

Trent Blankenship interview with the Casper Star-Tribune

I happened upon the Star-Tribune editorial board interview of Trent Blankenship this past Sunday.

I know Trent a bit and believe he is a capable educator who did, and could once again do, a good job as state superintendent of public instruction. But, in truth, I haven't spent a lot of time speaking with him about education and I was curious as to what he had to say and, frankly, I wondered how the Casper daily conducts its interviews.

So, I watched the little over 37 minutes of Trent's interview. Based on what so many have told me, and what could be seen on the videos posted on the WTE website in the past, the comparative professionalism shown by the CS-T was outstanding.

One of the four or five members (one may have been behind the camera angle) would ask a basic question and then Trent would be allowed to answer the question at length - uninterrupted. It was not an argument. It was not confrontational. It was an interview, not an interrogation.

That is not the case with the WTE. It is Reed Eckhardt's objective to ambush and anger those with whom he disagrees. His purpose is to indoctrinate the candidate with his (Eckhardt's) agenda, not learn what the candidate knows or what his/her positions are. Eckhardt believes, he truly believes, that these "endorsement" fights are about him, not about the candidates.

I don't do candidate interviews, except for rare instances for "unusual" candidacies, because I simply cannot afford to use day after day interviewing candidates. There are many much more important stories about politics than asking inane questions trying to "gotcha" some poor candidate who has offered himself/herself up for voters scrutiny. That is enough of a spotlight to put these candidates under.

I have been highly critical of much of what the Casper daily newspaper does - and does not do. I think they are underusing their reporter resources and rely far too much on the Associated Press for stories their own reporters are very competent to cover. But, if the interview with Trent Blankenship is any indication - and, no, I have no intention of watching others - they are doing a fair and thorough job of being able to size up the strength and credibility of a candidacy.

Trent was very candid with the questioners. He has a tough task ahead of him satisfying voters that he deserves their vote again after leaving in the middle of the term he was elected to serve in 2002. Can he do it? If all voters watched the CS-T interview, Trent's chances would be greatly enhanced. He knows voters do not appreciate his abandonment and he says he regrets doing so but had to do so for personal, financial reasons.

Who will the CS-T endorse? Stay tuned.

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They still don't get it. Romero Park is not in South Cheyenne.

It is understandable when some residents do not know the distinction between Cheyenne's "southside" and South Cheyenne. Or that there is a distinction.

But, when elected officials don't know the difference and the daily newspaper can't pick up on the distinction either, something ain't right.

In all other directions from downtown, people who refer to "North," "East" or "West" simply are using compass direction. There is no "West Cheyenne."

South Cheyenne is the exception. There is a geographic area with specific boundaries that is "South Cheyenne." It has its own water and sewer service. It is part of the unincorporated Laramie County and does not have a separate government but would be among the largest twenty cities in Wyoming if it were incorporated - which it cannot be because it is contiguous to the City of Cheyenne.

Town and Country Pharmacy, Town and Country Supermarket Liquors and the South Safeway are in South Cheyenne.

Los Amigos, Keg 'n Kork, the Southside Conoco, the Lamp Lounge and City/County Health and Cruizin' Thru are not.

Those are in the City and are "south of the tracks," or in "Cheyenne's southside." But they are not in South Cheyenne.

The new Romero Park is on Parsley Blvd., which is, at that point, also not in South Cheyenne. It is on "the southside."

While it may be a tad bit confusing for those on the City of Cheyenne governing

body with limited advanced education, it is really quite simple.

For ten elected officials to take an action that misnamed a city park is unforgivable.

For that new park, and while it is a nice addition to the southside, it is not comparable in any way to other community parks in Cheyenne, to be in South Cheyenne, it would have had to have been within the boundaries of South Cheyenne and it would not then have been a "city park" but a "county park."

Basically, the dividing line between the City of Cheyenne and South Cheyenne is Fox Farm Road except that the area west of Walterscheid is also in the City - such as the Murray development known as Harmony this or that. Johnson Junior High School and the new South High School are also in the City.

As is Romero Park. What Romero Park is not is in South Cheyenne.

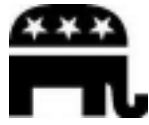
Does it matter? No, except for getting it right and the bunch on the Cheyenne governing body that misnamed this park is the same group that made so many other mistakes when it came to matters having a long term impact on residents.

Tom Segrave once threatened to annex South Cheyenne. Had that been successful, there would no longer have been a "South Cheyenne." Everything south of the UP tracks after that imaginary annexation would have been a part of Cheyenne's "southside." So, there is no way possible to make the new inferior park a South Cheyenne attraction. It is near where I live and I am part of Cheyenne's southside.

RE-ELECT

DIANE HUMPHREY

Laramie County Commissioner



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- ✓ Active in 4H, FFA, and Laramie County Fair.
- ✓ Past-President of the Laramie County Cowbelles.
- ✓ Member of Cheyenne Frontier Days Wheels.
- ✓ Director of Cheyenne Frontier Days Dandies.
- ✓ Member of First Congregational Church

Property Owner in Laramie County

- ✓ Has owned and operated an agricultural family business for 45 years.

Common Sense to Problem Solving

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- ✓ Involve all parties that have an interest in the issues.
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