

## It took eight years to get back to 2000

The city is looking at acquiring two properties on the near east edge of downtown, presumably to knock down a couple of structures (historic?) to create parking.

It's too bad they didn't do what the mayor favored in 2000 - it was a major part of his campaign to get votes in that election - and that was to lease (not buy) parking spaces from businesses with excess parking they were not using, or were not using weekdays, for reserved parking.

In a debate with Leo Pando, in which Pando favored building a parking garage (the one that was unwisely built by Spiker), Jack disagreed. He rightly said that customers and downtown employees would not use a parking garage and the best solution (if the city were to get involved in providing additional parking) would be to approach property owners and enter into leases for their excess parking spaces.

If that had been done, residents wouldn't be saddled with an unused, ugly and costly parking garage. The parking garage that replaced the former City Center surface parking lot has been a financial drain and will gradually reduce City spending options.

To now even consider seeking parking spaces in other areas of the downtown is

an obvious admission that building the parking garage was a mistake.

Two more small surface parking lots will not solve the parking problem. There are too many areas, spread too far apart, in the downtown to be satisfied with these additional spaces. And it is too little, too late after many downtown businesses have moved or failed.

It may help allies of the mayor - unloading nonproductive downtown properties - but the best solution for parking throughout the downtown hasn't changed.

What we presented in that 2000 mayoral campaign was to lease those spaces - four here, six there, twelve in another place - and provide parking permits to downtown business owners. The objective was to free up street parking for customers or those who park for short durations. Not for employees to park all day and move their vehicles on a frequent basis to avoid parking tickets.

If off-street parking were provided, free to employees, convenient and near their place of employment, there would be no excuse for their taking spaces better left available for customers. Violators could be severely penalized. It's still the best solution but probably too late.

## Corrections ??

A graph in the last issue of the Cheyenne Herald showed the dates of birth of the candidates for city offices. It also showed how old they would be at the end of the term for which they might be elected on November 4, 2008.

Almost before the ink was dry on that issue of the Cheyenne Herald, an e-mail came from Jayne Mockler, pointing out that she had a birthday coming up in a couple days but it wouldn't be her 56th, it would be her 51st. She said she was born in 1957, not 1952.

There were two possible explanations for my using the wrong year. First would be that I didn't read her handwriting correctly on her filing - which she later said was quite possible. The second was that I couldn't read my own writing and picked it up wrong from my handwritten notes.

In the same issue, I criticized the downtown Cheyenne chamber of commerce for holding candidate forums in which members of the public have to pay to attend. I went on to say that the chamber charged for these events to line their pockets.

The current chamber head called me to complain about the criticism. He said they had to have these forums in combination with meals to get member's attendance and they had to charge for the meals because they couldn't afford to provide them for free. He further told me that for one of the two "fee forums," the chamber gave the profits to the Kiwanis Club - in

I went back to the city clerk's office and looked again at the filing document to see if Jayne's handwriting led to the error. It did (my notes show 52) but I should have read her number differently. She used the number "7" with a slash through it horizontally. That's so it doesn't look like a "1". Instead it looked like a "2." I could blame it on her penmanship but I'll share the blame. When I reviewed it, knowing it was a seven, I could see that it was. My mistake, too. I was in the Navy and was in Europe. I've seen those "7's".

My apology to Jayne Mockler. I wonder if she would have called if I showed her to be younger than she is? Younger would be okay, I think. If I had gotten one of the men's age wrong, they would have just shrugged it off. Nothing wrong with Jayne bringing her actual DOB to my attention. She was born in 1957, not 1952.

conjunction with the Rib Fest. He invited me to contact him in the future if I had any questions about chamber actions.

So, I did.

I e-mailed him and asked him how much money was taken in at each of the two events and how much money was donated to the Kiwanis Club for the event for which *they* received the profits. I did not get the data but I got a telephone call telling me their computer server had been infected and that, in Dale Steenbergen's absence, no one else could copy or fax me the data. Maybe for the next issue.

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## Laramie County Democratic Party Debate Parties Schedule

Tuesday, September 30 @ 7 pm - the Plains Hotel  
Thursday, October 2 @ 7 pm - Applebee's  
Saturday, October 4 @ 7 pm - Godfather's Pizza

### LARAMIE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY MEETINGS

Tuesday, October 14 @ 7 pm at the Plains Hotel  
Tuesday, October 28 @ 7 pm at the Plains Hotel

## Mark Gordon

A staffer from the Gordon for Congress '08 campaign asked me to keep mentioning Gordon's name, as though there is something positive to come from his disappointing showing in the recent US House Republican primary.

The campaign may think that spending roughly \$45.00 per vote was an accomplishment. Cynthia Lummis spent about \$15.00 per vote and Bill Winney maybe \$13.00 per vote.

Hell, for every couple who voted for Mark Gordon, instead of spending all the money on slickly produced but offensive television commercials attacking Cynthia Lummis, Mark could have taken them to a fine restaurant in their home town. He could have paid for the two voters dinner from the \$90.00 per couple he spent.

Let's say he pared it a bit to \$60.00 per couple - a nice dinner, a cheap bottle of wine and dessert. For his \$1.2 million, he could have bought as many as 40,000 votes - far more than enough to have defeated Cynthia. In fact, with some couples, one of the spouses could have been a Democrat and he would still have purchased enough votes to win the primary.

Wow! A million two - almost all of it his own money. He has set a benchmark no one is likely to reach in the future. Few will think the job is worth that much of their own money.

Probably only someone who inherited his money from parents or grandparents would risk that much money for a seat in government. It must be nice.