

LOCAL

Students recognized

See A3



SPORTS

Legislative updates

See A4, 5



LOCAL

Life is a carnival

See B1



Pinedale Roundup

Newspaper of the Upper Green River Valley, Est. 1904

FEBRUARY 21, 2020

One Dollar

What's your sign?

Ordinance passes first reading

By Holly Dabb
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PINEDALE – In an attempt to declutter the town, Pinedale's council passed on first reading an ordinance for signs and required permits during the Feb. 10 council meeting.

Because of a current vacancy, only the four sitting council members were in attendance including Mayor Matt Murdock, Judi Boyce, Dean Loftus and Tyler Swafford. The process of reviewing the existing ordinance and standardizing signs began a year ago and became quickly controversial. Shortly after the workshop with more questions than answers, changes occurred in the town's staff that delayed the process of revising the existing sign ordinances.

The town's attorney Ed Wood brought the ordinance back but fully admitted, "I don't have any ownership in this ordinance; if you want to make changes, make changes."

For Pine Street, which is also U.S. Highway 191, the council agreed to follow the same rules that the Wyoming Department of Transportation maintains, which prohibit signs in public rights of way.

Prohibiting signs in public rights of way keeps the town clutter free, but also allows private property owners to have freedom of expression, Wood said.

He said the previous ordinance prohibited all campaign signs except for 30 days before an election and required them to be removed, even from private property, within five days.

He said the new ordinance does not have those restrictions for private property owners.

Other concerns were about sign sizes. Boyce said the maximum size of 2 square feet for a home-based business is too small. After a discussion and measuring paintings in the room to determine sizes, the council agreed to increase the allowed size to 6 square feet. The vote was 3 to 1 with Murdock voting against allowing the larger signs.

Boyce also asked about temporary Pinedale Fine Arts Council or library signs used for events.

Wood said the signs are allowed on library property, but the size restrictions would apply. He added PFAC signs in the rights of way for events would not be allowed.

Swafford asked if existing signs would be grandfathered in.

Wood said the signs, except those exempt, already require permitting. If they do not already have a permit, they are in violation anyway, Wood said.

The ordinance exempts permits for signs with a "public purpose," nameplates and addresses for structures, cornerstones and historical markers, decorations of a temporary nature, window displays of actual merchandise, real estate for sale, rental or lease signs that are less than 6 square feet in surface area, noncommercial signs that are informational and directional with no advertising, danger or warning signs and traffic signs.

However, anyone with an existing sign permit may have to prove it because records



HOLLY DABB PHOTO

Kayla Teichert pulls Ozzie Hays Saturday, Feb. 15, during the Winter Carnival skiing event. They finished the 700-foot course in the Open 1D Class in 17.98 seconds on the first run and 17 seconds in the second run to place second for the first day. See page B1 for more coverage of Winter Carnival.

for permits before 2015 are difficult to access.

Town Clerk Maureen Rudnick said when the town moved out of the former town hall, records were in boxes in the town's garage. After 2015, a new system was established where all permits are scanned and attached to Parcel Identification Numbers for easy reference.

"Unless someone complains, we're not going out and looking for illegal signs," Rudnick said.

She said the most complaints are about

abandoned buildings or closed businesses that still have signs offering services that are not available.

Temporary signs are allowed, for example construction signs or farm stands, but they are limited to 30 days and must be removed within five days after an event.

The ordinance prohibits revolving beacons and flashing signs that could distract motorists, signs that conflict with devices controlling traffic, overhanging and freestanding

See 'SIGN' on page 9A

County gives green light to hospital district

Commission pledges \$20 million to support project

By Robert Galbreath
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PINEDALE – A partnership between the Sublette Center and Sublette County Rural Health Care District (SCRHCD) to form a new hospital district and build a critical access hospital and long-term care facility received support from the Board of County Commissioners at its Feb. 18 meeting.

Two motions passed unanimously by the four members present – Chairman David Burnett, Tom Noble, Mack Rawhouser and Doug Vickrey. Joel Bousman was attending meetings in Cheyenne. The first motion approved "up to \$20 million for construction of a new long-term care facility" and decided the Marbleton/Big Piney and Pinedale clinics to a "new hospital district."

The first motion is conditional on voter approval for a hospital district on a November 2020 ballot and a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Sublette Center and SCRHCD to form this district. A "reversion clause" was included to return the clinics to the county in case the clinics do not meet certain goals set by the commissioners at a later date, Burnett explained.

"Our support in the form of a motion is what we need to do to help the MOU progress in a positive manner and continue the momentum," said Noble.

"This is our opportunity to do what we wanted to do for a long time – to put (a hospital district) up to the electorate and let them decide," said Burnett.

A second vote approved the county's participation in the purchase of the ball field property "not to exceed \$3.3 million" as an equal partner with the Town of Pinedale and SCRHCD.

"This vote is very helpful," said Pinedale Mayor Matt Murdock of the second motion. "This gives the school board assurance that we can move forward. We want to be off those fields so the hospital district can start doing their project immediately."

From conflict to progress
State statute allows for the formation of a hospital district with an elected board of five to seven members that can levy 3 to 6 mills, Burnett explained at a conference between the boards on Monday, Feb. 17. The names of candidates interested in serving on the new hospital district board would appear on the same ballot asking voters to approve a hospital district. Upon passage of the ballot, the SCRHCD can vote to dissolve as early as the beginning of a new tax cycle.

The idea to form a hospital district emerged after an impasse on how to manage health care at a meeting between the boards on Feb. 7. Proposals from the SCRHCD and

Sublette Center hinged on the passage of legislation to create a senior health care services district (House Bill 62) or allow a rural health care district to own long-term care facilities (Senate File 69). HB 62 passed third reading in the House on Feb. 18 by a 48-11-1 vote and was introduced to the Senate on Feb. 19. Senate File 69 is scheduled for first reading on Feb. 20. Rep. Albert Sommers and Sen. Fred Baldwin introduced these bills to give Sublette County "more tools" to manage health care, Burnett said at the Feb. 18 meeting.

The boards hosted a second meeting on Feb. 17 that appeared deadlocked at first. Patty Racich, chairman of the Sublette Center Board, requested that a future hospital district purchase the center's assets at "fair market value." Attorney Nick Healey explained that the funds from this sale would be used as an "escape hatch" for the center to "continue its mission" to serve seniors in case the hospital
See 'COUNTY' on page 6A



646 W
Adams St.
Pinedale, WY
82941

MLS #: 20-168 \$315,000
3 Beds | 2 Baths | 1,464 Sq. Ft.



35 Black
Bear Rd.
Pinedale, WY
82941

MLS #: 20-155 \$715,000
5 Beds | 5 Baths | 5,366 Sq. Ft.



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Official newspaper of Sublette County and the town of Pinedale.

MESA YEAR-ROUND RAFFLE

Tickets can be purchased at Office Outlet, the Hair Outfitter, and the Cowboy Shop, by any MESA Board member, or online through our website. Tickets are \$50. You have 24 chances to win. We draw for prizes on the 1st & 15th of each month.



March's prizes will be a full day float trip on the New Fork or Green River by Reel Deal Anglers... over \$500 value. Also we will be giving away a dinner/lunch package.

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OBITUARY

Debra Iwalani Gillis Nov. 28, 1969 – Feb. 13, 2020



With her husband by her side, Debra Iwalani Gillis, 50, of Boulder, passed away Thursday, Feb. 13, at the Huntsman's Cancer Institute in Salt Lake City, Utah. As with all things in her life, Debbie gave it everything she had, went the distance and then pushed for a little bit more. Born Nov. 28, 1969, in Tacoma, Wash., Debbie was welcomed into the loving and awaiting arms of Steven Dennis Wilson and Rhea Allred Wilson. Her early years were spent growing up in Virginia, Missouri, Oklahoma, and eventually, North Logan, Utah, where she graduated from Sky View High School and excelled in cross country and track and field. Debbie graduated from Utah State University and began her teaching career by teaching physical education at Oakwood Elementary and coaching track at the junior high school in Preston, Idaho. She loved that she got to play with kids all day and get paid. In 2002, Debbie was recognized as USU's Outstanding Alumni K-12 teacher and shortly thereafter was recognized as the Physical Educator of the Year by the National Association for Sport and Physical Education. Except for her love of ice cream, fitness and living healthy were paramount to Debbie, and she lived to inspire others to live accordingly. Debbie was often referred to as the Energizer Bunny and there was no time for sitting on the sidelines.

For many years, her summers were spent in the shadows of the Tetons in Jackson, where she worked as a camp counselor at the R Lazy S Dude Ranch providing activities and games for kids. It was in Wyoming that Debbie finally found the love of her life, Joe Gillis. Debbie and Joe were married in a private, romantic mountain ceremony, May 28, 2010, and Sublette County became her home. She loved the land, wildlife, activities and people of Wyoming. There was always time for another hill to climb, aerobics class to teach, race to run, mile to walk, house to clean, deal to find, friend to visit and child to love – even on the darkest days. Deb earned her master's degree and additional endorsement from Virginia Tech that allowed her to become a classroom teacher. Debbie became a teacher at Big Piney Elementary and loved her classroom and those kids!

Above all, Debbie was loyal and lived

with integrity. Anyone that knew her felt her kindness and knew her love for the things that brought her the most joy: Joe, family, friends, kids and her love for the Savior. As an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, her testimony was sure. She endured to the end and was faithful in her words, actions and beliefs. Debbie was giving and often went above and beyond. She always thought of others and had a way of making them feel special through countless cards, notes, visits and calls. She lived each day to the fullest and with a purpose. She will be greatly missed.

Debbie was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her husband Joe Gillis, Boulder, and siblings Dan (Patricia) Wilson, Logan; Dennis (Lisa) Wilson, West Jordan; Drew (Michelle) Wilson, Hyrum; Everett (Tiffanie) Wilson, Logan; Trina Wilson, Logan, and many nieces and nephews. The family would like to thank the community for the many fundraisers, support, gifts and encouragement that gave her the drive to move forward.

Funeral service will be conducted Saturday, Feb. 22, at 11 a.m. at the Pinedale Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 221 E. North St. A viewing will take place Friday evening, Feb. 21, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the church and one hour prior to the service on Saturday morning from 10 to 11 a.m.

COUNTY

Continued from 1A

district falls through.

The SCRHCD members said no to this proposal, remaining firm in their position that both entities put all assets in the pot as equal partners.

Disagreement within the boards also emerged at the meeting. Sublette Center board member Lynn Bernard called the SCRHCD's proposal an "acquisition" rather than a "merger," leaving the center to the "whims of the of the SCRHCD." He also raised concerns about the ability to raise tax revenue with "oil and gas revenue in decline" and a decrease in population, adding that, "the elementary school is projected to lose 200 students in the next five years."

Bernard said he believed the Sublette Center could save money by remodeling the existing facility with closer access to the community rather than relocating "up on the hill, facing the cemetery ... the epitome of depressing."

Kenda Tanner, secretary and treasurer for the Sublette Center board, said the center is unable to compete with wages and benefits offered by the county and will lose swing bed revenue without a "merger." The center needed a new long-term care building, memory care and access to USDA funds and liability protection that only a merger could provide, she added.

The SCRHCD disputed the timeline to move forward. Bill Johnson and Mike Pompy expressed frustration over waiting for the Sublette Center to join the project. Tonia

Hoffman stated that another month's delay for an MOU with the Sublette Center was worth it.

"I believe we cannot apply for USDA loans until we have this process ironed out," she said.

Following a public comment period primarily in support of creating a hospital district, the boards broke into a working group to discuss their concerns and to draft a new MOU. The two boards returned from the working group positive that an agreement can be reached.

"We agreed to several of the terms in the MOU," said Tanner. "We discussed the asset transfer and Nick Healey came up with an idea that might work for us. We're very close to an agreement."

The Sublette Center board plans to discuss the MOU at a meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 26, Racich confirmed.

At the Feb. 19 meeting of the SCRHCD board, the trustees indicated that they feel positive moving forward with an MOU and expressed gratitude to the commissioners.

"I was very encouraged at the (Feb. 17) meeting that we can come together," said Pompy.

"I think this is all going to work out," Johnson added.

Each board's lawyers are looking through the new MOU and hope to present it to the members at the end of this week. The SCRHCD plans to hold a special meeting next week in Marbleton.

Church DIRECTORY

Pinedale Community United Church of Christ
115 S Maybell, Pinedale
307-367-2528

9:00 am Sunday Choir Practice
9:45 am Sunday Children Sing
10:00 am Sunday Worship Service
Including Godly Play (education) for children

Office Hours: M, T, W 10:00 am - 4:00 pm




First Baptist Church

Pastor Ted York

SUNDAY SERVICE
Sunday school.....9:45 a.m.
Morning worship 11 a.m.


646 N. Tyler Street • 307-367-4567



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Bible study..... 7:45 a.m.
Sunday Service..... 9 a.m.


Pastor Kevin Rose
307-367-2612
512 N. Tyler, Pinedale



Our Lady of Peace
Catholic Church
112 S. Sublette Ave

Mass Schedule

Saturday: 5:30 p.m.
Monday: 9 a.m. at The Sublette Center
Sunday: 8 a.m.
Tuesday: 5:30 p.m. at Church
Holy Day of Obligation: 7 a.m. & 7 p.m.
Wednesday-Friday: 7 a.m. at Church



Church of the Resurrection

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Join us for Sunday Morning Services at 10 a.m. at 41 S. Lake Ave. Sunday School is available for children.

For questions, call us at (307) 367-3500 or write to us at ChurchoftheResurrection.Wyo@gmail.com



"Come to Me all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest."
-Jesus Christ

Pinedale Bible Church

Sunday Services
Worship Service 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Sunday School, all ages 9:00 - 10:15 a.m.
Sunday School for all ages

Wednesday Services
Children's Clubs..... 3:45 - 5:10 p.m.
Youth Groups 7 p.m.

Come visit us at
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Pastor Jim Silvey



Friday is Ozone Action Day

SUBLETTE COUNTY – This week, the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality has called for Ozone Action Days on Thursday and now Friday, Feb. 21, in the Upper Green River Basin. People are asked to reduce emissions and limit strenuous outdoor activities when ozone levels are high. Go to www.wyvisnet.com to check current ozone levels.