



# GOING OUT ON TOP

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# Wyoming Tribune Eagle

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# Cities look into 7th penny tax

## Cheyenne could follow Torrington's lead

By Matt Murphy  
Wyoming Tribune Eagle

CHEYENNE—As state revenues decline, local governments are looking for new sources of revenue to stay afloat while also funding long-term projects and goals.

One potential source cropping up recently—including in Cheyenne—is an added 1 percent sales tax.

That could take three forms—an extra fifth penny, an extra sixth penny or a seventh penny.

A “seventh penny,” as it’s colloquially known, is an optional sales tax earmarked for economic development.

Like the fifth and sixth pennies, the seventh penny must be approved by county voters.

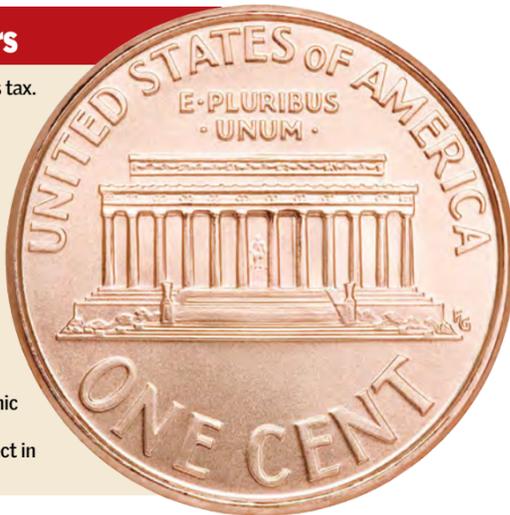
Per state law, the combination of a fifth penny, a sixth penny and/or a seventh penny cannot total more than 3 percent in local sales tax.

No county currently has all three taxes in place nor is there anywhere in the state with a combined tax rate higher than 6 percent.

Increasing local sales taxes to the 3 percent maximum can take a number of forms.

### By the numbers

- 4 percent – state sales tax.
- 3 percent – maximum sales tax local governments can levy.
- 6 percent – highest combined state and local sales tax in effect anywhere in Wyoming.
- 2 percent – combined local sales taxes in Laramie County.
- 0.25 percent – economic development sales tax (“seventh penny”) in effect in Goshen County.



State law allows both the general purpose tax (colloquially the “fifth penny”) and the special purpose option (colloquially known as the “sixth penny”) to go to rates of 2 percent.

The seventh penny is capped at 1 percent.

The law allows for all or parts of each tax to be employed, up to 7 percent.

Only one county—Goshen, whose

county seat is Torrington—has enacted the economic development tax. Its 0.25 percent tax is administered by the Goshen County Economic Development Corp.

That nonprofit has used the tax to fund a variety of efforts classified as economic development, including matching funds for state

*See Penny, page A2*

# Wyoming will move slow on climate plan

By Benjamin Storrow  
Casper Star-Tribune

CASPER—The budget request was for \$350,000.

It would have let the Department of Environmental Quality hire a consultant to identify several strategies for complying with the Clean Power Plan.

That is President Barack Obama’s signature climate change initiative.

And it was largely included in the budget because states had until September to file preliminary plans for complying with the strategy.

The money no longer exists, and neither does the deadline—the U.S. Supreme Court stayed the rule until it can be reviewed by a lower court.

Lawmakers struck DEQ’s funding request for the Clean Power Plan from the final \$3 billion budget and included a provision prohibiting the department from spending money to develop a compliance plan.

Coal interests applauded the move. And some legislators said the funding was no longer necessary.

But others criticized the decision, saying Wyoming missed an opportunity to prepare itself for a future when less of the country is reliant on coal power.

To be sure, the budget provision does not halt all Clean Power Plan preparations. DEQ will be allowed to spend money to attend meetings and “otherwise be informed” about the plan.

Rep. Norine Kasperik, a Gillette Republican who serves on the Minerals, Business and Economic Development Committee, said planning will not stop.

“They’re going to meet and discuss with stakeholders on the issue,” she said. “Any more funding they need can be put back in next session. It’s not going to be moving forward that quickly.”

Gov. Matt Mead, an opponent of the rule, has advocated for continued planning as a way of being prepared and minimizing costs to the state.

A Mead spokesman issued a statement saying the governor “is extremely concerned about

*See Climate plan, page A2*

# Former first lady Nancy Reagan dies at 94

By Christopher Weber  
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES—Nancy Reagan, the helpmate, backstage adviser and fierce protector of Ronald Reagan in his journey from actor to president—and finally during his 10-year battle with Alzheimer’s disease—has died. She was 94.

The former first lady died Sunday at her home in the Bel-Air section of Los Angeles of congestive heart failure, assistant Allison Borio told The Asso-

ciated Press.

Her best-known project as first lady was the “Just Say No” campaign to help kids and teens stay off drugs.

When she swept into the White House in 1981, the former Hollywood actress partial to designer gowns and pricey china was widely dismissed as a pre-feminist throwback, concerned only with fashion, decorating and entertaining. By the time she moved out eight years later, Mrs. Reagan was fending off accusations that she was a behind-

the-scenes “dragon lady” wielding unchecked power over the Reagan administration—and doing it based on astrology to boot.

All along she maintained her only mission was to back her “Ronnie” and strengthen his presidency.

Mrs. Reagan carried that charge through the rest of her days. She served as a full-time caretaker as Alzheimer’s melted away her husband’s memory. After his death in June 2004 she dedicated herself to tending his

legacy, especially at his presidential library in California, where he had served as governor.

She also championed Alzheimer’s patients, raising millions of dollars for research and breaking with fellow conservative Republicans to advocate for stem cell studies. Her dignity and perseverance in these post-White House roles helped smooth over the public’s fickle perceptions of the former first lady.

*See Reagan, page A2*



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