



Townsend focused on Cheyenne

By Jeff Moberg

When newly appointed State Senator Chuck Townsend arrives at the state legislative session in Cheyenne next month, he is committed to making hay for the district he represents. The freshman legislator also appears to be resolute in his commitment to see the district through the session without getting caught up in all the political wrangling proceeding this year's session "This is a twenty day budget session, that really ought to be at the top of our focus," Townsend emphasized. "Given that, there a number of boards and commissions that have a force locally which nobody ever hears about but are funded by that budget. I don't know if there is anything more important." A number of local boards, commissions and facilities stand to gain from Townsend's commitment if he can convince fellow legislators to follow his lead.

Region III Developmental Services, the Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board, Ranch A restoration, local Soil Conservation Districts, the Women's prison in Lusk, Workforce Services, the State Library and the Newcastle Honor Farm all rank high on Townsend's list of priorities. "Nothing concerns me more than to have a board with a real mission go unfunded and then be criticized for not doing what they are supposed to be doing," stressed the Senator. "We need to be cognizant of the agencies, panels and commissions that are germane to our district. That's what's important and what should be important." Townsend went on to add "I've seldom heard anybody talk about the local effects of all these boards and agencies and those effects are here...The point is they are very real and they are the top focus of those that are directly involved with them but rarely go further than that...I guess they have struck a nerve with me, I believe that if



Senator Chuck Townsend

we help those people that help our communities, that will help the communities in other areas as well." That's a line of thinking which goes directly to Townsend's philosophy of government in general. "Government should do the things that people can't or can't do well for themselves. Take law enforcement and highways for example, those are things that the government can do that the people really can't...That's just what so many of these things are - we've got to incarcerate people, the Children's Center does a great job caring for special needs and the Conservation Districts bring control back to the local areas. I think these are doing a good job and they need to be funded...I'm certainly in support of the things that are going to help our people and it's easy to support these areas because we're not taking anything away from anybody else. These programs help statewide."

In regard to the Moskee purchase, Townsend noted he had one consistent statement, "The Moskee issue deserves it's day in the legislature and I'm going to support the introduction of that bill in the senate."

Engelhaupt resigns as Fire Chief

Scribner assumes role following leadership free-fall

By Jeff Moberg

Citing departmental personnel conflicts, Glenn Engelhaupt announced his immediate resignation from the position of Sundance Fire Chief at the Sundance Fire Department's business meeting on Tuesday evening. Engelhaupt, a 15-year veteran of the department noted the decision was not an easy one to make but he felt it was the right one at the right time - before the conflicts within the department began to take a larger personal toll.

Engelhaupt's announcement would normally have meant that the Assistant Chief would move into the Chief's position and ensure an orderly transition to an otherwise disorderly situation. That was not to be the case Tuesday as the whirlwind of bewilderment was further compounded by the subsequent resignation of Assistant Fire Chief Tom Pridgeon who cited personal issues as reason for his departure.

According to departmental policy, the job of Chief next fell to Fire Captain Brian Scribner, an 8 year department veteran. Scribner assumed the duties of Chief immediately and is expected to be formally

appointed at next month's City Council meeting. Engelhaupt noted that while he no longer desires to fulfill the Chief's duties, he does plan to remain an active member of the department. Pridgeon, however resigned from the department completely.

According to department reports, Pridgeon, who joined the department five years ago, logged over 2000 hours of volunteer time last year making him one of the most active members in the already short handed department. Prior to Pridgeon's departure, the department consisted of 14 active members, many of whom work out of town or are otherwise unable to respond to calls during the day.

Department records show that city fire crews responded to a total of 154 calls consuming just over 13,000 volunteer hours between January 1 and December 31, 2003. Of those calls, 98 were to assist EMS with medical calls, 39 were for fire related incidents, 9 for false alarms, 4 public service calls, 3 non-fire hazardous conditions and 1 good intent (cancelled en route) call.



Glen Engelhaupt

4-H Scholarships available

Crook County High School seniors who have been involved in 4-H are encouraged to apply for the Crook County 4-H Scholarship and the John and Pauline Peterson Memorial 4-H Scholarship.

Sheila Ista of Hulett started the Crook County 4-H Scholarship and John and Pauline Peterson Scholarship as a Junior Leader project 16 years ago. Through fund raising efforts, donations from individuals and groups, the scholarship funds have continued to grow. This year two scholarships will be

given in the amount of \$300. These scholarships are available to seniors who have been involved in 4-H for a minimum of five years.

The scholarship will be awarded on the basis of 40% 4-H work, 30% on financial need and 30% on scholastic achievement. Anyone wanting to apply for any of these scholarships should contact their local guidance counselor, Crook County Extension Office or Peggy Turbiville at 283-2835. Scholarship applications are due in the Extension Office on April 1, 2004.

The Sundance Times wins state awards

At the 105th annual Wyoming Press Association winter convention held in Casper, last week, *The Sundance Times* won second place for the major award of "Typographic Excellence". In addition to the coveted award the *Times* also received a first place award for Government Issue Reporting, stories written by Gary Williams, second place for News Photo, photo by Kat Kinsall and a state honorable mention award for column writing by Ernie Reinhold.

In addition to the awards ceremony new members of the executive committee of the Wyoming Press Association were elected. Jim Wood, publisher of *Platte County Record-Times* was elected as president. Ann Franscell, publisher/editor of the *Gillette News-Record* was chosen as vice president and Curt Moberg, publisher of *The Sundance Times* was elected as secretary/treasurer of the association.



Discussing matters of concern to northeastern Wyoming during the Wyoming Press Association's 105th annual convention are left to right Annie Mullen, *Newcastle News Letter Journal*, Linda and Curt Moberg, *The Sundance Times* and Governor Dave Freudenthal.

Whooping Cough (Pertussis) in Wyoming and Crook County

By Barb Coy, RN, BSN, Crook County Public Health Manager

There have been at least 14 cases of whooping cough reported in the state this year, most of which were in the southwestern part of the state. This month Crook County had its first confirmed case of pertussis in years. This was in a teenager.

Pertussis is a highly contagious disease of the respiratory tract. The bacteria live in the mouth, nose, and throat of an infected person. The disease is most serious in infants and children of preschool age.

Dr. Jeri Villano, Crook County Public Health Officer, states, "We are very fortunate in Crook County that the majority of our children are immunized against this disease. If we can keep the vaccination rates high, we are unlikely to see the rates of the disease that we saw years ago. Our children get their immunity against pertussis in the DTaP or DTP shots they had as infants. These are usually administered at 2,4,6, and 15 months of age and a booster at the age of 4-6 years. If there are parents out there who have not gotten their children's vaccinations, or are behind on their vaccinations, please consider getting them caught up now."

Crook County Public Health will gladly update your child's immunizations if they are behind. Call 283-1142 for an appointment. The pertussis vaccination is not recommended for persons over the age of 7.

Whooping cough is contracted through direct contact or by breathing in droplets containing the bacteria. The airborne droplets are created when an infected person sneezes, coughs, or even talks.

Symptoms of pertussis generally begin with mild flu-like symptoms that include a runny nose, sneezing, low-grade fever, and a mild cough. Within two weeks, the cough becomes more severe and is characterized by episodes of numerous rapid, violent coughs followed by a crowing or high-pitched

"whoop." Thick, clear mucous may be discharged. These episodes may recur for one to two months and are more frequent at night. These symptoms are usually much milder in adults, adolescents, and children who have been partially immunized, and may consist only of a persistent cough without the "whoop." Symptoms usually start within five to ten days after exposure to an infected person, but may take as long as 21 days.

The person is contagious from the onset of the earliest symptoms to three weeks after the onset of coughing fits. However, the infectious period can be shortened to between five and seven days when antibiotic therapy is begun.

According to Dr. Villano, the local providers are on the alert to this disease as well as the school nurses. If you have any questions, please call the Public Health Office at 283-1142. If you feel you may have the disease, please notify your provider.

Symptoms usually start

within five to ten days

Wyoming taxpayers have a new location to mail 2003 returns

Wyoming is one of nine states whose taxpayers will have a different mailing address from last year to mail their 2003 federal income tax returns. All Wyoming 1040 series returns for 2003 must be mailed to: Internal Revenue Service Center; Fresno, CA 93888-XXXX.

Taxpayers enclosing a check should add: -0102 to the zip code listed above if mailing a Form 1040; -0115 for Form 1040A; or -0114 for Form 1040EZ.

Those not enclosing a check should add: -0002 if mailing a Form 1040; -0015 for Form 1040A; or -0014 for Form 1040EZ.

Those who receive a tax booklet from the IRS in the mail can use the preaddressed label included with the booklet. Taxpayers in Wyoming should be aware of this change only if they did not receive an instruction booklet in the mail and plan on mailing a paper return.

Taxpayers who electronically file their returns never have to worry about address changes. E-filed returns are automatically transmitted to the proper location and taxpayers receive a confirmation within 48 hours of transmittal. Taxpayers are reminded that they can e-file their returns free of charge using the IRS Free File program on the IRS website at www.irs.gov beginning January 22, 2004.

This change is part of an on-going process as the IRS continues to redistribute workload among the seven centers that process individual tax returns.

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