

Rafferty had it right

Dennis Rafferty promised two years ago that if voters elected him mayor, he would immediately take action to expand the current landfill and abandon plans to place a landfill on the Belvoir.

Voters didn't elect Dennis mayor but most of what he said should and would happen under his administration is now happening under another's. During that campaign, Jack Spiker and his minions proclaimed that it was absolutely impossible to even consider expanding the Happy Jack landfill. That DEQ had said unequivocally (Jack didn't use that word - it's too long) that they would never, ever, under any circumstances, even consider permitting expansion of the landfill where it now is. Jack claimed the DEQ said if the City had to haul their trash to Albuquerque, too bad - they were never in the lifetime of Dave Finley going to be allowed to expand the existing dump site.

Now, after three failed attempts at finding an alternate way or place to rid the City of its trash, guess what the new bestest solution is?

Bingo! We have a winner. C'mon down.

Expanding the Happy Jack landfill is possible, even preferable, after all. Who woulda thunk that the challenger in the last mayoral election had it right all along and the one who stood on the knoll of a hill on the Belvoir and proclaimed, without study or thought, that, by golly, there

on the horizon from where Jack Spiker, with the "Leader of the Pack" Patrick Collins, and the "Big Guy" Tom Segrave stood, that was where the new landfill would be placed. A capable committee, chaired by Bob Clary, an engineer or something, had toiled for three years and never considered that particular spot for a new landfill. Primarily because it was home to endangered mule deer - or a similar wildlife concern.

Even after being informed by experts, through the Cheyenne Herald, that putting a landfill over that geology would be worse than leaving it where it is now, the mayor and his headnodders and sycophants at the daily newspaper just would not listen. Onward they trudged.

Two failed attempts, including worthless contracts, at finding an alternate disposal of trash - to ethanol or diesel - left the administration embarrassed and facing increasing pressure to find an answer.

What is that answer likely to be? Exactly what Dennis Rafferty said more than two years ago - expand the Happy Jack landfill by providing double lining and state-of-the-art leak detection and, if necessary to satisfy DEQ, cap the wells which are nearest (up-gradient) to the dump so city water would not be contaminated. Of course, the TCE currently going into the public water supply from another well field would continue.

Vindictive prosecution

Mark Voss begins his reign of terror

Someone in a Laramie County Sheriff's Department uniform knocks on your front door out in the county after 1:00 am. You have to wonder what is so important that it can't wait until daylight at least, or daytime - what is so important that it can't wait a few hours?

Your first thought would race to an emergency involving a family member. Why would anyone come to the door, unless to deliver bad news or arrest someone - between 1:00 and 2:00 am?

Answering his door, the county resident found out what the emergency was. It was to deliver him two duplicate citations from the one that had been written over three months earlier. Reading the three citations side by side, which we did, they are exact duplicates of each other except for the citation no.

Even the date of the alleged infraction is the same on all three documents.

Serving a citation on a person in the middle of the night must represent some serious violation of law, wouldn't you think? Probably a violent crime of some sort and the deputy finally caught the offender at home? Otherwise, why come by after 1:00 am? Read on.

The law-abiding business owner whose business name most Laramie County residents would recognize, signed the

two additional citations and the deputy went on his way - after agreeing that a court appearance on all three could be accomplished at the same time - on November 9th - in front of Circuit Court Judge Roberta Coates. No bond was taken.

Have you conjured up in your mind what the infractions were? Even the highly intelligent readers of this paper could not imagine - it is beyond your imagination.

All three citations were for "scrap or salvage vehicle" on premise.

The deputy told the resident that service was at the direction of Mark Voss - the newly hired Laramie County Attorney.

At the court appearance, Voss had not produced the discovery information requested by "the defendant" so the case was continued until the end of the month.

The Herald has seen the property. No cars are up on jacks or have tires either removed or deflated. But no identification of the offending vehicle has yet been provided so the defendant can't defend himself against unspecified charges. He has embarrassed Voss on another legal matter. Is this vindictive prosecution?

Three blocks away lives a sheriff's deputy. His next door neighbor has an abandoned white car in his back yard - outside a privacy fence.

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WT-E endorsements

Three weeks before the elections, when the editorialists had had plenty of time to read the tea leaves and watch the other media's news, that crack staff of political pundits made their endorsements for the general election. Still afraid to call them endorsements, they now alternately call their picks "choices," "suggestions," or "recommendations." Call 'em what you like, they are endorsements whose purpose it is to demand readers vote for those endorsed by the WT-E.



In his October 28th column, Reed Eckhardt wrote that voters "must get selfish on Election Day" and that "they must vote for candidates ..." Hardly sounds like a suggestion. "Must" is an imperative word, as though there would be penalty or punishment if not complied with.

Perfectly good men have allowed their names and reputations to become sullied by having a part in this charade called endorsements. The most recent pair were Jim Applegate and Bill Parker.

In almost every election in the United States, incumbents seeking re-election are successful. Republicans around the country may disagree with that assertion based on Tuesday's results but that is a fact of life - incumbents are re-elected.

So, when the Tribune-Eagle made their picks and published them October 15th, the only incumbents they snubbed were Barbara Cubin, Jeff Ketcham, Diane Humphrey and Judy Case. School board candidates are not counted because no one in the world could predict winners in races without campaigns, forums, signs or materials to educate the voters.

In this past election, the only incumbent defeated in a bid for re-election was Larry Meuli and he lost by eight votes. All four of the incumbents the WT-E wanted to lose, won. Dave Zwonitzer and Georgia Broyles had been appointed, not elected.

The WT-E will claim a high success rate because they took the easy picks: Craig Thomas, Rita Meyer, Joe Meyer, Max Maxfield, Danny Glick, Dave Freudenthal, Bob Fecht, Mary Throne, Ken Esquibel, Floyd Esquibel, Mark Rinne and all the incumbent school board members.

In the races that should have been a "contest," they had only Jim McBride and Jim Brown right. They were wrong on Gary Trauner (Barbara Cubin won), Larry Atwell and Mike Dowling (Jeff Ketcham and Diane Humphrey won), Larry Meuli (Lori Millin won), Sleeter Dover (Dave Zwonitzer won), Kurt Zunker (Judy Case won) and Leo Garcia (Amy Edmonds won).

There is another pattern to their picks. They almost always pick against women candidates. In this election, the WT-E opposed Cubin, Humphrey, Millin, Case and Edmonds. What does that say?