

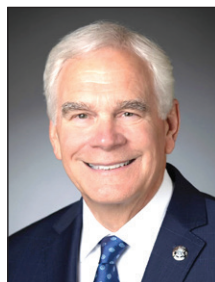
OPA & Oklahoma Attorney General's Office team up on Open Meeting & Open Records seminars

The Oklahoma Attorney General's Office is partnering with the Oklahoma Press Association to host seminars on Oklahoma's open meeting and open records laws in five locations across the state beginning Sept. 26.

This year's seminars will feature Julie Pittman, General Counsel to the Attorney General of Oklahoma, and Thomas R. Schneider, Deputy General Counsel to the Attorney General of Oklahoma.

"Oklahoma's open meeting and open records laws provide the framework for public access to government," Attorney General John M. O'Connor said. "These seminars are an excellent opportunity for community residents and public officials to learn more about transparency in government."

Pittman and Schneider will answer questions concerning



Attorney General
John M. O'Connor



General Counsel
Julie Pittman



Deputy General Counsel
Thomas R. Schneider

the state's open meeting and records laws and inform elected or appointed officials about their responsibility under the acts. They will also discuss requirements on access to public records and the conduct of public meetings.

"The vast majority of Oklahomans who hold positions on public bodies do so with a spirit of community service and work hard to follow the law," O'Connor said. "Our seminars are designed to encourage compliance and

promote openness through education."

The seminars will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. and are free and open to the public. No pre-registration is required. The meetings were last hosted in 2019 and drew more than 500 attendees from state and local offices, school boards, public officials and residents.

Continuing education credits are available for attendance.

For more information visit okpress.com/seminars or call 1-405-499-0020.

MEETING DATES & LOCATIONS

All Sessions from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

SEPT. 26 – ENID

Autry Technology Center
Room 201
1201 W. Willow, Enid, OK 73703

OCT. 3 – TULSA

OSU-Tulsa
Conference Center Auditorium
700 N. Greenwood Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74106

OCT. 17 – McALESTER

Eastern Oklahoma State College
Clark Bass Building Auditorium
1802 E College Avenue
McAlester, OK 74501

OCT. 24 – LAWTON

Cameron University
McMahon Centennial Complex
501 SW University Drive
Lawton, OK 73505

NOV. 14 – OKC

Metro Tech Conference Center
Business Conference Center
Auditorium
1900 Springlake Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73111

Driving directions and campus maps available at www.OkPress.com/Seminars

Material available to help celebrate National Newspaper Week, October 2-8

National Newspaper Week will be observed October 2-8, 2022.

The 82nd annual National Newspaper Week is a recognition of the service of newspapers and their employees throughout the United States

and Canada and is sponsored by Newspaper Association Managers.

A package of resources to promote newspaper media is available at nationalnewspaperweek.com, said Phil Lucey, 2022 NNW Chair

and executive director of the North Carolina Press Association.

The site contains a link to the 2022 NNW logo; a presentation that can be given by association managers,

See NNW, Page 3



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- PAGE 2** OPA president reflects on new beginnings in the fall
- PAGE 5** The Norman Transcript names Hayden as publisher
- PAGE 10** 2022 ONF Summer Interns share their experiences

From the President

By Zonelle Rainbolt

Executive Editor, Wesner Publications • OPA President 2022-2023



Lawmaker sues for coronavirus relief fund records

An Oklahoma lawmaker recently filed an Open Records Act lawsuit seeking access to records about expenditures from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief, or GEER, funds.

Republican Rep. Logan Phillips filed the lawsuit against the state in August.

Phillips also filed a second suit in Oklahoma County District Court stating he requested the records from the Office of Management and Enterprise Services, Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt and Oklahoma Secretary of Education and state superintendent candidate Ryan Walters.

In July, a U.S. Department of Education audit criticized state officials for lack of oversight and accountability in how they used nearly \$40 million in coronavirus relief funds intended for education.

The audit recommended the state return nearly \$653,000 spent on noneducational items and audit another \$5.4 million for possible refund of misspent funds.

Phillips said he began asking for information in April and made formal requests for the documentation in May.

The suit says Stitt and Walters have not responded.

Phillips is seeking an order saying the agency's failure to produce the records is unlawful and that the records be made available.

Stitt and OMES representatives told the Tulsa World that Phillips failed to attend scheduled meetings to see the documents.

The state sued the Florida-based contractor hired to administer the programs for how it distributed the funds.

Happy New Year!!

Yes, I know it is September, not January, but for many years and many reasons, fall has long seemed to me to be more like a time of new beginnings than January 1. One of the biggest new beginnings is the start of school. After weeks of unstructured days, family trips and no schedules, students report back for classes and extra-curricular activities. The possibilities for learning and fun are limitless. When I was a student, the run-up to the start of school was so exciting. Even through college I couldn't wait to shop for school supplies and open new textbooks. (Yes, I was a nerd or geek – or whatever we were called back then!) Finding just the right notebook or folder took long minutes of looking at every option. Getting a list of classes, my schedule and list of teachers was always the start of a new year – and so exciting!

With the start of classes, fall sports begin. For most of us in the news business, that includes some version of football – high school, university and pro. And I love football! Every season is a new beginning and, no matter how my team fared last year, this just may be the year my team makes it all the way!

Local businesses begin stocking new merchandise, civic clubs recruit new members and projects that were put on hold in May get a new life.

Temperatures begin to cool, leaves begin to change color – the air smells new as fall begins and even the light looks different. Fall brings some of the most beautiful days that ever happen in Oklahoma.

And who can deny, fall means the holidays are right around the corner. A time when families and friends find themselves smiling as they get together, whether it is to go trick or treating, give thanks for blessings or celebrate the Christmas season.

All new beginnings!

It is also a time of new beginnings at news offices. We gear back up as school begins, election races tighten up and new advertising campaigns kick off. It is all so exciting and a perfect time to look at our equipment. Are the computers running at optimal speed and efficiency? Are the printers working well? Is your internet connection strong and secure? Taking the time to check out those items now can save time as we all get busier and have even less of that precious commodity.

For members running the weekly Oklahoma Network Advertising, OPA road warrior Wilma Newby is only a phone call away. It is always amazing to me how much she can diagnose and fix with a simple telephone call, but if that isn't possible, she will be on the road to make a visit and get your equipment back up and running.

Another great "Wilma resource" is in The Oklahoma Publisher archives on the OPA website. Her articles are an excellent source of information and I find myself referring back to many of them when a question or problem arises. The hints and tips, even including some gift ideas, are priceless.

Now is also a great time to look at your plan to finish out the year. From articles to advertising, this is when you have an opportunity to fine-tune projects. It is helpful when all the staff knows what is coming and what to expect. There are sure to be surprises, but having a plan for what you know is going to happen makes it easier to handle the unexpected.

This is such an exciting time and gives us all the opportunity to make a fresh start. So, Happy New Year!



OCTOBER 6-8, 2022

**NATIONAL NEWSPAPER FOUNDATION
136TH ANNUAL CONVENTION & TRADE SHOW
San Francisco, California**

For more information and to register: nnafoundation.org/convention

Top digital journalists, innovators to lead MobileMe&You Conference in October

A MobileMe&You Conference will be held at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Student Union Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 20-22.

One theme of this year's conference is the coming of 5G capabilities, and what that will mean for journalism. There will also be experts from around the country to talk about mobile newsgathering, platforms like TikTok and Snapchat, using voice assistants for news, texting the news, targeting ultra-local information using phones' geo-locations, and other topics. Speakers are coming from CNN, The New York Times, The Washington Post, Univision, NPR, Quartz, The Chicago Tribune, The Indianapolis Star and various universities.

Free Google Tools Training by UNL College of Journalism and Mass Communications alumnus Mike Reilly will be provided. Reilly conducts trainings for the Society of Professional Journalists and Google. The free session will be held from 9 a.m. to noon Thursday, Oct. 20, and will cover "What's New with Google Tools," "Data Journalism" and "Business Tools and Investigating Companies."

Also scheduled for Thursday afternoon is a free workshop on design thinking by Damon Kiesow, Knight Chair in Digital Editing and Producing from the University of Missouri School of Journalism.

The conference is sponsored by the College of

Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; the Knight Chair in Investigative Reporting at the College of Media, University of Illinois; the Knight Chair in Digital Media Strategy at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications and Investigate Midwest, with funding from the John F. and James L. Knight Foundation.

Tickets to Friday and Saturday's conference are \$95; one-day tickets are \$50. To attend virtually by Zoom, register for the conference at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mobilemeyou-2022-registration-396199963757> and you will be sent the Zoom link.

National Newspaper Week, *Continued from Page 1*

publishers or sales directors regarding why newspapers remain relevant; information on ways to strengthen community engagement and bring solutions-based journalism to

your community and newspaper; artwork to post across all social networks with the tag #newspaperpower on the day and time listed; and print ads

from this year's "#newspaperpower" ad campaign.

Other material including editorials and cartoons will be added later this month.

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You've Got Questions!

- Can I photograph minors without consent?
- Can police deny access to records by issuing a press release?
- Should I alter my archives when a person demands it?
- Can I report inaccurate testimony given in open court?
- What are the laws about liquor advertising?

These are questions answered by the attorneys for the OPA Legal Services Plan members in recent months. OPA members always need timely legal advice on issues related to publishing.

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See www.OkPress.com/LSP or contact Mark Thomas at (405) 499-0033 or toll-free in Oklahoma 1-888-815-2672 today!



Newspapering makes Blansett a happy guy

By ZONELLE RAINBOLT,
OPA President

"I'm having a lot of fun," Blansett said recently when asked about his philosophy of combining work and play. "I'm in favor of it!"

Blansett and his wife, Kin-dra, are the successful duo who head the Lincoln County News staff, which took home the Sequoyah Award in Division 7 of the 2021 Oklahoma Press Association Better Newspaper Contest.

In addition to the five Sequoyah awards Blansett has won (four while he was at the Meeker paper), he and his team at a Texas paper were the runner-up for a Pulitzer Prize for their series on the Branch Dravidian tragedy in Waco. (The New York Times won that year for their investigative reporting of the World Trade Center bombing.)

Blansett has also served as president of the Oklahoma Press Association as well as serving on numerous OPA committees over the years.

"I have been with two kinds of papers," Blansett explained.

"With one I had 48 employees and 18 contractors. With the other, I had three full-time employees and two part-time.

"The objective with both, though, is to serve the community and get what readers consider important in the paper."

At the LCN, Blansett and his team cover the news from 11 high schools and one kindergarten through eighth grade school, as well as reporting on events around the county.

"Sometimes it is a pressure cooker, trying to juggle it all

and get everything in!" he said.

"By the end of the state baseball tournament in the spring, the last school sporting event of the year, I'm really tired, but by the time the first softball game starts in the fall, I'm ready to get back out there.

"And, of course, the other local news can get pretty intense at times and that doesn't take time off in the summer."

Blansett has been a mentor to many young people who have continued their careers in the journalism profession.

"I never had a mentor and so I realize how important that can be," he said. "My goal is to try to provide them with some of what they need to get started."

His success can be partially measured by noting he has had seven interns and six of them have won a monthly OPA contest!

Blansett said he has faith in the future of newspapers and believes good journalism will always find a path forward.

"There are a lot of things to love about our profession," Blansett said.

"I love it when I am out and someone tells me they saw an article or a particular photo. We have such an impact on the lives of our readers.

"The other day I went to get a hamburger and saw a couple reading my column in the paper. That makes me feel really good.

"I like living in Oklahoma," he said as he strummed the bass.

"It fits the lifestyle I want. I'm a happy guy!"



Five-time Sequoyah award winner Brian Blansett, publisher/editor of the Lincoln County News, finds time to combine play with work, and can often be found playing his stand-up bass with a group of friends.

Photos by Zonelle Rainbolt, Wesner Publications

Jeffrey Hayden named publisher of The Transcript



Jeffrey M. Hayden, an accomplished newspaper executive, has been appointed publisher of The Norman Transcript.

Hayden has worked in the media field for 25 years, coming to The Transcript from Sound Publishing, a leading community news organization in Washington State and Alaska. Hayden served as the company's senior group publisher and digital director.

Paul Heidbreder, regional executive for The Transcript's parent company, CNHI, LLC, announced Hayden's appointment.

"Jeff Hayden has distinguished himself throughout his career," said Heidbreder. "He brings commitment to quality journalism, print and digital skills and a strong sense of community to The Transcript."

Hayden said he looks forward to directing the "full

weight" of The Transcript's print and digital platforms to benefit readers, advertisers and the community at large.

"The Transcript is crucial for keeping readers informed about issues important to Norman, and it has a large role to play in helping our advertisers' revenues grow," he said. "I am excited to begin working on behalf of the community and the economic development of Norman."

A business degree graduate of the State University of New York, Hayden is a past president of the Mid-Atlantic Community Newspaper Association and a former director of the Western Pennsylvania Postal Customers Council. He led digital focused programs at both organizations.

Hayden has served in executive publishing, marketing and advertising roles for GateHouse Media (now Gannett); Media Consulting Services; Erie, Pennsylvania; Penny Saver; Michigan-based Trinity Holdings Inc.; and Brown Thompson Newspapers in Pennsylvania.

"He is a perfect match for The Norman Transcript with his depth of experience, knowledge and background," said Heidbreder. "He is a proven leader and exceptional communicator."

Bristow's Power Duo



Angie Gentry and Rebecca Langston keep things humming at the Bristow News and do a great job of keeping readers informed of what is happening in their community. They keep a close eye on city government, keep parents and students informed about school events and celebrate social occasions. (Loved the article about the 100th birthday party!) You will find Angie with her camera and notepad at Market Day and Crusin' Into Summer and every other event going on around Bristow. Rebecca keeps busy helping local businesses best showcase their merchandise and services. They are a great team!

Photo by Zonelle Rainbolt, Wesner Publications



Learn the best practices for Public Notices at okpress.com/public-notice-training

The Oklahoma Press Association offers three videos that describe and illustrate the standards and best practices for publication of notices along with downloadable material.

Use Find/Change to quickly edit long documents



Computer Notes

from the road
by Wilma Newby
wnewby@okpress.com

InDesign's Find/Change is a useful tool that's often overlooked.

It looks a lot harder than it really is. Stay with me and I'll break it down step by step. Once you master it, you'll discover how much time it saves you.

Maybe you want to make the first sentence of every paragraph in your story bold. Or just the first three words. Or change all those spaces to tabs. Or get rid of double spacing in a long document.

Let's get started by looking at how to make the first sentence in each paragraph bold.

First add a marker to the text to get the right starting point for the changes. To do this go to **Find/Change** under InDesign's **Edit** menu. (By the way, you can also do this in other software programs.) You should see an "@" symbol at the end of the **Find what:** box. Click on "@" and go to **End of Paragraph**. That's going to put a **^p** in the line below **Find what:**. Below **Change to:** put

the **^p** in the line the same way and add **:::** behind it. It should look like **^p:::**. Make sure **Search Story** is selected below the **Change to:** box. Click in the text you want to change and hit **Change All**. You should now see **:::** in front of every paragraph in the text.

Now you can change either the first sentence or the first few words of each sentence.

To do this you need to create a Character style and a Paragraph style.

Stick with me. It's worth the effort.

Bold the first sentence and leave the flashing I beam in the bold text flashing. Open **Character Styles** from the **Type** menu and choose **New Character style...** Name the new style **First Line Bold** and click OK.

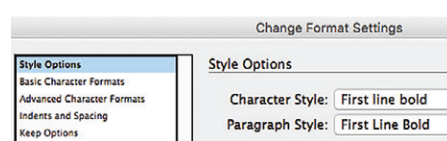


Now go to **Type > Paragraph styles** and use the flyout menu to open the **New Paragraph style...** The New Paragraph Styles dialog box can be intimidating but if the flashing I beam is still in the paragraph you want to transform, **but not in the bold part**, it's easy to use. Now, name the style. In this example I used the same

name for the Paragraph style as the Character style, **First Line Bold**. Stay in the box.

On the left choose **Drop caps and nested styles**. In this box choose the **New Nested Style button**. In the line that pops up click the **None** popup button and choose **Character style > First line bold**. Replace **through 1 Word** with **through 1 Sentence**. Click OK.

Now it's all set and ready to go. Go back to the **Edit > Find/Change** dialog box. In **Find What:** type **^p:::** and in the lower part of the box where it says **Change Format** click the symbol that looks like a magnifying glass over a T and that brings up the **Change format settings**. In this



box choose **Character Styles First Line Bold** and **Paragraph Styles First Line Bold** and click OK. In the **Find/Change** box click **Change All** and watch all the first sentences being changed to bold in the copy. It's worth it if there are more than 20 changes. Now you can remove all the **:::** in front of

what: put **^p:::** and in the **Change to:** box put **^p**. Click **change all** and you're done.

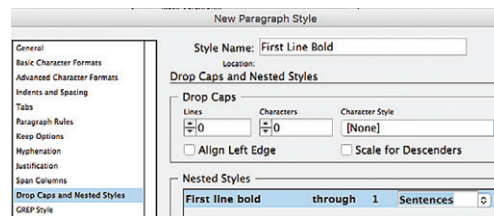
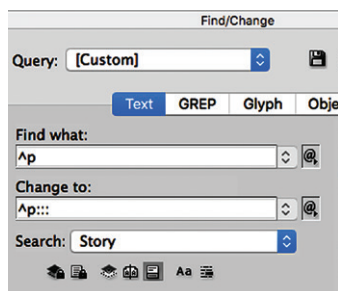
Paragraph styles stay with the document so use the same document next year to save setup time.

Even without using the fancy Paragraph styles the **Find/Change** box is one of the most powerful tools in a editor's arsenal. Use **Find/Change** to get rid of extra spaces in front of every Paragraph by putting in **Find What:** **^p** and then tapping the space bar for the number of spaces at the first of each line and then clicking **Change to:** **^p**.

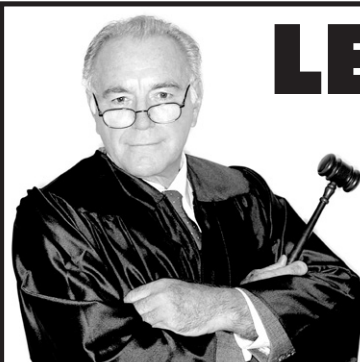
To get rid of extra paragraph returns just put in **^p^p** in **Find what:** and one **^p** in the **Change to:** box, then click the **Change all** button.

If someone sends in a document with lots of extra spaces where there should be tabs, count the maximum number of spaces (say five) used and put that number of spaces in the **Find what:** box. Then in **Change to:** put just two spaces. Next look for four spaces and so on until you get just two spaces between the words that need tabs. Put two spaces in **Find what:** and replace with **^t** for a single tab. Now the **Type > Tabs** menu can be used to make football stats look professional in the paper.

If you want to see spaces or other characters that don't show up, use **Type > Show Hidden Characters** to see things like tabs, paragraph returns and spaces in the document.



your paragraphs. Get rid of the **Change format:** by clicking the trash can next to it in **Find/Change**. In **Find**



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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.

The Duncan Banner holds family-friendly event to celebrate 130th birthday

To celebrate its 130th birthday, The Duncan Banner hosted an event on Sept. 10 in front of the newspaper office.

The family-friendly Birthday Bash featured bouncy houses, a rock climbing wall, fire departments, face painting, door prizes and more along with food trucks.

The Banner also featured a writing contest, coloring contest and photo contest for multiple age divisions. Prizes will be announced and winners published in The Banner and Duncan Magazine.

"It's not very often you get to celebrate 130 years," said Charlene Belew, managing editor. "We are excited to put on a family friendly event with entertainment for kids while we show off our history."

The event lasted from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Main Street Duncan hosted Wine'n on the Chisholm Trail at 10th and Main and The Banner's Birthday Bash filled everything else in the Main

Street district up to 7th and Main.

The Banner is one of the longest running businesses in Stephens County. The first publication premiered Sept. 9, 1892.

Childers said celebrating the importance of community produced, truth-based journalism is imperative in marking the history of not only the newspaper but also for the city.

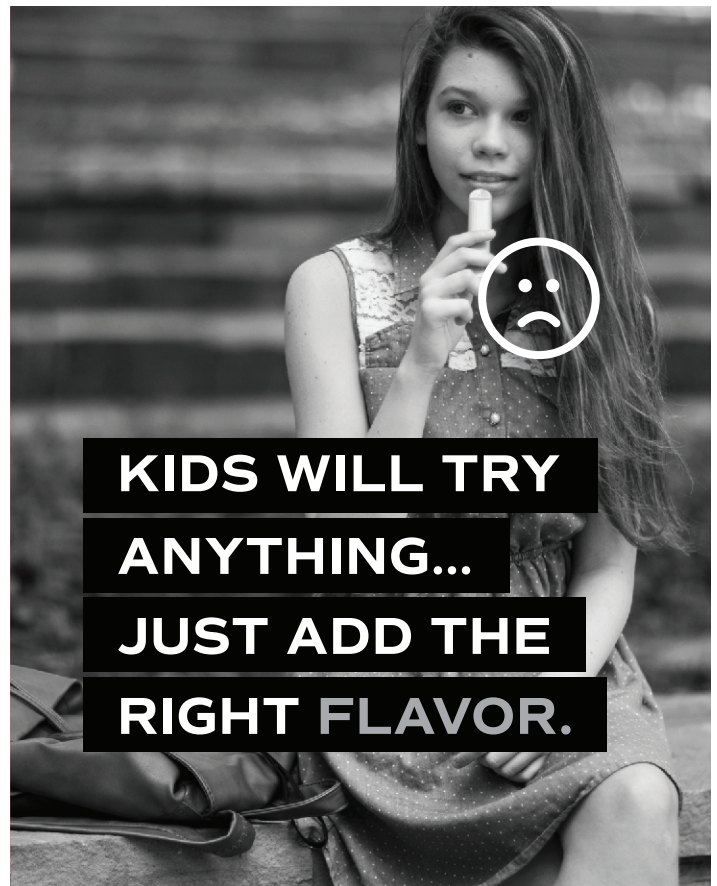
"We are proud of our history as one of Duncan's oldest businesses, dating back to 1892," said Childers. "The Banner's staff has built on the work of those before us by bringing Stephens County trusted, local news and advertising, produced by local people who live, work and play in the community to inform, educate and even entertain our citizens."

Childers said The Banner staff appreciated everyone who sponsored, supported, came out, donated and "showed us love so we could celebrate our history."



One of the many activities offered at The Duncan Banner's Birthday Bash was face painting. The event was held Sept. 10 to celebrate The Banner's 130th birthday.

Photo from The Duncan Banner



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Cody Johnson was shot like a rocket from his revved up machine during an intense moment at the lawnmower races.

Photo by LADONNA RHODES, McIntosh County Democrat, July 7, 2022



Kids and parents throw colored powder in the air as part of the kids' games during Independence Day activities in Ada's Wintersmith Park.

Photo by RICHARD R. BARRON, The Ada News, July 7, 2022

JULY 2022
DAILY, SEMI- AND
TRI-WEEKLY WINNER:
**RICHARD
BARRON**
The Ada News

JULY 2022
WEEKLY WINNER:
**LADONNA
RHODES**
*McIntosh County
Democrat*

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Sequoyah County Times produces newspaper for left-handed people



printed opposite of what readers are used to.

In order to print the issue, pages had to be flipped upside down before being transmitted to the printing plant. The newspaper was then printed as usual, although as it came off the press it appeared upside down and backwards.

The front page of the Aug. 12 edition featured an article by Lynn Adams full of facts about left-handers and a "top 20" list of why the world is against left-handed people.

To celebrate International Left-Handers Day on Aug. 13, the Sequoyah County Times produced a left-handed newspaper.

The Aug. 12 edition was

Courtney Lynn new owner of The Wynnewood Gazette

The Wynnewood Gazette has a new owner.

Courtney Lynn purchased the weekly newspaper from Mark and Cindy Lewis on August 8. Lynn has worked at the Gazette for almost four years.

The newspaper office has relocated to 101 N. Dean McGee Ave.

"I am so excited about this venture and am looking

forward to continuing to serve the community of Wynnewood, as always, but as a new business owner," Lynn said.

She plans to expand services within the new location offering a tanning salon and a store featuring spirit items for the Wynnewood Savage teams.

Lynn is also a full-time mother to her two sons, Bryson, 11, and Weston, 4.

Open Meeting & Open Records 2022 Seminars Dates & Locations:

Enid – September 26

Autry Technology Center
Room 201
1201 W. Willow
Enid, OK 73703

Lawton – October 24

Cameron University
McMahon
Centennial Complex
501 SW University Drive
Lawton, OK 73505

Tulsa – October 3

OSU - Tulsa Conference
Center/Administration Hall
Room: Auditorium
700 N. Greenwood Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74106

Oklahoma City – November 14

Metro Tech
Conference Center
Business Conference
Center
Room: Auditorium
1900 Springlake Drive
Oklahoma City, OK
73111-5240

McAlester – October 17

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2022 SUMMER INTERNS

Thanks to a grant from the Inasmuch Foundation, 17 journalism students received paid internships at various newspapers across the state.

The internship program, now in its 15th year, is



facilitated by the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation. This month, six interns share their experiences. The last group of interns' stories will be featured in the October issue of The Oklahoma Publisher.

Kyle Foster, The Rush Springs Gazette East Central University



Working for the newspaper this summer has been an invaluable learning experience. I had a fantastic time learning more

about the day-to-day operations of being a journalist and producing content.

My boss Mary Hill has been the best boss I could have asked for and gave me the freedom I needed to be the best version of myself.

Perhaps what I enjoyed most were the interactions I had with those

throughout the community. The people of Rush Springs were incredible to talk to and made my job easier by providing remarkable stories and quotes. I am grateful this internship allowed me to grow closer to my community.

Apart from the articles, what I am most proud of are the latest additions to the newspaper. My goal was to give The Rush Springs Gazette an online and social media presence.

When my internship began, there was no website for the newspaper. I created, designed, and operated the website – rushspringsgazette.com – which, as of this writing, has 2,783 viewers and counting, more

than double the population of our small town.

There were also no social media pages, so I created their Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages. In less than two months, we have cultivated a solid Facebook community with

tionships, creating newsworthy content and gaining valuable experience made this internship so worthwhile.

I would like to thank Mary Hill of The Rush Springs Gazette and the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation for this opportunity.

“ Perhaps what I enjoyed most were the interactions I had with those throughout the community. The people of Rush Springs were incredible to talk to...”

more than 600 followers, thus far.

These additions helped grow the newspaper's reach by increasing viewership and brand awareness.

This summer has been one that I will cherish and never forget. Serving the local community, growing rela-

I am also thankful for everyone who supported my work through the views, follows, likes, shares and words of encouragement. They meant the world to me, and I am truly appreciative.

Clemente Almanza, The Norman Transcript University of Oklahoma



The Norman Transcript provided me the opportunity to know what it feels like to be a journalist

during normal times.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, I was forced to cover my beats virtually with Zoom interviews. This caused me to graduate with a journalism degree from the University of Oklahoma this year without real in-the-field experience. The Transcript helped me dip my toes in the water by letting me experi-

ence scrums, interviews and the pressure of meeting deadlines.

While the summer is usually a dead period in sports, I was able to cover two of the busiest days of the year for the Oklahoma City Thunder – the 2022 NBA draft and the rookie introductory press conference. Those two

“ I don't think I could've asked for a better place to spend my summer than with The Norman Transcript.”

days include some of my favorite memories from this summer as I essentially worked nonstop the entire time. Despite the long

hours and nail-biting stress, I absolutely enjoyed myself and considered it a labor of love.

I don't think I could have asked for a better place to spend my summer than with The Norman Transcript. Everybody was very welcoming, and the work environment allowed me to be my true self without having to worry about being judged if I made a rookie mistake. While the

providing the best news coverage out there.

I just want to thank former editor Emma Keith for opening the door and giving me a chance to write for the paper. I also want to thank Jesse, Tarik and Max for helping me and answering all of my questions. All three were able to put the finishing touches on my work and turn it from a decent read to a great read.

Overall, I just want to thank The Norman Transcript for welcoming me with open arms and letting me test out some of my more creative story ideas. I couldn't have asked for a better place to spend my summer. The relationships I built here will always be valuable to me.

newsroom is small in staff, it's large in heart and dedication to

Ainsley Martinez, The Oklahoman University of Central Oklahoma



I always viewed The Oklahoman as the staple of traditional news, like something out of “All

the President’s Men”: the herd of white cubicles accompanied by even whiter walls, the daily print editions laid out in a classic serif font, and the journalistic demeanor of wit with a dash of brashness. As a news enthusiast, this was my paradise. I craved even the most mundane experiences the newsroom could offer.

This summer, however, proved to be the opposite of boring. The Saint Francis Hospital shooting in Tulsa rerouted the schedule of my second day, teaching me breaking news coverage hands-on. With real-world applications, I learned the valuable lesson of

writing fast, but well, all in my first week.

Yet, I could not shake the feeling of inadequacy. I felt I should be doing more and compared my work to those who have spent decades in the field. Even though I wanted to be on par with my veteran colleagues, I needed to understand the brevity of my mere twenty years. When I recognized the unique freedom and satisfaction of being the student, rather than the expert, I became more comfortable taking risks and flourished.

This was not my first time at The Oklahoman. An eager, novice high school student, I scheduled a meeting with editor Clytie Bunyan to talk about interning during my junior and senior year in 2019. While the internship was for college students, I attempted to not fear rejection, and constantly told myself, “If I figured out journalism is the big picture

on the puzzle box, why wait for the conventional time to place the missing piece?” Undoubtedly unconventional, Clytie allowed me the opportunity to intern—and it is with the greatest of

explore and never patronizing me for still learning. I appreciated the humor and lessons from Nolan Clay, Josh Dulaney, and David Dishman, who always included me in their reporting ventures and

“As a news enthusiast, this was my paradise.

confidence when I say I would not be here without her. Even for this summer opportunity, she was the one to reach out to me about joining the program.

Throughout this internship, I met reporters and editors that resembled the sharp and sarcastic characters from my favorite journalism movies as a child, but in real life they were so much more. Editors Ryan Sharp and Don Mecoy demonstrated unwavering leadership and commitment to the field. They were the first and last people in the newsroom most days, all while having families at home. Both treated me with great respect, allowing me the freedom to

never failed to make me laugh. I owe a huge thanks to reporters Carmen Forman, Jessie Smith, JaNae Williams and many others who provided me much needed support and encouragement—making me feel at home in the newsroom.

Thinking back to my previous time at The Oklahoman, I thought I knew everything about journalism and the world, only to now feel like I don’t know anything at all. It’s funny, the Dunning-Kreger effect in action, I suppose. Now, I’ve decided to become excited at the prospect of not knowing everything yet, and the idea of learning more.

Katrina Crumbacher, The Journal Record Rose State College



A newsroom internship is an experience unlike any other. From attending the morning

meetings to turning in that story assignment right before deadline, the world of journalism is one of extreme variety.

I have known for a long time that I would never be satisfied with a 9-to-5 job where I sit in a cubicle all day, do my work and go home. There was always something in the back of my mind that ached for more and I’ve found that as an editorial intern this summer.

In my time working with The

Journal Record staff, I had the opportunity to speak with filmmakers and politicians, artists

“...The world of journalism is one of extreme variety.

and doctors, and other people from across the state. I spoke to high school students who dream of making their own films and food truck owners pursuing their dream of owning a business.

In “To Kill a Mockingbird,” Harper Lee wrote, “You never really understand a person until you understand things from his point of view, until you climb into his skin and walk around in it.” There’s just something about meeting someone new and taking 30 minutes or an hour, and letting

them share their story. It’s one of my favorite things about being a journalist.

In our morning newsroom meetings, we discussed every-

thing from thoroughbred racehorses to Batman, from Star Trek to prairie chickens. Every morning, it’s always something new, something different. Trust me, we’ve yet to experience “Groundhog Day.”

As my internship comes to an end, I think my favorite story to work on was about deadCenter University, a two-day film workshop for high school students. To see a group of 50 students from across the state come together to make their own short films was inspiring to say the least.

I’ve seen a bit of what it really takes to run a newspaper – the day-to-day decisions of here a story is placed, delegating story assignments, and more. I’ll take what I’ve learned and apply it to whatever position I step into next.

A career in journalism requires guts, determination, persistence and patience, but it’s well worth it in the end. It also helps if you read a lot. You might get quizzed on random facts and knowledge by an eclectic editor one day.

It was through the efforts of the Oklahoma Press Association and the generosity of the Inasmuch Foundation and the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation Board of Trustees that I was able to have this incredible experience. It’s one I’ll never forget.

2022 SUMMER INTERNS

By Jillian Taylor, Tulsa World
University of Oklahoma



The first day I arrived in the Tulsa World newsroom, all I could think about was how grateful I

was to be there.

I was surrounded by the talented journalists whose work I had looked up to as a journalism student at The University of Oklahoma. They were incredibly welcoming, and I knew immediately I had chosen the right place to be for the summer.

The opportunity I had during this 10-week internship was unique. Although I worked on daily assignments, I also pitched a news project I reported on throughout my time in Tulsa. I appreciated the independence that allowed me, as they treated

me like a “summer journalist,” not an intern.

I was busy from day one. I attended vigils for the shooting at Saint Francis Hospital, covered contentious school board meetings, visited the State Capitol when arrests were made within Epic Charter Schools and even got to fly in a B-25 plane with a Vietnam veteran. I ripped my pants on the airplane, but I wouldn’t trade a minute of those experiences.

The best learning moments came from working on my internship project, where I had the chance to speak with youth and families experiencing homelessness in Tulsa. I collaborated with other interns on stories highlighting their experiences and worked to relate them to the broader issue of youth homelessness in Tulsa.

I got to see what long-form writing looks like in a professional newsroom setting, which was challenging, I’ll admit. Sources would fall through and, after months of reporting, it was sometimes difficult to maintain a direction while managing so much information.

But I persisted with the help

“*...I knew immediately I had chosen the right place to be for the summer.*”

of my intern team, Alexia and Manuela, and the guidance of my editors Jason Collington, Paul Tyrrell and Andrea Eger. I learned how to narrow down my ideas, effectively plan out a multi-story project and humanize a serious issue in Tulsa by highlighting the people it impacts.

I got to know the community quickly through this project because of all of the people that interact with the issue. I became

better at being persistent in my reporting and more confident in building relationships with sources.

Best of all, I was given free housing at the University of Tulsa, and I got to report without worrying about my classwork.

I am so thankful for the opportunities I had in the Tulsa World

newsroom and the reporters that poured into me. My experience in Tulsa reassured me that journalism is what I want to do outside of college, and I know the steps to take to improve as I pursue that career.

I want to thank the Tulsa World for helping me grow and inspiring me each day through its necessary work. I feel just as grateful as I did on my first day, if not more.

By Ben Hutchens, Stillwater News Press
Oklahoma State University



Before this summer, I thought I had done just about everything there was to do in Stillwater,

Oklahoma.

Boy was I wrong.

I did three things during my internship with the Stillwater News Press that I had never done in my three years writing for the OSU student newspaper, The O’Colly. The News Press allowed me to branch out from my OSU bubble and experience Stillwater for what it really is.

The first thing I had never done was go to court. I covered a hearing regarding a restraining order placed against a former

OSU wrestler. I a rush walking through a metal detector and rising as the judge entered the courtroom. I was so amped up I almost missed the order to stand and was one of the last ones in my row to rise. In the Payne County Courthouse, I learned going to court doesn’t have to be a bad experience.

Another first was covering the

“*I learned if my name is going to be on the column, I have to write what I believe and I might as well write how I talk.*”

Women’s College World Series. In Oklahoma, for about a week, there is no bigger sports story than the WCWS.

It was on my journalistic bucket list to cover a WCWS. My

friends in the business brought back stories of leaving at 2 a.m. because of rain delays and, while I am a young college student, I wanted to earn the late-night merit badge.

I never saw the clock strike 2 a.m. that week but settling for midnight exits three of those days gave me the experience I was hoping for. I learned working as a journalist will have wacky hours and those hours are the most memorable ones.

Another opportunity working for the News Press yielded what you are reading now, a column. I wrote four columns this summer.

The part I fretted the most over was finding a catchy name.

I fielded suggestions from my coworkers and friends but settled on a writing professor’s recommendation of “Ben Heard It.” I remember struggling to reach a respectable word count. It was difficult being opinionated, something I’ve been taught to avoid.

I learned if my name is going to be on the column, I have to write what I believe and I might as well write how I talk.

This summer, for the first time, I saw Stillwater for more than just OSU. I didn’t do this by sitting behind my laptop fielding emails. I did it by attending city council meetings, hanging out at a fishing tournament at Lake McMurry and playing pickleball with senior citizens – for the sake of the story, of course.

The best part? I learned there’s always something new to do.

Look for five more intern stories in next month’s issue of The Oklahoma Publisher.

OPA Board holds virtual meeting

The Oklahoma Press Association Board of Directors met by video conference call on August 25.

Officers attending were President Zonelle Rainbolt, Wesner Publications, and Treasurer David Stringer, The Lawton Constitution.

Directors attending were Past President John Denny Montgomery, The Purcell Register; Shauna Belyeu, The Eufaula Indian Journal; Suzie Campbell, Countywide & Sun; Erin Dyer Thompson, El Reno Tribune; and Mark Codner, The Newcastle Pacer. Also attending were Mark Thomas, OPA executive vice president/secretary, and Lisa Sutliff, OPA member services director.

Vice President Don Mecoy, The Oklahoman; Sheila Gay, Woodward News; and Misti Rinehart, Tulsa World, were unable to attend.

Board members approved the minutes of the July 21, 2022, meeting as presented.

The board also acknowledged OPA and LSP profit and loss statements as presented.

New member classifications established by the by-law's amendment adopted on June 20, 2022, were

reviewed at the meeting. The board also reviewed the criteria for General News Media members.

Benefits that each type of OPA member could receive were discussed. Rainbolt and Thomas said benefits should be reviewed regularly and the board can revise them as needed. The benefits were accepted as presented.

The board also discussed the dues structure. Annual dues amounts for existing sustaining and associate members that fit new membership categories for the current 2022-2023 year, will remain the same as the prior year until July 1, 2023.

The board approved dues for the new membership category of General News Media. General News Media members are not Legal Newspapers and do not receive benefits for work done on public notice. Some General News Media members do not sell advertising or are non-profit organizations. As a result, the board approved a dues calculation by city population, with \$400 for city population less than 2,500; \$500 for population 2,500 – 5,000; \$800 for population 5,000 – 15,000;

and \$1,200 for population more than 15,000. These dues calculations are an average of 70% of the dues for Legal Newspapers in towns of the same population.

Other annual dues rates approved by the board are \$200 for Affiliate News Media; \$150 for Individual Professional (\$50 Student rate); \$400 for Strategic Partner; \$200 for Strategic Partner (non-profits); and \$75 for Retired Members.

In other business, the board discussed the location for the 2023 Convention and made plans to look at more venue options for the annual event.

The next meeting of the OPA Board of Directors is scheduled for Thursday, September 22, at the OPA office in Oklahoma City.

OPS BOARD MEETING

At the OPS Board meeting, board members approved minutes of the July 21, 2022, meeting as presented.

Board members also reviewed and acknowledged receipt of the OPS profit and loss statement as of July 31, 2022.

NNA, NNAF to elect officers at annual meeting

The National Newspaper Association (NNA) and NNA Foundation (NNAF) Boards of Directors will have new additions after their annual meetings this October in San Francisco.

The NNA Slate of Officers on whom members will be voting are Treasurer, Martha Diaz-Aszkenazy; Vice Chair, Jeff Mayo; and Chair, John Galer.

Mayo is publisher at Cookson Hills Publishing Inc., in Sallisaw, Okla.

Brett Wesner, Wesner Publications, Cordell, Okla., will remain on the board as NNA Past President and Chair of the Public Policy Oversight Committee.

For NNAF, the slate of officers up for election are Treasurer, Randy Keck; Vice President, Matt Adelman; and President, Mike Fishman.

New directors will also be elected at the Oct. 6-8 convention in San Francisco, Calif.

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Aug. 13, 2021

Margery Sue Taylor
Aug. 24, 2021

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Sept. 23, 2021

Nellie Catlett
Sept. 22, 2021

Kristy Johansson Geisler
Sept. 19, 2021

Edward Joe Hauck
Sept. 22, 2021

Wanda Lee (Brown) McCully
Sept. 29, 2021

Bill Edward Corbett,
Sept. 13, 2021

DEATHS

CHARLES (CHARLEY) ROGERS BIGGS, longtime owner and publisher of the Tulsa Beacon, died August 29, 2022. He was 68.

Biggs was born November 16, 1953. He met his wife, Susan, in 1981 and married her in July 1982.

He attended Tulsa Junior College for his freshman year and graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1976 with a degree in journalism.

GENE CURTIS, a former Tulsa World news and managing editor and member of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame, died Aug. 31, 2022. He was 93.

Curtis was a student at the University of Tulsa when he went to work at the Tulsa World in 1948, beginning a career in journalism that would span more than half a century. His tenure as news editor, 1963 to 1981, was his longest at the World and coincided with a number of history-making news events.

He was promoted to managing editor in 1981, making

him second in command in the newsroom. Following his initial retirement in 1994, Curtis returned to the World in the 2000s to contribute a series of columns including "History in Headlines" and "Only in Oklahoma." Both of the popular columns were turned into books.

Born in Frederick, Curtis spent much of his youth in Stigler, where his father, Roy, bought the Stigler News-Sentinel in the late 1930s. He recalled helping his father put out a special afternoon edition following the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. From that time forward, the only

Biggs worked at the Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise, Bixby Bulletin and Tulsa World, where he started the newspaper's zoned editions, before launching the Glenpool Post, which he later sold.

After working in Denver for a year, Biggs returned to Tulsa and in April 2001 started the conservative, Christian-oriented newspaper, the Tulsa Beacon.

He later served as co-host of a radio show, then took it over and renamed it Tulsa Beacon Weekend. Biggs published the Tulsa Beacon and hosted the radio show until his death in 2022.

Biggs is survived by his wife of 40 years, Susan; sons Brian Biggs and Josiah Biggs; daughter Sara Berg; brother Jonathan Biggs; and two grandchildren.

EARON KEITH FLOYD, former sports editor at the Altus Times, died August 16, 2022. He was 81.

Floyd was born Sept. 8, 1940, at Frederick, but lived most of his life in Tipton.

He attended college at Oklahoma Baptist University

and the University of Central Oklahoma.

After serving as a minister and financial consultant, Floyd returned to Tipton and was named sports editor at the Altus Times. He remained with the Times for 32 years before retiring in 2003.

Floyd was inducted into the Jackson County Athletic Hall of Fame as a sportswriter in 1985.

He is survived by three sisters, Janice Kirk of Altus; Donna Stockton of Oklahoma City; and DiOnetta Petkoff of Keller, Texas.

WILLIAM GEORGE 'BILL' FRAME, who spent many years working for newspapers, died August 16, 2022. He was 81.

Frame was born Sept. 13, 1940, in Muskogee. He received a degree in journalism from The University of Oklahoma.

He served two years of active duty and six years in the Army Reserve.

After military duty, he worked in different positions of management for newspapers including the Pauls Valley Daily Democrat, the Cherokee County Chronicle in Tahlequah, the Cordell Beacon, Carnegie Herald

and Lake Eufaula World. He also worked for the Veterans Administration's Regional Office in Muskogee.

Frame is survived by his wife, Deborah; son Jeff; daughters Angie Eaves and Mandy Pollard; and five grandchildren.

Deaths continued on next page

KERRY HOOKSTRA, who wrote sports stories for the Beckham County Record, died Aug. 14, 2022. He was 74.

Hookstra was born Nov. 5, 1947, in Loup City, Neb. He

graduated from the University of Nebraska and later attended Platte Valley Bible College, Gordon-Conwell Seminary, Pacific Christian College and Abilene Christian University.

He spent most of his life as

a preacher, beginning in January 1977 in Scottsbluff, Neb. He retired from the ministry in 2017.

Hookstra was a member of The Beckham County Record for more than 20 years. In

addition to sports stories, he wrote a column, "Parson to Person."

Hookstra is survived by his wife, Renetta, of Sayre, and son Kyle Hookstra of Little Rock, Ark.

MARSHA MILLER, former news editor at The Ardmoreite, died August 07, 2022, in Georgia.

Miller spent her journalism career at newspapers through-

out Oklahoma. In addition to The Ardmoreite, she also worked at the Ada News and Pauls Valley Democrat.

During her career in Ardmore, Miller established a reputation for accuracy and trust-

worthiness. Miller was known for her honest and unbiased coverage, and was appreciated by the local police force.

She grew up in Illinois and attended college in Wisconsin. Miller retired in 2018 and

moved to Georgia to be close to her family.

She is survived by her daughter, Jamie Miller Shea, and two grandchildren.

Telling prospects "why" keeps sales presentations in gear

BY JOHN FOUST

Like some other kids, I learned how to drive before taking the drivers' education class in high school. My father took me to the school's football stadium on weekends when the expansive parking lot was empty. The car was an old station wagon with a manual shift on the steering column. "Once you learn how to drive a manual shift, an automatic transmission will be a piece of cake," he said.

Dad was a great teacher. After he explained the gas pedal, the brake, the clutch and other essentials, he assured me that it was okay to make mistakes, because I couldn't damage anything around us. Shifting gears was the number one topic. He carefully demonstrated the correct way to move from neutral to first, then let me try

it. "Let the clutch out slowly," he said, "because the car will lurch and stall if you do it too quickly. Do it slowly and the car will ease into gear." At first, I struggled so much with that clutch that the poor station wagon jumped around like a bucking bronco. But after a while, I developed a feel for it – and the car actually behaved.

One thing that made Dad such an effective communicator was that he told me why certain things should be done. He was a mechanical engineer who dealt with whys all the time. When the car bucked, I knew why, because he had told me why. When I shifted smoothly, I knew why, because he had explained it. And when I eventually drove on the road, I had more confidence than I would have had without his patient instruction.

One of the most important techniques in communication – especially in persuasive communication – is to tell people "why." Steven, an ad manager who has observed countless sales presentations, told me, "Salespeople have a tendency to do a lot of telling, but not much explaining. It's important to realize that we all have a need to know why we are being told something or asked to do something. Even children need to know why. They are champions of 'why' questions."

Steven is right. Give prospects reasons why. It helps to use a simple bridge like "because" or "the reason I say that is" or "this will provide you with." For example:

1) "Let's take a look at our publication's readership figures. This will show you how many prospective print

and online customers you can reach with us."

2) "Here's a comparison between a couple of ads in the last campaign you ran and a couple from the new campaign we've been discussing. We're taking a look at these together, because this will help us see how the new ads build on the brand image you've established."

3) "Let's set an appointment to talk next Tuesday, after the first ad runs. This will give us a chance to make any needed tweaks to the offer."

Without a doubt, telling prospects why is a good way to keep your sales presentations in gear.

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OKLAHOMA NATURAL GAS CONTEST WINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE JULY WINNERS

Column: **PATTI POTEETE**, *Countywide & Sun*

Editorial: **KIM POINDEXTER**, *Tahlequah Daily Press*

JULY EDITORIAL WINNER (Excerpts from column. Read entire column at okpress.com/ong-contest)

KIM POINDEXTER, *Tahlequah Daily Press*

Dial back rhetoric on books at schools

Many reasonable Cherokee County folks in both the conservative and progressive camps are getting tired of dog whistles, red herrings, overblown outrage, and buzz words used to whip the “base” into a frenzy. And the guilty parties come from the extreme bases of both parties.

This week, Ryan Walters, the state secretary of education angling to become Oklahoma’s next superintendent of public instruction, waded in with an attack on Tulsa Public Schools that strikes many casual observers as a bit disingenuous. He’s the latest in a string of crusaders railing against Tulsa Superintendent Deborah Gist, and employing the epithets of “woke” and “leftist” to demonize her, the board of education, the teachers, and by extension, the students.

Walters found evidence for his stump on TikTok – which is laughable in terms of credibility – that proved Tulsa schools are engaging in “liberal indoctrination” of students. Ironically – and some would argue, hypocritically – Walters posted his proof on Facebook, which temporarily blocked him for uploading content that violated its terms of service. Facebook, for adhering to its policies to eschew porn, was taken to task by Walters’ followers. These sanctimonious individuals were offended not by the images, but by punitive

action against Walters for posting them. It’s apparently OK for kids to be exposed to smut on TikTok, as long as it’s being used for political gain.

The account from which Walters gleaned the material offered images from the books “Gender Queer” and “Flamer.” A search by the Tulsa World revealed only one campus had the books, and even then, only one copy could be found. Nevertheless, Walters tarred all campuses with the same prevaricating brush. Those who read his screed without context – and context is rarely provided by politicians – might be tempted to suspect teachers were indiscriminately handing out the tomes, along with packets of condoms.

“This is disgusting. It must end!” Walters raged. “It’s a sad day when woke Facebook has higher standards than Deborah Gist at Tulsa Public Schools. It is unbelievable that they are allowing this type of inappropriate sexual material in their library. I’m not going to stand for it. We’ve got inappropriate sexual material being targeted to kids at Tulsa Public Schools, and this liberal indoctrination has to stop.”

What has to stop is the knot in Walters’ drawers.

JULY COLUMN WINNER (Excerpts from column. Read entire column at okpress.com/ong-contest)

PATTI POTEETE, *Countywide & Sun*

The bare economic standard of men’s underwear

I was reading an article from The Washington Post that expressed the use of men’s underwear as a leading economic indicator. And I quote, “Sales of men’s underwear typically are stable because they rank as a necessity. But during times of severe financial strain, men will try to stretch the time between buying new pairs, causing underwear sales to dip.”

It seems men’s underwear sales sagged last year as the economy took a nosedive. To add insult to injury, the expectation is that this is not a brief interlude. Sorry, I couldn’t resist.

But take heart; the men’s underwear index (MUI) indicates a rise is forthcoming. It seems some major retailers are seeing a rebound in sales, especially with multi-pair packs. Does that mean it’s an elastic market? Another mea culpa; I just can’t help myself.

There seems to be a flaw in the theory — why are they

asking men about their underwear when the amount of women in the men’s underwear aisles always seems far greater than the amount of men? No, really, think about it. It may seem like a silly question, and I realize single men most probably shop for their own underwear, but as women, we see all the dirty little secrets as we wash, dry and fold our husbands’ and sons’ underwear. We know just how long each pair will hold up or when it’s time for replacements. My conclusion is that wives and mothers do most of the buying; therefore, women, as I’ve suspected all along, control the economic standard in this country.

In doing research on this subject, I found more than eight million web sites, not including 713,985 blogs, where men’s underwear was explored, and that some people, men actually, pay up to \$30 for a single pair. Why? I mean, why to both statements. Why discuss men’s underwear at all, and why pay so much for it?



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