

County to order removal of gate

By LAYNE MILLER
Staff writer

The Carbon County Commission took little time in deciding that Penta Creeks officials must remove the locked gate leading to Grassy Trail Reservoir last Wednesday night.

Carbon Commissioner Bill Krompel, the county official responsible for roads, told residents gathered at the regularly scheduled public meeting that his recommendation to order the removal of the gate came as a result of much research.

"We had to decide if the dirt road is a private road or public road. If it is private, then they have a right to lock it or whatever they want," explained Krompel. "My research confirmed it is a Class B road and the gate must be unlocked."

Krompel explained that he had to confirm that the road was a class B county road, that Carbon government funds had been expended in maintaining it and that it accesses public lands.

Krompel reviewed an opinion he received from Don Coleman of the Utah Attorney General's Office which indicated if a road is used by the public for a period of 10 years, it is a public road.

"That is the only qualification," advised Krompel.

Coleman also reported that a formal process must be used by the county to "abandon" a public road. The designated formal process has never occurred in connection with the road leading to the East Carbon reservoir.

"The determination that a roadway has been continuously used by members of the general public for at least 10 years is the sole requirement for it to become a public road," read Krompel, quoting the attorney's correspondence.

A letter written to the commission by East Carbon Mayor

Paul Clark indicated that his research shows the road was constructed just prior to the turn of the century. Clark's research also shows that local residents used the road to access the spot for annual picnics and celebrations until the reservoir was later built on the spot. From 1952 until the mid-1970s, the canyon was open to the public up to the dam site.

A letter from the United States Bureau of Land Management and an accompanying map confirms that the road in question accesses 80 acres of public BLM land on the southwest corner of the reservoir and another 240 acres northwest of the reservoir.

"Based on this review, this is a public road. I make a motion we notify Penta Creeks that the gate is an unlawful obstruction of a public road and that we alert them they have to remove the locked gate," stated Krompel.

The motion was seconded and passed by all three members of the commission.

George Harmond, deputy county attorney, is drafting a letter for mailing to Penta Creeks' owners in the next few days. The letter will inform the owners that they have 10 days to remove the gate.

The commissioners advised Carbon Sheriff Jim Robertson that if the gate is not removed within the designated time period, county employees will remove it for the Penta Creeks owners.

State regulations specify that failure to remove an illegally placed gate across a public road constitutes a class B misdemeanor criminal offense.

Commissioner Neil Breinholt pointed out that locked gates across public roads is a controversial issue.

"We haven't had an issue with so much passion and controversy," commented Breinholt.

Freedom-lit skies



July is the month of fireworks for Utahns celebrating 4th and Pioneer Day. Wellington will celebrate July with a rodeo, dinner, dance, run, parade and carnival Friday and Saturday. Youth from the area were invited to participate in the Ensign Peak Park dedication in So carrying flags from nations across the world.

Regents select new president

By LAYNE MILLER
Staff writer

For the first time in the history of the College of Eastern Utah and the state, a Utah college will be led by a black female president.

Grace Sawyer Jones was ratified as the Price college's president by the Utah Board of Regents last Friday during a ceremony at the CEU Alumni Room. Jones was selected



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