



# THE CARDINAL TIMES

With the State House elections coming up this November, it is important to know what the job as a representative entails. As they run for the State Representative position, each individual represents a district in their state and, therefore, is the person speaking for their local communities. To be clear, being a State Representative is vastly different from being a Federal Representative. Federal legislators are affiliated with international relations, whereas state legislators deal more commonly on issues within the state itself. When proposing new committees on a federal level, one can actually print the money needed to support it. State level committees need to be found worthy of using the budget that is given to the state at the beginning of the year.

Once elected, each individual is placed into committees chosen by the speaker of the house, which is chosen by the controlling party of legislation. Legislators can express their desire to be placed in a certain committee, but they aren't guaranteed anything. The legislative session opens in early February and ends in late May. During this time, they are given the opportunity to propose and vote on bills that impact their constituents, as well as propose changes to previous bills. Though this time is when the final decisions are made, a majority of the work is done out of session. From June to January, representatives are given the opportunity to come together and work through issues they have with certain bills and create bills to better help their constituents. They often work together and come upon a compromise that everyone agrees with.

Legislators should be elected based on their network and influence, not through fear tactics, but through the trust imparted on them in their abilities to make decisions that are fair to their people. Kenton Patzkowsky is a part of the Republican party, and Ashley Lehnert is a part of the Democratic party. Both individuals are running for Oklahoma State House 61 this year. We contacted each representative and asked them to answer a few questions regarding various political topics. The following columns provide both the questions given to each representative along with their answers.

## Ashley Lehnert--Democrat

**Q: What motivated you to serve by running for office?**

**A:** I was motivated to run for state representative because as a teacher who stood next to educators from Turpin at the Capitol and our fellow educators from across the state at the walkout in April, I realized the extreme dysfunction and disconnect at our state capitol. As I tell my children and my students "if you want to see a change in your life, be the change." So I am standing up for my students, my co-workers, and the citizens of this district. I am passionate about taking care of those who sometimes can't take care of themselves or haven't found their voice yet. House District 61 covers five entire counties and part of one more. District 61 is nearly 8,000 square miles. I was motivated to run because this area needs a fighter who will be willing to work harder than any other representative in the state. People have asked if education is my only platform, it is not. I will not only be a fighter for education but for rural health care, our infrastructure, and our rural way of life.

## Kenton Patzkowsky--Republican

**Q: What motivated you to serve by running for office?**

**A:** I was attending "Wheat Day" at the Oklahoma State Capitol, a year and a half ago, and heard several great speakers, all of which, had a common theme, "Step Up." One speaker, in particular, encouraged us that day, to get involved in the political process and let our voice be heard. A little less than a year later, Senator Casey Murdock won a special election to fill an empty State Senate seat. We needed a Representative. Could I "step up" and serve? Many friends and acquaintances from all over District 61, encouraged me to do just that. They said they liked the prospect of having a Representative from the business world and production agriculture, as well. So, the short answer to the question of what motivated me to run is: There was a need for a Representative and many encouraged me to do, what I felt, I needed to do. I could "step up" and represent the people in Oklahoma District 61. Our voices need to be heard. Government mismanagement must stop and every state agency must be held accountable.

**Q: Coming from a farming family, what are your priorities heading into office concerning the Oklahoma Panhandle farmer?**

**A:** Not only did I come from a farming family, but my husband and I also own an agriculture business, Okie Ag Chemical, that takes care of many family farmers. We are a business that values our local farmers and we work hard to help them become as successful as they can. We know the difficulties that farmers of the Oklahoma Panhandle and Northwest Oklahoma currently face and know they don't need any more regulatory burdens placed upon them. Our farmers need a candidate who will be a fighter to protect the local farmers from big business and eminent domain threats. Our farmers need a candidate who will be a passionate advocate for their rights.

**Q: What are your plans to improve education in Oklahoma?**

**A:** My plans to improve education in Oklahoma is to work towards fully funding our schools in Oklahoma. Our students deserve a better education system than what they are receiving from the state of Oklahoma. Our teachers work hard with what little the state gives them. We need to provide the teachers and the students with every opportunity we can as a state to be successful!

We also need to form a task force to address the teacher shortage in Oklahoma. We have over 2,900 emergency certified teachers in this state. We appreciate those that are stepping up help to fill in the gaps, but we need to form a plan to attract certified teachers to this state. Also, our retired teachers have not had a cost of living raise in Oklahoma in many years. We need to find a way to have a COLA adjustment. But more importantly, schools are the heart of our small towns. Better education means better opportunities, which translates into strong communities and we all know that strong communities thrive, not die. This fight isn't just over test scores, teacher pay, or art supplies. This fight is for the HEART of our communities, a battle for the future of the small towns, and our way of life.

**Q: What is your policy on taxing businesses in Oklahoma?**

**A:** We need to evaluate the incentives and tax breaks we are giving big businesses in Oklahoma. If our incentives are costing the state and the citizens of Oklahoma more than they are worth, then we need to stop incentivizing so heavily.

**Q: What do you believe the government's role is in same-sex marriage?**

**A:** The federal government ruled on this issue in 2015 and this will not be an issue that I will be addressing in the House of Representatives at the state level in Oklahoma.

**Q: Where do you stand on the pro-life vs. pro-choice debate?**

**A:** Again, as a federal level issue, this topic will not be something that I am addressing at the state level in the House of Representatives.

**Q: Coming from a farming family, what are your priorities heading into office concerning the Oklahoma Panhandle farmer?**

**A:** Growing crops and raising cattle are a high priority of mine. Helping feed our country is a job that I enjoy and take pride in. The agriculture budget has been cut because of a revenue shortfall at the State Treasury. This was the result of an economic downturn in the state of Oklahoma a few years ago. The state economy is on the rebound now, so maybe we can get the budget shortages, in agricultural programs, restored.

**Q: What are your plans to improve education in Oklahoma?**

**A:** The last Legislative Session resulted in the passage of HB 1010, which I strongly supported. This bill gave our teacher's a much needed pay raise and invested additional money into our state's education system. Hopefully, this was just the beginning of the solution to getting Oklahoma classrooms and school buildings where they need to be. Generating more recurring revenue, in our state, is vital for education. This is where we must start.

Next, we must address the severe teacher shortage. My plan would call for an incentive program, where we would financially assist college students who are pursuing a career in teaching. They would, in return, commit to teaching in Oklahoma for a stated number of years, upon completion of their degree. Our children are the future and in order for them to succeed, they need access to the best educational opportunities.

**Q: What is your policy on taxing businesses in Oklahoma?**

**A:** I am a conservative Republican. I am generally not in favor of raising taxes on business. It could harm the economic rebound that is going now.

**Q: What do you believe the government's role is in same sex marriage?**

**A:** On October 6, 2014, the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, lifted the stay on their previous ruling, that the Oklahoma ban on same sex "marriage" was unconstitutional.

I believe, according to the Bible (Matthew 19:4-6) "marriage" is between one man and one woman, and the government should recognize it as such.

**Q: Where do you stand on the pro-life vs. pro-choice debate?**

**A.** I am pro-life.

# 4-H

4-H stands for head, heart, hands, and health; it is a youth organization based on service. The kids in 4-H get to pick their own projects and they can either do it themselves or have a leader help them with their project. All of the projects keep kids interested in activities. The leaders of 4-H are Mrs. Rorabaugh and Mrs. Boyd and Liz McBee is the extension agent. 4-H participated in the Beaver county fair this year which ran September 5th through 8th and all types of projects were entered, Turpin's 4-H had the most projects there. and they also got to ride on the float. Some of the projects that were entered were baked goods, livestock, paintings, crafts, sewing projects, pumpkins, and floral arrangements. The fair was a good way for the kids to show their talents and skills. Anyone can join 4-H at anytime.



## ROBOTICS



The Robotics team is a place to give 4H students at Turpin a way to learn about robotics; they went on a trip to the Cosmosphere in Hutchinson, staying for almost 5 hours in the museum. They started with a short movie in the Cosmosphere dome theater about the history of rockets, space travel, and the future of humans in space. Then they ate a quick meal and saw a science show which demonstrates rocketry ideas. Then they toured the exhibits which go in order through history from the early days of rockets in America all the way to the space station.

# 5/6 & JH Football

After the football season ended for the fifth and sixth grade Turpin Cardinals, we had some questions for their football coach, Mr. Lance Robinson. “Overall, the 5th and 6th graders kept improving every week. They started out losing to Laverne, but they won the rest of their games. At times, they could have improved, but they played to the best of their abilities. They would surprise me over and over again by achieving their abilities. When I look at this team, I see future athletes that have the potential to win a state championship when they get in high school.”



Junior high football players are convinced they did very well this season, and they are all hoping to improve even more for next year. Coach Jake Barnes agreed that it was a successful season and looks forward to another great year next year. “I think another year of experience will help them tremendously. Next year I hope to make them accomplish more things on and off the field.” It was a great season as the Cardinals were considered one of the best junior high football teams around the area with a 6 and 2 record. The eighth graders did a good job leading the team, and they will be a great benefit to the high school next year. The coaches were happy with the team’s performance. As Coach Barnes explained, “I’m always proud of my guys.”



## Fields of Faith

Fields of Faith is a nation-wide event where students across America gather together within their communities to encourage one another to read the Bible and follow Christ. The local event was sponsored by Turpin’s FCA, and it happened on October 10th. Due to rough weather, Fields of Faith was held in the gym this year. The event started with a welcome from football coach, Bradley Kinser. Turpin’s vocal teacher, Mr. Drew Faulkner, lead the crowd in two worship songs. Following worship, FCA president, Chloe Hendrich, spoke to her fellow students. She spoke from Romans 8:35-38 about how nothing can separate us from God’s love. The main speaker for Fields of Faith was Quick Stokes. Quick is a track coach at Ellinwood High School in Kansas, but is originally from Baltimore. His message was about how our identity is in Christ rather than our own personal achievements or goals. The night concluded with the participating schools gathering together in a circle to hold hands, singing one last worship song together.



# FCCLA

On October 3rd students from Turpin High participated in something called FCCLA. FCCLA is an acronym for Family, Career and Community Leaders of America. FCCLA is a gathering to help students better prepare themselves for the future and help to improve the future. FCCLA ended in our school 15-20 years ago, until Mrs. Lehnert reestablished it in 2017. When asked what Turpin does in FCCLA, Mrs. Lehnert states "at Turpin, we mainly focus on community service projects. Last year we played Bingo at the nursing home in Liberal, picked up trash, donated money to the Turpin Fire Department, cleaned busses, and many other community service center projects." This year's district meeting was held in Waynoka; 36 Turpin students attended this meeting. The speaker at Waynoka's meeting was B. Collier. He spoke to students about how you shouldn't speed up the process of growing up and going to college. He wanted people to be the dreamer they were when they were five, but taking things step by step as to not make things you've done sloppy.



## See You at the Pole

See You at the Pole (SYATP) is an annual event led by students that brings community members together with prayer. The first SYATP in Turpin was brought by the 1991 FCA leader, Coach Gary Riffe. This year's SYATP consisted of students reading Bible verses, singing songs, and praying for their school, community, and country. They then split into separate groups to pray in circles. After prayer, the junior high and high school students gathered into a big circle, held hands, and sang in unison. The event ended with breakfast that was donated by the Mennonite, Methodist, and Baptist churches of the Turpin community.



# Senior Night

On October 19, the Turpin Cardinals hosted the Seiling Wildcats for senior night. The seniors honored were Alex Lopez, Isaiah Villalobos, Rene Mendoza, Noah Garcia, Josh Heitschmidt, Trevin Watson, Trent Weber, Chloe Hendrich, Litzy Aquino, and Rayna Robinson.

The Daily Oklahoman predicted a 55-8 shut out from the Wildcats; however, the Cardinals defeated the odds with a final score of 22-12. The Cardinals lit the scoreboard first with a 43-yard touchdown pass from Isaiah Villalobos to Trent Weber. Villalobos ran in the 2-point conversion, making the score 8-0. From there, the duo made another touchdown pass of 37 yards during the final play of the first quarter. Villalobos ran the conversion in again, putting the Cardinals ahead 16-0.

The Cardinals stayed in the lead entering the fourth, with a score of 16-6. Sophomore, Cesar Anchondo, ran the ball to the end zone, making the scoreboard read 22-6. Seiling reacted by scoring their second touchdown, making the Cardinal fans bite their nails. Josh Heitschmidt made the tackle that denied the conversion points, making the final score 22-12. The Cardinals then pulled out a win over the Canton Tigers, securing their spot in the playoffs.



# Choir Festival

October 4, the Turpin High School Choir traveled to Liberal, Kansas to participate in the OPSU Grassland Music Festival. The girls group was directed by Dr. Wilkins from OPSU, and the boys group was directed by our own Drew Faulkner. "I had so much fun singing with people from around the community," exclaimed Chloe Hendrich. While practicing, a lock down happened unexpectedly; Mr. Faulkner learned that having a plan B is always a good idea. Once everything resumed to normal, his group progressed quite nicely. "They learned to bring out more of the meticulous details," said Mr. Faulkner. Even though it was not all smooth sailing, Mr. Faulkner would definitely bring the choir back next year.



# Win-Win Week

Win-Win Week is a state-wide fundraiser that raises money for people suffering with cancer. The Turpin Student Council annually participates in this event, raising money for community members battling cancer. This year they chose Turpin's very own Twila Boyd. She was diagnosed with Adenocarcinoma (primary lung cancer) on July 24, 2018. Mrs. Boyd faces her predicament with positivity and total faith in God guiding her through it. She has shown on many occasions how grateful she is to be receiving support from Win-Win Week. She is quoted saying "Win-Win Week is just awesome because I am receiving support from so many of my previous students who will always be considered 'my kids,' and they hold a special spot in my heart." When asked if she had any words of wisdom for people in the same situation as her, she responds, with intoxicating optimism, "If you should be like me and receive a diagnosis that totally scares you to pieces, remember that God is there to help you get through it. Just call on Him, and he will lead you through the ups and downs of any situation."

Throughout the week, we helped Mrs. Boyd by hosting many activities. On Tuesday October 2, Turpin High School held a dodgeball tournament. A total of ten teams signed up for an intense showdown of old-fashioned dodgeball. The night ended with "The A-arons" winning the championship game. Thursday October 4 was the annual Win-Win Week Powderpuff game. The teams were divided into seniors and freshman on one team and sophomores and juniors on the other. Both teams were coached by the senior football boys. The game was very intense. Both teams had impeccable defense and a bloodthirsty drive to win. In the end, the seniors and freshman came out victorious with a score of 12 to 6. There was also a powderpuff cheer team, coached by Ani Vasquez and Litzy Aquino, that lightened up the nail-biting atmosphere with a beautifully executed halftime performance. Also that week was Penny Wars which is a fundraiser where each class goes against each other to see who is able to earn the most money. Pennies are the positive currency, while the silver coins and paper money are negative. The students could also pay one dollar a day to wear a hat. The total earnings resulted in over \$4000.



## October Student of the Month

Senior Micaela Young



# The Cardinal Times Staff



Paloma Gutierrez, Ruby Simental, Nancy Guereca, Ryan Cortes, Alondra Quinones, Chloe Hendrich, Rayna Robinson, Daniela Aguilar, Anadlight Vazquez, John Robert Harris, Logan Wills, Malorie Crumpler

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