



SEE YOU AT THE FAIR



Daniel Nolker photo

Time to shine

Kristy Cullinan puts Bonanza through his paces at the Dawson County Fairgrounds on Tuesday as part of the Dawson County 4-H showmanship class. Cullinan is a Dawson County 4-H Junior Leader for livestock and has been in 4-H for nine years. At the fair in the past, she has shown horses as well as a steer.

County property value exceeds \$1 billion

By Jason Stuart
Ranger-Review Staff Writer

The total value of property and the taxable value of that property are both up substantially in Dawson County and Glendive in the wake of the recent property reappraisals done by the Montana Department of Revenue.

The DOR supplied the city and county with their taxable values earlier this week, which local governments use to set their budgets.

The total property value in Dawson County nearly doubled in the wake of the reappraisal and has exceeded \$1 billion. Last year, the total property value was estimated at \$596,511,063. Now, the total value of property in the county is estimated at \$1,018,109,773.

The total taxable value for county property is \$23,637,642, an increase of almost \$3 million from last year's total of \$20,695,959. That figure places the value of a single county mill at \$23,637, up more than \$3,000 from last year's mill value of \$20,228.

Within the City of Glendive, the new appraisals place the total value of property at \$366,627,802. That's more than double last year's appraisal of \$167,137,851.

The total taxable value for the city is \$7,441,954, a nearly \$2 million increase over last year's taxable value, which was \$5,668,991. The value of a city mill for this fiscal year will be \$7,441, nearly \$2,000 more than last year's figure of \$5,668.

Because a mill is worth so much more than previous years, the number of mills the city and county can levy this year is dropping

substantially, as it will take far fewer mills to collect the total amount of funds each government is authorized to budget.

For example, Glendive Director of Operations Kevin Dorwart said the total number of non-exempt mills the city is authorized to levy this year is 218.58. Last year, the city was authorized to levy a total of 273 non-exempt mills. (Non-exempt mills make up a government's general fund budget. Other mills, like permissive medical levies, retirement fund levies and voted mill levies are counted separately.)

Dorwart also noted that it's unlikely the city will collect all the mills it is authorized to. Over the last several years, the city has typically left a number of mills on the table. Last year, for example, the city only levied 229.96 non-exempt mills out of the 273 it was authorized to collect.

There has been much consternation over the appraisal notices sent by the DOR at the end of last month, with many fearing the much higher values listed on those new appraisals will lead to much higher taxes on their property.

However, Dorwart reiterated what DOR officials have been saying, that higher property values do not necessarily mean a huge increase in taxes.

When asked if city residents would not be paying significantly higher taxes to the city despite the increase in property values, Dorwart replied, "You can say that, yes."

Reach Jason Stuart at rrreporter@rangerreview.com.

Richey voters reject government study

By Jason Stuart
Ranger-Review Staff Writer

Voters in the Town of Richey have rejected forming a commission to study the town's form of government.

In a special election Tuesday, town residents shot down the local government study commission by a vote of 31-22. The ballot question asked Richey voters if they wanted to form a three-member commission with a budget of \$3,000.

Voter turnout for the special election, which was conducted solely by mail-in ballot, was 46 percent. According to Dawson County Elections Administrator Heather Haggerty, a total of 114 ballots were mailed out.

Richey has 144 registered voters, but only "active voters" were sent ballots. Haggerty said "there's a process" for determining that a voter has become inactive in elections.

Richey's vote on the government study question

came a year after the rest of the state's cities and counties voted on the issue. For reasons unknown, the town's government did not pass the necessary resolution to put the issue before Richey voters during one of last year's elections, which necessitated Tuesday's special election.

The Montana Constitution stipulates that local governments must put the question of forming a study commission to voters every 10 years.

Reach Jason Stuart at rrreporter@rangerreview.com.



Dawson County Fair

Schedule of events

Wednesday, Aug. 12

- 8 a.m. – Open Horse Show (all day)
- 3 to 9 p.m. – Open Class Entries accepted
- 5 p.m. – Santa Maria-Style Barbecue
- 6 p.m. – Jackpot Team Roping

Thursday, Aug. 13

- 7-9 a.m. – Open Class Entries accepted
- 9 a.m. – 4-H Horse Judging and Showmanship
- 10 a.m. – Open Class Judging begins
- Noon – 4-H Interview Judging - All Indoor Projects
- 6 p.m. – Commercial Building opens
- 6 p.m. – Fun Time Carnival Company opens
- 6:30 p.m. – Youth "Mudapalooza"
- 7 p.m. – Tractor/ ATV Pull
- 10 p.m. – Youth Night DJ Dance
- 10:30 p.m. – Commercial Buildings close

Friday, Aug. 14

- 8 a.m. – 4-H and Open Class Livestock Show begins
- 11 a.m. – Commercial Buildings open
- 8 p.m. – Theory of a Deadman in concert
- 10:30 p.m. – Exhibit and Commercial Buildings close

Saturday, Aug. 15

- 10 a.m. – 4-H Large Animal Round Robin Showmanship
- 11 a.m. – Exhibit and Commercial Buildings open
- 5 p.m. – 4-H Livestock Sale
- 7 p.m. – PRCA Rodeo
- 9 p.m. – Dustin Evans & Goodtimes featuring Ned LeDoux Free Dance
- 10:30 p.m. – Exhibit and Commercial Buildings close

Sunday, Aug. 16

- 11 a.m. – Cowboy Curch Service (Dawson 100 Club Pavilion)
- Noon – Exhibit and Commercial Buildings open
- 1 p.m. – 4-H Market Animals may be removed
- 2 p.m. – Glendive Ranch Rodeo
- 4 p.m. – Exhibits may be removed

BBQ vendor is a fair favorite

Find your favorite fair food on page 9!

By Daniel Nolker
Ranger-Review Staff Writer

The blue smoke of Santa Maria style barbecue will once again billow across the Dawson County Fair.

Joseph and Amy Rowan, owners and operators of Blue Moose Barbecue, will be serving up their signature oak-smoked beef tri-tip sandwiches, wraps and carne asada tacos again this year.

"The first year they came to the fair, there was a plume of the most interesting smelling smoke coming from the Blue Moose Barbecue. The smell of the smoke was practically hypnotizing and it seemed to put everyone in a better mood," said Dawson County Fair manager Connie Hilger.

She said that although people were waiting in long lines for the food, they were still pleasant and patient. "People just love their food," Hilger said.

Both natives of Santa Maria, Calif., Amy said her husband Joseph started making and selling the unique Santa Maria style of barbecue for a fund raiser when he was 14. She said they had been making it at events for their friends and family before they decided to start a barbecue business.

"We just gave it a shot one day and it worked," Amy said.

Now living in Three Forks, Mont., Amy said she and her husband have been running Blue Moose Barbecue for seven years and coming to Glendive for five.

"Glendive is one of the best shows of all the shows we do," Amy said.

Of the 43 different farmers markets, fairs and festivals they attend between May and October, Amy said the Dawson County Fair is in the top three with the Lewis and Clark County Fair and Bite of Bozeman.

Although their business is successful, Amy said there is a greater purpose behind the barbecue. She

said they had to find a way to support themselves without having to work a traditional nine to five work day.

"Our desire was never to make a lot of money. We could make it three times bigger, but that isn't why we are doing it," Amy said. "We needed a way to make money that would still give us the free time to serve in our ministry."

Twelve years ago, the Rowans moved to Three Forks from Santa Maria with their three daughters. Amy said they noticed immediately that there wasn't anything for the kids to do.

Since they met while volunteering at a youth program in California, Amy said she and Joseph felt God opening a door for them to start a ministry.

She said they started the Construction Zone youth center in Three Forks as a way to get kids off the streets and offer a safe and constructive place for them to spend time after school.

Originally, the youth program included around 10 kids in a donated 800 square foot space. Now, Amy said the program has grown to include 30 to 40 kids in a 3,000 square foot building with a thrift store across the street that is run by members of the teen center.

Along with Construction Zone, Amy said they began the first Royal Family Kids' Camp in Montana. "We are one of 250 camps in the U.S. that take kids that aren't treated very well in foster programs and treat them like royalty," Amy said.

She said that although they struggled in the beginning, their vision for their ministry and business has become clear.

"God called us here to this small town and opened so many doors for ministry," Amy said. "Now it's



Joseph and Amy Rowan work year 'round and in all conditions selling their special Santa Maria style barbecue. definitely doing well."

However, there have been some large obstacles to overcome during their time with Blue Moose Barbecue.

Three years ago, on their way home from a successful four days at the Dawson County Fair, over \$8,000 and other belongings were stolen out of the back of their truck. Although they did not previously book events in the fall or winter, Amy said the loss forced them to change.

"We made phone calls out of desperation. We called every venue to try to get events in October, November and December and booked six new shows," Amy said. "The first show was in Billings. The barbecue person backed out so we got the spot. Amazingly, we made all of the money back in the first show."

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Train collection rolls into Frontier Gateway

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It's just a dead lion

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