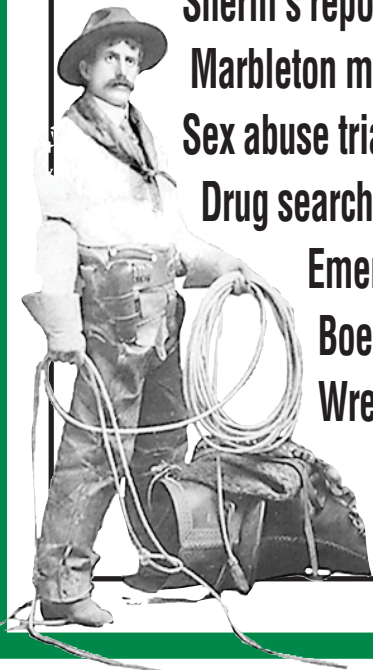


THE ROUNDUP, ROUNDED UP

Winter Carnival photos	A3
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Weekly Weather Forecast

Pinedale, Wyoming • Feb. 17 - Feb. 22

Today

Sunrise: 7:14 a.m. **Sunset:** 5:54 p.m.

High: **29°** Low: **-3°**

RealFeel® 33° -7°

Day: Mostly sunny and not as cold.

Night: Mainly clear.



Saturday

High: **29°**

Thickening clouds.

Low: **10°**



Sunday

High: **31°**

Considerable cloudiness.

Low: **14°**



Monday

High: **34°**

Cloudy with a little snow.

Low: **14°**



Tuesday

High: **18°**

Cloudy, snow showers; colder.

Low: **4°**



Wednesday

High: **16°**

Cloudy, a bit of snow; cold.

Low: **-6°**



PHOTO COURTESY TOWN OF PINEDALE

The Pinedale Town Council unanimously passed a motion recognizing the week of Feb. 13-17 as Wyoming Professional Water and Wastewater Operator Week. Gov. Mark Gordon initiated the week to recognize water and wastewater operators statewide as professionals 'that perform a vital service to our state.' These professionals 'protect public health,' preserve the 'high quality' of Wyoming's waterways and maintain and operate efficient wastewater facilities that contribute to a community's infrastructure, the governor added. Pinedale Mayor Matt Murdock said he was 'grateful' for the work water and wastewater professionals performed for the community. Pictured, from left, are Spencer Hartman, water-wastewater supervisor, and maintenance workers Ron Hanson, Justin Hamilton, Lance McMillen, Jake Wolaver, Tim Hosler and Gracy Carpenter.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear editor,

We would like to commend the Sublette County Hospital District and the Sublette County Health Foundation for their hard work to secure the grants and loans needed to bring a fully functioning hospital to our community.

Although inflation has pushed this well-financed project out of the black, we are optimistic that the funding gap will be met. Last week's \$1 million commitment by Joe Ricketts shows that the confidence and desire remains strong to create an invaluable generational asset that will benefit our children and grandchildren.

We hope that others will step forward to conquer this \$9.2 million (now, \$8.2 million) funding obstacle so we can lock in construction costs before inflation gets any worse.

Sincerely,

Former Sublette County commissioners
Joel Bousman, David Burnett, MD, Mack Rawhouser and Betty Fear

Dear editor,

Two weeks ago, Sublette County hospital backers came before the county commission to request support to meet a \$9.2 million budget shortfall created by inflation.

The commission, having already provided \$20 million in support, asked hospital backers to regroup and return on Feb. 21. Within days, the hospital foundation secured \$1 million in funding from Joe Ricketts, with more hopefully on the way from other sources.

We are writing to say we appreciate the efforts being undertaken by all parties, from a hospital district and Sublette Center that want to bring access to comprehensive healthcare to our county, to a county commission that is working carefully to support community health while exercising sound financial stewardship.

We hope everyone will work diligently to find a solution. We need improved healthcare and a new nursing home for seniors in Sublette County.

Sincerely,

Albert Sommers, Reverend Melinda Bobo, Marilyn Jensen, Patty Racich, Ruth Steele, Kenda Tanner, Maureen Hutchinson, Kerry Majhanovich, Joan Mitchell, Levi & Barb Lozier, Sharon Rutsch, Chauncey Goodrich, Sue Briggs-Stanfill, Sharron and Alan Ziegler, Dawn Walker, Brienne Brower, Trisha & Jamison Ziegler, Jo Crandall, Julie and Ken Konicek, Bettina and Rollin Sparrowe, Roy & Kari DeWitt, Jessica Thornton, Steven & Lindsey Bond, Teresa Tomaski, Mike & Michelle Stauthamer, Gretchen Dale, Vicky Marshall, Kaddy Shivers, Sue Holz, Dave & Lisa Doorn, Tom & Louann Heydt, Josh & Ashli Tatro, David Burnett, MD, Mike Pompey, Dawn Walker, Leslie Hagenstein, Jim and JJ Huntley, Dave & Peggy Bell, Matt & Sarah Murdock, Darren & Keri Hull, Kayla Bowers, Buck Wallace, MD, Sid Stanfill and Tonia Hoffman

Ricketts donates \$1M toward CAH shortfall

PINEDALE – The Sublette County Health Foundation Feb. 13 announced that it has received a donation of \$1 million from Joe Ricketts, of Sublette County, to help close the gap in needed funds to build the new hospital. Formed in 2022, the Foundation's mission is to raise financial support to advance the mission of Sublette County Health—to provide efficient, high-quality and patient-centered care.

In November 2020, a majority of Sublette County residents voted in favor of building a critical access hospital and long-term care facility, but inflation, a sharp increase in construction costs and a robust commercial construction market have caused a \$9.2-million shortfall ahead of the spring timeline for construction. If the budget shortfall is not overcome in the next two weeks, construction could be delayed to the next year and potentially even threaten the viability of the project.

"Years of work and planning have gone into making a critical access hospital and nursing home facility a reality for our county and this

budget shortfall is a setback," said Kari DeWitt, executive director of the Sublette County Health Foundation. "Joe Ricketts' generous donation is a critical first step to close the gap and will hopefully be a momentum builder. We are overwhelmed by his generosity. If others in the community are so inclined to make a donation to help ensure the construction of the hospital begins on time, we would be further humbled."

The Sublette County Board of Commissioners will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2023, to further discuss the budget shortfall, which now has been significantly reduced by the Ricketts' donation.

"Few things are more personal or important than access to quality and timely health care," said Joe Ricketts, owner of the Jackson Fork Ranch in Sublette County. "I am happy to be a part of the community coalition working to keep health care local and accessible."

To learn more about the Sublette County Health Foundation or to donate, please visit www.sublettecountyhealthfoundation.org.

OZONE

Continued from A1

as strong temperature inversions, low winds, snow cover and sunlight.

During an UGRB Ozone Outlook, the AQD asks folks to consider reducing ozone precursor emissions by minimizing idling of vehicles and engines, avoiding overfilling gas tanks, tightening fuel caps, deferring truck and equipment fueling to the evening hours and postponing construction activities and open burning.

When UGRB Ozone Outlooks are issued,

the public is asked to postpone nonessential activities or complete essential activities prior to the days include in the UGRB Ozone Outlook to reduce precursor emissions and ground-level ozone formation.

To learn more about winter ozone, its formation, current air-quality levels and health effects in the Upper Green River Basin – the only place in Wyoming that reports it – here are more public resources for Wyoming DEQ.

To read about the history of winter ozone in the UGRB, go to www.winterozone.org.

For current ozone levels at air-quality monitoring stations, visit www.wyvisnet.com.