

Wright thrilled  
to become a  
U.S. citizen

3

Indoor track &  
field teams eye  
state in Laramie

6

Flu bug still  
can bite  
around here

10

Boston trip  
memorable for  
speechsters

16

Thermopolis  
Hot Springs

# Independent Record

SPECIAL INTERNET PREVIEW

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THERMOPOLIS, WY 82443

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## Teammate tournament



Josh Materi, right, and Louis Bradshaw battle each other in the 112-pound championship match during the Class 3A state tournament last weekend in Casper. The Thermopolis teammates earned the right to wrestle for the

right to be called the best in the state by dominating their bracket and upsetting other grapplers along the way. Materi won the match to earn his state title. For details of the tournament, see Sports, page 6. — Sean Ryan photo

## Commitment made to better serve students

### High school eyes schedule change to put stronger stress on learning

by Keith E. Domke

Proposing his own version of a "No Child Left Behind" approach through a restructuring of the way the high school conducts business and stresses learning, principal Dustin Hunt outlined to the Hot Springs County School District Board of Trustees changes he hopes to make beginning with the 2010-11 academic year.

Hunt presented his plan Thursday night during the February school board meeting and received unanimous support from its members to continue to pursue the thinking-outside-the-box changes and approach to learning.

"We're sitting OK now with how things are going, but it's not good enough," Hunt said. "We feel we need to take chances and make some drastic changes because we're not satisfied."

Hunt's proposal included a restructuring of the high school's daily schedule and a renewed focus on student learning and the faculty commitment collaboration it takes to make sure no teenager falls through the cracks as he or she makes his or her way toward graduation. His presentation included a video that portrayed a high school "educating" a student through the current common approach and this alternative one.

"We need to change the culture in our schools," Hunt said. "We have to make sure we don't lose kids. The focus in a school has to be learning, and we have to have a relentless approach to get the students to learn. Our teachers have to be able to collaborate, to look at the data on how we can better help the

Current school day	
First period	8:15-9:05 a.m.
Second period	9:10-10:00 a.m.
SSR period	10:05-10:20 a.m.
Third period	10:20-11:10 a.m.
Fourth period	11:15 a.m.-12:05 p.m.
Lunch	12:10-12:40 p.m.
Fifth period	12:45-1:35 p.m.
Sixth period	1:40-2:30 p.m.
Seventh period	2:35-3:25 p.m.
Proposed school day	
Zero period	7:20-8:10 a.m.
First period	8:15-9:05 a.m.
Second period	9:10-10:00 a.m.
Third period	10:05-10:55 a.m.
Study A	11:00-11:35 a.m.
Study B	11:35 a.m.-12:10 p.m.
Lunch	12:15-12:40 p.m.
Fourth period	12:45-1:35 p.m.
Fifth period	1:40-2:30 p.m.
Sixth period	2:35-3:25 p.m.

students.

"We're in a good place here with our culture," he said. "But we need to do more. The staff is willing to help, but how do you get it all done? This (approach) creates an opportunity to help with the focus being on learning."

### Schedule

In a nutshell, under the change, the Thermopolis high school day would go from seven to six periods. It would eliminate the current 15-minute Sustained Silent Reading segment and add back-to-back "study table" periods prior to lunch. Also, for those students who wish to take advantage of it, a "0-hour" period would be available before the start of the normal school day for certain classes.

The six periods of classes would last for 50 minutes and the opening and closing bells would ring at the same time as now: 8:15 a.m. and 3:25 p.m.

See "Learning," page 11

## Group seeks full-time attorney

◆ The county attorney position was made part time in 2006.

by Cindy Glasson

A small group spearheaded by former deputy county attorney Sandra Baker presented a proposal to the county commissioners on Tuesday requesting the county attorney be made a full-time position rather than the current part-time slot.

Baker, speaking on behalf of about seven individuals in attendance at the meeting, presented a proposed budget to the commissioners that would eliminate the deputy county attorney, saying it would save the county \$37,900 each year. Her proposal would include an annual salary of \$95,000 for a full-time county attorney rather than the current part-time \$70,000 figure.

Annual salary for the county's full-time deputy attorney is \$58,600. The proposal also would eliminate a summer intern.

"I feel we need to cut every little bit we can from the budget to help the citizens," Baker said.

The position was made part time in 2006 when the county ran into difficulty finding an attorney willing to give up his or her private practice to become county attorney. Baker believes this needs to be changed to remove the conflict of a part-time attorney with a private law practice.

The commissioners questioned current county attorney Jerry Williams regarding how many hours he puts into the job.

"I would say about 50 hours per week," Williams said.

He indicated he spends less than one day

per week on his private practice.

"My feeling is we're (already) getting a full-time attorney," commissioner Brad Basse said. "He's putting in that many hours on a part-time salary."

Baker feels her proposal and the salary would generate statewide interest from attorneys wishing to serve Hot Springs County.

"What she's presenting is not realistic," Williams said. "Half my salary is being paid by the state and so is the deputy's."

Commission chairman John Lumley expressed concern over the amount of work that goes through the county attorney's office.

"This looks good, but are we going to get the work done (with just one person)?" Basse asked.

No action regarding the proposal was taken by the commissioners.

## Milek, accounting firm in spotlight

by Keith E. Domke

It was a special night Saturday, and none more special than for Dorothy Milek and the folks at Koerwitz, Michel, Wright & Associates, who earned the 2009 Thermopolis Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce citizen and business of the year recognition, respectively.

The local chamber played host to its 89th annual "Welcome to Paradise" banquet in the Hot Springs County Fair Building as nearly a couple hundred chamber members and guests feasted on cracked crab, boiled shrimp and prime rib while having a luau of fun at the same time. At the end of the night, after all the raffle ticket balloons were popped and the centerpiece baskets auctioned, it was Milek and the accounting firm at the center of attention.

"Thermopolis is blessed to have these people," emcee and chamber board vice president Rick Ridenour said while he

was reading the nominations and descriptions of the businesses or individuals on the "official" list before the winners were announced. "There is no one on this list who doesn't deserve it."

In all, 14 businesses and 16 individuals were recognized as nominees before the winners were announced at the end of the night.

"This was the greatest turnout for nominations," Ridenour said.

Winners Business	
1995: Clothes Closet	1978: Bill Malloy
1996: Wyoming Dinosaur Center	1979: Ruth Clare Yankee & Etta Payne
1997: Super 8 Motel	1980: Willard Wilson
1998: Texaco Southside Travel Center	1981: Hugh Graham
1999: Quality Inn & Suites	1982: The Rev. Harley Puls
2000: The Storyteller	1983: Bill Flinn
2001: Wyoming Waltz, Jeanne's on Broadway, Las Fuentes	1984: Bob Johnstone
2002: First State Bank	1985: Ellen Mortimore
2003: White Horse Country Store	1986: Karen Sinclair
2004: Red Rock Family Practice	1987: Guy Bjorklund
2005: Bill Smith, Wyoming Quarter Horse Sale	1988: Neil Carol
2006: Thermopolis Hardware	1989: Alden Ingraham
2007: Hot Springs County Memorial Hospital	1990: Mary Ann Berry, Greg Market
2008: KTHE/KDNO radio	1991: Ralph Wilson
2009: Koerwitz, Michel, Wright & Associates	1992: Cal Voigt
	1993: None
	1994: Don Kraske
	1995: Georgia Schmidt
	1996: Jim Mills
	1997: Dr. Frank Manning
	1998: Beth Drake
	1999: Sonja Stump
	2000: Howard Willson
	2001: Sue Blakey
	2002: Ray Shaffer
	2003: Father Joe Galligan
	2004: Martin Andreen
	2005: Brian Yarrington
	2006: Dennis Sinclair
	2007: Brad Basse
	2008: Ann Hardesty
	2009: Dorothy Milek
Citizens	
1968: Reg Filkey	
1969: Art Leafdale	
1970: Ivan Milliou, August Albers	
1971: Rupert Conrad	
1972: Dr. Ben Giltitz	
1973: Dr. Frank Manning	
1974: John Bury	
1975: Guy Bjorklund	
1976: Ema Jane Tomes	
1977: Karl Allen	

The event also served as a major fund-raiser for the chamber as countless donated prizes from local businesses and individuals were given away and 16 centerpieces of all shapes and varieties were auctioned to the highest bidder. In all, \$1,690 was raised through Balloon Frenzy raffle sales and \$3,895 was accumulated during the auction. The highest-priced item

See "Chamber," page 11



Donna Nally of Wyoming Whiskey concentrates on counting out extra raffle tickets to sell Saturday night after Thermopolis Hot Springs County Chamber of Commerce banquet attendees purchased all of the original ones. — Keith E. Domke photo