

# Gillette News Record

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## 'SERENITY' NOW

Cemetery to host 4th annual sculpture walk on Saturday, **A12**

**SPECIAL ELECTION** Bios, answers from all 23 college district board candidates, **A7-A8**

## Weighing the need for an independent Gillette College

*Editor's note: This is the second of a series of Q&A reports leading up to the Aug. 17 special election for a new community college district around Gillette College. This week:*

\* Rep. Bill Fortner, R-Gillette, a state legislator and co-head of the Anti-tax Coalition formed to oppose the district.

\* Dave Horning, a local attorney on the Gillette College Foundation Board of Directors and was a member of the task force that pushed Campbell County's application for its own college district.

By **JAKE GOODRICK**  
NEWS RECORD WRITER

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**Q: Why is an independent community college district in Campbell County, separate from Northern Wyoming Community College District, necessary or unnecessary?**

\* **Fortner:** Why is it necessary? It isn't necessary. We've been with Sheridan College for over 50 years. We've been a member of that, we've gotten the best of both worlds. They pay the taxes, we get a grade-A school. There's no benefit to breaking from that. Zero. None. This all started over sports. It's well documented. They say it's never been about sports. It is. It's about sports.

\* **Horning:** One of the primary issues is local control. This community college district now has two very distinct communities, and a community college is supposed to be of and for its community. You've got two fully functional, mature colleges that, for lack of a better word, coexist and have irreconcilable differences in meeting the respective needs of their communities. It's not a fault-based issue. Gillette College was, once upon a time, a smaller, adjunct facility and now you've got a fully functional, evolved college here in Gillette, same as the community. The colleges can't coexist within the district anymore and still meet the respective needs of their communities.



**BILL FORTNER**      **DAVE HORNING**



**Q: What would be the benefits of an independent district?**

\* **Fortner:** None. There's not one benefit that I can think of.

\* **Horning:** The benefit, the requirement, the need is local control. Gillette College needs to control everything from its offerings to its budget. This community built that college and needs to have control of it so it can continue to evolve but also so its survival can be assured and managed.

Whether times are good or bad, local control means a locally elected board of trustees can be responsive to anything from budgetary concerns to course offerings. Every facet will now be controlled by the people of the community who can be most responsive and, frankly, represent the people who in large part are paying for it and patronizing it.

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News Record Photo/Mike Moore

**A drone flown by Our Wyoming Life host Mike Galloway flies over 15-year-old "Blonde Cow" at the family's ranch Thursday morning. The cow has become a sort of mascot for Galloway's YouTube channel over the years, he said.**

# Quid GoPro

YouTube provides outlet for locals to share their passions and talents

By **CARY LITTLEJOHN** \* NEWS RECORD WRITER  
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**M**agic can happen on a lake. If that weren't true, not nearly as many people would try their luck casting lines and hooks about trying to catch elusive fish that would prefer not to be caught.

The uncertainty is what allows for the magic.

"It's called fishing, not catching," many an elder has told an exasperated youngster fed up of a day of no bites, not even a nibble.

Mike "Grinch" Goodnight's magic came on Pactola Lake, not from what he caught but from who he met there.

Goodnight was in the area from Buffalo Center, Iowa, which sits just 12 miles south of Interstate 90 more than 600 miles east of Gillette. He'd lived in Gillette for a spell back in the late 1980s and early '90s, and he remembered some of the better fishing spots.

He decided to look them up online and ended up in one of his favorite spots on the internet: YouTube. Gillette is home to more than a few personalities putting themselves out there on YouTube, from fishing channels to outdoor exploration to channels dedicated to chronicling the everyday life on a Wyoming ranch.

"I'm a YouTube nut," Goodnight said.

The video-sharing website is a one-stop shop of content. Tutorials and how-tos are Goodnight's favorite.

"It takes the learning curve away," he said. "If you pay attention to what they're doing. It really helps you out."

The videos of all the lakes in the area seemed to be coming from one channel: On Fish TV! with Joey Kruse.

On that day in March out at Pactola Lake, Goodnight met a handful of other fishermen, but it was the last one he met who stood out. Goodnight made small talk and said where he'd been fishing on his trip to the area.

"He said, 'Them are my lakes,'" Goodnight remembered the man saying to him. "He asked me, 'Do you by any chance watch YouTube?'"

"I told him, 'Man, I've been watching you for two months!'" Goodnight said.

It was Joey Kruse, in the flesh and on the lake, just like in his videos.

### Reeling in the views

Never did Kruse think he'd be responsible for a viewer to pack up and drive more than 600 miles based on his recommendations.

Kruse, now about three years into producing fishing videos for YouTube, began the project to simply share what he knew.

"I constantly had people asking me ques-



News Record Photo/Mike Moore

**Mike Galloway sets up his GoPro camera before filming an episode at his ranch south of Gillette Thursday morning. Galloway started the Our Wyoming Life YouTube channel in 2016.**

tions," Kruse said. "It got to the point, 'You know what? I should just make videos.'"

But the roots of the channel go way back to Kruse's childhood. He bought a video camera when he was 12 years old. He wanted to make videos and started out by trying his first at Keyhole State Park.

He quickly learned that making videos isn't so easy.

"I spent, like, \$250 on that camcorder, tried it once and never tried it again," Kruse said.

But once he got serious about it a few years ago, he started to gain more confidence. He

figured out what makes a compelling video. He used himself as a test subject, watching other videos of similar content and figuring out what works and what doesn't.

Multiple cameras are a big part of it, Kruse said.

"The multiple cameras makes it better for the viewer," he said. "With the one camera angle, it gets slightly boring."

And if the viewer gets bored, there's absolutely no chance of sinking a hook into them.

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