

# Gillette News Record

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## PROMPOSAL ACCEPTED

The Roaring '20s, enchanted forests and no masks: Proms are back, **A8**

### ROUGHED-UP RIDER

6-year-old returns from Colorado hospital after hit with line-drive, **C1**



### INDEPENDENCE DAY

7 complete Treatment Court at first in-person graduation since 2019, **B1**

## First town hall on CCH affiliation is Monday

Partnership with Colo. giant could mean local CEO Heeter becomes a UHealth employee

By **JAKE GOODRICK**  
NEWS RECORD WRITER  
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The first of two public town hall meetings hosted by Campbell County Health is taking place Monday for the public to ask questions and provide feedback to the organization's administration and board of trustees about its potential affiliation with UHealth.

The first meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. Monday at the Gillette College Technical Education Center.

The second meeting will be hosted the following week at 5:30 p.m. May 19 in the Wyoming Room of the Campbell County Public Library.

After a special meeting and executive session near the end of April, CCH trustees gave the go-ahead to begin negotiating a letter of intent to affiliate with the larger Colorado-based health care system UHealth.

Administrators are expected to present the letter of intent, which broadly outlined terms of a deal, at the next regularly scheduled CCH board meeting May 27.

In general terms, administration and trustees have said the deal is expected to involve an arrangement where CCH receives management and IT resources from UHealth.

However, the details of such an agreement will be ironed out as the negotiations progress.

In crafting the affiliation with UHealth, board Chairman Adrian Gerrits has said that the organization is studying two other Wyoming hospitals that have already affiliated with UHealth: Cheyenne Regional Medical Center and Iverson Memorial Hospital in Laramie.

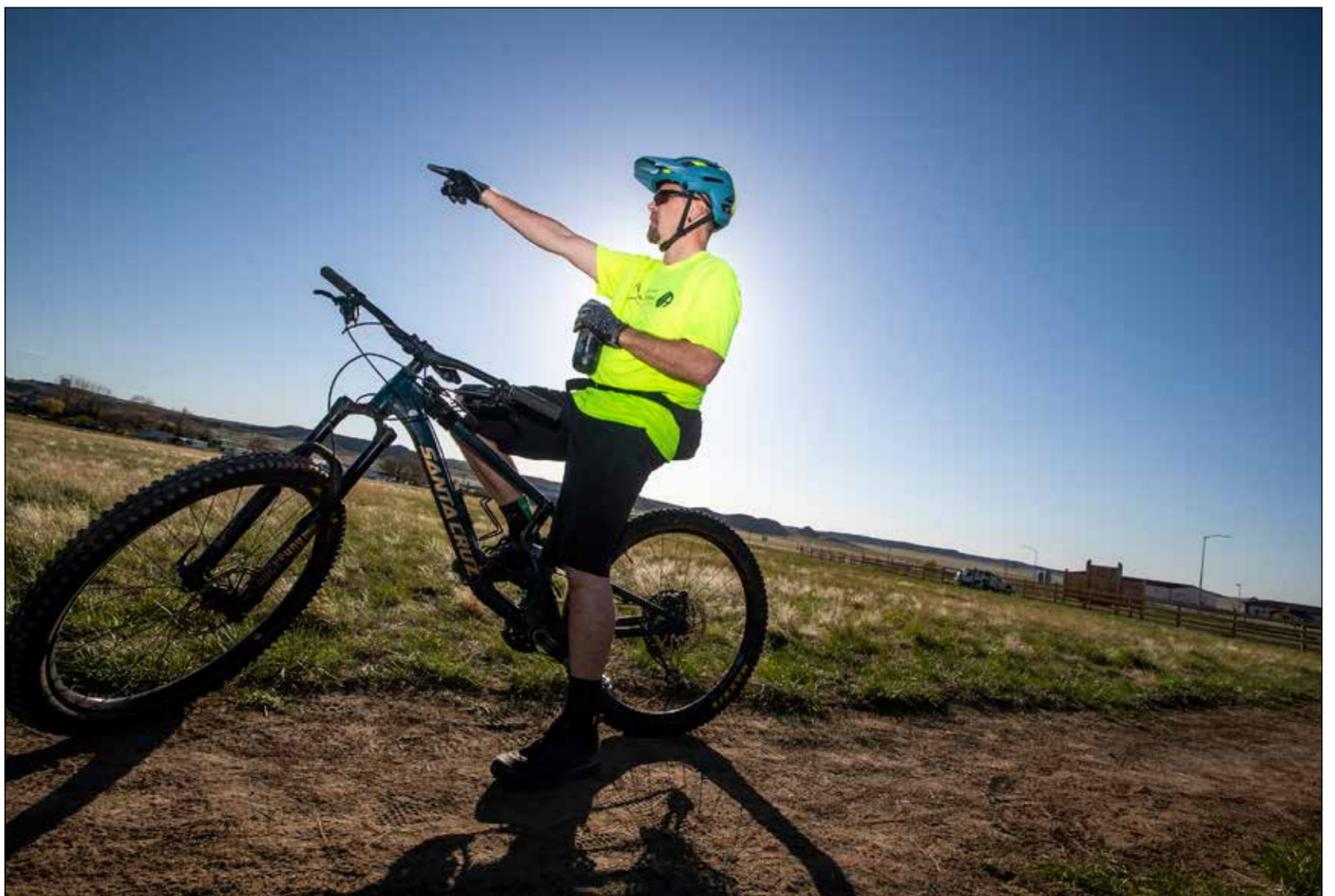
Cheyenne Regional Medical Center's deal has its CEO an employee of UHealth, which Gerrits said CCH would most likely adopt as well. That would make CCH CEO Colleen Heeter, who officially stepped into the role of CEO this summer, a UHealth employee.

"The way that Cheyenne does it, and most likely the way the contract would look for us, she (Heeter) would be the only one employed by UHealth," Gerrits said. "That's the only flow of money from CCH to UHealth. They would employ Colleen and we would essentially reimburse them for her expense, at the same contract she has for us."

He clarified that until a deal is reached, nothing is concrete.

Because of the potential conflict of

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News Record Photos/Mike Moore

Jeremy Jimison explains the network of trails that snake through a section of the Red Rock Trails on Thursday evening before starting a ride. The 12-mile trail system was built by Energy Addicts, a local bike group, over the past couple of years on land just north of Gillette city limits.

## Vicious cycle

Energy Addicts and new recreation bike trails face unknown future

By **GREGORY R.C. HASMAN** \* NEWS RECORD WRITER  
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**T**wo years ago, a local coal miner had a dream to build a system of outdoor recreation trails in Campbell County.

David Bauer and his nonprofit organization, Energy Addicts, have since spent a lot of time and effort to put in 12 miles of trails on the 640-acre Centennial Section, a parcel of county land over the northern border of Gillette city limits that the county bought in 2012 for \$1.63 million.

The county leases the land to Energy Addicts, and the system is known as Red Rock Trails.

"As a bike rider, it gives me a place here in town to go ride," said Jeremy Jimison, Energy Addicts volunteer. "I don't have to leave town. I'm not going to Buffalo, Spearfish (South Dakota), Sheridan. I'm not taking my money elsewhere."

The Centennial Section has plenty of room for more trails, but Bauer and the Energy Addicts don't plan on expanding the system anymore.

Residents and visitors can still ride the trails that are in place, but because of varying circumstances, there may not be any more trails built in the foreseeable future.

### 'It's where it's at right now'

Bauer spoke to the Campbell County Commission earlier this week about concerns he has with an agreement between the Energy Addicts and the county.

The first dealt with the insurance clause of the contract Energy Addicts signed last year. Bauer believes the contract states the group is responsible for everything that happens at the Centennial Section.

County Administrative Director Carol Seeger said the insurance liability only refers to anything directly related to the Energy Addicts, like events it hosts or



Greg Passini enjoys the spring-like weather while hiking along Red Rock Trails on Thursday evening.

work it may do on the land.

The group is responsible for maintaining and developing trails, providing volunteers and their own equipment, such as mowers, plows, four-wheelers and covering the costs of the work. The organization must submit all of its project ideas to Campbell County Parks Superintendent Kevin Geer for approval.

The other concern Bauer had with the agreement was the insurance costs.

Bauer said the group has to pay \$1,500 for insurance on the property itself and

another \$1,500 to cover Energy Addicts members using the property. That's in addition to event day insurance.

"Here we are after COVID, with no events, no funding, no funds raised and to start off we need a ton of money to cover just the insurance," he said. "It's where it's at right now. I don't know if we can continue this right now."

Bauer said the organization will talk with Deputy County Attorney Sean Brown

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### CCH public town hall meeting dates

- \* Monday: 5:30 p.m. at the Gillette College Technical Education Center.
- \* May 19: 5:30 p.m. in the Wyoming Room of the Campbell County Public Library.
- \* Feedback: Can be emailed to feedback@cchwyo.org



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