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Sheridan mayor to replace Schiffer in Wyoming Senate

By **TREVOR GRAFF**
Casper Star-Tribune

CASPER, Wyo. — Members of the Johnson County and Sheridan County boards of commissioners selected Sheridan Mayor Dave Kinskey on Monday to fill the Senate District 22 seat left vacant after the death of Sen. John Schiffer.

Kinskey garnered 67.7 percent of the total vote, including unanimous support from the Johnson County Commissioners, to win the position on the first ballot.

Following a legislator of Schiffer's caliber is an honor, Kinskey said. Schiffer, a Kaycee Republican, died June 19.

"He was a tremendous legisla-

tor," Kinskey said. "I regard him as a friend and a mentor. It's humbling to follow in his footsteps because he set such a high standard for Senate District 22."

Kinskey was the mayor of Sheridan for 10 years before assuming his new role in the Legislature. He once worked as an attorney and Realtor and has an undergraduate degree from Harvard University and a law degree from the University of Wyoming.

The mayor expects to leave his position after taking an oath of office in the next two weeks. He said the first priority is ensuring Sheridan city government undergoes a smooth transition to his absence.

"The first task at hand is to

"Senator Kinskey's ... breadth of knowledge to articulate and communicate the issues for both counties to further support economic development and the sustainability of agriculture in both counties led to his selection."

— **Jesus Rios**

chairman of the Sheridan County Republican Party

make sure we have a good transition in place at city hall," Kinskey said. "I've got 10 years of my life invested in trying to help the community. We have a strong city council and a good plan in place.

I'm confident that the transition will go smoothly."

According to Sheridan ordinance, City Council President John Heath will act as mayor until the Council selects a replacement

for the office.

The senator isn't waiting to start his new role. He said his first priority as a legislator is learning the positions of his constituency in order to represent them well in Cheyenne.

In the remaining two years of the term, he plans to focus on protecting sustainable agriculture, combatting the "war on coal," promoting the state's education system and water policy in the Cowboy State.

"It's a daunting task, but I knew what I was getting in to," Kinskey said. "This is not a post that is 20 days one year and 40 days the other. I'm prepared to

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'BELIEVE IN MIRACLES'



ALAN ROGERS/Star-Tribune
Justin Daniels, 27, is shown Wednesday at his home in Casper. Daniels, a plumber, received second-degree burns to his arms, face and neck in a June 6 flash fire at Meadow Wind assisted living center in Casper.

Plumber continues recovery from burns sustained in June flash fire in Casper

By **LILLIAN SCHROCK**
Casper Star-Tribune

CASPER, Wyo. — The young plumber felt his flesh burning.

Justin Daniels sprinted past several windows, but he didn't look into any of them. Just knowing the skin on his face was charred was bad enough. He didn't want to see it.

He moved quickly with his arms held out in front of him. Puffy blisters started to form on his limbs. He didn't want to cause more pain by bumping his arms into a wall.

Daniels reached the exit of Meadow Wind Assisted Living center, where he had been working on a natural gas line, and climbed into an ambulance waiting for him.

Medics cut off the plumber's clothing and poured saline onto his skin to cool him. The liquid was a cold relief.

Four weeks after the June 6 accident, Daniels is on his way to a full recovery from second-degree burns

on his arms, neck and face. Only the remnants of a burn on the right side of his neck are visible. He keeps his burnt arms covered in gauze.

Fire investigators, meanwhile, are still looking for the cause of the flash fire that injured the man with 10 years' experience in plumbing.

"I thought I was going to look rough," Daniels said. "The healing process has just blown me away. I look in the mirror and smile.

"I totally believe in miracles now for sure."

Recovery

Daniels was supposed to travel to Greeley, Colo., with his family that weekend to cheer on his 9-year-old son, Josh, in a baseball competition. Daniels made it to Greeley, but he never set foot in the stands.

Instead, he was lying in a burn center bed.

Jamie Daniels, Daniels' wife, was

finishing her workday in the vision center at Wal-Mart on Friday, June 6, when she received a phone call from the emergency room at Wyoming Medical Center. A doctor told Jamie Daniels that her husband would be okay and that Daniels wanted to speak with her before they intubated him. His esophagus had been burned in the fire, and he would need a tube in his throat to keep it from swelling and preventing him from breathing.

"He was balling and saying, 'Hurry, please get here as soon as you can,' " Jamie Daniels said. "That's when I really started panicking."

Jamie Daniels dropped her stepson, Josh, at his mother's house. Her younger son, 4-year-old Layne, was with Daniels' parents. They arrived at the hospital before she did.

The group stayed at the hospital for only two hours before Daniels was sent by Wyoming Life Flight to the

Please see Plumber, B4



ALAN ROGERS/Casper Star-Tribune

Storyteller Mike McCartney, better known as "Indiana Bones," of New Mexico spins a tale for kids on Monday at the Natrona County Public Library in Casper. Summer reading programs are one way to keep children mentally active when school is out of session.

Kids urged to stay sharp, avoid summer brain drain

By **LEAH TODD**
Casper Star-Tribune

Mike McCartney raised his eyebrows to a room of squirming children at the Natrona County Public Library on Monday afternoon.

Go to your library, he told them between amusing sound effects and hand puppet acts about fictional adventures in ancient Egypt. When you get home, turn off your television.

"That's right," said McCartney, who was dressed like Indiana Jones. "Turn off your TV sets for at least a half hour. Open your book and read."

In books you will find the

Please see Drain, B4

Avoid brain drain

Reinforce reading skills with:

■ **Shaving cream.** Cover a tabletop with plastic wrap and make a gooey shaving cream palette where little fingers can practice letters, spelling words and handwriting.

■ **A construction paper bookworm.** For every book they read, your children add a segment to a bookworm's body on a wall. Establish a goal: to make the bookworm go around the room, or wind its way around the bookshelves. If two children are cooperating, one can begin at the bookworm's head and the other at the end of the bookworm's body, adding circles until the two sections meet.

■ **A timer.** Designate a few times a week as 20 or 30 minutes of family reading time. Reinforce math skills with:

■ **Loose change.** Challenge your kids to grab a handful of coins, estimate the value then count the exact amount. Offer a 10 percent prize for close guesses.

■ **A soccer ball.** Use a permanent marker to randomly fill the hexagonal sections of a soccer ball with the numbers 0-10 until all sections are covered. Throw the ball to your child and have him add, subtract or multiply the numbers closest to each thumb. See how many times you can toss the ball back and forth without making a mistake.

Check with your child's teacher for more suggestions and with their school for possible summer learning opportunities.

Sources: National Summer Learning Association, Reading Is Fundamental, The Huffington Post

ELECTRIC NIGHT



Gillette News Record

Lightning strikes early Monday north of Gillette, Wyo. According to the National Weather Service, there was about of 0.08 inches of precipitation and the forecast is predicting more showers and thunderstorms throughout the week.