

## Judges up for retention

All but one of the Laramie County District Court and Circuit judges are up for retention in the November election. Of all "candidates" voted upon, retention of judges is the most automatic approval of all. Most voters have no dealings in the courts and, unless they've read that a judge was busted for drugs or domestic violence (which is unlikely to get in the other media), they rotely vote to retain the judges time after time after time.

Four years ago, Circuit Court Judge Denise Nau had a high percentage of "No" votes cast against her retention. But generally even judges with minimal knowledge of the law receive better than 75% support for retention. Or, "yes" votes.

It is ironic that of the six district and circuit court judges, the only one NOT up for retention is the worst one - Peter Arnold. Arnold has made enough mistakes to fill one shelf at the Laramie County Library. He is challenged and removed from cases on a regular basis now. As senior District Court judge, soon all he'll be doing is scheduling trials for the other judges.

Those up for retention in November are Denise Nau, Roberta Coates and Catherine Rogers - all three of the Circuit Court judges - and Michael Davis and Tom Campbell, two of the three District Court judges.

Seldom is an effort made to convince voters to vote "No" on retention of a judge but this year may be different. As close as it was for Nau in 2006, an effort may be mounted to remove her this election.

Two of the Wyoming Supreme Court justices are also up for retention - Chief Justice Marilyn Kite and immediate past Chief Justice Barton Voigt. A statewide vote against retention is highly unlikely and neither justice warrants removal.

My personal choice for removal would be Peter Arnold but he's not going to be on the ballot until 2012. Roberta Coates and Denise Nau seem to make up the law as they go along and both should be scrutinized very carefully. Ms. Rogers and the two District Court judges have not established a reputation for lack of knowledge or failure to adhere to the law. They might - but haven't yet, in my opinion.

I wrote here about a case when Coates dismissed all citations against a county resident, then found him guilty of a violation for which he had not been cited. That is wrong. If new charges had been filed (misdemeanor nuisance violation), she could have found him guilty in a subsequent appearance but judges can't make things up just because they're in a robe.

I have not chased as many rumors having to do with all other Laramie County judges put together as I have about Denise Nau. Honestly, though, I have never been able to pin down one of the allegations about her. And, I have traveled out of state to pursue rumors presented to me as gospel. If they were, I came up empty. Voters can make a change now or they'll have to wait another four years for another bite of that apple.

# VOTE FOR EXPERIENCE



My family and I appreciate your support and vote on August 17th. Thank You.

## Karen Fortney Laramie County Treasurer

I have 21 years of progressive responsibility in the Treasurer's Office and have been Chief Deputy Treasurer since 1999.

*"I will serve Laramie County by being fiscally responsible and providing courteous and professional customer service."*

**LIFELONG REPUBLICAN**

Paid for by Karen Fortney

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## Brett Favre

Well, it looks like that dreaded time may be approaching. Maybe. Maybe not.

For all but the faux experts who know less about football than Lady Gaga, those who do not know whether the ball is stuffed or inflated, a football season without Brett Favre would leave much to be desired.

Is Brett Favre the greatest quarterback of all-time? If not, who would be?

What do you want to measure that greatness by? Super Bowl rings? If that is the measurement, the guy with the most of those doesn't even think *he* was the greatest quarterback of all time. Wins? Had some of the other QBs played behind and beside the quality of player Green Bay usually provided Brett Favre, their win totals would have been far fewer.

Playing in a small city in northern Wisconsin for almost all of his career, Favre had less help on both sides of the ball than any other "great" quarterback. Free agent signings were nearly impossible - to get a quality player to play in Green Bay. Reggie White was one of the few who chose Green Bay over a warm weather team and greater cultural opportunities.

When Bart Starr was great in Green Bay, he had Paul Hornung and Jim Taylor as his running backs. His receivers included

Carroll Dale, Max McGee and Cheyenne's own Boyd Dowler. Defensive players included Willie Davis, Ray Nitschke, Willie Wood and Herb Adderly. The offensive line was legendary. Kramer and Krowd.

Brett Favre's arrival in Green Bay, along with Mike Holmgren's, resurrected football in Titledown. And who was more important to the other? Well, Favre continued to win after Holmgren. Holmgren didn't win without Favre.

While NFL teams can turn around their fortunes with one good college draft, Brett Favre's Packers never drafted a skill position standout during his years with the Pack. The first round draft picks during the turnaround years of the Packs, after acquiring the unused Favre from the Atlanta Falcons, were seldom impact players. Not until 2002, when the Packers made wide receiver Javon Walker their first pick, was Favre provided a player who could single-handed impact a game.

From 1993 through 2005, the Packers never had a pick in the top 10 of a draft.

Yet, Brett Favre found a way to keep the Packers winning. The year before Favre and Holmgren arrived, the Packers were 4-12. For the next 13 seasons, the Packers never had a losing record with Favre at QB. In 2005, the Packers went 4-12. Two years later, Favre's final season at Green Bay, the Packers were 13-3. Under four different head coaches, Favre had but one losing season in 16 - one.

As impressive as his winning has been his durability. Brett Favre has started 285 consecutive games at quarterback for the Packers, Jets and Vikings. In 2001, he not only started every game for the Pack, he threw every pass attempted that season by the Packers. No other QB, punter or running back attempted a pass that year. After supplanting "the Magic Man," Don Majkowski, as the Packers starting QB during the 1992 season, for the next 15 seasons, other Green Bay Packers quarterbacks attempted only 275 passes - in total. Only two similar retirements come to mind - at the top of their game - Jim Brown and Barry Sanders. 2010 could be "the year the excitement died."

**Herald -- n. An officer whose business was to proclaim war ... He was invested with a sacred and inviolable character. A proclaimer; one who publishes or announces; A forerunner; a precursor; a harbinger. v. To introduce, or give tidings of ... To proclaim, to announce, to foretell, to usher**