

Gillette News Record

TUESDAY EVENING, MAY 11, 2021 * 75¢ * GILLETTENEWSRECORD.COM



PEEK AT THE PAST

CCSD third graders resume walking tours of historic downtown, **B1**

BRUSHING UP DOWNTOWN Companies work together to clean up, **A8**

CCHS grad running for Cheney's House seat

Field growing crowded with challengers for embattled lawmaker

By **JONATHAN GALLARDO**
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A Campbell County High School graduate and U.S. Army veteran is running for Wyoming's lone U.S. House of Representatives seat in 2022.

Denton Knapp, a 1983 CCHS grad who served for 30 years in the U.S. Army, has announced that he will challenge Republican Rep. Liz Cheney.



DENTON KNAPP

Knapp, who now lives in California but is moving back to Gillette, said he's wanted to go into public service since high school and that "now is a good time to do it."

Knapp joins other Republicans in state Sen. Anthony Bouchard, state Rep. Chuck Gray, Bryan Keller, Marissa Selvig and Darin Smith in an ever-growing group of people running against Cheney in 2022.



REP. LIZ CHENEY

Since Cheney voted to impeach then-president Donald Trump following the Jan. 6

insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, she's been under fire for voting outside party lines, especially since she represents Wyoming, which voted overwhelmingly for Trump in both 2016 and 2020.

"What's missing right now is trust in our elected officials," Knapp said. "Wyomingites expected Cheney to vote a certain way and she didn't. As a result, she's going through consequences."

Knapp said he's seen Cheney, as well as her father, former Vice President Dick Cheney, serve Wyoming well for many years, so "it was a surprise to me when she voted the way she did."

He also was disappointed with Cheney

See **KNAPP**, Page A7

County reflects nationwide drop in demand for vaccine

By **JAKE GOODRICK**
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A recent drop in COVID-19 vaccine demand nationwide has been mirrored in Campbell County.

"We are definitely seeing a decrease too," said Jane Glaser, executive director of Campbell County Public Health. "In April, we were averaging about 500 vaccines a week, now we're closer to 250 to 300 vaccines given a week."

Nationwide, the number of shots given each day has curbed since mid-April. The United States peaked with more than 4.2 million doses administered April 1 and had its highest seven-day average April 11, with more than 3.27 million doses, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

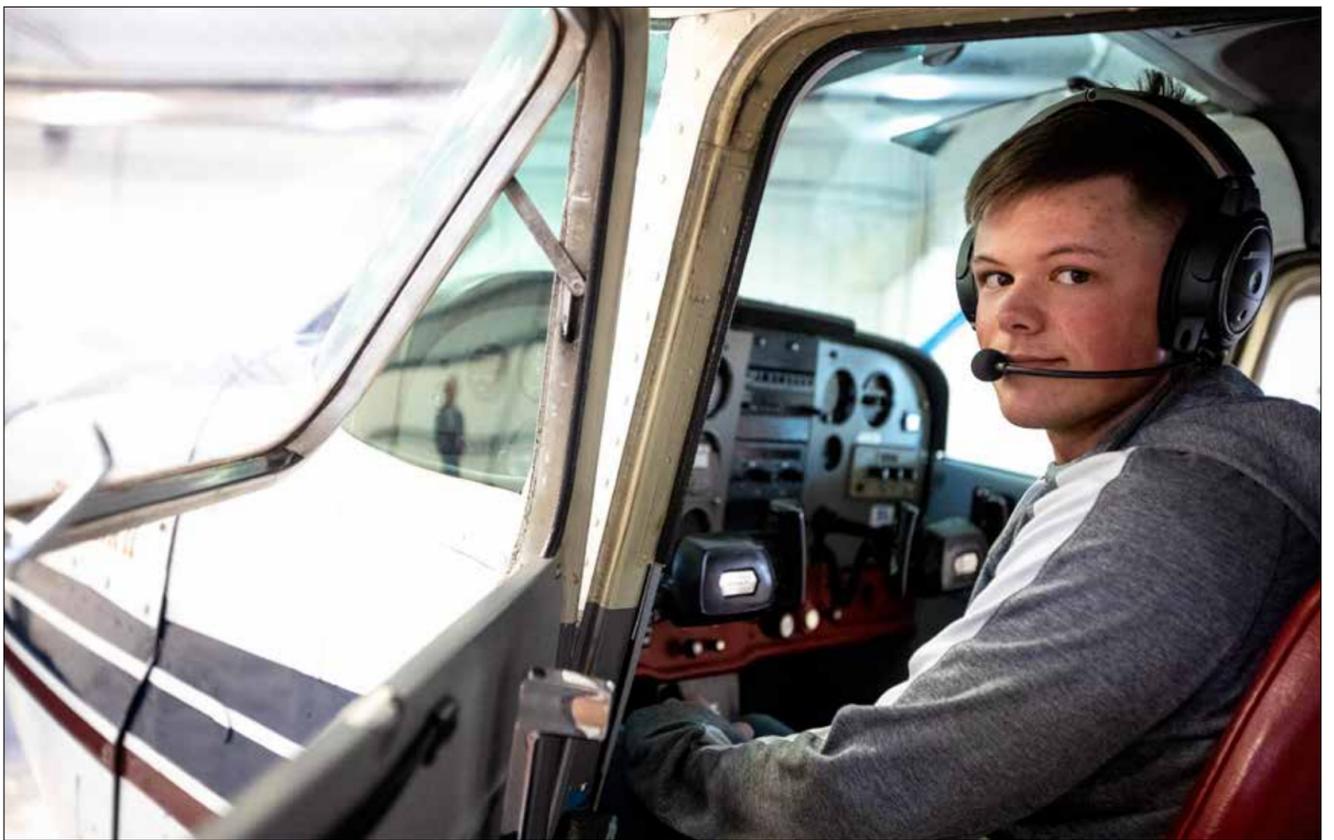
By May 1, that seven-day average fell to a little more than 2.1 million doses administered.

Until narrowly surpassing Crook County this week, Campbell County had consistently had the lowest percentage of population fully vaccinated in the state.

See **VACCINE**, Page A7



WEATHER, A2
HIGH 55
LOW 36



News Record Photos/Mike Moore

Rowdy Morman, 18, is a senior at Campbell County High School who plans on furthering his education in either aerospace engineering or aeronautical science at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University after graduating this spring. He'll have a head start on his college education having already earned an associate degree from Gillette College as a dual-enrollment high school student.

Academic accelerator

Some earn college degrees before high school diplomas

By **CARY LITTLEJOHN** * NEWS RECORD WRITER
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It's a time-honored trope of being a teenager to wish oneself older, more mature. That comes with more freedom, responsibility and fewer of the annoyances of youth. Bodies have grown, more or less, to their adult sizes. Driving allows for a world of new possibilities.

As one nears the end of high school, discussion often turns to the future, relatives and friends ask reflexively, "What are you going to do next?"

There are few instances where high schoolers can actually get ahead of where they are and a head start to where they want to be, and the dual-enrollment program at Gillette College is one of them. Through the program, high school students can earn college credit hours before they've even finished high school.

More and more students in Campbell County School District are taking advantage of the program. In the 2017-18 school year, 35 students from the county's high schools were enrolled, where they combined to take 61 classes and earned 179 college credit hours. In the 2019-20 school year, those numbers grew to 117 students who took 219 classes and earned 697 college credit hours. This year, 102 students were enrolled in the fall and 103 in the spring.

A select few, the ones who are truly dedicated to the idea of getting a jump start on college, can even earn college degrees before they get their high school diplomas. It's something fewer than 5% of the program's students achieve.

This school year, two Thunder Basin High School students — Rachel Rasse and Lizzie Rohrer — and two Campbell County High School students — Kindal Cunningham and Rowdy Morman — did just that when they graduated from Gillette College on a Friday night and were due in their respective high school classes the following Monday.

An early start

Lizzie Rohrer, a 17-year-old senior at TBHS, learned about the dual-enrollment program shortly after moving to Gillette from Douglas during her sophomore year.



News Record Photo/Mike Moore

Campbell County High School senior Kindal Cunningham, 18, wants to pursue her pre-med bachelor degree with a minor in biology to become a trauma surgeon one day.

Her counselor, Liz Gonzales, brought it to her attention, and then she had a talk with state Sen. Jeff Wasserburger, also the executive director of the Board of Cooperative Higher Education Services. BOCHES is the program that allows dual-enrollment students to take college courses at no cost. Students are only financially responsible for their books.

"This could be you next," Rohrer remembered Wasserburger telling her after pointing out that some high school students went on to earn associate degrees while still in high school.

Rohrer's path to dual-enrollment is typical, said Shannon Henshaw, who oversees dual-enrollment students at Gillette College. Students who show promise are often identified by faculty or guidance counselors who have to give approval before the students can consider college classes. Then they'll usually meet with Wasserburger, and by the time they get to Henshaw they are ready to enroll, Henshaw said her job is to help guide them toward their goals.

The program is open to high school juniors and seniors. Students who want to pursue associate degrees often start in the summer

after their sophomore year of high school, like CCHS senior Kindal Cunningham. The program restricts students to just six credit hours in their first semester, and once the restriction lifts, students can take up to 16 credit hours per semester, a full college course load.

"I don't think it's healthy to not take it during the summer," Cunningham said, looking back at her experience.

Rachel Rasse, a 17-year-old senior, saw dual-enrollment as the next logical step for her. "I've taken a lot of advanced classes throughout my education," Rasse said, adding that when told she could earn college credit, it was an easy decision.

Sometimes students learn about the program through less official channels.

Rowdy Morman, an 18-year-old senior at CCHS, learned about it from his classmate Cunningham.

He knew about the concurrent enrollment program, which allows students to earn college credit by high school teachers licensed to teach courses that award college credit. The students get two for the price of one; they don't even have to leave their high school.

But it was Cunningham who opened Morman's eyes to the fact that he could explore many more classes than just the concurrent classes at CCHS.

Hard work

Hard work is a given in the dual-enrollment program. Students are voluntarily taking on extra coursework at a higher level of difficulty. That immutable fact is true for every student who earns college credit while still in high school. But the degree to which the students who earn their associate degrees, which requires the completion of 60 credit hours, must work twice as hard as their high school classmates could easily be overlooked.

"As a group, they've been super motivated," Henshaw said of the foursome that got their college degrees this year. "They're some of the most ambitious students we've ever had."

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THROWIN' WITH LOVE: CCHS thrower
Lauryn Love is ranked No. 14 in the nation, **B3**

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