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Let's see if I get this. If a national magazine praises Cheyenne or Wyoming, it is a good survey. If a national magazine denigrates Cheyenne or Wyoming, their conclusions are flawed?

Makes sense to me.

The State, County, City, Chamber, DDA, LEADS, the Wyoming Business Council -- all groups wanting to present only the positives about Cheyenne or Wyoming -- get to pick and choose which national surveys to accept? Or dismiss?

When Men's Health say our kids are fat, they don't know what they're talking about.

When Mens' Health say our adults are drunks, they don't know what they're talking about.

When Forbes declares that Cheyenne is the No. 2 locale in the United States for Cost of Doing Business, LEADS put out a press release to ballyhoo that ranking. They included our "Best Smaller Metro Ranking" of 22 out of 179 -- "Job Growth" of 39 and "Educational Attainment" of No. 45.

But, LEADS omitted some stuff from that 2006 Forbes analyses. Must not have been as reliable as those quoted.

For example, "Colleges" ranked 147 of 179. "Culture and Leisure" came in at No. 137. Seems like they might want to tell any business considering a move or expansion into Cheyenne that we have no "culture or leisure," according to Forbes.

When the "Pollina Corporate Top Ten Pro-Business States 2006: American's Economy in The 21st Century" study ranked Wyoming fifth in the nation for "its progressive pro-business policies that result in job growth," LEADS put out a press release to that effect.

How did we rank so high with whoever the hell that outfit is? Wyoming is a right to work state, has no personal or corporate income tax, and has low operating costs for businesses. In other words, low wages. We also get around community development fees (see Laramie County), allow out-of-state contractors to work in state without proof of worker's comp insurance on Wyoming workers - little things like those.

What fine company do we keep in this "study?" A veritable "Who's Who" of business growth: South Carolina, Virginia, South Dakota, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Maryland, Alabama and Kansas - and, of course, coming in at No. 5, Wyoming. The outfit that does the ranking ("study") is actually a real estate and "corporation site relocation" firm.

So, we're the top outdoor rodeo in the U.S. We're the best place to retire. The cheapest place for business to operate. Those studies are good. But our kids are not fat and our adults are not drunks. Frauds!

The message below was sent to the Wyoming Tribune-Eagle as a letter to the editor. It was not printed. It is presented here as a paid ad.

To the Citizens of Cheyenne:

Recently, Cheyenne's Elected Officials and employees have again shown an inability to admit they are wrong about a certain project. The project is trash to energy. These individuals insist this program will benefit Cheyenne by compressing our trash into pellets to sell to power plants to burn as fuel.

The truth is the cost per ton to make these pellets exceeds the cost per ton for low sulfur coal - which is abundant in Wyoming. The fuel is too dirty to burn in low sulfur power plants so the only customers are high sulfur or "dirty plants" which are being phased out or retrofitted to meet clean air requirements.

The out of state company needs Cheyenne to be the guinea pig for this technology and has made a presentation for a 20-year contract which has outlined many money-grabbing details in it. For instance, the pellet-making company will get Cheyenne's carbon credits to sell on the open market. Another part of the deal is that the City of Cheyenne has to build them a million dollar building to store these magical machines and to manufacture the pellets.

I question why are they here? If anyone needs this project, it would be Louisiana and all the trash left from Katrina. It seems those people would jump at this. But they must not have the captive, blind audience, they do here.

The cancellation of 17 new coal-fired power plants indicates the burning of carbon-based fuels time is limited. I would recommend listening to the presidential debates to see which way the country is going and show this pellet-making company, the elected officials, and irresponsible city employees, the door.

Harlan Crosby
 Cheyenne

In gratitude ...

It's been a helluvan adventure.

When I started this thing in January of 2002, I had no allusions about the future - about whether the Cheyenne Herald would be a short-term experiment or a long-term project. I'm not sure I do yet.

As we near the end of another year - the sixth year of publication of the Herald - I would be remiss if I didn't thank some of the individuals and businesses that have made this ride possible.

First, of course, thanks to the Wyoming Tribune-Eagle. Without their inadequacies, no one in town would have cared to read the words of another publication. And, to Reed Eckhardt for bestowing the title of "The Local Advocacy Journal" on this endeavor. I could not have come up with better words to describe my efforts.

Dennis Rafferty, a friend who's always there, has been with me from the beginning. His Oroweat Bakery Outlet on Southwest Drive has been an advertiser on these pages from Day One. Two advertisers in my first issue were scared off by the chamber-types' threats against their businesses. Dennis rides a Harley for a reason. He don't scare that easy.

Thrifty Cash joined the Herald in the second issue and has been with me every since. Los Amigos has supported us almost as long. Other advertisers came on board as time went on and never left. It is with great pride that this publication has held its advertisers. Few have come and gone. Almost all have come and stayed.

Because of stands I took in opposition to illegal annexations, I met a number of

incredible people. Jean Cotton and her daughters stood up for county residents and their lawsuit was the first to reach the Supreme Court and caused the City's illegal acts to begin to topple.

Had I not embarked on this adventure, I would not have crossed paths with the likes of Betty Cox and Ann King - two ranchers who led the fight against an illegal annexation west of town. Nor Gay Woodhouse, the People's Champion who became our Terminator. A former Wyoming Attorney General who fears no one and brooks no B.S., Gay has been critically important to residents. Pink Power rules!

When I began the Herald, I decided to offer it free and seek financial support in other ways. Encouraged to offer subscriptions as a way supporters could "partner" in the effort, I did so early on and that backing has been great. Generous others contribute non-deductible cash gifts. Some anonymously, others wouldn't care if their names were made public.

Volunteers help with a difficult distribution and are invaluable. Without the help of three principal volunteers, I'd be hard-pressed to get the papers out.

Thanks to Jim Mathewson. When he looks into what you've been doing, you get looked into good. His contributions to these pages have been immeasurable.

And, Phyllis Atchison. Without her backing, encouragement, counsel, praise, challenges, connections, humor and friendship, I may not have persevered.

Thanks to all. And to all, a good night.

Dave Featherly