

Boy, that's cold!

After squandering the tens of millions dollars of excess money the past administration inherited, Rick and his minions are prowling the halls of the City Building in search of piggy banks they can bust with the ball-peen hammers they're wielding. Not content to wait until the horse is stolen to lock the barn but to also watch the horse run down the road, across the stream, into the next county and lie down, this city administration is offering some too-little too-late solutions to reduce spending.

As though the devastation wreaked on some of the charitable groups by a payroll-drawing United Way group weren't bad enough, instead of manning up and reducing work force, Rick's solution is to reduce the 5th penny money promised to a number of local charities.

Amazingly, when a couple hundred thousand dollars are needed to entice the world's second largest airline to place experimental airline service between two points here, the City can find that money.

Let me remind you of the quasi-criminal behavior that got the City, its employees, its charities and others into this mess:

To validate spending the City's reserves below the threshold 90 days supply - enough money in reserve so if no additional funds were received, the reserves could cover expenses for 90 days - City elected officials pressured a compliant auditing firm to retreat from a long-held

formal position that a municipalities/ counties should have a 90 day reserve. What choice did they have? If their client tells them they'll end their contract - which the City of Cheyenne did anyway - if they did not agree to the change of position, what could they do but surrender?

So, gradually, the spenders used all the reserves. Starting in 2001 with over \$40 million, it is now virtually all gone.

Each four year cycle, the 5th Penny Sales Tax (Optional One Cent Sales Tax) has been reapproved. Each cycle, the amount collected grew considerably. For several cycles, the amount designated for "social services," etc., was frozen at 1.67% of the amount projected to be collected. It was stated as a dollar figure and the projections were always understated to hold down the contributed dollars. Finally, the percentage was bumped and those groups trying to help our most needy and our most vulnerable were to receive more money these years.

Alas, the mayor chose those groups to make an example of. How embarrassing. First, the economy in general. Then, United Way, Now, the City.

It will be interesting to see the mayor explain to voters why social agencies could do with less money but the City could not do with fewer employees. There will be an election this Fall. Rick's job approval will be tested in 2010, it won't wait until 2012. Right now, it ain't high.

Indulge me

25-0.

No. 1 in the state of Wisconsin Division 4 (smallest) schools in girl's basketball.

First time participant in Wisconsin girl's State basketball tournament.

All of these are firsts for this school district in northern Wisconsin.

And this school district is my alma mater.

Competitive often, champions seldom, state tourney team never. That's just the way it's been in this very small town in "the sticks" of northern Wisconsin.

The enrollment of this K-12 school has remained constant for 50 years. A family comes, a family goes. There was a spike in enrollment in the early 1980's as was common around the country but the graduating class of 2010 is about the same as it was 50 years ago.

By the middle of this past season, it was obvious that this team was having an unusual year. As the season wore on and the wins kept coming, expectations were heightened. At 15-0 and having defeated the traditional powerhouse and other teams in their conference by double digits, some by scores scores apart, even those of us who now live a thousand miles away began to pay attention to this team.

I still have family in the area but cannot claim family members on this team. A handful of years ago, the boy's basketball team became the school's first State tourney team and I had three relatives on that team. I wrote about that, too. But none on this girl's team. In fact, I only recognize the family names of half the girls. It has always amazed me that families would move to the area. Jobs are not lacking but they're not very attractive.

I don't have contacts inside the school anymore. From 1993-1996, I spoke with school board members, administrators, staff and teachers of that school more than I did my own family back there. The district faced being disbanded - being dissolved - and I didn't want to see that happen so I took an active role in a successful referendum. For the first time in the school district's century-long existence, voters approved spending money on school related construction. Faced with modernizing or losing the school, voters agreed finally to approve construction of

a new K-12 school (by 2 to 1). Had it not been for that approval, students would have been bused to several nearby schools and my alma mater would have ceased to exist. But, that end was avoided and the new school has been a great source of pride for the five towns/townships from two different counties that comprise the consolidated school district.

The school district, in spite of assertions made to me in the early 1990's, had never been a great academic institution. Poor ACT scores and the highest per capita costs in the state of Wisconsin didn't set well with me when I learned the truth. Recently, the school received recognition for a much better learning environment.

There are some who believe that athletics have no important role in a school - that students are there only to learn. I strongly disagree. I've seen over and over again how athletics provided the path whereof otherwise disinterested students excelled in the classroom just like they did on the field or on the court.

Winning does have its place. An undefeated team will attract more support than one struggling. But, in small towns, even in years when the record is not sterling, locals find the games, especially in the winter for basketball, a welcome diversion and respite from the weather and other concerns in their personal lives.

Some towns may take state tournament participation for granted. In Wyoming, a high percentage of teams play in state tournaments because there are few towns. In Wisconsin, in every class, that's different. In my home town, the year the girl's basketball team had in 2009-2010 will be forever remembered and cherished. Most of the girl's are underclassmen and next year may be a repeat. But, because it's never happened before in well over a hundred years of trying, it probably won't. Townspeople who don't know whether a basketball is stuffed or inflated became fans. Backers. Money was donated so buses full of students and adults could leave town with fire engine and police car escorts at 4:30 am to arrive in Madison for the 10:30 am game. And alumni like myself a thousand miles away have a renewed pride in our tiny school. Thanks for the memory, girls. Thanks.

The girls lost their first game at the Wisconsin State Basketball Tournament and finished the season with a 25-1 record.

Tax Day Gubernatorial Candidate Town Hall

In lieu of having a TEA Party protest, we are hosting a Town Hall open to the public. We invite you to a Governor Candidate Town Hall (job interview) featuring questions from YOU. Sign up on our site for updates and additional information!

www.WyomingPatriotAlliance.com

April 15th ... 6:30 - 7:45 pm
American Legion Post 6 - on Lincolnway

Campaign advertising will begin in the Cheyenne Herald soon - Call 637.2879 to reserve 4C space

SANDWICH SPECIAL

Through Thursday, April 1, 2010

Polish Sausage w/kraut

\$5.99 Large Drink
Large Fries

Hot Ham and Cheese

Large Drink
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Begins Friday, April 2, 2010

\$5.99
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