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DIV OF OIL GAS & MINING
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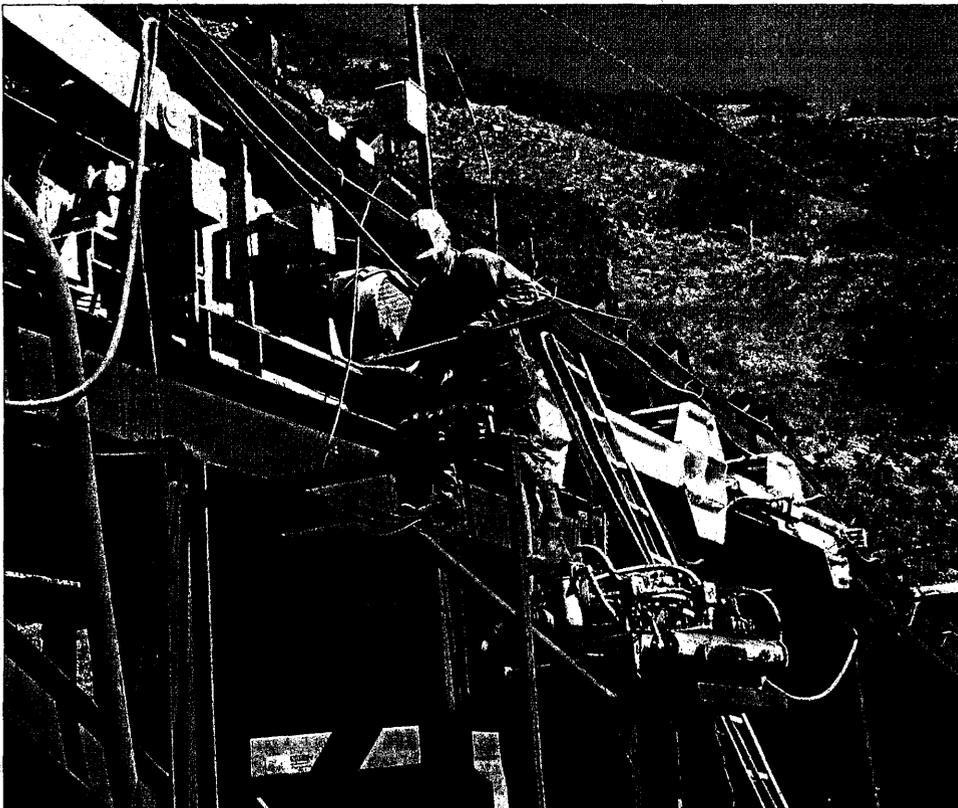
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above grade level by the time they complete third grade at 90 percent.
The strategies and interventions that are being applied in the Reading Excellence Act grant schools need to be implemented in each of the district elementary, he pointed out.
"There are lists of words that students need to know by site because phonics doesn't work," said Armstrong.
Studies have indicated that 20 percent of children don't hear the sounds. He also pointed out that if students know the small words, conjunctions and prepositions, they can read 65 percent of everything that is written.
Kindergarten students will have a list of words to learn that will expand in first grade so that by the end of first grade the children will have site recognition of 300 or more words.
Petersen Elementary will also be piloting what is known as "looping" this year.
Looping simply means that students entering first grade will retain the same teacher through third grade.
Looping allows children and teachers to bond as well as allowing the teacher to track the student's progress from year to year. It also keeps teachers renewed rather than growing stale and stagnating in the same grade, explained Armstrong.
The concept has been successfully applied in many districts throughout the country and, if it proves successful at Petersen, will be expanded to the other elementary schools in the district.
Superintendent Armstrong's goal for the secondary grades is to gain more than a years growth in test scores.
He pointed out that the high school is actually doing a good job.
"All the scores at the elementary level are low and when they get to the high school they jump," commented the superintendent. "I'm going to be looking at that to see if we are maintaining those same children because if we are why is the high school being so successful in moving them upward when we can't do that in the elementary and middle?"
Armstrong explained how he intends to "meet the standard" and create accountability.
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Workers focus on completing the process of reopening the Horizon coal mine, located in the Consumers area of Carbon County. Nov. 1 is the projected start-up date, after a rotation of mining equipment occurs and the underground coal production facility is made operational. The coal production facility was known as the Blue Blaze mine in the 1920s and 1930s. The operation was most recently

closed in 1999. The face is located 1,800 feet straight into the mountain side. Employees who will operate the Horizon facility will be transferred from the White Oaks which will close by the end of August. Room and pillar mining techniques will be utilized at Horizon since the coal seam is too low and working around the fault line make conditions unacceptable for a longwall.

Company starts process to reopen Horizon mine

By KEVIN ASHBY,
Sun Advocate publisher

Work has started on the process of reopening the Horizon coal mine, located in the Consumers area of Carbon County. Employees to operate the Horizon coal production facility will be transferred from the White Oaks mine.
White Oaks will be permanently closing the end of August.
"We are two to three months away from producing coal here," pointed out Trent Hayes, Horizon mine superintendent.
Nov. 1 is the projected start-up date, after a rotation of mining equipment occurs and the underground coal production facility is made operational.
The coal production facility was known as the Blue Blaze mine in the 1920s and 1930s.

The operation was most recently closed in 1999.
The face of the mine is located 1,800 feet straight into the mountain.
Miners will mine the coal another 800 feet before halting at a fault line barrier. Then crews will move to the west.
Engineers estimate 1.5 million tons can be mined before crossing the fault to the coal in the back.
Hayes stated that there is enough coal for seven to 10 years of mining at the site.
Room and pillar mining techniques will take place as the six-foot coal seam is too low and working around the fault line make conditions unacceptable for a longwall.
Approximately 30 to 35 worker will be employed at Horizon, according to company

projections.
Construction will begin soon on a new bathhouse for the miners along with water and sewer systems as well as an office facility.
All surface electrical systems will be updated along with installing a new belt on the 48-inch wide line.
Equipment being used in the White Oaks mine will be refurbished and sent to a Colorado coal operation.
The equipment from the Colorado mine will also be refurbished and then sent to the White Oaks facility for the November opening.
White Oaks will finish mining the bottom of a seam that was left from production operations in the 1970s and 1980s in two weeks.
As part of company officials'

reclamation plan, they are asking the state to approve a process of reclaiming and surface mining the disturbed areas of the claim.
It is estimated that another 700,000 to one million tons of coal can be produced 200 feet into two different seams that were mined over the years.
Approval of the company's reclamation proposal is still pending. The plan would take slightly longer than one year to mine the coal and reclaim the site.
Hayes explained that this will be one of the first coal surface mine permits in the state of Utah and therefore the permitting process is taking some time.
Currently, there are 40 employees at White Oaks, with some of the miners working there for 25 years.



Watchdog association challenges practice of diverting property taxes from schools to RDAs

Utah school districts lost more than \$27 million in property tax revenues in 2000 because of redevelopment and economic development agency projects imposed by cities.
In addition, 35 local public school systems received \$2.8

dized by redevelopment agencies, points out the watchdog group's evaluation.
But with rare exceptions, the taxpayers association maintains that the developments would have occurred without giving up property values.

uniform school fund portion amounted to \$1.15 billion.
But since many districts are giving away property tax revenues to redevelopment agencies, the school systems are essentially withholding a combined \$7.8 million from the weighted pupil