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**1912 Capitol Avenue, Suite 500
(American National Bank Bldg, Fifth Floor)**



gaywoodhouselaw@aol.com

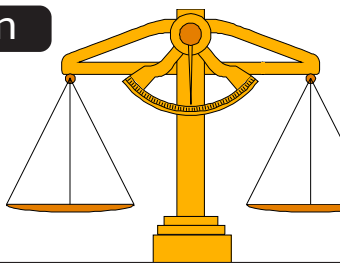


debb@woodhouseroden.com

www.gaywoodhouse.com

**432-9399
FAX: 432-7522**

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**Frontier Days
attendance figures**

What's wrong with the other media in town? They accept the spoon-fed CFD information as though it's accurate, honest and true.

When CFD decided to withhold actual numbers for the events they count, for any media outlet to accept figures that shed a good light on a Frontier Days event, while complaining that CFD withholds all others, is foolish. Obviously, they cannot provide accurate "attendance" for the Thunderbirds air show but they can for Park paid admissions, night show admissions (not tickets sold but bodies entering the grandstands), rodeo and pancake breakfasts. (P.S. If they want to know how to control scalping by brokers, consult the Miley Cyrus operation - they'll educate CFD.)

When CFD announced that George Strait set a new night show attendance mark and provided a specific number, the media should not have repeated the boast. When CFD designated a new category for Taylor Swift, the media should have told them to take a hike. What's next? Highest attendance by a lead singer who also plays guitar? By a group? By a former American Idol contestant who had enhancement surgery?

Cheyenne residents provide thousands of volunteers for all aspects of Frontier Days. The taxpayers subsidize the event with rent on the Park that the Country Club should envy. And taxpayers provide sanitation department services, security and other costs to put on the annual Frontier Days. If the fraternity chooses to hold the attendance figures secret, it could mean that the upward trend ended a few years back. It is their choice to operate in secrecy. Just don't provide claimed "records" you want repeated.

The Cheyenne Herald, P.O. Box 2208, Cheyenne WY 82003 --- www.cheyenneherald.com --- E-mail: cheyenneherald@yahoo.com --- (307) 637-2879

"There's nowhere to turn"

As we spoke, I eventually learned that the lady was 70, disabled and badly needed a hip replacement, no automobile, surviving on SSI and minimal food stamps, had two adult Chihuahuas, was not eating, lived in a motel room on a monthly rental and a new owner had already raised her rent twice in two months forcing her to take belongings out of storage and put them in her sleeping room to save money from the storage unit rental, then was being forced to move because she didn't accommodate the owner by "getting out" during the ten days of Frontier Days. The motel was sold out only one night - but he had ordered to out and she didn't comply. You don't buck "the man."

A surprising number of similar calls come to the Cheyenne Herald. The plight is somewhat the same and the lament is almost always the same: "There's nowhere to turn." Agencies funded to help people in need have usually been contacted. Some, like Community Action, are broke. This bad economy wipes out the groups charged with or voluntarily trying to help the needy.

Sometimes the caller is just looking for a place to vent - for someone who will listen and may have an idea to offer on their unique problem. Too often, these people are just days or hours from being

homeless, if they're not already living on the street or at the Comea Shelter.

In this senior's case, I decided to do more than just suggest to the woman whom she might contact if she hadn't already done so. I decided I'd make contacts and see if the lament that there's nowhere to turn was accurate or exaggerated.

After my first couple visits and calls, I began to think the complaint was accurate. And, I had an advantage - I introduced myself as from the Cheyenne Herald and said I was working on a story. Still, there aren't a lot of agencies or people who have the specific responsibility to try to help senior citizens. Families with children may have a little better luck. But, this woman, described at the beginning, was going to have a hard time.

After much of a day making contacts and visiting places, some did offer help. Interfaith Hospitality Network, after explaining that they are set up to try to help families with children, then made a very generous offer of help for this woman, a senior. The manager of Pinewood Village went out of her way to try to find a way to accommodate the woman in need. And, without a call from me, the Department of Family Services offered assistance. More on this subject in the future.

The foreclosure

I'll keep following a local foreclosure matter introduced in the last issue and write about events as they unfold. Readers may have noticed the number of postponements to local foreclosures - some leading to as high as a fourth notice. Perhaps those responsible for seeing that laws and rules are followed have enforced the delays. Adherence seems to have been in short supply up until recently.

The foreclosure being tracked involves a couple who tried without success to find out where their money was going - who was getting their payments - and found that no one could tell them. The company who had bought the loan early on had filed bankruptcy and the borrowers could not find out who had purchased their loan from that bankruptcy - in other words, who they owed money to. They did not owe money to any loan servicing business. Those people are nothing more than paper shufflers - they have no skin in the game. And, then having to speak with nasty people in India made the issue even more controversial. It is highly unlikely that a company in Bombay, India really made loans to American home buyers. Possible, but not likely.

There is little new to report on this specific case but the first story omitted one of the most disgusting details of these unfortunate foreclosures. It is unlikely that many people facing foreclosure are trying to "game" the system. Each may have a different story, but few are trying to get out of paying a debt they know they owe and can afford to pay. Conditions change in life through no fault of a person and some of these people were caught up in the bad economy. Unlike banks, automakers and brokerage houses, no one just gives them money to right the ship. They're on their own.

Now the disgusting thing: This local couple told me that as soon as their foreclosure notice hit the local paper, vultures began to circle their house. People didn't wait to see if these folks would work their way out of foreclosure, they drove past this house slowly and repeatedly. Down the alley, stopping to leer. Of those coming by, not one in a hundred would actually be a potential buyer of the property at the courthouse steps. These people stare at fatal automobile accidents. They must gain some satisfaction in voyeurism of someone else's discomfort. Like watching a fire. It just didn't sound like the Cheyenne I knew - the place I chose to relocate to two decades ago.

CHEYENNE



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In front of the former UP Depot
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The Cheyenne Farmer's Market is a fundraiser for Community Action of Laramie County, which assists low-income and homeless individuals throughout Laramie County. Produce and other products are grown or made by small growers to large vendors - offering fresh fruits and vegetables, honey, specialty foods, native trees, fragrant flowers and much more. Open at 7:30 am each Saturday.