

A brief hiatus

For the first time in our six and a half year history, the Cheyenne Herald will deliberately skip a planned publication date.

As announced here previously, the July 15th issue will be cancelled so that I can devote my full-time efforts to the campaign of Bill Winney for the sole Wyoming seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

To be a little more specific about my plans for the first three weeks in July: I will conduct no interviews related to issues which might find their way into the Herald. I will not attend court proceedings or review case files during that three week period of time. I will not meet with people who have issues I normally would deal with to develop stories for the Herald.

In other words, I will be divorced from this little adventure I call the Cheyenne Herald until Monday, July 21st.

Then, I will resume my activities toward publishing the best advocacy journal of which I'm capable.

To those readers who look forward to the Herald and rely on it for its different and more complete take on issues, I ask for your understanding and patience. I've never done this before. But I think the upcoming primary election is so critical to Wyoming residents that I should immerse myself in getting Bill Winney through the primary. I would not want to look back later and think that I could have made a difference and didn't try.

One issue. That's all. One issue. After 150. We'll miss one issue. Think of it as an extended vacation. In the past, I've squeezed in vacations and travel and still published the Herald. With this brief hiatus, I'm trying to do the best I can for the two directions I'm traveling for a bit.

Lunch is served again

After a full week out of commission, with no notice posted or provided senior citizens who depend on them, lunches have resumed at the senior center written about in the last issue.

As usual with bureaucrats, when attention is drawn to their shortcomings or mistakes, instead of resolving to do better in the future, they direct their wrath at anyone who may have participated in the disclosure.

Instead of developing a contingency plan to deal with similar interruptions in the future, bureaucrats seek ways to punish those who dare to point out their failings.

Does anyone reading these words seriously think that the mayor or supervisory personnel in the Cheyenne Housing Authority spent more time on developing a "get-even" plan than developing a means to prevent the reoccurrence of an unnecessary disruption to the lunches our seniors so depend upon?

A visit to the senior center two weeks after it had served its last lunch for that earlier week, it was apparent that the same mistakes are still being made. Not closing the center this time but having inadequate food to serve the people who come in, being on time with the lunch and the minor annoyances you'd think they could have eliminated by now.

But, first, they'd have to care. First, the mayor and others with responsibility to make this program work would have to care. Chances are that if the mayor or another in a senior position within CHA had a mother, grandmother or aunt dependent on the lunches, corrections would be made.

None could have a loved one who partakes of the lunches because the callous indifference continues and is unlikely to get better.

Mark my word. Someday, the shoe will be on the other foot. Just wait.

Cheyenne Herald

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Newspaper editing farmed out to India?

The Orange County Register (Santa Ana, California) has begun a test program to have its newspaper laid out in part and editing in its entirety in India.

Nothing against India or professional proofreaders in India but have you ever had to make a call about a computer problem and had it redirected to India? How in the world are they going to proofread copy in an English language newspaper with such a huge gap in being able to speak it clearly and distinctly.

With readership of traditional, advertising-controlled newspapers plummeting, reductions in cost to operate are being sought in whatever form it can be found.

The Orange County Register is a Pulitzer Prize-winning daily newspaper and the thought that they cannot edit their own words or "handle page layout" for an owned community paper, is disconcerting.

This daily newspaper has dropped from being California's third largest circulation paper to its fifth. It has laid off employees three times in the past year.

Does anyone think the outsourcing has anything to do with making the Register a better newspaper? Kind of like all the large color photographs in the WT-E has nothing to do with content but with filler for its pages. No, the move by the Southern California newspaper is all about cutting costs - quality is not a consideration.

Other well-known newspapers have done the same thing. The Miami Herald and the Sacramento Bee, two renowned newspapers, have outsourced work to India.

Proofreading and design work thousands of miles from the production point. What's next? Reporting? Editorial writing? Why not, locals don't know what's going on - those in New Delhi wouldn't be any more in the dark.

149-153

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