

# Gillette News Record

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## A WINNING FORMULA

Twin Spruce eighth grade A team wins district title with 16-0 season, **C1**

### DECADES OF DEALS

Former Stockmens Motor Co., a longtime Gillette business, comes down, **B1**



### HEAL THYSELF

7-year-old girl sells lemonade to help pay for her own brain surgery, **A2**

## Some trustees OK, but also question new visitor policy

By JAKE GOODRICK  
NEWS RECORD WRITER

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An updated visitor policy approved by Campbell County Health has been questioned by several hospital trustees.

Multiple changes in visitor protocol have been made throughout the COVID-19 pandemic dependent on virus case rates in the community. The most recent policy was made in order to have a uniform, simplified policy going forward, said Sherry Bailey, CCH director of ICU and Med/Surge, and Natalie Tucker, the hospital's professional development, infection prevention and case management director.

A color-coded scheme — green, yellow, orange and red — is outlined in the new policy to determine the level of visitor restrictions CCH will apply going forward.

The restrictions would grow incrementally more restrictive, with the green category having no restrictions and red not allowing any visitors, with limited exceptions.

The officials said it sets a consistent baseline for the health care system to use during the COVID-19 pandemic or as any other infectious disease may dictate.

Regarding the new guidelines, which the board first reviewed in January before its presentation last week, trustee Sara Hartsaw, who also is a surgeon, emphasized the added importance of patients, including COVID-19 patients, being allowed visitors.

"Which really we've known (that) all along, but we've been under the thumb of higher authorities, federal and state, to mess with this that way," Hartsaw said.

She also questioned the logic of visitation restrictions, calling on someone at the meeting "to explain to me why someone who this morning was at home with COVID, coughing all over everyone in his household, comes to his emergency room, gets admitted and he's now completely locked out from his family," she said. "That makes zero sense to me."

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## Supreme Court rules search of home was unconstitutional

By NEWS RECORD STAFF

The Wyoming Supreme Court has reversed a decision against a Gillette man and remanded the case back to District Court because a search of his home violated his constitutional rights.

Dillon Wayne Fuller, 31, had been sentenced to prison after a March 2019 case in which he refused to stop for a sheriff's deputy who had seen that the SUV he was driving had no visible registration.

He was charged with felony possession of marijuana, felony drunken driving and two misdemeanors.

He made conditional guilty pleas to the two felonies, reserving the right to appeal.

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News Record Photos/Mike Moore

Jeff and Rita Lewis pose for a portrait in their Gillette home next to a puzzle Jeff has been working on to pass the time. The couple has spent most of their time isolated from the outside world over the past year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Both recently received their second COVID-19 vaccination, bringing a new lease on life and a chance to finally see their grandchildren again.

# All dressed up and nowhere to go

### How Campbell County's newly immunized are readjusting to life

By JAKE GOODRICK \* NEWS RECORD WRITER  
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Outside of the Lewis residence is a yard sign of the Mona Lisa. Her smile is masked, and the words "wear masks" and "wash hands" lay over the image.

Inside, Jeff and Rita Lewis, 74 and 68, are both immunized and cautiously waiting for the world to catch up with them.

"We've got all kinds of plans," Jeff said. "More plans than time."

The retired couple had plans about this time last year, too. But that was changed along with the rest of the world by the coronavirus.

They were on their way back from Hawaii last February when the stakes surrounding the virus began escalating. Fortunately for them, there were few states with fewer known virus cases than Hawaii and Wyoming back then.

They remember starting to trip back home, going to the airport in Hawaii and seeing all of the masked faces for the first time. What they read in the news was being confirmed before their eyes.

Not long after that, they had to cancel their summer trip to Northern Italy, Switzerland and Germany.

Now they have a United Airlines voucher burning a hole in their pockets. With American travelers still not viewed too favorably by the European Union, they may be using those miles to travel elsewhere.

"We haven't gotten to travel, but we don't think we're suffering terribly," Rita said. "We hope it gets settled. We hope we will be able



A sign outside Jeff and Rita Lewis' Gillette home shows the Mona Lisa holding hand sanitizer and toilet paper while wearing a face mask.

to do it while we're still young enough to do it. But I guess if we don't, we've got great memories."

More than two months after the first COVID-19 vaccine was administered in Campbell County, more than 2,000 local residents have received both doses. The number of newly vaccinated grows greater each week.

With their newfound immunity, the growing population of the fully vaccinated are still easing their way back towards normalcy, while acknowledging that their worlds may not have changed as much as their immune systems.

### A cautious breath of air

In December, Lori Evans, a phlebotomist for Campbell County Health, was undecided about the vaccine.

As a health care worker, she would be one of the first in the county with access to the Pfizer shots. Then her decision became easier. In that same stretch of time leading up to Christmas, her mother got sick with COVID-19 as a resident at the Legacy Living and Rehabilitation Center.

"That's what changed my mind," Evans said.

Her mom was doing OK, at first. After she was taken to the hospital, she was stable. So Evans went home that night. By the time she came back to visit the next morning, her mother had died of complications from the virus.

Only a couple of months later, Evans is immunized and still grieving. Her story has since changed the minds of some of her co-workers, who like her were initially skeptical of the new vaccine.

"It's hard going through it every day, and you're trying to grieve in the process," Evans said. "It's just a lot."

The residents and staff at the Legacy first got access to the vaccine in early January. By then, Brittany Lewis, a licensed practical nurse, was ready for her vaccine.

As a nurse at the long-term care facility, she saw first hand the effects of the pandemic on the residents. Because visitation restrictions

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