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## Cain ain't able

9-9-9? What the hell is that about?

I don't feel too bad not knowing because the architect of the new "tax scheme" doesn't know either.

Political campaign windows are often labeled "silly season" and newly elevated Republican candidate Herman Cain is raising the silliness to fever pitch. Along with the Tea Partiers and "Occupy Wall Street," what are voters to think? But, why should they even think when the participants in these "protests" don't usually think much themselves.

The latest "frontrunner" for the Republican presidential nomination is trying to introduce a tax plan that calls for 9% corporate income tax, 9% individual income tax, and a 9% national sales tax. He had a helluva time explaining how the poor wouldn't pay more in income taxes when many now pay none and his plan calls for all to pay some. What wasn't discussed was the Earned Income Credit which allows the "working poor" to receive a refund for taxes they did not remit. That "refund" can be pretty generous.

Finally, the Godfather's former CEO admitted that "some" would pay more in income taxes but "most" would pay less. We've heard that one before, haven't we?

It's almost as though Cain has borrowed a page from the Democrats playbook and reversed things. The Democrats want to soak the rich because almost none of the rich Democrats actually earned their own

wealth. They inherited it. And the wealthy getting hit with higher taxes won't hurt Democrats chances to be elected because none of the rich who earned their wealth vote Democratic anyway. Or very few do. Bill Gates?

Self-made Herman Cain is turning the tables. He must figure that those Democrat-voting folks who have paid no income taxes and get sizable EIC checks, too, don't vote Republican so getting them ticked off at him won't cost him a single vote.

Kinda ironic, no?

Class warfare in reverse.

When David Gregory (*Meet The Press*) tried to get Cain to acknowledge that these taxes would be in addition to any imposed by states (even cities, like New York City), Cain didn't want to go there. He just doesn't have a handle on what he's proposing. It just rolls off his tongue nicely and is simpler than a complex overhaul of the Tax Code. Yet, while Herman Cain may not lose many votes on the low end, he will on the high end. If General Electric and other large corporations that now pay no federal income tax had to pay nine per cent, they are not about to make campaign contributions to the guy who made that to happen to them. This Cain just ain't able.

Fairer than the current scheme? Probably. But it has less chance of being adopted than Ron Paul has of being elected POTUS. Imagine paying a 9% sales tax on top of the Laramie County 6% for a HDTV.

## Jeld-Wen closing

Unlike LEADS or the mayor, I don't look at a business failing or closing nor a building emptying as "another opportunity." Because it isn't.

People losing jobs and vacant properties are tragedies, not opportunities. But, I've never been a headnodder as is required to hold those positions.

I remember opposing providing public funds to Jeld-Wen a few years ago. I made the point that a corporation that can afford to sponsor a major PGA tournament does not deserve, and should not need, public money.

An article in the October 31, 2005 issue of the Cheyenne Herald, titled "How many times will the City spend the 'excess fifth penny' sales tax funds?" mentioned Jeld-Wen in this way: **"Like a child going into the candy store with loose change and wanting some of every candy in every jar, the City wants for much. But their reach exceeds their means. Instead of providing hundreds of thousands to build a driveway for a company capable of sponsoring its own PGA golf tournament, the City should have salted away more money for some of the projects they're committed to fund."**

The Tradition Golf Tournament

was held most recently at the Crosswater Golf Club in Sunriver, Oregon. Jeld-Wen's corporate headquarters have been in Klamath Falls, Oregon. Jeld-Wen was the primary sponsor of this Senior's event from 2003 - 2010, when they finally withdrew from the costly and ego-driven sponsorship.

However, in 2011, Jeld-Wen bought naming rights to a Portland, Oregon sports field designed for soccer and American football.



The stadium is home to the Portland Timbers of the MLS and Portland State University football. It is the first MLS facility to offer StarVision - on a 20.8' x 37.8' screen.

Maybe, just maybe, if ownership of Jeld-Wen had focused on the manufacture of their primary products, windows and doors, and not on trying to be a minor league Stanley Kroenke (without being married to a Walton), the Cheyenne plant would have survived. Another LEADS failure.

## Harold Camping

Is it just me or does this old coot who keeps predicting the end of the world (and gets a lot of media attention each time) look an awful lot like Ron Paul's older brother or what? And, both of them come across like their elevator doesn't go all the way to the top.

What is even more strange than someone getting repeated media play for his goofy predictions is that he actually has "disciples," that he has "followers." Remember, he first predicted "Rapture" in 1994. Then, it was May 21, 2011 when a couple hundred million Christians were supposed to enter the pearly gates. He needs a new calculator. Another media source wrote, "followers were crestfallen in May when the rapture did not occur. Particularly those who had quit their jobs or donated some of their retirement savings or college funds for the more than 5,000 billboards and 20 RVs plastered with the Judgment Day message." Don't you feel sorry for them?

One nutcase was found trying to hide in a drainage culvert in Libya and this one keeps missing the mark with his Doomsday predictions. It shouldn't come as a surprise to us that deranged men like James Jones and David Koresh can attract a following that will turn over their assets to them.

For most of us, every morning we wake up, we're thankful. For the followers of Harold Camping, and I'm sure there are still hundreds left, they wake up every morning truly believing that they have but "x" number of days to live. When they woke up on May 22nd and again on October 22nd, do you think they accepted that the old codger really isn't a prophet after all but a nut?

What is the Cheyenne Herald? It is a bi-weekly publication (usually) that I hesitate to refer to as a "newspaper" but calling it only an "Opinion/Commentary" publication now does not adequately describe it either. While some of what appears on these pages is opinion, commentary, and/or essay, much of it is breaking news that readers won't find elsewhere. The WTE labeled the Herald "the local advocacy journal." I like that. But, when I published disclosures about misuse of City credit cards by a City Council secretary, that was not advocacy. That was fact. That was news. And, when I published specifics of the "secret" Costa Rica trip that LCCC's president had hidden from public scrutiny, that was fact. News. Not opinion or commentary. Or advocacy. Because I write virtually everything presented on these pages, my byline is seldom used. It is unnecessary. An article written by someone else will have their byline. The Herald is NOT a member of the Wyoming Press Association. I do not clear my offerings with anybody and I will not pay dues to share information. The Cheyenne Herald is Wyoming's only investigative publication and that responsibility is taken seriously. Thanks for reading.

**Dave Featherly**