

LOCAL

### A Mountain Man Christmas

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### Students of the Month

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### Predator board

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# Pinedale Roundup

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One Dollar

## Gift of giving

### Sublette troopers deliver 48 holiday meal baskets

By Joy Ufford  
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**SUBLETTE COUNTY** – Every winter before Christmas, something special takes place in Sublette County, thanks to the Wyoming Highway Patrol Association's support of its local Division T.

Most divisions work with local law enforcement agencies, which here is the Sublette County Sheriff's Office. Last winter's "Cram the Cruiser" event parked a deputy's patrol truck in front of Ridleys, filled to overflowing with toys and lots of food, recalled WHP Lt. Klief Guenther.

The groceries went to local food pantries for distribution.

This year, First Lady Jenny Gordon's Wyoming Hunger Initiative also donated a financial boost – and the result is Division T and many supporters delivered holiday meal gift baskets to 48 families across Sublette County, Guenther said.

"Turkey, ham and all the trimmings," he said. "It was a joint effort around the county – us, the sheriff's office, school districts, preschools and the therapy community attached to them."

As school resource officer, Deputy Ryan



Wyoming Highway Patrol Troopers James DiMele, left, and Landon Call deliver holiday meal baskets.

Day worked with them to find those families who really, really needed the extra help this winter and who remain confidential. Ridleys went to work to fill to overflowing 48 holiday meal baskets that county emergency manager Jim Mitchell transported for delivery.

Having two troopers and a deputy appear at front doors in Pinedale and Big Piney might make some curious but those receiving were "really tickled to get what was providing a gift at Christmas," Guenther said.

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## County wraps up hospital district, wildlife crossing

By Joy Ufford  
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**SUBLETTE COUNTY** – With little fanfare but a great deal of pride, Sublette County Commissioners adopted and approved the new special hospital district resolution on Tuesday, Dec. 15.

Years in the making, the new hospital district will embark on a new stage of health care in Sublette County – with a new critical access hospital at the site of the Pinedale Medical Clinic and a new skilled-nursing facility to replace the aging Sublette Center.

The resolution itself had been tabled at past meetings as commissioners tried to work out how to coordinate the county's transfer of \$20 million for the new nursing home and another estimated \$20 million in assets and property.

This was the final meeting for commissioners chair Dr. David Burnett and Mack Rawhouser, who helped guide Sublette County's southern population into supporting the proposed CAH. Both have maintained for years that the current Marbleton-Big Piney Medical Clinic must remain open with services added.

Commissioners Tom Noble moved and Doug Vickrey seconded a motion to approve Resolution20-100404B, Formation of the



Sublette County Commissioners David Burnett, left, and Mack Rawhouser receive plaques for their service.

Sublette County Hospital District, drawn up by the Sublette County Attorney's Office.

The vote was unanimous. "Kudos to the folks who put the time and effort into this," Burnett said after signing the resolution. "... Many proud individuals

made a significant effort. In my mind this is a historical moment for the county."

Commissioner Tom Noble thanked both Burnett and Rawhouser for helping see the once-divisive issue to its completion.

Another project very important to Rawhouser also received approval for the final step – a memorandum of understanding between the county and Wyoming Department of Transportation for crush gravel to be used to build the Dry Piney-LaBarge wildlife crossing south of Big Piney. Many partners are involved in the Wyoming Game and Fish project to protect migrating wildlife and motorists on Highway 189.

### In other news

- Rendezvous Pointe Director Paul Jensen requested and received up to \$15,000 to help with unexpected costs to serve meals during the pandemic.

- County planner Dennis Fornstrom brought Visionary Broadband's conditional-use permit request for a 30-foot tower in the Barger subdivision; it was approved.

- Sublette County Unified Fire Chief Shad Cooper received approval to list three "vintage" firefighting vehicles online.

- Commissioners approved a plat from Jorgensen's Brian Gray to divide the Pinedale Cemetery's columbarium, which can hold 24 to 48 sets of cremated burial remains.

## A case of need

### EMS service stretched beyond the limit

By Robert Galbreath  
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**MARBLETON** – A series of tragic events on Dec. 14 exposed the limits to emergency care in a large, sparsely populated county. Sublette County Emergency Medical Service received four medical emergency calls during a 60-minute time frame on Monday morning, including "two serious calls on both ends of the county," said EMS operations director Bill Kluck.

EMS fields three ambulance crews across the county around the clock, Kluck said, including one in Pinedale and another in Marbleton. On Monday morning, two ambulances responded to a pair of calls in Pinedale, Kluck said. This required the third ambulance to leave Marbleton and stage in Daniel for additional medical emergencies that might come in across the county – from Kendall Valley to Bondurant and Big Piney.

The situation left Big Piney and Marbleton vulnerable for a brief period as the three ambulances responded elsewhere.

When a fourth emergency call came in from Big Piney, proper medical transport was not immediately available to safely move a patient in critical condition.

Kluck said the "difficult situation" was nearly unprecedented during his years of service in Sublette County.

"We had back-to-back-to-back calls," he said. "You can't predict when things like that will happen."

Sublette County Unified Fire and deputies from the sheriff's office responded to the scene first. Fire Warden Shad Cooper told the Roundup that firefighters "did the best they could to provide assistance."

Firefighters are trained in CPR and first aid, he said, and are typically dispatched to assist ambulances. Due to state regulations, firefighters and fire engines are not licensed, trained or certified to transport medical patients without an EMT present, Cooper explained.

The county has an agreement in place with EMS that a firefighter or deputy may drive an ambulance to free up an EMT to ride in the back, said Sgt. Travis Bingham with the sheriff's office. He stressed that an EMT must be present and that state regulations prevent deputies from transporting a patient without an EMT.

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