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## Oops: Lodging tax issue put on every ballot

### • County clerk's office makes adjustments after mistake

By Kristen Salamon  
Staff Reporter

A mistake on the Nov. 4 ballots for Sheridan County voters outside the city will force the county clerk's office to send correction notices to local news

media and adjust computer programming used to count ballots.

"The lodging tax issue was put on every ballot when it was only supposed to be on the ballots for precincts within the city," County Clerk Audrey



#### Quotable

"The lodging tax issue was put on every ballot when it was only supposed to be on the ballots for precincts within the city."

Audrey Koltiska  
County Clerk

Koltiska said today.

Of 13,752 registered voters in Sheridan County, about 6,000 are expected to be affected by the mistake.

"I missed it, it was my responsibility, and it got past me," Koltiska said.

According to Koltiska, a registered county voter caught the mistake when he picked up sample bal-

lots and saw the lodging tax issue on them.

"I'm so thankful he caught it, that's wonderful," Koltiska said. "It embarrassed me, but I appreciate it."

According to Koltiska, notices will be placed in The Sheridan Press and in affected voting booths on Election Day to make citizens aware of the mistake.

Other than informing voters in precincts outside the city that any votes they cast on the issue will not be counted, Koltiska said there will be little effect on the election process.

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### Rate Increases

#### • Meeting slated for feedback on utility hike

By Kristen Salamon  
Staff Reporter

Sheridan resident Ted Lapis told The Sheridan Press he hopes to bring area residents together Wednesday to counteract the electric rate increases proposed by Montana-Dakota Utilities in August.

"To me it doesn't seem like the optimum outcome for residents and irrigators — the only consumer classes (whose proposed rates) went up," Lapis said. "How you divide up the pie is inherently political."

But MDU told The Press its proposed rate changes are necessary to adjust for company expenses and level the rate of return from each user class.

Lapis said he will host a meeting at 7 p.m. at Fulmer Public Library in Sheridan to focus on providing information and getting feedback from area MDU customers.

According to MDU spokesman Mark Hanson, the proposed changes would represent an overall increase of about 4 percent.

Broken down between the five consumer classes, though, residential and irrigation service rates will increase while small general service, large general service and lighting service will decrease. The general service and lighting categories refer to small and large businesses and industrial use.

"We did a study that looks at the costs related to each class," Hanson said. "We looked at what each class's demands are on the system, the operating costs and the rates of return and try to adjust to even them out."

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## Veteran hunters

#### • Area ranch hosts vets for hunting trips

By Daniel Fischer  
Staff Reporter

Wounded Iraq War veteran Brad Alexander of Paducah, Ky., got the surprise of his life this month as part of a hunting trip at the Chase Farms NX Bar Ranch, located about 30 miles northeast of Sheridan.

The ranch hosted three wounded veterans last week and will host five more this week. Sheridan Rotary Club provided hunting licenses, and the Chase family, owners of the ranch, funded the trip.

The eight veterans are all either amputees or are victims of post-traumatic stress disorder or small-arms fire and are veterans of Iraq or Afghanistan.

Alexander, an amputee wounded by an improvised explosive device in Iraq, had been told he was going to hunt in Midland, Texas, in an event put together by Veterans Outdoors. The organization takes groups of veterans hunting and tries to surprise at least one each time.

Indeed, the organizers had a twist in mind.

At Midland International Airport, Alexander was met by Daniel Robles of San Antonio, who lost both legs in Iraq, also from an IED. The two had been in the hospital together and had undergone physical therapy together.

"Hey, buddy, long time no see," Robles said. Robles told Alexander he'd need warmer clothes. They were headed for Wyoming to hunt instead.

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Courtesy photo

Above: Dan Robles poses with his trophy bull elk. Robles shot the elk from 480 yards in a 20-mph crosswind. Left: Brad Alexander, left, and Robles bonded while recuperating together from their war wounds.



### Giving Approval

#### • Council OKs Green House and pathway land swap

By Vida Volkert  
Staff Reporter

The City Council on Monday unanimously approved all items on its agenda, among them rezoning a single-family property west of Quail Ridge Drive to allow construction of a Green House nursing home, and a land swap allowing pathways extension in Kendrick Park.

Approval of rezoning the Green

House property from R1 to R3, which allows multifamily occupancy, passed the first of three readings and will return for second reading

Oct. 20, according to Mayor Dave Kinskey.

The land swap, which was previously scheduled for approval Sept. 2, did not pass then due to legalities involved in the transaction, which prompted city officials to discuss the matter in a closed-door session, Kinskey said.

According to council candidate Steve Brantz, what happened after the City Council reconvened from its Sept. 2 closed-door session should have been televised on public TV, but "it has been omitted."

Brantz went before the council Monday and complained that the omission caused misinterpretation of the council's intentions.

Please see **Approval, Page 2**



Steve Brantz  
City Council Candidate

### District 2 approves resource officer resolution

By Daniel Fischer  
Staff Reporter

The Sheridan County School District 2 board Monday approved a resolution that the Wyoming School Boards Association seek "legislative support to hire school resource officers at large secondary schools throughout the state" in collaboration with state law enforcement agencies.

District 2 has two school resource officers: Dan White at Sheridan Junior High School and Doug Slack at Sheridan High School. Both are also on call for the local elementary schools.

Currently, one officer is funded by a grant and one by the city. The resolution does not specify how much money is needed.

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and Human Resources Terry Burgess said the district needs state help by next fall to avoid having to spend general funds to keep both officers.

Burgess said the student resource officers are



Doug Slack  
SHS Resource Officer

important for safety in case of a lockdown or other school crisis and in speaking to pupils about bicycle and car safety. He added, "We're beginning to see a relationship building with the resource officers" and pupils.

In other business, Superintendent Craig Dougherty said in an informational handout that excavation of the footings and foundation for the new Woodland Park Elementary School has begun.

Dougherty said he still expects the new school to open by next fall, but the schedule will be a tight fit, dependent on weather and on building materials arriving on time.

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Assessment Tom Sachse announced that the district received more than \$167,000 in grants in September, including \$60,000 to create a science center at Beckton School and \$80,400 to use technology to improve reading and writing skills.

He didn't specify sources of the grants.

### Street Construction



The Sheridan Press/Michael Sullivan

Cars pass a Sheridan Streets Department work crew repairing damage on Fifth Street near Arlington Boulevard this morning. According to department Operations Manager Pete Husman, the damage was caused when a water main broke over the summer. Husman said the project should be completed today.