

Hello, I am writing to you because I think that candidate Keith Effler sent out a convert political advertisement that hasn't been reported as part of the spending on his campaign. The person who is documented as the editor emailed me and confirmed that they used public record voter information to send the ad out.

It is my understanding that the voter registration data base can only be used for political activity. They are claiming this is actually a new quarterly paper that they will be sending out, and admit that numerous companies have paid for it to go out in specifically district 4 but will not say who it was.

Please see my evidence listed below and attached.

Thank you.

A newspaper called The Rain Shadow Report was mailed last week to Yakima City Council District #4 voters. Residents who were not voters did not receive a copy. The newspaper claims to be the "brainchild" of Kyle Smith, who supposedly is its editor in chief. It states that the publication is "on your doorstep because a local company kicked in cash to make this issue available to Yakima's district 4 for free." The sponsoring company is not identified. I attempted to find out what company paid for the paper by emailing the editor. He did not disclose who invested in the paper when he responded to my email, but did admit that they had used voter registration information via public record to target registered voters. (Screenshots of the emails attached - titled: Kyle email pg 1-5).

The Rain Shadow Report is tied to Keith Effler, one of the candidates running for council from that district, but is written in such a way to suggest it is an objective, independent publication. Of all the candidates interviewed, Effler is clearly portrayed in the best light. (Pictures of paper attached - titled: RSR cover - pg 12)

Consider these facts:

1. Keith Effler and Zachary Stambaugh are friends and business and political associates. Both ran for Yakima County commissioner last year and both lost in the primary election. They coordinated their campaigns and produced a joint campaign website.

2. Stambaugh and his brother, Andrew, both wrote candidate profiles for The Rain Shadow Report. Andrew donated \$300 to the Effler campaign (<http://web.pdc.wa.gov/MvcQuerySystem/CandidateData/contributions?param=RUZGTEsgIDkwMg%3D%3D%3D&year=2017&type=local>) and organizations and people tied to Zachary gave more than \$2,000.

3. Stambaugh is associated with the Conquest Church of Yakima, which donated \$1,000 to the Effler campaign. (<http://datagovus.com/washington-corporation.php?id=603570411>) (<http://web.pdc.wa.gov/MvcQuerySystem/CandidateData/contributions?param=RUZGTEsgIDkwMg%3D%3D%3D&year=2017&type=local>)

4. According to the Secretary of State's office, Conquest Church, was a for-profit limited liability corporation. Its LLC registration expired Dec. 13, 2016 and it was dissolved on May 1, 2017. (<http://datagovus.com/washington-corporation.php?id=603570411>) Yet the donation to Effler was made on May 25, 2016, three weeks after the dissolution. (<http://web.pdc.wa.gov/MvcQuerySystem/CandidateData/contributions?param=RUZGTEsgIDkwMg%3D%3D%3D&year=2017&type=local>)

4. Officers in the Conquest Church LLC included Stambaugh, Phil Ostriem, Dillon Beard and Jared Bower (<http://datagovus.com/washington-corporation.php?id=603570411>). Ostriem's wife, Christina, donated \$407 to Effler's campaign. Beard's wife, Sara, donated \$446, and Bower's wife, Janelle, gave \$150. (<http://web.pdc.wa.gov/MvcQuerySystem/CandidateData/contributions?param=RUZGTEsgIDkwMg%3D%3D%3D&year=2017&type=local>)

[D%3D%3D&year=2017&type=local](#)). Ostriem and Stambaugh also are listed as endorsements on Keith's website, (<http://www.yakimakeith.com/p/endorsements.html>) and Ostriem wrote an endorsement for both Effler and Razo (http://www.yakimaherald.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/likes-effler-razo-for-city-council/article_c460e1ac-68be-11e7-b9fc-cfc7ebfb74d9.html).

5. The only advertisement in The Rain Shadow Report was from a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization called the Yakima Valley Society of Cultural Education. Effler was a past president of the group and Stambaugh is the current president. (<http://yvsce.org/about/>) Stambaugh last year discussed with the Yakima Herald-Republic his involvement with the group. (http://www.yakimaherald.com/profile-zach-stambaugh/article_9e29fd56-4f8e-11e6-bc35-e3267ad7c3f2.html.)

6. Inserted in each The Rain Shadow Report was a flyer that stated, "some graphical elements and photographs reached our final print which were purchased from Caffery photo media, a candidate's business." (Picture attached - titled: RSR Insert). Caffery Photo is owned by Effler. (<http://www.cafferyphoto.com/>)

7. Dr. Kay Funk, another candidate for the seat, claims in a Facebook posting that Effler told her at a recent forum that he was aware of the newspaper beforehand and that Kyle Smith is not the true name of the publication's editor. She said he would not identify the real editor. (Screenshot attached - titled: Kay FB Post.)

Clearly there is a connection between the newspaper and Effler. His photos were used. One of the writers has deep political and business ties with him. Many of his donors are connected to the publication. The only "advertiser" in the newspaper is a non-profit organization connected to him. And, according to Dr. Funk, he admitted he was aware beforehand that the newspaper was being produced.

I hope you will investigate these facts and act as quickly as possible so voters are fully informed. Unfortunately, many people will have already voted before this news will be reported.

I would be more than happy to meet with you any time to discuss any of this. Thank you for your time and attention.



...the kind of person
(and hopefully others would
doorstep because a local con-
sumer issue available to Yakima's
day) like it, want to give cash
to father, please contact Kyle
at kyle.smith.rus@gmail.com



2 Shares



Like



Comment



Share



2

**Kay Funk for Yakima City Council**

Here is The Rain Shadow Report, which was sent out to "Registered Voters" in District 4. It was clever of Sydnee to deduce that the "editor", Kyle Smith is not a real person. I was at the Republican Women's Candidate Forum for Lunch and sat beside Keith. I asked him if "Kyle Smith" was a real person. First he was evasive and tried to fib, but then admitted that it was a pseudonym, and would not name the writer. I failed to directly ask him whether HE was the writer. He implied that he was not, but did not give me a clear denial. What do you think? Did he write that about himself? Once you have entered the world of anonymous pseudonyms, it's hard to get credibility back.....

Yesterday at 3:21 PM · Like · Reply

**Leslie Charlton Hatton**

Kay... have you forwarded this to the Herald? We suggest to both Kaitlin and city editor Craig Troianello.

Yesterday at 3:44 PM · Like · Reply



Write a comment...



Post





73

5 Messages

Question regarding Rain Shadow...



Found in Sent Mailbox

**Sydnee Galusha**

Wednesday

SG

To: kyle smith

[Details](#)

Hello, I'm curious why you didn't disclose what company donated enough money for you to send your paper to every registered voter in district 4? I would like to know what local company made that investment, and I assume other readers would benefit from that information as well. Your decision to not disclose that information seems at best like a huge oversight, if not that you are intentionally being shady.

Sent from my iPhone

[See More](#)**kyle smith**

1:54 PM

KS

To: Sydnee Galusha

[Details](#)

Several groups contributed to publish this. There's nothing shady. Every paper has owners and advertisers, most are run at a



New Message



73

5 Messages

Question regarding Rain Shadow...

**kyle smith**

1:54 PM

To: Sydnee Galusha

[Details](#)

KS

Several groups contributed to publish this. There's nothing shady. Every paper has owners and advertisers, most are run at a loss. Ours is expected to become profitable as it establishes a steady readership and brand.

Every venture seeks to meet a need. As long time residents of Yakima, we felt two distinct needs. We felt frustration that in most elections recently most people hadn't even heard of most of the candidates prior to election, and that none of the cultural material in other local sources felt relevant to how we spend our weekend. (They are surveys of every venue and event which advertises, rather than what any particular individual chose to attend.) The local papers feel like advocates for particular candidates or issues, and the local radio gives too scanty coverage to really get a feel for who the candidates are



New Message



73

5 Messages

Question regarding Rain Shadow...



advocates for particular candidates or issues, and the local radio gives too scanty coverage to really get a feel for who the candidates are as people in time to make an informed decision. Once the primaries are over, we get information about the 'leftovers' that are still in the race. We are tired of having the main choices made for us, before we can really make them well for ourselves. Accordingly we got a group together and made the paper we would want to read. It is meant to be a quarterly covering local issues, and culture. Our first issue was published based on our resources. We wanted a broader scope without compromising quantity or publication times, and our initial intent was to cover every single candidate for each district. However, it became clear that our resources would not match our initial plans, and we published what we had ready, at the quality level we could be satisfied with.

We intend to reach every door in every district eventually. It was our intention to hit every candidate and cover each district this time



New Message



73

5 Messages

Question regarding Rain Shadow...



around, but we are a new venture and did not have all our materials ready by the date in which they would be useful to the readership. So we focused on the most contested district, the one which would be hardest to make a real informed decision in the primaries. People who actually vote are much more likely to be interested readers than the general public. If we can't send our paper to everyone covering every district and every issue, we could at least do a good job covering one district fairly, and in time to be useful. We sent to a semi randomized sampling of those people, as a matter of prioritizing, but not to every single voter, as you seem to think. We only sorted public information by voting frequency, not by partisanship. It was a matter of getting our material to people who would value the work we did. Nothing more or less than that. As I said above, we are working to meet needs we personally felt. Chiefly with timely, first hand information about the candidates when there are still real choices. Stand by for more of the type.



New Message



5 Messages

Question regarding Rain Shadow...



would value the work we did. Nothing more or less than that. As I said above, we are working to meet needs we personally felt. Chiefly with timely, first hand information about the candidates when there are still real choices. Stand by for more of the type.

If you would like your company to be an advertiser, let me know.

We are looking for more sponsors and advertisers in the future.

If you know of someone who might be interested in contributing, have them email samples of their local work in. We are interested. Like everyone else, we will prioritize based on what what we would like to read, and who we really enjoy working with. We welcome others to do the same with their own publications.

On Wed, Jul 19, 2017 at 11:48 PM, Sydnee Galusha <sydneegalusha@gmail.com> wrote:



New Message

THE RAIN SHADOW REPORT

Council Election Will Determine Our Future

Looking forward to the upcoming city council elections, we interviewed candidates Dr. Kay Funk, Chelsea Mack, Sandra Belzer, Tony Williams, and Keith Elller. We hope the resulting articles will illuminate the beliefs and the character of this year's candidates, so you can make an informed decision before voting.

continued on pages 2-6

What is the Rain Shadow Report?

The Rain Shadow Report is the brainchild of Kyle Smith, its' Editor in Chief, and a scrappy group of young reporters who wanted to produce the kind of periodical that they wanted to read and (hopefully) others would get a kick out of. It's on your doorstep because a local company kicked in cash to make this issue available to Yakima's district 4 for free. If you like it, don't like it, want to give cash to it, or wish to advertise in the future, please contact Kyle Smith. He can be reached at kyle.smith.rsr@gmail.com



The RainShadow Report values its integrity and credibility very highly. We carefully maintain our freedom to focus on relevant issues and on our values. Only absolute independence from campaigns, political parties, and national news syndicates is sufficient. Accordingly, we prepared unusual questions to show biases, character, equivocation and decision making style, and asked the same questions of each candidate without preparation.

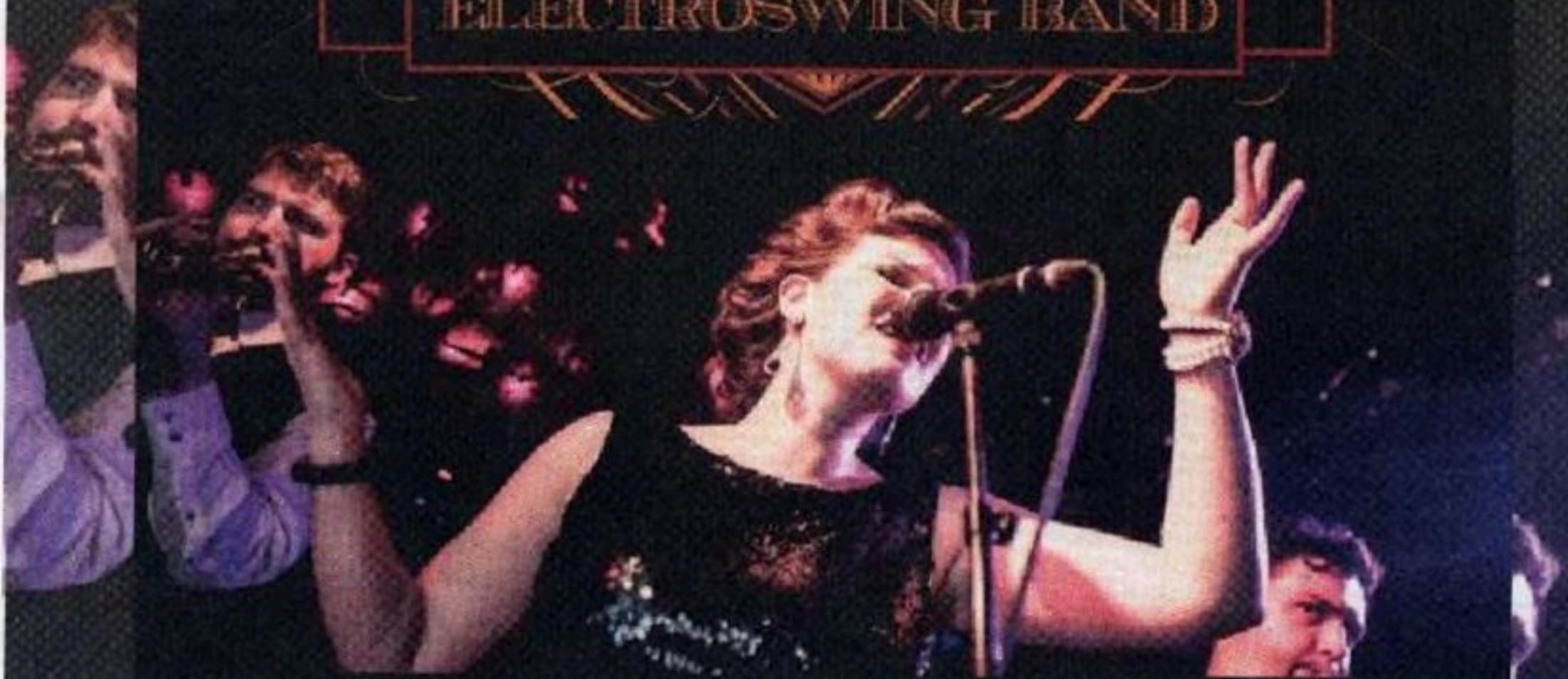
Unfortunately, during our layout process some graphical elements and photographs reached our final print which were purchased from Caffery photo media, a candidate's business. These were purchased at standard rates, and the candidate had no input on our written content. No future business interactions will occur with candidates seeking offices we are covering, however minor. We chose to disclose these purchases because we want to earn your trust and avoid any unintentional reflections on any campaign. Any reporter claiming to be impartial is lying to himself and to his audience, but a reporter can claim to be independent. We do so. Sincerely, RSR Staff

ELECTRO
SWING

GOOD CO

AT ITS
FINEST

ELECTROSWING BAND



JULY 14TH @ 8PM - TIETON CIDER WORKS

The Dance Syndicate of Yakima will be having a special guest perform at our 2nd Friday dance. Seattle six piece Good Co. is the United States first live Electro Swing Band, and they're in town! Entry will be \$10 person and \$15 couple. You can find us on the top floor of the cider mill. We will have lessons, social dancing, and refreshments.

Address: 619 W. J Street - Yakima, WA 98902

DANCE *Syndicate*

Keith Effler

BY KYLE SMITH



"I just finished the office remodel" he explained, and offered me something to drink. A young man, Keith cut a good figure with handsome features and sandy blond hair. He and his wife, Stephanie, a pretty freckled woman with an athletic build and charming smile, recently adopted two brothers. These young boys had spent two years in the Foster Care system. The Effler's had started homeschooling the boys this spring. "It's been going good," Keith said, "but it's not easy."

"I'm just going to run through the questions in the same order that the other candidates experienced." I explained. "We want to be sure that voters can compare the answers and make a choice that aligns with their values" I said, getting comfortable and snaking my laptop power cord over the arm rest.

"Let's begin?"

"Let me have it" Keith said

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I met with Keith Effler at his business office. He answered the door with a cheerful hello. I spread my things out and found a place to set my briefcase. "I just finished a major shoot and am in the midst of preparing for another," he explained, "so watch out, try not to trip!" A great deal of alien looking equipment was stacked in various poses throughout the space. I was sitting in what looked to be a row of salvaged theater seats.

Sandra Belzer

BY ERIN DUNCAN



tion then I was. (I'm a writer: I prefer to use my words on paper rather than in speech.) Soon we were settled. She put leaned the sign against her chair, I sipped some coffee, and we were off. The first question was about the Gang Free Initiative, and how effective it has been. Belzer quickly established that project has been dropped, and it wasn't in place long enough to really know how effective it was. When prompted, she said she would research the project further before considering continuing it.

So, what she do to impact crime in Yakima? Here, I was impressed as Belzer rolled out several specific steps, such as looking at the money that was supposed to be for the Gang Free Initiative and attempt to set that money aside every year.

"I believe we need more police officers on the street, and we need them now," she stated. She also listed Crime Stoppers and Neighborhood Watch, specifically having them work with the police. "If it gets people together [. . .] a lot of ideas flow from those discussions."

Here I moved on, asking if she backed the Sanctuary City Resolu-

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While preparing to meet with Sandra Belzer, I really wasn't sure what to expect. I had my laptop and recorder out and ready to go, and a full cup of coffee – shout out to North Town Coffeehouse – and was ready to meet the next District 4 candidate. Although I had never seen her in person, when she arrived it was clear who I needed to talk to, since she held a large "Elect Sandra Belzer" sign.

After introducing myself, we sat upon the cushy pink chairs. She seemed curious about me and the paper, and it was clear she was more comfortable with this situa-

Dr. Kay Funk

BY ANDREW STAMBAUGH



asked me to interview a specific local candidate for his 2017 election series. I've never done this; how do I even start?

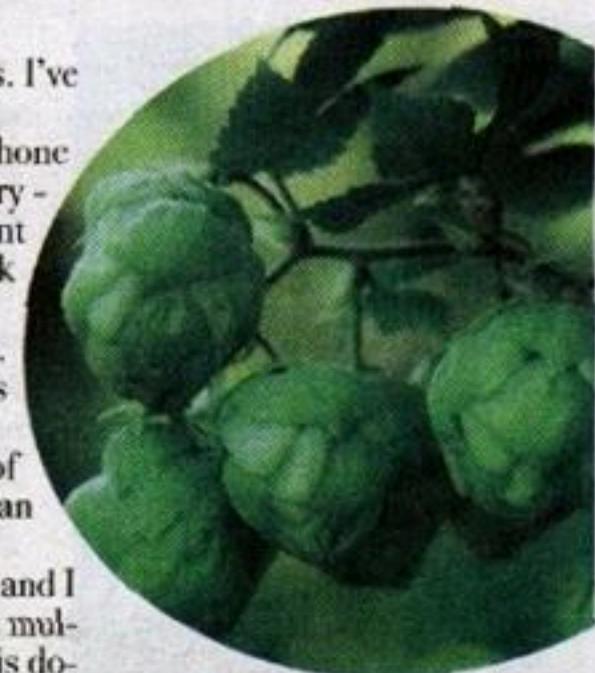
A few minutes on the internet yields Dr. Kay Funk's campaign site and a phone number. Four rings later, I am talking -not to a voicemail or some secretary - to Dr. Funk herself! She is a few years retired and has time this week. I want some place where we can have a comfortable and relaxed interview. A quick call to Northtown Coffeehouse, and JJ sets me up with The Study.

I arrive early and get some refreshing cool hazel gelato. Dr. Funk arrives. Her demeanor is welcoming and open, with a touch of calm reserve. This sets the tone for what is an enjoyable interview...

Q1. Washington State funded the "Gang Free Initiative" and the City of Yakima created a plan based on that in 2012.A. How effective has this plan been?

"I don't know specifics, but I understand that grant money was involved, and I believe that has run out. I have been reading about the gang task force with multiple government liaisons working together. I think the police department is doing a good job.

I'm home from work on a typical Wednesday afternoon, but today is not my average day. A friend has started a new quarterly covering local issues and



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Tony Williams

BY ZACHARY STAMBAUGH



Q 1. Washington State funded the "Gang Free Initiative" and the City of Yakima created a plan based on that in 2012. A. How effective has this plan been?

Mr Williams said, "I heard that there was a lack of funding, before that... It's defunct. Prior to that it was effective." It needs to scale back to the elementary schools. If not, the initiative is only a patch or a Band-Aid.

or a Band-Aid.

Q1B: Will you continue this program?

Mr. Williams said he would have to look at the costs and make adjustments. "There has to be some type of thing in it that reaches the middle schools all the way down to the elementary schools. Then I would gladly re-fund it. If it worked. ... I don't know all the surrounding information around it other than the effectiveness of it."

I then asked how do you know it works if it hasn't been implemented yet. Mr. Williams responded, "They said it worked. Right? The news source said it worked.... There's better plans out there. At this point I wouldn't fund that. It all comes to strategy... At this point what we're doing is law enforcement, and the strategy is off and we know it's off because look at the crime and the violence in our area.... I wouldn't fund it until I took a strong look at it and every

component on there. I wouldn't fund anything until I saw the effectiveness of it."

I then asked him what he would consider to be an effective strategy, to which he replied that was based on the degree to which the plan integrated in kindergarten, elementary, and middle schools. He also said that he would require the plan to integrate social media before funding, due to cultural changes. "I'm not going to fund something just because it worked in the past. Furthermore, I wouldn't just fund a best practice from another city just because it worked there. That's just stale bread. We need to do what works for Yakima."

Q2: What specific policies will you start or stop to impact crime in Yakima?

When I asked him this question, he responded, "I'm going to have to reach out to other people to see which policies I would start." He then reiterated that policies would

need to start with early childhood education. When I focused the question on which policies he would stop, Mr. Williams did not name any specific policies. He said he would talk to many people and focus on youth policies first.

Q3: Do you think the city of Yakima should adopt a Welcoming City resolution? Yes/ No.

"I don't know what 'Welcoming City' means." Mr. Williams then asked whether we meant a sanctuary city or merely a generalized designation. He continued, "To me, we are already a welcoming city. That's why we don't need a designation. Yakima's been a welcoming city since the apple orchards in the 60's -70's. We welcomed the immigrants then, but there was no designation needed for that." With a laugh, he said, "I'm black, but you know that, we are already a city that ... we don't need a designation to be who we are." When I asked whether he would support Yakima

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Chelsea Mack

BY ERIN DUNCAN



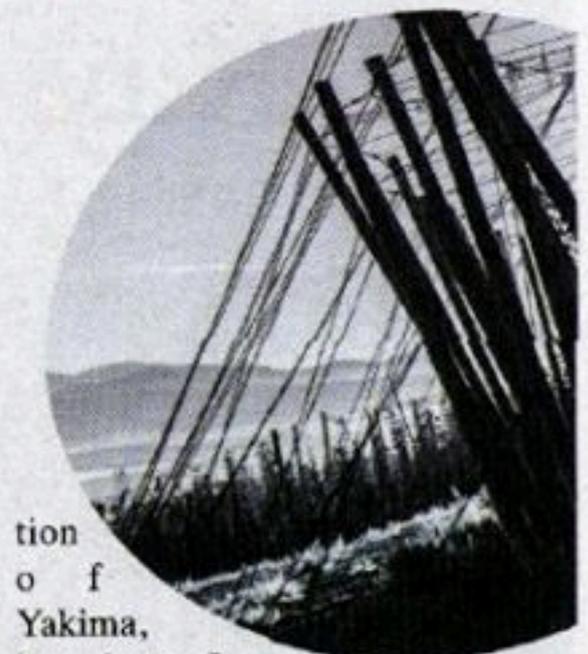
As both a veteran and an immigrant, Chelsea Mack has a lot of pas-

sion to bring to this campaign -- that I could tell right away. Her desire to serve seemed obvious, as she offered to bring me some water even before our conversation began. After lightening the mood with a bit of small talk, it seemed fitting to begin our discussion with what everyone is actually talking about these days: gang violence.

When asked about the effectiveness of the Gang Free Initiative in Yakima, Mack seemed un-

sure about its actual impact. She did, however, express a desire to purge Yakima's reputation as city of drugs, homicides and STDs.

"I want Yakima to start hitting the headlines for economic diversity, and development!" she said, putting her hand firmly down on the table. She went on to talk about all the Yakima Valley has to offer in ways of agriculture and development, calling it a beautiful metropolis. It was clear she wants to change the reputa-



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o f
Yakima,

but here I wondered what grand schemes she has to accomplish this. The only solid step she mentioned at that point was installing new,
continued on page 9

Effler

'Gang Free Initiative' and the City of Yakima created a plan based on it in 2012. How effective has this plan been?"

Keith folded his hands and thought for a moment. "I understand that it was effective up to a point. Gang violence and crime has increased since the program ended, but there is not much evidence that the reason for this recent escalation is directly related to the cessation of one, solitary program."

"Ok," I said, and popped the next question, "Will you continue this program?"

He shrugged "I don't think that any specific State program is in our best interest. I believe that targeting specific crimes in conjunction with the police department is a better solution."

"What specific policies will you start or stop to impact crime in Yakima?"

"There is always the option of bringing federal prosecution for federal crimes," he said. "For instance, if a felon were to be in possession of a firearm, the Federal prosecutor would be able to pursue justice. I also think that implementing a civic response that networks with law enforcement would give Yakima neighborhoods a real tool to combat the problem. A sort of alliance that could aid the police in crime investigation and prevention."

"Do you think the city of Yakima should adopt a Welcoming City resolution? Yes? No?"

He raised an eyebrow. "It's a political game. It's a redundancy." He cleared his throat. "The YPD does not have the authority to enforce immigration law. Deportation is the responsibility of ICE."

"Should the City of Yakima contract with Immigrations and Customs Enforcement to rent beds in Yakima Jail?"

Keith took a moment to consider the question, asking me to repeat it once. "If people are being let go be-

cause we don't have enough beds, then the city will need to back out of those contracts."

"Can you offer any specific steps for your plan to achieve fiscal responsibility?"

Keith leaned back in his seat, "I believe that everything begins with economic development. By increasing the tax base we increase revenue without raising taxes. When it comes to trimming the

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I believe that no one is above the law. That's what I'm about. That no one should get preferential treatment.

-Keith Effler

DISTRICT 4
CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE

”

budget, I trust the professionalism and expertise of department heads to think outside the box and come up with solutions that are innovative and inexpensive. It will be the role of the city manager in conjunction with the council to insist those solutions are identified and acted upon."

"Then what policies and programs would you stop funding?" I asked.

"I would personally like to see the waste water management plant move towards greater automation. Other cities are moving that direction to save money, so should Yakima" he replied.

"How do you plan to stay connected to voters?"

"Technology can allow us instant

access to voters. I plan on creating a texting mechanism that will enable me to poll my constituents in district four. This will give me instant, quantifiable feedback on policy."

"Do you consider yourself a candidate who will stick to particular principles and policies, or do you see it as your duty to change your policies to match the current will of your voters?"

"I believe that no one is above the law. That's what I'm about. That no one should get preferential treatment. All men are created equal. So, I think that my principles will guide my decisions in most cases."

"Which policies would you be willing to adapt, and which are ironclad?"

"Tax hikes should have public support. If it doesn't, your doing it wrong. I think the citi-

zens of Yakima should be the ones to decide whether or not to raise taxes, not the city council."

"How many terms will you serve?"

"3 terms (it will probably feel like six terms)" he said, laughing.

Do you believe in term limits?

"Yes, I think 3 terms is enough."

"Under what specific circumstances would you be willing to spend the City's emergency fund?"

"The emergency fund should be used for catastrophic events. Heavy snow in the winter is not an emergency."

"Final Question," I said, "If the budget required you to cut 80% of funding from one city project or department, which would that be?"

His reply was prompt, "Parks and Rec. I think that if I absolutely

HAD to cut 80% of a department, then I would have to say Parks and Rec. It's an accessible department. I mean, the community could come together and meet those needs."

Later, I probed him about the people running against him. He listed things he liked about Dr. Funk (that decisions need to be made on real, unbiased data), Tony Williams ("He's a natural leader!"), Sandy B. ("She's got a great eye for spotting trouble"), Chelsea Mac (I love how easy she is to work with...very approachable"). We shook hands and I headed for the door.

When it comes to crafting policy and playing politics, I think Keith is inexperienced and may have a hard time getting things done. That being said, I like this guy.

Unlike much of his opposition, he didn't shy away from any of the questions. Also, I like that he is pro small business and owns a small business. I like that he's "tough on crime", and then adopts at risk children himself. I like that he talks about being diplomatic and respectful during conflict then, at the end of the interview, refused to bad talk any of the opposition, listing their strengths with obvious ease. This guy isn't two-faced, he's authentic.



Belzer

tion. Belzer gave me a look best described as fiery exasperation. "I testified against that three times," she said.

Slightly taken aback by the finality of her statement, I admitted simply, "well, that speaks for itself."

Later, I circled back to the topic to explore why her opinion was so strong. Here she clarified, saying she has no problem with the system we have now, in which the police don't go and harass the illegal immigrants.

But, she stressed, once you put it in writing, it's very confining and most importantly, "it's a violation of law." Here she pointed to sign that was now leaning against her chair, where a check-marked box emphasized rule of law. "It doesn't follow this," she said simply.

When asked if City of Yakima should contract with Immigrations and Customs Enforcement to rent beds in Yakima Jail, she pointed out, "If we have the space, we could use the money."

"Okay," I said, marking in my notes about how to the point she is. If she politics like she talks, she'll be quite effective.

Here I asked her to outline some steps towards fiscal responsibility.

"Community input going through the ordinances we have now, going through the budget we have now, seeing what must be there and what might not need to be there, I think we have wasted a lot of money since 2012, specifically on the bin of lights, and on the plaza. I would rather see that being put into things

we really need, like police officers."

I asked what policies and programs she would stop funding. Here she admitted she does know enough about what we currently have to say for sure. "I have opposed the plaza from the being, still do!" Here she paused for a minute, then went on carefully, "I question how much we want to put into homelessness.

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I want to see a policy that puts safety first and everything else second.

-Sandra Belzer

DISTRICT 4
CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE

”

There are people that are from our city who are homeless, I have no problem with helping them. But there are many people who are shipped into our city from outside, and I have a BIG problem with that."

Again, she stressed that everything we look at should be scrutinized for what we truly need as opposed to what we want. When later, I ask at what point she would be okay with spending the city's Emergency Fund, she stressed that only in true emergencies, like a devastating fire or flood. That seems fair to me, since it is, after all, the Emergency Fund.

At that point, I asked how Belzer plans on staying connected to her voters. "I've already started that," she said, going on to tell me about Citizens for Solutions, a meet she

has started to get citizens involved.

As far as her responsibility as a representative council person Belzer stated that her duty is, "to adhere to the rule of law and the Constitution as it was intended, both national, state, and the local, as it applies. My priorities are the safety of the people." It was easy to see how real this was to her, as she started describing the impact local crimes have had on her neighborhood.

"That's line with the job of the government, to protect it's people," she said with certainty. Later, she stressed again, "I want to see a policy that puts safety first and everything else second."

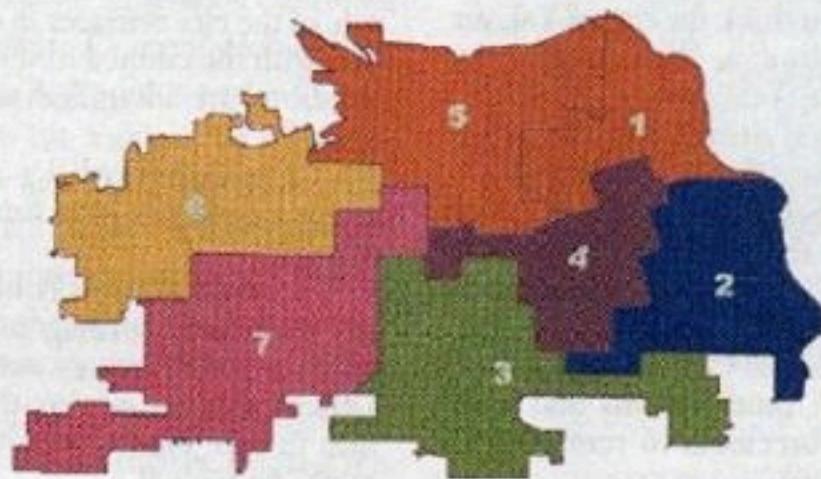
Finally, I asked her how many terms she plans on serving. Here, she impressed me once again. "Well I'd hope to only serve one, I didn't plan on serving any!"

As I was a little confused, she clarified, "This isn't a step up for me, it's stepping up." Sandra Belzer is running because she sees changes that need to happen in Yakima, and believe she is the best candidate to

actually get those things done. This struck me as very unique. She admitted herself that there are things she would rather do with her time, but she is putting the community first.

While I had approached this interview with a very unclear picture of Belzer, I left with a much better understanding. She is strong on specific, focused things to change while in office, and has the experience to actually be productive. Yet, her claim to not want to run for herself put me on edge. If true, it means we are working with a truly selfless candidate. If not true, however, and Belzer really does want a taste of power, then we are dealing with a candidate who is willing to lie about her very reason for running. Also, while her blatancy and apparent stubbornness makes her interesting to interview, it seems likely that this will make her difficult to work with and unlikely find any sort of compromise. ■

DISTRICT 4
Population 13,175



Funk

Q1B: Will you continue this program?

"There are fads in crime fighting, just like there are fads in education, and other types of government regulation. I am more focused on process than on particular programs or campaign promises. I'm not going to fall in love with a pet project and adhere to it thick or thin. [...]

Q2. What specific policies will you start or stop to impact crime in Yakima?

"I'm very pleased with all the city government's statement that they will avoid racial profiling. That is a critical part of engagement with the community, good relations with the community, and an absolutely critical part of policing. Chief Rizzi, every time I've heard him, has been spot on with that. That's really number one."

Q3. Do you think the city of Yakima should adopt a Welcoming City resolution?

"Well - I know all about that. What's going on in our country right now that isn't welcoming is at the federal level. The Yakima City Council can't fix that, so what can the city council do to make that better? I am aware the Hispanic community feels threatened and frightened, and should be frightened by some of what we hear come out of Washington DC. Dulce Gutierrez's proposal for safe policing and public safety [...] is a good resolution. I would be happy to vote for it, but I don't think the resolution is the most important thing. The city council has other functions to monitor whether the YPD is doing racial profiling or handing information to I.C.E. We have our own state to look and compare to, and our own attorney general and state government, to help us deepen the rights of our racial minorities."

Q4. Should the City of Yakima contract with Immigrations and Customs Enforcement to rent beds in Yakima Jail?

"My sister is an immigration at-

torney, so I know ICE prisons are horrible. Detainees in the city of Yakima jail beds probably have it better than the private ICE jail in Tacoma. Many things about ICE detentions and jail are just horrible. Our national immigration policy is horrible

“

I am more focused on process than on particular programs or campaign promises.

-Dr. Kay Funk

DISTRICT 4
CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE

”

- it doesn't meet the needs of our agricultural community at all. It's sad good people haven't made progress on immigration reform."

Q5. Outline specific steps for your plan to achieve fiscal responsibility.

"I have not studied the city budget, but I am a great believer in balanced budgets, and cost effectiveness. We have to make the budget balance and not live beyond our means. As a physician, I can say that one thing. O'Rourke's administration wrote a contract for management of the city employees' health care benefits which turned out really badly. And that was so predictable. That would never have happened on my watch - even if I was the only voice."

Q5a. What policies and programs would you stop funding?

"I don't think there is very much discretionary spending in the city budget. I don't know what percentage is discretionary funding, but I imagine it is rather small. I couldn't put my

finger on something that could be cut."

Q6. How do you plan to stay connected to voters?

"I'm retired for just about a year and a half and had a lot of public contact working as a physician, more than 100,000 patient contacts."

Q7. Do you consider yourself as a candidate who will stick to particular principles and policies, or do you see it as your duty to change your policies to match the current will of your voters?

In medicine, you learn that there are limits. There are very hard lines where

you can't go, no matter whether the patient or anyone else wants you to go there. Certainly I would want to listen to voter's concerns. When people feel that they are being heard, they are much happier, even if they don't get what they want. [...] If we stay fact-based - that's my campaign slogan Facts Matter - we can come together on lots of things."

Q7a. Which policies would you be willing to adapt, and which are ironclad? (Editor's note; Dr. Funk does not note specific policies, but rather a list of values.)

"We've talked at length about fair policing, good quality service, and customer service. Fiscal conservatism is super important. Violent crime is bad. Community policing is good. Homelessness is bad. Facts are important. Good governance needs to be respected and nurtured. The city services should be the best quality we can

get for the money, and respectful to the citizens."

Q8. How many terms will you serve? "At least 1."

Q8 a. Do you believe in term limits? "Yes."

Q9. Under what specific circumstances would you be willing to spend the City's emergency fund?

"We're not going to have a hurricane in Yakima, but bad things could happen - people being burned out of their homes - that will result in some expense. We have to have reserves for that."

Funk has been a part of this community for a long time and has raised a family here. She is retired, and has the time to properly devote to a city position. She has some strong values, and you know they will be fought for. She isn't about fads or pet projects. Being plan oriented, she is very likely to set a budget and stick to it. She is very respectful of the people working in our city departments and will set a very pragmatic tone for city operations. She is very big on making people feel heard and respected. She believes in action-based policing, not racial profiling, which fits well with her "Fact's Matter" mindset. She is eager to find a city level solution for the problems facing the undocumented population of Yakima.

It can't be denied that the current city council is not known for looking into the hard data, evaluating the facts, seeking good counsel, or crafting comprehensive reforms. The current city council is known, primarily, for arrogant lawlessness punctuated by melodramatic, sometimes vitriolic, grandstanding. I get the impression that Dr. Funk would never stoop to such antics. Would she be able to lead the current city council into a new identity as humble, task oriented, public servants? That would be difficult for anyone to pull off, but that is the leadership we need, and we need it desperately. ■

Williams

becoming a "Sanctuary City", he said, "I'm still caught in between that because that's a real big picture and I haven't made a clear-cut decision what I would do."

Q4. Should the City of Yakima contract with Immigrations and Customs Enforcement to rent beds in Yakima Jail?

"No. Let me tell you why. We need to get them out of our community." He discussed bed rentals as an uncreative idea to generate revenue. He explained that such programs including renting jail beds to agencies other than I.C.E. bring non local problematic people to Yakima, who then stay here. He did qualify that so long as the programs did not have release to the public or "a guided tour of the community" he could support cooperation with I.C.E. or other agencies so long as they maintained custody until the detainees were out of the country. His final statement on the topic was, "A lot of that stuff needs greater oversight by a third party that's not part of the system."

Q5. Outline specific steps for your plan to achieve fiscal responsibility.

"Fiscal responsibility to me doesn't look like you cut, you cut, you cut.... Where's the investment that's going to grow the community?" He said we needed a long term view that would consider what would bring growth, not ten years of only cuts without investment. He said we needed to do a lot of different projects to give us growth like the city of Bellevue. He returned to an emphasis on youth investment and technology. He cited SOZO park as a good example of investment in youth, and the Plaza. "There's a responsible way to do things like eminent domain and gentrification." Talking about local resistance to change, he said, "We've got to not be scared to use our resources to [bring our com-

munity into the twenty first century]. Spend a little to get a little."

Q5a. What policies and programs would you stop funding?

"I'd stop funding anything that doesn't have the data to show that it benefits youth." Prompting him for specifics, he said, "I don't know, I'd have to look at all the policies are there. I just threw my name in the hat because I'm tired of seeing this city live below its potential. Any policy that doesn't have the data to show

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I would stick to policies that would drive this city forward.

-Tony Williams

DISTRICT 4
CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE

”

measurable proven results to benefit the kids of this city, I would seek to stop." He also interjected that he would cut the city's practice of requiring youth to register for paid passes to use many of the facilities from Yakima Parks and Recreation.

Q6. How do you plan to stay connected to voters?

Mr. Williams explained that he is very well connected now. People come to him to start programs such as sports programs, parks and to promote recycling initiatives. He also discussed how he had contacts in other city governments, and numerous civic enterprises that he stays in contact with. He says he'll keep his phone and social media open to the public, and that "nothing will change.... I'll keep

that same door open. Wide open." It's worth noting here that during the course of the interview, several different people coming through the coffee shop we were meeting at recognized and initiated conversation with him. He is engaging and is clearly well known to people who are involved in youth sports and their families.

Q7. Do you consider yourself as a candidate who will stick to particular principles and policies, or

do you see it as your duty to change your policies to match the current will of your voters?

"That's a beautiful question," he laughed. "It depends what those policies are, if they're going to drive this community forward, or have an emphasis on youth, then I'm going to take a strong look at retaining those. If they don't leverage and benefit our youth, then I'm going to look at

extracting those. I'm going to do what I feel is best for this city and I believe I have a gauge on what that is for people because I have those relationships. I have those ears from poor to rich and... I have that information to make the good policies for this city." I then asked, "Would it be a fair summary then to say that you're going to stick with policies that match your core principles even if they're not popular?" Mr. Williams replied, "It would be fair to say that I would stick to policies that would drive this city forward."

Q8. Which policies would you be willing to adapt, and which are ironclad?

Mr. Williams said that he would

be iron clad on policies that drive families and youth forward, and policies with data showing a return on investment. I said that people may not agree about which policies would drive families and youth forward, so I would like to know which specific policies he believes would drive youth forward. He replied emphatically, "Sports, education, technology, arts!"

Q9. How many terms will you serve?

"I'll serve until I'm one hundred years old!"

Q10. Do you believe in term limits?

"I do believe in term limits for some." "The people have the power...if their elected official is not doing their job, they should be punted out of office."

Q11. Under what specific circumstances would you be willing to spend the City's emergency fund?

"Whenever it's needed. Wherever it's needed, I will leverage it to the max." Williams continued, "We can't be restrictive when it's needed."

Breaking from topic, he said, "I can't wait to unveil my plan for public safety," however he would not state what that plan was right now, or how it related to the emergency fund.

Q12. If the budget required you to cut 80% of funding from one city project or department, which would that be?

"The Bin of Lights." I pressed further for specificity, and he answered with decision. "Here's what I would cut. The entire North First Development project." He elaborated that it was a waste of money to "clean up the street with bushes and this make-believe stuff," that putting eleven million into things like barriers and new lighting won't change the culture in that part of town.

Mr. Williams is strong on proactively connecting people, and focusing on youth projects, but weak on comprehensive planning and having clear policies or methods at determining policy for each issue. ■

Mack

power-efficient street lamps in the dimly lit, lower-income areas. So I pressed further, asking exactly what policies she would stop or start in Yakima to impact crime.

"Budget, Budget, Budget," she said. Mack wouldn't give any other specific examples of policies she wants to utilize or end. Instead, she continued to stress how important managing spending is. As a real estate broker, she stated simply that if you can't afford to buy a house, then you shouldn't buy a house. The Yakima County isn't trying to buy many houses, but her point was clear, as was her desire to bring the city council back to only spending money that they have. Related to that topic, she stressed that the emergency fund is for emergencies only. We are not an invincible city. The emergency fund should be there and available to use when we actually need it.

When I asked Mack about the steps she plans to take toward fiscal responsibility, she outlined some good concepts of budgeting. These included looking at the cost verse rewards of projects, needs verse wants, and generally being more conservative in how we spend money.

Outside of the context of impacting crime, she wasn't clear about what policies or programs she would stop funding. When asked if she had to cut funding from one city department or program, she said she would pick the program with the "least impact." Certainly not the police or education, this was clear, but how would she measure the impact of a program? Here again, she shied away from stating specifics.

“

I want Yakima to start hitting the headlines for economic diversity and development.

-Chelsea Mack

DISTRICT 4
CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE

”

One thing she was very clear and passionate about was the issue of Yakima becoming a Sanctuary City. To this, Mack's opinion is a clear and enthusiastic "yes!" As an immigrant from Canada, she spoke

from her own experience about what a long and difficult process it can be to become a citizen. Along with that, since so many of the immigrants are here to work, it can be particularly difficult for them to wade through red tape while trying to keep a job. That's a big reason that Mack cited we should become a Sanctuary City: children shouldn't be scared that their parents are going to be deported. In fact, the importance of the Hispanic

community was a common theme throughout our conversation.

At one point, I asked her opinion on the City of Yakima's practice of contracting with Immigrations and Customs Enforcement to

rent beds in Yakima Jail. She was unaware of this practice.

Eventually, I shifted the focus of the conversation to her view of the candidacy. While she said she believes in term limits, she

also stated that if elected, she will stay in office as long as the people keep voting her in. "I don't necessarily have anything I'm fervently against or fervently for," Mack said. Instead, she views it as a council person job to be responsible, and represent the needs of the community.

She stated that unless there were some big moral issue, it would be her job to respond to what the community needs. She wants to create what she called "a big, positive community force," and stay connect to her voters through putting on events, open forums, and a general open door policy.

Chelsea Mack as a lot of enthusiasm, and big goals of cutting spending. However, throughout our talk, it was not clear to me what she considers to be necessary spending and what is considered extravagant spending. She may know she wants to cut the budget and use money more efficiently, but where exactly will those cuts take place? Because of this, I concluded that she is strong in knowing what kind of changes she wants to make, but weak in willingness to vocalize exactly how or where those changes will happen. ■

Ballots must be returned or postmarked by

August 1st

- Sandra Belzer
- Williams
- Keith Effler
- Kay Funk
- Chelsea Mack
- Tony Sandoval

The BEST & WORST Tacos

BY ALEXIS SHEERE

Who makes the best tacos in Yakima? This is not a simple thing to decide in a town where Mexican restaurants sit on every corner – except for the corners with coffee stands or taco trucks. I'm not sure why the coffee stands matter. Tacos and coffee don't usually go well together. If you are drinking birthday-cake-in-a-cup, (what some people try to for pass as coffee) with your tacos, I would suggest a serious reevaluation of your taste buds. Anyway, I have taco-taste-tested endlessly, and it is my conclusion that the best tacos in Yakima are from Tacos El Bandero. This little food truck sits on 2018 S 1st St, across from The Home Depot and near the Majestic Theater. The convenience of this location is obvious. If you haven't smuggled tacos into a movie theater, have you ever really lived in Yakima? And Tacos El Bandero tacos are perfect for smuggling. They boast only the freshest pico de gallo, and only the juiciest carne asada. 10/10 would go again.

So who makes the worst tacos in Yakima? The Taco Bell on the corner of 16th and Nob Hill. Setting aside the ridiculous specialty items that the corporate monster makes them sell, if you are looking for tiny portions of meat, slop-like beans, and consistently wilted lettuce, you have found your place.

However, there is hope. There is something from



this Taco Bell worth ordering. It seems that the only good thing on their menu isn't actually on the menu. Nevertheless, here is how you order it: Step 1: ask for a Cheesy Bean and Rice burrito from the dollar menu. Standard, this comes with cheese sauce, refried beans, and rice. But let's be honest, you don't really want any of that and, if you follow step 2, you won't get any of that.

Step 2: Tell them to substitute the beans for black beans. This replaces the mush with something that has the texture of a bean.

Step 3: Make it Fresco! This means they will take off the "cheese" sauce and any other dairy products and replace it with pico de gallo.

Step 4: Add potatoes.

Step 5: Add red strips. These are basically red chips that add a crunch without all the extra salt of the Fritos or Doritos.

And you're done! At this point, the only thing you have from the original burrito is the rice and the tortilla. However, it has doubled in size, and guess what? It tastes great! ■

Noah's Electric Ark

A STORY BY B. FLINT

In the neighborhood where I grew up, as I'm sure there was in everyone's, there was a large family of under-supervised children. A short walk from Jordan's drug store, on South 10th Ave, it was the Haddock family. They had five boys; the oldest was Nate. Then Neil, then Nolan, then Ned, and finally, after a long break, Noah. I was friends with the oldest boy, Nate.

The Haddocks lived in an old, two

story red-brick house, with a white picket fence outside. The yard, was overgrown, and nearly taken over by past landscaping experiments. I recall visiting them on one particularly hot summer day. We lounged in the cool of the shade provided by the high grape arbor that spread from their fence to the second story of their house. We spat out the seeds from the tart green grapes, as the three oldest Haddocks asked each other what they should do that day.

It was under similar circumstances that the Haddock boys had attempted to make a catapult, which though it failed to live up to expectations, still managed to pelt the second story of the Haddock home with yard debris, various balls, and one over-ripe melon.

There was also the time I watched relations between the Haddocks, and boys from another family down the block degrade to where a rock-throwing war was fought. The Haddocks would still have won through greater numbers, but the catapult was brought out once more to "Maintain firepower superiority" as Neil Haddock put it.

Inspiration takes many forms: For Archimedes it was taking a bath. Newton found it in getting beamed by a falling apple. For the Haddock boys that hot day in June, inspiration came in the form of nine-year old Ned Haddock loudly, and insistently demanding to be allowed to play with

the older boys. In the spirit of scientific discovery, the three oldest Haddocks volunteered Ned to be a part of an experiment, in which he'd be pinned to the ground by a hot pitchfork. The old pitchfork, left out in the sun, had long-ago had its tines bent apart, leaving just enough room for the neck of a young boy to fit between them. As near as I can tell, the hypothesis was that a young boy could be pinned to a lawn by a sufficiently hot pitchfork. Though a mathematical certainty could not be achieved, due to an extremely small test group, the experiment was a success. And while the results may not have been as important as measuring volume, they were more entertaining than calculus, and no one ended up running through the streets of Syracuse naked.

A couple of years later, I took the liberty of visited the Haddocks again. It was a grey and cold day in April, and the Haddock boys reminisced fondly of their many exploits, the pinning of Ned with the pitchfork, being a favorite, though not necessarily by Ned. Lightning, it seems can strike twice, for it was shortly after retelling this old favorite story, when young Noah joined us. He was about nine years old, and it was with a fond sense of wistfulness that the Haddocks opted to recreate the first experiment, but now with young Noah. It was the oldest boy, Nate who brought out the ancient, bent and rusted pitchfork, that had risen to

continued on page 11

Buddy Beaver

From the desk of the Editor:

Really liking the content, one thing though; talking animal stories are hot right now. People want Narnia, Harry Potter, Winnie-the-Pooh, etc.

-KS, Editor-in-Chief

Dear KS,

I'm gratified and humbled to discover your fondness for my stories. While I always wish to "Give the audience what they want", the second rule whispers in my ear, and I fear that I am skeptical about the reception of stories in the vein that you have requested. Also did you mean Beatrix Potter, or did you want anthropomorphic animal wizards and witches?

Eagerly awaiting your response,

Barthw. Flint.

From the desk of the editor:

Don't care a fig if its Beatrix Potter, or Colonel Potter. Give me animals walking and talking like people. Have utmost confidence, etc.

-KS Editor-in-Chief

Dear KS,

Attached below is the "Talking animals" story requested. I admit to some doubts as to its suitability, given the adult nature of its content, and overall tone. Still I hope that it will prove diverting.

Sincerely,

Barthw. Flint

Mr. Beaver gets the call

By Bartholomew Flint

One Sunday evening, as Buddy Beaver was about to sit down to a steaming plate of Whatever Beavers Actually Eat (Fish? Wood?), he received a phone call. He rose tiredly from his seat, picked up the receiver, and was disconcerted to hear

"Hello, may I speak Mr. Beaver?"

"Speaking" Buddy Beaver replied.

"Hi, my name is Mike," the caller said "and I'm with Plastik-Panel Siding. Have you considered brand new vinyl siding for your home?" Buddy of course wished to hang up and return to his Fish (probably), but his good manners prevented him from doing so.

"No Mike, I haven't. I live in a wood

house, and I'm quite content with it. Thank you."

"Oh but sir!" Mike (a stoat) persisted. "We've made wonderful advances in vinyl siding that can match whatever look you'd like, sir." "Can you make it look like real wood?" Buddy asked.

"I can transfer you to one of our technicians to answer that question, if you'll just wait a moment, sir!" Mike said.

Buddy rubbed his forehead (Which was covered in fur, since he was a beaver) "I'm sorry, I was being facetious.

I'm not interested in buying vinyl siding, but thank you Mike."

"Oh but sir!" Mike the stoat said "Vinyl siding is very popular among residents in your area. Let me just schedule you for an appraisal, and you can be on your way to brand new vinyl siding."

"Thank you Mike," Buddy said, a faint edge entering into his voice. "But I'm almost as disinterested in what my neighbors do to their homes as I am in putting vinyl over my lovely wood house. I'm not interested."

"Oh but sir! Mike said, unfazed, "If

Noah's Electric Ark (cont'd)

a mythic status in the memories of those gathered. They trod reverently down the cobbled stones of memory lane, forcibly dragging Noah along.

The Haddocks arrived at the same hallowed spot of lawn where Ned, now holding Noah's right arm, had lain all those years ago. I well recall how Nate ran his hand along the tines of the pitchfork, and with what pitiable sadness he informed us all that the metal was unfortunately quite cool. Still gripped in the fever of nostalgia however, they proceeded with the recreation, and with all the ceremony of pagan priests of long ago, laid young Noah on the lawn, and pinned him there with the cold metal of the forks sliding down on both sides of his neck. No sooner had the forks punctured the soft green grass, then Noah be-

gan thrashing and gibbering, clawing at the metal holding him to the earth. "HG GKKHGCKHGGCKKITBURNS!ITBURNS!HGGCKKK!"

It was Nate who attempted to reason with Noah, explaining that the metal had been tested. Furthermore, it was noted that Noah's prevarications, charming in the past, would simply not do.

Noah, however was not consoled by the stated temperature of the forks, and remained resolute in his desire to be released from them. It was with an air of supreme concession to the frailty of flesh that Nate stooped down to feel the metal of the forks once more. "There see? It's perfectly fin-OW! It's shocking me!" Nate declared.

In response to a persistent slug infestation, and unbeknownst to the Had-

dock boys, their father had electrified the lawn, and Noah's neck had provided an excellent conduit for the electricity to travel through. All entered trades where their boundless curiosity and impulsive imaginations can be channeled into more productive and less existentially terrify-

ing outlets. Noah has largely recovered from the experiment, and maintains a good sense of humor about it. Sure, he doesn't talk anymore, but deep down I think he knows that it was a pretty good joke. ■

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TOTALLY SUBJECTIVE TOP 5'S

• SERIES ON NETFLIX

- 1 THE GREAT BRITISH BAKING SHOW (100%)
- 2 THE CROWN (100%)
- 3 LUTHER (100%)
- 4 STRANGER THINGS (100%)
- 5 MARVEL'S DAREDEVIL (100%)

• MOVIES IN THEATERS

- (100%) SPIDERMAN: HOMECOMING 1
- (100%) WONDER WOMAN 2
- (100%) BABY DRIVER 3
- (100%) GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 2 4
- (100%) THE HERO 5

• LATE NIGHT CEREALS

- 1 LUCKY CHARMS (100%)
- 2 RICE CHEK (100%)
- 3 MIK (100%)
- 4 FROSTED FLAKES (100%)
- 5 TOASTY O'S (100%)

• GAMES WITH FRIENDS

- (100%) SPLENDOR 1
- (100%) AVALON 2
- (100%) SMASH UP 3
- (100%) LOVE LETTER 4
- (100%) TICKET TO RIDE 5



Buddy Beaver (cont'd)

you're not certain about making the commitment just yet, we can have a demonstration at your house to show you what we can do."

Buddy ground his teeth silently.

"I'm not uncertain about the commitment. I'm quite certain that I don't. Want. Vinyl. Siding. On my house."

"Oh but sir!" Mike responded, and Buddy threw up his weird little front beaver paws in silent exasperation, rolling his eyes. "I'm sure that a short two-hour demonstration at your house will help you gain the confidence that vinyl siding inspires."

It was here that Buddy Beaver's patience and good manners reached their breaking point.

"Listen Mike, I don't want vinyl siding. I can't use vinyl siding. I won't take vinyl siding. And I don't want a demonstration at my house!" "Oh, but sir!" Mike said again. "Vinyl sid--"

"We rent!" Buddy interrupted. And then hung up.

The End.

From the desk of the Editor:
Great! Love the new stuff. Just need you to change one thing:
What's a stoat?
Also, it needs to be more relevant to today's culture. Can you make it

more like Battlestar Galactica?
-KS, Editor-in-Chief

Dear KS,
Here's the first requested change. The others, I...have strong reservations about changing the tone that drastically, as well as several questions about execution. I am also entirely unsure what the story would even be like, however, I remain at your service, as long as the checks clear.
Barthw. Flint

...*"Oh but sir!"* Mike the stoat (which is basically a big weasel) said "Vinyl siding is very popular..."

From the desk of the editor:
Right! Glad to hear you're willing. They're going nuts over the Battlestar idea here, Please include in your amended text.
-KS, Editor-in-Chief

Dear KS,
Attached below is the Mss. With the requested changes. I remain unconvinced as to the wisdom of some of these additions. But, ultimately the call is not mine. Heavy is the head etc.
With my regards,
Barthw. Flint

CC: From the Legal Dept.
To Kyle Smith, Editor
As per your request, we have looked into the contract with Mr. Flint, and we regret to say that unless he has been in breach of contract, you are required to pay him for his contributions. ■

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REPORT

From the Editor

From the interviews within the Rain Shadow Report and after attending community forums, these are my conclusions:

Sandra Belzer the Tea Party Conservative
What I liked: politically savvy, well spoken, aggressive conservative.
What I didn't like: comes across as power hungry.

Tony Williams the Pragmatic Liberal
What I liked: relatable personality, passionate speaker, motivated politician.
What I didn't like: comes across as "more of the same."

Keith Effler the Christian Conservative
What I liked: innovative, clear vision, practices what he preaches
What I didn't like: comes across as naive.

Kay Funk the Progressive Liberal
What I liked: understands policy, focused on data, classy with integrity.
What I didn't like: comes across as cynical and closed-minded

Chelsea Mack the Socialist
What I liked: loves a challenge, charismatic personality, engaging optimist.
What I didn't like: comes across as fake.

Tony Sandoval, regrettably, was neither available for an interview nor in attendance at the forum.

K.S.

