

LOCAL
**Innovative
art show**
See **A3**

LOCAL
**A real
whodunit**
See **A10**



Pinedale Roundup

Newspaper of the Upper Green River Valley, Est. 1904

March 11, 2022

One Dollar

Deed restrictions and safeguards

County engages with SCHD in transfer agreement talks

By **Brady Oltmans**
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PINEDALE – For a portion of the Board of Sublette County Commissioners' March 1 meeting in the county courthouse, representatives from the Sublette County Hospital District, U.S. Department of Agriculture and county attorney's office joined the commissioners.

Everyone had a seat at the table as the group focused on the current transfer agreement between hospital district and county.

During the course of discussion, commissioner Doug Vickrey wanted to address rumors that he was against the hospital district. He said he was in favor of moving forward, as the county's voters decided on the ballot in the fall of 2020. But, he said, those who voted against the hospital district also deserved a voice during discussions.

Commissioner Tom Noble got U.S. Department of Agriculture state official Lorraine Werner on the phone for an update on the hospital district's loan application. Werner said she reviewed and approved the application, then moved it on to the regional office. She is now sending additional information to the regional office so that office can make its determination. The regional office can either reject the application or send it to the loan committee. That loan committee will let Werner know when an appointment is scheduled, if it gets to that point, and then the loan committee will determine if it will be funded.

Werner said she shared everyone's desire to get a determination by the end of March in order to avoid an anticipated raise in interest rates.

Werner said she's received a limited draft of the USDA agreement from deputy county attorney Clayton Melinkovich, which has been extremely helpful, she said. She's also aware of vocal support for the project from Sen. John Barrasso and Rep. Liz Cheney.

Commissioners then went into a brief executive session to discuss the focus of the transfer agreement discussions.

Dave Doorn, hospital district administrator, stepped to the table to be involved in the rest of the open meeting.

Melinkovich first checked the pulse of those at the table. They all agreed it is the

hospital district's responsibility to deliver health care to county residents without micromanagement from county officials. They also shared the philosophy that former county entities that delivered health care would continue to deliver health care to Sublette County residents while being operated by the hospital district.

Talks started with the Sublette Center. The Sublette Center and Sublette County Hospital District have an agreement to merge upon approval of the USDA loan for a critical access hospital. Should the merger take place, Melinkovich asked commissioners if they wanted to safeguard health-care services in that building.

Commissioner Sam White asked if the SCHD had plans for the building. Doorn said the district would like to keep the heritage end of the building intact. Doorn said district officials have discussed fixing drainage issues so the building could be used for employee housing or assisted living, but no decision has been made.

White said he'd like to see first right of refusal, should the SCHD decide to sell the building, hypothetically. Commissioner Noble agreed. Doorn said that wouldn't be an issue at all.

Melinkovich said that would be an easy solution. He suggested building a traditional option on the purchase and asked commissioners what percentage of fair market value they'd like built into the contract. The board was OK with 80 percent of fair market value in the event the SCHD would want to sell the building. Future boards would also have the right to waive that.

Commissioner Doug Vickrey said he looked up the articles of incorporation from 1978 and felt the group of nine – only one of which is still living – around at its creation wanted the assets to revert back to the county. Vickrey said Melinkovich has convinced him on the legality of this case. Vickrey then said his stance was "less on the legal side and more moral."

He reiterated he wanted the county to be the recipient to make sure the county maintained facilities for its elder citizens.

Melinkovich reiterated the articles of incorporation were stated in the way they were in 1978 because those involved knew

See 'COMMISSIONERS' on page **A7**

The big haul



MINDI CRABB PHOTO

Zeke Thomas holds up the fish he caught on Saturday, a 30-inch, 8.6-pound beauty, in the annual Big Fish Derby on frozen Fremont Lake. Thomas won the youth division in both days of the competition. More coverage of the Big Fish Derby can be found inside on Page 11.

New B-T District Rangers announced

SUBLETTE COUNTY – The Bridger-Teton National Forest announced two new district rangers within the county and an additional new ranger for the Blackrock District in Teton County.

Ivan Geroy is the new Pinedale District Ranger and will be responsible for its 400,000 acres, as well as the 430,000 acres in the Bridger Wilderness. Geroy most recently spent four years as a test program manager for the Department of Defense's Cold Region Test Center in Delta Junction, Alaska.

"I came to the Bridger-Teton because of the opportunity to lead in an agency where I could be part of the management of natural resources in such an amazing place," Geroy said.

He's spent five years working on submarines in the U.S. Navy and has experience as a district hydrologist in both San Juan and Rio Grande national forests. He holds a Bachelor of Science in fisheries and wildlife management from Oregon State University and a Master of Science in civil engineering and water resources from Boise State University.

Greggory Brooks will oversee the

Big Piney Ranger District and its entire 400,000 acres. He was most recently the Forest Wildlife and Ecology Program manager at Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia for the past two years.

Brooks holds a degree in wildlife sciences and has been working in natural resources for 14 years, including appointments within the Bureau of Land Management, the Department of Defense with positions in wildlife biology, National Environmental Policy Act Management, environmental inspector, wild pig researcher and various fire positions.

"It is interesting how life turns out," he said. "When I was in college the plan was always to head for Wyoming. I wanted to be a hunting and fishing guide, then a wildlife biologist. Now here I am working on this beautiful forest as a district ranger with folks that care and are passionate about what they are doing."

Jason Wilmost is the new Blackrock District Ranger based in Moran. He has lived in Jackson since 2003 and has worked as a wildlife biologist on the Bridger-Teton Forest for seven years.

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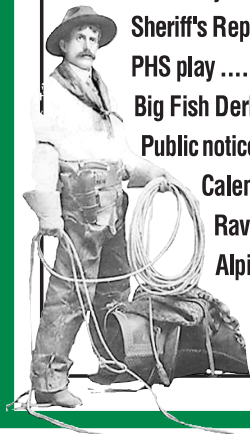


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Official newspaper of Sublette County and the town of Pinedale.

THE ROUNDUP, ROUNDED UP

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Weekly Weather Forecast

Pinedale, Wyoming • March 11 - March 16

Today

Sunrise: 6:39 a.m. **Sunset:** 6:21 p.m.

High: **28°** Low: **11°**

RealFeel® 20° 3°

Day: Cold with times of clouds and sun.

Night: Partly cloudy.



Saturday

Not as colds with some sun.

High: **35°**
Low: **14°**



Sunday

A little snow at times.

High: **37°**
Low: **14°**



Monday

Snow or flurries at times

High: **39°**
Low: **17°**



Tuesday

Overcast.

High: **43°**
Low: **19°**



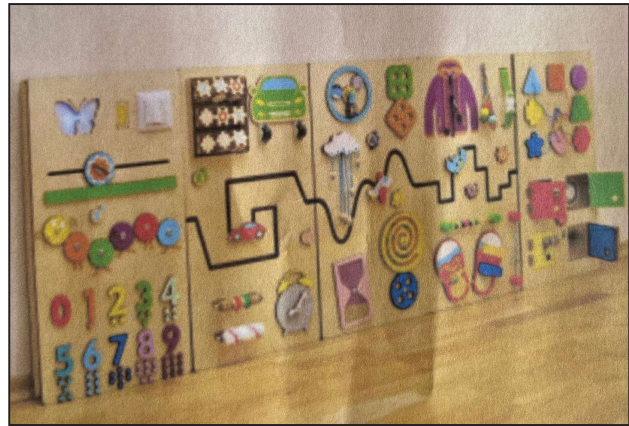
Wednesday

An a.m. snow shower possible.

High: **38°**
Low: **13°**



Investing in youth development



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is the new Sensory Panel Wall donated to the Sublette County School District No. 1 Early Childhood STEAM program. Pinedale Lions Club President Max Lockett presented a check for \$1,078 to early childhood liaison Tamara Currah and instructor Jenna Mergl to fund the wall. The Sensory Panel Wall increases concentration, focuses attention, increases cognitive development, creativity and problem-solving skills, stimulates senses, and improves coordination and motor development in students.

Gordon announces new position to lead energy development

WYOMING – Gov. Mark Gordon announced late last week that his office and the Wyoming Legislature will jointly fund an energy development manager position, who will work with companies, policymakers and lawmakers.

Whoever is hired to fill that position will be tasked with putting Wyoming on the forefront of new energy.

“We have seen added interest from the private sector in bringing large-scale projects to Wyoming. These are multi-billion dollar investments and our goal is to leverage those so we can create the most Wyoming jobs and expand sectors of the economy through better coordination,” Gov. Gordon said in a statement. “Our energy partners are bringing innovative, new ideas to the table. We need to be ready to support them in any way we can.”

According to information released by the governor’s office, the position is meant to be a conduit for companies, state agencies and policymakers. Whoever is hired in the position will also be tasked with coordinating with the Wyoming Energy Authority, Wyoming Business Council and University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources and will monitor trends in the sector, help eliminate overlap with existing efforts and identify helpful policy changes.

The governor’s office said the position will be funded and supported by one-time federal dollars.

One of the key legislators responsible for the partnership, Rep. Don Burkhart, said it was necessary to create such a position because of the new opportunities in energy and technology industries.

“We want to work closely with the governor’s office to make sure we are well positioned to adjust laws or create new ones for new industries and technologies if needed,” Burkhart said. “We know companies are shopping for a home and we want that home to be in Wyoming.”

While also maintaining experience in private sector management, the position will be tasked with focusing on energy sectors like coal and carbon capture, oil and gas, nuclear energy and uranium, rare Earth minerals, hydrogen and renewables.

Tag donation bill advances

WYOMING — A popular bill would give hunters who are unsuccessful in acquiring a tag in limited quota draws the option of donating application fees back to the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust and/or to the Game and Fish Department to be used for sportsperson access projects and wildlife crossings.

Unsuccessful applicants could choose all or portions of the application fee to be donated and where donations would go.

Application fee refunds are a substantial amount of money, Wyoming Game and Fish Department Director Brian Nesvik said during a Senate Travel, Recreation, Wildlife & Cultural Resources Meeting last week.

“The three-year average that we refund back (to unsuccessful applicants) is \$47 million per year,” he said.

Nobody expects that all unsuccessful hunters will donate all or portions of their application fees, but “even a small percentage of folks who choose to do this could mean a significant source of revenue” to the agencies, Nesvik said.

The bill adds one more way for hunters to donate back to the agencies, similar to previous efforts including adding a donation option for access when applying for tags and licenses or buying the Wyoming Conservation license plate, which funds fencing and over- and under-passes to help decrease vehicle collisions with wildlife.

There are more than 6,000 vehicle/wildlife collisions per year in the state.

“These little ways (to increase donations) have added up to some fairly substantial dollars,” said Rep. Albert Sommers, R-Pinedale.

The bill previously passed the House with a 47-12 vote.

Annual Sunny Korfanta race is Sunday

PINEDALE – With the recent snowfall padding the mountains, White Pine Ski Resort is putting the annual Sunny Korfanta Race back on the calendar for Sunday, March 13.

Entry fees are only \$5 for skiers and boarders of all ages, who are strongly encouraged to dress in costumes.

Registration and bib pickups will take place from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Lifts open to the public at 9 a.m. Lift tickets will be sold separately. The course will be inspected at 12:30 p.m. and competition begins at 1 p.m. Awards will follow a half-hour after the race’s completion or 3 p.m. outside at the base of the ski hill.

Age categories cover ski kids from under 5 to over 60. Register in advance or on race day at White Pine headquarters or online at <https://whitepinewyoming.com>.



Mixed-media artist Georgia Roswell stands next to the moody 'Darkening Skies, Guiding Lights' at her March 3 reception.



The full view of thermal features beside a river in 'Hot Yellowstone #126.' See a closeup with the Calendar Corral.



Wyoming's huge sky gains perspective by small turbines in 'Thunderhead off Happy Jack Road.'

'Layer, Fold, Unfold'

By Joy Ufford
jufford@pinedaleroundup.com

PINEDALE – What are the true colors of twilight and storm? Of minerals and mountains?

Cheyenne artist Georgia Roswell explores them with the unlimited context and palette of thrift-store fabrics she has layered, rolled and compressed into mesmerizing pieces that shift, stream and swirl.

These "paintings" in her show "Layer, Fold, Unfold" – without a single brushstroke – captured everyone's attention at Roswell's March 3 reception at Mystery Print Gallery in Pinedale.

Roswell happily described how she gathers discarded clothing and fabrics of all shades and textures, then experiments with color and movement to bring a new perspective to Wyoming skies, storm clouds and even layers of sedimentary rock.

"Reclaiming and transforming used clothing, household textiles and other bits and pieces into artwork extends and adds to their life story," Roswell explained.

Because most of our fabrics and clothing are made elsewhere in the world, she added, each of her pieces holds extra meaning for her.

She uses a rotary cutter to cut strips of different widths depending on her vision for each piece, which she calls "Stories of Wyoming Through Fabric." Some are inspired by road trips, almost aerial views or a town barely visible behind trees.

Trips to Yellowstone and around the state result in images that capture movement of a river next to a thermal feature, the temperament of a sky against a season and the curious little sparkles of air.

"A full-blown series could develop from a book I'm reading or a fossil I purchased at the local gem and mineral show. Maybe it's the rust patterns on a car or nature discovered on a walk."

She also makes use of old frames and boxes to divide and reveal smaller pieces, many of them landscapes.

Roswell brought pieces from several of her creative series she shares at workshops and her downtown Cheyenne art studio and gallery, Blue Door Arts. To learn more, visit georgiaroswell.com.

"Layer, Fold, Unfold" is on display through April 30 at David Klarén's Mystery Print Gallery & Frame, 221 S. Sublette Ave., in Pinedale. Mystery Print is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 1-6 p.m.



What hints at almost hidden houses among trees on the horizon is actually a zipper.

Street Talk

By Terry Allen

What do you think when you turn on your TV and the reporter or news personality says, "I think..." "I believe..." "In my opinion..." "Unnamed sources say..." etc?



I don't know what's true or false. I think most of it is a show, anymore.

Brock McLain, Big Piney



I think they have an agenda. I think they are so scared they might actually say something that will cost them their jobs if they say the truth.

Vickie Archambault, Big Piney



Lies, lots of lies. I don't want to hear their opinions. I want the facts. I can make up my own mind.

Jager Patton, Montana



I turn it off because I just don't believe it.

Hank Ruland, Pinedale



I think people shouldn't trust that information. Opinion-based reporting is biased by nature.

Joanne Blair, Daniel

COMMENTARY

Legislative Updates – March 7

From Rep. Albert Sommers, House District No. 20

Hello Sublette County, this is Albert Sommers reporting to you from Cheyenne on March 7. Today, the House heard bills on second reading, had final vote on bills in third reading, and voted on bills in Committee of the Whole. This is the last day bills can be reported out of standing committees.

Today there was a motion to suspend the rules and pull a bill out of the speaker's desk, which required a two-thirds majority to pass. When we came together at the beginning of the session, we adopted rules and a calendar that were agreed to by both the House and the Senate. The Senate went past the deadline for last day of Committee of the Whole in the body of origin, and eventually sent three bills to the House.

Speaker Barlow explained his reasoning for not wanting to introduce these bills, attributing his decision to the process and equitability. For him, it is not just an issue of fairness, rather an issue of equal treatment of all members' bills. Speaker Barlow asked

that we defeat this motion, not due to the merit of this bill, but in protecting the institutional process. I voted against the motion, and the late bills will not proceed.

SF0010 – Predator control, passed on second reading. This bill requires the Department of Agriculture to coordinate and contract predator control efforts among agencies and counties. The bill allows each predator management district board to work through the Department of Ag to coordinate predator control, including contracting for predator control services.

After extensive discussion, SF0102 – Second Amendment Protection Act, passed the Committee of the Whole, with my support.



This bill provides that the state and political subdivisions of this state are prohibited from using any personnel or funds appropriated by the Wyoming Legislature or any other source of funds that originated within the state of Wyoming to enforce any unconstitutional act, law, treaty, executive order, rule or regulation of the United States government that infringes on or impedes the free exercise of individual rights guaranteed under the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

SF0008 – Weed and Pest, reorganization, also passed the Committee of the Whole today, with my support. This bill holds that Weed and Pest control on all state lands shall be managed by the Department of Agriculture. The Department of Agriculture shall promote any rules or regulations necessary to implement this act. This bill requires that state lands officers coordinate through the Department of Agriculture. The Department of Agriculture is better equipped

to access grant money and is better suited for this responsibility.

SF0011 – Display of state flag, passed the Committee of the Whole, with my support. This bill updates the statute that previously prohibited the display of our historical Wyoming flag. In 1917 Verna Keyes designed the state flag and won a contest from the Wyoming chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution. Wyoming was one of the few states to not have a flag at that time. The flag's design has since been altered. In lieu of any other reward, the state gave one of the six original flags to Verna on the condition that it never be displayed outside her home. The flags have since been displayed in libraries and museums unknowingly in violation of this state statute. This bill would change this statute and allow the flag to be displayed in state, county, or municipal buildings.

I can be reached at albert@albertsommers.com with questions and comments.

Barrasso, Lummis vote for supporting post offices

WYOMING – U.S. Sens. John Barrasso and Cynthia Lummis released statements earlier this week supporting bipartisan postal reform legislation.

The Postal Service Reform Act of 2022 passed in the Senate by a 79 to 19 vote on Tuesday.

"While this reform bill is far from perfect, it gives USPS the resources it needs to keep our post offices open and operating at full speed," Sen. Barrasso said.

Sen. Lummis also said it's far from perfect but said it was the better alternative to a bailout.

"People across Wyoming, especially our most rural residents, rely on the postal service for everyday necessities, and I'm confident that this bill will address some of the challenges they have been facing, particularly in terms of reliability and speed of service," Sen. Lummis said.

Key provisions in the bill include: Required six-day delivery, elimination of retiree health-care pre-funding mandate, non-postal services like hunting and fishing licenses, rural newspaper sustainability and requiring an integrated network for parcel and package delivery.

SCHD releases new survey

The Sublette County Hospital District is releasing a "Community Health Needs Assessment Survey." This is a way to gauge what Sublette County residents would like to see for health care in their community.

If you are willing to participate, please take the survey on our website: <https://www.sublettehospitaldistrict.org/>.

The survey takes about 10 minutes. As a thank you for your time, you can be entered to win one of three \$100 gift cards. We will purchase a gift card to the winner's business of choice. Paper surveys will be available at both clinics, both senior centers and both libraries soon.

Finally, we are going to have a regular weekly column in the local news to be sure the community feels up to date on news about the hospital. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to our public relations director Kari DeWitt at 307-231-3210 or kdwitt@sublettehealthcare.com.

Rep. Sommers' Budget Report

From Rep. Albert Sommers, House District No. 20

Hello Sublette County, this is Albert Sommers writing to you from Cheyenne on March 9, 2022, Day 18 of the 66th Budget Session. This special budget report outlines a few key provisions from the final budget bill, which passed the Legislature on Monday, March 8, and has moved to the governor's desk.

We took a balanced, conservative approach with the 2023-2024 budget. The final budget bill of approximately \$2.645 billion in traditional state funds appropriated for spending is dollar-for-dollar 10 percent lower than a full decade ago – and that's not considering inflation. Funding for education is essentially flat for school year 2022 and school year 2023.

I have heard some interest in the following few budget amendments, which all made it into the final budget bill that is before Gov. Gordon:

- The Legislature appropriated \$3 million in General Funds to the Department of Revenue to fund the state's Property Tax Refund Program. Separately, the Legislature adopted a bill (SF 19) which would allow counties to develop programs that could refund up to half of residents' prior year tax bills.

- The Legislature appropriated \$7.5 million in General Funds to the Community College Commission to address funding shortfalls for the state's community colleges.

- The Legislature appropriated \$75 million in General Funds to the Governor's Office to serve as a required state match to federal funds to qualify for federal infrastructure funds to repair roads, airports, bridges and dams and build out broadband, as well as provide for other infrastructure needs in Wyoming towns and counties.

- The Legislature appropriated \$478,654 in General Funds to the Department of Health's Aging Division to match up to \$7 million in federal funds. The Aging Division supports services for older adults and disabled individuals in Wyoming communities. It also operates three community facilities: the Wyoming Pioneer Home in Thermopolis, the Wyoming Retirement Center in Basin, and the Veterans' Home of Wyoming in Buffalo. These funds would benefit senior citizen centers across the state for such things as nutritional services.

- The Legislature appropriated \$2.25 million in General Funds for the stabilization, reform and expansion of community juvenile services boards. These boards identify and work with children

who are at risk of entering the juvenile court system, and seek to prevent juvenile delinquency. Funding for the board was reduced originally due to state budget cuts in 2020.

- The Legislature will hold back \$250,000 in General Funds to the University of Wyoming and the Business Council until the Shop Wyoming website and its credit card companies allow for the sale of firearms on this state-funded website that highlights Wyoming-made products.

- The Legislature appropriated \$9.3 million in other funds to retain the External Cost Adjustment to address rising costs for energy and educational materials for education funding.

- The Legislature appropriated \$75 million to the Permanent Wyoming Mineral Trust Fund Reserve Account and \$75 million to the Common School Permanent Land Fund.

- The Legislature added \$10.8 million in General Fund dollars to increase the employee compensation program put forth by the governor for the Executive Branch, University of Wyoming, community colleges and Judicial Branch.

The following budget amendments did not pass muster with the conference committee and did not make it into the budget bill:

- A provision to add a total of \$10 million in General Funds for the State Parks and Cultural Resources Department and the Department of Transportation to develop trail systems in Wyoming towns and counties.

Next steps

Before any bill passed by the Legislature becomes law, it must be presented to the governor. If he approves the bill, he signs it. If he disapproves it, he returns it to the body of origin with his objections. With the budget, the governor has line-item veto authority, which allows him to send back specific budget items instead of the whole bill.

If both bodies then wish to pass the bill again, it may be passed over the governor's veto by a vote of two-thirds of the members elected to each body.

If any bill sent to the governor is not signed by him and is not returned within three days (Sundays excepted), it becomes law without his signature.

The Legislature awaits further action by the governor.

I can be reached at albert@albertsommers.com with questions or comments.

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Tuesday, March 22, 2022 1:00 p.m.

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COMMENTARY

We live in a crazy world, in case you hadn't noticed



LOCAL COMMENTARY
TRENA EIDEN

There are 7 billion people on the planet but only 2.5 billion have access to a toilet. Apparently, they do have access to toilet paper and use it at the rate of 34 million rolls a day. Now, of the 7 billion people, 6 billion have cell phones. Pooping in the woods is not important, but tracking that Amazon order obviously is. Side note – toilets have been around for centuries, whereas cell phones only 30 years, yet cell phones carry 10 times more bacteria than toilet seats. In three decades, we couldn't come up with a tiny little cell phone toilet brush?

Over 208 million copies of the IKEA catalog are printed each year, which surpasses the Bible. That's bizarre because God says, "You can talk to me anytime and come to me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." IKEA says, "We aren't interested in simplifying your life. We want you to purchase a dresser, lug it up three flights, make a strong yet futile attempt at assembly, then tussle with your spouse about it for the rest of the weekend. By the way, wandering our store is a 9-mile trip. We'll

high-five you if you find the exit."

Palaeontologists discovered footprints from a three-toed dinosaur and were amazed to note that they reached speeds over 27 mph. I was a little ho-hum. If there'd been toddler-sized prints in front of the big ones, we'd have deduced that Mother was running after Junior for swiping parsnips from Mr. McGregor's Garden. Now that would have amazed us.

Somebody figured out that a gallon of gasoline contains 31,000 calories. We ingest about 2,500 calories a day, so drinking a gallon of gas would be 15 days of calories. We know we can't imbibe gasoline – if for no other reason than all the 10-year-old boys would be holding Bics to each other's backsides all day long. On the subject of fire, a great way to light one is to use a bag of chips, although at nearly \$5 bucks for 10 ounces it's an expensive igniter. At current food prices, it'd just be cheaper to give a fourth-grader a mug of gasoline.

We know bubble wrap as packing material, an item IBM began using in 1960 to ship data processors but, in 1957, two engineers

actually developed bubble wrap as wallpaper. That didn't last long – too many children were being murdered by their mothers. I made that last part up.

In 1897, cotton candy was invented by a dentist. Apparently conflict of interest wasn't a big deal back then.

Americans are the biggest consumers of coffee, drinking 400 million cups per day. This isn't to be confused with airline coffee, which isn't truly coffee, according to consumer tastebuds. Due to dryness and low air pressure on a plane, taste is reduced by 30 percent. I'm doubting the airline coffee was ever 30-percent better. I could be wrong, but I think it's made on a cold day in January in a big vat in Norfolk, Virginia, using leftover grounds from the naval base. It's then doled out throughout the year, thinking people won't notice the horrible flavor since their taste buds are plane damaged. I noticed, but only because my spoon stood at attention in the Styrofoam cup. I think it saluted me, which would be appropriate since it came from the Navy, and I saw a submarine once.

In the 19th century, Britain marketed opium for babies under the name, "Quietness." We sure could've used that, but no, we had to settle for cough syrup.

On the list of "things we aren't sure we need to know," married men change their underwear twice as often as single men. This is not a head-scratcher. Married men have wives who count the skivvies going into the washer and I for one would want to know why there isn't a pair for every day of the week. Really, Gar could be changing on Sunday then daily throwing a clean pair in the laundry hamper knowing I'm clueless – about a lot.

Donald Duck comics are banned in Finland because he doesn't wear pants. Maybe Mrs. Duck doesn't like laundry.

The Great Wall of China is 5,400 miles long. With the amount of Nutella sold yearly, a jar every 2.5 seconds, we could cover this wall eight times, except we can't because I'd be forced to arm-wrestle some Chinese lady for her stash. And I would. I never kid about money or Nutella.

Trena Eiden trena@htomail.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Pine Ridge Reservation

Most of you might know that last December, Tim O'Hara and I took a 15-foot trailer crammed full of donations to southwest South Dakota to the Oglala Lakota Reservation, better known as Pine Ridge. This is one of the poorest reservations and there are reasons why. They have no minerals and no gambling casinos for extra income. They are isolated, being about 80 miles north of Chadron, Nebraska, and maybe the same distance south of Rapid City. Practically, no one would just drive through on their travels.

Anyway, the donations were a big hit and they still talk about it as coming from Wyoming. In visiting with Alice, the lady we work with, they are presently in a tough situation. Their needs are great! Like all areas, there are some people doing better than others. She told me that when they delivered a portion of our goods last December to the "Potato Town" that most of the residents came out in the snow to get their share without shoes. So she did a shoe drive and took care of the problem!

They are 85-percent unemployed, have a bad alcohol and drug problem, and most of their kids drop out of school eventually. They have no hope. There are about 40,000 on the reservation and some homes have two or three families. If the world will hold together long enough, we are planning on going again the weekend of the 26th of March with at least two trailers full. We would load up on March 24 and 25 at our shop.

This time the emphasis will be on things that might help them sustain themselves or make them more comfortable: Power tools, garden tools, seeds, hoses, sewing machines, propane barbecues, bedding, good mattresses, toys and shoes, etc. Not much in clothes this time. Thanks to our food basket and others, we are gathering up several bikes that are in good shape. Last time bikes and saddles were a big hit. I'm thinking big here but maybe 10 or so ranches would consider donating one healthy cow piece or maybe a decent horse so the teenage boys and girls could have hope of a better life. There are many ways to help!

With Ukraine and the world situation, this may well be the last time we can donate from such a great distance. It is over 1,100 miles round trip. Some of any cash donations will be used to help with the gas bill, as pulling a trailer we can only get about 10 miles per gallon. Most of the cash though will go for food, as that is what they need the most. Alice specifically asked for food.

Bill Johnson,
Pinedale

Sen. Baldwin's Session Update

By Sen. Fred Baldwin

As we near the finish line of the 2022 Legislative Budget Session there is still plenty of work to do as we head into the last week.

The legislative session is always busy, especially during a budget year, but this year we had to work through a few additional topics including redistricting and allocating the one-time American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars. There were also a slate of committee and individual bills to address the most pressing issues.

During the third week the Senate passed the redistricting bill – HB100. Every 10 years the State is required to redraw the state's legislative districts based on population changes. The bill originated in the House starting with the Joint Corporations, Elections & Political Subdivisions committee bill. The interim committee worked for months, meeting with the public and working with county clerks to get a draft bill ready.

The House debated the bill and passed it with a few amendments during the first week of Session. That bill version expanded representation in the House by three members – two in the House and one in the Senate, taking the House to 62 members and the Senate to 31. After hearing and working the House bill, the Senate made additional amendments, the most notable was keeping each body at the same number of members, 60 in the House and 30 in the Senate.

The bill went back to the House but failed the concurrence vote on Monday. A conference committee made up of three representatives and three senators are meeting to address the major differences between the two versions and will bring a new map for each chamber to vote on.

In addition to working redistricting, we have been hard at work with the budget. We entered this Session with Wyoming's revenue picture largely more optimistic than initially projected due to higher oil and gas prices with the Consensus Revenue Estimating

Group (CREG)'s January forecast exceeding previous estimates by \$248.1 million. However, even with the optimistic outlook we worked to keep spending controlled and the budget balanced.

The Senate and House have passed their own versions of the budget bills and after robust discussions on the Senate floor about what should and shouldn't be in this \$2.8-billion budget we ended with a budget that is dollar-for-dollar 10 percent lower than a full decade ago – and that's not considering inflation. The budget bill is now on the governor's desk for his signature.

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars have removed some of the budget pressures we are feeling as a state. The more than \$300 million in ARPA dollars are a one-time opportunity to resolve the immediate effects of the pandemic in a way that helps Wyoming invest in its future.

Funding under these measures included a large focus on health care, broadband projects, and local government projects that meet the federal requirements. Specific initiatives include boosts to health care and mental health in our state, including avenues to increase our health care workforce with more robust recruitment and retention opportunities. I brought an amendment for \$2 million for the Wyoming Department of Health to fund 24-hour services for a suicide hotline. The amendment passed. ARPA funds are also being put toward making the firefighters' pension plan whole, which was slated to go bankrupt in five years. The bill has passed both the Senate and the House and awaits Gov. Gordon's signature.

As we wrap up this legislative session, I welcome your thoughts and feedback as we head into the interim and prepare for the next session. Please contact me at Fred.Baldwin@wyoleg.gov. I value your input and count on it when making the decisions as your senator.

Pinedale Roundup

P. O. Box 100, Pinedale, WY 82941
email: editor@pinedaleroundup.com
(307) 367-2123

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OBITUARIES

Donna 'Sue' Hoefer July 10, 1942 – March 3, 2022

Sue Hoefer, 79, of Marbleton, Wyo., passed away on March 3, 2022, at her home with her loving family by her side.

Sue was born on July 10, 1942, to Jack and Oleta Morgan in Great Bend, Kan.

Her family moved to Aztec, N.M., where Sue met and married her husband Bob Hoefer. The couple moved to Big Piney, Wyo., in 1960 where they raised their three children: Debbie, Chris and Robin.

She enjoyed traveling, scrapbooking, playing bridge and supporting her children and grandchildren in all of their activities. She was an active member of the community. She served the Town of Marbleton for over 30 years as both a town council member and as mayor.

Sue will be greatly missed by her husband, Bob; children Debbie (Mike Camis), Chris and Robin (Brian Wilcox); grandchildren, Alex (Dusty Dinnel), Aaron (Alyssa Camis), David (Rachel Wilcox) and John; and great-grandchildren Maddox, Jaxson and Edith.

A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, April 9, 2022, at the Southwest Sublette County Pioneers Senior Center in Marbleton.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to the American Kidney Fund.

Condolences can be offered at covillfuneralhome.com.



Steve Fisher April 13, 1948 – March 1, 2022

Steven (Steve) L. Fisher, 73, of Big Piney, Wyo., passed away on March 1, 2022, in Laramie, Wyo., with the support and love of his family after a courageous battle with lung cancer.

Steve was born on April 13, 1948, to Kenneth J. Fisher and Illa Anderson Fisher in Idaho Falls, Idaho. From an early age, Steve had an adventurous spirit and a passion for the outdoors.

Growing up in Rigby, Idaho, he spent his days with his brothers, Dennis and Richard, and sister, Lynda, riding bikes, sleeping under the stars, swimming in the canal and raiding the neighbors' apple trees and gardens. He always had a love for animals and enjoyed raising rabbits and pigeons. Hunting and fishing were to become his lifelong passions.

Steve graduated from Rigby High School (Rigby, Idaho) in 1966, and in 1969 he met Sharie Woolf. A short six months later, they married and started a family together. They were blessed with five children, Jennifer, Shanna, Jory, Joanna and Steven.

In 1972, Steve and Sharie moved to Pinedale, Wyo., where Steve worked as an electrician. In 1977, they moved to Big Piney, Wyo., where he continued to work as an electrician and earn his Journeyman's license. Eventually, he began a career with ExxonMobil working as a lease operator. Steve was never afraid of hard work and, when he retired in 2010, he worked as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) with Sublette County Rural Health Care District Emergency Medical Services (Sublette EMS). He treasured the lasting friendships he found with his co-workers at both ExxonMobil and Sublette EMS.

Steve was a loving and supportive father who enjoyed family adventures in the mountains surrounding Big Piney. Today his legacy lives on as his children and grandchildren continue to share his love of the outdoors.

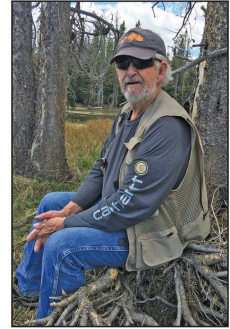
Even though Steve and Sharie divorced in 1990, they were committed to putting the family first and remained very close friends. Throughout his illness, Sharie served as a loving caregiver and dedicated much of her time to supporting and caring for Steve.

Steve's love for the community of Big Piney cannot be overstated and he was humbled by the commitment and support of his many friends throughout his illness.

Steve is survived by his daughters, Shanna (Wes) McMullen, Joanna (Woody) Lewis and sons, Jory Fisher and Steven Fisher; grandchildren Justis Fisher (Jory), Ashlynn and Caleb Petersen (Jennifer), Dallin Peterson (Jennifer), Raleigh, Alex, and Hunter Fisher (Joanna), and Dylan and Tatum McMullen (Shanna); brothers Dennis (Cheryl) Fisher and Richard (Lori) Fisher, sister Lynda Fisher (Kim Petersen) and ex-wife Sharie Clark (Roger).

Steve was preceded in death by his daughter, Jennifer Peterson, son-in-law, Doug Peterson, grandparents and parents.

A celebration of life for Steven L. Fisher will be held in Big Piney in the summer of 2022. In lieu of flowers, please donate in his memory and to his name at the IMH Cancer Center of Laramie at 255 N 30th St, Laramie, Wyo., 82070.



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Pastor Ted York

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Morning worship.....11 a.m.

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Sunday Service.....9 a.m.

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512 N. Tyler, Pinedale

Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church
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Mass Schedule

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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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-Jesus Christ

Pinedale Bible Church

Sunday School Service
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Sunday Worship Service
10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Livestream of worship service
10:30 a.m.

Come visit us at
219 Industrial Site Rd. • 367-4168
Pastor Jim Silvey

James Arthur Oct. 29, 1953 – March 2, 2022

James Robbin Arthur, 68, passed away Wednesday, March 2, 2022, at his home in Pinedale, Wyo.

Rob was born Oct. 29, 1953, in Evanston, Wyo.; the son of James Hyrum and Flossie Mae (Robbins) Arthur.

He graduated from Mountain View High School in 1972. Rob spent many years working with his dad fencing, developing springs, installing water troughs, cutting timber, time at the sawmill and on oil rigs or a roustabout crew.

Robbin Arthur enlisted through the buddy system in 1976 with his friend Tim and served in the United States Navy from 1976-1980. He was stationed on Midway Islands and later boarded the U.S.S. Mount Vernon serving in the Western Pacific. This ship was used as a landing ship dock and travel transport. While serving, Rob worked as a pipe fitter, welder, fire fighter, as well as fixing plumbing damage and doing radiation detection.

Rob began working again with his dad at Noble Drilling after returning home from the Navy. This is where he met the love of his life. He married Jeannie, on Feb. 23, 1982, in Fort Bridger, Wyo. Jeannie was cook for the company and Rob beamed, "She was beautiful the day I met her and still just as beautiful the day she died."

Rob and Jeannie spent time in Mountain View, Pinedale and Thermopolis before relocating to Winnemucca and, eventually Elko, Nev. Rob worked construction for 32 years. Twenty-five of those for Newmont before retiring and returning to Pinedale, Wyo. in 2018.

Rob enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. He loved woodworking and welding projects that he did with his daughters and sons-in-law, restoring old trucks and wandering the desert looking for Native American artifacts. He was a good father to his stepchildren and treated them as his own. He was a very loving grandfather and supported all their endeavors. He never missed a birthday or graduation. His greatest joy was spending many camping and fishing trips with his great grandkids.

Robbin is survived by his sisters, Kathy Staley of Fort Bridger, Wyo., Nancy Condos, Jackie Brooks, Kristie Gines and Peggy Arthur, all of Lyman, Wyo., his stepchildren, Cindy (Steve) Teeple and Karla Barrette (Larry Gillian) of Pinedale, Wyo., Laurie (Stan) Sellar of Thermopolis, Wyo., David (Cheryl) Price of Hotchkiss, Colo., eight grandchildren, and numerous great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins.

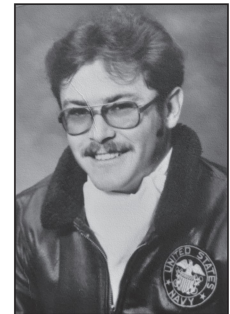
Mr. Arthur was preceded in death by his wife, Jeannie (Layland) Arthur, one sister, Vickie Arthur, and his parents.

Celebration of life will be conducted at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 12, 2022, at the American Legion Hall, 100 County Road 224, Fort Bridger, Wyo. Auxiliary luncheon to follow.

Military Graveside Services and Interment will be at Pinedale Cemetery, Monday, March 14, 2022, at 11 a.m., 73 Fremont Lake Road. Auxiliary luncheon to follow at VFW 4801, 1033 W. Pine St., Pinedale, Wyo.

The family respectfully requests donations be made in Robb's memory to American Legion Post 36 in Fort Bridger, Wyo. or the VFW 4801 in Pinedale, Wyo.

Condolences may be left at www.covillfuneralhome.com



Obituary Policy

Email: editor@pinedaleroundup.com
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Deadline Wednesday before noon. Flat fee includes photo \$75.
\$20 for Facebook post of obituary

LUCK OF THE IRISH

With St. Patrick's Day just around the corner on March 17, local artist Mary Bluemel got in the spirit and shared her illustration for the holiday with the Roundup.



COURTESY ART

COMMISSIONERS

Continued from 1A

Sublette County, as an entity, would be around, he said.

"One thing I will point out, whether that provision exists or not, when nonprofit corporations are developed there has to be a resulting recipient of assets," Melinkovich said. "Because of the nonprofit nature of what is actually happening. So a lot of nonprofits will say, in the event all hell breaks loose, a lot of times the defacto recipient, in case nothing else can be done, is a county."

Doom said the agreement between Sublette County Hospital District and Sublette Center is all set but is conditional on loan approval for a critical access hospital by the USDA.

Melinkovich then brought up the clinics and ambulance barns. By state statute, Sublette County is the ultimate receiver of all SCHD assets. In the event the hospital district failed and was forced to sell assets, the county would hold immediate rights. With that in mind, Commissioner White said he wanted to let the SCHD operate with those assets.

"I think the voters voted to put a hospital district in charge of health care in Sublette County and I say let them try. Let them have it," White said. "Let the hospital district suffer the wrath of the voters just like we have to, at that point. For me, it's theirs until they prove they can't run it and it ends up back in our lap through state statutes."

Bousman concurred with White. Noble said they'd made three motions on this very topic and still supports it.

Vickrey then said there are a lot of people who are worried about the Marbleton Clinic going away and the hospital district not being a viable entity. He wanted to add the Marbleton Clinic to the hospital district after it had shown five years of profitability.

"I'm not in to just give everything," he said. "I don't think it's too bad to hold a little condition here are there, a little lever, if you will, in case things fall apart and we still have an opportunity to save part of what this county is made of."

Commissioner Dave Stephens asked Doom if the district included the Marbleton Clinic in its assets. Doom said it did, as it's a health-care entity. Stephens, Noble and Doom agreed backtracking on that commitment would throw a wrench into the current loan process. Doom reiterated that Werner assured him the SCHD was good on the loan-to-equity aspect of its application. From his perspective, he said, they'd like to see health-care properties in the county be under one roof so paperwork was cleaner. With wording into the contract, the property would still belong to the county.

Bousman asked Vickrey if he'd rather see the clinic operated under the county's current 12-mil levy instead of turning it over to the hospital district, because it would increase the county's operating expense. That went unanswered.

"I think health care is better served through the process we're talking about even if we keep a deed restriction to the building to assure it will be used for health care," Bousman said.

The board agreed on a deed restriction with a clause for straight reversion.

Concerning Aspen Grove, revenue

generated would be dedicated to operations of the long-term care services in Sublette County. Bousman shared his preference that the SCHD would put revenue towards maintenance or expansion of an independent living area and not diverted to something the board did not intend. White said he'd like to see it go under the SCHD's mil levy.

The board came to a consensus the SCHD would operate the building on a 10-year lease. Vickrey said he'd like to see something resembling rent control in its operation, which Melinkovich said is currently written into the draft.

On the next item, Melinkovich said he'd be "very surprised" if a building like the Pinedale Clinic would not be used in a health-care capacity. Commissioners agreed they'd be fine with a deed restriction that specifies the building can only be used for the delivery of health care.

Melinkovich asked Doom to specify the process of getting a builder for the critical access hospital project. Doom said the SCHD got USDA approval to bring a builder in up front to get more accurate financial estimates. Also, this way, the SCHD received guaranteed maximum price evaluations and would be able to work down towards the budget. Those estimates would then come in a bifurcated manner, so the county would know exactly what it was paying for.

Melinkovich then directed everyone towards the status of Public Health. What does the process of moving Public Health into what is now considered the Pinedale Clinic look like?

Doom said there is a conceptual plan. They wanted to have the loan first before they got serious about changing the building, which they hope to not change much. Doom reiterated they don't want to remodel much and haven't explored many estimates.

Bousman said he wanted to see Public Health look at the floor plans and provide feedback sooner rather than later. Public Health Nurse Manager Janna Lee said she would like to know plans for Public Health as soon as possible. Noble suggested they meet and give commissioners an update on Public Health services, which would lead into other county services.

Doom agreed with the proposed deed restrictions.

"Consistency is always best," Doom said. "If we can look at those different properties and we're handling them the same that would be great, I think. And we're using them for health care, I think, the deed restriction is the right thing to do."

Melinkovich thanked all those involved for the productive conversation and said he looked forward to an even more detailed conversation at the next commissioners' meeting. Bousman thanked Melinkovich for all his efforts working with all parties to hash out details of an agreement.

Tami Crosson later spoke up in public comment as a citizen to thank commissioners for having those discussions in an open meeting.

TOWN OF PINEDALE

Don't let next week's warmer weather fool you- freezing is still possible during warmer weather. Underground lines are at the mercy of the ground freeze/thaw level so please, continue to run your water bleeders!

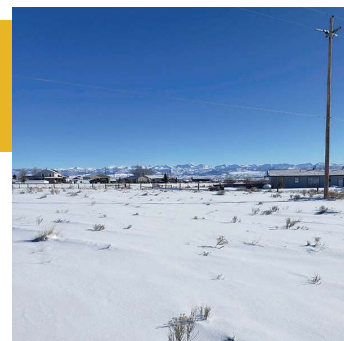
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(All children turning 5 prior to August 1st are eligible for registration, or those children who turn 5 on or before September 15th and show academic and social readiness on the District's readiness assessment.)

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Contact Tamara Currah at tcurrah@sub1.org or call #307-367-5412
- 3/22/22** STEAM Night at PES 5:30-7:00pm.
Contact Tamara Currah at tcurrah@sub1.org or call #307-367-5412
- 4/18/22** Kindergarten registration at PES 7:40-11:40am / 1:00-3:30pm. Please call PES to schedule an appointment. Parent(s) and child registering only, please.
- 5/13/22** Kindergarten registration at PES 7:40-11:40am / 1:00-3:30pm. Please call PES to schedule an appointment. Parent(s) and child registering only, please.
- 5/24/22** Kindergarten Parent Informational Meeting at PES from 5:30-6:30pm, no registration necessary, parents only, no children please.
- 6/7-6/10/22** Kindergarten Camp 8:00-9:30am & 10:00-11:30am.
Register your child when you complete Kindergarten registration.
- 8/15-8/18/22** Kindergarten Camp 8:00-9:30am & 10:00-11:30am.
Register your child when you complete Kindergarten registration.
- 8/22/22** Kindergarten Parent Informational Meeting at PES from 5:00-6:00pm.