

LOCAL
Happy Endings
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LOCAL
Addams Family comes alive
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SPORTS
Season underway
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Pinedale Roundup

Newspaper of the Upper Green River Valley, Est. 1904

APRIL 9, 2021

One Dollar



COURTESY PHOTO

Flames engulf a home in Hoback Ranches that multiple Sublette County Unified Fire Battalions responded to. Two of the building's six occupants were transported to a hospital for smoke inhalation but released shortly after.

SCUF responds to separate fires

SUBLETTE COUNTY – Sublette County Unified Fire units responded to two significant fires, both taking place in the early hours of the morning, three days apart within the county.

First, at approximately 3:40 a.m. on April 2, Stations 1, 2, 3 and 5 responded to a call of a potential chimney fire at a residence on Chippewaugh Lane at Hoback Ranches.

Local fire fighters living in the area were aware the residence could only be reached by snow machine or tracked off-road vehicles and were first on the scene. SCUF battalions staged nearby assisted Sublette County EMS units to establish a safe area to administer care.

Sublette County Emergency Management, Search and Rescue, and Road and Bridge

departments all assisted by providing snow machines and working to clear the road of snow and ice.

Two of the six building occupants were transported to St. John's in Jackson for treatment and observation resulting from smoke inhalation but were released shortly after admission. No injuries were reported among responders.

In a release from SCUF Battalion 2 Chief and public information officer Mike Petty, the cause for that fire was an accidental electrical fire originating within a wall of the home. The fire spread through the wall to the rest of the home, causing heavy smoke conditions that set off the smoke detector system that ultimately alerted the occupants to the fire. The home and an adjacent

outbuilding were ultimately lost to the fire.

Battalions also responded at approximately 3:30 a.m. to a structure fire in progress at 601 Binning Ranch Road in greater Pinedale.

Multiple battalions assisted and efforts included establishing a water supply shuttle operation because of the property's distance from hydrants. An on-duty Sublette County Sheriff's Office deputy reported the fire upon seeing the glow from a distance.

The fire occurred in an unoccupied bunkhouse and, due to preventative measures taken from responding battalions, the fire was contained to the bunkhouse's perimeter.

No cause of that fire had been determined by the time of Sublette County Unified Fire's release.

Commissioners run the gamut

By **Brady Oltmans**
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PINEDALE – A buckshot itinerary greeted the Sublette County Board of Commissioners at its Tuesday meeting inside the Lovatt Room of the Sublette County Library's Pinedale location.

Just as the topics were scattered across the spectrum of local governing, the agenda shuffled in order to accommodate those present as well as those yet to arrive.

Infrastructure

County administrator Matt Gaffney welcomed Emily Lucke, general member of the Upper Redstone Service and Improvement District, for a request to acquire a bridge to the subdivision. After contacting the board last fall, the district came forward to the board to discuss the possibility of purchasing a bridge that is not in use from the county – with options of a three-year lease as well as outright sale.

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Hospital District looks at priorities

By **Robert Galbreath**
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PINEDALE – The Sublette County Hospital District Board of Trustees met with its new management partner, Star Valley Health, at a special meeting on April 7 to discuss priorities and a timeline for moving forward.

District Chairwoman Tonia Hoffman welcomed Star Valley Health CEO Daniel Ordyna and chief operating officer Mike Hunsaker to the panel hosted by the Southwest Sublette County Pioneers Senior Center in Marbleton.

Hoffman emphasized that despite the split vote for a management partner at the March 29 meeting, she and the remaining trustees, Wendy Boman, Kenda Tanner and

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Passion for development

Week of the Young Child recognized in Pinedale

By **Robert Galbreath**
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PINEDALE – Human brains grow rapidly during the first years of development.

"Ninety percent of our brain growth happens before kindergarten," said Tamara Currah, Sublette County School District No. 1 early childhood liaison. "At birth, the average baby's brain is about a quarter the size of an adult brain. Incredibly, it doubles in size the first year and it keeps growing to about 80 percent of adult size by age 3 and 90 percent – nearly fully grown – by age 5."

Neurons are busy firing away to create new pathways in a young child's brain, explained Jennifer Zook, regional facilitator for the

Wyoming Early Childhood Professional Learning Collaborative through the University of Wyoming.

The formative learning years for children actually take place between birth and age 5, Zook added. Creating positive experiences for young children allow more pathways to develop in their brains, Zook said.

Nurturing this growth involves quality child care – at home, at preschool or an early childhood education program.

"It's important that people recognize the fact that early childhood education is a foundation for success in the future," said Teresa Sandner, executive director at Pinedale Preschool. "Early childhood programs are

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COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the early childhood advisory team, from left, are Pinedale Elementary Assistant Principal Janel Scurlock, Allison Bolgiano, Children's Discovery Center, Becky Gregory, Children's Learning Center, Amy Calhoun, BOCES Early Education Program, Teresa Sandner, Pinedale Preschool, Tamara Currah, School District No. 1 early childhood liaison, Jennifer Zook, Wyoming Early Childhood Professional Learning Collaborative, and Julie Belton, REAL Center.



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CHILD

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vital for development and give children a good foothold in their future education."

Early childhood education teaches young people the basic life skills they need to prosper in society, stated Allison Bolgiano, executive director at the Children's Discovery Center.

"There are so many wonderful benefits at preschools," she added. "Children learn socially and emotionally, get into the routine of school and prepare for kindergarten."

The National Association for the Education of Young Children set aside the Week of the Young Child in April starting in 1971.

This year marks the event's 50th anniversary, and the Pinedale Town Council passed a proclamation in March designating April 10-16 as Week of the Young Child in the community.

Collaborating to make a difference
Communities like Sublette County are catching on to the importance of providing opportunities for the youngest members of society and recognizing the crucial work put in by early childhood educators.

The idea for the proclamation in Pinedale came from the early childhood advisory team, consisting of Currah, Zook and representatives from preschools, the elementary school and Public Health.

The advisory team is an example of growing teamwork between programs, said Currah.

"It's great to see everyone working together," she added. "Each program's goal is the same – they want what's best for young children. I love working with the preschool teachers and visiting them because we have really good educators out there."

Becky Gregory, Sublette County development director at the Children's Learning Center, said the Week of the Young Child is a great opportunity for educators to come together and recognize their successes.

"Everybody working in early childhood education is valuable," Gregory stated. "Children are our future and investing in them is so important."

Pinedale is blessed with programs that cater to the needs of all parents, Currah said. Currah's program, the Lil' Wranglers, offers interactive classes taught by Jenna Mergl and Julieta Belmont for children and their parents. The courses range from Spanish and English immersion to yoga.

The Redstone Early Active Learning



COURTESY PHOTO

Young people learn yoga at the Children's Discovery Center.

Center, owned and directed by Julie Belton, offer extended hours to accommodate working parents with shifts outside traditional hours.

"Our providers – Karina, Jackie, Melissa and Gabby – are always willing to take on a challenge and go above and beyond," Belton said. "They are here at 5:45 in the morning or on weekends."

The Week of the Young Child is a chance to bring together and highlight young families and their children, Belton added.

The words "passion" and "amazing" popped up in conversations with directors about their educators.

"I am truly lucky to work with a group of educators that are passionate about young people and shaping their lives," said Amy Calhoun, director at the Sublette BOCES Early Education Program. "The Week of the Young Child is a time to celebrate what we do everyday – what we've worked for our whole lives."

"None of us are in it for the pay," said Belton. "We all have a passion for young children."

"Early childhood educators are amazing people," said Bolgiano. "It definitely takes the right person – someone with patience, love and compassion."

Higher education is becoming a requirement for early childhood educators in a changing world.

"Every single childcare center has great educators," said Sandner. "All the teachers have a degree or are working on their degree."

During the Week of the Young Child, each program will showcase student projects and provide information at the Pinedale Aquatic Center. The Children's Learning Center worked with local artist Hayley Ryckman to create stained glass artwork that will be displayed at Rocky Mountain Bank and Bank of the West.

HOSPITAL

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Jamison Ziegler, "wholeheartedly supported" working with Star Valley Health.

Trustee Dr. Brendan Fitzsimmons resigned at the March 29 meeting.

Ordyna and Hunsaker provided suggestions from their experience constructing and operating a critical access hospital and assisted living facility. Ordyna stated that Star Valley Health's role was to serve at the pleasure of the hospital district board.

Ordyna stressed the need for the community to rally behind Sublette County's project and take ownership and avoid infighting. He added that the first step that must be taken is to bring all the different entities – the hospital district, Sublette Center and Sublette County Rural Health Care District – under a combined vision and leadership as soon as possible.

Hunsaker said that including employees at both facilities in the merger was important, to ensure they feel safe with their jobs and can trust leadership.

Ordyna listed board education as another priority to get the trustees acquainted with the process to get a critical access hospital under construction and up and running. He emphasized to the board the need to develop a clear timetable with manageable milestones and expectations in a transparent manner.

Ordyna reiterated that Star Valley Health, as a management partner, will not interfere with Sublette County's existing relationships with Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center and other health-care partners.

Hunsaker added that he was already working with Dave Doorn, administrative director at the SCRHC, to put the final touches on the loan to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and make sure all the t's are crossed and i's are dotted.

Following the public meeting, the hospital board and Star Valley Health's team entered into executive session to start work on a legal contract outlining the partnership agreement between the two parties.

Church DIRECTORY



ST. ANDREW'S IN THE PINES
Episcopal Church
524 W PINE ST. PINEDALE, WY 82941
St. Andrew's is holding joint in-person/Zoom Sunday services at 9 a.m. Masks and physical distancing are required for in-person attendance. Please email or call/text the church number listed to get Zoom information.

Pinedale Community United Church of Christ
115 S Maybell, Pinedale
Interim pastoral care: Rev. Randy Belton
Worship is 10 a.m. Sunday mornings
In-person worship with COVID protocols observed, and live on Facebook.
For Information and updates call: 307-264-0418
Email us at: communitychurchpinedale@gmail.com
Visit the website: pinedalecommunityucc.org

First Baptist Church
Pastor Ted York
SUNDAY SERVICE
Sunday school.....9:45 a.m.
Morning worship 11 a.m.
646 N. Tyler Street • 307-367-4567

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Bible study 7:45 a.m.
Sunday Service.....9 a.m.
Pastor Kevin Rose
307-367-2612
512 N. Tyler, Pinedale

Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church
112 S. Sublette Ave
Mass Schedule
Saturday: 5:30 p.m.
Monday: 9 a.m. at Church
Sunday: 8 a.m.
Tuesday: 5:30 p.m. at Church
Holy Day of Obligation: 7 a.m. & 7 p.m.
Wednesday-Friday: 7 a.m. at Church

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Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Livestream of worship service 10:30 a.m.
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Pastor Jim Silvey

Thank You
To EVERYONE near and far, THANK YOU for all the love shown to our dad, Benny Pearson, over the years! THANK YOU, too, for your care, compassion, conversation, cards, and "viddles" during his passing. Dad always enjoyed telling old stories and laughing, heartily, with anyone he could "corral!" Please know that he loved you all! May you be ever blessed and may our paths cross, again, someday soon, that we may shake your hand and give you a big country hug!
The Families of Alvin (Benny) Pearson