

Killing and kidnapping dogs in Hillsdale

Having to deal with the evil and cruel intentions of a Wyoming legislatress from Recluse is not enough, I guess. We may also have some sort of canine brutality cabal in tiny Hillsdale.

On Friday afternoon, after I thought I had all of my stories for the May 11 issue lined up and many already written, I received a call concerning what appears to be a cowardly act of shooting a friendly, harmless dog just for sport.

After talking to a person in Hillsdale who was very familiar with the dog and who was equally concerned that they had heard nothing about an arrest and speaking at length with an eyewitness who saw the incident of "dumping" the barely alive but grievously injured dog by the local post office at about 5:00 pm on Tuesday, I made a telephone call to the Laramie County Sheriff's Department.

At that point, I decided to pull another story and include this one instead. Before I finish this story, I expect to speak with two or three other Hillsdale residents whose dogs have come up missing recently. I have already been told that the utility poles around Hillsdale are "plastered" with signs about missing dogs. That makes no sense. As I told one of my sources, we're not talking about Dallas, Texas, we're talking about Hillsdale, Wyoming. A missing pet should be a rare incident, not a dozen times or more this Spring, as was reported to me.

So, what's going on in Hillsdale?

The owner of Max, the dog who was, according to what the owner was told by Animal Control, shot twice in the hindquarters, once from each side and paralyzed as a result, told me his dog did not stray from town, did not chase other animals, vehicles or people, did not bite and was nonthreatening. Max was known to most

in Hillsdale and it is said he would walk through the middle of chickens without barking at them or bothering them. He liked to hunt as his Golden Lab breed is born to do.

The owner got Max as a puppy and was the only owner Max knew. He was about seven years old with a long life ahead. He normally had a collar with a registration tag attached. When deposited by the Hillsdale post office by the two men in a white long box Dodge pickup, Max was wearing no collar.

The owner said Max would go no further than meandering around the streets of Hillsdale and did not growl at anyone let alone bite them. Max liked to accompany a woman on her way to work in the morning and lay in the area of the entrance to the post office. When the owner came for his mail, Max would walk home with him. No one in Hillsdale feared the Golden Lab nor had any reason to. So, why would anyone kidnap, or at minimum, pick up Max and shoot him twice, then cruelly dump the dying dog onto the ground, injured to the degree he had to be euthanized? Throw him from the pickup box onto the ground, according to the eyewitness.

The purpose of this story is to let the culprits know that their license plate number and full description of the occupants has been provided to the Laramie County Sheriff's Department. By the time this issue of the Cheyenne Herald hits the street, the owner of the white Dodge should have been questioned and maybe even arrested. The objective is to also end the abduction of dogs in Hillsdale. And maybe learn where other animals may have been dumped. Residents out there have told me that there is a poster up in the post office almost every time they visit. This sort of cruel behavior is unacceptable and must end.

You go, girl!

In almost all elections, for a challenger to defeat an incumbent, the challenger must convince voters that the incumbent is not doing a good job. Very occasionally, a challenger will come along who is so popular that the election is a foregone conclusion but you can count those examples on one hand and have enough fingers left to grip a baseball.

In this year's election for state superintendent of public instruction, two challengers from the same political party as the incumbent will try to eliminate Jim McBride in the primary election on August 17th.

While the filing window has not even arrived, let alone passed, various Lincoln Day dinners, candidate forums and the Republican state convention have been held and candidates have already announced and are campaigning.

One of the two Republican challengers for the office of state superintendent of schools, Ted Adams, is still working - at Laramie County School District 1 and is basically just making necessary appearances. He said he would not actively campaign until his resignation is effective at the end of June.

So, for the time being, it is up to the other candidate, Cindy Hill, to try to keep Jim McBride in line when he makes preposterous claims of success during his tenure as school superintendent.

McBride is one of those people who could not pour a liquid out of a boot without directions on the heel.

He was an abject failure as school district superintendent in Bennett, Colorado and was fired at the earliest opportunity the board down there could find. His superintendent evaluations (available on the

Cheyenne Herald website - October 30, 2006) are pathetic. He was incompetent and the school district was well rid of him.

A wonderful irony in this election is that the man most responsible for McBride becoming state superintendent of schools was Drake Hill, Cindy Hill's husband. As chair of the Republican Central Committee, he forwarded McBride's name to the governor among three from which Dave had to choose - without any vetting. Now, the Hills admit that was a dumb decision and want voters to elect Cindy Hill to correct the mistake.

Because Adams is unable to campaign, Cindy Hill is making the charges of the incompetence and mismanagement against McBride Kevorkian.

There probably have been some public education successes over the past four years. As is said, even a blind pig finds an acorn on occasion. And there are some capable career employees at the DOE. But, McBride is not responsible for enough successes to offset the horrendous blunders he has made.

What a year for him to run for re-election. He has asked for the PAWS results of 2010 to be ignored. In other words, the thousands of Wyoming students who labored over the tests are being told that their results should not count. And, he has sued the incompetent company who administered the tests. Finger pointing is all he's good at.

Cindy Hill, you keep pointing out his failings. I was told that school administrators from around the state were desperate to find one among them to challenge the Doctor Death of public education in Wyoming - Jim McBride. To have found two is a good thing. Keep at him, Cindy.

In Memory

*Jone Featherly, mother
July 21, 1917 - May 13, 1971*

*Bernie Featherly, father
July 5, 1916 - May 3, 1995*



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