

## Radio station shuffle

No sooner did one of the local radio stations place billboard messages all around town with their tagline and frequency than that station became something quite different. Different format, different jockeys.

Another station, KYOY-FM, came into Cheyenne with its operations (at 103.3 FM), and plays what it calls "The greatest hits on the planet," with an evolving time window of hits during the day and evening.

Clear Channel sold most of its radio stations in Wyoming and the new owner made some changes in format - as well as sold the highest rated station, with its country music format, to another owner.

The station at the far right end of your FM dial has been "elevator-music" forever. Now, with jockeys moving over from a former country music format - one that still claims to be from Cheyenne but airing more and more Colorado commercials as they morph into the southern market. Phil Noble's former station has a new format.

They also have a new tagline.

That tagline has something to do with a horse. Can't be sure if that refers to the quality of the music offered or something else. When that station became a country music format, they must have acquired the 90's playlist from KYGO in Denver. The station doesn't dub itself as an "Oldies" or "Classic" country music station. They just play songs popular from several years to a few decades back.

And the sleep-inducing, mind-numbing voice of a longtime Casper radio station

and gas station game-drawing personality is forever droning something related to that horse. It doesn't have a name or you can't make it think or something.

One of the developments that has made local radio evolutionary is the success of the University of Wyoming women's basketball team. An AM station has been broadcasting the tiresome talk of the likes of Rush Limbaugh and Dr. Laura Schlessinger (she of family values and nude pictures) and broadcast the games of revenue-producing men's basketball and football.

A local announcer had the once unenviable task of broadcasting women's basketball games while Dave Walsh became a minor Wyoming celebrity broadcasting men's football and basketball.

Now, poor Dave is relegated to broadcasting meaningless men's games from New Mexico and Texas while the women's basketball guy travels to Madison to broadcast a game of national significance.

Sometimes, what goes 'round comes 'round.

Much, if not most, of the Cheyenne radio audience listens to stations broadcasting from out of town and the scramble from Clear Channel's divestiture won't have much effect. Good riddance, by the way.

You'll notice that the only call letters mentioned in this story are KYOY's. They advertise on these pages. If others want their call letters or frequency published on these pages, show me the money!

## Well, well, well Dray, Thomson law firm repays City's generosity – by "hiring" former City Attorney Mike Basom who sent the money Dray's way

Several people in the legal profession wondered aloud what Mike Basom was going to do when he left the shelter of City employment. Some went so far as to predict that no one would hire him. His performance as city attorney left much to be desired and the glut of marginally capable attorneys led many to believe even he could not find gainful employment from those who knew of his failings.

Basom got the City job back in 2001 simply because Jack Spiker liked him and was comfortable with him - in other words, he wasn't threatened by the former banker being that close to him.

Within seemingly no time at all, Basom compliantly "advised" those wanting to hear the advise that the City could annex land far from its current borders. As wrong as he was about that, he even got support from a district court judge who opined that, if in compliance with the other provisions of Wyoming annexation law, the City could determine the definition of the word "adjacent."

That's wasn't so and the judge should have known better - as should have Mike Basom. But city and county attorneys are not renowned for their competence so a city attorney unfamiliar with the law comes as no surprise.

Knowing that Basom could not handle trial work against the likes of John Walker and Gay Woodhouse, the mayor authorized the retention of an outside law firm to defend the City in the several actions against it for illegal annexations. For a short time, there were more accusations of wrongdoing made against the City than Michael Vick would later face against him.

The City, perhaps influenced by Mike Basom, chose the Cheyenne law firm of Dray, Thomson, Dyekman, et al. Until the repeated misadventures and failures involving illegal annexations, this firm had a pretty good local reputation.

When the Cheyenne Herald reported, in an appearance before the Wyoming Supreme Court on one of the annexation appeals, that Perry Dray seemed more nervous than Jeffrey Dahmer's cellmate, people close to us scolded us - saying "Perry is a very nice guy." The observation had nothing to do with his personality. He just seemed to be unprepared for the subject at hand.

And he was.

While the long relationships he had with district court judges may have done him well at that level, when he came before the Supreme Court on matters related to annexations (including a rezoning of a parcel of land annexed), he lost.

He lost but he was paid. Was he ever!

All in all, the Dray law firm was paid about

\$300,000 for work on three illegal annexations and motions to try to prevent residents from having their day in court.

The firm may have received more money than that. It is not included in the ongoing surveillances we perform. Believing what friends said about the law firm - that they were capable, legitimate, etc. - the tracking ended with the last illegal annexation to crumble.

Three annexations were challenged and three were either found to be illegal or were eventually withdrawn (after having been earlier approved by the city governing body). The law was so clear on the subject, in spite of Mike Basom and Perry Dray not being able to get their minds around it, that even the county commissioners and former county attorney piggybacked on law suits filed by residents against those illegal annexations.

The commissioners and county attorney never initiated any legal action, they just waited until residents had, then they hitchhiked on the filed litigation. On the Cotton appeal, they even got their name in the records as being the appellant. That's a shame because they never showed the courage to contest an illegal annexation until after residents had retained private counsel and filed their lawsuits.

People have been asking each other what had become of Mike Basom after his unexpected and surprise announcement that he was leaving the City after losing still another case to Gay Woodhouse. His defense of the City in a contested employee termination matter was pitiful.

Then, suddenly, a newspaper ad from the Dray-Thomson law firm to introduce a new associate listed Mike Basom "of counsel."

That can mean many things but it does confirm a link between an individual and a law firm. Sometimes, a retired partner will continue to be recognized "of counsel" out of respect.

Perhaps Basom is "of counsel" to the Dray law firm out of gratitude. Not a lot of clients around Cheyenne generate legal fees of \$300,000 - give or take a little.

The Cheyenne Herald would sure be grateful if someone placed \$300,000 worth of advertising with us. Probably be grateful for even less than that amount.

Basom had to be replaced by Steve Kline in the church litigation about a day care. He had to be replaced by Perry Dray and others for several annexation lawsuits. He was replaced by Bill Hibbler for arguments before the Supreme Court and the Mary's Bake Shoppe matter.

What value could he bring to the Dray law firm? Is this a parking spot on the letterhead while he continues to seek gainful employment? Payback? Thanks?

**American**  
Storage & Postal Service

Mail Box • US Mail • UPS • DHL • Fed Ex • Copies • Fax • Notary • Packing

5' x 10' — \$40 per month	
10' x 10' — \$65 per month	
10' x 15' — \$70 per month	

Outside Storage for Boats & Campers Available!

12' x 20' has electric — \$100 per month	<b>FREE Truck Use</b> with Move-In!
12' x 30' has electric — \$145 per month	
12' x 42' has electric — \$185 per month	

1903 S. Greeley Hwy. • 635-9335 • Fax 635-9129

Office Hours: Monday – Saturday 8:30 am – 6 pm



Military Discount Available 

College Drive 

## Oroweat Bakery Outlet

Travel A Little,  
Save A Lot!

308 Southwest Dr. • 635-8400

Open Monday - Saturday 11-4

South across from Tyrrell-Doyle Chevrolet - west at PTA Self-Storage