

STATE

Sublette Center: Surviving COVID-19

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OUTDOORS

Regatta draws visitors

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LOCAL

National speakers attend upcoming convention

See A7

Pinedale Roundup

Newspaper of the Upper Green River Valley, Est. 1904

AUGUST 14, 2020

One Dollar

No candidates file for school district seats

By Holly Dabb

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SUBLETTE COUNTY – Candidates for school boards, college boards and special districts began filing Aug. 5 and the filing period remains open through Aug. 24 for the General Election.

Sublette County School District No. 1 board seats open include those of Stacy Illoway, Marie McGuire, Clayton Olson and Jennifer Zook, who was appointed to fill a vacant seat. Three seats are four-year terms and the one seat filled by Zook, is a two-year term. As of 9:30 a.m. Thursday, no one had filed for the school board seats.

Since the past election, all seats on the board are at-large. The terms begin Dec. 10, 2020.

Sublette County School District No. 9 seats include four-year terms currently filled by Bill Tanner, vice chairperson, Cody Raza, treasurer, and Darby Hoffman. As of Thursday, no one had filed for any of the seats.

Of more interest for Sublette County will be a proposal to form a hospital district.

The Sublette County Rural Health Care District has two four-year seats open, that are currently filled by Bill Johnson and Wendy Boman. However, there are also trustee seats on the ballot for a proposed Sublette County Special Hospital District. Candidates must choose to file for the existing rural health care district or the proposed hospital district and are not allowed to file for both.

As of Thursday, Diana Watkins had filed for the four-year term on the proposed hospital district's board along with current Sublette County Rural Health Care board member Tonia Hoffman. Mike Pompey, who also serves on the Rural Health Care Board, filed for the two-year term.

Two of those seats are four-year terms and three seats are two-year terms.

Among other seats that have potential races are House Seat No. 22 currently filled by Independent candidate Jim Roscoe. Bill Winney was unopposed during the Republican Primary Election. As an Independent, Roscoe is required to gather signatures from 2 percent of the registered voters in the district to be placed on the General Election ballot. The Wyoming Secretary of State's Office confirmed Roscoe had filed and he gathered enough valid signatures.

Since no Democrats filed for Sublette County Commission or Sublette County Assessor, potentially a write-in candidate during the Primary Election could get the required 25 votes, accept the nomination and be placed on the ballot for the General Election.

Other districts seeking board members include the Upper Green River Cemetery District and the Big Piney Cemetery District. Dwight L. Dibben, Kent Van, Carmen Hittle and Rebecca Thompson had all filed for four-year terms on the Upper Green River Cemetery District board. No one has filed for the open two-year term.

Bob Wilson, Valerie Williams and Linda Leonard filed for the Big Piney Cemetery District.

Lesser-known races are several judicial seats. While judges are nominated by the Judicial Nominating Commission and then appointed by the governor, every four years voters must approve them for retention.

Supreme Court justices up for retention votes are Lynne Boomgaarden and Kari Jo Gray.

Circuit Court judges in the 9th Judicial District – that includes Sublette, Teton and Fremont counties – are Curt A. Haws from Sublette County, Robert B. Denhardt, from Fremont County, and James L. Radda from Teton County. Ninth Judicial District Court

See 'CANDIDATES' on page 4B



Joy Ufford photo

Walt Watkins gathers information about the special hospital district from Emily Ray at Obo's in Pinedale.

PINEDALE – Board members and staff of the Sublette County Rural Health Care District meet with the public to grow support for the 'special hospital district' initiative on the Nov. 3 General Election ballot. The Coffee Corner took place at Obo's in Pinedale on Thursday at noon. Coffee Corners are also planned for Aug. 25, noon at Heart & Soul Café and Aug. 26, 7 a.m. at All American Fuel in Big Piney.

The Sublette County Rural Health Care District board, staff and Administrator Dave Doorn have scheduled more public question-and-answer sessions about the special hospital district on:

- Aug. 18, noon outside the Big Piney Post Office,
- Aug. 19, 5:30 p.m. at the Pinedale Library,
- Aug. 21, 5:50 p.m. at Rendezvous Meadows Golf Course,
- Aug. 27, 5:30 p.m. at the Daniel School House
- Sept. 9, 12:30 p.m. at Rendezvous Pointe and
- Sept. 16, 1 p.m. at the Marbleton Senior Center.

Visit www.sublettehospitaldistrict.org for more.

Potential candidates left perplexed about legalities

By Holly Dabb

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PINEDALE – Sublette County resident Diana Watkins wanted to be prepared and file for seats on both the Sublette County Rural Health Care Board and the Sublette County Hospital District's Board in case the ballot initiative passes.

When she went into the Sublette County Clerk's Office on the opening day of the filing period, she was told by County Clerk Carrie Long that she had to choose one or the other. As of Aug. 13, she was the only candidate to file for either board. On Thursday, incumbent Rural Health Care Board members Tonia Hoffman and Mike Pompey both filed for the Sublette County Hospital District Board.

Long is standing by an official opinion written July 17 by Deputy County Attorney Clayton Melinkovich.

When asked if one individual could run for more than one office in the same general election, he referred to Wyoming Statute 22-6-112b: "No candidate's name shall appear on the general election ballot more than once, except that a candidate for a partisan office may also seek the office of president or vice president of the United States or a nonpartisan office the same

general election ballot"

Long also asked if an elected official who already holds a public office is able to run for a nonpartisan office.

Melinkovich said, "No person may hold an elective public office in any governmental entity which either provides any funding or receives any funding from another governmental entity."

He added, "If a person is also elected to a public office while holding another public office, then the person must resign from the public office first held prior to assuming the new office."

"An individual may not run for more than one nonpartisan office such as the Sublette County Rural Health Care Board and Sublette County Special Hospital District," he wrote.

That is a conflicting opinion to the advice given to Sublette County Rural Health Care Board members from their attorney Rachel Weksler.

In an email forwarded to board members by the district's administrator David Doorn, Weksler advised, "A person can run for both boards, but could not serve on two publicly elected boards. So if that person got elected to both boards, could only serve on one."

See 'LEGALITIES' on page 4B

Tip Top helps recover body from Flaming Gorge

ROCK SPRINGS (WNE) – After nearly 12 hours of side-sonar scanning by Sublette County's Tip Top Search and Rescue team and several follow-up dive attempts by volunteers from the Sweetwater County Dive Team, a body was recovered.

The person matches the description of the 7-year-old ATV crash victim, who was reported missing along with his father on late Friday night, has been recovered in the Big Firehole Canyon of Flaming Gorge Reservoir, according to the Sweetwater County Sheriff's Office.

On Friday, sheriff's deputies responded to a report of two missing persons near the Firehole Canyon and Sage Creek area of the Green River and Flaming Gorge Reservoir.

Deputies learned that a 34-year-old Rock Springs man and his 7-year-old son were last seen leaving their campsite in an all-terrain vehicle at around 11:30 p.m. on

Thursday night, Aug. 6.

At around midday on Saturday, searchers noticed an oil slick and debris floating on the lake at the base of a 200-foot cliff. Divers located in the water a submerged all-terrain vehicle. Deputies recovered from the vehicle the body of an adult male matching the description of the missing father.

After a Monday morning search of the water without results by its marine unit, the sheriff's office enlisted the help of side-sonar sonar experts from Sublette County's Tip Top Search and Rescue team.

"Early Tuesday morning, we deployed maritime assets from Tip Top and our Marine Unit, volunteers from our dive team, and several communications and support elements on the ground from the sheriff's office. It's a tragic situation, but we're just grateful to have located this child," said sheriff's office spokesperson Deputy Jason Mower.



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Official newspaper of Sublette County and the town of Pinedale.

PINEDALE ROUNDUP

COMMENTARY

Motorhome mayhem



LOCAL COMMENTARY
TRENA EIDEN

I received an education this summer, somewhat free of charge, and I didn't even have to go to college. I renovated a 1984 Fleetwood motorhome we got from Gar's folks, and the first tidbit I gleaned was – renovation and ruination both start with "R." In offering it to us, they were being kind, and it turned out to be a blessing, but there were days I loved them for their generous hearts, and days I wanted to murder them in their sleep.

When spring arrived in the south, we stored our camper in a facility that guaranteed its safety from anything except wind, water, pestilence or marauders. But it was cheap. Actually, we liked the place though, after dropping it off, I tearfully looked back, feeling I was throwing my toddler to the wolves. Gar was skipping joyfully while whistling a catchy tune, happy he didn't have to drag it back home, 1,900 miles from Florida to Wyoming.

All our married life, we've been weekend campers, so without an RV roof over my head, Gar mentioned using our tent. I thought I hit him with the bedside lamp, but it must have been wishful thinking because when I

looked again, he and the lamp were both still upright. Gar's dad saved our marriage and possibly Gar's demise by offering us an older motorhome he no longer had use for. With his encouraging, albeit misguided, "It runs," we went to look at it. Now lean in, I'm about to impart some wisdom. "Run" is a relative term.

At first glance, I didn't despise it, which was a real plus and a genuine surprise to Gar. It had been stored a long time, like maybe since it had been driven off the showroom floor, and was in need of an interior update. Looking back, if we'd crushed it to the axles and did a rebuild, it might have taken a lot less time.

Going on Gar's dad's "it runs" statement, we expected just that. Not even, but 10,000 hours later, and about that much money, with expert Robert's help, the final part, a fan clutch was installed in Gar's domain. Eureka! We had an engine.

In need of an abundance of elbow grease, which I steadily supplied, I began by Googling, "if I should" and "how to" remove contact paper. The Internet assured me, before

painting, I must take it off, and by using a blow dryer, it would "come away with relative ease." Those lying SOB's. After hours on end of pulling, tearing, and wrenching, the flesh from my knuckles was primarily what came away, and after much teeth gritting, the contact paper, then, and here's when my neighbor concluded I had an anger issue, the wood underneath ripped away with the contact paper. I considered the walls destroyed, unless painting over shreds and splinters was the look I was going for, which it was not. With no choice, I spackled, primed and painted, then moved along to caulking, where my work really got iffy. I'm a perfectionist at heart, strive to do my best and am not satisfied until that's achieved, but with caulking, I shouldn't. Gar came to inspect, and I read his thoughts, "We might have to burn it down." Caulking when you're clueless, will cause your husband to be a little more disappointed in you, when he didn't think it possible, but stood corrected. He gallantly volunteered to redo and I graciously accepted.

I made curtains, reupholstered the cushions

and painted a blind, which succumbed to my assault and never worked again. Obviously, it wanted to remark, "This may be the dumbest thing you've done to date." Finishing my part first, while Gar's head was still under the engine's hood, I, without mirth, hissed, "My fingers are shredded from the inside work and my knees are mangled from the roof's elastomeric application, so my expectation is, if you can't get this running, you'll have to pull it to campsites with the pickup." He sighed, praying God would rapture me before sundown.

My advice to ancient motorhome renovators: Do nothing – learn to love brown. Never paint a blind. Sell a kidney and hire a caulking professional. Put a bomb in the toilet of those who tell you, AFTER THE FACT, "I painted over my contact paper and it turned out beautifully."

One night, during the renovation, I dreamt the motorhome was bugged. Whether Russia, the White House or local police, they heard a lot of swearing. A lot.

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MY WYOMING

Actor Wilford Brimley represented Wyoming well

By Bill Sniffin

In 1988 I watched as the grizzled ex-Marine Wilford Brimley approached the microphone at the One-Shot Antelope Hunt in Lander. He was one of the shooters that year and had entertained everyone with his jokes and stories. We all thought he would make us laugh.

Without much fanfare, the grizzled movie veteran stepped up to the front of the audience. The crowd readied itself for some sage advice or wicked humor. The actor of such hits as "Cocoon," "The Thing," "The China Syndrome" and "Absence of Malice" had been entertaining people for three days and expectations were high for some more western humor.

But not this time. Brimley, who is a real

ex-rancher, had talked sincerely throughout his weekend in Wyoming of his earlier lives as serving as a ranch hand and blacksmith in Utah and being an unsuccessful sheep rancher in Idaho. He had known hardship and he appreciated the good life he was enjoying now as an actor. He had been emotionally affected by his experience in the towering Wind River Mountains and the vast Red Desert.

It prompted him to recite some words, which moved the audience immensely.

Brimley recited four lesser-known verses of the song Home On The Range as a poem. Those verses were as follows:

"How often at night when the heavens are bright with the light from the glittering stars,

have I stood there amazed and asked as I gazed if their glory exceeds that of ours.

"Oh, I love these wild flowers in this dear land of ours, the curlew I love to hear scream, and I love the white rocks and the antelope flocks that graze on the mountaintops green.

"Oh, give me a land where the bright diamond sand flows leisurely down to the stream, where a graceful white swan goes gliding along like a maid in a heavenly dream.

"Then I would not exchange my home on the range, where the deer and the antelope play; where seldom is heard a discouraging word and the skies are not cloudy all day."

He recited those verses with such love and intensity, nobody who witnessed it would soon

forget it. You could hear a pin drop in the big room.

Brimley, 85, died this last weekend in St. George, Utah. He had been living in Greybull since 2006.

The curmudgeonly actor seemed to always play roles older than himself.

"I played fathers to guys 25 years older than me," he once exclaimed.

In 2009, Brimley founded the nonprofit organization Hands Across the Saddle (HATS) in the Big Horn Basin. It has helped many impoverished families over the past decade.

Although not a native son, Brimley personified the Wyoming way of life. He made us proud

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Mayor criticized for runaway train

"Nothing sneaky here," your words in the newspaper last week. Being the adjacent property owner to two of your projects I would be remiss if I said nothing.

Does this community know exactly what they are getting in a 50-plus-unit RV Park next to the golf course and million dollar homes? Just how much community involvement went into this plan? Since there is no way to control who stays in a RV park, a security business in that area would probably do well. This must be part of the growth you are touting.

The latest first-hand example is only a continuation of the transparency in the way business has been done. I received a certified return receipt light variance letter from the

town on July 22. Lights 35 feet high were not good enough, the 12 new light poles have to be 60 feet high. Nothing extravagant here you say. The postal system said return receipt was from July 21 to Aug. 5. The council fast-tracked this through in three working days from the time I received my letter. The folks who live in the Redstone New Fork River subdivision were never notified although they are the most affected by light pollution. This may not have been sneaky but it was railroaded though in a hurry.

Good government would have published the ground-breaking of the ball field complex on the front page of the newspaper accompanied by a map showing the grand vision of the completed project. Edifice for the community, after all it is our tax dollars at work.

Here is another revelation for you Matt. As we speak there are oil and gas companies in bankruptcy. The Wyoming rig count for the

week is zero.

Because of circumstance we find ourselves in another bust cycle. With the last cycle we learned that property taxes had to go up to pay for the maintenance for all the goodies we got during the boom. A good percentage of older homeowners on a fixed income were forced to relocate at that time. This time look at what we now have to take care of. New school, swimming pool, fair grounds, library and jail remodels, skate parks, entertainment centers, etc.

Now let's talk about all the other stuff on the runaway train. The Rural Health Care District has been unable to manage what they already have.

We do have great hospitals in our area. Children's Primary, University of Utah, Eastern Idaho Regional Medical to name just a few. And you want to squander our ball fields on the hill (used by multiple hundreds

of residents, again your words) on a hope of pushing through a vote that is iffy at best?

Our country is in a crisis. The state is preparing for less revenue. The county can see tightening its belt but if the town wants to give them a ball-park complex best not look a gift horse in the mouth.

Parents and children are facing a new chapter in history. The cost of living is increasing, gas prices are down; groceries, however, are more expensive. And you are going to raise our taxes on wants rather than needs? Maybe you think the voters are too stupid to realize their tax dollars are on the line.

I think your train has left the station with few on board and cannot see the precipice coming. What's the big hurry Matt, couldn't wait to break ground until after the vote? Resign now before you do more harm.

A very concerned voter,
Heidi Hicks Wilson

Pinedale Roundup

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