

Anders Nelson, we barely knew ye

Geez, the kid didn't even have enough time in town to get his library card. Locals were just getting familiar with the pronunciation of his first name. Ahnders. Not Anders, like in Anderson.

He's gone already.

Maybe his dad, Denver's meteorologist Mike Nelson, doesn't care where his kid works as long as it's within a hundred miles of home. Cheyenne seemed like a nice fit but the local station has a continuing turnover that rivals the Colorado Avalanche. Whether the young Nelson jumped or was pushed, Channel 5 seems to be working pretty shorthanded now.

People who have contacted the Cheyenne Herald with news tips have told about calling Channel 5 and being informed they (5) were not allowed over-time and couldn't cover stories that happened after dark (after 5:00 pm) unless it was a calamity. Presumably, an explosion at the refinery would generate coverage by the only local television station.

But, who's to say?

Stability in broadcast news makes viewers comfortable. Here in town, all eyes are on KGWN because it's the only local TV station available. One Casper station is not carried by Bresnan cable and the other rightly focuses on Casper news.

Granted, Cheyenne is among the smallest markets in the country so "talent" is not likely to remain around too long. It hasn't mattered if the in-front-of-the-camera person grew up here or not. If they want to move up in the business, Cheyenne is a starting point, not where they want to spend much time or will be around for a long time. So, off they go.

Local viewers feel good when someone like Tara Vreeland moves to a larger market. It makes them feel a part of her success even though how she has progressed is credit only onto herself. Justin Joseph and Chris Jose and Jaclyn Rostie each moved upward in the Midwest. But, when the turnaround is too fast, viewers don't know what to think. A little continuity could make the station a bit more trustworthy as a source for news.

Robert Geha provides the only historical perspective remaining at Channel 5. Bob has reported on the news around her and Casper for several years. That provides viewers a comfort level that someone at the station knows what's gone on and what's going on now. There is a reason that network anchors longevity is a huge concern. If, and probably when, Katie Couric has to be replaced, it will take CBS a time to regain trust from viewers. Walter Kronkite wasn't called the "most trusted man in America" for nothing. He was a part of viewer's lives for a long time.

What's the difference among Joe Lieberman, Ben Nelson, Mary Landrieu, Ashley Dupré Deb Palfrey and Heidi Fleiss?

Not much.

The major difference is probably that what the D.C. Madame, Ashley Dupré and Heidi Fleiss was paid for was illegal.

The legislators did basically the same thing as the three "facilitators" but their "acts" were not illegal. Just immoral.

A handful of Democratic Senators found themselves in a once-in-a-lifetime position. Otherwise nondescript and insignificant legislators, they were wise enough to hold out for concessions for the POTUS to get their vote on the nationalized health care legislation.

Receiving consideration for your performance is not always illegal. Paying consideration for some acts typically is. Such as what Elliot Spitzer did. He didn't buy any legislation. He didn't try to influence any votes. Yet, he was guilty of criminal behavior because he paid a hooker for her "advice." He wasn't prosecuted, of course, just forced out of office.

And Spitzer used the money his father had given him. The rumored \$80,000 he spent on prostitutes over a period of years did not come from taxpayer's funds as will the financial concessions made to Louisiana Democratic Senator Mary Landrieu. Her payoff is spelled out in the health care reform bill itself. No secret about what it took to gain her vote. The legislation's language was such that hers was the only state eligible for the payment.

No Senator has been as anonymous to the public as Nebraska's Ben Nelson.

Sometimes mistaken for the actor who played "Cooter" in Dukes of Hazzard (Ben Jones), Nelson's picture was reportedly put on milk cartons in an effort to find him prior to this controversial legislation. Some thought he was that Ben "Night Horse" that they had seen on TV.

Popular with his Senate peers, Nelson was a holdout from the rest of the Dems because the health care bill will use public funds for abortion. Most antiabortion foes are principled and do not waiver for another dam in their state.

Elected in 2000 with less than 51% of the popular vote, Nelson has been an independent thinker. What it took to get him to cast his lot with Harry Reid and other Democrats on a health care reform bill that will fund abortions remains to be fully seen but part of that cost will be borne by taxpayers in all other states.

Lieberman, of course, has always done what is best for him politically. A Democrat that was defeated in the last Democratic primary in Connecticut, he ran as an Independent and to curry favor with Independents and Republicans, he backed John McCain in the 2008 presidential election. He will say or do anything. His payment for his vote? Count on no Democrat challenging him in the future with DNC support. There are prostitutes and then, there are prostitutes.

Gambling in Cheyenne

Show of hands again, please.

Who cares if gambling is legal? Nothing led to the establishment of Cheyenne more than railroads, dance hall girls and poker games. Well, maybe LEADS.

There are far too many people who want to control every aspect of everyone else's lives but don't do that good a job with their own. Has the risk of poker games being held in local bars become a huge problem? A greater societal problem than the proliferation of easy to access illegal drugs and prescription, yet equally addictive medicine and pills?

Are poker games in local bars, not to mention private homes, more of a societal problem than alcohol? The latter is not only legal but ardently supported by those in elective office, churches, and "chamber types" who use beer or wine in every fundraising activity they offer or sponsor. Who is protected by the City

controlling or prohibiting poker games? And, is there less potential harm if the City charges a fee for the game to be held than allows it to be held for free?

Law enforcement cannot enforce the laws on the books now without adding more laws that won't be enforced - for inconsequential wrongs. Cards. A victimless game that offends few. Domestic abuse is rampant in Cheyenne. Yet, an elective group considers poker playing a greater "sin" toward which to direct their focus?

Gambling is legal in Wyoming. We only argue about form. We have an off-track betting parlor in Cheyenne where one can wager on horse (maybe still dog) racing from all over the U.S. Bingo is legal - so long as the "profit" or a certain percentage of the take - is contributed to a charity. NCAA tournament and Super Bowl office pools are rampant. If playing poker in a bar will reduce alcohol consumption by the players, it's a positive diversion.

Cheyenne Herald Subscription Order

Offer valid through December 31, 2009

- 8 Issue Subscription\$25.00
- 16 Issue Subscription\$50.00
- 24 Issue Subscription (Annual Subscription) . \$75.00

Gift Subscription - Please mail Cheyenne Herald to:

Name _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip Code _____

(If more than one subscription, please provide other names and addresses on a separate sheet)

Personal Subscription - Please mail Cheyenne Herald to:

Name _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip Code _____

Please send correct amount and this completed Subscription Order to:

The Cheyenne Herald
P.O. Box 2208
Cheyenne WY 82003

1104 Conestoga Rd.

Owner is offering \$5,000 in closing costs!
Beautiful new home, built in 2007. Three bedrooms could be five (2 non-conforming) and 3 baths. The bedrooms on the main level are LARGE and master bath is a 5-pc with Jacuzzi tub. Kitchen with all appliances and off-kitchen dining. A magnificent main floor laundry with cabinets, hanging rods, folding table and pantry. Security system and water softener. Large metal building with covered RV parking, all with electricity. Mature landscaping and oversized 2 car garage. \$265,000



wesellcheyennehomes.com
802 E. Lincolnway -- 634-2997
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Assist 2 Sell
"Full Service with Savings!"