

## Why extend Carey Ave.?

I don't think I'm different from other Cheyenne and Laramie County residents.

When I say, "what are they thinking?", I believe a good share of the other folks around here ask the same question.

When city government annexed land far away from its boundary, with so much case law and established precedent that said the action would not stand, I challenged those annexations. They all fell.

When the city government bought the Belvoir ranch for a landfill, it was obvious to everyone that the distance and geology would not make that a suitable location for a new dump, and I challenged that decision. Not to buy the Belvoir - but to buy it to site a landfill on the granite. You see, I long ago lost the excitement of meeting someone who is "supposed" to be important. And that's what led this crew to buy the Belvoir and promise to put a dump there - against the advice of the WDEQ and the region's top hydrologist.

And when they paid the full asking price to a desperate man - the man they thought owned the Colorado Rockies but was a small investor who served as general partner because the real owners had jobs - I wondered where these guys learned the art of negotiation.

When goofballs started to arrive in town with schemes to turn trash into everything short of maple syrup, I wondered how these guys could be so gullible - why they didn't do the most basic due diligence?

Had they "googled," they would have learned that the feat of turning municipal waste into ethanol had not yet been perfected. Not to mention the fact that the guy presenting the scheme didn't even have an office, let alone funds to deliver on any promise to do such a thing.

Next was a felon from Washington, by way of Germany, who may have filled a reservoir with diesel bought from a local filling station and then did a "demonstration" that had the mayor and his ilk salivating. When challenged, the mayor said they had done no due diligence on the guy because that wasn't their place but then, when questioned by a Washington newspaper reporter, cautioned others to do that very due diligence.

I, as most of you I expect, have shook my head at the destruction of our downtown. Only the Wrangler (now Boot Barn or some such name) and The Plains Hotel remain of the large businesses and retailers downtown in early 2001.

Now the plan is to demolish a perfectly sound office building at 17th and Warren for a surface parking lot. The one on W. 15th St. has worked so well that we must need more asphalt-covered ground and fewer tenant-attracting buildings.

A long way to get here - but, what in the hell are they thinking to extend Carey Avenue through the Old Town Square, dislodging the Gunslingers and adding an unnecessary block onto a street to the railroad tracks? That is so unnecessary.

## Obama said what? Biden's daughter did what?

There are reasons politicians aren't allowed to go off script - why they use teleprompters for virtually every word they utter. One is so they don't stray from their message. When they say one thing one day and another the next, someone will pick up on it and then they'll have to be in the "apology" mode or the "explanation" mode to try to make things right.

The more important reason politicians stay on script is that they are often not good at ad libbing, at making things up as they go or speaking off the cuff.

There is also a good reason presidents don't make appearance on the late night comedy shows. Guests are expected to be funny, to bring their "humor game" and not many politicians have a good sense of humor. Bob Dole was supposed to have but his remarks usually were mean or caustic, not funny. Mo Udall may have been the best - Al Simpson wasn't too bad. Until he got old and crotchety.

Not many would consider Barack Obama comedic. Programmed, disciplined, cool, hip - but not funny.

His recent appearance on the Tonight Show should have dispelled all beliefs that he can speak on his feet - that he can be funny while remaining likeable. For some unfathomable reason, he chose

to try to make a self-deprecating joke about his lack of bowling skills by including a group most Americans admire. The Special Olympics' athletes. Many Americans don't bowl well and Obama's poor score at bowling came when he was in a long sleeve white dress shirt, with the sleeves rolled up below the elbow, still wearing a tie. He could have defended his results by reminding Leno of that. Instead, he referred to his bowling as "like Special Olympics or something."

Utterly poor taste. Disgusting. And you can't unring that bell. Crude language outlasts the apology for it.

What do you think the reaction would have been had Dick Cheney, George Bush, Newt Gingrich or James Watt uttered those words? Oh, my God!

A "friend" of Joe Biden's 27 year-old daughter is shopping a video of her doing lines of cocaine. The last I knew, using coke was illegal. It'll probably end up like Michael Phelps bong use, a prosecutor will say, "all we have to go on is a video tape and witnesses. We won't prosecute."

Coke is illegal. Having a baby out of wedlock is not. Do you think the Ashley Biden matter will be reported like Bristol Palin's pregnancy, her baby's birth, and subsequent separation from the baby's father?

## Judge Davis put another violent criminal back on the streets for a paltry \$2500

In the last issue of the Cheyenne Herald, I wrote about a man who has had six reported incidents of domestic violence, the last one just over a month ago.

He appeared in District Court right after the Herald hit the street.

The latest victim has been physically abused, in reported instances, four times. She has a protective order but nothing keeps the abuser from accessing her.

I wrote that one reason these guys continue to abuse women is that they get away with it. Victims do not get the necessary protection from police, the prosecution or the courts.

When a guy is standing before a judge for the fourth, fifth, sixth, or greater, time for similar behavior and after every appearance he just has to wait for bail to be set so he can be bonded out of county jail, there isn't enough of an incentive for him to change his behavior. Often times, they grew up in an environment where their own mother was abused by a husband or male companion.

Authorities ask why the victims return to the abuser. Maybe they should start asking themselves what role they play in that behavior. I've seen minor players (users) in the local drug scene held on \$10,000 cash bond. The guy who killed his brother was held on \$10,000 cash bond. The guy who was accused of aggravated assault in the case when the "victim" said it didn't happen and the accused was eventually acquitted at trial was held on \$10,000 cash bond.

In that recent case where the victim said she was not assaulted, that guy had to pay \$10,000 to get out of jail and several thousand dollars more to an attorney to vindicate himself. The "victim" made it clear from the outset, including the preliminary hearing, that she was not going to testify against the accused.

Here we have a case where the victim has been assaulted countless times, and reported four of them to the police, and she was going to testify against the accused and this accused has a record of

violence against women, including twice against his ex-wife, and an accused who has, in the past, missed court appearances, the newest district court judge set his bail at \$2,500.

This guy has a new girlfriend. She called me a couple days after the story came out. She wanted a "rebuttal." What she needs is a sit-down in the circuit court and district court offices to read some case files. She needs to grasp just what the odds are that she will be his next victim.

How long do you think it was before people starting calling this victim? It wasn't days. It was hours. They know where she works and they know her new cell phone no. Maybe she's changed numbers again. She should. She should keep a log of the contacts and turn them over to the prosecution. This guy isn't worried about taking his defenders with him. Whether that means his mother, his latest girlfriend, or that girlfriend's daughter (his ex-wife recanted once), he will do what he can to get this victim to recant as well. His ex-wife "took back" her accusations in a typewritten letter to the court. She said she was pressured by police to accuse him. And she wrote that she would not testify against him.

Why do women do that? Because they do not have the confidence that the system will protect them. When an abuser gets back on the street for \$500, \$1000 or \$2500, the woman knows the financial incentive to behave himself, which usually includes not drinking or doing drugs, is just not sufficient to get compliance.

The judge is probably too close to the situation at the jail. He likely knows if it is overcrowded and he is willing to let violent criminals walk rather than adding to that burden. Nonviolent pot users are more likely to be held because they can't make even the smallest bail. Serial abusers are often employed and make good money. And they come from enabling families that will post their bond again and again. And they will defend the abuser no matter how many times he assaults women and how many photographs are presented to prove that the guy abused a woman. They will stand by him.

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