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Ray Hunkins on the issues

(more from the interview on page 5)

by Dave FEATHERLY

Ray Hunkins is a good man.

And whatever the outcome on November 7th, when Ray arises on November 8th, he'll still be a good man.

This isn't to say that Dave Freudenthal is not a good man. It's just that Ray will talk with me when I ask, so I can make that judgment, and Dave is very elusive - he hasn't been as willing to talk to me.

About ten days before this issue of the Herald was printed, I spent more than an hour and a half interviewing Ray Hunkins. No questions were off-limit and no questions were ducked by Ray. He responded to everything I put to him.

I began the taped interview by telling him that I wanted to discuss issues. I don't know about other voters but I'm damned

disappointed that we're about five weeks away from the general election and topics like the state airplane's toilet and what's covered in credit card billings is what the mainstream, controlled media wants to write and talk about.

Ray expressed some exasperation about how his meth initiative kind of fell on deaf ears and dry quills.

Could it be that the residents of Wyoming are ambivalent about the devastating and virtually ignored threat of meth? Could it be that we'll be drug into a debate for years about what should be done and then who will pay to get it done?

With \$2 billion per biennium in budget surplus funds, elected officials like the governor need to get off their collective keisters and take action. Enough time has elapsed. Let's get something done.

And that's what I wanted to talk with Ray Hunkins about. Issues. My interviews aren't about docilely sitting with a notebook open and tape recorder running while the interviewee spews canned crap at me. Maybe that's why Dave is so elusive. He seems to always have time for his allies at the Tribune-Eagle and Casper Star. But not for me. Maybe now he will. I, and you, can hope.



Ray Hunkins, at United Medical Center-West in Cheyenne, minutes after the births of his twin granddaughters, Elise and Ava Newton, on September 28, 2006.

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