

Flat housing market forces sewer fee increase

Caleb Warnock
DAILY HERALD

A deflated local housing market is forcing the north county sewer district to make some tough decisions.

Sewer rates for local residents could be increased by as much as 40 percent to make up for rising costs and decreasing impact fees as the rate of housing starts has flattened. Impact fees may also increase.

The 40 percent figure is based on bond consultants "crystal-balling it," said district sewer director Jon

Adams.

In recent weeks, the Timpanogos Special Service District, which provides sewer services for almost all north county residents, has been forced to cancel a \$10 million bond that was supposed to pay for modifications to the sewer treatment plant. The bond had been purchased in 2007 at a variable interest rate and recently the interest rate had begun to rise to untenable levels. The district had not spent the \$10 million yet and decided to simply give the money back, in essence.

"Interest was getting higher and higher," Adams said. "As the project cost escalated, that portion that would have to come from bonding went up because as the cost went up and impact fees went down, it creates a gap that has to be made up somewhere," Adams said.

The district had earlier taken out \$30 million in bonds toward expansion, but those bonds are at a favorable fixed rate.

Taking all this into account, the district will now re-analyze how much the sewer plant expansion will cost,

whether it can be scaled back, and how it should be paid for. Cities and school districts have just been given notice that the district is looking to rethink fees.

No decision is likely to be made for several months, Adams said. At the monthly district board meeting on Thursday, the possibility of fee increases was not discussed.

Representatives of local cities who sit on various sewer district boards and committees have been taking news of the impending fee increases back to their cities.

Eagle Mountain city administrator John Hendrickson told council members in that city that "a minimum of a 40 percent increase in monthly sewer rates" was on the horizon.

"It could very well have to go up from 40 percent," Hendrickson said to council members. "I think you ought to be aware of it."

"I think they are preliminary discussions," Adams said of such city council reports, noting that more will be known when an analysis of costs is completed.

SPRINGVILLE SURVIVOR



CRAIG DILGER/Daily Herald

Todd Herzog, winner of "Survivor: China," explains the rules of a challenge to participants of the Springville Art City Days Survivor Challenge at the Springville City Pool on Friday.

Local competitors get tips from 'Survivor' cast

Janice Peterson
DAILY HERALD

Ping-pong balls, kiddie pools and puzzles sound like innocent childhood fun — unless they are all part of the Springville Survivor Challenge.

Six teams from around Springville competed Friday night in pool challenges ranging from piecing together puzzles from clues across the pool to trying to fill opponents' kiddie pools full of water — and perhaps drown the contestant sitting in the makeshift raft.

In one competition, teams tried to keep their plastic pool from sinking while a teammate sat inside throwing out water. The other teams spent their time throwing buckets of water into the makeshift boat. The teams fought to keep their boat afloat the longest, while fans in the audience cheered them on with green flags, yellow towels, blue faces and anything they could find to represent their team's color.

The teams also had some direction from "Survivor: China" cast members, including Pleasant Grove native and "Survivor" winner Todd Herzog. Along with Herzog, cast mates Erik Huffman, Jaime Dugan, Frosti Zernow and Courtney Yates were on hand to assist with the competition.

"Tonight we're moral support, but tomorrow we're participating," Dugan said.

Yates said the former cast members were excited to be in Utah for the event and to be together again.

See **SURVIVOR**, B3



CRAIG DILGER/Daily Herald

Survivor participants try to stop an opponent from completing a challenge during the Springville Art City Days Survivor Challenge on Friday at the Springville City Pool.

Utah Attorney General's office meets with sect member

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SALT LAKE CITY — A high-ranking member of a polygamist sect met with the Utah Attorney General's Office to discuss the recent raid at a Texas ranch.

Willie Jessop met with Attorney General Mark Shurtleff's chief deputy and other staff members Thursday, The Salt Lake Tribune reported Friday.

Jessop hopes the meeting

will "begin to open doors" with Utah authorities. In April, after allegations of abuse, more than 400 children were removed from an Eldorado, Texas, ranch owned by the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

But the Texas Supreme Court recently ordered them returned to their families.

The FLDS are based in two towns on the Utah-Arizona border. During the meeting,

Jessop said he talked about a list of FLDS members described as possible threats to law enforcement. The list was given to Texas authorities by the Washington County sheriff's office.

Jessop wants the state's help in erasing any perception that he and others are dangerous.

"We're the kind of people for whom an apology goes a long way," he said.

Shurtleff did not attend the

meeting with Jessop. He was in Nevada this week to discuss the FLDS and polygamy issues with authorities from other states.

"There are a lot of bridges to be built," Shurtleff spokesman Paul Murphy said. "We've talked and now we discover whether we can trust what the other person has said."

Murphy said Utah wants the FLDS to stop underage marriages — "the No. 1 issue

we've had."

Jessop served as a church spokesman during the Texas case.

"We still need to hear who he is and how much authority he has to carry out whatever he says," Murphy said. Child Protective Services says 143 children are back at the ranch, living in 30 households. Another 178 children, from 33 families, are living in the San Antonio area.

Sign change brings new face to UVSC

DAILY HERALD

Utah Valley State College put a face on its transition from a state college to a university Friday with the official changing of a sign.

Workers removed the old sign in the roundabout at the main entrance of the school

and installed one bearing the institution's new name, Utah Valley University, reflecting the months of internal change the school has gone through. Vice President for Academic Affairs Liz Hitch said seeing "big metal letters" spelling the school's new name effectively affirmed the transition that has been talked about for so long.

"That makes it so real, to see a physical presence go up," she said. "Wow, this is really happening."

Hitch said there have

"That [sign] makes [the university status] so real, to see a physical presence go up."

Liz Hitch
vice president for academic affairs

See **SIGN**, B3

I-15 shut down after semi hits overpass

DAILY HERALD

Most of Interstate 15 southbound was closed for a little over an hour Friday morning after a semi that was hauling a bulldozer hit a freeway overpass.

Utah Highway Patrol Trooper Cameron Roden said the bulldozer hit the bottom of the Sam Pleasant Lane overpass between Pleasant Grove Boulevard and 500 East in American Fork around 9:30 a.m. Chunks of concrete that broke off of the overpass damaged several vehicles, but no injuries were reported, Roden said.

All lanes but one on the southbound side of the freeway were closed due to the accident. The lanes were re-opened shortly before 11 a.m. An inspector deemed the overpass safe and said it would not require any repairs, Roden said.

The overpass is about 15 feet from the ground. Roden said state law requires authorization for any vehicles that exceed height, weight or width limits to be on the interstate. The driver received citations for not having authorization, load spill and a curfew violation for hauling his load outside of the designated time frame.