

PINEDALE ROUNDUP

COMMENTARY



LOCAL COMMENTARY
TRENA EIDEN

Marital advice and other fibs

On Gar and I's anniversary, a friend inquired whether we would ever be interested in giving marital advice to those fresh off the stage of their wedding reception? I thought he was joking, but no, he was truly genuine. I frowned, "Do you really think people are interested in listening to us quibble over whether the bedroom window should be open or closed?" He raised his eyebrows, so I went on, "First, maybe you need to understand that marriage is mostly war with bouts of truce." He immediately threw out, "Well, you've been married 41 years." I nodded, "That's why I know things."

I started wondering if Gar and I really do have anything to offer young people seeking matrimony? To get started, we should visit with them before they tie the knot. We could be waiting at the girl's parent's home when the guy shows up to ask for permission to marry her. We'd be standing directly behind her father, frowning, and no matter what her dad said, we'd shake our heads and tell him, "Instead of getting married, just go find someone you're kind of attracted to who will put up with you sniping at her every time you're together." Gar and I are snipers,

not yellers; we're much more cunning and immature than the yeller's grown up behavior.

I think we'd also like to be part of the engagement process. He could surprise her, and go down on one knee, while I popped out from behind a tree to ask him if he's gotten a good look at her grandma, because that's what's coming down the pike. Beauty isn't lasting and he needs to know if he can deal with those wiry, black leg hairs relocating to her double chins? Yes, as we age, chins come in pairs. And is he intrigued with wrinkles because, one day, the crevices around her eyes will be deep as ditches, not to mention her middle's transformation, which can be useful - I do have flabby thighs but fortunately my stomach covers them.

Also do they both like brittle-as-a-currycomb, gray hair? And that's before it's so thin, they can use their shiny heads to ping satellite images back to the space station. Gar could ask a really pertinent question of the girl. Is she interested in peeking at the young man's grandpa because more than likely, he has chest-o-drawers disease. Gar says that's where his chest falls down into

his drawers and it happens much sooner than one could imagine. I'll add here that grandmas experience this phenomenon also, which is why underwire bras were invented-by a woman, who obviously hated other women.

If they scoff at our warnings and forge ahead with the wedding, we'll go with them on the honeymoon. What a fun time, with us inquiring about issues like, do they realize they'll soon be mostly deaf and will spend large segments of their day asking each other, "What did you say?" or "Did you say something?" or "I didn't hear you." Oftentimes it's testier with, "Would you speak up!" or "God love a duck, stop mumbling." We'll tell them we hope they like snoring because unfortunately, that bit about being deaf is obsolete once the covers are pulled up to their chins. See, how I brought chins back in there? Boy, for clever.

I say partial deafness doesn't matter because oddly enough, while trying to sleep each will be acutely aware, there's a sawmill fully open for business and the hellacious sound is coming from the pillow right next to his or her ear. Here might be where we

ask how they feel about murder? I'm almost joking. Gar's not, but then he doesn't wear earplugs. I recommend Mack's. They fit the ear canal so snugly, I can barely hear myself snore. Gar still can but geez, I can't solve all his petty problems.

Soon-to-be-marrieds should spend 24 hours with Gar and I. Yesterday morning was a good example of how every day goes with us.

Me: "What are you going to do today?"

Gar: "I'm gonna put that beam above the deck."

Me: "Are you going to need help or can you do it by yourself?"

Gar: "I can do it myself."

Me: "Really? How will you hold it?"

Gar: "I'll use ropes."

Me: "What? No, you don't need ropes. I can help. Wait till I finish this project and I'll come out. But, if I'm helping and something doesn't go like you planned, you can't get cranky."

Gar: (Silently studying me)

Me: "What?"

Gar: "I'll just use ropes."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Changing my mind about the critical access hospital

Man, if you are anything like me, you stayed away from the debate over a hospital in the past. Watching the Sublette Center and Sublette County Rural Health Care District battle it out over swing-bed-care dollars was uncomfortable. I didn't know how to respond because I didn't want either to lose. Breaking news: They are working together now! And they finally have a really good plan.

Basically, the current clinics are designated as glorified doctor's offices - so they often only get 60 percent of the payment for services performed. If they can change that designation to a critical access hospital (CAH) then they will be reimbursed 100 percent for the services performed. This makes perfect sense. This alone will bring in an estimated \$7 million in new revenue and will save us tons of money in other ways.

But first, will your taxes go up? Yes, if we form a Hospital District your taxes will go up based on your property values. If your house is valued at \$200,000 your taxes will go up \$20 a year. If your house is valued at \$500,000 your taxes will go up \$50 a year but that's less than a tank of gas to drive somewhere else for health care.

What will be covered in a CAH that isn't covered now? Pneumonia - I know so many families in our community with young kids with breathing problems. Why do they need to be driving them to Jackson in the middle of the night? Hip fractures. COPD Exacerbation. Blood transfusions. This one is close to my heart. When I was eight months pregnant with my son, my placenta partially ruptured and I really needed a blood transfusion - we don't have those in Sublette County. I had to wait 45 minutes for a life

flight to Idaho. It really made me realize these small basic things that we are missing. A CAH can also do chemo. Think of how many people in our county have fought cancer and how many miles they have driven while sick with cancer - and it's something we could do here if we had a CAH.

The other part of this is, of course, the Sublette Center. The building is aging and needs repairs. Sally Swift was a shining light and a guardian angel for that place - but she's gone now. The county currently pays \$500,000 a year to keep the doors open and it's barely enough. A CAH would be built up on the hill (building off of the current Pinedale Clinic) and would include a new Sublette Center. Our seniors have paid taxes here their entire lives - they deserve a better place to live. The CAH would also have a Memory Care Unit. Fun fact: There isn't a Memory Care facility in Western Wyoming. Ours would be a needed service and bring income to the CAH.

I also learned about something called Title 25. If someone is a danger to themselves or others, law enforcement is required to put them somewhere safe for 72 hours with access to medical care. Currently, we ship people to Jackson or Rock Springs, but with a CAH they could stay here. The Commissioners paid \$120,000 last year for Title 25. Think about that. Also, the Big Piney/ Marbleton Clinic will stay open. All this new revenue and savings can be used to restore services and make improvements. The BPM Clinic will be part of this and will only thrive as the hospital thrives. It's truly good for all of Sublette County.

Finally, the hospital building would be financed with a USDA loan. Saratoga just got its USDA loan for a CAH approved and broke ground last week. With a USDA loan,

they babysit you for five years. Just to make sure you don't fail. And our USDA person Lorraine Werner has been doing this for 20 years and never had a hospital fail. I don't think she's going to let Sublette County be the first.

So that's everything I've learned recently. I was shocked at how much better it is. Better people. Better plan. I'm on board. I encourage you to do your own research and Vote "YES" for the formation of a Hospital District in Sublette County.

Thanks!

Kari DeWitt, mom of three

Fall greetings everyone!

I'm writing at this time to communicate with you, our Sublette County neighbors, about this 2020 season with the Pinedale Community Choir. I informed members this week of my decision to cancel this year's rehearsals and Advent/Christmas concerts. Creating a quality experience for singers and audience members is my top priority. With the health challenges we're currently facing, I find this performing season isn't meant to be. Our Community Choir is made up of very dedicated and hard-working singers of all ages and experience levels. They give of themselves year after year, and I'm sad that we won't have the opportunity to make music together this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge two of our long-standing members, who unfortunately passed on this summer. Fred Petersen and Jim Malkowski were each decades-long members and gave much to the community through music. It's unfortunate we'll be unable to honor them with our singing this year, but they will always be a part of us.

Additionally, I'd like to thank our Sublette

Center, Big Piney, and Pinedale audiences, and the churches that sponsor us, for your enthusiastic support every year. Our voices are silent now, but we look forward to the day when we can once again celebrate and "Make a Joyful Noise" for the communities we love.

Respectfully,
Candy Herda-Scott, director
Pinedale Community Choir

Do you want to be a ghost town?

Big Piney- Marbleton Community Development Group (BPMDCG) is an organization whose goal is to maintain, build and nurture active and vibrant communities in Marbleton and Big Piney. Growth is a goal of this group and we strongly believe that our communities have much to offer to those seeking new areas. It is a duty we all must share as members of the community.

If we wish to avoid ghost town status for our communities, we must have our school filled with children, the businesses on main street open, the grocery store thriving and our post office providing mail service. To provide these services there must be enough population to support them. Have you thought about a community without a school? Without a grocery store? It could happen if our population continues to dwindle!

If our communities cannot provide medical services, we will not have growth. People are unwilling to move to areas without adequate care. We are supporting the Hospital District and ask you to vote Yes on this important issue!

Submitted by Big Piney- Marbleton Development Group

Pinedale Roundup

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