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March 16 - 18, 2010

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# The Humboldt Sun

Winnemucca, Nev.

Your Source for Community News

VOLUME 41, ISSUE 22

**WEEKDAY  
 EDITION**



**AG WEEK**

Enjoy a special salute to agriculture in this free supplement included as part of Ag Week, which is March 14 — 20.

Inside

**IN FOCUS**

The Winnemucca chapter of Toastmasters International began in October 2009 and is now offering demonstration meetings.

Page 13



**SNAPSHOTS**

The Humboldt County Student Art Show will be on display at the Winnemucca Fine Arts Gallery through the end of March.

Page 22

**Index —**

- Opinion ..... Page 3
- Announcements ..... Page 4
- Arts & Entertainment .... Page 5
- Community Calendar .... Page 6
- Northern Nevada Events . Page 7
- Chamber News ..... Page 9
- Community News .. Pages 14-17
- Classifieds ..... Pages 20-21

**Local Weather**

**Tue 3/16** 68/36  
 Cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the mid 30s.

**Wed 3/17** 66/31  
 Clouds giving way to sun. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the low 30s.

**Thu 3/18** 54/30  
 Mainly sunny. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the low 30s.

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## School district to host public forums to discuss budget cuts

**Bond projects to resume this summer**  
 By Heather Gula  
 The Humboldt Sun

OROVADA — Between planning to spend remaining bond money and attempting to prepare for an insecure financial future, the Humboldt County School District's March 9 meeting in Orovada was dominated by fiscal discussions.

Assistant Superintendent Dave Jensen opened the first item of the meeting by asking board members for approval to continue the district's contract with Mike Mitchell and Associates to oversee continuing bond projects.

"All the projects that they worked on came in under budget, and as a result we were able to have an excess of \$250,000 in carry-over money for this year," Jensen said.

As a result he recommended the district reestablish their contract.

Just under \$3 million in projects have been completed, including roofing projects, asbestos abatement and new window installations at area schools.

Jensen explained that the district has now identified a significant amount of money compiled for upcoming projects. The district expects \$441,000 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds, has \$250,000 in carry-over from last year's projects and is looking at an additional \$600,000 from the roll-over bond's pay-as-you-go component.

"So we are going to be looking at just slightly more than \$1 million dollars in projects," Jensen said.

Kevin Monsey, construction manager with Mike Mitchell and Associates, then addressed one of the major projects the district planned to pursue.



HEATHER GULA • The Humboldt Sun

A crowd gathered at the Orovada Community Hall March 9 as the Humboldt County School Board met in the rural community to discuss budget cuts and bond projects. Kevin Monsey, construction manager with Mike Mitchell and Associates (standing), presented information on plans for solar project improvements before asking the board to renew the bond oversight contract with the company.

He explained that the state is expected to open applications for solar incentives on March 24. Humboldt County has plans to apply for nine units, hoping that at least five will be awarded.

Each system will cost approximately \$280,000 to install. However, a rebate of \$250,000 is issued within 30 days of completion.

"So it almost pays for itself," Monsey said. "The solar system is a big benefit."

Jensen added that the system is expected to allow the district to recoup approximately \$12,000 per system annually in electrical savings. At that rate, the full expense of the system would balance in just over two years.

While the bond will help ensure that the district facilities are kept in good repair, they will do little to offset the gaping hole left by the recent special session of the Nevada Legislature.

Turning to less-pleasant — See **BUDGET, Page Two** —

Areas being considered for potential cuts by the Humboldt County School District to absorb the 6.9 percent mandated reduction and to prepare for possible future shortfalls:

- Remove every other light ballast.
- Lower the temperature in classrooms by 2 degrees.
- Install motion sensors in every classroom.
- Cut the lunch program at Lowry High School.
- Extend the bus radius to five miles.
- Reduce general supplies and the book fund by an additional 10 percent.
- Reduce Paradise Valley Elementary School from three teachers to two, perhaps moving fifth- through eighth-grade students to

- Winnemucca.
- Consolidate Kings River to Orovada or Orovada to McDermitt.
- Evaluate class sizes at McDermitt.
- Freeze step/column salary increases for fiscal year 2011 (negotiated item).
- Split the French Ford Middle School dean between FFMS and Lowry;
- Or Winnemucca Junior High vice principal between WJHS and Lowry;
- Or cut FFMS dean, WJHS VP and reduce staff to one VP at Lowry.
- Cut one elective at WJHS.
- Cut the junior high athletic program.
- Reduce rural basketball program.
- Eliminate freshmen athletic programs.
- Increase pay to play.

- Reduce the number of paid coaching positions.
- Reduce the extra duty stipend (negotiated item).
- Reduce the number of counselors at the elementary schools to a 50 percent split.
- Reduce ESL to a 50 percent split at the two elementary schools and FFMS.
- General salary reduction — 1 percent equals \$250,000 (negotiated item).
- Collapse all non-hard-to-fill positions through attrition and retirement.
- Increase class sizes by two or three students at the elementary schools and as necessary at the secondary schools.
- Expand the American Academy to draw more home school students back to the district and increase revenues.

- Review state grants to see if funding can be reverted to offset reduction.
- Possibly reduce classified hours in the rural schools (negotiated item).
- Implement four-day week in town as a one-year trial.
- Not allow substitutes for classified position absences.
- Examine retirement incentive to see if there is additional savings.
- Reduce substitutes for professional development.
- Apply Impact Aid and Schools to Roads funds toward deficit.

Community forums will be held today from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the West Hall of the Winnemucca Convention Center to gauge public priorities for future cuts.

## Total of 44 candidates file for county offices

By Rudy Herndon  
 The Humboldt Sun

WINNEMUCA — If you're a Republican voter, you'll have plenty of candidates to choose from when you go to the polls on June 8.

GOP candidates have filed for almost every local seat that's up for grabs this year, and in one case, six Republicans will be running against each other for an open seat on the Humboldt County Commission.

Local Democrats and third party voters won't have nearly as many choices, though: Candidates from the county's minority party are contesting just four seats, and only one third party candidate is seeking a county-wide office.

As of press time Friday, a total of 44 candidates had filed for 26 positions.

The most crowded race by far is the six-way match for Seat E on the Humboldt County Commission, with John Arant, Rich Brown, William Douglas, Jim French, Mel Hummel and Marshall Keller vying for the position.

Voters may have an equally hard time choosing between can-

**Voting information —**

- Primary election dates:**
- Close of voter registration — May 18
  - Early voting — May 22 — June 4
  - Primary election — June 8
- General election dates:**
- Close of voter registration — Oct. 12
  - Early voting — Oct. 16 — 29
  - General election — Nov. 2

For more information, visit the Nevada Secretary of State Web site at: <http://nvsos.gov/>.

didates for Humboldt County District Attorney. Incumbent Republican Russell Smith is being challenged by fellow Republican Matt Stermitz, who currently serves as the county's public defender. Democrat Michael McDonald and Independent American Party candidate Kevin Pasquale of Fallon are also

— See **ELECTION, Page Two** —

## USGS study: Water sources 'would not be affected' by landfill

By Heather Gula  
 The Humboldt Sun

WINNEMUCA — The much-anticipated United States Geological Survey's study indicates that the Humboldt River and Rye Patch Reservoir would not be affected by surface releases from the proposed Jungo landfill.

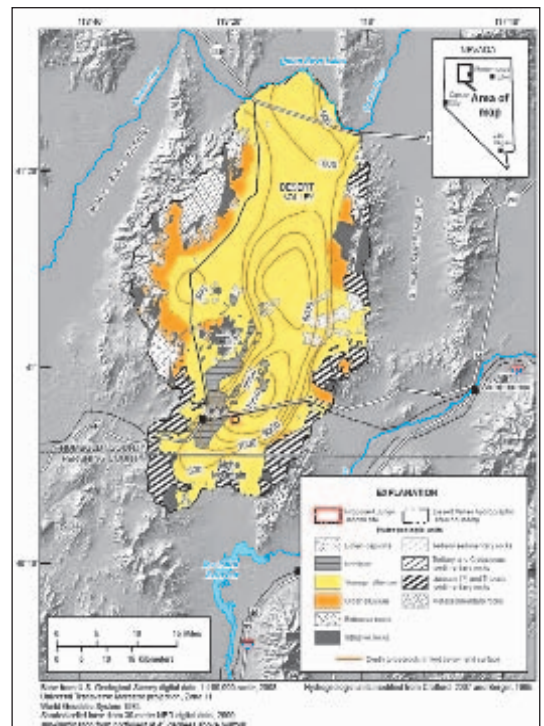
A summation of the study also stated that municipal water resources of Winnemucca would not be affected by surface or subsurface releases from the proposed Jungo landfill site.

The study found that wind-blown contaminants could reach the Winnemucca area, but dispersion likely would dilute concentrations to an undetectable level in surface or subsurface water resources.

Further, estimates indicate that contaminants would travel about 0.02 mile and a maximum of 2.5 miles in 95 years and about 0.04 mile and a maximum of 5.0 miles in 190 years. The closest supply wells that could be impacted by contaminants are 5 to 6 miles downgradient and are used for industry, irrigation and stock watering.

According to the study, the proposed Jungo landfill site is in a shallow depression in southern Desert Valley and that local

— See **STUDY, Page Two** —



U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The U.S. Geological Survey study identified the hydrogeologic units of desert valley, which, according to the study, prevent the movement of water into surrounding aquifers, including those that feed Rye Patch Reservoir, the Humboldt River and Winnemucca's municipal water resources.

2 - The Humboldt Sun, March 16 - 18, 2010

NEWMONT The Gold Company		
Spot metal prices		
New York Mercantile Exchange closing metals prices		
	GOLD	SILVER
Wednesday	\$1,108.20	\$17.03
Thursday	\$1,109.60	\$17.16
Friday	\$1,101.50	\$17.07

**Dr. Robert Parlasca**  
Orthopedic Surgeon with  
Reno Orthopedic Clinic  
will be seeing patients at

**135 W. 2nd St., Winnemucca, NV 89445**  
**March 18 & 25**

For an Appointment Call: 775-786-3040 or 1-800-748-6861

**The Red Hats are having their annual Food drive at McDonald's On March 20th at 10:30 AM. The Public is invited to join us. The food collected will go to the Food Bank in Winnemucca**

**A note to our readers**

**Winnemucca Publishing is experiencing problems with our prepress computers**

Readers may notice some temporary changes, including black and white pages and advertisements, some features unpublished and other issues.

Our entire staff is working diligently to insure that each newspaper is delivered to mailboxes and newsracks according to our promised schedule, and we hope you'll "pardon our dust" while we correct this matter. Our best guess is that it will take at least several weeks, perhaps more than a month to acquire and install the necessary equipment to get us back to our regular format.

Due to this unique circumstance, we have started earlier-than-usual deadlines for inclusion of public submissions, including calendar notices, classified advertising, obituaries and other announcements and some news items.

Please see below for a complete list of temporary deadlines:

- Deadline for display advertising: 3 p.m. Thursday for Tuesday edition; 3 p.m. Monday for Friday edition.
- Deadline for public submissions: 3 p.m. Friday for Tuesday edition; 5 p.m. Tuesday for Friday edition.
- Deadline for classified advertising and legals: 3 p.m. Friday for Tuesday edition; 5 p.m. Tuesday for Friday edition.

For more information call our office at 623-5011

**The Humboldt Sun**  
1022 S. Grass Valley Road • Winnemucca, NV 89445 • 775-623-5011 • FAX 775-623-5243

**Show off YOUR furry friend!**

**We want photos of your pets for the Pet Parade page!**

Drop your photo off or email it to: [editors@humboltsun.com](mailto:editors@humboltsun.com)

Deadline for submission for the next page is Friday, March 26

Include the owner's name, the pet's name and any other pertinent information with your submission, such as the pet's breed, gender and age.

**The Humboldt Sun**  
1022 S. Grass Valley Road • Winnemucca • 623-5011

## STUDY

(Cont. from Page One)  
runoff accumulates in the alkali flat about two miles west of the site. The study indicates that floods during 1983 and 1997 affected much of western Nevada.

However, Landsat imagery taken during these years indicated that there was no water in the alkali flat. Much larger events would have to occur for runoff from the landfill site to reach the alkali flat, according to the survey. The flat would then have to overflow into northern Desert Valley to affect surface-water

### TRASH Act —

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid seeks legislation against out-of-state waste. For more information, see Page 12.

resources.

The USGS's Hydrologic Evaluation of the Jungo Area, Southern Desert Valley was commissioned by U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., last September and its findings were released March 9.

On Sept. 22, 2009, Reid intro-

duced an amendment to the Interior Department Appropriations Bill that funded the study by the USGS to evaluate the impact of seepage from the proposed disposal site. The amendment passed both houses with little opposition.

The purpose of the study was to evaluate the proposed Jungo landfill site, considering a number of environmental sensitivities. As part of the evaluation, potential water-quality impacts on nearby surface-water resources — including Rye Patch Reservoir and the Hum-

boldt River — were considered. The study also looked at potential impacts on the municipal water resources of Winnemucca. The locations and altitudes of aquifers were considered and the study determined how long it will take waste seepage from the site to contaminate local aquifers and the direction and distance that contaminated groundwater would travel at 95 and 190 years.

This evaluation was based on review of existing data and information obtained from the most recent report (Berger, 1995).

## ELECTION

(Cont. from Page One)  
running for the seat.

The non-partisan race for Humboldt County Sheriff is shaping up to be another one to watch. Incumbent Ed Kilgore is being challenged by Robert D. Davidson and Andrew Rorex.

Six other local races are also being contested.

It initially appeared that incumbent Humboldt General Hospital Board Trustees Bill Hammargren, Moe Hanzlik and Mary Orr would be running unopposed for reelection. But in the final hours of the candidate filing period, four challengers emerged.

In the race for Seat A on the board, Hammargren will now face off with Jennifer Eldridge and Joseph D. "Dave" Gourley.

Hanzlik's current seat is being contested by Allen Violette.

Stephen Quilici, meanwhile, is running against Orr for Seat E on the hospital board.

A last-minute challenger also came forward in the race for Seat C on the Humboldt County Commission: Democrat Herb Clarno filed to run against

incumbent Republican Dan Cassinelli.

In the race for Seat B on the Humboldt County School Board, GOP incumbent Kris Stewart is being challenged by Democrat Glenda Deputy of Paradise Valley. Meanwhile, Democrat Keith Harrison is seeking GOP incumbent Andrew Hillyer's seat on the board.

But incumbent school Trustees John Hill, John Seeliger and Boyd Betteridge are all running unopposed.

In other uncontested races, Assessor Jeff Johnson, Clerk Tami Rae Spero, Recorder Mary Ann Hammond and Treasurer Gina Rackley are all seeking reelection.

In outlying communities, Golconda Fire District Board Members Joy Mork, Ernest Fortmann and Pamala Hall are running unopposed for reelection, as is Golconda Water District Member Ella Hight.

In McDermitt, Gary Wilson is running for two positions: Seat B on the McDermitt Fire District Board, and Seat A on the McDermitt General Improvement Dis-

trict Board.

Three more seats on the town's GID board are open this year: Lorraine Huttman has filed to run for her current Seat D, while Jack Crittenden is seeking Seat B and Barbara Ferguson is running for Seat C.

In the last uncontested race, Dennis Deputy is running for Seat A on the Paradise Valley Fire District Board.

Beyond this year's county races, local voters will also have a chance to shape the future complexion of the Nevada Assembly.

After just two years in office, Don Gustavson is vacating his Assembly District 32 seat to run for State Senate. Two Republican candidates are now vying to replace him: Jodi Stephens, a former aide to Gov. Jim Gibbons, and Ira Hansen, who operates a plumbing business in the Reno/Sparks area.

The District 32 race should be of interest to most Winnemucca voters, but not necessarily other county residents.

Voters in northern Humboldt County, including Paradise Val-

ley, Orovada and McDermitt, should be paying closer attention to the race for Assembly District 33.

For the first time in more than two decades, veteran Assemblyman John Carpenter will not be running for the seat.

Carpenter is hemmed in by voter-approved term limits, and four candidates are hoping to replace him. They include long-time Elko County Commissioner John Ellison, fellow Republican and small business owner Dale E. Andrus, Spring Creek Democrat Michael McFarlane and Independent American Party candidate Janine Hansen, a lobbyist with the conservative Nevada Eagle Forum.

At the other end of the county, voters should be keeping an eye on the race for Assembly District 35. The sprawling district includes Grass Valley and portions of Winnemucca east of Highland Drive and Grass Valley Road.

Incumbent Republican Pete Goicoechea of Newark Valley is being challenged by Democrat John O'Connor of Fallon.

## BUDGET

(Cont. from Page One)

spending, Superintendent Mike Bumgartner opened discussion of the district's options for the future and their fears of even deeper cuts in coming years.

He stated that while the 6.9 percent cut for this year will be a challenge, the projected \$3 billion state shortfall anticipated next year will be even harder to overcome.

"That is a 50 percent budget problem that they are going to have," Bumgartner said. "So we have to be mindful of that whenever we are talking about budgets."

He explained that he believes a concession from the classified and certified employee associations to freeze pay for one year would be sufficient to avoid a reduction in force.

However, he acknowledged that that would be a huge concession and said they are not sure the associations would agree to it.

"But, regardless of whether that is on the table or not, we have to push forward and make some plans for budget reduction," he said.

From there, the discussion turned toward how to identify the priorities as they make cuts either this year or in the future.

A staff survey released last week asked employees to identify the top and bottom priorities for them as cuts are made. Public forums scheduled for today from 1 p.m. — 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. — 8 p.m. in the West Hall of the Winnemucca Convention Center are designed to solicit the same

response from the general public.

To help get the discussion started, Bumgartner and Jensen have put together a list of possibilities. While they did throw some new things on the table, Jensen explained that a lot of the items came from development of tier two cuts that were never implemented last year.

Before reading the list of approximately 35 items slated for consideration, administrators made it clear they were not wholeheartedly in support of all of them.

"This doesn't necessarily represent that Mike (Bumgartner) and I endorse these ideas," Jensen said. "Some of them we feel would have an extremely negative impact on the student population. However, they have been discussed in the past, so we bring them before the board as consideration of areas that we can explore."

Kris Stewart was the first board member to weigh in on the issue, advocating planning now for cuts that will likely come over the coming years.

"I don't think any of us see anything on the horizon that is going to save Nevada from some disastrous budget times in the next few years," she said. "We have some incredible priorities and some incredible needs that are not being met right now, and by simply putting things off for another year it limits our opportunities. Maybe we need to make some hard decisions this year so that we have the opportunity to move forward in some of those

critical areas."

She went on to identify transportation and food service as two areas where she would like to see sweeping cuts made.

"I have a more limited idea of what we actually need than other people do," she explained. "I just don't think that we can do everything well, nor do we have the money to do everything well. So maybe we ought to focus on those things we can do well, which are suitable buildings, good teachers and the materials they need to teach, and ask parents to step up and feed their own kids and get them to schools. I know it may not be popular to say out loud that we need to see reductions in staff in those areas."

"Everyone is not equal in my mind, a teacher is more essential than asking a parent to pack a lunch," she added.

Stewart explained that she is in favor of asking the certified employees for a freeze in exchange for the likelihood of job retention. She does not wish to provide the same security to classified employees.

"I have no appetite for reducing the number of teachers — or for that matter their pay — but I do think there are areas of support where we can make some sacrifices," she said.

Board member Ann Miller pointed out the suggestions of cuts to administration as an area of cuts that may be well received by the public.

"I think that is a very popular idea," she said. "There is a perception that we are heavy on administration."

Fellow board member John Seeliger argued that while being aware of future cuts is prudent and planning for ways to handle those when they come along is necessary for the district, he does not agree with making cuts prematurely in anticipation of future losses.

"We have cut a lot back now

to the point where we are barely offering a decent program in many of our areas," he said. "So to look at cutting back right now, if we don't have to, I don't think I can agree with that. I do understand what you are saying, but I think we need to offer as much as we can when we can."

Seeliger went on to explain that he feels to make cuts earlier than necessary essentially deprives students. In his opinion maintaining a program for even one additional year provides those students with a better educational experience and is simply the right thing to do.

No vote was taken on reduction matters during the meeting. Further discussion will take place at the upcoming public forums.

Board members Andrew Hillyer and Boyd Betteridge were absent from the March 9 session.

In other news from the March 9 Humboldt County School Board meeting:

- The board voted unanimously to approve the first 64 pages of the 3,000 Business, Non-Instructional Policy Series. Continued discussion on the remainder of the policy and possible approval will occur at the next regular meeting.

- The commission discussed the legal ability of Lander County and Eureka County to contract employees without determining critical need and advice given by attorneys in the two counties, as well as the board attorney, not to enter into such contracts. Administrators indicated that the district will be seeking qualified applicants for the McDermitt principal position as required by NRS. If applicants are not available, they will then come to the board with further instruction.

- The next board retreat was set for 4 p.m. on April 20, with the May meeting to be determined at that time.

**Thank You**

On behalf of Henry Mentaberry and family, we would like to express our sincerest gratitude to everyone who went out of their way during our time of need. From the delicious meals provided, beautiful flower arrangements, and heartfelt cards received, your thoughts and prayers have eased our time of grieving the loss of our beloved Barbara. The outpouring of your generosity is wholeheartedly appreciated and a simple reminder of how fortunate we are to be surrounded by such caring family and friends.

Thank you,  
Henry Mentaberry and Family

**Part Time Job Opening**  
Part-time person interested in history. Mail Resume to:

Humboldt Museum  
POBOX 819  
Winnemucca, Nevada  
89446-0819