

Anything two people know is not a secret

CHEYENNE HERALD

FREE - TAKE ONE

the local advocacy journal

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Taggers are winning

This might be the last story I'll do, or photo I'll offer, on the subject of graffiti. I accept that the act of painting nonsense on someone else's property without their permission or knowledge doesn't compare to violent crimes being committed more and more in Cheyenne every day. And I understand pursuit, apprehension and conviction of violent criminals should take precedent over trying to end, or at least substantially reduce, the wanton and unimpeded occurrences of vandalism by graffiti that has overwhelmed this town.

Two issues back, I published everything short of a video about a guy who was stenciling and otherwise defacing private (and public) property. To date, to my knowledge, he has not been charged even though I have been told he would be. (P. 7)

Believing they can act with impunity, and they have been allowed to so far, the "taggers" are getting more brazen by the day - almost by the

hour. To be able to deface one of the City's "Welcome" signs without detection or apprehension, the painters have every reason to believe they can continue their acts of destruction and will never be called to answer for their felonious behavior.

I think there is a philosophical disconnect between those who abhor graffiti and those who accept it. The mayor, city attorney, city council and other public officials do not understand that the damage in this city from graffiti compares to what happens to a community with high crime rates, poor education, high taxes and ignored maintenance of streets. In combination, people don't want to relocate there and businesses will not open, relocate or expand there. It is that simple. To ignore the graffiti problem is to condone it. Simple.

Halladay Motors Body Shop
E. Lincolnway and Maxwell



Victims continue to mount

Tri-State Memorials took full payments (or large deposits) during most of 2010 and did not deliver the headstones nor markers

I had begun to think all of those who were fleeced by Tri-State Memorials and knew about the Cheyenne Herald coverage had weighed in by now.

Not so, it appears.

When this subject was first broached, it seemed that the deception (call it fraud if you prefer) started in late-2010. As more people have contacted me, it is obvious that the practice of taking money for headstones that would never be delivered began as early as the Spring of 2010 and continued throughout the year.

Since the first article appeared in the Cheyenne Herald in the May 17th issue, four other victims have contacted me by e-mail or phone call. It's hard to say how many victims there are in total but there are at least seven that I am aware of and there are probably multiples of that number who have not weighed in yet. Cameron Moore, owner of Tri-State Memorials, offered to answer follow-up questions and I will ask him for specific names and amounts taken from each toward a headstone, marker or other service he was to provide. I will also ask him if he has filed for bankruptcy protection, or, if not, when that will be done, if ever. And how he will keep his wife's preschool business out of the bankruptcy.

I have now spoken directly with five victims of Tri-State Memorials. I am amazed at their spirit. None has resorted to name calling or threatening the guy who "stole" their money. Sometimes, that money was hard to come by for the victim, but in at least a couple of the cases, it wasn't as difficult. Most agree that the betrayal at such a time of grief or planning was more difficult for them than the loss of money.

The victims come from a cross section of our society. A couple are of well-known families in town. Tri-State did not pick victims with much vision. None like paying their money to a scam artist but some can absorb the loss easier than others.

The patience on the part of those who paid in advance for headstones only to find that they weren't delivered for over a year has been remarkable. As befits the people of Cheyenne, most waited patiently, never wanting to believe that a local business would not deliver as promised. Two paid \$2,000.00 or more as a deposit on orders that were never delivered. The customers wanted to believe what they were being told - when Cameron Moore returned their calls or would speak with them. Which was seldom.

Even now, he continues to promise those he took money from and defaulted on delivering their headstones that he will deliver the monument or pay back the money he took. In one case, he told the woman he would tell the bankruptcy court that he owed her the money and that he would repay that money over the next ten years. As though he will be able to tell the bankruptcy trustee anything. He will be listening, not speaking. IF he files bankruptcy.

One of the most common explanations about why the victim did not pursue sooner or tougher is that they were told by others that the guy would deliver - that it just takes time. One is an attorney and another hired an attorney. Fees to an attorney will soon exceed the lost money already paid for a phantom headstone.

The latest victim was planning for the inevitable future and ordered an expensive headstone for her, her husband and a son while they were all alive. She knew nothing about Tri-State's demise or corrupt practices until reading about them in the June 1st Herald. It is hard to accept that such business behavior would be practiced in Cheyenne, Wyoming. You just don't expect to be fleeced at such a time of vulnerability and you don't expect to be cheated by a guy who is also in the day care business. Trust is a critical element in both businesses. Is he trustworthy in one when he was not in the other? That is a decision for parents.

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New York Representative Anthony Weiner

It wasn't a very good week for Democrat slimeballs. They just can't stand to allow Republicans to hog the national spotlight for bad behavior.

Arnold Schwarzenegger actually attended college near my home in northern Wisconsin - but I don't think he was taught his despicable behavior at Superior State (now called UW-Superior). Maybe in Austria.

Everyone who reads the Cheyenne Herald knows the story of John Edwards actually trying to get through a presidential campaign while hiding an affair with a "videographer" who was, as we say, "very close" to him during that campaign. The pig had his wife Elizabeth, going through the ravages of cancer and its treatment, campaign by his side and say all the right things about his devotion to her and his family. There should be no argument that he is the worst kind of human being. But the charges brought against the liberal Democrat by a

Jessie Helms clone prosecutor are just as despicable. Two wealthy friends of John Edwards, also generous donors to his campaign, provided the better part of a million dollars to keep his mistress out of sight. They both declared and paid gift taxes on the money given to an Edwards intermediary. Edwards is guilty of a lot of things but the charges by the idiot zealot are not among them. What an abuse of power. Edwards will be cleared.

Weiner said for several days (did I mention he is also a Democrat) that the photo of him in, let's call it a "provocative" state, was sent by a hacker - never denying the photo was of him. A woman came forward who claimed she had a couple hundred incriminating electronic messages from Weiner. Finally, he admitted he had done it. But, he said, he had always used his personal electronic equipment, never government issue. He won't resign, he says. What's in the New York City water? The dope.

Charges were finally brought against one of the local graffiti painters

I probably should have been adamant about leaving my name out of any press release the CPD would put out concerning the charging of a local graffitier using the handle "Nuke."

Most in town already knew the identification came from the Cheyenne Herald and I don't seek publicity through other media and have refused their invitations to help them boost ratings or circulation by interviewing with them or appearing on their broadcast(s).

But, in addition to not wanting to be a part of any CPD press release, I *did* want the new police chief to see what the mainstream media in this town is really like. It will help him in the long run. After I'm gone.

I knew that the jealous and envious mainstream media in Cheyenne would not print or broadcast from the press release with me getting credit for the results. They would rather ignore an important announcement than acknowledge that the Herald once again beat them to the facts. And tips come to us, not them.

They will piggyback on stories introduced here - without credit to this publication - but they are embarrassed that the "little guy" so often beats them to the punch and if the only way to lessen that embarrassment is to ignore the news, so be it.

There is no other credible media in this town at this time.

Readers will remember that the front page of the May 17th issue of the Cheyenne Herald pretty much handed the "Nuke" tagger over to local police. About the only thing not provided was his Social Security No. and that probably could have been accessed, too, if CPD had asked for it. Not much escapes me.

The reason disclosures like this one appear on my pages is that sources

simply do not trust the mainstream media and/or are convinced they will do nothing with information if it requires the least bit of effort. But, they do trust the Herald and more tips come this way than I can handle or keep up with. I don't have any employees, unlike the daily newspaper with their dozens of staffers who listen to the scanner and read press releases and copy police blotters for their stories. And then run huge stock photos of rhubarb to fill pages.

Anyway, a press release and the investigation results for charging "Nuke" were sent local media on Thursday, June 9th.

It was headed: "Police Charge local "Nuke" Graffiti Bandit." Based on the increasing destruction to property in Cheyenne, you would think that would attract the attention of "editors" and "producers" of news programs and publications in town.

The press release went on to say that six citations for "damaging property" were the result of information provided by me. That was enough to kill the release for the WT-E. Channel 5 ran a throw-away lead feature on their 5:30 pm news that day but, I'm guessing, when the "news director" saw my name attached to the police's success, he/she killed further use of the information. Oh, well.

If any of the media that considered the story unworthy of publication or broadcast really believe it was an attempt for publicity on my part, call Police Chief Brian Kozak. It's just not my style. If I wanted more publicity, I would appear on TV and radio as requested and/or print my picture on the front of my own publication and my name on every article that appears on these pages.

The investigation was thorough and the anti-graffiti group at CPD is trying. But, they need your help. Ignore the poor coverage, do your part.

DREAMS

We all have dreams in life. College for the children, retire comfortably, vacation homes. What are your dreams and how are you planning to get there?

Total life planning includes the financial effects of daily events that we don't pay attention to, or expect. If you could save more *would you?*

Financially, where do you want to be in 10, 20 or 30 years?

Contact Brian Lenell, CLU, ChFC
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WyomingNETWORK.com

What's your opinion? Read and participate in the forums at www.CheyenneNetwork.com

The downtown Goodyear store is open again

After a very short hiatus, the tire and auto service center at W. Lincolnway and Pioneer Avenue has reopened with a new owner and many of the same technicians as before. It was reported in a recent issue of The Cheyenne Herald that an auction had been conducted to sell off the equipment. It took a new owner about 30 days to re-equip the store and it is now open once again. The Lincolnway Goodyear shop will once again, of course, offer the Goodyear brand of tires and provide automobile service, including oil changes, tire repair, etc. New state-of-the-art alignment services will soon be available.

This reopening offers one of The Cheyenne Herald's favorite features: Private investment. Downtown businesses that open, expand or remodel with their own money deserve residents consideration.

The Goodyear store in downtown Cheyenne is once again open.