

New police chief

Chances are police chief candidates are falling by the wayside because of the indecisiveness in naming a chief. That and the fact that Cheyenne has a history of promoting from within, no matter how serious the need may be for new leadership and a more qualified person.

Bob Fecht resigned the position when? The end of August. Hell, he's found another job for himself already. It shouldn't take this long to advertise, screen and select. This need isn't for a brain surgeon. And job openings for a police chief get a lot of attention. Potentially, everyone who works in law enforcement is a candidate. Not all are qualified but they usually believe they are. They've seen their own police chiefs and believe they can do the job just as well or better. And, often, they're right.

Police chiefs themselves may think there are no capable replacements in the department but that may be about job security.

The number of job applications for this position in a small city proves how coveted the job is and how many people believe they are worthy of consideration.

I've only lived in Cheyenne since 1986 so I don't know the last time the City went outside to hire a chief. Probably decades.

One issue that the mayor needs to address before selecting an insider is the relationship that person has with other CPD officers. No one knows better than his peers what kind of chief he'd make. There are many officers that could be trusted to give an unbiased and honest opinion. If the local is detested or despised by his peers, do not promote him.

Outsiders also offer advantages. The deputy chief from Arvada was an interesting possibility until he withdrew. From a much larger and more progressive city, he has faced drug and gang problems our people deny exists in Cheyenne.

Developing ... Are Cheyenne motels/hotels allowed to remain open with safety violations?

Cheyenne Capitals Home Hockey

Saturday, December 19 - 8:00 pm vs Casper Oilers
Sunday, December 20 - 10:00 am vs Casper Oilers

Saturday, January 9 - 8:00 pm vs. Gillette Wild
Saturday, January 10 - 10:00 am vs. Gillette Wild

Saturday, February 6 - 8:00 pm vs. Rock Springs Miners
Sunday, February 7 - 10:45 am vs Rock Springs Miners
Saturday, February 20 - 8:00 pm vs Pinedale Glaciers
Sunday, February 21 - 10:45 am vs. Pinedale Glaciers

The Cheyenne Capitals High School Hockey team are defending 2008-2009 Wyoming State High School "B" Champions. All home games are played at Taco John's Ice & Events Center and admission is **FREE!** For further information, such as the away games schedule, refer to www.CheyenneCapitalsHockey.com or call 630-6726.

Costco buys Coke products again

Costco U.S. sales for same store units are down. Their stock price is down. It wasn't a very good time to get into a stare down with Coca Cola. Remember a couple weeks back, Costco did a bit of grandstanding by claiming they were not going to order Coke products again until they got a pricing dispute "resolved." Well, it didn't take long for that to happen. In the intervening three weeks, Costco didn't stop *selling* Coke products nor return their inventory - they just didn't place *new* orders. Then, before most stores ran out of the best selling soft drink in the world, the two large corporations played kiss-kiss and Costco orders resumed. What a crock! A publicity stunt for a "big box" that isn't exactly blowing their doors off in this economy. I predicted here that Coke would win this stare down and they did. No. I never tire of being right.

Trolley Light Tours

View holiday light displays around Cheyenne aboard the Cheyenne Street Railway Trolley. Tours will run December 14th through December 24th, twice nightly at 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children and should be purchased in advance. Tickets are available at the Visitor Center in the historic former UP depot lobby at 15th St. and Capitol Avenue.



You can also purchase tickets with credit card by phone at 778-3133.

Tours begin at Frontier Mall - near the south entrance of J.C. Penney.

The Trolley can be chartered for large groups of friends, family or co-workers. Call Jill at 778-3133 to check availability and make reservations.

Recyclable trash vs. other trash

Let's clear up some misconceptions about the new curbside recycling program that were created by poor reporting and mistakes in the daily.

There are some people who either do not want to cooperate with recycling or have a genuine issue about the size of the blue lid container. Sometimes the size is too large for a resident's needs. Sometimes storage presents a problem with the 95 gallon container.

At this point, about 9,000 blue lid containers have been distributed to homes south of Pershing Blvd. The recent front page story in the WTE read: "Right now, 1,800 residents have opted to use the smaller, cheaper containers." The entire article up to those words was about a 65 gallon blue lid container that will be available to residents who request them.

That reporting is wrong. Only about 100 people have requested the smaller blue lid containers when they become available. The 1,800 figure is of residents who, over that past seven years with the automated system, have requested 65 gallon trash containers for non-recyclables.

Anyone who believes they can get by with a 65 gallon blue lid container will also have to have a 65 gallon container for their other trash. In other words, they will not be able to retain a 95 gallon container and place all of their trash, including recyclables, in that container and refuse to recycle. They can still refuse to recycle with two smaller containers but any additional bags they place outside the regular container will be billed to them at \$2.00 for each bag (except the final pickup of the month, when excess bags are picked up no charge).

If a resident requests a 65 gallon blue lid container and does not recycle anything and does not put the container at the curb, they will be billed the \$5.00 rate other residents will pay. It will not be impossible to avoid cooperating with recycling but it will be cumbersome and expensive.

The sanitation department is hauling recycling materials to Denver now. A building is being constructed to house a baler and, when completed, recyclables will be baled and much greater weight will be hauled per load. One load per day is going to Denver and about 10 to the Ault, Colorado landfill.

It is expected that the recycling numbers will change dramatically when the northside is provided blue lid containers and as residents realize how easy it is to recycle and cooperate to a greater degree. As the loads increase to Denver, they will decrease to Ault. By mid to late next summer, it is likely that there will be two or three semi loads per day to Denver and maybe eight to Ault.

As far as costs to residents, the smaller regular trash containers are \$13.00 / month while the 95 gallon containers are \$16.00. The smaller blue lid containers, which at an extreme probability won't approach 10% of the total, will be billed at \$2.00 the 95 gallon ones are \$5.00. Extra bags left outside the container are charged at \$2.00 each.

Our personal experience is that the two week cycle for pickup of the blue lid container (recyclables) is resulting in as much or more trash being recycled as other trash. We may be an exception but that has been the case for three cycles.

A trash-to-electricity operation is being explored in Guernsey. It is possible, but yet undetermined, that if that becomes a reality, local trash could be hauled up there and even sold as opposed to having to pay tipping fees to get rid of the trash in Ault. (There is also a tipping fee for recyclables but it is lower.) Guernsey's proposed plant will need 500 tons per day and Cheyenne can provide about 120 tons. Dennis Pino has met with the principals from Guernsey and believes that even with the longer distance to transport trash, if there is no charge or even a payment for Cheyenne's trash, it is worth exploring. Unlike the other reckless decisions made by the former mayor and certain excitable city council members, this concept is a real possibility. Trash-to-electricity is a proven and viable technology. Thanks to a reader for that tip.

It has been questioned on the WTE forum whether we've taken recyclables to the Ault landfill. That has not happened. And so long as Dennis Pino is in charge of the sanitation department, it won't happen. Dennis has been strongly in favor of recycling long before the mayor and others got on board. What a resident may have seen were two semis with recyclable loads headed to Greeley, where a recycling operation there wanted to "test" our product. They are considering opening a plant in Cheyenne.

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