



In spite of the frigid Saturday morning temperature, nearly 80 numb-fingered youngsters turned out at Clarenbaugh Park to hunt for Easter eggs and candy delights during the annual Kiwanis and Bearlodge Snowmobile Association's Easter Egg Hunt.

## County Commission discusses capital facility tax

City council members Trudy Durfee and Alan Roberts represented the City of Sundance at the county commission meeting on Wednesday in the discussion of the capital facilities tax. Also present were representatives from Moorcroft and Pine Haven.

The tax will be in the amount of one percent. The money will be distributed pro rata - as it comes in. Each city will get one-fifth of the tax money. The commission expects a five year span to collect the full amount of the tax. It is expected that there will be a slight excess collected at the end, therefore, the money will be distributed pro rata to each city's general fund.

Durfee reported that Sundance is requesting \$750,000. They will be using \$350,000 to pay down debts incurred from the water bonds, lines and tank. The remaining \$400,000 will be used to extend sewer and water service to the new additions in the south and southeast part of Sundance.

Moorcroft plans to request \$776,500 to put in a new water transmission line from the well to the water tank in town.

Pine Haven is requesting \$750,000 to put in a new wastewater treatment plant.

Hulett is expected to request \$750,000, as well. The city has yet to make a decision on the dollar amount or the intended use of the money.

Commissioner Stormy Burch made a motion that the county increase its requested amount from \$500,000 to \$750,000 to match all other requests. The commissioners agreed. The county will use the money to purchase road and bridge equipment.

All dollar amounts are subject to change until the resolution has been drafted by County Attorney Joe Baron.

If the cities pass a resolution, the capital facilities tax will go on the general election ballot.

Hulett citizens are encouraged to attend a meeting being held at the Crook County Saloon on Thursday, April 29 at 6:00 p.m. in order to come to a decision regarding the amount of tax money they want to request and how they wish to use it.

## Powder River not going anywhere

Recently, the big question circulating around the City of Sundance has been, is Powder River Energy Corporation moving its offices from Sundance? According to Chief Executive Officer Mike Easley, the answer is a very definitive no.

Although several offices have made their way to Gillette, it was only for the need to improve efficiency. These were positions that required the employees to spend a great deal of time in Gillette. Keeping the positions in Sundance meant employees had to spend two hours on the road each day in order to put in an eight hour day.

Along with working through the details of the Tri-county merger, a lot of focus has been put on the coal bed methane development in Sheridan lately. In the strategic planning session held April 1-2, discussion centered around getting back to the commitment to communities. Easley stressed that the board never wavered on PRECorp's presence in Sundance.

The PRECorp corporate headquarters will remain in Sundance. Sundance is still home to human resources, safety and loss control, accounting, customer service and corporate support. Currently, there are 40 full and part-time employees at the Sundance office. When

Easley came to PRECorp in October of 2000, there were 49 people here. In that time, five people have retired and several positions have moved to Gillette. The company has approximately 125 employees throughout the service territory.

Easley thinks it is necessary for the offices to spread throughout the service territory in order to stay in touch with each community being served by PRECorp. Management from each of the offices meet every other week in Gillette for face-to-face contact. The annual meeting moves throughout the service territory each year. This year it will be hosted in Sundance.

PRECorp's mission is to provide power to their service territory reliably and as cost-effectively as they can. They also strive to make a difference in each community they inhabit. As seen in Sundance, PRECorp has a voice at each Chamber meeting. They have hosted community projects such as the haunted house. The company also has leadership camps for high school students in the service territory to learn more about co-ops. In the end, PRECorp will always tie back to their mission statement. Easley said, "If we don't keep the lights on, none of that matters anyway."

## Centennial committee to meet

Devils Tower Centennial Committee will meet on April 19 at 5:00 p.m. at Devils Tower National Monument. The meeting will be held in park housing. There will be signs directing you to the location from the Entrance Station.

The agenda for this meeting will include a presentation from a public relations representative, the full planning of the Mother's Day Fun Run/Walk to be held at Devils Tower May 9, 2004 and start-up committee selection for the Quilt and Art Festival scheduled for August 7, 2004 to be held in Sundance at the Courthouse lawn, basement and old school. Anyone interested in helping with either of these events, please make plans to attend this meeting. If you are not able to attend, but want to assist with the projects, please call Mary Hawkins at 467-5564, JoAnn Bohmont at 467-5752, Matt Driskill

at 467-5399 or Lynn Conzelman at 467-5283, Ext 22. Tiny Bush from the Buttons and Bows Homemakers club will be presenting the club plans for the Old Settlers Picnic that will be held on Father's Day in June 2006. There will be several events held throughout the centennial year (2006) and preparation for those is under way as well.

The postage stamp proposal that was submitted in 2003 to have Devils Tower on a stamp in 2006 is still in the review process. The Committee thanks all who have signed petitions and allowed us to put those petitions at your places of business.

The Centennial of Devils Tower National Monument is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the state and surrounding area to provide ourselves and thousands of visitors a chance for some great memories and a monumental chance to be part of history.

## Patriot Support Group needs your help

The Crook County Patriot Support Group is asking for your help in getting an updated list of names and addresses of service men and women serving in or out of the country. Sales from the patriot support ribbons have allowed the group additional resources to send more supply packages from home to those in service.

The group wants to make sure they have a complete list to avoid missing one of our soldiers. The need for the updated list is due to the troop rotations and deactivations which result in some of the packages being returned.

Please send names and addresses to Crook County Patriot Support Group, P.O. Box 484, Sundance, WY 82729. If you wish to make a monetary donation it can be sent to the Sundance State Bank.

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## New high school rodeo club

For the past few years, Crook County has been missing a rodeo club for its high school students. This spring, that will change.

After being approached by his students, Moorcroft teacher Charlie Williams has organized a club that is open to all Crook County junior high and high school students interested in rodeo.

So far, the club consists of 25 students from Moorcroft, five from Sundance and two from Upton. There is still time to join the Wyoming High School Rodeo Association and the club. Anyone interested is encouraged to do so. There are no membership fees to

join the club. One purpose of the club is to teach students about the sport who are interested in rodeo but have never done it. Junior high students are welcome to join as well so that they may prepare for high school rodeo. Another reason for having a club is to bring rodeo participants together for practice and traveling.

According to Williams, the majority of Wyoming high school students are not affiliated with a club. Williams hopes that the club will help students in their search for a college.

Williams said, "Rodeo is very important to youth in Wyoming, be-

## Howard goes to Boys State

Lucas Howard, an SHS junior, has earned the opportunity to travel to Douglas to learn the fundamentals of politics at Boys State this year. Boys State takes place at the Wyoming State Fairgrounds.

This program is sponsored by the American Legion. Howard, along with other candidates from around the state, will be taking part in a mock government election and traveling to the state capitol.



## Brix hits SHS

Crook County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit Deputy Jeff Hodge and "Brix" conducted a routine K-9 check at the Sundance High School on Wednesday, April 7. No illegal contraband was found during the search.

According to Sheriff Stahla, these routine checks will be conducted county wide throughout the school year helping to detour illegal drugs from being in the schools, making it a better learning atmosphere for the youth.

Brix is a two-year-old German Shepherd purchased out of Fort Collins, Colo., where he and Deputy Hodge went through training together. Brix and Deputy Hodge are nationally certified in their field of work. Brix is trained in both narcotics and tracking.

Sheriff Stahla said that along with the county-wide K-9 checks at the high schools, his office is working to put together safety classes implementing the K-9 for each elementary school in the county.