

# It's often hard to tell the monkey from the organ grinder



**The WT-E convinced the City to spend itself into poverty - now they would like the State to do the same**

For eight years, the daily newspaper in town had a direct pipeline, almost an intercom, to the mayor and encouraged and cajoled him into spending every nickel the city had at its disposal.

The acquiescent mayor obliged.

From a financial "surplus" position in 2001 of having \$42 million in excess funds to one of having barely 30 days of spending in the reserves now, funds were wantonly and wastefully dissipated during those eight years. And, not being content to spend only the money in the bank, that administration incurred debt for another foolish and unwise project - the downtown parking garage.

There is no spending the daily does not like. There is no tax the daily does not support (except the one that would apply to them - sales tax on newspaper advertising and sales). Good liberals, they.

Early in the Freudenthal tenure, he had struck an arrangement with the daily to stay off his back. Don't criticize me, he must have bartered, and I'll appoint you to a couple commissions you aren't qualified for and don't deserve to serve on.

The deal was struck.

But it didn't last and now the Cheyenne daily newspaper criticizes Dave Freudenthal's every move. At least, his every financial and education move.

In a state, and at a time, where Republicans behave more like Democrats and Democrats behave more like Republicans, Dave understands that the gravy train will empty at some point and money will become harder to come up with. Obscene amounts of money come into the state coffers when energy prices are high and they slack off when those prices go down. It's a pretty simple cycle that the daily here just cannot grasp.

Dave, as his predecessors and members of the Wyoming Legislature have done, tries to direct some of the excess funds into the Permanent Mineral Royalties Trust Fund. The daily goes ballistic - "why are you saving when you could be spending?" is their cry. That should have been a line in Nancy Sinatra's "These Boots Are Made For Walking" hit.

Governor, stick to your guns. Having the Wyoming Tribune-Eagle against you is far preferable to having them with you. Ask Jack Spiker. A good man was ruined by their influence. Don't let it happen to you. Their ignorance is palpable.

## Late note on meth cleanup

On Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, I received a copy of the **Natrona County Standards Clandestine Lab.** It was approved and adopted by the Casper-Natrona County Board of Health on May 17, 2006. Item 12 of the Rules is **Procedure for Assessment, Decontamination Sampling and Testing; Suggested Samples.** Subpara (b): The following cleanup levels shall be used to determine if a property has been adequately decontaminated. (i) Threshold Limit Value (TLV) for the property shall not exceed a concentration of 0.5 ug/100cm<sup>2</sup> for methamphetamine. It has adopted the same threshold level as in Colorado. Laramie County has no known standards or rules. C-NCHD Director Bob Harrington spent a great length of time on the phone with me before sending this document. He had told me that his office gets involved only with meth "labs," not meth houses and only after law enforcement has made related arrests or seizures.

# DREAMS

We all have dreams in life. College for the children, retire comfortably, vacation homes. What are your dreams and how are you planning to get there?

Total life planning includes the financial effects of daily events that we don't pay attention to, or expect. If you could save more *would you?*

Financially, where do you want to be in 10, 20 or 30 years?

**Contact Brian Lenell, CLU, ChFC**  
**Personal Financial Solutions, Inc.**  
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# Come on, Dr. John. Give someone else at least a bite of the apple.

Can't someone pry that microphone out of John Barrasso's hands and tip over that camera in front of him? Please.

Between John and the Cheyenne PD talking head, there's barely time on television for *Seinfeld* and *Friends* reruns.

Talk about Regis Philbin being overexposed, these two guys are in our faces more than the *Law and Order* franchise.

It's comical to watch the CPD mouth scanning the room as he holds one of his endless "press conferences" when there are only one or two people there. He looks like Sander Vanocur. "Yes, over here, from UPI. Your question, please." And, "Helen, please don't ask your question about the stop light on 'L' Street and Independence again."

In political campaigns, I don't call press conferences. When someone busts their rear end to prepare for an appearance in front of local media and no one bothers to come because they're too lazy, that would be embarrassing.

It's like a radio remote broadcast that you walk into and, being the only potential customer in the store, are shocked to hear a DeeJay say, "It is an exciting time here today at the Firestone store. People are everywhere - enjoying the snacks and entering our drawings for door prizes."

What? There's not another person in the same zip code, let alone in the store.

If Mark Munari isn't issued a car to get out on patrol, how about handing him the local weather forecast and let him read that? At least he'd be mouthing words quasi-important to the community.

But, the Sloop John B. Oh, my goodness, John!

You were just elected for four more years. Give it a rest. John B. will get in front of any camera for any reason. Any camera. Any reason. Even a 110 cartridge.

It was incredible to see and hear the D.C. physician talking about weeds. Weeds!

Isn't there anyone else with a presence in front of the camera who could plaintively repeat a message about weeds? Why our Senator? Talk about a guy running for office all the time. Of course, the FEC doesn't have any rule against a "candidate" (which is what John Barrasso has become - **FULLTIME**) taking every opportunity offered to get "face time" in their local district or state.

Perhaps someone who might know the difference between fescue and a weed might be a better spokesman for the cause. Won't John allow anyone else to hold a mic? Someone, pry it away from him!

# No authority to break into a private residence to remove a water meter

A public records request was made recently to the Board of Public Utilities (BOPU), seeking copies of any written communication[s] that authorized a forcible entry [break-in] into a private residence and the subsequent removal of the house's water meter.

Based on what had been told to the Cheyenne Herald by the owner and BOPU officials, the customer at that residence was not in arrears in payment and had not been contacted prior to the removal of the water meter.

The house in question is the one mislabeled "a meth lab" by Cheyenne police chief Bob Fecht. The house was vacant over three years when the forced entry was made and the water meter removed. The owner had been paying a basic fee to have water to the location but none had been consumed during the time the house was empty.

Tim Wilson, director of BOPU, responded to the public records request and said, basically, "there aren't any." He provided a print-out detailing briefly 2005, 2006 and 2007 actions, including a 3/27/07 note "Shop pulled meter today with police esco[rt]."

BOPU officials could not relate any similar action - forcible entry and removal of

an unused water meter, without notice to the owner and with a police escort.

Without a paper trail, there is no evidence that anyone had the authority or gave the order to remove the water meter. BOPU officials, after consulting with other employees who were involved in the matter, told the Cheyenne Herald that the city attorney's office made a verbal order to remove the meter. A telephone call.

Interestingly, well over two years after allowing a BOPU into the house to remove a water meter, the chief has now issued a directive that his own men should not enter the house without hazmat clothing because the house is contaminated to a high level. Of course, this mail order master's chief has no idea what level of contamination exists now in 2009 nor what existed in 2007 when, presumably, the chief requested the removal of the water meter. (See P. 9)

Here's what I think happened: Fecht had just introduced SF152 in the Wyoming Legislature, entitled "Illegal drug laboratories - remediation of buildings." On February 27, 2007, it failed third reading in the House. Fecht had set up the Avenues property as his whipping boy. The most he could get in revenge was to break in the house and remove the water meter. Needless. Unwarranted. Illegal.