

The Oklahoma Publisher

Official Publication of the Oklahoma Press Association

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Vol. 90, No. 10
12 Pages • October 2019

INSIDE

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



Nearly 100 attend seminar on open meetings, records in Enid



Abby Dillsaver, general counsel to Attorney General Mike Hunter, speaks during an open meetings and records seminar on Oct. 3, 2019, at the Autry Technology Center in Enid.

Photo by Billy Hefton, Enid News & Eagle

Nearly 100 state and municipal employees, elected officials and public residents gathered at the Autry Technology Center in Enid on Oct. 3 for a seminar on open meeting and records laws.

This was the first of six scheduled seminars across the state to educate communities on what qualifies as public knowledge, what information can be requested, what can be withheld and more. Often, rules may vary depending on circumstance.

The seminars are free, open to the public, and hosted by the Attorney General's Office, Oklahoma Press Association and Freedom of Information Oklahoma.

Abby Dillsaver, general counsel to Oklahoma Attorney General Mike Hunter, led the three-hour discussion over the

Open Meeting Act and Open Records Act, fielding audience questions throughout.

The rules are important for ensuring transparency among decision-making bodies whose actions impact the public, such as school boards, and state and local government. Violating the OMA or ORA can result in civil and criminal penalties against individuals responsible, whether the violation was deliberate or unintentional.

"What this whole presentation has been about is how to avoid ever being in that situation," Dillsaver said, as well as offering guidance for residents, public employees, officials and others on how to communicate and cooperate. Proper communication ensures "everybody having a healthy relationship and healthy respect for one

another as we all try to do our jobs."

Mark Thomas, executive vice president of Oklahoma Press Association, said he was impressed with the turnout.

Previous open records seminars that were hosted in Enid had about 65 attending. The Oct. 3 session had 93.

"Most of these people are public servants that want to know what the correct thing to do is," Thomas said, adding he was pleased to see and speak with a number of area residents as well. "We want both citizens and public officials to have a common understanding of what the law is."

After Enid, the seminar is headed to Ardmore on Oct. 24, Tulsa on Nov. 14, McAlester on Nov. 21, Lawton on Dec. 12, and finishing in Oklahoma City on Dec. 19.

Blansett sells Bristow and Stroud papers to Brett Wesner

The Tri-County Herald and Stroud American are under new ownership.

Brett Wesner, who owns eight newspapers in Oklahoma including the recently purchased Lincoln County News in Chandler, purchased the Herald and American from Brian Blansett.

Blansett has been named editor and publisher for the three newspapers.

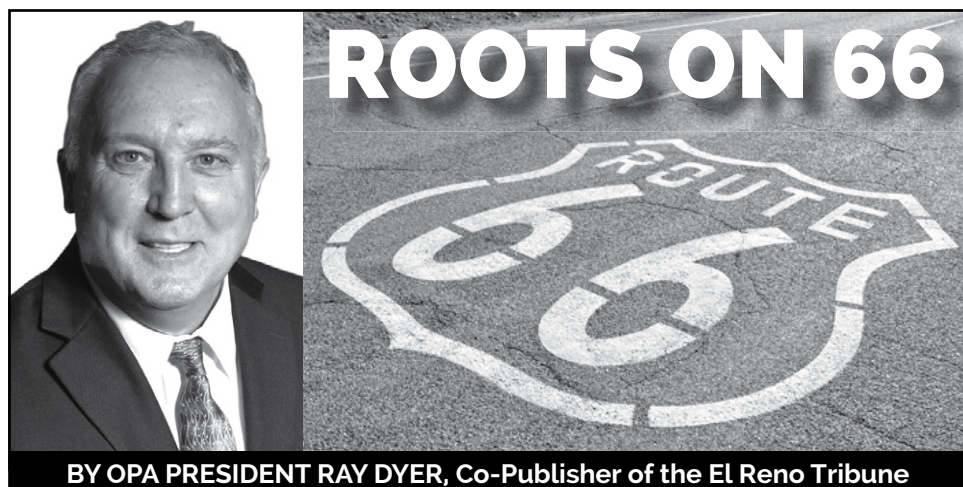
"This is good for everyone," Blansett said. "It will give all three papers access to additional resources to better serve their readers and advertisers."

The sale of the papers was effective Oct. 1.

"Brian Blasnett is well known as one of the finest community journalists in the state," Wesner said. "I'm very excited that we will be joining forces, and that our three publications, under Brian's leadership, will provide better and more service to our readers."

Wesner is a native of Cordell, in western Oklahoma. His company, Wesner Publications, has operated since 1988 and owns 13 newspapers in Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico. In addition to the three recently purchased newspapers, others in Oklahoma are the Bristow News, The Cordell Beacon, The Geary Star, The Hinton Record, The Madill Record, The Walters Herald and Watonga Republican.

Blansett is a past president of the Oklahoma Press Association and was inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame earlier this year.



BY OPA PRESIDENT RAY DYER, Co-Publisher of the El Reno Tribune

Ask a student from Clinton about the future of newspapers

I think we should be encouraged about the future of newspapers, especially when reading stories in The Oklahoma Publisher.

The September issue of the Publisher carried a story on Page 3 about Clinton High School students voting to restart the school newspaper. The story, written by Deborah Avery of the Clinton Daily News, detailed how the paper had been suspended for a year. But when asked by Superintendent Kevin Hime if they wanted to resurrect the print product, the students gave a resounding yes.

"I want Clinton High School to have a newspaper so students have an opportunity to learn more about journalism and media," said CHS student Ericka Jones.

The story said teacher Ashley Kelly would instruct the students in the various facets of journalism and once a month Tornado Talks would be printed by the Clinton Daily News. It's expected each monthly issue would contain six to eight pages.

The students are using Adobe InDesign to lay out the pages.

We tried a similar effort with El Reno High School a few years ago. The students wrote and designed the school paper and we printed it. This happened after the high school went several years without producing a school paper.

The effort lasted I think for two years, but just like a professional newspaper, the product suffers if there is not a strong commitment to doing the job right. A school newspaper needs an advocate, normally in the form of a teacher who cares deeply about teaching students to write in an informative manner while also teaching them to think critically.

Hats off to the Clinton High School faculty and students for bringing back the Tornado Talks. Let's hope other Oklahoma high schools follow this example. I know we would love the chance to help bring back our high school newspaper.

And there was the August issue of The Publisher in which college students wrote about their experiences working as interns at various newspapers around the state. More students wrote about their internship experiences in the September issue as well.

Thanks to great support from the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation as well as the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation, the internship program has been going strong for 11 years. This past summer, 18 journalism students took part in the program. From reading their stories, all gained valuable experience and insight into doing the job correctly and with passion for the community they were helping to cover.

Those who say print is dead may want to check with some young people in Oklahoma. Maybe start out in Clinton.

Eakly Country Connection News partners with Reid Newspapers

Big changes are coming to The Country Connection News, announced Joyce Carney, owner and publisher of the weekly newspaper in Eakly, Okla.

The newspaper is now affiliated with Reid Newspapers, which owns several newspapers in Oklahoma, including the Weatherford Daily News.

Phillip Reid, publisher of Reid Newspapers, said, "Reid Newspapers has put together a business model that streamlines operations of producing a printed and online newspaper. What this means for Country Connection readers is more pages, more color, more stories and more readers."

"We are very excited to welcome Joyce and Rusty [Carney] with The Country Connection to our family of newspapers. We know it will be a great

partnership that will be a win-win for everyone. We appreciate them trusting us with the operational side of a long-established newspaper that has a rich tradition of providing news about Oklahoma's heartland."

Joyce Carney said the affiliation will alleviate some of the ongoing operations of producing a newspaper, and give her opportunities to focus on things she likes most – writing stories and selling advertising.

"As we start the 39th year of publishing The Country Connection News, we are looking forward to more freedom and more fun in serving our readers and advertisers," said Carney.

"The Country Connection News is my baby and it's growing up!"

Enid News & Eagle executive editor to serve on Freedom of Information Oklahoma board

Rob Collins, executive editor of the Enid News & Eagle, was elected Sept. 14 to the Freedom of Information Oklahoma Board of Directors.

The statewide organization actively supports those individuals and organizations working to open records or provide access to illegally closed meetings.

FOI Oklahoma's Board of Directors consists of attorneys, educators, journalists, state and elected officials, librarians and private citizens across Oklahoma.

Collins, a 1989 Enid High School graduate and fifth-generation resident of Garfield County, Oklahoma, works as Oklahoma/Missouri regional editor for CNHI. He also serves on boards for the University of Oklahoma Student Publications, the Greater Enid Chamber



ROB COLLINS, executive editor of Enid News & Eagle and CNHI regional editor for Oklahoma/Missouri.

of Commerce, United Way of Enid and Northwest Oklahoma Inc. and Denny Price Family YMCA.

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OKLAHOMA PRESS ASSOCIATION

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OPEN MEETING/RECORDS SEMINARS

All seminars from 1 to 4 p.m. Attorney General Mike Hunter, Oklahoma Press Association and Freedom of Oklahoma, Inc. invite you to attend any of these free sessions designed to deal directly with your questions and concerns about Oklahoma's Open Meeting and Records Acts.

October 24: ARDMORE, Southern Oklahoma Technology Center, 2610 Sam Noble Parkway

November 14: TULSA, OSU - Tulsa, 700 N. Greenwood Ave.

November 21: MCALESTER - Eastern Oklahoma State College, 1802 E College Ave.

December 12: LAWTON - Great Plains Technology Center, 4500 SW Lee Blvd.

December 19: OKLAHOMA CITY - Metro Tech Conference Center, 1900 Springlake Drive

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON EVENTS, visit the OPA website at www.OkPress.com or contact Membership & Meetings Director Christine Frank at (405) 499-0040, 1-888-815-2672 or email CFrank@okpress.com.

Choate returns to Muskogee as publisher; Brendel named publisher of Joplin Globe

Ed Choate has been appointed as publisher of the Muskogee Phoenix.

Until this past year, Choate had served as executive editor at the Phoenix. He has served as publisher-editor of the McAlester News-Capital since January.

Choate worked at the Phoenix from 2005 to 2018, the last 11-plus years as the top editor.

"I am thrilled for the opportunity to return to Muskogee and the Phoenix," Choate said. "And I look forward to continuing the paper's tradition of serving the community, including the advertisers and the readers."

Choate succeeds Dale Brendel as publisher of the Phoenix. Brendel recently was appointed publisher of the Joplin Globe in Missouri. Both newspapers are owned by CNHI LLC.

Brendel will continue to serve in his role as a senior group publisher for



ED CHOATE



DALE BRENDL

CNHI for three Oklahoma newspapers – Tahlequah Daily Press, Ada News and Stillwater News Press.

A Missouri native, Brendel received his journalism degree from the University of Missouri.

He has previously worked at the Blue Springs Examiner, The Independence

Examiner in Missouri and the Leavenworth Times in Kansas.

Brendel said the Muskogee Phoenix "deserved to have a publisher on site."

"Ed is a great choice to take over as publisher in Muskogee," Brendel said. "He's very familiar with the community and has done a great job over the years as editor and most recently as publisher in McAlester."

Before joining the Muskogee Phoenix, Choate worked 20 years in the sports departments at the Dallas Morning News, Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Orlando Sentinel, New Orleans Times-Picayune and the Greenville (South Carolina) News.

"I'm excited to return to Muskogee, where I have many good friends and relationships," Choate said. "It's home to me."

FOI Oklahoma honors award winners

FOI Oklahoma presented its annual awards at a banquet Oct. 2 at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond.

The keynote speaker for the event was Mike Walter, a five-time Emmy award-winning broadcast journalist who is the anchor on the nightly CGTN-America News hour in Washington.

For the first time, the group presented the Bickham-Hale Service Award, named after FOI Oklahoma founder Sue

Hale and first executive director Kay Bickham. The 2019 honoree was William Young, who marked 32 years with the Oklahoma Department of Libraries this year, and has served as the state agency's public information manager since 1994. A former board member of FOI Oklahoma, Young served 20 years on the First Amendment Congress planning committee.

The Marion Opala First Amendment Award, named for the late state Supreme Court Justice Marian Opala, was presented to Ryan Kiesel. The award recognizes individuals who have promoted education about or protection of the individual rights guaranteed by the First Amendment. Kiesel has led the ACLU of Oklahoma as executive director since



WILLIAM YOUNG



RYAN KIESEL



JOE WERTZ



THAD H. BALKMAN

2011. During his tenure, the ACLU of Oklahoma has secured landmark victories in state and federal courts, the state legislature and at the ballot box.

Joe Wertz, a senior environment reporter at the Center for Public Integrity in Washington, D.C., received the Ben Blackstock Award. This award is named for former Oklahoma Press Association Executive Director Ben Blackstock and recognizes a non-governmental person or organization that has shown a commitment to freedom of information. Wertz' work includes leading coverage of his home state's oil- and gas-linked earthquake surge and the state's plodding regulatory response, Scott Pruitt's rise and fall at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and national report-

ing on drilling, renewable energy, agriculture, pollution and climate change.

The Sunshine Award, which recognizes a public official or governmental body that has shown a commitment to freedom of information, was presented to Judge Thad H. Balkman, a District Judge for the 21st Judicial District in central Oklahoma.

Balkman has had a distinguished legal career as a jurist, a private practice attorney and as an Oklahoma legislator. He most recently presided over the historic opioid litigation in which a pharmaceutical giant was held responsible for the first time in contributing to the opioid crisis, regarded by many as a landmark decision.

The Oklahoma Publisher



ISSN 1526-811X

Official Publication of the

Oklahoma Press Association

PUBLISHER

Mark Thomas
mthomas@okpress.com

EDITOR

Jennifer Gilliland
jgilliland@okpress.com

OPA OFFICERS

Ray Dyer, President
El Reno Tribune
Mike Strain, Vice President
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3601 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-5499
(405) 499-0020
Toll-Free in Oklahoma:
(888) 815-2672
www.OkPress.com
news@OkPress.com
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THE OKLAHOMA PUBLISHER (USPS 406-920) is published monthly for \$12 per year by the Oklahoma Press Association, 3601 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105-5499. Periodicals postage paid at Oklahoma City, OK.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE OKLAHOMA PUBLISHER, 3601 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105-5499.

DEATHS

THANK YOU



to the following individuals and organizations for their recent donations to the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation:

In memory of Jim Mayo

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Lindel Hutson
Jodi and Michael Koptiw
Barb Walter
Brett Wesner

In memory of Ben Blackstock

Garvin County News Star

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.

If you would like to make a donation, please send a check to:

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MARILYN LOUISE DUCK, who worked at the Oklahoma City Times and Tulsa Tribune, died Sept. 15, 2019. She was 63.

Duck was born Oct. 31, 1955, and grew up in Tulsa.

She graduated from Tulsa Memorial High School in 1973, and then enrolled at the University of Oklahoma in the fall of 1973.

At OU, she worked for the student newspaper, The Oklahoma Daily, serving as editor in 1977.

After graduation, she began her career in the Norman bureau of the now-defunct Oklahoma City Times.

After a short period, she was promoted to the Times' main office in downtown Oklahoma City where she was assigned to cover the Oklahoma City Public Schools. Duck later became an assistant city editor at the Times.

After an award-winning career at the Times, Duck returned to Tulsa and went to work for the Tribune covering the Oklahoma Corporation Commission. She also served in the Tribune's Washington D.C. bureau.

Her career next took her to the West Coast where she worked at the Santa Rosa Press Democrat as an editorial

writer. She returned to Tulsa a decade later and worked as writer and editor of the Eastern Oklahoma Catholic Magazine, overseeing the Eastern Oklahoma Diocese publication's conversion from a newspaper to a magazine. She retired from the diocese in 2011.

She was a recipient of numerous reporting and editing awards from state and national journalism organizations.

Duck is survived by her cousin, Steve Fields and his family; several aunts, uncles and cousins; and her beloved dog, Ivy.

JAMES 'JIM' WATIE MAYO, retired publisher for the Sequoyah County Times and a past president of the Oklahoma Press Association, died Oct. 3, 2019. He was 77.

Mayo started his journalism career at age 8 selling newspapers on the street for the Sequoyah County Times in 1950. He was valedictorian of the 1960 Sallisaw High School class, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism from the University of Oklahoma in 1964. At OU he worked on the student newspaper selling ads, writing and editing news and composing ads in the backshop.

He married Rebecca "Becky" Ann Boen of Muskogee on July 17, 1965. They were married 54 years.

In December 1967, he and Becky moved from California back to Sallisaw and Jim Mayo went to work at the Sequoyah County Times as manag-

ing editor. He later became associate publisher and general manager. Mayo was publisher of the newspaper from 1986 to 2016, before retiring to become president of Cookson Hills Publishers, Inc., the family company that owns the Times.

Mayo was named to the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame in 1993, was the recipient of the H. Milt Phillips Award in 1999, recipient of the Beachy Musselman award in 2002, and was named to the OPA Half Century Club in 2004 for 50 years of service to Oklahoma newspapers.

Mayo is the author of "A Pictorial History of Sallisaw, Okla." published in 1993. He served on the First National Bank of Sallisaw Board of Directors from 1975 to 1991. He co-owned the Lincoln County News newspaper in Chandler, Okla., from 1987 to 1999.

He served on the Oklahoma Press

Association board of directors (1978-87) and was president of the OPA in 1987. He also served as president of the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation.

Mayo was a member of numerous civic and national organizations.

His hobbies included black and white photography, hiking, hunting, gardening, camping, politics and correcting grammar.

Mayo is survived by his wife Becky, of the home; two sons, John Robert (Jack) Mayo and his wife Jennifer, of Duvall, Wash., and Jeffrey William Mayo and his wife Beth, of Sallisaw; one sister, Andrea Mayo Quigley and her husband John of Beaumont, Texas; and six grandchildren: Gretchen Kate Mayo, Jacob Wheeler Mayo, Zachary John Mayo and Harrison Walker Carmel Mayo, all of Duvall, and Madolyn Rose Mayo and Maddox William Mayo of Sallisaw.

PAULA LEMARR MCBRIDE SAVAGE, assistant editor of The Anadarko Daily News, died Oct. 12, 2019. She was 61.

Paula was born March 12, 1958, to Carolyn and Joe W. McBride Jr. She was a graduate of Anadarko High School Class of 1976.

After graduation, she carried on family tradition and attended the University of Oklahoma in Norman, receiving a degree in journalism in 1988. She later received a minor in religious studies

from OU. Her family used to joke that Paula would never graduate from college, but just keep taking more classes because she liked learning so much.

She was a huge proponent for the university and an avid OU Sooner football fan.

She began working at her family's newspaper, The Anadarko Daily News, in 1974 and was employed there as assistant editor at the time of her death. Her

OWEIDA SMILEY, a teletype setter for The Lawton Constitution, died Sept. 25, 2019, in Lawton. She was 90.

Smiley was born Sept. 20, 1929, in Grady County. She graduated from Sterling High School.

She later moved to Lawton with her two sisters and was employed by South-

western Hospital and then as an operator for Southwestern Bell.

She was employed as a switchboard operator, manager of the classified ad department and was a teletype setter for The Lawton Constitution from 1961 to 1994 when hot type was still in use. She retired when computers were being

phased into the production side of the newspaper.

Smiley is survived by sons Walter and his wife Sandra of Tecumseh, and Roger and his wife Brenda of Lawton; daughter Ginger Murphy and husband Randy of Lawton; seven grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

IN MEMORY OF OUR FRIENDS & COLLEAGUES

James A. 'Jim' Killackey
Sept. 7, 2018

Andrew Wayne Mullican
Sept. 29, 2018

Steven Dewayne
'Steve' Bolton
Oct. 15, 2018

Hiram William Impson, Jr.
Oct. 4, 2018

Donald (Don) Lee Schmidt
Oct. 14, 2018

Build a variety of templates in InDesign for all your pages



Computer Notes

from the road
by Wilma Newby
wnewby@okpress.com

Several newspapers are converting from Quark to InDesign. It's a daunting process but there's a great tool that can make it easier.

Q2ID, short for Quark to InDesign, is a file converter program sold by Design Easy. This InDesign plug-in cleanly opens Quark documents from Version 4 through 2018 in InDesign. It works with InDesign CS5 through CC 2019, and on Mac's OS 10.6 and up, and Windows 7 or higher.

I used it at one of the newspapers and found it only needs to be on one computer. That computer will open old files for the next year without a hitch. It brought in Styles from the Quark documents and opened old Libraries.

The software, which retails for \$199, is worth the money to get all your old files converted. It's an annual subscription program so you would need to purchase it again the next year if you don't finish converting all your files the first year.

STYLE SHEETS SAVE TIME

There are ways to make building pages in InDesign easier. I believe style sheets are one of the most convenient ways to set up stories.

It takes a few minutes to set up but will save you time once it's done. Style sheets are often under-used because it can be confusing.

If you've never used style sheets, give it a try.



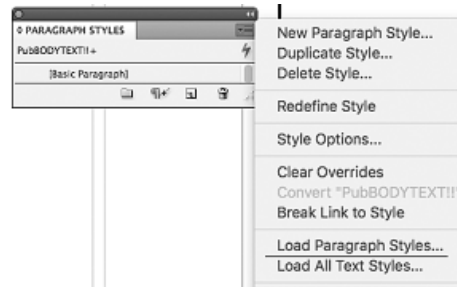
To set up styles, open an old page from your newspaper and highlight some of the formatted copy of a story. Next, go the flyout window in the **Paragraph Styles** palette and select **New Paragraph Style**. Give it a name, something like body copy, and click OK. Now select an average size headline and repeat above steps, this time naming it headline. Create a cutline and byline style as well.

The next part of the trick is to pull the new styles into your blank templates. Moving styles from one document to another works like this. Open your template file by going to **File**. Open the template but check the **Open Original** button at the bottom of the open dialogue box. That opens the original so it can be saved without saving over the file as a



template file and inadvertently renaming it wrong.

Now go to the **Paragraph Styles** palette and to the flyout menu. This time choose **Load Paragraph Styles**. Go through the **Finder** window to locate a document that has all your new styles in it and select it. That brings in the new styles to this document. If you're building several templates this is a big time saver. Just remember that if the styles change you need to reload them into everyone's templates – not just yours.



Styles go with the documents and are not universal to InDesign pages even if they are loaded when all documents are closed. That method only works for new documents, not existing templates.

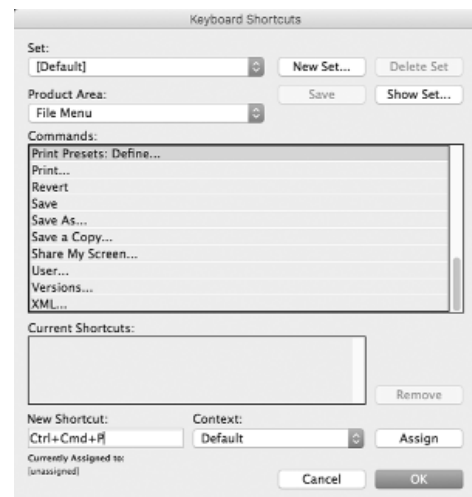
CHANGING KEYBOARD COMMANDS

Quark users often have problems with InDesign keyboard commands because they're different than what they've been using for years.

Well, Adobe thinks of everything and gives us a way to change the keyboard commands to the ones you're familiar with in Quark.

Even if you're not changing programs it's useful to know that a keyboard command can be created for any command you use repeatedly.

Just go to **Edit** and pull all the way to the bottom to **Keyboard Shortcuts**. It's a big, scary looking dialog box but it's easy to use.



Look carefully at the menu location you're going to change or add a keyboard shortcut to. For example, let's give **Print Presets** a keyboard command. I want to change it to **Control+Command+P**. Hold down those keys with the cursor in the **New Shortcut** area and then hit

Assign. A dialog box will come up asking if you want to save the new keyboard set as your own. Name this set of shortcuts as your newspaper name or your own name. Now you can change as many menus as needed. Don't forget to let anyone else using the same computer know what has been done to the program.

USING LIBRARIES

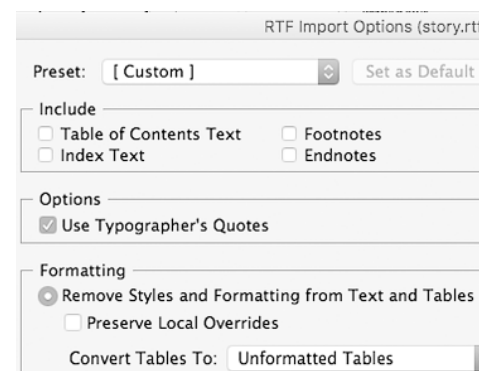
Another way to speed up page layout is by using **Library** to build pages. Libraries can save time in the design process.

The idea is to create pre-formatted text blocks that are empty but formatted with the styles you want for your newspaper.

Create a new **Library** by going under **File > New > Library**. Drag the pre-formatted text block with the header block above it into the Library. Create as many blocks as might be used in a regular paper. Make one for a two column story, one for a three column story and one for an editorial page width. You can even make ones that are set up with tabs, for something like a score sheet.

Bring in new copy in as plain text so the copy falls right into place with the right formatting every time.

Go to the **File > Place** command and choose the button that says **Show Import Options**. In the next dialog box uncheck everything except the **Use Typographer quotes** and **Remove styles and Formatting form Text and Tables**.



Uncheck the **Show Import Options** next time something is placed so the program will remember your last formats. Settings in the **Place** command only need to be set up one time. Now the user can drag unformatted files on the page to flow into the pre-formatted styles boxes.

SCREEN REDRAW

Command Option / will cause the screen to redraw when InDesign is having trouble. Screen redraw seems to be problem with older versions of InDesign on newer operating systems.

APPLICATION FRAME

Something that has proven useful this month is setting up InDesign with the **Application** frame turned on. It's found under **Window > Application Frame**. If you're trying to run older software on newer OSX versions, you'll find this handy.

InDesign seems to crash a lot more when going back and forth to the desktop. These old programs weren't written to handle the newer graphical user interface of the new OSX versions. If you can train yourself to stay inside the InDesign interface and not click out of it, the program may not crash as often.

Tricks like using the **Place** command to import text and photos will keep you in the InDesign program.

If you need to go out of InDesign, save then minimize the whole window to the dock or task bar. **Application Frame** will move all the docked palettes to the **Task Bar/Dock**. This keeps you from having both InDesign palettes showing on screen while you're working on the desktop or other programs.

When I talk about docked palettes, I'm referring to the items that show up on the side in Adobe programs, like the Info palette. To dock one of these palettes just drag it by its name to the edge of the whole frame of the program. A blue bar will appear showing how it will be attached to the frame. When you double click the top of the gray bar, it presents the palettes in different views. The tool bar can be docked the same way. Drag it by the gray part of the bar at the top to marry it to the window.

Keeping the program together as one window could make a difference in how often it crashes. If you're a two screen user, all the palettes are on the extra screen and this is not a setup for you.

OPA Computer Consultant Wilma Newby's column is brought to 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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OG&E PHOTO CONTEST



AUGUST 2019
WEEKLY WINNER:
CHUCK REHERMAN
Yukon Progress

AUGUST 2019
DAILY WINNER:
RICHARD BARRON
The Ada News

The August 2019 contest was judged by a member of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame.

View all winning photos at

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OGE-Photo-Contest**

Peyton Barnes of Duke lays the lasso in perfect timing as she competes in the breakaway roping competition at the Yukon FFA Rodeo.

Photo by CHUCK REHERMAN, Yukon Progress, Aug. 7, 2019



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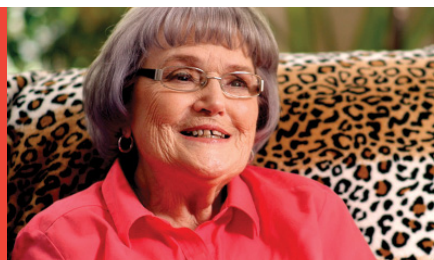
For more information
about the photo contest,
visit www.okpress.com.

Ada shortstop Amaya Frizell has a rough collision with a Tulsa Will Rogers base runner as teammates Kinsley Goza and Keila Saldago watch from behind during a District 5A-4 softball matchup at the Ada High Softball Complex.

Photo by RICHARD R. BARRON, The Ada News, Aug. 15, 2019

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WORTH MENTIONING

Randy Krehbiel pens book about Tulsa race massacre

Tulsa World writer Randy Krehbiel has written a book about the Tulsa Race Massacre.

"Tulsa 1921: Reporting a Massacre" focuses primarily on how the massacre was presented in the city's main – and highly competitive – newspapers, the Tulsa Daily World and Tulsa Tribune.

"What I tried to do in each situation was come up with a statement of fact as to what I had found through my research, and include some insights about how this could have happened, and how it couldn't of happened, and why I came to that conclusion," Krehbiel said.

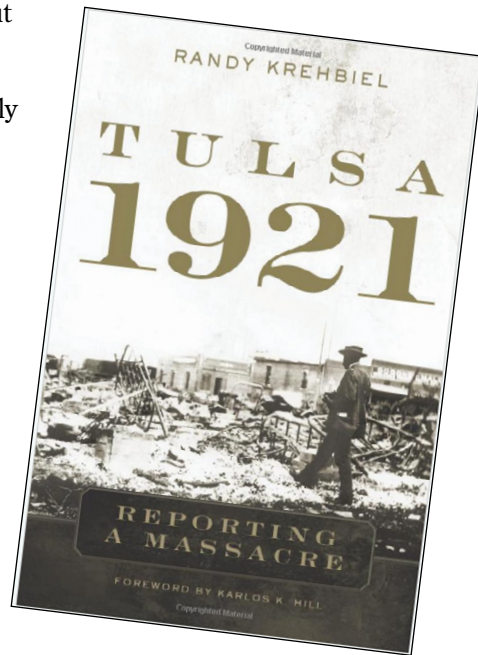
Krehbiel spent 20 years researching the violence of May 30 to June 1, 1921.

The most disturbing and surprising thing he discovered was the everyday racism that existed in society at that time, and the constraints that were placed on African-American people.

"You look for heroes and villains in a story like this, and what you find is that even the white people who did try to help Tulsa's black community had racist ideas themselves," he said.

Krehbiel joined the Tulsa World in 1979 and has specialized in writing about politics and government.

"Tulsa 1921: Reporting a Massacre," published by University of Oklahoma Press, is available on Amazon for \$28.12.



Cleveland American asking for donations to reopen museum

The Cleveland American is going all out to celebrate its 100th anniversary.

One of the projects is a fundraiser to help the local museum reopen its doors to the public.

Using the newspaper's 100th anniversary as a springboard, publisher Rusty Ferguson is looking for 100 donors willing to donate \$100.

"Obviously, we would be happy to take smaller donations that could be added to others, and we'd certainly be okay with those willing to give in multiples of \$100," said Ferguson.

David Head, first vice-president of the Triangle Heritage Museum board of directors, expressed appreciation to Ferguson.

"The idea that the Ferguson family would step up on its own and choose to commemorate their own big anniversary by supporting the museum is really generous," Head said. "It's even a more meaningful gesture because the purpose of both a museum and a newspaper is to document and protect history."

Weatherford Daily News partners with college student newspaper

Southwestern Oklahoma State University's student publication, The Southwestern, and the Weatherford Daily News have partnered with one another for advertising purposes.

The Weatherford Daily News will sell advertising for The Southwestern and take a percentage of the revenue.

The partnership of the college publication and daily newspaper is not new. The Daily News prints The Southwestern and has a long-standing relationship with SWOSU's mass communication department.

"We have always enjoyed a relationship with the mass communications department at SWOSU and with the college newspaper staff," said Phillip Reid, publisher of the Weatherford Daily News. "In fact, we typically employ three to four SWOSU interns per year and hire many of the interns for full-time careers at the Weatherford Daily News after graduation."

Dr. Loran Lewis, Southwestern adviser, and Reid said the partnership is also beneficial to the Southwestern staff members as it allows students to continue to focus on their journalistic abilities instead of putting their efforts into selling advertising.

Tulsa magazine features chefs

Tulsa World Magazine's chef issue was recently published.

The issue covered Tulsa's culinary legends as well as some of the modern trendsetters.

Tulsa's top businesswomen were also celebrated in the October/November issue. These are the women to watch in their fields for what they have done for the community, and how they will affect it in the future.

The magazine is inserted in the Tulsa World for subscribers and also is available at more than 100 locations across Tulsa.



New staff member at The Cordell Beacon

Robyn England has joined the staff of The Cordell Beacon as an advertising sales representative.

England previously worked at the Weatherford Daily News for almost a decade as a sales rep and ad designer. She left Weatherford in 2017 when she moved to Dill City.

She brings to The Beacon a wealth of newspaper and advertising experience including graphic design skills and a passion for sales and customer service, said Bob Henline, managing editor of The Beacon.

England said she is excited to get back into the newspaper business.

"There's always something to do in the newspaper business, always something new to work on," England said.

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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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“ Thanks to a grant from the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation, 18 journalism students received paid internships at various newspapers across the state. The internship program, now in its 11th year, is facilitated by the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation. For the past two months, The Oklahoma Publisher has featured intern stories. These are the last of the stories from the 2019 interns. ”

NEWSPAPER INTERNS

My time as an intern has been invaluable

MADISON DAVIS
University of Arkansas
Stigler News-Sentinel



This internship has taught me a lot – from how to conduct an interview, to how to clean your shoes after spending four hours on muddy banks just to get one good photo. I have learned skills that I believe I will carry with me no matter where my path may lead.

Working at a small town newspaper has

taught me that every story matters. Even the smallest stories may end up on someone’s fridge or tucked away in an old memory box. Getting to capture life’s moments, such as graduations and big game wins, allows you to be a part of history forever. It is so crazy to think that something you wrote might get pulled out of an old shoebox and read to someone’s grandchildren, or that a photo you took at graduation might be showed off among family and friends. Getting to

be involved in someone’s memories is something I believe is truly precious.

I have also learned that it is important to remember a story in the newspaper captures only the surface; it does not capture all of the people who have put their blood, sweat and tears behind the ink. While an article may capture a team’s victory, it does not show the hours of practice, the trial and error, the long nights and perseverance of each player that it took to get there. To the person in the story, it could be a hard-earned victory, a long-awaited event, or something they will hold near their heart forever, even if to you is simply another story. It is important as a reporter to try to tell the story’s truth as accurately as possible in order to honor the hard work a person has put into the story you are covering.

Reporting has also taught me that there is no shortage of negativity



and positivity that can pour from readers, and absolutely no way to please everyone. One day your work may be praised and you could get a text from someone you interviewed saying how well you did, and the next you could be receiving angry emails. The best you can do in order to feel good about yourself is to do the story justice by making sure everything is as accurate and truthful as you can.

I am beyond grateful to the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation for allowing me this opportunity. I also feel very thankful for the Stigler News-Sentinel staff for their unwavering patience and overwhelming support, including those in the mail room, who made print days fun. I also cannot go without saying how honored I feel to the community and those I have written about for offering me their stories and allowing me a small glimpse into their lives.

Each edition reminds me that journalism is about people

SARA SCHLECHT
Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana
OKC Friday

Before my internship at OKC Friday, I'd just barely heard of that newspaper. Now I don't think I have enough fingers to count the number of people in the community who told me how much this newspaper means to them. Every edition of OKC Friday is a reminder that journalism is about people.



Each day presented a new lesson, and often a new challenge. I learned elements of AP style my college paper had not yet taught me and the brevity it often takes to tell an entire story. These are among the con-

crete things I learned, and I'm not convinced I could have actually grasped them in a classroom.

Then there's tenacity, which can't be quantified. Sometimes I had to leave that second message or send a fourth email. I had to pick up the phone and get out from behind my desk to go get the story. The writing was the easy part.

I was incredibly fortunate to have the staff of OKC Friday to help me make each story better. Those extra sets of eyes really make a difference, and there's always something that can be improved. Or, as happened several times, corrected.

When I think about my favorite moments from my internship, a conversation – or a person – always comes to mind. Not the act of writing. A city councilman told me about his love of storytelling. A high school superintendent explained the way he saw the relationship between education and economics. A Miss Oklahoma contestant talked about the surprising sisterhood those who competed in the pageant.

In these revelations, I find my own biggest takeaway from this internship. The unexpected is everywhere.

Journalism requires an open mind and willingness to adapt. A story isn't always what you expect it to be. That's why it's worth writing.

Oklahoma City PUBLIC Friday, June 28, 2019, Page 14

Next Generation of Most Powerful Oklahomans

HFAA super wants to provide state-of-the-art education

By Sara Schlecht
Special to OKC Friday

Barry Schmelzbach knows the value of education. As superintendent of Harding Fine Arts Academy, he aims to create students who get a "state-of-the-art" education.

Schmelzbach is a third-generation American born abroad. Members of his family had been in southern Africa establishing churches, schools and hospitals, and he was born in the heart of Johannesburg, South Africa. The family moved to the Oklahoma City area when he was young.

A graduate of Putnam City West High School, Schmelzbach received a bachelor's degree in business administration from Regis University in Denver, Colorado. With a natural aptitude for marketing and communication, he did some freelance writing and ghostwriting before starting a journalism program at Harding Fine Arts Academy. He later pursued a master's degree in education at Southern Nazarene University.

He had no background in education at the time, but the idea was not entirely new to him when he interviewed for a teaching position with the school's former superintendent.

"I thought I was doing her a favor," he said. "I never realize she was doing me a favor."

He had enjoyed his work in finance and marketing, but he realized there was something else he could enjoy and for which he might be better suited.

"I really enjoy the intersection of the human condition," he said. "I felt like business was a part of that, not realizing that really education was the foundation of that."

Schmelzbach looks to a quote from South African leader Nelson Mandela as inspiration for his career in education.

"Mandela said that education is the greatest weapon with which to change the world," he said. "I believe that. That's what really drove me into education. I felt like I could make a greater impact in the world around me through the lives of others."

Making a difference in students' lives is something Schmelzbach takes seriously and aims to inspire in the teachers at HFAA.

"We are training our kids for a world that we can't anticipate," he said. "We have to anticipate that we can't anticipate the world we're training our kids for."

Harding Fine Arts Academy's mission is to "prepare students for college in an academically challenging, art-integrated environment." And Schmelzbach said this makes his role as superintendent one that supports teachers in their search to help students connect with class material.

Schmelzbach and his wife — a guidance counselor at HFAA — have two daughters. The eldest studies cultural anthropology at Oklahoma State University, and the youngest will be attending Emory Middlewood University in the fall. Both are graduates of HFAA.

TRAINING KIDS FOR A NEW WORLD

Harding Fine Arts Superintendent Barry Schmelzbach with a group of students on a trip to Europe.

Newspaper Interns Continued from Page 8

I'm used to proving people wrong

■ **JET TURNER**
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater News Press



"Hi Jet, nice to meet you! Are you new at the News Press?"

This was a typical response after introducing myself to a source I was wanting to interview. I always felt weird answering their question because I knew the type of response I would get.

"Oh, you're an intern? You're not writing this story, are you?"

The first time someone said this to me I was baffled. Why did it matter if I was an intern? I could still write a good story, although it took me a little while to gather the confidence to understand I could do it. It didn't matter, though. All I wanted to do was prove them wrong.

I was used to proving people wrong at this point in my life.

I grew up in Van Buren, Arkansas, right outside of Fort Smith, in a single-parent household with three other siblings. I've been told I would be nothing but a statistic. I always wanted to prove these people wrong.

My mother never gives me any slack, especially when it comes to my academics. I just assumed it was expected of everyone to make straight A's and to be as involved as possible in school.

Sometimes, I hated it. Why did my expectations always seem to be higher than the expectations of others? There were times I would cry to my mom because I didn't understand why my friend could get a B on their progress report in a class and be okay, but if I did I was grounded. It took me a while, but I realize now my mom was pushing me to prove everyone wrong. To never be a statistic.

I am not some spokesperson for single-parented children. I am not some sort of success story because I never felt like I was at a disadvantage, even when it seemed like everyone else

thought I was. My story is not special or different from anyone else's.

I know I would not be where I am today without the support of my family and the lessons I have learned from them, especially my mom. She is the toughest woman I know, and she instilled that toughness in me.

I have only been a journalism major at Oklahoma State University for a year, and going into it I was afraid I would be at a huge disadvantage.

I had no journalism experience at all. I only ever wrote in my journal and what I was required to write for my classes. I knew even less about the multimedia side of journalism.

At the first chance I got, I jumped in to the O'Colly to start writing. It was the only way I could think of to catch up to everybody.

I started with movie reviews and slowly worked up to other news coverage. Small, simple news pieces that didn't hold a lot of weight. The first one I wrote couldn't even be published online because it was edited so heavily.

But I kept writing and continued to improve, but when it came time to apply for internships I was just as clueless as I was at the beginning of my journalism experience.

I never saw an actual application for the Stillwater News Press intern position; I sent an email directly to editor Beau Simmons asking if there was any type of position available and applied directly through him.

In March, I found out I got the internship and began in June. I was afraid I was way out of my depth my first day, writing crime (a medium I had never written before), going to conferences and covering events I didn't know existed until given the assignment.

But, I persisted. My writing has improved exponentially over the summer, and I have covered some great stories in my time at the News Press. I owe a lot of thanks to Beau, Michelle, Tanner and Jordan in the newsroom for giving me the opportunity to work with and learn from them.

So, why does it matter if I'm from a single-parent household? Why does it matter if I am "just the intern"? Neither make me any less capable of doing anything.

So yes, I will be writing the story. Why wouldn't I be?

Something always happening in hometown community

■ **KELCI MCKENDRICK**
University of Oklahoma
McAlester News-Capital



Growing up in McAlester, I always thought there was nothing to do there, but interning at the McAlester News-Capital made me realize that something is always happening.

I learned about the internship after researching the McAlester News-Capital for my community journalism class. The publisher asked if I had heard about the internship.

After I applied, I got the call two days later and happily accepted it.

I was nervous when I first started because it was my first journalism job. I felt like I didn't have any clue what I was doing, but my bosses and coworkers welcomed me and helped me whenever I needed guidance. To them, I say, "Thank you for everything."

McAlester is a small town, but a lot happens, I found out. As the only newspaper in Pittsburg County, the McAlester News-Capital covers it all – news, sports, crime, community, arts and entertainment, everyday.

I got to work in almost all areas, and I think I found my niche in writing about the arts. From this internship, I have found that I chose the right career for me.

My favorite stories to do were features. I got to interview interesting people who did interesting things. My last story was about a local baker who had competed in a 3-D cookie competition, and seeing her entry was awesome. My publisher said this story was my best and that he had seen a lot of growth in my stories, which made me feel proud of my work this summer.

I kept telling myself that I wouldn't get to my 100th great story without writing my first 99 "good" stories. I am proud of my growth and can't wait to apply what I've learned at the McAlester News-Capital elsewhere in the future. I got to not only serve my hometown community, but also see it in a whole new light, and I couldn't be more grateful for the experience that will last much longer than this summer.

Stillwater News Press
Tuesday, July 2, 2019

SKEETER TROUBLE
Sorting out the main concerns posed by mosquitoes in Oklahoma

Mosquito prevention tips
Mosquitoes are a common pest that can cause irritation and disease. Here are some tips to help prevent them from biting you.

West Nile Virus
The CDC reports that West Nile Virus is a mosquito-borne virus that can cause illness and even death.

Oil, gas production slowing as companies shutter rigs
Oil and gas production in Oklahoma is slowing down as companies shut down rigs.

Lemonade sale to benefit local child
A young girl is raising money for a child in need through a lemonade sale.

McAlester News-Capital
The article is from the McAlester News-Capital, a community newspaper in Pittsburg County, Oklahoma.



The Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation would like to thank the Ethics & Excellence in Journalism Foundation for the grant that enabled 18 Oklahoma journalism students to work at OPA member publications and discover the value of community newspapers.

Publisher to Starbucks: Beat it!



Editor Carol Conner at work on The Fairfax Chief.

BY JOHN M. WYLIE II
Wylie Communications Inc.

Fairfax (Oklahoma) Chief editor Carol Conner was so steamed when her once favorite coffee shop, Starbucks, stopped selling newspapers that she published a ladylike response reminiscent of the New York Daily News headline: “Ford to City: Drop dead.”

The Oklahoma native was a Seattle resident when Starbucks opened its first stores there. She traveled frequently on business as the chain grew. At airports, she always stopped for coffee and a newspaper. After she and her Oklahoma-born husband Joe moved to Fairfax and opened their national research consulting business, she persuaded the local grocer to stock Starbucks so she could have it at home and for clients.

They inherited the newspaper when Joe’s sister, longtime Chief publisher Ida Katherine Roberts, died in November 2015.

Carol poured Starbucks for guests when readers or community groups visited the newspaper office.

Things went well until that fateful July day when Starbucks betrayed her by dumping grounds on a newspaper industry that’s already having tough times.

“It just made me nuts,” she said. In the headline topping five firm paragraphs on July 25, she explained a new newspaper policy: “No newspapers – No Starbucks at the Chief!”

Starbucks’s formal statement on its decision was obviously designed for New York, not Middle America:

“As part of our continuous efforts to enhance the overall experience in our stores for both partners (employees) and customers, we are removing select fixtures from our retail lobby throughout September.

“We are actively exploring ways to provide in-store digital news options with newspapers and other publications for our customers and look forward to providing more details very soon. We continue to evaluate and make adjustments to our portfolio based on what is relevant to our customers as their media consumption behavior evolves in and out of our stores.

“We handled each conversation with the publishers with care as our objective

was to have a collaborative conversation focused on evolving our business with changing customer behaviors. We expect that our stores will remain a gathering place for the community and a reflection of the culture.”

That didn’t sit well in Fairfax.

“Starbucks’ response is really snooty – making me even more irritated. ‘Removing select fixtures!’” said Conner in a steaming email hotter than a strong cup of Joe. “They just should be a little more loyal with us. It doesn’t take up any space and it makes money for them.”

She also challenges Starbucks’ contention about newspapers no longer being relevant: “Newspapers are not dying; they are not going anywhere.”

Meanwhile, she has switched the office brew to Texas Pecan and locally owned brand Grounds for Compassion. The latter sells both wholesale coffee and operates a coffee shop in Fairfax. It has a weekly special on Thursdays when the Chief comes out: buy a paper and get one of their huge cookies for half price. No need to ask where her loyalty now lies.

Conner isn’t a longtime journalist – she and her husband wound up with the Chief when members of the Oklahoma Press Association delegation asked them after Ida Roberts’ funeral if they would.

They told her that Oklahoma public notice laws let the paper miss only two issues without losing its legal status so a quick decision was needed, and assured her the Oklahoma Press Association would work with the Conners to quickly get them up to speed.

OPA provided bountiful help, but she adds, “I’ve really been on a really steep learning curve...I’m kind of a newbie... and frankly it’s been entertaining, I’m not young and you know they say learning new things helps keep you from getting dementia.”

You wouldn’t know she was a newbie from her results. She’s doubled the paper’s circulation in less than three years, added the Chief to fill some convenience store single copy sales slots abandoned by a daily paper about 30 miles away, and promotes the theme

Continued on Page 11

**MANY OKLAHOMANS
 ARE STILL EXPOSED
 TO SECONDHAND
 SMOKE AT WORK.**



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Western Hall of Fame to induct Spitzers

Brad and Dayva Spitzer, former owners of the Beckham County Record in Sayre, will be inducted into the Western Oklahoma Hall of Fame this year.

The Spitzers, along with Judge Doug and Judy Haught, and Glenna Kirk will be honored at a banquet on Nov. 12 at the United Methodist Church in Elk City.

Brad and Dayva Spitzer were married in 1981. In 1982, they opened a commercial printing business. Dayva took a short leave from her job at the Sayre Journal, but was soon called back to act as editor and general manager.

She became concerned about the future of the publication after it was sold several times. She and Brad put together a plan to charter their own hometown newspaper, The Sayre Record, operating it out of the same location as their printing shop.

The Spitzers' son, Drew, was born in 1987, and a few months later the inaugural edition of The Sayre Record was published.

In 1997, the Spitzers purchased the Beckham County Democrat and merged the two papers. The newspaper changed its name to The Beckham County Record in the summer of 2017 and expanded its coverage throughout the county.

Dayva retired in 2016 due to medical issues and the Spitzers made the difficult decision to sell their newspaper while continuing the printing business in Sayre.

The Spitzers were active in the Oklahoma Press Association during their years of publishing. Dayva served on the OPA board of directors for seven years before serving as president in 2016.

Dayva is a second generation inductee to the Western Oklahoma Hall of Fame. Her father, C.E. (Chris) Christian, was inducted in 2001.

Hancock Event Center dedication set for Oct. 26

A dedication of the Hancock Event Center has officially been set for 1 p.m. on Saturday, October 26.

The namesakes of the event center are the late Joe Hancock, longtime publisher of the Hobart Democrat-Chief, and his brother Bill Hancock, executive director of the College Football Playoff.

Bill Hancock will be in Hobart for the dedication along with other family members. Members of Joe Hancock's family also will be there.

The public is invited to attend and tour the facility.

Starbucks Continued from Page 10

wherever she goes that newspapers have plenty of life left.

She knows that some readers are the bane of publishers' lives – the ones who go to the store, read the paper from cover to cover, pull the inserts, and then fold it back up crooked and smeared before returning it to the rack.

Ingenious stores have resolved that by putting papers out of customers' reach, so they have to ask a clerk for a copy from behind the checkout counter.

"I just think it is funny that you have to ask behind the counter, like words and news are kind of dangerous things. It's a funny world we live in," Conner said.

She's taking the same approach to Starbucks – no promise she'll change the direction of a company that's gone from two stores when she lived in Seattle and became a loyal customer to the week the chain said it was dumping newspapers as its 30,000th store was opening in China but not quitting the contest either.

Her story already has appeared in The Oklahoma Publisher, who said it

was too early to tell if other papers were following the Chief's lead.

Odds makers in Oklahoma, with its plethora of Native American-run casinos and race tracks, put even odds on this contest. Stay tuned.

The New York Times said much the same about Starbucks when it first covered the issue in mid-July, quoting a customer there as saying, "It would be smart of Starbucks to offer things to read.

"They're like McDonald's now, it's kind of a thing of the past."

John M. Wylie II can be contacted at lakeleader@sbcglobal.net.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Starting Oct. 1, for a limited time, Starbucks announced it will provide complimentary digital news courtesy of The Wall Street Journal (WSJ), USA Today, The Seattle Times, Chicago Tribune, The Baltimore Sun, Orlando Sentinel and New York Daily News to its customers through its free in-store Wi-Fi at all company-operated locations in the U.S. Additionally, through its partnership with WSJ, Starbucks will offer special subscription levels for print and digital subscribers.)

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, & CIRCULATION

1. Publication Title: THE OKLAHOMA PUBLISHER
2. Publication Number: 406-920
3. Filing Date: SEPT. 19, 2019
4. Issue Frequency: Monthly
5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 12
6. Annual Subscription Price: \$12.00
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: Oklahoma Press Association, 3601 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher: Oklahoma Press Association, 3601 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor:
 - a. Publisher: Mark Thomas, Oklahoma Press Association, 3601 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105
 - b. Editor: Jennifer Gilliland; Mg. Ed.: Jennifer Gilliland
10. Owner: Oklahoma Press Association, 3601 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities: None
12. Tax Status: Has not changed during preceding 12 months.
13. Publication Title: The Oklahoma Publisher
14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: September 15, 2019
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation: Monthly
 - a. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run) AVERAGE No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months: 1,100
No. Copies of SINGLE ISSUE Published Nearest to Filing Date: 1100
 - b. Paid Circulation (by Mail and Outside Mail)
 1. Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541
Average: 548; Single Issue: 530
 2. Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541
Average: 60; Single Issue: 59
 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: 608; Single Issue: 589
 - 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: 78; Single Issue: 40
 2. Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541
Average: 11; Single Issue: 16
 3. Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS
Average: 24; Single Issue: 3
 4. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail
Average: 38; Single Issue: 8
 - e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))
Average: 151; Single Issue: 67
 - f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)
Average: 759; Single Issue: 656
 - g. Copies Not Distributed
Average: 341; Single Issue: 444
 - h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)
Average: 1100; Single Issue: 1100
 - i. Percent Paid
Average: 80%; Single Issue: 90%
17. Publication of Statement of Ownership Printed in the October 2018 issue of publication.
18. JENNIFER GILLILAND, EDITOR
Date: 9/19/10

OKLAHOMA PRESS ASSOCIATION STAFF DIRECTORY

ADMINISTRATION

MARK THOMAS

Executive Vice President
mthomas@okpress.com • (405) 499-0033

JEANNIE FREEMAN

Accounting Manager
jfreeman@okpress.com • (405) 499-0027

SCOTT WILKERSON

Front Office/Building Mgr.
swilkerson@okpress.com • (405) 499-0020

MEMBER SERVICES

LISA SUTLIFF

Member Services Director
lsutliff@okpress.com • (405) 499-0026

CHRISTINE FRANK

Membership & Meetings Director
cfrank@okpress.com • (405) 499-0040

DIGITAL CLIPPING

KEITH BURGIN

Clipping Director
kburgin@okpress.com • (405) 499-0024

JENNIFER BEATLEY-CATES

Digital Clipping Dept.
jbeatley-cates@okpress.com • (405) 499-0045

KRISTA REPPOND

Newspaper Image Consultant /
Advertising Assistant
kreppond@okpress.com • (405) 499-0035

ADVERTISING

LANDON COBB

Sales Director
lcobb@okpress.com • (405) 499-0022

CINDY SHEA

Advertising Director
cshea@okpress.com • (405) 499-0023

CREATIVE SERVICES

JENNIFER GILLILAND

Creative Services Director
jgilliland@okpress.com • (405) 499-0028

COMPUTER ADVICE

WILMA NEWBY

Computer Consultant
wnewby@okpress.com • (405) 499-0031

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OKLAHOMA NATURAL GAS CONTEST WINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AUGUST 2019 WINNERS

August Column: **JOHN MARTIN**, *Choctaw Times*

August Editorial: **WAYNE TROTTER**, *Countywide & Sun*



AUGUST 2019 COLUMN WINNER

JOHN MARTIN, *Choctaw Times*

Tips for a successful year

Thanks to Kylee (Phillips) Voyles, who was one of the greatest advocates of my G-T program and shared her son, precious mother, father, brother's son, countless students and many encouraging words to an old man for many years.

She is the ultimate cheer sponsor and really hit the jackpot with the shoes for her 2019-20 squad. I love her dearly.

She claims no credit but, as usual, is trying to make things better for kids.

OK, with school quickly approaching, I want to make a few public service announcements that I think will help a lot of folks out and cause the year to go by so much more smoothly! (P.S. If you don't have a sense of humor or open to constructive criticism, you might want to keep on scrolling.) Remember, we have to laugh at ourselves!

1. DO NOT use the old "My daughter got Mr. Monks (Not his real name) this year for 1st grade. Is he nice? Who else got Mr. Monks? What all can you tell me about his class?" This is wrong on so many levels. First, Mr. Monks is a person outside your 1st grader's class. I'm sure he loves the positive things you have to say about him. But let's be real, this opens up a can of meanness just waiting to explode

2. DO NOT get mad about school lunches!! In most school districts, they are free. FREEEEEEEE! And, if they aren't free, remember that your child's education is. So, if you want to use your energy complaining, use it to whip up a sandwich for them. If your child is starving when they come home, it's YOUR fault. You're the parent.

3. DO NOT complain about a teacher on Facebook! Go talk to them first. Seriously. Have a sit down over a cup of java I'm quite certain (cause I've been there and done that) you'll get more accomplished in 3 minutes of a conference than 4 hours of status updates on social media. Trust me, it works.

4. Oh, this one is a good one! Do NOT be the crazy parent in the stands!! Just don't. Ya wanna know why? Cause all the other parents are saying, "Look at Mr./Mrs. Somebody throwing a fit cause the coach made that decision." I promise you, that's what they say

5. School supplies!!! It is NO ONE's responsibility to make sure your daughter has a pencil for class except your daughter! Or, you (her mom). If your child doesn't have a pencil for class, and chances are her teacher is SICK AND TIRED of it and doesn't

give her a pencil for the day, and then precious little Princess comes home weeping innocent tears cause she had to stay in from recess, IT'S PRINCESS'S FAULT!! Do not flip it around on the teacher! It's her fault and your fault for not making her more responsible in keeping up with her crap!

6. HOMEWORK!!! Do NOT be the parent who wants to rip a teacher's head off because they haven't texted, called, paged, visited, smoke-signaled your child's missing assignments to you. They have 125-140 kids they are grading papers on. You have one! One. One child you have to keep up with. Almost all schools have an online program where you can log in to check your child's grade. Do it. Every week. I have to with a certain child's Algebra grade. Every. Single. Week. You know what?? When she's missing two assignments, it's her FAULT. It's not the teacher's because she didn't smoke signal to me that little Miss Priss is missing Pages 31, 48, 72, 4, 70. It's hers because she hates Algebra!

7. Parent pick up line. Chill. Calm down. We all know the parent pick up line is CRAZY. It will never change. Ever. So, go ahead and prepare yourself for the next couple weeks that it will be hell on earth. Pack a book.

8. PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES!! Go to them. Goooo! This is a conference about your child. This is an opportunity for you to visit with the teacher about your child. Don't not go, and then complain to everyone about, "How I never hear anything about what's going on up at that dang school.". Take an hour out of your schedule to sit down and visit about your child's successes/ struggles! If your child's doctor, coach, counselor, physical therapist, advisor, mentor, pastor, or friend wanted to set up a conference with you to discuss your child, you'd go. Same should be with a teacher conference.

9. And, lastly the most important!!! Remember that 99.9% of the folks in the classroom and schools chose this profession because they love kids. Be open-minded and keep a line of communication with them. And, for Pete's sake, if your child drives you crazy at times, chances are they drive them crazy, too. Be supportive of them!! I pray you're laughing about these and not cringing. But, if you're cringing, maybe this list will help you.

Prayers for all the school districts out there and this upcoming school year! I love public education and what it has done for my family and I'm here to support you all 100%!! Good luck this school year.

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