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# THE CHEYENNE HERALD

## the local advocacy journal

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## Sell or lease?

**Did the County buy the Archer property to sell it?**

The county commissioner's meeting on September 13th introduced a new wrinkle into the use(s) for the land known as the Archer property.

The first item on the agenda - placed there to accommodate the many expected speakers - was to consider what should be done with the land now that the people of Laramie County own it.

A court reporter was in attendance in the event litigation may be necessary, based on the decisions made by the commissioners.

The county commissioners aren't the first to hear from the public. The regional planning commission listened and then

recommended the uses in front of this body on this day.

That recommendation was for the 680 acres to be broken up as follows:

Motocross	45 acres
Business Development #1	170 acres
County Fair	115 acres
Shooting Range	110 acres
Business Development #2	125 acres
Admin / Justice Center	90 acres
Cheyenne Cowboy Church	25 acres

In spite of the whole subject being labeled "CCC Youth Center & Arena Option," it was quickly pointed out to the commissioners that the designation would be for use, not user.

The spokesman for CCC readily admitted that there would be religion involved.

Ms. Humphrey offered that CCC "would not hold church out there ... crazy idea."

That use will present a difficult decision. Speakers reminded the commissioners of the First Amendment separation of church and state.

Interestingly, in spite of nearly half of the land being planned for business development, no one spoke either for or against that use. Not controversial?

Proponents of the motocross use again appeared before a group that promised cooperation when they turned down a rezoning request to create a motocross track on donated land two years ago.

During the course of these early presentations, county attorney Peter Froelicher appeared to try to throw a monkey wrench into outside use of the land. He advised that the county maybe should sell the land instead of leasing it. Liability.

That would be insane. County residents should retain ownership in the event that any of these well-intentioned uses do not pan out. Even in the business development areas, the county should enter into ground leases. They can get advice from the Airport Board if they don't know how to do that. Selling would likely eliminate those wanting to put a motocross track or public shooting range out there and, worse, would be a mistake even if they could pony up the money. Hold onto it.

by Dave Featherly

## Justice for all? Or just for some?

"I need your help," the man almost shouted at me.

But it wasn't shouting inside his head. He talked that loud because he had to. To use a lower volume would take him out of his own conversation. Those of us without hearing impairments can hear our own side of a conversation. He cannot. Unless he talks very loud.

This proud craftsman works hard everyday but has no permanent address or house to call home in Cheyenne. His is a skill that few possess and fewer appreciate or understand.

"When I try to talk with someone about my problems, someone nearby takes my volume for anger and calls the cops."

The Americans with Disabilities Act has been in place for more than a decade. Those with vision, hearing, voice, mobility and the other God-given senses we take for granted, cannot understand what others still face. Buildings which are still not in compliance (since 1995) with ADA have restrooms that do not provide privacy for those in wheelchairs.

Street corners which have not been brought into compliance with ADA (since 1995) put those in wheelchairs in danger when trying to get on or off of the curb.

Not everyone who cannot hear can sign. Then, not everyone who is signed understand sign language so the deaf cannot communicate with them anyway.

In the past year, this veteran of the Vietnam War has twice been cheated out of money. Money he already had or had earned and was not paid.

He trusted another who was better educated than he and could use a computer to order parts and materials for him over the internet at a lower price. In his trade, he uses specialized tools and materials.

He had the bank issue the "friend" a debit card so he could pay for the purchases. His friend betrayed him. He took a trip to Black Hawk, Colorado and withdrew all of the money from the account.



In spite of having no overdraft protection on the checking account, the bank (Wells Fargo) continued to pay ATM withdrawals and assessed overdraft fees (\$33.00 each) until the account was \$806.11 in the red.

Then, when this hearing impaired guy couldn't pay back the money the bank had paid beyond his account balance fast enough, they closed his account.

Simultaneously, the Cheyenne business he had been doing work for had paid him only \$140.00 in three months. He had quoted a price to do his work at \$2,500 to \$3,000. He worked 1,744 hours and had billed \$2,170.00 (\$12.50 / hour) for his unique work. Just before he completed his work, he was paid another \$800.00.

To communicate best with the man, you have to face him and be sure he's looking squarely at you. "What do you expect of me?" I asked him.

"You advocate for people," he said. "I need your help."

When he tried to report the crime of embezzlement, he told me, the police officer turned the accusation around and suggested he may be running a chop house because of all the auto body parts and trim in sight. He told the cop to leave.

*(He told me that the Judas who had embezzled from him now lived in California. And how the guy's father, a minister, would not help to track down the son so this fellow could get his money back.)*

He sought help through Wyoming Legal Services, Inc., for the \$1,230.00 he still has coming for work performed. "Due to our limited resources, we cannot represent you in this matter." But, they did send a demand letter to the debtor. He ignored it. They ignored his ignoring it.

"I need your help." Unfortunately, he does. Others are paid for that purpose. But, they have "limited resources." So, people like this guy go wanting. He is worried that if he goes to Small Claims Court and shouts his claim, he will be arrested. I have assured him he will not be. Not all of the system will abuse him. The court has assured me they will not.

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