

# The Oklahoma Publisher

Official Publication of the Oklahoma Press Association

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12 Pages • August 2017

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Apply to visit Pakistan with the Gaylord College of Journalism & Mass Communication delegation. Applications are due Sept. 15.

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**DONATE TO ONF** to receive this Will Rogers print. Details at [OkPress.com/will-rogers](http://OkPress.com/will-rogers).



# Oklahoma newspapers report on generosity of the community

School is starting and communities throughout the state are collecting supplies to benefit students and teachers.

Oklahoma newspapers are covering those efforts in news stories that tell residents how to make a donation and what the donations will be used for.

The Perry Daily Journal supports local schools with a Christmas in July subscription promotion. New or renewing subscribers can purchase a subscription for half price with \$5 of that amount being donated to the school of their choice.

The Daily Journal collected a total of \$1,082 with the bulk amount going to Perry Public Schools.

Gloria Brown, managing editor of the Daily Journal, delivered a check in the amount of \$780 to Dr. Terry McCarty, Perry's new superintendent of schools.

"I'm so pleased," said McCarty. "This is great. Even \$50 would have been noted, but \$780 is wonderful. The schools really appreciate the help."

McCarty was told the money could be used wherever it was needed to benefit teachers and students.

Steve and Kelli Bolton, owners and publishers of the Comanche County Times, also help collect school supplies for local children.

Thanks to Comanche's annual school supply drive, 111 school children took home school supplies and backpacks.

In a Facebook post, Steve Bolton said some of the children asked where all the supplies came from.

"I paused," wrote Bolton, "and then said, 'Jesus had Santa and some great people bring it early for His most special little boys and girls for the first day of school.'"

Bolton said the children's eyes lit up as they smiled and ran to pick out a backpack to fill with supplies.

In thanking those who donated, Bolton wrote, "Never did we feel from any of the parents a sense of entitlement, but only thankfulness for their generosity and efforts for their children."

Local churches, businesses, police and fire departments, and other organizations are stepping up efforts to provide for school



Gloria Brown, editor of the Perry Daily Journal, presents a \$780 check to Dr. Terry McCarty, Perry's new superintendent of schools. The funds, which is earmarked to help students and teachers, was raised through a subscription drive.

Photo by Leslie Fleming reprinted with permission of the Perry Daily Journal

children and those efforts are being showcased in local newspapers.

The McAlester News-Capital reported on communities donating school supplies for schools in need due to the recent budget cuts made by the state capitol.

Reporter Allyson Gregory said in the past, many teachers were forced to use their own money, but this year, McAlester saw group efforts to stock classes with school supplies.

Stuff the Bus is a popular event in many communities. Community members are asked to donate enough supplies to fill a bus. In Ponca City, the Chamber of Commerce Tourism Bureau sponsored the annual drive. A photo of the bus and locations of where to take donations was featured in the Ponca City News.

In Claremore, nearly a dozen downtown merchants joined forces to help students. The Claremore Daily Progress featured the

event on the front page with information on how and where to donate.

School supplies for pre-K through sixth grades were provided by the Ringling United Methodist women's group for the third year, the Ringling Eagle reported. The group held several fund-raisers throughout the year to raise funds for the supplies.

Angela Thomason, a reporter at the Vinita Daily Journal, reported that many local churches pitched in to help provide free school supplies, shoes and haircuts for Craig County kids.

Through the generosity of civic groups, organizations and individuals, Oklahoma's school children will be better prepared for their first day back to school.

And as the doors of the schools open, Oklahoma newspapers will be there to cover events ranging from the first day to the first football game.



## Be on the outlook for learning opportunities

A few weeks ago I was looking at the OPA website and saw that Kevin Slimp was having a webinar on Photoshop.

The cost was minimal and it sounded like it might be useful for the Herald, so Jennifer Pitts from our paper signed up.

The webinar was briskly paced, she said, but she thought he had several suggestions that would improve the way our photos looked in print.

Boy, did they.

The first edition in which we implemented Kevin's suggestions was the best our paper has ever looked.

My first thought was: Hallelujah! And my second thought was: Our paper could have looked like this all along if we'd known what Kevin Slimp knew.

The press crew at The Norman Transcript always gives us excellent press-work, but this time we had learned how to give them a better product to put on the press. The result was a beautiful edition.

In retrospect, I see we had been in a rut and didn't know what we didn't know until Kevin clued us in.

It's easy to be in that situation. With today's world of smaller staffs spread too thin, focus tends to be on the immediate task of getting out the next edition. There doesn't always seem to be time to seek out those who might know more than we do, or to take two giant steps backward and look for better, faster ways to do things.

One of my greatest achievements as the publisher of a weekly paper came

one weekend when I was locked in mortal combat with QuickBooks.

When I was the publisher of a daily, I had a bookkeeper and didn't have to worry about the mechanics of how to produce reports and invoices and such.

My interest was in knowing that the data that went into them was correct. Beyond that, it was like sausage-making. I knew people had to do things to make reports and to make sausage, but I wasn't interested in knowing the details of either.

At the Herald, I am the bookkeeper. And my least favorite task each month is to produce the advertiser invoices. It's repetitive detail work, and I grew frustrated because so many of the invoices were for the same thing yet I had to keystroke them all individually.

And then one day I noticed a button in QuickBooks that said: "Create a copy." Curious, I clicked and – voila! – I was able to make a whole bunch of copies of an invoice and then go back and change the clients one-by-one. Cut my time by maybe 30 percent. I am sure I felt like Edison when his lightbulb came on for the first time.

Not as dramatic a change as what the Photoshop tips brought, but it certainly helped my disposition and gave me a little more time for shooting photos and writing columns and other things that I enjoy more than doing invoices.

And it reinforced the need to be alert for opportunities to learn how to do things better or faster.

## Claremore Daily Progress names Kristy J. Geisler as new publisher

The Claremore Progress welcomes Kristy J. Geisler as its new publisher following the retirement of current publisher Carolyn Ashford.

Geisler's experience includes 25 years in the newspaper industry.

She began her newspaper career at the Standard Journal in Rexburg, Idaho, where she served eight years as director of advertising sales and three years as president/publisher.



After that, she worked at newspapers in a number of other states including Arizona and Montana.

"My husband and I intend to immerse ourselves in Claremore. Everyone has been extremely welcoming and the customer service we have received has been excellent," Geisler said.

Geisler and her husband, Randy, are avid golfers. They have three married sons.

## Weatherford News names new editor

The Weatherford Daily News has promoted Josh Burton to managing editor. Burton has served as sports editor for the paper for almost a year – writing stories, shooting videos, designing pages and editing stories.

"This newspaper has a great team and my goal is to continue providing the

best source of news for Weatherford and surrounding communities," Burton said.

Burton has over 11 years of newspaper experience, working for newspapers across the state and Texas, including the Lawton Constitution, The Shawnee News-Star and the Owasso Reporter.

## Grove Sun welcomes new sports editor

The Grove Sun has welcomed Byron Beers to its staff as sports editor. He replaces former sports editor Chloe Goff. Beers will cover sports throughout Delaware County, including Grove and Jay.

Beers has worked at several newspapers across Oklahoma including the Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise, El

Reno Tribune, Owasso Reporter, Piedmont-Surrey Gazette, and most recently, The Pryor Times.

He was raised in Owasso and studied journalism at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College in Miami and the University of Central Oklahoma. Beers also spent three years in the Air Force.

## New reporter at McAlester News-Capital

The McAlester News-Capital recently hired Allyson Gregory as a reporter.

Gregory graduated from East Central University in Ada with a degree in English.

She has worked as a free-lancer for The Ada News, the News-Capital's sister newspaper, for the last several months.

Her work there proved to be top-notch, prompting her hire in McAlester.

Gregory said she's excited about this new chapter in her life, working as a general assignment reporter covering McAlester and Pittsburg County.

"I look forward to getting the opportunity to explore reporting and journalism to its fullest and diving into a field I want to make a career out of," Gregory said.

## Madill Record adds new reporter to staff

The Madill Record has hired Tina Firquain as its new reporter/photographer. Firquain comes to the paper from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma where she worked as a reporter and photographer for their newspaper, the Biskinik.

She will cover all of the Marshall County community including sports, meetings, special events and more.

Firquain is a longtime resident of Texoma and spent most of her life in Denison, Texas, and Durant.

She is a graduate of Southeastern Oklahoma State University where she earned a bachelor's degree in broadcast communication and journalism.

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# McAlester News-Capital announces management changes in newsroom

The McAlester News-Capital recently said goodbye to Executive Editor Glen Puitt, who accepted an executive editor position in Kentucky.

Puitt spent three years at the News-Capital, moving to Oklahoma from Michigan.

"I'm very proud of the work we've done at the McAlester News-Capital during my tenure," Puitt said.

With Puitt leaving, Adrian O'Hanlon III was promoted to the position of news editor, and Managing Editor James Beaty's newsroom management responsibilities were enhanced.

Prior to his promotion, O'Hanlon was sports editor at the News-Capital. He graduated from Texas A&M University in 2011 with a degree in agricultural communication and journalism.

He worked as a one-man sports

department at the Gatesville Messenger in Texas before deciding to pursue a master's at the University of North Texas. O'Hanlon spent a year as a teaching assistant at UNT and as a freelance sports writer for The Denton Record-Chronicle.

In February 2014, he joined the staff of his hometown newspaper, The Herald Democrat in Sherman, Texas, as a full-time sports writer.

O'Hanlon started at the News-Capital in 2015 as sports editor and graduated with a master's in journalism from UNT in May 2016.

"I look forward to working more closely with Hall of Fame journalist James Beaty and continuing the MN-C's reputation as the leading news source in Southeast Oklahoma," O'Hanlon said.

He is committed to continuing

the newspaper's watchdog role and expanding the newspaper's digital presence.

Beaty, who joined the staff of the News-Capital two days after graduating from East Central University, has covered the people, events and happenings of Pittsburg County for more than 30 years. He was inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame this year.

Corey Stolzenbach has joined the McAlester News-Capital team as its new sports editor. Stolzenbach is originally from Illinois and graduated from Columbia College Chicago with a journalism degree.

As a member of the Society for American Baseball Research Biography Project, he interviewed former Major League Baseball players.

## Two new staff members added at News Leader

The Guthrie News Leader recently added two new staff members.

Kenchelle Vaughn is the new media-marketing consultant and Emily Brashier joins the staff as a print, digital and photo specialist.

Vaughn recently graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma. She has worked in sales at Best Buy for the past four years.

Brashier is a 2003 graduate of Oklahoma State University who has been in the photojournalism industry for more than a decade. Prior to joining the News Leader team, Brashier was the editorial and advertising photographer for SPLURGE! OKC Magazine.

## Okmulgee Times staffer switches to full-time

The Okmulgee Times has hired Kaitlyn Dillard as a full-time employee, splitting duties between sales and editorial.

The 23-year-old has been a part-time employee of the Okmulgee Times since March. She reports on City Council and has become known for her movie review column, "A Night at the Orpheum."

Dillard graduated from the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma in Chickasha. During college, she worked for the student-run newspaper, The Trend.

## Sayre Record has a new name

The Sayre Record & Beckham County Democrat celebrated its 30th anniversary with a name change.

Starting with its first edition in August, the weekly newspaper was renamed The Beckham County Democrat.

"We want our name to reflect our commitment to serve the whole county," said Brad Spitzer, co-publisher of the County Democrat.

The newspaper also announced that Connie Ferrero has been promoted to the position of editor.

Dayva Spitzer, who has served as editor and co-publisher since 1987, made the decision to semi-retire due to health reasons.

Ferrero began working at the newspaper during her senior year in high school. A native of Erick, she attended Southwestern Oklahoma State Univer-

sity in Sayre and Weatherford, studying communications and working in all departments of the student newspaper, The Southwestern.

When Ferrero and her family moved to Enid in 2003, she worked at the Enid News as an advertising executive. After the family returned to Sayre in 2005, Ferrero went back to work at the newspaper as advertising manager/associate editor.

Brad and Dayva Spitzer chartered The Sayre Record in August 1987. In 1997, they purchased the Erick Beckham County Democrat, merging the two papers.

Over the years the Spitzers have been active in promoting progress and growth for Sayre and the area.

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# Overcoming summertime writer's fatigue



**Clark's Critique**  
by Terry M. Clark  
Journalist  
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What do you do about the summer blahs?

Heat, drought and more drain our energy physically and creatively, affecting our writing and every phase of work, as quality suffers, it seems. Routine becomes our way of slogging through those blahs, enabling us to "just get the paper out."

Short of hoping for an early fall freeze, I don't have a cure, but here is advice for coping with the blahs and routine in our writing.

- Go back to basics.
- Before you write any story, write this sentence: "This is a story about \_\_\_\_\_ and it's interesting to the reader because \_\_\_\_\_." (If you can't write that, you are not ready to start writing.)
- Ask, "If I wrote my story without notes, what would it say?"
- If the reader took a test on the story, what do I want her to remember?
- (Hint No. 1 – this means you must think about your readers first, their interests, how they're affected.)
- (Hint No. 2 – the answers should be in a potential headline – five words maximum. Write it first. It'll help your story writing.)
- Start your story with those items.
- Your goal is to make the story interesting.
- Go for the drama – what affects the most people.
- Focus on people.
- Use quotes.
- Use specific details.
- Short words, sentences, paragraphs. But not all the same lengths.
- Tell a story.
- Remember, it's hot and people don't have much energy, so... Keep it short – like this 238-word article.

**LOOKIN'EM OVER.** Summer is a good time for series.

- **Tahlequah Daily Press**, Tesina Jackson on city codes, "Keeping up with the codes."
- **The Norman Transcript**, Joy Hampton's penetrating stories on domestic abuse. Here's her lead to "recognizing signs of abuse": "Tex was lonely after his wife of over 50 years died. When he met a charming widow near his age who showed him a lot of attention and praise, it was only a matter of months before they married."
- **Kingfisher Times & Free Press**, on oil-field traffic, "Growth spurt": "Sharing the road III – Is the influx of oil field trucks sideswiping public safety?"

**The Sentinel Leader**  
75¢  
What will "Make America Great Again?"

July 14, 2017  
A parade float in Tulsa, Okla., carried a sign that reads "MAGA" (Make America Great Again) during a parade on Sunday, July 16, 2017.

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**WEEKEND EDITION**  
**The Seminole Producer**  
Friday, July 14, 2017  
Police Get Assist in Nabbing Accused Molester

Police officers in Tulsa, Okla., nabbed a man accused of molesting a child in a park on Sunday, July 16, 2017.

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**THE MOORE AMERICAN**  
Visit www.mooreamerican.com for breaking news  
Friday, July 14, 2017  
Council attendance

At half-way point, council has as many absences as all of 2016.

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Newspapers featured this month are The Sentinel Leader, The Seminole Producer, The Moore American, Heavener Ledger, The Black Chronicle, The Journal Record, The Oklahoman, Tulsa World, The Purcell Register and Sequoyah County Times.

- NOTEABLE:**
- Climb 400 feet in the air to do a story? No thanks, but **The Oklahoman's** Juliana Keeping and photographer Paul Hellstern did to write about the men who maintain wind turbines. Her lead: "The gleaming white prairie giants that jut out of the red earth, spinning Oklahoma's ample wind gusts into electricity...."
  - Newspaper leadership in the **Tulsa World**, with Paighen Harkin's comprehensive coverage of Oklahoma's drastic higher education cuts.
  - **The Sentinel Leader** headlined "What will 'Make America great again?'" with homespun, personable coverage of a July 4 parade, by Carol Brazil Griffin, concluding with "And, I must remember the bug spray as the ticks and chiggers think they are always invited to family gatherings."
  - **Heavener Ledger**, getting the word "slumlord" in headline on Craig Hall's city council story.
  - **Ada News**, fighting the fight, Eric Swanson reporting on a jobs program refusing to release compensation records, although taking almost a half-million dollars in tax funds.
  - **Wagoner County American-Tribune**, Christy Wheeland's conversational lead on "leap of a lifetime": "what better way to spend a hot July day than to take an exhilarating jump out of a perfectly good aircraft? For 89-year-old Vurnell Morgan, that's exactly what he did...."

- I don't like look-all-the-same fireworks photos, but Hannah Tomlinson of the **The Moore American** knows how to do it right. Enter it in a contest.
  - **Sequoyah County Times** on-the-scene spot news coverage of fatal shooting in a fast food joint, by Roy Faulkenberry.
  - Bravo to **The Seminole Producer** for Karen Anson's story on 104-year-old Pulitzer winner, Vance Trimble, "The Stories He Can Tell."
- IDEAS YOU SHOULD STEAL.**
- Adam Troxtell of **The Moore American** on the rampant absenteeism on the city council, name by name.
  - Karen Maple at **The Madill Record** on DHS budget cuts affecting the county.
  - **The Ardmoreite**, Tiffany Ditto, lunch with local officials Q and A series.
  - Dominance – **The Black Chronicle's** banner headlines, "Elusive 'Ghost' Nabbed!" by Thomas E. Seward. **The Purcell Register**, photos and writing, John D. Montgomery and Jeannie Grimes.
- Wonderful writing, on a controversy, in **The Journal Record**, by Molly M. Fleming. Her lead: "Biscuit Debris and drag shows could both disappear from the iconic, hole-in-the-wall corner of NW 50th Street and Classen Boulevard. Classen Grill, the HiLo club and their neighbors might be displaced in favor of a Braum's."

**HEAD'EM UP AWARDS.**

First place, **The Journal Record**, Ted Streuli's headline on Fleming's story about Braum's wanting to replace iconic Classen businesses, including a drag club,

**WHAT A DRAG!**

Second place, **Holdenville News**, on boosters repairing fences at softball diamond

**SOFTBALL BOOSTER CLUB SWINGS FOR THE FENCES**

Third place, tie, **Henryetta Free Lance**, on the first bar in the county

**DRY NO MORE**

**The Moore American**, on Joy Hampton's story about a woman meteorologist

**SKY'S THE ONLY LIMIT**

Honorable mentions: **McCurain Daily Gazette**, "OSBI: Jones was alive, bound, dropped headfirst into well"; **The Purcell Register**, on a 50-year-old restaurant, "Homestyle goodness still on Ruby's menu"; **Enid News & Eagle**, on James Neal coffee roaster story, "Coffee... with a side of charity"; **Cushing Citizen**, on Jim Perry story about a sleep expert, "From A to Zzz"; **Yukon Progress** on Misty Wood and Tim Farley story about large water bills, "Down the drain"; **Garvin County News Star**, on Jeff Shultz story, "Keep your cool in the heat."

See more front pages on Page 5

**New Location**  
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# Clark's Critique Continued from Page 4

## Heavener Ledger

www.heavenerledger.com  
July 12, 2017

Significant women in agriculture Page 8  
Our new kids' page Page 14

Vol. 113, No. 29  
50 cents

**Heavener Council again targets slumlords**  
By CRAIG HALE  
The Heavener City Council is once again discussing ways to improve the town's housing conditions. The Council discussed how to improve the town's housing conditions at a meeting held on July 10. Council members discussed ways to improve the town's housing conditions. The Council discussed how to improve the town's housing conditions at a meeting held on July 10. Council members discussed ways to improve the town's housing conditions.

**Rodeo set for weekend**  
The annual Heavener Rodeo starts Friday at 8 p.m. and continues on Saturday. The rodeo will feature a variety of events including bull riding, barrel racing, and rodeo clowning. The rodeo will be held at the Heavener Rodeo Grounds.

**Hodgen woman injured in accident**  
A Hodgen woman was injured in an accident on the Oklahoma Turnpike on Friday. The woman was driving a pickup truck when it was involved in a collision with a car. The woman was taken to a hospital and is expected to make a full recovery.

**Gross receipts show improvement**  
Oklahoma City's gross receipts for the first six months of 2017 show an improvement over the same period last year. The city's gross receipts for the first six months of 2017 were \$1.2 billion, compared to \$1.1 billion in 2016.

**Indiana Official Nominated**  
The U.S. Department of Justice has nominated a new official to the position of Assistant Attorney General for the Eastern District of Oklahoma. The nominee is a former Oklahoma state legislator and has extensive legal experience.

**Episcopal youth add to summer tourism**  
About 1,300 young Episcopalians from 17 countries are expected to visit Oklahoma for the summer. The young people will be participating in a variety of activities and will be staying in Oklahoma for several weeks.

## The Black Chicago

The paper that tells the truth

July 12, 2017

**Elusive 'Ghost' Nabbed!**  
Murder Suspect Is Arrested After Year

**Philadelphia Prosecutor Pleads Guilty**

**Grant Opportunity Available for Rural Police Departments**

**Indiana Official Nominated**

**Episcopal youth add to summer tourism**

## Hideaway finds creative fit at Robot

THURSDAY 07.13.2017  
journalrecord.com  
Vol. 122, No. 136  
Two sections  
Single copy \$1.00

# JOURNAL RECORD

## What a drag!

**Braum's seeks OK to raze HiLo, Classen Grill**  
BY MOLLY M. FLEMING  
The Journal Record

**Low power rates, high development**  
National advocacy group SolSmart recognized Oklahoma City for integrating information in its building codes to promote solar panel installations. But low electricity rates and high installation costs could stall development on the horizon.

**Libertarians on 2018 gubernatorial ballot**  
Oklahoma's gubernatorial ballot won't look like the ones voters have seen for decades. Three parties will appear on it.

**After Democrats flip two districts, Republicans blame scandals**  
Democrats managed to flip two legislative seats during special elections on Tuesday, and members of each party said that illustrated voters have turned against the Republicans.

**Episcopal youth add to summer tourism**  
About 1,300 young Episcopalians from 17 countries learned a lot about Oklahoma City.

People stand in front of the buildings that house the HiLo Club, The Drunken Fry and other tenants at NW 50th Street and Classen Boulevard in Oklahoma City. PHOTO BY BRENT FUCHS

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DISNEY MAGIC

THE OKLAHOMAN

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**Opioids ravage Indian Country**  
BY GRAMM LEE BREWER  
TULSA — In a town, where the opioid epidemic has taken a toll on the lives of many people, the pain is being felt in Indian Country. The epidemic has taken a toll on the lives of many people, and the pain is being felt in Indian Country.

**HARNESSING THE WIND**  
GLAMMING GIANTS ARE KEPT SPINNING BY WORKERS TOILING 400 FEET ABOVE THE GROUND

Blazing Hot Bingo Watch the live drawing 10 a.m. Friday at tulsaworld.com

Hot days, cool movies, Scene, DI

OU, OSU tops in Big 12 media poll

**TULSA WORLD** Trump, French president look past differences. News, A4

**New GOP health care bill in trouble**  
After the bill was released, two key Republicans opposed it

**Study: Oklahoma tops nation in higher ed cuts**  
Oklahoma now leads nation in cuts to colleges, universities, in addition to K-12 education, analysis finds

**Four brides**

## The Purcell Register

**Busted pipe causes PROBLEMS**  
Complete service south of SH 39 restored by 9 p.m.

**Cutting corners**  
"Key trying" fiscal year finally ends

**Investigation continues**  
In hit-and-run death of 13-year-old Purcell youth

**A Purcell tradition**  
Homestyle goodness still on Rubys menu

**Delta Community Action to host fan drive**

**Pop up shower nets '45'**

**Return engagement**

**International**

**Opinion**

**Obituary**

**Classified**

## SEQUOIA COUNTY TIMES

weekender

**Sheriff fires shot killing suspect**  
On administrative leave while OSBI investigates

**Sallisaw hosts State Pee Wee Tourney**

**Boom in the night!**

**Just Folks**

**Outside**

# 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.

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# THE *OG&E* PHOTO CONTEST



Jeanice Manning of the Tough Mudders laughs after falling during the Miracle League Mud Volleyball Tournament on June 24, 2017.

Photo by BILLY HEFTON, Enid News & Eagle, June 25, 2017

JUNE 2017  
DAILY WINNER:  
**BILLY HEFTON**  
*Enid News & Eagle*

JUNE 2017  
WEEKLY WINNER:  
**CY FREEMAN**  
*Marietta Monitor*

*The June 2017 contest was judged by a member of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame.*

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Run, run, run! Malachi Anderson gives his best effort running the bases during a tee ball game at the Marietta Lions Club fields.

Photo by CY FREEMAN, Marietta Monitor, June 16, 2017

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# Students share stories of summer internships

*The Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation's internship program awarded 19 journalism internships and one advertising internship to various newspapers across the state. 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. Following are the experiences from six of the interns. More intern stories will be featured in the September issue.*



BRIGETTE WALTERMIRE



HALEY McCLUNG



RACHAEL CORBIN



BAILEY PRIDDY



SHANNA KYLE



MIRANDA VanMETER

## **BRIGETTE WALTERMIRE**, University of Oklahoma *Enid News & Eagle*

Community journalism has more depth of meaning for me after my time interning with the Enid News & Eagle.

Enid is my definition of a big “small town,” where everybody knows everybody and aren’t shy about knowing each other’s business. And when this is the case, rumors travel faster than the news.

Because of the rumor mill, the expectation that the local public holds for the newspaper is at a different standard than news that is fed to a larger public. In a small-town community, citizens have a personal and vested interest in what the paper is publishing.

The Enid community is, for the most part, a politically red area. For decades, the paper’s editorial board supported the Republican candidate in presidential elections. This past election, they supported the Democrat, and there was naturally some fall-out with their readership — enough that the New York Times picked up the story.

There is now a level of mistrust that has become embedded in the public’s psyche when it comes to the Enid paper. Staff who have been at the News & Eagle for decades and know everyone there is to know in the city are now considered suspicious and their motives questioned by their readership, some even threatened. Sly remarks about “fake news” – and more blatantly snide press bashing – abound.

When news from the state level is published in the paper, the Enid reporters can somehow be at fault. People aren’t afraid to be derogatory when blindly following the political press piper down the rabbit hole of insults and abuse directed toward the national media.

Yet the people here participate actively and enthusiastically in the news. They call in with tips and story ideas. Many realize that it is important for their local community to have the organized and well-considered news that this paper brings Enid, even if they disagree with the one contrary endorsement from the editorial board or the fact that the online content isn’t free for non-subscribers. I find it refreshing to see that the paper is controversial enough to not simply be a community mouthpiece parroting how wonderful life is in a small town: It still tries to find those compassionate and upbeat human interest stories that exist in their community while bringing that darker-side-of-life news to its readership.

The paper walks a fine line attempting to meet the audience’s demands and make it as a business. Reporters, who have worked here for years, maintain their relationships with contacts on their beats, but must maneuver through the minefield of misinformation that they also have to convince the audience that they are not perpetrating. When people in positions of local political leadership feel maligned in the news – even if they are at fault for not offering their two-cents to the story – they can now more easily gain public favor against the paper. When the paper reports on the city, the public gets mad at the paper and the city and develops a mass viewpoint based

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**‘My time at the News & Eagle has shown me that community journalism ... has such an important role in supporting, promoting and educating its readership.’**

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**See Waltermire on Page 8**

# ONF Internships Continued from Page 7

## Waltermire continued from Page 7

on common complaints, such as for not focusing on “fixing the roads.” Bottom line is the paper’s usually the maligned messenger in every scenario.

It’s a paradoxical battle, one that the paper most likely won’t win. It produces content for the community that is so much more important than some in its readership area realize, or sometimes the audience may take it for granted. It is a trend that is noticeable for many community media. An article on Poynter highlighted how the president’s derogatory commentary is negatively affecting local journalists; those who, like in Enid, have been a fairly trusted source in their communities up until the president’s political press bashing began.

I am seeing that firsthand in many regards. I have received critiques of the paper, or for being a reporter, veiled in joking remarks that are usually based on presidential rhetoric. His criticisms

of national media should not apply to hometown media, yet the audience does apply it specifically to their community news and local reporters. People turn on those who are telling them what is going on in their own backyard — journalists who are trying to help them, educate them and inform them in a more responsible and neighborly manner than the rumor mill will.

My time at the News & Eagle has shown me that community journalism might indeed be fighting a losing battle, yet it has such an important role in supporting, promoting and educating its readership that I don’t see it ever going away. The small-town atmosphere is as it has always been when it comes to customer satisfaction: nobody is ever completely satisfied. The paper will not be able to make everyone happy when it does its job, especially while also trying to make money for providing a service.

The journalists who work here genu-

inely want to maintain the integrity and effectiveness of their profession, not for the money, but for the good of their community. Working for the News & Eagle has helped me get closer to understanding the elusive “it” about this city, and its people, that one of my mentors here told me to look for when reporting on the town. While the journalists may be in a no-win position, I think their audience will always be a participant in the news and a somehow roundabout supporter of the paper. The paper and its staff have won several state awards and national awards for various stories and accomplishments. It is important to note these laurels do not come from awards won decades ago: the paper and staff won several awards at statewide journalism contests within my first two weeks here. This shows me the audience will also always be better for the current news that the paper provides.

The Enid News & Eagle is a com-



munity newspaper with big “small town” problems, but the commitment reporters have to their community promises their relevance despite controversial content and a sometimes contrary audience.

## HALEY McCLUNG

University of Central Oklahoma  
**OKC Friday**

**N**erves turned into confidence and self-doubt turned into hope for my future this summer. My first day at OKC Friday, I was welcomed into a friendly and hard-working environment. I was extremely doubtful in my skills and wanted my first impression to be perfect.

My first assignment was to write five articles on five individuals that would be featured in the paper’s biggest edition of the year, Celebrate Oklahoma, called “Next Generation of Most Powerful Oklahomans”.

Nerves struck and I hesitated for a moment after realizing I had to interview five local entrepreneurs. They were important people needing an important article written about them.

However, I pushed those nerves away quickly. I thought to myself, “You’re in a professional environment. This is why you’ve been in college for the last four years; show them what you can do.”

I did. I pushed myself to get out of my comfort zone and get in contact with the five individuals and set up interviews.

It turned out that interviewing was my favorite part about the whole summer. Interviewing inspiring individuals in the area that I have lived my entire life made me look at my home state in a different way.

Not only did I learn more about what leaders of companies and organizations do on a daily basis, but I learned some life lessons and motivational tips from those same individuals.

I was happy to get their story distributed to a mass audience. It turned into a passion.

My major at the University of Central Oklahoma is Strategic Communications accompanied by a minor in Media Studies. My plan is to be in public relations.

Gaining experience from OKC Friday this summer working in a professional environment, strengthening my writing, design work, public relations, and soft skills conducting an interview, has made me excited for the next thing.

I realized that my desire all along has been to provide a voice for unique and brave individuals that make an impact.

Ones with backgrounds that lead to a passion to start an organization or a business to connect or help people with the same problem/concern, or to make life a little easier and more efficient for everyone.

I have provided a voice for various people; from an 11-year-old aspiring vocal artist with a dream of being on Broadway to a man that founded and built up a whole city by a lake that was once a family treasure and is now shared by a whole community.

I got to promote the paper across three different social media outlets. In doing so, I spread the word that the content of this newspaper is important and deserves to be read.

I will be happy to return to UCO this fall more confident in my work and decision making.

I wouldn’t have had this enlightenment without help from the people of OKC Friday, all of the brilliant individuals I had the honor of meeting and writing for, and of course all of the readers of the newspaper in “Fridayland”.

I am grateful to have had this opportunity and would recommend it for anyone desiring a career in communications.

## RACHAEL CORBIN

University of Central Oklahoma  
**El Reno Tribune**

**M**y internship at the El Reno Tribune was not at all what I expected. I anticipated that I would be treated like a small fish in a big pond; more of a nuisance than an aspiring journalist. However, this could not have been further from the truth.

In spite of my lack of experience working in a professional newsroom, I was treated with a great deal of respect. My contributions were valued and everyone always greeted me with genuine warmth and encouragement. In spite of the long commute, I enjoyed working in such a positive environment. I never heard a discouraging word the entire time I was there.

I had a great deal of freedom so I learned quite a lot about time management and how to balance my stories along with my other duties. The deadlines helped me learn how to write better articles faster. It was quite a bit of fun being my own photographer for many of my own stories. It is hard to describe how exciting it is to fold out an ink-and-print newspaper and see my name, story and photos.

I also learned how to effectively write about topics in which I have no prior knowledge. I was asked to write multiple stories about the 19th annual Small Town Weekend event, a celebration of all things “car” that takes the town of El Reno by storm every year. This was not an easy thing for me to write about as one of my stories explored the more technical side of repairing a vintage car, of which, at the time, I knew nothing about.

Lo and behold, these articles are the ones I’m most proud of because they are the ones I was the least confident with going in. I had to devote much more time and energy into writing them to make sure all the details were factual and interesting to someone who might be a car fanatic.

My experience at the El Reno Tribune was an overwhelmingly positive and I’m grateful for the opportunity to work with everyone at the office.

## ONF Internships Continued from Page 8

**BAILEY PRIDDY**, East Central University • *The Oklahoman*

**M**y main project for the duration of the summer was the “Readers’ Choice Awards” program. The Readers’ Choice Awards is in its 24th year as a publication where the readers of The Oklahoman and users of NewsOK.com and Oklahoman.com nominate hundreds of businesses for a variety of categories to be chosen as the best in Oklahoma.

Oklahomans got very involved in Readers’ Choice this year naming hundreds of businesses in the Top 5. From those businesses named, 850 were included in the Top 5. During the week-long voting period for Top 5, votes came rolling in with nearly 805,000 votes, which is a huge increase compared to 2016 voting. Out of the Top 5 came 225 winners that will be announced in the Readers’ Choice Winners’ Section, which will be published Aug. 27th.

Through this experience of Readers’ Choice so far I have been able to run the entire operations from development to the printing of the Winners’ Section, which will be printed in a magazine for the first time this year. The program included print, digital, social media, marketing, advertising sales, direct mail, customer interaction, vote counting (a lot of it) and the announcement of this year’s winners. Through Readers’ Choice, there has been a 150% increase in digital advertising revenue and we expect to see a continued

increase during the winners section as well. Through Top 5 and the Winners’ Section, I developed new contact information and updated old contact information to be used for future offerings. I also created a database of all past winners. The Readers’ Choice has been a long, complex and very interesting experience that exceeded all of my expectations.

The second major project I received was reaching out to national marketing firms when Russell Westbrook was announced the MVP of 2017. I emailed countless firms and made many calls to some of our locals as well. This was my first experience at cold calling.

I was honored to be a part of the 1st Oklahoma All-City Prep Sports Awards, where I worked alongside the marketing team. We worked diligently to make sure all sponsor logos and banners were eye catching and that the venue was accommodating to all in attendance.

While Readers’ Choice was my main project, I also had the privilege of collaborating with BigWing on their upcoming event, Confluence. This is the largest digital marketing conference held in Oklahoma and will feature many well known speakers. I, again, reached out to many national firms and spoke to locals about the opportunities that would be available through the sponsorship of this event.

### SHANNA KYLE

Northeastern Okla. State University  
*Wagoner County  
American-Tribune*

**L**ike most twenty-somethings, I wished to go off this summer and have somewhat of an adventure. Instead, I had more adventures by working in my hometown with the Wagoner County American-Tribune than I could have ever imagined going off to a big city.

I met so many people in my community while interning with the American-Tribune. I met people who know my father, my grandparents and even my great-grandparents.

This summer, I heard several interesting stories not only about my family but about the awesome things that have been done and are being done in our town.

Although I did not get to go anywhere “cool” this summer, I highly doubt others got to experience some of the things I did with this internship. By the second week, I knew this is where I was supposed to be.

Part of me figured I would sit in an office for most of my days making phone calls, emailing sources or typing up staff reports. I am so happy that I was wrong about that one. Although I did do those things, I also got out and met some awesome people.

I met a lady who used to be a reporter here in Wagoner and is now a published book author. I also met two ladies who started an art gallery to help artists with certain needs.

Another lady is helping to not only feed families in the community, but also raise money for teachers to help take the burden off of them for buying their own school supplies.

There are many others.

I spent most of my days in Wagoner, which is cool



### Local beekeepers buzz about beekeeping

because I am a rather broke college kid and money is not something most of us like to drop like it’s hot. But dropping a few bucks to cover a rodeo in Coweta one night was well worth it thanks to a young man at the ripe age of 4 named Travis.

Travis informed me as I was walking by to take a picture of a couple by him and his brother, that he is a cowboy and they do not take baths because they must be stinky at all times. He also told me what else cowboys do and do not do along with how I should go about riding a sheep for that evening’s mutton busting event.

Travis saw my camera and asked to see the pictures I shot. At that point, I had only taken pictures of the livestock but Travis seemed to love it. I let him hold my camera and go through the pictures.

As people walked by, Travis would show them the pictures I took of the “monster” bulls with so much excitement.

I never thought a 4-year-old would make me proud of something I took a picture of, or having people buy a paper just for an article I wrote would make me realize I should be proud of the things I work so hard on.

Interning for the American-Tribune has taught me many life lessons and helped me make friendships that will hopefully last a lifetime.

If you ask me, that is the best kind of adventure anyone could ever ask for.

### HERE’S TO THE SHOWSTOPPERS

THE OKLAHOMAN  
**READERS’  
CHOICE  
AWARDS  
2017  
TOP 5**

We need your help in naming the state’s best in dining, entertainment, and business. Look for the official Readers’ Choice Awards Top 5 section in The Oklahoman on June 25 and also vote at [newsok.com/readerschoice](http://newsok.com/readerschoice) thru July 3.

To get the special section delivered to your door or device, visit [oklahoman.com/subscribe](http://oklahoman.com/subscribe).

**THE OKLAHOMAN**  
NEWSOK.COM

Throughout the course of my internship I have learned so many new things. It has been great watching my hard work come to life, and being a part of such a great team here at the Oklahoman Media Company.

**MIRANDA VANMETER**,  
University of Central Oklahoma  
*Countywide & Sun* (Tecumseh)

‘Completing this internship in my hometown gave me a new appreciation for the area and all the people here.’

**T**his summer I interned at the Countywide & Sun. In those ten weeks, I learned more about being a reporter through experience than a classroom could possibly teach me.

I’ve learned about things from local government to farming to history, as well as journalistic tools, such as how to ask better questions.

I love that nearly every day is varied. I can go from a county commissioners meeting to doing a feature story on someone’s pet bear within the space of an hour – or I might be stuffing envelopes or ad inserts. Either way, I value the experience of being a part of this newspaper.

Completing this internship in my hometown gave me a new appreciation for the area and all the people here, especially while writing the farming families series.

The rich heritage here has been inspiring and the kindness of those who have brought me into their homes to give me glimpses into their lives still blows me away.

This county is full of people with interesting stories and experiences and I feel honored to have been able to share some of those with readers.

# Use Find/Change to format text, save time



## Computer Notes

from the road

by Wilma (Melot) Newby  
wnewby@okpress.com

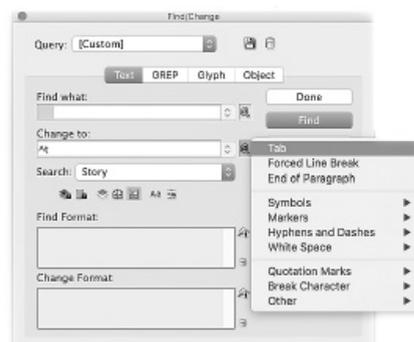
Learning to master the “Find/Change” command in any software program is a must to speed up processing time.

We often receive type from clients that needs to be cleaned up before being placed. For example, there may be lots of spaces instead of tabs, or two tabs where there should only be one. Maybe you’ve received a text file with bad kerning pairs, which sometimes show up as funky characters on the website. By using “Find/Change”, you can quickly change all those problems before uploading or placing the file.

If you’re using InDesign, look under **Edit > Find/Change**. I think this command is often under used because many people find it complicated – and it can be. I hope the following simple but useful examples will show you how it can increase speed.

Some of you will find this old hat, so jump ahead to the last few paragraphs to see if there’s a tool you haven’t tried before.

Let’s start with some simple text that has spaces instead of tabs. You may discover that some areas have more spaces than others. Start by looking for the most number of spaces and work down to minimize the number of multiple tabs. See illustration below.



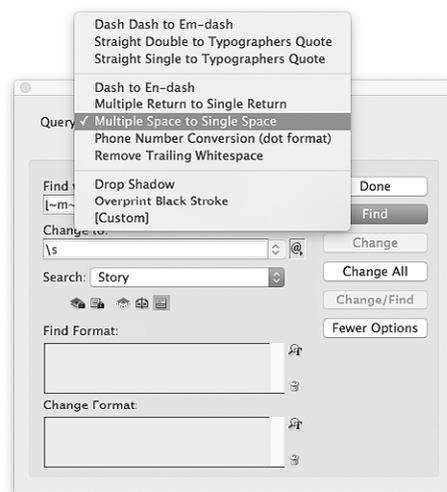
Hint: To see the spaces, turn on **Show Hidden Characters** under the Type menu. Copy the spaces and then deselect them in the text. Now go to **Find/Change** and paste the spaces in **Find what**. Next, drop down to the **Change to** line and look for the pop-up at the side. Click on that and choose **Tab**. Once **^t** is visible in the box, select **Change All**.

Then delete one space from the **Find/Change** box and select **Change All** again. Keep repeating with one less space each time until you’re down to just one space. Now you have text that can be controlled by the **Type > Tabs** menu. If you end up with too many tabs in some places, go back to **Find/Change** and put **^t^t** in the **Find what** box. Leave the single **^t** in the **Change to** box to clean up the final product.

This kind of reformatting also works in Word and Quark. **Find/Change** may be called Search and Replace or something else, but it works similarly.

If you want a faster way of doing this, select **GREP** in InDesign’s **Find/Change** box, then look for the **Query** box above that. One of the presets in that box is called **Multiple Space to Single Space**. This tool quickly takes out all the extra spaces in a document if tabs are not needed. **Multiple Return to Single Return** is also useful. See if you can think of a time when you could use it. The important thing is to remember to use it and to teach others who are taking out one space at a time to use it.

**GREP** is a built-in command line that searches for certain strings of text. It



may seem overwhelming to try to learn, but InDesign’s prebuilt sets are useful. You can learn more about **GREP** at places like YouTube or Linda.com.

Now let’s tackle a kerning and tracking problem. I see a lot of problems with “fl”. It’s often kerned so badly that it doesn’t even view well on the screen. If you copy it to the web, all kinds of strange things happen.

To correct this, select “fl” within a word with the text tool. Use the tracking command to change the spacing to what works on the web. Experiment to find out what that is. After the tracking is corrected, select that “fl” and copy it. Go to **Find/Change** in the **Find what:** and type fl.

In the **Change to:** go to the @ flyout menu and pull down to **Other > Clipboard Content, Formatted**. A **^c** will be coded into the box. Tell it to change all. Do this story by story so the formatting in ads is not changed. Now all those pesky pairs are fixed and ready to go. *Note:* In the **Find/Change** box you can search and replace just one story or the whole document. If lots of kerned pairs are creating problems consider changing fonts.

## MERGE LAYERS

If you’re working on a large document, watch out for layers. Layers are useful in letting you hide items you don’t want to see or print in a document, but if used heavily they can corrupt the file.

If you have a document like this, back it up and then try the **Merge Layers** option under the flyout menu in the palette and then do a **Save As**. When asked, answer **Replace**, which will reduce the file size.

If the document is still too complicated, try breaking the paper into two or three sections to get to a smaller file size that will work with the program’s RAM restrictions.

Dealing with the spinning wheel of death is no fun. Try to simplify your document to avoid the death knell.

## MEMORY MATTERS

If you’re using a newer Mac that’s been updated to the latest OSX but doesn’t have that much RAM, try turning off some of those fancy features to make it run better.

Reminders are one of those things running in the background, looking for things to tell you.

To turn off reminders, go to **Apple > System Preferences > Reminders**.

Look at each of the items at the left and uncheck those that require the system to look for resources all the time. This frees up memory for the web email and other programs such as Photoshop and InDesign.



If you’re not an active user of keyboard shortcuts, turn some of them off under **Keyboard** in **System Preferences**. Shortcuts can have conflicts with programs. It makes the computer try to

decide what to do with that command. Most people leave screenshots checked and many like the on screen zoom tool at **Option Command 8** for seeing those menus better.

In Windows 10 many small programs are running in the background looking for things to share with the world. These programs are found under **Privacy** in the **Settings**, which looks like a gear wheel under the **Start menu**. Turn off what you don’t need.

The same goes for cell phones. Look at the settings and see if there are any bloatware applications that can be turned off to stop the stealing of data. Spending some time to hunt these things down can save lots of time and money in the long run.

## PHOTOSHOP KEYBOARD COMMANDS

You can learn keyboard commands. Try teaching yourself just a few to help clean up your artwork in Photoshop.

**Command M** is a great shortcut that brings up curves to lighten or darken photos. (For PCs Control = Command, and Alt = Option.)

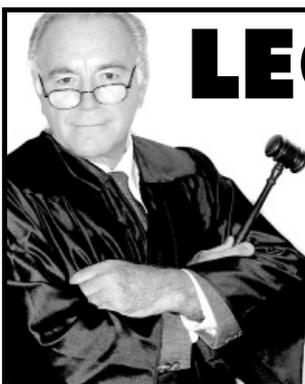
When cutting out photos or cleaning up a piece of line art, the first shortcut to learn is the [ or ] (bracket). You can change the size of brushes, the eraser tool and even the dodge/ burn tools simply by hitting the bracket keys while working in these tools. It makes the tools bigger or smaller depending on which bracket you use.

The next thing to learn is how to use the selection tools and menu. Take a look at the feathering tool, which keeps you from creating harsh lines in photos. Right click for the options when in a tool to locate feathering.

There are also some useful tools in the selections menu.

- **Command D** removes your selection.
- **Shift Command I** removes the background around your selection.
- **Shift F6** brings up the feathering command after you made a selection but forgot to feather.
- **Shift F5** brings up the **Fill** command for changing a color in a selection. Once in the box note the choices for the fill and Opacity.
- **Content-Aware** is useful when removing objects from photos, but not in our news photos.
- **Arrow keys** are one of my favorites when using the crop tool. It lets you micro the selection to one side or up and down.
- **Zoom keys** also are great. Make things bigger by typing **Command +** or smaller by typing **Command -**.

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.



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## Apply to visit Pakistan with OU delegation

The Gaylord College of Journalism & Mass Communication is seeking journalists who are interested in participating in a two-week visit to Pakistan in early December 2017 (Dec. 1-14).

Applications are due on September 15, 2017.

The delegation will visit media companies in Islamabad and Karachi, engage in roundtable discussions with journalists and explore cultural sites.

This is a reciprocal delegation corresponding to seven delegations of Pakistani journalists who have visited Oklahoma during the past two years.

The U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs funds the project.

For members of the delegation, round-trip airfare, hotel accommodation, local transportation, visa fees and a per diem allowance for food and incidentals will be paid.

To apply, send your resume and a statement of interest to Kathy Adams in Gaylord College, kadams@ou.edu, 405-325-2723.

For additional questions about the project, contact Joe Foote, jfoote@ou.edu, 405-413-3972.

## El Reno Tribune announces end of commercial printing

The El Reno Tribune announced in July that it was discontinuing its commercial printing operations.

Sean Dyer, Tribune co-publisher and business manager, said the decision will not impact the Tribune newspaper, a business that has been in the Dyer family for more than 75 years.

"We still firmly believe in the future of newspapers," Dyer said.

The Tribune will continue to be printed in El Reno, but the twice-weekly publication will be the only newspaper printed on the El Reno press.

"The downside is we will have to reduce our printing staff and some part-time people will no longer be working with us," Dyer said.

"We have been blessed over the years to have a great staff working with us, both in the print area as well as in the front office in news and advertising."

# DEATHS

**FRANK BOGGS**, former sports editor at The Oklahoman, died August 10, 2017. He was 89.

He was born May 1, 1928.

Boggs retired from The Oklahoman in 1989 after 41 years as a journalist. He also worked at the Topeka Daily Capital, Dallas Times Herald, San Diego Tribune and Colorado Springs Sun.

The Oklahoma City native started his career at The Oklahoman as a part-time sports writer in 1948.

His career garnered him many awards including induction into the United States Basketball Writers Association Hall of Fame in 2007. He also won the Oklahoma Sportswriter of the Year Award 10 times.

After Boggs and another Oklahoman writer received death threats after reporting that the NCAA was investigating a ticket-scalping scandal among OU football players, Boggs transferred to the then OPUBCO-owned Colorado Springs Sun.

He returned to Oklahoma in 1986 and served as executive sports editor and managing editor until retiring three years later.

Boggs was inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame in 1997.

He is survived by his daughter Brenda Williams and husband Steve of Oklahoma City; son Brian Boggs MD and wife Susan of Oklahoma City; one granddaughter and two grandsons.

**KENT JOHNSON**, a former Muskogee Phoenix photographer, died August 5, 2017, while on assignment for the Atlanta Journal Constitution.

Johnson was born Sept. 21, 1959, in Peekskill, N.Y. After graduating from high school in New York in 1977, he attended Oklahoma State University and graduated in 1982.

He began his newspaper career at

the Muskogee Phoenix before moving to Fort Myers, Fla., to work at the News-Press. He also worked at the Clarion-Ledger in Jackson, Miss., and the Charlotte Observer before joining the staff at the Atlanta Journal Constitution.

Johnson is survived by his wife, Leslie; three children: Alison, Daniel and Elaine; and one brother, Steven Johnson, who lives in Spain.

**MAGGIE LEE (BARNES) WALKER**, who once worked at the Kiowa County Star Review in Hobart, died July 19, 2017. She was 88.

Walker was born August 31, 1928, near Roosevelt, Okla. After graduating from high school in 1947, she worked at Boothe Drug where she met her husband, Wayne Emmett Walker. They were married February 7, 1948, in Vernon, Texas.

Walker spent most of her life in Hobart. She sold advertising for the Kiowa County Star Review before working in various other fields. She retired from Home State Bank in 1993 as assistant vice president.

She is survived by a sister, Thelma Davis of Woodbridge, New Jersey; sisters-in-law Stella Sims, Lillie Jenkins and Teresa Mills; and several nieces and nephews.

## In Memory of Our Friends & Colleagues

Nancy M. Seher  
July 6, 2016

Tammy Sue Ervin  
Aug. 5, 2016

James 'Jim' Arthur Worrell  
Aug. 24, 2016

Judi Lamb Boland  
July 7, 2016

Eddie L. Madison, Jr.  
Aug. 8, 2016

James Wilson 'Jim' Dunn  
Aug. 28, 2016

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# OKLAHOMA NATURAL GAS CONTEST WINNERS

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE JUNE 2017 WINNERS

June Column: **CHELSEA WEEKS**, *Tri-County Herald*

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



### JUNE 2017 COLUMN WINNER

**CHELSEA WEEKS**, *Tri-County Herald*

### Answers from fishing

I sat on the chair fidgeting with the fishing poles while the stranger hooked up the trolling motor to the battery.

It was awkward.

I was nervous because it was my first time going fishing. And even more nervous because it was the first time being alone with this stranger, who was my biological father.

My parents weren't married when I was born, and after my mother died I was adopted by her brother and his family. It wasn't until I was 18, when I graduated high school and moved to Oklahoma, that I started the journey of meeting my biological paternal family.

This new adventure was something that I did not know how to face.

How do you relate to 15 people who share your blood but not your past?

How does one jump into being a part of a family when they were missing for so long?

All my life I had questions about the mystery man who was my father.

I wanted to know why he didn't marry my mother, why he let me go, if he knew where I was or even cared.

I didn't know what he looked like until I was 13, when I saw a picture of him and my mother together.

By spending my days with him on the Blackfork River, I finally received the long-awaited answers to my questions.

Fishing helped me integrate back into the family.

For some, fishing may be a hobby that is a splendid way to waste time, but to me, fishing has become a passion, a way for me to connect with each individual member of my family.

I have been able to fish with past generations, like my great Uncle Hank, and coming generations, like my younger cousin, Blayne.

Over four years, I have learned where all the good fishing holes are. I have learned where crawdads can be found. I have learned how to set up trot lines and limb lines.

But most importantly, I have learned about my biological father.

Although I have missed 18 years' worth of memories, I know every time I step onto the barge with my pole in hand, I get to create my own memories with my long-lost family.

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

*The June 2017 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](http://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.



## *Thank you for continued support of "Share The Warmth"*

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