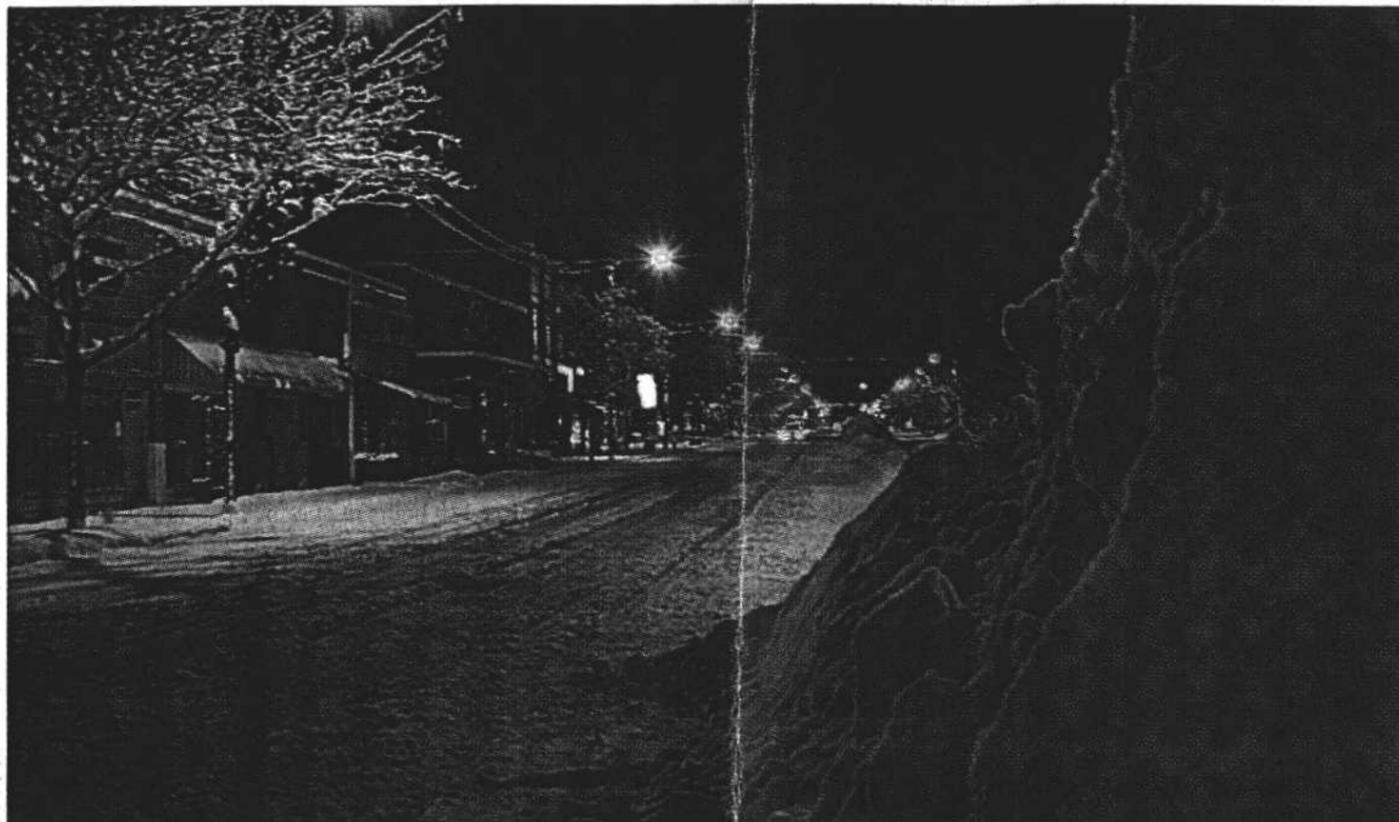


Internal  
12/30/03



Snow piled in the middle of Price Main Street takes on an eerie glow as the Christmas storm continues to hover above the Carbon County area early

last Friday morning. City, county and state road crews reported to work on the holiday to clear the highways and streets for travelers.

## Major snowstorm blankets county

By RICHARD SHAW  
Staff reporter

Early last week, Snotel measurements showed that the Cottonwood-Mammoth water shed had a snow pack of 95 percent of normal. Cottonwood-Mammoth provides a significant percentage of Carbon County's water supply.

The measurement was taken, however, before a Christmas Day storm blanketed the mountains and valleys in Castle Country with the largest amount of snow in almost six years. By the time the storm passed through the area, parts of the valley had more than 10 inches of snow.

Since the drought started in

1998, there have only been a few times that a significant amount of snow had stuck on the ground in the valley.

The storm rose up from the south and residents awoke to up to six inches of snow on lawns.

The storm continued all day Christmas with only a few breaks.

By Friday morning, unused parking lots and driveways had filled up with snow. Snow plows, blowers and shovels were out in force.

Utah Department of Transportation, Price city and Carbon County crews worked on Christmas Day to keep roads open. In addition, power outages occurred in various places

around the county and for varying lengths of time. In some areas there were just flickers and those small outages happened three or four times in the same areas. In other areas the power was out for up to four hours.

"We've isolated the power outage in one area here but there are some places over there that still don't have power," said one Utah Power and Light employee who was assisting a worker on a boom truck on Carbonville Road early Friday morning. "We're just trying to get to the problems and fix them as fast as we can."

Luckily for Carbon residents the outages were nothing like what happened along the

Wasatch Front this past weekend. Nearly 100,000 people were without power and, Sunday night, UP&L said customers would not have electricity restored until Tuesday.

On Friday, businesses in Carbon County were affected by the storm. Generally, Dec. 26 is one of the biggest shopping days of the year and special closeout sales begin early in the morning. But most local retail outlets were not as busy as expected.

Businesses opening doors the day after Christmas indicated that employees were late or did not report to work due to the winter weather conditions.

(Continued on page 8A)

## PRWID decides to purchase property

By RICHARD SHAW  
Staff reporter

The Price River Water Improvement District has decided to buy part of the property that was the Willow Creek mine complex in Price Canyon.

At the Dec. 16 public meeting, the board approved the purchase of 130 acres of property located from the School House Canyon area to the water plant for \$32,500.

"I am pleased with how this will work for us," indicated PRWID manager Phil Palmer at the meeting.

"This is great property to have for extra settlement ponds to back up the sludge plant at our present facility. There are also some buildings on the property which could be used for extra chemical storage as well," continued Palmer.

The proposal to the owners of the property was approved, contingent on review by PRWID's legal counsel, Nick Sampinos.

The board also approved the issuance and confirmation of the sale of bonds totaling \$1.3 million for the upgrade of water line in Carbonville and Wellington.

The project, which will begin later this winter, will replace lines in all and part of five small water company systems, with the intention of bringing them up to state standards so the companies can be absorbed into



Phil Palmer, PRWID

the PRWID system. The move, as has been requested by the small water companies, will take place sometime next year.

Earlier in the fall, the project was originally bid out with PRWID officials expecting costs to be around \$900,000 even though the engineers estimate was a bit over that.

However, when the proposals came in, the bids were considerably higher than expected. Therefore, a new financing option had to be found since the original plan would not provide adequate money for the engineering, construction and reserve on the project.

PRWID approached the state board of drinking water about the extra money and was able to work out the details for more money, but it will change what residents of those areas will pay for the upgrade.

"We were able to get some concessions, but some of it also remained the same," explained assistant PRWID manager Jeff Richens. "We were able to get the state to allow a 20 percent forgiveness for the entire amount, so that part is like a grant. We were also able to finance the remainder over 25 years, which is a plus for keeping the monthly payment for residents down. It appears the cost per month will be about \$20."

New customers who hook  
(Continued on page 2A)

### Safety constitutes main

