

Thermopolis  
Hot Springs

# Independent Record

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## Redistricting to result in boundary changes

by Joe Sovo  
Big Horn Basin legislators are concerned about the possibility of losing a seat in the Wyoming Legislature due to reapportionment and the focus is on “keeping the Basin whole.”

This spring and summer, the Legislature’s Joint Corporations Interim Committee has been using public education and meetings to gather input about redistricting. Meetings were held through mid-July and the last scheduled public session is next Monday morning in Torrington. A full Corporations Committee meeting is set for

Monday afternoon and Tuesday in Cheyenne.

The leadership of the Legislature charged the committee with developing redistricting plans prior to the 2012 legislative session. Redistricting plans will be introduced as bills at the session. The state House and Senate, by majority vote, will enact a single bill containing a redistricting plan.

Redistricting is the process of redrawing the geographic boundaries of an area from which people are elected as representatives to the state legislature or U.S. Congress. Under the state constitution, the legislature is

required to redraw state legislative districts at the first budget session following the federal census. The most recent U.S. census was taken in April 2010.

New district boundaries will be used in the November 2012 elections and those boundaries have the attention of such legislators as Rep. Lorraine Quarberg (R-Thermopolis). She represents House District 28, which includes all of Hot Springs County, south Big Horn County and southeast Park County.

Election districts should be contiguous, compact and reflect a community of interest. Population of election districts should be substantially equal, with the range of deviation not to exceed 10 percent. To the greatest extent possible, in establishing election

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## Consolidation of prevention programs raises questions

by J.D. Stetson  
During the Aug. 3 meeting of the Hot Springs County Community Outreach Coalition, Prevention Specialist Jane Norskog provided the coalition with a draft plan by the Wyoming Department of Health to consolidate all mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment programs under one office.

The plan details the merger of the state’s Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Division with its Developmental Disabilities Division to create the Behavioral Health Division.

Essentially, the plan consolidates all state and local prevention programs such as substance abuse, alcohol, tobacco, suicide and various others under one division, allowing the state to impose a “single-fiscal agent” model to the program, which will be overseen by a consortium of officials from various state agencies.

The agencies include the departments of Health, Education, Family Services, Corrections, Workforce Services and Transportation, and the divisions of Behavioral Health, Preventative Health and Safety, Community and Public Health, Maternal and Family Health, Aging, Adult Protective Services, Child Protective Services and Juvenile Justice.

Currently, various fiscal agents throughout the state are responsible for prevention programs locally. Under the new model, the state fiscal agent

will be responsible for hiring and managing local prevention personnel, provide fiscal administration and support, staff training and human resources. The agent also would be tasked with facilitating the consortium, the Governor’s Leadership Team to Prevent Impaired Driving and the Governor’s Substance Abuse and Violent Crimes Advisory Board.

The plan calls for the division, the fiscal agent and the consortium to perform two studies: a cost analysis of the true cost of substance abuse and mental illness in Wyoming, and a study to identify other prevention service providers in the state so it can create “new doors for collaboration and reduction of duplication.”

The cost analysis would allow the state to have a firm understanding of the cost to Wyoming communities from substance abuse and mental illness in terms of jobs lost, disability, disease and death, and it will allow the division to garner political support from leaders and the Wyoming Legislature.

### Coalition input

After a quick glance at the proposed plan, members of the Community Coalition had mixed feelings.

Coalition member Al Braaten said he needed more information from the state with regard to the plan because his understanding from what he

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### Dancing in the evening glow



The sun on his face, a dancer from the Northern Arapaho Tribe performs during the 61st Annual Gift of the Waters Pageant in Thermopolis. The pageant tells the story of Chief Washakie giving the healing mineral waters as a gift to the white men. This year’s pageant was well attended both Saturday and Sunday evenings.

— Cindy Glasson photo

## Livestock Sale nets \$98,000

by J.D. Stetson  
The Hot Springs County Fair Junior Livestock Auction brought in a total of \$97,904.20 on Friday night.

The total is down from 2010, which brought in \$112,695, which includes the sale of all animals plus any “add-on” donations.

The auction sold 53 animals and 11 bakery items. It had 19 steers, 18 pigs and 16 lambs.

### Beef

Beef dominated the market bringing in \$63,659.15, with an average price per pound around \$2.60 with 19 steers sold.

The average price is down from \$2.77 in 2010, which had 22 steers sold, but is still significantly higher than in 2009 when the average price was \$1.84 and there were 28 animals sold.

The top seller was SashAnn Daniels’ Overall Grand Champion steer, which went for \$3.50 a pound for a total of \$4,837, which does not include any add-ons or feed costs. Thermopolis Hardware is listed as the buyer of the 1,382-pound animal.

The auction had three animals with a weight of 1,400 pounds or higher and each sold for between \$2.40 and \$2.75 per pound.

The lowest weight steer, 1,106 pounds, went for \$3.25 a pound—ranking it sixth highest in total value at \$3,594.

The lowest priced was a 1,162-pound steer that went for \$2 a pound for a total price of \$2,324.

### Pigs

Rebecca Clouse had the high-

est priced pig at the sale. Clouse recently suffered a leg injury, but still went out to show and sell her pig with her assistant, Harley Rhodes.

Clouse’s pig weighed 285 pounds and it sold at \$7.75 a pound for a weight value of \$2,208.75. It was sold to McCumber Well Service.

Overall, the pigs brought in \$22,262.05 with an average price of \$4.69 out of 18 animals.

The average price is down from \$4.86 in 2010 with 13 animals, but much higher than \$2.86 in 2009 with 36 animals.

The auction had four pigs with weights 285 pounds or higher. With the exception of Clouse’s pig, the three other heavy pigs ran between \$4.25 to \$6.10 per pound.

Katie Ferree’s Overall Reserve Champion 270-pound pig sold for \$3.50 per pound for a weight value of \$945.

The lowest weight pig, 225 pounds, sold for \$4.25 a pound for a total of \$956. The lowest priced pig, a 228-pound animal, sold for \$4 a pound for a total of \$912.

### Lambs

The 16 lambs brought in a total of \$9,538 with an average price of \$4.48 per pound.

The official results broke the lambs into three categories; the first had two animals with an average price of \$4.30, the second had two animals with an average price of \$4.28 and the third category had the remaining 12 lambs with an average price of 4.87. The overall average price was \$4.48.

The overall average price is up from 2010’s price of \$4.09, and is significantly higher than 2009’s \$3.59.

The highest priced animal was Emme Norsworthy’s 122-pound sheep with \$793. Dr. Jim Biles bought the animal for \$6.50 a pound.

Jessie Pennoyer’s Overall Grand Champion 140-pound lamb went for \$700 at \$5 a pound.

McKenzie Kannapel’s Overall Reserve Champion 122-pound lamb went for \$518.50 at \$4.25 a pound.

The highest weight sheep, a 143-pound offering, went for \$4 a pound or \$572, the fourth highest priced sheep.

The smallest sheep, a 112-pounder, went for \$4.25 a pound for a weight value of \$476.

The lowest priced sheep, a 116-pound animal, was bought for \$4 a pound, a value of \$464.

### Bake sale and miscellaneous

Throughout the evening 4-H members offered their various baked goods and baskets during the auction.

The students made \$2,445 from the bake sale, which includes add-on donations.

The highest priced item was sold by Haylee Hoffman for \$300. The lowest priced item sold for \$120.

There were no goats for sale in the auction this year. In 2010, there were two goats for sale with an average price of \$4 per pound, and in 2009 there were five goats that sold for an average of \$2.88 per pound.

### Livestock auction



Carly Churchill leads her 1,400-pound steer through the ring at the Youth Livestock Auction Friday at the Hot Springs County Fairgrounds. Churchill sold her animal for \$2.40 a pound. See fair results and photos inside this issue. —J.D. Stetson photo



## Redistricting

districts, county boundaries should be followed. The majority of each county should be in one district, and census blocks should be followed.

Of the six districts in the Big Horn Basin, only District 25 is within the 5-percent margin. District 28 is nearly 16 percent below the margin. Quarberg said in order to get within the 5-percent margin, population would have to be drawn from outside the Basin.

HD28 is affected since Hot Springs County is one of only two Wyoming counties to lose population since the 2000 census. The official count dropped from 4,882 to 4,812, or 70 residents. Platte County’s population over the 10-year period fell from 8,807 to 8,667, or 140 residents.

In contrast, the population in Campbell County soared from 33,698 in the 2000 census to 46,133 in 2010 – a rise of 37 percent.

To maintain one-man, one-vote standard set by the courts, the ideal House district in state should have 9,394 residents and maximum variance would be 10 percent between the highest and lowest district statewide. This means each district must be within 5 percent of that ideal, whether above or below.

“(Rep.) Mike Greear (R-Washakie County, HD27) and I have worked real hard. It’s in the Park County ballpark

right now,” Quarberg said of redrawing districts. “We’re juggling the boundaries. We’re committed to keeping the Basin as intact as possible.”

### Adding Shoshoni, Lysite voting districts

Quarberg has proposed to have two Fremont County election districts – the towns of Shoshoni and Lysite – added to the HD28 population base. That would add more than 700 people and enable the districts in the Basin to be redrawn equitably.

“The only way to make the numbers work is to go into Fremont County,” Quarberg explained. With that county’s growth since the 2000 census (more than 4,000 residents), it could afford to give up the Shoshoni and Lysite voting districts, she said.

With the district redrawn, it would still include all of Hot Springs County, south Big Horn County (including half of the Manderson voting district and excluding Hyattville) and all of the Lysite and Shoshoni voting districts with the exception of 22 voters. Quarberg’s plan is to include the Meeteetse town and “below town” voting districts. Currently, HD28 covers a small part of Park County without any voters.

“It keeps the majority of the population in Hot Springs County. We want to be able

to elect a House member who lives in the county,” Quarberg said. “It’s critical for us. We did not want Hot Springs County to get chopped up and slide down into Fremont County.”

If the district is redrawn as such, it would include voting districts in all or parts of four counties – Hot Springs, Big Horn, Park and Fremont counties. So whoever campaigns in HD28 in 2012 would have to do so in all four.

“I got positive feedback from Corporations Committee members,” Quarberg said of the redistricting plan. She indicated the plan is better than the option of “taking House Districts 26 and 28 over the Bighorns (mountains).”

“It’s really been a team effort,” she said of the redistricting plan. “We owe a lot to Park County. They agreed to spread out and give up part of their population.”

Quarberg also said HD34 Rep. Rita Campbell, who covers Shoshoni and Lysite, understands the situation and “knows the numbers” in terms of an adequate redistricting plan.

The Joint Corporations Interim Committee will discuss what it’s heard about potential redistricting plans at next week’s meeting. It will not be until this fall or early winter until the committee settles on a plan to go into the legislative session in early 2012.

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## Family Fun Night at the Fair



Two-year-old James Ward gets a ride down the slide on his mother Ginger's lap during Family Fun Night at the Hot Springs County Fair. — Joe Sova photo

## Consolidation

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had read is that it will take away local control of the core prevention programs from the coalitions across the state.

The program identifies various needs by the state divisions in order to facilitate the new program with the intent of garnering political support through comprehensive study and research.

“No one asked what we need,” Braaten said.

Braaten added he did not see any avenue in the plan that allows for community involvement, which is “against what has been preached for years.”

While no one in the coalition was surprised to see a consolidation of all of the programs and their

respective grants under one agency, many in the coalition questioned the implication of the state taking away local control of the programs and its decision to focus only on research for the next few fiscal years.

The coalition also questioned whether the new model would completely restart the county infrastructure from the ground up, or whether they would keep existing preventions specialists and current programs.

The coalition plans to seek answers to their questions before the next meeting at 11:30 a.m. Sept. 7 at Common Ground.