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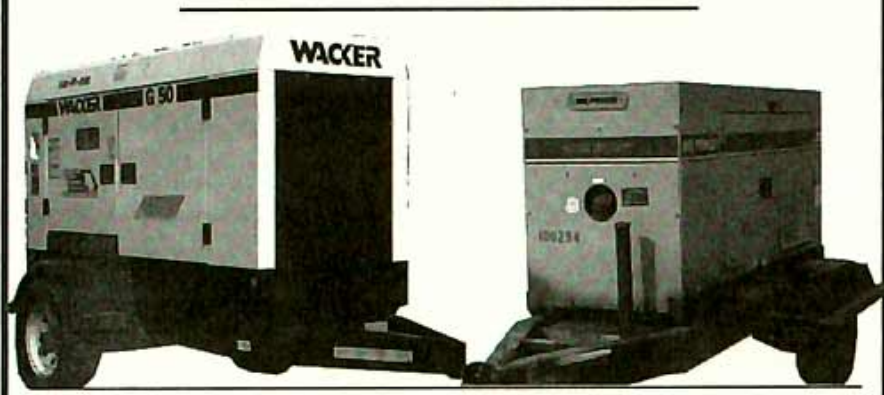
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Utah Humanities Council

Boundary...

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GCSD officials approached San Juan earlier this year to ask for a larger subsidy for San Juan students who attend Grand County schools. But the San Juan School Board will not increase those payments, because, San Juan officials say, their district is already paying the amount required by state law.

"There is much to be dis-

cussed regarding the agreement of what this boundary change will mean. I would like to see these two issues kept separate to avoid locking ourselves into anything that may not be beneficial for our district," said school district superintendent Margaret Hopkin. "We also don't want to lock up the boundary shift with lengthy negotiations that may or may not be approved by first of the year."

The agreement between the

Tax Bills...

Continued from page A1
their properties should contact the assessor's office for an appointment before the Board of Equalization, Swazey said.

The amounts to be collected for county government expenses (not including schools and special service districts) are based on a new, 1.5 percent higher certified tax rate approved by the Grand County Council two weeks ago.

That rate was increased to 0.002905 from 0.002862, as dictated by the State Tax Commission, in order for the county to be able to collect the same amount in tax revenues - \$3.1 million - as were collected in 2009, Carroll said.

One place in the tax notice where a tax rate is being raised is the Grand County Mosquito Abatement Special Service District. That district's tax collections are being raised 41 percent from a very low base, but the result is only a very slight increase in the total tax collection, county officials said.

Rockslides...

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Metzler. As part of the Moenkopi rock formation, the hillside is all the more unstable because of "faulting and folding" events that occurred in past geologic times, Metzler said.

Project managers have long planned to deal with such events and related safety issues as they occur, Metzler said.

Dealing with the instability means constant monitoring of the hillside, in addition to a geotechnical evaluation that began the morning after the

For example, the sample property cited by Swasey will pay an additional \$9.19 for mosquito abatement this year over last year, she said.

The increase is needed to replenish the mosquito district's general fund, which has been drawn down during past years, said the district's director, Bob Phillips. The district must also replace a 17-year old compact pickup truck that is now worn out from constant use, he said.

Phillips said he hopes this year's rate increase will pay for the truck and bring the district's general fund balance up to a point where sufficient funds are available in case of emergencies. When the fund reaches that point, it may be possible to either lower the rate, or at least not increase it again anytime soon, he said.

A "truth in taxation" hearing for the proposed mosquito abatement tax rate increase will be held at 6 p.m. on Aug. 5 at the district's office on Sand Flats Road.

July 21 slide, Metzler said. Any attempt to excavate more material would make the situation worse, he said, adding that it is not possible to justify the cost of a barrier that would stop every possible event.

Crew members regularly monitor the hillside for movement before workers are allowed between the tracks and the hillside to conduct required inspections of rail cars and tailings containers, Ryan said.

"If any movement is detected or a major storm event is imminent, no work is allowed on that side of the train," Ryan said.

One side effect of the hillside's instability is that geologists, and students, come "from all over" because "the geology is so complex" and presents a terrific learning experience, Metzler said.

The DOE does not encourage such visits, but they happen anyway and the agency does its best to accommodate them, Metzler said.

two districts centers mostly on how students remaining outside the boundary will be treated. Grand County school officials will continue to educate the more than 20 remaining students who will reside outside the new boundary, and San Juan officials will continue to pay the Grand County School District the required amount for each student, according to the state mandate. However, San Juan does not want to pay more than the dollar amount required by the state formula for compensation.

San Juan officials also asked for assurances that San Juan homes transferred into the new Grand County boundary will not be subject to a tax increase. Grand County school officials said they are not willing to make that promise.

Grand County School District Business Administrator

Robert Farnsworth said that property owners in the new boundary will most likely see a major tax reduction based on the fact that the San Juan District has the second highest tax rate in the state.

Finally, San Juan officials wanted to make sure the residents in the new boundary will have a voice on the Grand County School District. Currently, board member Jim Webster and board president Kaaron Jorgen are the representatives in that region. Whether they will expand their representation to include the new residents remains a matter for Grand County and the school board to decide, GCSD board members said.

Officials from both districts will continue to hammer out the terms of any agreement while moving forward with discussions on the boundary line adjustment.

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