

# To the new national readers of

Particularly those who are following our stories and revelations about degree sellers

the **CHEYENNE**  
**HERALD**

## Welcome!



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by *Dave Featherly*

Cheyenne Herald Publisher / Editor

The offerings of this alternative publication from Cheyenne, Wyoming are being linked more and more through the worldwide web and I thought a brief explanation of what you're reading and what the Cheyenne Herald is might be in order.

First, I have a website ([www.cheyenneherald.com](http://www.cheyenneherald.com)) to which I post some or all of the pages of my biweekly publication. I hesitate to call it a newspaper because it so much more. And so much different. I'll explain what it is and isn't in a bit.

I do want to say that I have not posted nor sought or authorized the posting of recent articles from the Cheyenne Herald's website Home Page or Articles pages. I have not been asked for permission and I don't know that there's anything I could do if I opposed the postings. I don't but sometimes the words are read in twisted ways. That comes with exposure to both those who support and oppose the positions I take.

And I take a lot of positions. That is the role of this publication. It has derisively been dubbed "the local advocacy journal" by Cheyenne's daily newspaper and I couldn't be prouder. Rather than review our history and brag about any stories we've broken in the seven-plus years of publication, I will refer you to the website address below. Read to your heart's content.

The reason I'm posting this special message is that I have been following some forums / blogs (I'm not sure the difference or what I'm supposed to call them) and have seen some major misconceptions and conclusions about the Cheyenne Herald, me and the stories printed.

I am not a liberal, a left winger, a right winger or a fascist. I dislike people individually. I don't hate any group because of race, color, creed, ethnicity, religion or sexual preference - not even because of their political party.

I have published so much derogatory information about degree sellers, some call them diploma mills, not because that helps me sell papers, as has been charged, but because they sullied the name and reputation of the people and the State of Wyoming. Anyway, I don't sell papers, I give them away. They have been free, unless you enter a subscription and then it costs you \$75.00 a year, since the first issue on January 30, 2002.

The degree sellers did not dirty our bedsheets without help from the State of Wyoming. Our Legislature enabled these bums to operate within our borders for years. It was not until the Cheyenne Herald disclosed that the local police chief had purchased a mail order master's degree from an unaccredited scammer in Bay

St. Louis, Mississippi (he bought it with public funds - \$2,504.00) and we began to research the subject and write extensively about the degree sellers in our midst did the State begin to take the issue seriously. The then-Superintendent of Public Instruction was unaware that Department employees were taking expense-paid junkets overseas with the unaccredited "schools." To his chagrin, he was shown a photo of a Department employee all wrapped up with an executive from American Central University, one of the nefarious ones that operated from a small basement office in downtown Cheyenne. He then joined our crusade to rid our state, particularly Cheyenne, of the bums.

You might have picked up from my writings that I am not a journalist. I am an opinionist, an essayist, an editorialist. I do not mince words. I challenge those I criticize.

The Cheyenne Herald is a biweekly publication with a 5,000 print quantity. I estimate that as many as 10,000 people read each issue. It is not USA Today or the Wall Street Journal. The website helps me reach thousands more and that number of readers is unknown. I can tell that there have been several thousand visits weekly to my website over the past few weeks - coinciding with the heavy coverage of the ends of Warren National University (formerly Kennedy-Western University), Preston University and Lacrosse University. Authorities in the field of unaccredited "institutions" don't pay much attention to Lacrosse but that is where our police chief bought his master's degree with our money so it was with particular delight that we announced Lacrosse had been closed by the State of Mississippi. It was interesting to learn that they never had authority to "grant degrees" so the master's our top cop bought is absolutely worthless.

I've told you a bit about what the Cheyenne Herald is. What it is not is a toady to any politician, political party, advertiser or local power broker. I do not print comics, legal notices, classified ads, dating ads, social notices, wire service offerings nor obituaries and I do not solicit advertising from out of state. I do not print offerings from other writers with a couple exceptions.

I usually do not use names in stories. If they are critical to the credibility or telling, I might but generally the names are necessary and I don't use them. A major reason for that is that I never wanted to be used to get even - to settle scores. It's not quite so appealing to provide a tip to take someone down if their name won't be in the story. I don't print from press releases and I don't attend press conferences or public meetings where someone is talking at me and I cannot challenge them. I do one-on-one interviews for stories.

Now that I've provided enough background that you can better understand what I do and how I do it, let's get back to the issue most national readers are interested in. Yes, I also end sentences in prepositions - just to rile tight--- perfectionists who think they know everything.

In the past couple of months, I've published the notice from WNU that they were pulling the plug on their long-time, lucrative enterprise. In that announcement, they informed "students" they could transfer credits to the equally undesirable Preston University in Montgomery, Alabama. At the time that was announced, Preston's license to sell degrees from Alabama had expired.

Within days, I had acquired and published the three page letter from the State of Alabama notifying Preston University that their license renewal application had been rejected and that they (Preston) must immediately cease and desist operating in Alabama.

So much for the nefarious plans of WNU to pass off the "students" who were in the process of "earning" a degree from them. It has become apparent that one reason, probably the major reason, Kennedy-Western University changed its name to Warren National University preparatory to seeking accreditation was to distance students from the new name - they would become shocked to learn that the degree they bought from the unaccredited KWU would remain worthless if Warren National did attain accreditation.

KWU had publicized that reissued degrees would be in the name of Warren National University and they would have had a run on those degrees had WNU become accredited. Even though Kennedy-Western made it clear that earlier degrees, while they were unaccredited, would still be from an unaccredited degree seller, "students" had figured that out. As one of the prolific posters on website forums already had, students would get a new degree, issued from WNU, and pass it off as from an accredited institution even though it was earned from KWU. The HLC put the kibosh on those plans when they would not grant candidacy status to WNU and WNU ended their long and profitable odyssey.

Now, what both Kennedy-Western and Warren National graduates want is for the Cheyenne Herald to stop releasing more and more incriminating information and data about those operations. "Graduates" who have been able to use their degrees with employers who were unaware that both "schools" were little more than libraries, now risk being found out. And, should that happen, employers in this tight labor market might demote or terminate employees who used a degree from an unaccredited degree seller to attain the job, gain advancements or higher pay. So, the apologists and defenders of both KWU and WNU want this subject to go silent. But, it probably won't. My stories will remain on the internet for years, if not forever, and students who are seeking refunds from both operations have retained legal counsel. Those attorneys can be contacted via [mkhan@rothgerber.com](mailto:mkhan@rothgerber.com). If you have questions of me, e-mail me at [davefeatherly@msn.com](mailto:davefeatherly@msn.com)

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