

UNFAIR FUN AT THE FAIR

By Jordanne Steege

We should have known carnival games are rip-offs. Two weeks ago at the Teton County Fair my friends and I walked by a row of carnival stands and admired the prizes as the carnies encouraged us to play their games.

Of course, as incoming college freshmen, we didn't have money to waste on contests and cheap prizes, but we did it anyway. We decided to try the easiest looking game for a chance to win a giant stuffed animal.

My friend handed the carnie a \$20 bill and he told her he owed her \$15 because the game cost only \$5 to play. She had to make two out of three baskets before she could move on to the next round for a chance to win a bigger

prize. My friend made her two shots. Then the carnie explained in a confusing, roundabout way that she would have to pay to play another round.

She played two more rounds, paying money for each shot.

Finally after spending \$15, she decided to stop and take the prize she earned.

But the carnie announced that all the rounds she played totaled \$20.

"It cost five dollars to start the game," he said. So he pocketed her last \$5. Then he reached up, grabbed a teddy bear the size of a water bottle and presented it to her. It was the tiniest \$20 teddy bear I have ever seen.

It made me wonder. Who thinks it's fun to be conned? What kid wants to spend half their paycheck on a lame prize at fair? Carnivals would be more enjoyable without feeling that someone is trying to rip you off.

You're not really playing the game; you're being played by the carnie. If he wants you to win, you will. Otherwise you have very little control.

Maybe we should learn a lesson from Austin Powers who once said: "Only two things scare me and one of them is nuclear war."

The other?
"Carnies."

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given us state-of-the-art clinics in both ends of the county, an ice arena, an aquatic center, new schools, fairgrounds addition and county roads that have to be the envy of the rest of the state. It's also given us hi-rise hotels and a ladder truck to get the top in the event of a fire. It has spawned new businesses and helped those already established.

This wealth has created joint powers boards to distribute money to the three large towns in the county although, I'm sure in light of the Pinedale resolution, Pinedale will want to give their share to the towns of Marbleton and Big Piney where it would be appreciated. So in closing I say to the business community in Pinedale, make your voices heard.

QEP will have an open house on the 10th and the zoning meeting is on the 19th. Please be there.

Oh, yes, shame on you, Pinedale Town Council, for even considering legislating smoking in private businesses. If you don't like smoking, don't go there.

There is no disclaimer.

Doug Vickrey,
Daniel

Appreciation for medics

On behalf of your county and community, I wish to extend our sincere appreciation and thank you for the assistance of your medics during our flooding incident.

Your medics were professional and did not hesitate to assist our agency with our transfer to higher level of care as well as assist as line medics supporting the first responders assigned to the incident.

Your support was invaluable in helping my staff to maintain our day-to-day operations where we typically run 20 to 25 calls a day, thereby providing adequate staffing dedicated to the flooring incident.

It was a pleasure to work with a team that never complained about assignments and were knowledgeable and patient when things did not seem to flow well.

In addition, the use of your staff to provide transfer support ensured that our citizens were able to get to a higher level of care in a timely manner. We were so short handed with the flood activities that we were only able to muster enough crews to handle our primary rigs.

Again, thank you so much for supporting our community in our time of need.

A special thank you to Wil Gay, Zach Gay, Mike Straw, Rory Jackson, John Mitchell, Jody Yeary and Carolyn Wood.

Sincerely,
Lauri Wempfen,
director of Fremont County EMS

'GasLand' examined in rebuttal

To watch the "GasLand" documentary is to better understand how it only takes a few well-placed distortions and some nifty intellectual sleight-of-hand to completely rewrite the history on an energy technology known as hydraulic fracturing, which has been used for more than 60 years, not just for the purpose of developing oil and gas wells but to tap geothermal deposits, drill water wells and even by EPA to clean-up Superfund sites.

Of course, none of that history comes through in "GasLand."

Instead, viewers are told that fracturing technology is brand new, that it's completely unregulated and that it's poisoning the air, water and surrounding landscape – all thanks to a loophole in federal law that Wyoming's own Dick Cheney snuck through Congress in 2005.

Left unmentioned is the fact that hydraulic fracturing has always been regulated by the states and never the federal government – not in the 60-year history of the Act or the 40-year history of the EPA. In that time, the fracturing has been applied more than 1.1 million times – and according to EPA, not a single case of water contamination has been credibly tied to its use.

Unfortunately, despite making no fewer than two dozen factual errors in characterizing the process of energy development in America today, the man behind "GasLand" continues to consider himself a full-fledged journalist – even as papers back east cite the "glaring errors" found around every bend in the film. Even the top environmental official from the director's "home" state of Pennsylvania called the film "fundamentally dishonest" and "a deliberately false presentation for dramatic effect."

Earlier this summer, *Energy In Depth* issued a 4,000-word, point-by-point rebuttal of some of the film's more specious and sensational claims, and that document remains available on our Web site – energyindepth.org.

Watch the film as many times as you like. But don't think for a second you're getting the whole truth – not without reading our rebuttal first.

Chris Tucker,
Washington, D.C.

Meaning of KAHOG?

I have noticed recently of a group calling themselves KAHOG supporting a couple of the candidates that are running for various public offices. My curiosity

was getting the better of me so I wanted to find out who or what KAHOG actually stood for.

To say the least, I was surprised as to what the acronym KAHOG meant. If my sources are true and correct it stands for "Keeping A** Holes Out Of Government." How professional!

Personally as a voter I feel that they are implying that all the other candidates are a--holes.

We as voters are lucky to have so many citizens step up and give us some diversity to vote on in the 2010 primary election.

For a candidate to accept the endorsement of this group really makes me wonder about their integrity. Is this the type of thinking and behavior we want representing our great county? I would hope not!

It may only be one vote, but I can assure you I will be voting for those who chose to run a clean and professional campaign to represent me in these elections.

Dustin Levitt,
Daniel

Concert behavior inconsiderate

We were visitors to the Sublette County Fair this last weekend and were disappointed in the behavior of the other fair-goers.

While we enjoyed the Luke Bryan concert we certainly did not enjoy the inconsiderate behavior of some of the other people in the crowd. There was a rather large group of people who chose to bring their own chairs and sit down in front. Unfortunately there was also a larger group of people who chose to stand right in front of those people, forcing them to see nothing but the back sides of those rude people. Not to mention the fact that those people that were standing also thought it was OK to walk back and forth in front of those sitting down.

We all paid the same amount for the tickets but yet there were a lot who got to see nothing at all. What ever happened to common courtesy and manners?

Becky Johnson,
Dubois

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