

DIXIE SPEAKS

Changes at the SUN

The *Southern Utah News* is constantly taking steps to make our product better! We have done so in the past six months by adding three new correspondents. They've added more in-depth coverage in Fredonia, as well as more specific coverage on city and county concerns in the Kanab and Kane County area. In the future, we hope to feature more news, features and editorials concerning local issues and outside forces affecting our area.

In an effort to facilitate this, this week all those who normally receive the *Color Country Shopper* will receive a free copy of the *Southern Utah News*. After that, the shopper will no longer be printed. With mailing costs being what they are, the move is economical, as well as logical.

As before, we will offer the ability to insert a flyer in the *Southern Utah News*. We will also begin to insert the flyers into the newspapers that are sold in stores around town. Advertisers may provide their own flyers, or we can print them for you.

To assist in making the transition easier, the *Southern Utah News* will be offering the discounted cost of \$30 through the end of January, 2009 to all new local subscribers and those wishing to renew their subscriptions.

We understand that for advertisers, your dollars are more precious than ever in these trying economic times. But when business is down, there's no better time to advertise! What products do you offer? What services do you provide that no one else does? Why should consumers buy what you have to sell? But most importantly, how will they know about it, unless you advertise?

Thank you for having patience with this transition and streamlining. We feel it is a sound move forward on our part, as well as one that will best serve our readers.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What is your opinion? This newspaper welcomes letters from its readers concerning any subject. Defamation of character or anything of a libelous nature or will not be considered for publication. Please limit your letters to 300 words or less. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. Letters must be signed and include your full name, address and telephone number. Limited to one letter per person per month.

BLM perspective on snow removal/road maintenance in Kane County

Dear Editor:

We appreciate the opportunity to seek clarification about ongoing concerns raised by Kane County and the local community regarding the respective rights and responsibilities for snow removal and road maintenance activities on public lands in Kane County.

In May 2008, the District Court for Utah presided by Judge Tena Campbell rendered a decision that Kane County was to remove 39 county signs placed on roads in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in 2003. Kane County interpreted this ruling broadly to require Kane County to remove all county signage from the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and to cease road maintenance on federal lands within Kane County, including the Monument, public lands administered by the Kanab Field Office, and on roads within the Glen Canyon

National Recreation Area.

The BLM does not agree with the county's interpretation of Judge Campbell's ruling and feels the county has the right to continue to maintain all open public roads. The BLM will continue to attempt to work with Kane County to resolve this issue, and maintains that Kane County is not prevented from continuing to provide routine road maintenance and snow removal as they have historically done in the past. We feel that the District Court ruling in no way impinges or impedes this historical right and responsibility. Because the BLM is sensitive to the perception by Kane County that the county has somehow been disenfranchised by the District Court ruling, we have offered and will continue to offer two options to facilitate this process:

(a) FLPMA Title V Right-of-way in perpetuity for the roads within Kane County in question, including a provision that R.S.2477 rights are not affected. The Title V Right-of-way would in no way diminish the

RS 2477 assertions currently being pursued by Kane County, but would provide the county the necessary authority, which they feel Judge Campbell has revoked, to continue routine road maintenance and snow removal operations.

(b) Kane County could enter into a Road Maintenance Agreement (RMA) with the BLM, which again would provide the necessary authority, which the county feels Judge Campbell has suspended, to continue road maintenance and snow removal operations.

It is important to note that Kane County continues to receive funding through the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) to perform road maintenance on Class "B" roads which traverse federal public lands.

In addition, federal PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) money is provided to counties for government services which includes, but is not limited to, those services that relate to public safety, the environment, housing, social services, transportation, and government administration. This year's PILT payment to Kane County totaled more than \$931,000.

The managers of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and the Kanab Field Office will get on the County Commission's calendar as soon as possible to discuss these issues further in the hope that we may all come to some viable conclusion to benefit both the

residents and visitors of Kane County and the federal and county agencies.

**Rene Berkhoudt,
GSENM Manager
Harry Barber,
Kanab Field Office
Manager**

Thank you

Dear Editor:

The families of JoAnn Lathim Zaccaria wish to express our deepest appreciation to the EMTs and their hard work in trying to keep JoAnn with us.

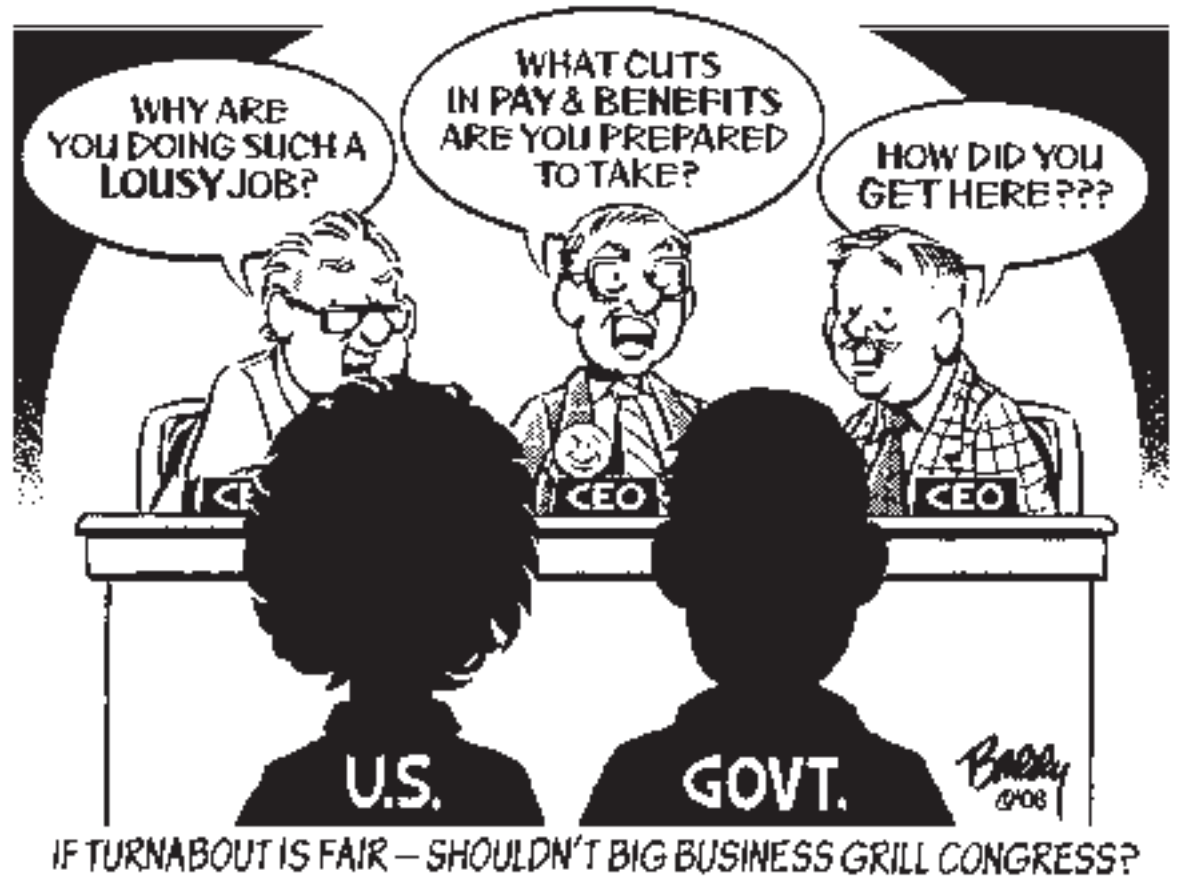
Thank you Dr. Bowman, Dr. Hernan and the staff at Kane County Hospital for your hard work in trying to save her and to all the people who gave flowers and monetary gifts and food and were just there for us in our time of sorrow.

We really appreciate the 2nd Ward Relief Society for the great luncheon they prepared for us. And as always, the Mosdells, what great people. They know just what to say and do to ease the pain.

We truly appreciate living in such a great community always willing to help and show love and support. Thank you so much for all you have done.

**Tony Zaccaria
Eric and Deon Lathim
Jim and Sharon Goodnow
Wayne Lathim
Shannon Piper
Nick and Tammie Zaccaria**

See *LETTERS*, Page 6



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