

Steve Kline in SD5 to replace Bob Fecht

When a vacancy in elective office occurs, it stands to reason that the person finishing next in line at the same (or last) election - the one departing had won - should be the replacement.

In the Senate District 5 primary election of August 22, 2006, there were seven Republican candidates. The winner of that primary was almost certain to have a walkover in the November general election. Bob Fecht was chosen by more SD5 voters than any other candidate, albeit by only 28.9% of all Republican voters in that primary - the smallest plurality elected.

Consistent with our position in the past - when we supported Jimmy Valdez (who had just finished second in a different race for a Ward 1 council seat) and Georgia Broyles (who finished next in line in that latest Ward 3 council race), we support the naming of Steve Kline to serve in that Senate seat for the remainder of the term Bob Fecht was elected to serve.

And, in spite of the WT-E writing that it is a six-year seat, it is but a four year seat and Kline would have two years to serve to complete that term.

Fecht and Kline, between them, received 51.3% of the total votes cast in the 2006 Republican primary election. The other five candidates (John Bishop, Neil Emmons, John Francis, Larry Shippy [now deceased] and Russ Brown) shared the other 48.7%. Steve Kline finished 163 votes behind Fecht and 169 votes ahead of John Bishop, who finished third.

Based on Kline having recently presented himself to the voters of SD5, he is the logical choice. Tom Segrave has offered himself but that would make no sense. First, because Segrave is a lightning rod and Cheyenne does not need a State Senator who would alienate outstate senators any further. They already don't like us - don't pour fuel on the fire. Steve Kline deserves the appointment.

UW men's basketball team worst 11-2* team in nation

The UW men's basketball team perpetrated a scheduling hoax on supporters this season in able to compile an 11-3 record before beginning conference play (they will lose to Utah State on December 31). Their exposure on national television against UCLA (a 51 point loss) confirmed the wisdom of national poll voters, who have not cast a single Top 25 vote for Wyoming this year. The table below shows the quality of opponents scheduled by Schroyer and Burman. They scheduled a collection of tomato can opponents and only three of the first 13 games have been played on the opponents home court (*italics below*) UW lost two of those (Boise State and UCLA), and beat only Loyola-Marymount on their home court. LMU hasn't won a game all year! The won/loss record of the 11 teams UW will defeat through December 30 will be 36-100. And look at the teams they've defeated! The four worst teams have a combined record of 2-44. Eight of the UW's first ten games were in Laramie or Casper. Three on the road and two to be played at a neutral site - Logan, Utah, on December 29 and 30.

Scheduling provides 11-2 record *

UW opponent's records as of December 28, 2008

	Have defeated
Cal State - Bakersfield	4-9 (Cal State-Northridge, Sacramento State, Pepperdine, Cal Poly)
Prairie View	3-9 (Champion Baptist College, Ecclesia, Southwestern Assemblies of God)
Johnson & Wales	5-11 (Central Christian College, Dickinson State, Colorado College, CSU-Pueblo, Regis)
Texas State	4-6 (Cal State-Fullerton, Hutson-Tillotson, Southwestern Assemblies of God, Prairie View)
Denver	6-6 (Texas-Arlington, South Dakota State, Florida Atlantic, CSU, Grambling, UC-Riverside)
Boise State UW lost 85-86	8-3 (Pacific-Oregon, Idaho State, Montana State, Southern Utah, Wyoming, CSU, Cal State Bakersfield, San Diego)
Loyola Marymount	0-14 (NOBODY)
Northern Iowa	6-6 (Denver, Texas Southern, Chicago State, Auburn, North Dakota, South Dakota State)
Western State	6-5 (Kansas Wesleyan, Johnson & Wales, Colorado College, Colorado Christian, Colorado Mines, Regis)
Sacramento State	1-11 (California-Davis)
UCLA UW lost 62-113	10-2 (have lost to Texas [10-2], Michigan [9-2])

Next two opponents after December 28, 2008 - in Logan, Utah

Houston Baptist	0-12 (NOBODY) - UW plays Dec. 29
Howard	1-8 (Oregon State) - UW plays Dec. 30

* Assumes victories over Houston Baptist and Howard U.

This administration hasn't listened

A 29 page report entitled "A GLIMPSE OF THE FUTURE DOWNTOWN" was put in my hands the Saturday before presstime.

A quick review of the report reminded me of so many other decisions this city administration have made after receiving warnings to the contrary. Not advice from people who seldom agree with their decisions. Advice from those who knew better. Advice from professionals in the field.

The downtown parking garage was built contrary to the conclusion of the Walker Study. That costly study was done in 1994 and concluded that there was not a parking problem in the downtown. Since that time, most larger businesses downtown have closed and if there were no need for a parking structure then, there certainly wasn't one when the garage was built.

Despite being told by the Cheyenne Herald and competent local attorneys, as well as the Teton County Attorney's Office, that annexation of land separated from the city borders was illegal and would not stand legal scrutiny, this rudderless city administration took the advice of the proven incompetent city attorney - who was not even qualified to represent his employer in court - and proceeded to approve one after another illegal annexation that would all be voided by the courts.

After a Landfill Advisory Committee struggled unsuccessfully for years trying to find a suitable location for the next city landfill, the mayor and a couple city councilmen who thought Jerry McMorris, general partner of the Colorado Rockies, owned the Rockies, agreed to buy the Belvoir Ranch from him. Before the purchase had closed, but after a local appraiser amazingly came through with an appraisal at **EXACTLY** the listing price for the Ranch, a Wyoming DEQ official wrote a letter to the mayor advising him that the Belvoir would be a poor choice for a landfill - virtually telling him it was unlikely permits would be issued for such a use on the granite ranch because of the geology.

When scammers stepped off the bus and pitched the mayor and his inner circle on unproven and unfundable trash-to-energy schemes, they were welcomed instead of being shown the door. One after another of the frauds which were embraced by the mayor and his men were eventually unmasked by the Cheyenne Herald and even the Wyoming Tribune-Eagle.

No eight year period in the history of Cheyenne has experienced such regression when great progress should have been seen. This group couldn't pour liquid from a boot without directions on the heel. The mayor couldn't spot a con man if the words were tattooed on his forehead. They couldn't even build a tree house for the kids. A replacement landfill? Not within a decade. Water from the Belvoir? Not in our lifetime.

When told the depot would not support a bar, the mayor covered his ears. When told moving public offices into the depot would just move them around the downtown, creating empty spaces elsewhere, the mayor still pressured them to move. The Tivoli still sits empty and abandoned.

A GLIMPSE OF THE FUTURE DOWNTOWN was prepared by a couple using the business name of HyettPalma. They've done similar studies for several other downtowns and this study is generic in nature. MAKING DOWNTOWN RENAISSANCE A REALITY was the promising subtitle.

It was prepared for the Wyoming Association of Municipalities, of which Cheyenne is the highest dues-paying member.

HyettPalma claimed in their introduction letter that they have "induced significant private investment in hundreds of Downtowns throughout all 50 states ..." Yet, none of their input was accepted. And no significant private funds have been invested downtown in eight years.

The report presents a number of "Myths," most of which apply in Cheyenne.

Myth #2: If We Build It, They Will Come - "Many communities have proven this to be a myth. They implemented massive physical improvement projects - including new sidewalks, landscaping, trees, planters, benches, .. and waited for customers and investors to return to Downtown."

Myth #4: If We Just Complete One Major Project, They Will Come - "Examples of communities that pursued the Silver Bullet Approach are those that built Downtown convention centers, festival marketplaces, parking structures, or pedestrian malls -- in isolation."

Myth #8: We Have to Be As Tough As Possible with Developers or They'll Take Advantage of Us - "It has been proven that communities that are unreasonably stringent and demanding of developers will cause developers to locate their projects elsewhere."

Myth #9: If We Had More Parking, They Would Come! - "This is the 'let's find a scapegoat approach' to downtown revitalization. Communities that have gone to great expense in creating Downtown parking lots and decks, without making the needed improvements in their Downtowns, have learned the fallacy of this myth. The new parking facilities remain as empty as the Downtown stores. In fact, progressive Downtown leaders across the country now say, 'we need a parking problem in our Downtown' because that will mean that Downtown businesses are busy. In the vast majority of Downtowns where there is a parking problem, it is one of parking management rather than one of parking supply ... because Downtown employees and business owners are parking in spaces that are nearest to businesses and should be reserved for their customers and clients."

These things have been written on the pages of the Cheyenne Herald for the past few years. The City knew what to expect and chose to ignore the warning. And what do residents have to show for their indifference? A decaying downtown with empty stores and little private investment. Priorities need to be set. And the need is to focus on filling empty spaces, not spending public money with no results.