



"Where the Kid got his name"

The County Newspaper of Alfred Hutchinson



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Local Wyoming State Trails Program operator Glenn Engelhaupt makes a final check over trail grooming equipment before setting out to massage Bearlodge area snowmobile trails in preparation for this weekend's poker run.

## For some area residents - your funds await

Wyoming citizens are urged to check and see if they have any unclaimed funds being held in their name by the Wyoming State Treasurer's Office. "Wyoming Windfall" is the catch name given to the Unclaimed Property Division of the State Treasurer's Office which is tasked with attempting to return unclaimed property to its rightful owners. Unclaimed property generally is turned over to the State Treasurer by companies or other states who, after a specified number of years, are unable to return the property.

According to the State Treasurer's Office, approximately 3400 new names have been added to its list of unclaimed property owners. To see if the office is holding funds, individuals are encouraged to call the Unclaimed Property Office at 307-777-5590 Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The office may also be reached by mail at the Unclaimed Property Division, 2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 502, Cheyenne, WY 82002.

Crook County names as shown on the list of unclaimed property include, Ronald E. Bruce, Eric L. Burke, George N. Butler III, Loren C. Byers, Glen L. Clark, Matt Conzelman, Ashley Catherine Dorrance, Edward J. Griffin, H & J Cafe, Jeffrey Henderson, Robert E. Johnson, Jonathan D. Leeper, George M. Mills, Preston H. Mitchell, Daniel P. Nolan, DDs, Terry & Lori Newlin, Albert R. Rathbun, Robert Schlosser, A.E. Sisson, Oydis G. Smith, Peter F. Smith, Johnny D. & Rebecca K. Wood.

## Plato sentenced in burglary case

### Receives three to six years

Following his arrest and conviction on one count of felony burglary stemming from a string of thefts in the Pine Haven area last summer, Joshua Plato was sentenced in court proceedings on Wednesday. Plato received a sentence of three to six years of incarceration to be housed as determined by the State Department of Corrections. Sixth District Court Judge Dan R. Price, II said he would recommend Plato be considered for the youth offender program but would not support the bootcamp program in the case. In conjunction with the term on incarceration, Plato was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$1210, attorney fees of \$260, court costs of \$10, \$100 to the victim's crime compensation fund and \$3180 for the cost of his previous 166 days of incarceration.

## Five card thaw....

If a cold hand of poker is your thing, then you may be in luck this weekend. The Bearlodge Snowmobile Association is in full swing preparing for its eighth annual Poker Run being held here on Sunday. The annual event is slated to begin at the Reuter Campground northwest of Sundance at 9:00 a.m. Registration for the event will be open until noon and the run must be completed by 3:00 p.m. Organizers of this year's event noted they will award a cash prize through sixth

place along with a number of door prizes donated by local businesses. Last year's run drew ninety-seven participants ranging in age from five to seventy-five years. Riders from around the region, one from as far away as Cody, participated in the run despite the frigid temperatures which dipped to -8 as the event kicked off. More information on this year's event is available by contacting Larry Cassidy at 307-283-2469 or Dave Hurd at 307-283-2442.

## Freudenthal addresses Moskee purchase

### One year option to buy noted as possibility

Second year Wyoming Governor Dave Freudenthal kicked off the 2004 Wyoming State Legislative session with a call to "put down the sabres and pick up your pencils" during his State of the State address delivered Monday morning in Cheyenne. Freudenthal's speech not only called for legislators to use great care and wisdom in managing the state's substantial windfall but also included remarks on an item of great local interest - the proposed Moskee tract purchase. In his oratory, the Governor asked the assembled chambers to give the measure due consideration, stating "I encourage the discussion. There is a vision for the property that includes citizen access to the National Forest, hunting, fishing and a wide array of citizen activity and multiple use." Freudenthal also appeared to have reached for an olive branch during the speech as he made light of a possible, temporary compromise in regard to opposition to the current proposal, "An approach to this problem has been outlined whereby the State secures a one year option to buy the property. This would allow a full

evaluation of the property and the significant policy changes implied in its purchase. The options for evaluation would include everything from public benefits to how we would pay for it and how we would pay for the operating costs. Such an approach is only logical, it is a significant investment and I would urge you to move with caution if you choose to move because the devil is in the details, that is particularly true in real estate transactions. Make sure you know what you're deciding if you decide to pursue it." Freudenthal did, however leave the issue with as little grey area as possible in terms of how he feels the property should be financed. "I would note in passing that I have oppositions to purchasing the property with the permanent school trust funds. I believe that those funds need to be invested for maximum return and the purchase of this property would not achieve that." Language in the proposed bill, senate file 12, would call for up to \$24 million to be appropriated from the school land fund to accomplish the purchase as it is now written.



Shown above, in back, left to right, Abby Denzin and Pat Smith of the Sundance Kids' Daycare, Marge Myers of the Sundance Senior Center, Donna Zoller of the daycare and Betts Seeley of the Crook County CattleWomen; in front, Garrett Kaiser, Jaslyn Seeley, Parker Seeley and Tori Wheeler. The Valentines Day promotion for the CattleWomen "From first childhood through second childhood, be heart healthy - eat beef" is underway. Beef gift certificates were given to the senior centers in Hulett, Moorcroft and Sundance. A beef certificate was also given to the day care in Sundance. Promotions will also be held in the Hulett and Moorcroft elementary schools.

## Sundance PD nabs fraud suspect

By Jeff Moberg

A Mills, WY man has been sentenced to 30 days in jail following his trial in Sundance on Tuesday. Harry Radke, 27, was convicted of one misdemeanor count of obtaining property under false pretences following an incident that occurred on Saturday, January 21 in which Radke was suspected of trying to trade a vehicle which did not belong to him. According to a report from the Sundance Police Department, Radke contacted Gus Sampson of Iron Horse, a local auto sales business, for assistance after the 1985 Ford pickup he was driving experienced mechanical trouble on Saturday. Following an examination of the vehicle by Sampson, it appeared as though the vehicle's transfer case had failed. It was at that point, Radke allegedly began to negotiate with Sampson to trade the vehicle. Sampson initially refused to enter into a deal with the suspect but eventually agreed to trade the vehicle and cash for a 1985 Chevy Blazer. According to the police report, Radke signed the appropriate paperwork and assured Sampson he would send the vehicle's title information to him as soon as he returned to his residence in a few days. While that would generally be the end of the transaction, Sampson's concerns regarding the deal continued to grow, prompting him to have local law enforcement officials check the vehicle's registration for

legitimacy. Sampson's concerns were justified as it was established that the vehicle did not appear to belong to Radke after all. Based on the registration check, the vehicle was registered to a different subject in the Casper area. Sampson informed the investigating officers of the details of the transaction and filed a complaint alleging the 1985 Blazer he traded to Radke as being a stolen vehicle.

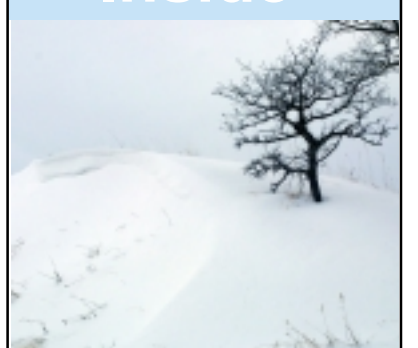
One day later, on Sunday, the Sundance Police Department received a report of a possibly intoxicated driver at the Sundance Travel Plaza on the east side of town. Sundance Officer Chris Gay responded to the area and found the 1985 Chevy Blazer to be occupied by Radke who was lying across the vehicle's seats with the engine running. Gay arrested Radke at the scene on the charge of obtaining property under false pretences. According to the police report, Radke claimed he was merely renting the vehicle from Sampson until his Ford pickup was repaired. After the contents of the vehicle were inventoried, Officer Gay discovered a receipt for the sale of the vehicle from Sampson's business to Radke.

Along with thirty days in jail, Radke's sentence also included a fine of \$450 stemming from the charge. According to court records Radke will be transported to Natrona County following his incarceration to face charges on a separate warrant.

## Scam circulates again

Local officials have warned area residents to remain vigilant regarding a scam circulating via letters received from Spain, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and many other foreign countries. The gist of the scam centers on the notion that a recipient of the letter would stand to gain a substantial amount of money if they complied with the instructions included in the correspondence. The scam originator alleges that his company is holding a large amount of money which needs to be transferred to an account in the US and is depending on the letter's recipient to facilitate the transaction and share in the money as a reward. What the letter fails to mention is that victims who fall for the scam are often bilked out of a substantial amount of money as a result of the unsavory activity. The criminal organizers often convince victims to provide their account numbers or manage to get them to send money in order to remove transaction roadblocks such as bribing officials who are standing in the way of the larger "prize". Officials warn anyone who receives a "something for nothing" type of opportunity to treat it with due caution in order to avoid being taken. More information on this scam and others is available online at the National Fraud Information Center's website: www.fraud.com or by calling the Fraud Hotline at 800-876-7060.

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