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## Air strip at Mineral Bottom re-opens

An airstrip at Mineral Bottom on the Green River, first built 50 years ago to service uranium miners along the canyon, has been graded and is ready for use, according to Grand County Road Supervisor Dave Warner.

Warner said he never closed up the strip, about 75 feet wide and over 1,000 feet long, following word last week that use of the airstrip to serve river runners had been approved by the Bureau of Land Management.

The strip, about 30 miles west of Moab, will be used to shuttle tourists taking float trips on the

Green and Colorado rivers. The BLM authorized the use of the strip, following a three-year moratorium, by Redtail Aviation and Mountain Flying Service. The strip will also be open to private pilots.

The moratorium was placed in effect after environmentalists opposed using the strip, complaining noise of airplanes will disturb other visitors to the area and could disrupt the breeding of desert bighorn sheep and peregrine falcons.

Dale Ogden, manager of Redtail Aviation, said the landing strip is a valuable resource that should be preserved for river runners and private pilots. Trips through Cataract Canyon, below the confluence of the Green and Colorado rivers, will be shortened considerably by rafters putting in at Mineral Bottom rather than at Green River State Park.

In the past, river companies have chartered planes to fly customers from Green River and Moab to Mineral Bottom. The flight takes only 20 minutes, while an overland trip takes several hours. River trips then proceed down the Green River, past the confluence, through Cataract Canyon and end at Hite on Lake Powell.

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Environmental groups, however, are not happy with the decision. "This is another example of lands adjacent to Canyonlands being compromised by BLM mismanagement," a representative for the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance was quoted as saying.

Steve Dartsch of the Utah Back Country Pilots Association said, "This is a very environmentally friendly way to visit an area. Granted, there is a little noise during takeoffs and landings, but only for a few minutes during the landing strip."



Pictured are participants in a recent Utah State University Leadership Class youth service project. From the left are Michael Lammert, Sam (last name not known), Cameron Robinson and Garry Apadaca.

## Moab teens help elderly clean yards Nov. 21

A dozen or more area teens spent a bright winter Saturday recently cleaning yards for elderly Moab residents as part of a community youth service project of the Utah State University Leadership class.

Under the direction of class leaders Charity Lammert and Debbie Officer, a group of teens, ages 12 to 18 years old, raked leaves from the yards of Virginia Apartments residents on Nov. 21. Residents of the Virginia Apartments are either low income or elderly. The week prior to the clean-up, a frosty night followed by strong winds left a sea of leaves almost a foot deep.

"With so many residents un-

able to clean their yards themselves, the youth chose this project to work in instead of individual homes," Lammert said. "Twenty-eight people were helped this way, instead of only two or three."

When the youth arrived with rakes, they were welcomed with juice and donuts from City Market. The Grand County Housing Authority donated more than 100 trash bags for the leaves. The complete day, the group went to Rotary Park for a lunch of Shopsy Don, chips and salsa, donated by the Ramada Inn and Quinsanter.

The Youth Garden Project picked up the bags of leaves to use as compost.

## San Juan County USU agent wins national award

Prattsville, Utah State University Extension agent in San Juan County has won the top national diversity award from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for improving the lives of Native American families in southeastern Utah.

A plaque was presented to Price in Atlanta last month during the annual meeting of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges. She is also the 1998 recipient of the "Child Advocate of the Year" award presented by the Utah Chapter of Child Abuse Prevention.

Price, who just retired from Extension after serving 22 years in Price and San Juan counties, was cited by the USDA for exemplary leadership in helping improve violence and abuse among local families, notably those in the Navajo Nation and the southern Ute Tribe. She has chaired the San Juan County Child Abuse Prevention Team for six years, sponsoring a conference each year to help parents, educators and others recognize and prevent abuse.

Among other issues, Price addressed fetal alcohol syndrome as a form of child abuse in four annual conferences sponsored by Navajo Nation leaders, reaching some 500 parents and professionals. She has received federal grants to equip a community recreation program for high-risk youth in Monticello, organized an anti-bullying program in Bluff and provided materials and training for 20 volunteers to present "Victim in Charge" seminars to 1,000 children in Navajo elementary schools.

Price's areas of responsibility in

San Juan County covers about 5,000 square miles. She has cross-countryed numerous times in an old county van, often driving nine hours a day on sand and slick rock track to reach isolated Navajo families and groups. Upon arriving, Price invariably is mobbed by adoring Navajos. She is routinely invited to ceremonies rarely seen by whites, including powwows and Native American weddings.

A five-person screening committee, headed by Marilyn Corbin of Pennsylvania State University, recommended Price for the USDA award from a pool of nominees from across the United States.

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