

# Gillette News Record

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## SYMPHONY SUNDAY

Powder River Symphony opens season with 'September Pops,' B1

**94 AND COUNTING** Community joins firefighters to remember 9/11, A10

## Driskill bill aims at critical race theory in K-12

State senator says it's about transparency in schools for parents

By CARY LITTLEJOHN  
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State Sen. Ogden Driskill, R-Devils Tower, announced Friday that he, along with co-sponsor and Senate President Dan Dockstader, R-Afton, was introducing a bill to address Critical Race Theory in Wyoming's K-12 classrooms.

The bill, entitled the Civics Transparency Act, is currently in draft form with the Legislative Services Office.

The Civics Transparency Act will require civics curriculum and materials to be published on school district websites so that parents and taxpayers can review them before the school year begins. It also would expand guidance on teachings about the United States and Wyoming constitutions and "the American ideal that discrimination against anyone for their immutable characteristics or religion is wrong," according to a statement from the Wyoming Department of Education.



OGDEN DRISKILL

Driskill stressed in a phone call Monday morning that the bill was "truly a transparency bill." He described it as a two-part bill.

"It requires that school districts post this year's curriculum and post last year's curriculum, along with what the materials are and résumés of who's speaking," Driskill said.

The bill is intended to provide parents with a meaningful opportunity to participate in their children's education.

"Schools are a piece in making our children a productive part of society, but a huge part of it breaks back down to the parents," Driskill said. "If parents don't have access to find out what their kids are being taught and how, it's very difficult for them to understand what's happening with their own children."

He said that he's recently learned of an example of a school in Wyoming teaching critical race theory, "or at least a piece of it," but he said he wouldn't go into details because he was still learning more about it.

"The parents found out about it and dug into it," he said. "They exposed it. It's there. So the thought that it can't occur in Wyoming is not true and that it's not occurring in Wyoming probably isn't true either."

Driskill said the bill wasn't drafted in response to that alleged case of critical race theory being taught. He said he learned of it after he'd already proposed the bill.

He offered another comparison for the rationale of the bill: how students are taught about natural resources, the climate and agricultural practices vital to Wyoming.

See DRISKILL, Page A10



News Record Photos/Mike Moore

Former Gillette mayor and marijuana advocate Frank Latta shows off petitions related to medical marijuana and decriminalization of marijuana during a kick-off event for signature gathering to begin for the two initiatives at Dalbey Memorial Park on Saturday.

# Pro pot push

## Petitions for medical marijuana and decriminalization initiatives now circulating

By JAKE GOODRICK  
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A small group of people gathered at Dalbey Memorial Park Saturday evening in what may be the start of a more large-scale movement toward less restrictive marijuana laws throughout Wyoming.

This weekend, kick-off events were hosted in several cities throughout Wyoming, including the Dalbey Park gathering in Gillette, to promote petitions to put marijuana initiatives on the upcoming election ballots.

Earlier this summer, two ballot initiatives received the necessary 100 co-sponsors to become certified. Now they are beginning the signature-gathering phase. It means that petition papers for new marijuana legislation have begun circulating through Wyoming towns, in hopes of reaching the November 2022 or 2024 general election ballots.

One initiative calls for decriminalization of marijuana possession, use, cultivation and transfer. Its amendments to current drug legislation suggests reducing the fines and punishments for weed charges, while also upping the felony possession threshold from no more than 3 ounces to up to 4 ounces.

The other calls for legalization of medical marijuana. That initiative would allow voters to approve or shoot-down a plan to implement



Sabrina Callender signs petitions related to medical marijuana and decriminalization of marijuana during a kick-off event for signature gathering.

a regulated medical marijuana framework into Wyoming.

Each initiative needs to gather 41,776 petition signatures for ballot placement, which is 15% of the state's registered voting population.

Frank Latta, former Gillette mayor and marijuana advocate, was at the kick-off event Saturday. He is optimistic this marijuana movement will fair better than past efforts.

Latta is one of the initial signers and has long been involved in pushing for reformed

marijuana laws in Wyoming. For this current go-around, Wyoming NORML — a pro-pot organization — and the Wyoming Libertarian Party have joined together in support of the initiatives.

"All of us are just tired of the piddly stuff, the nonviolent stuff sending people to jail," Latta said. "And we think it's time to end that."

Earlier this year, a bill outlining a path to legalize recreational and medical marijuana was introduced to the state Legislature. With 12 state representatives and two senators as co-sponsors, House Bill 209 was introduced to the state House of Representatives but did not make it to the committee of the whole for consideration.

That bill outlined a comprehensive approach to implementing both recreational and medicinal marijuana throughout Wyoming.

While sharing some broad similarities, the ballot initiatives being petitioned for now are not as expansive and inclusive as the marijuana bill shot down early in its run through the state Legislature.

"This is a watered down version of that. It's something we've been trying to work on for a long time," Latta said. "The Legislature just doesn't have a lot of appetite for it at this time."

Which is why pro-pot advocates are doing the legwork to bring the reformed marijuana

See PRO POT PUSH, Page A8

## CCHS celebrates homecoming week with spirit days, pep rally, parade

By CARY LITTLEJOHN  
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It's Homecoming Week at Campbell County High School. The Camels will face Cheyenne South in the game on Friday, but the festivities will last throughout the week.

Students will get a chance to celebrate the week with a variety of spirit days. They include a day for neon (Monday), a day to dress to impress (Tuesday), a day to celebrate the USA by wearing one's most patriotic gear (Wednesday), a day for superheroes and villains (Thursday), and, of course, a day for purple and gold and Camel

pride (Friday).

Wednesday will see the students getting hyped for Friday's football game with a pep assembly that will begin at 2 p.m. and is sure to include music from the CCHS band and routines from its cheerleaders.

There will also be a homecoming parade downtown along Gillette

Avenue beginning at 4:30 p.m.

After the football game, the students will get to celebrate with a homecoming dance that will last until midnight. It's been two years since CCHS has been able to have a homecoming dance. It was one of the events that COVID-19 made impossible last year.

The Camels will kick off against the

Bison at 6 p.m. Friday.

On Saturday, the Camels volleyball team will celebrate its homecoming matches against Sheridan. There will be sophomore, junior varsity and varsity matches played in the CCHS gym beginning with the sophomore match at 10 a.m.

**WEATHER, A2**  
HIGH 76  
LOW 51

**RUNNING TO REMEMBER:** Memory of the 8 marks 20th anniversary of athletes' deaths, B7

**INSIDE**  
BLOTTER, A2  
CLASSIFIEDS, B2-B5  
DIVERSIONS, B6

**OBITUARIES, A4**  
**OPINION, A3**  
**SPORTS, B7-B8**

