

SUBLETTE EXAMINER

Volume 22 Issue 33

Your Community Newspaper

Tuesday, November 1, 2022

\$1.00



Halloween photos Pages 2 & 6 | Veterans Day preview Page 3 | Landowner of the year Page 4

SCHD expresses gratitude to Boman

By Robert Galbreath, rgalbreath@subletteexaminer.com

MARBLETON – Sublette County Hospital District (SCHD) Trustee Wendy Boman will not seek reelection on the board of trustees and attended her last meeting on Oct. 26.



Wendy Boman

Boman served for six years on both the Sublette County Rural Health Care District (RHCD) and SCHD boards of trustees.

SCHD Board Chairwoman Tonia Hoffman thanked Boman for her role in bringing the hospital district and critical access hospital to fruition and work on the SCHD's quality committee.

"We will miss you immensely," Hoffman added.

SCHD administrator Dave Doorn expressed gratitude to Boman for providing leadership as a trustee on the SCHD and RHCD boards.

Dr. David Burnett, SCHD medical director, praised Boman for the six years she gave to the community.

Boman and her fellow trustees "took on a big project in a very admirable way," Burnett said.

Additional gratitude came from Mike Hunsaker, chief operating officer for the SCHD and its management partner, Star Valley Health.

"We wouldn't be where we are today with out you and the board guiding us and leading us," he said. "We couldn't ask for better partners."

Boman described the past six years as a "rollercoaster ride" with difficult transitions and "bumps in the road."

"We are in such a good place now," she said.

Boman credited SCHD providers and staff for their work in making the hospital project a reality. She singled out Doorn for "walking into a hornets nest" and bringing about positive change.

Boman also thanked Dr. Burnett, Kari DeWitt, SCHD public relations director and grant writer, Dawn Walker, administrator at the Sublette Center, and her colleagues on the board.

Each trustee – Dave Bell, Kenda Tanner and Jamison Ziegler – thanked Boman for her service.

Hospital district prepares for building demolition

By Robert Galbreath, rgalbreath@subletteexaminer.com

MARBLETON – Demolition of the Public Health building on the hill across from the Pinedale Cemetery is planned to begin in mid-November, the Sublette County Hospital District (SCHD) reported at its Oct. 26 meeting in Marbleton.

Removing the Public Health building, built in 1978, to provide space for the new critical access hospital and long-term care facility, is the first step in the construction process.

The SCHD Board of Trustees unanimously passed a motion to release \$310,000 allowing Layton Construction, the district's construction manager and general contractor, to carry out asbestos abatement in the Public Health building, tear the building down and relocate an irrigation ditch on the site.

The \$110,000 for the ditch relocation and asbestos abatement is the responsibility of the SCHD while the \$200,000 for the demolition will be reimbursed through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) loan to the district, confirmed Kari Dewitt, SCHD public relations director and grant writer.

The SCHD is hosting a walk-through of the old Public Health building on Nov. 2. Community members are invited to bid on items remaining in the facility, said Dave Doorn, SCHD administrator.

Individuals and companies do not need to make an appointment to attend the walk-through, said DeWitt. SCHD administration will be on site with forms to make bids and answer questions.

Asbestos abatement in the Public Health building is scheduled for Nov. 8 and Layton will shut off all utilities on Nov. 14, DeWitt told the Examiner. Demolition is expected to follow in mid-November, she added.

Dr. David Burnett, SCHD medical director, asked the board whether the demolition timeline conflicted with the Town of Pinedale's ordinances and no-dig period.

Members of the SCHD board and administration met with town staff in July and the various permits needed to begin the process were "taken care of," responded Tonia Hoffman, SCHD board chairwoman.

See **District demolition** on page 7

Dentist survives grizzly attack

By Cali O'Hare, cohare@subletteexaminer.com

SALT LAKE CITY — The Wyoming hunter who shot himself in the leg while fighting off a grizzly bear was discharged from the University of Utah Hospital on Oct. 25, according to KSL-TV in Salt Lake City. In an interview with the station from his hospital bed, Lee Francis, 65, estimated the bear was 8 feet tall and weighed 700 pounds.

Francis told the news outlet that the bear charged him from less than 10 feet away, adding, "I think I put my foot up to stop him from grabbing me and just defensively shot my leg."

Francis, an Evanston dentist and avid outdoorsman, thought some of the rounds he fired also struck the bear.

Wyoming Game and Fish Pinedale Regional Supervisor John Lund told the Sublette Examiner that wildlife officials "did not find any indication that the bear was wounded or killed."

See **Grizzly attack** on page 3

Leyva adds 'mental illness' to not guilty pleas

Faces second-degree attempted murder charge, more counts

By Joy Ufford, jufford@subletteexaminer.com

SUBLETTE COUNTY – Because the judge did not clearly explain to Nicolas A. Leyva at his Oct. 6 arraignment that he could pair his not-guilty pleas with reasons of mental illness or deficiency, Leyva was allowed to do so at his Oct. 28 hearing.

At the end, 9th District Judge Marv Tyler immediately suspended the court proceedings and ordered a Wyoming State Hospital evaluation.

His attorney Alex Freeburg told Judge Tyler that Leyva had wanted to make those pleas initially but didn't understand the process.

The judge said, "It's the defendant's right to determine what sort of defense he may want to present. I want to make sure any change of plea or additional plea is the defendant's choice."

Leyva is charged with felonies of second-degree attempted murder, two counts of aggravated assault and battery and strangulation of a household member, plus misdemeanors of domestic battery, property and breach of peace.

He was arrested Aug. 31 after he and

his husband Dr. Buck Wallace talked amicably about divorce and Leyva allegedly destroyed his phone, attacked Wallace and tried to strangle him, according to earlier testimony by Sublette County Detective Travis Lanning.

Freeburg referred to Lanning's testimony at Leyva's preliminary hearing that Leyva might have consumed Seroquel, a powerful antipsychotic prescribed to Wallace.

"My client was taking Seroquel at the advice of the alleged victim," Freeburg said, and was "incompetent at the time of the (Aug. 31) incident" but Leyva is competent now.

Sublette County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Clayton Melinkovich objected to Freeburg's references to Seroquel on Oct. 6 and Oct. 28.

Judge Tyler said he needed a "showing of good cause" and would allow Freeburg to try to establish it "but I don't know if I can rely on testimony in the preliminary hearing."

Freeburg said Leyva was disappointed after his arraignment. Judge Tyler said he outlined plea options separately—"I did not expressly say he could do both."

"The defendant intended to make the plea but for reasons not disclosed he did not," the judge said. "I believe good cause has been shown."



JOY UFFORD PHOTO

Gloria Denava, mother of Nicholas A. Leyva, believes his husband gave him unprescribed medication that allegedly 'poisoned' Leyva.

After Leyva pleaded not guilty by reason of mental illness to each charge, Judge Tyler immediately suspended the case and trial proceedings and ordered Leyva to undergo a mental evaluation. It would be up to Wyoming State Hospital staff to determine when, where and how, he added.

Sales • Parts • Service

"We do business one way, your way"

307-362-5677
2200 Foothill Blvd., Rock Springs
www.whislerchevy.com

CHEVROLET

M - F 8:00 am - 6:00 pm • Sat. 9:00 am - 5:00 pm • Closed Sunday

Jack-o'-lantern Jamboree!



JOY UFFORD PHOTOS

Shad Cooper, front, Dave Stephens, back left and Kay Robertson, right, sample a dozen red, green and white chili entries before the public arrives.

About 100 people came to the Marbleton Town Hall on Friday, Oct. 28, for a special party thrown by town staff, with the annual chili cook-off, pumpkin pie contest, jack-o-lantern contest, Haunted Hallway and hot chocolate.

Chili cook-off judges sampling a dozen crockpots with a dozen different recipes were Shad Cooper, Dave Stephens and Kay Robertson. Judges invited to taste-test the pumpkin pies were Cari James, Doug Vickrey and Joel Bousman. For once, commissioners and celebrities agreed and selected Heather James' white chili and her homemade pumpkin pie as winners.

Gage Jones won a Flicks n' Pins movie pass for his decorated pumpkin that topped the Junior Division.



COURTESY PHOTO

Gage Jones poses with his winning pumpkin and prize.



Families and friends gather in the Marbleton Town Hall's council chambers transformed into Halloween central for pie and chili contests.

WE'RE MOVING

Open at our new location:
380 Faler Ave., Pinedale
beginning October 24!



We will be CLOSED
October 17 - 21
for moving



Sublette County Public Health

Same phone number:
307-367-2157

The opinions expressed on the editorial pages are not necessarily those of the *Sublette Examiner*. Letters will be run and edited at the discretion of the *Sublette Examiner*. Letters to the editor should be limited to 350 words, be signed, state the town/city you live in and include a phone number for verification. Letters are due Fridays by noon. No thank yous.

WRITE TO:
 P.O. Box 1539, Pinedale, Wyo. 82941
 OR E-MAIL:
 editor@subletteexaminer.com.
 PUBLISHED WEEKLY, AT
 41 S. Lake Ave, Pinedale,
 Sublette County, Wyoming 82941
 by Wyoming Newspapers, Inc.
 Periodical postage paid at Pinedale, WY,
 USPS 019-784 and other locations.
 Copyright, Sublette Examiner, 2012.



"To sin by silence, when one should protest, makes cowards out of men."
 —ABRAHAM LINCOLN

PUBLISHER
 Mark Tesoro
 EDITOR
 Cali O'Hare
 REPORTERS
 Joy Ufford
 jufford@subletteexaminer.com
 Robert Galbreath
 rgalbreath@subletteexaminer.com
 OFFICE MANAGER
 Eunice Allgood
 eallgood@subletteexaminer.com
 ADVERTISING
 Courtney Reed
 creed@subletteexaminer.com

DESIGN
 Greg Roe

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

In County

One Year \$45.00
 26 Weeks \$23.00
 13 Weeks \$12.00

Out of County

One Year \$55.00
 26 Weeks \$28.00
 13 Weeks \$15.00

POSTMASTER, SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:
 Sublette Examiner, P.O. Box 1539,
 Pinedale, Wyo. 82941.
 (307) 367-3203, FAX: (307) 367-3209
 eallgood@pinedaleroundup.com

Veterans Day countywide

• On Thursday, Nov. 10, the Women's Auxiliary has arranged a special Veterans Day lunch hosted at the Southwest Pioneers Senior Center, 111 Rakestraw Ave., in Marbleton. The salad bar opens at 11:30 a.m. and the noon meal is served at noon.

• On Veterans Day, Friday, Nov. 11, at 11:10 a.m., the Big Piney High School's National Honor Society presents its annual patriotic program of music, tradition and speeches to honor all veterans. American Legion's Dee Fox Post 78 veterans will celebrate by wearing their brand new full-dress uniforms thanks to the generosity of Roman "Rocky" Piernick, according to Post 78 Commander Mack Rawhouser. During the assembly, veterans Vice Commander Steve Greenwell and Fred Archambault will fold the flag 13 times while Adjutant Ron Davidson tells the history of that tradition.

• On Veterans Day, Friday, Nov. 11 from 8:45-9:15 a.m. the Pinedale Elementary School hosts a special assembly in honor of the day. Pinedale Middle School presents its Veterans Day assembly from 9:45 to 10:15 a.m. in the Pinedale High School Auditorium. The American Legion Post 47 hosts its Veterans Day assembly and community awards ceremony from 11 a.m. to noon in the high school auditorium. The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 4801 will begin serving lunch immediately following the noon assembly at 1033 W. Pine St., in Pinedale.

Grizzly attack

Lund explained that the agency's investigation indicated Francis surprised the grizzly in the direct vicinity of its den.

"Since this was a surprise encounter and considering the bear did not make physical contact with the individual, no other management actions are planned," Lund said.

Francis noted he's "been around these big bears, but it's a whole different deal when they're coming after 'ya and they've decided they're gonna take you out."

The attack occurred near the head of Rock Creek in the Sawtooth Mountains of the Gros Ventre Mountain Range on Oct. 22.

Dr. Josh Francis, also a dentist and owner of Wind River Dental in Pinedale, was elk hunting just east of Bondurant with his father, Lee, just before dusk Friday when the bear "came flying out (of the den) at" Lee.

At 5:52 p.m., Josh Francis activated his SOS device and administered first aid to staunch the blood flow from his father's bullet wound. With the help of a pack mule, Josh Francis helped his father back toward Water Dog Lake while Tip Top Search and Rescue (TTSAR) members drove a utility terrain vehicle (UTV) from the Flying A Ranch.

More than three hours later, the parties met up in the Big Twin Creek drainage, where volunteers rendered additional aid to the injured dentist.

Francis was extracted by UTV from the drainage back to Flying A Ranch where an air ambulance was staged. From there he was life-flighted to the University of Utah Hospital.

A TTSAR member accompanied Josh Francis and the horses back to the trailhead.

Lund said, "The efforts of the Sublette



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Lee Francis at home on the mend

County Sheriff's Office and Tip Top Search and Rescue are greatly appreciated as they were able to get Mr. Francis the medical attention he needed as quickly as possible under difficult conditions."

Looking toward the future, Francis predicts the "scary" encounter will stick with him on his next hunting trip.

"I'll probably have a nightmare or two next time I'm up in the mountains."

Rocky Mountain Yeti Pinedale

ASK about current offers & financing

2012 Ford F-150
\$ 14,383

2018 Chevy Silverado
\$ 29,956

SPECIAL ORDER YOUR FAVORITE

307-367-3880

Sales: Mon - Fri: 8:30am - 6pm ~ Sat: 10am - 2pm
153 S. Entertainment Lane, Pinedale, WY ~ www.RockyMountainYetiPinedale.com

OLD BUILDING DEMO WALK-THRU

Wed, Nov 2nd from 9am - 4:30pm

Come to the old public health offices and billing office. See something you want? Fill out a bid sheet and make an offer. Items must be removed by Nov 7th. Items include doors, carpet, windows, furnaces, plumbing, blinds, and more. Questions? Call Kari - 307-231-3210

Weather for Sublette County, WY Nov. 1 – Nov. 7

Today	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
 54° 30°	 42° 22°	 32° 9°	 34° 18°	 39° 17°	 40° 16°	 40° 15°
Precip: 0% Wind: S 8 mph UV Index: 2 Low						

SCCD Corner

Morris Family, 2022 Landowners of the Year

From Wyoming Game and Fish

SUBLETTE COUNTY – Every year, Wyoming Game and Fish recognizes “landowners of the year” statewide who show outstanding efforts for wildlife management, habitat improvement and conservation.

The DeWitt and Katherine Morris family, which owns Mountains Springs Ranch about 9 miles northeast of Boulder in Sublette County, is one of seven 2022 Landowners of the Year. The family placed part of the ranch, which lays within the Sublette Mule Deer Migration Corridor, under a conservation easement. It provides crucial winter and year-round habitat for moose and winter habitat for elk and the ranch sits within sage-grouse core habitat.

“During the initial start-up of the Sublette County Invasives Taskforce, the ranch was one of the first to sign up and allow treatment of invasive cheatgrass,” according to Game and Fish. “The family allows Game and Fish and other partners to monitor cheatgrass treatment work and follow-up applications at various locations.”

The ranch borders the Scab Creek elk feedground and the family is active in assisting with hunter access, especially for veterans and youth during the late antlerless elk seasons.

The family also has assisted Game and Fish with brucellosis elk trapping efforts at the Scab Creek elk feedground.

The family has worked with Game and Fish and other agencies to convert fences to wildlife-friendly standards. The ranch is home to Camp GROW—Green River Outreach for Wilderness Foundation – a nonprofit organization founded in 2009 to introduce others to wild places.

I cut down my tree ... NOW WHAT?



STUMP REMOVAL

Pros: Elimination of stump and roots, Easy to replant, No leftover sawdust



Cons: Costs time and money, Difficult to remove, Leaves gaping hole



STUMP GRINDING

Pros: Fast and inexpensive removal, No gaping hole, Leftover sawdust can be used for mulching.



Cons: Watch for sprouts, root decay and an uneven lawn that could present potential trip hazards



Tree stump removal and stump grinding

By Traci Berg, SCCD administrative coordinator, Tree Program manager

We all want to have beautiful yards with healthy trees but in reality trees die and are cut down to prevent catastrophic damages. This article is to help you decide what to do with that pesky stump that gets left behind. The two ways of ridding your yard of that stump that will be discussed in this article are stump removal versus stump grinding.

As far as the process of the stump removal method, it is as simple as it sounds. Stump removal is simply pulling the stump from the ground. This is a preferred method if the root system is a future concern as this method re-

This is a preferred method if the root system is a future concern as this method removes both the stump and the root ball.

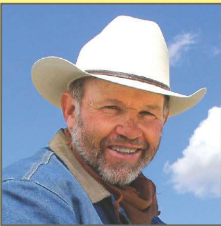
moves both the stump and the root ball. This ensures that there's no chance of the tree regrowing. Stump removal is usually costly, as it most likely will involve large equipment and will leave a landscaping issue with a giant hole left behind.

That leaves us to discuss stump grinding. This process will remove the stump of the tree but will leave the root system intact. This is done using a machine called a stump grinder which leaves nothing to clean up but fine sawdust. By using a machine, you the landowner are able to determine the exact depth to which the stump is ground down. One thing to keep in mind, though, is that the root ball is still intact underground

and that regrowth can happen. Also, due to stump height being a determining factor, there is also the potential tripping hazard.

Neither method is better than the other – it all comes down to preference and budget. Stump grinding is usually the preferred choice if looking for an economical method. If you are looking to replant a tree or ensure regrowth doesn't occur, then stump removal may be a better option for you.

***Sublette County Conservation District's Planting for Conservation Seedling Tree Program will be accepting seedling tree orders beginning Nov. 1. This year's availability list can be found on our website, sublettecd.com.*



ALBERT SOMMERS

Republican Candidate
Wyo. House District 20
Sublette & LaBarge

Civility • Integrity • Experience

THANK YOU
HOUSE DISTRICT 20 VOTERS
for your support in the Primary Election.

I would appreciate your vote in the upcoming General Election.

REMEMBER TO VOTE!
Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022



PAID FOR BY THE CANDIDATE



Market Report

Riverton Livestock Auction feeder cattle sales report for Tuesday, Oct. 25. Sales take place weekly now. This week: 4,344. Last sale: 2,790. Last year: 5,654. Compared to last Tuesday on special calf and yearling sale with several reputation quality offerings. Light offering yearlings with no comparisons available. Feeder steers under 500 lbs. steady instances 4.00-8.00 higher, 500-700 lbs. steady to 8.00-10.00 higher instances 15.00-16.00. Heifer calves higher overtones noted with 2.00-6 higher, best advances on 550-590 lb. replacement quality heifers instances 15.00 higher. Demand good with good buyer attendance and participation. Supply included: 100 percent feeder cattle (59 percent steers, 41 percent heifers). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs. was 17 percent.

SnoTel Report – Monday, Oct. 31

Basin Site Name	Elev. (ft)	Snow Water Equivalent			Total Precipitation		
		Current	Average	% Avg	Current	Average	% Avg
UPPER GREEN RIVER							
Big Sandy Opening	9080	0.9	1.3	69*	1.2	1.8	67
Blind Bull Sum	8650	0.5	1.4	36*	0.6	2.0	30
East Rim Divide	7930	-M	0.2	*	-M	1.4	*
Elkhart Park G.S.	9400	0.6	1.0	60*	0.9	1.9	47
Gros Ventre Summit	8750	0.7	1.5	47	1.3	1.8	72
Gunsight Pass	9620	0.8	0.8(22)	100*	1.2	2.2(22)	55
Indian Creek	9425	0.9	1.6	56*	1.0	2.4	42
Kendall R.S.	7740	0.0	0.2	0*	0.5	1.6	31
Larsen Creek	9000	2.6	0.0(10)	*	0.9	1.8(10)	50
Loomis Park	8240	0.7	0.7	100*	1.2	1.9	63
New Fork Lake	8340	0.2	0.4	50*	-M	1.3	*
Proctor Creek	9360	-M	N/A	*	1.6	N/A	*
Snyder Basin	8060	0.0	0.3	0*	0.6	1.5	40
Spring Creek Divide	9000	0.5	1.3	38*	1.1	2.3	48
Triple Peak	8500	0.8	1.2	67*	0.9	2.1	43
Basin Index (%)				79*			49

PERSPECTIVES

Constitutional amendments ‘Social contract’

By Jake Goodrick, Jackson Hole News&Guide

Whether you’ve already voted early or have plans to trek to the polls Nov. 8, be sure to do your homework before fulfilling your end of the democratic process. Especially when it comes to the easily overlooked constitutional amendments buried on the ballot.

There are two such amendments Wyomingites will decide on in this year’s general election.

Amendment A allows cities, counties, towns, school districts and other political subdivisions to invest money in stocks and equities. This is something the state has done in some capacity since the 1990s but local agencies have been unable to, due to Wyoming law.

Approval of Amendment B would increase the mandatory retirement age for judges from 70 to 75. There is no mandatory retirement age for federal judges, but within individual states, the age restrictions vary.

There are 17 states with no mandatory retirement age and 15 states with 70 as the cut-off. The other states have restrictions between 70 and 75, except for Maine, where judges can work through the year they turn 90.

With each of these amendments, a no-vote is as good as a no-vote. Passing an amendment requires a majority from all voters in the election, meaning that to not mark one way or the other equates to a vote against it.

There are pros and cons to extending the mandatory retirement of judges, although at least locally, without any judges at the retirement age, it doesn’t seem of great consequence either way.

The investment amendment, however, could have much greater immediate and long-term effects.

Wyoming has invested in equities from its permanent funds since the 1990s. In 2016, a voter-approved amendment gave the state even more flexibility, allowing it to invest its state agency pool, including hundreds of non-permanent funds, into stocks and equities.

Right now, local agencies and boards are limited in the areas they can invest. Depending on which board it is and who holds those seats that could be a good or bad thing.

A commonly mentioned duty of elected officials is their “fiduciary responsibility” to “steward” taxpayer dollars. Under the current law, the ability to exercise that responsibility in the long run through investments is significantly restricted.

Again, it creates potential for very positive or very negative outcomes. The current system caps the long-term upside on what may be higher risk, higher yielding investments, but it also mitigates the downside. Some elected officials are barely treading water in their current positions. Do you want them pinning their own political careers to the whims of the market?

Maybe that’s an extreme example. The amendment gives entities more investment tools to work with, which when attempting to diversify economies while dealing with a fledgling and unpredictable one, those would be handy tools.

Campbell County Health, for example, has about \$70 million invested through the Wyo-Star state investment pool, established for local entities, where it’s been earning about 1 percent, officials said at a recent meeting. No one needs reminding of how high inflation has risen, or how minuscule a 1 percent return is for anyone, let alone anyone with \$70 million sitting around.

Still, the organization has other options at hand, but it likely behooves them to wait until the outcome of the election to decide what to do with those dollars.

This election allows the public to choose new elected officials as well as how much financial autonomy they can operate with. The latter point may be easy to gloss over when bubbling in your ballot, but it raises the stakes for all other elected positions hanging in the balance.

Dear Editor,

Chris Lacinak wrote an excellent piece in the Oct. 21 Pinedale Roundup. It deserves a followup. He makes the case that the Comprehensive Plan and the zoning regulations that execute its vision are supposed to represent a social contract “between and among Sublette County public servants and Sublette County citizens.”

As part of this contract, we the citizens of Sublette County are required to hold the county officials accountable and participate in decision-making processes, as Lacinak says. We cannot lose sight of the social contract and our part in sustaining it. That contract is essential for the building of community, preservation of aspects of Sublette County that must be preserved, and managing development to consider the public good rather than narrowly construed private interests.

Rather than being disillusioned with what many of us have witnessed in the past year, we need to elect officials who will serve the county by respecting that social contract. And we need to continue to participate in the processes open to us. It is not an option to do a lot of head shaking and become discouraged and disillusioned.

The Comprehensive Plan has been precise in providing a vision for balancing change while conserving the past and promoting the public good. It is clear that it seeks to avoid random development (which is incompatible with existing and historic

land uses). It also seeks to protect citizens from harmful or detrimental encroachment by incompatible uses. It is a recognition that what is good for the individual is not necessarily good for Sublette County. But it will only guide those county officials who choose to engage its prescriptions and its wisdom.

Change might be inevitable but we should all recognize that there is something deeply conservative embedded in our Planning Regulations and the Comprehensive Plan that undergird it. There is the recognition of the sanctity of community and historic land use that has emerged over time. In these deeply conservative overtones, the Comprehensive Plan is also forward looking because it recognizes this moment in history – a moment when we all understand that historical land use that has built solid communities and allowed for nonhuman use to flourish (like the ancient migratory paths of deer and antelope, the land use of the sage grouse, the moose, the elk, the bear etc.) might be the best option for the future of much of Sublette County.

Our planning and zoning regulations need to be shored up, not narrowly interpreted. For example, they need to more forcefully embrace and enforce the protection of migratory paths and wildlife. This should not be optional but rather unambiguously written into the zoning regulations. The economic success of Sublette County relies on this because it is our rural landscape and wildlife that make Sublette County desirable.

The state recognizes the importance of protecting migratory paths and Sublette County needs to do the same. In 2020 Gov. Gordon signed the “Mule Deer and Antelope Migration Corridor Protection” executive order. He has now expanded the protection of migratory paths on private property with the Wyoming Wildlife Habitat Memorandum of Understanding with USDA for the “long-term stewardship of multiple-use public and private lands that support migratory big game.”

Unfortunately, some county officials have chosen to ignore the wisdom, guidance, and sanctity of the social contract. Instead, they have opted for an unduly restrictive interpretation and focus on the sanctity and rights of the private property of the few and an erroneous belief that any business venture serves the public interest. The social contract is important and it goes beyond the narrow domain of property rights. It is an understanding that there is a social good that must be balanced with a narrow adherence to individual property rights. This is the reason we have zoning regulations and the need to expand those zoning regulations.

Lacinak is absolutely right – without these we become “rudderless” and our social contract is broken and it isn’t at all clear what shore we’ll wash up on.

Rollin D. Sparrowe, Daniel

THANK YOU

I would like to most graciously thank everyone that has helped me in my time of need whether financially, through donation, event or prayer. I truly thank you!

– Chris Meeks

(I would like to especially thank Melissa!)



FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

14 Lanes 2 Theaters
100 seats each

Party Package Pricing
and more information on
our website!

www.flicksnpins.com

For showtimes, call,
check online or
you can find us at

[facebook.com/flicksnpins](https://www.facebook.com/flicksnpins)

Call (307)276-4061
(during business hours)
Movie Line: (307)276-4062

Flicks N Pins

619 East 1st St. Marbleton, WY



JOY UFFORD PHOTOS

Marbleton's council and staff go all out for Halloween hosting their second annual chill cook-off, pumpkin pie contest, Haunted Hallway and creative jack-o'-lantern contest at Marbleton Town Hall on Friday, Oct. 28. Back row, from left, are Todd Brown, Jeff McCormick, Roger McMannis and Josh Rogers. Front row, from left, are Mary Flugle, Tammie Garcia, Shannon McCormick, Ashley Jones and mayor Jim Robinson.



Carissa Carter paints her ceramic mug.



MARK GORDON HAS BEEN TESTED... AND WE TRUST HIM TO LEAD WYOMING.

- ▶ *Mark Gordon cut state spending* and Wyoming's budget is leaner today than 10 years ago.
- ▶ Washington pushed to shut down our schools. *Mark Gordon pushed back, and Wyoming led the nation with the most in-person school days.*
- ▶ And while the anti-fossil fuel crowd tries to run us out of business, *Mark Gordon is fighting back and leading Wyoming to diversify our industries.*



"Wyoming, serving you in difficult times has been an honor. Jennie and I are grateful every day for all your courage and determination. That kind of grit is what keeps this great state on track. I ask for your support and your vote."

Mark Gordon

GORDON
GOVERNOR

gordonforwyoming.com

PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF MARK GORDON

Whitman pleads ‘not guilty’ to aggravated assault, battery

By Cali O'Hare, cohare@subletteexaminer.com

PINEDALE — Chett Logan Whitman, 25, pleaded not guilty to the single felony count of aggravated assault and battery for the alleged July 9 attack of Chris Meeks during his arraignment in 9th District Court Thursday. The court will schedule a jury trial in the coming days.

During the Oct. 27 arraignment, Whitman's attorney, Rives White, explained his client has an opportunity to move to Arizona for work. White worked with Sublette County Deputy Attorney and Prosecutor Clayton Melinkovich to agree to remove a bond condition that prevented Whitman from leaving Wyoming during the pendency of litigation.

Per the court's order, Whitman must first arrange a way to have random urinalyses performed at his own expense in Arizona before he is allowed to relocate. As a condition of his bond, Whitman is not allowed to possess or consume alcohol or drugs. He is also required to provide monthly status reports to the Sublette County 9th District Court.

Whitman is accused of brutally beating Meeks, of Daniel, and leaving him unconscious behind the Cowboy Bar in Pinedale.

Meeks was life-flighted to an out-of-state trauma facility and a fundraiser to offset his medical expenses took place on Oct. 23.

District demolition

Continued from **Front Page**

The project to relocate the Sublette County Public Health offices to its new location next to the Sublette Center at 380 Faler Ave. took place over the week of Oct. 17-21 and went well, Doorn reported.

Public Health reopened to the public on Monday, Oct. 24, with regular office hours.

Doorn credited DeWitt for the hard work she put into making the move possible in a short timeframe.

The SCHD will continue to check in with Public Health staff to ensure its needs are met, Doorn said. The district continues to work on expanding parking to provide off-street spaces that comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act, he added.

The Sublette Center also provided temporary offices for the SCHD billing office, Doorn said.

Hoffman, speaking on behalf of the SCHD board, thanked Dawn Walker, Sublette Center administrator, and the Sublette Center board of directors for providing the space and their help in "smoothing the transition."

Health foundation merger in the works

Following an executive session on Oct. 26, the SCHD board passed a unanimous motion to "extend an offer" to the Green River Valley Health Foundation to merge with the Sublette County Health Foundation.

The motion is "subject to certain terms and conditions" to be ironed out by the SCHD's legal team.

SCHD trustees voted to form the Sublette County Health Foundation at its May 25 meeting to support the district and critical access hospital and long-term care center project.

A governing body containing members from both the Sublette County and Green River Valley health foundations will oversee the union, Hoffman said.

SCHD and Sublette Center merger – still in the works

Attorneys for the SCHD submitted a draft of the merger agreement between the hospital district and Sublette Center with suggested revisions to the Sublette Center's attorney, Hoffman told trustees.

Attorneys from both organizations scheduled an in-person meeting for Nov. 1, said SCHD lawyer Lena Moeller. Sitting down and discussing the complicated document face to face "tends to work well," she added.

SCHD attorney Abigail Forwood told trustees the suggested revisions were "very reasonable."

"We are pushing as hard as we can to get the merger done," Forwood said.

Chartis contract

Trustees approved a contract with The Chartis Group, a health-care consulting firm,

to develop a set of policies for the district as it transitions to a critical access hospital.

The contract contains specific details regarding Chartis' scope of work, outlining how the district's fee will be used to provide services to meet to the SCHD's needs, said Mike Hunsaker, chief operating officer for the SCHD and its management partner, Star Valley Health.

The SCHD attorneys were "comfortable" with the contract, Hunsaker added.

The SCHD board passed a motion to engage with Chartis at its Sept. 28 meeting and committed to paying the company's minimum \$125,000 retainer fee.

During the Oct. 26 meeting, Hoffman reiterated the need to "build a strong set of policies" for the SCHD to fall back on.

Chartis offers services in developing up-to-date policies that meet federal and state guidelines on a variety of issues, from patient visitation rights to internal human resources.

Chartis plans to send a consultant to Sublette County in November, Hunsaker said. He described the consultant as an "experienced" nurse with an MBA who had worked well with Star Valley Health.

Additional SCHD news

- The board approved a motion to accept a contract with Partners Company, a fund control agency to "ensure adequate review" of the SCHD's expenses and invoices on the critical access hospital as required by the USDA, explained trustee Dave Bell, a member of the finance committee.

The contract is pending legal review by SCHD lawyers.

- Trustees approved spending the remaining \$250,000 of COVID-19 relief money available through the federal Health Resources and Services Administration.

The money must be spent by the end of the year, and can be used on "qualified expenses" including salaries and utilities, Bell said.

- SCHD board members and administrators, along with local and state government representatives, continue to lobby the Wyoming State Loan and Investment (SLIB) Board for a \$10-million grant for health-care infrastructure available through the federal American Rescue Plan Act.

The SLIB Board will meet to review applications and make final decisions on either Nov. 9 or Nov. 16, Doorn told board members.

- Dr. Michael Lemon, trauma medical director at Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center, conducted a review of trauma cases at the Pinedale and Marbleton-Big Piney clinics in September. Dr. Lemon was "impressed" with the "great trauma team" employed by the SCHD, said Bill Kluck, EMS director.



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

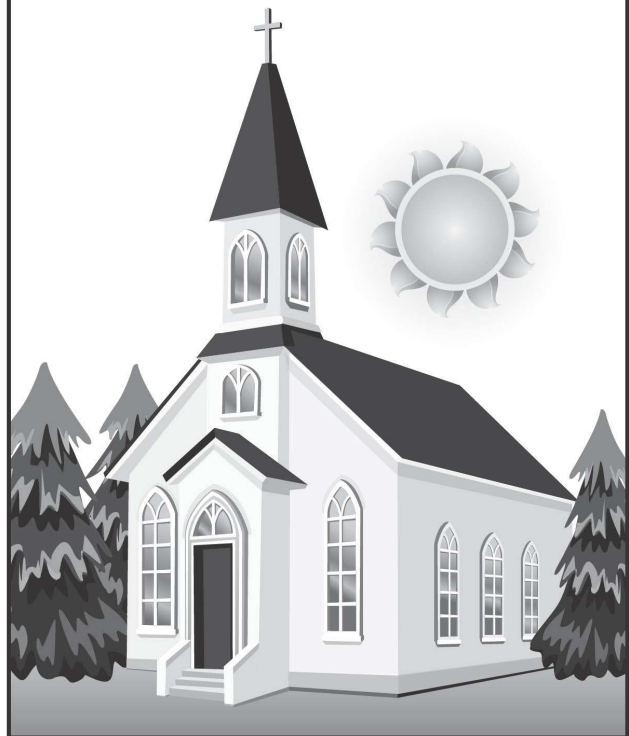
10:00 am Sunday Service
Sunday School available for children

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, at the Church
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

9:00 am - 10:00 am Sunday School Service
10:30 am - 11:30 am Sunday Worship Service
10:30 am Livestream of Worship Service



Obituary Policy

editor@subletteexaminer.com
307-367-3203

Deadline Fridays before noon. \$75 for photo and up to 600 words. Standard fee for additional words. \$20 for Facebook post of obituary.