

Divorce. We're No. 1!

The magazine Men's Health has done it again. This time, they've produced a ranking of 100 cities in the U.S. based on some criteria that supposedly includes divorces.

Cheyenne is No. 1, which, presumably makes us worst. The criteria, in addition to number of divorces, included "laxity of divorce laws," "the number of licensed marriage and family therapists," and "percentage of population that have split." Reported by your daily newspaper confused the issue but, suffice it to say, Cheyenne didn't come out looking too good in this latest bogus Men's Health ranking.

Was the percentage of people who actually get married instead of living together outside matrimony considered? You can't get divorced unless you marry first. In a village with no marriages, there can be no divorces. The paucity of marriage counselors is consistent with the pioneer attitude of "mind your own business."

Following Cheyenne on the list were Las Vegas, Billings and Reno. The "best" in the ranking were San Jose, CA, Columbia, SC, El Paso, TX and Riverside, CA. A show of hands please. How many would rather live in Cheyenne or Billings than San Jose or El Paso? I thought so.

Candidates

Once again in this election cycle, many candidates will run for office unopposed. Particularly incumbents. The State Treasurer, Joe Meyer, who has not shown any great ability to handle the office and will be seeking his fourth term in state office, will run unopposed in both the primary and general elections. The Secretary of State, the state's second most "powerful" office, will have an opponent in the primary election, then run unopposed in the general. He also will be seeking a fourth term in state office.

Other marginal to poor elected officials will run unopposed - some in both the primary and general elections. For example, Cheyenne's Kathryn Sessions (D), who supported a 20 year time window for unaccredited diploma mills operating with

a Wyoming address to gain accreditation, is running unopposed and there is no candidate in the Republican primary. She will serve another four years. Good God.

In the State Senate races, Democrats have no candidates in seven districts, Republicans have no candidate in three (Sessions, Hastert and the Massie seat).

In the State House races, Democrats have no candidates in 35 of 60 districts. 35! The past chairman of the Democratic Party sure didn't scrape up candidates. There will be no Republican candidate in four races (Connolly, Blake, Byrd and Barbuto seats). There will be 92 Republican candidates on ballots for House seats and only 25 Democrat candidates. The veto-proof majority won't change.

Denny's. On I-25. Yawn!

As Yogi Berra would say, it's déjà vu all over again.

A decade and a half back, Denny's had a restaurant where the West Village Inn is now - next to LaQuinta. They could not attract the local folks out there. UNLESS they ran coupon specials wherein residents received one free meal when they purchased one. It just never was sufficient to try to live off the interstate traffic, even though Denny's seemed a perfect fit for travelers.

Before coming to Cheyenne, I spent a lot of time traveling around the country with the sporting good franchise business I headed. Denny's quickly became my favorite sit-down restaurant because, long before others had no-smoking sections, Denny's did. I knew that it wasn't a game of chance whether I could sit away from the smoke - with Denny's, every restaurant had a no-smoking area. It was a corporate decision.

I remain grateful to Denny's for that consideration and hope they succeed. I had their menu memorized back then but I'm sure they've changed it. Still, I have to wonder if they made a good choice of location. It's been tough on restaurants near the interstate here - Outback is really a limited hours place, not a 24/7 like Denny's. The Cookery, at Flying J's, was once a nice buffet operation. How will Denny's do in the same location?

WyomingNETWORK.com

What's your opinion? Read and participate in the forums at www.CheyenneNetwork.com

E470 tollway

A few months back, I knew I had to go to DIA to pick up my wife and I wanted to use the tollway to avoid the north Denver traffic and the journey five hundred miles east once leaving I-25 at 104th. I also knew we'd never been billed for using the tollway from I-25 North to I-25 South last October when we traveled to Albuquerque for the International Balloon Festival.

Since last July, when the E470 toll booths were removed, we were supposed to be billed on a "license plate" billing system. It's been pretty slick for those of us who can't really justify putting down a deposit and having a transponder in the car - being able to drive full speed along the well-maintained and lightly-traveled tollway.

I think the toll from one end at I-25 to the other is \$12.25 or close each way so we awaited a billing for \$24.50.

It never came.

I didn't want to risk being pulled over for either a traffic violation or as a scofflaw along E470 - so before I had to go to DIA, I called the number where you're supposed to be able to get answers.

I explained to the pleasant young lady that I had used the tollway and never received a bill for that use. She asked for my plate no., which is a personalized identifier, and checked the system and told me that there was no record of use and maybe I hadn't received a billing because it took a long

Footnote: On June 3, 2010, I received a billing for \$10.00 - our Albuquerque trip was not included.

time and that it would eventually catch up to me. So, just to sit tight.

I wasn't comfortable with that explanation. I did not want to be detained on my way to DIA one day to catch a flight as I tried to explain that not only was I willing and prepared to pay the tolls but I had even called seeking a billing so I *could* pay them.

A short time later, a conversation that did not include my story about trying to pay tolls that they would not bill me revealed that the reason Wyoming motorists weren't getting billed is that Colorado could not access the necessary Wyoming records. I never wrote anything here because I didn't want to encourage those who otherwise would not use E470 to use it thinking they'd never be charged for the use. I felt that one day, a billing would arrive and all back charges would be on the bill. Then, I'd have to pay the accumulated tolls or forever avoid using E470.

Wyoming is now providing Colorado the motor vehicle registration information so they can charge those of us using the "license plate" billing method their just tolls.

And, I have no problem with that. I found it interesting that the girl on the phone wouldn't tell me that they couldn't bill me until Wyoming let loose of the records but to expect a total billing when that did happen - and it would someday happen. Now, we'll get a bill for about \$40.00 and pay it. No argument. It's a nice tollway.

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