

The Oklahoma Publisher

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After more than 90 years, the sound of the El Reno Tribune's printing press will be silent.

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SANITIZE OFFICE

EQUIPMENT: Don't forget to clean your desktop equipment with alcohol to keep it germ-free.

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DONATE TO ONF to receive this Will Rogers print. Available to order online at okpress.com/store.



Annual Award winners to be revealed June 15 at 10 a.m.

Winners of the Oklahoma Press Association's annual Better Newspaper Contest will be revealed at 10 a.m. Monday, June 15 on OPA's website and Facebook page.

This will be OPA's first-ever, online awards presentation. Winners of the following con-

tests will also be announced: OPA Magazine Contest, ONF Ray Lokey Memorial Award for Excellence in Journalism, ONF Joseph H. Edwards Outdoor Writer of the Year, OGE-OPA Photos of the Year, and ONG-OPA Editorial and Column Sweepstakes Awards.

"Even though we will be presenting these awards online and not in person at the convention, we hope you and your staff join us to celebrate these newspaper achievements," said Lisa Sutliff, OPA member services director.

In April, the OPA Board of

Directors voted to move OPA's annual convention and awards banquet to June 2021 but wanted to find a way to celebrate award winners this summer.

Plaques and certificates will be mailed or delivered as permitted by coronavirus pandemic restrictions.

Oklahoma journalists tell their stories for the Coronavirus Storytelling Project

The first stories written by journalists for the Coronavirus Storytelling Project describe personal struggles and triumphs.

Eight stories are currently available at OklahomaWatch.org.

The Coronavirus Storytelling Project was launched to

help journalists who are facing difficult times.

Each week a journalist is selected to write a first-person story about the coronavirus or challenges faced by journalists during the outbreak. In return, the journalist receives a one-time \$500 stipend.

Steve Lackmyer wrote about

the traumas and triumphs of his three decades as a reporter for The Oklahoman.

"... newspapers are not immune to the economic chaos wrought by the pandemic," Lackmyer wrote.

"Yet we continue. Over the past few weeks, under great strain and uncertainty, I've produced what I believe are some of my best, most meaningful stories in a long time."

J. D. Meisner tells his story of buying a community newspaper right before the virus outbreak.

"MaryLee, my wife and business partner, and I closed on the sale of the Cushing Citizen in February," wrote Meisner. "The first month was successful. We showed a fair profit and prepared to move forward with our business plan."

Quoting Mike Tyson, Meisner wrote, "Everybody has a plan until they get hit."

"On March 11, the Cushing Citizen took it right on the chin — and it hurt," said Meisner.

Jenni Carlson, a sports columnist for The Oklahoman, gives a personal account of being a delivery driver for Meals on Wheels OKC.

St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Carlson's home church, began overseeing OKC's Meals on Wheels program in July 2019.

With the number of peo-

ple needing meals rising, the church put out an all-call for more drivers during the pandemic.

"Being a sports columnist in a time without sports, I added another route to the one I was already doing," Carlson wrote.

Lindsey Chastain's passion is her community. Chastain is editor of the Skiatook Journal.

"A pandemic does not stop the need for community news, even though it has stopped seemingly everything else," Chastain wrote in her article. "As journalists, we are tasked with looking at the bad news every day, weeding through what is important and what is real, and educating our communities."

"But we are also tasked with providing hope and bringing the community together as everyone shelters at home. We let people know where they can find help and provide a haven where they can find accurate and truthful information amongst so many who do not."

Traci Chapman, a freelance journalist, wrote about the closure of The Edmond Sun and the importance of community newspapers and journalists.

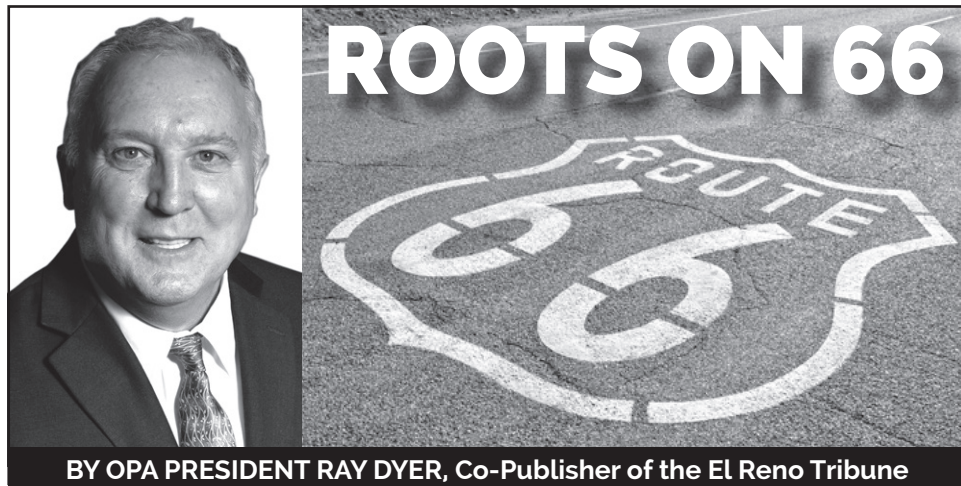
"It's important to us to shine a light on the happenings of our community. That's why we focus on everything, from



Jenni Carlson, a sports columnist at The Oklahoman, started delivering Meals on Wheels to the south side of Oklahoma City last year. During the coronavirus pandemic, she is driving an extra route each week.

Photo by Chris Lambert/Ending Hunger OKC. Reprinted with permission.

See Storytelling Project, Page 2



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

Here's to a job well done

On April 28 we had to tell our pressman of almost a half-century we were going to outsource our printing.

John Wiggins has been with the El Reno Tribune since 1972. He started in the mailroom and later was trained to operate the press by the late Joe Keith.

John left for a couple of years to work for a printing operation in Oklahoma City. He would grow tired of the commute and eventually said he wanted to return to the Tribune. John and I had become friends. I told him I would run it by my dad.

Dad liked John, but he said he didn't take people back once they had left. He figured if they left once they could easily do it again. He didn't want to invest in people if they weren't sure they wanted to be here.

I remember asking Dad what was the most expensive piece of equipment the Tribune owned. Of course he said the press.

After having gone through a couple of less than adequate pressmen in the two years since John had left, I figured I could press the issue. I remember suggesting that it would probably be a good idea to have someone who had shown they could run and maintain the press, as John had done before leaving.

I'm not sure why, but Dad agreed. He brought John back and, as they say, the rest is history.

When brother Sean and I were talking with John he said the only real disappointment he had in his career was not having reached 50 years in the newspaper business. Forty-eight years. So close. But then, Sean reminded him that he had a paper route while living as a kid in California. John had thrown papers in Huntington Beach for at least two or three years.

Fifty years. The pressman had made it.

Some people make a living by providing a service to people. Newspapers make money by providing a connection to people. Our fragmented society has made it a bit more difficult to make those connections.

For 48 years John helped us make the connection. He has had plenty of help. People like Brett Barrett, Vicky Joyner, Judy Hampton, Glen Miller and Lyndsay Bayne have been with us for many years. Before them came people like the late Harry Schroeder, Floyd Sanders, Teri Grubbs and Marion Morefield. They were and are the glue that holds it all together.

They are the people you work with. Each one of them with a story, a unique personality. None any more so than the guy who drove the press for close to half a century.

How many 67-year-old pressmen hop on a skateboard as the press comes to a halt and glide to the other end of the 10-unit Harris to make the final adjustments?

Don't tell OSHA.

April 28 we told John we had to shut the press down. It wasn't planned, but the news happened to fall on the 39th anniversary of our dad's death.

Here's to all the pressmen out there. Well done and thank you.

Bernie Heller named president of Tulsa World Media Company

Bernie Heller has been named president of Tulsa World Media Co. He also will serve as director of local sales and marketing.



The announcement was made by Nathan Bekke, operating vice president and vice president of consumer sales and marketing for Lee Enterprises, owner of the Tulsa World.

Heller, who has served as the World's vice president of advertising and marketing, takes over the leadership position formerly held by Gloria Fletcher, publisher, who has left the company.

"Bernie is a dynamic leader dedicated to the success of the local businesses and communities we serve," Bekke said in an email to World employees. "He's an accomplished executive and ideally suited to lead our talented team in Tulsa."

Heller joined Tulsa World Media Co. in 2019. Prior to that, he served as regional vice president of sales for local advertising with McClatchy Corp.'s Carolinas region. His career also includes positions as vice president and chief revenue officer of The Charlotte Observer in Charlotte, North Carolina, and vice president of advertising for The State Media Co. in Columbia, South Carolina. He was formerly vice president of advertising for The Dallas Morning News.

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to serve Tulsa World Media Co. in this new role and honored to be a part of Lee's unwavering commitment to local media," Heller said. "Tulsa is a vibrant community, and I've grown very fond of this amazing city and the folks that call it home."

Heller has a son who is a student at the University of South Carolina.

Edmond Sun shuts down, announces merger with The Norman Transcript

In a front-page column on May 5, The Edmond Sun announced it would be merging with its sister newspaper, The Norman Transcript, on May 6.

The column cited loss of advertising revenue due to the current coronavirus crisis as the catalyst to restructure.

"These are stressful times for you,

and for us," the column said. "We thank our Edmond Sun subscribers and advertisers for their support over the years, and ask that you continue to embrace our journalism in The Norman Transcript."

The Edmond printing facility will remain operational.

Storytelling Project (continued from Page 1)

practical matters like city budgets and school bond issues to local gatherings and events like those of the high school marching band, community garden and Kiwanis," Chastain wrote.

Jacob Threadgill, who spent more than two years covering the Oklahoma City restaurant scene for the Oklahoma Gazette, looks at short-term and long-term affects the pandemic will have on restaurants.

Dawn Shelton, publisher of the Luther Register News, a digital publication, writes about how her small town is coping in the pandemic.

Berry Tramel, a columnist for The Oklahoman, where he has worked since 1991, writes about being on furlough when OSU football coach Mike Gundy spoke.

"Mike Gundy went cuckoo, and I was on furlough. Of all the rotten luck," Tramel wrote.

"We've gone more than a month without sports, I make my living writing about sports, and when something

interesting finally happened, my pen was gone, my laptop closed. In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, I was furloughed from my job as a sports columnist at The Oklahoman."

If you haven't taken a look at these stories – or applied for a grant – visit oklahomawatch.org.

The Coronavirus Storytelling Project is a collaboration between three organizations to help Oklahoma journalists who have been furloughed or displaced as well as those in struggling community news organizations.

The Oklahoma-based Inasmuch Foundation pledged \$50,000 to launch the project in collaboration with the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame and Oklahoma Watch.

Mike Sherman was named project manager and editor of the Storytelling Project. He worked many years in Oklahoma, and was recently laid off as deputy editor for sports at The Tampa Bay Times.

OKLAHOMA PRESS ASSOCIATION CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please check the OPA website,
https://okpress.com/events/event_list.asp
for a list of upcoming meetings and webinars.

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.

Owasso must comply with open records request

The City of Owasso must comply with an Open Records Act request to release a seven-year-old investigative report involving a former city manager, according to an Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals decision.

Patrick Ross, a former Owasso City council member, had appealed a district court finding that the city had properly refused disclosure of a record known as the "Fortney Report." The report probed misconduct complaints lodged against former City Manager Rodney Ray.

The appellate court ruled that the city failed to show why the record should not be made available and instructed the district court to order the municipality to comply with Ross's Open Records request, according to documents.

The court wrote that the ORA request "involves specific questions why the City Manager, who was accused of misconduct, was granted a substantial severance package, paid for by the taxpayers of Owasso, instead of being fired."

"In short, it is a 'core' Open Records matter going directly to questions of

the legitimacy of the Mayor and City Council's good governance and use of funds, and the citizens' inherent political power to inquire into these matters. City identifies no valid privacy, state or public interests in withholding the Report ... "

Christopher Camp, an attorney who represented Ross, said, "It's a win for transparency, that's for sure. It's a win across the board for good governance."

Ross died in January, Camp said.

County judge rejects call for investigative audit

A request from The Cordell Beacon calling for an investigation audit of the Cordell Public Schools Board of Education was rejected by Washita County District Attorney Angela Marsee.

The request alleged several violations of the state's Open Meeting and Open Records Acts between Jan. 13 and March 19, 2020.

The Beacon alleged three violations

in the complaint filed March 19, 2020, stemming from closed executive sessions held during board meetings. The complaint also alleged that the board did not provide records requested by the Beacon regarding a lawsuit between Cordell Public Schools and Nurnberg Roofing LLC.

At the time of the complaint, the records had not been provided, but

on April 9 redacted copies of some of the records were provided. Additional redacted copies of records were provided April 23.

Marsee concluded that the actions of the school board were consistent with the provisions of both the Open Meeting and Open Records Acts and declined a formal investigation by the State Auditor's office.

Elk City News shares office reopening plan

The Elk City News recently shared its "Phase One" reopening plan with readers.

The lobby is available by appointment on weekdays between the hours of 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The office is also available by phone and email.

"We strive to do our best to keep our customers and staff members safe as we begin the process of reopening," said an article in the newspaper.

State auditor's office criticizes district for open meeting violations

A circuit engineering district that provides shared services to 11 southwestern Oklahoma counties violated several state laws through its construction and operation of an asphalt emulsion plant, according to a recently released state audit.

The asphalt emulsion plant was a joint venture of Circuit Engineering District 7 (CED7) and the CED7 County Energy District Authority.

The investigative audit by State Auditor & Inspector Cindy Byrd's office also criticized CED7 for open meeting violations.

The state auditor's office began its investigative audit into the circuit engineering district in 2017 after receiving an audit request from four district attorneys who serve the region.

You've Got Questions!

- Can I photograph minors without consent?
- Can police deny access to records by issuing a press release?
- Should I alter my archives when a person demands it?
- Can I report inaccurate testimony given in open court?
- What are the laws about liquor advertising?

These are questions answered by the attorneys for the OPA Legal Services Plan members in recent months. Newspapers always need timely legal advice on issues related to newspaper publishing.

You should join OPA'S LEGAL SERVICES PLAN!

See www.OkPress.com/LSP or contact Mark Thomas at (405) 499-0033 or toll-free in Oklahoma 1-888-815-2672 today!



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El Reno Tribune printing press makes final run

After more than 90 years, the El Reno Tribune will not print in-house after May 29.

Tribune Co-Publisher Sean Dyer said the Tribune will continue to produce two print issues per week, but in June, the newspaper will begin printing outside of El Reno and Canadian County.

"The El Reno Tribune will continue to cover the community and surrounding area, focusing on delivering local news and helping our advertisers reach their audience," Dyer said. "But the days of

printing the paper in our own plant are gone."

The change will result in three employees losing their jobs.

"This is the really hard part," Dyer said. "Some of our co-workers have been with us for close to a half century. These job cuts are no fault of their own."

Among those impacted by the cuts is award-winning pressman John Wiggins who has been a part of the Tribune since 1972.

At one time, the Tribune provided

print service for newspapers in Yukon, Mustang, Piedmont, Okarche, Kingfisher and Hennessey, as well as the Sooner Catholic and other publications. Dyer said print margins have become "so tight" the business model can no longer be maintained.

The Tribune will continue to publish an award-winning print product "because people still want to hold a newspaper in their hands," Dyer said. It will also continue to expand on its digital information products and services.

"Our world has changed and will continue to do so and we will work to change along with it, while still keeping our commitment to provide accurate news and information to the public," Dyer said.

The El Reno Tribune was established in 1929. In 1943, Ray J. Dyer purchased it from Eugene Pulliam of Indiana. The newspaper has been owned and operated by the Dyer family since.

Democrat-Journal launches website

The Stilwell Democrat-Journal has officially entered the digital age with a new website.

The site, at www.stilwelldemocrat.com, features breaking news, as well as other features print subscribers have come to expect.

"We've been in the planning and development phases for quite some time," said Gary Jackson, publisher of the Democrat-Journal. "It seems like an opportune moment to launch it."

"This is especially needed during this critical time of the pandemic so we can provide up-to-date health information, both locally and from the state. Now readers don't have to wait for our print edition, once a week, for news."

Jackson said he expects many of the breaking news items to focus on the evolving pandemic.

"We anticipate a lot of traffic on the site," he said. "Local, county and state news will be our mainstay, as always."

The website will also feature an expanded photo section, weather, sports, community news and obituaries, as well as a community calendar with local events.

"We are thrilled to finally be able to provide our community with a website that will serve as our newspaper's digital arm," Jackson said.

The site will be free to subscribers, and for a limited time can be viewed at no cost to all readers.

"Breaking news coverage, such as stories about the current health emergency, will always remain free and accessible to the public," said Jackson.

New reporter at Atoka County Times

Miranda Donihoo recently joined the staff of the Atoka County Times.

In high school, Donihoo was involved in the speech, drama and journalism clubs.

She attended Murray State College, graduating with an associate degree in English, Donihoo continued her educa-

tion at Southeastern Oklahoma State University where she received a bachelor's degree in English.

Donihoo joined the Atoka County Times' team in March as a reporter.

She currently resides in the Wilson community with her grandmother.

Ada News' Progress Edition looks at past and present

The Ada News' annual publication highlighting the future was a little different this year.

In addition to looking at the future, Progress 2020 also took a look at the present and the disruptive effect caused by the new respiratory virus, COVID-19.

"This edition of Progress is, like the year in which it is published, different than most," wrote Ada News Editor Carl Lewis. "We're still looking forward, but we're also chronicling how we all got through this time of stressful disruption and social isolation."

Locally owned businesses were closed or their hours of operation were altered and schools abruptly closed.

"Life changed in the blink of an eye," wrote Lewis.

"Nothing about this moment in time is even remotely normal. Nothing, that is, except for Ada's sense of community — the connectedness that makes Ada unique."

The first section of Progress 2020 published April 10, with the second section following April 18.

The April 18 edition focused on how the lives of children from K-12 through college and university students have changed. It included stories from and by East Central University students who found themselves abroad when life began to change, as well as stories about school districts that reinvented meal programs almost overnight to make sure no student went without.

"The stories represent moments in time which, upon reflection, should

give you an idea of what it was like to go through this period of upheaval," wrote Lewis.

"The idea is that, years from now, you will be able to pick up a copy of this edition of Progress, and immediately be taken back to these weeks, these months, when life was just ... different."



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PROGRESS 2020 SPECIAL EDITION

Friday, April 10 2020

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Pandemic prompts reduction of print issues at several Oklahoma newspapers

Newspapers are not immune to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As businesses closed, advertising revenue suffered and publishers were forced to look for ways to save money.

There have been layoffs and furloughs. And there has been a reduction of print editions. Producing and delivering newspapers is one of the largest costs of the business.

Many newspapers that reduced print issues have expanded their online presence and are seeing a surge in digital traffic.

Until this crisis is over, it's unknown whether newspapers will resume their previous print schedules. For now, they're making sure they keep their communities informed, whether in print or online.

Following are some of the newspapers that announced the reduction of print issues in their newspaper:

THE ADA NEWS

On April 30, The Ada News stopped production of the print paper on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Those two days have been replaced with expanded electronic versions of the e-paper.

"Although the total audience of The Ada News is at a record high as an essential public service, the sudden impact of the COVID-19 virus has created new challenges," wrote Marisa Nelson, general manager of The Ada News.

"While we are hopeful a recovery is soon at hand, the economic impact will be felt for months to come," Nelson wrote in a column announcing the changes. "As a result, we must make necessary adjustments to our resources to preserve our sustainability in the short term and for generations to come.

"Our news team will continue to produce all the same local content as before," she wrote.

THE DUNCAN BANNER

The Duncan Banner reduced its printing schedule from five days a week to three days, eliminating Wednesdays and Fridays.

News, sports and advertising on those days will appear in the Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday papers.

"These are stressful times for you, and for us," said Crystal Childers, general manager of The Duncan Banner. "As an essential public service for this region, we have been making our coronavirus coverage available, free and without restriction, to anyone who visits

our website. The result is digital traffic that has inspired our entire staff."

THE LAWTON CONSTITUTION

The Lawton Constitution converted to a five-day publication cycle, beginning April 25.

"Like many small businesses, the current business climate is something I could never have anticipated," said David Stringer, publisher of The Constitution. "This was the last thing we wanted to consider. However, the impact on retail and service businesses in southwest Oklahoma has been devastating, and their losses affect us deeply as well."

The Constitution is now published Tuesday through Friday and has a weekend edition published on Sundays.

"These changes are designed to make sure we're around for a long time into the future," Stringer said.

"We've made sure the changes will not impact some of our most read stories and features. We're just moving them to a different day of the week. In addition, beginning in May, we're going to add several new magazine features to The Constitution, including Parade magazine Sundays."

Breaking news will still be published online as it occurs and other news will be published online first.

"We won't be waiting until our normal press time to 'publish' the news," Stringer said. "We've been moving more and more of our stories to an 'online first' model, and this is an expansion of that practice.

"Most importantly, we need to make sure The Constitution is a viable business long into the future," Stringer said.

"All of us who work here know that we're caretakers of a legacy that began over a century ago. We're a small business, too, and we want to make sure we're successful enough to pass this legacy on to the next generation."

Stringer said The Constitution has received many messages of support from the community.

PAULS VALLEY DEMOCRAT

The Pauls Valley Democrat is now being published once a week on Wednesdays.

News, sports features and advertising from the former weekend edition will be added to the Wednesday paper, said Mike Arie, editor of the Democrat.

"Readership changes, newsprint prices, print production expenses and delivery costs have resulted in many community newspapers publishing fewer days

"We need to make sure the (Lawton) Constitution is a viable business long into the future. All of us who work here know that we're caretakers of a legacy that began over a century ago."

*David Stringer, Publisher
The Lawton Constitution*

of the week to remain economically healthy," Arie wrote in a column.

"Discontinuing our weekend edition will allow us to focus our resources on printing more local news in the paper on Wednesdays."

POTEAU DAILY NEWS

The Poteau Daily News recently changed its publishing schedule.

The newspaper is now being printed three days a week – Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

"The content is not going to change just because we're only going to have three editions per week," said David Seeley, editor of the Poteau Daily News. "The content will still be the same, it will just be provided in three editions per week instead of five."

Seeley assured readers that the change does not mean the paper is closing.

"This paper has had a century-plus tenure of publishing, and we do not have any plans to change that," Seeley said.

STILLWATER NEWS PRESS

The Stillwater News Press has halted production of its print paper on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

A weekend edition will be delivered on Saturday and will include all content previously received in the Saturday and Sunday editions.

The former Wednesday and Saturday editions will be replaced with electronic versions of the e-paper.

"We remain dedicated and committed to serving our customers with fact-based reporting and important information about the coronavirus and other news and events from around the Stillwater area through both print and digital platforms," said Jill Hunt, publisher of the News Press.

TAHLEQUAH DAILY PRESS

The Tahlequah Daily Press reduced

its print editions to three days a week – Saturday, Tuesday and Thursday.

"We are discontinuing the Wednesday and Friday papers," said Gary Jackson, publisher of the Daily Press.

"Our commitment to providing Tahlequah with helpful local information during the coronavirus crisis has been widely appreciated ... as a vital public service," Jackson said.

"However, current economic conditions hit the Tahlequah Daily Press hard. As a result, we must restructure so we can continue to be your reliable and primary source for local news in the future."

Jackson said e-editions will be published five days a week, as usual.

REID NEWSPAPERS

Last month, the Weatherford Daily News announced it was discontinuing print editions on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday during the coronavirus crisis and putting more effort on its WDN24/7 edition. The e-edition changes throughout the day as new information becomes available.

"When information is updated, staff will replace images on the front page and any related pages," said Phillip Reid, owner and publisher of Reid Newspapers, which includes the Weatherford Daily News. "We are excited to bring this revolutionary concept to our readers."

The Vinita Daily Journal, also owned by Reid Newspapers, is currently issuing a print edition twice a week, on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The Vinita Daily Journal has opened its paywall to allow everyone free access to the online newspaper.

The Perry Daily Journal, also owned by Reid Newspapers, has discontinued its Saturday print edition during the coronavirus crisis. Like other Reid publications, it is allowing everyone free access to its online version during the pandemic.

OG&E PHOTO CONTEST



Police wait with their weapons drawn during a situation involving potentially dangerous threats made by a man who allegedly brandished a rifle.

Photo by ASHYLND HUFFMAN, Stillwater News Press, March 24, 2020



Bethel's Jordan Blair competed in Oklahoma's very first girls wrestling state tournament at the Oklahoma State Fairgrounds Arena in Oklahoma City. Blair came in second place in the 107-pound weight class.

Photo by JACOB FACTOR, Countywide & Sun, March 5, 2020

MARCH 2020
DAILY WINNER:
**ASHLYND
HUFFMAN**

*Stillwater
News Press*

MARCH 2020
WEEKLY WINNER:

**JACOB
FACTOR**
*Countywide
& Sun*

*The March 2020 contest was judged
by a member of the
Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame.*

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Wesner Publications, KOSU receive Facebook grants

Two Oklahoma news organizations were recipients of the Facebook Journalism Project's relief fund for local news.

Oklahoma recipients are Wesner Publications in Cordell, Okla., and KOSU in Oklahoma City.

Facebook received more than 2,000 applications for the COVID-19 Local News Relief Grant Program from newsrooms across every state in the US, all US territories and Washington, D.C.

More than 200 news organizations will receive nearly \$16 million in grants.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the critical role local news plays in our communities, while simultaneously threatening their very existence," said Jonathan Kealing, chief network officer for Institute for Nonprofit News (INN).

"Reviewing hundreds of applications on a tight timeline both illustrated the depth of need, but also highlighted the innovation that these small, independent publishers can provide for their communities when given the resources.

"I'm excited to see new news products and more critical original reporting in these communities, thanks to Facebook's support."

Nearly four in five of the grant recipients are family- or independently owned.

"We're proud to support this diverse group of publishers," said Campbell Brown, VP of global news partnerships at Facebook.

"Not only are these journalists working tirelessly to serve people right now – they're focused on transformation, building innovative local news businesses that can continue to serve communities beyond the current pandemic."

Oklahoma Watch adds veteran journalists Streuli and Sherman to leadership team

Oklahoma Watch has announced that two longtime Oklahoma journalists will join the nonprofit news organization in June.

Ted Streuli, former executive editor and associate publisher for The Journal Record, has been named Oklahoma Watch's executive director and Mike Sherman, who spent 24 years at The Oklahoman, will serve as executive editor. The pair take over the leadership of the organization from retiring Executive Editor David Fritze.

Under Fritze's leadership, Oklahoma Watch won numerous awards; expanded fundraising and distribution; fostered collaborations with other news organizations; moved into multimedia, and hosted numerous public forums on important issues in the state.

Oklahoma Watch Board Chairman Joe Hight said, "We're excited to have Ted and Mike join Oklahoma Watch. They are award-winning and nationally recognized journalists who care deeply about Oklahoma and the important investigative news stories published by Oklahoma Watch."

Streuli has lived in Oklahoma since 2004, when he joined The Journal Record. Since leaving the news organization in 2018, he has served as president



TED STREULI



MIKE SHERMAN

and executive director of Peaceful Family Solutions, a nonprofit that provides services for children whose families are affected by addiction.

Sherman returns to Oklahoma from Tampa Bay, Florida, where he was a deputy editor for The Tampa Bay Times. He is currently the project manager for The Coronavirus Storytelling Project, a collaboration between three organizations, including Oklahoma Watch, to help state journalists who have been furloughed or

displaced as well as those in struggling community news organizations.

"The need for quality, investigative journalism grows daily with the announcement of additional layoffs and furloughs at local papers," Hight said. "Oklahoma Watch offers investigative, fact-driven journalism, that examines significant issues facing our state. The work that Ted and Mike will do will lead to positive change."

Cole, Mullin support local news amid coronavirus

On April 29, U.S. Reps. Tom Cole and Markwayne Mullin called on President Donald Trump and House of Representatives Leadership to direct financial support and aid opportunities toward local newsrooms across the country.

Cole and Mullin, along with 124 other representatives, sent a letter to Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, asking that future stimulus funding "include

immediate improvements to existing lending programs to protect local news publishers and broadcasters."

"Throughout our nation's history, those involved in reporting and publishing the news have gone to great lengths to keep American communities informed," said Cole. "Indeed, amid such emergencies as severe weather and the ongoing coronavirus crisis, many journalists have selflessly risked

their own safety and health to chase down a story and accurately report on current events. Along with many other essential roles that have arisen amid this COVID-19 pandemic, I believe that it is simply common sense to help local news sustain and continue their operations at a time when news reporting is so critical."

Report for America journalists to join Oklahoma Watch

Report for America recently announced the selection of 225 journalists for its 2020 reporting corps, including two reporters who will join Oklahoma Watch in June to cover issues related to poverty and criminal justice.

The national program, an initiative of The GroundTruth Project, a nonprofit, said it will place journalists with more than 160 local news organizations in 45 states and Puerto Rico.

Joining Oklahoma Watch will be Keaton Ross, a spring 2020 graduate of

Oklahoma Christian College, and Supriya Sridhar, a December 2018 graduate of the University of Oklahoma.

Ross majored in journalism and minored in political science and served as editor of The Talon, the student newspaper at Oklahoma Christian. His reporting on an admissions counselor who led a racist activity at a high school was cited by several national news organizations, including The New York Times. He has interned at The Oklahoman and The Norman Transcript.



KEATON ROSS



SUPRIYA SRIDHAR

projects and reported for Politico's policy team.

She has interned at The Oklahoman, The Wichita Eagle and the Louisville Courier-Journal, where she produced a story about the national shortage of emergency medical services workers caused by burnout and low pay.

She received a bachelor's in journalism at OU and held leadership positions at the student newspaper.

Sridhar was a magazine intern at Politico in 2019, where she researched

Keep your computer equipment clean with alcohol



Computer Notes

from the road
by Wilma Newby
wnewby@okpress.com

With a deadly virus floating around we should be cleaning objects that we touch every day – keyboards, phones, mouse, chairs and desktop monitors.

You should be using 70% isopropyl alcohol to clean this type of equipment because it doesn't leave a residue on the surface.

You can use it for just about everything, but you should look up the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning your monitor screen. And even if your smartphone is rated for water, don't submerge it. It's simply too huge a risk.

Never use household cleaning products to clean electronics and don't use vinegar instead of alcohol. These substances could leak into the keyboard and corrode its components.

Always put the alcohol on a rag or cleaning cloth instead of pouring it on the surface of the computer or keyboard.

Use a micro-fiber cloth on monitors and iPhone screens. Although facial tissues probably won't damage the screen, paper towels will scratch the surface. Instead of vigorously rubbing the screen, use gentle, wide strokes.

On March 9, Apple stated that you could use disinfectant wipes on the iPhone, but they still recommend 70% alcohol.

Don't use bleach. Avoid getting moisture in any opening, and don't submerge your Apple product in any cleaning agents.

If you have a gorilla glass screen on your phone, over time cleaning it with alcohol will remove a coat of film the manufacturer applies called "oleophobic coating." You may need to buy a kit and reapply it.

Plastic screens can be destroyed by household cleaners. If your screen gives when you push on it, proceed with caution. Consider putting a wipeable glass screen protector on iPhone and iPads for around \$10. Inexpensive covers are also available for keyboards and monitors for easier cleanup.

OFFICE NOW HAS OPTIONS

Microsoft Office 365 is now branded as Microsoft 365 and has some new options. Existing accounts will not change in price and all programs that were available to computers on that account will remain the same.

New product names went into effect on April 21. It starts with the basic web version now called Microsoft 365 Business Basic (formerly Office 365 Business Essentials). The user signs in on a

web browser and runs Word, Excel and PowerPoint through the browser. They have added features in this version that are interactive with Microsoft servers including Microsoft Rewrite, which can check grammar and sentence structure. This version is \$5 per month.

Microsoft 365 Business Standard, formerly Office 365 Business Premium, is available for \$12.50 per month. This is the most familiar version. It enables five users with desktop apps on each of the five computers. This price level gives access to both Publisher and Access. And it brings in services such as the Exchange e-mail client, Share Point and Teams.

Next up is Microsoft 365 Business Premium (formerly Microsoft 365 Business) for \$20 per month. This version provides cyber threat protection and device management. It also allows control over the users' devices so they can only save to locations that are approved by the company.

The last of the business models is Microsoft 365 Apps for Business (formerly Office 365 Business). This version provides a business account with the applications on five computers as before but without the services and extra controls over users. It's available for \$8.25 per month annually, or \$10 per user/per month with a monthly commitment. Please note that the former versions all require an annual commitment. This \$10 per month option is apparently available on a month-to-month basis. It does not include video calling and live chat that the other plans have.

To figure out what version you have, log into your Microsoft account online. Go to Word or Excel and look under **File > Account** to find out if it is associated with a subscription product. There will be a button that says Manage Account. The password will be needed to look up the account information that is linked to the personal account that someone purchased.

Adding to the confusion is that there is Microsoft 365 **Family** (formerly Office 365 **Home**) vs Microsoft 365 Apps for **Business** – even the price is the same.

Microsoft 365 **Personal** (formerly Office 365 Personal) is the least expensive of the home versions at \$6.99 per month. It seems to have the same programs as the home version. The big difference is that it will only go on one computer; the home version lets one account work on six computers. This beats the Microsoft 365 Business Standard version, which only lets five computers use one account.

The Business Standard has the added services including Exchange, Share Point and Teams. The home version only has Skype. Skype equals the Share Point in the business version and Out-

look equals Exchange on the Business version. They are both email clients.

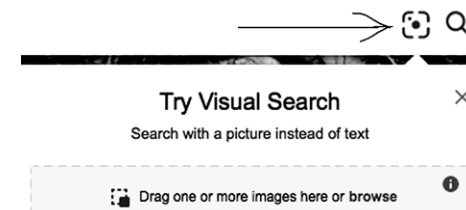
Microsoft is creating solutions for business that are entirely cloud based, much like Google. It's just a matter of what company you trust to keep all your company documents secure.

There is still one avenue to buy Office and put it on your computer without a need for a running credit card account. Office Home & Student 2019 is still available for a one-time purchase of \$149.99. It includes Word, Excel and PowerPoint. There is no email client (Outlook), Access and Publisher are not included and no services are offered. But there's no monthly fee. It's the only one they left the word "Office" in and it makes me wonder how long it will be available.



While we're on the subject of Microsoft programs, they just released a new version of their web browser Edge. This new version even works on the Mac. Most of the upgrade seems to be about privacy and transparency. There are lots of controls but they seem manageable.

If you're using bing.com for your home page, it now lets you search with an image. Just click the visual search button by the magnifying glass and then drag a photo into the window. Microsoft will look for and bring up photos like it. Google Chrome lets you search by speaking into a microphone and uploading an image but requires several more steps.



PHOTOSHOP TIP

Have you ever converted a photo to grayscale only to find there is an area that disappears?

Try selecting the object in Photoshop with the **Magic Wand** tool. Hold down the shift key to add additional areas. If it's all one consistent color use the **Select menu > Similar**. It finds all the pixels that

are the same color and adds them to your selection. This sometimes works better than the **Shift** key method. Once you have the area selected, use **Curves** to darken just that area. Then go to **Select menu > Inverse**. Now the background is selected and can be deleted. You can use the delete key or go to **Edit > Fill** and fill with white. If those methods fail to do it quickly, try the more time consuming way of using the **Magnetic Lasso** tool to select the object.

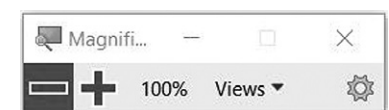
If you run newer versions of Creative Cloud Photoshop go to the **Select menu > Subject Command**. This selects the most predominate item in the photo. It works great if the thing you're trying to select is the foremost object. A quick mask works but to me seems slower than the above mentioned methods and often requires more cleanup time.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Now that social distancing is the rule, it's increasingly hard to show someone a computer screen while trying to explain a problem. This is the fix.

On a PC hold down the Windows key while pressing the (+) symbol and the plus and minus sign zooms out. It jumps in big increments so be ready for that. You can move around by going to the edge of screen with the mouse. They have a cool toolbox that appears on the screen for mouse control of the zooming. On windows it's controlled under the **Settings > Ease of Access > Magnifier**.

On a Mac go to **Apple > System Preference > Keyboard > Shortcuts > Accessibility**. The shortcuts are at the top and once they're on they are always accessible.



To zoom in and out hold down the **Option** and **Command** key, then hit the (=) or the (-) sign. **Option** and **Command** down and hit the (**b**) key to turn on and off the command. Now people six feet away can see the screen that is under discussion.

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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OHP releases its vehicular pursuit policy

After years of secrecy, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol released its vehicular pursuit policy, placing the document on its website.

According to the document, the policy and procedures were updated in February.

Commissioner of Public Safety John Scully said in a news release that he decided to release the protocol because transparency is a high priority for the agency's administration. Scully was appointed as the Department of Public Safety's commissioner by Gov. Kevin Stitt in September.

In previous years, open records requests from the Tulsa World were denied.

In March 2019, the Tulsa World acquired the policy from the Cleveland County Clerk's office after it was used as a defense exhibit in a felony murder trial.

In an editorial, the Tulsa World wrote: "Scully released the policy in an act of government transparency. Good for him. Lifting that veil was the right decision.

"Secrets are bad public policy in general. But in law enforcement, there is

an added public safety concern for both officers and residents.

"Openness doesn't resolve that issue, but it avoids magnifying it through the surmises and conspiracy theories that naturally result from secrecy. We applaud the move by OHP to publicize its pursuit policy and urge it to use that model broadly in the future."

The new policy is available on the OHP website at https://www.ok.gov/dps/Oklahoma_Highway_Patrol/OHP_Pursuit_Policy/index.html

Lee, Tulsa World offer business marketing grants

Lee Enterprises, owners of the Tulsa World, has launched a local marketing grant program that offers matching marketing funds to businesses impacted by the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus.

Lee Vice President of Local Advertising Joe Battistoni said the program is available to locally owned and operated businesses affected by COVID-19 and will provide matching advertising credits for use in Lee print and digital publications.

"While our company's scale is national, our primary focus has been and

always will be on our local business communities in the markets we serve," Battistoni said.

The grants range from \$250 to \$15,000 of matching advertising credits each month and will be awarded in April, May and June.

"I am delighted that we are able to offer this opportunity to our partners during this critical time and look forward to the positive impact it will have on the business community," said Bernie Heller, vice president of advertising for Tulsa World Media Co.

"For 130 years, our company has partnered with local businesses to deliver their message to the people they serve, both in times of great prosperity and in times of great challenge," said Ray Farris, Lee operating vice president and vice president of advertising.

"... the ability of businesses to market to their customers remains essential to their sustainability and recovery. Our company's greatest assets, by far, are the local communities we serve, and we're firmly committed to supporting them through this grant program."

Mangum Star names Jacob Factor as editor

Jacob Factor is the new editor for the Mangum Star.

Factor attended Oklahoma Baptist University, majoring in journalism and mass communication. He was a staff member for the student publication, The OBU Bison, while attending college.

He interned at the Luther Register News and the Sequoyah County Times.

Factor worked at the Countywide and

Sun as a sports reporter as well as a news reporter for more than a year.

He also served as a page designer for the McIntosh County Democrat for a year.

"I'm so excited for this new adventure," Factor said. "I'm a bit shocked that I'll be the editor of a paper at 22 years old, but I can't wait to see where this path takes me."



WORTH MENTIONING

QUARANTINE ACTIVITY BOOK

The Henryetta Free-Lance and Okmulgee Times included a special publication, The Quarantine Activity Book, in their April 29 editions.

The book included a variety of puzzles including word search, Sudoku, crosswords and more, sponsored by local county businesses.



ANNUAL GRADUATION SECTION

The Clinton Daily News published its annual graduation section on May 9.

When the newspaper put out a plea for assistance in finding sponsors for this year's area high school graduates, people responded. Every high school student from Clinton and Arapaho-Butler were selected by local businesses and individuals.

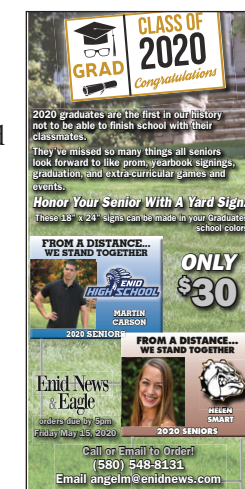
"That's simply phenomenal considering the uncertain times we are all facing," said Sean Stephens, assistant publisher and sales director. "It just shows that while a global pandemic has taken so much away from us and especially our graduates, people still felt compelled to honor these kids for their achievements and what they mean to the community."



SENIOR YARD SIGNS

Many newspapers, including the Enid News & Eagle, are selling yard signs to honor graduating seniors.

The News & Eagle made signs available for only \$30. The 18"x24" signs were available in the graduates' school colors.



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one another.

DEATHS

MARGUERITE BABB, a former editor for the Jenks Journal, died April 28, 2020. She was 90.

Babb was born in Tulsa and graduated from Webster High School in 1947.

She was editor of the Jenks Journal from 1967-1972.

She enjoyed traveling and was able to visit her favorite place, Hawaii, several times.

Babb is survived by three children, Belinda Sands of Broken Arrow, Larry Peninger of Taft, and Beverly Vogt of Tulsa; four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

DENNIE HALL, a respected journalist, journalism professor and historian, died April 17, 2020. He was 85.

Hall was co-founder of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame and served as its director. The recently published book "Our Greatest Journalists: Fifty Years of Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame" is dedicated to him and Dr. Ray Tassin.

Hall was the longtime adviser to the University of Central Oklahoma's student publication, The Vista, and known for supporting his editors against

attacks from the administration. The student newspaper was named an All-American College Newspaper for the first time while he was adviser.

He was The Oklahoman's book editor, known for his reviews and helping great future authors. He fought for civil rights, First Amendment freedoms and the downtrodden, especially those wrongfully imprisoned.

He was a grammar and Associated Press style guru with a dry sense of humor. If you said you were making

an "advance reservation," he would look over his glasses, smirk, and reply, "That's the best kind."

He was preceded in death by his wife of 55 years, Ann Mathews Hall.

He is survived by his son John Hall of Edmond; daughter Amy Hall of Edmond; brothers and sisters, Mickey Hall, of Water Valley, Miss.; Karen Hall Dye, of Olive Branch, Miss.; Patricia Hall Yarbrough, of Memphis, Tenn.; Jimmy Hall, of Horn Lake, Miss.; three grandsons and one great-granddaughter.

JAKE NORMAN McDONALD, who worked as a journalist in Weatherford, Okla., died April 1, 2020, in Norman. He was 28.

Born Aug. 20, 1991, McDonald graduated from Norman North High School in 2010. He attended classes at the

University of Central Oklahoma and the University of Oklahoma.

For a short time he worked as a reporter for the Weatherford Daily News.

He is survived by his mother, Alice Stanton; father William Henry McDon-

ald; stepfather Joseph Mashburn; brother Alec McDonald; sister Laura Mashburn; his grandparents, aunts and uncles, godparents and devoted girlfriend Jessica Potter.

NANCY JANICE 'JAN' O'LEARY, a former employee and co-editor of The Hooker Advance, died April 23, 2020. She was 78.

O'Leary was born Nov. 26, 1941, in

Mitchell, Ark. She married James E. 'Jim' O'Leary in 1965.

The family moved to Hooker in 1975 and Mrs. O'Leary worked for The Hooker Advance. The family moved to Houston in 1988.

After her husband retired, the couple moved to Van Buren, Ark.

She is survived by two sons, Bruce O'Leary of Wylie, Texas, and Brent O'Leary of Rockwall, Texas; one sister; three brothers and six grandchildren.

FREDERICK DAVID SEATON, longtime publisher of the Winfield Daily Courier in Kansas, died April 18, 2020. He was 80.

Seaton was born June 16, 1939, in Manhattan, Kan. He graduated from Harvard University and later earned a master's degree from the Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs.

After serving two years in the Peace Corps and working as a press secretary and legislative aide in Washington, D.C.,

Seaton moved to Winfield and went to work for Winfield Publishing Company, part of the Seaton Newspaper Group, which has seen four generations of family members operate newspapers in Kansas and other states.

Seaton served as editor and publisher of the Winfield Daily Courier from 1981 to 2009. During that time, the company purchased the Newkirk Herald Journal in Oklahoma and the Arkansas City Traveler. Seaton remained an active owner and was chairman of the board

for Winfield Publishing at the time of his death.

Seaton served as president of the Kansas Press Association in 1991 and was inducted into the KPA Hall of Fame in 2010.

He is survived by his wife, Callie; daughters Elizabeth G. Seaton of Alma, Kan., and Rebekah C. Seaton of West Hartford, Conn.; son David A. Seaton of Arkansas City, Kan.; and seven grandchildren.

IN MEMORY OF OUR FRIENDS & COLLEAGUES WHO DIED THE PREVIOUS YEAR

Harold Wayne Hawkins
April 21, 2019

Imogene 'Jean' Hewitt
April 12, 2019

Steve Jump
April 13, 2019

Mary Sue Pena Norman
April 1, 2019

Kenneth D. Kiser Jr.
May 8, 2019

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OKLAHOMA NATURAL GAS CONTEST WINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MARCH WINNERS

March Column: **ART HADDAWAY**, *Owasso Reporter*

March Editorial: **J. D. MEISNER**, *Cushing Citizen*



MARCH COLUMN WINNER

ART HADDAWAY, *Owasso Reporter*

Staying informed, encouraged and relaxed

The last couple weeks have played out like a scene from a post-apocalyptic movie.

That's a sentence I never thought I would have to write.

Local retailers have limited their clientele, restaurants have shut down and gone to curbside or delivery services, and residents have retreated inside their homes to avoid social interaction — so much for a good start to 2020.

It all happened so fast: One minute I'm familiarizing myself with the term "coronavirus," and the next I'm juggling sources and rushing through stories trying to play catchup with every update thrown my way.

Covering this pandemic is a first for me, and it's probably a first for many people, especially my media counterparts — and we news folk see a lot. I've been in the throes of devastating flooding and tornadoes, police standoffs, teacher walkouts and more, but this one takes the cake.

It's uncharted territory, and we're all in a sort of limbo awaiting the next bit of news (hopefully good) from medical experts and government officials.

The numbers of COVID-19 are sobering: As of Monday, March 23, Tulsa County has seen 11 positive cases and one death; Oklahoma has confirmed 81 cases and two deaths; the U.S. has encountered 41,511 positive cases and 573 deaths; and globally, there are a reported 372,563

positive cases and 16,381 deaths, according to the Tulsa Health Department, Oklahoma State Department of Health and Associated Press.

Skeptics look at those figures and underestimate the true scale of the spread; others see them and exacerbate the details, convincing themselves and others that this is the end of humankind.

Either way you break it down, this is a trying time that should be taken seriously, but one that I'm certain we'll bounce back from, much wiser and stronger than before.

In the days ahead, my hope is to keep you up to date with the latest information about the pandemic, but to also share stories of hope amid the chaos. It's important to stay informed, but it's equally if not more important to stay encouraged.

Whether you're hunkered down at home or stuck in your cubicle at the office, use this hiatus to do something productive and refreshing rather than exhaust yourself by worrying and criticizing.

My plan: to put pen to paper (of course), but to finish "Into the Wild" written by Jon Krakauer, make s'mores by the fire pit, binge-watch "The Office" with my wife, eat some delicious local takeout and catch up on some much-needed R&R.

Oh, and to pray. The world needs a lot of bent-knee intercessions with the man upstairs right about now.

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*The March 2020
Oklahoma Natural Gas
Column and Editorial Contest
was judged by a member of the
Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame.*

1. Each month, send a tearsheet 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. Entries also may be emailed (full-page tearsheet) to news@okpress.com.
2. Include the author's name, name of publication, date of publication and category entered (column or editorial).
3. Only ONE editorial and/or ONE column per writer per month will be accepted.
4. All entries for the previous month must be at the OPA office by the 15th of the current month.
5. Winning entries will be reproduced on the OPA website at www.OkPress.com.

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

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