



RACHEL'S RESPONDER

Graduating senior reconnects with police officer present at her birth, **B1**

END OF AN ERA

Holst steps down after 21 years, 11 state titles as CCHS girls hoops coach, **C1**



BREAKTHROUGH

Powell company makes history with sage grouse hatching, **A2**

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News Record Photos/Mike Moore

Buffalo Ridge Elementary School crossing guard Dianna Flores smiles at approaching vehicles while stopping traffic for school children on the last day of school Thursday morning.

Guardian of her galaxy

Buffalo Ridge Elementary School crossing guard a bright spot for school, community — and protective of 'her' kids

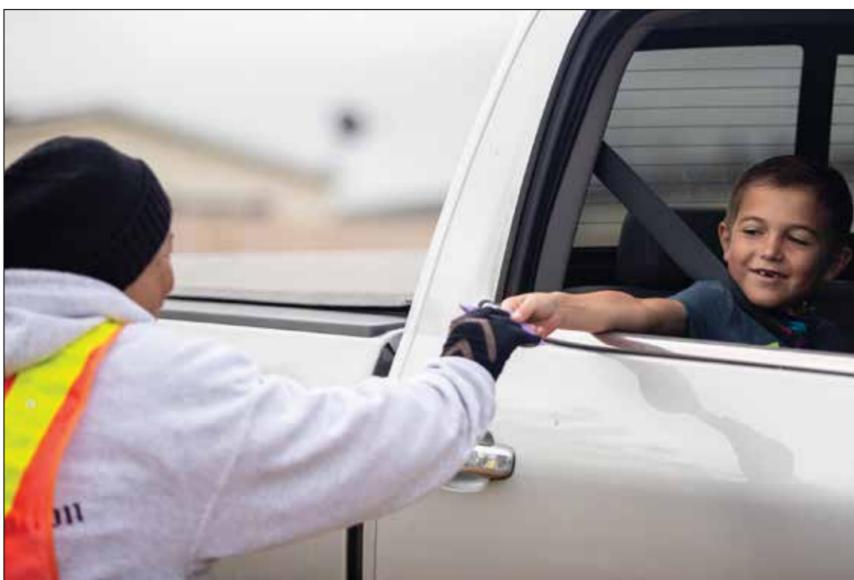
By **CARY LITTLEJOHN** * NEWS RECORD WRITER
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Driving in a school zone between the hours of 7:45 and 8:45 a.m. isn't usually thought of as a bright spot of someone's day. It's often congested with traffic and speeds are reduced as kids cross the street.

But there's always an exception that proves the rule. In Gillette, the exception is Shoshone Avenue between Highway 59 and 4J Road.

Those who took that daily route during the school year looked forward to those mornings because their commute ultimately went through the intersection at Tanner Drive.

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Easton McJilton, 6, hands crossing guard Dianna Flores a personalized card while making his way to school Thursday morning outside Buffalo Ridge Elementary School.

CCH board continues discussion on affiliation

Trustees approve non-binding letter of intent with UCHealth

By **JONATHAN GALLARDO**
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The Campbell County Health board of trustees approved a letter of intent for an affiliation with Colorado-based UCHealth.

The board approved the letter on a 6-1 vote at its meeting Thursday, with Alan Stuber the lone vote against it.

The letter is a formal expression of interest in negotiating an affiliation, not a contract. It is non-binding and is "just to help us have a conversation of what we're trying to achieve," said Alison Gee, the board's attorney.

A potential contract between the entities is still in the draft stage.

UCHealth is a Colorado-based nonprofit health care system that has 25,000 employees and 12 acute-care hospitals staffed with hundreds of physicians.

UCHealth has standing affiliations with two other Wyoming hospitals in Cheyenne and Laramie. Its deal with Ivinson Memorial Hospital in Laramie dates to 2013 and it has been in partnership with Cheyenne Regional Medical Center since 2018.

Grace Taylor, vice president of operations for UCHealth, said the organization doesn't partner with just anyone.

"We are very careful about who we partner with, because we want the partnership or collaboration to be successful," she said. "We feel like your organization could be a good fit with our organization."

Campbell County Health has scheduled a work session with the Campbell County Commissioners on Tuesday to go into more detail on the affiliation.

For more information, visit cchwyo.org/about-us/cch-negotiation-uchealth.

Reservations

Stuber said that despite all of the talk about keeping patients close to home, UCHealth is quite far away from Gillette.

"There are other great facilities that are a lot closer," Stuber said, adding that he wants to make sure CCH has "done our due diligence, making sure UCHealth is the right choice, because it is a long ways away."

UCHealth cannot force a doctor to refer a patient to one of its facilities. That decision remains up to the physician and the patient, said CCH CEO Colleen Heeter.

Stuber also questioned how things would work with Heeter being a UCHealth employee, which will happen if the affiliation goes through.

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Tourism officials expect rebound after down 2020

By **JAKE GOODRICK**
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Campbell County expects to see more travelers passing through and hopefully spending time in town this summer after the pandemic caused a down tourism season last year.

The uncertain and ever-changing COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions saw many people cancel their summer travel plans last year. But with case counts falling, vaccination rates rising and many states reopening their economies to something resembling pre-pandemic life, an increase in Wyoming tourism may be in the cards.

"People are more confident and we're seeing a pretty big increase in people coming in for visitation," said Jessica Seders, executive director of the Campbell County Convention and Visitors Bureau. "We're expecting a much better summer this year."

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WHAT'S GOING ON?: Memorial Day events begin early in Gillette on Monday, **A10**

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