

Gillette News Record

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SURVIVAL MODE

Pandemic forces local businesses to re-invent themselves, **B1**

'I WASN'T THINKING'

Gillette councilman opens up about his DUI arrest last year, **A12**



DECISION 2020

Candidates in local contested races answer questions, **A10**

Inpatient hospice services suspended

Campbell County Health CEO says there's not enough demand for Close to Home services

By **JAKE GOODRICK**
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After recently shutting down inpatient hospice services at Close to Home Hospice Hospitality House, Campbell County Health will reevaluate at the end of the month when to reopen the facility.

The temporary hiatus on inpatient services began at the end of September and was a result of a steady decrease in demand for inpatient hospice services, said CCH CEO Colleen Heeter.

"We have had a significant decrease in the Hospice House inpatients and statistically we've been seeing that drop through the years," she said.

Between CCH's 2019 and 2020 fiscal years, the number of inpatient days spent at Close to Home has dropped from 1,531 to 1,253. In the first quarter of the 2021 fiscal year, that trend continued with only 107 inpatient days, Heeter said.

Meanwhile, the number of outpatient hospice visits have increased from 1,845 to 2,253 over that same time, she said.

"We've seen a move to more outpatient hospice and we have yet to figure out what that's from," Heeter said. "Even these statistics happened before COVID. There could be many reasons for it."

See **HOSPICE**, Page A9



News Record Photos/Mike Moore

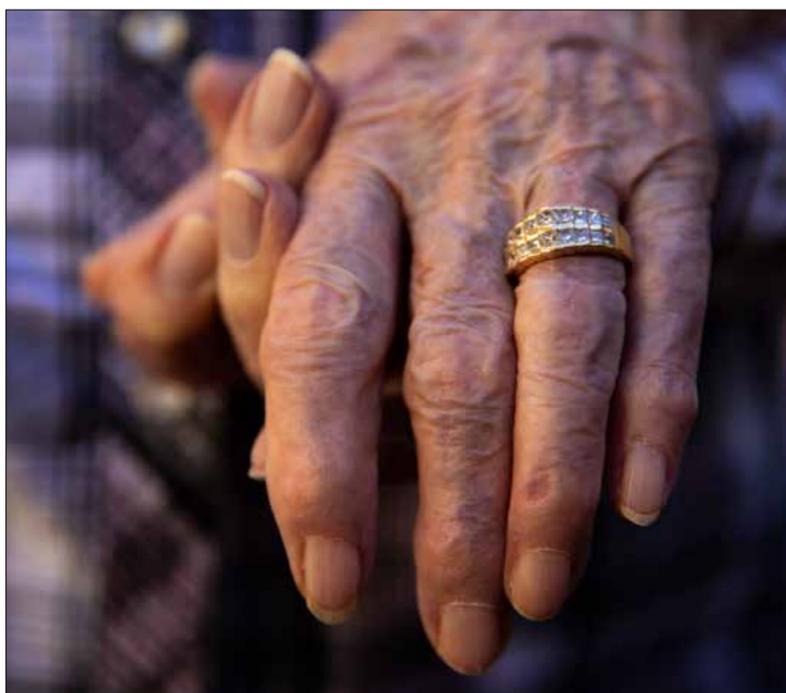
Ruedene Kyle lovingly touches the face of husband Lyle Kyle, both 94, in their Gillette home Monday afternoon. Monday is the couple's 75th wedding anniversary — known as the diamond anniversary — and are as in love with each other now as they were when they wed.

They're diamonds in coal country

Monday is 75th anniversary for Gillette couple Ruedene and Lyle Kyle

By **CARY LITTLEJOHN** * NEWS RECORD WRITER

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Ruedene Kyle shows the ring her husband Lyle bought her to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary 25 years ago. It replaced a \$20 band he bought for her when they were first married at age 19 in 1945.

In March 1935, Lyle Kyle joined the students at Jordan School, a one-room schoolhouse about a mile from his home on Richardson Farm in Platte County, Missouri.

He was in third grade, and Eltha Henderson taught all eight grades in the room.

It was there he met Ruedene Roberts.

By the following February, to hear Lyle tell it, Ruedene had sunk her hooks in him when she gave him a valentine.

When Elmer Adkins put snowballs down the shirts of the girls of the class, including Ruedene's, Lyle defended her honor, then promptly got in trouble for instigating a fight.

Theirs is a love that began in elementary school and continues more than eight decades later.

Lyle is still by Ruedene's side, no longer spoiling to fight a would-be snowball attacker, but don't put it past him. He's right there, occupying a recliner just barely out of arm's reach from Ruedene in a high-ceilinged living room on West Granite Street in Gillette.

Lyle and Ruedene Kyle moved to Gillette a decade ago, and the 94-year-old lovebirds will celebrate 75 years of marriage Monday.

See **DIAMONDS**, Page A11

HEALTH & FITNESS

Flu shot is more important now than ever

Health officials say flu season during pandemic could pose problem

Stave off dementia

President Trump's mental health has drawn scientific interest of maintaining brain health

YOUR HEALTH

Experts say playing games a good way to help keep the mind sharp as you age, **Inside**



WEATHER, A2
HIGH 36
LOW 16

BIRTH OF THE BOLT RIDERS: CCHS has its cannon, now the Bolts have their Harleys, C1

INSIDE
BLOTTER, A2
CLASSIFIEDS, D1-D4
REAL ESTATE, D1

OBITUARIES, A4
OPINION, A3
SPORTS, C1-C3

