

**To ALL Citizens of Cheyenne YOU'RE INVITED!!**

On October 11, 2004, **THE CHEYENNE HERALD** published the original story about City Council secretary Maggie Carter's misuse of a City-issued credit card and her subsequent filing of false purchase orders to hide her thefts.

Ms. Carter was placed on paid leave that day. She finally resigned six weeks later after collecting an additional \$6000 and after the City had hired a fraud auditor from Casper for \$10,000 to confirm the accuracy of the theft and perjury allegations first exposed here in **THE HERALD**.

The District Attorney's office later charged Ms. Carter with five felonies related to the five falsified purchase orders she submitted to cover up her personal purchases. After several delays, her trial is scheduled to begin on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

Recently, the DA's office sent a letter [*shown at right*] to members of the Cheyenne City Council. It informed them that, as "victims" of Ms. Carter's actions, they were entitled to notification about Court proceedings in the case.

**THE HERALD** applauds the DA's efforts to invite crime victims to attend Court hearings and trials but would remind everyone that ALL THE CITIZENS OF CHEYENNE, not the individual members of the Council, were the real "victims" of the former Council secretary's thefts and subsequent cover-up attempts.

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY, First Judicial District

JON R. FORWOOD, DISTRICT ATTORNEY



February 16, 2006

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City Of Cheyenne  
Attn: City Council  
2101 O'Neil Ave  
Cheyenne, WY 82001

RE: State of Wyoming vs. MARGARET A CARTER, Docket # 28-707

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to inform you of the next court hearing in the case referenced above. Margaret A Carter's next hearing, her Jury Trial has been set for March 13, 2006 at 9:00AM, the Honorable Judge Nicholas G Kalokathis presiding. Judge Nicholas G Kalokathis's Courtroom is located on the 3rd floor of the Laramie County Court House (same building where automobile license plates are purchased).

Please be aware that plea negotiations are in the works and this case may not go to trial. Also, please note, that the Court adds and deletes hearings at the last minute on a daily basis. If you are planning on attending this hearing, please verify that this hearing is still scheduled to proceed prior to leaving for the Court house. You can do this by contacting our receptionist at 633-4360 or the Clerk of Courts' Office at 633-4458.

If you have any questions in the meanwhile regarding your rights as the victim in this matter, please contact me. I am available Monday through Friday 8:30a.m. to 5:30p.m. My direct phone number is 307-633-4361. In the event I am unavailable at the time of your call, please leave a voice message. Please be sure to include a current contact phone number (daytime and/or message) and the best time to return your call.

Sincerely,

Tiffany R. Nelson  
Victim/Witness Coordinator  
(307) 633-4360 ext. 4361  
tiffany@da.co.laramie.wy.us

**Councilman Laybourn says: "Let's give the State's money back"**

The Wyoming Business Council's "Business Ready Community" program was designed to provide funds to Wyoming communities to fund improvements necessary to attract new businesses. Along the way, the program became corrupted so that Wyoming cities and towns could receive funds for "other amenities".

The City of Cheyenne applied for and received \$300,000 from the Business Council for a "spray park" to be constructed near the Municipal Pool in Lion's Park. The grant requires the City to find a matching amount.

Now the cost of the project has grown to \$700,000+ and the City is having trouble coming up with its \$400,000 share.

Councilman Pete Laybourn has a solution. Instead of stealing the necessary funds from other more-essential City departments or projects (such as the Animal Shelter or City-County Health), Laybourn will be proposing a Resolution which, if passed, will return the money to the State and cancel the bidding process which is now underway.

In his Resolution, Laybourn points out that the Municipal Pool (a facility which is used throughout the year by a large number of citizens) is in need of extensive repairs to remain safe and usable. He proposes that some of the funds set aside for the "spray park" be used to improve the Municipal Pool instead.

Laybourn is also mindful that the Wyoming Business Council was harshly criticized around the State after the grant for Cheyenne's "spray park" was announced. His hope is that returning the money to the State will go a long way to restoring confidence in the Business Council's "Business Ready Community" grant program.

*One Citizen's Opinion*

Two famous and successful men who've claimed Wyoming as home were in the news recently.

Vice President Dick Cheney graduated from high school in Casper and later represented the State in Congress. He and his wife now own a home in Teton County. The Vice President made headlines all over the world when he went quail hunting on February 11<sup>th</sup> and accidentally shot the only liberal Republican left in Texas.

Six days later, Cheney kept a promise to return to Cheyenne to speak to the Wyoming Legislature. His short speech was well-received and probably provided a much-appreciated respite from the dust-up over his winging of the Texas attorney.

The invitation to speak to the Legislature had been extended by Senate President Grant Larson and House Speaker Randall Luthi months ago.

In the days leading up to the Vice President's trip, Senator Larson was apparently interviewed by various reporters. When asked by one about the upcoming speech, Senator Larson commented that it would probably be nice for the Vice President to be able to spend time back home among his old friends.

When he was asked about the hunting incident and the extensive coverage of it, Senator Larson unfortunately couldn't resist the temptation to take a shot ... pardon the pun ... at those who'd previously made comments about the Vice President's carelessness. Larson referred to them as "those Easterners who don't know anything about hunting and have probably never even handled a gun".

Senator Larson's gratuitous put-down of other Americans reminded me of former Vice President Spiro Agnew's fondness for referring to critics of the Nixon administration as "nattering nabobs of negativism", "an effete corps of impudent snobs", "pusillanimous pussyfoots" and (my personal alliterative favorite) "hopeless, hysterical hypochondriacs of history".

It also caused me to wonder if Senator Larson was right about "Easterners" being largely ignorant

about hunting and guns. Having lived in one of those "blue states" for several months, I have memories of quite a few pickups with gunracks there too.

Here's what I found with the help of my close personal friends at Google:

-- Pennsylvania issued 879,000 licenses for antlerless deer this hunting season;

-- Maine had 178,000 deer hunters last year ... almost exactly the number of TOTAL hunters of ALL big game species here in Wyoming;

-- Hunters in New York State killed 208,000 deer there during 2004;

-- Michigan hunters purchased 750,000 deer licenses in 2005 and killed 450,000 deer.

Apparently, a lot of people living in such Eastern states enjoy hunting and guns just as much as Senator Larson and the Vice President do.

Maybe the Senator is just still miffed about how such states voted in the last Presidential election. If so, he should get over it, lest he be reminded that almost 54% of his own Teton County neighbors voted AGAINST George W. Bush and Dick Cheney in 2004.

**THANKS, CURT**

Curt Gowdy was from right here in Cheyenne ... and he never, ever forgot it.

Like Vice President Cheney, Gowdy attended the University of Wyoming before moving on to much bigger and much better things.

Gowdy died last week at his winter home in Palm Beach, Florida. He had reportedly suffered from leukemia for the past few years.

Gowdy's funeral and burial took place in his beloved Boston, Massachusetts, where he had called Red Sox games for many years before becoming a national broadcasting legend.

According to news reports, the funeral procession from the church to the cemetery took a detour past Fenway Park so the family could see the huge billboard-sized banner which the Red Sox had hung outside the stadium. It read simply "THANKS, CURT".

Curt Gowdy's death and the many stories about his interesting life in sports served to remind me of many happy Saturdays watching the Game of the Week with my father. It was a good time. I miss it.

Besides his easygoing, avuncular broadcasting style, I remember two things about Curt Gowdy's play-by-play habits which I greatly appreciated.

One was the fact that he always mentioned the Mountain Time Zone whenever he was called upon to announce the starting time for an upcoming game or program. Can you think of a single TV or radio announcer today ... or ever ... who doesn't ignore this part of the country when doing similar announcements? Perhaps it was Curt Gowdy's way of reminding everyone of where he was from.

The other thing I remember about Curt Gowdy's broadcasting was the frequency with which he gave the score of the ballgame he was covering.

I once heard him say that he'd picked up that habit from another broadcaster who encouraged him to buy a 3-minute egg timer and put it where he could always see it during a game. When the sand ran out, Gowdy would give the current score at the first opportunity and turn the egg timer over.

Whenever I see those big signs announcing a turnoff for CURT GOWDY STATE PARK, I wonder what newcomers or tourists think when they see them ... and I wonder if any of the current crop of telegenic sports broadcasters will ever be similarly honored by their own home states. I rather doubt it, don't you?

There's now talk of expanding CURT GOWDY STATE PARK to include other nearby recreational areas and fishing spots.

Wouldn't it be a nice tribute to a Wyoming native who never forgot where he was from if at least one of those reservoirs could be permanently designated as a FREE fishing area?

I'll bet ol' Curt would like that a lot.

*Jim Mathewson*

*Jim Mathewson is just a poor dumb citizen of Cheyenne. His email address is jmat44691@yahoo.com*