

Make-believe 'War on Christmas' comes early this year

Devin Rokyta/Moscow-Pullman Daily News

Just as the Christmas decorations and holiday music come earlier and earlier every year, so do the idiotic claims of the War on Christmas being waged in America.

The first accusations of the season are courtesy Jeremy Morris, a Hayden, Idaho, man who fancies himself a real-life Clark Griswold. He has accused his neighbors and his homeowners association of waging jihad on Christmas for threatening to sue him if he goes forward with his plans for a massive display that includes tens of thousands of lights, a living Nativity, a 22-voice choir and a camel named Dolly at his home.

Despite his claims, this supposed war has little to do with Christmas, some to do with rules and a lot to do with Morris' ego and desire for attention.

The HOA sent Morris a letter outlining its concerns, including those about excessive traffic and that the display would violate HOA terms involving nuisance, excessive brightness and outdoor speakers. These are terms Morris, an attorney, was fully aware of when he purchased his home.

"We have worked hard to keep our area peaceful, quiet and clean," stated the letter from the board. "These are the reasons why people want to live here."

Hard not to agree. And rules are rules.

Morris, who says his light display raises funds for children with cancer and homelessness and that he raised hundreds of dollars last year (we're thinking the decorations cost thousands), is having none of it, and instead of working toward a peaceful solution, he's taking the offensive.

"Their real agenda is to attack Christians," he recently said. "This is about hostility towards people of faith."

Or they'd just like him to follow the rules.

Morris, it turns out, has been planning his counter since at least the summer and well before the HOA raised objections, according to The Spokesman Review. The campaign, of course, utilizes Fox News, which we can thank for inventing the War on Christmas.

Morris' plan for attention has worked.

He's getting the media coverage he craves, and now he even has the support of an extremist militia - the 3% of Idaho - which has offered to protect his home and display, because nothing says Christmas like armed men parading around playing soldier and protecting baby Jesus in front of a 10,000-plus light display.

Happy holidays, Morris.

