

Election 2010

Right around the corner, the candidate filings and primary election campaigns will commence. It seems like only yesterday we heard the indeterminable campaign promises from candidates who promised to do better, work harder and be different from the others in the race.

Quick. Without prompting, who has honored that pledge? Which winner in the 2008 elections, at any level for any office, honored their pledge? Starting with the POTUS. Of course none come to mind. It is a rare candidate indeed that performs anywhere near the competence they promised to gain your vote.

So, who's the fool? Who's the dope? You know the outcome but you voted for one of the candidates. Or, you should have. No matter how bad the outcome, the right to vote is a privilege you should accept. On the condition you know at least *something* about the candidate for whom you vote. If you know nothing about any candidate or cannot stomach any candidate, then you do no one a favor by voting.

This election cycle in Wyoming will see only one federal seat up for grabs. That will be the seat in the U.S. House of Representatives and it is highly unlikely that anyone within the Republican Party will challenge first term Cynthia Lummis. It's not that she's doing a good job. She's Nadia Nyet. It's that an incumbent is almost impossible to defeat in your own Party's primary so few will challenge even the most incompetent incumbent. And because Cyndy is a member of the "Back Row" party in Washington, she cannot do anything very destructive to Wyoming or anywhere else. She can oppose all that is accomplished but, by herself and with the aid of her fellow Republicans, they simply do not have the votes to win on any legislation. None.

Still, Wyoming is unlikely to send a Democrat to Washington. There are several reasons for that. One is history. It just isn't done. That would be heresy. Even a do-nothing Republican is preferable to the majority of Wyoming voters over a Democrat who might even be a member of the Ruling Party. Or so is said in the elections. Second, there is at least some chance that the Democrats will lose their majority. Things aren't going to well for the party in power right now. So, to take a chance on electing a Democrat (which is highly unlikely to happen in Wyoming, regardless of any other situation or condition) who would then be a member of the minority party in Washington is a risk not worth taking.

The political party in power runs in cycles. None can satisfy the majority of the people for long so the party on the outside will switch places with the party on the inside, then a few years later, the reverse will occur.

So, the U.S House seat is almost certain to remain in Cyndy's hands.

Unless.

Unless she decides she'd rather return to Wyoming and make a run for the office of Governor. Snicker if you will. It could happen. She has no real Party

loyalty and thinks she doesn't need the Godfather's (Diemer True) blessing (he backs Ron Micheli) and living in D.C. is the pits so she may want to come home.

If she were unsuccessful in such a run, she always has the former Grier Furniture property to fall back on. With Jimmy John's a tenant, the revenue she and Al will be raking in will be unbelievable. Not.

Because this won't take many words, let me get this out of the way now. Three city council seats will be up for grabs. They are the ones now held by Judy Case, Mark Rinne and Georgia Broyles. Something worth noting is that while the latter two wanted badly to be council president in 2010, that position is often the end of the trail in the city council. Few holding the position have been re-elected that fall. In recent years, a couple have stepped aside or moved away but several have been defeated at the polls. The council presidency and incumbency have become a poisonous mix. But, I digress. It makes little difference who holds the office - you could lift the origami hat off one and walk another under it and things won't change. So, let's move on.

The county commission has the two greybeards' seats up this year. Jeff Ketcham first took office when Grover Cleveland was in the first of his two divided terms. Diane Humphrey has been in office for a very long time herself. The best chance they have for another term is if the Tribune-Eagle goes after them. If the WTE really wants them replaced, they need to remain silent and let voters do the deed. Their criticism is counterproductive. Whomever the WTE opposes, voters automatically support.

Wyoming House seats are once again up for grabs. Who cares? Same origami statement as above. Senate? Ditto.

All five of the statewide seats are up. The biggest question is whether Dave will defy the will of 77% of the voters and seek a third term. The fact that he has hired a New York polling firm to tell him what he already knows - that he would be a formidable candidate - points to his contesting term limits and running again. He will bring more baggage to this election than ever before. Nepotism. Cronyism.

Can Dave win? The better question is, can he be beaten? Popular candidates who cross the voters often get thrown aside. If he doesn't run, where will the Dems turn? They have no farm system. Gary Trauner is worn out and wouldn't want to be rejected again. Perhaps Mark Gordon. He's really a Democrat and he may admit it and try to use his personal fortune to buy the Governor's seat. Republican candidates will be plentiful. The most credible would be Rita Meyer and expect her to announce her candidacy soon. Matt Mead and Colin Simpson are "Sonny Boys" who prefer to have an office handed them based on lineage, not ballot results. Count both out. Ron Micheli? Not a statewide candidate.

Joe Meyer, Max Maxfield and Jim McBride should turn over their offices to others more capable. But public paychecks are all they know so they'll run again.

The Cheyenne Herald does not care what individual teachers are paid

Color me indifferent. Color me ambivalent. Color me any thing you want to but I just don't have an interest in polarizing this community even further by publishing the salary and benefits each teacher in LCSD1 or LCSD2 costs the taxpayer.

And it's hard to believe that the local daily truly cares about how much every teacher in the County is paid. Their quest is about something specific. That's the way they operate. They're petty and mean-spirited and a teacher must have pushed a button at 702 W. Lincolnway. Perhaps it was a teacher of one of the key player's children. Revenge is a poison.

Locals do not have to pay, through higher property taxes, for all these new schools being built. The Wyoming Supreme Court, wrongly in my judgment, decided that the Wyoming Constitution requires that State revenues be used to provide new facilities wherever and whenever a local school board deems them necessary. So, when you don't have to pay for the buildings your children attend classes

in, there should be adequate funding to pay teachers and pay them competitively.

Are some teachers paid more than is warranted? Of course. Are some teachers paid less than is fair? Sure. But, many, if not most, of the whiners who post anonymously on forums and blogs while being paid by their employer are themselves being paid for unproductive hours.

You will see that most posts are made during the workday. The bedwetters are unemployed or they are cheating their employer. And they criticize teachers?

It is easy to determine the salary level for many City employees. Did the WTE ever deign to publish that data when the former mayor was spending the City broke and trying to buy love with untimely raises, Christmas gifts and inflated salaries? No. Now they might because this mayor hasn't jumped in the sack with them. Unfortunately, a teacher, likely only one teacher, crossed Reed and he seeks revenge. Their pay is of little interest to me.

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