

Christmas Light Tours on the Trolley



See Cheyenne's best holiday light decorations from the comfort and convenience of a Cheyenne Street Trolley. Tours will run from Saturday, December 16th through Sunday, December 24th. The approximately two hour long tours will begin at 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm each night and there will be two trolleys in service. Tickets are available from the Cheyenne Area Convention and Visitors Bureau in the former UP Depot lobby downtown, or with a credit card by calling 778-3133. Costs are \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. Advance tickets are required because the tours usually sell out. The trolleys are heated but it is advisable to dress warmly, especially if it's cold outside. The tours are not narrated but Christmas music is played.

Message provided by the Cheyenne Herald at no cost to the CAVCB

Thank You. And Happy Holidays.

As the final issue before Christmas, now is a good opportunity to express thanks to those who support this adventure known as the Cheyenne Herald.



was being visited extensively to read a story published several months earlier.

I haven't quite caught up to this computer age and had to ask for some help in figuring out what was happening.

What was happening was that a Washington D.C. website called the "Daily Cos" had linked to my website and a few hundred of their readers had visited a story I had done about Barbara Cubin and were reading it. So we had become a part of the national political landscape.

2006 provided our foray with the use of full color. For four issues during the general election cycle, four pages in each issue had the availability of full color. We will begin to offer full color again in 2007 - beginning with our January 15th issue.

Once again, in 2006, we broke important stories onto which other media piggybacked. We often go where others fear to tread and continue to be the only Wyoming source for many stories and much information. Television, more than before, monitors our activities (including our website where we sometimes introduce an important story between printed issues of the Herald), and hijack our stories. Local radio still is dormant and silent in news gathering - preferring to read newspaper articles to their audience.

It has been another interesting and rewarding year. Our goals: To continue to be first and to get the story right - without influence or intimidation.

Dave

The issue you have in your hand is No. 113 and whether there will be 113 more or not remains to be determined.

From what I've been told by oldtimers, no one has ever persevered so long before with an alternative paper, or local advocacy journal, or whatever you choose to call the Herald. In a couple issues, we will have published for five years.

The readership is intense, loyal and supportive - some would call it fervent, zealous, even rabid.

Reviewing what calendar year 2006 has featured, I think there is reason to be proud of our offerings. The Cheyenne Herald has become known as the best source for informative, provocative, educational, and enlightening stories about issues and individuals of interest to local residents. In fact, without any special effort on my part, this little piece has become known and respected around the State of Wyoming.

Hell, make that national.

During the last political campaign season, I noticed one day that our website

The Grasslands.

Cheyenne with septic systems.
Cheyenne with cattle, pigs and horses.
Cheyenne with deer and antelope hunting.

Judge Ed Grant recently admitted to being a bit uncertain as to how the City of Cheyenne could defend its annexation approval of the Grasslands Research Station and not adhere to all of the rules of the current annexation statutes.

So, he directed counsel for the parties to provide him briefs on their legal bases either in support or opposition of such an exception.

Gary Woodhouse Law Office, Attorneys for Plaintiffs Cox Ranches, The Sam Galeotos Revocable Trust, et al, filed their brief on the matter on December 4, 2006 (Docket 167 No. 523).

Michael Basom, City of Cheyenne Attorney for Defendant City of Cheyenne, also filed his brief on the matter on December 4, 2006. His brief is to cover both Docket 167 No. 523 and Docket 167 No. 452 (Plaintiff Laramie County Commissioners).

Mark Voss, Laramie County Attorney for Plaintiffs Board of Laramie of County Commissioners, did not file a brief (Docket No. 523 No. 452) by December 4, 2006.

(The briefs of Mr. Basom and Ms. Woodhouse are available on the Cheyenne Herald website.)

The dispute stems from the City's approval of an annexation of approximately 2200 acres of land presently leased to the USDA and situated west of F.E. Warren Air Force Base. It lies about a mile and a half from the nearest land in the current city, if one could traverse the Air Force base. The public route would take emergency vehicles from the city, west on Happy Jack Rd., to Roundtop Rd., then north to the land.

It would be about a \$20.00 cab fare to get to the structures on the Grasslands.

The City has changed legal positions on this annexation several times. First, the annexation was alleged to comply with the provisions of eligibility for annexation under W.S. 15-1-402. As the process advanced, the City removed that claim and defended its actions based on it being a W.S. 15-1-407, which allows a municipality to annex land it solely owns,

even if not contiguous. The conditions under which such an annexation would be legal is the crux of this legal dispute.

Three earlier annexations approved by this same governing body and challenged by three separate groups of county residents were struck down as void (illegal) ab initio. I just love that term. I've told Cheyenne Herald readers that before. "Void ab initio." From the start.

Had the City simply relied on the annexation being under -407, the argument against would have rested on it not meeting other criteria of eligibility, including the natural growth of the city, etc. In *Cotton v. City of Cheyenne*, the Wyoming Supreme Court made it very clear that they understood both the reason and need to grow a city from the center out and it was articulated brilliantly in that decision.

After first claiming that the annexation did meet the requirements of -402, the City pulled back and changed the conditions of this single annexation. In the final Ordinance, they exempted this major parcel of land from restrictions on gunfire, livestock and hunting. And, of course, private septic systems.

Plaintiffs argue that statutes require annexed land become the same and fall under the same legal requirements as land already within the annexing City. In the City of Cheyenne, until this motley crew changes Ordinances, a resident cannot even discharge fireworks, let alone a 30.06. They cannot hunt and harvest antelope who inadvertently stray into the City. The only pig they might be able to have is of the Vietnamese pot belly variety. City residents and/or county residents in city pockets are not even allowed to repair or replace their septic systems which go bad, let alone other residents install new septic systems.

But, according to the City attorneys (the Banker and Alimony lawyers), no such existing ordinance is binding on this particular city government. [Note: An example of the competence of the City attorneys is present within five lines of the Brief filed by them. Reference is made to "Section 3 of Ordinance No. 3698 (hereafter Ordinance)." As Ms. Woodhouse points out in line 11 of her Brief, the Ordinance No. is 3689.]

But, what to expect? Who could forget Basom's performance before Judge Kalokathis a couple years back, regarding the bonds of the parking garage?



11 DEC
Forty (40) days since Jim McBride threatened to take legal action against the Cheyenne Herald.

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