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**SEPT 16**

Six hundred and ninety (690) days since Jim McBride threatened to take legal action against the Cheyenne Herald for disclosing his Bennett, Colorado, Superintendent Evaluations.

The Evaluations can be read at: [www.cheyenneherald.com](http://www.cheyenneherald.com)  
"Articles" page, October 30, 2006

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**CHEYENNE HERALD**

September 30  
October 14\*, 28\*  
November 11  
December 2, 16, 30

\* full color

## Nob Hill signs were moved

Two months ago, the Herald published a feature story about the illegal placement of several "Private Property" signs within the 108 year old Nob Hill subdivision.



The United Medical Center hospital operation has purchased all of the properties within that subdivision (except one) and had posted all streets leading into and through Nob Hill. It was an obvious attempt to prohibit all traffic - the signs indicated that the county streets had become "private property" and suggested that entry was prohibited - that anyone coming into Nob Hill or driving on those county streets would be trespassing.

Those signs were illegal and no one would admit to having placed or authorized them.

Well, they've been moved.

They are now on the "private property" confiscated from longtime property owners in that subdivision. They are placed in a way to alert "visitors" that the rubble

allowed to remain after most structures have been leveled but not removed could be dangerous to them. Nails, boards, glass and other debris make the area extremely unsafe and the remaining demolition is a magnet for rodents and snakes.

It is critical that the hospital be compelled to complete the job they have started and now abandoned. All of the signs in the world will not prevent kids from entering the UMC-made dangerous area.

For now, all of the signs that had been placed illegally on county streets have been relocated. They are now on the property where they should have been placed before. Good for them. The Herald had to go back there to learn that the signs had been moved. No one wanted to admit to the illegal act and correction.

## City department heads who should be removed

Certain to have a new mayor for the first time in eight years, critical personnel changes need to be made. While most city employees have job protection, about a dozen do not. They serve in those positions at the pleasure of the mayor, with confirmation of the city council.

When Jack Spiker became mayor on January 2, 2001, he did not reappoint three department heads. They were the city attorney, fire chief and city engineer.

Will the new mayor replace any of the entrenched department heads? In my opinion, there has been no management and little supervision of employees at that level and changes are needed.

Here are my suggestions:

First, let's eliminate the safe ones from consideration of replacement. In my opinion, that would include:

- City Clerk
- Fire Chief
- Senior Municipal Court Judge
- BOPU Director

There are those who would probably be reappointed but only after a serious father-son or -daughter talk.

- City Treasurer
- City Engineer

To be reappointed, they would have to understand that they work for the benefit of the residents of the City, not for the special interests of council members or the mayor's personal ambitions. They would be placed on probation for a year.

I would reduce the position of the junior municipal court judge to part-time and likely not reappoint the current holder. He obviously does not have a full case load as he also has a number of parttime jobs that divides his attention from his city position. Those other jobs are too important to be held by someone who has only a few hours a week to handle them. He is supposed to handle "consumer" complaints for the State and also serves as a town judge around the county. It is obvious Cheyenne does not need two full-time municipal court judges.

Department heads who should **NOT** be reappointed are:

- City Attorney
- Police Chief
- Parks and Rec
- Public Works

The interim city attorney is in so far over her head she can't see daylight. There is no potential with her. None. She will cost residents even more money than her predecessor did and that is saying a lot. She cannot represent the city in court and cannot even handle the most basic of contract litigation. It may be that the city cannot attract a capable attorney to serve as city attorney. If that is the case, the new mayor should seriously consider going to third party attorneys on a rotating basis like the public defenders in town and have an entry-level attorney on staff.

That entry-level attorney could try to see that there are adequate "whereas's" and "heretofores" in contracts but little more would be expected of them. No courtroom exposure. Kind of like the past two city attorneys but at a much lower salary.

While the crime rate is skyrocketing in Cheyenne, the mayor has allowed the current police chief to serve in the Wyoming State Senate. Worse even than that, when a handful of Cheyenne mounted police officers were requested for the Democratic National Convention in Denver, the chief designated himself one of those to be away from the escalating crime rate in Cheyenne. This police chief made a mockery of Cheyenne with his quest to demolish a house in the Avenues, then his pursuit for a needless law to enable an act that he has not pursued since the statute was put on the books. Finally, he used public money to buy a worthless mail order degree and instead of admitting the impropriety, he steadfastly defends his action while the public laughs.

The public works job is far beyond the competence of the person assigned to fill the position. It is likely that Cheyenne has not been able to recruit outsiders to fill these positions and promotion from within has not been to reward deserving employees but a necessity because no one with experience from another city will work for this administration. Since one hire came here to accept a job and then reneged because his wife didn't want to live here, the City stopped trying to bring in outsiders. The experience with a past fire chief may have scared the mayor also. But residents deserve capable people filling these leadership positions, not safe choices of those already with the City.

Parks and Rec has become the department of litigation. Between assaults at local restaurants and a requirement of being an archer to get the best jobs, this department needs the greatest overhaul under a new mayor. The flag desecration at the cemetery and other cemetery destruction should have been preventable. Having to hire back an employee wrongfully terminated, with back pay, cost residents a great deal of money.

There are many other key positions that must be realigned. Those suggestions can wait until the next issue but the new mayor has to face up to the mounting losses at the Civic Center and the failure to protect it against massive water damage caused by new construction in the area. That is a position both mayoral candidates must plan to change. Residents should not have to tolerate continuing losses and restrictions that have been placed on the facility for local users.

First things first, though. A new city attorney, a new police chief, new heads for parks and rec and public works must be found. And the new mayor cannot limit the replacements to those already within the department or employed by the city now. New blood might improve things.

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