

Diggin' in the downtown

It takes less time to identify an archaeological dig, locate the fossil bones, dust them, reassemble them, and open a museum with those dinosaur bones, than it has taken to open and close a hole in the sidewalk next to City News.

Over the past few years, the sidewalk by that long-established downtown business has been torn up more often than almost any other stretch of concrete in the city. This time it's the owner. Pedestrians have spent more time walking on 18th Street than along the sidewalk that is supposed to be available for their travel.

The area involved in the latest demolition is small and the crew is sizeable. But other than the gangplank over the opening, it's hard to tell just what is transpiring deep in the hole.

It almost seems at times that the decision-makers in the mayor's office and on city council have stock in Barnes and Noble. Few businesses have been subjected to as many interruptions to their business as City News.

Will it ever end for them? Many of the small businesses in the downtown have

failed, closed or relocated. Constantly tearing up streets and sidewalks make it difficult to maintain those businesses.

And if anyone will still argue that the downtown parking garage has made a positive impact on the downtown business climate, they, as Rush Limbaugh would say, must "be off their meds."

Since the announcement and construction of that structure, every large business surrounding it has closed. Frontier Printing, Dinneen's, Z's Home Furnishings - all gone from the downtown.

The mayor and council members always have told the downtown businesses to "hold tight," that "things will get better," that "it's just a phase you're going through as we grow," but even the mayor downsized his own retail store in the downtown. The same "encouragement" is being used on bars and establishments that, against their will, had to prohibit smoking within their confines.

The Marriott franchise is apparently not going to build downtown. There has been no growth downtown - only contraction. What is the future?

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Anne Beckle

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Diane Humphrey & Jeff Ketcham

I will not be a write-in candidate for Laramie County Commissioner.

I have decided that my interests will be best served, and my concerns best addressed, by asking Laramie County voters who voted for me in the recent primary election to vote on November 7th for Diane Humphrey (R) and Jeff Ketcham (D).

I am convinced that Diane and Jeff are much better choices to represent our interests in Cheyenne and in the unincorporated rural areas of Laramie County than Larry Atwell and Mike Dowling.

I urge those who supported me on August 22nd to vote for Diane and Jeff to keep Laramie County moving forward. Thank you.



Paid for by Skip Eshelman

Skip Eshelman 

The Library Story

In the last issue of the Cheyenne Herald, I wrote on the front page that county librarian Lucie Osborn had refused to be interviewed by me - that she demanded written questions.

The problems with conducting an interview by written questions are that you can't tell whether a person who is supposed to know a subject does, or whether they simply have others answer the questions for them. The mayor won't be interviewed by me and demands written questions also. He is uncomfortable dealing with me because we spent years working together and he is well aware of whom knows more about some issues than the other. It isn't always him.

The other reason I don't like to provide written questions (I would if the subject was someone famous or important, but not local employees or elected officials) is that you can't pursue a train of thought or answer. Everyone knows that when you're having an intelligent conversation with another person, you often take off in another direction from the last comment one or the other makes.

My objective in requesting an interview with Lucie Osborn was not to embarrass her. I think many of the people who don't want to face me already have embarrassed themselves. I don't need to increase the pain. I simply wanted to advise readers of the Cheyenne Herald about the new library construction.

I had been asked by a prominent citizen to do an update for readers and that was my objective - not to further embarrass Lucie. Now, the person who asked that I do this update - that person, I might relent and submit written questions in advance if that would gain me an interview.

Because of the political season and because the library status has no bearing on any election issue or person, I could not have sat down and prepared written questions for the librarian even if I acquiesced to her demand.

But, as happens so often when I approach an insider about information, the story (much like I would have written) miraculously and suddenly appeared in the declining newspaper at 702 W. Lincolnway.

I was once told by a City department head that he was instructed that if I came in seeking information, he was to consider (with advice from the mayor) whether he should get a story on the subject into the City's newspaper (the WT-E) to put the City's spin on the issue before I had a chance to print anything.

Often, that doesn't matter. So long as local residents get the story, it's better than nothing. If the WT-E beats me to print, chances are they'll botch the coverage anyway and my story won't be diminished just because they printed first. So the new library story is written. Good.

The game of "Tag" is now dangerous?

The renegade Cheyenne principal, well-married as one can be, is at it again.

It's kind of precipitous timing for it to become public that she has prohibited students attending her elementary school, incongruously called "Freedom," from participating in that known-to-be deadly playground game of "Tag" at the same time another study relates dangers from Ritalin, this generation's Valium.

Children who in earlier generations were thought to be precocious, rambunctious, hyperactive, etc., are now "troubled" and need to be heavily medicated (sedated) so they are stuporous in the classroom.

You have read on these pages in the past that my prediction is that someday Ritalin will be mentioned in the same breath as thalidomide and Agent Orange. It is used on many inappropriately to benefit a few.

Its principal purpose is classroom control. Its secondary purpose is to control certain behavior so children will learn better. That is supposed to happen by placing them in a zombi-like state with a prescription drug often "prescribed" by school teachers and counselors with the cooperation of indifferent physicians.

This same principal, whose job security is a husband on the school board, had imposed an "absence rule" in her school that made it a violation to miss school to visit a living grandparent but an excused absence to attend their funeral.

"Tag" is dangerous? Another recent study concluded that recess is an important part of a young student's day. They must not have interviewed this principal. Activity on her playground involves only walking - no running to expend energy or get exercise is allowed. How sad.

Talk about shaking hands with gloves on

The Governor's endorsement of Gary Trauner was as hostile as Barbara Cubin's threat to Tom Rankin

Folks for Freudenthal Press Release - October 25, 2006

Why I am voting for Gary Trauner

"It is time for a change and the change did not occur in the Republican primary.

Gary Trauner is passionate about serving Wyoming and our citizens. If you have any doubt, simply examine the hard work, openness, and statewide nature of his campaign.

Gary Trauner is bright, hardworking, business oriented, and articulate.

I believe Gary Trauner will make us proud as our Representative. If not, we can vote him out in a short 2 years."

Wow!

With tepid support like that from the only statewide elected Democrat, is it any wonder there is only one Democrat holding one of the eight statewide offices?

That's praise like saying, "She's fat but she don't sweat much."

Dave said: "It is time for a change and the change did not occur in the Republican primary."

That suggests that had Bill Winney defeated Barbara Cubin in the Republican primary, the Democratic governor would not have endorsed Gary Trauner. What else can it mean?

The reference about Gary's "passion" should have no bearing on his qualifications for the office he seeks. It is assumed that most candidates are "passionate," that they work hard, and that statewide candidates campaign statewide - if they are legitimate contenders who believe they have a chance to win in those races.

But the coup de grace is the final sentence. Talk about holding the knife that will cut the rope holding up the guillotine blade, "If not, we can vote him out in a short 2 years."

I've been asked what this tortured endorsement says to me.

In a nutshell, it says: "I've got mine, you get yours." It's as though Dave feels somewhat safe in endorsing a Democratic candidate who will need thousands of Republican voters to cross over and vote for a member of the opposite political party, yet Dave doesn't want to come on too strong to those same Republicans who will vote for him - unless he screws up somehow.

And Dave Freudenthal is going to make sure his "screw-up" is not coming on too strong for a candidate of whom he has little in common with. He's a blue collar guy from Thermop who has had to work hard for what he has. Trauner is a yuppie who was born well and has done well in a high tech field foreign to Dave.

What Dave's saying to the diehard Cubin voters - who are likely to cast votes for him but jump back to the right to vote for her - is, "If you wanta, sorta, kinda, will vote for Gary Trauner, and I don't care a whole lot if you don't, it would be nice, but don't get mad at me for asking 'cause I want you to vote for me and, frankly, I don't give much a tinker's damn whether you vote for him or not." I got mine, let him get his.

I have long said that the reason Democrats don't rise to the statewide offices is that they have no farm system. In this election, they have a terrific candidate for state superintendent of public instruction who they should get behind and make sure she gets elected, but the Party stands mute. Including the governor.

He may relish the solitary position he holds as the gem in the pile. He is, after all, the only Democrat among the Elite Eight. Why spread the wealth?

As far as the superintendent of schools position, he may prefer having a toady in the office like Jim McBride who he already knows he can control - rather than worry that a strong female superintendent with unlimited potential and extensive experience, might stand on her own.

Why hasn't he embraced her candidacy?

Why hasn't the Democrat governor endorsed - even campaigned for - the strongest other Democrat candidate running?

The likely explanation is his unwillingness to risk the displeasure of those Republicans he needs to win his own race. If he has coattails, he is keeping them safely tucked inside his Docker's.

If the endorsement above was bath water, you couldn't get your five year-old to stay in the tub. It's just not warm at all.

The crack about throwing the guy out before he even gets in is a little over the edge. Had Gary Trauner known the content of the governor's "endorsement" beforehand, he should have told Dave to do as Village Inn does with their omelette - Stuff It.

Dave Featherly

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Can we keep doing the same things and expect different results?
It's time for a change!

Paid for by the Mike Dowling Campaign Committee


Cheyenne Herald Policy on Bylines

Readers can assume that all stories appearing in the Cheyenne Herald are written by me - unless someone else's byline appears. On the rare occasion that a writer has concerns about employment security or retribution, their article may appear either with no byline or with a pseudonym. That will almost never happen but could. It is more important readers be offered the truth than the identity. But, suffice it to say that it is likely 95% or more of the words in any issue of the Cheyenne Herald will be written by me. Unlike the local daily newspaper, I will never plagiarize someone else's material and I do not pick up wire service stories. So what you read is mine or can be blamed on me.

Dave Featherly

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The Bells of Balangiga

The annual ritual rears its head again

We must be in an election cycle or the Wyoming Legislature is about to come back to town.

The Swallows of Capistrano have nothing on those who want to return the now well-known Bells of Balangiga to the Philippines.

There will always be sympathetic candidates or lawmakers who try to turn civilians against military veterans by loudly and ignorantly taking a position on the Bells.

Veterans and their veterans service organizations have consistently opposed the return of even one of the Bells. A couple years ago, a member of the poorly named Veteran's Affairs Commission, a bureaucracy, proposed striking a duplicate and sending an original and a dupe to the Philippines and retaining like here. Not content to raise the ire of the veterans by that proposal, he also proposed moving the remaining Bells to Casper.

I believe he left a forwarding address before he was run out of town on a rail.


For those who do not know, or have forgotten, the Bells of Balangiga have resided in Cheyenne for about 100 years. They were trophies of war, taken from a Philippines city after being struck to signal an ambush on American troops.

There are those who would rather believe the bells sounding and the ambush were mere coincidence. That it was not a signal at all. The fact that it was in the middle of the day, there was no funeral or services at the church, and it wasn't on the hour, doesn't play into their conclusion.

The United States and the Philippines have generally been friends and allies. The fact that the country now has terrorist training grounds and the facts that they confiscated our military bases, Clark and Subic Bay notwithstanding.

During this recent and prolonged debate of whether to return none, one or both of Bells, veterans here were upset because disparaging things were said about the soldiers who were ambushed that day. It seems that our saving their bacon from the Japanese at the time had been forgotten. Those things happen. Forgetting American good deeds, that is.

As one of the service organizations that has opposed the return, the VFW can take another vote next June to determine if their position will change. For now, the question of cost of repair and maintenance, combined with the question of authenticity and a different attitude on the part of Balangiga for the return, may lead to a compromise satisfactory to all. The position right now is that the Bells stay.



RAY HUNKINS

- 43 year resident of Wyoming
- Married to the former Debby McBride from Buffalo, WY for 39 years
- 3 grown children and 8 grandchildren (all living and working in Wyoming)
- Service in the US Marine Corps
- Graduate of University of Wyoming Law School
- Instructor for 15 years at the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy
- Lawyer/Rancher/Business Owner
- Sportsman, outdoorsman and NRA member
- Former Law Enforcement Officer
- Social, fiscal and philosophical conservative
- Believes best government is government closest to the people

- Pro-life
- Supports Jessica's Law
- Promotes a stronger battle against Meth
- Supports permanent removal of sales tax on food
- Supports reducing residential property tax to lowest rate allowed
- Supports more state veterans' offices and simplifying access for veterans
- Supports Wyoming solutions to wolf and water issues - not environmentalists way
- Utilizing Wyoming's mineral resources & wealth to benefit the present & future
- Supports rule of law in regards to illegal immigration
- Supports local control of schools
- Supports keeping our youth in Wyoming
- Supports upgrade of our roads and highways

Accomplishments

- UW Distinguished Alumnus
- Past President of UW Alumni Board
- Former Board Member of the UW Foundation
- Instrumental in financing and fundraising for Women's Plaza in Laramie

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Delmar Stone

Candidate, City Council Ward 3 (2 year seat)

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A Progressive Future for Cheyenne

Promoting Cheyenne Regionally, Nationally
and Worldwide



Qualifications / Experience

Cheyenne resident since 1959 - attended
local schools;

Journeyman Carpenter - 4-year Appren-
ticeship;

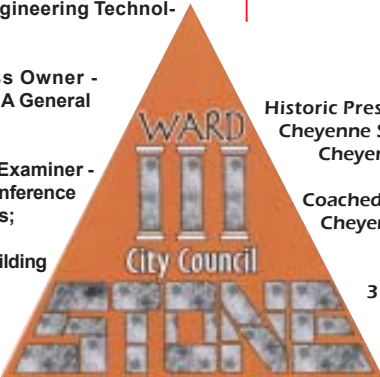
Associates, Engineering Technol-
ogy -LCCC;

Small Business Owner -
Licensed Class A General
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Certified Plans Examiner -
International Conference
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Former Chief Building
Official - City of
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Wyoming Native. Born in Cheyenne. Raised and attended school in Laramie
B.A., University of Wyoming, Elementary and Special Education
M.A., Lesley University, Educational Technology
Administrative Endorsement, University of Wyoming



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