

They're at it again. Illegal annexation in the works!

For the umpteenth time, the city is likely to approve another illegal annexation. They just can't help themselves.

Since the first known illegal annexation was approved in August 2001, the city seems to trudge down that smackdown path on a regular basis.

The property east of Southwest Drive and west of the BNSF railroad tracks in southwest Cheyenne - near the new animal shelter - is an albatross around the neck of a bit player in local development. He cannot financially afford to allow the land to sit undeveloped so he will always be looking for a way to annex that land to the city. It not this time, he'll try again.

Developed in the county, with septic systems, lots would have to be 5 acres or larger. In the city, a developer can build 30 four-plex units on that same 5 acres. It's easy to see why developers want to be part of the city. They're not going to live in these crackerbox subdivision - their interest is making a profit on their investment. That's the American Way.

The first time an annexation was attempted there, it was defeated by a very different governing body, primarily on the bases of health, safety and welfare of the residents. The only way (at least the shortest route) into this area from the city is over the UP railroad tracks across from Tyrrell-Doyle. If you've ever journeyed to that part of the county, you have surely

been delayed by the nearly constant UP freight train traffic through there.

The second time attempted, the annexation application was approved. It was an illegal annexation but it was approved by this group of lawbreakers. But, the Cotton v. City of Cheyenne ruling from the Wyoming Supreme Court cancelled that annexation because, at most, the parcel to be annexed touched city land by only one corner. Not good enough.

This time, the applicant (same guy again) linked the BNSF railroad to the application. In addition to two other significant roadblocks to this scheme - the same health, safety and welfare of residents **and** the creation of a new county "pocket" if this annexation is approved (a violation of W.S. 15-1-406[d]). Plus, the BNSF railroad doesn't appear to be "on board."

In a letter dated August 26, 2008, BNSF attorney Ryan Ringelman pointed out the obvious. That is, residents who build along railroad tracks will be greatly disturbed by train whistles throughout the day and night and they will then try to end those warnings which the railroad will not do. He also mentioned "vibrations" and "operational noise" (coupling those cars is like an explosion). The attorney also wrote: "The close proximity of the proposed Project to the existing railway is an example of land use incompatibility." Doesn't sound like he'll be here speaking in favor of the annexation after all.

Jamie Kamai unsolved murder

First, the latest news on this unsolved murder in plain sight: A nontraditional search was conducted recently in another jurisdiction and it did not produce the murder weapon as hoped.

This is pointed out so the family and friends of Jamie Kamai will know that the Laramie County Sheriff's Department (and the Cheyenne Herald) has not forgotten about this unsolved crime. The LCSD took an unconventional step in this investigation and they are to be commended. It didn't pan out but they tried.

Law enforcement wants to solve all cases. And, in the Jamie Kamai case, the LCSD personnel continue to pursue leads and extend themselves toward the eventual solving of this very frustrating murder in broad daylight.

Will the case ever be solved?

If it isn't, it won't be for lack of trying. The LCSD has vigorously considered every tip and lead and has run them to ground. Some were not legitimate but the LCSD did not dismiss any lead, tip or proffered story about what happened that early morning at So. Greeley Hwy. and W. College, next to the former Mini Mart.

Someday, someone will come forward with firsthand knowledge of what happened, why, and who is responsible.

Will that happen tomorrow, next week, next year or ten years from now? That is impossible to predict but I believe it will happen. The murderer is not smart enough to get away with such a public act of violence and lawlessness.

Someday, someone he told about the crime will come forward. Or, someday, the murder weapon will be found and can be linked back to the person responsible for this murder. Or, someday, the murderer himself will come clean - for whatever reason or at whatever time.

Maybe a paranormal or psychic will offer something usable. It has happened and there are believers in this non-science.

Jamie Kamai's daughter deserves an answer. His family deserves closure. The LCSD deserves to bring this unsolved murder case to a conclusion - with a person charged and convicted of the murder. They've earned that.

Until something positive happens to provide a solution, the Cheyenne Herald will periodically publicize the unsolved case and ask for anyone who has helpful information to come forward - to call the LCSD and ask to talk to the detective who has been assigned this case. It will probably be a different one next year or the year after or five years from now. But let's not forget this horrendous act.

The Lou's open again!

Here are a couple updates on stories that appeared here previously that concerned the lives of senior citizens.

When a new expansion was being planned at one of the residence complexes (the one that discontinued lunches without any notice or accommodations to patrons), a meeting was called to inform the folks what was going to happen, why and how long it would take.

At least one resident attributes the coverage of the lunch suspension there as the reason they are now being treated with some dignity and respect and are now being told what is happening and why.

About the newer apartment complex - it was written here that a restroom was closed and residents were notified that this bathroom most convenient to those using the "common" room and to their visitors - that the restroom would remain closed because of "vandalism."

It can now be reported that the restroom has been reopened. To whom credit should go is unimportant. Whether it was the ownership in St. Paul responding to potential bad publicity, HUD taking action for the convenience of those in that complex, or the Herald matters not.

Herald

pick-up locations

- City News - Downtown
- BLM Building Lobby
- Safeway - South Cheyenne
- Wonder Bread Outlet - Ridge Rd.
- Oroweat Bakery Outlet - SW Dr.
- Borderline - Colorado Lottery
- Laramie County Library
- Laramie County Gov't Center - North
- Herschler Building - North
- VA Hospital - South Entrance
- Town & County Liquors
- Burger Inn
- Luxury Diner
- American Storage
- Avenues Pet Clinic
- Los Amigos
- Diamond Horseshoe
- Daylight Donuts (both)
- Quick Draw Optical
- Village Inn-Downtown
- T-Joe's Steakhouse & Saloon

Many, many other locations in the City and Laramie County

In the county ...

- Uncle Fred's, A & W,
- RA Lumber and Wild Horse
- Restaurant - all in Pine Bluffs
- Panhandle Co-Op, Burns
- Antelope Truck Stop on I-80
- Albin Diner & General Store

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