

"ANYTHING TWO PEOPLE KNOW IS NOT A SECRET."

# THE CHEYENNE HERALD

FREE  
TAKE  
ONE

**the local advocacy journal**

**In depth. Independent. Stories of Local Interest. Since January 30, 2002.**

April 1, 2008 ♦ Issue No. 144 ♦ Next issue April 15, 2008

## Using the Cheyenne Herald's address as *your* address is a "no-no"

On February 23rd, some bozo deposited a mailing with a flyer which was critical of Republican U.S. House candidate Mark Gordon's many contributions to Democratic candidates and Democratic causes and it was postmarked in "Casper."

There was nothing inaccurate or illegal about the information provided on the flyer. But, according to a local USPS inspector, it *is* a violation to use someone else's return address on such a mailing.

That is what the clown did.

And the return address used was the post office box no. of The Cheyenne Herald.

I had no knowledge beforehand nor did I give anyone permission to use the P.O. Box No. as their return address.

In no time at all, wheels started to turn as only Wyoming wheels turn. Slowly.

First, a couple days after the mail was deposited up there, the campaign manager for Mark Gordon called and began to accuse me of sending the material. I had already published a story in The Cheyenne Herald pertaining to the numerous campaign or political contributions made by a so-called "Republican" candidate to Democrats and to their causes. But I didn't do the mailing.

By e-mail attachments, I received a copy of the flyer and of the envelope one recipient had received. I spoke with the Republican Party executive director in Casper and assured her that I had had no part in the preparation or payment of this mailing.

While there is nothing illegal about the piece, it was amateurish and its attempt at humor missed the mark. So that readers of The Cheyenne Herald can see just what has caused the stir, I'll post the flyer and subsequent correspondence it generated. It makes for interesting reading. And it seems the so-called "victim" wants to play this thing out as though I had something to do with the mailing so I'll provide even greater circulation of the piece that may have been mailed to 400-500 addresses in Cheyenne and Casper.

Within a few days, I received a nastygram from the Wyoming Attorney General's

office, in which some government attorney with nothing better to do made some veiled threats toward me - the holder of P.O. Box 2208 in Cheyenne. Not having any idea at that point what had happened, he tried one of their patented, "I am God, fear me,"

Well, I've got news for him. He's not and I don't.

Oh, by the way, this page turner in the AG's office cited the statute which may have been violated (he had no idea who had done the mailing so he had no idea whether it was an individual, corporation or a member of the Taliban) and he GOT IT WRONG!

That's why I don't fear anyone in the AG's office.

I responded in my own respectful way - full of sarcasm and challenges - and asked that he advise me what was "attacking" about the mailing and what state statute had been violated. I took the opportunity to let him know that the AG's office doesn't do anything about clear and flagrant violations of campaign laws so I didn't think they'd be much interested in this matter since I was the only one wronged. That letter was mailed on March 3, 2008. I have had no response to date.

Secretary of State Max Maxfield, one of the few people in the state with less knowledge about or interest in campaign laws than the AG's guy, waved one of those flyers around (like Hillary with one of Barack's mailings) and proclaimed, as loud as the timid place holder can, "this is a violation of state statute."

Well, not wanting to pass that opportunity, I penned a letter to the Maxster. I asked him, as head of elections in Wyoming, exactly what statute had been violated. That letter was also sent on March 3, 2008. No answer there either.

Max maybe should be allowed a little showboating but when my P.O. Box No. was improperly used by some dork in Casper to make a mailing, I don't have time for that.

Only the USPS has handled this matter appropriately. It isn't worth much sweat. If we find the culprit, they'll deal with 'em.

## Car dealer's missteps mount

*Stolen car sold as new.  
Program car that won't run.  
Cadillac in accident sold with no warning to buyer.*

After the story about a Yukon which had been stolen from a new car dealer's lot and driven by the thief for as long as 81 days, recovered with extensive damage to the vehicle, then sold to an unsuspecting customer as new (with subsequent denials about it being stolen and dissembling about how long the vehicle was gone from the lot), readers have contacted us about problems with local car dealers.

Primarily one. One dealer, that is.

The same one who sold the stolen Yukon as new when most of the miles had been put on the vehicle while in the possession of the thief and his friends.

When you hear these stories about problems with a Cheyenne new car dealer, it helps explain why so many local residents go to Colorado to buy cars. But no dealer makes it through unscathed when their reputation gets repeatedly sullied.

I have been criticized for not naming the dealer so buyers could be more cautious in dealing with that particular business. I am not trying to damage their business. I am trying to impress upon them that they must stand behind their sales and they have to be honest in all respects leading up to the sale. So I don't put their name in these stories a dozen times or more.

Of the two latest contacts about unsatisfactory relationships with this same dealer, one will get attention here.

A woman bought a 2006 Chevrolet Impala in July of 2007. It was described to her as a "program" car with 27,000+ miles. She had major problems with the car she had been driving and either had to sink thousands into it to get it running again or purchase another vehicle. She was an easy sale. And she paid a price she later found out was \$8,000 above the Blue Book suggested price for it. From Day One, she was upside down on the Impala.

She made a number of visits back to the dealership over the first couple months but the serious problem began in September.

Her car would stall without reason or warning. It would simply die. It would restart quickly but a \$20,000 "program" car should run steadily, not intermittently.

She took it back. They couldn't find the problem when hooked to the computer. It happened again. She took it back. They couldn't find the problem. Over and over and over again, she would encounter the problem and take it back to the dealer. When she asked them if they had referred to the manufacturer's technical bulletins, put out regularly by auto manufacturers to deal with common or dangerous problems, she was told "don't have to - unless the computer picks up the problem, there is no problem we can address."

Treated courteously for a few months, she was recently told that the dealership could not find the problem, even though they told her they believed she had a problem, so "don't bring the car back to us." She has put about 10,000 miles on the Impala.

She took it to the dealer that sells new Chevys in Cheyenne. They are trying to solve the problem even though they didn't sell her the car and have put her in touch with General Motors. GM, instead of dealing quickly and decisively with a customer who bought a car of their manufacture that simply will not run reliably, has not called her back as promised.

Should dealers be required to put up large signs in their lots saying: "If you buy a car from us and encounter a problem we cannot fix, you are on your own. We do not have a responsibility to keep your car running, even while under warranty."

The seller's solution: Trade in the Impala for an '08. Take on more debt and larger payments for years longer. Such a deal!

**WWW.CHEYENNEHERALD.COM**