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NEXT ISSUE, JANUARY 10, 2012

TUNE-UPS AND MORE

C.A.R.S.



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Jessica Venable parole

Thanks to all who have donated money to Jessica Venable over the past two-plus years. It has helped her survive financially and been received gratefully. She has been good about conveying her personal thanks but, if she missed you, I will here convey her thanks along with mine.

Jessica will apply for parole again in January. Last year was a bit soon and the parole board denied her application. This time around, she is better prepared and knows what to expect from the board. She has also been promised assistance from a Cheyenne attorney.

I hope that the sentencing judge's reduction in sentence means something to the strangers of the case on the parole board. When Peter Arnold reduced her sentence by two years, even though Jessica, in her pro se motion for sentence reduction, had asked for one, that was not only a welcome action on his part but a shock to me. He, the DA's office and the public defender assigned to Jessica, are collectively responsible for the injustice she suffers and his grant

of double the sentence reduction she sought appeared to me to be an admission of responsibility and an attempt to finally do right. But, I could be wrong.

Jessica has been at Volunteers of America in Gillette for about a year. During that time, I believe she has grown as a person. Her calls to me and her letters, however brief, present a more mature approach. I do not claim to know her well. I have met with her but once and that was in a prison setting in Lusk for a private interview, authorized by the then-warden. Ninety minutes, I was provided. Since then, we have spoken by phone several times and she has written fairly frequently.

She has never done or said anything that would make me regret my advocacy. She should not be confined and the system let her down before the incident for which she is being held and again since. Donations are still helpful to her as her wages are taken to reside at VOA. Readers can send donations to me. I forward them, in total, to Jessica Venable.

CFD 2012 Night Shows

The CFD Contract Acts Committee is doing a whale of a job in signing acts for this coming Summer's CFD.

It doesn't seem that even the intellect-challenged, living-in-their-mother's-basement, never-out-of-their-underwear, porn-surfing, unemployable-anonymous-posters-on-the-lame-WTE-forum could gripe about this year's offerings.

Reba (she doesn't need two names anymore evidently) was just added along with Rodney Atkins and Hunter Hayes with her. Atkins is facing some legal issues right now but should be clear to travel by then. Just kidding, it's a divorce action prompted by his wife claiming spousal abuse. He filed for the divorce, claiming she lied about abuse to make life difficult for him.

Hank Williams, Jr. will come to CFD for the first time. Now that he lost his Monday Night Football gig for words he uttered, he has time to tour again. He's not among my favorites but was a suprisingly talented young guy when we saw him at the Minnesota State Fair a hundred years ago. He plays multiple instruments. He also climbs mountains but not as well. He will be joined by Chris Young. Young has had a handful of No. 1 songs in the last two years - Hank Jr.'s last hit was a very long time ago. There is a Hank the Third.

He can be heard on Sirius Radio and his lyrics are pretty salty. He doesn't get to perform based on his voice or lyrics. He gets attention because of his name. And, oh, by the way, Hank Williams, Jr., is no Junior. That is his stage name. His legal name is Randall Hank Williams, his father's birth name was Hiram King Williams.

The group Journey will also perform at CFD this summer. A very popular group for a very long time, in 2005 Journey was voted the fifth best American rock band of all time in a USA Today poll. The group has seen several members, with two of the original group still touring with Journey. One of the group's members (1985-1987) was Randy Jackson, now familiar to television viewers as an American Idol judge.

This year's CFD line-up seems to have something for everyone, with one night still to be announced.

Hank Williams, Jr. is this year's Charlie Daniels and may get the least attention. Reba has a following as a singer and lately as a sitcom comedienne. Zac Brown Band is an incredibly talented group, not just the lead singer. Brad Paisley is unparalleled as a country music guitarist. And, Blake Shelton is not only on a roll with his own songs, he is married to Miranda Lambert. Party on.