

Good luck, Joe Meyer

While I have been critical of Joe Meyer on these pages, it has never been personal. When a guy announces that he has lung cancer and will undergo surgery and face recuperation, there will be no further criticism here until, and unless, he is well enough to handle it and involved enough to warrant it.

It is so hard to get candidates to seek public office. Just ask someone you think would make a great public official if they'll run in the next election and see what the answer will be. Few want to serve in elective office. And fewer still want to endure a bitter and divisive campaign, with a newspaper's "endorsement" process based on who will do what they demand,

not who would make the best officeholder. So, we have sparse fields of qualified and willing candidates.

Joe Meyer has been a public servant - either as a public employee or in elective office - virtually all of his adult life. He has been one of those few who would offer himself up as a candidate. One who had to raise money for campaigns and suffer the slings and arrows of those who disagreed with his politics or performance.

As one who has tried to recruit candidates, I say thank you to those like Joe, and Joe Meyer himself, who have served the people of Wyoming. And best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery, Joe.

Work on the shrine has been delayed

Broncos McChild and UDub's DC exposed

Their seasons started so well.

New University of Wyoming head football coach (who has done everything he can to disparage the program and personality of Joe Glenn) had UW fans convinced he was the Second Coming of Paul Roach.

He isn't.

In fact, in spite of duplicating Glenn's early season success only to see the team fall apart as the year wore on, fans were giddy about the new coach. At this writing, before the San Diego State game which I predict they will lose, the Pokes are 4-5. Only one win is by more than one possession (New Mexico, 37-13) and three have come at home. The only road win this season is over Florida Atlanta (30-28).

And the offensive genius's team in Laramie has been shut out three times. In the three games leading up to SDS, the Pokes have been outscored 84-10.

And they're still in the running for a bowl game? Come on. That should not be. Kind of like last year's Cowboys men's basketball team buying into a post season tournament. Some things are just not meant to be and a post season spot for this UW team is one of them.

By the way, the teams beaten by UW are 2-15 collectively. Florida Atlantic is 2-6 and New Mexico is 0-9. UNLV also has a losing record and Weber State, a smaller program, is 5-4. They are UW's other victims.

Just for comparison sake, the Joe Glenn coached Cowboys were shut out three times in Joe's six years at the helm, and never until the fifth year - the infamous "digital gesture" game against Utah.

DC's counterpart and new head coach of the Denver Broncos rode his hoodie into the seventh game before he got his come uppance. Relying on a QB who lost his starting job with the Bears to both Rex Grossman and Brian Griese (in the same season), and a defense just younger than Patton's, McChild will coast through his first season with a six game winning streak to start the year and a win over New England, which had not hit its stride when the Broncos game was scheduled.

Reminiscent of Mike Shanahan's final season as head coach, the Broncos are quickly sliding back to the pack in the AFC West. Thankfully for McChild, the only decent team in the division this year is San Diego. Not K.C. or the Raiders.

The Broncos (6-2 at this writing) will lose at least four more games (from among the Redskins, Chargers, Giants, Colts and Eagles) and the Chargers (now 5-3) will lose at least three more games (from among the Eagles, Broncos, Cowboys and Bengals), resulting in a tie. If either team suffers an unexpected loss, like the Broncos losing to the Chiefs in KC, the ending may duplicate last year's.

The lumber order can be cancelled. Work on the shrine to the two new football head coaches has been delayed.

Pet Food Drive



Cheyenne's PETCO will be conducting a pet food drive until November 25th. The food collected will be donated to the Cheyenne Animal Shelter but, instead of being used to feed the animals at the Shelter, it will be made available to pet owners who are struggling to feed their own pets this holiday season.

Donations can be taken to PETCO, which is located east of Target, in the same strip shopping center - at 1782 Dell Range.

The last day of the pet food collection at PETCO is Wednesday, November 25th, the day before Thanksgiving. Donations can also be taken directly to the Animal Shelter at 800 Southwest Dr.

The objective will be to help those who otherwise may be faced with relinquishing their pet "simply because they cannot afford to feed them" said Cheyenne Animal Shelter spokesperson Laura Malory.



If your pet is in need, visit the Cheyenne Animal Shelter on or after November 27, 2009 - between 8 am and 6 pm that day or at any time the Shelter is open on other days. For more information, please call the Cheyenne Animal Shelter during normal business hours at 632-6655.

Cell phone ban petition drive results

In spite of the determined effort by less than a handful of petition signature gathering volunteers, the number of "legally sufficient" signatures garnered fell far short of the minimum required to put the cell phone ban ordinance to a referendum or require the governing body to repeal the ban to avoid a special election.

Before meeting with the City Clerk and her Deputy, I spoke with County Clerk Debbye Clerk to inquire as to whether purging the voter registration list had been done in compliance with state law after the last general election. It was and she informed me that about 5,000 postcards were sent to those who had been on the rolls before the election but had not voted, informing them of how to remain on the rolls and that they would be removed if they did not comply. About 3,000 took the required action and 2,000 did not. That took the Laramie County registered voter list from ~42,000 down to ~40,000.

After spending some time with City Clerk Carol Intlekofer and Deputy City Clerk Kristy Anderson on Friday, November 13, 2009 - being briefed as to how the signature lists were processed, I concluded that the review went far and beyond what is required of the City Clerk's office.

The list used to verify the names was a complete listing of Laramie County registered voters at the end of September so those doing the verification could also determine if one who signed was a county resident but not a city resident. Over ten percent of the signers were registered voters who lived outside the city limits. Almost 20% of the signers were not registered voters in either the city or county.

The 181 pages submitted contained 3,509 names to be considered. Names are required to be legally sufficient to satisfy provisions of W.S. § 22-23-1005 - below: (Only 2,105 were - 60% of those gathered, 75% of those required.)

Carol and Kristy went far beyond what I would have done. They used several means to try to determine the name so they could check the voter registration list. By address. By phone no. But, when 1,067 people sign a petition and they are either not registered or live outside the city, that is embarrassing. Ineligible signers did the petition signature gatherers no favor by leading them to believe they had a chance to be successful. This petition drive did not come close because of so many "legally insufficient" signatures.

"An ordinance adopted by a municipal governing body shall be subject to a referendum vote if a petition signed by ten percent (10%) of the qualified electors registered in the city or town is filed with the municipal clerk not later than ten (10) days after the ordinance is first published after adoption as provided by law. The referendum petition shall set forth the ordinance in full and shall contain the signatures and residence addresses of persons signing the petition."

Note: The law should also require that the name and address be decipherable.



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