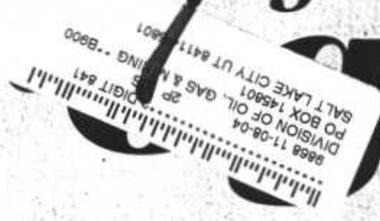


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Mining

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# Emery County Progress



Tuesday, November 11, 2003 Home Grown News Since 1900 • Castle Dale, Utah Volume 103 • Nu

## Miners Picket

By PATSY STODDARD, Editor

The striking Q-op Miners have set up a picket line at the bottom of the Bear Canyon road. At the top of the road the CW Mining Company mines coal, business as usual with reduced production. The miners are in their eighth week of picketing the mine. The workers are accusing the mine of unfair labor practices. The miners are listing low wages, unsafe conditions, intimidation by supervisors, no health insurance and other grievances as the reason for their continued presence on the picket line.

These workers are handicapped by a language barrier and the workers want to make their plight known. Jim Stevenson of the United Mine Workers has been instrumental in giving these miners hope in their quest for what they call, "respect and dignity."

Stevenson said they have filed charges against the CW Mining Company with the National Labor Relations Board. The company was asked if they would work to mediate the problems

Continued on PAGE 3A.

## Mine Responds

By PATSY STODDARD, Editor

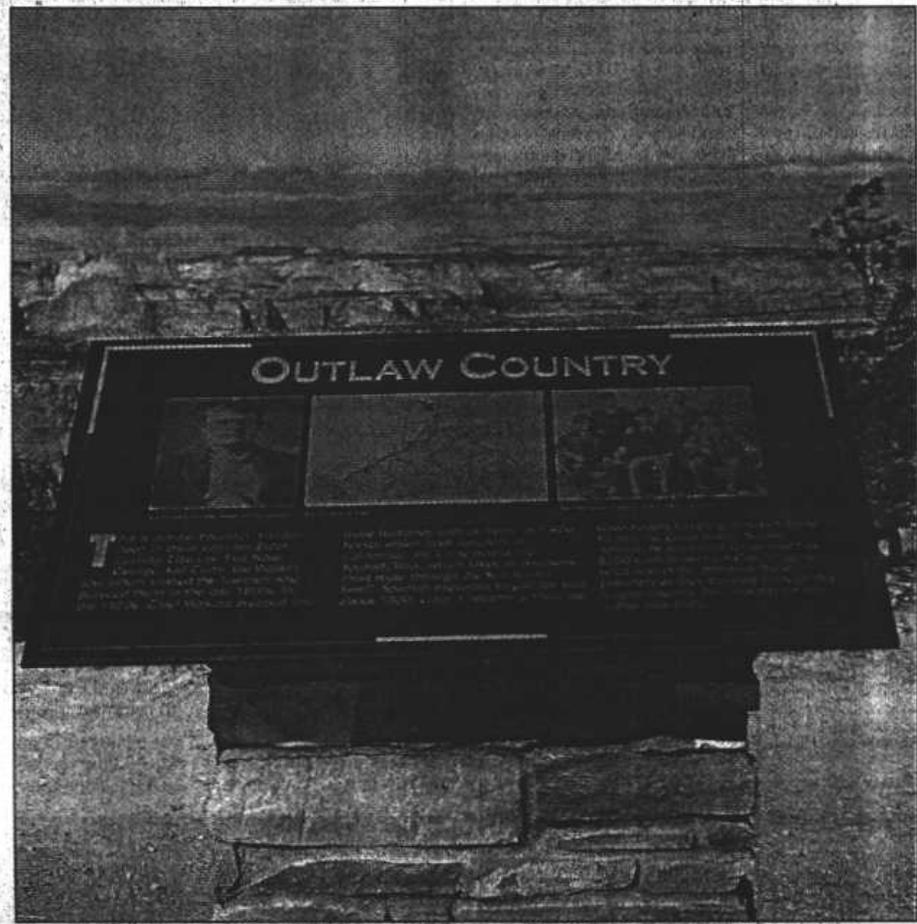
The saga continues at the CW Mining Company, company spokesman, Charles Reynolds said that the blue tent at the end of the road was gone and there hadn't been anyone there since Friday. Reynolds said a complaint had been filed against the UMWA with the National Labor Relations Board by the International Association of United Workers Union; the exclusive bargaining unit between the CW Mining Company and its employees. The mine has been sent a letter by the UMWA which stated the UMWA was withdrawing its request to collectively bargain with the mine. Chris Grundvig is the local president of the International Association of United Workers Union. The UMWA

Continued on PAGE 4A.

## No Child Left Behind Could Point to Failure

By COREY BLUEMEL, Staff Writer

During a recent Emery School Board meeting, Jon Crawford did a



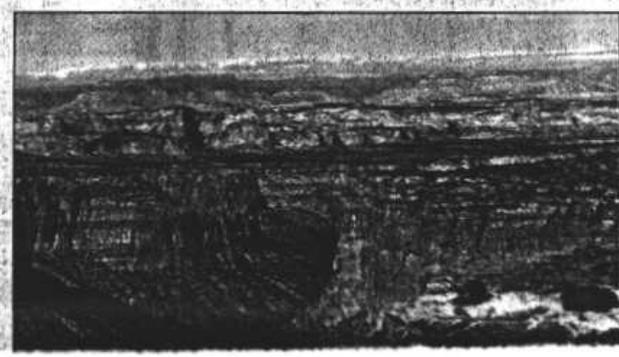
This interpretive panel at Ghost Rock gives some outlaw history of the Swell.

# swell information

### Interpretive Signs at View Areas along I-70 corridor completed

By PATSY STODDARD, Editor

A long awaited project was recently finished on the I-70 corridor which bisects the San Rafael Swell. In a ceremony on Oct. 28 at Ghost Rock the project was officially dedicated, this project included the installation of interpretive panels on native rock pedestals at scenic overlooks along the Swell. The overlooks were previously identified with a sign which said view area, but did not include the name of the spot. Now if you are



## INSII



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## BRIEF

### Municipal Electi

Winners in the mu tions in Emery Coun as follows:

In Orangeville: I Randall Stillson and for the council posit

In Huntington: Julie Gordon, and Norm Dir four year positions; a for the two year coun

In Clawson: Clay Jon Keith Sorsenson won as write in cand two year council sea

In Cleveland: Murdoch and Gary the council seats.

In Ferron: Kent La elected as mayor; I Gordon Bennett and Meccariello won th council seats. Joe T the two year council

In Castle Dale Cologie, Joel Dorsel Giles won the four y positions.

In Green River: B) was elected to the tw cil seat; Kerry Big Fluckey and Dan Ha elected to the councl year positions.

**Coal Operator Re**

The Department of fice of Surface Minin Utah's Castle Gate M "Excellence in Surfai ng Reclamation" aw Deputy Secretary of Steven Griffin present

# Miners

Continued from PAGE 1A.

at the mine and the company has refused. These workers are protected from coercion and intimidation whether they belong to a union or not, stressed Stevenson. When the miners tried to return to work the next day after the problems with the one fired worker the company had a list of miners they would let through to return to work and only four or five miners were named on the list and the others were fired, according to Stevenson.

Stevenson reported that workers claimed they were forced to operate unsafe equipment under unsafe conditions including unstable roof conditions.

Stevenson also reported that the UMWA, some of the striking miners, AFL-CIO support group and other citizens groups had been to a Kingston company office building in Salt Lake and picketed there trying to raise awareness of the plight of the miners. Stevenson said they are also trying to make customers of the Kingston polygamous clan owned businesses aware of the unfair working conditions at the businesses, including the Emery County mine. "We want the customers back east to know that they are burning coal mined with slave labor," said Stevenson.

"These workers lived in fear, if they were hurt on the job, they couldn't collect workmens compensation because they were expected to be back on the job or they would lose their jobs even if they were injured. This mine operates like the companies did in the early days of the organizing of the union. We have had a trailer donated by pensioners of the striking miners to use. One of the Co-op supervisors stopped the other day and talked to the picketers and told them they were all going to be arrested and that they couldn't have that trailer there. We checked with the state before putting the trailer there and have a permit to keep it there. This Kingston group is very well insulated in the state. They have been under investigation by the Internal Revenue Service in the past and we are investigating their way of doing business.

"We tried to work with these people and mediate and tried to resolve these issues. Their company union is illegal and it's phony and operated by the management and none of the workers belong to it. They have taken advantage of these immigrant workers. One immigrant worker has worked there for 22 years and was only making \$7 per hour, another has been there for 14 years and was making



Miners gather and socialize on the picket line.



This trailer was donated by pensioners to the striking miners.



Esmerida Acuna plays while her parents spend time on the picket line.

\$6.50 an hour. Only one of the miners has returned to work. This involves 74 miners and there are people willing to testify as to what these miners went through. These immigrant workers have been exploited and we are taking a stand against the Kingston empire. These workers deserve fair treatment and dignity and respect. That's why they are standing on the pickets.

"A decision will be made in mid-November by the National Board of Labor Relations as to whether or not the CW Mining Company has been involved in unfair labor practices. We believe we have a solid case. We want these workers back to work and these issues resolved. They are entitled to reinstatement and back wages if the board rules in their favor. The UMWA is here to assist the workers in asserting their rights. If they want to bargain a contract with the UMWA or another union of their choice, that is their right. I believe organized labor is starting to come back; 1 percent of the population in this country controls 99 percent of the wealth.



Pickers try to bring attention to their plight as Manuel Lopez, Danielle Acuna, Esmerida Acuna, Juan Salazar Acosta and Gonzalo Salazar spend six hour shifts on the picket line.

Photos by Pat



This makeshift camp is home to striking miners and serves as a shelter from the cold. A wood stove is also installed inside for cooking and heat.

"In non-union mines just the threat of a union makes for better working conditions for the miners, better pay and training.

A lot of the old union mined out and Deer only UMWA mine area," said Stevens.

## Heritage Touris

By COREY BLUEMEL  
Staff Writer

Concerned business owners and interested citizens attended the Chamber of Commerce luncheon that featured the guest speaker Wilson Martin. Martin is the associate director of the Utah State Historical Society and was appointed by Gov. Michael Leavitt to be the Historic Preservation Officer for the State of Utah.

"Heritage tourism unifies all aspects of tourism, historic preservation and archeology. Those heritage tourists are all interested in historical places to stay, places to eat, souvenirs to buy and things to do and see," said Martin. "They want to ex-

perience the history which they are visit-

In the past decade tourism industry to the top of the list that people travel. ing industry and means that have no ind ginning to make known for the cultu tions of the area. T tend to stay longe more at a given des do other types of t

Heritage touri gional industry tha those people wh things old fashion between the ages c up the greatest p heritage tourists. someone else's lar tage and way of li majority of the tra is visiting the choose to vacatio

The Comm Heritage Coordin was established i sist community-be tions in: creating h enhancing historis tricts, developing vitalizing historic tricts, preserving promoting heal growth and foste

"We need to si our own history. I are there to be to periences of your be worth someth son.

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HOLIDAY NIGHTS

...two car accident. Officer responded and completed the report.

A Huntington resident reported a possible DUI. The responding officer located the vehicle and arrested the driver on an outstanding warrant from Carbon County.

A Huntington resident reported a coal truck for driving recklessly. Officer responded and could not locate the vehicle, but reporting person signed a complaint.

A Green River resident reported the attempted theft of his four wheelers. Officer responded and took report. Matter is under investigation.

A Ferron resident reported that her children had their candy stolen by older children. Officers responded and spoke to the suspects' parents.

During a traffic stop, an officer arrested a juvenile for drug possession.

The Grand County Sheriff's Office requested an Emery County officer to inspect a bus that had its windshield broken. The driver was concerned for the safety of the passengers. Matter

...and it was discovered that the parties had been arguing. Matter was settled at the scene.

Stray cows were reported on the road in Castle Dale. An officer responded and alerted the owner to take care of the cows.

A Huntington resident reported a family fight in which an ex-spouse had pushed the resident. Officer responded and reported everything seemed OK and matter was settled at the scene.

An Emery resident reported that the tires on his tractor had been shot out. The resident responded and completed a case report.

A Green River resident reported two cars apparently racing in the street in front of the residence. An officer responded and descriptions were given and all officers were alerted.

A Green River resident reported a vehicle spotlighting and apparently shooting his cattle. An officer responded and matter is under investigation.

A male subject was arrested on a warrant from the Clearfield Justice Court.

A male subject was arrested on a warrant out of Duchesne County, and also a warrant from Wasatch County.

A Huntington resident reported that her daughter's car stereo had been stolen. An officer responded and requested a property watch on other vehicles parked north of BKs.

...woman re- to escort her personal poss- residence, and escorted arriving, the

...ing a car. Officer responded and pulled the suspect over, the subject was not drunk, but the officer followed the subject home.

A Huntington resident reported a single car accident. Officer responded, filled out the reported and matter was settled.

A Castle Dale resident reported the theft of several items from his farm. Matter is under investigation.

A Huntington resident reported that several young children were attempting to break the windows out of an abandoned building. Officer responded and completed a case report.

A Cleveland resident reported a vehicle being driven recklessly. The incident happened in Carbon County and dispatch reported the incident to Carbon county officials.

A Huntington resident reported having found a license plate in a parking lot. Officer responded and retrieved the plate and will leave at the substation for owners.

A Ferron resident reported damage to his truck. An officer responded and the matter is under investigation.

A Huntington resident reported having been assaulted by a spouse. The spouse had then taken the underage child and left. An officer responded and attempted to contact the subject.

An Orangeville resident re-

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...rived to the states and on to the individual school districts. The districts have 30 days to review the results for accuracy. In the event that an error is found, the district can appeal that portion of the report.

At the end of the 30 day review by the districts, the information is returned to the State Office of Education where it will find its way onto the State Office's website for the public.

Crawford also informed the board that the Utah Performance Assessment System report will

...students. This report breaks down student performance with regards to state curriculum and core tests in grades, three, five, eight and 11.

U-PASS gives the percentage of students in those grades who perform at median level or greater. Parents can contact the schools for information on the report. The upcoming report due in December, will be the state's first. The completion of this report will release schools from the responsibility of doing a report card on themselves.

## Mine Responds

Continued from PAGE 1A.

has been accused of unfair labor practices by trying to collective bargain at a mine with an existing union.

Reynolds said that the other issues pertaining to the complaint the UMWA filed against the Co-op Mine are still being reviewed by the NLRB as to whether a hearing will take place. The board is currently investigating and gathering information to aid in their decision making process.

Reynolds said, "We are currently only operating one section of the mine, versus the two sections we were mining before. But, things are running normally and we have hired 15-20 new miners. A few of the miners that quit have come back to work and no one was ever locked out. After the incident first happened with the fired miner, then we did have the gate closed between shift changes when nobody was on the surface. We were concerned about possible vandalism and had the gate closed, but it was open during shift changes. A few of the supervisors worked increased hours the first few weeks, but we are running on a fairly normal schedule now."

"Our miners are not in danger and we have a good safety record.

"MSHA has inspected and monitored the places where the striking miners had complaints and they have found no abnormal conditions.

"Our safety record is better

than the national average.

"When a new miner is hired the wages are reviewed with that miner and they know what to expect. These inexperienced miners would have difficulty getting a job with another mining company and we give workers a chance to gain experience. Other mines have hired our workers and commented on how well trained they were. Our trained workers have the opportunity for higher wages as they increase their experience and performance.

"We will continue to operate as we have been under the existing contract with no immediate projected changes. We do offer medical insurance where the company pays half and the employees pay half and this is similar to what other companies offer," said Reynolds.

One of the complaints the female miners had against the mine was the lack of separate shower facilities. Reynolds said that the company offered to make alternate shower arrangements with the females and they responded that they just needed a place to change and would shower at home.

Reynolds said they would abide by any decisions made by the NLRB and respond accordingly.

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