



"Where the Kid got his name"

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## McCombs charged with larceny

Katrina Marie McCombs, also known as Katrina Longhat, was arrested on Thursday, June 3 on charges of larceny, a felony. McCombs is 31 and lives in Sundance. She has since been released on \$5,000 bond on her own recognizance, according to police reports.

According to court documents, McCombs had been employed at Altaffer Photography since May 21, 2004. The business owners noticed that cash had been missing from a money bag and checkbook and reported their concerns to the Sundance Police Department. McCombs was the only other person who had access to this cash.

An investigation was initiated using a powdered dye. The dye will stain the hands of someone who comes into contact with the treated item. Dye was placed on several bills and the serial numbers from the bills were recorded. When the bills turned up missing, McCombs was found at another local business, where she was caught purchasing items with marked stolen money.

McCombs admitted to stealing the money on June 3, which amounted to \$643 but denied stealing money at any previous times.

Records indicate McCombs has had similar brushes with the law, the most current stemming from an investigation in Texas in which she has been charged with stealing a digital camera.

McCombs is awaiting a preliminary hearing within the next 20 days. The case has been reassigned to Judge Tharp of Gillette due to a conflict of interest.



The Forest Service held their seasonal orientation on Wednesday, June 2 at the Sundance High School with approximately 130 in attendance. Seasonal workers made introductions and learned the do's and don't's of working for the Forest Service. Participants are enjoying the barbeque during their lunch break.

## Council sees low turnout for public hearing

By Teresa Thybo

The city council held a public hearing Monday night to discuss the proposed one percent capital facilities tax. Only one person actively asked questions during the hearing. Discussion lasted approximately 20 minutes.

Mayor Miller said, "This is one tax we don't have to pay for by ourselves." Councilman Brooks stated that the tax will overwhelmingly be paid for by tourists. Mayor Miller also stressed that the tax will be collected within five years or less. "That's the beauty of this tax," said Miller. "It's not a tax that hangs on forever." Miller explained that the tax has been used very successfully in other counties across the state.

There is still some concern as to the wording used by the Town of Hulett in their request that is delaying the completion of the resolution for the tax. Moorcroft and Pine Haven officials will meet with Hulett officials to work out the details of the resolution.

During the regular meeting, the placing of radar units on the outskirts of town was discussed again. Miller quoted the council prices on permanently mounted radars and trailer mounted units and advised them to think about it before coming to any decisions. Warning signs and flashing yellow lights were also discussed as solutions to the speeding problem.

Water meters became a hot topic of discussion for awhile. Councilman Alan Roberts said that he had contacted seven other cities to see what they were using for meters. City Maintenance Foreman John Kiplinger said that he could ask the meter company in Casper to come do a cost analysis for the council. Roberts said that he didn't want the person trying to sell us the system doing the cost analysis.

Kiplinger said that the current system could crash tomorrow or it could last another year or two, but that it needs to be replaced. The initial cost for the system that Kiplinger is proposing is over \$30,000. This would just be for the computer that would go in a pick-up and does not include all the meters that would have to be replaced. The Mayor said, "Spending \$70,000 to read meters doesn't set well in my

stomach." He suggested that the council keep their minds open and see if there is a better option.

Bids for the water project on Hwy 585 were opened at 7:30 p.m. Engineer Ken Rathbun reported a \$300,000 estimated cost for the project. Seven bids were opened with the lowest one being from Windcreek Services Inc. of Gillette at \$289,700.74. Rathbun is going to study each bid to make sure that it follows the guidelines before the council makes their final decision.

The budget saw its third and final reading with much discussion still centering around the purchase of a tractor or skid steer loader. Roberts reiterated his statements from the May meeting that it is not feasible for the city to spend \$30,000 on a skid steer when the work could be contracted out to local businesses and they would be responsible for the maintenance and up keep of the equipment. The Mayor stated, "We are here to provide a service with the least cost to the tax payers, and we have to have equipment on hand to do so." To end the battle, Miller told the council that it is just a budget item and that it does not mean that they are going to go out and purchase a skid steer right away. According to Miller, if the city decides to purchase equipment, it won't be until late fall or winter, giving the council time to consider the purchase more fully.

The budget was approved on its final reading with Roberts voting nay.

The council decided to allow fireworks to be used on July 3, 4 and 5 from 12:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

Concerns about deer within the city were again discussed. Each member of the council showed visible frustration at not being able to do anything to solve the problem. The general consensus was that litigation with the Game and Fish Department may prove to be the only viable option in solving the problem.

A bill for repairs was presented to the city due to a dumpster hitting a vehicle. The city's liability carrier denied the request for payment. It was decided that because the city denied a similar request previously, this one would be denied as well in order to remain consistent.

The cleaning of City Hall will go up for bid in July and will take effect in August.

John Kiplinger informed the council he will start spraying for mosquitoes on Thursday, June 10 between 8:00 and 10:00 p.m. He has already treated some areas of standing water with larvacide briquettes. Kiplinger also noted the Day Care roof has been fixed after high winds tore off shingles. The Mayor said that a metal roof for the building should be put into the budget for next year.

Brooks brought up the need to take action on unmowed lots in town. The city will give owners a chance to take care of the nuisance themselves. If no action is taken, the city will hire someone to cut the areas and bill the land owner.

Councilwoman Trudy Durfee relayed to the council that city employees are requesting the option to purchase dental insurance in addition to their health policy. The council will consider the matter further after a health insurance carrier has been determined.

Due to the July 4 holiday observance on Monday, July 5, the council will meet on Tuesday, July 6.

The meeting ended with Mayor Miller calling the council into an executive session in order to "exchange confidential information."

## Post Office closed this Friday

There will be no regular mail delivery or retail customer service at post offices and postal facilities nationwide on Friday, June 11. The U.S. Postal Service will honor the National Day of Mourning for former President Ronald Reagan.

Sundance, Hulett and most all post offices nationwide will be closed on Friday, June 11. Express Mail service will be available June 11 in major metro areas only.

Regular mail delivery service and postal customer service and retail operations will resume on Saturday, June 12.

Business mailers who had planned to deposit large mail volumes at Postal Service Bulk Mail Acceptance Units on Friday should contact their mail acceptance facilities to determine if there are any changes to acceptance dates and times.



## Old Stoney open house and public meeting

The Crook County Heritage Association, a non-profit corporation, will host an open house and public information meeting in Old Stoney on June 19.

The open house will be from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with a meeting being held at 11:00 a.m. on the third floor.

The meeting will be an update presented by Steve Kozel, U.S. Forest Service District Ranger. Kozel will present the results of

the feasibility study completed in January and the next phase of funding and work. Preliminary floor plans will be available for viewing. Congress must approve the funding to the Forest Service. Senator Enzi has formally requested funding for fiscal year 2005.

Association president Larry Goodson stated that the open house will allow everyone an opportunity to see the inside of the

school building and learn the latest in the association's effort to save the building and turn it into an economic benefit and a source of pride for the community. There are many people in the county who have never seen the inside of this beautiful old 1925 school building.

Refreshments will be served. Everyone is invited. For more information, contact Larry Goodson at 283-2721.

## The Sundance Kid statue dedication this Friday

Unveiling scheduled for 2:00 p.m.

The dedication and unveiling of the Sundance Kid statue in the center of Sundance is scheduled for Friday, June 11. Master of ceremonies will be local talk show personality, Jim Thompson. In addition to the ceremony, Thompson will be broadcasting his normal daily radio show from the site of the statue.

Sundance Area Chamber of Commerce president Gaylord Lenz, will make the official dedication presenting the statue to the people of Sundance and the surrounding area. The actual un-

veiling will be held at 2:00 p.m. Other guest speakers will be in attendance for the event.

In addition to the ceremony, the community wide garage sale will be held on the courthouse lawn starting at 7:00 a.m. Friday and Saturday. The Sundance High School FCCLA will have a food booth at the site. In case of poor weather the garage sale will be held in the old high school

in the live radio broadcast event. Creator of the background for the statue, Reed Henschel will be on hand and speak on the history of the statue project from its humble beginning over twenty years ago.



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