

Somebody better start bailing!

According to a recent story in another print media in Cheyenne, two test wells put down by the Wyoming Water Commission (or paid for by them) have resulted in a **Ripley's Believe or Not** output of 400 million gallons per minute on the slow one and 700 million gallons per minute on the better test well.

To put these amounts into perspective, an acre foot of water is 325,851 gallons - that is the volume it would take to cover an acre of land to a depth of one foot.

The combined 1,100 million gallons per minute - **FOR JUST TWO WELLS!** - would provide 66,000 million gallons per hour ... 1,584,000 million gallons per day.

Dividing that 1,584,000,000,000 gallons by 325,851 (gallons in an acre foot) would result in production from only two wells on the Belvoir of 4,861,117.5 acre feet of water PER DAY! That's a lot of moisture.

It almost seemed that someone at that other media outlet might have caught that. The City uses upwards of 16,000 acre feet of treated water PER YEAR now.

What the reporter should have written, and the editor who is always changing things at that other media - usually making them wrong - was 400 gallons per minute and 700 gallons per minute.

The Cheyenne Herald has written repeatedly that the City is not facing a water

shortage. During this supposed time of explosive growth, water consumption in the City has been reduced - not increased.

And before the City (BOPU) plans to spend untold millions of dollars to pipe water from the west end of the Belvoir (Harriman Road) toward the City where it can be treated, they could re-fire wells now permitted to pump twice what is being taken. Approximately 4,000 acre feet of additional water could be pumped under existing permits, if BOPU would fix the pumps and max out the permits.

Of course, there is no need to do that as the City already sits on two and a half years of water supply in reservoirs, with more in storage for trade or sale.

If and when the City gets serious about hijacking water from aquifers west of the chemical plant and south of I-80, they might ring up Perry Dray and ask him how well he does defending the taking of water from senior appropriators.

Even the correct amounts from those two test wells would provide 1,584,000 gallons of water a day and that is nearly 5 acre feet a day or 1,775 acre feet per year, over a month's supply of water at current pace of consumption. Downstream appropriators with priority rights will not sit silent while the City drains off their water.

So, whether it 5 million acre feet per day or 5 acre feet per day, it's a lot of aqua.

The 6th penny ballot

Little by little, the group assigned to design the next specific purposes sales tax ballot has whittled the total down to about \$100 million.

Just a few years back, anything \$100 million in Cheyenne or Laramie County would have seemed huge. Not now.

With a willing electorate, the governing bodies of four municipalities and Laramie County itself know no bounds. It used to be thought that \$8 million was a lot of money for Cheyenne to be seeking. Now Pine Bluffs wanted almost that much from the 2008 specific purposes election.

Will an upper limit ever be reached?

Not unless voters say "enough" and refuse to provide funding for the ever-thirsty governing bodies.

In 1996, a total amount of less than \$40 million was sought and voters said "nyet." That, of course, was before the menu-style ballot which insiders always claimed was illegal. Now, at least, voters have an opportunity to pick and choose a little bit.

With the City of Cheyenne asking for \$55 million just for one project (a rec center), the total will have to grand - to cover the basic requests.

One thing you have to give the City is that they have been consistent. They have

said for a long time that they wanted a ton of money for a rec center. True, the first approach was that they could sell the land at Windmill and Dell Range to raise the necessary money but, like so many public pronouncements they make, that was not possible.

On this matter, it is the Laramie County government that has ducked and dodged. They've allowed a project that was to have been privately funded to be placed on the ballot (or at least under consideration) and have not allowed another project (the new fairgrounds) to be a part of the ballot even though promised to voters repeatedly - with the purchase of the Archer Property.

Two of the most inappropriate requests (Christensen Overpass and an Airport Terminal) have been dropped and another, which should never have made an initial cut-down, has been reduced.

Judgment will be withheld on the City's rec center request until more data is available. But, because the commissioners have misled residents about their support for a new fairgrounds, funding for other Archer projects will likely be opposed. Most of the money requested for Albin, Burns and Pine Bluffs will probably be supported here but they may suffer from linking them to unpopular City of Cheyenne or County projects.

Let the party begin!

Brandon Schantz

All of us from large families have felt the awful devastation of cancer. The nefarious disease strikes both young and old, rich and poor, male and female. Cancer knows no limits and shows no favoritism.

Well over three decades ago, President Richard Nixon promised Americans that the country would declare the "moral equivalent of war" toward finding the cause of and cure for cancer.

Those of us close to someone who has been stricken know those words have rung hollow. The bigger the family, the more likely and more frequent the sense of helplessness has been felt.

Sometimes treatment works. Sometimes it doesn't. The courage required to undergo the typical cancer treatment is indescribable. But sitting in a room with several cancer victims undergoing chemotherapy at the same time is an experience that is also indescribable. Strength and determination abound. In a group, the suffering seems less. Those who will not let the disease get the best of them share that optimism with others and it becomes contagious.

Channel 5 recently announced that a former sports anchor, Brandon Schantz, had passed away and said the cause was cancer. One of the hardest things to witness in repeated visits to a cancer treatment center is the fact that the young are

also stricken. Seeing a 17 year-old boy who was not strong enough to endure chemo on his scheduled day is heart-breaking. He and his mother took the news better than others in attendance. A young woman one day left the area pulling her chemo tree and her mother was comforted about the tragedy befalling what appeared to be a teenager. She was actually 25 years old, her mother said.

Brandon Schantz was 27. It just isn't right - it just can't be explained - why those so young are stricken with a disease that it seems we could conquer with the right effort and funding. A 17 year-old in my own family dealt with cancer for years until enough money was raised for a bone marrow transplant. He died shortly after the transplant.

Brandon Schantz was as entertaining as he was exasperating. He would as soon ride a tricycle as read the scores. He, more than any other from Channel 5, always seemed to be having fun. His "On the Street" segments gave him a chance to indulge his zest for life. His ability to kneel to their height and engage young children in conversation was unique.

Was his indomitable spirit broken? Did he make the best of every day? I don't know for certain, but I'm betting he did. Life is more than "the Patriots 38, Steelers 13." Brandon Schantz knew how to get more from his life than the score.



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621 Vista Lane -- All Brick ranch style is in a great neighborhood! This home features new vinyl windows, furnace, water heater and AC. Other amenities include an updated kitchen, large living room & a dining room with hardwood floors. There are a total of 3 bedrooms with 2 baths, mature trees and a sprinkler system, too! If you are looking for a nice home with no stairs, this is the one for you! **\$195,700**



6652 Bison Run Loop -- A Beautiful Home in the country! This home has 3730 sq. ft., and almost 5 acres of land. Features include: vaulted ceilings, a fantastic kitchen with formal dining, a gas fireplace, main floor laundry and a wonderful master bedroom suite! There are 3 bedrooms & 2 baths, with room for another 2 bedrooms and family room in the basement. Outside of this home there is a full sprinkler system, & drip system for all trees and shrubs, an attached 3 car garage and a 40x48 barn with a storage building. **\$311,000**



120 E. 4th Ave. -- Seller will pay \$1,000 of closing costs! This 3 bedroom, 2 bath home is what you've been looking for! There are hardwood floors in the formal dining room and living room, with built-in's throughout. The lower level features a laundry area, large family room and a bedroom with walk-in closet & bath. There is a fenced back yard with a sprinkler system, patio, & attached garage. Don't pass this one up! **\$176,900**



7096 Sundance Loop -- This 2 story home has a wonderful open floor plan for the discriminating buyer. The main floor includes a large kitchen with stainless steel appliances, formal dining, and a living room with gas fireplace. The upstairs features 3 large bedrooms, a full bath, plus a large master bedroom with master bath. This well-kept home shows pride in ownership, and is cleaner than a new home. This property is situated on almost 5 acres of land, and has paved roads. **\$329,900**

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