

Congratulations to bank, Meg Warder

Congratulations, First Western Bank, on your new building! What a great example of government land going back on the tax rolls and creating an outstanding new addition to our Hill City community. I was able to attend the groundbreaking late in 2006. It was 20 degrees below zero, and the sketch looked like an impossible dream. More than anything else, it proves First Western's long-term commitment to Hill City.

Congratulations, Meg Warder! Being named one of the Eight People to Watch in 2008 by the *Rapid City Journal* is quite an honor, especially since Meg is home grown, not some imported interloper like me. Give Meg a round of applause as The Black Hills Central Railroad starts its 51st year as a Hill City business.

Politics is in the news, and I have enjoyed the process more since I have become one of those dreaded elected officials. I like to talk about the issues and the candidates with anybody who will listen, and sometimes even those who won't listen; just ask my wife and children. I have never been afraid to discuss politics or religion, and I frequently talk before I have thought it all out. Some say I should have been a lawyer, but most people think a sales career fits my personality. All I know is that I like to talk to people, from the lowest to the highest and everyone in between. There will be legislative cracker barrel sessions in January and February in Rapid City, and I will be at most of them. I hope to see you there.

Speaking of candidates, I have a friend who is a Ron Paul supporter and he bristles whenever I call his favorite a 'fringe' candidate. Joining Paul on the edge are President Jimmy Carter and South Dakota's own George McGovern, with his recent editorial in the Washington Post calling the impeachment of President Bush. At 85, McGovern just isn't as sharp as he once was.

McGovern was one of the first national level politicians I heard speak in person, and he impressed me all those years ago. At the time, McGovern was speaking to South Dakota farmers, and defended his vote to bail out New York City with the explanation of how metropolitan senators would then support McGovern's farm bills. I agreed that compromise was the best position, and today in small town politics, compromise is still the rule of the day.

I can admire McGovern for his intent, but he leaves the solar system when all he does is criticize and tear down our country. Although not a fan of President Clinton, ask my kids how many times I defended the office of the President of the United States, regardless of who holds the office.

I consider it an honor to serve as your mayor, and the well being of Hill City is first on my mind. I don't have a business in Hill City, I don't build houses, and I don't have a grudge to carry. Thanks for listening!

dvoorhees@hillcity-sd.com

phone 605-391-6102