

**Dear Neighbors in Senate District 6:**

*Senator Johnson has retained his seat. Please join me in congratulating and supporting him in this important work.*

*I have been on an amazing journey since I announced I was running and I have enjoyed every step. I'm so very grateful that so many of you took those steps with me.*

*I've learned a great deal. I'm optimistic about the future. And I'm jazzed about the awareness we've raised about some of the most important issues of our time.*

*I'm going to take off just a couple of days — and then get right back to work for the people of Laramie County.*

*Gratefully,  
Phyllis Sherard*

Paid for by Sherard for Senate Committee

## Fair and unbiased?

The recently concluded presidential race had its rare and exciting moments.

The first serious African-American candidate for the presidency was on one ticket and the first serious female candidate for the vice-presidency was on the other.

Yes, Geraldine Ferraro was Walter Mondale's running mate in 1984 but that ticket never had a chance and was defeated in a landslide, winning only Minnesota and Washington, D.C.

As soon as John McCain shockingly chose Sarah Palin to be his running mate, she became a target of ridicule. As an unknown on the national scene, the liberal media could have either gone toward introducing her or mocking her. They chose the latter. Because of the uncanny resemblance SNL's Tina Fey bears to Palin, the opportunity to make the vice-presidential candidate the butt of jokes was too much to pass on.

When Palin's speech at the Republican convention was so well received, the liberals put diminishment of her into overdrive. It was with great glee that it was reported a teenage Palin daughter was unmarried and pregnant. Odds are that several of the media that delighted in reporting that "news" have similar situations in their own homes or very close to them.

But the objective became to knock this "uppity" Republican woman down. Her speech pattern was mocked even though everyone could understand every word she said. How dare she come from the frozen North and think she can run for this office? We have president's wives who have stood by their cheating man and they weren't given the chance to be veep, let alone president of the United States.

Democrats have always believed that a woman in the White House, in either position, was their domain. After all, they are the party of equal rights, not the Republicans. The fact that the most capable women in politics tend to be Republicans escapes Democrats notice. They have wives of popular politicians, but Republican women tend to make it on their own.

When the Republican National Committee chose to "clothe" the newcomer from Alaska, who, with five children, buys her own clothes from consignment shops up there, appropriately for the office she was seeking, a great hue and cry was made by the Democrats and late night comedians. One hundred fifty thousand dollars for clothes. My God! It was seldom mentioned that the clothes would be donated to charity, not retained by Sarah Palin. Who do you think pays for Hillary's pantsuits? When Barack Obama's campaign paid \$700,000 for staging and lights for him to make a single speech in Berlin, little was said and the topic passed quickly. Five times as costly. Silence.

When Palin said that Russia was close to Alaska, it was turned into "I can see Russia from my porch." When Joe Biden said Franklin D. Roosevelt went on television after the Stock Market Crash of 1929 to calm the American people, his gaffe was quickly glossed over. FDR wasn't president in 1929 and there were no televisions in homes yet.

Pundits challenged her right to seek high office with four young children at home, even a developmentally needy baby. Little was said about Barack Obama having two beautiful young daughters who will have to do without their father for four to eight years. Fair, my ascot.

## Recounts

Once again, a mandated recount will be required of Laramie County and it offers no productive purpose and will not change the election result.

In this case, a final Laramie County School District No. 1 board seat is at play. The unofficial voting results had Glenn Garcia at 12331 and John Kelley at 12241, Garcia winning by 90 votes.

**W.S. § 22-16-109(b)** requires a recount if the vote margin is within a 1% differential, using the winning total as the base.

Insanity is defined as doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results. A recount using the same paper ballots, run through the same counting machines and picking up the same totals from the same electronic voting machines is insanity. Nothing will change. Nothing to a meaningful effect, that is. Maybe 1, 2, or 3 votes.

The time-consuming, no outcome changing charade has to be brought to an end.

In races with a difference of less than .1% (one tenth of one percent), a recount may yield a different result. Let's say the loser is looking to pick up a dozen votes or so. Then, manually reviewing every paper ballot may bring results. Every mark on every ballot near each candidate's name could be reviewed. I would advise the loser to have every such ballot set aside for further review and later challenge.

Unfortunately, there is no paper trail on electronic voting machines and candidates are stuck with whatever the counters say the final results are. The only chance, then, to pick up a vote comes from the paper ballots.

As Wyoming statute is written, the losing candidate cannot sign an affidavit waiving the right to a recount, which would be done in most cases. To find more than 3, or 4 or 5 votes through a review of paper ballots is highly unlikely. Voters' votes should count but a hopeless pursuit of more votes than will ever be found in an honest election is not a good use of time or money. The law needed to be changed.

In decades past, recounts could yield different results because of technicalities. If election judges did not properly initial each ballot, the vote could be challenged and disallowed. Often, the challenges cancelled out for the most part and, unless the starting differential was very small, the winner was not changed. The only opportunity for change will come with a one-by-one review of every paper ballot and a machine recount of those unchallenged. Those totals would tell what would be required from the ballots to be reviewed and challenged, if necessary. If the numbers are still not there - for example, if every challenge went your way and you could only pick up 25 votes and the margin was 45 - give it up and go home. First, change the law to a smaller margin and allow a candidate to opt out.

## Casper Star non-renewal

The once proud daily newspaper from the state's most urbane city has become a mirror image of the daily newspaper in the State's capital.

The northern paper is the only statewide newspaper and should feel a greater responsibility to its readers to present the truth, with integrity and accuracy, than does the diminishing paper in Cheyenne. Diminishing in influence and circulation. The Casper Star-Tribune reaches more than twice the number of readers and has more influence on its readers. It should try to get it right.

But it doesn't.

In each issue of the CS-T, they print that they "will correct all errors." All errors?

They don't.

During the primary election campaign cycle, the Star-Tribune printed wrong information about candidate FEC filings. The new editor was advised of the error and retorted with the explanation that it wasn't their story and they don't make correction to offerings of the Associated Press. Many stories in the CS-T are originated by the AP and will evidently be left uncorrected because the Star-Tribune doesn't author those words.

That's not the way they present their promise to readers. Their "Policy" is stated: "The Star-Tribune is committed to correcting all errors." The new editor doesn't tell readers that corrections to AP or other wire service stories are not included - that the CS-T won't correct those even when they know they're wrong.

This past Wednesday morning, in the issue with general election results, an elderly CS-T reporter in Cheyenne got it wrong. She reported that Lori Millin was "20 votes short" and made it appear that Lori would lose her House seat. The following day, the CS-T covered for their venerable veteran with, "Millin rallies to win HD8." Lori did not rally. Early voting totals weren't in when the wrong report was filed. Within 12 minutes of the partial results being posted, the final totals were on the Laramie County website.

The mistake was not handled with a correction. It was made to appear that votes came in from the heavens to pull Lori through. The CS-T blew it again.

So, with new feline additions to our household, it makes more sense to use the \$180.00 a year we've been paying for a CS-T subscription to pay for the cat litter we'll need. Somehow, it seems like an appropriate trade-off. We won't renew.