

## Enough with the hail already

Last June, my wife and I were caught in a hailstorm as we drove back from Denver by way of Fort Morgan. I'd never been in a car when hail that large and that steady hammered down on it. It was unpleasant. Loud. Constant. Lengthy. Destructive.

Every part of the car, including window edges and except for glass, that wasn't plastic was damaged. I've also never had an insurance agent tell me my car was "totaled" - that it would cost more to repair than the car was worth 'cause I've never been in a serious car accident before. So, all in all, the whole situation stunk.

The two recent hailstorms here in Cheyenne did a lot of damage to a lot of houses, vehicles and gardens - flowers, bushes, trees, etc. In our case at Chateau Herald, our siding was heavily damaged. In each hailstorm. The west side first, the east side in the later storm. The second storm, on Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, stripped all of the petals off our flowers in pots, hanging or on the ground. All of them. Some had about recovered from the July 12<sup>th</sup> onslaught.

What's going on here? I'd ask what we've done (collectively) to deserve these two destructive storms so close together but I think I know.

I think He was after the dope who writes stupid columns on the

Opinion Page of the local daily. It's like a shared lesson, I guess. If you write, you pay. But, come on, I'll publish the guy's address if that would help Him find him and leave me out of this revenge next time.

Even the gate to our backyard and the stained backyard fence that faces west was "pock-marked" by the first storm. Interestingly, the door to my backyard storage shed was not visibly damaged on the exterior but the inside showed the pattern of hail "hits." It looks weird.

When you see the damage done by these hailstorms here in Cheyenne, you can better understand why insurance companies charge the rates they do. An area can go without storms like these last two for years. Then one hits and 12 days later, another. I couldn't begin to estimate the claim totals. Tens of millions. And most of us won't make claims on all damages. We'll replant flowers and give up on vegetables we had that were destroyed.

In our northern Wisconsin homeland, a high-wind storm did tremendous damage recently. As we drove along, it was impossible to understand the selection of trees that were broken off 20 feet above the ground and why smaller ones in the same path weren't. Understanding that sort of thing is just above my pay grade.

## Close the Capitol Station downtown post office?

Are they mad? Are they hallucinatory? Close the post office that, for years, was Cheyenne's main and downtown post office?

What, are they in concert with Dell Range? It's not enough that the main post office relocated to Converse several years ago, changing the downtown traffic forever? Now this?

Do the feds want the post office out of the building? What is this all about? Where is the USPS getting its advice, besides Denver?

My P.O. box is at the Airport branch and I don't have occasion to go to the one in the Federal Building very often but when I did, it is invariably busy. And, lest those in Washington D.C. forget, that downtown branch is right in Wyoming's "center of government." Our federal legislators' offices are nearby - not only in the Capitol but in other office buildings. Much closer to that post office than the one far out north on Converse.

Granted, the USPS can force people to go to the post offices they keep open but it sure seems unwise and shortsighted to close the one downtown. Other post offices on the list recently released are either unknown to most of us or make some kind of sense. I used to drive past the one

at Meriden (not "Meridian" like so many think) and thought it was very nice and convenient for residents in that area to have a post office there. If the USPS is determining which offices to close based on volume or traffic count, those at places like Meriden, Horse Creek and Buford may lose their office. Remember, Granite Canon did a few years ago when space became unavailable.

We are spoiled, make no mistake about it, because as long as we can remember, post offices were in convenient and, generally, nearby locations. If there was no branch of the USPS, contract stations that provided the same services and also rented boxes for mail delivery were never too far away. One of the advantages we southsiders have is that there are contract stations at Town & Country Pharmacy and also at American Storage and Postal Center - both pickup points for the Cheyenne Herald. Eastsiders haven't had a convenient branch or contract station for the past several years. Promised, yes. But never opened.

Maybe the USPS "planted" a few objectionable closings to be able to retreat on those while sticking with plans to close all the others. But, seriously folks, to close the Capitol Station branch would be insane.

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## Be it so that Walmart has "banned" bikini wearing [hefty] women. Be it so.

*My e-mail address and phone no. are at the bottom of this page. If either of the attractive or shapely women who shop at the local Walmart want to contact me, please do so.*

I've been in the Cheyenne Walmart. Three or four times since the larger store opened. So, things may have changed since I looked around there but I doubt it.

A story out of Eugene, Oregon had the local Walmart escorting a portly woman in a bikini top out of the store. The woman, outside the store in that apparel and with a cigarette in her left hand, complained.

I say, Walmart, thank you.

In spite of the company requiring employees to work "off the clock" and other labor violations for which they've paid millions of dollars, this is a good step for all customers with weak stomachs but money to spend.

I realize Walmart and associated retail companies do about 400 zillion dollars of business a year - here, China and elsewhere - and don't need my support or affirmation of their imported products or customer base, but I publish this thing so I can offer it whether it's appreciated or not. Now, if it had been Jessica Alba they showed the exit, that would have been different. But, I could hardly buy any bakery goods if the woman "evicted" was nearby.

CHEYENNE



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*The Cheyenne Farmer's Market is a fundraiser for Community Action of Laramie County, whose programs assist low-income individuals and families. Produce and other products are grown or made by small growers to large vendors - offering fresh fruits and vegetables, honey, specialty foods, native trees, fragrant flowers and more. 7:30 am - 12:30 pm each Saturday. NO PETS ALLOWED. Debit/Credit Cards and EBT will be accepted. See Community Action booth.*