

Add ...

Prepaying for gas

After the last issue, when I suggested motorists drive away from pumps that require prepayment before being able to pump gas, I received a letter from a station owner/operator who disagreed and provided me documentation in support of his argument.

The root of the disagreement would be that I am coming from the stance of a consumer, he of a station operator, and the police chief of law enforcement.

He sent a copy of a letter sent out by Cheyenne police chief Bob Fecht, urging all gas station operators in Cheyenne to require prepayment. That makes sense from Fecht's standpoint because even taking a report about a drive-off at a gas station is not a great way to spend a few minutes for a police officer.

The points the operator made in his letter weren't new to me. I know that other places also employ prepay policies.

But he made some representations that do not hold water. He told me that if stations had an attendant, prices would be higher and the consumer would have to pay those costs.

Perhaps attendants reduce losses from people driving off without paying to the extent the attendant pays for himself. We do have full service stations here. Two of them, on Pershing by the cemetery and at Logan and Lincolnway, are usually among the lowest price places in town.

I am not looking for someone to pump my gas. After 25 years, I am resigned to doing that myself. I simply resent the inference that the 98-99% of us who are honest and pay for our gas are lumped with the few who do not.

And if gas stations are comfortable with requiring prepayment, why don't they put up signs telling customers their policy? To wait until a customer has the nozzle in the fill pipe, then announce over a speaker "all pumps are prepay," puts the station at an advantage. People feel they're committed at that juncture.

Just tell 'em by signage - readerboard or on the end of the pumps - that they have to pay before they can pump. Watch the cars pull off in search of stations that do not require prepayment.

Restaurants have people leave without paying. Will they start making people pay when they order, not after they eat?

The price of gas has dropped 50¢ in the past few weeks. Cheyenne is still at the end of the price-lowering. Torrington gas prices go down before Cheyenne's. How can that be? How does that make sense? Are they closer to a refinery? Is volume the reason? Station operators here respond that they can't lower prices until they use what is in their storage tanks.

But don't they raise their prices when oil price hikes are announced, not when they start pumping gas at the higher costs?

E-85 prices ... The station really caught between a rock and a hard place is the one that sells the ethanol blend (85% ethanol) known as E-85. As gas prices have fallen, E-85 now costs almost as much as fossil fuel gasoline. With a mileage loss of about 25%, three cents a gallon price differential makes fueling a Flex Fuel Vehicle tend toward gas for the mileage, not E-85.

Summary of the Laramie County Licensed Beverage Association Election Questionnaire

City Council candidates were asked six questions related to liquor retailers relationship with City Council and law enforcement; the smoking ban; grocery stores selling liquor; hours of operation; and which is more important - existing or new businesses.

The Laramie County Licensed Beverage Association developed their own scoring system and gave each candidate in the primary election points depending on their answer (A, B, or C) to each question. The highest scores were achieved by two

candidates who did not survive the primary - Swede Nelson and Donna Roofe - and one who did, Kurt Zunker.

Candidate scores were:

Ward 1	Judy Case	70
	Kurt Zunker	85
Ward 2	Jason Britain	25
	Mark Rinne	-20
Ward 3	Georgia Broyles	-5
	James Williamson	65
Ward 3 (2 yr)	Jim Brown	65

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SD5 spoke

In the August 22nd primary, Republican voters in Senate District 5 cast more votes for Bob Fecht than for any of the other six candidates.

It is highly likely those voters will also cast more votes for him on November 7th than for his Democratic opponent, Randall Lane.

Fewer than three of ten Republican votes cast in that primary were cast for Bob Fecht but, in a crowded field, a majority is not required and is usually not attained. So Fecht, with a minimal number of votes, is now almost certain to be the SD5 representative in the Wyoming Senate. Such is politics.

The Cheyenne Herald disclosed on April 18, 2005 that Cheyenne Police Chief Bob Fecht had purchased a mail order master's degree from a degree seller - a notorious diploma mill - in Mississippi called Lacrosse University.

Over \$2,500.00 of public money was used to purchase the worthless piece of paper and, to this date, Fecht has not repaid the City treasury for the misused funds.

The Cheyenne Herald does not endorse candidates. Instead, for reasons we have established on these pages previously, our advice is **DO NOT VOTE FOR THESE CANDIDATES: Larry Atwell** (Republican, County Commission) ... **Rodney "Pete" Anderson** (Republican, HD10) ... **Pete Illoway** (Republican, HD42) ... **Bob Fecht** (Republican, SD5) ... **Bill Eikenberry** (Democrat, State Auditor) ... **Jim McBride** (Republican, Superintendent of Public Instruction). More may be added in future issues.

For a considerable time, the Home Page of the Cheyenne Herald website has prominently featured the following prompt:

Herald Coverage of diploma mill and Cheyenne Police Chief Bob Fecht mail order master's degree stories

There have been 25 stories in the Herald related to the subjects of diploma mill scammers and Fecht's inappropriate purchase of such a bogus "degree" with public funds.

But Senate District 5 voters spoke.

They spoke on August 22nd.

And they said they just didn't care. While less than 9.5% of the registered Republican voters chose this candidate, because of their votes, he will move on to the State Senate. Perhaps his peers in the Senate can convince him of the errors of his way.

As of October 2, the prompt on our Home Page will be removed. The articles will still be available on the Articles page but the prompt will be gone.

Do not call the Cheyenne Herald if you're up to no good

It was just after 10:00 Thursday night (September 28, 2006) when the phone rang.

As is often the case, I was at the computer, either researching or writing a story for an upcoming paper.

I glanced up at the wall clock to my right, thinking that it had to be about 10:00 and knowing that family members only call later than that arbitrary cutoff time if there's an emergency.

I stood up to grab the phone from the cradle (I can't reach it from my sitting position) and saw that it showed "Out of Area," and I was going to ignore the call. But it also showed a local cell phone no.

Upon answering, the male caller said, "**I want to report a fire at the Cheyenne Club.**"

Wondering why he called me instead of the fire department, I asked him. "**Who are you looking for? Why did you call me?**"

"**I want to tell the Herald that these places downtown aren't safe and secure for employees.**"

Before I could get anything else out, the caller hung up.

While a little surprised by the message in the call, I am used to taking all kinds of calls - some normal, some close, and some just plain wacky.

This caller didn't sound spaced out, drunk, high, etc. He wasn't a kid and he wasn't elderly. And it was definitely a man.

I was still fully dressed, except for shoes, and told my wife I was going downtown to check something out. She is used to tolerating my secrecy and asked if I'd tell her about it when I returned. I told her that I had to run downtown to check out something based on the call I just received where a guy told me there was a fire at the Cheyenne Club.

Arriving downtown from the southside, I took Warren to 16th, then west past Capital and Central. At Capital, between 15th and 16th (across from the Wrangler and Albany) were two police cars and a Channel 5 satellite truck. I proceeded to Carey and went right to 17th, then east on 17th. I turned on Capital and parked in my car across from the Cheyenne Club.

(Story concludes on page 11)