

LOCAL

Teacher of the Year

See A3



LOCAL

School district receives technology grant

See A4

LOCAL

Congratulations to the Class of 2020

See A10-11



Pinedale Roundup

Newspaper of the Upper Green River Valley, Est. 1904

MAY 15, 2020

One Dollar

Bids awarded for ball fields

By Holly Dabb
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PINEDALE – The ink wasn't even dry from approving a memorandum of understanding with the Sublette County Rural Health Care District before the Pinedale Town Council awarded the construction and dirt-moving bids for ball fields.

During the May 11 council meeting, Telectractors was awarded a bid for \$4,705,833.01, which included several alternatives for completing Wilson Street, phase two items such as landscaping, lights and paving the parking lot.

The bid is in excess of the \$3.85 million that represented "like and kind" of existing facilities that was presented to commissioners last week. Commissioners and the Sublette County Rural Health Care Board both agreed to increase matching funds to cover that amount.

Mayor Matt Murdock said the council could approve just the base bid for like and kind materials. However, he said, now is the time to get more of the project completed because the town would not have to pay mobilization fees again at a later time.

"The price isn't going to go down in the future," he said.

Despite the bids coming in high, Brian Gray, with Jorgensen and Associates, said he met with Telectractors and the company was willing to change the scope of work.

Of the \$4.7 million total bid, the town will be coming up with just over \$2 million while the rural health care district and county will come up with \$1.35 million each. The funds from the health care district and county are officially to purchase the current Dudley Key Fields for a critical access hospital next to the clinic.

Earlier in the meeting, the council approved the transfer of 8.23 acres to the Sublette County Rural Health Care District. The transfer was approved conditionally on the \$2.7 million being deposited into the town's bank account.

The council also approved a memorandum of understanding for the sale of the property.

The town awarded a bid to JB's Welding and Excavation for \$131,328 for topsoil to the field. The topsoil must be delivered to the site by July 15 or there is a \$500 per day penalty.

Murdock said the actions taken at the council meeting pave the way to ask voters to form a Hospital District that will be on the ballot in November.

The public will also be able to vote on a separate five-person board for any hospital district that is approved.

Murdock said a hospital district allows more growth. In addition, the critical access hospital must have a medical partner and St. John's Medical Center and Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center have already shown interest.

In other actions

• The May 25 council meeting was moved to May 26 in observance of the Memorial Day holiday and will begin at 5 p.m.

• Two letters of interest were received for the fixed base operator at the Ralph Wenz Airfield from Bighorn Airways, Inc. of Sheridan and Choice Aviation, LLC. of Cody. The current fixed base operator, Emblem, was invited to submit a letter of interest, but chose not to.

The council agreed the two companies should be invited to the June 8 council meeting in conjunction with the Airport Board members to present business plans.

• A change order was approved to the apron



Joy Ulford Photo

Krista Manning and Julie Waite of the Children's Learning Center wave at passersby cruising Pine Street last Friday evening. The CLC Art Auction & Gala planned for Friday, May 15, was replaced with art walks in Pinedale and Big Piney and drive-through donations at the old Pinedale Town Hall site.

Rehabilitation North general aviation project. The order reduces the overall cost of the project by more than \$18,000. The project is paid for with a Federal Aviation Administration grant, funds from the Wyoming Department of Transportation and a 4-percent match from the town of Pinedale. The changes include additional conduit in trenches that can be used for future security cameras on lights.

• The town approved the record of negotiations from Graham, Dietz and Associates for the future Expansion of the E general aviation project and a five-year contract with T-O Engineers for \$298,940. The overall project will be \$5.5 million.

• Closing South Fremont Street on May 30 was approved and fees waived to allow Sublette County Unified Fire to test fire hoses.

• A special budget meeting will be on May 27 at 3 p.m. for the second reading of the town's budget.

• Septage fees were set for bulk disposal at the town's sewer treatment facility.

• The purchase of marking equipment for the airport in addition to the purchase of a Ventrac attaching mower and groomer from Stotz Equipment for \$14,350 was approved.

• An emergency ordinance passed moving the date of municipal elections to June 23. Wrangler Gymnasium at 615 North Tyler Ave. was set as the location. Because the school is closed, the gymnasium doors will be used rather than the BOCES' entrance.

• Murdock announced the town is planning to have Rendezvous in July as well as the annual Fourth of July picnic. Sublette County Health Officer Dr. Brendan Fitzsimmons will be consulted on limitations, such as no potluck dishes.

• A tree planting is set for 9 a.m. May 21 at Split Diamond Park to celebrate Arbor Day, which occurred in April.

Larger gatherings and dine-in services allowed

By Holly Dabb
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WYOMING – With some statewide public health orders being eased at the end of the week, Sublette County is following suit.

Gov. Mark Gordon asked the public Wednesday to be careful as the state's economy begins to reopen.

Sublette County Health Officer Dr. Brendan Fitzsimmons encouraged businesses to go online and request any variances during his Wednesday address on the Sublette County Sheriff's Facebook page.

He also is concerned about large public gatherings, such as Rendezvous, rodeos and banquets, calling them "the elephant in the room."

"No one knows right now," Fitzsimmons said. "There is a possibility that we have a year with no large public gatherings."

Both high schools have developed plans and had graduation ceremonies approved, he said.

Among the places approved to open See 'GATHERINGS' on page 2A

Rural Health Care Board of Trustees passes latest MOU

Approve additional funds for ball fields

By Robert Galbreath
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PINEDALE – In a 4-1 vote, the Sublette County Rural Health Care District board of trustees approved the latest memorandum of understanding to partner with the Sublette Center and work toward forming a hospital district. The action took place after a public hearing on May 12 to amend the budget to reflect higher costs for the ball field project.

The trustees approved the first MOU with the Sublette Center at a special meeting on March 26. The Sublette Center had a different version than the one signed by the SCRHCD, Dave Doorn, executive director for the

district, told the Pinedale Roundup. The latest version presented on May 12 reconciles both versions with "adjustments" to "make sure both entities are signing the correct version."

Neither version was available to the public. The Sublette Center board scheduled a meeting for Thursday, May 14, at 3 p.m. to consider the MOU, Chairman Patty Raich confirmed. The board's decision was not available at press time and the contents of the MOU are under wraps until the document is legally binding and signed by both sides.

See 'MOU' on page 8A



pinedaleroundup.com

Official newspaper of Sublette County and the town of Pinedale.

Pinedale's 40-voice festival choir goes virtual

From Pinedale Fine Arts Council

PINEDALE – The Pinedale Festival Choir, or PFC, takes its music to the Internet for Wyoming's first-ever virtual choral festival streaming online on May 16 and May 17.

Pinedale singers join half a dozen vocal ensembles from Teton, Lincoln and Sublette

counties: Cathedral Voices, Pinedale Festival Choir, Petrichoral, Salt River Chamber Chorus, Treble Voices and Voices 8. What was going to be an extraordinary three days of music for the third biennial Spring Festival conceived and directed by Cathedral Voices Artistic Director

Laura Huckin will now be presented in a purely digital format, streaming online from Jackson's Center for the Arts.

PFC Manager Kim Buchanan has auditioned and performed in three national virtual choirs including Eric Whitacre's virtual choir in Los Angeles.

"It's not the same as singing with everyone but still so much fun," she said. "I am so grateful to Laura Huckin for creating this wonderful opportunity for all of us instead of canceling completely."

Pinedale choirs under the direction of conductor Greg Allen have singers from ages 11 to 70 and include many family groups that make singing together for rehearsals on Sunday afternoons especially meaningful. Valerie Lee serves as the choir's artistic director.

Members include 14 students from Pinedale and Big Piney school choirs as well as the student ensemble Petrichoral. Local pianists

J.J. Huntley and Pinedale High School junior Landon Preece worked tirelessly as rehearsal accompanists as well as learning their choral parts.

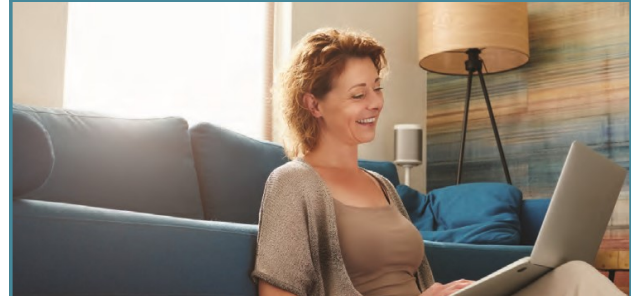
Singers are watching virtual rehearsals and participating in Zoom sessions to prepare their individual parts. Laura Huckin, alongside guest conductor Dr. Geoffrey Boers from the University of Washington, has crafted technique videos and direct online master classes.

Dr. Boers adds, "The heroic efforts by these choirs to come together to share their music, will be an inspiration to the community." Seventy videos will be combined by Jackson's Center for the Arts to create the online virtual performance for all to hear and see.

Performances will be livestreamed on May 16 at 6 p.m. and May 17 at 4 p.m. To watch the livestream, visit the Cathedral Voice's webpage, www.cathedralvoices.org.

Stay connected to your health care...from home!

Call to schedule a virtual visit with a provider at St. John's Health



<p>Audiology & Hearing Aids 307.739.7690</p> <p>Behavioral Health 307.739.8999</p> <p>Cardiology 307.739.7690</p> <p>Child & Adolescent Psychiatry 307.739.4818</p> <p>Cognitive Health 307.739.7434</p> <p>Diabetes 307.733.7222</p> <p>Ear, Nose, Throat & Allergy 307.739.7665</p> <p>Family Health Lander 307.332.2189</p>	<p>General Surgery 307.739.7690</p> <p>Home Health 307.739.7465</p> <p>Internal Medicine Jackson: 307.733.7222 Wilson: 307.739.7696</p> <p>Physical, Occupational & Speech Therapy 307.739.1864</p> <p>Pulmonology & Sleep 307.739.7628</p> <p>Urgent Care 307.739.8999</p> <p>Urology 307.739.7690</p>
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BTNF firewood permits available

From Bridger-Teton National Forest

PINEDALE – The Bridger-Teton National Forest will start selling firewood permits for personal use beginning May 15. District offices will conduct business by phone and issue permits by mail to interested individuals for a price of \$7 per cord with a five-cord minimum purchase. Permits valid for the calendar year only. Permits must be in possession while collecting forest products, with load tickets visible at the time of transport.

Additionally, the Forest Service will offer permits for other forest products. Transplant permits, and post and pole permits will be available May 15.

To keep the public and Forest Service employees safe, we encourage you to call your local district office to obtain any of these permits for the Bridger-Teton National Forest. Voicemails are checked frequently during regular business hours and you will receive a call back by the next available business day. We are encouraging payment by credit card and the permit will be mailed to you the following business day. Please plan ahead, allowing time to receive your permit by mail prior to collecting forest products.

Contact information for the Bridger-Teton National Forest offices is as follows:

Kemmerer Ranger District – 307-877-5100
Big Piney Ranger District – 307-276-5800
Greys River Ranger District – 307-885-5300

Blackrock Ranger District – 307-543-3900
Pinedale Ranger District – 307-367-4326

Jackson Ranger District – 307-739-5400

When gathering firewood, permits allow for the harvest of down or standing dead wood only and it is important to use firewood from local sources to prevent the spread of invasive species.

A standard cord is 8 feet long, 4 feet wide and 4 feet high, measuring 128 cubic feet when wood is stacked in a row. Make sure to cut firewood only where the permit allows, as other neighboring forests might have different firewood cutting regulations and price. Locations where forest product collection is not allowed include wilderness areas, campgrounds, picnic areas, resorts, recreation management areas, wilderness study areas, administrative sites and timber sales. Maps of legal routes to access woodcutting locations will be available where permits are sold and on the Forest Service website. Visitors are advised to check in with their local ranger stations regarding area road and trail information.

National forests across the nation have been providing a substantial amount of firewood for the public since the 1970s, which has continued to grow as more households in America are adopting practices to reduce energy and fossil fuel consumption. Selling firewood permits also aids in fire prevention by removing burnable material from the forest floor.

For more information, visit www.fs.usda.gov/main/btnf/passes-permits/forestproducts or call 307-739-5500.

Both clinics included in C-130 flyovers

From the Governor's Office

WYOMING – The Wyoming Air National Guard's 153rd Airlift Wing will conduct an aerial salute to health care professionals on the frontlines in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. On Friday, May 15, the Air National Guard will present a two-ship C-130 flyover across the skies of each hospital around the state, culminating in the Capitol City.

Even though Sublette County doesn't have a hospital, the clinics in Pinedale and Marbleton are included. Residents Pinedale in Pinedale will be able to look to the sky at 12:15 p.m. Residents in Marbleton will be treated to the same view at 12:20 p.m.

"We salute all those, both around the state of Wyoming and across the nation who have

sacrificed so much to serve on the frontlines of this pandemic," said Col. Justin Walrath, 153rd Airlift Wing commander and pilot, WYANG, "it's truly an honor for the men and women of the Wyoming Air National Guard to provide a 'thank you' to the first responders, medical professionals, and essential personnel providing support at this time." Before the C-130 heads to Jackson and Afton.

The aerial demonstration is part of Operation American Resolve, a nationwide salute to all those supporting the COVID-19 response effort. Anyone who gets video or photos of the C-130s flying overhead are encouraged to post on social media using the hashtags #AirForceSalutes and #AFFlyover

MOU

Continued from 1A

Trustee Bill Johnson voted against the motion to approve the MOU with the Sublette Center. During discussion, he raised objections about holding an election to create a new hospital district and increasing the mill levy if voters approve the ballot in November.

Waiting six months to move forward with a hospital district that may or may not be approved seemed pointless he said. Johnson added that he supported cutting taxes, not raising them, during a time of economic uncertainty.

"I'm not against the merger (with the Sublette Center) and I'm not against the MOU," he said. "I am against the election as strongly as I can be."

The board unanimously approved a budget

amendment of \$1,350,000 to cover the higher-than-expected costs for the ball field project. The Town of Pinedale, SCRHCD and Board of County Commissioners initially agreed to split the costs of the project, estimating a total cost of \$3.3 million.

Project bids submitted to the town came in higher than expected, and the town asked each entity to add an additional \$250,000 to the \$1.1 million they had already pledged. The approval raised the capital expenditures for 2019/2020 from \$9,668,048 to \$11,018,048.

The trustees also voted unanimously to approve the MOU between the town, SCRHCD and School District No. 1 on the lease agreement to move the ball fields to the bus barn property owned by the district.

Prior to your appointment, please download the Zoom app

For help setting up the Zoom app, please visit stjohns.health/telehealth and visit the "How to" link