

# Gillette News Record

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## HUMERUS FOR HALLOWEEN

It's been 12 months of haunting fun at the Skeleton House, **B1**

**ELECTION 2020** Local candidates answer questions ahead of Nov. 3, **A10**

# Way clearing for possible new college district

Select committee will begin working on a bill for the 2021 Legislature to consider

By **JAKE GOODRICK**  
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The Select Committee on Community College Funding agreed Friday to start working toward drafting a bill that would clarify state statute regarding community colleges and potentially clear the way for the possible creation of Gillette College's own community college district.

Several parts of the state law, specifically regarding the mill levy requirements for community college districts, needed clarification, said Sen.

Jeff Wasserburger, R-Gillette, co-chairman of the committee, which is comprised of state senators and representatives.

### Questioning statutes

Under current Wyoming law, a county must tax four mills in order to receive state funding for a community college district, or a share of the community college pie, as it has been framed in recent meetings throughout the Gillette College application process.

But it was unclear to the Select Committee whether taxing four mills, or "up to four mills," is required to create the

district itself — regardless of state funding — and how that would affect future state funding during the accreditation process.

"It does not allow for state general funding until the four mills are assessed," said Sandy Caldwell, executive director of the Wyoming Community College Commission. "But until the accreditation is received, can they have a lesser amount? We're trying to get a good answer to that."

Accreditation is typically a five-year process, but given Gillette College's existing "robust" campus and infrastructure, Caldwell said it could potentially complete the process in four years, minimum.

The lack of clarity in the law frustrated some on the Select

Committee during a meeting Friday at the Gillette College Pronghorn Center.

"I think the statute is duplicitous, it says one thing here, it says another thing over here. And putting it all together ... Chapter 21 is a mess," Wasserburger said.

"What I thought it said is if you receive no state funds, you can levy less than four mills. Is that correct? Or, essentially we're waiting for the Attorney General's opinion."

The Select Committee and WCCC have been waiting to receive a prior interpretation of the statute made in the past that is believed to clarify some of the discrepancies, they said during the meeting.

See **DISTRICT**, Page A11



News Record Photo/Mike Moore

**Sen. Jeff Wasserburger, R-Gillette, adjusts his glasses while listening to Campbell County Commissioner Rusty Bell speak during a Select Committee on Community College Funding hearing at the Pronghorn Center on Friday.**

## 'Stand Your Ground' cited in request for dismissal

Motion says man was protecting himself when he shot and killed friend

By **NEWS RECORD STAFF**

The attorney for a Gillette man accused in the June shooting death of his friend has filed a motion to dismiss the case on the "Stand Your Ground" law, arguing that he had a right to protect himself from an intruder.



**JOSHUA CAMPBELL**

Joshua Lewis Campbell, 21, has been charged with manslaughter in the death of Tanner Miller, 21, and has pleaded not guilty in District Court.

Attorney Steven Titus argues in court documents that the "Stand Your Ground" law applies in this case

because Campbell did not know who was coming through his door at about 9:30 p.m. June 2.

"For one hundred twenty years, the Wyoming Supreme Court has consistently held that a person is not the aggressor and if threatened in his own home, that person may defend himself," Titus wrote.

Miller died about an hour after being shot at close range in an apartment on Running W Drive in southeastern Gillette.

Campbell, Miller and another friend had been drinking earlier at Campbell's apartment and then left to buy more alcohol. When they returned, Miller dropped the other two off outside while he went to park.

According to Titus, Campbell believed Miller had left after dropping them off. He heard knocks at the door but couldn't see anyone outside. About 5 minutes later, "an unidentified individual" came inside. Campbell "panicked" and fired a shot that hit Miller, Titus said.

Campbell "feared for his life," Titus wrote.

Campbell told police that, "I asked him several times who he was and he would not respond and he came through my door very fast. I was standing off to the side when I defended myself," according to charging documents.

Titus argues that Campbell was acting in self-defense, which is allowed under the "Stand Your Ground," or "Castle Doctrine" laws.

Titus said that Campbell was lawfully

See **MOTION**, Page A12



News Record Photo/Mike Moore

**John Melgaard votes early at the Campbell County Courthouse on Thursday afternoon at the elections office.**

# Election Q&A

As the election nears, county clerk answers frequently asked questions

By **JONATHAN GALLARDO** \* NEWS RECORD WRITER  
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**Pads of absentee ballot request forms await being filled out by residents at the Campbell County Courthouse.**

**E**lection Day is two weeks away, and the act of voting has been a hot topic among political parties and presidential candidates, particularly during this time of COVID-19.

With the pandemic, the number of people voting early or absentee is expected to increase greatly over the last election.

Many states are implementing universal mail-in voting this year, which has been a point of contention. President Donald Trump has claimed it will lead to widespread voter fraud. Wyoming is not one of the states that allows universal mail-in voting, but it does allow people to vote early.

In Campbell County, nearly 4,000 people have already voted by absentee or by coming into the elections office.

County Clerk Susan Saunders, whose office is in charge of elections, has worked in local elections for 40 years, starting in 1980. She said the local election process is secure and ensures every verified ballot is counted, whether one votes early or at the polls Nov. 3.

Below is a Q&A with Saunders on the absentee ballot process, voting at the polls and many other topics related to the 2020 presidential election.

Saunders' answers have been edited for clarity.

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