

We are not the enemy: Time to stand up for freedom of the press

Enough already. The last couple of years have been an unending barrage against the freedom of the press and the practitioners of this noble trade.

From being called “liars,” “fake,” and “sick” by irate politicians to enduring capricious and punitive tariffs that are an existential threat to newspapers, the landscape for journalists today may be as inhospitable as it has ever been in the 242-year history of this great union of ours.

All this while the public at large seems unable to break free of the social media echo chamber.

We retreat there to endlessly bicker with those who don’t agree, or to bolster the confidence of our own positions by seeking solace from those who do.

We’ve devolved into a nation of people who simply don’t want to hear it. And that’s incredibly dangerous.

The bipartisan testimony of 20 members of congress last month before the International Trade Commission in opposition to tariffs on Canadian imported newsprint is a good indicator a lot of talk about journalists being “enemies of the people” is utter hogwash.

These men and women know the importance of community newspapers and their imperiled status in modern culture where too many marketers prefer digital analytics and too many readers prefer daily affirmation.

They know the men and women who work at the local paper are most definitely not

the enemy — nor the problem. But in a society where talk of the wicked media is hurled relentlessly on Twitter or cable “news” channels, all of us who take part in the honorable, Constitutionally protected trade of reporting news and ferreting truth get amalgamated into a cynical act of political theater that’s threatening to the very fabric of democracy. And that’s what this is really about.

We’re arguing over political philosophies and cultural divides — not about whether news is biased.

I bet you a week’s pay and a dozen donuts the people who use the argument that news is “fake” don’t any more believe that than they think the Space Force is coming soon to a quadrant near us.

But the damage is being done. We as a nation are beginning to give a collective shoulder shrug the fundamental freedoms in the Bill of Rights. And we’ve got to snap out of it.

We’ve got to accept that not all news is happy or affirming.

We’re not always going to get what we want. I vaguely remember being taught that as a preschooler.

Aaron Blake, a correspondent for The Washington Post, asked in a recent column if the media should go to war with the President.

“Trump seems to want a war with his ‘enemy,’” Blake wrote. “But should the media oblige him? And if it doesn’t, isn’t it unilaterally disarming?”

No, we should not go to war with the President. But it’s

long past time to end the naval gazing and stand up for what we do. It’s our job to provide the best obtainable version of the truth and to champion the freedoms of the First Amendment.

To that end, The Boston Globe is encouraging newspapers across the country to editorialize on the importance of journalism in democracy — and to the communities we all serve — in their editions on or around Aug. 16.

“This dirty war on the free press must end,” Globe editors wrote in their call to action.

Thomas Jefferson — who had a notably tempestuous relationship with the press — was a president who still often rose to defend it. He once

wrote while serving in Paris as Minister to France: “The people are the only censors of their governors: and even their errors will tend to keep these to the true principles of their institution...”

“Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter. But I should mean that every man should receive those papers and be capable of reading them.”

If we’re unwilling to accept news that upsets us, or if we’re indifferent to differing views simply because we don’t want to deal with them, we’re essentially giving up on the notion we can ever truly be “one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

Ironically, I don’t believe we’ve given up because I

don’t want to believe it.

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Aug. 17 Players of the Week

H. C. Central

Justin Smith

JUNIOR

QUARTERBACK

8 FOR 11 PASSES

WITH 188 YDS. & 3 TD PASSES

CHCS

Lake Melton

SENIOR

LINEBACKER/WIDE RECEIVER

HELPED CARRY TEAM DEFENSIVELY

Support your local schools

Sunflower

“Your Better Value Food Store”

Highway 12 E. 834-3495 Lexington

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX LEVY FOR THE CITY OF TCHULA

The City of Tchula will hold a public hearing on its proposed budget and proposed tax levies for the fiscal year 2019 on September 6, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall located at 1027 Main Street, Tchula, MS.

The City of Tchula is now operating with projected total budget revenue of \$733,423.00. (22.66%) or 202,942.00 of such revenue is obtained through ad valorem taxes. For the next fiscal year, the proposed budget has total projected revenue of \$732,177.00 of that amount (22.52%) or \$164, 954.00 is proposed to be financed through a total ad valorem tax levy.

The decision to not increase the ad valorem tax millage rate for fiscal year (2019) above the current fiscal year’s ad valorem tax millage rate means you will not pay more in ad valorem taxes on your home, automobile tag, utilities, business fixtures, equipment and rental real property, unless the assessed value of your property has increased for the fiscal year 2019.

The City of Tchula millage rate remains the same as last year at 47.05.

Any citizen of the City of Tchula is invited to attend this public hearing on the proposed budget and tax levies for the fiscal year 2019 and will be allowed to speak for a reasonable amount of time and offer tangible evidence before any vote is taken.

CWD regulations adopted for 2018-2019 hunting season

The Mississippi Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, adopted regulations for the revised Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Management Zone for the 2018-2019 hunting season during the August 16, 2018 meeting held at J.P. Coleman State Park.

Regulations were approved after the thirty day comment period and take effect immediately. The new zone includes portions of Issaquena, Sharkey, and Warren counties and is identified as all areas south of Highways 14 and 16, areas west of the Yazoo River, all portions of Warren County, and all areas east of the Mississippi River (see map).

The supplemental feeding ban and permitted hog trapping are lifted in Hinds, Claiborne, and Yazoo counties. Within the revised zone, supplemental feeding is banned and hog trapping must be permitted through Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks. (MDWFP) Also, no portions of cervid carcasses

may be transported outside of zone. For products that may leave the CWD Management Zone see the 2018-2019 CWD Hunting Season Handout located on mdwfp.com/cwd.

MDWFP will host a public meeting to discuss Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) at Warren Central High School on Thursday, August 30 at 6 p.m. located in the Auditorium. Presentations by MDWFP staff will be on the status of CWD and planned monitoring activities for the 2018-2019 hunting season. Representatives from MDWFP will be available to answer questions.

Those unable to attend can view the meeting via Facebook Live on the MDWFP Facebook Page. Viewers can ask questions in the comment box during the video.

For more information about Chronic Wasting Disease, or to report a sick animal, visit www.mdwfp.com/cwd. Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mdwfp or on Twitter at www.twitter.com/MDWFPonline.