

USPS carrier fires back

Shortly after the last issue of the Cheyenne Herald was published, I received a letter about a story I'd done having to with no attempted home delivery of a package too large to fit in the boxes of a GPU.

The letter was signed. That in itself is unusual. Of the dozen, give or take, critical letters I've received since 2002, this is one of the few that had a name.

The reader must be unfamiliar with the style used here quite often. When a story is not terrible important, I resort to sarcasm and humor sometimes. As I was once told by a high ranking city official, my style of writing is appreciated, "unless you're the target."

Because I have so often come to the defense of the Post Office and mail carriers, I thought those who read this story of one among them taking the easy way out by putting a pick-up card in the box instead of completing home delivery, would take it in stride. If it wasn't them, they could just say, "there's always someone."

Instead, the writer made several accusations against me - as though I had caused the nondelivery.

The words "stupid," "incorrect," "inaccurate" "you don't have the guts," etc., were sprinkled throughout the critical letter. The writer "went postal" on me.

That's okay. To get a letter like this once every couple years is something I can live

with. They don't offset the dozens I get in appreciation of positions I've taken.

A rhetorical question: "Did you talk to our postmaster concerning your problem with not getting your package delivered to your door? No." The writer had no idea whether I called the postmaster or not. I didn't because I don't choose to talk to an answering machine in Denver.

The writer referred to "facts" in the article as though I cited postal regs or something. I didn't - I just related what had happened and will happen in the future. The letter writer said the only "items" one has to go out to the main post office to recover are "certified, registered, signature confirmation and number insured." Not so, Cliff.

I expected to have to sign for a package that had been sent insured, return receipt requested, etc. That was not the case. When the clerk retrieved the package and handed it to me over the counter, I asked if I had to sign anything and was told "no."

Instead of accepting that one carrier may have taken a shortcut by leaving a card instead of delivering a package to a house as they are instructed to do, the reader went on the offensive. Packages can be left without anyone home - it happens all the time. That's what should have been done in this case. It wasn't. It just so happens I was home at the time. Delivery was not attempted. But it's good to see an employee defend the USPS - without a gun. Sarcasm. Lighten up.

Closed meetings

A recent interruption of a city finance committee meeting committed enough violations to satisfy most Robert's Rules of Order aficionados. And haters.

Title 16, Chapter 4 (W.S. § 16-4-401 through 16-4-408) covers Wyoming statutes on Open Meetings.

Believe it or not, state statutes include such silly language as: **"The agencies of Wyoming exist to conduct public business."**

How farfetched is that?

"Meeting" means an assembly of at least a quorum of the governing body of an agency which has been called by proper authority of the agency for the purpose of discussion, deliberation, presentation of information or taking action regarding public business."

Almost seems like retreating to the city council offices with a quorum, locking the door against other access "for the purpose of discussion" might violate state law. Whatever that discussion might entail.

"All meetings of the governing body of an agency are public meetings, open to the public at all times, ..." Agency, by definition, is any committee of the city.

I'll be damned. The little cloak room encounter wasn't legal. Not even close.

16-4-408. Penalty.

"(a) Any member or members of an agency who knowingly and willfully takes an action in violation of or conspires to take an action in violation of this act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Any member of the governing body of an agency who attends or remains at a meeting where an action is taken knowing that the action is in violation of this act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor unless minutes were taken during the meeting and the parts thereof recording the member's objections are made public or at the next regular public meeting the member objects to the meeting where the violation occurred and asks that the objection be recorded in the minutes. Either misdemeanor violation under this subsection is punishable upon conviction by a fine of not more than seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00)."

Remember when the Legislature passed this piece of puffery in 2005 and the Cheyenne Herald told readers violations would never be prosecuted? The WT-E editorialized about the impropriety of this closed and locked door meeting and then forgave the violation. They could afford to bring an action but chose not to jeopardize their cozy relationship with the mayor by challenging one of his committee's lawlessness.

Nothing changes.

**Jamie Kamai
Unsolved Murder Case**


Coming ...

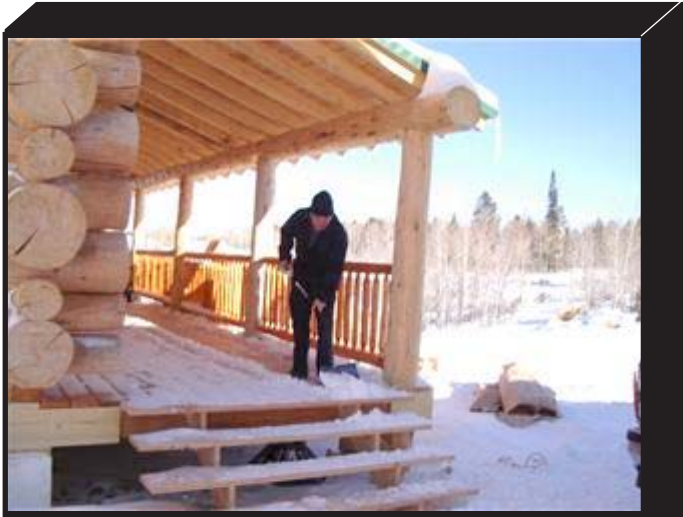
Full disclosure about where the Jamie Kamai murder investigation is at this point - based on tips and information provided to the Cheyenne Herald during an extended period of time.

Everything that can be shared with readers without jeopardizing the ongoing investigation will be provided.

Over six and a half years after the cold-blooded murder in broad daylight - near one of Cheyenne's busiest intersections just after 8:00 am - the family of Jamie Kamai has not seen justice.

It's not for lack of trying. It may take a confession. It may take an informant. It may take continued pressure. June 21, 2001 was the date. An innocent victim with two young children in his car. We cannot forget. And we won't.







Candidate Bill Winney shoveling a couple inches of "partly cloudy" off his front porch at the Winney's new log house at The Hoback, near Bondurant in western Wyoming - Christmas, 2007.

Bill Winney

- ✓ Experienced
- ✓ Hardworking
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- ✓ Conservative
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Not done yet.

Minutes of a meeting "are required to be recorded but not published from meetings when no action is taken by the governing body." No action behind closed doors?

Okay. Let's see the minutes.

On a roll now: "The governing body of an agency may recess any regular, special, or recessed regular or special meeting to a place and at a time specified in an order of recess. A copy of the order of recess shall be conspicuously posted on or near the door of the place where the meeting or recessed meeting was held."

Nothing on the door. Nor near the door.

To be fair, the little ragtag committee could legitimately retreat into executive session and exclude the public if they had to discuss "matters of national security."

That was it. National security matters.



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