

# cinco de junio?

In a blatant attempt to diminish, maybe even to destroy, the local Latino celebration called "Cinco de Mayo," the City of Cheyenne took it upon themselves to sponsor and pay for another similar event, but to hold it on the 5th of June rather than the 5th of May. cinco de junio?

The banner over the entrance to the patio in front of the former train depot calls the event an "Hispanic Celebration."

I know from attending a wrongful termination appeal hearing at LCCC that the Cinco de Mayo celebration was held out there this year.

What the hell's going on?

Is there a significance to Latinos, Mexicans, Hispanics, to June 5th? Or was it just a convenient day to try to fool those in town of those heritages into believing the event replaced the Cinco de Mayo celebration, which has been the victim of bad weather and displaced location in recent years.

Maybe the City decided that May 5 (or thereabouts) presented too great a weather challenge and Cheyenne residents wouldn't know the difference - that they don't know that the 5th of May does have a historical significance to those of Mexican heritage.

What the hell. Throw a party. Toss a little publicity about it and make sure to sell beer. Cinco de Mayo does not sell beer at its celebration and that probably hurts the City, moneywise.

So, even though there was a Cinco de Mayo celebration in 2010, the one held at LCCC, the City probably didn't know that and none of the "organizers" of the alternate "party" attended so they figured they could throw another "celebration" at the Hispanic community and they wouldn't be aware that it was not the replacement for the customary Cinco de Mayo event.

June 5 is probably thought to be a safer date, weatherwise, than May 5. But historical celebrations are not based on good weather or factors other than the date something happened.

Does anyone think the City would have the guts to call Thomas Rudolph and say to him, "Tommy, that Juneteenth thing you do at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park each year is becoming an interference to other's celebration of Father's Day. Would you mind moving it to another weekend so you're not messing with that holiday, Tommy? Thanks loads, man."

First, they wouldn't have the courage to try a stunt like that on Thomas and, if they were dumb enough to try, Tommy would explain to them, in his loudest possible voice, just what Juneteenth is about.

So many of our holidays have been moved to the nearest Monday, or combined (like Washington and Lincoln's birthdays) into one holiday on a Monday in between, that citizens can't always recognize the true date or significance of several of the holidays.

One holiday that has remained steadfast is Independence Day.

You can just imagine the City calling an organizer of a July 4th celebration and telling them that the City has determined that July 4th weekend is usually too hot for such a celebration and has decided to hold its own "Patriots" celebration on a cooler day - a day that doesn't interfere with the Hispanic Celebration (cinco de junio), Father's Day, Frontier Days, etc. Say, the fourth Saturday in June. "You know, we can have the fireworks and all the other things people associate with the 4th of July. It just won't be so hot."

*If I've missed the boat here, someone from the Hispanic, Latino, Mexican culture should enlighten me. Tell me what historic event in your culture occurred on the 5th of June - or thereabouts. Or was it just a fake day chosen by the City? Tell me what the City wants you to celebrate.*

Cinco de Mayo is a local nonprofit organization. They plan Cinco de Mayo activities. They accept donations which are tax-deductible. Which organization sponsored the June 5th "Hispanic Celebration?" And, what is the correct word - Latino, Hispanic or Mexican? Tell me.

Which Fort Collins band was hired to perform at the cinco de junio event? What scholarships were presented? What royalty was crowned? What happened to bring pride and distinction to those of that heritage - call it Hispanic, Latino or Mexican? Let me know and I'll print it.

"Tommy, listen, we've had second thoughts about your Juneteenth thing. We have such a shortage of Fall events. You know, we have Frontier Days and we have the Christmas Parade but not a helluva lot in between. What we'd like you and your group to do is move Juneteenth to, say, October where we can merge it with the drunken Octoberfest. Would that work for you? Hello? The line's dead. Is Thomas coming to discuss this with me? Is he on his way? Oh, no!"

## CHEYENNE HERALD Policies ...

**Bylines** -- Bylines do not appear on all stories. In fact, bylines appear on few stories. As has been explained here previously, over and over and over again, readers can assume that everything appearing without another's byline was written by Dave Featherly. You may not always be right but you will be right almost all of the time.

**Announcements, etc.** -- As the popularity of the Cheyenne Herald has grown, so have the requests to place an announcement of one sort or another on our pages. With 12 pages to work with, few submitted can be published. To adopt a fair and reasonable policy, brief announcements from charitable organizations [501(c)(3)], particularly groups offering services in public health or safety areas and for the needy and children will be considered first. Contact me with any questions. 637-2879.

**"On-the-Street"** -- It is my goal to have the printed papers out by midday on the scheduled publication date (Tuesdays, except if Monday is a holiday). It is also my goal to have most or all pages posted to the Cheyenne Herald website by noon of the day of the print issue publication date. In both cases, timing is not totally within my control and those goals may not be met.

**Stories** -- Generally, stories of local interest are what I pursue. The Herald will not be used as a revenge publication between neighbors or to investigate consumer protection issues. If the story does not, or could not, interest many in Laramie County or in the State of Wyoming, it likely won't appear on these pages. Again, as the Cheyenne Herald has gained strength and standing, it is more incumbent on me to be careful about what is written and with the words used. There is a place for anonymous, hateful and untrue writings. It is called the WT-E internet forum. And even on the printed pages of the WT-E. But, not here.

**Not using names in our stories** -- It is the practice here to tell the stories without [always] naming names. Public employees and elected officials are exceptions - drawing a public paycheck waives anonymity. Other exceptions to the policy are rare and I will keep it that way. Unnecessarily hurting people is not my goal.

**Pick-up locations** -- Ideally, I'd have only a dozen well-placed distribution points around town. I do not seek unlimited pick-up points. It is just too time-consuming to have the Herald stocked in a hundred places. In eight-plus years, there have been many businesses that asked for the Heralds to be placed in their business. I appreciate the interest but will stick with what we have.

*Dave Featherly*



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