

LOCAL

### Supreme Court ignore coal port case

See A2

LOCAL

### 'IT' comes to life

See A8-9



OUTDOORS

### Yellowstone area climate study released

See Section B

# Pinedale Roundup

Newspaper of the Upper Green River Valley, Est. 1904

JULY 2, 2021

One Dollar



Darrell 'Pete' Petry in a 2018 YouTube trapping video.



Vanessa Sue 'Nessy' Orren

## Trapper kills himself during search for missing woman

### While investigators searched his remote Sublette property

By Joy Ufford

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**SUBLETTE COUNTY** – The last time anyone recalled seeing or speaking with Vanessa Sue “Nessy” Orren, 56 years old and living in LaBarge at the time, was Feb. 1, 2016.

After finding no trace of her after LaBarge, her family in another state finally called a Sublette County investigator and reported her as a missing person in January 2017. Detective Ian Allen took the case with scant details about Orren’s life. These are officially posted online with occasional new requests for information about Orren’s fate.

On one site, someone hinted that Orren might have “burned her bridges.”

In 2016, Orren was reported as 56 years old, 5 feet to 5 feet, 5 inches tall, weighing 110 to 115 pounds with reddish

brown hair and blue eyes.

One person believed to have much more knowledge of Orren’s fate, though, shot and killed himself last week while investigators searched his property – off-the-grid trapper Darrell Lee “Pete” Petry, 66, who moved into his remote cabin 15 years ago just inside the southwestern Sublette County line.

#### Search, suicide

Petry, whose body was found June 22, shot and killed himself sometime after he left his home during the search that opened Saturday, June 19, and closed out Wednesday, June 23, according to Sublette County Public Information Officer Travis Bingham.

Bingham issued a statement Wednesday, June 30, and spoke with the Pinedale Roundup in follow-up phone interviews.

See 'MISSING' on page A7

## End of an era

### Rural Health Care District votes to begin official process of dissolution

By Robert Galbreath

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**PINEDALE** – In 30 days the Sublette County Rural Health Care District, in existence since 1987, will officially dissolve.

The full board voted to begin the dissolution process at a special meeting held via Zoom on Wednesday, June 30.

Chairman Mike Pompy opened the session with a request for a motion to accept a resolution as represented that the SCRHCD had determined it was “in the best interest of the inhabitants of Sublette County” for the SCRHCD to “be dissolved and liquidated.” The resolution is required by Wyoming State statute.

The five trustees – Lynn Bernard, Sam Bixler, Kari DeWitt, Pompy and Marti Seipp – all voted in favor of the motion.

Next, the board voted to approve a document called “findings of fact for dissolution,” also necessary under state statute. The findings of fact lists and describes any property acquired for delinquent taxes along with the estimated cost of dissolution and outstanding bonds coupons or indebtedness.

The motion to adopt the findings of fact passed unanimously.

The trustees then unanimously voted to approve the district’s plan to transfer and convey all assets, obligations, responsibilities, duties and policies to the Sublette County Hospital District.

Both SCRHCD and Hospital District boards passed motions during regular meetings on June 16 for the Hospital District to accept the SCRHCD’s obligations, responsibilities, duties and policies starting July 1, the beginning of the fiscal year.

The board also voted to adopt a final resolution to initiate dissolution proceedings for the SCRHCD as required by statute to dissolve in 30 days. The board will continue to exist in name only for the duration of that time.

The board’s attorney, Rachel Weksler, confirmed that the dissolution papers were signed by chairman Mike Pompy and filed with the Sublette County clerk on Thursday, July 11.

See 'SCRHCD' on page A4

## Softball fields get opening date

### Food vendor ordinance amendment passes its 2nd reading

By Robert Galbreath

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**PINEDALE** – Take me out to the ballgame! The new Dudley Key Sports Complex reached another milestone when the Pinedale Town Council voted to officially open the softball fields for play on July 7.

Councilman Tyler Swafford, presiding over June 28 regular meeting in Mayor Matt Murdock’s absence, was pleased with the opening date.

“This is exciting,” Swafford said at the meeting. “This has been a big project and the ball fields look really good.”

Kevin Mitchell, the town’s public works supervisor, reported that the two south fields intended for softball games are substantially complete. The restroom facilities are also ready for public use, Mitchell said.

The contractors will no longer be liable for damage to the sod covering the softball fields after July 7, town attorney Ed

Wood stated.

A grand opening celebration at Dudley Key Sports Complex is scheduled for Saturday, July 24.

#### Food vendor ordinance amendment

Councilmembers approved amendments to Ordinance 686 related to food vendors on second reading on June 28. The amendments are not intended to prohibit food trucks in Pinedale. The changes to the ordinance include limitations on how long food trucks or trailers may operate at a single site within town boundaries.

Phil Vrska, Sublette County sanitarian, raised concern about enforcement issues related to food vendors. Vrska stated that the county health inspector operates under memorandums of understanding with the state to enforce food safety standards. Because the county has jurisdiction over health regulations, Vrska encouraged the town to work with the county on enforcement.

See 'COUNCIL' on page A4



COURTESY TELETRACTORS, INC.

An aerial photo of the new Dudley Key Sports Complex taken early this week.

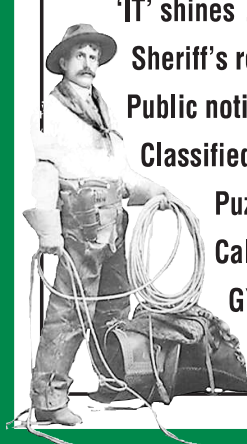


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## Weekly Weather Forecast

Pinedale, Wyoming • July 2 - July 7

### Today

**Sunrise:** 5:45 a.m. **Sunset:** 9:02 p.m.

High: **81°** Low: **45°**

RealFeel® 86° 41°

Day: Mostly cloudy.

Night: Mainly clear.



### Saturday

High: **83°**

Times of clouds and sun.

Low: **45°**



### Sunday

High: **83°**

A passing afternoon shower.

Low: **47°**



### Monday

High: **80°**

A p.m. t-storm possible.

Low: **50°**



### Tuesday

High: **82°**

Partly sunny and pleasant.

Low: **45°**



### Wednesday

High: **83°**

A blend of sun and clouds.

Low: **47°**



## Supreme Court won't hear coal-port challenge

By Brady Oltmans

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**WYOMING** – The United States Supreme Court ruled earlier this week that it will not hear a challenge made by both Wyoming and Montana to a proposed coal-port case based in Washington State.

Gov. Mark Gordon released a statement following the Supreme Court's determination. His office described Washington State's denial of the terminal made years ago as "unconstitutional discrimination."

Gordon stood by his claims that the case was about interstate commerce without interference from another state.

"It is extremely frustrating that the U.S. Supreme Court failed to grant a hearing on the critical issue that this case raised," Gordon said. "At some point the nation will have to figure out whether it expects to grow business or just to restrict it."

This case originated in 2017 when the Washington Department of Ecology denied permit applications to build a proposed coal terminal in Longview, Wash. Officials denied Section 401 Water Quality Certification applications by Millennium Bulk because of the project's potential harm to the Columbia River and surrounding environment.

Overall, the state's Department of Ecology conducted a review that found the project would: require driving 537 pilings into the riverbed, destroy 24 acres of wetlands, eliminate 5 acres of aquatic habitat, increase ship traffic on the Columbia River by 1,680 trips a year and impair tribal access to protected fishing sites.

"Because we think the environmental harm potentially caused by the project cannot be mitigated, we rejected the application 'with prejudice,' meaning that the company cannot reapply to build and operate the same proposal," Washington's Department of Ecology wrote in its report.

Millennium Bulk appealed that decision only to have it dismissed.

Gov. Gordon has repeatedly claimed

Washington State acted inappropriately in denying the certification on account of impacts unrelated to water quality issues.

"This was an unconstitutional, protectionist maneuver based on alleged effects that are outside of the scope of Section 401," Gordon said in January, when Wyoming and Montana jointly asked the U.S. Supreme Court to hear a challenge in the case.

In early June, the U.S. Solicitor General submitted a brief in the case arguing that the case is moot due to the bankruptcy of Millennium Bulk's parent company, Lighthouse Resources cited COVID-19 as a major driver for its Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing in January this year.

Wyoming and Montana argued the case was larger than a single developer.

The previous U.S. Solicitor General, as appointed by previous President Donald Trump, did not acknowledge the case when asked in October last year.

Following the solicitor general's decision, a release stated Gordon remained hopeful the U.S. Supreme Court would act expeditiously and grant a hearing on the issue. Instead, the Supreme Court – with a 6-3 conservative super majority – elected not to hear the issue.

"Today it is coal, tomorrow it could be agricultural products or any of our state's abundant natural resources," Gordon said. "At some point the Supreme Court is going to need to take on this matter."

Gordon reiterated that his administration has moved to protect the state's abilities to bring its various markets to communities. Wyoming is part of multiple lawsuits against President Joe Biden and his administration, including one ongoing case against the current hold on oil and gas leases on federal lands. That case recently brought Wyoming some optimism as a judge in Louisiana ruled lease sales should continue.

"I remain committed to continuing our efforts to export clean coal to assist countries in meeting their energy needs and climate goals," Gordon said.

## Garden of Beauty

Karen and Ole Skinner of 126 Fayette Pole Creek Rd., Pinedale, are the first recipients of the Sage and Snow Garden Club's Garden of Beauty Award for 2021. Their spacious yard features a variety of trees, shrubs and flowers, including some colorful hollyhocks that return year after year. Two years ago, Ole and Karen built a large greenhouse from recycled windows and wood. In their indoor garden beds, they grow magnificent cabbages, tomatoes, potatoes, radishes, lettuce, squash, cucumbers, carrots, beets, beans and asparagus. Ole and Karen pride themselves on repurposing materials that others have discarded. Many of their trees are castoffs from landscaping projects at large estates in Sun Valley, Idaho. Ole, the youngest son of Clem and Viola Skinner and one of six Skinner brothers, was born in Pinedale and was part of the famed Skinner Brothers Wilderness School and Outfitters for years.



COURTESY PHOTO

## "Midnight On The Mesa" was a blast!

Thanks to all the race directors and volunteers for all their effort and time in planning to make this event happen. Thank you for staying up all night during the event.

*See you next year!*

Team: South Bench Cruisers



Crowds filled tents and awnings throughout the celebration.



Glenda Harrison and Stephanie Houseley were in the pie room serving desserts.

# 79TH ANNUAL BONDURANT BBQ

People came from other counties and even states for this year's Bondurant BBQ on Sunday, June 27, after last year's event had to be canceled. First was the outdoor ecumenical church service at St. Hubert the Hunter Episcopal Church. The Bondurant Community Club and volunteers came together for the week ahead and big day to serve about 597 succulent pit-roasted beef dinners. It ran like clockwork, using the same recipes since the beginning for homemade barbecue sauces, beans, sauerkraut, potato salad and cole slaw. Another tradition is the dizzying array of home-baked desserts – chocolate cake to key lime pie to rhubarb crisps and marshmallow treats – that diners can choose from. The Paravicini family played old favorites, as kids with painted faces played on the water slide.



Dedicated volunteers helped make this year's BBQ happen, including those who helped serve salads.



Hadley Block paints Ellie Gardner's face during the fun festivities at the BBQ.

**Joy Ufford photos**



The Paravicinis' Band performed at the BBQ, just like it has every year.

## Street Talk

By Terry Allen

I would rather be struck by lightning than \_\_\_\_\_.



...be hit by the Japanese bullet train going south.  
*Nadirah and Amy Baldwin, Washington/New York*



...be struck by liberalism.  
*Elizabeth and Lanny Best, Pinedale*



...be stuck in Death Valley.  
*Korbin Gaston, Pinedale*



...lose my virginity.  
*Thomas Scanlon, Pinedale*



...turn to the dark side.  
*John Scanlon, Pinedale.*

# Two fatal crashes counted last week

## Big Piney motorcyclist dies on Highway 191

By Joy Ufford  
jufford@pinedaleroundup.com

**SUBLETTE COUNTY** – A local man riding a Harley-Davidson motorcycle collided with a large tour bus of students last Friday afternoon on a dangerous curve north of the Hoback Rim.

Holden Horgan, 30, of Big Piney, was riding his motorcycle northbound on Highway 191 around 3:30 p.m. on Friday, June 25, according to Wyoming Highway Patrol Lt. Klief Guenther.

Horgan was entering the dangerous curve nicknamed “Potato Curve” where other vehicles have gone off the highway or collided with frequency numerous times in the past.

The leased coach bus carrying about 55 Missouri high school students was southbound, having left Jackson and on its way to Sidney, Nebraska, where they were traveling on to Columbus, Missouri, according to Guenther.

Horgan’s motorcycle had crossed over into the southbound lane into the curve and hit the bus, killing him instantly, Guenther said. He was not wearing a helmet; his rate of travel was likely a contributing factor.

No students were injured; the driver, Rocky Pennington of Missouri, suffered facial injuries when a cell phone holder hit his face.

Wyoming Highway Patrol, Sublette County deputies, emergency medical services and county fire battalions responded; one lane of Highway 191 was closed for about three hours, according to Guenther. The bus was drivable and eventually continued on to

Pinedale with the students; it was parked at the Wyoming Highway Patrol office over the weekend.

The students waited several hours for another tour bus to arrive and in the meantime were treated to pizza from Old Stone’s, cold drinks from Ridley’s at American Legion Park and some down time at the Pinedale Aquatic Center, according to a post by the Sublette County Chamber of Commerce.

### Fatal rollover

The previous Tuesday, June 22, two Texas fishermen were life-flighted from a ranch pasture off Horse Creek Road, according to Guenther.

The 2018 Dodge Ram 1500 was driven by Roy Brown, 74, while his friend and the truck’s owner Kenneth Prehoditch, 71, was riding as a passenger. The two were here on a fishing trip and traveling east toward Daniel when the driver apparently fell asleep, Guenther said.

The truck crossed the road and traveled into the borrow ditch, then vaulted off an approach and cartwheeled into an irrigated pasture where it came to rest on its top.

The two men were suspended upside-down in the truck when emergency responders arrived and stabilized the two men for a flight to Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center.

Prehoditch died of his injuries there on Sunday, June 26. Brown received internal injuries and was cited for failure to maintain a single lane of travel, Guenther said.

The two deaths bring 2021’s number to three traffic-related fatalities in Sublette County.



COURTESY TELETRACTORS, INC.

An aerial photo of the new Dudley Key Sports Complex taken early this week.

## COUNCIL

Continued from 1A

Wood replied that the amendments to the ordinance primarily related to usage – where and how food trucks were able to operate under existing health and safety standards.

As a former food truck owner, Vrska said he believed Sublette County had the least amount of regulations on food vendors. Ronnie Tambourine, the town’s planning and zoning administrator, added that he was in the process of researching codes, definitions and regulations on food trucks in communities across Wyoming to compare to Sublette County. Tambourine stated that his findings so far seemed to be “in line” with Vrska’s statement.

Swofford requested copies of Tambourine’s research for each councilmember before the third and final reading on the amended ordinance at the next town meeting on July 12.

### A home for the American Legion

A delegation from the American Legion Phillips-Edwards Post No. 47 appeared before the council on June 28.

Post Commander Michael Edison stated he was acting in a manner of transparency to work with the town and council to allow the Legion use of a small log structure on land adjacent to American Legion Park. The Legion owned the 1-acre plot, and recently received the structure as a donation from the county, Edison explained.

Vrska, speaking as a member of the American Legion, said the Legion intended to use the building primarily for meetings. The American Legion operates on a shoestring and members were worried about the costs required to hook the small building up to town utilities, Vrska added.

American Legion Post No. 47 donated nearly all its budget back to the community

through programs like scholarships, Boys’ and Girls’ State and veteran recognition, Edison said.

American Legion member Tom Hunt encouraged the town to form a public-private partnership to operate the 1-acre plot of land as a park and to help his organization seek a variance to ordinances on town utilities.

### Additional town news

- The council approved the town’s annual insurance renewal with Glafelter Insurance through Tegeler and Associates. Trey Wilkinson at Tegeler’s reported that the town’s insurance rates would go up by approximately 7 percent, reflecting additional liability at the Dudley Key Sports Complex.

- Councilmembers voted to enter a memorandum of understanding with the Sage and Snow Garden Club to maintain flowerpots across town.

- In a unanimous vote, the council approved the purchase of battery equipment to operate the solar panels at the town welcome signs, not to exceed \$6,500.

- Chauncey Goodrich discussed an application to create new zoning for a recreational resort development district in Pinedale. The new zone was meant to attract business and make Pinedale more profitable by streamlining portions of the zoning process, Goodrich said.

- Grover Laseke, Pinedale Airport manager, reported that construction was underway on the apron and fuel farm projects. He projected the first runway closure on July 26.

- Amendments to Ordinance 687, meant to clean up language and streamline the town’s permitting process, passed on second reading.

## SCRHCD

Continued from 1A

SCRHCD trustees will present the formal dissolution papers to the Board of Sublette County Commissioners for its final approval at the commissioners’ next meeting on July 6, Weksler added.

Pompy thanked Weksler and the trustees for their support and work over the last few months during an unprecedented process.

The SCRHCD board took one final action before adjourning. Following a brief executive session to discuss personnel, the trustees voted to accept the resignation of Dr. Brendan Fitzsimmons and the terms of his confidential separation agreement with the SCRHCD.

“The SCRHCD greatly appreciates Dr. Fitzsimmons’ commitment to his patients for approximately and his dedication to the Sublette County community,” the board wrote in a statement. “We wish him the best of luck with his future endeavors.”

## Call TODAY to schedule a private showing.

**9 VALLEY VIEW TRL, CORA \$675,000** Escape to the paradise of the upper green. This property is perfect for a seasonal escape or year-round adventure. The home has two masters with ensuite. Open concept living, large walk-in pantry. Office space and, walk-out basement that offers a perfect flex space. This property also offers a large heated shop for plenty of storage, includes a bathroom so you don’t have to run in while working on projects. A covered RV hookup is ready for you or a guest to use. You will also find covered storage that is 990sqft 2 bay with a height of 13.8ft if extra space is needed. Yard has trees and a sprinkler system to keep the grass lush.



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# SOFT OPENING

**4th of July Weekend**  
Thursday thru Sunday  
July 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th

**Rendezvous Schedule**  
Wednesday thru Sunday  
July 7, 8, 9, 10, 11  
**AMAZING MUSIC**

We have butchered the beef!  
Specialty meats Thurs – Fri – Sat – Sun  
Beginning at 5:15pm

Stockman’s Saloon only  
Happy Hour 4:30pm to 6:00pm

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**Stockman’s Saloon**  
**Music Schedule:**  
Fri: 7/2  
Close to Midnight  
Sat: 7/3  
DJ Ben Davis  
Sun: 7/4  
Nic Demler  
Wed: 7/7  
Close to Midnight  
Thurs: 7/8  
Close to Midnight  
Fri: 7/9  
Runaway Grooms  
Sat: 7/10  
Jared Rogerson  
Sun: 7/11  
to be announced