

Clinton Daily News expands news coverage

The Clinton Daily News is now bigger and better.

The catalyst for expansion of the daily newspaper was a survey that asked people what they liked, what they didn't like and what they would like to see more of in the Clinton Daily News.

What they learned from the survey was that people liked what they were getting but wanted more, said Rod Serfoss, publisher of the Clinton Daily News.

So beginning October 1, the newspaper expanded its state and national news on the inside pages, and now provide opinion and advice columns on a daily basis.

In addition, another sports page is being added every day that includes stories from Southwestern Oklahoma State University, the Oklahoma City Thunder, Oklahoma State Uni-

versity and The University of Oklahoma.

While many daily newspapers cut back to one or two printed editions each week during the pandemic, the Clinton Daily News opted to reduce the number of pages in its Tuesday, Thursday and Friday editions so it could continue to print five days a week.

With times returning to some sort of normalcy, the Clinton Daily News decided it was time to make things even better.

Now, every edition will be at least 10 pages, giving readers a minimum of 50 pages each week.

"This could not have been implemented without the great staff at the CDN," said Serfoss. "They deserve all the credit."

The survey renewed the

staff's optimism in the value people place on their local newspaper, said Serfoss.

The expansion kicked off with a special rate offer during the month of October to both new and existing subscribers. People can choose how many printed editions of the paper they want delivered by mail to their house in Clinton or how many online editions they want for only 30¢ per issue (10 issues for \$3, 20 issues for \$6, 100 issues for \$30, etc.).

Survey respondents also said they wanted a reduced rate for subscribing to the online edition so the annual rate has been reduced from \$99 to \$75.

Although it's still in the early stages of the

See CDN, Page 2



New law requires notice of abandoned burial spaces

A new public notice regarding abandoned burial spaces takes effect November 1, 2021.

Senate Bill 335, by Sen. Roland Pederson, allows for burial spaces that have been unused for 75 years to be returned to a private or public cemetery after a search

for heirs and beneficiaries has been conducted.

If the last known address of the record property is known, a certified letter must be sent.

If no address is available, the measure requires publication of a notice describing the abandoned burial space in

a legal newspaper as defined by Oklahoma Statute 106 of Title 25. The notice must be published for three weeks in the county of the last-known address of the record owner. If the address is not available, publication is to take place in the county where the burial space is located.

If ownership of the burial space is not proved within one year after the publication, the space would be considered abandoned.

Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt signed the bill into law on April 23, 2021.

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From the President

By John Denny Montgomery

Co-Publisher, The Purcell Register • OPA President 2021-2022



Does anyone else besides me notice a few more gray hairs when they look in the mirror?

It seems like yesterday I was usually about the youngest person in the room.

Those days are over now and others have taken my place but it's made me think about some things.

The job of cultivating the next generation of journalists is much harder these days. It's going to take an evolved approach to help usher in a new crop.

We should actively engage our high schools to encourage them to produce student newspapers. This will create a connection with up and coming writers, which is imperative to continue the integrity of our profession.

We should approach guidance counselors and others at local schools to inquire about recruiting interns from the high school.

The only way for some of these students to realize what an exciting and fulfilling career we have is to give them exposure to it.

When you hear the stories of our colleagues who have spent 25 or 50 years in the business they often talk about how their careers in journalism began when they were young. They had paper routes or covered their high school teams or held other entry-level jobs around the office.

I spent my formative years slipping papers and growing as a beat writer.

Students today can still help us in similar ways.

What are the chances that any high school student off the street is 100 times savvier with social media than all of us?

I'd bet the farm.

Of course they're still green around the edges and need to learn best practices and ethics before just jumping in the fire, but kids these days are smart and adapt fairly easily.

They would also help bridge the gap to a whole new generation of readers. It seems like a win-win.

Purcell High School has an internship program for seniors. This allows them to go into the community and get hands-on experience at pretty much any business that is agreeable to host.

We currently have a high school student interning at The Purcell Register a couple hours a week.

We haven't given her the keys to our social media yet, but as she gains experience she will serve an integral role as we move forward and she learns more about our operation.

Those of us with colleges or universities nearby have an even better opportunity.

These students already have several things that make them appealing as interns: They already live in town; they are actively taking classes to gain knowledge on our profession; they are eager to get their feet wet and get a taste of a wide variety of journalism.

These students are also prime job candidates after they graduate as they are familiar with the city and community.

Inevitably some students will plant roots in their college town.

Newspaper staffs should lay groundwork to recruit these students to their newsrooms, ad departments and any other position while they have these students in town.

Oklahoma is blessed to have great journalism colleges, schools and programs at the collegiate level and we should retain as many of them as we can.

We see their great work they produce at our yearly convention when we see their winning entries in the annual Better Newspaper Contest.

There is plenty of talent there.

Some more effort would go a long way to cultivate relationships with the next generation.

Our industry and our staffs would greatly benefit from the new ideas that can be learned from a younger group. They are smart and they're the future.

We owe it to ourselves to spend a little time working with them.

1st Amendment Congress to be virtual this year

Freedom of Information Oklahoma's 2021 First Amendment Congress will be virtual this year.

Registration for the Nov. 2 event, which will be live-streamed on FOI Oklahoma's YouTube channel, is free and open to the public.

The one-day conference focuses on the First Amendment and how it relates to the lives of students and teachers.

The meeting begins at 9 a.m. Presentation of the annual Zach Taylor First Amendment Essay Contest will also be announced during the event.

For more information about the event, visit foioklahoma.org.

CDN

Continued from Page 1

rollout, the feedback has been positive and several subscribers are taking advantage of the 30¢ per day special.

One word that jumped out in the comments from the survey was "more." "...wish there was more to read." "...more news about what is happening in the state." "...more on how our U.S. Representatives vote." "...more world news and more church news." "...more articles about citizens helping our town and people."

Over and over respondents asked for more.

"As a result of their input we now produce a bigger and better CDN," said Serfoss.

"Simply put, the people spoke, we listened."

Muscogee Nation voters approve press protections for tribal media

By Liz Gray, Managing Editor
MVSOKKE MEDIA

(Reprinted with Permission)

Muscogee (Creek) voters made history during the Muscogee (Creek) Nation 2021 Primary Election.

Citizens voted in favor of amending the MCN Constitution to include press protections and guarantee funding for Mvskoke Media. The ballot required two-thirds approval and was passed with 76.25% voting yes.

"I sincerely hope the work done in our community catches on in every one of the Indigenous nations in this country and that we grab hold of roots by writing our own stories," Mvskoke Media Director Angel Ellis stated on the passage of the amendment.

Free press was first introduced at MCN by the National

Council in 2015, becoming only one of few tribal nations with press protections on the books.

However, on Nov. 8, 2018 National Council introduced legislation during an emergency session and voted 7-6 to repeal the free press law. The repeal placed Mvskoke Media under the direction of the Secretary of the Nation, a cabinet member of the executive branch.

Press freedoms were restored in July 2020 with a 15-0 vote by the National Council. Further action by the Council was taken when Wagoner District Representative Mark Randolph sponsored legislation turning over free press to a vote of the people. The legislation passed with a vote of 13-2.

The amendment prevents

action to be taken by any branch of the tribal government to repeal freedom of press. The decision would once again be placed into the hands of the citizenry.

"The people have spoken, and so overwhelmingly," Principal Chief David Hill stated. "A truly free and independent press is the only way we can function as a transparent government. We must have the press operating without any editorial influence or control of what's published."

"I'm thankful that Muscogee citizens agree that the free speech of our official publication must be constitutionally protected."

Also on the ballot were seven Muscogee Nation National Council delegate seats.

Enid News & Eagle spotlights staff journalists

The Enid News & Eagle featured its staff journalists during National Newspaper Week, which was celebrated October 3-9 this year.

Each day the article reminded readers that the Enid News & Eagle is proud of the journalists serving their coverage area.

The article included information about each of the Enid News & Eagle's reporters and editors during National Newspaper Week.

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Examiner-Enterprise names Kim Archer as editor



KIM ARCHER

Kim Archer is the new editor of the Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise. She had been acting as interim editor since Doug Graham left that position in August.

Archer was hired as a reporter for the Examiner-Enterprise in June 2020.

"I'm excited to lead a team of strong journalists who are just as committed as I am to covering the community in a way that makes a positive difference in the lives of others," said Archer.

Archer began her journalism career in 1985 at the Tulsa World. She has worked as a reporter for the national news-wire services Knight-Ridder Financial News and Dow Jones News in Kansas City and Washington D.C., and was new media editor at the Congressional Quarterly.

She returned to her home state in 2006, rejoining the Tulsa World, where she worked for nearly a decade before joining OSU-Tulsa's communications' team.

"Kim understands the people of Oklahoma and brings loads of valuable journalism experience to her new role," said Ray Rivera, vice president of news for Gannett's Sunbelt Region and executive editor of The Oklahoman. "The Examiner-Enterprise is in great hands."

Stillwater News Press names Rob McClendon as publisher

Rob McClendon has been named publisher of the Stillwater News Press.

He comes to the News Press from Oklahoma CareerTech, where he created Horizon TV in 2004. Horizon TV was a multi-platform effort that included a nationally televised weekly show that McClendon anchored and served as the executive producer.

Since 2017, McClendon has led CareerTech's digital efforts.

He believes journalism is foundational for the health of any community, and wants to increase the effort to reach the audience where they are, be it print, online, social or anywhere else, he said.

"Newspaper isn't an accurate term for what the News Press already does. In addition to our print editions, we have daily e-Editions online, newsletters, email news alerts, podcast and soon-to-be video," McClendon said. "Journalism is constantly changing and we will change with it."

"I believe my background in the broadcast and digital side of journalism will help the News Press develop into a multimedia platform."

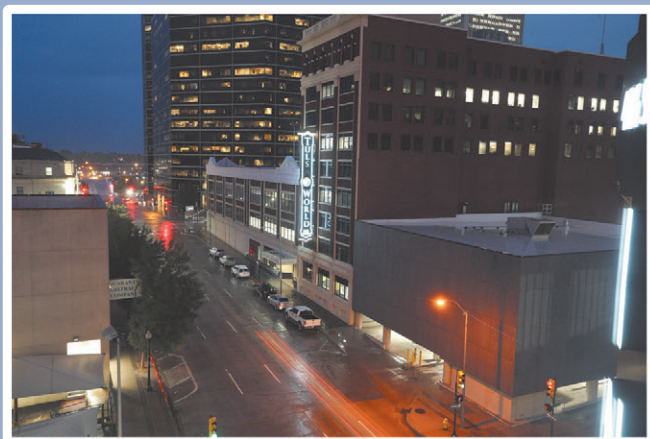
Prior to working at CareerTech, McClendon worked in television news before moving to Stillwater in 1990 to work at Oklahoma State University, anchoring the PBS program SUNUP.

"Rob has been actively involved in the Stillwater community for more than 25 years," said Dale Brendel, CNHI regional publisher and former News Press publisher. "With him as our news leader, it will only strengthen our commitment to local news and sports coverage and to preserving and enhancing our leadership role within the community."



ROB MCCLENDON

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TULSA WORLD
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New editor at Norman Transcript



MAX BRYAN

Max Bryan was recently named as news editor at The Norman Transcript.

After graduating from John Brown University in Siloam Springs, Ark., Bryan worked at The Sentinel-Record in Hot Springs, Ark., as the tourism and business reporter.

For nearly the past four years, he has worked at the Southwest Times-Record and most recently at the Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette.

New staff member at Claremore



JENNIFER MAUPIN

A recent Oklahoma State University graduate has joined the staff of the Claremore Daily Progress. Jennifer Maupin will be responsible for writing, editing, designing pages and taking photos.

Maupin, former news editor with The O'Colly, graduated from OSU with a degree in Multimedia journalism in May. Maupin was born and raised in Tulsa. She was involved in speech and debate throughout high school and college. *(The print version of this publication incorrectly states Maupin joined the staff of the Stillwater News Press. Maupin joined the Claremore Daily Progress staff. Electronic version corrected 10-15-21. We regret the error.)*

Councilors set special election; filing dates incorrect

Following the September 21 meeting of the McAlester City Council, the McAlester News-Capital asked the mayor if the filing dates for a vacant ward seat were correct.

At the meeting, city councilors voted unanimously for a Feb. 8 Special Election to fill the vacant Ward 3 seat and for dates of the candidate-filing period to begin Dec. 27 at 8 a.m. and close Jan. 5 at 5 p.m.

The McAlester News-Capital reported that candidate filings for public offices are

for three-day periods in Oklahoma.

Mayor John Browne referred the question to City Attorney John T. Hammons, who said he interpreted that a filing period that started on a Monday should continue through 5 p.m. on Wednesday of the following week.

The News-Capital said that the “next succeeding Wednesday” should be interpreted as stating the candidate filing period ends on the Wednesday of the same week it began, not

the week after. Hammons later agreed, saying that he may have misinterpreted the election requirement.

The day after the meeting Hammons advised City Clerk Cora Middleton to include the correct Dec. 27-29 candidate filing period in the election resolution she was preparing for presentation to the city council the next week. Hammons said he would explain what had happened and give councilors an opportunity to vote on the correct dates

prior to the election resolution being presented to the Pittsburg County Election Board.

The McAlester News-Capital asked the Pittsburg County Election Board to confirm that Dec. 27-29 are the correct candidate-filing period dates for the city’s Feb. 8 special election for the Ward 8 seat.

After checking with the Oklahoma State Election Board, Assistant Election Board Secretary Carla Morris confirmed that the dates are correct.

Parties reach mutual settlement in Big Cabin lawsuit

A lawsuit filed against the town of Big Cabin alleging the board of trustees violated the Open Meeting Act while closing public meetings during the early months of COVID-19 has been dismissed.

Twelve Big Cabin residents, represented by Lee-Coats Law in Vinita, filed the lawsuit alleging the town board allowed only 10 persons to be inside the meeting room during regular and special meetings held between March 24 and June 11 of 2020. The

lawsuit further alleged the town board did not make provisions for the public to participate in the meetings electronically.

The town cited an amended executive order issued by Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt that prohibited “social gatherings of more than 10 people” because of the pandemic. On the notice posted at City Hall to limit attendance, the word “social” was omitted. The town also limited attendance at its May and June meetings

even though the governor’s executive order had expired April 30.

The lawsuit was dismissed September 30 after both parties agreed to a mutual settlement.

Court records show that one term of the settlement is that the town board “concedes that if the matter were tried in court, a court could find that there were four violations of the Open Meeting Act.”

The town board denied that the alleged violations were

willful and made no admission of wrongdoing, court records show.

The Town’s position is that all matters where action was taken during the meetings in question were approved at a subsequent meeting on August 3, 2020.

Court filings also show the settlement provides for the town to pay \$10,000 in attorney’s fees for the plaintiffs.

The Lone Grove Ledger announces closure

After nearly 39 years, Linda Hicks decided it was time for her to close The Lone Grove Ledger.

Linda and her late husband, Gary, moved to Lone Grove in 1979 to open their third pizzeria. It wasn’t long before they partnered with Rob and Barbara Henry to open a print shop.

Then, Gary decided Lone Grove needed a newspaper, Linda Hicks wrote in her farewell column on September 15, 2021.

The Hicks produced the first issue of The Ledger on

January 5, 1983, using a Mergenthaler to produce the type.

The pizzeria was sold in 1984, and the Hicks later bought out the Henrys’ share of the print shop.

Linda recalled the time the Mergenthaler broke down and Gary wasn’t able to repair it. The Hicks had recently attended an Oklahoma Press Association convention where the very first computer by Apple was demonstrated for desktop publishing.

The Hicks drove to Norman and bought two 512K

Apple computers to replace the Mergenthaler.

Linda expressed her gratitude to readers and advertisers of the Lone Grove Ledger, and to all the staff members past and current who helped put out the weekly newspaper.

“I will miss the newspaper and print shop,” Linda Hicks wrote, “but I believe that I am blessed with the knowledge that Gary would approve of me having carried on and my decision that it was now time to quit.”

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Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame seeks nominations for class of 2022

Nominations are being sought for the 52nd annual induction ceremony for the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame.

The 52nd induction is scheduled April 28, 2022, at the University of Central Oklahoma, which serves as the host for the hall of fame.



**Oklahoma Journalism
HALL OF FAME**

A 10-member selection committee comprised mostly of hall of fame members will select the next class of up to 10 inductees and a Lifetime Achievement Award honoree.

Journalists or journalism educators are chosen for recognition each year from among those who have made outstanding contributions to the field for at least 10 years. They must either be Oklahoma natives or have worked in or made contributions to Oklahoma journalism for several years.

Those wanting to submit nominations for the 2022 class must do so by going to the "Nomination Form" on the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame website at www.okjournalismhalloffame.com. The form can be found by going to "How to Submit a Nomination" and "Selection Process" at the bottom of the main page.

All nominations must include a date of birth, place of birth, phone, email address and regular address, nearest living relatives and a date of death if the nominee is deceased. The nomination also must include a detailed list of accomplishments that qualify the nominee for the hall of fame as well as a biography or resume of the nominee and a photo. The nominator's phone number and email address also must be included.

A nomination is required for selection. Because of the large number of nominations now on file, many are not selected the first year. Nominations are held for at least 10 years before another nomination is required.

For more information about the hall of fame, send an email to jhight@uco.edu or call 405-974-5924.

Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise press shuts down in October

Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise owner Gannett recently announced that the print production of the paper is being outsourced to the Tulsa World and the Examiner-Enterprise's printing press will close.

The first issue produced in Tulsa will be printed on Oct. 22 for the Oct. 23 edition. Closure of the press affects nine Examiner-Enterprise production employees, who have been notified they will be laid off with severance packages.

The transfer of print production to Tulsa will not impact newsroom or advertising operations.

"This move will not affect our commitment to strengthening local coverage of Bartlesville and other communities we serve," said news editor Kim Archer. "Consolidating production operations in the newspaper industry is an increasingly common way of reducing costs and preserving local journalism, and that is what is happening here."

Grant provides funding for Lawton Constitution to create media literacy curriculum for students

By DAVID STRINGER,
The Lawton Constitution

With far too many people saying they “get their news from social media” and, as news professionals knowing how dangerous that is, The Lawton Constitution took steps to try and help young people make better decisions.

As part of a grant from the Oklahoma Media Consortium, Constitution managing editor Dee Ann Patterson and publisher David Stringer worked with a group of local educators to create a media literacy curriculum, aimed at middle school-aged students.

“We applied for the Innovation grant because we recognize the importance of students learning about the media. They are bombarded with so much information on social media, and we wanted to give them the tools to make wise decisions about the source of that information,” said Patterson. “Hopefully the skills they learn through this media curriculum will help them evaluate the sources of news reports so they can make better informed decisions.

“We worked with three teachers and a curriculum specialist from Lawton Public Schools to put together a guide for teachers in middle school to use. The curriculum is designed so that it can be used not just in language arts classes, but also in other core subjects. We wanted it to be flexible so it could reach as many students as possible.”

The curriculum is designed to “scaffold” from one grade level to another, building the students’ skills learned previously. It starts with a basic question for 6th graders: Seeking facts: What is the

difference between facts and opinions and how can you tell which is which? It also introduces students to the concept of bias and “echo chambers” where the only opinions they’re exposed to are the same as their own.

Seventh graders examine how a local story was covered from different perspectives, focusing on a foreign exchange student who was killed in Southwest Oklahoma and explores differences in coverage from local, national and worldwide perspectives. Since the victim was a resident of Australia, the story went far beyond our region.

Eighth graders examine opinion-writing, bias and the concept of censorship on writings and in social media.

The curriculum was funded by a portion of a grant The Constitution received and the balance was set aside to provide NIE copies to local schools as teachers utilized the curriculum. Patterson and Stringer worked with Lawton Public Schools educators to help frame the lessons,



designed to be one to two weeks each year.

“We also got the local schools to agree that this would be made available to schools throughout the state,” said Stringer. “We know there’s a huge need out there,

especially for younger kids needing to educate and police themselves about what’s out there.

“That broader reach was important, we thought, to get the concept of media literacy in as many hands as possible.”

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A man rides a bucking bronc until the sound of the buzzer at a recent rodeo.

Photo by KATHLEEN GUILL, Frederick Press-Leader, August 19, 2021



Makenna, left, and Olivia Kramer play at the splash pad in Tecumseh. Back to school time is here, but there are still plenty of warm days left in the year, and plenty of places to cool off from the summer heat.

Photo by TINA BRIDENSTINE, The Shawnee News-Star, August 12, 2021

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Meet the 2021 ONF Summer Interns

The final seven ONF interns share their experiences this month. Thanks to a grant from the Inasmuch Foundation, 19 journalism students received paid internships at various OPA business member newspapers. The internship program, now in its 13th year, is facilitated by the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation.



**Jacob Silva, *The Norman Transcript*
University of Central Oklahoma**

I walked into The Norman Transcript with a lot of uncertainty, but I knew a few things were absolutely true: I know how to report, I will work with an excellent staff and I love Norman. Those three things propelled me through my eight weeks at the Transcript – through the uncertainty I felt. Reporting on crime, or nonprofits or coaches I had never met or meeting the hidden pillars of the Norman community all, upon doing them, became doable for me.

The staff, specifically Emma Keith and Reese Gorman, made me feel like a member of the family and motivated me through my experience there. Emma is the best editor I've had. She always steered me in the right direction while allowing me to maintain my own creative writing voice. Reese has an approach to reporting that I've never seen before. It's loose, erratic and absolutely incredible to watch. He's the best reporter I know. He has no fear at all entering situations and knows more about politics than I could ever know.

My most memorable story at The Transcript was unexpected.

I had been assigned two short profiles in this summer's Norman Magazine. I was to interview important members of the community that might not be in the spotlight. I interviewed a longtime worker of the Pioneer library system, and a man named Nick at Sam Noble Natural History Museum.

Our assignments were short profiles, 300 words or so. I got both of those done easily, but I spoke to Nick for an hour and a half, and learned so much more. I learned about his life, how he would be retiring soon after 30 years as a curator. I learned that the museum had found its largest discovery in 130 years, and that it would put the perfect bow on the finale of Nick's wonderful career. I ended up writing a slice-of-life story on his career, and it's probably my favorite story that I've ever written. Another big thanks to Emma for encouraging me to write this.

I'll always remember my time at The Transcript, and the people that influenced me while I was there. Though my career will be leading me elsewhere, I hope to stay connected with those people and continue to watch all of the success I know they will have.

**Sam Hutchens, *Stillwater News Press*
Oklahoma State University**



Describing what I did for my summer internship is hard. And that's a privilege. Sure, I was a reporter for the Stillwater News Press. I wrote stories. But my work over the summer was so much more than that.

Arriving at the newsroom in the morning, saying hello to my co-workers and glancing at the "free-for-all" table for a piece of cinnamon bread or donut if I'm hungry were all constants. So was sinking into my desk chair and logging into my company computer to check my email. After that step in my day, though, is where my job became hard to describe. Following the critical step of checking for emails (and snacks) that came in while I was gone, no day looked the same.

Sometimes, I covered events where I was the only reporter, like when I was sent out on assignment to cover an OSU softball coaching camp. Other times, I was one of many reporters at an event like when a Cowboy baseball game featured a United States president or when the Cowgirls played in the College World Series.

There were days when I wrote about questions I had, like when would OSU's Edmon Low Library renovations be completed. Sometimes, checking my email or getting a suggestion

from a newsroom co-worker led to me to talk to a person for a question I had never considered. Let's just say I now know more about the country of Tanzania and gnats in septic tanks.

I learned technical skills, like how to use software and send in an open records request. My editor Beau Simmons, along with the rest of my co-workers, deserve a hearty shout-out for their acceptance of me and willingness to share tips and ideas in the friendliest way possible.

I got to meet people, learn things and have experiences that contributed to the development of me personally and of my portfolio.

While I spent plenty of time planning out future assignments and even devoted a couple days to transcribing audio and calling people, I never knew what work would greet me on the other side of my 45-minute commute in the morning. Not having a structured work schedule was an unknown for me, and a bit of a fear going in, but in the environment of the News Press it turned out to be a blessing.



Chase Congleton, *Stillwater News Press* Oklahoma State University

Upon accepting my internship with the Stillwater News Press, I was excited to finally experience real-world journalism for the first time. I graduated from Oklahoma State University this past May with a degree in multi-media journalism.

Staying in Stillwater for a summer internship was far from my first choice. I always envisioned my ideal internship to be in a trendy, urban city on the coast where I get to report the latest on national topics that people would actively read about.

However, I had a feeling that an internship with a newspaper in my college town would be a blessing in disguise. Lucky for me, I was absolutely right.

It was my summer with the Stillwater News Press that I learned just how important community journalism is even in today's world.

While the internet has changed the way that people consume news, there will always be a demand for stories that affect local communities. I was able to

learn from some of the best journalists in the industry while sitting in my local newsroom.

Reporting on local stories makes journalism that much more important. The people in my articles aren't faceless names detached from their humanity, but rather beloved people in the community who are a part of something bigger than themselves.

In my summer internship, I learned that the stories I wrote about the people and events around Stillwater were able to touch the hearts of people I never even met. People want to hear stories from the community, and I was glad I was able to report them.

Even hearing and reporting about tragic events left an impact on my life. Witnessing local people rally together to grieve and support each other through hard times taught me how important it is to always report local stories.

People in small communities deserve to have a space and a platform dedicated to the spaces around them. The journalists employed in those small communities understand the dynamic of the town and what their readers would like to see.

Having journalists who live in the

community and are intentional with their reporting creates a ripple effect that permeates throughout the rest of society.

With social media giving everyone a voice, being a journalist in a local community becomes a challenge. The internet has so many tools to amplify voices and stories, but if everyone has a microphone, who can truly be heard?

Print journalism isn't dying, but rather it's experiencing a changing period. There will always be local stories worthy enough to be told on a larger platform.

I never thought in my wildest dreams that I, as a 23-year-old recent college graduate, would work an internship at a local newspaper and enjoy it. Not only did I enjoy it, but it allowed me to flourish as a writer and a storyteller for a community I didn't know I cared so much about.

Professional fulfillment doesn't have to come to me as a Pulitzer Prize wrapped in a bow from a national newspaper. I found happiness in community journalism, and that's all that matters to me.



Dacoda McDowell-Wahpekeche, *Yukon Review & Mustang News*, Northwestern Oklahoma State University

This summer has been one for the books. Prior to this opportunity with the Mustang News and Yukon Review, I did not do much outside of sports reporting.

News Editor Haley Humphrey challenged me with stories I had never done before. She gave me a list of story ideas my first day in the office. I showed up early on accident – I honestly forgot what time work started – and she was prepared.

I saw that list and got a little scared, but she guided me in the direction I needed to go with all the stories. Through her, I have met many people in Canadian County.

County commissioner, city council and school board meetings were foreign to me, but it was interesting to finally do it. I was shocked by the number of people

I met in my first week, and every week after that.

Managing Editor Michael Pineda made this summer a really fun learning experience. He taught me how to have fun as a journalist, but also to have fun with things outside of journalism. From Reckless Kelly to Cross Canadian Ragweed... and an even deeper knowledge into the world of George Strait.

He took me to many Yukon events, providing me an opportunity to meet the people of the city and create a connection with them.

Office Manager Amy Stout welcomed me with open arms. I will always remember when I called to let them know I wanted to be their intern and she picked up the phone. I was ecstatic after hearing

her tell the office, 'We got a little brother.'

She provided a welcoming atmosphere from the get-go and has always come through whenever I asked for a phone number or a way to contact someone.

Production Manager Larissa Copeland is a great desk neighbor. She gives me a good laugh almost every day about a Key and Peele video, or a story about her cats at home – by the way, her dog-sister Nikki is the cutest Great Dane I have ever seen.

When my first week of work ended, I attended the OPA Convention in Oklahoma. See Dacoda McDowell-Wahpekeche, Page 11



Tanner Laws, *Tulsa World* University of Central Oklahoma

The Tulsa World has provided me with an incredible internship experience I will never forget. Working as a photojournalist in college, I had several expectations and questions going into the internship. Something I did not expect was provided free housing, 40-hours-a-week paid work and to be accepted into the community so well. The Tulsa World and its staff have welcomed me, along with my peers, with open and trusting arms. They allowed me the freedom of creativity, while still sticking to specific parameters.

COVID-19, for many, has had an interesting impact on life. Last year, summer of 2020, was supposed to be when my internship started. I remember the feeling of getting a phone call saying that it was canceled. I was devastated. Thankfully, the Tulsa World was able to reopen their internship program for summer of 2021.

Starting day one of my internship, I set several goals for myself: landing a front-page image once a week, submerging myself into Tulsa's community, focusing on photojournalism aspects I could improve on, learning the Tulsa World's workflow and ultimately making connections that would last. These goals were very important to me, and I have reminded myself of them every day I go into work.



This photo by Tanner Laws appeared in the June 13 edition of the Tulsa World.

Throughout the 8-week internship, I have tracked the progress of my goals. Here is some data I have compiled: 12 front page images, 8 metro front page images and a total of 51 assignments completed. This was a huge accomplishment for me. The trust that the Tulsa World put in me to cover complicated and important stories means a lot. I thank everyone involved for giving me the opportunity to express my talents and learn from them.

The experiences I had throughout this internship have made me a better journalist as well. Learning how to approach situations of tragedy, mourning, death, low light, fast-paced action and other complicated scenarios cannot be fully taught in the classroom. These types of experiences are what really test one's ability to focus and stay calm. These real-world situations have been the most valuable to me. Not

only are they a portfolio builder, but they also provide material to critique.

The Tulsa World made it easy to create and build existing relationships. Every staffer was enjoyable to be around and always provided positive conversation or feedback. Photographer Michael Noble Jr. was especially helpful. He and I clicked from the start because we shared common interests; he was also new to Tulsa. For any questions I had, he would always provide insightful opinions.

John Clanton and Mike Simons, both seasoned photographers, also helped me tremendously. We would meet up every other week to have detailed critiques.

Ultimately, the Tulsa World has been such a great place for me to grow. I am extremely happy with the work I produced, the frequency of assignments, the connections I made and everything in between.

This internship really is special. Not only do they allow you many freedoms but also providing a free place to stay and paying 40 hours of work a week is unmatched. Even with the hardships that COVID-19 brought, the Tulsa World was still able to provide an unforgettable experience, to which I thank everyone I crossed paths with.

Dacoda McDowell-Wahpekeche, *Continued from Page 10*

homa City with the office staff. I was scared. There were so many people. Normally, I am not someone who shies away from people, but I was there. Copeland was so helpful in getting me to become comfortable around other journalists and understand that I am one of them.

Associate Publisher Paula Settle has been like a mother to me this summer. She and I reflected on how I came to be the intern of the newspapers. It was luck. I shot the News and Review office a phone call during spring break, worried because of a rumor that interns get hired quickly. I called and Settle answered.

I came in that day for an interview and fell in love with the environment. It was just Settle and me for about 15 minutes, then Humphrey, Copeland and Stout joined. I knew at that moment that if I landed here, it would be worth everybody's time.

Settle was a delight. She always offered me to go with her to luncheon events and invites the office over to her house for pool parties. She even taught me how to dive. I must practice because the last time I did it was not that good and would not qualify me for the Olympics.

I still have much to learn about journalism, and I will continue my education at The University of Oklahoma's Gaylord College Aug. 23. I'm super excited because not only will my journalism education be continued, but I will start my minor in Native American Studies. I got accepted into the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Impact Fellowship program within Native American Studies.

This summer internship has made me excited for what I can do in the future. Ne yi wa (Thank you).



Gabrielle Duba, *Weatherford Daily News* Southwestern Oklahoma State University

Interning for the Weatherford Daily News was something completely unexpected in the midst of my college semester and working two other jobs. I actually started working as their intern in March while I was a resident advisor at SWOSU, as well as a life-guard, swim coach and swim instructor at the local YMCA. I eventually had to quit one of the jobs, but choosing this internship was the best decision I could have made.

I learned so much in these past few months. I started out helping with the newspaper designs for the Miami News-Record and Delaware County Journal. At the time, my biggest difficulties were learning the different rules for designing the paper. It took a few mistakes, but eventually I started doing well with the projects. Later on, I helped with The Grove Sun and its newspaper designs as well. The best part about designing these newspapers is that every day there's a new challenge. There's a new puzzle of space to fill with local content in a beautiful and organized way. The best days are when I challenge myself creatively on

how to present an article in an interesting perspective while still keeping it professional and clean. I wouldn't have learned all these tips & tricks, or rules and regulations, if it weren't for my coworker, Maggie Tran.

Going into the internship I was nervous because I had no experience in writing professionally, designing professionally, or even with communications in general. I didn't really know what to expect, other than I knew I would be building the newspaper pages. I also worried about how I would fit in with everyone, which wasn't a problem at all. Everyone at the Weatherford Daily News is outspoken, easy going, and fun to be around. Even when there are edits to make or feedback on a project that may be stressful, it was always expressed constructively to me. Everyone who works here has an amazing amount of empathy and humor while still being able to focus on the end-goal and get the job done. There's never a dull moment working there when you always have people who make you laugh, or you can simply enjoy being around them.

Having supportive co-workers is what truly made this internship a great experience. I could always go to someone with a question, and they were always willing

to help. When I enjoy my work, I finish it quickly. I think that can be said for most people, though. I got to a point in the internship where I would find myself asking for more projects to work on, and eventually I went from working on newspaper designs, to designing ads and more. The ads were for businesses located in Weatherford and the surrounding areas. Ad design is what I enjoyed most, and I'm thankful for being able to work on such creative projects.

I'm also very thankful to Phillip Reid for allowing me to participate in this internship and become a part of the Weatherford Daily News family. I've been blessed to get to know my co-workers, form great connections with them, and grow as a person from this experience. I'd also like to thank Maggie, TJ, John, Montgomery, Leanna, Josh and everyone else in the office who has been so helpful and kind to me during these few months. These people made the workplace community extremely enjoyable and are such wonderful individuals. I will always be grateful for this experience and development wherever I go in life.



Mackenzie Oestreich, *Stilwell Democrat Journal & Tahlequah Daily Press*, Northwestern Oklahoma State University

No one really prepares you for life after high school, life after college or even life as an adult. For so long I thought, "I am doing everything I should be doing," without truly knowing what I wanted to do or even what brought me joy.

In high school, I was the golden child, had straight As and was involved in more extracurricular activities than I can name. I basically filled my life up with busyness to push away the fact I was anxious and insecure.

I felt like after high school I knew what I wanted to do, if not for the rest of my life, at least for a little bit. However, I was so wrong. My worth and value were continuously tied to things that perhaps mattered in the present but will have no

weight in my future. Appearance, body image, grades, social circle, you name it and I was corrupting myself with the idea of perfection that no one is ever capable to meet.

From a young age we are taught to obey and listen rather than to voice our concerns and our needs. It is becoming more of a necessity in today's world, specifically the younger generations, for individuals to be more self-aware. Self-aware in dealing with traumas instead of just ignoring and learning how to love yourself.

What was funny to me, and even now, was everything I thought I wanted for myself after graduating college was actually not what I needed. But that's how life is, unexpected. I thought I was going to

go back to the city of 40,000 people where I was born and raised. Nope. After graduation, I actually needed to stay in the town of 16,000 and then work in a town of 3,000. Who would've thought? Talk about a culture shock, time surely goes slower in small towns. I truly believe I am in the position I am for a reason and knowing the impact I can make on others makes me strive to be better every day.

I still have no idea what I am doing, but I am taking notice of the small things that make life just a little bit better.

USPS planning postage increases

The U.S. Postal Service has announced it will not implement a postage increase in January 2022. The next increase will be in July 2022.

Then it will begin a new regime of twice-yearly increases, beginning in 2023.

The new pricing plans depend upon the approval by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit of the rate-increase authority created by the Postal Regulatory Commission. NNA and other mailer organizations have sued the PRC, saying its new postage pricing regulations are not permitted under federal law. A decision in that case is expected by the end of the year.

Next July's increase will take into effect the cost of inflation for 10 months, the expense of covering unpaid retiree health costs mandated by Congress, additional charges to account for the effects of falling mail volume and adjustments for mail classes like Periodicals that are reportedly not covering the cost of handling, transportation and delivery. Unless Congress changes the law, the increase for July 2022 is likely to be higher than the August 2021 increase.

NNA Chair Brett Wesner said that Congress holds the keys to fixing USPS.

"We continue our efforts to persuade Congress that its own inaction is at the root of this problem," Wesner said. "Now we have a system where USPS is being rewarded for service failures."

"We hope the Court of Appeals also sees the injustice here and acts quickly to set universal service back on a course of sustainability," said Wesner.

Filming takes place at El Reno Tribune

The El Reno Tribune's former pressroom was recently transformed into a staging area for a family action-adventure movie titled "Quest for Tom Sawyer's Gold."

Sean Dyer, co-publisher of the El Reno Tribune, said the film company contacted him to see about using some of the newspaper's vacant space for storage and props.

"After one week of filming they asked if they could use the room for a scene," said Dyer.

"The El Reno Tribune was happy to be able to offer our space for the production of a movie being filmed in our town. We are excited that El Reno and other Oklahoma towns are hosting multiple movie productions."



Actors Amanda Erickson and Dodge Prince act out a car scene from Quest for Tom Sawyer's Gold as a cameraman films in the El Reno Tribune's former pressroom.

Photo by Glen Miller, El Reno Tribune (Reprinted with permission)

Dyer said El Reno recently established the El Reno TV & Film Commission to promote the city as a focus for TV and film production.

Filming also took place at El Reno High School, Lake El Reno and other locations in town.

Zeus Zamani is the film's co-producer.

Zamani said the movie is based around the story of an ex-adventurer and her teenage son. The boy comes across some clues that relates to their past and the connection to Tom Sawyer.

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Average: 0; Single Issue: 0
 - e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail
Average: 2; Single Issue: 2
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It's not too early to start looking for Black Friday deals



Computer Notes

from the road
by Wilma Newby
wnewby@okpress.com

I've seen some great ideas at newspaper offices lately as publishers fix some troublesome issues.

The holidays aren't far away, which means Black Friday will be here soon and it's time to keep an eye out for some of these things for your office.



First up is a **SMALL AIR PURIFIER** for the front office. There are many brands, including the one I saw – the Filtrete Air Purifier, retailing for around \$80. This air purifier cleans virus, pollen, bacteria, smoke and dust from a room that is about 150 square feet. You might think that placing this device closer to you is better, but it's better not to have it right by your desk or face. Place it a few feet away from you so it's blowing clean air at the desk. Before making a selection for an air purifier, check out the brand and size that's best for your office and look at the price of replacement filters.

Next up and along the same line is a **PORTABLE AIR CONDITIONER** fan. Many older iMacs overheat and I

often see small fans blowing on them when I visit newspaper offices. One idea is to go a step further and point a mini air conditioner at it. I hear it works great at keeping the computer cool in a hot office area. Plus, it cools the employee. One brand to check out is the Ontel Arctic Air Pure Chill, which sells for around \$25 to \$35.

Another idea is a **VIDEO CAMERA** for your newspaper's website. These devices have come down in price and are improving all the time.

Look at the Hero10 Black GoPro. It's a large improvement over last year's model. Its image stabilization 4.0 is the biggest improvement over the Hero9 model and the 4k/120 resolution is top of the line. It sells for around \$400. An external flash attachment is also available with filters for the lens.

If your newspaper is looking for a video camera that will survive rugged conditions, look at the Olympus TG-6. It has 4k/30p video and 20 fps burst shooting. It's very resistant to dust and water and additional lens can be purchased for it. The Olympus retails for \$450.

Both of these cameras take great still shots as well as video and are more on par with the best phone cameras.

It's easy to damage the viewfinder screen, so get a cover for it – just like you do

for your cell phone screen cover.

If you don't have **BLUE-TOOTH HEADPHONES** yet, think about getting them this year. If you don't like the ones that hang from your ears look at ones with a headband and soft ear coverings. These are comfortable to wear for many hours at a time. Also, look for ones with external microphones to the headset. All the noise canceling is on the microphone, not the ear pieces, so the environment around can be heard but calls are clear to the person being contacted.

One to look at is the Luxmo Bluetooth headphones with microphone for about \$33.

Those old, cheap surge protectors at your office are a hazard to your bottom line. Spend a little to save a lot. Look for **SURGE PROTECTORS** with overload protection. Power surges and floods have destroyed many computers.

A new, fun type is the tower power strips. Jackyld and iclever are two companies offering surge protectors that also have charging stations. The iclever ones have 10-foot cords for reaching from the wall outlet to the desk – above most flood water. They also have overload protection buttons, it's easy to charge phones with the USB ports and the on/off switches are

easy to reach. Some, like the Superdanny surge protector tower, come with the wireless charging setup on the top of the device.

The overload protection is great. If the device gets too much load, the button can be reset. This prolongs the ability of the device to protect the equipment.

The new surge protectors no longer get blown and stop protecting your equipment.

If your office has good surge protectors but flooding is a threat, hang them on a wall. It's a no-cost solution.

WINDOWS 11 RELEASE

Windows 11 was released this month but it may not have arrived on your computer yet. They seem to be rolling it out slowly. Maybe that's a good thing.

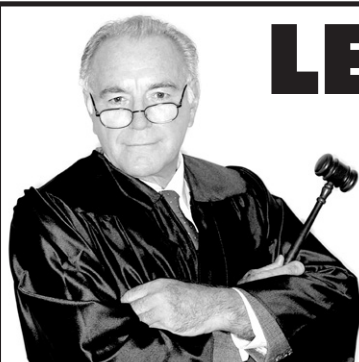
Before it arrives at your office, you need to clean up and back up files on your computer.

Backup under **Settings > Update and Security > Backup**. Or use the **Control Panel > Backup and Restore** feature.

Next, check to see if the computer will even make the leap to Windows 11. The program Windows released to check for you can be downloaded at aka.ms/GetPCHealthCheckApp.

The Trusted Platform Module (TPM) 2.0 is needed and many older computers don't have it. The UEFI secure Boot capable is another required feature. Some machines can be updated to this. It must be a 64-bit computer and 4GB Ram is the minimum, but more is better; at least 8 to 16 GB Ram is best.

OPA Computer Consultant Wilma Newby's column is brought to you by the Oklahoma Advertising Network (OAN). For more information on the OAN program, contact Oklahoma Press Service at (405) 499-0020.



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*Remembering our
friends & colleagues
who died the
previous year.*

B. Wayne Ratliff
Sept. 15, 2020

Mary McKinney Rice
Sept. 25, 2020

William 'Bill' Lewis Wright
Sept. 28, 2020

Rita Massey Baker
Oct. 10, 2020

Yvonne Marie (Lacy) Evans
Oct. 22, 2020

Neville Lavon
(Reeder) Hancock
Oct. 20, 2020

Robert Lee Walker
Oct. 14, 2020

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DEATHS

BARBARA ANDERSON, a former reporter and photographer for the Bethany Tribune, died September 23, 2021. She was 93.

Prior to working at the Tribune, Anderson was a life-

long teacher. For more than 26 years she taught at Putnam City High School.

It was after she retired from teaching that she became a reporter and photographer at the Tribune.

She was writing her autobiography at the time of her death.

Anderson is survived by her son Scott; daughter Lynn-da; nine grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren.

KRISTY JOHANSSON GEISLER, former publisher of the Claremore Daily Progress, died September 19, 2021. She was 62.

Geisler was born May 18, 1959. After high school, she moved from Utah to Washington, and then to Rexburg, Idaho, to help a family-owned radio station. In Rexburg, she started her media career as

advertising director for the Rexburg Standard Journal.

After moving to Carlsbad, New Mexico, Kristy met her husband, Randy Geisler. When the couple returned to Idaho, Kristy was named associate publisher of the Standard Journal. She was later named publisher of the Idaho newspaper.

In 2017, she was named publisher of the Claremore

Daily Progress, serving in that role to 2020. Geisler also served on a variety of boards in Claremore, including the Claremore Area Chamber of Commerce, Safenet and Will Rogers Memorial Foundation.

Geisler is survived by her husband, Randy; sons Courtney Johansson and Michael Johansson; stepson Jayson Geisler; and five grandchildren.

EDWARD JOE HAUCK, former publisher of the Enid News & Eagle, died September 22, 2021. He was 86.

Hauck was publisher of the News & Eagle from 1989 to 1999.

He served on the board that led to the creation of Northwestern Oklahoma State University-Enid. Hauck also was asked to develop a slogan and artwork to be used during the effort to save Vance Air Force

Base during the 1995 Base Realignment and Closure Commission round.

His newspaper career started as a paper carrier in his home state of North Dakota. Hauck worked his way up to publisher, after working in every department.

He was publisher of the Dickinson Press in North Dakota before moving to Enid in 1989.

Hauck was born April 26,

1935, in Richardton, N.D. He graduated from Model High School.

In 1958, he was drafted into the Army and spent most of his time at Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland.

Hauck is survived by three daughters, Pamela Schank, Janelle Gunderson and Michele Gorder; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

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JULY EDITORIAL WINNER

KIM POINDEXTER, *Tahlequah Daily Press*

Vaccine is far less dangerous than lies

A hash-tagged slogan making the rounds on social media the past few years looks like this: #stopthelies. It's time we all did that, whether at the U.S. Capitol, Oklahoma statehouse, or council chambers at Tahlequah City Hall.

A woman spoke up at a City Council meeting last month to insist the COVID virus was designed to "kill us all." She did not explain why someone would make a bug that would just as likely bump off its creator as anyone else, but she named names without evidence – in the media, that's libel or slander – and said masks were destroying children. Unfortunately, it wasn't a one-off incident. She returned to Monday night's meeting, claiming the vaccine had killed 45,000 within the past few days. That comment was easily refuted; every independent, reputable fact-check organization had already taken on that rumor, and cut it to shreds. So did concerned local doctors. It's unlikely she will be dissuaded from her false claims, however, since she says God has her back.

There's not much anyone can do to prove that last statement as false, since the existence of God cannot be empirically proved. A higher power is an article of faith, and one many Americans hold dear. But the implication that God is on the "side" of those who eschew science, spread rumor and innuendo as fact, and send false messages that could cost lives, is offensive to many who hold truth as an intrinsic value. The woman doesn't have the market cornered on God, as several other Christians and at least two local pastors pointed out afterward. There may be legitimate reasons for refusing to get vaccinated against COVID-19, but using fabrication to push others to that conclusion is repugnant.

The vaccination argument has points both for it and against it, for philosophical and health-related reasons. Some may be allergic to components of the vaccine; others, while not anti-vaccine in general, worry about the safety of a product that flew out of the labs and into arms far more quickly than normal. Some doubt

its efficacy, and others feel the stringent precautions they already take should suffice. The act of "forcing" someone to take the vaccination raises uncomfortable questions. Some would argue "my body, my choice." Libertarians – who tend to be pragmatic rather than conspiracy-minded – would oppose the government's forcing everyone to take the shot, but may not have a problem with a private businesses doing so, based on free market principles.

As far as masks, the "freedom" contingent has no ground to stand on. Nothing is being put into a person's body; the individual is told to wear masks to protect others – a comparatively minor inconvenience. Government mandates might be objectionable, but businesses should have the right to make employees and customers wear them. And when that's the case, employees and customers are free to work and do business elsewhere. The same should be true of schools; taxpayer-funded they may be, but the Legislature needs to respect local control.

Scientists have long understood how viruses behave, and when it comes to vaccinations, there are no guarantees. Some will have adverse affects, but the claim that 45,000 have died is preposterous. Vaccines aren't 100 percent effective, and no one in authority ever said that. The Delta variant is a mutation, so some who were inoculated may get it, but evidence so far has shown they'll be less sick. Though far more deadly, COVID-19 acts like "the flu" – which presents a never-ending series of variants, and that's why the "cocktail" administered every fall anticipates different strains. The shot doesn't cause the flu, but if a new strain arrives, some who were vaccinated may get sick.

City officials are unlikely to listen more than politely to the woman at the council meeting, and they shouldn't. Perhaps school administrators and patrons will follow suit and ignore the anti-mask rhetoric from the governor and Legislature, and make up their own minds.



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