



PHOTO PROVIDED
Tyler Head, with instructors Walt Laseki and Sam Monte, earned his pilot's certification under challenging conditions.

PILOT: Roundhouse grant was key to success

Continued from page 3

flights at no cost. Among them were SHS senior and newly licensed pilot Cammi Benson flying her family's Cessna 182, and her father, Benny Benson, co-owner of the Sisters Airport, flying the newly acquired Outlaw Aviation Cessna 172 making its debut Young Eagles flights.

Flying with Benny, Head got his first experience at the airplane's controls while he listened to the radio transmissions between the two airborne Bensons, and it was clear how much fun they were both having sharing their passion for aviation with the students. Inspired by the idea of making aviation a family activity like the Bensons and Webers, Tyler's father, Nile, made the commitment to support Tyler and his twin brother Tanner in learning to fly by purchasing their own plane.

"I've always wanted to fly, and wanted to be a pilot as a career. But growing up, my family couldn't afford for me to go through flight training. It just wasn't an option for me," said Nile.

Both Tyler and Tanner were awarded Enrichment Experience scholarships from The Roundhouse Foundation to use for their initial flight training.

"That was absolutely the game-changer, financially," said Nile. "I penciled it out. If all three of us can earn our private pilot licenses, buying our own plane would pay for itself. With our own plane, we'd only have to pay for CFI instruction time, and not air-plane rental."

After an extensive search, the Heads eventually became the owners of their own Cessna 170. They envisioned all three of them training in it, earning their private certificates, and then flying to many remote backcountry fishing trips.

Tyler and Tanner began using their Roundhouse scholarships taking flight lessons

in their new 170 with Sisters-based CFI (Certificated Flight Instructor) Brian Lansburgh, who also took over teaching the Flight Science class at SHS after Renner retired. But last winter's "snowmageddon" caused the roof of the Head's hangar to collapse, completely destroying the airplane. Undeterred, while searching for another plane to buy, Tyler continued a second year in the SHS Flight Science program, with CFI Sheryl Yeager as the new teacher.

"Preparing for the FAA written test required a lot more studying than I thought," he said.

The Heads eventually purchased a second plane, a Cessna 140 this time. Tyler then resumed flight lessons with Outlaw Aviation's new CFI, Sam Monte. Tyler intensified his studies by attending the weekly Outlaw Aviation ground school with CFI Walt Lasecki. He passed the FAA written test, and began preparing to take the final tests required for his private rating, the rigorous knowledge and practical evaluations. The evaluations must be performed by an FAA Designated Pilot Examiner (DPE).

"The knowledge test is a three-hour oral evaluation, and typically where students fail, so we prepare the students extensively on every subject they might be asked," said Lasecki. "Studying for the knowledge test was grueling, but it made the actual test easy," noted Head.

The practical portion of the exam is an in-flight evaluation of the student's skills physically flying the airplane. Because Tyler used his own airplane which has a tail-wheel configuration of landing gear, also known as a "tail-dragger," the DPE had to be certified for tail-wheel aircraft. These airplanes are more difficult to control than a traditional "nose-wheel" airplane like the Cessna 172, especially during landing, and require additional training and a specific endorsement. The problem is — there aren't any

See **PILOT** on page 30

The Nugget Newspaper Crossword

By Jacqueline E. Mathews, Tribune News Service

- ACROSS**
- 1 Wedding ring material
 - 5 "Get lost!"
 - 9 Oscar hopeful
 - 14 Floored
 - 15 Gerbil's home
 - 16 Complain childishly
 - 17 Highly esteemed
 - 19 Therefore
 - 20 Begley and his dad
 - 21 As well
 - 22 Talented
 - 23 Abnormal
 - 24 Tam fabric
 - 26 Language that gives us "Oy vey!"
 - 30 Fold marks
 - 35 Monsieur's farewell
 - 36 Do as told
 - 38 Uncovered
 - 39 Elegance
 - 40 Mauna ____
 - 41 Arm joint
 - 42 Egg layers
 - 43 Large group of kinfolk
 - 44 Honking bird
 - 45 Sewing machine pedal
 - 47 Moved over a bit
 - 49 Crew members
 - 51 That fellow
 - 52 Systematic way of doing things
 - 56 Miseries
 - 58 Rush
 - 61 Long-____; like hares & burros
 - 62 Thinks back on
 - 64 Dentist's noisemaker
 - 65 One listed in a will
 - 66 Farmer's harvest
 - 67 Hillside
 - 68 ____ for; chooses
 - 69 Declare untrue
- DOWN**
- 1 ____ in; relented

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67								68						69		

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 3/14/18

— Last Week's Puzzle Solved —

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T	R	E	E			S	T	O	N	E		E	Y	E	S	

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- 41 Self-centeredness
- 43 ____ in; wearing
- 46 "Yankee ____"
- 48 Ted Danson sitcom
- 50 Use a broom
- 52 Prescriptions, for short
- 53 Actor Holliman
- 54 Threesome
- 55 Assistance
- 57 Leave out
- 58 In this place
- 59 Press clothes
- 60 Catch sight of
- 62 Fraternity letter
- 63 A-E connection

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