



\$10,000 winner



Santa came early for Tracy Jundt of Sundance as she gratefully accepts a check for \$10,000 from Michael Von Flatern. Tracy was the winner of the recent Red Cross raffle. Barb Coy photo

Tracy Jundt wins Red Cross raffle

Merry Christmas Tracy

Tracy Jundt of Sundance was lucky to have her name on the winning raffle ticket for \$10,000 cash from Northeast Wyoming Chapter of the American Red Cross (ARC). She is pictured with Michael Von Flatern. He is a board member for the State Red Cross as well as the organizer for the fund raiser. Michael said, "He was pleased with the response the raffle received and plans are being made for next years raffle." Although Tracy's name was on the ticket she actually purchased it with other people, one of whom was her co-worker Sarah Crawford. They both felt the money came at a wonderful time of the year. The winning ticket was sold by Barb Coy, a Red Cross volun-

teer. Barb states, "I want to congratulate Tracy and thank everyone that purchased a ticket. It is people like Tracy that make Red Cross so successful. When I asked her to buy a ticket she was willing to buy one without knowing anything more that it was for Red Cross. Red Cross is a vital asset to our community. In Crook County there are hundreds of people trained in Red Cross CPR & first aid each year. The Red Cross also has a functional purpose in many of our county disaster plans. Red Cross is in dire need of volunteers. If you are interested in helping the organization in any manner please give me a call 283-1142."

Local resident victim of identity theft

By Jeff Moberg

When one local resident received a phone call from a person offering to reduce her credit card interest rates, she had no idea it would instead change her life.

According to Sundance Police Officer Adrian Whitmore, the unnamed Sundance resident became the victim of identity theft following a seemingly benign phone call. The caller, claiming to be a representative of MBNA Corporation - one of the largest credit card companies in the world, solicited personal information from the victim including her and her husband's address, names, etc. using the promise of a low interest account- something most Americans have become quite accustomed to hearing. It wasn't until the caller asked for the victim's account number that the victim realized the call may be a fraud and promptly ended the conversation.

A few days later the ramifications of that short, fraudulent call became more apparent when the victim received another call, this one from a nationwide department store. A JC Penney representative asked the victim to verify a purchase made using an account under her name but with a delivery address on the East Coast. Having not placed an order with the company, the victim was able to halt the transaction before it was charged and began to investigate the incident further.

The realization that she had been the target of an identity theft soon became apparent as she uncovered multiple unauthorized accounts bearing her and her husband's names. According to Whitmore, it looks as though the perpetrator took the stolen information, paired it with other stolen information from around the country and immediately began applying for credit cards and shopping. The victim was able to stop the thief from successfully using any of the cards by quickly acting to find and close accounts bearing her information. The process of clearing her credit record may not be as simple as it can take some victims years to completely repair the damages done and years of vigilant monitoring thereafter to ensure it doesn't happen again.

According to Whitmore, investigating this type of incident is not a simple task either. Each lead in the case brings with it a spider web of other leads - and other victims. "We just don't know how far this goes," said Whitmore, noting they are unearthing personal information including social security numbers and driver license numbers from across the country, all associated with the case in some respect. One of the other difficult aspects of the investigation, added Whitmore, is the fact that he has to rely on the victim to conduct a substantial part of the investigation on their own. While police officers are able to gather personal information from credit card companies, the process is difficult and time consuming, making it problematic to complete an investigation in a feasible manner without the victim's assistance.

Cases of identity theft have been rapidly rising across the nation. A recent study done by the Federal Trade Commission showed that nearly one in eight American adults have been the victim of identity theft during the last five years. Identity theft ranges from credit card misuse to hijacking entire identities to rent apartments, obtain medical care and commit other fraud.

Along with fraudulent telemarketing calls aimed at stealing your identity, criminals continue to exploit opportunities over the internet where fake websites are constantly being developed which look like popular online auctions sites, online stores and financial service companies which are used to dupe unsuspecting consumers into divulging their personal information also known as "phishing". Online consumers are urged to utilize websites such as www.ftc.gov - the Federal Trade Commission site to learn more about current scams and for tips to avoid being victimized.

Whitmore also warns residents of a more low tech scam perpetrated by door to door peddlers which may try to sell products and gather credit card information in the process. Whitmore noted that all of these individuals are required to be licensed by the city prior to contacting residents and advises any residents to contact the police if they are not sure of the legitimacy of individual peddlers.

Outstanding individual of 2003 sought by Sundance Chamber

Who has gone the extra yard for the community?

The Sundance Area Chamber of Commerce is once again searching for an outstanding individual for 2003. The program was designed to give recognition to individuals in the Sundance community who have gone the extra yard to make the community a better place.

The Chamber wants the community to recommend the candidates for this yearly award. The person or persons chosen will be honored at the Chamber's annual spring banquet.

If you have a person whom you believe has been outstanding in the community during 2003 the Chamber encourages you to fill out the form found on the back page of this edition, list why you feel this person has gone the extra yard for the community and send it to P.O. Box 1048 in Sundance.

Chamber President, Gaylord Lenz stated "Within this community we have those who dedicate a portion of their life for the benefit of others. We are so blessed to have so many willing to step forward to make our community a great place to live and raise our families. This program allows the community to help choose those who have given so much throughout the year."

The Chamber sees this as a way to provide a thank you to those who have been willing to go beyond their normal work activities to give to our community.



Gaylord Lenz

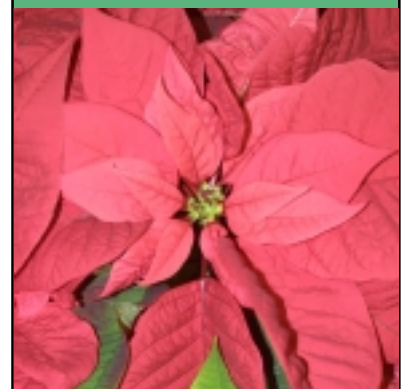
Local government holiday hours announced

If you are waiting for that last present to arrive on Christmas eve, make sure you don't procrastinate too long. The Sundance Post Office will be closing at 12:30 on Christmas and New Year's Eve's while the Beulah Post Office will be closing at noon those days. Both Post Offices will be open as usual on Friday following Christmas and New Year's Day. Don't wait too long to license that sleigh either as the Crook County Courthouse will close at Noon on Christmas Eve and will open again on Monday, December 29. The Courthouse will be open all day on New Year's Eve and all day Friday, January 2. Sundance City Hall will also be closing at noon both Christmas and New Year's Eves and will open again with regular hours Friday, December 26 and January 2.



The Sundance Chamber of Commerce elected new officers at its regular year- end meeting. Officers shown above are Barb Byrne, vice president and Gaylord Lenz president.

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