

Wayfinding

Kenny Rogers sang a song that had a kid throwing the ball up in the air and missing it when he swung the bat at it as it came down. The boy did the same thing a second and third time, missing each time. "The Greatest" tells the story of that little boy.

Little boy he adjusts his hat, picks up his ball, stares at his bat

Says "I am the greatest when the game is on the line"

And he gives his all one last time.

And the ball goes up and the moon so bright

Swings his bat with all his might

The world's as still as still can be, the baseball falls

And that's strike three.

Now it's supertime and his momma calls,

little boy starts home with his bat and ball.

Says, "I am the greatest, that is a fact,

But even I didn't know I could pitch like that!"

Says, "I am the greatest, that is understood,

But even I didn't know I could pitch that good!"

When I heard that the City of Cheyenne was spending money on a "wayfinding" project, this song came to mind. Both the little boy and the City are dreamers. He that he was a great hitter - the City

that residents can not find their way around this tiny place.

Come on, gang. This is not Denver, with suburbs in every direction and laid out to make it difficult to find Point "B" from Point "A". In Cheyenne, if you can't give directions to a total stranger in twenty words or less, you don't know your way around either.

Cheyenne is one of the few cities to build around an airport. Yes, Virginia, the airport was here first. Not every destination can be reached in a straight line this direction, then a straight line in that direction. But what we don't need is even more confusing or erroneous signs (like billboards) on poles and posts around town.

Residents must wonder if there is so much surplus money or federal government stimulus funds that City officials have to dream up ways to waste it.

What is it that City officials think residents or visitors cannot find? The mall? Kmart? Kohl's? A McDonald's? An art gallery? A baseball field? What?

Seriously, if someone can't find anything there is to find in Cheyenne with simple directions, they couldn't find it with a guide. At some point, this silliness needs to give way to solving the real problems that face this puzzled group. The Vikings found this country. We should be able to find a liquor store or hospital.

Brylcream Boy: "No quick fix."

In a recent self-serving interview with the local's sportswriter, UW men's basketball coach Schroyer said some bizarre things.

Even the apologists and "homers" at *your* daily paper picked up on coverage in the Herald that detailed just how poor those teams were that UW piled up an 11-2 record against last year. There was no acknowledgment of that fact by the WTE at the time but those results against tomato can opponents weren't quality wins.

Brylcream Boy also said that the schedule would get much more difficult now as though he had scheduled those patsies in Laramie and now they would be much better when UW plays them in their gym. He must have put some of those "dabs" too close to his brain. Preconference, UW played four moderately decent teams - Northern Iowa, Boise State, UCLA and Utah State. Once beaten by Utah State and Stew Morrill, the season went south.

UW's "me first" roster cost them a win in the unimportant tournament they did pay to play in. The little ball hog from Chicago could have shared the ball and UW would have played on - at least for one more game. But he chose not to share.

The most outlandish thing attributed to BB is that he wouldn't have taken the job at UW if they wanted a quick fix to the program. That's how he explained

away his terrible first year as coach after Little Steven had left him a team with a winning record. By the second season, he had softened the schedule to the point that Wyoming basketball fans would not pay to see the 'Boys play the stiff's.

He was reminded that four of the players on this season's roster had spent time at the same basketball factory - Stoneridge Prep in Simi Valley, California. Of course, the Cheyenne Herald reported that a long time ago. Actually, there would have been five players from that basketball factory and another from a better factory but a guy named Diakite dropped out of school to return home (reportedly to play "pro" ball but Mahmoud Diakite couldn't even play junior college basketball).

BB's refusal to make a "quick fix" to the team he inherited from McClain was a lie. He has welcomed a number of transfers from other programs who had as little as one year of eligibility left for UW. Others could play two years. If that isn't a quick fix, what is?

Accepting players who could not make in better programs or who didn't fit in there may build a winning program in Laramie. Recruiting players who will be 22 year-old sophomores when eligible may bring wins. But it's a lousy way to build a program. BB wants to win now so he can move on to a bigger and better program.

The city council had a downtown parking "fix" but lacked the courage to see it through

So often government spends limitless hours discussing an issue or problem, then either passes a law (ordinance) or promises a fix and never follows through.

Such was the case of what some perceive as a parking problem in the downtown. No, they built the unwise and unused parking garage but even after that was open and had proven unsuccessful, countless hours were wasted leading to another ordinance that would never be enacted or enforced - kind of like dogs in open pickup boxes and on flatbeds.

Nearly five years ago, the hot button topic of the day was the City's proposed "fix" to downtown parking problems. Hour after hour, day after day, rancorous debate raged. Downtown office dwellers who were never engaged became engaged. A popular call-in radio program was consumed with the subject.

After all of the debate, and the polarization that comes with unpopular decisions on the part of elected officials, Ordinance No 3588 was approved. The City Council, on a 7-3 vote, approved the senseless and never to be enacted ordinance.

On July 12, 2004 Floyd Lopez, Tom Segrave, Jimmy Valdez, Jack Spiker (as mayor), Brent Beeman, Joe Bonds and Patrick Collins voted in favor of the since ignored goofy and draconian "solution." Only Don Pierson, C.J. Brown and Judy Case dissented.

The ordinance was not complicated, only dumb.

City Code Chapter 10.60.010 Signed Time Limitations: "Vehicles parked in an area where parking is limited by time must vacate that area before the expiration of time indicated. This restriction shall apply daily to all vehicles unless otherwise allowed by law.

A. "Area" is defined as; the entire block on which a vehicle is parked and the perimeter of each block facing that block."

Nobody ever understood just what that meant. If it included blocks that touched diagonally, it would take in a nine square block area. But would it be one hour, two hours, or ninety minutes? Hand-held computers were to be used to monitor parkers and enforce the parking ban.

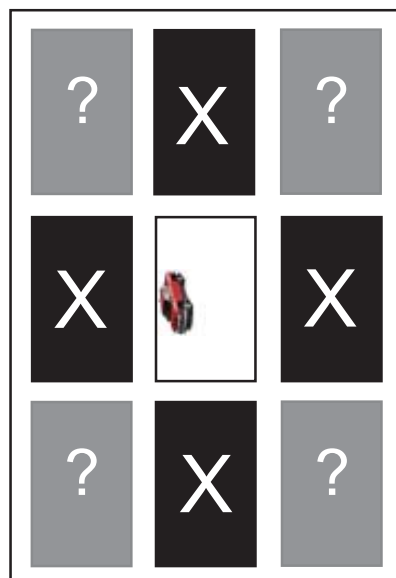
Another part of this beauty was **10.60.020 "Interference with Enforcement."** That could be enforced today. The little scooter riders must see downtown parkers - from public employees and office workers to owners to managers to attorneys to architects rub the marks off tires by repositioning the vehicle in the same parking space or taking a spray bottle of water and a rag and erasing the chalk mark.

It read: "No person shall interfere with officials, who in the performance of their duties, enforce parking regulations as

defined by code."

A. "Interference" is defined as; removing or attempting to conceal or defeat, marks, video, digital imaging or other forms of time, place and movement recording or measurement."

You can see why opponents of the cell phone ban argued that it would never be enforced. After weeks of debate and final approval in July 2004, this ordinance has collected dust for the past five years. It's on the books. (*Notes indicate that "financial impact" would be covered by "Enforcement Revenue." No other costs.*)



Announcements

The Cheyenne Street Trolley's 2009 began Monday, May 11th. The narrated tours take place on weekdays every 90 minutes. On weekends, two hour tours are available on Saturday at 10:00 and 1:30 pm and on Sunday at 1:30 pm.

Trolley tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 2-12 years old.

Special \$2 tours will be offered for Laramie County residents on May 16th and 17th. Tickets are available at the Visitor Center in the former UP Depot downtown. Call 778-3133 with questions.

Community Action of Laramie County is hosting a community forum to discuss the quality of life and poverty issues that we encounter today. The forum will include a video and panel discussion by state and community leaders. There will be time for questions and comments. The forum will be Thursday, May 21 from 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm in the Centennial Room at LCCC. Call 635-9291 for info.

There will be a Memorial Day observance held at VFW Post No. 1881 on Monday, May 25, beginning at 8:00 am.

The official ceremony will be at approximately 9:30 am with participation by Air Force officials and other military personnel, including the Patriot Guard. Cheyenne Mayor Rick Kaysen, a veteran, will read the original proclamation that originated Memorial Day in Congress. VA Chaplain McKilly and Central High ROTC will also be present and participate.