

Reid Newspapers purchase three publications in northeast Oklahoma



JEANNE ANN AND PHILLIP REID

Reid Newspapers, an Oklahoma-based newspaper publishing company, announced February 1 the purchase of the Miami News-Record, the Grove Sun, and The Delaware County Journal from Gannett Co., Inc.

Reid Newspapers is a second-generation, family-owned newspaper company operating seven other publications. Those include the Weatherford Daily News, the Perry Daily Journal, the Bethany Tribune and the Country Connection as well as operating the Vinita Daily Journal, the Nowata Star, the Grandlaker and the Afton-Fairland American with business associates John and Janet Link of Vinita.

Reid Newspapers own-

ers Phillip Reid and wife, Jeanne Ann, have been active in the industry for more than 40 years. Reid's family owned the Pauls Valley Daily Democrat, Wewoka Times and the Frederick Leader for many years before moving to Weatherford in 1972 to purchase the Weatherford Daily News when Phillip Reid was twelve.

Reid and his wife met at the University of Oklahoma where they graduated with degrees from the H.H. Herbert School of Journalism.

Jeanne Ann Reid is the granddaughter of Lee Keith Smith of Jay and Ruth Butler, daughter of O. E. Butler, who purchased the Grove Sun around 1904 according to family history.

During O. E. Butler's years at the paper he helped lead the fight for statehood in the Cherokee Nation. He also led other Oklahoma newspapers in the fight for the construction of the Grand River Dam and devoted space in The Sun to the project for 25 years.

He operated the newspaper until his death in 1948 when Ruth Butler's brother, Owen Butler, took over the

operation. He ran the newspaper until 1952, at which time Owen Butler became president of the State Bank of Grove.

Owen's son, Owen L., currently lives in Grove along with his wife, Claudia.

When asked about his memories of growing up in the newspaper business, Owen L. Butler said he still remembers sweeping the floors and cleaning the presses as a young boy. He said at the end of one day he told his father, "I want my dime and I won't be back!"

Owen L. Butler said he remembers when he was older helping with the presses if they needed him, but he was not a newspaper person like his father. He much preferred to be outdoors hunting or fishing on the ranch in Centralia with friend Kelly Hartley.

The Reid family has published many newspapers in Oklahoma while having had interest in many small town publications for years.

Current employees of the newspapers were offered continued employment with the transition. Area resi-

See Reid, Page 2

Stitt signs bill extending virtual meeting provisions

Governor Kevin Stitt signed Senate Bill 1031 into law on Feb. 10, reinstating temporary modifications to the Open Meeting Act allowing for virtual public meetings.

In his first bill signing this year, Stitt signed Senate Bill 1031 by Senate Pro Tem Greg Treat, R-Oklahoma City, and House Majority Floor Leader Jon Echols, R-Oklahoma City.

The legislation reinstates the virtual meeting exemptions that expired in November. It also requires public bodies to provide meeting materials to virtual participants and prevents groups from meeting in person after posting notice of a virtual meeting.

"We are continuing to work with legislators on improving public access to all meetings, whether virtual or in person," said Mark Thomas, executive vice president of the Oklahoma Press Association. "There are more videoconferencing bills moving through the com-

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3 Nationwide website provides links to 47 public notice websites operated by state press associations.

10 Reporters and photographers may be treated as salaried employees under new Department of Labor ruling.

11 OPA Computer Consultant Wilma Newby reminds you to make two computer backups to secure your data.

12 Worth Mentioning is ideas we find in your newspapers. Get an idea or share one with us. Send your ideas to news@okpress.com.

From the President

By Mike Strain, Tulsa World
OPA President 2020-2021



A couple of months ago, Claremore city councilors and the mayor took public comment on a proposed mask-wearing mandate to slow the spread of COVID-19.

In a split vote that came after passionate debate, the council approved the ordinance. A few members of the public shouted angrily from the back of the room. As most filed out, one man – separate from the angry group – came to the front.

He was part of a youth soccer program, and there were games scheduled to begin about 12 hours after that Friday night meeting ended. He had questions for city officials about the ordinance, and he needed immediate answers. After a few minutes, the man had his answers and headed out. By the end of the night, I thought: This is how government is meant to function.

I share this story now, because lawmakers have started a new legislative session. A bill getting immediate attention relates to public meetings and how they should be conducted during the pandemic. The quick synopsis: The proposal, which may already have passed by the time you read this, would allow public officials to attend meetings remotely through platforms like Zoom or Facebook Live. If that sounds familiar, it should. During the last legislative session, lawmakers allowed remote meetings due to the pandemic.

But – to the dismay of some elected leaders – that legislation expired in mid-November. Now, public officials want to be allowed to meet remotely again. (While it is likely a temporary plan during the pandemic, it seems odd that elected leaders who support schools meeting in person would find public meetings too risky.)

The OPA's Mark Thomas reviews thousands of bills (not an exaggeration) every session and is tracking more than 100 (also not an exaggeration) that could affect our industry. Some bills could impact the financial side of newspapers' operations. Others could affect access to information available in open records or from officials in open meetings.

For the purposes here, I'm referring to the access of information. When Mark is speaking with lawmakers – or when member papers contact their legislators – we are representing more than just our industry. We are representing the rights of all Oklahomans.

Sometimes, though, I don't think the public realizes this or understands the importance. I get that. It's not like the Open Meeting Act is a big holiday dinner topic. But this legislation affects our state's residents; and as these bills come up during the session, I hope the public is aware of how it can affect them.

Access to speaking with elected leaders probably doesn't seem important to someone ... right up until that moment when it is. Like when a soccer coach needs to talk immediately with an official after a meeting. That might not be practical, or even possible in some cases, after a meeting held remotely.

Lawmakers will determine how much access Oklahomans will have. The process is happening right now, and I'm proud of the work Mark and OPA members are doing on these fronts. Because government that functions like what I saw that night in Claremore – when people could watch that debate on the internet or engage in it in person – is good for Oklahomans.

OSBI investigates Norman Council

The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation has agreed to investigate a complaint regarding the Norman City Council's alleged Open Meeting Act violation in June.

Cleveland County Sheriff Chris Amason asked the OSBI to investigate after a district judge sided with the Fraternal Order of Police that the council violated the Open Meeting Act.

Judge Thomas K. Baldwin found the council's agenda was "deceptively worded or materially obscured" for its June 16, 2020, meeting where the council "defunded" the police department budget by \$865,000.

In a civil case filed by Norman's police union, Baldwin declared the votes invalid because of "a willful violation" of the Open Meeting Act. The city appealed to the Oklahoma Supreme Court on Jan. 4.

Justices will decide if the council or staff violated the law, but the OSBI is free to investigate regardless of pending court determinations.

"Our investigation of any case is independent of any court action that may be occurring simultaneously," said OSBI spokeswoman Brook Arbeitman.

Reid (continued from page 1)

dents Brenda Haskell and Andrew Crawford have also been added to the staff of the newspapers.

"We run a family oper-

ation. Our goal is to work alongside leaders in the community to help grow and celebrate the towns we serve. Our doors are always

open to new ideas and directions for the newspapers," Reid said.

Newspaper offices will be

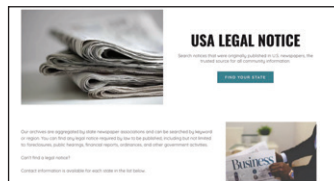
located in both Miami and Grove.

Nationwide public notice website launches

Newspaper Association Managers, Inc., a consortium of North American trade associations representing the industry, has launched a website aimed at promoting legal notices in newspapers.

USALegalNotice.com provides direct access to 47 public notice websites from across the country, including oklahomanotices.com, each of which is operated by state newspaper associations. The site allows the public to more easily access legal notices nationwide, including foreclosures, public hearings, financial reports, ordinances and resolutions, and other important government proceedings.

"For centuries, newspapers have published



public notices in order to make vital government information transparent and accessible to citizens," said NAM President Steve Nixon, who also serves as the executive director of the Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers Association. "In the last several decades, newspapers and newspaper associations have worked to broaden that effort by aggregating these notices on public notice websites that maintain independent, third-party oversight.

"The launch of USALegalNotice.com allows the industry to continue

to build on its mission of informing the public about government actions and facilitating participation in the democratic process."

As the most trusted source of information in their communities, newspapers are committed to making the public aware of important civic matters that affect them. NAM's launch of USALegalNotice.com allows the industry to continue distributing public information to the largest possible audience.

Newspaper Association Managers, Inc., is a professional organization comprised of the executives of state, regional, national and international newspaper associations headquartered in the United States and Canada.

Virtual meetings (continued from page 1)

mittee and legislative process this session that should address and clarify some of the abuses that occurred when full videoconferencing and teleconferencing was authorized last year.

SB 1031 addressed some of those concerns and we appreciate those efforts but there is more work to be done."

The exemptions took effect upon the governor's

signature and will remain in place until Feb. 15, 2022, or until 30 days after the COVID-19 state of emergency expires, whichever is earlier.

You've Got Questions!

- Can I photograph minors without consent?
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- What are the laws about liquor advertising?

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

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Bishop-Baldwin returning to newsroom

After a nearly six-year break from the newspaper business, Sharon Bishop-Baldwin has returned as a part-time writer for the Sand Springs Leader.



Sharon Bishop-Baldwin

Bishop-Baldwin received a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Oklahoma nearly 30 years ago. Her first job was at the Tulsa World, where she was copy editor and city slot editor for more than 20 years.

During her hiatus from the newspaper industry, she's been a freelance reporter.

She's no stranger to the Sand Springs area, having grown up west of downtown Tulsa near Sand Springs and has stayed in touch with the city over the years.

The Sand Springs Leader also announced that Shawn Hein resigned his position as a staff writer on Jan. 15.

Cindy Allen named publisher and editor of Enid News & Eagle

The Enid News & Eagle has named Cindy Allen as publisher and editor.

Allen succeeds longtime publisher Jeff Funk, who retired in December, and editor Rob Collins, who resigned last month to lead the Oklahoma Media Center.

Allen served as the managing editor of the News & Eagle from 2002 to 2011 before moving to Oklahoma City to be with her geologist husband, Gerry Allen, who had been transferred there.

Allen said she's eager to return to Enid and the News & Eagle and to begin "working with the truly talented news, advertising and marketing teams."

"The need for reliable and trusted journalism is more important today than ever," Allen said.

Funk said the city and newspaper are fortunate Allen has returned to Enid.

"Cindy was very involved in Enid community activities during her previous tenure," Funk said. "She



Cindy Allen

has remained keenly aware of the issues facing Enid and Northwest Oklahoma even while working in Oklahoma City because she has extended family living in Enid."

A native of Shawnee and a graduate of the University of Oklahoma, Allen's journalism career prior to Enid included publisher of the Pittsburg (Kan.) Morning Sun and general manager of The Log Cabin Democrat in Conway, Ark.

From 2012 to 2016, Allen worked for Devon Energy in Oklahoma City in media relations, corporate and internal communications, and government and public affairs. She then joined the

Oklahoma Oil & Gas Association as a communications consultant.

Since 2017, she has served as external relations director for Parent Promise/Parent Child Abuse Oklahoma, a nonprofit organization.

As publisher and editor of the Enid News & Eagle, Allen will oversee all departments of the paper, in print six days a week and online daily.

Additionally, the paper produces a lifestyle magazine, ETown, six times a year and various special sections throughout the year.

Bill Ketter, senior vice president of news for the paper's parent company, CNHI LLC, became familiar with Allen from her earlier work at the News & Eagle as the top newsroom executive. He said she "brings a tremendous amount of knowledge and enthusiasm to her work and inspires people working with her to do their best work as well."

Mark Codner named publisher of Newcastle Pacer



Mark Codner

Mark Codner has been hired as publisher of The Newcastle Pacer, announced

Emily and John Denny Montgomery.

Codner is an Edmond resident who has lived all over Oklahoma and has a well-established career as a writer, an editor and

publisher specializing in local community news and content.

Codner and his wife Sherry were publishers/owners of The Madill Record for more than 20 years, along with Gracie and John D. Montgomery, publishers of The Purcell Register.

Mark Codner holds a BA in Journalism from the University of Central Oklahoma.

In late 2017, Codner

moved to Edmond where he was editor of The Edmond Sun until it closed.

Prior to accepting the position in Newcastle, he was editor at the Yukon Review and Mustang News.

He and Sherry have been married for more than 30 years and have two adult children, Sarah and Jordan who both live in Edmond, and three grandchildren.

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Ada News names Arie as editor

Mike Arie, managing editor of the Pauls Valley Democrat, is also now editor of The Ada News.



Mike Arie

Arie, a journalist with more than 25 years experience at Oklahoma newspapers, began his career as a reporter and sports editor at the Pauls Valley Democrat after graduating from Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

He has been filling in as a contributing editor and

reporter for the Ada News in recent months.

"Having Mike on our team will be an asset to the Ada community," said Maurisa Nelson, Ada News general manager. "He is eager to make some tweaks to our editorial approach."

Nelson said the newspaper hit a grand slam when it added Arie to its team.

"I'm really excited about being an integral part of The Ada News and working with a talented and dedicated staff," Arie said.

Arie and his wife, Lynn, have two children and two grandchildren.

New editor and reporter at the Okemah News Leader

Tim Willert has been named editor/reporter for the Okemah News Leader.



Tim Willert

Previously, Willert worked as a reporter for The Oklahoman covering crime, courts, education and sports.

Willert began his journalism career in 1994, working for daily and weekly newspapers in San Diego, Las Vegas and Los Angeles. In 2010, he moved to Houston and to Norman in 2011.

He is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma, where he is an adjunct professor.

Willert and his wife, two children and two dogs live in Norman.

Also joining the Okemah News Leader staff as a reporter is Alanna Bradley.



Alanna Bradley

She will also be working with local businesses to sell and design advertising.

Bradley has worked in the news business for 20 years. Her experience includes working in the communications office at Oklahoma State University, and as a producer in the Oklahoma City and East Coast TV news market. Most recently, she spent five years with the Oklahoma City Public School district as a high school English teacher.

She is a graduate of Oklahoma State University and is currently working on a professional writing degree in the journalism college at the University of Oklahoma.

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Christy Wheeland chooses new career path

After 33 years at the news desk, Christy Wheeland is leaving the Wagoner County American-Tribune.

She began a new career on Jan. 25 as executive director of the Coweta Chamber of Commerce.

Wheeland began her career at the Coweta American in April 1988. Since then, she's worked in Coweta, Wagoner and Porter.

"When the Coweta American merged with the Wagoner Tribune in 2016, the union had its rough moments, but we made it work," Wheeland said. "Our history of having award-winning publications in both communities continued and we have flourished under the American-Tribune name."

Wheeland said she's



Christy Wheeland and her daughter, Victoria, on a helicopter ride over Coweta during the 2015 Fall Festival. Wheeland was taking photos of school construction projects from the air.

been asked many times what she loved about her job and her answer never wavers: "Dealing with people, telling their stories and documenting events that become our communities history."

She expressed her appreciation for the team of co-workers she worked with. "I appreciate you more than you'll ever know," Wheeland said.

Oklahoman editorial writer announces retirement

Owen Canfield, editorial writer for The Oklahoman, recently announced that he is retiring.

Canfield has written editorials for The Oklahoman since 2003. Prior to that, he spent 19 years with The Associated Press in Oklahoma City. He is a 1981

graduate of the University of Oklahoma.

"After 17-and-a-half years writing opinion for The Oklahoman, this is my last day," Canfield wrote on Jan. 31. "This is my last day."

Canfield said the departure has nothing to do with

his recent decision to begin putting his name on editorials.

"This is strictly about the need to get out of the fray and do something else," he wrote. "It's been a long time coming."

Oklahoman columnist set to retire



Helen Ford Wallace, a columnist for The Oklahoman, recently announced that she is retiring.

Wallace covered society-related events and news and put local parties online with daily updates.

With the exception of two years when she lived out of state, Wallace has written feature articles for The Oklahoman since 1957 when she became a teen correspondent for the Oklahoma City Times.

Wallace earned a journalism degree at OU, where she wrote for the Oklahoma Daily.

She did graduate work at OCU, and taught journalism at Northeast High School, sponsoring the newspaper and yearbook.

"The Oklahoman has been around forever and has trained so many of our excellent reporters and executives through these years," Wallace wrote in her final column.

"I wish the outstanding Oklahoman staff all of the best going forward."

Wallace was inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame in 2007.

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Chelsea Avila helps the Grinch (Brandon Jones) get his outfit together before heading out to entertain visitors in downtown Fletcher before the annual Christmas Parade.

Photo by SCOTT RAINS, *The Lawton Constitution*, Dec. 6, 2020



A sweet alpaca goes in for a holiday kiss. The free, festive pictures for families to take in front of a vintage sleigh was one of the activities that was part of "Christmas on Main". The events happened along Main Street in downtown Yukon.

Photo by HALEY HUMPHREY, *The Yukon Review*, Dec. 12, 2020

DECEMBER 2020

DAILY WINNER:

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RAINS**

*The Lawton
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DECEMBER 2020

WEEKLY WINNER:

**HALEY
HUMPHREY**

*The Yukon
Review*

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

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DEATHS

Continued on Page 9

THOMAS EARL BAILEY, a former reporter for the McAlester News-Capital, died Jan. 26, 2021. He was 81.

Bailey was born July 21, 1939, at Richville, Okla. He

was a graduate of Eastern Oklahoma State College and the University of Central Oklahoma.

After working at the McAlester News-Capital, Bailey served for six years

as editor of the Sac and Fox tribal newspaper in Stroud. For more than 10 years, he was a writer/researcher in the Department of Communications for the Chickasaw Nation.

Bailey is survived by his wife, Debra Collins Bailey; sons Evans of Oklahoma City, Glenn of Tuttle, and Keith of Houston, Texas; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

JANIS WIMBERLY HRUBY, daughter, wife and mother of newspapermen, died Jan. 16, 2021. She was 89.

Janis was born on July 9, 1931, in Altus. She moved to Washington, DC in 1945 when her father, Harrington Wimberly, was appointed by President Harry Truman to serve on the Federal Power Commission. Wimberly purchased The Duncan Banner in 1963, serving as editor and publisher until his death in 1978.

Janis attended Goucher

College in Baltimore, Maryland, before moving back to Oklahoma to attend the University of Oklahoma. While at OU, she met the love of her life, Alexander Hruby, who was getting his master's degree in geology.

Janis graduated from OU with a journalism degree in 1954. She married Alexander Hruby on June 25, 1955, and moved with him to Billings, Montana, Denver, Colo., and Jackson, Miss., before returning to Oklahoma in 1965 when Al joined the family business working for The Duncan

Banner. Al was named associate publisher in 1970 and assumed the editor and publisher title after Wimberly's death. He held that position until the family sold The Banner to American Publishing Co. in 1997.

Janis was active in the community, serving as a member of many clubs and organizations.

Her son, John, grew up in and around The Banner and served as publisher for a year after the transition from family to corporate ownership.

Janis was preceded in

death by her parents, Harrington and Myrth Wimberly, her husband of 55 years Alexander Joseph Hruby, son John Alexander Hruby, daughter-in-law Tinker Stein Hruby and granddaughter, Katherine Anne Hruby.

She is survived by her daughter, Alison Hruby Whittaker of Los Gatos, Calif., and her two grandchildren, Clay Whittaker of Petaluma, Calif., and Sarah Whittaker of Oregon City, Oregon.

MELBA LOVELACE, a well-known columnist for The Oklahoman, died Jan. 28, 2021, at the age of 90.

Lovelace was born Feb. 13, 1930, in Red Rock. Before she came to Oklahoma City, she worked as a reporter at the Latimer County News Democrat in Wilburton.

She joined the staff at OPUBCO as a secretary and headed the dictation and typing pool and was

then made a copy editor. Lovelace's first columns were about her passion for cooking and offered tips for homemakers and hobbyists.

She received so much mail that she began sharing questions from readers in search of answers from other readers and Melba's Swap Shop was born.

The column first started appearing in December 1975 in the Saturday edition of the Oklahoma City Times

and in the Comics section of the Sunday Oklahoman. By the spring of 1977, the column had grown so popular it went daily.

Lovelace retired in 1992, after writing the column seven days a week for 17 years but continued to write the column weekly with her last column appearing a week before her death.

She was inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame in 2010.

She did television shows, a regular radio show and wrote 16 books of recipes, crafts, quilting and household hints.

Lovelace is survived by her daughter, Sandy Killian; stepdaughters Rikki and Jill Abrams; stepson Jeff Abrams; sister Mary Lee Colwell; three grandchildren; four great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

Remembering our friends & colleagues who died the previous year

Chelsea C. Cook
Jan. 20, 2020

Thomas Blakey,
Feb. 15, 2020

Verdine 'Geri' McClure Huston,
Feb. 5, 2020

Joe W. McBride, Jr.,
Feb. 25, 2020

George Edgar Gurley
Jan. 18, 2020

Carol Louise Cole-Frowe,
Feb. 25, 2020

Grace Anne Leonhart,
Feb. 5, 2020

Mercedes Elizabeth Wheeler,
Feb. 6, 2020

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

DEATHS

Continued from Page 10

REBECCA ANN 'BECKY' MAYO, who was active in many phases of the Sequoyah County Times newspaper operation, died Jan. 14, 2021. She was 79.

Mayo was born Dec. 30, 1941, in Muskogee. She attended Lindenwood College in Missouri for a year before transferring to the University of Oklahoma where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics in 1964.

She taught school in California before moving to Sallisaw in 1967.

Since the 1970s, Mayo was active at the Sequoyah County Times serving as educational services and business manager before her retirement in 2016. She was part owner of Cookson Hills Publishers, Inc.

In 2003, she was inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame. In 2002, she was co-winner, along with her husband Jim, of the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation's Beachy Musselman Award for outstanding contributions to newspaper journalism.

In 1992, Becky Mayo pioneered a comprehensive Newspaper in Education (NIE) program for the Sequoyah County Times and other small newspapers to provide newspapers, tours and youth career counseling to students. She was the first chairperson of the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation committee on NIE.

She was active in many civic organizations and clubs and served as a Sunday school teacher, a den leader for Cub Scouts as

well as a district leader for Boy Scouts of America.

Mayo is survived by her two sons, John Robert (Jack) Mayo and wife Jennifer of Duvall, Wash., and Jeffrey William Mayo and wife Beth of Sallisaw; brother, Bob Boen of San Carlos, Calif.; six grandchildren, Gretchen Kate Mayo, Jacob Wheeler Mayo, Zachary John Mayo and Harrison Walker Carmel Mayo, all of Duvall and Madolyn Rose Mayo and Maddox William Mayo of Sallisaw.

MAE MUSGROVE, a former typesetter and paginator for the Shidler Review, died Jan. 11, 2021. She was 85.

Musgrove was born Oct.

31, 1935. She moved with her husband, C.L., from Borger, Texas, to Shidler in 1963.

In addition to her work at the newspaper, she

also worked at the Senior Citizens Center as a bookkeeper and treasurer for 21 years.

She is survived by three daughters: Linda Kennedy

of Aztec, New Mexico, Lisa Patton of Shidler, and Anita Coe of Jacksonville, Fla.; one brother; six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

ANTHONY 'TONY' LEE PIPPEN, who spent most of his working life as a journalist for the Ada Evening News, died Jan. 11, 2021. He was 84.

Pippen was born Nov. 7, 1936, in Amagon, Ark., and grew up in Searcy, Ark. He received a Bachelors degree

in journalism from Harding University in Searcy.

Former Ada News publisher Loné Beasley said, "He was a journalist, musician and all-around great guy. Tony will be missed."

Beasley said former Ada News reporter Leo Kelley summed up Pippen's abil-

ity as a journalist when he said, "Tony can take the article 'the' and write a story around it."

Pippen is preceded in death by his daughter, Tanya Stevens, and his first wife, Sharon Pippen.

He is survived by his wife, Dona Pippen,

of Ada, stepdaughter, Dana Chilcoat of Ada; a granddaughter and two stepgranddaughters; a great-grandson and three step-great-grandchildren; and a sister, Phyllis Pippen of Newport, Ark.

FRITZ WADE WIRT, a longtime Oklahoma journalist, died Jan. 6, 2021, in Montgomery, Texas. He was 85. He was born April 2, 1935.

A former newspaper reporter, editor, publisher and journalism educator, Wirt worked at several

newspapers in Oklahoma, Tennessee and Texas. While working in the private sector, he taught journalism classes part-time at various universities in Tennessee, Oklahoma and Texas.

He was the general manager of the Oklahoma State University's O'Collegian

from 1989 until his retirement in 2008.

Wirt was inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame in 2006.

He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Karen; daughter Tobey Scott of Big Lake, Texas; sons Robin Wirt of McLean, Va., and

Dan Wirt of Richmond, Va.; stepdaughter Candice Rogers of Conroe, Texas; stepson Christopher Caldwell of McKinney, Texas; two grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; one great-grandchild and two step-grandchildren.

Thank you for donating to the **OKLAHOMA NEWSPAPER FOUNDATION**

*Tom & Sherry Muchmore, Barb Walter, and Dotty Oelkers
in memory of Becky Mayo*

Department of Labor ruling allows for reporters, photographers to be treated as salaried employees

from **America's Newspapers;**
newspapers.org

Updated guidance says duties of small town and local journalists can qualify for the creative professional exemption to federal overtime rules; professional exemption is not limited to journalists working in major markets

The United States Department of Labor recently published four opinion letters in response to requests for an opinion regarding an interpretation of various aspects of federal wage and hour laws. One of those requests, Opinion Letter FLSA2021-7, on behalf of unnamed members of the America's Newspapers membership, requested the DOL provide guidance as to whether local small-town and community news source journalists are creative professionals under the Fair Labor Standards Act, and thus, exempt from the FLSA's obligations to pay overtime as a result of federal law.

The FLSA's creative professional exemption allows newspapers to pay reporters and photographers a salary as opposed to hourly if their primary duty requires "invention, imagination, originality or talent in a recognized field of artistic or creative endeavor." 29 C.F.R. 541.300(a) (2)(ii).

The DOL recognized that in light of technological advancements that have changed the way in which news is gathered, packaged and reported, including a focus on "context-based"

reporting rather than the "just the facts" approach of decades past, prioritizing substantive analysis and commentary in reported stories, has changed the nature of the written and analytic component of journalism for print, broadcast and digital media employers.

The DOL recounted the history and early analyses of journalists and the professional exemption and concluded that, in contrast to prior readings of the FLSA's creative professional exemption to overtime, it would give the creative professional exemption a "fair (rather than a narrow) interpretation."

The DOL concluded that, under a fair reading of the creative professional exemption:

- Journalists whose primary duty requires "invention, imagination, originality, or talent" are not confined to national networks and major media markets.
 - The FLSA should not be construed to find that the majority of local print, digital and broadcast journalists perform work that is not creative in nature.
 - Every journalist who performs the appropriate primary duties qualifies for the creative professional exemption, regardless of the size, prestige or geographic reach of the journalist's employer (so long as their work product is not subject to substantial control by the employer, and the journalist meets the exemption's salary level).
- The DOL agreed that the following journalist duties

and requirements are within the creative professional exemption:

- Originating and developing creative, engaging, shareable, content-driven stories, relying on creativity, memorable storytelling and unique perspectives.
- Identifying, researching and interviewing sources of background information, sources of current information, subjects and witnesses.
- Composing and producing unique and captivating stories.
- Using creative photographic techniques to capture stories through photographs and video presentations.
- Using creative techniques, such as graphics and new forms of media (viewer pictures, webcam interviews, etc.) to enhance stories.
- Identifying and synthesizing documents and data from numerous sources to develop original content, sometimes for specialized rather than general audiences, independent of daily news events.
- Interpreting and analyzing developing news stories.
- Maintaining a strong, creative and engaging social media and community presence to engage readers or viewers directly to drive readership or viewership.
- Operating autonomously and without constant supervision, subject to occasional check-ins and final editorial review for print or broadcast.
- Maintaining composure and professionalism while

continuing to execute their duties as a journalist, without direction, during live breaking news situations.

America's Newspapers Board Member Camille Olson, of Seyfarth Shaw LLP, described the Opinion Letter as the first guidance provided by the Department of Labor that recognizes that technological changes and evolving consumer preferences for news stories that provide original, creative, individualized analysis and perspective on topics is not limited to work performed by journalists at major national news outlets, but also is applicable to work performed by journalists at local newspapers and television stations.

Olson encourages newspapers to take a fresh look at the specific duties of its reporters and photographers, guided by the guidance provided in the Opinion Letter. Unless a contractual or applicable local law requires a reporter or photographer to be treated on an hourly basis, the newspaper may have the option of treating the journalist on a salaried, overtime exempt, basis if their primary duty includes the above-described duties, and they are paid a salary of at least \$684 a week or \$35,568 annually. Olson predicts that the Opinion Letter's modern, balanced, critical analysis of specific duties of today's local journalists will serve as helpful guidance now, and also in the coming years, for newspapers, digital media companies and local broadcasters.

You need more than one backup to keep your data safe



Computer Notes

from the road
by Wilma Newby
wnewby@okpress.com

These cold winter months are a great time to consider backups.



No Backups for 299 Days
Connect to a power outlet while your backup disk is available.

If you see a message on your screen like the one above, it's asking you to back up to the external hard drive.

If your computer's hard drive was to crash, the only way to restore the drive with all its software is from a backup. And it's very hard to find older software to download because many of the sites we used to download from are gone. Those older copies of Google Chrome, FTP programs and older printer drivers are hard to find.

Make sure you also have an off-site backup, even if that means a second drive at another location. Cloud storage is expensive for the large amount of files that newspapers produce. So two external hard drives is a good way to go. Two terabyte drives can be found for as low as \$60 from Western Digital or Seagate. You should always have two in case one fails.

If you have the money, cloud programs are a good option. Look for ones that are not invasive on the computer.

Microsoft OneDrive, Google Drive and Dropbox can be used to back up weekly shared work. They're just not the right option for your entire hard drive backup. It would quickly fill up backup space that is most likely shared by several people.

Look at online backup options such as Carbonite or Backblaze as well as less known products like Elephant Drive. While this isn't a cheap way to go, it works. If this is the direction your newspaper takes, make sure there is a system restore for the operating system of the computer. And take time to understand how that information could be restored to the computer if the drive was lost. Some Cloud restore companies offer a USB drive that can be sent to the paper. Find out how long that would take.

If the system has just a few files, it's possible to back it up to a large USB drive. But these quickly fill up with regular backups from the Mac's Time Machine or Windows' File History. USB flash drives seem indestructible but do fail. We still need files and systems to be in two places.

Note: File History does not back up the operating system of the computer on Windows. You must create a Recovery Drive, found in **Control Panel > Recovery**. A USB reinstall drive can be created for Windows 10 from their website but it may not be the version of Windows 10 that was on your computer. So go ahead and create that Recovery drive.

On a Macintosh the entire drive is backed up using Time Machine, found in System Preferences.

Set up a system of reminders to get tasks like these done, even if it's only every few months. Calendar apps on the computer are great for reminders since it's in-your-face on the computer.

Tablets and phones need just as good backups as your computers. Many employees use them more than a desktop.

To back up an iPad, go to **Setting > iCloud > iCloud Backup**. Turn on all the switches for things that are critical. Be sure the iPad is connected to the internet and a power supply when doing this and give it some time to get going. Then if the iPad has to be reset it's easy to recover mail, apps and notes with the Apple ID.

On an iPhone go to **Setting > Apple ID > name of the phone > iCloud Backup** to turn it on. Under the Apple ID the setting for what is backed up can be accessed.

The hardest part of this is remembering the password for the iCloud account so be sure it's in an easily accessed location. Many people store all their passwords on their phones so if

it's not backed up and the phone dies, it takes a lot of work to get them all back.

With Android phones there are many different ways to backup. Try going to **Settings** on the phone and search for "backup." It should lead to the right path for getting it done.

PRINTER REQUESTS

I was asked to recommend some good printer/scanners this month. Here's what I found:

HP and Brother printers offer great options.

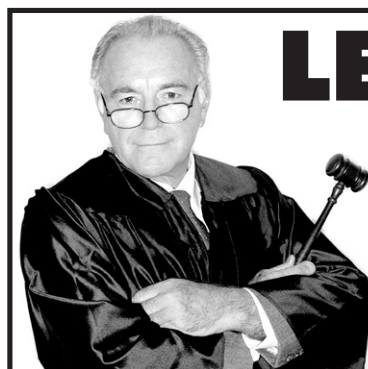
Look at the HP LaserJet Pro MFP M148FDW Wireless Laser All-In-One Monochrome Printer for \$200. It has a 1200 DPI scanner and toner runs about \$47. It's wireless so it can be used with cell phones.

At \$200, the Brother MFC-L2710DW Wireless Laser All-In-One Monochrome Printer is much the same on specs with toner at the same price.

It has an ethernet port and wireless and a 1200 DPI scanner.

Watch out when shopping for printers/scanners. The cost of the toner is what you want to know before buying.

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.



LEGAL ADVICE

is just one of the benefits of being a member of the Oklahoma Press Association's Legal Services Plan. Remove the worry of needing professional advice by enrolling today. For more information contact:

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LEGAL SERVICES PLAN
1-888-815-2672 or 405-499-0020

WORTH MENTIONING

Readers vote for the 'Best Newspaper Employee'

Thank you to all of our valued readers and everyone that voted!!!

Tina Anderson
voted
"Best Newspaper Employee"

Blackwell Journal-Tribune
523 South Main
(580)363-3370



The Blackwell Journal-Tribune asked readers to vote for the "Best Newspaper Employee" in its annual Readers Choice Awards contest. If you're not asking this question, consider adding it to your contest.

Sneak preview of classifieds show readers what they will find

The Muskogee Phoenix gives readers a sneak preview of what they will find in the classifieds under a header titled "Hot Off the Press!". It's a great way to remind readers of your classified page or section.

HOT OFF THE PRESS!

A Preview of what you will find in the classifieds, appearing for the first time today.

To place your classified ad call
918-684-2803/2805

155 LOST & FOUND 155 LOST & FOUND 435 LIVESTOCK

LOOKING FOR MY DOG
Lost Minpin, humility colored, ears and tail not cropped. This was about 12 yrs ago, from Osceola Missouri
Vet tel # 1-417-646-8239, gave away to 2 girls from somewhere in Oklahoma.
1-417-808-0450

LOST DOG



Missing female lab. Last seen on Mockingbird Lane in Muskogee. Please contact owners at 918-360-3556

40 -1ST Calf Heifers all Black, Calving February and March
918-617-3131

PHOENIX CLASSIFIEDS SELL!!!
918-684-2803/2805

Spend it here, keep it here. BUY LOCAL

SHOP LOCAL! SHOP MUSKOGEE! Phoenix

Readers share milestone events with community

Okmulgee Times and Henryetta Free-Lance encourage readers to send in photos and information of weddings, birthdays, anniversaries and other milestones to be included in the newspaper.

This free service is just one way the newspapers showcase their value to the community, said Anthony Nieto, general manager of the Okmulgee Times.

"We believe a key role of a community newspaper is delivering the news and highlighting the community," Nieto said.

"We love celebrating monumental moments, so we've encouraged our readers to share the good news."

Nieto said they receive several submissions and that the feature has been especially successful in the wake of the pandemic.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Got a new family member?
How about an older one?
Celebrate birthdays in style by sharing with the community!



Lifestyles

Birthdays • Weddings • Anniversaries & More!

Send your information and photos to the Okmulgee Times or Henryetta Free-Lance

Email patrick@bigbasinllc.com or tracy@bigbasinllc.com by Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. to get in Friday's edition or Monday at 4:30 p.m. to get in Wednesday's edition!

Okmulgee TIMES **Henryetta Free-Lance**
918-756-3600 918-652-3311

Weatherford Daily News launches Dinner On Us

The Weatherford Daily News' recently began a new Dinner On Us promotion launching the Locally Loved campaign.

"Restaurants have been greatly impacted by COVID-19 and this promotion is a way for the community to show their support and shop locally," said Phillip Reid, publisher of the Weatherford Daily News. "We plan to continue the Locally Loved campaign into other sectors of the economy."

Businesses can sign up for the promotion, which comes with a marketing package at a greatly reduced cost, said Reid. Customers can then register inside any sponsored business to win one of the 160 \$50 "Dinner On Us" gift certificates to be used at any participating restaurant.

Winners will be announced in the newspaper and on the Weatherford Daily News' Facebook page.

Weatherford Daily News

LOCALLY LOVED IT'S DINNER ON US

Wednesday January 13, 2021

Reid Newspaper Group Established 1900 ReidNewspapers.com

Dinner is on us

The Weatherford Daily News is launching its next exciting promotion following the highly successful Sports Page Club football books and Christmas Holiday cheer books. Late January the WDN will be giving away \$50 gift certificates to 160 winners to use at local restaurants in the new Dinner On Us promotion launching the Locally Loved campaign.

Restaurants have been greatly impacted by COVID-19 and this promotion is a way for the community to show their support and shop locally. We plan to continue the Locally Loved campaign into other sectors of the local economy," WDN publisher Phillip Reid said.

Businesses can sign up for the promotion which comes with a marketing package at a greatly reduced cost. Customers can then register inside any sponsored business to win one of the 160 \$50 "Dinner On Us" gift certificates to be used at any participating restaurant.

Winners will be announced in the Weatherford Daily News and on the WDN Facebook. Interested restaurants and businesses can contact the Weatherford Daily News at (580) 772-3301 or email at wdn@wdnonline.com for more details.



WORTH MENTIONING

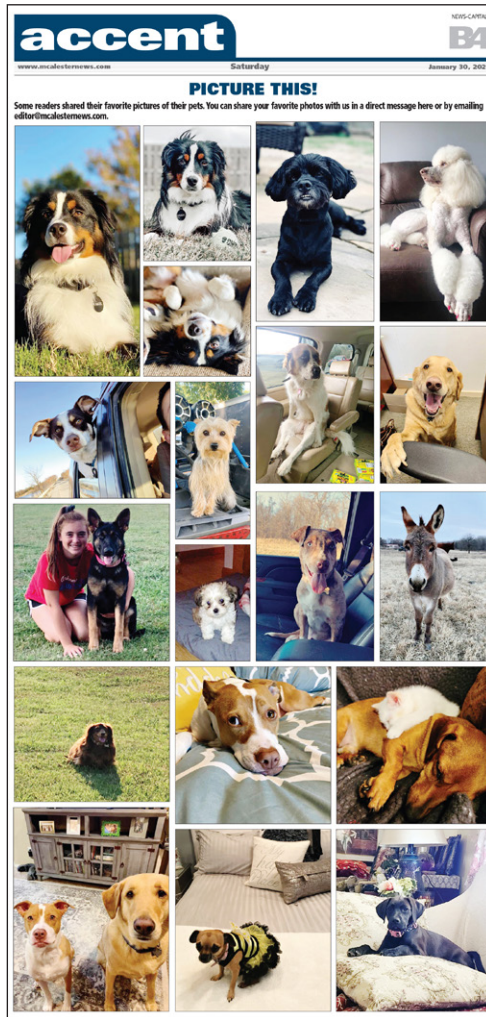
Pet photos popular feature at many state newspapers

It's pets in the news again. The Hooker Advance is recognizing the furriest family members of readers under the caption "Caught'Cha!" And in the McAlester News-Capital there were enough photos of furry friends to fill a page and a half!



Caught'cha!

The Advance wants to recognize the furriest family members of our readers near and far as we share photos and details about the best pets on planet earth. Today's furry friend is Cisco, Tony Baker's 11-month-old male blue heeler pup.

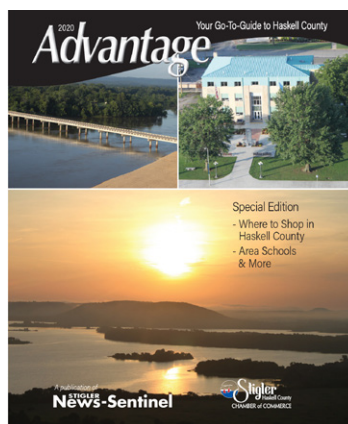


Full-color magazine features Stigler and Haskell County

The Stigler News-Sentinel is once again partnering with the Stigler-Haskell County Chamber of Commerce to produce "Advantage, Your Go-To Guide To Haskell County." The full-color magazine shines a spotlight on Haskell County and will include information about area schools, government, community activities and much more.

Copies will be inserted in the Stigler News-Sentinel and additional copies will be distributed to advertisers, the chamber and to individuals who request information about Haskell County.

"The staffs of the newspaper and the chamber are enjoying the process of gathering information about Haskell County and are looking forward to sharing the magazine with newspaper readers, prospective residents and interested business owners," said Summer Long, publisher of the Stigler News-Sentinel.



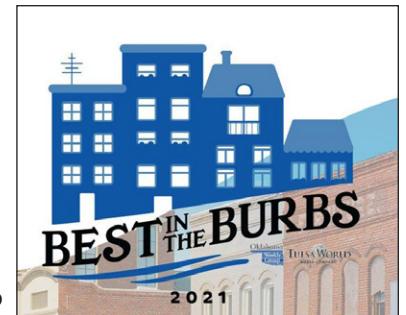
Hometown heroes honored

The Okmulgee Times featured a special section last month featuring hometown heroes. The Salute to Hometown Heroes honors agencies and individuals who are at the forefront of keeping cities safe. It recognized various police departments, city and rural fire departments, ambulance service, 911 service, Okmulgee County Sheriff's Office, District Attorney's Office and emergency management operations.



Tulsa suburbs to be honored

The Tulsa World and Oklahoma Weekly Group have a new contest to celebrate the best suburbs have to offer. Readers are asked to nominate businesses for the Best in the Burbs contest, which is open to businesses without a Tulsa mailing address. The winners will be announced in a special section that will be inserted in the Tulsa World and all four of its weekly publications including the Owasso Reporter, Wagoner County American-Tribune, Sand Springs Leader and Skiatook Journal.



The Paper honors women in business



The Paper in Pryor is featuring Women in Business. The feature, which began in mid-January, will continue as long as businesses want to continue saluting their female employees. Businesses are encouraged to contact the newspaper if they want to salute the women in their business.

Latimer County News-Tribune named Business of the Month

Wilburton Main Street named the Latimer County News-Tribune as Business of the Month for January.

Mitch Mullin is owner and publisher of the News-Tribune.

Wilburton Main Street said the newspaper “strives to provide reliable information and to be a newspaper that the community is proud to call a hometown newspaper. Mitch and the staff appreciate the continued support of the local businesses and their readers.”

“The Latimer County News-Tribune has worked very closely with Wilburton Main Street, Inc. through the 20 years of Main



Showing the banner and plaque presented to the Latimer County News-Tribune are Carolyn Pugh and Danel Walker from Wilburton Main Street, along with Sheri Saxon, Mark Showell, Brenda Showell, Malissa Evans and Mitchel Mullin, all on the staff at the Latimer County News-Tribune, and Maryellen Mooney, a Main Street staff member.

Street’s existence,” said Wilburton Main Street in announcing the award.

“We are proud that we have had the opportunity to

choose them as Business of the Month.”

Create a multi-ad campaign with these 12 easy tips

BY JOHN FOUST
Raleigh, NC

A single ad probably won’t generate much business. The real work is done in multi-ad campaigns. Here are a dozen tips:

1. Learn from history. It’s important to study your advertiser’s marketing history. If something worked, could that tactic be applied in the next campaign? If something failed, how can that mistake be avoided?
2. Pick the right target audience. Think specifics, not generalities. It’s impossible to sell a product or service to everyone. Select a particular segment of your overall audience and aim your message directly at them.
3. Study the advertiser’s competition. While you don’t want to duplicate what they are doing and risk being confused with them, there are lessons from things they have done. For example, if

they ran a successful “Christmas in July” sale last year, you may want to consider a unique off-season sale.

4. Extend the budget with co-op. Many retailers can get advertising assistance from the brands they carry. Brands are eager for exposure and often share the cost of local ads. There are guidelines, so be sure to check in advance.

5. Give readers a reason-to-buy in every ad. Although the word “campaign” implies long-term advertising, today’s readers may not be in the market for your advertiser’s products tomorrow. That’s why it’s a good idea to avoid “teaser messages” and go for the sale in every ad.

6. Be consistent. Each ad should look like it belongs to the same advertiser. In addition to consistent graphics – logo, typography, illustrative elements – the writing style should be the same.

7. Schedule frequency. Be sure to run ads often

enough to be familiar to your target audience. Of course, frequency should increase during peak selling times and decrease during off-season times.

8. Consider testing. Does “buy one, get one free” resonate with readers? Or does it work better to say, “Fifty percent off, when you buy two?” The discounts are identical, but you’ll never know which one is better unless you try both offers and keep count.

9. Adjust to surprises. When unexpected things happen, smart marketers adapt to the situation. For example, when the pandemic first hit, office supply companies started promoting work-at-home supplies.

10. Mix print and online. Most newspapers offer both print and digital options. This creates greater flexibility – and bigger readership numbers – in campaign scheduling. Don’t think of it as “either print or digital.”

Think of it as “print and digital.”

11. Get the advertiser’s sales team on board. The best ads in the world won’t work if the advertiser isn’t prepared to deal with the leads the ads generate. When there’s a special sale, everyone in the business should know the details. If there’s a new product introduction, they should be able to talk features and benefits.

12. Measure results. When you track responses – and the resulting sales – you’ll be in position to do more of what’s working and less of what’s not working. This calls for a close partnership between your paper and the advertiser.

© 2020 by John Foust. All rights reserved. John Foust has conducted training programs for thousands of newspaper advertising professionals. Many ad departments are using his training videos to save time and get quick results from in-house training. E-mail for information: john@johnfoust.com.

New York photographer joins Tulsa World staff



Michael Noble Jr.

Michael Noble Jr. is the newest photographer at the Tulsa World.

Noble grew up in St. Louis but has been living in Harlem and working in New York City for years. His clients include the Associated Press, New York Times, Washington Post, Nike and Google.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Photojournalism from Western Kentucky University.

"The people of Tulsa and Oklahoma I have met so far have been welcoming. It's something I love about being back home in the Midwest and missed," said Noble. "As a photographer for the Tulsa World, I'm looking to tell stories and often overlooked experiences of those who call Tulsa and the surrounding areas home."

Collins to oversee media center

Rob Collins, an Oklahoma media veteran, joined Local Media Association on Jan. 11 as the project lead for the Oklahoma Media Center, a journalism collaborative of 20 state newsrooms.

Collins worked most recently as executive editor of the Enid News & Eagle and editor of The Norman Transcript. Also serving as a regional editor for CNHI, he coordinated statewide content for all Oklahoma publications. A fifth-generation Oklahoma resident, Collins also managed CNHI Oklahoma's Capitol coverage.

"Local leadership for the Oklahoma Media Center has been our goal from day one," said Nancy Lane, CEO, Local Media Association. "We found the perfect fit with Rob Collins. He is purpose-driven and well-respected by his peers in the state. I believe he will take the OMC to a new and exciting level."

Collins received his bachelor's degree in 1993 at the University of Oklahoma, where he taught media writing and served on its Publications Board.

"Quality journalism is more important than ever, and the daunting challenges to the industry are well-documented," Collins said. "After working for decades in the for-profit publishing industry, I'm turning the page into the purpose-driven realm of nonprofit journalism. Through the Oklahoma Media Center, my goal is to help sustain and shape the future of Oklahoma's media ecosystem."

The Oklahoma Media Center was launched in the spring of 2020, with initial funding coming from Inasmuch Foundation and the Walton Family Foundation. Inasmuch — located in Oklahoma City — is the primary funder and one of the driving forces behind the center's launch.

"Inasmuch Foundation is thrilled Rob Collins will be the Project Manager of the Oklahoma Media Center," said Robert J. Ross, Chairman and CEO of Inasmuch Foundation.



Rob Collins

"His experience and relationships with media partners across the state will advance the center's mission to foster a thriving and collaborative news ecosystem."

Collins

began his newspaper career at The Norman Transcript before serving as managing editor at The Edmond Sun and as editor-in-chief of the weekly Oklahoma Gazette.

In 2012, Collins returned to his hometown of Enid where he lives with his wife Kim and their two children. He currently serves as president-elect of the Freedom of Information Oklahoma Board of Directors and will be president in 2022.

The OMC's first effort — coverage of the impact of COVID-19 on the state's K-12 educational system — has resulted in the publication and resharing of 34 stories across Oklahoma.

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OKLAHOMA NATURAL GAS CONTEST WINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DECEMBER WINNERS

Column: **TODD BROOKS**, *The Comanche Times*

Editorial: **KIM POINDEXTER**, *Tahlequah Daily Press*

DECEMBER COLUMN WINNER

TODD BROOKS, *The Comanche Times*

A Christmas unlike any other

I did not think it would have an affect on me.

I was wrong.

A few people had mentioned to me Christmas was going to be different for me this year. I kind of shrugged the words off.

Yet there I was Christmas morning, standing in my bedroom and shedding tears while I clung to my wife for comfort.

As some people already know I lost both my parents earlier this month. Dad died on Dec. 5. Mom died three days later on Dec. 8. They had been married 58 years and stuck together even in death.

We knew it was coming. Their prognosis continued to get worse with each passing day. They both had contracted COVID-19 in the nursing home where they lived. That on top of several underlying health issues was just too much for their bodies to bear. I'm not mad at the nursing home. The place was locked down for COVID-19 as securely as they could get it. Their deaths did not make me change my opinion on what needs to be done during this pandemic.

Two-and-a-half weeks later Christmas rolls around. I thought it had been enough time for me not to get emotional.

As I sat at the kitchen table Christmas morning it hit me. It hit me hard. Regardless if we were together or apart, I would always at least talk to my parents on the telephone. For more than 50 Christmases we connected in person, on a computer or on a telephone.

That morning my phone was charging in another room. There was no reason to keep it close. There would be no phone call to or from my mom.

I was in a funk as I sat there at the table. By that

time everyone was up and getting breakfast. I could feel tears had started welling up in my eyes. Sarah asked me if I was all right. I got up and walked to the bedroom and she followed.

I cried. It hurt. It hurt a lot.

After breakfast the rest of the family went to go open presents in the living room. I watched from the kitchen table, still in a funk.

As the morning wore on my mood lightened and so I was able to enjoy the rest of the day with my family.

My parents lived in North Carolina. I did not get to see them that often after Sarah and I got married nearly 23 years ago. Shortly after we got married, we moved to Arkansas and we've been west of the Mississippi River ever since with every move going further west until we settled here in Stephens County.

Most of the jobs I held I could not take a week off to go on vacation to go see them. Their health got to the point where they could not travel much either.

I learned a lot from them. I learned about loyalty, selflessness, family and being a provider.

As I first said at their 50th anniversary party and I've repeated since, Dad always made sure we had a house and Mom always made sure it was a home.

They were always there when I needed them. They were always in my corner and they were proud of me with the few accomplishments I have achieved in my life.

I will miss those phone calls. Mostly, though, I will just miss them.



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

The December 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.