

What is NOT Acceptable Ethical Journalism?

News articles and Editorials about significant county issues from (WesCom) affiliate Curry Coastal Pilot have on a regular basis been so divergent and opposite of the truth the reader cannot take anything on face value as writer objectivity is too often blinded by anger and a lack of competent professional skills.

Subject: What is NOT acceptable ethical Journalism?

February 19, 2018

Thank you for taking ten minutes to read this email and for watching the two minute video of a news writers comments on social media on a subject they later write about. <https://youtu.be/PzD5eduMEWk>

The purpose of this correspondence is to show (with examples) what ethical Journalism is NOT.

My name is Tom Huxley. I am a commissioner in Curry County. News articles and Editorials about significant county issues from Western Communications, Inc. (WesCom) affiliate Curry Coastal Pilot have on a regular basis been so divergent and opposite of the truth the reader cannot take anything on face value as writer objectivity is too often blinded by anger and a lack of competent professional skills.

First and most appalling is an email string comprised of three distinct communications. They are intentionally reversed below to allow for continuity to begin with the first vs. the last communication.

(1 of 3) Angry Pilot staff writer 2/7/2018 @10:35 AM – Actual text and font size in original email.

From: Jane Stebbins [mailto:jstebbins@currypilot.com]

Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 10:35 AM

To: John Jezuit; John Hitt; vagabondjournalist@gmail.com

Subject: Livestream that is anything but.

Is there ANY WAY, dear god, that we can get a decent livestream of meetings that are going on? I was waylaid by a house fire in Brookings and really would like to see today's meeting — and NOT HAVE to WAIT until 5:30 Friday evening to do so.

THAT, too should be addressed. There is NO REASON a Wednesday meeting should not be on the web by the next day, at the LATEST.

This website provided does not go anywhere. This entire system is a waste of taxpayer money.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWs5LGw47-ceVCiRgTrZP1O/live>

Please fix this?

tx, Jane Stebbins.

(2 of 3) Brandt Media – Professional response 2/7/2018 @ 12:08 PM

From: Charles Douglas [<mailto:vagabondjournalist@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, February 07, 2018 12:08 PM

To: Jane Stebbins; John Jezuit; John Hitt

Cc: Kim Fowler; Court Boice; Thomas Huxley; Sue Gold

Subject: Re: Livestream that is anything but.

Ms. Stebbins,

First: I'm very sorry to hear about the house fire that you experienced and I certainly hope the damages were minimal.

Second: Your link is incorrect. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWs5LGw47-ceVCiRgTrZPlQ/live> is the correct link. I believe you somehow inserted a "1" character in your link that doesn't belong there.

Third: The stream has been live all morning. All our live Curry County meeting streams have been live all year, now that we have an independent Internet connection.

Fourth: The meeting last week was up in our new on-demand collection on YouTube in less than 24 hours, as we can clearly document from our internal channel control panel (this meeting began at 1:30 p.m. on Jan 31, 2018 and continued until approximately 6:09 p.m. -- the video was live as of 1:53 p.m. on Feb 1, 2018). We have every reason to expect that today's meeting will also be up in a timely manner.



Fifth: Every single meeting of the Board of Commissioners has always replayed on Curry County Civic the same evening on the day it was held (usually 5:30 p.m. unless the meeting runs late into the evening, as the one last week did); it further replays at 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on the following day (Thursday). We've been following this same schedule for a year.

Sixth: Now that we are on speaking terms, I hope we can have a positive dialogue in the future. The roles of journalism and of civic media, I pray, are both in service to the ideal of providing valuable community information to the public.

Cordially,

Charles Douglas
Operations Manager, Brandt Media

(3 of 3) Commissioner forwarding email string 2/7/2018 @ 9:46 PM to Western Communications, Inc.

(Note): This part of the email string was originally at the top of the communication (newest to oldest) so reference to the 'end' would now be to the 'beginning' and directly 'below' would now be directly 'above'. The vulgarity in the two-minute (social media) video link <https://youtu.be/PzD5eduMEWk> is from the same writer who criticizes and attacks the commissioner and the media company creating the live streaming video (Editorial 1/6/2018). <http://www.currypilot.com/opinion/editorials/5896693-151/goals-needed> This is anything but ethical journalism.

From: Thomas Huxley
Sent: Wednesday, February 07, 2018 9:46 PM
To: jcosta@bendbulletin.com; bfbmccool@aol.com
Subject: Live Stream that is anything but.

Simply Disgraceful - February 7, 2018

Ms. McCool; Mr. Costa,

The reprehensible dialog from your star Curry Coastal Pilot staff writer Ms. Stebbins begins at the end of this string and speaks for itself. It is yet another example of her anger, ignorance and incompetence.

The response from Brandt Media directly below speaks volumes for professionalism and class!

Thomas Huxley
Curry County Commissioner

For the new county website that was just launched this evening go to: www.co.curry.or.us

For more embarrassing behavior by your social media starling watch the two minute video at 1080p HD.
<https://youtu.be/PzD5eduMEWk>

Last are three examples of egregious errors in recent news articles of significant county interest.

Example 1: January 13, 2018: "IT director v. county commissioners lawsuit settled"

<http://www.curriypilot.com/news/localnews/5916292-151/it-director-v-county-commissioners-lawsuit-settled>

¶ 1: The 'seven months' time referred to in the article is not remotely accurate.
¶ 2: "Terms of the settlement were not made public..." The Oregon Online Court System Register of Actions for Case No. 17CV05493 clearly shows the case was: "Dismissed with prejudice."
(An earlier related case in United States District Court - District of Oregon [Medford Division] was dismissed and never reported on by the Pilot. Case No. 3:16-cv-01000-AA)
¶ 3: The staff writer not only omits names of defendants in the case; they added a contractor to the list who was never a defendant. Then, to add insult to injury, the contractors name was misspelled.
¶ 3: Plaintiff "...originally filed a suit for about \$9.3 million against the county..." There is 'old math', 'new math' and 'Curry Coastal Pilot' math. 'Pilot' math works only if you can receive the maximum on each and every claim for the same claimed relief (which you cannot) and for punitive damages against a public body (which you cannot). The moral of this story is: If you tell the same lie often enough, the people will believe it.

The remaining nine paragraphs were comprised of the same opinions and hearsay that had been repeatedly published over the previous two years.

Example 2: February 3, 2018: "Ranchers left out of hearing"

<http://www.curriypilot.com/news/5975337-151/ranchers-left-out-of-hearing>

This article is about a controversial livestock annexation issue which could have far reaching effects statewide. This example is one of several inaccuracies in the article.

¶ 2: "The meeting was held Dec. 6, the vote was 2-1 with...voting against it." A citizen pointed out in a subsequent Letter to the Editor titled "Dead wrong" that one commissioner was absent and only two voted on the issue.

¶ 29: The staff writer misquotes (a cardinal sin) one of the commissioners present at the December 6, 2017 meeting saying the other two commissioners (one of which was absent Dec. 6) should rescind the ill-advised decision they made on Dec. 6. The writer of "Dead wrong" correctly quoted what was said which did not remotely compare to the quote in the news article. The writer cited the actual meeting video as their source.

Example 3: January 13, 2018: "Local News Briefs" - VSO move leaves vets in lurch

<http://www.curriypilot.com/news/newsrecord/5916291-151/local-news-briefs>

This example comes from the 'bag of unethical tricks' used by Pilot staff on a regular basis. They are drawn like a magnet to those sharing similar views on various subjects. Staff will "quote" those critical of others without verifying the accuracy of the statements and publish the views (that they agree with) without ever contacting the individual(s) on the receiving end of the criticism or allegations of wrongdoing.

In the Local News Briefs section titled "VSO moves leaves vets in a lurch, the county Veteran Services Officer was quoted being critical of the county contracted IT services provider (Coos-Curry Electric Cooperative). The opinions of the officer were never verified for accuracy. Had they been verified, they would never have been published. The service provider was never contacted to respond to the allegations.

I will close by addressing the core underlying problem behind the examples provided in this correspondence. That being managements knowledge and acceptance of such unethical behavior.

During a meeting (at my request) November 27, 2017 the new Publisher (Ms. Fowler) and Regional Editor-In-Chief (Mr. Fornoff) of the Curry Coastal Pilot were provided examples similar to those above and a copy of the Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics.

<https://www.spj.org/pdf/spj-code-of-ethics.pdf>

Shortly afterward the Publisher (Ms. Fowler) stated she was insulted to have been provided the document and the meeting quickly ended.

Thank you for having taken the time to read this email.

Thomas Huxley
Curry County Commissioner

The vulgarity in the two-minute (social media) video link which follows is from the same writer who criticizes and attacks the commissioner and the media company in the Editorial January 6, 2018. “Goals needed”

<http://www.currypilot.com/opinion/editorials/5896693-151/goals-needed>

Social Media Video Link

<https://youtu.be/PzD5eduMEWk>

MORE FAKE NEWS

<https://youtu.be/PzD5eduMEWk>

Curry Coastal Pilot

Brookings, Oregon

(541) 469-3123

Editorial January 6, 2018

<http://www.curriypilot.com/opinion/editorials/5896693-151/goals-needed>

When asked January 8 who wrote the January 6, 2018 Editorial, Regional Editor-In-Chief Robin Fornoff was unsure.

When asked again, Fornoff confirmed Senior Reporter Jane Stebbins wrote most of the piece with feedback from him and Publisher Kimberly Fowler.

This publication has a longstanding history of NOT verifying information and on a regular basis publishing prejudiced and

biased misrepresentations without foundation or any knowledge of the facts.

In many cases, news articles published in the Curry Coastal Pilot are a result and product of anger and ignorance.

The Curry Coastal Pilot is an affiliate of Western Communications, Inc. (WesCom)

John Costa – President
Elizabeth McCool - Chairwomen

The Bulletin

Bend, Oregon
(541) 382-1811

The Social Media posts which follow are simply an embarrassment and a disgrace to the profession of journalism.

Thomas Huxley

M Re: [Curry News and View] Carl

f (25) Curry News and View Secure | https://www.facebook.com/groups/989931254366165/permalink/1696657627026854/

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Jan Barbas Yesterday at 12:59pm

After yesterday's important and apparently contentious meeting of the Curry Co. Board of Commissioners I have been waiting for the video to be posted. So far, still not up, and neither is the prior one from the 11th. They used to be up same day.

Like **Comment**

9

Susan Murray Yes, that would better inform citizens who can't make the meeting.
Like · Reply · 1 · Yesterday at 1:24pm

Jan Barbas I'm just impatient! Also a little concerned how the transfer of these duties to Brandt Media is working out.
Like · Reply · Yesterday at 1:26pm

Susan Murray If the meeting still isn't up from the 11th, your patience has been stellar!
Like · Reply · Yesterday at 1:27pm

Andre Bay it's playing right now
<http://videoplayer.telvue.com/.../dERIOHIMw.../stream/161...>

VOD Player
VIDEOPAYER.TELVUE.COM

Like · Reply · 1 · Yesterday at 1:30pm

↳ **Jane Rees Stebbins** replied · 13 Replies

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MEMBERS 2,377 Members (21 new)

David King **Add Member**

William R. DiMento **Add Member**

Chat

William R. DiMento 1h

Rebecca King 1h

Lauren Spector 10m

Gary Gravett 2h

Gary Cook 20m

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Re: [Curry News and View] [f \(25\) Curry News and View](#)

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Carl Curry News and Views Search Carl Home 20+ Find Friends 2 6 17 Create Group

Like · Reply · 1 · Yesterday at 1:30pm

Hide 13 Replies

Susan Murray Thanks, Andre!

Like · Reply · 1 · Yesterday at 2:06pm

Jane Rees Stebbins That's live stream. And the meeting's over. (And I don't have TV for Ch. 182...)

Like · Reply · 23 hrs

Andre Bay the live stream is a loop... it has played 3 times now 😊

Like · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs

Jane Rees Stebbins How do you make it start? It just says it's in recess, and goes into all those coastal scenery shots?

Like · Reply · 23 hrs

Andre Bay you cant, just have to wait for it to start again, hope they fix that issue with it

Like · Reply · 23 hrs

Jane Rees Stebbins And if I miss the first half of the meeting, again, I have to wait at least six hours (the length of the meeting) to hope to get to see it in a loop? Bullshit.

Like · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs

Andre Bay does that for an hour when the break for lunch then any other breaks, Tom called for a special 12 minute break at one time

Like · Reply · 23 hrs

Jane Rees Stebbins I remember that part. I came in right about the time DBS was done speaking. I need to see all that was before that. I need the video up on the website. Brandt media, useless.

Like · Reply · 3 · 23 hrs

Andre Bay ya Jane they got a few issues to work out, I was lucky and caught it from the start last night

Like · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs

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Saturday January 21 Starting from Babie Book Park at 10am until 10pm of books, stories, music, food, fun, and more. Come and support our local library. Women's Rights Are Human Rights

See All

SUGGESTED GROUPS Chat

William R. DiMento 2h

Rebecca King 1h

Lauren Spector 15m

Gary Gravett 2h

Gary Cook 24m

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Ask me anything



2:49 PM
1/20/2017



M Re: [Curry News and View] Carl

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Curry News and Views

Andre Bay ya Jane they got a few issues to work out, I was lucky and caught it from the start last night
Like · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs

Jane Rees Stebbins Sorry to vent here. It just pisses me off how inept they are.
Like · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs

Andre Bay ya it sucks right now, hope they earn there money and sort it out. can't watch the 11-11 work shop now but could a few days ago, we watched it but no says error of some sort
Like · Reply · 23 hrs

Andre Bay I'm checking ch 182 which is same as live feed and it looks like lunch break to me
Like · Reply · 23 hrs

Jane Rees Stebbins That's code for "we don't want the public to see what we're up to."
Like · Reply · 5 · 23 hrs

Write a reply...

Andre Bay also on charter ch 182 as well right now
Like · Reply · Yesterday at 1:31pm

Susan Murray How many times does the same thing need to be repeated before appointing the chair of the budget committee?
Like · Reply · Yesterday at 2:05pm

Daniel Fleming Watching channel 118 and watched discussion of airport issue. Id love to see the packet of information The city of Brookings provided in great detail regarding the Airport that Boice made available and they should look at, the other cc seemed to have no interest.
Like · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs · Edited

Daniel Fleming Why would H & G give facial and inferences that the City of Brookings is an adversary? So in spite of Hutt saying what he thought

The Real Brookville 3 friends · 7,681 members + Join

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Crescent City Sweet Deals 10,169 members + Join

Chat

William R. DiMento 2h

Rebecca King 1h

Lauren Spector 15m

Gary Gravett 2h

Gary Cook 25m

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Ask me anything

2:50 PM
1/20/2017

4

M Re: [Curry News and View] × f (25) Curry News and View × Carl

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Daniel Fleming Watching channel 118 and watched discussion of airport issue. Id love to see the packet of information The city of Brookings provided great detail regarding the Airport that Boice made available and they should look at, the other cc:seemed to have no interest.
Like · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs · Edited

Daniel Fleming Why would H & G give facial and inferences that the City of Brookings is an adversary? So in spite of Hutt saying what he thought Brookings would want. My point? It just seemed adverse feelings except for Boice. And what "hat" he was wearing.
Like · Reply · 23 hrs · Edited

Curry Justice This must be from the 11th even though it has Live Jan 18th. Has nothing to do with 18th board meeting. Once you see it you will be shocked and I venture to say outraged at commissioner behavior.
Like · Reply · 4 · 23 hrs

Daniel Fleming Okay, thanks, Boss.
Like · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs · Edited

Daniel Fleming That's the only issue that I saw. paraphrase, there is option 1 2 3, we kinda think know brookings wants #3, but....blah blah blah that old dog aint gonna hunt so let's create a committee,
Like · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs

Andre Bay think it is the 18th meeting, it's in Executive session now so can't be the work shop?? should pop back on in a bit
Like · Reply · 23 hrs

Mary Rowe It's probably bad of me, but I want to see DBS telling the chair that if the chair is not happy with him going over the three minute time-limit, he can have the Sheriff escort him out.
Like · Reply · 18 hrs

Write a reply...  

Jane Rees Stebbins Still not up. This sucks. Transparency, my ass.

MAP Water Well Service Local Service · 128 likes David likes this.
Like Page

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Chat

 William R. DiMento	2h
 Rebecca King	1h
 Lauren Spector	15m
 Gary Gravett	2h
 Gary Cook	25m

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Ask me anything

2:51 PM
1/20/2017

5

M Re: [Curry News and View] × f (25) Curry News and View ×

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Carl Home 20+ Find Friends 2 6 17

Jane Rees Stebbins Still not up. This sucks. Transparency, my ass.

Like · Reply · 1 · 23 hrs

Carl King It is showing on Charter PEG Channel 182 at various times as are the ones from January 4 and January 11.

Like · Reply · 23 hrs

Andre Bay and the 18th 😊

Like · Reply · 23 hrs

Jane Rees Stebbins I do not own a television. And I can't sit around with the internet up, waiting for it to loop to the beginning. I need to video. Up. Now.

Like · Reply · 2 · 23 hrs

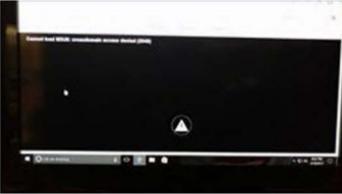
Jeremy Dumire How much was this video system?

Like · Reply · 19 hrs

Jeremy Dumire Thanks Summer for the update

Like · Reply · 1 · 18 hrs

Jeremy Dumire



Like · Reply · 18 hrs

Jeremy Dumire Just got it up on my computer...Had to switch to Mozilla Firefox instead of IE or Google

Like · Reply · 2 · 17 hrs

Chat

Profile Picture	Name	Last Activity
	Jamie Ferrara	•
	William R. DiMento	2h
	Rebecca King	1h
	Lauren Spector	19m
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Like · Reply · 18 hrs

 **Jeremy Dumire** Just got it up on my computer...Had to switch to Mozilla Firefox instead of IE or Google

Like · Reply · 2 · 17 hrs

 **Andre Bay** no dice for me in firefox or chrome, tried in winblows 10 and ubuntu ?

Like · Reply · 17 hrs

 **Jeremy Dumire** Andre Bay, I'm playing it through Mozilla. Won't play on my other browsers.

Like · Reply · 17 hrs

 **Andre Bay** can you post the link your watching?

Like · Reply · 17 hrs

 Write a reply...  

 **Jeremy Dumire** It's the link you posted. I just had to paste the link in Mozilla Firefox, and click the Jan 18 video.

Like · Reply · 1 · 17 hrs

 **Julie Schmelzer** This was all contracted to an individual to make it 'easier'. If it's not, call the Supervisor, Thomas Huxley. I'm sure the Sup can get it fixed. This is his top priority/goal for 2 years running, so I'm sure he's desperate to fix the glitches.

Like · Reply · 2 · 15 hrs

 **Jeremy Dumire** Two hours into the video of the meeting. All I can say, simply, is WOW.

Like · Reply · 3 · 15 hrs

 **Julie Schmelzer** Is it worth the tens of thousands of dollars?

Like · Reply · 2 · 15 hrs

 **Jeremy Dumire** The meeting, or the video?

Chat

	Jamie Ferrara	•
	William R. DiMento	2h
	Rebecca King	1h
	Lauren Spector	19m
	Gary Gravett	2h

Search



Ask me anything

2:54 PM
1/20/2017

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