

What is the Cheyenne Herald? It is a bi-weekly publication that I hesitate to refer to as a "newspaper" but calling it only an Opinion/Commentary publication does not adequately describe it, either. While much of what appears on these pages is in an opinion, commentary, essay and/or writing mode, there is also no denying that much of it is breaking news. When we disclosed that Cheyenne Police Chief Bob Fecht had purchased, with public money, a master's degree in criminal justice from an unaccredited diploma mill in Mississippi that was never authorized to issue degrees, that was not opinion. That was not commentary. That was fact. That was news. On the other side of the coin, when I opine that Danica Patrick is a very good race car driver, that is my opinion. The long and short of it is that the Cheyenne Herald is many things to many people. I will explain what each story is if challenged. Otherwise, it is what you will make of it. Pages will no longer be headed with a description of the words on that page. They are what readers make of them.

Dave Featherly

I-80 speed limit

After several months of a maddeningly slow speed limit over a stretch of 53 miles on I-80 between Laramie and Rawlins, the speed limit has been raised for the summer months to 75 mph once again.

Reducing the speed limit for that stretch of the Snow Chi Minh Trail during dangerous times during the winter months makes perfect sense. The problem was that, once the signs were mounted, that speed limit applied whether there was treacherous weather or the sky was clear and sunny and the roadway dry.

As though to make amends for that foolishness during the nicest days of winter,

there are now numerous speed limit signs, with those cute little red flags placed at 45° angles on each side of the "75", telling motorists to pound it - the speed limit is 75 mph. Really? I didn't notice. But you can't miss it. It's like they really, really want you to go 75.

Always one to oblige, I wanted to make up for all the lost miles per hour that I had forsaken throughout the winter.

Does 90 mph sound too fast?

I didn't think so, either.

I'll slow down against next winter.

Developing ...

Does the LCCC president ever fudge the truth?

Some specifics in the next issue of the Cheyenne Herald.

Higher fees for non-city residents to use City amenities?

This is a regurgitation of a previously rejected idea. The daily newspaper uses the subject to polarize residents of Laramie County. The notion is DOA, rural folks.

Herald -- n. An officer whose business was to proclaim war ... He was invested with a sacred and inviolable character. A proclaimer; one who publishes or announces; A forerunner; a precursor; a harbinger. v. To introduce, or give tidings of ... To proclaim, to announce, to foretell, to usher in.

DREAMS

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Filly won't win the Belmont

The Preakness offered much of which to get excited. The Kentucky Derby winner, Mine That Bird, who had won the Derby by one of the greatest margins ever, would run in the Preakness.

So would the romanticized filly, Rachel Alexandra (RA), who had recently won the Kentucky Oaks, the top race for 3 year-old fillies. Last year's Oaks field had included Eight Belles, but the filly was withdrawn so she could run in the Derby. She finished a game second but broke both front ankles right past the finish line and had to be euthanized on the track.

The Oaks is run at Churchill Downs the Friday before the Kentucky Derby. The race is for 3 year-old fillies, and fillies carry only 121 pounds (as opposed to 126 lbs for colts) and it pays \$500,000 to the winner. A very nice payday.

In 2009, the Oaks field was small and Rachel Alexandra was the heavy favorite. At the 3/4 pole, she was off the lead. Then she took off and won by 20 lengths.

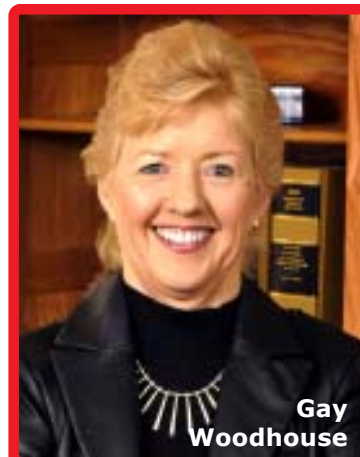
Her winning time was not a record for the 1 1/8 mile Kentucky Oaks, though.

The legend was created and the filly was sold after her Oaks win. Her winning jockey, Calvin Borel, won the Derby the next day aboard a 50-1 longshot, Mine That Bird. When new owners of Rachel Alexandra shifted course and decided to race her against colts, Borel switched back to her for the Preakness.

The Preakness was exciting but the second place finish by Mine That Bird should have received as much attention as RA's win. Carrying five pounds more than RA, yet smaller, new jockey Mike Smith got pinned in and coming from dead last as Borel had in the Derby, he made his run too late. RA led by four lengths until Mine That Bird began to reel her in near the finish line. While Rachel Alexandra is a super filly, she is not a super race horse. The winning time was the slowest since 2004. The Preakness is 1/16 mile shorter than the Derby but the Belmont is 1 1/2 mile. Mine That Bird will win - going away.

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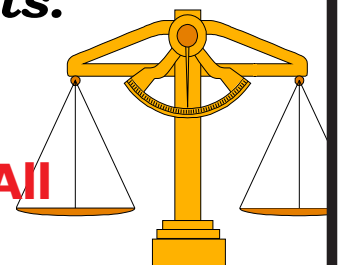
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