

"ANYTHING TWO PEOPLE KNOW IS NOT A SECRET."

THE
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TAKE ONE

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DEQ slow to require cleanup of contaminated land

When a 3 1/2 acre parcel of land has huge mounds of dirt, exposed concrete with re-bar protruding, and other evidence of dumping and burying, it is easy enough to believe that something ain't right.

When a neighbor to the site in question contacted me and told me that DEQ was informed of the concern about asbestos and other unpermitted construction materials, including concrete with re-bar and boilers, being buried on the adjacent parcel of land, I was somewhat surprised. My experience with DEQ has been excellent. They have reacted quickly and forcefully to protect Wyoming residents from the dangers of air and water contamination.

Perhaps it is John Corra's position that his job is to "protect state assets" that has caused the delay in cleaning up this mess off Lupe Road.

The debris on this property has been referred to as "clean fill" but no definition I can find fits that defense. Basically, clean

fill is described as "uncontaminated, non-water-soluble, non-decomposable inert solid material used to level an area or bring the area to grade." Neighbors claim that asbestos is present on the land and have the test results of an expert in the field to confirm their allegation. It is also obvious from the pictures below that there was no effort to either "level" the area nor to "bring the area to grade."

The area has all the markings of having been an unpermitted landfill at an earlier time and within the scope of DEQ or others to clean up the parcel if the owner refuses to do so. W.S. 35-1-105 covers the violation. It reads: "Prohibited acts; penalty for violations. (a)(vii) Being the owner or occupant of private property upon which there shall exist a nuisance, source of filth or cause of sickness, shall wilfully fail to remove the same at his own expense within forty-eight (48) hours after being ordered to do so by health authorities." W.S. 35-1-103 covers "Neglect or failure of officials to perform duty."



The new Granite Canon, Wyoming Post Office - Zip 82059



Wyoming Congressional Delegation Clout Gone?

It seems like only yesterday that USPS officials from Denver were in the County Commissioners' Chambers promising all that the Granite Canon post office would be replaced with a new facility.

It also seems that they kept repeating that promise until recently - then installed "cluster boxes" instead. The seven NPUs with 16 letter/magazine/paper boxes on each unit and 20 parcel boxes were recently placed at the end of the state maintenance area of Harriman Road - about a mile and a half south of I-80 at Exit 342.

The NPUs face west and the day the pictures at the right were taken, the wind would pull change out of your pocket. The inset picture showing a speed limit sign of 55 mph at that location could refer to the wind. In Denver, they may be unaware this hilltop is among the windiest places



in Wyoming. Trains derail from the wind and their empty cars are picked up off the rails just southeast of the boxes.

For 125 years, Granite Canon has had a post office. Until recently, postal services were provided - stamps, money orders, mailing packages, redemption of mail that required signatures, etc. The USPS promised such service would continue. They promised in the presence of all three current county commissioners. Now they blame Hurricane Katrina for their broken promise. It used to be computers were the root of all problems. Not it's Katrina.

More to come on the stories on this page.

About a story that does not appear ...

I spent considerable time during the days before this issue of the Cheyenne Herald went to press preparing an article which I ultimately decided not to publish. This message is to those who expected to see that story and gave of their time in interviews, discussions, research and verification. I apologize for wasting your time. In the past five years, I have occasionally decided to either not write articles I had planned to or pull others from the paper even after writing them - because of consequences the articles might bring to bear on the subject of the words or those close to the subject. I have just completed a re-read of the book *The Agenda* by Bob Woodward. It is the telling of the beginning of the Clinton administration and it covers briefly the suicide of close Hillary Clinton friend Vince Foster. His final note included: "Here ruining people is considered sport." I am not about ruining people. I often write stories without using names but this particular story could not have been presented without names and still retained have meaning. References would have been required and they, too, would have identified people I concluded could be irreparably and permanently harmed from disclosures in the article and I simply chose not to do that. The other paper in town has written about me, "he's no journalist," and this decision may prove their point. But I would rather be branded "no journalist" than publish a story that caused personal damage that would be on my conscience forever. I cannot, before presstime, contact all of those who spent time with me on this article and expected to see it in print and this is the best I can do to explain to them why it does not appear in this issue as intended. Your understanding is appreciated.

Dave Featherly

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