

## Olson to run for House seat

By TOM REA  
Star-Tribune staff writer

CASPER — Midwest schoolteacher and Republican House candidate Bob Olson says he believes Wyoming could improve its economy by going into the recycling business in a big way, and urging retired people to move here.

Olson, 43, is running for the Republican nomination for the now vacant seat in District 38, which includes Paradise Valley on the west side of Casper. The district stretches south to the Carbon County line, north to Johnson County, and includes Lysite in Fremont County to the northwest.

Olson said he teaches social studies at Midwest High School and works summers, weekends and vacations as a roustabout and pumper in the oil fields.

Hundreds of empty railroad cars return to Wyoming every day to pick up more coal, Olson said.

It would make sense if they returned here filled with used tires, scrap metal, plastics, or non-toxic, non-radioactive solid waste, he said.

"This is energy production and recycling," Olson said. He said he has no intention of turning the state into "a garbage dump."

The railroad cars could come to centralized processing facilities, and the "garbage would be entombed in the ground in pits lined with Wyoming bentonite," he said.

Methane gas produced by the buried garbage could then be tapped to "propel industry and generate power," he said.

Shipping garbage may seem expensive now, he said. But when East and West Coast cities "are up to their necks in garbage, they are going to be willing to pay the price," he said.

Rubber from the used tires could be mixed with coal for a hotter, high-priced fuel. Or it could be mixed with asphalt for use on

roads, he said.

The metal and plastics could be "melted down into blocks" and shipped to developing countries, he said.

"We could be a raw materials dealer," he said.

"This is something of the 21st century that we could crawl in on the ground floor" now and take advantage of, Olson said.

As it is now, the state is simply facing the slow decline of its minerals industry, he said.

"When the minerals are gone, the companies are gone. What happens to your tax structure?" he said.

Olson said the state should also undertake a concentrated publicity effort to encourage retired people from the northern tier of states and the West Coast to move to Wyoming.

The state can offer them low taxes, low-cost living, safety from crime, "and a quiet, more gentle form of life," he said.



**BOB OLSON**  
*Urges waste recycling*

The money in savings and retirement incomes the people bring with them would boost the local economy, and their presence here would create more demand for services, he said.

So far, one other Republican, Bob Richardson, has announced his candidacy for the vacant seat. The two will face off in a primary.

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