

Reporters Committee launches Local Legal Initiative in Oklahoma, names KatieBeth Gardner as attorney

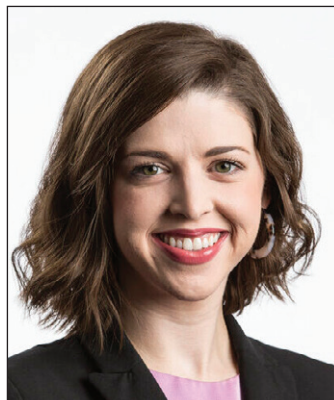


Oklahoma

The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press announced the launch of the Oklahoma Local Legal Initiative, an ambitious program that expands legal support for local news and is already underway in Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Oregon and Colorado.

KatieBeth Gardner has joined the Reporters Committee as a Local Legal Initiative attorney based in Oklahoma, where she will provide pro bono legal support to local journalists and news organizations pursuing enterprise and investigative reporting in communities across the state.

"We're glad to welcome KatieBeth to the Reporters Committee as we continue to grow our capacity to help local journalists and news organizations defend their newsgathering rights, access public records and court proceedings, and hold state and tribal government officials accountable," said Bruce Brown, executive



KatieBeth Gardner

director of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press.

"Her experience working in both the nonprofit sector and as an attorney advocating for transparency will bolster our ability to serve reporters in Oklahoma through the Local Legal Initiative."

The Reporters Committee received submissions from more than 30 states, regions and territories for the Local Legal Initiative, which was launched in 2019 with a generous investment from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

Gardner joins Local Legal Initiative attorneys Paul McAdoo in

Tennessee, Paula Knudsen Burke in Pennsylvania, Ellen Osoinach in Oregon and Rachael Johnson in Colorado.

In just the first year, the Reporters Committee's Local Legal Initiative attorneys have successfully fought to ensure government officials uphold state open meetings laws as they conduct business remotely during the pandemic, safeguard reporters' First Amendment rights to cover protests without being assaulted or arrested by law enforcement, defend journalists against a lawsuit seeking thousands of dollars from them for requesting public records, and protect journalists' reporting at polling places during the election.

"News organizations and journalists across Oklahoma, including journalists who are a part of and covering the dozens of federally recognized tribes in the state, have a clear need for legal assistance," said Katie Townsend, legal director for the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press.

"KatieBeth and the Reporters Committee will now be able to better support these journalists and help ensure they can access public information, attend government proceedings, and challenge legal threats that hinder their ability to keep their communities informed."

Gardner joins the Reporters Committee from Still She Rises, the first holistic defense office in the United States dedicated exclusively to the representation of mothers in both the criminal and civil legal systems.

In that role, she used the Oklahoma Open Records Act to promote transparency and hold government actors accountable.

Gardner also brings experience working in various roles across the nonprofit sector, including launching a nonprofit organization to help connect Oklahoma's undocumented student population with opportunities for success.

For more information on the Local Legal Initiative, go to rcfp.org/local.

2 Read OPA President Mike Strain's column to learn how approaches of Local Legal Initiative and Legal Services Plan are both valuable to OPA members.

10 Wilma Newby's list of what your newspaper needs to survive multiple days without electricity.

11 OPA Board of Directors met in Oklahoma City on Oct. 15.

12 Sequoyah County Times Publisher Jeff Mayo provides commentary about local photos in haiku format.

From the President

By Mike Strain, Tulsa World
OPA President 2020-2021



Sometimes, a public body won't provide open records we seek. Sometimes, a public agency attempts to restrict reporters' rights.

And sometimes, those situations can take us to a frustrating crossroads: Give up the fight or get an attorney.

If reading the words "get an attorney" made you cringe, know that typing them made me cringe, too. That can become an expensive proposition, and it's especially tough as our industry navigates through financial challenges that have been exacerbated by the pandemic.

That's why I'm excited about November's big news. The Local Legal Initiative has launched what is planned to be a two-year effort in Oklahoma. You may have heard about this previously, but to catch you up quickly, the initiative will support investigative and enterprise journalism in Oklahoma by providing free legal services when it becomes apparent it is time to "get an attorney." The initiative can't take on every case but will select cases that will have an impact, protect the First Amendment and support journalists' rights.

In the month of Thanksgiving, I'm thankful to two organizations: The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

The Reporters Committee is overseeing the Local Legal Initiative and has hired an Oklahoma-based attorney, KatieBeth Gardner. The Local Legal Initiative services are free thanks to the Knight Foundation, which has provided a \$10 million grant to help fund the work in Oklahoma and four other states.

I also am thankful to the OPA's Mark Thomas, who co-wrote the grant proposal and worked with fellow news organizations to help Oklahoma become only the fifth state in the Local Legal Initiative, joining Colorado, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee. The competition to get the initiative was tough. Oklahoma's proposal, which includes a diverse group of media organizations, was chosen from 45 submissions from across the country, according to the Reporters Committee.

Gardner joins the Reporters Committee staff from Still She Rises, a Tulsa-based nonprofit that represents indigent mothers in the legal system. (Quick aside: Still She Rises has a terrific mission and if you want to know more, check out stillsherises.org).

The Reporters Committee will identify Oklahoma's legal needs and opportunities by working with partner organizations in the state. To find more details about the initiative, there's an FAQ on its website at rcfp.org/local.

For OPA members, this should be a good complement to the Legal Services Plan, which has long been valuable. (After all, you never know when you're going to need an attorney ... until you need one.) There's a key difference in the approaches between the Local Legal Initiative and the Legal Services Plan.

The Legal Services Plan offers two benefits: Plan A provides access to legal advice. Plan B provides access to an attorney to defend claims against the newspaper in court. Both of those are focused on defense. The Local Legal Initiative is focused on offense. For example, in a recent situation, the Reporters Committee challenged Pennsylvania officials when they reportedly were considering blocking press access to buildings where voting would take place.

The Local Legal Initiative aims to help media organizations, which is great for us but even better for our state. Because if legal help provides more government transparency – whether through open records, open meetings or by addressing other issues – that benefits Oklahomans.

Oklahoman publisher announces plans to retire

Kelly Dyer Fry, publisher of The Oklahoman, has announced plans to retire at the end of the year.

Fry has been with The Oklahoman for 26 years and has served in a variety of roles. She also serves as a regional editor for Ganett, which owns The Oklahoman.

"I have enjoyed every minute of my career," Fry said. "I will continue to support local journalism and the freedoms we all enjoy with the First Amendment. It is vital to our city to have strong professional journalists."

"The Oklahoman has great leadership and will continue to thrive well into the future," she said.

Fry began her career at The Oklahoman in 1994 as features editor. She moved to the digital side of the business in 1996 and led the team that launched NewsOK. She later merged the digital operation with the newsroom and was named editor in 2012. Fry was named editor and publisher in 2018.

She has been active in the community, serving on numerous boards.

"I am looking forward to serving my community now that I have more time," she said. "I'm also looking forward to spending more time with family. My career has always been hectic – it's time to slow down a bit and enjoy life."

Fry is married to Chris Fry and together they have four adult children.

Open Meeting exemptions expire Nov. 15

Attorney General Mike Hunter, in coordination with the Oklahoma Press Association (OPA), announced that the relaxed rules for open meetings created through Senate Bill 661 expired on Nov. 15.

Any permanent changes to the Open Meeting Act or the Open Records Act must be changed in statute and cannot be modified through an executive order by the governor.

Attorney General Hunter said beginning Nov. 15, boards and commissions need to begin meeting as they did before the Coronavirus pandemic.

"When this legislation was authored, no one could have predicted how long

the pandemic would last," Attorney General Hunter said. "More is now known about how we can safely meet and conduct business in accordance with proper social distancing and other safety protocols. However boards and commissions decide to meet, they need to do it under the Open Meeting Act pre-SB 661 beginning Sunday [Nov. 15]."

The amendments to the Open Meeting Act through SB 661 allowed public bodies to meet virtually and transact public business while limiting or avoiding social contact and community spread consistent with governmental directions on how to mitigate the effects

of the Coronavirus pandemic.

"We have seen innovative and creative ways for entities to conduct business recently, and we encourage public bodies to follow their lead," said OPA Executive Vice President Mark Thomas. "We also encourage them to continue offering virtual attendance and livestreaming functions to increase transparency, especially when limiting the number of those in attendance. If members are still concerned or cannot find a way to meet safely, and their matters can be postponed to a future date, they are still welcome to cancel the meeting and reschedule it for a future date."

Northwest Oklahoman under new ownership

The Northwest Oklahoman newspaper was recently sold to Needful Things, Inc.

Previous owners Tim Schnoebelen, Jeff Schnoebelen and Mark Carson announced the sale in November.

The new owners, W.C. Wagnon, Jr. and Patricia

Jacoby, said they plan to cover all of Ellis County.

Wagnon, who has been publishing the Statesman since Aug. 15, 2018, merged that paper into the Northwest Oklahoman. The newspaper office will be moved to Arnett.

"We have enjoyed working with the Shattuck com-

munity for the past 30-plus years," said Tim Schnoebelen.

"We sincerely appreciate our editor, Cindy Bentley, who has so ably taken care of the newspaper for the past 18 years," Schnoebelen said.

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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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The Cordell Beacon names new editor, general manager

Thomas R. Martinez has been named editor and general manager of The Cordell Beacon.

Martinez will also be editor of the Watonga Republican and The Hinton Record.

"I am excited to have Thomas leading The Beacon," said Brett Wesner, president of Wesner Publications, which owns the three newspapers. "He brings a rich history of community journalism experience and a deep understanding of the role community newspapers should play."

Martinez was previously assistant managing editor in charge of digital and production at the Victoria Advocate in Texas.

He brings 25-plus years of experience across all platforms and within differing capacities in the newsrooms.

"I look forward to learning about the good people



THOMAS R. MARTINEZ

of Cordell and Washita County and telling their stories," Martinez said. "As editor, I want to provide balanced and thorough news coverage of the Cordell community."

He also looks forward to enhancing the Beacon's online efforts.

Martinez is an Army veteran who fought in the Gulf War, an avid sports fan, enjoys motorcycles and likes home and garden projects.

Owasso Reporter columnist retires

Jerry Whited, longtime writer for the Owasso Reporter, has retired.

Whited spent 37 years with the Owasso Reporter, 27 full-time and 10 more writing a column. Prior to that he worked 10 years in Yukon and before that worked in Missouri.

"I guess I've put in

enough time and written enough words to fill several books, and it's time to wrap it up," he wrote in his final column.

"It's been my pleasure to offer my insights and have kind folk to actually read them, and even clip a few to send to others."

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Altus, Frederick begin sharing news, advertising

The Altus Times and Frederick Press-Leader recently began sampling news from adjacent counties, particularly Jackson and Tillman Counties.

Larry Miller, publisher of the two newspapers, said while each paper is primarily focused on their own city, many readers have friends and relatives in neighboring counties.

"Many Tillman residents work in Jackson County and shop there as well, so it makes sense," Miller said.

Advertisers will benefit as both papers will contain ads from both markets.

Perry Daily Journal updates website with more content

The Perry Daily Journal recently acquired its own website at www.pdjnews.com.

The new website contains everything printed and/or published in the PDJ and will be updated daily with the most current news and events.

Reid Newspapers, which owns the Perry Daily Journal, wanted to upgrade the newspaper's website to make it easier and more accessible to customers.

Online e-edition subscribers will have access to all news on the website. Subscribers will be able to access the newspaper by logging in.

The website also offers access to social media outlets including Facebook and Instagram as well as easy ways to contact the staff.

City Council honors former Clinton Daily News editor Gerald Green with tribute and declaration

Gerald Green, retired Clinton Daily News news editor, was recently honored by the Clinton City Council for his reporting on the city council and coverage of city hall.

Green retired March 27 after 38 years at the Clinton Daily News.

In making the presentation, Clinton Mayor David Berrong described Green as "the ultimate professional with detailed accuracy, fairness and truth for nearly four decades."

Berrong said Green's coverage of city hall and nearly 900 city council meetings "has assured the public's right to know about its city's business penned with his special brand of journalistic integrity, intelligence and attention to detail."

"It is a fitting tribute to Gerald Green and to the highest order of journalistic standards to name that bench for Gerald Green," said Berrong.



Mayor David Berrong, right, pays tribute to Gerald Green, retired Clinton Daily News editor, for his coverage of nearly 900 city council meetings.

Photo from Clinton Daily News. Reprinted with permission.

"This will serve as a reminder to all, the value of high-minded, accurate reporting from the watchdog of the citizens of Clinton."

The Clinton City Council and Berrong also declared May 19, 2020, as Gerald Green Day in Clinton.

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Photo by LINDSAY TESIO, Choctaw Times, Sept. 30, 2020



Stillwater High senior receiver Steven Brown (13) has a pass deflected away by a leaping Angelo Rankin Jr. of Edmond Santa Fe during the season opener at Pioneer Stadium.

Photo by JASON ELMQUIST, Stillwater News Press, Sept. 5, 2020

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Oklahoma newspapers pay respect to veterans with photos and words

Thank You Veterans
HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED

First post-World War II veterans among residents of Odessa Nursing Home with marketing company Page 2

Alford Rail Park Authority to team up with marketing company Page 2

Northwestern Announces 2021 Hall of Fame inductees Page 6

Thank you for your courage, dedication, and hard work. And thanks to the military families for their support, resilience, and sacrifice.

Alva Review-Courier
November 12, 2020

First post-World War II veterans among residents of Odessa Nursing Home with marketing company Page 2

Alford Rail Park Authority to team up with marketing company Page 2

Northwestern Announces 2021 Hall of Fame inductees Page 6

As our veterans' service, we will be publishing their stories and photos in this special section. Photo by Unknown/Foretold

November 12, 2020 **The Antlers American** 1B

NOVEMBER 2020

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Local Military Profiles & Photos

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WILLIAM J. BROWN
U.S. Army, 1945-1947
U.S. Army, 1947-1949

TOM JENNINGS
U.S. Army, 1945-1947
U.S. Army, 1947-1949

ALVIN BLAIR
U.S. Army, 1945-1947
U.S. Army, 1947-1949

PAUL L. WILLIAMS
U.S. Army, 1945-1947
U.S. Army, 1947-1949

WILLIAM J. BROWN
U.S. Army, 1945-1947
U.S. Army, 1947-1949

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U.S. Army, 1947-1949

PAUL L. WILLIAMS
U.S. Army, 1945-1947
U.S. Army, 1947-1949

Thursday, November 11, 2020 **Kiowa County Democrat** Page 1

IN HONOR OF OUR VETERANS

Jackie Harmon
Harley Richardson
Kenneth Deloy Kelly
Dewane Noble

David Tyler
Tom L. Pratt
Billy Joe Pratt
Sammy Joe Pratt

David Harmon
Frank L. Tucker
Gary Thomas
James Stoll
Billy Ford

Ray Mansfield

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Honoring all who served

Veterans Day
Honoring all who served
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On Veteran's Day, we will be publishing this special section (Wednesday, November 11). If you have any pictures of any local retired or active members in the armed forces, please send them to us so that we can publish them in this special section.

Please send us head and shoulder picture with the following information on the back of the picture...

- Full Name
- Branch of the Military, along with rank
- Where they served

We will need the picture(s) at the newspaper by no later than **Tuesday, November 3**

You may also e-mail your picture(s) and information to pcn@poncacitynews.com

If you would like the picture(s) returned, please supply a self-addressed envelope and stamp. We will return them after the time of the publication.

Example: **Johnny Jones**
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Spokane, Washington

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Drop off your photos at the PCN office at 300 N. 3rd in Ponca City or email your submissions to ash.pcn@gmail.com

Please include "Veterans Day 2020" in the subject line, the name of your veteran, & military branch

THE PONCA CITY NEWS

This special section will be published on...
Veterans Day November 11, 2020
Deadline for submissions is October 30th at 5:00 P.M.

Our Heroes

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The Purcell Register
COVERAGE PUBLISHES
Thursday, November 5

THE CLEVELAND AMERICAN
75th Anniversary
November 11, 2020

Veterans Day
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

"Better than honor and glory, and history's true gem, was the thought of duty done, and the love of his fellow men."
-Richard Watson Gilder

Top: The Oklahoman; Alva Review-Courier; Antlers American; and The Sentinel Leader. Bottom: Kiowa County Democrat; Shawnee News-Star; The Cleveland American; Ponca City News; and The Purcell Register.

DEATHS

RITA MASSEY BAKER, a former society editor for the Bristow News, died Oct. 10, 2020. She was 85.

Baker was born Nov. 28, 1934, in Gypsy, Okla. She

attended Central State College in Edmond.

In addition to working at the Bristow News, Baker worked for American Airlines and Sun Oil Company, and was city treasurer for

the City of Bristow. She also worked at Bristow Memorial Hospital, where she retired from in 1997.

She is survived by her husband of 65 years, Johnnie Dale Baker; three

daughters, Sylvia Hyde of Broken Arrow, Rebecca Johns of Bristow, and Laura Weber of Bristow; a sister; her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

YVONNE MARIE (LACY) EVANS, former owner and publisher of newspapers in Seiling, Barnsdall, Inola and Perkins, died Oct. 22, 2020. She was 81.

Evans was born Dec. 2, 1938. She attended Oklahoma State University for

a year while working at the Perkins Journal as society editor.

On June 6, 1957, she married Robert L. Evans. Bob and Yvonne owned and worked at weekly newspapers in Seiling, Barnsdall, Inola and Perkins during their more than 50 years of

marriage. They also owned and operated Evans Publications, a book publishing company.

Yvonne and Bob were inducted into the Oklahoma Press Association's Half Century Club in 2004.

She is survived by her children, Joel Robert of

Tulsa, Lacy Patrick and husband James "Wimp" of Perkins, and Lloyd William and wife Kenna of Stillwater; six grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter.

NEVILLE LAVON (REEDER) HANCOCK, publisher of the Hobart Democrat-Chief, died Oct. 20, 2020. She was 91.

Neville was born Feb. 26, 1929, on the family farm north of Cooperton, Okla. She graduated from Hobart High School in 1948 and

attended the University of Oklahoma.

She was a few hours short of graduation from OU when she joined her husband Joe, who was stationed in Germany as part of the post-war occupation force of the U.S. Army from 1952-53.

After returning to

Hobart in 1953, the Hancocks both began working at the Democrat-Chief. Neville later became a columnist, writing Neville's News on a daily basis until the paper became a weekly publication in 1988.

Hancock is survived by her daughter Mollie Nagel and husband Britt; sons

Walter Hancock Jr. and Todd Hancock and wife Waynel, all of Hobart; sisters Neta Adams of Wichita, Kansas, and Theda Deaver of Grandbury, Texas; brother-in-law Bill Hancock of Prairie Village, Kansas; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

MARY McKINNEY RICE, a former employee for The Duncan Banner, died Sept. 25, 2020. She was 94.

Rice was born March 8, 1926, in Muskogee. She attended the University

of Oklahoma, majoring in journalism and working on the student newspaper.

She married Robert Eugene Rice in 1948 and they moved to Michigan where Bob was attending

Michigan Law School. After Bob graduated, they moved to Duncan, Okla. Mary worked as a secretary for her husband's private practice, and also half days at The Duncan Banner where

she was in charge of Women's News.

She is survived by two sons, Judge David Eugene Rice and Robert Collin Rice, and six grandchildren.

B. WAYNE RATLIFF, a former reporter for the Johnston County Capital-Democrat in Tishomingo, died Sept. 15, 2020, in San Antonio, Texas. He was 78.

Ratliff was born near Tishomingo, Okla., on Oct. 17, 1942. He enlisted in the Army in 1961 and served tours in Korea, West Ger-

many and Vietnam before his discharge in 1970.

After his discharge, Ratliff decided to be a news reporter. He wrote and talked his way onto the staffs of the San Rafael (Calif.) Independent-Journal, the Fairfield (Calif.) Daily Republic, the Vallejo (Calif.) Times-Herald and

the Johnston County Capital-Democrat.

He returned to the Army in 1979, retiring in 1994 as a First Sergeant.

Ratliff then received a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Texas at Austin and began his third career at the Texas Workforce Commission.

He is survived by his wife, Sue, of the home; daughters Dorothy Shawl of San Antonio, Wendy Piepgras of Toledo, Wash., Kim Hall of Wilton, Conn., and Robyn DeRocchis of Las Cruces, N.M.; six grandchildren and his former wife, Marsh Rose.

DEATHS *continued from Page 8*

LANNIE JOE SEVERS, a pressman in Sapulpa, died Nov. 3, 2020. He was 58. Severs was born Oct. 11,

1962, in Newton County, Mo., but raised in Sapulpa. He spent many years working as a pressman at the Sapulpa Herald.

He was an ardent Dallas Cowboys fan, and never missed a game. He is survived by his brothers, Dennis and

Danny; sister Missy Wood; and many nieces and nephews.

ROBERT LEE WALKER, who apprenticed at The Afton American, died Oct. 14, 2020. He was 88.

Walker was born Jan. 4, 1932, in Afton. After graduating from Afton High School in 1948, he was admitted to a printing apprenticeship at The Afton

American where he learned the printing, reporting, typesetting, advertising, writing and pressman trades. During his apprenticeship, he also attended college at Oklahoma A&M in Miami, hitchhiking the 17 miles to and from the campus.

He married Eileen Palmer in 1951 and she joined him in Fairbanks, Alaska, where Bob was serving with the U.S. Army. Walker was founding manager and long-time CEO of Starline Corporation, the largest commercial printing firm in New

Mexico, West Texas and Oklahoma. Walker is survived by his wife Eileen of Tulsa; son Rev. Robert Martin Walker of Connecticut; daughters Rev. Patricia Eileen Walker of Tulsa and Margaret Suzanne Allen of Virginia; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

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*Barb Walter
in memory of
Neville Hancock
Andy & Karen Rieger
in memory of
David McCullough*

Remembering our friends & colleagues who died the previous year

Helen Rose Cline
Oct. 9, 2019

Lyle Howell Collins
Oct. 13, 2019

Phyllis Louise Hammer
Oct. 18, 2019

Guy T. Ledbetter
Oct. 15, 2019

James 'Jim' Watie Mayo
Oct. 3, 2019

Daniel H. Rodgers
Oct. 5, 2019

Paula Lemarr McBride Savage
Oct. 12, 2019

Daniel Lee Scroggins
Oct. 9, 2019

Mary Townsley
Oct. 10, 2019

Kenneth Ronald Wood
Oct. 9, 2019

Frances Jane Bryant
Nov. 10, 2019

Charles William Hooper
Nov. 22, 2019

Patsy Willene Muchmore
Nov. 7, 2019

If you would like to make a donation, please send a check to:
Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation,
3601 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105-5499

Hennessey Clipper announces end of weekly publication to new format of six times per year

The last weekly issue of The Hennessey Clipper printed Oct. 15, 2020.

The newspaper will now be printed six times per year and is no longer a legal publication as defined by Title 25, Okla. Statute 106.

An article announcing

the change in the Oct. 15 issue said, "The Clipper will no longer publish wedding announcements, engagements, obituaries or legal notices because of the frequency of publication changes."

"The content of the

newspaper will be based on regional public policy and economic issues for western Oklahoma."

The Clipper will target readers in Kingfisher, Blaine, Custer, Roger Mills, Ellis, Major and Woodward Counties.

The Hennessey Clipper is owned by Trail Miler Co., LLC, which also owns The Okeene Record, The Canton Times, The Thomas Tribune and The Dewey County Record.

Storm readiness, Black Friday Deals, Apple ARM Laptops



Computer Notes

from the road
by Wilma Newby
wnewby@okpress.com

As I type this column we have had no power at my home for 12 days. This is my short list of things to have on site to survive long term power outages:

1. Battery backup packs for cell phones – two for each phone, one to leave at a friend's house and one to charge the phone.

2. A generator. It's a must for newspapers. A day after the ice storm you couldn't find one anywhere and Amazon/Walmart and other stores couldn't deliver these for a week. Try to have one before you need it. If you have a big storm, power may not be back on for a week or more.

3. Extension cords for the generator you obtained.

4. LED flashlights. Batteries last a long time in these. The type that fit on your forehead are best for working in the dark.

5. A cell phone plan with unlimited data that can broadcast the internet to your computers.

6. A flash drive for moving files around if there is no internet and network.

7. A complete copy of your newspaper (all sections) with all the art and fonts on each computer so

you can build pages on any of them.

8. Laptops with good working batteries are a great tool in this environment. Battery backups for desktops don't work well without a generator. Make sure good battery backup surge protectors are on all desktops plugged into generators to keep clean power going to the computers.

9. A 4G LTE lite modem that can hand out WiFi to the office is a great storm tech type gadget.

Instead of using someone's phone to generate a WiFi signal, these little modems hand out the WiFi service to 10 to 15 computers/devices at once.

Several papers have these as part of their normal phone service. The one from Netgear for \$250 is good but if the budget is a problem, go for a ZTE ZMax or Straight Talk modem for around \$50.

Some modems run more computers at once or could be plugged into the router on site to give the wired computers internet. These quickly sell out at stores during storms. It might be good to have one on hand this winter/spring. Some even have rechargeable batteries for loss of power situations.

Hot spot modems require a SIM card like a cell

phone. AT&T month-to-month plans start at \$25. The plans are based on how much data is used.

Walmart also sells the pay-as-you-go chips. Only \$45 buys a Straight Talk card with 25GB of data transfers to make the above modems work.

BLACK FRIDAY SALES

Black Friday is once again upon us. Sales now start in early November so now's the time to be looking for deals.

If you're looking for a laptop make sure the hard drive in it is large enough for newspaper work. You need at least 500GB, but 1000GB is better. Sale laptops seem to have great specs but smaller hard drives this year. They're almost all solid state drives so it's more expensive per byte.

HP seems to be trying the hardest this year. Many of their laptops have top specs with very competitive pricing.

Gateway computers are again being sold at Walmart. This 35-year-old company with the cow logo disappeared but the branding survived. Acer bought Gateway in 2007 and has partnered with Walmart exclusively to sell these lower end computers and tablets with good specs.

Dell is joining the rush towards Black Friday as well. Try looking at the sales on Black Friday (Nov. 27) or Cyber Monday (Nov. 30). A lot of the Dell computers I've seen on sale so far only have 8GB of RAM memory. Look for one with 12GB, or expandable to 12GB. More RAM and a bigger hard drive means the computer will last longer in the update cycles.

M1 CHIP MACS RELEASED

Retailers are dumping Apple's older co-processor computers ahead of the release of the new ARM-based Macs. The M1 chip is manufactured by Apple – not Intel – and is 2x faster.

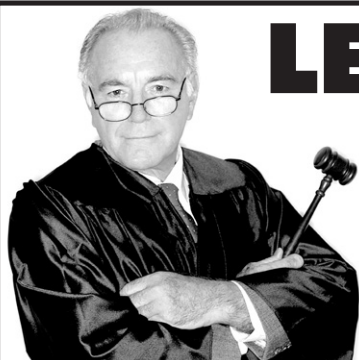
Apple just released three new computers: a MacBook Air for \$999, MacBook Pro for \$1299 and, amazingly, a Mac Mini for \$699.

Apple started selling the new models right after its conference. They'll ship the week before Thanksgiving with Apple's new operating system: Big Sur Mac OS X 10.16. There are three types of apps that run on the new computers – hybrid apps, called Universal, run Intel or M1; M1 native apps like Safari; and Rosetta 2 for apps that need Intel code.

Photoshop was listed as making the leap soon. Apps that run on iPhones and iPad will run on the new M1 Macs completing Apple's vision for seamless integration.

Big Sur is a "wait and see" upgrade. Rosetta 2 needs to be tested by users to determine how well it runs older programs.

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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OPA Board of Directors meet in OKC

The Oklahoma Press Association Board of Directors met Oct. 15, 2020, at the OPA office in Oklahoma City.

Officers attending were President Mike Strain, Tulsa World; Vice President John Denny Montgomery, The Purcell Register; Treasurer Jeff Mayo, Sequoyah County Times; and Past President Ray Dyer, El Reno Tribune.

Directors attending were Mark Millsap, The Norman Transcript; Zonelle Rainbolt, Wesner Publications; Don Mecoy, The Oklahoman; Shauna Belyeu, The Eufaula Indian Journal; and Suzie Campbell, Countywide & Sun. Sheila Gay, Woodward News, was absent. Staff at the meeting was Executive Vice President Mark Thomas.

After calling the meeting to order, Strain asked the board to review minutes of the June 18, 2020 meeting. The minutes were approved as presented.

Board members reviewed the investment report for OPA and LSP, as well as the cash consolidated summary.

The board telephonically connected with auditor Mark Knol of HBC CPAs and Advisors during the meeting to review OPA and OPS audit reports for the period ending June 30, 2020. After discussion, the board acknowledged receipt of the annual reports.

During the financial review, Thomas presented the profit and loss statement for the period ending Sept. 30, 2020. Thomas noted that convention income from sponsorship

donations contributed before the delay of the 2020 convention will be applied to the 2021 convention. It was also noted that professional development and travel had been eliminated so far this year. The Legal Services Plan profit and loss statement had no significant changes over last year, but a lawsuit has been filed against an LSP member that will be defended in the coming month. The board acknowledged receipt of the OPA and LSP profit and loss statements.

Thomas reported that OPA dues were billed in early July and that only 36 newspapers had not made a dues payment as of Sept. 30, compared to 91 papers that had not made a payment by that time in the previous fiscal year.

BOARD APPROVES AWARDS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Rainbolt reported that the OPA Awards Committee had a conference call on July 2 and had three recommendations for the board to review including 1) allowing submission of content from a newspaper's e-edition (digital replica); 2) clarification in the advertising category to add a rule stating that inserted niche products, sales promotions or magazines be removed from mailed newspaper entries; and 3) adoption of an equal distribution method for circulation divisions in the 2020 contest. After discussing the recommendations, including discussion about penalties for alteration of digital entries,

the board unanimously approved the recommendations.

RCFP HIRES ATTORNEY FOR OKLAHOMA

In an update on the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press (RCFP), Thomas said KatieBeth Gardner, an attorney from the Tulsa area, has been hired to start the Local Legal Initiative in Oklahoma. Gardner currently works for Still She Rises. RCFP is currently working to set up advisory groups of attorneys to guide her in details about tribal law and courts. Thomas also said RCFP will be setting up an advisory committee to help identify and strategically work to improve case law in Oklahoma, particularly regarding open records important to journalists.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP APPROVED

In other business, the board reviewed and unanimously approved the associate membership application of Barbara Vice, former publisher of the Drumright Gusher and Yale News.

OPA SURVEY RESULTS

Thomas reviewed the results of the membership survey conducted this summer to help understand the value of membership benefits and services provided by OPA and OPS.

Among top value for all members was legislative work and lobbying, staff availability to answer questions, legal services for members, print advertising

sales, traveling computer consultant, convention and contest. In the lowest values were items such as hotel trade agreements, content exchange, online networking and webinars, and mailed death notices.

The board discussed how to adapt, refine, and modernize many of the current and new benefits to help members in more immediate ways.

After discussing the results, the board asked Thomas to come up with a list of action items and revisions to present at the next board meeting on Dec. 10, 2020.

OPS BOARD MEETING

At the Oklahoma Press Service meeting, board members approved the minutes of the June 18, 2020, meeting, and noted that the OPS annual audit report as of June 30, 2020, had been received and reviewed during the OPA meeting.

Thomas presented the profit and loss statement ending Sept. 30, 2020, which showed a loss due to reduction in ad placement in the first quarter of the year. Thomas said OPS would continue to work on selling ads. The board acknowledged receipt of the profit and loss statement.

Following the management review, Strain told Thomas that the board appreciated him and the staff, as well as the effort and results of the recent member survey.

Publisher describes photos with haiku

From time to time in the Sequoyah County Times, you can find a framed photo on the Opinion page described in three lines of five, seven and five syllables for a total of 17.

Jeff Mayo, publisher of the Sequoyah County Times, writes the haiku to accompany a photo he took, which appears on the Opinion page.

Mayo said his dad, Jim Mayo, began writing poetry for the newspaper in the late 1980s or early 1990s after seeing a photo and poem by James Russell Wiggins in The Ellsworth (Maine) American newspaper.

"My dad considered The American the best-edited community newspaper in the country," said Jeff Mayo.

And with that, Jim Mayo began writing poetry to describe photos on the Opinion page.

"My dad, always wanting to downplay any talent he might have, labeled his poetry 'doggerel' to be sure folks didn't expect too much or believe my dad thought of himself as a poet," said Jeff.

"He likely didn't succeed because most folks wouldn't know what 'doggerel' meant anyway."

Mayo said he's continued the tradition because like Wiggins and his dad probably thought, "it's a good way to provide commentary about a local photo in a unique way."

"Running national political cartoons in a community newspaper isn't a very



Let's move this along

I'm not yet merry
seems too early to start but
let's speed up this year

PHOTO AND HAIKU BY JEFF MAYO

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS APPEARED THIS WEEK AT THE CORNER OF KERR BLVD AND RUTH AVENUE IN SALLISAW.

Above: A recent photo and Haiku by Jeff Mayo on the Opinion page of the Sequoyah County Times.

effective way to serve our mission," said Mayo. "But, I have to do it far more than I want."

Mayo said he moved to the haiku format because he liked the hard boundaries that keeps him from saying too much as well as the challenge of saying enough in just three lines.

"Also, it makes it easier for my designer," he said.

Jeff and his dad, who died last year, occasionally collaborated on the haiku.

"My two favorites

involved photos of a toilet sitting in a ditch on a country road and a chicken dead in the middle of Hwy. 64," said Mayo.

Submissions of any other poetry are not allowed, he said.

"I've kept my dad's rule in place and, like him, freely violate it."

At right: The Ellsworth American continues to reprint photos and poems by James Russell Wiggins.



Lawton Constitution video series features local veterans telling their own stories

Each year Oklahoma newspapers honor veterans by writing their stories and running photos.

This year, The Lawton Constitution took a new approach to honor those who have served our country by having some veterans tell their story in videos.

The four-part limited series features local veterans who “bring you stories of the days that made them, in their own words,” said David Stringer, publisher of The Lawton Constitution.

The videos were produced by Gary Reddin, editor of The Lawton Constitution’s 580 Monthly, with assistance from Chris Wilson, a former summer intern and military vet.

Most of the videos were recorded in Stringer’s

office, with the exception of Part 2, which was filmed at the retirement home where the two Korean War veterans live.

Stringer said the videos, online at https://www.swoknews.com/collections/forged_in_combat/forged-in-combat/collection_c6e66e20-1396-11eb-b7c2-3f9113005fc1.html, will be available indefinitely.

“We have no plans to take them down,” said Stringer.

It was important to be able to see and hear the veterans telling their stories in their own words, said Stringer.

“Initially, we wanted to focus on how combat has changed, and the evolution of armaments and protective equipment. But

Forged In Combat

The Lawton Constitution and Legend Driven Cadillac, Buick, GMC will host a video series at [swoknews.com](https://www.swoknews.com) with interviews from local veterans who have served in combat. The series, which will be released every Wednesday starting Oct. 21, will feature veterans from World War II to present telling their stories. A bonus video from a veteran who served in three different conflicts will be released on Veterans Day.

A new video will be released Nov 4.



Bruce Dwyer, Vietnam



Jim Thompson - WWII, Korea, Vietnam

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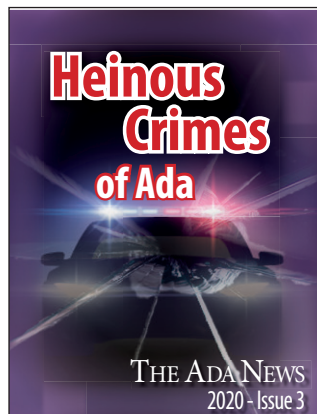
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it’s evolved into just them telling their stories, which I really like,” said Stringer.

The series was sponsored by Legend Driven Auto.

Ada News produces third issue of popular magazine format ‘Heinous Crimes of Ada’



The third issue of “Heinous Crimes of Ada” was recently produced by The Ada News.

Maurisa Nelson, publisher of The Ada News, said staff came up with the idea for the magazine five years ago.

Prior to producing the magazine, the staff discussed the community reaction, said Nelson.

“We thought we might face backlash, making money on others pain,” Nelson said.

Although there was concern, the staff went ahead and compiled story ideas, starting with 40 prospect stories.

When Netflix released a crime documentary television series in late 2018, which was based in Ada, the newspaper leaped into production with its first issue of “Heinous Crimes of Ada.”

“We ordered 1,000 extra copies and sold out in just a few months at \$5 a copy,” Nelson said. “We have successfully published three issues. The community loves them.”

“While people may think crime is not a good promotion for their home-

town, the readers think opposite. Investigation Discovery, First 48, Dateline and many other TV series have proven Americans are crime junkies. We just found a way to localize it to our market,” said Nelson.

Fifteen stories are featured in the magazine. Full page, full color ads are available at \$500 per page. Nelson said the stories are planned three months in advance so advertisers and the sales team know the content.

WORTH MENTIONING

SHAWNEE NEWS-STAR HONORS LOCAL FIRST RESPONDERS

For the fourth year, The Shawnee News-Star is honoring the Local First Responder of the Year. Kim Morava, managing editor of the News-Star, said the award previously honored a firefighter but this year it was opened up to First Responders to include police and paramedics.

"Nominations have varied each year, but I think we've received more this year with the addition of police and paramedics," Morava said.

The First Responder of the Year receives a plaque and \$400; the station receives a \$100 gift certificate to the Rib Crib. Second place receives a plaque and \$200. Winners are also featured in a story in the News-Star.

The promotion is sponsored by Shawnee Milling Company and Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Benchmark Realty.

DUNCAN BANNER'S PET WINNERS TO BE FEATURED IN CALENDAR

Winners of The Duncan Banner's "Cutest Pet Contest" were announced Oct. 31.

First, second and third place winners won gift certificates while the top 13 will be featured in The Banner's new pet calendar, which will publish in December.

Readers were encouraged to vote early and vote often for only \$1 per vote. Proceeds benefitted the Stephens County Humane Society and The Duncan Banner Newspaper in Education program.



GUYMON DAILY HERALD SHOWS OFF PET OF THE WEEK

Another cute pet idea is the Pet of the Week in the Guymon Daily Herald. Diana Pet Food sponsors a weekly ad in the newspaper featuring a photo of a local pet. Diana Pet Food has been a part of the community of Guymon since 2012.



LAWTON CONSTITUTION ANNOUNCES ANNUAL PET CALENDAR CONTEST



The Lawton Constitution's annual Pet Calendar Contest has kicked off. Readers are invited to mail or deliver a photo of their family pet to the newspaper office. Photos of finalists will be published on Nov. 22 and voting in person and online voting begins. All votes cast online will be free; in person voting will be \$1 per vote with a five vote minimum. Voting will end on Nov. 30. The top 13 vote-getters will be featured in the annual Pet Calendar delivered to all subscribers of The Lawton Constitution. Additional copies will be available at the newspaper office for the price of a Sunday newspaper. A portion of voting proceeds will be donated to the Humane Society and other local shelters.

PERRY DAILY JOURNAL STAFF COOKING UP READERS' RECIPES

The staff at the Perry Daily Journal is ready to cook up some holiday favorites. Readers are asked to share their family recipes by mailing them to the newspaper. The staff will cook and try the recipes by video, which will be posted on Facebook. All recipe submissions will be entered for a chance to win \$50 Chamber Bucks. The recipes will be printed in the Dec. 19 print edition of the Perry Daily Journal.

PONCA CITY NEWS ASKS KIDS HOW TO COOK TURKEY

The Ponca City News is asking kids to tell readers how to cook a delicious turkey for Thanksgiving. The promotion is sponsored by Kay County Farm Bureau and the Women's Leadership Committee. The ad provides a blank space for the kids to write or draw instructions on how to cook the turkey. Answers will be published in the Nov. 18 edition of The Ponca City News.



JOHNSTON COUNTY SENTINEL HONORS LADY INDIANS

The Johnston County Sentinel featured a special four-page, full color commemorative section in its Oct. 15 edition. The special section featured photos and statistics from the Lady Indians' history-making appearance in the 2020 Class 3A state fast-pitch tournament and is sure to become a keepsake for players, parents and fans.



DAVIS NEWS OFFERS SPECIAL FOR THANKSGIVING ADS

As a thank you to advertisers, The Davis News is offering half price Thanksgiving and Christmas greeting ads. Alisha Thompson, publisher of The Davis News, said this is the second year they offered the special. "We thought our response would be different due to Covid but we only have a few less than last year," Thompson said. Any size is offered for half price and most ads are from businesses, she said.



SPJ honors former ONF intern with award

The Society of Professional Journalists recently honored Katelyn Howard with the 2020 Julie Galvan Outstanding Graduate in Journalism Award.

Howard is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma's Gaylord College of Journalism & Mass Communication.

The award honors a journalism graduate nominated by their campus chapters and selected by the Society's leaders on the basis of character, service to the community, scholarship, proficiency in practical journalism and significant contributions to their SPJ chapter.

The award is named in memory of Julie Galvan, a former president of the SPJ San Jose University Campus Chapter, who was killed

in a car accident on her way to an internship in 1996.

While at OU, Howard was president of OU SPJ. During the fall 2019 semester, she interned at SiriusXM Radio in New York City. She also was an Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation intern at The Poteau Daily News and The Journal Record in Oklahoma City.

She continued to be active during the COVID-19 pandemic, virtually holding SPJ meetings and planning events. Under her leadership, OU SPJ won the Outstanding Campus Chapter Award for Region 8 in 2018-19.

She also spent a week in Iowa to report on the 2020 Democratic caucuses.

Howard was recognized virtually during the Sept. 12-13 SPJ 2020 Journalism Conference.



Katelyn Howard displays the 2020 Julie Galvan Outstanding Graduate in Journalism Award she recently received from the Society of Professional Journalists. Howard was an Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation intern. She interned at the Poteau Daily News in 2017 and at The Journal Record in Oklahoma City in 2018.

OU students helping high school students in OKC, Clinton

Journalism students at the University of Oklahoma will soon be helping Oklahoma high schoolers explain "What is Home?" through a digital storytelling project.

The Institute for the Study of Human Flourishing, in partnership with the

Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication at OU, received a \$29,800 Kirkpatrick Foundation grant, which will be used to fund the project titled "What is Home?: A Digital Storytelling Project for Oklahoma High School Students."

Twenty high school students – 10 from Norman High School and 10 from Clinton High School – will have the opportunity to develop digital storytelling skills.

Over the next seven months, students will be provided with a GoPro

camera and asked to create a five- and 10-minute video on the topic "What is Home?".

OU students will mentor the high school students and provide assistance in completing the project.

OPA 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.
swilkinson@okpress.com, (405) 499-0020

MEMBER SERVICES

LISA SUTLIFF, Member Services Director
lsutliff@okpress.com, (405) 499-0026

CHRISTINE FRANK, Membership & Meeting Dir.
cfrank@okpress.com, (405) 499-0040

ADVERTISING

LONDON COBB, Sales Director
lcobb@okpress.com, (405) 499-0022

CINDY SHEA, Advertising Director
cshea@okpress.com, (405) 499-0023

DIGITAL CLIPPING

KEITH BURGIN, Clipping Director
kburgin@okpress.com, (405) 499-0024

JENNIFER CATES, Digital Clipping Dept.
jbeatley-cates@okpress.com

SAMANTHA SMITH, Clipping / Advertising
ssmith@okpress.com, (405) 499-0035

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

GENERAL INQUIRIES

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OKLAHOMA NATURAL GAS CONTEST WINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SEPTEMBER WINNERS

Column: **JEFF MULLIN**, *Enid News & Eagle*

Editorial: **MIKE McCORMICK**, *The Lincoln County News*

SEPTEMBER EDITORIAL WINNER

MIKE McCORMICK, *The Lincoln County News*

Editorial

Oklahomans have only two state questions to decide in this year's General Election on Nov. 3. One has been pretty well publicized. The other has drawn little or no media attention.

State Question 805 basically deals with criminal justice reform and has received considerable publicity. State Question 814 addresses the Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund and tries to change how the proceeds in that fund are directed.

Somehow SQ 814 has remained under the radar. Often that is the case and has been the case when the Legislature is attempting to get its hands on more money with hopes voters don't realize it before it's too late.

The measure's intent is to amend the portion of the Oklahoma Constitution that directs proceeds from the state's settlements with or judgments against the tobacco companies.

At this time, a section of the state's Constitution directs 75 percent of the proceeds to the Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust Fund, where earnings may only be used for tobacco prevention programs, cancer research and other related programs to maintain the health of Oklahomans.

In other words, the funds are aimed at providing healthier lifestyles for Oklahoma citizens. This state has plenty of health issues.

The remaining 25 percent of the proceeds currently are directed to a separate fund for the Legislature. It's called the

Legislative Fund and lawmakers can direct some of that percentage to the Attorney General.

State Question 814 would change all of that. The measure, if approved by voters, would amend the Constitution and reduce the percentage of proceeds that go into the TSET Fund from 75 percent to 25 percent.

That would mean the other 75 percent will go into the Legislative Fund and the lawmakers could continue to direct a portion to the State Attorney General.

The measure would restrict the use of the Legislative Fund. The section of the Constitution dealing with this issue only stipulates the Fund is subject to legislative appropriation. Should SQ 814 pass, money from the Legislative Fund must be used to get federal matching dollars for Oklahoma's Medicaid Program.

If SQ 814 were to pass, it could have a negative impact on communities in Lincoln and Pottawatomie Counties and others in Oklahoma that previously have benefited. There are several communities in Lincoln and Pottawatomie Counties that have received TSET funds to promote healthier lifestyles among its citizens.

Changing the percentage of funds that TSET currently receives from 75 to 25 is nothing short of drastic. And it will undo the intended purpose for these proceeds.

The current system seems to be working fine. Pure and simple, Oklahoma voters should reject SQ 814 on election day.



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

The September 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.

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