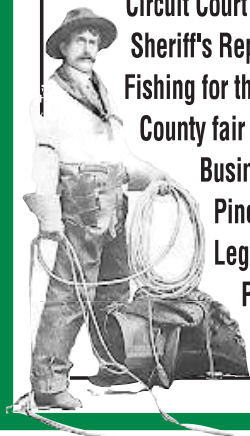


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Weekly Weather Forecast

Pinedale, Wyoming • August 3-8

Today

Sunrise: 6:12 a.m. **Sunset:** 8:37 p.m.

High: **64°** Low: **49°**

RealFeel® 65° 53°

Day: Cloudy with thunderstorms.

Night: Partly cloudy.



Friday

Partly sunny and nice.

High: **70°**
Low: **45°**



Saturday

Partly cloudy with afternoon t-storms.

High: **69°**
Low: **41°**



Sunday

Cool with times of sun and clouds.

High: **64°**
Low: **46°**



Monday

Cool with a blend of sun and clouds.

High: **64°**
Low: **46°**



Tuesday

Times of clouds and sun with a t-storm.

High: **74°**
Low: **45°**



Earth is moving

Hospital, Sublette Center construction fully underway

By Robert Galbreath

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PINEDALE – Excavators, backhoe loaders, dump trucks, rollers and construction crews are busy transforming the hilltop near the Pinedale Clinic to make way for the new critical access hospital and long-term care facility.

Karl Lueschow of Lueschow Property Management, the owner's representative for the Sublette County Hospital District, congratulated the SCHD board on the commencement of construction for the health-care campus – a historical milestone for the community.

"Ninety-eight years later, we have finally started to build," said Lueschow.

Lueschow provided a summary of all the work carried out so far as the building project entered its second week. Crews are beginning to grade the building pad, Lueschow told trustees.

"Monster piles" of dirt loom above the site, Lueschow noted, housing all of the soil removed from the construction zone.

Excavators are digging a route along Hennick Street to link the health-care campus's water-main line to the Town of Pinedale's pipeline system, said Lueschow. As trenchwork continues, Hennick Street will experience temporary closures with traffic rerouted, he added.

The digging is proceeding smoothly with the exception of the discovery of an unknown box housing fiber, Lueschow reported. The SCHD's construction team is working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Century Link to come up with a "cost-effective" solution to the presence of the fiber box, Lueschow added.

Crews are also hooking the construction site up to temporary power and relocating gas lines, Lueschow said.

Workers relocated the helipad to a new site and are applying the final coats of paint, Lueschow announced. Test flights to the helipad are expected to be carried out this week, he continued.

The next big construction step involves high-impact compaction to level the site, Lueschow noted. Residents living in the area can expect "shaking and pounding" during the day beginning on Aug. 8, Lueschow told trustees.

Local company Telectractors, Inc., a subcontractor to Layton Construction on this project, is performing the excavation work and doing an "outstanding job" and "plowing forward" with its tasks, said Lueschow.

Lueschow also praised the management team from Layton who arrived in Pinedale several weeks ago to supervise the project. The administrators bring "top-notch experience" and knowledge of health-care construction to the table, Lueschow noted.

Trustee Ashli Tatro asked Lueschow for a progress report on the conditions listed by the Town of Pinedale in its building permit granted in June.

Jorgensen Associates completed a design to address one of the outstanding conditions related to storm-water runoff, Lueschow replied. He felt "confident" the town would approve Jorgensen's blueprint.

Fellow trustee Dave Bell inquired whether Layton workers found housing in the Pinedale area. Only three full-time workers from Layton are on site, said Lueschow, and he added that there was "no indication of anyone" experiencing problems with housing so far.

Sublette County Health Foundation

The Sublette County Health Foundation received a \$1-million donation from Dan and Kim Huish, said foundation director Kari DeWitt.

"We are thankful for the incredibly generous donation from the Huish family," DeWitt said.

DeWitt reported on a successful campaign during the statewide WyoGives fundraiser on July 12. The Sublette County Health Foundation raised \$21,870 over the course of 24 hours, DeWitt said. Even though the Sublette County Health Foundation is a new organization, it ranked 24th in the state for contributions received, DeWitt added.

Merger update

Progress continues in the merger between the SCHD and Sublette Center, formally commenced in December 2022 when boards from both organizations signed a membership substitution agreement.

A workshop is scheduled on Sept. 6 between the Sublette Center II Board and its attorneys to iron out legalities for the change of ownership that will happen between the two entities this winter, SCHD board chairwoman Tonia Hoffman announced to trustees.

The Sublette Center II Board contains representatives from both the Sublette Center and SCHD boards and is the administrative body for the Sublette Center for the duration of the transition period and before the change of ownership takes place.

The change of ownership will trigger the final transfer of assets from the Sublette Center to the SCHD, ending the Sublette Center's existence as an independent nonprofit.

A public meeting to formalize the change of ownership will follow the Sept. 6 workshop at a date to be announced in the future, Hoffman told the Roundup.

The change of ownership is expected to take place on schedule before the end of 2023, said Hoffman.

The SCHD is working closely with the Sublette Center's staff and administration to "gently pull the two organizations together," Hoffman said to the Roundup. Sublette Center employees are involved in each of the SCHD's committees, from the building committee to quality committee, and are "looped in on everything" as far as the merger and construction process, Hoffman added.

Hoffman pledged that there will be no "significant" changes for Sublette Center workers once the change of ownership occurs, beyond receiving their paychecks from the hospital district rather than the Sublette Center.

"We want this transition to be as seamless as possible," Hoffman said.

Strong finances and employee housing task force

The SCHD experienced a "tremendous year" in terms of mill-levy revenue, primarily from the oil and gas industry, Bell reported to the board.

The district received \$12,356,561 in mill-levy tax revenue for the fiscal year ending on June 30, said Bell. In June, the district obtained a significant tax payment of \$2,771,845, allowing it to post a \$2,049,505 profit for the month, Bell added.

"We can only wish for that in the future," Bell said. "It was a great month and a good year."

Healthy tax revenues created an opportunity for the district to set aside \$4 million in its reserve accounts over the course of the previous fiscal year, Bell told trustees. The district's cash on hand currently sits at 345 days, the highest figure since March 2020 and considerably better than the SCHD's strategic goal of 225 days cash on hand, said Bell.

"We are well-positioned for challenges that will come our way over the coming months," Bell told trustees.

Bell also announced the formation of an employee housing task force to coordinate efforts between the SCHD board and staff to "come up with creative ideas to solve employee housing needs" in the county.