

Just the facts

School will teach basics of the legal system

By AIMEE TABOR
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A police officer reading a suspect their Miranda rights may be a familiar scene on TV, but it's not always the case in real life.

Instead, they're only read during certain circumstances.

For people wanting to learn more about the legal system and how it actually works, Wyoming attorneys will be holding The People's Law School in January and February. The six-week school is being organized by attorney Michael Shickich and will feature Shickich and several other experts in the legal and law enforcement field.

"This is open to people who are curious about how the legal system works," Shickich said.

The classes will be from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. and will run each Wednesday from Jan. 17 through Feb. 28. They will be held at Casper College in the business administration building in room 309. Each class will focus on a specific area and will generally feature two topics.

The first class, however, will focus on one topic and will be taught by Natrona County Circuit Court Judge Steve Brown.

"The first lecture will be a history of the courts," Shickich said. "It will be a history of the legal system. After that, they'll break down into topic areas."

Although the school isn't for specific questions, people can ask them. The school, which is sponsored by the Wyoming Trial Lawyers Association in conjunction with the Continuing Education Department at Casper College, is mainly designed to give people an overview of the system, Shickich said.

Shickich, who has been coordinating the school for the past five years, said that people have misconceptions and there's a lack of knowledge about the legal system.

"It's a way for the lay person to have the knowledge of how the jury system and legal system works," Shickich said.

As with past schools, Shickich said he anticipates there will be a lot of interest from the community.

"We always have a pretty good turnout," he said, adding that classes average between

Please see **LAW**, B2

LAW: Attendees come from all walks of life

Continued from B1
30 to 40 people.

Shickich said the people who attend are from all walks of life. The school also gives some participants the chance to earn 1.2 hours of continuing education credit.

To attend the school, people are asked to register through Casper College by calling 268-2207. Additional information about it can be obtained by calling Shickich at the Injury Law Firm at 266-5297.

Contact reporter Aimee Tabor at (307) 266-0593 or at aimee.tabor@casperstartribune.net.

The classes

The following is a list of classes being offered during the People's Law School, the days they're offered and the instructors who will be teaching them.

- **Jan. 17:** The history of the courts and how they operate - Natrona County Circuit Court Judge Steve Brown.
- **Jan. 24:** Bankruptcy - Attorney Melville Dunn; Trusts and estates - Attorney Doug McLaughlin.
- **Jan. 31:** Law enforcement procedures - Casper police

Officer Scott Jones; Criminal law defense - Attorney Keith Nachbar; Criminal law plaintiff - Assistant U.S. Attorney Kelly Rankin.

- **Feb. 2:** Torts and insurance plaintiff and defense - Attorney Todd Hambrick.
- **Feb. 21:** Business law - Attorney Russ Rauchfuss; Family law - Attorney Larry Clapp.
- **Feb. 28:** The role and value of the jury system - Attorney Fred Harrison; Constitutional law - Attorney R. Michael Shickich.