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LCSD2 Forum

On Monday night, October 23, at 7:00 pm, a Laramie County School District No. 2 candidate's forum will be held in the Albin Community Center.

Four of the nine seats on the LCSD2 Board of Trustees will be up for election on November 7 and several candidates have filed for those seats.

In all, three of the seats are "at-large" and one is for District "D". Three incumbents are not seeking re-election. One, Andy Malm, has left his seat early as he moved out of the District. Two others, Monique Sanchez and Colleen Jones-Gross, did not file. Only Patty Epler is seeking re-election of the incumbents.

In spite of a continued effort by the WT-E to consolidate both County school districts into one, with Cheyenne in control,

School District No. 2 attracts capable and concerned candidates for their school board. Those candidates are:

District "D" Seat:
Lee May, Hillsdale
Tom Morgan, Burns

At-Large Seats (3):
Steve Trimble, Burns
Dwayne Anderson, Pine Bluffs
Zachary Taylor, Burns
Donald Herman, Pine Bluffs
Patty Epler (I), Carpenter

The format of this forum provides time for opening / introductory remarks, a closing and each candidate responding to a series of questions presented them in advance. There are no surprise or ambush questions from the moderator or audience. Dave Featherly will be moderator.

Still the bug

CU's Dan Hawkins still winless

Well, it looks like the Jamaican bobsled team has a better chance for an Olympic gold than the latest "White Dope" has of winning a football game with the Buffs.

In an interesting bit of timing, Fox Sports Rocky Mountain announced on the same day CU lost its fifth game to open the season that last year's coach, Gary Barnett, had signed on as a studio commentator.

He should be able to have some fun dissecting Howdy Dowdy's game plans.

This could be a lesson in how cheating is required to win at that level. It might be disgusting to need Caligula in charge of recruiting but while colleges with blue chip recruits (character-wise) may win the IQ Bowl, they seldom win at BCS Bowl.

To lose to Mizzou isn't exactly the way to sell season tickets in Boulder. But, so long as Coors is sold at home games, the win-loss record could be academic. Maybe CU needed a series of fifth downs to pull it out. Where was the Colorado ref?

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One regret

Should not have opposed out-patient surgery center

I have been asked whether there have been stories published or positions taken on these pages which I later regretted.

With a policy that we don't go after individuals or their indiscretions but limit our targets to, and barbs for, public officials, public actions, and those who feed at the public trough, there aren't as many opportunities to later regret inflicting harm on those who should not be in our sights.

I personally have probably written a million words in the 108 issues of the Cheyenne Herald which have been published to date - including this one. So, obviously there are some words I would change if I had it to do over. Words.

But in terms of stories or positions, there aren't many that I would change.

One that troubles me is the position I took (at the time) in opposition to a for-profit out-patient surgery center that was looking at expanding into Cheyenne. The company had even announced this market on their website but never came.

My opposition was more protectionist than I should have been. At the time, I didn't support a selective surgery center cherry-picking patients at the expense of the local hospital.

I now believe that position was wrong. As a capitalist and a supporter of free enterprise, it is not my duty to protect existing businesses like UMC-West.

Especially since they have made decisions in recent months that indicate they must have an abundance of capital. Talk of building another hospital facility near the junction of I-25 and I-80 certainly suggests that their coffers run over.

And the decision to expand into the Colorado market by opening a clinic in Wellington, when Pine Bluffs in our own county is under-served, is not reciprocal of my earlier position of protecting them from competition. If this medical facility is able to compete in northern Colorado, they must feel comfortable in competing at home.

My opposition was also based on the fact that a for-profit surgery center could accept just those patients and cases they chose - that they, unlike UMC, would not have had to take all comers. As a county general hospital, UMC has to accept patients who may be unable to pay for the services provided.

My role should have been to promote the best medical care for southeastern Wyoming patients in need of them - not to oppose competition for the local hospital.

Of all the positions taken on these pages, I now believe that to be the most inappropriate for what I try to represent. Many people travel to Colorado hospitals and doctors for medical services. Having an outpatient surgical center in Cheyenne might have slowed that tide.

Dave Featherly

Why Skip lost

Knowing how popular Skip Eshelman is to the rural residents of Laramie County, I decided to dissect the voting results of the recent primary election to see how Skip finished out of the money.

	Dowling	Eshelman	Skip of Total
Ward 1	703	621	46.9%
Ward 2	781	627	44.5%
Ward 3	698	628	47.4%
Total City	2,182	1,876	46.2%
Non-City	703	888	55.8%
Total	2,885	2,764	48.9%

Skip needed to finish ahead of Mike Dowling and then count on Republicans who had seen his hard work for Laramie County to cross over, which they're not allowed to do in the primary, and vote for him in the general election.

As the table on the left shows, Skip took many more "non-city" votes than did Mike Dowling. But Skip did not fare well enough in the city wards. He was down by 306, up by 185 outside. Total, -121. That was only 2.1% of the votes cast.

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