

WTE lags behind the Cheyenne Herald. Again.

The Herald predicted the Ice Center results

If the daily newspaper hadn't been so busy holding hands with the former mayor, hadn't been so intent on supporting every action he took, hadn't encouraged him to repeatedly break state laws, and hadn't praised his every misstep, perhaps we wouldn't be questioning the viability of the Ice Center at this time.

Instead of questioning the lack of positive action toward making that facility a financial success or challenging the mayor's decisions regarding it, the daily has always served as a Bobble Head doll for their partner in romance, Jack Spiker.

That is why we are where we are today.

That is why the ice center has become even less used than it was under private ownership, why the very appealing miniature golf course is failing and why Taco John's want their name off the facility.

A strong daily newspaper really can help set a community's agenda - can almost force local government to do what's best for residents. But this paper is neither strong nor helpful in forcing the proper course of action. Since the latest editor got off the bus, the paper has failed at everything except distributing more and more advertising flyers and that is no credit to him - that is simply the market catching up to demand. Neither government nor a newspaper plays a role in

retailers, restaurants nor lodging establishments coming to any city. That decision in made in spite of government and even with a weak local daily newspaper.

A major function of a local daily newspaper is to act as a watchdog on local government. This one failed. At least, it has failed for the eight years of 2001 to 2009.

With a new mayor, the daily has started to behave a little like they're supposed to. They, of course, can cross the line and go to the opposite extreme. They are getting close to that point. Even those things Kaysen inherited are now being blamed on him. He has been indecisive but some of the problems will take time to sort out and solve. He needs to expedite the process and he should begin by admitting he made a terrible mistake by appointing a personal friend as city attorney and go find one with a backbone and legal expertise and research ability.

On the ice center, here is what Mike McCracken now says about the acquisition of that facility by the City by trading valueless land for the valuable ice rink, significant land and a miniature golf course:

"New strategies are needed for Events Center." (WTE August 28, 2010)

"WE BELIEVE: City officials need to find a private company to run the facility and

develop new strategies to keep it open." (WTE August 28, 2010)

Welcome aboard, you doofuses. Too bad you didn't possess that keen insight at the end of 2007. As the Cheyenne Herald did. I wrote on December 31, 2007,

"I will lay out my opinions on the pros and cons of this deal later. Before we go there, let me say that I have grave reservations about the currently constituted City Parks Dept. being able to manage the ice arena. This is a city department in turmoil. My suggestion, explained further on page 5, would be to rehire Dennis Griess and put him in charge (answerable only to the mayor, whoever that may be after the next general election) of all City 'attraction and fee-generating properties' which are not leased to third parties. The would include the IKON Center, the Civic Center, the municipal swimming pool, and the two parking garages."

The daily on August 28, 2010: "[Mr. Parish] needs to drum up business for the center, yet he is not promoting it?"

As I said nearly three years ago, Rick Parish is incapable of running an ice center. Whoever is booking the repeated non-family events like MMA (Mixed Martial Arts) has turned the facility into something locals will not support. Sure, there are some locals who relish and support such events but not enough to make the

ice center financially viable. There is no doubt that the closing of the Hitching Post hurt. But there are several newer lodging facilities by the Interstate that should take up the slack if any popular events were scheduled that would lead to people staying overnight in Cheyenne.

Mike (and possible Reed Eckhardt) whine: "The bottom line here is that if some drastic action is not taken, the city is going to end up closing this facility ..." (WTE August 28, 2010)

Really? What is the daily's position on the decades long cash-draining joint known as the Civic Center? It loses more money EVERY year and has since it opened than the IKON Center did in ONE year.

What about the parking garages? They hemorrhage red ink far beyond what the ice center has lost in one year.

What is it about the ice center that has raised the ire of the Tribune-Eagle? There must be something personal there.

They did get one thing right in the August 28 front page story and opinion piece. The City has to bring in professional, experienced facility management. The City must do the same thing with the Civic Center and two parking garages. Draining a million dollars a year for those four facilities and having to lay off City employees is unacceptable. It is unconscionable.

WOODHOUSE RODEN Law Firm

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



gaywoodhouselaw@aol.com



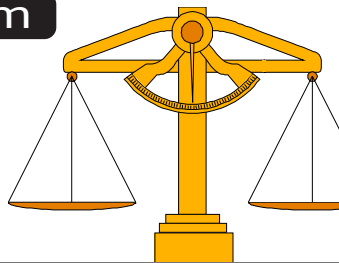
debb@woodhouseroden.com

woodhouseroden.com

432-9399

FAX: 432-7522

**"Advocating for
your legal rights"**



The Wyoming State Bar does not certify any lawyer as a specialist or expert. Anyone considering a lawyer should independently investigate the lawyer's credentials and ability, and not rely upon advertisements or self-proclaimed expertise.

33rd Annual ABATE Toy Run September 11, 2010



The Event is open to all riders and vehicles ... Must bring at least one new toy to participate ... Event will be held in rain, snow or shine ... The Run stages at 11:00 am at the St. Mary's parking lot (112 E. 24th St.) ... The Run will start at 1:00 pm and will end at AMVETS (3829 E. Lincolnway).

All donated toys benefit Salvation Army's Operation Christmas ... Cash donations are gladly accepted and will be distributed evenly to Salvation Army and Safehouse.

**TOY RUN AFTER PARTY -- AMVETS from 2:00-6:00 pm.
All proceeds benefit Safehouse.**

For more information and questions, call Juli at 634-9200