25 cents, a small soft drink cost 20 cents, a

float 60 cents. The grill was busiest at lunch time, when the kids from Altamont high school came over for lunch. Those who forgot their lunch money ate with an IOU, and the same policy held for truckers and those alike who came in without their wallets.

LaWana worked the café during the day, and Orlan, who had kept on working as a brick-layer for a time, came to help in the eve-



**RETIREMENT FEELS JUST FINE** — Orlan and LaWana Oman have been busy the last three decades running Oman's Café, a fast-food grill on main street in Altamont. Last month they sold the café and are easing into a slower-paced lifestyle. They say they time was right to leave the café, but they'll miss visiting with their customers.

Dairy Freeze," reminisced LaWana. Her husband, a brick mason by trade and his sons, Val, David, Randy, Rick and Delbert began construction of the building the summer of 1973. The decision to own and operate their own business came about one year after Orlan had lived in the same motel in Grand Junction while working at a brick-laying job. He was plumb tired of being away from home.

There was no marketing survey done. At that time LaWana said, "You couldn't buy a sandwich in Altamont."

Orlan and the boys knew what sweat and muscle would be required to raise the structure, after all ... the year before (1972) they had constructed a floral shop for Orlan's



**RECENTLY SOLD** — Oman's Café, the first fast food restaurant in Altamont which housed a western boot shop and fabric and sewing store has changed hands. Owners Orlan and LaWana Oman sold the building and café business to Matt and Sami Melinkovich. It is now known as Matt's Grill.

nings. Their children, grandchildren and neighboring teens grew up working at the café, even after graduation and between college semesters they returned to work, LaWana said. Even the kids who weren't employed there knew it was a wholesome place. Some wandered in asking to use the phone, some wandered in asking for a ride home when their parents forgot them after a school event, "Orlan took a few kids home, too!" LaWana

SEE OMAN on page 19

## OMAN

Continued from page 13  
chuckled.

There were a few adults employees who came and went, and Wilda Stevenson.

Wilda fits in a category all on her own. She's cooked and waited on folks at the café for 28 years, and has stayed on - now working for new owners Matt and Sami Melinkoviche. (See related story - "Matt's Grill keeps the sizzle on Altamont's main street.")

In 1984 responding to local need the Omans expanded their business, stocking over 600 pairs of western boots and athletic wear in the spacious café, and diversified even more creating a fabric and sewing shop. Business was good, LaWana recalled. "In 1986 my brother, George, and sister-in-law, Bly Glines, ran the café and Lori Oman, our daughter-in-law ran the Boot and Fabric Shop while we went away." The couple left to serve an LDS mission in the South Africa Capetown mission.

Orlan and LaWana say they never had any catastrophic problems in all that time running their own business. The oil business boomed then declined, but overall LaWana said, "after looking at the books it was steady, about the same year to year."

Oman's Café suffered a couple of minor break-ins, but they say nothing happened that ever prompted them to think of quitting. After all these years, the Omans recognized the service that their café has been to the community, and the provident lifestyle it has afforded them so they could give something back to Altamont.

For the most part that's what has kept the Omans going — the people of their small town.

"That's what I enjoy is pleasing people. You don't even need their name when they call, you know who they are when they say, 'I want my usual.' That's what I'm going to miss the most, seeing the beautiful people. There are so many nice people and the kids, the school kids are so great."

LaWana said she won't be the only one missing out on the social life at the café, because Orlan's buddies will drop by in the afternoon to visit with him.

The Omans don't have to rethink their decision, that's behind them now, carefully decided last January when they got a call asking if they would consider selling their property.

"We decided because of our age, we're 71," LaWana said.

As for future plans? Why, that's all up in the air. They can do anything they want ... but what they most want, LaWana said, "is to spend a lot of time with the grandchildren."

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Uintah Basin

B-1

November 13, 2007 • Vol. 92 No. 46

THE BASIN'S



Loren Timothy holds a jar containing tap water from Altamont High School. Timothy and other concerned parents and teachers from the school are worried about the health effects a chemical being used to remove the color from the water.

# Parents: Altamont needs new school

## AGING STRUCTURE HAS MAJOR PROBLEMS

By Geoff Liesik

The orange-brown water coming from the taps at Altamont High School is only the most visible signs of the building's age. There's also the heating and air conditioning system, the sewer system, the electrical system and the fire protection system. It's all failing.

At Thursday night's Duchesne County School Board meeting, members of the Altamont

community and school administrators informed the board of the school's deteriorating physical plant.

"We have great students in our building along with great parents in our community," said Altamont Principal Glen Simkins adding later that there are "significant building problems" with the 55-year-old structure that the school board should know about.

Simkins said when the dis-

trict's facilities manager, Tony Grant, was asked whether Altamont's water and heating system would last for the next 10 years, the answer was no.

"He doesn't think that there's any way those systems will hold up," Simkins said.

The school's water pipes are so rusty that the water runs brown. The chosen solution is to treat the water with a chemical called

SEE ALTAMONT on page A5

# ALAMONT

Continued from page 1

P-33; however, the treatment removes only the color.

"There has been a little bit of concern about this," Simkins said.

Lorren Timothy, a concerned parent, told the school board that she'd researched P-33 and its active ingredient, hydroquinone.

Timothy presented board members with copies of the health and safety guide produced by the company that manufactures P-33 and pointed out that the chemical is been shown to cause myriad health problems in lab animals.

"For us to have to put a chemical in this water for our kids to be able to drink this water that is normally wonderful, I think is a shame," Timothy said.

Timothy added that during the summer months the custodial staff at Alamont cannot shampoo carpets or mop the school's tile floors because the water is so infrequently used.

"It browns the tile," she said.

"It's awful."

School board member Kim Harding, who has demolished old schools, said some of the water problems might be addressed by replacing the pipes rather than building a new school.

Harding said many of the larger diameter pipes should be accessible through tunnels under the school.

"I think we ought to take a good look at it and see if we can get some ideas of some kind of a fix," Harding said.

Simkins told the board that during his time teaching in Nevada, the district he worked for spent six months struggling to keep water connected to one of its schools because it waited too long to fix an existing water problem.

"The pipes were so corroded they couldn't get a proper attachment," the principal said.

Simkins said in addition to the water problems, Alamont experiences wide variances in ambient temperatures because of the location of steam pipes under the floors. He said the problem affects more than the school's adherence to the district's new energy conservation plan.

"It's a consistent battle trying to keep the rooms at a consistent temperature which is conducive to a positive learning environment," Simkins said.

Then there is the fire system. Simkins said the magnets that hold fire doors open no longer work. This has prompted school officials to prop the doors open, which means that in a fire the doors won't close to prevent the fire from spreading.

The main control panel for

the fire alarm is expected to be replaced this week, but the system as a whole is ineffective.

"We get a call every 24 hours asking us if we're OK and we have to tell them to go ahead and reset the time schedule," Simkins said. "They will not go more than 24 hours because it's the main panel that's down."

As for the school's power system, an electrician visited Alamont last week to install an added breaker for a printer. Simkins said the addition was needed because turning on the printer tripped the breaker it was connected to.

What the electrician found, however, was that the school only has two remaining breakers open, and those are already designated for use in a new computer lab.

"They've got to do something there to come up with more electrical services to the building," Simkins said.

The final system threatening to shut down on Alamont is its sewer system. It's backed up four times this year, at times spilling sewage across the school parking lot. Simkins said despite the problem - and the constant threat the sewer system might freeze because of its shallow depth and poor grading in spots - it is the least worrisome system at Alamont.

"Of all the systems we have, the sewer seems to be the best," the principal said. "They ran a camera down it and it seemed to be in pretty good shape."

After reviewing the school's needs with its faculty and staff, Simkins said the consensus to ask the school board to look at building a new school, rather than spending exorbitant amounts of money to fix the problems.

"I think what we're trying to say, and I may be wrong, is we would really like the school board to look at building a new building shortly down the road before we have some major problems that shut this one down and we have no where to go," Alamont teacher Mick Feldsted told the board. "We want to be prepared."

Simkins agreed.

"We would rather suffer through some of these situations and look to building a new building rather than put a lot of money into an old facility," he said. "It's only a matter of time before these systems start to fail us one at a time."

Duchess Schools Superintendent John Aland told the group that there are essentially two methods for building a new school: a bond election and paying for the project as the district can afford to. Aland said under the second option it would be at least five years before ground would be broken on a new school.

Wintah Basin Standard 20 Nov 2001 RHC 0193



**PATRIOTIC PERFORMANCE** — Altamont Elementary students sing "The Star Spangled Banner" in both song and sign language at flag-raising program to celebrate Veterans' Day.

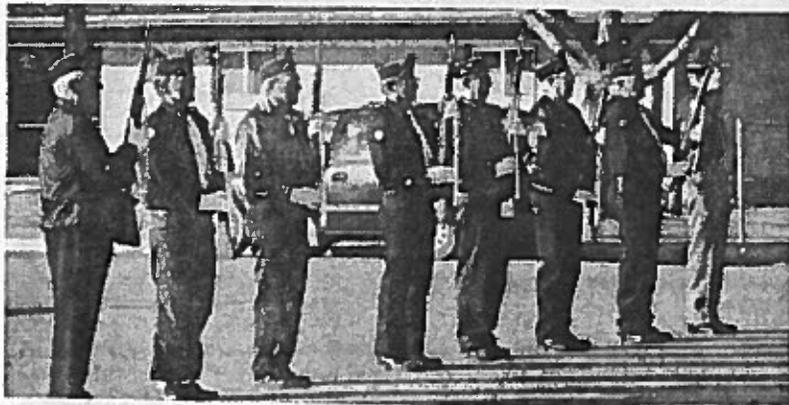
## Patriotism alive and well at Altamont Elementary

Over 125 parents and community patrons joined the students at Altamont Elementary for their Veterans' Day patriotic observance. Firemen, policemen, and other public servants were honored along with the veterans.

The day began with a flag-raising ceremony conducted by the American Legion, directed by Vearl Tucker. Music instructor Brian Gibson played the bugle balls. Led by Paula Jenkins, and outfitted in t-shirts of red, white and blue, the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades performed the National Anthem in both song and sign language. Second grader Derek Faircloth was heard saying to his teacher, Virginia Brotherson, "Teacher, my favorite colors are red, white and blue."

After the crowd moved to the gym, Jenkins and Beth Gardner led the children in more rousing patriotic songs. Members who have served in the U.S. armed forces took their turns standing at attention while the hymns of their service branches were sung. More than a few tears were seen glistening on audience faces during this performance and the projected showing of historic scenes of patriotism done by Miss Carol Snapp.

Principal Larry Henry expressed his appreciation for all who had helped in the stirring presentation. He thanked those who had attended in order to join in the spirit of the day, showing love and appreciation for America and for those who unselfishly serve.



**THREE GUN SALUTE** — Members of the Duchesne post of the VFW give the traditional three gun salute during a special program on Veterans Day. Duchesne students also learned about patriotism and the value of sacrifices made by veterans.

# EDUCATION



Ben Lemmon and Nakell Jim celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday by reading Horton Hatches the Egg.

## Police officer turned educator helps Altamont school kids

Submitted by Edythe Marett  
Altamont Elementary School Librarian

So how does a police officer with 30 years' experience in the state's largest city adjust to teaching small groups of elementary children with special needs?

Ben Lemmon of Bluebell, whose areas of expertise varied from investigating sex crimes to dealing with robberies, assaults, kidnappings, and vehicle theft, made an abrupt change upon becoming a Title I teacher at Altamont Elementary School.

Lemmon's career in law enforcement began after he graduated from

Weber State University with a degree in Criminal Justice. In the mid-70s he worked as a SWAT officer, having received special training in Washington, D.C. For a time he was a teacher at the Utah Police Academy in Salt Lake County, and was also once an instructor at the Fred House Corrections Academy. He served as president of the Utah Peace Officers Association in 1988-89.

As a sideline which went along with his police responsibilities, Lemmon was an investigator for the Office of the State Medical Examiner. He was often called upon to investigate suspicious or unnatural deaths - homicides and accidental deaths.

At the time of his retirement from police work in March 2004, Ben was the director of public safety and chief of police for the University of Utah. He worked closely with famed football coach Urban Meyer.

Coach Meyer presented Ben with an autographed U of U football with all of the names of the football team. Along with the rest of Utah, Ben was delighted when this year's U of U team went 14-0 by winning at the Fiesta Bowl.

Ben always remembered with pleasure his experiences while growing up on a small farm in Salt Lake County. His lovely wife, Sherry, also came from a small-farm background in Ballard. They had a strong desire to have their little girls experience the kind of lives they had as children. The Lemmons were fortunate in finding an available piece of ground in scenic Bluebell where they have since built a new home.

Ben said he has always loved kids, and he has been able to give special help to some of them. He fondly recalled assistance he gave to a 17-year-old who was kicked out of his house by his mother. They boy talked about having a future in police work. He went from a drug and alcohol abuser in 1980 to a position as a police officer in a small town in 1988.

Ben thought of perhaps doing substitute teaching in his new community, but upon talking with Altamont Principal Larry Henry he learned that the Title I teaching position was open at Altamont Elementary.

"There are times when the right person is in the right place for the right task. That's how I feel about having Mr. Lemmon at Altamont Elementary working to improve children's reading and math skills. Lemmon has the ability to positively interact and communicate with students. He enjoys challenging them to succeed and they enjoy and accept the challenge. He has made and continues to make a difference in the lives of students," said Mr. Henry.

## RANCH RODEO

Continued from A1

of rules. This year's event was capped at 80 teams but he said there were another 30 or so teams that were turned away. Next year the event will move to Duchesne and up to 150 teams are expected to enter, Burton said.

A saddle, donated by McCall Saddle Company of Vernal was the grand prize. The top three teams received cash prizes, bits, ropes and reins. Platinum sponsors of the event include McCall Saddle Co., Stone Well Service, Runners LLC, TJ's Tire Pros, Best Fire and Safety, K & K Sanitation, Robinson Dental and M. Esplin LLC.

"Buckaroo events are slow and the free for all events are really run and gun, so I did my best to combine the two and remove the judging," Burton said. "No one can argue with a time clock."

Jake Jensen, from Price, judged the event Saturday. The judge's job is to time the event, make sure the loops are legal and to call any rodear violations.

It requires competitors to understand how to read cattle and showcase their stockmanship, he added. "You have to know what they (cattle) will do and



JOHN THOMPSON

Austin Burton is an organizer and competitor in ranch rodeo competitions. The Altamont Ranch Rodeo is gaining popularity due to its unique rules and fresh stock.

these rules slow the pace. If you're smooth that's what makes you fast."

It's a progressive event so the fastest teams in each round advance. There are three rounds. Burton wants the cattle to act as natural as possible and his first rule is don't rough up the stock.

"With rodeos, people just own stock and rent it out," he said. "But the cattle we use are actually someone's livelihood. It's hard to get cattle that haven't been roped but it's a huge thing for me that the stock is fresh. That's what brings in the competitors."

The best teams are made up of well-rounded cowboys that can do all three jobs efficiently, Burton said.

See B1 FOR MORE LONGHORN DAYS PHOTOS

# Ranch rodeo draws 80 teams to Altamont



JOHN THOMPSON  
jthompson@ubmedia.biz

Austin Burton's horse shifts its feet in the soft sand of the Altamont Rodeo arena, while Burton speaks into a microphone and explains the rules of a unique roping event that is gaining popularity in the region.

About 240 mounted ropers, gathered around the arena are listening intently. Some have traveled from as

far as Winnemucca, Nevada to compete in this timed event where the goal is go as fast as possible but also to be calm and methodical. The event, called the Altamont Rodeo Club Ranch Roping, took place Saturday, July 27.

It's a hybrid or combination of roping competitions where three-man teams must locate and head rope a specific calf within a herd of about 20 other cows and calves. The calf is then pulled away from

the herd and across a barrier known as a rodear, when a second roper comes in and ropes the hind legs. No other cattle can cross the rodear before the roped calf. Then the third competitor dismounts, removes the neck rope and places it on the front legs, then remounts his horse and time is called. It's an event that more closely represents the actual cattle handling work that is done on ranches.

If a roper throws and

misses, he backs away and the next roper moves in. Teams have one minute to head the calf and two minutes and thirty seconds to complete the task. The fastest times are around 50 seconds. The event is open to all ages and there were several youth and female

competitors. Burton said even some "old guys," were there to compete on Saturday.

Burton took what he liked best from buckaroo roping events and free-for-all roping events and created a new set

The Altamont Ranch Rodeo is open to all ages.

See RANCH RODEO on A2

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UBS - July 30, 2019

## Recording contract is prize for Basin singer/composer

Katy Lou Barton has been "on stage" since she was an infant--going with her mother to a speech tournament.

A life of music and performing has paid off for Barton, who was recently named winner of a \$100,000 recording contract for her competitive efforts in the Fowler All-Night Sing Talent Contest conducted in Branson, Mo., and Nashville, Tenn.

Fowler is a respected agency known for scouting talent, particularly the Oak Ridge Boys and over 300 other recognized artists.

The contest began with nearly 3,000 competing for this grand prize, and after progressive performances, tapes and numbers being sung into a telephone, Barton was notified of her \$100,000 grand prize winnings.

The funds she sees going to cover production expenses, backup band, background singers, studio time and promotion of her CD's and tapes, plus a performance video.

"But it's a solid way to get your foot in the door," says the 29-year-old Barton who not only sings a variety of styles, but composes much of her music.

"Angels Look Through my Eyes"

is a piece she wrote using personal experiences. She was approached by a little girl once when she was dining out with friends. The girl said she came up to Barton because she looked so much like the girl's mother who had just died. "You never know who you will effect," says the gifted singer. "God sends angels into your life every day."

She wrote "Riding the Wind", a story about a young man drafted into war who doesn't return home, after talking with mothers with sons in harms way.

She remembers singing "Candy Kisses" on the radio for Fred Brown when she was five.

"I've just been raised on the stage doing lights, sound and performing," says this energetic woman.

Before her involvement with the Fowler talent search competition, she filled the part of Aunt Eller in the Outlaw Trail Festival production of "OKLAHOMA!".

Katy Lou is the daughter of Donna and Jack Barton of Altamont. Her mother is now a retired speech, drama and forensics coach from Altamont High School, and holds a long-running record of state titles to her professional credit.



Katy Lou Barton

Barton says many in her family are performers.

Katy Lou began voice lessons about 12, and her mother took her to Salt Lake City for lessons. She also studied with Pat Stringham. Her music career began in classical training because she wanted to perform on Broadway. At about age 22 she shifted to more gospel oriented music.

# Miles is Altamont's Legendary Cowboy

Submitted by Jennifer Rook

Ron Miles of Bluebell – Altamont Longhorn Days' Legendary Cowboy for 2009 – is a country boy through and through.

Never one to hold down a 9-to-5 office job, Miles has farmed and ranched in the Bluebell and Mt. Emmons area his entire life. He's also spent countless hours chasing cows, riding horses, and relaxing in the High Uinta mountains and can't imagine life being any other way.

Miles was born in Mt. Emmons 70 years ago in his grandparents' home to Fay and Alice Crosby Miles. He got an early start at the farming and ranching lifestyle and even rode his horse, Polly, to school every day through the sixth grade. He took over the irrigating with a shovel when he was 12 or 13 and worked hard, changing water twice a day.

Miles always helped put up hay as well, working with a horse team, a bull rake and a stacker, and a dump rake to get the job done.

In 1959, he married Carolyn Goodrich right after she graduated from high school. The couple bought their first 160 acres in 1964 and began their own farming and ranching operation. Carolyn Miles said her husband has always worked odd jobs in order to pull them through.

Miles worked shearing sheep. He was also a packer for the U.S. Forest Service, drove a school bus, milked cows, and worked for other ranchers. One particularly fun job he enjoyed was being a wrangler for a pack and guide service for fishermen out of U-Bar Ranch.

The Miles purchased another 160 acres in 1973 and increased the size of their operation.

Miles said he's always had beef cattle and a dairy.

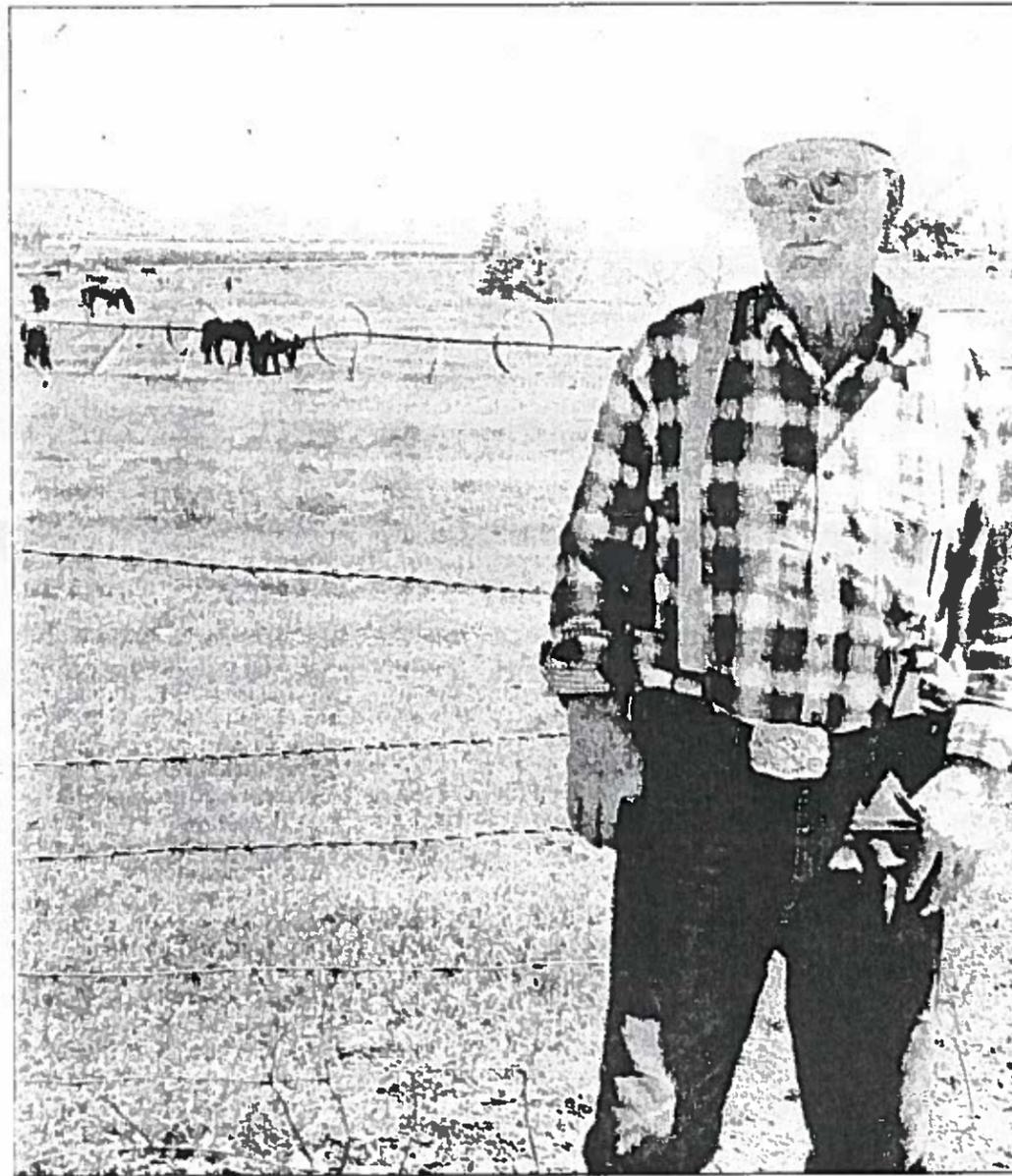
"I milked cows for 30 years and even had sheep for quite a while," he said. "I've run cattle on Rock Creek for over 35 years now, too."

The Miles have seven children: Jon E., Darla (Harris), Curtis, Daryl, Rhonda (Ayla), Donald, and Greg, all of whom have their father's love for the land and the community they hail from. They all view their father as a legendary cowboy as well.

Donald Miles sums up his feelings about his father best when he says, "I hope someday to be half the man that dad is. Those are some pretty big shoes to fill. I have always said that I can break a horse to a certain point, but it is not until Dad climbs on it and puts a few miles on it that it is actually broke."

*Jennifer Rook is the advertising representative and a contributing writer for The Edge Magazine.*

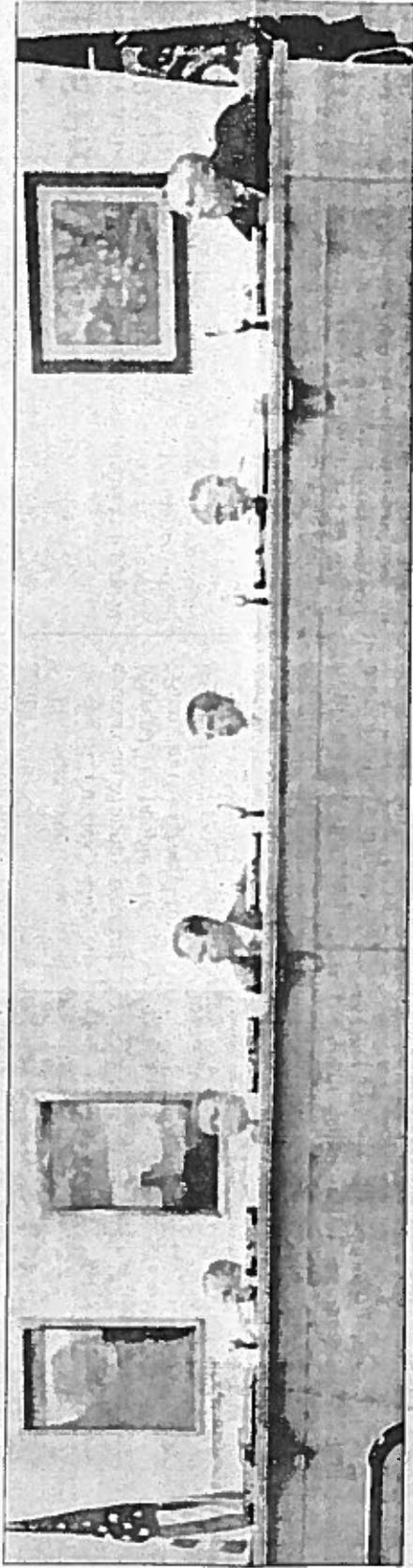
Page A-10 - UINTAH BASIN STANDARD, July 21, 2009



Bluebell resident Ron Miles has been named the Legendary Cowboy for Altamont Longhorn Days 2009.

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# School Board addresses concerns



Members of the Duchesne County School Board addressed issues at Altamont Elementary and Thompsen school.

## Altamont Elementary to pilot standards-based grading

By: LEENICHOLE MARETT  
[lwmarrett@gmail.com](mailto:lwmarrett@gmail.com)

ALTAMONT - Beginning in Spring 2014, Altamont Elementary will pilot a new Standards-Based Grading program—the first of its kind in Duchesne County.

Standards-based grading is a system of reporting proficiency of students in a number of specific learning goals, or standards.

A traditional grading system gives students a series of scores on assignments and tests that measure multiple skills, and then averages those scores to produce a final grade. While this final grade may indicate performance in class, it provides no clear picture of what a student has learned.

A standards-based grading system, on the other hand, focuses on the understanding of

individual concepts by each student. It provides a much clearer picture of what the student has learned and has yet to master.

For example, Timmy may be a C+ mathematics student under a traditional grading system.

However, that grade tells us very little about what Timmy actually understands. Under a standards-based grading system, we could see that Timmy is grade-level proficient in multiplication and

division, but is not proficient in fractions. This provides a much clearer picture of Timmy's education, and allows teachers to focus their attention on specific students and subjects that need more review.

Jason Young, the principal of Duchesne Elementary School, stated that the switch to standards-based grading will require

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# ALTAMONT

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a major shift in the mental approach to a reporting system.

"It will be a whole new experience for teachers," Young said. "And even more so for parents. They'll have to learn how to read their kids' report cards again."

Those involved in the pilot program know that there will be struggles, but have plans in place to overcome them.

"We'll have lots of professional development trainings for the staff," Young reported to the school board. "We'll make sure they're prepared. And in the end, we really believe that this will be good for the whole district." Young also talked about

the importance of public awareness. It will be important to educate the public, especially the parents. Altamont Elementary plans to provide training sessions for parents to teach them about the goals of the program and how to understand the reports they'll receive on their students.

"We will need patience," Young reminded those present at the school board meeting. "This program is not just new in terms of content. It requires a new mentality. This is changing the way we approach education."

Despite the challenges, Young is confident that it will be worth it.

"It will take some getting used to," he said, "but I'm confident that it will be great."

By ViAnn Prestwich  
Utah Basin Standard

Sandra Swasey waved goodbye to her fourth grade students on the last day of school in May, tidied her classroom for summer break, and prepared for surgery.

Her memories from that day—and the three months that followed—are gone.

However Swasey's students, hundreds of whom she has taught over two decades, remember her and are making sure that when the Altamont woman finally returns to her home it will be properly outfitted for what is sure to be an extensive recovery.

During homecoming week last month, students at Altamont High School and Altamont Elementary School participated in a walk-a-thon, a calling blitz to sell cinnamon rolls, and a health fair as part of a fundraising effort for Swasey. They raised significantly more than the \$10,000 goal set by the events' organizers, though they won't say how much more just yet.

The fundraiser was initiated by the leadership of Altamont High's Family, Career and Community Leaders of America chapter, but the true beginning was years ago when Swasey and her husband, Doug, became an integral part of the community.

He owns Swasey's, the grocery store in Altamont. She taught school.

"At one time or another almost every student here has been taught by her," said Altamont High Principal John Hritt, explaining one of the reasons students felt connected to the woman who is still being fed through a tube.

"That store has donated to the schools for every graduation, Easter egg hunt, and bike race," said Altamont teacher and FCCIA adviser Carrie Fausett, referring to Swasey's.

"The fact is they have served our community so well, people wanted to pay it forward," Fausett said. "This is our chance to honor them in difficult times."

For Swasey, the difficulty started when doctors discovered a cerebral arteriovenous malformation or CAM in her brain. The abnormal connection between the arteries and veins usually forms before birth.

According to Stephanie Mecham, one of the Swaseys' twin daughters, her 69-year-old mother needed surgery to remove the mass. The procedure seemed successful until medical personnel noticed one of Swasey's eyes was dilated. The mass had produced

# Service for Sandra



Altamont High School students Shonia Mckinnon, Kyla Sorensen, Avereé Oman, Lacy Murray, and Dayna Sorensen, pictured left to right, organized a fundraiser during homecoming week to generate money for Doug and Sandra Swasey. The money, more than \$10,000, will help the couple modify their home so Sandra Swasey can get around when she is released from a rehabilitation facility.

## Altamont students raise funds to help

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excessive pressure in her brain and burst. She was immediately taken back into surgery.

For the next 10 weeks she lay in a coma.

"At one point they told us that there was little or no chance that she would wake up," Doug Swasey said.

Swasey has since awakened and is communicating, her husband said, although she can't remember the last day of school or going to the hospital for surgery.

"Her left arm and right leg are starting to work a little," Doug Swasey said. "We are hopeful that things will continue to progress."

"She is improving a little every day," said the Swasey's other twin daughter, Tiffanie Brown.

Brown lives in Saratoga Springs, close to the hospitals where her mother has been staying.

"I've been overwhelmed with the things we are going to have to alter at her home — if we ever get her home," Brown said.

Students in Altamont expect their former teacher to return home and the family expects to use the money that has been raised to make the modifications to the Swaseys' house.

FCCLA Co-President Averece Oman explained that the group was meeting to discuss options for a club service project when they all agreed that they would like to raise money to help and "honor" the Swaseys.

After hours of followup meetings, phone calls, and planning, Oman and fellow co-president Koyia Sorensen and their committee packed the week of homecoming with activities that would raise money and teach students how to care for their own health.

"They were awesome," Huitt said of the students who organized the events. "They worked so incredibly hard, and then all the kids came together to help."

Lori Oman, a science teacher at Altamont High School and a first cousin of Sandra Swasey's, spoke at an assembly to tell the students exactly what had happened to their friend and former teacher. Using a video she had taken of Swasey during a recent visit, Oman explained the feeding tube, and the new sidewalks and ramps that would be required at the Swasey home.

"It was hard to watch the video," said Altamont Elementary Principal Janalee Goodrich. "It was especially hard on those students who had her last year. The kids really wanted to do something to help. As we were walking out of the auditorium one of the little boys said, 'I'm going to walk my butt off.'"

Goodrich laughed.

"He didn't really understand the concept of our walk-a-thon, but he

# Long-time teacher

was willing to walk hard to help his teacher," she said.

Students collected pledges and then the elementary students walked a mile around the park in Altamont on the Monday that kicked off homecoming week. Davis-Jubilee in Vernal donated Otter Pops for the event and Northeastern Counseling Center representatives used a launcher to shoot T-shirts to the students.

In the afternoon the high school students walked a three-mile loop. Two days later, the high school's administration actually encouraged students to bring cell phones to class. During the 15 minutes typically devoted to reading, the students called everyone they could in an effort to sell cinnamon rolls.

"The orders came pouring in," Averece Oman said. "As soon as they would tell the person on the other end what the money went toward we'd get an order."

Students at Altamont High School, left, work the phones to sell cinnamon rolls as part of a fundraiser for Doug and Sandra Swasey. Altamont Elementary students, below, participate in the walk-a-thon fundraiser.

According to Fausett, 1,250 dozen cinnamon rolls were sold. "People were very generous," Oman said. "Some people would buy two dozen rolls and then give us a \$100 bill."

Much effort also went into organizing the health fair held on Thursday. School leaders had decided that Swasey would approve of expanding the services project and making it a "service learning project." After hours of planning, phone calls and coordination the girls from FLCCA arranged for seven booths to educate both elementary and high-schoolers.

Flu shots were given and information on dental hygiene, STDs, physical fitness, nutrition and organ donation was disseminated.

"I was so surprised," Oman said. "Seeing how much respect the students had for the presenters amazed me. It's not easy to get high school students to participate in anything."

Altamont senior Shelby Thayne was glad to participate in the event planned around helping his former teacher.

"All I did was sell cinnamon rolls," Thayne said. "But that was good. She was a good teacher. You had to do what she said, but she made it fun, too."

"When something happens like this to a member of the community, they are sorely missed, especially someone like the Swaseys," Thayne added. "I remember a few times when my family was struggling, (the Swaseys) would always ask how we were doing; always there to encourage."

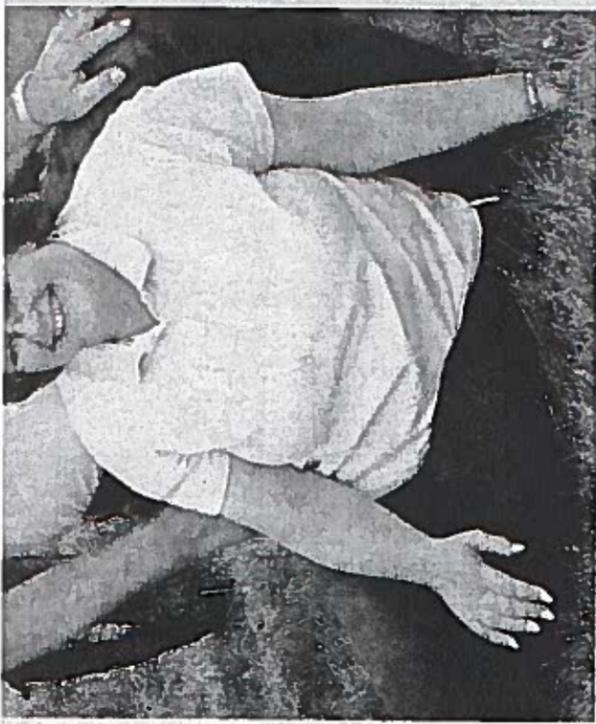
Doug Swasey was uncharacteristically meek as he spoke about the money raised by the children and teens in the community he's proud to call home.

"It's pretty humbling," he said. "It's hard for me and her to be in the spotlight. It's hard for us to be on the receiving end."

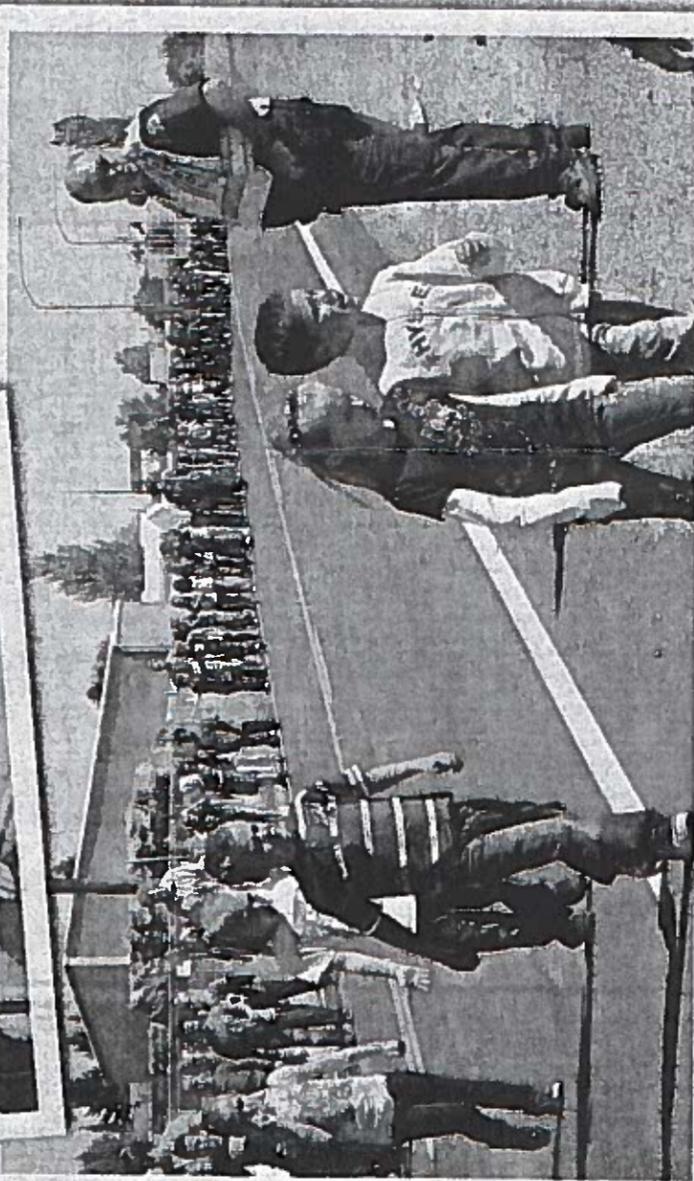
He has been on the receiving end before. Nearly three years ago he received a heart transplant from an anonymous donor.

"I am alive today because of what I've received. Somebody gave me a heart," Swasey said quietly, "I guess so I could go on and take care of Sandra."

Donations for the Swaseys are still being accepted at Altamont High School. The students will reveal how much money they've raised when they present it to the Swasey family next week.



Doug and Sandra Swasey have a history of helping others in the community. Now the community has chosen to return the favor.



# Sorensen and Winn named Longhorn Days Grand Marshals

SUBMITTED BY  
NAOMI BIRD

Kristi Sorensen and Marilyn Winn have been chosen to be the Grand Marshals of the Altamont Longhorn Days Celebration or 2016 for their many years of service in overseeing and organizing Longhorn Days.

They directly oversaw the entire event for 11 consecutive years together, but their service extends prior to that in many other ways associated with Longhorn Days.

During their term of service, the generous donations from members of the community and local businesses allowed improvements to take place. Some of the amazing things that their hard work helped the community acquire included upgraded portable sound equipment, permanent outdoor speakers down Altamont Main Street, state-of-the-art firework trailers, and double the amount of funds to make the Rudy Monson fireworks show a Uintah Basin favorite. One of their favorites was the high quality amphitheater

inspired by the late great Mayor Chip Allred.

Perhaps the most amazing thing to come from their service is their friendship. Prior to Longhorn Days they were friends, but after spending the equivalent of a prison sentence together they are now inseparable. Their children have had the opportunity to grow up together and travel to many places together as well. Their friendship has been extraordinary. It's the type of friendship we all desire, but are lucky to ever find.

It's the type of friendship that grows so deep from putting everyone around you first, from serving your community and trying to give as much back and pay as much forward as possible. If we can all learn to serve those around us and open our hearts to serve, maybe we will all be blessed with something as wonderful as the bond Kristi and Marilyn share.

On their last year overseeing the Longhorn Days celebration, they decided to go out in style at the Saturday parade, dressed up as Thing 1 and Thing 2 from Doctor Seuss following the



Kristi Sorensen and Marilyn Winn have been named Grand Marshals of Longhorn Days 2016.

parade as poopier scoopers. When asked why they put countless hours into Longhorn Days, their reply was, "It's all about bringing family back home, giving graduating classes a

place to reunite. It brings the community together as one. It was important for us to carry on the tradition that some really great ladies began years ago with a potluck dinner and rodeo.

We just hope that this celebration continues for many years to come."

Marilyn Winn is married to Frank Winn. They live in Boneta, Utah, where they raised three boys, Cole

(stevey), Clansy (Cassie) and Braxton (Jaime), and one daughter, Hailey. They now have six grandchildren with two more on the way. Kristi Sorensen is married to Billy Sorensen.

# STATE MAT CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM



PHOTO: LEE SA STANSFIELD

Altamont High School won its fourth straight 1A state wrestling title. AHS had four individual state crowns. Altamont posted 181 points and Monticello was second at 162. Wayne was third and Rich fourth. Duchesne placed fifth.

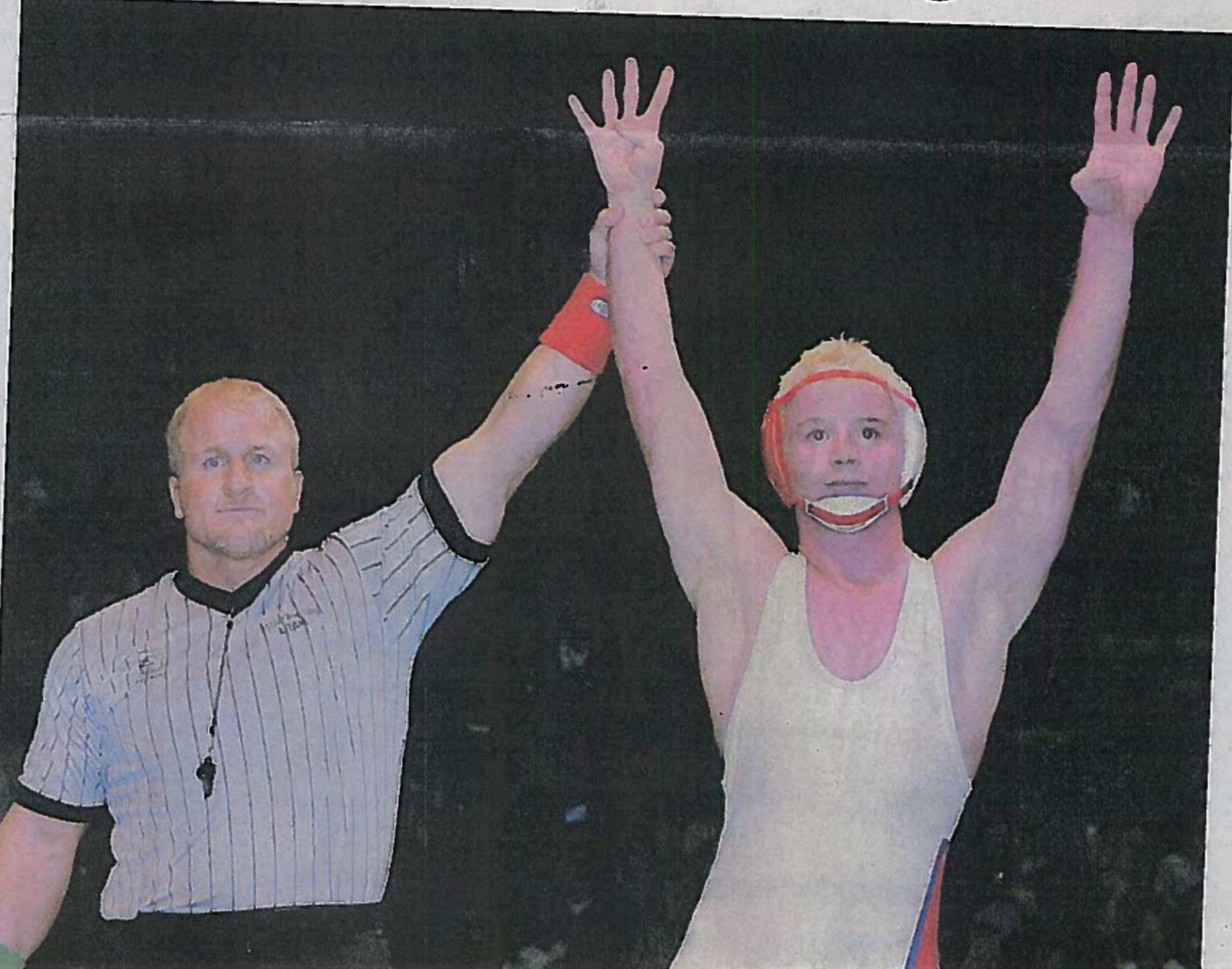
# AHS dominates 1A wrestling meet

By ALDON RACHELE  
Uintah Basin Standard

Altamont won its fourth straight 1A state wrestling championship and an easy time getting the job done as the Longhorns posted 181 points to second place Monticello at 162 on Saturday in the mat meet. AHS has won seven state meet team titles. Cory Foy was named Coach of the Year.

Wayne was third at 103 and Rich at fourth at 87. The Longhorns have won seven state titles. Second - 138 - Brady Smith. Also were: Second - 138 - Mike Thompson, 145 - Mike Thompson; Third - Denver Knight, 285 - John Melo.

Cory Foy reached his fourth title just like older brother Bryson when he beat Joshua Rose of Diamond Valley in only 35 seconds at 170 pounds. "I had to win to become a state champ. I pinned him down on a single leg. I then cradled him and pinned him. I circled to the mat and drug him back on his single leg. I rolled to the cradle," Kyle



...to his match he... his younger brother... Foy beat Tommy... of Diamond Ranch... the 160 pound... which was Rylee's

# STATE CHAMPS

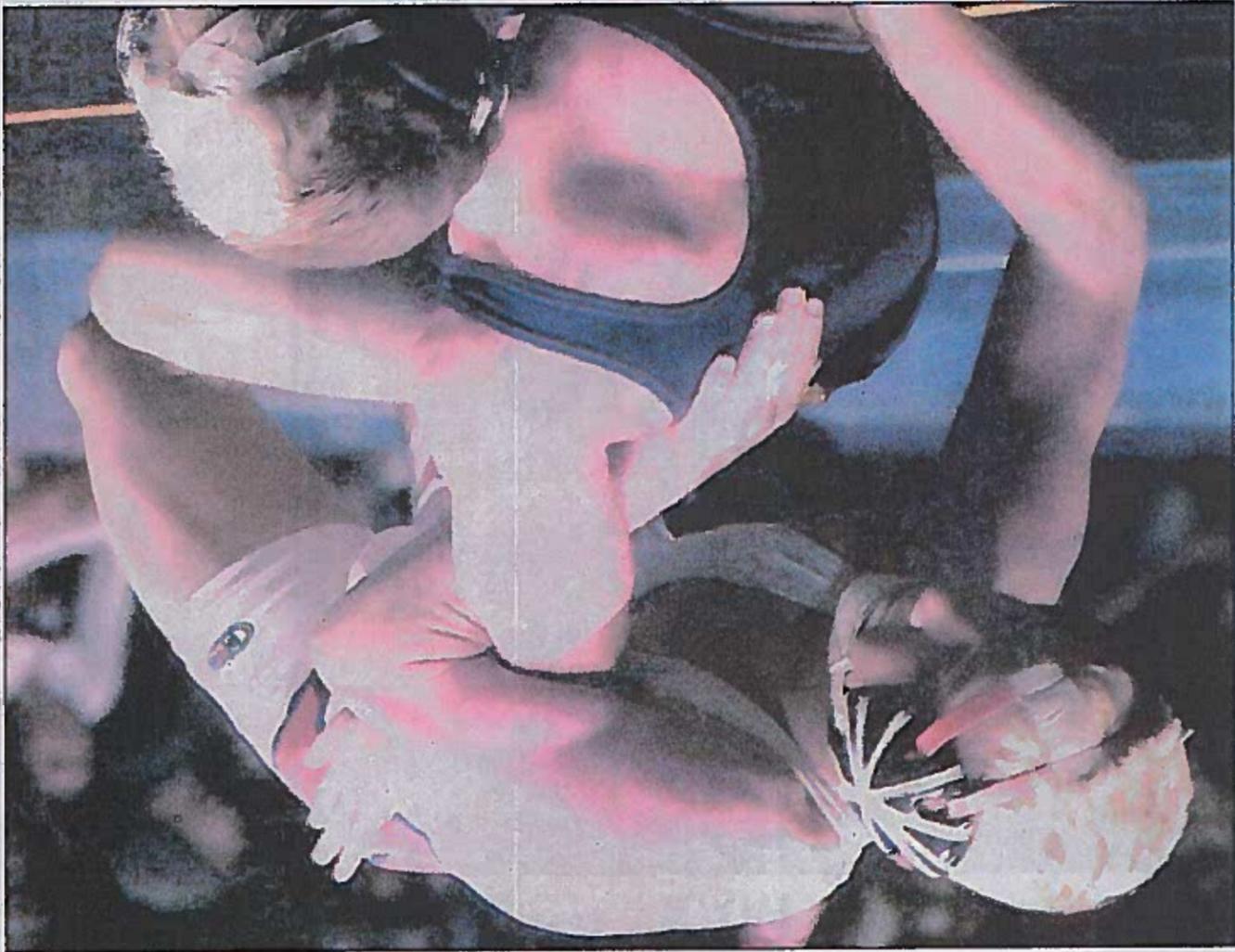


PHOTO: LEESA STANGFIELD  
Brady Farnworth of Altamont High School puts the pressure on his opponent for near fall points. Farnworth won the 113-pound match on a pin in 1:22.



PHOTO: LEESA STANGFIELD  
Duchesne's Lane Coll battles a wrestler from Milford - Jade Holm. Coll beat Holm for the 106 pound title 10-4.

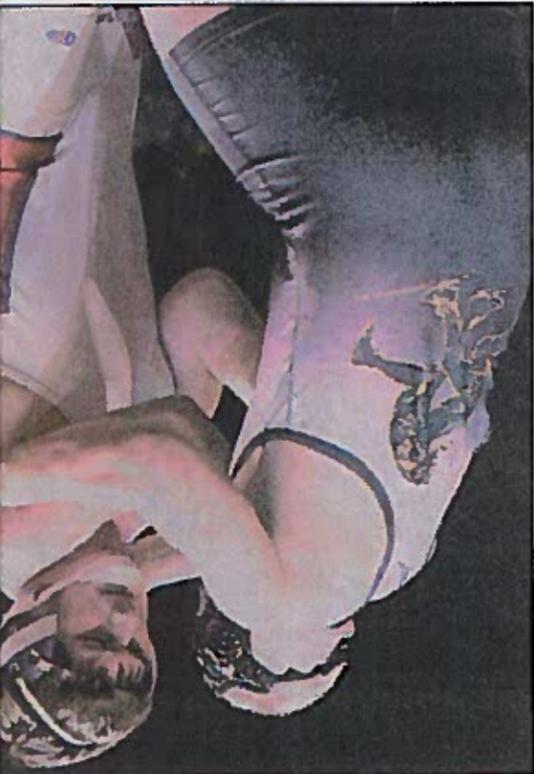


PHOTO: LEESA  
AHS' Cassidy Smith (right) is ready to drop Jare Wayne down to mat. Smith won the 220 pound title.

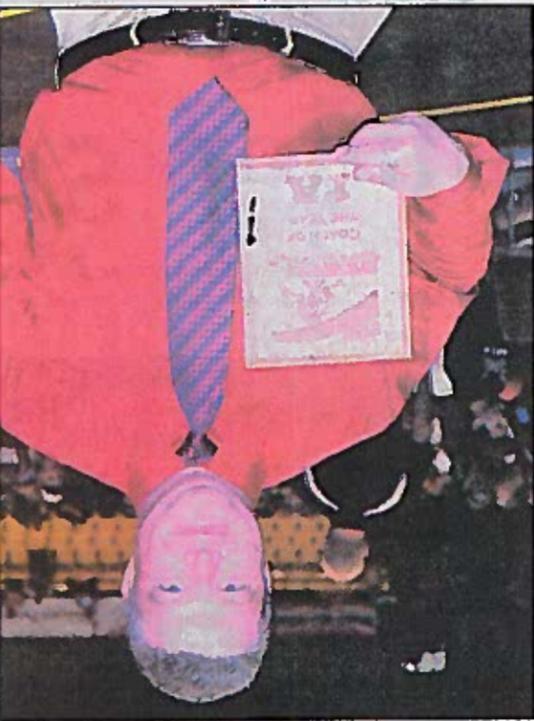
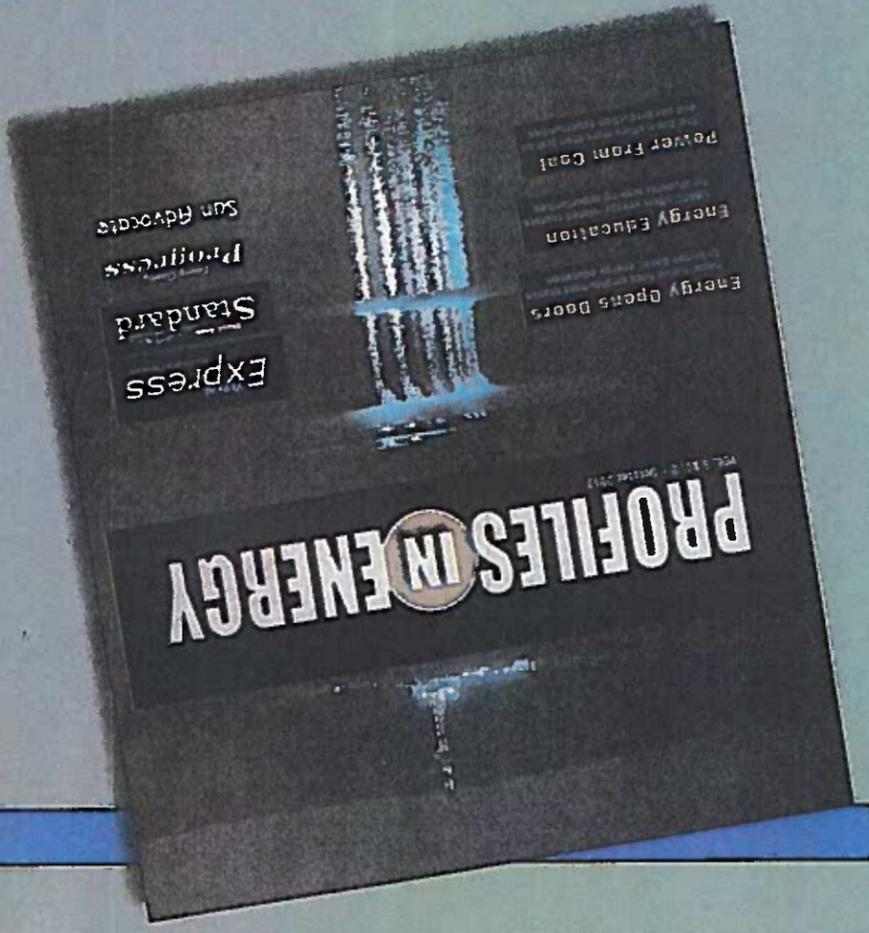


PHOTO: LEESA  
Altamont's Cory Allied was named the 1A Coach of the Year. His Longhorns won their fourth straight state championship.



# SPRING 2013 Profiles IN ENERGY IS COMING SOON! COVERING UTAH, and DUCHESNE counties

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team championship and had an easy time getting the job done as the Longhorns posted 181 points to beat second place Monticello at 162 on Saturday in Orem. AHS has won seven state meet team titles. Cory Allred was named Coach of the Year.

Wayne was third at 114.5 and Rich at fourth with 103 counters. Duchesne placed fifth at 87.

The Longhorns have four champs at 113 - Brady Farnsworth, 160 - Rylee Foy, 170 - Kyle Foy, and 220 - Cassidy Smith. Also placing were: Second - 138 - Blake Thompson, 145 - Derrik Thompson; Third - 195 - Denver Knight, 285 - Stephon Melo.

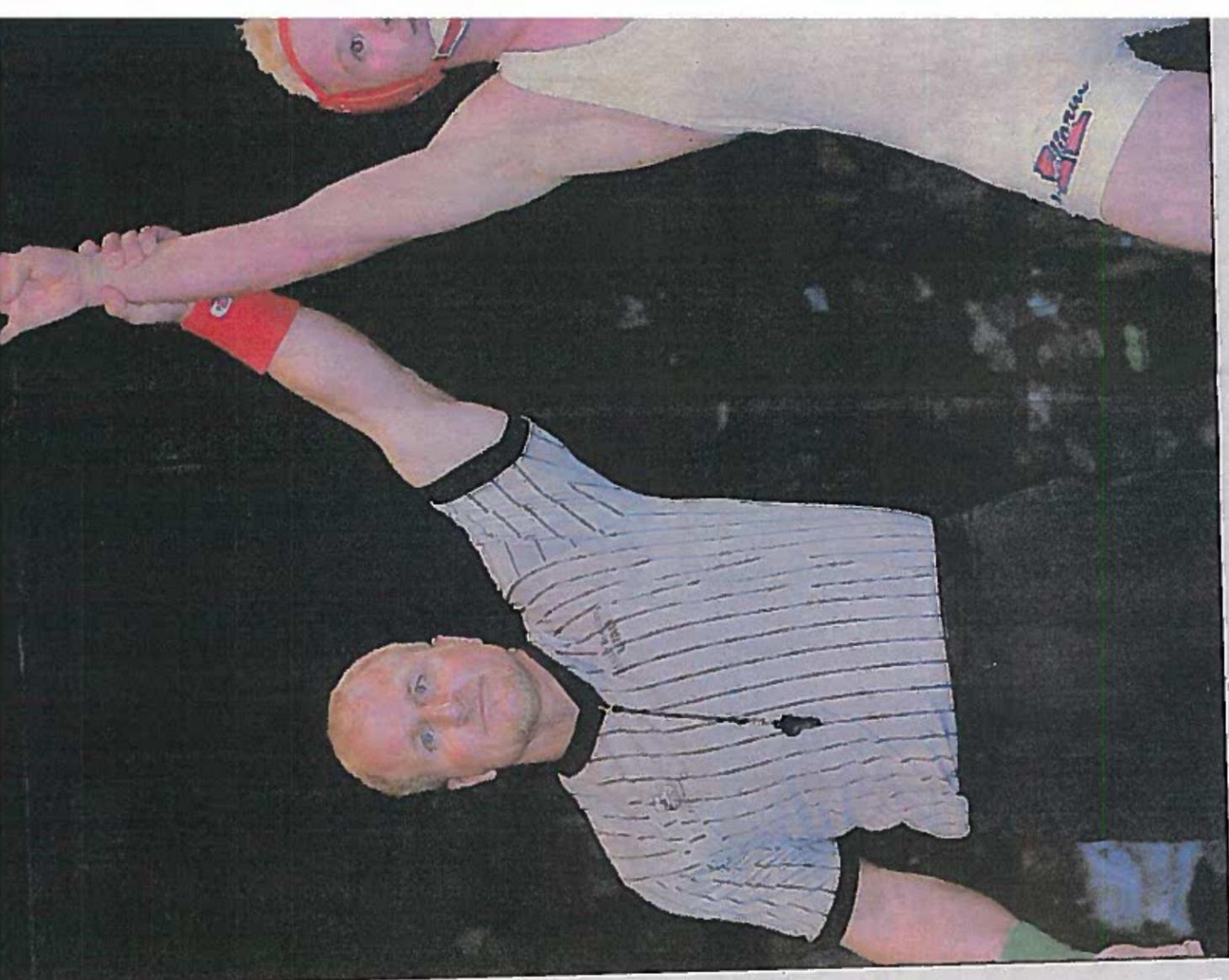
Kyle Foy reached his goal of winning a fourth state title just like older brother Bryson when he pinned Joshua Rose of Bryce Valley in only 35 seconds at 170 pounds.

"I had to win to become a four-time state champ. I took him down on a single leg and then cradled him for the pin. I circled to the right and drug him back for the single leg. I rolled him into the cradle," Kyle said.

Prior to his match he watched his younger brother Rylee Foy beat Tommy Calkin of Diamond Ranch 3-0 for the 160 pound crown, which was Rylee's second state title.

"Rylee's title match was before my bout. Watching him makes me nervous, but gets me pumped up for my matches (his championship match lasted only 35 seconds). Rylee took the kid for a takedown in the first round and then stood up for an escape in the third," said K. Foy.

Ever since Kyle was a small child he wanted to be a four-time state champion. Winning a state team title, a fourth state championship and watching his younger brother take state was a dream come true. Now it is his brother Rylee's turn to continue the four-time state championship Foy family tradition.



The referee waves Kyle Foy's hand in the air as a four-time state champion from Altamont High School. He

Milford, 1 pound state champion won on a 7-2 victory over Clark of Jackson. Just beat Just cello, 9-6 nipped A in third place.

Rich, in 38 seconds and Melo pinned Shawn Carter, Whitehorse, to place third.

106 - Lane Coil and 152 - Christian Mahan of Duchesne nabbed state titles. Also placing for DHS were: Third - 113 - Hayden Ivie, 126 - Jesse Montague; Fourth - 120 - Braiden Clayburn.

Coil toppled Jade Holm, Altamont.

winners) with Farnsworth beating Tanner Jeffery, Wayne, on a pin in 1:22 and Smith defeating Jared Alvey, Wayne, on a pin in seven minutes.

Dyson Barker, Rich, beat B. Thompson 6-2 for the 138 pound title and Cole Eldredge, Monticello, downed D. Thompson for the 145 pound crown.

Knigh pinned Mason Huffaker, Rich, in 38 seconds and Melo pinned Shawn Carter, Whitehorse, to place third.

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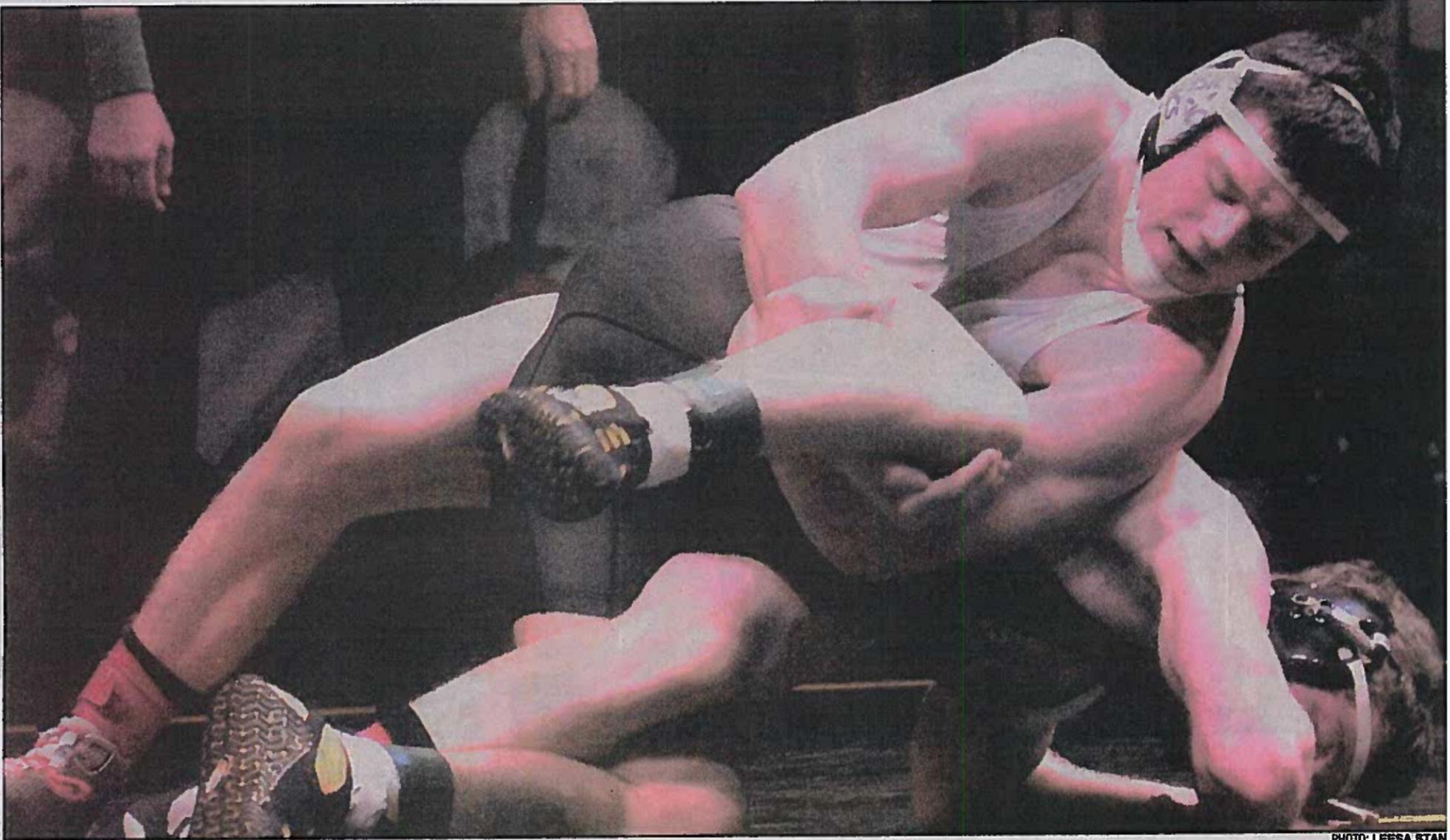


PHOTO: LEESSA STANFIELD

Altamont's Rylee Foy has a matman in a bad spot on the mat in the 160 pound title match at the 1A state meet. His brothers Bryson and Kyle are four-time state champions at AHS.



PHOTO: LEESSA STANFIELD

The Foy Family are a happy bunch with Kyle and Rylee Foy winning state championships. Parents are Mike and Amanda Foy. One son McKay was a junior high state champ this year.

### CHAMPS

Continued from B1

son Payne, Milford and Adam Platt, Bryce Valley; 145 - Derrik Thompson bye and wins over Jacob Fawson, Panguitch and Tyson Chilly, Whitehorse; 160 - Rylee Foy bye and wins over Gus Torgersen, Escalante, and Trenton Pearson, Milford; 170 - Kyle Foy bye and wins over Hunter Owens, Panguitch and Kaleb Litster.

182 - Cody Mitchell bye and wins over Donnie Corwin, Panguitch and Isak Pei, Wayne; 195 - Denver Knight bye, beat Rich Bushyhead, Whitehorse; lost to Rowdy Josie, Panguitch; 220 - Cassidy Smith bye, wins over Brandon Lansing, Whitehorse; PJ Leitauna, Monticello; 285 - Stephon Melo bye, beat Hayden Wells, Wayne and lost to Kade Earley, Rich.

Duchesne: 106 - Lane Coil bye and wins over Andrew Baird, Monticello; Jaden Elliott, Wayne; 113 - Hayden Ivie bye, win over Kahl Bradburn, Wayne

Hunter Bowring, Monticello; 152 - Christian Mahan bye, and wins over Levi Holm and Garrett Wolfley, Panguitch.

After the first day

Altamont was first at 132, Monticello second at 113, Wayne third at 68.5, Rich fourth at 60 and Duchesne fifth at 46.

## Ute Crossing Trading Post

Store Hours: Monday-Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Saturday 11 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Silver Jewelry Sale!!!!

30% off on select Native American Silver Jewelry!!



- Beadwork
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- Pottery
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- Books/CDs
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Also in our inventory-Customized T-shirts and

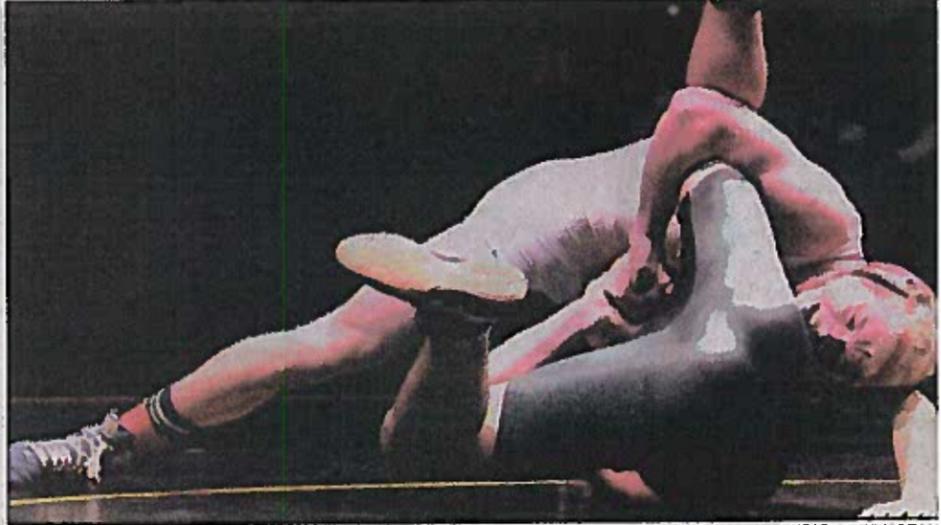


PHOTO: LEESSA STANFIELD

Kyle Foy's opponent has his leg up in the air on his way to getting pinned in the 170 lb match. Foy from Altamont won his fourth state crown.

Utah State University Uintah Basin invites you to attend a

## Church Musician Workshop

for Organists, Choir Directors and Music Leaders  
Presented by faculty of Utah State University Music Department

For Organists...

*Essentials of Hymn Playing* Presented by Lynn Thomas  
director of organ studies

The organist's role in creating a worshipful environment

- Reverent preludes make reverent meetings
- Tips for effective preludes
- What the congregation needs from an organist
- Ideas for engaging hymn playing
- Postlude

For Music Directors...

*Essentials of Hymn Production* Presented by



# Teens are right on track with decision to become EMTs

By Sheena M. Forster

While other boys have been playing basketball and are off snow boarding, four Altamont High seniors have been spending two nights a week and a lot of time hitting the books since enrolling in an EMT course together.

While it's not unusual for teens to take the course, what is a bit out of the ordinary is that the four friends, who have known their entire lives, decided sign up together at a time when things could have easily gone the other way.

Cole Winn, Jace Jenkins, Weston Goodrich, and Shane Lamb grew up together enjoying just about every type of sport and "jamming" together in a band. They also sport top grades, with Weston and Shane both on the honor roll, and Jace and Cole not far behind with high grade point averages.

Weston and Shane played basketball for Altamont throughout their high school years, however, as seniors when they didn't make the team and they found themselves with a lot of free time and made the decision to use their time productively by enrolling in the EMT course.

Cole became interested in the class after a fellow wrestler got his arm dislocated in a match and decided that he wanted to be able to help people and be able to make people better.

"I think it's a positive direction and something they can use for the rest of their lives. After the kids that were cut from the basket ball team they could have taken a bad road, instead they choose an experience that could change their lives forever," related Shane's mother, Sandy Lamb.

Sandy, who is an EMT and nurse at the Uintah Basin Medical Center, introduced the four to the idea, of taking the 120-hour EMT course which runs for 15 weeks from January through April. A grant sponsored by the EMS service helped make the class affordable.

When classes started Jace, Cole and Shane — all members of Altamont's wrestling team — worked hard at wrestling practice every night, then would come home and tackle any homework they had and study their EMT assignments. They were none worse for wear, Jace placed first and Cole was second at the state 2-A wrestling tournament.

Weston had things a bit easier, while his buddies were busy at wrestling practice, he relaxed by playing computer games. However, he didn't get out of his school and EMT work.

Each Monday and Thursday the four pile into the Goodrich's Suburban and drive to the hospital in Roosevelt to attend their evening EMT classes.

"Weston has not missed one class, and the others have missed just one for state wrestling, Jace took first and Cole took second," said Weston's mom, Joan Goodrich.

Already CPR certified, all four are doing well in their EMT classes, and enjoying their new learning experience which they hope will help them get jobs this summer as fire fighters and EMTs for the Forest Service.

"We're going so we can save people, we thought it would be a great career choice," informed Weston.

"Weston really likes being prepared in anything that might come up," said Joan. "I think that this will take Weston further in life than the sports. It's a real challenge, there are so many things they have to learn and remember."

"EMTs provide pre-hospital emer-

gency care and ambulance operations. They learn how to package patients that have been in accidents, how to defibrillate, they assess patients, they treat injuries and basic EMTs can assist patients with some medications," informed EMT Course Coordinator Roger Burton.

EMT students are allowed on ambulance runs, but cannot give any

"I think it's a positive direction and something they can use for the rest of their lives"

care to patients until they receive their licence from the state. The classes can also count for college credits through USU, Weber State, and the University of Utah, said Burton.

The EMT classes at the hospital are held in a classroom filled with an assortment of people, mostly adults. Some are there because they want to know what to do in an emergency for their family, others who want to volunteer on ambulance runs, and still others are on their way to a career in medicine.

"There is even one man doing it for his job for a youth group in Neola," Roger noted. The students are required to be 18 before the class ends and they take their tests for certification.

"I like the class," Weston related. Jace also said that he thought the class and experience was great.

Cole is planning on going to college and perhaps into a career in health care. "I want to get done with the basic required classes and decide what I want to do next."



UINTAH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
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25 Feb 2003  
Winn Basin Standard

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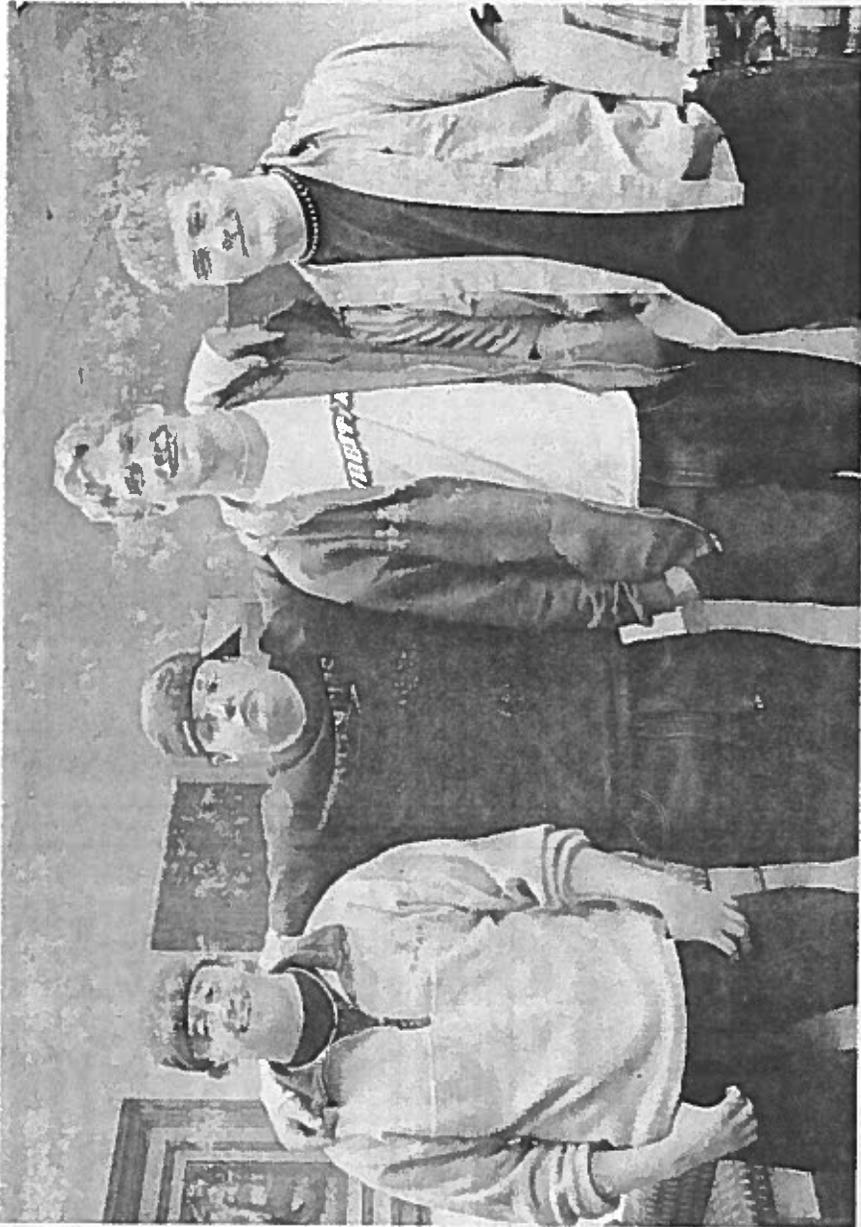
"I like the class," Weston related. Jace also said that he thought the class and experience was great.

Cole is planning on going to college and perhaps into a career in health care. "I want to get done with the basic required classes and decide whether I want to go into the medical field."

Soon the boys will be graduating from high school with open plans for college, and for Weston, a mission. Their options are so open that they could even be rock stars if they wanted, joked Shane. "Rock stars, we're all going to be rock stars."

"EMT rock stars, so when someone gets trampled we'll be able to save them," Cole added.

If a career in medicine doesn't work out, they will always have their music to fall back on. The boys have a band that plays in the basement at Shane's house. Weston plays the drums, Cole is on the lead guitar, Shane plays the base guitar, and Jace accompanies on guitar and drums. Don't worry though, it's not all hard work. They also enjoy snow boarding and "paint balling" in their free time.



HELP ANOTHER TO HELP YOURSELF — Four Altamont High seniors who felt they could change the paths of their lives by becoming EMTs and learn how to save lives. Pictured left to right are Weston Goodrich, Shane Lamb, Jace Jenkins, and Cole Winn.

## CREDITS OTHERS FOR HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

# Tenacious teen is a living lesson in determination

By Therena Morrill

When 16-year-old Jedediah Curry sets his mind to do something, he does it in spite of what might get in his way. He has spent thousands of hours accomplishing a goal he set for himself at age eight...to earn every merit badge the Boy Scouts of America offers.

Jed completed the requirements for his 123rd merit badge last week. Ironically that last merit badge was the first one he started, more than five years ago.

From the very first merit badge he completed, which was Family Life, to the very last one, Radio, Jed has kept plugging away, adding the badges one by one to his merit badge sash.

"I've literally spent thousands of hours doing this," Jed said.

The Boy Scouts of America's merit badge program provides a mechanism for young men ages 11 to 18 to learn about a variety of topics, from Photography to Genealogy, from Sail Boating to Bugling. Jed's favorite merit badge was Water Skiing. His mother, Penny Curry, said he loved doing all of the merit badges that had anything to do with water. His least favorite was Citizenship In the World.

To earn all 123 merit badges is a very rare accomplishment. Kay Godfrey, a long time executive in the Great Salt Lake Council of the Boy Scouts of America, said that he has been involved in Scouting for 25 years, and has only known of two other young men who have earned them all.

For Jed, it is an even more amazing feat because he battles cystic fibrosis and diabetes.

Jed has fought against the effects of cystic fibrosis since birth, but despite the challenges he faces, Jed has tried to live a normal life. He keeps up with his schoolwork, even when he is unable to attend school, and he is involved in extracurricular activities.

To earn all 123 merit badges is a very rare accomplishment... for Jed, it is an even more amazing feat because he battles cystic fibrosis and diabetes.

Next month you can see him play the role of Young Ebenezer Scrooge in Altamont High's production of "Bah Humbug." Jed also has a job after school and on Saturdays working construction and farming jobs for his grandfather. For the past few summers he worked as a lifeguard and swimming instructor at the Roosevelt Pool. This spring he plans to play baseball for his high school team.

When school starts in the fall, he can be seen running cross country with other teammates.

The three and a half mile race is something he had to work up to.

"When I first started trying to run, I could only run two laps (a half mile)," said Jed. "When I got to where I could sprint that distance, I went to three laps, and I just kept going like that."

Last year as a sophomore, Jed finished nineteenth in state competition. He had improved from his state ranking of 49th as a freshman. Jed says this improvement is because of his parents, who helped him train.

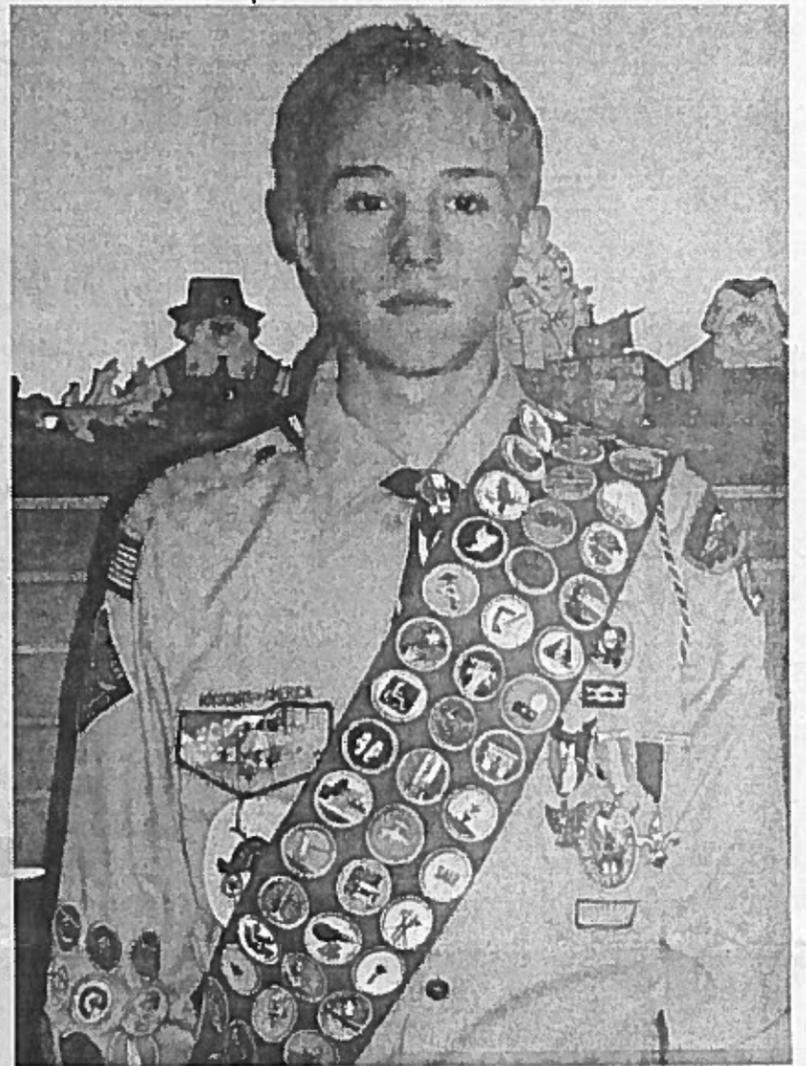
**SETTING HIS GOALS HIGH**—Jed Curry, an Altamont teen, has earned all 123 Boy Scout merit badges, a feat in and of itself. But it is exceptionally remarkable in view of all the obstacles he overcame to accomplish that goal.

Jed's perseverance has served him well in everything he has set out to do. He has served in several leadership positions within the Boy Scouts of America—den chief, quarter master, bugler, varsity team captain, assis-

tant senior patrol leader, and BSA lifeguard, among others. He was recently elected into the Order of the Arrow, an honor bestowed upon only a few Boy Scouts through a nominating process.

Jed has gained local recognition and is often asked to teach classes at merit badge pow wows and speak at Cub Scout Blue and Gold banquets and church events. This month, one Cub Scout troop in Altamont is using the theme "Home Town Heros" and Jed was chosen as one of the heros to

SEE JED CURRY on page 22



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# JED CURRY

Continued from page 13

"If Jed makes up his mind to do something, he does it," said Penny. But Jed also recognizes there are many people who are partially responsible for his incredible string of accomplishments. Referring to church and scout leaders, parents, friends, and people from the community of Altamont, Jed said, "I want to thank all the people who have helped me. Without them there's no way I could have done this."

And then he emphasized, "There's no way a Scout can do it alone." Perhaps that is why Jed is willing to share his story with others. While he has set his goals high and has pursued them relentlessly. Jed said he doesn't like to talk about his illnesses because he doesn't like a lot of sympathy and attention. But he admits he is a product of his experiences.

Experiences which include yearly two week visits to Primary Children's Hospital where he undergoes extensive lung therapy, which sometimes require him to be totally isolated from the other patients.

Experiences which include half-hour breathing treatments twice every day.

Experiences which sometimes separate him from friends and school.

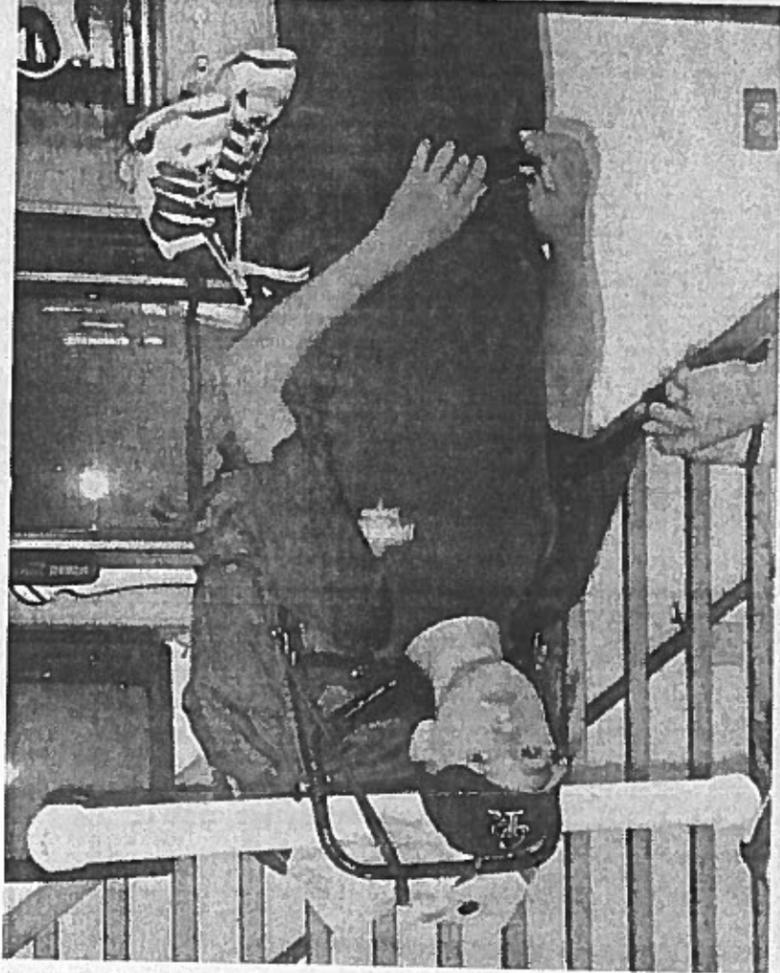
Experiences which involve special diets and medications.

These experiences have taught him a lot. Jed said, "I've learned not to let myself get down. You gotta look on the bright side of things."

So what advice does Jed give to other young people?

"Reach for your goals. Never give up. Anything is possible."

And Jed Curry is a real-life example of how those words of advice can pay off. He has 123 merit badges to prove it.



READY TO ROLL—Jed Curry, preparing to leave on a hike that will earn him the Hiking merit badge

## DISTRICT AWARDS

# Terri Mitchell named teacher of the year

By Aldon Rachele

Terri K. Mitchell, a teacher at Altamont Elementary, has been named as teacher of the year by the Duchesne County Soil Conservation District.

Mitchell said, "At a very young age I made the decision to become a teacher. After high school I explored others options, but teaching always returned as my passion. I worked as an aide in Special Education at Altamont Elementary before graduating from Utah State University with a teaching degree. I started teaching second grade in Altamont and I found a joy in math plus found magic with students in science."

She added, "Science was not a strength in my growing up years, but I found students loved wrapping their minds around natural objects. After seven years of teaching second grade my fondness for the students provided an opportunity to move to sixth grade to teach in a team situation. I primarily teach math, science and arts. This is my fourth year teaching sixth grade. I have incredible students and it is such a pleasure to teach them about things that I find so much ex-

citement in learning about."

In an effort to expand her knowledge base and pass it on to students, Mitchell has taken many classes and workshops. She had been a participant in the PAWS program for three years. Doing this has added many dimensions from which her students have benefitted—both directly and indirectly. It has expanded her resources and given her added confi-

SEE AWARDS on page 24

Continued from page 13

dence. Personnel from the PAWS program have come to her classroom and given presentations directly to students.

"Lt. Travis Mitchell with the Duchesne County Sheriff's Department is my husband. When I doubt myself Travis is always there to tell me to carry on. He, along with my daughter Tammi, and my sons, Tyrell and Tait, are my best fans and supporters. Tait looks forward to me coming home from classes so he can share in what I have learned and take part in new experiments. I love teaching, but my family completes my life," she said.



TEACHER OF THE YEAR — The Duchesne County Soil Conservation District honored Terri Mitchell, a sixth grade teacher at Altamont Elementary, as Teacher of the year. Pictured from left to right is Mark Monsen, Ed Bench, Terri Mitchell, Lynn Burton, and Weldon Brown.

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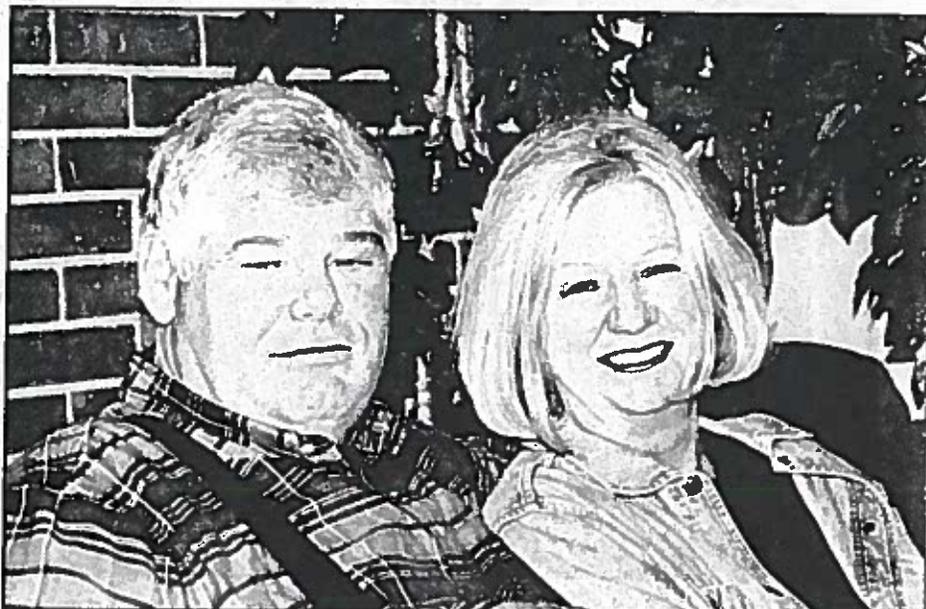
UBS July 30, 2013

# Ormes selected as Altamont Grand Marshals

**Terry and Barbara Orme** were grand marshals for the 2013 Altamont Longhorn Days Parade.

The couple moved from West Valley City to Mountain Home in 1974 so they could raise their family of five. Throughout the years, they have been involved in Longhorn Days activities, from cutting watermelons on the side of the church to cooking the meat in the pit for the community dinner and decorating floats for the parade. Barbara was known to clown around in the parades and Terry cautioned against forest fires as Smokey the Bear.

Terry coached Little League baseball at the park when his boys were younger. He also served as Little League President. Barbara was a 4-H leader who helped organize projects for the park, including the original sandbox. They were also involved in scout-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Altamont Longhorn Days grand marshals Terry and Barbara Orme.

ing and have always enjoyed working with the youth.

Terry and Barbara managed

the Altamont Theatre for a few years making popcorn, running the projectors and selling tickets and candy. Barbara served in the Altamont Elementary PTA when they first moved to the area, and both served in the Altamont High School booster club and parents council for several years while supporting their children in their different activities.

Terry worked as a parts manager in Altamont for several years before beginning his work in the oil field. He worked in the oil field for several different companies until he retired in 2003. After retirement, he was a volunteer at Altamont Elementary School as a grandfather in the physical education department. He serves as a member of the American Legion Post 53. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve from 1963 - 1970.

Barbara worked as a stay-at-home mom while her children were young and then began working for the Duchesne School District as a part-time aid for ConAmore. She then began driving the school bus from Mountain Home to Myton and taught pre-school at ConAmore. Barbara retired from ConAmore and bus driving in 2007. She loved working

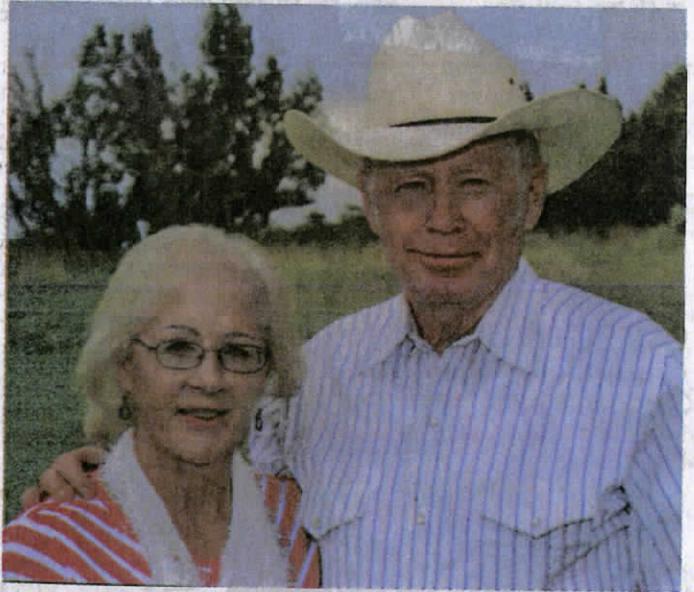
with the kids and enjoys seeing them in the community.

Terry and Barbara were both very involved in their children's activities as they grew up. Terry was an assistant football coach for many years and is still referred to as "Coach" in the community with players of every age. He promised the boys one year that if they made it to the playoffs he would shave an "A" in his head. They made it and he went to Stake Conference the next day with the "A" shaved into his head.

Terry and Barbara are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and have served in many different church callings throughout the years, including working in the Vernal Temple when it was first open and most currently in the genealogy library.

Terry and Barbara have five children, 14 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. They are proud to have raised their five children in the Altamont community and said they can not imagine living anywhere else. They both love their country and are proud to see the flag flying in Altamont every July 24.

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### ***50th wedding anniversary***

The children of Terry and Shauna (Fisher) Fieldsted happily announce their parents' 50th wedding anniversary. Terry and Shauna were married Jan. 25, 1969, in Altamont, Utah, and sealed in the Salt Lake Temple in 1979. They have been blessed with four children, Dustin (Jana), Darrin (LeeAnn), Dallon (Megan) and Daisy (Ab), and nine grandchildren. They enjoy spending time with their family and working on the farm.

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UPS - Jan 22, 2019

# Longhorn Days Grand Marshals

## LONGHORN DAYS COMMITTEE

Terry and Shauna Fieldsted are thankful for their ancestors who came to the Basin in search of a good life. Peter Juel Fieldsted migrated to Utah from Denmark, and settled in Boneta in 1908. Moroni Fisher was one of the first homesteaders to come to the Upper Country in 1906. He built the first home in Boneta.

Terry grew up in Boneta with his brothers Billy Shiner, Tony, and Gary Fieldsted. They all worked hard helping their father on the farm. His parents are Harry and Beverly. Shauna grew up in Altonah, with her brother Ray. Their mother Bonnie Jean, died at the young age of 24, leaving two small children and husband, Jack Fisher. They stayed in Altonah and were raised by grandparents, Delbert and Vernia Shiner. Terry graduated in 1965 and joined the National Guard in Vernal. He volunteered to be drafted into the United States Army in Nov. 1966. He was sent to Vietnam in 1967.

On March 15, 1968, during the Tet Offensive, when in Trung Lap, Terry and Sergeant Bill Reynolds were wounded in action with shrapnel from a mortar round. He was loaded onto a Medivac chopper and

taken to Cu Chi, and onto a Military Hospital in Yokohama, Japan. He suffers every day because of his wounds. He was willing to serve to preserve our way of life.

Terry and Shauna were

married in 1969, and just celebrated their 50th anniversary in January. They lived in Salt Lake City until moving back to the Basin in 1974. Terry worked for Western Electric, Mountain Bell, US West, Qwest, and

UBTA (Strata). (total 41 years) They have raised three sons; Dustin, Darin, Dalton, and daughter, Daisy. They are proud of their family and the honorable people they are. They have blessed their lives, and given them nine precious grandchildren whom they love and enjoy. Terry has served in various church callings, scouting, and is an active member of the American Legion. He served on the Duchesne County Road Board for many years.

Shauna worked as secretary for Altamont Elementary one year, until the family increased. She took the EMT course and volunteered for eight years. When they started the traveling clinic to Altamont she was hired to assist the physician. She enjoyed working with the physicians and loved helping the patients. (22 years) She

also worked a few hours a week as secretary for the Church Educational System (Seminary) for 13 years. She has served in several church callings also. They have been serving together as Church Building Service Missionaries for their ward building 2016.

They love the people in the Upper Country and feel very blessed to live here. They love America and appreciate our freedoms. Their favorite quote is "For those who fought for it, Freedom has a flavor the protected will never know." They appreciate all those who honor and respect the flag and what it stands for, and honor all our veterans and thank them for their service.

This is a huge honor to be named Grand Marshals for Altamont Longhorn Days, 2019. We sincerely Thank You!



Terry and Shauna Fieldsted

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# The Altamont Creamery closes its doors

By Katie Hansen

I have many fond memories of my grandma's warm sunlit kitchen and though some of them are becoming faintly smudged around the edges, I will never forget the round brick of Altamont cheese she always had in her fridge.

I can still see her carving thick slices from the yellow pie to hand to each child sitting around her worn wooden table. The cheese, which was so fresh that it squeaked as we chewed it, has become a staple in my own home. Sadly my mom's grandchildren - whenever they arrive - will not have such fond memories of the fresh yellow Altamont cheddar that we had grown so accustomed to. After 37 years of producing cheese in Altamont, the creamery, which was owned by Salt Lake City-based Nelson Ricks Company, closed its doors, leaving behind only memories.

At one time business was booming for the Altamont Creamery; there were at least 29 dairies from around the Basin, as well as 14 employees to

At one time business was booming for the Altamont Creamery; there were at least 29 dairies from around the Basin, as well as 14 employees.

take care of the milk. However, over the years, as milk prices fell, the number of local dairies dwindled and so did employees.

When the creamery closed, it was producing approximately 6,000 to 7,000 pounds of cheese a week. Val Hardcastle of Nelson Ricks Company noted that at the same time last year, the creamery was producing three to four times that.

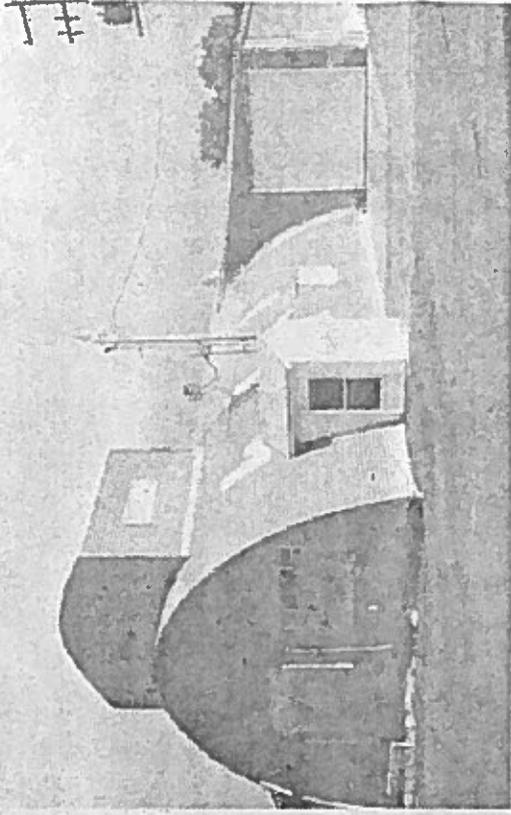
When the creamery made its final batch of cheese on Aug. 4, there were just two employees struggling to fill a vat with milk from eight producers. Hardcastle said the decision to close the Altamont creamery came after low milk prices managed to drive

many of their small, grade D producers out of business.

"We really are sad," Hardcastle commented about closing the

Altamont creamery. "The community served us well." He noted that the

SEE CREAMERY on page 20



**NO MORE CHEESE**-The Altamont Creamery closed its doors Tuesday, Aug. 7. The famous yellow cheese loved by many Basin residents will no longer be produced.

## ALTAMONT CREAMERY

Continued from page 13

company is trying to make arrangements to continue supplying a similar cheddar to Basin stores, however, he noted that it will not be as fresh as the cheese from our Altamont creamery.

"We always made a good quality of cheese," remarked creamery manager Kevin Safley. Safley and Gary Fieldsted were the two remaining employees at the end. Both had spent over 20 years at the creamery.

The small town creamery supplied by producers from Lapoint to Pleasant Valley managed not only to gather a following from locals, but from out-of-staters as well.

The creamery, which is noted for its wonderful cheddar, also produced Monterey Jack, which was shipped to southern California. Hardcastle noted that although the company never ventured to sell the Monterey Jack to Mexico, many of the vendors who bought it took the product to Baja and mainland Mexico. Yellow cheese from the Altamont Creamery was shipped throughout the western U.S.

Although some of us are lamenting the loss of a great cheese, there is still time to get one last block. Hardcastle said local stores began stocking up when they found out the creamery was closing.

As you savor the last bit of your Altamont cheese, take a moment to remember the first time you had it and realize that you were eating part of the Basin, part of a community and part of a legend.

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# The Steakout cooks up new offerings in Altamont

Steve Puro  
Uintah Basin Standard

Sizzling T-bone steak, juicy Alaskan King Crab, thick juicy hamburgers, cedar plank salmon, seared rib-eye steak, slow cooked prime rib, specialty appetizers, "loaded" baked potatoes ...

Is your mouth watering?

Where, oh where, could a person find such epicurean delights? Salt Lake? Denver? Battle?

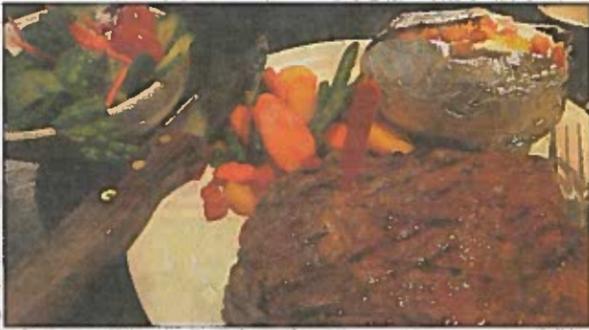
How about Altamont. Altamont?

The Steakout is now open next to Swasey's Sinclair station and convenience store in Altamont and is serving food not found elsewhere in Richesne County.

Owner and Chef Kyla Allred has followed her passion for cooking and a desire to help Altamont grow by opening a 50-seat restaurant in the Upper Country.

"I worked in human resources for 18 years," Allred said. "While my husband and I were in Alaska for 10 years I became friends with a chef in Juneau who encouraged me to explore my love for cooking."

Allred, an Altamont High School graduate, and her husband Darrin returned to their roots to be closer to family. As they discussed their options



STEVE PURO, UINTAH BASIN STANDARD

A rib-eye steak dinner along with fresh vegetables, a "loaded" potato, and house salad are ready to be enjoyed.

for a business, she decided to follow her passion for cooking.

"We obtained a lease for a business location in Altamont which had been vacant for a number of years," she said. "Remodeling began in June this year."

The Steakout opened for business during Thanksgiving week.

"The tables have been packed three hours a night for dinner every night since we opened," Allred said.

The cozy restaurant offers a choice of booth seating, tables and stools at the bar.

Word of mouth advertising has been strong and people could be overheard at nearby tables describing how they were there for the first time because they had heard how

good the food tastes.

The Steakout is not your average small town café.

"I have made sure that our supply of seafood comes from Alaska through Utah distributors," Allred said.

Being a restaurant owner is a new experience for Allred and she admits there is a learning curve to getting it right. She and her staff of 12 are tweaking things each day.

"Those were 12 jobs that weren't in town before we opened," she said. Being amply staffed means the service is quick. The community and locals have been very supportive, Allred said.

"Our normal hours will be 11 a.m. until 9 p.m. Monday through Thursdays and 11 a.m. until 10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays," she said. "But, people have wanted to book the restaurant for company Christmas parties, so during December we will only serve walk-ins until 7 p.m."

Don't get the idea at this point that you can book your holiday get-together at the Steakout this Christmas season. The restaurant is completely booked every evening through the holidays.

"We will have open dining by reservation on New Year's Eve," she said. "It will be an evening of king crab, prime rib, stuffed halibut, and more, beginning at 5 p.m. and going until 10:30 p.m."

People interested in making reservations for New Year's Eve should call the restaurant at 435-454-4888. Daily meal orders can also be called in for pick-up.

"Build your own" one-third pound burgers begin at \$9.99 with fries or salad and steaks start at \$14.99 for a 6 oz. sirloin. Pasta and chicken dishes are also available starting at \$9.99. Prime rib is available Friday and Saturday. For dessert, try a "Skookie," a large thick cookie topped with ice cream.



STEVE PURO, UINTAH BASIN STANDARD

The Steakout offers a variety of meals ranging from steak to meat with gravy on top. Owner Kyla Allred wanted to help expand the businesses and services offered in the Upper Country community.



STEVE PURO, UINTAH BASIN STANDARD

A state of the art grill and oven sears steaks to trap the juices at The Steakout in Altamont. The new restaurant offers a wide variety of foods from hamburgers to T-bone steaks to Alaskan seafood.

# The strong became stronger as homesteaders fought to survive

By Cheryl Mecham

Homesteaders who gave a part

of their soul to bring water to their lands watched with satisfaction as a crop pushed its way through the soil ... abundant first harvests came in, granting food for table and manger. Then there was drought.

With no reservoirs in place, canals dried up. Fields sown with seeds for the upcoming crop lay dusty and dormant, those who lost heart moved away, others with gritty determination held on, but there was a cost, and again, hunger and hardship plagued the early settlers, remembers John Reed Lemon, son of John K. Lemon one of the first Ioka homesteaders.

Entire regions of the Basin were without hay for livestock. Fledgling herds were butchered or sold, only essential animals were left. The Lemons kept one milk cow, and work horses.

Even in the most difficult circumstances the Lemon's faith remained steadfast. "You had to be dependent on the Lord to see you through," John Reed testified. And somehow the family survived sporadic years of drought, growing from one child, to six as Karl, Clifford, Anna, Vera, and Ester

came along.

When the days labors were done, John Reed said the family gathered together by the light of a kerosene lamp to play games and read the scriptures. "We got along fine," he commented.

Everyone, young and old alike enjoyed a trip to town. Myton City was the central market center for several years after homesteaders flooded in, Lemon said, remembering a "saloon, several stores, two banks and hotels ... It was way ahead of Roosevelt at first, now Myton doesn't have a store in it."

The trip to Myton, several miles from the Lemon property was made with a team and a wagon. John Reed said his mother, Anna Sophia, would trade butter and eggs for other groceries. The journey took most of the day, and was rewarded by "one clerk who would always put a sack of candy in our box."

Early settlers knew how to make do with the little they had, John Reed remembers the first suit he ever had, made by his mother, Anna Sophia, a competent seamstress who made all the clothing her family wore with the help of a treadle sewing machine.

Like other homesteading children of the day, John Reed worked alongside his parents learning the skills of self sufficiency. "My Uncle Jim taught me quite a lot about shoeing horses," he said. John Reed learned to "plow the ground, plant, and handle the horses quite young, milk the cows and take care of the chickens."

Ioka residents were quick to establish a school for the education of their children. One room school houses were built on the east and west sides of Ioka to accommodate the area children, according to the publication Early History of the Uintah Basin.

The Lemon children attended a school house one and a-half miles east of their homestead, carried on horseback. One teacher served all the children in all eight grades.

Morley Vernon, John Reed's 7th-8th grade teacher was his "favorite teacher," because of Vernon's pleasant manner, the practical things he taught, "never to smoke" and his ability to dance and play with his students.

John Reed, his brothers and sisters, and most all of the other school children of the day rode to school on horse back. Hitching posts were as common a sight then as bicycle racks are today.

The first church organization formed in Ioka was the Latter Day Saint Sunday School established in 1908. John Reed's father, John K. Lemon served as superintendent. The first LDS chapel was built in 1915, John Reed remembers "men hauling the stone from the "western hills."

Continued on page 20

## Altamont High Centennial Project Researches Basin History

# Legend, history and stories captured in new publication

By Cheryl Mecham

What began months ago as a class assignment for Altamont High Students has ended in the publication Memoirs of the Once Silent Mountains Uintah Mountains, a softbound book compiling the stories, histories and legends of students' ancestors, their pioneering life and the "wonderful tales that make up the folklore of the Uintah Basin and the Upper Country."

The substantial undertaking was embraced by students and faculty as Altamont's centennial project, and was open for contribution to the entire studentbody, said Donna Barton, the Altamont High English teacher who conceived the idea and directed the project.

Material for the book was gathered through student conducted interviews of grandparents, great-grandparents or another "old-time residents," Barton explained, saying that students could then use the

information to write a historical account or create a story using the historical backdrop. Students who didn't have relatives living in the area conducted interviews with their forebearers where ever they live. Their stories are also included in the book. "We at Altamont do feel an urgency to record their amazingly brave and often humorous stories. But this is only one part of the book. The Uintah Basin teems with legends - legends of gold and mystery, the fabulous exploits of Butch Cassidy, the water babies, and monsters. Even today many believe and offer documentation to their claims of the authenticity of these stories," Barton reported.

Tami Jessen, a senior at Altamont, and English Sterling Scholar said, "I would have never learned the things I did about my grandfather, I wouldn't have known to ask questions." Students learned secondhand the hardship that their forefathers faced in the primitive beginnings of the Uintah Basin. One such story tells of a small child who was sent each day to get milk for the baby. The young one walked miles. One day the child spilled the milk and the baby cried all day for the lack of it.

Another story depicts the creepy tale of the Moon Lake "Water Babies." Legend tells of an eerie sound, like that of a crying baby which comes across the water just before a mother specter appears whose deadly desire it is to pull swimmers down into the shadowy depths to keep her babies company.

Barton estimates that over 180 students contributed to the manuscript, usually submitting two articles for publication. Occasionally articles came from the historical research on the part of students who were interested in a specific event.

As stories were completed they were turned over to students of the "gifted class" for proofreading. After several rounds of editing polished copies emerged, ready for print.

"It is everyone's project, it's exciting because we've all worked on it so to see it done is going to be great!" Marci Dastrup, of the gifted class exclaimed.

Memoirs of the Once Silent Uintah Mountains will soon be available for sale at Altamont High School. Call 454-3314 daytime or 454-3625 or 454-3601 evenings to reserve copies and for further information.



EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS--Students in Altamont High's "Gifted Class" have been hard at work proofreading manuscripts detailing pioneering stories for the publication Memoirs of the Once Silent Mountains.

## HOMESTEADERS

continued from page 11

"The community built it, there were no oppositions, we were all friends, Mr. Gentry (of another faith) made the clay mortar." The building was finished complete with "a grand dance floor" and a player piano that was used a lot for weekly dances, "the only amusement" for the early settlers.

The building served a dual purpose, for worship and school. Ioka children were instructed in the higher grades in a classroom as told by John Reed Lemon, early Ioka homesteaders will continue in the next publication of the Utah Basin Standard.

The story of John K. Lemon, homestead.

The Lemon children fared well, the older caring for their young siblings until the weekends when father would come to take the children home to take the homestead.

To cope with the new situation John K. built and furnished a cabin in Roosevelt, "about where the swimming pool sits now," to house his children during the winter months when they attended school in Roosevelt, John Reed said.

About 1921 it is reported in Ioka history that the east and west Ioka school houses were moved to a lot joining the LDS ward chapel. Later the Ioka schools were discontinued and pupils were to attend the Roosevelt schools.

**HOMESWEET HOME--Homesteaders generally built their homes from logs, as is this cabin on North Mylon Bench in Ioka built by John Reed Lemon.**



# Thirty-six to graduate from Altamont High

By Aldon Rachele

Thirty-six students will be graduated from Altamont High, Thursday, May 30 at 7 p.m. Speaker for the graduation will be Dr. Terry Buxton.

Graduates will be: Ginnie Carroll, Sharissa Carter, Stan Cook, Cody David, Benjamin Dunsmore, Jesse Farnsworth, Jesse Fisher, Kasey Frandsen, Deanna Fyke, Aaron Hacker, Shaylene Haslem, Jennie

Iorg, Logan Jenkins, Jordan Jensen, Cindy Jessop, Billy Lauchner, Alicia Liddell, Vanessa Miles, Jeremy Mitchell, Alex Monsen, Zack Mower, David Nelson, Deidra Oman, Shonda Roberts, Yolanda Roberts, Stephanie

Schofield, Kabe Sorensen, Jaime Lynn Stanley, Keith Stansfield, Steven Stansfield, Ann Thacker, Laci Thacker, Callie Ann Walker, Sherice Wall, Grant Wilcox and Ronald Wood.



Lincoln Basin Standard  
21 May 2002

RHC 0193

Uintah Basin Standard

B5  
Tuesday, July 29, 2014

# Tom and Jean Thacker named Longhorn Days Grand Marshals

## SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Tom and Jean Thacker have called the Upper Country their home for nearly their entire lives.

Tom was born December 14, 1947, in Roosevelt to Elvin and Berneice Thacker. He grew up in Upalco, where his father owned and operated a dairy. He graduated from Altamont High School in 1966. During high school he enlisted in the National Guard. Later, he attended Utah State University where he earned an associates degree in Agricultural Mechanics.

Jean was also born in Roosevelt to Ellis and Loretta Burton on December 24, 1948. She grew up in Talmage and graduated from Altamont High School in 1967. She then attended Brigham Young University for a year before coming home to marry her high school sweetheart.

Tom and Jean were married in June of 1968 in the Manti LDS Temple. They are the parents of five sons: Tyler, Fred, Mark, Eric and Tony. They have 26 grand-

spoil every chance they get. They love spending time with family and most often prefer to be outdoors. They especially treasure the times they have spent in the High Uintah riding horses as a family.

Tom worked as a mechanic for many construction jobs before he and Jean started Thacker's Repair in December of 1979. It began as a two-bay shop in Upalco with Tom as the single mechanic and Jean the secretary.

In 2013, after 38 years of serving the people in the Basin, Tom and Jean retired. Their business had grown from its humble beginnings to a five bay garage with six full time employees.

Tom and Jean have served in many volunteer organizations within their community. Currently, Tom serves on the Board of Directors for Moon Lake Electric. Both Tom and Jean have served in many positions within the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Their faith is an important part of their lives.

Highlights for them have been their two year mission to Nigeria from 1998-2000, as well as the

19 years Tom spent as a member of the Altamont, Utah Stake Presidency. They are always serving

wherever they see a need. Tom and Jean appreciate the support and friendship they have always

received from the people of the Upper Country and love this area they call home.



Tom and Jean Thacker were named Grand Marshals of Longhorn Days 2014. The Thackers are proud to be part of the Altamont

SUBMITTED PHOTO



**ALTAMONT GRADS**—Twenty-seven students will be graduating from Altamont, May 30. They include Alex Calhoun, Dallon Christensen, Toni Christensen, Paige Fieldsted, Jerica Goodrich, Al Hague, Mandi Hogan, James Jenkins, Chelsy Jensen, Jazmyne Jessen, Matthew Kofford, Daniel Lindsay, Gavin Lindsay, Latoya Manning, Joshua Miles, Natisha Miles, Sharalee Miles, Lindsey Mitchell, Andrea Monsen, Zachery Oman, Dale Strawn, Jaylon Suddreth, Jordan Thacker, Shelly Thayne, Logan Vaughn, Darwin Winn, Jessica Wood.

**TWENTY-SEVEN ALTAMONT HIGH SCHOOL GRADS**

**Students will be graduated from Altamont High School, Tuesday**

By Aldon Rachele

Altamont High School will graduate 27 students, Tuesday, May 30 in ceremonies in the gymnasium at 7 p.m. Special speaker will be Dean Stilson, a former Altamont High teacher and coach.

Graduating from Altamont are: Alex Calhoun, Dallon Christensen,

Toni Christensen, Paige Fieldsted, Jerica Goodrich, Al Hague, Mandi Hogan, James Jenkins, Chelsy Jensen, Jazmyne Jessen, Matthew Kofford, Daniel Lindsay, Gavin Lindsay, Latoya Manning, Joshua Meyers, Natisha Miles, Sharalee Miles, Lindsey Mitchell, Andrea Monsen, Zachery Oman, Dale Strawn, Jaylon Suddreth, Jordan

Thacker, Shelly Thayne, Logan Vaughn, Darwin Winn, Jessica Wood.

Paige Fieldsted with a 4.00 grade point average will serve as the valedictorian, and Natisha Miles is the salutatorian with a 3.9 GPA. Paige is the daughter of Mick and Kathy Fieldsted and will be attending the University of Utah on a President-

tial scholarship that will cover tuition, fees and housing. Fieldsted was also a member of Altamont basketball, volleyball and softball teams.

Fieldsted was one of three Altamont students (Daniel Lindsay, Shelly Thayne) who received a Soil Conservation Service scholarship. Fieldsted and Toni Christensen are among the Top Ten in Utah in ACT scores.

Natasha is the daughter of Rick and Stephanie Miles. She is undecided as to which college she will attend and has several scholarships

SEE ALTAMONT on page 17

Uintah Basin Standard 30, May 2000 RHC D193

Uintah Basin Standard  
30, May 2006

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## ALTAMONT

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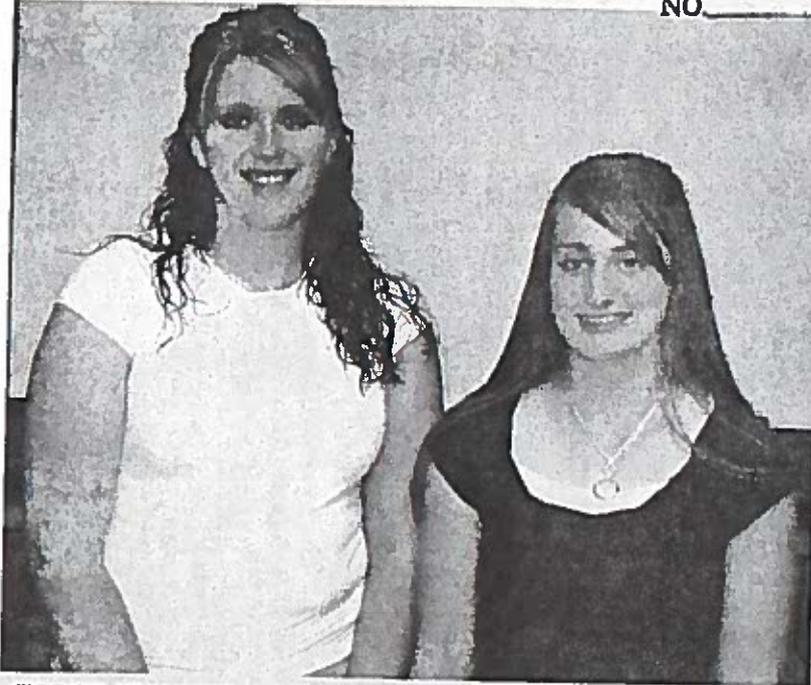
to chose from including the College of Eastern Utah and Snow College. She was also given the Zack Peck Memorial scholarship. Miles played volleyball, basketball and was on the track team at Altamont.

Other scholarship award winners are: Shelly Thayne, Tri-County Health, UBTA; Toni Christensen, SUU, UBTA; Sharalee Miles, USU; Lindsay Mitchell, USU; Chelsey Jensen, University of Utah; Jerica Goodrich, UVSC; Dallon Christensen, USU; Andrea Monsen, USU; Daniel Lindsay, College of Eastern Utah; Gavin Lindsay, College of Eastern Utah; Logan Vaughn, USU; Mandi Hogan, College of Eastern Utah.

Chal Alred scholarship awards go to Fieldsted, N, Miles, Toni Christensen, Dallon Christensen, Daniel Lindsay, Gavin Lindsay, Jessica Wood, Mandi Hogan.

Jerica Goodrich and Chelsey Jensen completed their two-year associate degrees while in high school, said Brent Brotherson of Altamont High.

After graduation a senior lock-in will be held. First the graduates will have water slide fun in Vernal from 12 midnight to 2 a.m. They will return to Altamont and play games in the gymnasium. Prizes will be awarded. Breakfast will be served at 6 a.m.



**TOP GRADUATES**—Paige Fieldsted, left, is Altamont's valedictorian, and Natisha Miles is the salutatorian.

# Upper Country plagued by fires

By Steve Puro  
Uintah Basin Standard

The Altamont Fire Department has responded to a spate of structure fires of the past two months the likes of which it hasn't seen in years.

The most recent blaze occurred last Monday at the Altonah home of Johny and Debbie Thayne, where fire consumed two rooms and left the house with severe smoke damage.

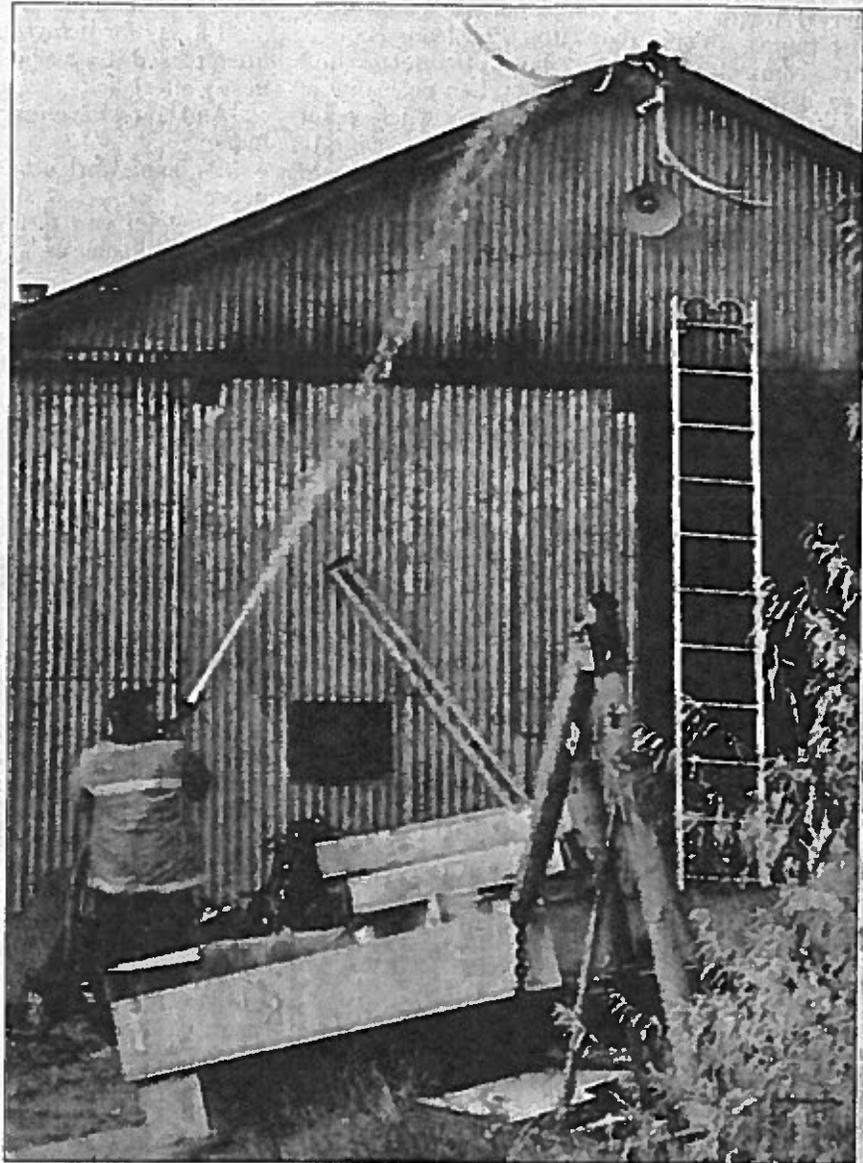
"This has been one of those years that we don't want to repeat," Altamont Fire Chief Greg Miles said. "We usually have two substantial house fires in the winter. To have five fires in a short period of time is out of the norm for us."

In addition to the Thayne fire, which Miles said did an estimated \$60,000 in damage, Altamont firefighters have been called to battle the following blazes since November:

- On Nov. 10, a shop behind Altamont Assistant Fire Chief Kelly Bird's home in Bluebell caught fire. Miles said the blaze was caused when a metal brace used in construction of the shop's chimney heated up and ignited a bird's nest in the space around the chimney.

- On Nov. 30, fire damaged the home of Jim and Cheri Smith. The fire began in a crawlspace beneath the home and destroyed two bedrooms before crews could extinguish it. Construction work being done on the home is suspected of causing the fire, Miles said.

- On Dec. 14, fire did serious damage to the home of Kasey and Tammy Thacker. The blaze started in the late morning, while the Thacker family



GEOFF LIESIK, UINTAH BASIN STANDARD

An Altamont firefighter works to douse flames showing from the roof of a shop behind Altamont Assistant Fire Chief Kelly Bird's home on Nov. 10.

SEE FIRES on page A-4

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## Historical mystery

Scrapbooks donated to charity  
may have tie to the Basin

A-10

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UBS Jan 25, 2011

# FIRES

Continued from page A-1

was home. They smelled smoke and called the fire department, which extinguished the flames in about five minutes. The fire was caused by an electrical problem, Miles said.

In late December, crews were called to the Boneta home of Shannon Pass after a fire broke out in an electrical box in the living room. Firefighters were able to contain the fire to the electrical box, Miles said.

Miles noted that almost all of the blazes — including the Thayne fire — have been related to electrical problems.

"We encourage people to keep their electrical appliances maintained and up to date," Miles said. "Don't overload your circuits."

Miles said some homes have circuits wired for a specific load but connected to a breaker that

is rated too high for the system. In that situation the conditions are set for heat to build up in the wiring, creating the conditions for a fire to start.

A professional should be called if there are questions about whether a system is set up properly, the chief said.

"If you aren't sure of the load on your wires and breakers, then contact an electrician and find out what your system can handle, what its limits and capabilities are," Miles said.

Roosevelt Fire Chief Lee Rockwood agreed.

"Especially during the cold weather people are using heaters to keep their pipes from freezing," Rockwood said. "That puts an extra strain on the circuits and over loads them."

Thawing pipes also creates a whole new set of hazards.

"People will use a small propane torch to thaw out the pipes

and not realize they have left wood and the insulation backing smoldering," Rockwood said.

His advice?

"Don't use a heater," he said. "Keep your water running and keep your chimneys cleaned and maintained."

The responsibility for responding to the many fires this winter has fallen on volunteers in Altamont and elsewhere.

"I have to give credit to the firefighters," Miles said. "They are a bunch of great guys and only a handful are available for the day time fires."

Property damage to homes that caught fire this winter could have been a lot worse in many cases, Miles said. He credits the willingness and experience of the firefighters for their effectiveness on calls.

"We have learned together, worked together and trained together," Miles said.

# Vernal family 'giving thanks' year round

By Maureen Spencer  
Express Writer

When Grandpa and Grandma Thacker missed an airplane flight in 1995, the gentle-hearted couple changed the futures of their entire extended family.

Some moments in time are like that, and this was one such event for Vernal's Michael and Kim Thacker Bradley and their children.

Thacker posterly yet to come, will feel the consequences of that missed Thanksgiving flight.

Al and Cheryl Thacker had helped an optometrist friend gather donated eyeglasses for several years and then traveled to Nuevo Casas Grandes, Mexico, where they helped distribute them to hundreds of the sight impaired.

Thacker recalls the wonderful feelings they experienced watching a toddler see his mother's face for the first time.

The area is home to approximately 125,000 people living in towns and villages and is 120 miles south of Deming, N.M. Life there is deceptively "simple."

The government will not accept a child into the school system if it born handicapped.

Bearing a handicapped child is grounds for a husband to abandon both wife and child.

Poverty prevents mothers from having proper pre-natal food, thus noticeably increasing the incidence of children born with clubbed feet and cleft ~~palates~~, among other physical problems.

Abandoned and with a handicapped child to care for, a woman can find no way out of poverty.

In 1995, the Thackers went to Mexico with the eyeglass project and an overbooked airplane kept them in Mexico overnight, staying with friends Ed and Gayle Whetton in Colonia Juarez. That night, they discovered that there was much that could be done to help the extremely poor and the handicapped of Nuevo Casas Grandes.

This was a Thanksgiving none of Thacker's family will ever forget. Casas Grandes had just found Santa and a continuing, year-long rotation of "elves" from Utah, many from Vernal.

care businesses.

Now retired, this former barber and his wife look at a child's physical handicap and poverty as an opportunity...an opportunity to expand their own abilities to find and obtain donations to relieve suffering.

Al and Cheryl, now in their late 60's make six to eight trips to Casas Grandes a year.

Thacker children and spouses, and their children, have been shown the concept of "charity"—an important family value.

Michael and Kim Bradley of Vernal have seen "grandpa's projects" become a large part of their own lives:

Their son Logan supervised 40 quilts for Grandpa's sub for Santa as his Eagle Scout project and collected bags and bags of clothing all for Casas Grandes.

"Clothing is not as important there," says Kim. "What they don't have is socks."

So, son Dustin did his Eagle Scout project creating Christmas "stockings". made from a pair of tube socks filled with a comb, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, washcloth, small toy, pencil, paper and a pen and tied together at the top.

Dustin's Eagle crew made 342 "stockings" for Casas Grandes.

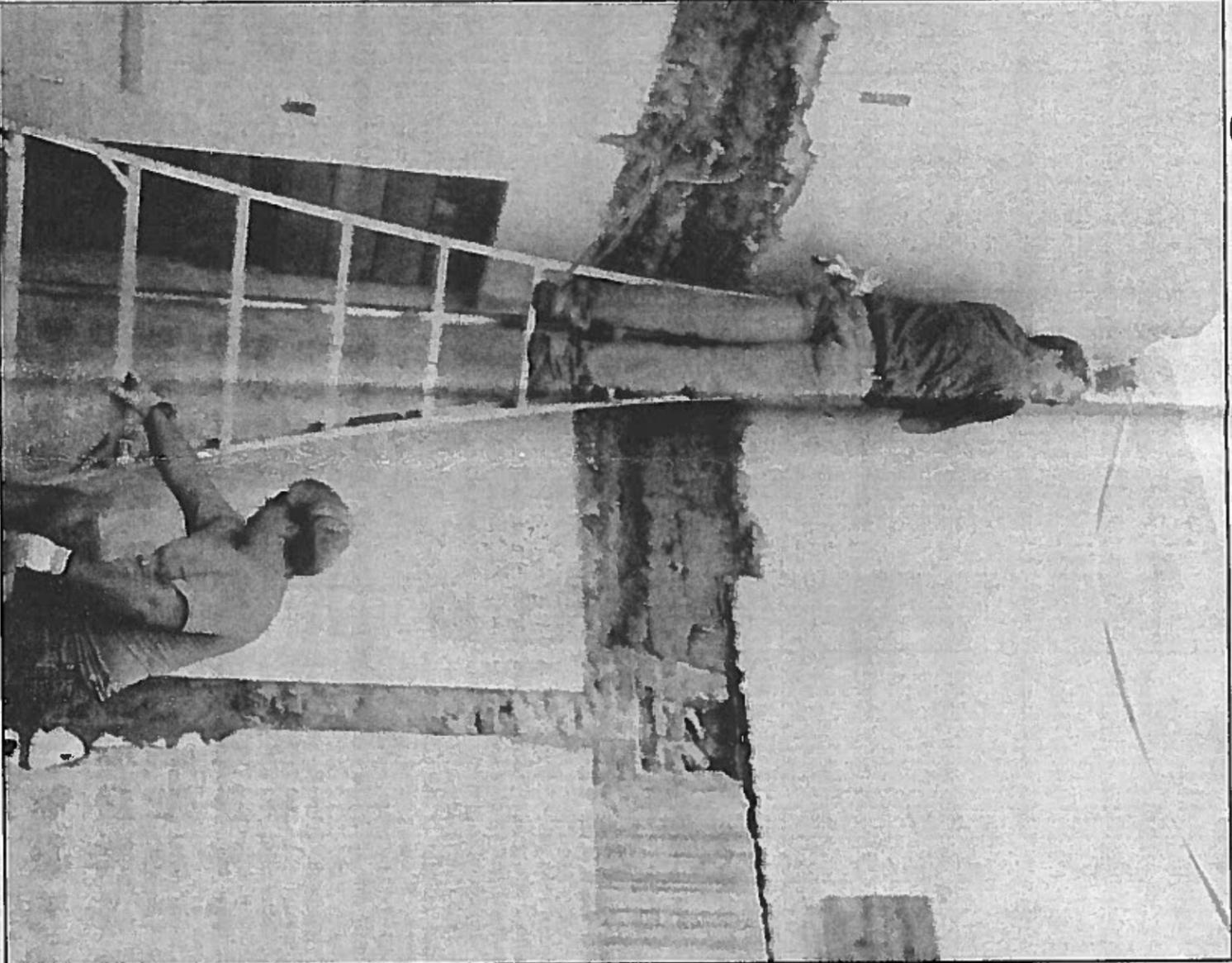
Their son Devin is a senior in high school this year. He is a track, hockey and soccer letterman, and in the Honor Society. He also supervised the making of 40 quilts for Casas Grandes as his Eagle Scout project.

Their daughter Kristin and her friends are making fabric dolls for the Casas Grandes Christmas this year.

The Bradley family works together annually to decorate a spectacular tree for the Trees for Charity to raise money for the Tiny Tim Foundation.

Money is another thing there is not enough of in their adopted Mexican region.

Grandpa Thacker made a wonderful discovery. "For \$40, I can feed a family for a whole month," he tells folks. "How many families would you like to feed!" He had carefully researched basic foods available—things like beans, salt,



A surgical center will eventually emerge from this poor beginning. Mike Bradley measures for roof beams and brother-in-law Hal Thacker steadies the ladder.



## Calendar

### November 26

- Trees for Charity Festival. Western Park. 789-7396, Nov. 26-30. Closed Thursday, Thanksgiving. Set up Wednesday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. View trees Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. and Sunday noon to 6 p.m.
- Utah High School end of first trimester. Dismissed following lunch at 12:30 for holiday.
- Last ditch effort of Utah turkeys to urge pork, "the other white meat," goes before Supreme Court.

### November 27

- Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours. (the turkeys lost.)
- No Rotary.
- Thanksgiving Pow Wow. Ron Cuch for details. 545-2156.

### November 28

- Santa's Workshop annual craft/gift sales, 3-7 p.m. Vernal Middle School auditorium. Cody, 789-5766.
- Dinosaur Gardens Lighting, last lighting at present location, approx. 5 p.m.
- Community dance at Golden Age Center, 155 South 100 West, 8-10 p.m. every Friday night, Kay's Band provides the music.
- Thanksgiving Pow Wow. Ron Cuch for details. 545-2156.

### November 29

- Santa's Workshop annual craft/gift sales, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Vernal Middle School auditorium. Cody, 789-5766.
- Thanksgiving Pow Wow. Ron Cuch for details. 545-2156.
- Benefit "penning jackpot" for Lee Meckham whose saddle shop burned recently. At 9 a.m., Western Park indoor arena. Sponsored by Uintah Basin Team Penning Clubs. 789-3714.

### December 1

- Trees for Charity Auction 6:30 p.m. 789-1352.
- Santa's Community Effort donations being taken at Vernal City Offices, 447 East Main. New toys or clothing. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Kathy 789-4880, Teddie 789-3425. Clearinghouse of community Christmas donations for the needy.

### December 2

- Vernal Area Chamber of Commerce. Noon. Golden Gortall Nolan Karras, gubernatorial candidate speaking.
- Laptime stories hosted by Prime Time 4 Kids at Uintah County Courthouse. 10:30 a.m. grades 0 to 3.

Santa and a contumacious, year-long rotation of "elves" from Utah, many from Vernal.

Al Thacker is the kind of man who knows he can't heal the world, but he can try to make a difference in one town.

In November 1995, he knew that to help 100 grindingly poor families with handicapped children, he needed to come up with 100 sewing machines to give 100 poor women to use, enabling them to make a living for their families.

So, back home, from Spanish Fork to Ogden, Thacker went to every sewing machine shop, retailer and salesman he could find to obtain donated new or refurbished machines.

The 100 machines, along with all kinds of other donated items, went with "Santa" to Mexico a month later at Christmas.

The need for legal organization became apparent early on. Large donations require legal tax recognition.

Al Thacker wrestled for days over what to name his activities. He awoke one night with the answer clear in his mind. "The Tiny Tim Foundation for Kids" was born-- named for the cheerful adopted Mexican son of their old friends, the Whettons. Timothy Whetton had been born with cerebral palsy.

Before long, the Thackers were spending 40 or more hours a week soliciting medical supplies from Utah doctors, dentists and health

tells folks. "I throw many families would you like to feed?" He had carefully researched basic foods available--things like beans, salt, rice, potatoes, a side of bacon and a rare treat of oranges.

"These people don't waste," Mike Bradley can testify.

Bradley, and his family, know first hand what life is like in Casas Grandes. They have been there many times, frequently helping to remodel and expand a building into a school for the handicapped, a surgical center, two bathrooms and a physical therapy center--all accomplished with donated materials, individually funded trip expenses, volunteer electricians, plumbers and building crews that Grandpa has solicited.

The LDS Church has donated bales of towels, coats and general use rags. Hospitals donate obsolete medical equipment, wheelchairs, walkers and machines. Volunteer American physicians go and make straighten clubbed feet and make cleft pallets whole with their surgeries in the "clinic" which the family has helped to build.

All through Grandpa's kindly inquiries.

A pre-fabricated building company in Salt Lake City has donated entire building kits and crews to enhance the medical and humanitarian facilities this family has identified as needed.

Mountain View Dialysis Center in Vernal and Roosevelt sent two



Al Thacker plays Santa for untold numbers of children in Casas Grandes throughout the year.



Namesake for the Tiny Tim Foundation is Timothy Whetton.



Extreme poverty is a plague in Nuevo Casas Grandes.

Century 3 dialysis machines and the Uintah Care Center donated two Century 2 dialysis machines for the trip made by some of the Bradleys to Mexico the first part of this month.

People in Casas Grandes who need dialysis generally just go home to die. Doctors there own their own hospitals and poverty does not allow for costly treatments.

These donated machines will increase the quality of life for dozens of people using the free clinic.

This year, the Bradleys are positive their Christmas will be exactly what their children want. A vote was taken. The decision was instant and unanimous.

There will be no electronic games, lettermen's jackets, prom dresses or household appliances under their tree.

The Bradleys will be spending the holiday with Grandpa and Grandpa Thacker in Mexico helping with Sub for Santa and to help on the "building".

They will go to the villages of Polomas, Ascencion, and to a Mennonite colony. "And that little town that's 10 miles down that



Kim Bradley and sister Nicole Thacker help pick up groceries to feed families for a month.



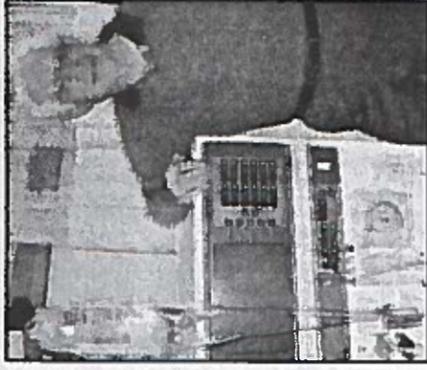
Devin Bradley of Vernal joins cousin Lindsay Thacker in mixing adobe mortar for the school/medical center building.

road," Kim reminds Mike flipping her hand in that "shorthand" of speech that two people use who share total knowledge of a subject. They will drive up and down the streets, stopping at the poorest homes they can find, and deliver an astonishing donated bounty, including warm quilts made in Vernal.

This year's Bradley family Christmas money will be used for gas to drive to Mexico and back to Vernal, and for motel rooms for Mike and Kim, Erin, Emilee, Dustin, Devin and Kristin. It will go towards meals on the road and expenses once they arrive in Nuevo Casas Grandes.

They will spend a good 18 hours on the road each way. When they return, they will probably be able to say, "This was the best Christmas we've ever had."

Grandpa Thacker wanted his fam-



Ed Bullock's two donated dialysis machines went to Mexico earlier this month.

ily to learn charity. Charity, it is written, is love. He seems to have succeeded.

date speaking.

• Laptime stories hosted by Prime Time 4 Kids at Uintah County Library, 10:30 a.m. ages 0 to 3. Stories, music, take-home activity.

**December 3**

• Santa's Community Effort applications will be due Friday, Dec. 5. Available at Ashley Valley Food Pantry, 426 East 200 North. Clearinghouse of community Christmas donations for the needy. Kathy 789-4880, or Teddie, 789-3425.

**December 4**

• Rotary. Noon. Stockman's Restaurant.  
• TOPS meets in Conference Room of Vernal City Building, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Gwen Peterson, 789-8356. Open House 11:30-12:30.

**December 5**

• Santa's Community Effort applications due. Available at Ashley Valley Food Pantry, 426 East 200 North. Clearinghouse of community Christmas donations for the needy. Kathy 789-4880, or Teddie, 789-3425.

• Vernal Ladies of Elks will have a State President's visitation meeting, 6 p.m. at the Lodge before the Charity Ball.

• Roosevelt Electric Lights Parade. 722-5001.

• Community dance at Golden Age Center, 155 South 100 West, 8-10 p.m. every Friday night. Kay's Band provides the music.

**December 9**

• Uintah County Library, scrapbooking 6:30-8 p.m. with Robins Nest.

• Vernal Area Chamber of Commerce. Noon. Golden Corral. Tim Bridgewater, 2nd Congressional District candidate speaking.

**December 10**

• Santa's Community Effort donations due at Vernal City Offices, 447 East Main. New toys or clothing. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

To place items of public interest on the Community Calendar, mail to the Vernal Express, P.O. Box 1000, E-mail, editor@vernal.com, or call the Vernal Express at 789-3511.

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Feb 14, 2006

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## Wanted: A mayor for Altamont

By Aldon Rachele

Travis Mitchell should be the former Altamont mayor because he is moving a half a mile outside of the town's boundaries. He didn't seek re-election for that reason, but no one ran for that office in November.

Mitchell, who has served as mayor of the small upper country community for 12 years, is still the mayor until *someone* is appointed next month. The problem is right now, no one knows just who that someone might be.

"Altamont is looking for a mayor. I will be the mayor until someone is named to replace me," said Mitchell. "My family is moving out of the city limits. You have to live in town to be the mayor. It is time for someone else

to take a look at being mayor."

People interested in the position can contact the Altamont Town Council to find out if they fulfill all the requirements — one of which mandates that the mayor live within the city limits.

"The Council can put in whoever they want as mayor," Mitchell explained. "They can appoint a person of their choice. They need someone willing to do the job. Somebody should be ready to go as mayor next month."

If a current Altamont Town Council member is picked as mayor then a vacant seat on the council will need to be filled.

Last November Clyde Watkins ran for re-election unopposed and Matt Melinkovich was unopposed as he ran for the seat that was held by Doug Curry.

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**GRANT MONEY FOR BASIN COMMUNITIES** — Sen. Bob Bennett (R-Utah) presents a check for \$468,385 to Bruce Todd, manager of UBTA-UBET Telecommunications. The federal grant will allow UBTA-UBET to establish community centers in Altamont and Whiterocks. The center will provide free access to high speed Internet services. The funding will also allow the company to extend their lines to provide high speed Internet to schools, medical clinics and the fire station in Altamont and Whiterocks. The check was presented at Bennett's conference on rural technology.

## Whiterocks and Altamont to benefit from federal grant

Agriculture Secretary for Rural Development Thomas C. Dorr said access to rural broadband technology is a key component to economic vitality in rural areas during a joint check presentation with U.S. Senator Bob Bennett. Dorr and Senator Bennett presented checks totaling \$1.3 million to two Utah businesses that have committed to developing rural broadband services in Utah.

The presentation was made during Senator Bennett's Second Annual Rural Utah Business Technology Conference being held in St. George. Receiving the checks were representatives from Skyline Telecom and Uintah Basin Telecommunications Association, Inc.

"Senator Bennett's Business and Technology Conference provides 21<sup>st</sup> Century vision that will bring new economic opportunities to the residents of Utah," said Dorr. "We share a common desire to support the development of information technology."

Dorr added that the technology infrastructure being developed through the USDA grant funding provides access to a bridge that will connect local residents with the vast knowledge and information resources of the world. Skyline and Uintah Basin are to be congratulated for providing new opportunities for health, education and expanded economic development for Native Americans, and others living in these rural areas."

Skyline Telecom in Fairview, Utah received an \$850,820 grant to provide broadband connectivity to the Goshute Indian Tribe Reservation located in Skull Valley in Tooele county. Uintah Basin Telecommunications Association, Inc., received two

separate grants totaling \$468,385 to provide broadband connectivity to the Northern Ute Tribe in Whiterocks, Uintah County, and the community of Altamont, Duchesne County.

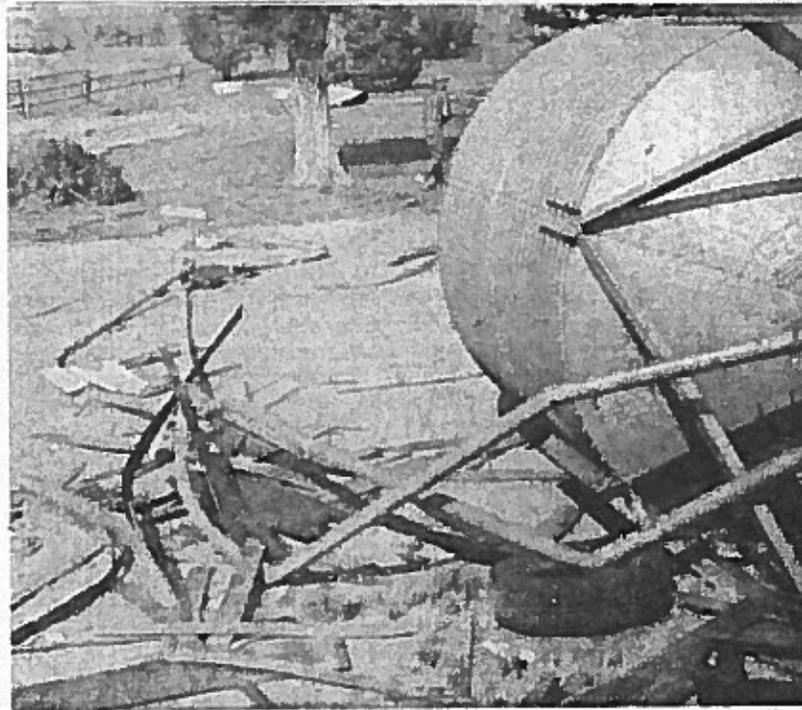
Communities selected do not have access to broadband connectivity for essential services of police, fire protection, hospitals, libraries and schools. In return for receiving a grant, the communities will provide community residents with computer and Internet access. The grant program supplements USDA Rural Development's standard high-speed telecommunications loan program.

*USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider, and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410*

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**WIND PLAYS GAMES WITH FEEDER SHED** — Howard Jenkins stands in front of his damaged feeder shed. The wind picked up the shed and then dropped it during the micro burst at his home in Altamont a week ago Monday.



**NO ONE WAS HURT** — Luckily no one at the Howard Jenkins residence in Altamont was injured when a micro burst toppled the grainary and augers at 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 19. A close inspection also reveals portions of a pipe snagged by the tall tree on the right. The pipe is vertically aligned on the left side of the tree. Debris, including part of a tin roof, also litters the yard.

# Winkler heading to China to teach English

By Lezlee E. Whiting

It's not too often that an LDS missionary receives a mission assignment to a foreign country and finds out they've been "transferred" before they even leave for their first area. But that's just what happened when Amy Winkler was getting ready to leave on her mission. The Altamont native was excited to get her call to Korea, but when her visa papers arrived they granted her entry not to Korea, but to Taiwan where a sister missionary was in need of a companion. Amy easily readjusted to the change in her destination and served an honorable mission, but wondered about the unusual occurrence.

Now, just over a decade later Amy says she "knows that's what needed to happen." In just a few days Amy will leave for Hefei, China, to teach English to Chinese school children in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Her assignment will last for six months, and could go longer if she decides to return as a "head trainer."

Since she returned from her mission in 1991, Amy worked to improve her Chinese speaking skills by attending Chinese courses at the University of Utah and going to church at a Chinese speaking ward in Salt Lake City. At the same time, she's working on her Chinese writing ability, an extremely difficult task because there is no way to sound out the Chinese characters.

Amy has been working as a paralegal for a Salt Lake attorney to earn money to pay for her trip to China. Those who enlist to serve in the Provo-based, non-profit International Language Program don't receive a paycheck because their service is strictly volunteer.

"The opportunity, the experience far outweighs the money value," she explained.

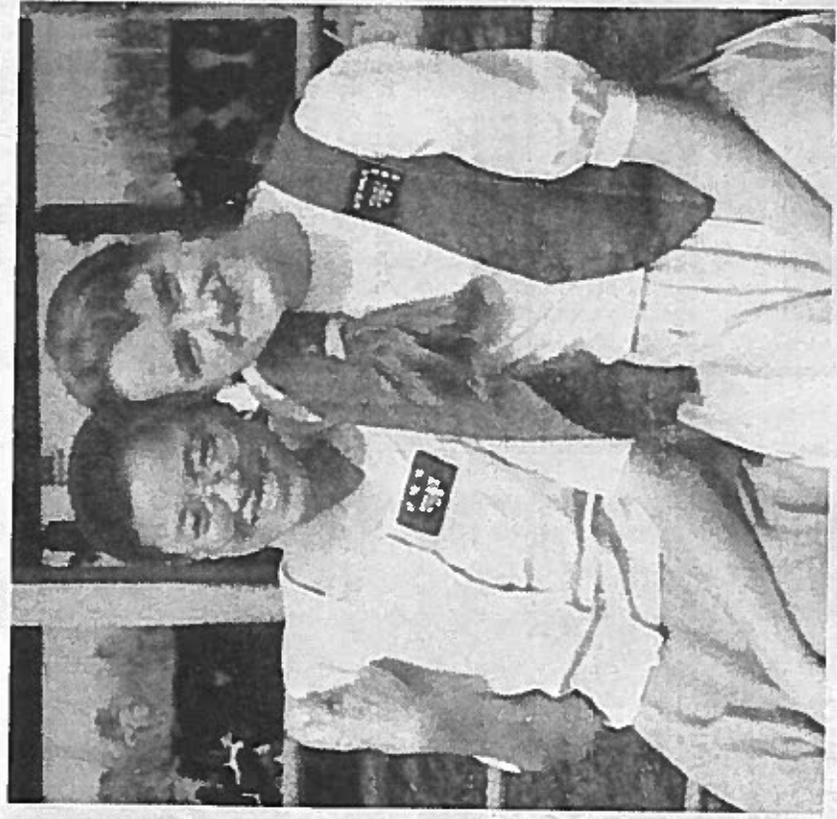
She has spent two weekends in special training courses learning the method of teaching she will employ and learning a lot about the Chinese culture. She will teach the children conversational English and spend a lot of time teaching them the language by playing games and doing crafts with them.

Because China is a communist country, all teaching volunteers are required to sign a paper stating that they will not speak about the LDS church to native Chinese people. They are allowed to speak freely with foreigners.

Amy says she is looking forward to returning to the Asian people. She knows China will be quite a bit more primitive than Taiwan — there will probably be little or no heat in the buildings that house teachers and students attending the boarding school — but many things, including the food, will be similar to the place where she lived for 18 months while serving as a missionary.

"There are some things I didn't enjoy while I was there (in Taiwan) — chicken feet, blood pudding rice — but there are others I will be glad to taste again, like dry noodles, water dumplings and fried yams," she re-

SEE WINKLER on page 20



ALMOST LIKE HOME — Amy Winkler (pictured right) grew up on a dairy farm in Bluebell. Amy and her Chinese mission companion Sister Yungching Hu, found a rare site, a dairy in Taiwan, and had to pose for a picture.

RHC  
0193  
5 Feb-2002  
Winkler Born Bluebell



**SISTERS** — Amy and Francine Winkler (pictured left to right), are the daughters of Udell and Ruth Winkler. Amy will is tentatively scheduled to leave for China on Feb. 18, to teach English to young Chinese children. Amy said her family is very supportive of her decision.

## WINKLER

Continued from page 13

calls.

Amy says when she was in Taiwan it took her about six months before she felt comfortable with the language, this time around, however, she will have a head start. And she adds, "I always wanted to go back. I didn't now if it was necessarily to teach, but I've come to the conclusion that would be the best."