



SUBLETTE EXAMINER

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Volume 20 Issue 15

Your Community Newspaper

Tuesday, June 23, 2020

\$1.00



Third COVID-19 case shows up in Sublette County *Residents encouraged to continue 'common sense' precautions*

By Robert Galbreath, rgalbreath@subletteexaminer.com

SUBLETTE COUNTY – The Sublette County COVID-19 Response Group confirmed a third case of the novel coronavirus on Monday, June 22. Public Health Nurse Manager Janna Lee said the patient was a male in his 70s.

The second patient is isolating at home and is “recovering and doing well,” Lee said.

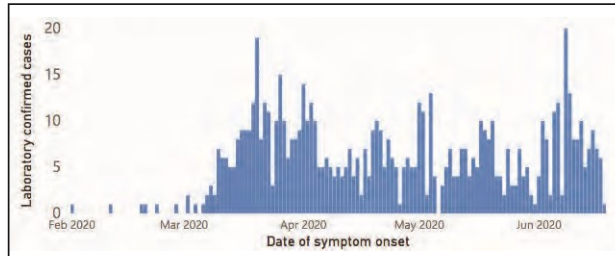
The third case is a male in his 60s who is hospitalized for a non-COVID related illness.

The patient contracted COVID-19 outside Sublette County, Lee told the Examiner, and she added that there is no evidence of community spread.

Dr. Brendan Fitzsimmons, county health officer, said the patient presented with symptoms and was tested. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, shortness of breath, cough, diarrhea, chills and a loss of sensation of taste and smell, Dr. Fitzsimmons added.

The clinics continue to test symptomatic patients on Tuesdays and Thursdays, but Dr. Fitzsimmons encouraged people that are feeling ill to contact the clinics right away.

“People who are sick don’t need to wait for (the Tuesday and Thursday time slot),”



he said. “If you’re sick or feel like you’re struggling, we really don’t want you to wait. Give us a call. We also are testing some asymptomatic people especially for things like pre-op.”

Lee stressed the need for the public to “take common sense types of measures” to help prevent spread as summer events kick in. To avoid “super-spread” events like those in neighboring counties, Dr. Fitzsimmons asked the public to “be vigilant” while trying “within sensible limits” to return to normalcy.

“It’s one case, but it’s a reminder that it’s

still here,” he said. “This is still an unusual and dangerous virus and we want to not just think that (the pandemic) is over.”

Teton County began offering antibody tests, Dr. Fitzsimmons explained, and the results indicated that most people had not been exposed to COVID-19. This means communities in rural Wyoming are still a “million miles away” from “herd immunity,” he continued.

“Think about using those face masks and face coverings,” he said. “If a lot of us are wearing face masks, we know that the rate of

transmission goes down with this.”

Lee said four people that came into close contact with the patient are in quarantine. She told the Examiner that public health employees began contact tracing after they received word of the positive test.

Contact tracing involves an interview process set up by the Wyoming Department of Health’s State Epidemiologist, Dr. Alexia Harrist, Lee added. Public health officials ask the patient to list people they came into close contact with starting two days before symptoms show.

Public health officials only track down and contact people that were within 6 feet of the patient for more than 10 minutes, Lee said. In most cases, people falling into the “close contact” category are family members and coworkers, Lee added.

On Monday, COVID-19 cases in Wyoming stood at 947 confirmed, 246 probable cases and 20 deaths. The Wyoming Department of Health confirmed two additional deaths on Friday.

A total of 35,455 people have been tested in Wyoming.

Big Piney passes 2020-2021 budgets

By Joy Ufford, jufford@subletteexaminer.com

BIG PINEY – After double-checking the figures, the Big Piney Town Council approved its 2020-2021 budget with planned expenditures from and revenues to the General Fund of \$703,338.

The action took place during the council’s regular June 16 meeting, with Mayor Pro Tem Michelle Hymas and councilmembers Sherri Redden and Stafford Polk IV present. Mayor Tyler Maxfield and councilmember Scott Scherbel were not present.

The town anticipates receiving direct, tax and lottery distributions of \$550,043, more than the 2019-2020 fiscal year’s ac-

tual receipt of \$525,605. The current year’s property taxes are budgeted at \$20,000.

Other revenue sources are licenses and permits at \$2,600; intergovernmental revenue of liquor license fees at \$2,450; leases of town properties at \$12,400 and miscellaneous of \$75,600.

“Revenues, we have no control over,” Hymas said. “Two capital projects have been approved for this year.”

One is a manhole project to repair those that have not sealed since the new system was installed several years ago. Employee Josh Rogers told the council later that a See **Budget**, page 5

Joint planning committee begins new hospital district discussions

Compensation committee prepares restructured pay scale

By Robert Galbreath, rgalbreath@subletteexaminer.com

MARBLETON – The new joint planning committee representing the Sublette County Rural Health Care District and Sublette Center boards got down to business while the ink dried on the memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed last month.

The MOU authorizes the committee to “plan and approve all arrangements” for the creation of a new hospital district on

the November ballot. Dave Doom, administrative director for the district, reported to the SCRHCD board of trustees on June 17 that the committee already met twice.

SCRHCD trustees Tonia Hoffman and Mike Pompy and two members of the Sublette Center board of directors sit on the committee.

“The biggest issue is that this is See **Hospital**, page 5

Middle school renovation project moves forward

By Robert Galbreath, rgalbreath@subletteexaminer.com

BIG PINEY – The Sublette County School District No. 9 board of trustees approved a bid from BH, Inc. in Rock Springs to carry out the renovation of Big Piney Middle School at its June 16 regular meeting. The district received bids from four different

companies with BH, Inc. submitting the lowest bid at \$1,676,635.

At the meeting, Amy Anschutz, district chief financial officer, said the bid from BH, Inc. came within \$40,000 of the project cost estimates. Anschutz added that she rarely

sees bids come in that close to estimate and that the lower-than-expected costs will allow the district room for any “unknowns” that come up during construction.



Over the past months, the BPMS renovation project went through “multiple it-

erations,” Anschutz told the Examiner. The current plans include the creation of new locker rooms and Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant restrooms and a new commons area and security vestibule. BH, Inc.

See **Renovation**, page 3

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Hospital *Continued from page 1*

short-term planning," said Pompy. "We have a lot of work to do in a short time."

Hoffman added that the committee is taking a "shotgun approach" to "hone in on one message" of unity between the entities, including a new joint mission statement.

Hoffman and Emily Ray, the district's communications coordinator, are looking at numerous events to "inform the public" about the ballot initiative in coming months.

Ray said the committee "interviewed" Rachel Girt of Girt Communications in Cheyenne to provide professional planning consultation.

Doorn told the board that the committee prepared a request for proposal to solicit bids for hospital management. He worked with financial firm Eide Bailly, LLC. to form a questionnaire that will help in the decision-making process.

Compensation restructuring

Trustee Marti Seipp reported on the compensation committee's progress to create a new salary structure that is "equitable" for all employees. Seipp worked with Sharon Rutsch, the district's clinical services coordinator, on the process.

Seipp said they hoped to roll the new salary structure out the following fiscal year. The goal is to establish a set salary range for each pay grade and position in the district. This would allow management in each department to "know what each job should pay in comparison to similar positions in the area," Seipp reported.

Doorn added that the pay scale will be based on "real data from the region" and that the district will follow changes and trends in health-care salaries throughout

the year.

The program will be "costly to set up" at first, Seipp said, but a structured and fair compensation system for employees will pay off in the future.

Additional board news

Doorn told the board that Lorraine Werner of the USDA is reaching out to her "bosses" at the state level to provide more answers on whether or not the SCRHCD can start the loan application process before the November election.

Due to "adjustments to the floor plan" in the preliminary architectural report, Doorn added that the architects are working on new cost estimates.

Board members expressed frustration with the length of time taken to collect all the information and asked Doorn to encourage the consultants to pick up the pace.

Pompy said he is waiting on direction from the Wyoming Department of Health about requirements for remodeling the Marbleton-Big Piney Clinic. Trustee Bill Johnson suggested taking the board's concerns all the way to the governor if state agencies continue to drag their feet.

Bill Kluck, EMS operations director, announced the purchase of a new ambulance for the fleet. The price came in under the \$150,000 the board approved at its meeting last month.

Doorn said he and representatives from LaBarge are in preliminary discussions about establishing a part-time clinic in the town. He and Hoffman visited LaBarge to talk about possibilities and Doorn emphasized that the talks are preliminary. Hoffman encouraged further discussion as a way to "be a good neighbor" to LaBarge.

Budget *Continued from page 1*

Well #3 manhole is still leaking despite contractors' attempts to seal it.

The 2020-2021 budget has \$135,000 earmarked for the project.

The other is replacing part of a curb and sidewalk next to a larger Wyoming Department of Transportation project downtown. The town budgeted \$36,000 for its portion.

Consultant Brian Gray of Jorgensen Engineering said he considered bidding it in with the larger WYDOT project "but their price would have almost doubled it."

Social, community and "holiday" expenses and contracts totaling \$31,400 include cleanup day, SAFV Task Force, Chuckwagon Days, Fourth of July fireworks and floats, Wyoming Stage Stop Race, Community Food Closet, Sublette Chamber of Commerce, Big Piney Marbleton Economic Development and scholarships.

The town pays \$10 per year to the Sublette County Sheriff's Office and \$10 a year to Sublette County Unified Fire.

Separate funds

The town has a separate Big Piney

Recreation Fund budget for the recreation center to ensure it stays viable with community youth, adult and school programs, building repairs with a projected expenditure of \$294,900 for the upcoming fiscal year.

Big Piney also maintains separate water and sewer funds. Both are enterprise funds that must be maintained separately under state funding requirements.

Water and sewer rates will not change, according to Hymas. "Due to the COVID crisis going on we felt we couldn't increase water or sewer this year."

The 2020-2021 Water Fund budget is \$155,300 for payroll and benefits, training, equipment operation and repairs. Anticipated revenue from water sales and fees is \$100,100 and \$53,850 will come from miscellaneous fees, get carried over or be transferred from its WyoStar account.

The 2020-2021 Sewer Fund budget is \$159,500, with \$72,000 in customer revenues and \$87,450 from WyoStar.

The expense to transfer wastewater to Marbleton's facility is \$36,000 and \$50,000 is set aside for repairs.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide To Local Houses of Worship

To list your church in this directory, please call 307-367-3203

CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION 307-367-3500

41 S. Lake Avenue, Pinedale
 churchoftheresurrection.wyo@gmail.com

10:00 am Sunday Service
 Sunday School available for children

OUR LADY OF PEACE CATHOLIC CHURCH 307-367-2359

112 S. Sublette Avenue, Pinedale
 Peter James Mwaura, Priest

5:30 pm Saturday Mass
 8:00 am Sunday Mass
 9:00 am Monday Mass, Sublette Center
 5:30 pm Tuesday Mass
 7:00 am Wednesday, Thursday, Friday Mass

PINEDALE BIBLE CHURCH 307-367-4168

219 Industrial Site Road, Pinedale
 Jim Silvey, Pastor

Pinedale Bible Church will be suspending their services at the church building temporarily including youth groups and children's activities. However, we invite you to join us Sunday mornings on Facebook as we will be live streaming our Worship Service beginning at 9:00am and it will stay up thru Wednesday.

For those who don't have Facebook you will be able to listen to the Worship Service on our website, www.pinedalebiblechurch.com beginning at 11:00am.

PINEDALE COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 307-367-2528

113 S Maybell, Pinedale • Office hours: M, T, W 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
 The Rev. Carol B. White, Pastor

9:00 am Sunday Choir Practice
 9:45 am Sunday Children Sing
 10:00 am Sunday Worship Service
 Including Godly Play (education) for children

ST ANDREW'S IN THE PINES EPISCOPAL CHURCH 307-367-2674

524 W. Pine Street, Pinedale
www.standrewsinthepines.org
 The Rev. Melinda Bobo, revbobo.wy@gmail.com

Noon Mondays-Thursdays Online Service
 10:00 am Sundays Online Service



A heartfelt thank you goes out to the following from the family of Lynne Richie Latham. Carole and Terry, the Richie family, the Hittle family, Lars, Sublette County Sheriff's Department, Tip Top Search and Rescue, Covill Funeral Home, Pinedale Community United Church of Christ-Carol White, Mountain West Farm Bureau-Joni Pennock, Rocky Mountain Yeti of Pinedale, and to the neighbors, friends, and family for their support, cards, flowers, food and donations. Thank you.

Mike Latham
 Mitch Latham and Blaine Ivy, Jason, and Chase Pazour

Obituary Policy

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