

The Oklahoma Publisher

Official Publication of the Oklahoma Press Association

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to receive this Will Rogers print. Details at OkPress.com/will-rogers.



Barb Walter receives NNA Award



Barb Walter accepts the Emma C. McKinney Award from NNA President John Edgecombe, Jr. at the National Newspaper Association Annual Convention & Trade Show.

Barb Walter, managing editor of The Hennessey Clipper, was presented with the Emma C. McKinney Award at the National Newspaper Association's business luncheon on Oct. 3, 2015.

The award was presented during the NNA's 2015 Annual Convention & Trade Show in St. Charles, Mo.

In accepting the award, Walter thanked the NNA board and committees for selecting her as

the winner of the prestigious award.

As a teen correspondent in Oklahoma City, Walter dreamed of receiving her degree from the University of Oklahoma, then going on to work for the Washington Post or the New York Times.

"I never thought I'd be working at a small-town newspaper," she said.

Although she had a full-ride scholarship to OU, rules prohibited her from being married. Walter married her first husband at age 17, then went to work for the Oklahoma Press Association.

"I started as a receptionist two weeks after high school graduation," she said.

In 1971, Barb Walter married her "second, current and only husband," Bill.

"I told him I don't darn socks, I don't do windows, and I don't live in small towns," she said.

Seven years later, Bill and Barb moved to Hennessey and decided to put out a newspaper in Bill's hometown.

Bill and Barb have been partners in life for 44 years and newspaper partners for 35 years.

"I love him dearly, though we still disagree on everything from politics to grits," she said.

While Bill kept his paying job in Oklahoma City, Barb began her education into life in a small town. Talk at the local diner about foot-long joints and buckets of dope didn't mean she had moved to a drug den – it was oil field talk. She learned not to send people to the pharmacy who came in wanting to renew their "prescriptions" and many other lessons.

"If I'd never worked in community journalism I would never have ridden a mechanical bull, never covered a rape trial, never taken pictures of an airplane crash, and never crouched down behind feed sacks across the street from a grocery store when I thought it was being robbed," she said.

"My husband and I would have never worked together on community projects and parades. We would have never run the sidelines at football games together, taken pictures of two state championship football teams, gone to almost every high school awards program in 37 years, or helped with our Heritage and Wine & Chocolate festivals, Pat Hennessey Celebrations and other community club projects and events."

She's met wonderful people

Continued on Page 5

OPA schedules 2016 Convention in downtown OKC

It's official. The 2016 OPA Annual Convention will once again be held at the Sheraton Oklahoma City Downtown Hotel on June 10-11.

Changes this year include a schedule move to Friday and Saturday. Education, networking sessions and social events are scheduled for Friday afternoon through all day Saturday leading up to the annual awards banquet and celebration of Bet-

ter Newspaper Contest winners Saturday evening.

This year, the Better Newspaper Contest has a new event – Advertising Series. The new event was proposed by the OPA Awards Committee, chaired by John Denny Montgomery, and unanimously approved by the OPA Board of Directors.

The event defines an advertising series as multiple advertisements with a common theme, purpose or product for

a single advertiser published over a few days, weeks or months.

Also approved by the board is a change to the Better Newspaper Contest's rule on "Identical Material." The rule now states: "Identical material may be submitted by only one publication – the newspaper that produced the majority of the content, or, if it was a shared responsibility, the newspaper with the largest circulation."

Another change this year is the Print Quality Contest, which will go from a daily and weekly division to only one division.

The OPA Education Committee, chaired by Mike Strain, will meet in late October to plan the convention schedule, speakers, entertainment and more. Mark your calendar for June 10-11 and make plans to attend this year.

PRESS ON

BY ROBBY TRAMMELL

OPA PRESIDENT
NEWS DIRECTOR,
THE OKLAHOMAN



POWER OF THE PRESS

National Newspaper Week (Oct. 4-10) provided an excellent opportunity for the press to remind citizens of its important role in a democracy.

Sponsored by Newspaper Association Managers Inc., the theme of this year's 75th anniversary observance was "Power of the Press."

The Founding Fathers knew unfettered communication was vital in a country built on individual freedom.

That's why the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights in the United States Constitution guarantees each citizen freedom of religion, speech, press, peaceable assembly, and petitioning for a governmental redress of grievances.

"Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost," said Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence.

Often referred to as a "press amendment," actually the First Amendment is a "people amendment." Think about it – without those five basic individual freedoms that the First Amendment guarantees – none of us would truly be free.

Jefferson, the nation's third president, said it best: "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."

"Whenever the people are well-informed," Jefferson said, "they can be trusted with their own government."

Information is power.

In a democracy, the press serves in a "watchdog" role of local, state, and federal government, providing important news and information to citizens and thereby empowering them as voters.

Yes, the press is big and powerful, but it takes big press to cover big government.

Primarily financed by advertising and circulation, through America's free enterprise system the press can be an independent voice, not beholden to government for its livelihood.

The press is as powerful as the truth

makes it – as powerful as its credibility for fair and accurate reporting.

Oklahoma's daily and weekly newspapers have an outstanding record of service to their communities, state and nation. They share similar values of press freedom, public service and dedication to professionalism.

The state's largest, The Oklahoman, has the words of the First Amendment prominently painted on a 25-foot wall in the middle of its newsroom. It's there to reassure visitors and remind employees of the important work being done in producing each edition of the newspaper and posting news and information on the Internet.

Likewise, The Oklahoman's "Purpose Statement" is displayed there as testimony to its values, and, I know, values shared by many in the press:

"Amid an ever changing world, one uplifted by achievement yet rife with disappointment, we create a brand new suite of products every day with an overriding principle in mind:

"We are Oklahomans.

"Our goal is to help make our state a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

"We strive to create real value for our customers and advertisers by:

1. "Serving as the fabric of our communities and their various interests.
2. "Ensuring a voice for those who need one.
3. "Safeguarding our fellow citizens by exposing corruption and injustice.
4. "Providing valuable results for our advertisers.
5. "Fostering communities of well-informed citizens.
6. "Promoting opportunities for fun and interaction.
7. "Helping lead change when change is needed.

"This is our commitment to you and ourselves."

Let me just add: Amen!

OPA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 5, 2015

SIMPLIFY YOUR RATE CARD

Cost: \$35 for OPA members, 1-2 p.m.

This session will focus on rethinking your grandfathered rate card and making it easier for all parties to understand. Today's advertisers are busier than ever — insisting on transparency and easy-to-understand choices. Learn how you can grow your local business with a few simple ideas. To register, visit www.onlinemediacampus.com

NOVEMBER 11, 2015

TIPS FOR POLITICAL ADVERTISING 2016

Cost: \$15 for OPA members, 2-3 p.m.

Borrell Associates research has dived deeply into the projected political advertising during the 2016 election year, and what they found is that the spending will be huge. This webinar will review some of the data from their report, which includes state-by-state spend numbers broken down by presidential, gubernatorial, statehouse, municipal and referenda. To register, visit www.inlandpress.biz/webinars2015/?ref=01012015.

NOVEMBER 19, 2015

DIFFICULT SITUATIONS AND PEOPLE

Cost: \$15 for OPA members, 10:30 a.m.

This webinar examines the types of difficult situations you might face, and how to have a positive attitude about each of them. You'll understand the need for the critical thinking process when facing difficult situations. And you'll learn a process of evaluating the situation so that you handle it well, and how to capitalize on the "learning factor" of each difficult situation. Dan Chiodo will show the difference between handling a difficult situation and a difficult person, and the times when WE might be difficult—not the situation or someone else. To register, visit www.inlandpress.biz/webinars2015/?ref=01012015.

FEBRUARY 11, 2016

OPA LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT

Cost: FREE but please register in advance, 9:30 a.m.

Oklahoma State Capitol, 2300 N. Lincoln Blvd, Oklahoma City

OPA's Legislative Summit is free to attend, so all OPA members are encouraged to meet at the State Capitol on Feb. 11. We'll have a short group meeting in the Blue Room on the 2nd floor, then split up to visit your legislators' offices. Lunch will be provided by OPA in the 2nd floor Capitol rotunda area. Please register by Feb. 8. Email OPA Member Services Director Lisa Sutliff at LSutliff@okpress.com with any questions.

JUNE 10-11, 2016

OPA ANNUAL CONVENTION

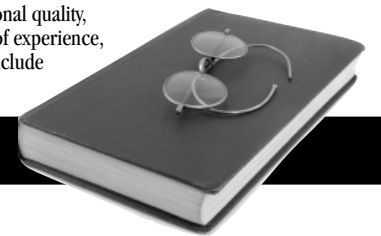
DOWNTOWN OKLAHOMA CITY SHERATON HOTEL

There will be a few changes, most importantly a schedule move to Friday and Saturday. We'll host education/networking sessions and social events Friday afternoon through Saturday leading up to the annual awards banquet Saturday evening where we will celebrate the winners of the Better Newspaper Contest.

For more information on upcoming events, visit the OPA website at www.OkPress.com or contact Member Services Director Lisa Sutliff at (405) 499-0026, 1-888-815-2672 or email LSutliff@okpress.com.

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State Attorney General issues opinion

Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt issued an attorney general's opinion on Sept. 23 that says the Oklahoma Workers' Compensation Commission can engage in confidential deliberations while acting as an appellate panel in workers' compensation cases.

Last October, Pruitt had issued an opinion that said the commission's appellate panel deliberations must be done in public because private deliberations in such cases were not authorized under the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act or any other statutory provision or privilege.

Pruitt's latest opinion says commissioners are entitled to a "deliberative process privilege" and provisions of the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act "are not applicable to the Commissions' oral deliberations."

In issuing the original opinion, Pruitt said that because the question regarding deliberative process was being considered in a pending appeal before the Oklahoma Supreme Court, he did not consider whether confidential deliberations were allowed under the deliberative process privilege.

The Supreme Court ruled that Gov. Mary Fallin was entitled to the deliberative process privilege as a matter of common law and under a separation of powers provision in the state constitution.

In that case, news reporters were seeking access to gubernatorial office emails regarding the Affordable Care Act.

The governor later released the emails, even though the state Supreme Court said she could keep them private.

Durant accused of open meeting violation

The City of Durant has been accused of violating the state Open Meeting Act.

Oden Grube, a local citizen, hired Attorney Robert F. Morgan Jr. of Oklahoma City to review the city's Sept. 8 meeting.

According to a letter Morgan wrote that was sent to city officials, the notice of the Sept. 8 meeting was "deceptively vague" in regards to an agenda item and resolution on increasing utility rates.

The agenda item stated, "Consider

approval of Resolution No. 2015-24 increasing the water, sanitary sewer, and solid waste rates for customers of the Durant City Utilities Authority."

Morgan said in his letter that the description does not convey to the citizens of Durant that their rates will increase 45.2 percent over the next three years and that the increase would be used to pay a \$25,000,000 debt obligation.

Morgan said approval of the resolu-

tion raising utility rates was a willful violation of the Open Meeting Act and therefore invalid. His letter said that if the resolution is not rescinded, his office has been authorized to take legal action.

"We feel the utility rate increase should be rescinded because it was in direct violation of the open meeting laws," Grube said. "That should make it null and void."

Lawsuit dropped against Owasso mayor

A lawsuit against the mayor of Owasso was dropped after the mayor read a public statement during the Oct. 6 council meeting.

Mayor Jeri Moberly was sued in July 2014 by former Owasso councilor Patrick D. Ross.

As part of the settlement agreement, Moberly will be dropped from the suit, her attorney Keith Wilkes said.

Moberly had to admit she made misleading statements during the Aug. 6,

2013, council meeting regarding an open records request.

"Again, I apologize for the confusion and for my comments during the Aug. 6, 2013, council meeting in this regard," she said in her statement.

She also admitted that she erred in questioning who was paying for Ross' legal fees.

Wilkes said both parties agreed that there is no admission of liability by either party, and that Moberly and Ross

will release their claims against each other and will file for a dismissal with prejudice.

Ross filed suit against the City of Owasso on Aug. 6, 2013, claiming it sidestepped the Oklahoma Open Records Act in a settlement agreement with then city manager Rodney Ray.

He amended the lawsuit on July 28, 2014, to include defamation and slander claims against Moberly and Shawn Reiss. The suit against Reiss continues.

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 - No. Copies of SINGLE ISSUE Published Nearest to Filing Date: 1400
 - b. Paid Circulation (by Mail and Outside Mail)
 1. Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541)
 - Average: 734; Single Issue: 663
 2. Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541
 - Average: 75; Single Issue: 85
 3. Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Street Vendors, Counter Sales and Other Paid Distribution
 - Average: 0; Single Issue: 0
 4. Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS
 - Average: 0; Single Issue: 0
 - c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))
 - Average: 809; Single Issue: 748
 - d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)
 1. Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541)
 - Average: 146; Single Issue: 89
 2. Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541
 - Average: 118; Single Issue: 200
 3. Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS
 - Average: 0; Single Issue: 0
 4. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail
 - Average: 18; Single Issue: 5
 - e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))
 - Average: 282; Single Issue: 294
 - f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)
 - Average: 1091; Single Issue: 1042
 - g. Copies Not Distributed
 - Average: 309; Single Issue: 358
 - h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)
 - Average: 1400; Single Issue: 1400
 - i. Percent Paid
 - Average: 74%; Single Issue: 72%
17. Publication of Statement of Ownership
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 - JENNIFER GILLILAND, MG. ED.

OPA Board of Directors meet in Oklahoma City

The Oklahoma Press Association Board of Directors met Sept. 17, 2015, at the OPA office in Oklahoma City.

Officers attending were President Robby Trammell, The Oklahoman; Vice President Dayva Spitzer, Sayre Record & Beckham County Democrat; and Treasurer Rod Serfoss, Clinton Daily News.

Directors attending were Past President Jeff Funk, Enid News & Eagle; Brian Blansett, Tri-County Herald; Ted Streuli, The Journal Record; Ray Dyer, El Reno Tribune; Mike Strain, Tulsa World; John Denny Montgomery, The Purcell Register, and Mark Millsap, The Norman Transcript. Staff at the meeting was Executive Vice President/Secretary Mark Thomas, Accounting Manager Jeannie Freeman and Member Services Director Lisa Sutliff. CPA Mark Knol, the external auditor, attended as a guest.

After calling the meeting to order Trammell asked the board to review minutes of the June 4, 2015, meeting. The minutes were approved as presented.

Knol reviewed the combined OPA and OPS audited financial statements. The statements fairly represent the financial position of the Oklahoma Press Association and Oklahoma Press Service on June 30, 2015, Knol said. After further review, the board acknowledged receipt of the OPA/LSP audit, OPS audit and OPA/OPS combined audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.

Serfoss reviewed the cash consolidated report, and OPA and LSP investment reports for the period ending Aug. 31, 2015. Serfoss reminded the board that OPS ad sales, even when down, are a great value to members. Board members acknowledged receipt of the reports as presented.

Thomas summarized the proposed OPA and LSP budgets for 2015-16. A small profit is budgeted for both OPA and LSP, he said. The recent dues restructuring enabled OPA to support more activities and programs with less help from outside revenue sources, Thomas said. LSP is budgeted to lead a recruitment effort and hold two educational seminars during the year. The board voted to approve the 2015-16 budget as presented.

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Awards Committee Chairman Montgomery presented three recommendations made by the committee to the board. Recommendations to the annual Better Newspaper Contest were:

Addition of an Advertising Series Event as follows:

ADVERTISING SERIES

Submit one ad series or campaign containing between three and seven ads published any time within the contest period. Submit full-page tear sheets with the ads prominently outlined. Only the ads marked will be judged and nothing else on the page will be considered. Your newspaper's staff must produce all ads.

DEFINITION OF ADVERTISING SERIES: Multiple advertisements with a common theme, purpose or product for a single advertiser published over a few days, weeks or months.

JUDGING CRITERIA: Copy writing, editing and design, creative concept and reader appeal."

Also proposed was a change to the rule on "Identical Material." Newspapers with common ownership often collaborate or share content. The current rule in the contest reads: "Identical material cannot be entered by separate newspapers in the same division." The committee recommended changing the rule to:

"Identical material may be submitted by only one publication – the newspaper that produced the majority of the content, or, if it was a shared responsibility, the newspaper with the largest circulation."

The Awards Committee also recommended changing the Print Quality Contest to one division instead of the current daily and weekly division.

Board members unanimously approved the three recommendations.

Montgomery said the Awards Committee also discussed online contest entry and judging systems but decided not to move in this direction due to the added expense.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Education Committee Chairman Strain said the committee reviewed the Annual Convention and plan to hold the event in downtown Oklahoma City at the Sheraton Hotel again next year. The committee recommended changing the convention schedule so it begins on Friday and ends on Saturday night with the awards banquet. Serfoss said staff of member newspapers might be more likely to attend with sessions and events on Friday afternoon and Saturday. The board unanimously approved the recommendation.

LSP COMMITTEE

The committee plans to hold one or two seminars to educate reporters on legal matters, said LSP Chairman Millsap. In addition, the committee plans a promotional effort to recruit new members.

MARKETING COMMITTEE

Committee members reviewed publication results of the statewide "It Matters" house-ad campaign, which reminds readers of newspapers' core values, said Marketing Committee Chairman Dyer. The ads were published at least 1,472 times between November and July 2015. The committee also discussed a political advertising sales strategy for 2016.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

Thomas has been following several legislative interim studies to establish OPA's positions and to work within the legislative process to achieve the best

possible solutions during the next legislative session.

OTHER BUSINESS

- The board reviewed OPA/S and LSP contracts for the legal services of Michael Minnis of Doerner, Saunders, Daniel and Anderson. The board approved the new contracts and rates for FY 2015-16.
- OPA staff conducted a two-week study of delivery times for member newspapers shipped via USPS to the OPA office in Oklahoma City in May 2015. The analysis was shared with state USPS officials in an effort to improve regional and statewide delivery of publications. OPA will conduct the survey three times this year. The study also examined issues with each newspaper's mail preparation and notified those flagged as a potential problem.
- Board members reviewed and signed acknowledgements of the OPA/OPS/ONF Conflict of Interest policy.
- Thomas is working with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services on educational material to assist reporters covering child abuse or neglect.
- Barb Walter, editor and former publisher of The Hennessey Clipper, will receive NNA's annual Emma McKinney Award at the NNA Convention.

OPS BOARD MEETING

At the Oklahoma Press Service meeting, directors approved the minutes of the June 4, 2015, meeting.

Thomas summarized the proposed OPS budget for 2015-16, which includes printing the 19th edition of the Open Meeting and Records Acts book. Because of a flat revenue projection, several expenses were cut. The board approved the budget as presented.

In staff reports, board members reviewed the Did-Not Run Advertising Report for May to August 2015, which showed 41 DNRs from 33 newspapers.

Network Advertising, which includes OCAN and 2x2 ads, was reviewed at the meeting. Staff proposed three recommendations for the program:

1. Amend the five state regions to reflect the number of newspapers/circulation in each region;
2. Adopt the proposed discounted frequency rate structure; and
3. Develop a member-reward sales incentive for member newspapers. In addition to retaining 50 percent of the sale price, newspapers would have the opportunity to win \$50 in a monthly drawing.

The recommendations passed unanimously.

Following a management review, Trammell said the board appreciated the work done by Thomas and the staff.

NEW STAFF

THE CHELSEA REPORTER

The Chelsea Reporter recently welcomed a new sports team to its staff.

Jean Ratley and Ruben Flores will be covering Chelsea Dragon sporting events. Ratley will handle the photography side, while Ruben does the writing.

Ratley and Flores replace sports editor Jay McAlister, who has left Chelsea to accept a new post in Arkansas as pastor at the Pickles Gap Baptist Church.

Reporter Editor Linda Lord said McAlister will still write a weekly sports column and his 'Under the Pew' cartoon and article will continue in the Review as well.

"We are also happy to welcome our new team members, Jean and Ruben," Lord said.

HENRYETTA FREE-LANCE

The Henryetta Free-Lance welcomes back Mandy Brumley to its news team.

Brumley served in several positions at the Free-Lance from 2003 to 2007 and has over 15 years of journalism experience. She has worked in newsprint, broadcast, photography and graphic design.

Brumley earned her degree in journalism from the University of Central Oklahoma.

TULSA WORLD

The Tulsa World Media Company recently named new department heads to handle BH Media's Southwest Region.

Sarah Lorenzen was named as director of marketing and research, and Stephanie Knight was named as digital sales manager.

Knight, a former sales manager with Cox Communications who has more than 15 years of experience in sales, will oversee digital operations at the Tulsa World and the two other publications in the region: the Bryan-College Station (Texas) Eagle and the Waco Tribune. Lorenzen, who has 10 years of experience in marketing, will be in charge of marketing and audience development at the Tulsa World.

Lorenzen will also oversee event management, community relations and partnerships, as well as making sure "the community knows what the Tulsa World does and that we are transitioning into the digital age," she said.

The Tulsa World is owned by BH Media Group, a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway.

Walter receives award Continued from Page 1

in the community who have supported the newspaper. Mayors and banks presidents have helped put mailing labels on the paper so it would get to the post office in time.

"Who knows what would have happened if I'd gotten a college degree," Walter said in her closing remarks at the NNA Convention. "I might have even won a prestigious national award in com-

munity journalism such as the Emma C. McKinney Award.

"Oh, wait. I did!"

Recognized as the highest and most dignified tributes in community journalism, the McKinney Awards is presented to a working or retired newspaper woman who has provided distinguished service and leadership to the community press and its community.

The McKinney Award was estab-

lished in 1966 to honor Emma C. McKinney, co-publisher and editor of the Hillsboro (OR) Argus for 58 years. She was dean of Oregon newspapermen and women in 1954 and was inducted into the Oregon Journalism Hall of Fame in 1982.

Barb Walter is the second woman from Oklahoma to win the award. Gloria Trotter, co-publisher of The Countywide & Sun, received the award in 2005.

Guthrie News Leader names new publisher

Pam Nelson has been named publisher of the Guthrie News Leader.

Nelson comes to the News Leader after serving 10 years as publisher at the Woodward News and then at the Stillwater News Press.

"I am very excited to be here. I have

met some wonderful people and continue to do so every day," Nelson said.

"In the last month, we have made some changes in the newspaper and we hope our readers like them. Watch for more changes in the future."

Nelson has earned top honors with

the Associated Press and the Oklahoma Press Association. She is an accomplished photographer and an avid community volunteer.

The Guthrie News Leader is owned by American Hometown Publishing of Nashville, Tenn.

Rose Lane promoted to editor at OKC Friday

Long-time OKC Friday General Manager Rose Lane has been promoted to editor.

Lane began her career at the paper 13 years ago as a news editor.

Before joining OKC Friday, she had a 15-year career with Lake Media in



Missouri, where she served in various positions, including associate editor of a daily newspaper, editor of two different weekly newspapers and as sales executive. Lane's husband eventually took a job in Oklahoma.

"Rose has been running day-to-day operations of the paper for the past few months," said Vicki Gourley, chairman

and CEO of Nichols Hills Publishing Company.

"She is an award winning writer/editor and she deserves this promotion as the next step in her career."

Lane was inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame this past April. She is married to Bob Lane and the couple has two children.

Dewey County Record editor retires, replacement named

After 16 years at the Dewey County Record, Dianna Chain is retiring.

Chain started in the position of paste-up and worked her way up to editor.

She was hired at the weekly newspa-

per when Connie Miller, wife of then-owner Mack Miller, offered her a job.

Chain said leaving is bittersweet. She will miss her friends and coworkers, but

is looking forward to spending more time with her family.

Taking over as editor is Jeanne Tholen. Chain said Tholen is "very qualified, young and excited to run the paper."

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Hall of Fame nominations due by Dec. 14

Nominations for the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame are due by Monday, Dec. 14, said Dr. Terry Clark, director.

The Hall of Fame honors Oklahoma journalists who have dedicated their lives to excellence in serving the citizens of our state and country.

Nominations may be made by email or "snail" mail to either tclark@uco.edu or Terry Clark, Journalism Hall of Fame, University of Central Oklahoma,

100 N. University Ave., Edmond, OK 73034.

This year's induction ceremony will be Thursday, April 28, 2016, on the UCO campus in the Nigh University Center.

The selection committee will meet in early January to sift through the new and remaining nominations from previous years. Typically, nine or 10 persons are selected.

Nominations should include the following information:

- Contact information—address, phone, email.
- Biographical information – birth date and place, education. Date of death if deceased.
- Journalistic experience, including jobs, positions, and chronology by years.
- Journalism honors and other information on community activities and honors.
- Statement of why the person should be inducted into the hall of fame.
- Source for obtaining a color photograph – color jpg or print welcome with submission.
- Statements of support are welcome, but not necessary.

A complete list of previous inductees into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame is available online at <http://okjournalism.uco.edu/inductees.asp>.

High school journalism steps into digital world

Bartlesville High School journalism students are delving into the digital world with a new website tailored for news and features of interest to high school students.

In addition to a print product, students are now producing 4E Voices at www.bpsvoices.com. The online product emphasizes news, sports, opinion, arts and entertainment.

Noah Estes, a BHS sophomore journalism student, said the move to a digital platform will allow students to get information out quicker. Estes, along with Maggie Giovannetti, are the online editors for the high school newspaper – The Fourth Estate.

4E Voices also plans to integrate social media into the website. Sopho-

more Edward Reali is the social media editor of 4E.

Another high school in Oklahoma also is publishing a web-based newspaper. Merritt School's "Big Rig," published entirely by high school students, is published once a month at merrittbig-rig.weebly.com.

The first "Big Rig" came online the last week of September. Future plans

include incorporating video into the publication, working with their "Green Room."

The class, taught by Judith Bolinger, is made up of 11 juniors and sophomores who voluntarily write and photograph events throughout the school.

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Woodward changes publication date

Woodward News recently changed its weekend edition from Sunday morning to Saturday. The paper is making the change for the convenience of readers to see local garage sale ads as well as high school football scores and photos.

The new weekend edition will include

the same inserts, comics and coupons that are currently included on Sunday, with the addition of local Friday night sports scores, stories, columns and photos.

The change became effective on Oct. 3.

Tulsa World reporter wins award

Tulsa World staff reporter Mike Averill has been chosen as one of the winners of the 2015 Governor's Disability Employment Awards of Excellence.

Averill has worked for the World for 13 years covering nonprofits and social services in and around Tulsa.

The awards are given each year to outstanding employees with disabilities, to businesses that hire people with dis-

abilities and to members of the media that publicize those programs.

Jordan Didier, spokesman for the nonprofit organization A New Leaf, nominated Averill for the award.

Gov. Mary Fallin will congratulate the winners at a ceremony at 1:30 p.m. Oct. 29 in the Phillips Pavilion at the Governor's Mansion in Oklahoma City.

Two newspapers celebrate anniversaries

THE LINDSAY NEWS recently celebrated its 115th anniversary.

The newspaper and First National Bank in Lindsay are two of the oldest businesses in town.

Darrell and Gina Cable, owners of the Lindsay News, are proud to own and operate one of the two businesses that originally started in Lindsay.

THE PAWNEE CHIEF began its 75th year of operation in September.

Jo O. Ferguson officially put out the first issue of the Chief on Oct. 9, 1941.

Since that time, 3,848 issues of the Chief have been published, under the combined leadership of publishers Jo O. Ferguson, D. Jo Ferguson and Larry Ferguson.

Historical publishing museum for sale in Guthrie

The Oklahoma Historical Society is selling the State Capital Publishing Museum in Guthrie.

The building was built in 1902 and was home to the State Capital newspa-

per. The building was closed two years ago after its boilers failed.

Historic newspaper equipment in the building will continue to belong to the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Bob Blackburn, Oklahoma Historical Society executive director, said the building would require \$4 million in development and maintenance costs. Proposals will open in November for those interested in buying the building.

DEATHS

ROBERT GILMORE, SR., former owner of the Altus Times, died Sept. 16, 2015. He was 94.

Gilmore was born June 22, 1921, in Paterson, N.J. After graduating high school, he joined the U.S. Army in 1942 and was honorably discharged years later due to a medical injury.

With the generous help from a family member, Gilmore began his career in the newspaper business in a circula-

tion department at the Tuscaloosa (Ala.) News. His family later moved to Texas where he worked his way up to business manager of the Baytown Sun and eventually became the owner and publisher of the Brenham Banner Press.

From 1970 to 1984, Gilmore owned and operated the Altus Times while also purchasing newspapers across south-west Oklahoma, Colorado, Texas and Missouri.

After his retirement from newspaper publishing, Gilmore was appointed to serve the Oklahoma State Senate as a sergeant-at-arms in 1994.

He is survived by his son Robert K. Gilmore, Jr. of Oklahoma City; daughter Carole Atkinson and husband Jim of St. Louis, Mo; daughter Jan Loftis and husband James; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

DAVID SELLERS, longtime publisher and editor of the Oklahoma City Capitol Hill Beacon, died Sept. 29, 2015. He was 84.

Sellers was born Oct. 28, 1930, in Holdenville. After earning his journalism degree, he became publishing partner of the Capitol Hill Beacon in 1967.

Sellers and his wife, Gay, lived in the Capitol Hill area of Oklahoma City for more than 60 years. David Sellers was

the last owner of the Capitol Hill Beacon newspaper.

In 1985, the Beacon was one of the first newspapers in Oklahoma to embrace Macintosh computers.

As editor, Sellers became an energetic voice for the community. He was named as the Outstanding Citizen for South Oklahoma City in 2009 and was honored by the Oklahoma Historical Society as an Oklahoma Pathmaker.

Sellers sold the Capitol Hill Beacon

to the Choctaw Times in February 2014. With the paper sold, the Sellers moved to War Eagle, Ark., to be closer to their family.

Sellers is survived by his wife of 63 years, Gay; three daughters, Cathy Sellers and partner Dr. Nancy Pearce of Colorado Springs, Carolyn Farris and her husband Roger of War Eagle, and Christine Hansel and husband David of Denton, Texas; six grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

JERRY SOKOLOSKY, former attorney for the Oklahoma Press Association, died Sept. 27, 2015. He was 78.

Sokolosky was born on April 12, 1937, in Oklahoma City. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma College of Law in 1963. He was a partner with the law firm Abel Musser Sokolosky and Clark for decades.

In 1964, Sokolosky was elected to the

Oklahoma House of Representatives as a Democrat, representing the 97th District until 1968. After leaving the House, he continued on as a civic and business leader. In 1976, Jimmy Carter stayed with Jerry and his family during the presidential primary. President Carter later appointed Sokolosky to the Judicial Selection Committee.

Throughout his career he was the

organizing attorney for new charters for five state community banks, was a contender several times for the Congress of the United States and authored several articles for the Law Review.

Sokolosky is survived by his two daughters, Cindy and her husband Ray Gaytan of Encino, Calif., and Cheryl and her husband David Woodcock of Beverly Hills, and five grandchildren.

NANCY STILES, an Oklahoma journalist, died Sept. 15, 2015, in Temple, Texas. She was a 101.

Stiles was born July 4, 1914, in Frederick. She graduated from Tipton High School and obtained her bachelor's in journalism from the University of Oklahoma in 1938.

During her journalism career, Stiles worked at the Clinton Daily News, Frederick Press and was a sports editor for The Daily Oklahoman.

In 1968, Stiles attended Oklahoma State University to earn a master's degree in education science. She worked

as the junior high school librarian in Henryetta until her retirement in 1980.

She is survived by her son, Jess Stiles and wife Roberta of Liphook, Great Britain; daughter Nancy Radebaugh and husband Lyle of Salado, Texas; three grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Donate to ONF



A donation to the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation will support its efforts to improve the state's newspaper industry and quality of journalism.

ONF's programs include training and education for professional journalists, scholarship and internship programs for journalism students, and Newspaper in Education efforts.

ONF relies on donations and memorial contributions to fund these programs.

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IN MEMORY OF OUR FRIENDS & COLLEAGUES

Anita Sue Cooper
Sept. 10, 2014

Billy Gordon Foster
Sept. 30, 2014

John & Tinker Hruby
Oct. 13, 2014

Janis Elaine Fairbanks Burton
Sept. 26, 2014

John Edward Speaker
Oct. 1, 2014

Jackie Leroy Farley
Oct. 23, 2014

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Claremore Daily Progress

AUGUST 2015
WEEKLY WINNER:

JEANNE THOLEN
The Dewey County Record

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"Wild" was an understatement for the Wild Cow Milking contest.

Photo by Jeanne Tholen, The Dewey County Record, August 6, 2015



Cameron Vaughan, son of state champion pitcher Andrea Scott Vaughan, works on his skills during the Claremore Softball Alumni Game.

Photo by Rick Heaton, Claremore Daily Progress, August 9, 2015

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IT'S FOOTBALL SEASON!

It's fall in Oklahoma and that can only mean one thing – Football! Throughout the state, newspapers are showing their spirit with lively pages of their hometown high school teams. Featured here are The Oklahoman, Weatherford Daily News, The Shawnee News-Star, The Ada News and the Oologah Lake Leader.

MLB PLAYOFFS
Rangers up one
The Texas Rangers take Game 5 against the Toronto Blue Jays without shortstop Adonis Berroto, who is out with an injury.

PRO FOOTBALL
Cowboys backup QB a touchdown maker

COLLEGE FOOTBALL
Wolves hope to bounce back from loss

Weatherford Daily News
Friday Night Lights 16:30
W.D.N.
TUESDAY
Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Losing skid
Eagles fall to Cache
WHS 0-2 in districts

OUT OF THE FOG
JOURNEY OF MUSTANG'S BLAKE WILLIAMS FROM SICKNESS TO STARDOM

COLLEGE FOOTBALL
OBU travels to Southern Arkansas Saturday

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL
OBU travels to Southern Arkansas Saturday

The Shawnee News-Star Presents
GAME NIGHT

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL
Wolves hope to bounce back from loss

COLLEGE FOOTBALL
OBU travels to Southern Arkansas Saturday

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TUESDAY
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Eagles fall to Cache
WHS 0-2 in districts

OUT OF THE FOG
JOURNEY OF MUSTANG'S BLAKE WILLIAMS FROM SICKNESS TO STARDOM

COLLEGE FOOTBALL
OBU travels to Southern Arkansas Saturday

The Ada News
Sports
October 8, 2015

Ada making most of week off
Cougar head coach Wade Standley reflects on big win over McLoud

By JEFF CALL
Sports Editor
adnewsports@cableone.net

Ada High Football

ADA — Usually by mid-week, the buzz around the Ada High football camp is about the Cougars' upcoming opponent. However, Ada has a bye week thanks to former District 4A-2 foe Sante Fe South merging its football team with Oklahoma City metro school Southeast too late for a suitable replacement to be found.

New Ada head coach Wade Standley was still beaming about his team's 59-21 win over McLoud that featured a record-setting performance by new quarterback Gabriel Simons.

The senior QB completed 16-of-24 passes for 401 yards and three touchdowns. That snapped a school record set by former Ada standout Wyatt Robson, who threw for 334 yards in a playoff game against Douglass in 2012.

Simons — in just his third start since Ada lost former starting quarterback Dillon Briggs to a knee injury — added 52 rushing yards (and two touchdowns), bringing his total yards to 453 yards. That gave Simons another school record formally held by Kerry Johnson, who compiled 442 yards (308 rushing and 134 passing) against McGuinness in the 2003 postseason.

Standley said Simons' big night started on the practice field. "I thought Gabe had a good week of practice, and he's certainly getting better each week which is what we need him to do," Standley said. "He did a good job of throwing the football and our receivers did a great job catching the ball. He had a good night."

Part of Simons' success was credited to the Ada offense taking what McLoud was willing to give up. "McLoud was doing some things defensively that helped us take advantage of (the passing game). Gabe was able to get the ball out there and our receivers were able to do some things afterwards," Standley said. "Of course, our receiving corps had a great night too. Jake Martinez ended with five catches for 158 yards — including plenty of YAC (yards after catch) numbers. Jackson McFarlane also broke the 100-yard mark with five grabs for 103 yards. Avery Logan was close with four catches for 95 yards.

More depth at tailback
Senior Levi Grimes has been a staple of the Ada defense all season at linebacker, but during the win at McLoud he made his presence known on offense.

Grimes rushed for a team-best 67 yards and a touchdown on just six totes in a backup role, averaging 11.2 yards per carry. Starter Reed Townsend, who had taken over the bulk of the rushing duties since starter Shiloh Windsor was sidelined with a hand injury, had eight carries for 43 yards and two scores. Townsend now has 280 yards on 57 carries for the season. "Levi had an excellent night. He came in and can give us another one-two punch back there. He showed great speed at times and the ability to make cuts. We're excited about Levi," Standley said. "Of course, Reed has done an incredible job for us over the last few weeks."

► See "Ada" 2B

From receiver to QB
Ada senior Gabriel Simons was one of the team's top receivers before an injury to starter Dillon Briggs turned him into a record-setting quarterback. Purchase this image and other sports photos at theadnews.smugmug.com.

Photo by Richard R. Barron

THURSDAY, OCT. 8, 2015
OOLOGAH LAKE LEADER
SPORTS

Booting up
Junior Ethan Clark kicks a 27-yard field goal in the second quarter of Oologah's 32-25 win Friday against Miami.

O-T Mustangs outlast Miami

By CHRIS EDENS
Sports Editor

It was a hoof-tribe Friday night at Mustang Stadium. Oologah's 32-25 win over Miami came down to the last drive. The Mustangs stopped the Mustangs in the final seconds to secure an important district win.

Oologah has been plagued with injuries, especially on defense. There were five starters on the sideline last Friday.

"I'm proud of the kids that have stepped in and carried the load," Oologah head coach Brandon Craig said. "We knew we needed to be efficient offensively against Miami. They had the ball way too much but we made stops at key times."

Senior Logan Armstrong was on the field for almost every snap. He played every down on defense, returned kicks and was involved in 90 percent of the offensive plays.

"Logan is talented and he's been a great player for us. He does whatever we ask him to do," Craig said. "He's a huge reason why we won that game."

On the ninth play of the drive, Miami scored on a reverse from 16 yards out. The Mustangs made the two-point conversion and it was tied 25-25 with 5:13 left to play.

The Mustangs were over three minutes until half-time. On a fourth and five, the Wardogs completed a 16-yard touchdown pass for a 14-11 lead.

Oologah answered quickly. Base hit Bryden DeSpain on a 35-yard pass play and he went out of bounds at the three yard line. Armstrong scored from two yards out and the Mustangs went to the break on top 18-14.

Miami kicked a 29-yard field goal midway through the third to cut the lead to one. Armstrong had a great return on the kick to the Wardog 47-yard line.

Pearson broke loose for a 31-yard gain. Oologah went for it on a fourth and one and Armstrong picked up the first down. DeSpain made a three-yard touchdown catch for a 25-17 lead with 2:28 left in the quarter.

Penalties killed the Mustangs' next drive. Oologah pinned the Wardogs deep in their own territory and Miami started at the five.

On the ninth play of the drive, Miami scored on a reverse from 16 yards out. The Mustangs made the two-point conversion and it was tied 25-25 with 5:13 left to play.

The Mustangs were

Rushing forward
Junior Rusty O'Conner follows his blockers as he looks for running room in the Mustangs' 32-25 win against Miami Friday. Oologah and Miami wore special uniforms the National Guard provided for the Guard's game of the week.

Plowing ahead
Sophomore running back Carter Pearson drags a Miami tackler as he fights for extra yards in the Mustangs' 32-25 win over the Wardogs last Friday.

Toeing the line
Senior wide receiver Bryden DeSpain pulls in a pass and stays in bounds at the 3-yard line to set up a touchdown.

Headline evaluation programs prove helpful



Clark's Critique

by Terry Clark
Journalism Professor,
University of Central Oklahoma,
TClark@uco.edu

"City's five decisions"

Would you write a headline like that on a city council story? No? Why not?

(I wouldn't either, but maybe I should consider it, according to online articles about headline writing for blogs.)

As I wrote before, I teach my blogging students about headlines, because they are more important than ever. You can read that article in the online archives of *The Oklahoma Publisher*, February, 2014.

But this year, I came upon two online "headline evaluation" programs, plus blogging tips for headlines that offer some insights we should consider.

I know where a print medium and digital doesn't always apply, but you also have websites, and my guess is you'll find ideas that might help you.

I plugged in what I thought was a pretty good headline from my blog, Coffee with Clark: "Where the pavement ends – back roads in color."

First link: <http://www.aminstitute.com/headline>

This one gave me a 0 percent EMV – "Emotional Marketing Value." Hmpf! This site's weakness is that you must put your headline in a category. But it does humble you and make you think, with an explanation of the headline's weakness.

Second link: <http://coschedule.com/headline-analyzer#>

This gave me a B+ – a score of 59.

This site is much more helpful because it offers real hints for better headlines.

It classifies words into four categories: common, uncommon, emotional and power, and says good headlines have a balance between them. My headline, for instance, contained only common words. Therefore it is a generic headline. It said my head was the right length, with 7 words (6 is best), and 42 characters (50 is best – best defined as getting the maximum number of "click-throughs"). In print we're not concerned with click-throughs as such, but the principle of grabbing readers is the same.

Dig deeper into the site and click on the important link "How to write headlines that drive traffic, shares and search results," and you'll find some thought-provoking ideas.

That's where the "City's Five Decisions" came from. It's a "List post" headline, used widely on Google and Yahoo to grab your attention – a modern version

Gov. Fallin halts execution
The Oklahoma Department of Corrections received the wrong drug.

GLANZ RESIGNS
Grand jury issues two indictments. Neglect of duty, corruption cited. Undersheriff assumes duties.

Report: Glanz told deputies to stay quiet

Featured newspapers this month: Tulsa World, McAlester News-Capital, Enid News & Eagle, The Marlow Review, The Wewoka Times, Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise and the Okmulgee Times.

of Letterman's "Top Ten." The other types are "How to" headlines, question headlines and generic headlines. Obviously, most of ours are generic.

But it claims common words should make up 20 to 30 percent of the headline. That's why using active verbs and concrete nouns are so important.

- Other helpful hints:
- The most important words are the first three and the last three.
 - Get the subject (keyword in the first 20 characters) and verb in early. (Email subject line is usually cut off at 20 characters – what does that tell you?)
 - Use at least one emotional word – it gives examples of all the types of words, but be careful, some are opinionated, and there's a fine line about being sensational.
 - Length – headlines of six to seven words get the best results.
 - Copyblogger reports that eight of ten people – a staggering 80 percent of your readers – will only see your headlines and nothing else. Only two of those ten – 20 percent – will read the article.

For fun, I plugged in two of my favorite headlines from last month.

- *The Ardmoreite's* "I came illegally" got a score of 26 (all common words), and a B+.
 - *The Eufaula Indian Journal's* "It's a dogfight between city and animal rescue group," ranked a 65 and B+, using 20 percent common, uncommon and power words.
- I noticed that the programs do not

MPS Calendar Account
Thousands of dollars have been spent from a school administrative center office, but details on who spent what — and what exactly was purchased — remain unclear.

School board, state auditor and inspector looking into MPS

Super moon eclipse
A lunar eclipse had people looking skyward last Saturday night. The eclipse had the added benefits of it being a super moon and a blood moon, something that will not happen again until 2033.

The Marlow Review
Marlow, Oklahoma A Proud Heritage... A Bright Future

pick up on humor, plays on words or alliteration, all strengths of newspaper headlines.

We have another advantage of increasing the type with the importance of the story. Back to the old guidelines. So make sure one head on every page is larger than all the others.

But the digital lesson we need is – write short. Be specific.

"City's five decisions" might grab readers. (A long time ago, I would run a small box beside the story, bullet points of "City Council at a Glance," summarizing the main points. Was that any different?) But the same program suggesting that kind of head gave it a very low rating. Go figure.

I know when you're on a deadline, there's no time to do this, but it might help, over a cup of coffee, to take the last issue and run your best headlines through for suggestions.

Good luck.
Main lesson – too many Oklahoma papers have too many small, wordy

'DEPENDS ON THE POLICY'
Decision to cover man-made, natural quakes defined by insurance policies

'Some kind of catastrophic damage'
Bills on quake insurance never heard in legislative committees

Fundraisers assist family of boy fighting cancer

Super moon eclipse
A lunar eclipse had people looking skyward last Saturday night. The eclipse had the added benefits of it being a super moon and a blood moon, something that will not happen again until 2033.

The Marlow Review
Marlow, Oklahoma A Proud Heritage... A Bright Future

headlines with little variety in sizes. You're neglecting two of headlines' main advantages – grabbing the reader, and making your layout more attractive.

LOOKIN'EM OVER:

Several newspapers started at doing what they do best, serving the readers with important news.

- *McAlester News-Capital*, using public records, investigating serious financial questions in the public schools, by David Dishman and James Beaty.
- *Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise* – Tim Hudson tackled Oklahoma's embarrassing driver's license ID problem, and in the wake of the Oregon tragedy, interviewed police, under "Police ready for 'what if.'" Nathan Thompson reported on how the schools are adapting to the teacher shortage.
- *Stillwater News Press* – Michelle Charles and Jessica Miller covered the earthquake issue in a beautiful front page package.
- On a big news day, the *Tulsa World* put

Clark's Critique Continued from Page 10

The Wewoka Times
 Volume 114 Number 17 (USPS 565-020) 12 Pages & Supplements
 Wednesday, September 30, 2015 56¢ Retail/Single Copy
 www.wewokanews.com

'Fear No One, Respect Everyone'
 Oklahoma's best football coach, Tommy Down, was named Oklahoma Coach of the Year for the 2014-15 season. Down, who coached the Wewoka Bulldogs to a 10-2 record, was named Coach of the Year by the Oklahoma Football Coaches Association. Down, who coached the Bulldogs to a 10-2 record, was named Coach of the Year by the Oklahoma Football Coaches Association. Down, who coached the Bulldogs to a 10-2 record, was named Coach of the Year by the Oklahoma Football Coaches Association.

Wewoka Honored For Top Innovative Program
 The City of Wewoka was named one of the top 100 innovative programs in the nation by Entrepreneur magazine. The city's innovative program, the Wewoka Innovation Fund, was named one of the top 100 innovative programs in the nation by Entrepreneur magazine. The city's innovative program, the Wewoka Innovation Fund, was named one of the top 100 innovative programs in the nation by Entrepreneur magazine.

Food Thievery Leads to Meth Bust for Local Man
 A local man was arrested for food thievery and possession of methamphetamine. The man, who was arrested for food thievery and possession of methamphetamine, was arrested for food thievery and possession of methamphetamine. The man, who was arrested for food thievery and possession of methamphetamine, was arrested for food thievery and possession of methamphetamine.

City Sees 20% Increase In Sales Tax Revenue
 The City of Wewoka reported a 20% increase in sales tax revenue for the month of September. The city's sales tax revenue for the month of September was \$11,140.71, a 20% increase from the same month last year. The city's sales tax revenue for the month of September was \$11,140.71, a 20% increase from the same month last year.

Local Mother Sheds Light on Childhood Cancer
 A local mother is shedding light on childhood cancer through her blog. The mother, who is shedding light on childhood cancer through her blog, is shedding light on childhood cancer through her blog. The mother, who is shedding light on childhood cancer through her blog, is shedding light on childhood cancer through her blog.

Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise
 Sunday, October 4, 2015 Volume 115, Issue 234
 Today's Forecast: Mostly Sunny 47°-72°
 Two Dollars

Oklahoma IDs not REAL enough
 LAWMAKERS MUST REPEAL LAW TO ALLOW DRIVER'S LICENSES TO MEET FEDERAL STANDARDS
 The Oklahoma Legislature should repeal a law that allows drivers to obtain Oklahoma driver's licenses without passing a written test, according to a coalition of groups. The coalition, which includes the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and the Oklahoma Department of Motor Vehicles, is asking the legislature to repeal the law that allows drivers to obtain Oklahoma driver's licenses without passing a written test.

Mite bites might be painful
 A mite bite can be painful and cause a rash. The mite, which is a tiny insect, can bite humans and cause a rash. The mite, which is a tiny insect, can bite humans and cause a rash. The mite, which is a tiny insect, can bite humans and cause a rash.

Bartlesville police prepared for what if?
 Bartlesville police are preparing for a possible shooting. The police, who are preparing for a possible shooting, are preparing for a possible shooting. The police, who are preparing for a possible shooting, are preparing for a possible shooting.



a story above the flag, and also used "old-fashioned" deck heads on the sheriff resignation.

- **The Wewoka Times's** sports editor Obbie Harvey carried a great feature on the football coach, and Angela Downing wrote about a local woman's experience with childhood cancer.
- **Enid News & Eagle's** Emily Summars probed the insurance issues of earthquakes.
- Related – Jim Perry at the **Cushing Citizen** wrote about an old building collapse, perhaps related to the quakes. **The Oklahoman's** Rick Green reported on the driver's license issue, under "Identity Crisis?"

In a sign of the rural hospital times, April Cobble at the **Guymon Daily Herald** reported the hospital asking county commissioners for help. **The Carnegie Herald** reported its hospital cutting one-fifth of the staff.

Worth noting – **Okmulgee Times'** Kay Rabbitt-Brower reported on teaching the Creek language, "Keeping a language alive." Her lead: "There are no textbooks." **The Mooreland Leader** was the only paper I saw plugging National Newspaper Week, under "Why community papers still matter."

Great eclipse coverage in **The Marlow Review**.

HEADIN' 'EM UP (My evaluation, not the Internet program).

First place, tie, **Stillwater News Press** and **Woodward News**.

Stillwater, on Jessica Miller's earthquake story:

COUNTY SHAKEN AND STIRRED

Woodward, on Rachel Van Horn's story about a cattle auction

CATTLE MARKET PROMPTS SOME WEIGHTY DECISIONS

Domestic Violence Awareness Month
 Phone collection drive underway

Keeping a language alive
 Lanissa Jack-Melton excited about teaching Creek course at BHS

Dr. Kelly Bailey receives NSU honor

International Walk to School Day
 Okmulgee students, parents to participate on Wednesday

Wade Hall reflects on Miss America pageant
 Miss Oklahoma Georgia Frazier ecstatic with her performance

Weather
 Today: 71/50 Tomorrow: 71/50

KEY REAL ESTATE
 918-756-1248

Second place, tie, **The Ada News** and **The Chickasha Express-Star**

Ada, on Carl Lewis' photo:

ADA KIDS MAKE BIG WAVES ON WAKE BOARDS

Chickasha, on Jessica Lane's photo of kids learning about banking:

PIGGY BANK ON IT

Third place, **Lawton Constitution** on Mitch Meader's story about the Wichita Refuge longhorn auction:

HORNS APLENTY

Honorable mentions: **Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise** on Chris Day's, "Are you ready for the flu?"; **Pauls Valley Democrat**, on Barry Porterfields' wreck story, "Busy as bees"; **Sequoyah County Times**, on Roy Faulkenberry's story about police body cameras, "Body cameras offer an unblinking eye."

PART 3: ONF internships give students hands-on experience working for OPA member newspapers

This year, the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation's internship program placed 22 journalism students at Oklahoma newspapers. The paid internships were made possible by a grant from the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation.

The ONF's internship program promotes the value of working at Oklahoma newspapers and benefits students as they begin their professional careers.

This is the final of a three-part series that shares the interns' experiences at the newspapers.



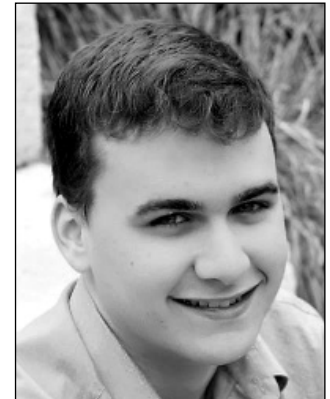
**BAILEY
POWELL**



**KELLI
STACY**



**KATI
WALKER**



**CHANDLER
VESSELS**

BAILEY POWELL • Oklahoma State University • *Stillwater News Press*

When I started my internship with the Stillwater News Press I was nervous. I had never worked in a real newsroom, and I was lacking experience with news. Luckily, the first beat I covered was politics and government under Michelle Charles. She helped acclimate me to the news and the community. Michelle helped me get out of my box and soon I was comfortable running around administration buildings to find people and meetings.

Before long, I was getting used to the fast-paced environment and the people I worked with. Everyone in this office has

been a tremendous help, even when I wasn't shadowing their beat.

Moving around from beat to beat was one of my favorite parts of this internship.

Every other week I had the chance to follow a different reporter and learn about his or her beat. I learned so much more from the different reporters than I ever could have under one person. Even their note-taking styles and journalistic techniques differed and gave me a great look at different ways of handling a story.

I can't say thank you enough to the reporters at the Stillwater News

Press. Everyone there has helped me to become a better reporter. But, of course, my editor Chris Day deserves the biggest thank you. Whether it was fixing spelling errors or completely going over every part of a story from beginning to end, Chris took the time to help me, even if it would have been much easier and quicker just to fix it himself.

The Stillwater News Press has taught me so much about the profession and myself that I could never have learned in a classroom. This has been an invaluable experience and I am so glad I was able to spend my summer with the Stillwater News Press.



Photo by Bailey Powell

KATI WALKER • University of North Texas • *The Ardmoreite*

I have always been terrible with goodbyes. Nobody likes to say goodbye because it means something is ending. Your time with them is over now and it's time to move on with your life.

Eight weeks ago, when I packed up my car for the second time this summer to begin a new adventure in Ardmore, Okla., I cried – well, actually – I unabashedly wept. However, I wouldn't have guessed I'd be doing the same now, just thinking about saying goodbye to the wonderful people I have met during my time in this special town.

I have met cops and firefighters, city managers and regular townspeople. To everyone I interviewed, first let me say thank you for your patience, and secondly it was great meeting you.

I hope that you all enjoyed having me in your town and reporting on your lives as much as I did. You are all great people with unique stories to tell.

To my fellow employees at The Ardmoreite, you saw me in action. You saw me rushing around mid-panic attack because I thought I misspelled Sunday or put Thursday instead of Tuesday for services in an obituary (a very serious mistake I discovered the hard way). Then you saw me at my worst. Thank you all for

believing in me to bounce back and make the absolute best of this internship.

But let me tell you about my best. I jumped right in that first week. Reporter Michael Pineda dropped me off at a committee meeting and said, "See ya later, kid!" I was on my own. Complete terror. I pushed through that initial feeling of horror and anxiety and wrote my first story for The Ardmoreite — and it was on the front page (insert smug smile here).

That next week I was assigned what we in the "news industry" call a "punch" story, which is just a fun way of saying super cool in-depth 20/20 investigative report. I'm telling you, I felt like Katie Couric and Barbara Walters.

I interviewed local celebrities such as deputy police chief Kevin Norris, city manager J.D. Spohn, fire chief Cary Williamson and even accompanied marine state trooper Mike Groeber on a "boat along" at Lake Murray.

My proudest moment, though, was when I interviewed Greg Allen, volunteer firefighter in Lone Grove after Tropical Depression Bill reeked havoc on the area. I don't want to give too much away for all of you who are about to go look up that story on www.ard-

moreite.com but just let me say, firefighters really are everyday heroes. Though during most of that week I was drenched, I enjoyed every second of experiencing hurricane-like conditions during the middle of June in southern Oklahoma.

And then, there was Safe Place. Oh, Safe Place story, how you have made my life complete. I framed a copy and now keep it beside my bed because it consumed my life for two weeks in July. This story was my second "punch" story on the front page and I enjoyed writing it. Ask my editor Marsha Miller, I was going mad with power. A few times she had to remind me I was just an intern and not ruler of the universe – I was pretty disappointed.

But most of all, I am thankful for the time I got to spend with people while I was here. I made some incredible friendships and even was able to nurture some relationships as well. I'm telling you, this town is full of amazing people and getting to know them was above all the best experience I could have hoped to accomplish.

ONF Interns Continued from Page 12

KELLI STACY • University of Oklahoma • *Hugo News*

The past eight weeks I have interned for the Hugo News as a reporter. Upon arriving at my hometown newspaper, I was welcomed by a kind group of coworkers who were eager to teach me as much as possible in my time with them. I was asked about what area of the paper interested me most and what I wanted to do once I received my degree in journalism. Once I expressed my interest in writing and sports, I was immediately given jobs in those areas.

In my first weeks I learned to use the software editing programs. I was then tasked with putting together the lifestyle pages of the paper and then assigned sports a week later.

Not only was I in charge of lifestyles and sports, but I was also assigned other jobs, such as covering city hall and county commissioners meetings and covering Congressman Mark Wayne Mullin's speech on veteran's concerns. I was allowed to search out my own stories and voice my opinions, as well as participate in the investigative side of reporting during my internship.

My time at the Hugo News has given me a lot of experience that will help me

as I move onto writing for The Oklahoma Daily, the student newspaper at the University of Oklahoma, and further into my future career. I learned valuable skills about writing and editing, but I think my greatest gain from this internship was reassurance.

Eighteen is really young to make life decisions, like a career, and even though I thought journalism was right for me, now I know. This internship has shown me that I've chosen the right career path and that I have what it takes to be successful. Working for the Hugo News has allowed me to experience first-hand what my life would be like as a journalist and I love the flexibility that comes along with it.

Overall, my internship experience has been enlightening. I've learned a lot about journalism and the various parts of a paper. Mostly though, I've gained reassurance and immense excitement about my future as a journalist. The staff at the Hugo News made me feel welcome and included as they guided me throughout my internship. I couldn't have asked for a better group of coworkers, or a more enriching experience.

CHANDLER VESSELS • Oklahoma State University • *OKC Friday*

I still don't know how I ended up here.

Interview after interview and I still had no luck landing an internship. I was ready to give up. I had just finished my first year of college, nothing wrong with simply enjoying the summer at home, right? Then I got a call from OKC Friday.

When I arrived for my interview, I was taken aback by how small the office was. Walking inside makes you feel like a giant, a resounding thud! accompanying every step.

I answered a few questions and went on my way. A week later, I got the call. I was the new intern at OKC Friday.

My first day, I was thrust right in. I was moved into a cramped room with boxes filled with books and awards belonging to the late Leland Gourley. Some of the awards were dated as far back as the 1970s, and it felt cool to be in a room full of so much history.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience at Friday. Working at a small newspaper allowed me the chance to do a little bit of everything. I came in with experience as a writer, but I can now say that I have experience as a photographer, designer and editor as well.

I often hear that the only way to develop as a writer is to write. This summer, I wrote. A lot. I can now affirm that adage. Friday afforded me the opportunity to write feature stories on an eclectic group

of people: businessmen, mayors and professional golfers, to name a few.

Talking to such a wide variety of people has also enabled me to become a better interviewer. The right questions are slowly becoming clearer and I am able to get the information that will best tell the story.

I learned to love the office. With everyone being close together, I never had to go very far for help. I never felt like an intern because everyone was so encouraging. Any time I had a question, I knew I could ask someone and they would be happy to help. On my birthday, they even baked me a cake.

I got out of my comfort zone here, covering issues I had never covered before. I am so thankful that the people at OKC Friday welcomed me with open arms, and I am sad that my time here has come to an end. But I know that I am a better journalist because of it.



Photo by Chandler Vessels

The Mooreland Leader leads the way with new ad sales program

Tim Schnoebelen, third generation Oklahoma publisher, decided it was time to digitize the historic archive of his newspaper — all the way back to its first edition in 1903.

The Discover America's Story program showed Tim how to generate new revenue by selling print and online advertising to his community leaders — those eager to demonstrate their commitment to community and stewardship of the town's printed history.



"With Discover America's Story's ready-to-go ad program, we were able to easily sell community sponsorships and generate the revenue we needed to preserve and put our archive online."

**— Tim Schnoebelen,
Publisher**

Oklahoma weeklies with a bound volume or loose printed archive are encouraged to learn more about how to generate new revenue and make their archive accessible online by contacting

DiscoverAmericasStory.com



**DISCOVER
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It's time to improve your Mac's security



Computer Notes

from the road

by Wilma (Melot) Newby
wnewby@okpress.com

It's becoming increasingly more important to have a good backup of your Apple hard drive.

Since you no longer get a disk with the computer, it's hard to recover the operating system. Downloads to recover that information can take hours and hours.

If your internal hard drive goes out you're going to be spending a lot of time trying to recover. In fact, it may not even be possible unless you have a Time Machine backup to retrieve the software.

And if that's not enough, we're now fighting viruses, malware and Trojans. I've seen a lot of bad viruses on our Macs lately. I know you've heard Macs can't get a virus, but that's a myth.

I recently ran into a Mac with a virus that completely disabled it – including its restore partition. It came in from the web browser as a phishing virus, then unleashed a Trojan that wreaked havoc on the computer as well as the backup drive. Those viruses can travel over the network to other computers in your group leaving unsuspecting Mac users with large problems.

What you need is a good antivirus program for your Mac. The top ones, in my opinion, are Kaspersky, Norton, Trend Macro and Sophos. Cost varies from around \$45 to \$100 for a year of service on three computers. That's not much to pay to battle the increasing threats.

KASPERSKY LAB



SOPHOS

It's important to note that the anti-virus softwares don't support operating systems older than OSX 10.6. Some only support 10.7 and up. That means you could be in a trouble if you have an older operating system.

Keep the firewall turned on if your Mac is running OSX 10.4 or higher. You can turn the firewall on by going to **System Preferences > Security**.

If you already have anti-virus software installed, make sure it's updated and running in the background every week. Even the best anti-virus won't

catch a virus you copied from the network or a flash drive if you're not running a weekly scan.

You also need to make sure your anti-virus runs in the web browser to avoid redirect viruses. It's important to note that Google Chrome may not be protected because it doesn't work the same as Firefox, Safari, Edge or Internet Explorer (IE). If you're using Chrome, make sure it gets the plugin from the anti-virus software you choose.

The other defense in keeping your computer safe is to update the software used to put out your newspaper as far as it can go. Also make sure all system updates are current. Apple's updates are only \$20 for each computer per version after Mac OSX10.5.

You can learn what versions of Creative Suite or Quark your system is capable of running by googling it. You can also look on the Apple and Adobe forums websites for information. If you have CS2 or earlier versions, you can only upgrade to OSX 10.6. OSX 10.6 also means your computer has an Intel processor. CS3 can be upgraded to OSX 10.9. To find the upgrade look on Apple's site. The result will look something like this: <http://www.apple.com/shop/product/MC573Z/A/mac-os-x-106-snow-leopard>.

Before you upgrade your computer to El Capitan, Apple's newest OS, it's important to know that it's not yet vetted by Adobe as being fully compatible with CS6. The Adobe forums are full of unhappy customers who tried it. Make sure auto update is off and that you do not update before you're sure everything will work.



If you're running Adobe Creative Cloud go ahead and update to the latest version. It takes some updating of the Creative Suite as well, but your computer will be protected by Apple and/or Microsoft.

Eventually patches will come out for El Capitan. If your Mac is running Yosemite (10.10), Maverick (10.9) or Mountain Lion (10.8), it can run El Capitan. The download is available from the App Store on most 10.6 or greater computers. And if you're running an older version of OSX, you don't need to do interim upgrades – you'll be able to go straight from Snow Leopard or later to El Capitan. However, most likely

not all of your software will survive this upgrade so look at smaller jumps by buying the \$20 versions.

The El Capitan upgrade is mostly about security for your computer. In changing the machine to be less vulnerable, Apple has changed how some of the underlying software structure is set up, which causes problems for many older programs. Some items, such as System Integrity Protection, can be turned off but the point of going forward is to defend ourselves so that seems self-defeating.

There are some cool features in the new operating system. It does a true split screen with menus for both programs at the top of the screen. This is an evolution of Mac's Mission Control.

Spotlight also changed the way it looks and what it does. It will now search the web as well as the computer for whatever you're looking for. Spotlight now has its own free floating window, and even shows seven-day weather results, much like an app.

Safari is now at version 9 and on El Capitan it will pin sights to a favorites bar and keep them updated in the preview of the program. This is great for frequently used sites but it uses your bandwidth. This is where those Gigabit routers/switches come in handy. I know users who keep active tabs open in their browsers will love this feature.

The only real problem I see with this new feature is if your Internet carrier has you on a data plan instead of an unlimited plan. This is becoming more common so look for jumps in your bill. If the charges are rapidly increasing, turn off background updating apps.

Safari 9 lets you mute ads from blaring out annoying noise. There's a speaker icon in the URL bar that can be muted with a left click. Even Yosemite users can upgrade to Safari OSX 9, although not all the cool features may work until the El Capitan update. But that mute button would be worth the time it takes to upgrade.

I'm a big fan of the Notes app on Macs and with El Capitan Notes received a big overhaul. It now syncs with iCloud accounts across all devices. It makes great checklist boxes for a daily to-do list. The boxes are simple, just check or uncheck, but it's a welcome addition to a great little program.

In El Capitan, Mail prioritizes showing you new mail in your inbox first and then prioritizes the downloading of the messages or mailboxes that you're currently viewing.

Another new feature in El Capitan is the ability to copy a file path in Finder. The option to copy a path to a file without copying the file itself will be great for us working on a server. To copy the

file path, right-click the file in the Finder, and then hold the Option key down and choose Copy as Pathname.

OSX El Capitan brought Metal, its graphics technology, over to the Mac from its phone iOS and has dropped it in as a replacement for the old OpenGL technology.

Many of the OSX key graphics frameworks, including Core Animation and Core Graphics, now use Metal rather than OpenGL, which means Macs should have a faster interface if you're on an older computer. On newer models it will be hard to tell the difference.

Apple says that apps launch faster in El Capitan, that switching between apps is faster, and that opening and moving around PDFs in Preview is faster. Games, in particular, should benefit from the switch to Metal, assuming that the games are built to take advantage of it. Adobe, too, has committed to using Metal in a future update to its Creative Suite, which should likewise improve performance on existing Mac hardware.

Metal is a core graphics technology that gives games and apps near-direct access to the Mac's graphics processor, delivering enhanced performance. Metal also allows the main processor and graphics processor to work together more effectively, boosting performance while reducing energy consumption but allowing the programs we run to adapt.

PORTABLE SCANNERS

I looked up some portable document scanners for one of the papers this month. These are great for scanning big archive books.



VuPoint has the Magic Wand Portable Scanner with Auto-Feed Dock for \$120. This looks like the best, but you might also want to look at the Epson WorkForce brand for one in the \$40 range. Read about how they hook into your system to see if it will work for you. For example, do you need a USB plugin or an SD card. Look for one with an easy to clean lens since it will get ink on it from the newspapers.

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.

Using social media to engage audiences

BY JENNIFER NELSON

Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute

Don't think social media is worth the time and effort in your small newsroom? You might want to reconsider, says Jaci Smith, managing editor of the Faribault (Minn.) Daily News.

Facebook co-founder Mark Zuckerberg reported in August, "For the first time ever, one billion people used Facebook in a single day."

For Smith, statistics like this reaffirm how useful social media tools can be in connecting with a news audience.

"I don't think you can say it more powerfully than that," she says. "We need to be using social media."

Smith, a 2014-2015 fellow at the Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute, started a social media training program at the Daily News known as "Social Media Ninja School." Smith recently spoke at the Missouri Press Association's annual convention about why newsrooms should be using social media. She gave six examples of how she uses Facebook and Twitter in her newsroom.

1) Listen to your audience and find out what they like.

When Smith looked at the insights page on her news outlet's Facebook page, she said she was shocked to see the success of videos on the page. (Videos were the second highest type of post on the Facebook page, after links to content.) It surprised Smith because the Daily News doesn't produce a lot of videos.

However, seeing the insight has reminded her of how important it is to learn what type of content is important to an audience.

"Before doing anything else you need to listen, and by listen I mean you need to find out what your audience wants and where they want it," she says.

Remember, your audience may differ in their preferences on different platforms, says Smith.

The Daily News has found their audience likes play-by-play coverage on Twitter, whether it's a city council meeting or a sporting event, says Smith.

2) Don't be afraid to let people comment on your website and on your Facebook.

The comment feature allows readers to continue discussions about issues in the community. Commenting also allows readers to share story ideas, point out story errors and offer feedback and follow-up suggestions, says Smith. Be sure to respond to comments on the sites and let people know you're hearing them.

Some conference attendees said they have turned off commenting on their sites. Smith challenged them to reconsider.

"One of the things that I would chal-

lenge you to think about is 'how can you turn that all back on again ... and channel the conversation in a more positive direction?'"

3) Be proactive about setting boundaries for comment sections before people start sharing their feedback.

Letting people know nasty comments and personal attacks won't be tolerated has been helpful when it comes to managing comments on the Daily News' website and Facebook page, says Smith.

Repeat offenders are blocked from posting, says Smith, and readers help police the site. Keeping trolls at bay "tends to change the tenor of the conversation," she says.

4) Use social media to collect content.

If you have a small news staff, your local community can help be your eyes and ears. For example, a citizen posted a photo of a crime scene van on the Daily News' Facebook page, which alerted the news outlet to a potential news story.

"Without him, we wouldn't have known," says Smith.

Encourage people to share their photos with you. Smith says the audience is eager to share photos, especially ones of their children.

In one promotional campaign, Smith gathered enough photos to monetize

a full photo gallery – with ads – in the newspaper.

Tell your readers up front if you wish to use their submitted photos online or in the print product and make sure you ask for full names and contact information up front when needed.

5) Create a social media policy handbook for your newsroom and make it required reading.

Social media can be a great tool for newsrooms but it can be a source of trouble if you aren't careful. Create a social media policy handbook and let everyone know your guidelines for personal and professional use of social media. Remind your staff that they represent the news outlet at all times.

For example, the Daily News discourages reporters from "friending" sources on Facebook.

It also forbids staff from using photos from people's private Facebook pages without prior consent.

6) Invite your advertising department to use social media, too.

Ad departments should use social media to "establish themselves as experts," says Smith. Platforms like Twitter can be a place to share advertising trends and news about upcoming local promotions, she advises.

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. Newspapers always need timely legal advice on issues related to newspaper publishing.

You should join OPA'S LEGAL SERVICES PLAN!

See www.OkPress.com/LSP or contact Lisa Sutliff at (405) 499-0026 or toll-free in Oklahoma 1-888-815-2672

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August Editorial: **BRIAN BLANSETT**, *Tri-County Herald*



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AUGUST 2015 COLUMN WINNER

SUZY THURMAN OBERHOLTZ, *Drumright Gusher*

Big fish, small pond

I have often had to report on stories I did not want to cover, from something as horrible as sudden deaths of people I know due to car accidents or illness, to political game playing. Trust me; it goes on in small towns just as much or maybe more than in the big city.

Actually politics doesn't have to involve actual politicians or party lines. Sadly people play politics in the office, schools, even churches every single day. And those types of political maneuvers hit closer to home, and on a very personal level.

We tend to be big fish in a small pond, so it's harder to ignore than in a big pond.

We can roll our eyes in disgust, or pound our chests in anger over what our Republican, Democrat, or Independent politicians do. The more personal battles can rip apart friends and family, and can cost us jobs or church families.

It can cause us to lose respect for people we once put on a pedestal. It's hard to find out how people really feel about issues, or what parts of their personality you never knew existed.

With the explosion of social media such as Facebook or Twitter the world seems much smaller. And we all have an audience for our every thought. We inflate our fish status, while diminishing our pond even further.

How many of you have people you thought you had a deep connection with, but now you can't figure out why you are friends? I am pretty sure a lot of people feel that way about me. People I've known most of my life are shocked at how I truly feel about hot topics. Just when they assume I am a liberal I turn around and do or say something very conservative.

Small towns make us feel like a big fish in a small pond. We don't have anonymity. We can't hide our bad qualities among the masses.

Sometimes that sucks.

But there are times when being a big fish in a small pond is pretty awesome.

On a personal level when I went through breast cancer twice, along with chemo and radiation, I went public with it. There was no hiding it anyway, because we are ALL big

fish in this small pond. People knew, they shared the news, they called with offers to help, brought food, offered to run errands, clean my house, and so much more importantly they prayed. They didn't just say it, they did it.

So I know how that side of this small town/community works, and it's pretty amazing.

You see, in small ponds when push comes to shove there are no Democrats, Republicans, or Independents. There are people.

And those people step up, whether it's with prayers or money, we step up, and no one gives a hoot how those in need vote or feel about gay marriage, abortion, or any other hot topic.

This weekend we made a short road trip with my parents and grandkids. So I wasn't around to cover our locals doing what they do best – taking care of each other – but that didn't prevent me from finding out what people did. And the amazing part is not one person I talked to, who I know worked hard to make things happen, talked about their part in things. They all gave the kudos to others, and the glory to God.

Whether it's a Cushing car lot calling Christy Beard about doing a fundraiser to help with travel expenses for her many trips to Oklahoma City for McKoy's treatments, or a group of people putting on a softball fundraiser for Drumright Fire Chief Loren Wade Geyer who is fighting blood cancer, or two women in Yale spending weeks gathering donations and planning a huge Back 2 School Bash for the kids – all these big fish in small ponds work together and get amazing things done.

And they don't just work for one goal; they work with others to make other goals happen as well.

As I marvel at how much just a few people in a very small area can accomplish, I am so thankful to be one of those fish in this little pond.

I might love to travel to bigger ponds. I may be blessed to know and love people who are well known in very big ponds. But I wouldn't trade ponds with anyone. I am proud of the fish in this pond, and the stories I get to cover.

Enter and Win a \$100 Check from Oklahoma Natural Gas!

The August Oklahoma Natural Gas Column and Editorial Contest was judged by a member of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame.

1. Each month, send a tear sheet or photocopy of your best column and/or editorial to Oklahoma Natural Gas Contest, c/o OPA, 3601 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105-5499.
2. Include the author's name, name of publication, date of publication and category entered (column or editorial).
3. Only ONE editorial and/or ONE column per writer per month will be accepted.
4. All entries for the previous month must be at the OPA office by the 15th of the current month.
5. Winning entries will be reproduced on the OPA website at www.OkPress.com.

Entries must have been previously published in print. Contest open to all OPA member newspapers.

Although Oklahoma Natural Gas Company selects representative contest winners' work for use in this monthly ad, the views expressed in winning columns and editorials are those of the writers and don't necessarily reflect the Company's opinions.



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Read the Winning Columns & Editorials on the OPA website:
www.OkPress.com (Under Contests)