

The kidnapper (State of Wyoming) paid ransom to the victim (Walmart truck driver)

A lot of times we read about one person kidnapping another person and holding them for ransom. Seldom does the ransom get paid - the perp is usually captured and sent to prison.

But, this case turned out differently.

The kidnapper was a Wyoming Highway Patrol trooper. He hatched up a hare-brained scheme to kidnap a truck driver of either Walmart or Halliburton and stage a crash into his squad car, injuring himself so he could collect a financial settlement from the truck's owner so he would never have to work again. Oh, did I mention that his mental state might have been altered by his frequent use of steroids? And that his acquisition of steroids included a former highway patrolman? Those incidentals may not have had much to do with the outcome of this incident.

The highway patrol trooper did initiate his plan. He did take a Walmart truck driver from his rig south of Douglas and transported the kidnap victim (the truck driver) around Douglas as the trooper attempted to put his plan into motion. As the driver sat in the back seat of the patrol car, the trooper stopped at his own home. Exactly all that was done while the trooper was inside is unknown but he was prepared to carry out his dastardly deed, one that would have left the Walmart truck driver, and likely the trooper's wife as well, dead.

It is my opinion that when push came to shove, others to be involved in his plan realized how incredibly stupid it was and bailed. His own wife, probably threatened into agreement, also did not respond as he expected and he took the driver back to the Walmart-identified truck parked at

the pull-out south of Douglas. The trooper pretended to go through some machinations that would convince the driver that he was being "detained," not kidnapped. Held for an outstanding warrant from Colorado. There was no such warrant.

Out of concern for his job and at the advice of others, the Walmart driver filed a report with the Wyoming Highway Patrol about the incident and they, to their everlasting shame, tricked him into accepting a \$10,000 payment for his experience. They conveniently avoided answering his query of why the trooper had kidnapped him - not wanting to share the story of one of their own planning to kill the driver to gain money from Walmart so he'd never have to work again. When the driver learned the trooper had planned to kill him, he realized he had been hoodwinked by the puny settlement and tried to return the money and file a claim against the State of Wyoming and those officials who had deceived him.

As the case moved along, the trooper was sentenced and sent away to prison. But the State dug in its heels - even filing a frivolous lawsuit against the truck driver in an effort to coerce him into backing off.

Rather than risk the despicable action by a Wyoming highway patrol trooper testifying at a trial, a "confidential" settlement was reached. To avoid releasing details of the settlement, the State avoided direct payment. Had the State paid the settlement directly, we could have accessed the amount and reported it. But, in their ongoing effort to shield the renegade highway patrol, the State continued to hide the truth. How much was paid? There were many zeroes on the check, I'd bet. Will we ever know? Don't bet against it.

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The Jessica Venable Compassion Fund

In the past, I have invited readers of the Cheyenne Herald to make money donations to Jessica Venable during her incarceration at Lusk. She had been accepted at a halfway house in Gillette and it appeared she was on her way back to the freedom that should never have been stolen from her. That has been delayed a bit but it will still happen in the near future. In the meantime, and probably for the months Jessica spends at the halfway house, she can still use some financial help to purchase paper, envelopes, stamps, personal hygiene items, snacks, etc. So I am once again inviting readers to join my wife and me in providing some relief to this gal who is facing challenges on so many fronts. I am on her approved visitor list at Lusk and can send her money. If you would like to join us, please send your donation to me (checks payable to the Cheyenne Herald). I buy money orders to forward on to Jessica. You can also send her a card or note. Contact me for her mailing address. And, on behalf of Jessica, I, Dave Featherly, thank you.

The Cheyenne Herald has never referred to defenders of Warren National University as "Nazis"

Bedwetters who post anonymously on internet forums and/or blogs not only refuse to identify themselves, they refuse to be truthful. As more and more libelous postings are published, the law will require webmasters to identify the thumbsuckers when they cross the line. That has already happened and will continue to become more common. Just as false stories that are published like the one involving Republican candidate Christine O'Donnell in Delaware will lead to criminal charges and convictions, so will anonymous rantings to internet forums that are deliberately false.

One of the websites having to do with unaccredited diploma mills attracts both defenders and critics of the Wyoming-based Warren National University. Often, those posting anonymously do not make any distinction between Kennedy-Western University, WNU's predecessor in name degree peddler and Warren National University. K-WU never made any attempt to gain accreditation and shuffled from state to state to try to stay ahead of laws requiring them to do so. Warren National University, while owned by the same miscreants, operated with a Wyoming address (even while their true base of operation remained in California) and did try to gain accreditation. Give WNU credit for at least trying - even though it was a futile attempt for several reasons.

I never post to any forum or website because I have my own vehicle here to write what I want to write and do it with readers knowing from where the words are coming. During the lead-up to WNU being turned back from accreditation, I was contacted by a troubled soul from Berwyn, Illinois. I have his name. He had a blog that revealed that he was a Nazi sympathizer. He has been a great defender of the right of degree sellers to ply their trade without government oversight or control. I have made reference to him, and only him, as a Nazi sympathizer. He, or someone like him, has posted to that forum:

"You are right about the Nazi thing. And maybe I am guilty about this too. But I do recall that a certain newspaper editor and publisher was using the same word to describe defenders of WNU and KWU."

I have never lumped, and never will lump, other defenders of K-WU/WNU with the admitted Nazi admirer from Illinois. I do refer to anonymous posters, both local and national, by such terms as "bedwetters," "thumbsuckers," etc. They seem to like those.

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