

## Jamie Kamai unsolved murder

The Laramie County Sheriff's Department is following up on some new information provided about the unsolved murder of Jamie Kamai on June 21, 2001. They are also reviewing the case files and will possibly re-interview some who may have information about the incident and/or about a person of interest and others.

There are some investigative ideas that will be shared with Cheyenne Herald readers in the next couple of issues.

Tips are still being sought.

Anyone who may have witnessed erratic driving of a black pickup truck with what has been described as "gray primer spots" on the passenger side, pursuing an off-gold Chevrolet Cavalier, are asked to contact Lt. Linda Gessell at the LCSO (633-4735) or Dave Featherly (637-2879). A Cavalier is best remembered for the steep slope of its hatchback. It was about 8:00 am on a Thursday morning.

## Floyd Esquibel scores!

Being a Democrat in the Wyoming Legislature is like being a pair of brown tassel shoes in a tuxedo rental store.

Out-of-place and usually not given much consideration.

Floyd Esquibel, D-Laramie County, has stubbornly introduced a couple of bills that haven't gone far in recent sessions of the Republican dominated Legislature.

He has tried to gain serious discussion about the dangers posed with marginal drivers with limited experience talking on cell phones while they drive on Wyoming streets and highways.

His latest attempt at grabbing some sanity regarding the use of cell phones in moving vehicles was HB152 in the 2007 Legislature and it went nowhere. It, once again, euphemistically "Died in Committee." No matter how necessary, or sensible, that law will not be considered until one of the Republican Party's leadership

suffers a personal loss because a driver is fumbling for a cell phone to place or receive a call instead of driving their vehicle with both (or even one) hands.

But, Floyd's other effort reached fruition without the aid of legislators. He did not introduce a bill in 2007 to correct the colors at UW from the "Prairie Gold" so many alumni and fans despised but he had previously. Now he doesn't have to again.

Perhaps the popularity of "Game Day Gold" at the six WNIT games leading to the championship, led UW officials to support a change back to the yellow that was, for years, the second color for UW uniforms. Once Phil Dubois took a hike, revenue and image stepped aside for tradition and favor and Floyd Esquibel's efforts for lo those many years paid off.

His HB108 in the 2003 session stated: "... **that brown and yellow are the state colors of Wyoming.**" Now they are again, Floyd. Now they are again.

### An apology. And a change has been made.

We have had considerable trouble reproducing graphics in the print version of the Cheyenne Herald and apology for the quality you've sometimes seen. In the set-up version and on our website, the photos reproduce clearly. But not so in the print version. So I will reduce the use of graphics (particularly photos) from now on - unless and until I can find a solution to the problem. I will set up a new feature on the website for pictures I think are helpful in telling a story or illustrating a point. The Cheyenne Herald is more about words than pictures and we will put the focus where it belongs.

When we print in full color, photos come out much better and, during political campaigns, we will be able to reproduce photos as we have in the past.

Readers will be referred to the website within the story in the print version when there are additional photos to be seen. I know that many of our readers do not have access, or choose not to avail themselves of access, to the Internet and I will keep those occasions at a minimum. I have to either do that or eliminate use of photos entirely. I have been embarrassed by how photos have come out in print and will not allow the paper to become a target of criticism for its appearance. Thank you for understanding.

*Dave Featherly*

## "Market-Based Downtown Plan"

Second of three installments

When you look at presentations like this one done for the DDA - delivered in an impressive 2 1/2" white, 3-ring binder, with a cheap 8 1/2x11" sheet slid into the slot on the front cover - you just know that no one who commissioned this June 2006 "Plan" would pay a nickel of their own money for it. It's that valueless.

If you've read one of these things, you've read them all.

They're always full of exaggerations, uninformed judgments, opinions without foundation and conclusions without merit.

As those who live here watch the downtown empty, these consultants wrote such things as "Downtown is being rediscovered." Where did they come up with that conclusion? Have they ever been here?

It's not that there is nothing in such a "Plan" of value. It's just that there is not enough to justify spending almost 100 grand. It contains generalities gleaned from similar assignments in other cities and misrepresentations about the potential of downtown Cheyenne. Interviews with a handful of downtown "stakeholders," biased insiders, and public employees is not sufficient to reach judgments about the future of a downtown. But that's what this latest "Plan" is based on.

A five-year plan is a one-year plan, revised annually for five years. Consultants conclude and write what they know their client wants, and needs, to hear.

"Cheyenne has experienced steady growth through the past 15 years," the Plan says. Even the daily newspaper disagrees. The .6% annual growth through the decade of the 90's was insufficient, they say - the growth was in the unincorporated county, not Cheyenne.

You know you're going to get worthless advice when the conclusions are based on the inaccurate representation - or outright lie - that "eight of Cheyenne's largest 20 employers with a significant downtown presence account for more than 10,000 jobs in the community." That is a blatant misrepresentation, if not a deliberate, bald-faced lie.

On another page of the "Plan," those employers are listed, with their number of

employees.

Let me remind readers that the DDA district is bounded by Snyder, House, 22nd St., and the UP tracks - as well as a strip south of the Viaduct (Los Amigos, etc.).

To reach their total of 10,200 employees cleverly suggested to work within the DDA boundaries, these employers were used:

**State of Wyoming - 3,386.** All State employees are not in Cheyenne and few are south of 22nd St.

**LCSO1 - 1,933.** Few school employees are at the administration office on House and it is not south of 22nd St.

**Federal Government - 1,804.** BLM employees and others are federal employees and are nowhere near downtown.

**United Medical Centers - 1,095.** Neither facility is within the DDA boundaries and the hospital is acquiring land to move to Nob Hill - far from the downtown.

**Union Pacific Railroad - 790.** Unless they've started to place tracks and run trains through the downtown, few of the UP employees are in the district.

**City of Cheyenne - 554.** Most of these employees are at the DDA's fringe.

**Laramie County - 318.** Most of these employees are in the heart of the DDA.

**United States Postal Service - 300.** Perhaps ten USPS postal employees are stationed downtown, the balance are at the Converse location or branches.

When you start with a lie that big, it's hard to give much credence to other areas of the Plan, even if they were accurate.

Many of the businesses featured as focal to the Plan are already gone and many of those named as desirable have located elsewhere in Cheyenne. Ben Appetit, Chipotle and Olive Garden are examples. The Plan often references the "Capitol complex" as though the buildings were within the DDA. They are not. It also uses new and unproven businesses as prototypes instead of established places like the Albany and Twin Dragon. *More to come.*

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