

Give it a rest!

WT-E relentlessly tries to unseat three incumbents who disagree with them

Classless. Tasteless. Bad judgment. Poor losers.

The list could go on and on to describe the actions taken by the dwindling-influence newspaper in Cheyenne.

Even though the three county incumbents hated by the WT-E had agreed to be interviewed by the WT-E and the WT-E railed against them in editorials and chose opponents to endorse, they couldn't let it go at that for just a few days after the election. An election in which the WT-E's endorsements were rejected once again.

Whether you support the candidacies of Judy Case, Jeff Ketcham and Diane Humphrey or not, you should be offended that the daily newspaper, instead of licking their wounds in silence for a few days, came right back at these office holders immediately following the primary election on August 22nd.

There was nothing new in their latest attacks. The editors just don't want to accept that voters aren't listening.

On Saturday, August 19, Dickinson Reed [Eckhardt] devoted his entire column to a story titled: "City voters can alter County Commission." Nothing like trying to polarize the voters of Laramie County.

Eckhardt will not - cannot - accept the role the commissioners are forced to play when the city governing body violates state statutes. It is their responsibility - their sworn duty - to represent their constituents. They must not stand blindly and silently by when it is their collective belief that the city has broken the law.

Reluctantly, the county commissioners joined in three annexation lawsuits against the city. They did not join the first one filed - the one against the Village West annexation, one and a half miles separated from the city. They joined the Dr. Jean Cotton lawsuit against the Saddle Ridge annexation. That was the one the Wyoming Supreme Court ruled on and the city lost on every point. Another lawsuit the commissioners joined against the city was not tried. The city admitted they broke the law and voided that annexation. There is an annexation suit pending now - west of the Base.

The unwavering position of Dickinson R. Eckhardt is that the city should be allowed to break the law. Period. The city should be allowed to break the law. He agrees with them on their illegal actions so, thus, it must be okay.

What he does not understand is that the vast majority of city residents believe city government has to obey the law. The mayor does not have broad support for his lawless actions.

Then, on Sunday, two days before the election, the "Our View" column was used to once again trash Jeff Ketcham and Diane Humphrey, while touting the WT-E's endorsees. The absurd accusation "If Cheyenne voters continue to re-elect Diane Humphrey and Jeff Ketcham ..., the future of their city will be in doubt."

When they can't race bait, they boundary bait. The future of our city will be in doubt? Good Lord. Get a life, you guys. If you are sincere about removing Jeff and Diane from office, endorse them.

How about a little adult supervision over there?

WT-E and Channel 5 should stop misguided attempts at sensationalism

There is no excuse for the headline in the August 17th daily paper. The insensitivity of printing an unsubstantiated accusation about a victim of murder is made even worse when the accusation originates from the alleged murderer.

Channel 5 has become the "grief station" with their own Mini-Me sticking a microphone into the face of everyone experiencing grief from a death in the family, verdict in a trial, etc. Rein it in, little fella. Someday, you're going to eat that mic.

The story is the story. The grief and anguish is a by-product of the story which should not be, does not have to be, shared with the public. Allow them their privacy.

The victim of violent death at the presumed hands of her husband was the victim and that's all that should have been written about her. The following day's paper screamed "Murder-suicide probed" There was a murder but not a suicide. The guy is alive. Get your act together.

At least they confessed.

On Election Day, the lead story (above the fold) in the Tribune-Eagle was about the new PAWS tests.

How right they were. In the date line just below their masthead, it read: "**Tuesday, August 26, 2006**" Election Day was, of course, August 22, 2006. August 26 was four days off. PAWS scores aren't the only place that reflects poor writing skills.

The head read: "**Test: Reading, math scores top writing**"

Maggie Carter

Judgment and Sentence of the Court

On August 9, 2006, Laramie County District Court Judge Nicholas G. Kalokathis finally imposed sentence on Maggie Carter. Ms. Carter had pled guilty to one count of false swearing and the prosecutor dropped four similar counts in a plea bargain arrangement.

To the mayor and others who may have assisted Ms. Carter in gaining employment in another city in California, perhaps the words in the "Judgment and Sentence of the Court" will give them pause for their actions on behalf of a former employee who stole from the City of Cheyenne.

Carter had used city credit cards to make purchases of products for personal use and the illegal acts were discovered in an investigation into use of city credit cards by Jim Mathewson and first published in the October 11, 2004 issue of the Cheyenne Herald.

Pages one and two of the four page document (Docket 28-707) include these words: "... Margaret A. Carter is guilty of the crime charged in the Information filed herein and that she be imprisoned and confined in the Wyoming Department of Corrections located at or near the city of Lusk, Wyoming for a period of not less than Eighteen (18) months nor more than Twenty-four (24) months, ...".

There remain apologists for Maggie Carter, particularly within City Hall and the mayor's office. The Laramie County District Attorney's office and Judge Kalokathis are not among those apologists.

She was given credit for "time served in the Laramie County Detention Facility awaiting disposition of this matter which equals One (1) day;" The balance of her confinement was suspended and she "shall be permitted to go at large upon her own recognition. **UPON THE FOLLOWING TERMS AND CONDITIONS, ...**" which include:

Those who would justify the action as an inadvertent use of the wrong credit card ignore the criminal behavior that was charged and for which she pled guilty. The product, price and purpose of her purchases were immaterial. Where she committed the felonious criminal act was in coding vouchers in such a way as to attempt to camouflage her purchases as being legitimate city business.

Must serve two years probation
Sign a waiver of extradition to Wyoming and pay extradition costs if necessary
Cannot use drugs or alcohol or be around those who do - submit to necessary tests
Can not enter bars
Submit to a clinic examination
Shall be employed full-time
Shall abide by a curfew
Shall have a telephone without caller ID
Must advise employer of the details regarding this offense, etc.

The charge was for false swearing, not for purchasing "x" dollars of diet aids, cosmetics, motel rooms, etc. False Swearing - Claims or Vouchers, is a felony.

Those who continue to represent that this was much ado about nothing do not miss the point so much as want to overlook a criminal act if committed by a friend. Had someone else done exactly the same thing, they would be after that head.

The four-page Sentencing document can be read our website - see below.

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