

# 2010 was a very good year for the Cheyenne Herald

The Cheyenne Herald is not your father's newspaper. What I do is not intended to be fair and balanced, as Fox News also is not. It is intended to be accurate and honest. Which Fox News also is not. And it is not filled with wire service fodder.

So, leading up to and during a political campaign cycle, I target certain candidates who have proven themselves unfit for the office they seek or hold. Some are seeking re-election, some are new candidates unfit for the job in my opinion.

Occasionally, as I did again in this past election cycle, I will suggest to readers one(s) I think would be the best candidate for whom to vote. Unlike the other print media, I am not afraid to support longshots. While they look for safe picks, invariably incumbents, I choose a limited number of candidates that I either would like to see elected - or defeated.

In 2006, I published Jim McBride's evaluations from a school district in Colorado, Bennett, where he had been dismissed for incompetence, among several allegations. I tried to alert voters as to whom this character really was. He had been foolishly chosen to serve out the former State School Superintendent's term (Trent Blankenship), and had the advantage of running in '06 as the incumbent. He also had the advantage of the popular Democratic incumbent governor, Dave Freudenthal, sitting on his hands and not actively supporting the more qualified candidate in the race for State Superintendent, Michelle Hoffman. Dave knew

he could control McBride. He also knew he could not dominate Michelle Hoffman.

After I published his Superintendent Evaluations from the Bennett School District, only one WPA paper, the Riverton Ranger, covered the disclosures. All others, more interested in not giving the Cheyenne Herald its due or any recognition, chose to remain mute and a dope was elected State Superintendent in 2006. His election was on the heads of Wyoming Press Association members.

It soon became obvious to Wyoming residents and voters that McBride was in over his head. Even with a capable Chief Deputy, your McDope could not manage the affairs of public education in Wyoming. He couldn't do it in Bennett, a small Colorado school district, and it was no surprise to me that he was also a failure here.

In unusual moves, three credible Republican candidates challenged McBride in the primary. One of them, Ted Adams, turned out to be as bad a choice as McBride had proven but Cindy Hill shocked the Republican "establishment" and trounced all three of the men in the primary race. Trent Blankenship was back from Alaska and filed for the seat but did not mount a serious challenge.

McBride's removal may have been the most important event of 2010. To me.

I had also learned from sitting in the appeal hearing of Darrel Hammon's (deposed president of LCCC) handling of an

employee termination that led to the uncovering of the LCCC Care Team Report regarding a LCCC trip to Costa Rica in 2008, that Hammon was a poor fit for this community college. Or any other, really.

His job had been foolishly extended by action of certain LCCC Board of Trustee members who were less in number but more in volume than the others. It was obvious that the best chance to correct the mistake of hiring Hammon, then extending his contract excessively, would be to get rid of the toady trustees standing for re-election. This task, unlike the McBride deposal, had a great deal of help. Good candidates came forward to challenge the two oldtimers. Just enough challengers. A crowded primary favors the incumbent so having three challengers bode well for success in the primary.

When two of those challengers defeated the Hammon's two old men, Hammon and his allies on the Board of Trustees panicked. They quickly put together what would have been called a "golden parachute" had it been a part of his employment contract and, in a continuing effort to "take care of" the doofus they hired, arranged a buyout that gave him most of the salary he would have drawn had he remained employed until his contract expired. The three old men who put the deal together cannot be blamed alone. The other four who remain in office share equally in the disgraceful "gift" made to Darrel Hammon to go away. Hammon should have been terminated in 2008 years ago for his despicable behavior during the Costa Rica trip (and after) and his abuse of personal spending of taxpayer's money on himself and family.

But, he wasn't and it was a terribly heavy

price to pay for his removal but it had to be done. I will continue to disclose abuses by Hammon while he was at LCCC. The Board members will rue the day they gifted so much of your money to get rid of a parasite who should have been dismissed earlier and much cheaper.

Yes, 2010 was a very good year for getting rid of incompetents in charge of Wyoming's public education. Tom Buchanan may prove he belongs in that category but it will be up to a weak UW Board of Trustees to deal with him. But, here in town, Jim McBride, Ted Adams, and Darrel Hammon have been overthrown. Now, let education improve.

Another "anti-education" candidate, Kathryn Sessions, was removed from what she and everyone around her thought was a safe and lifetime seat in the Wyoming Senate. Upset by a candidate who became a general election candidate via a write-in effort in the primary, Ms. Sessions was a target because of her unabashed support for the degree sellers who plagued our landscape for so many years. She was "Queen of the Junketeers" while a legislator. The tragedy of that is that she was an educator herself and knew that the only measurement in place to determine whether an "educational institution" is legitimate or not is via legitimate accreditation. She failed her constituents and paid the ultimate price for a politician. Defeat. Ignominy.

Also in 2010, Jessica Venable sought a sentence reduction and was granted a two year reduction by Judge Peter Arnold and she is now at a halfway house on her way to parole and release from custody. And, the David Bush conviction is being reviewed by the Innocence Center.

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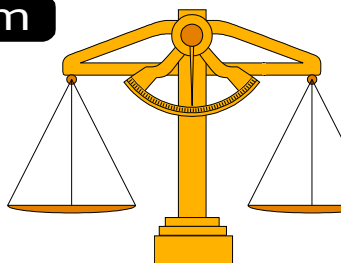
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