

Don't forget to file postal form 3526 by Oct. 1

The U.S. Postal Service's annual Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (PS Form 3526) must be filed on or before October 1.

Filing and publication of this form is a requirement to maintain Periodicals mailing privileges.

A completed copy of the form must then be published in the newspaper.

Daily publications are required to publish the form by October 10; non-dailies must publish by October 31.

There are no regulations regarding the size or format of this published information as long as it is complete and legible.

An interactive form is available on the OPA website at okpress.com/postal-resources or from USPS at <https://about.usps.com/forms/ps3526.pdf>.

Journalism power couple retires

After 38 years as a power couple of journalism in Oklahoma, Wayne and Gloria Trotter have retired.

While their Oklahoma legacy spans 38 years, their path into journalism began far earlier.

As a child in Mobile, Ala., Wayne remembers using a hectograph, a machine that used gelatin to transfer images to paper. When his family moved to Byram, Miss., he worked on the high school newspaper.

Gloria, who grew up in Bristol, Tenn., recalls creating a neighborhood newspaper with her next-door neighbor and working at her high school newspaper.

Wayne would go on to graduate from the University of Southern Mississippi while Gloria received her degree from Memphis State University (now the University of Memphis).

Their paths crossed when Wayne took a job at the Bristol Herald-Courier in Gloria's hometown. Wayne was writing editorials while Gloria, who was still in college, worked part-time for the society department.

They were married in December 1964, which meant Gloria could no longer work at the newspaper.



Journalists Gloria and Wayne Trotter pose in the Countywide & Sun office on Aug. 19 before retiring after 38 years.

Photo by Natasha Dunagan, Countywide & Sun. Reprinted with permission.

"In the old-fashioned days, husbands and wives could not work at the same newspaper," Gloria said.

It wasn't long before the Trotters began looking for a newspaper to buy and found the Tecumseh Countywide.

In August 1983, the Trotters, along with Gloria's sister, Lisa, and brother-in-law

Dolan Wilson, bought the newspaper.

Wayne and Gloria moved from North Carolina to Oklahoma and began learning the technical and business ends of running a newspaper.

"Wayne was a very experienced journalist, and he certainly knew the journalism

See Trotters, Page 5

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From the President

By John Denny Montgomery

Co-Publisher, The Purcell Register • OPA President 2021-2022



One of my regrets is not taking better notes of my days in this profession for a book that I should be writing about this zany job as a print journalist.

I'm sure we all have our stories about crazy happenings in the newsroom or with the public.

One of the "is this really happening moments" for me occurred at a Purcell High School football game a few years ago.

My dad, John D., and I were there covering the Dragon game like normal.

We always stand on the Purcell sidelines so I can shoot pictures and he can watch the game to write his story.

Knowing all the usual characters on the sideline like the coaching staff, chain gang crew and armchair quarterback fathers of players, we were going about our business doing our jobs while visiting with everyone along the way.

Our surprise came during halftime when one of the chain gang members, the town dog catcher, screams down to John D. to come to him.

It turns out he had received a call from dispatch of a vicious dog or the like and he informed my dad he would be turning the first down marker over to him for the rest of the game while the dog catcher attended to his other matter.

He said he'd have given it to me but he didn't think I could run the camera and hold the pylon at the same time.

Lucky me!

But even luckier John D.!

We both stood in disbelief for a second before bursting into laughter. Most people don't get those types of experiences.

Most people don't have grateful customers who literally give you hugs for thoughtful articles written about someone close.

Most people also don't get to experience the blind side of walking into a snake pit of angry readers after a not-so-savory story has been published about them or one of their family members.

It's always an adventure and every day is definitely a new day in our business. It would have been a great book.

It's nice to have friends at other newspapers to be able to call upon for questions.

It's also great to be able to call Mark Thomas and the staff at the Oklahoma Press Association.

I never realized the full scope of OPA's value, but after serving on the OPA board of directors I understand what an asset we have.

I've learned I can get just about any question either answered or I can be pointed in a direction to find an answer.

From legal notice training to fair housing questions to state question analysis, OPA has us covered.

And there's of course Oklahoma Press Service, which provides revenue benefits that each of us so greatly need.

OPA members have a one-stop shop for getting questions answered for any of our day-to-day issues and when you're in a pinch or working on a deadline that resource can be invaluable.

For those who are Legal Services Plan members a quick call to Doug Dodd can save you from miles of future headache with legal matters.

In case you've forgotten the number, Dodd's direct line is (918) 591-5316. Just make sure you say, "This is an LSP call."

His email address is sddodd@dsda.com.

We can also call KatieBeth Gardner with the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press for pro bono legal advice and support for matters like accessing open records, open meetings issues and general questions about journalists' rights for news gathering.

Her phone number is (918) 255-0060 and her email address is kgardner@rcfp.org.

Our industry is stronger because of OPA and everyone's membership is appreciated.

Hinton files suit against Sugar Creek

In a recent court filing, the town of Hinton alleges that the Sugar Creek Ambulance District has no real board of trustees because its board seats were filled improperly and the trustees didn't follow relevant Oklahoma laws.

Hinton's counterclaim asks the judge to vacate the entity's board, declare all previous board actions invalid and provide Hinton appropriate relief.

The counterclaim was filed days after Caddo District Judge Kory Kirkland denied Sugar Creek's emergency effort to prevent the town of Hinton from contracting with its own ambulance service. Earlier this summer Sugar Creek sued the town, asking the courts to block Hinton's move.

The counterclaim against Sugar Creek alleges its board of trustees permitted the private use of public assets, violated the Oklahoma Open Records Act by not providing access to documents as required, and violated the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act by failing to post and maintain accurate meeting agendas.

One of Sugar Creek's attorneys, Pat O'Hara, told the Hinton Record newspaper that the Sugar Creek board disagrees with Hinton's counterclaims and will be filing a response.

Piedmont city manager fired after state audit released

Piedmont City Manager Jason Orr was fired two weeks after a state audit report was released concerning pickup purchases and the open meeting law.

Council members Kevan Blasdel, Jonathan Hisey, Ron Cardwell and Melissa Ashford voted to terminate Orr. Austin Redus voted against firing Orr.

Last year, council members requested the state audit after concerns were made about the purchase of two pickup trucks.

In the audit released August 10, the office of State Auditor and Inspector found that prior council approval was not obtained and competitive bids

were not solicited for the two vehicles purchased in February 2020.

"Both transactions violated the City of Piedmont Code of Ordinances and the City Charter," the audit stated.

The audit further found that phone calls conducted between the city manager and a majority of council members were for the purpose of obtaining approvals for the purchase of vehicles in February 2020.

"These calls resulted in what appears to be an action of the council conducted outside of an official meeting, a circumvention of the Open

Meetings Act," the audit found.

"The interest of public officials, both elected and non-elected, should always be transparency and an attitude of openness and service to the public they serve. In this instance, the requirements of purchasing and approvals were clearly defined and could have been easily followed. The purchases in question should have been placed on a public meeting agenda, competitively bid, and fully approved by the Council prior to payment," the audit stated.

Students writing for Enid News & Eagle

Enid High School students are writing articles for the Enid News & Eagle.

The first edition of the Enid High School news page debuted Sept. 8.

"We asked the yearbook and media communications classes at Enid High to contribute articles highlighting people and activities at their school on a regular basis," said Cindy Allen, publisher of the News & Eagle.

Articles will appear in the



second and fourth Wednesday editions of the month, Allen said.

For years, EHS produced a student newspaper. The news page in the News & Eagle will be titled Enid Plainsmen Quill in tradition of that publication.

Allen said it's important to give students a forum to express their writing interests.

"We also want students to

have an understanding of journalism and provide a tool for them to engage with what's going on in their lives," said Allen.

Future articles will include teacher, student and staff features as well as features on activities and clubs at the high school.

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



Tulsa World names Graham as new editorial editor



Ginnie Graham recently accepted the position of editorial editor at the Tulsa World.

Graham replaces Wayne Greene, who retired from the position after 27 years.

Graham joined the staff of the Tulsa World in 1994 as a reporter. For 15 years, she coordinated the summer intern program.

She was named an editorial writer in 2018, publishing one to two columns each week and editing letters to the editor.

As Editorial Editor, Graham will manage and lead the Tulsa World editorial board, community advisory board and daily Opinion pages.

“My interests are in local and state issues,” said Graham. “Those affect us more and get little attention.”

Greene has been named as Region Communications Manager for Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO).

A highly respected journalist with more than 30 years of experience, Greene began working at the Tulsa World in 1987.

Prior to his role as Editorial pages editor, Greene served 13 years at the World’s state Capitol bureau in Oklahoma City.

Wisconsin native joins news staff at Clinton Daily News as sports editor



Adam Ewing is the new sports editor at The Clinton Daily News.

Ewing, who is from Buffalo City, Wis., attended college at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee to study English but switched his major to news and information.

During college he interned at the Shawnee News Star, which eventually led to a position as sports editor.

He graduated from OBU in 2018.

During the pandemic, Ewing did freelance work and started his own online news website called The Standard. He soon realized that it takes many people to run such a product and now uses the website as a portfolio.

Ewing said he would eventually like to branch out and cover more sports teams in the area for The Clinton Daily News.

Stillwater News Press adds former intern to staff as sports reporter



Hallie Hart recently joined the staff of the Stillwater News Press as a sports writer.

Hart graduated from Oklahoma State University more than a year ago. During her four years of college, she held a variety of editorial positions with the O’Colly Media Group and served as a beat reporter for five sports.

In 2018, Hart interned at the Stillwater News Press.

“I’m thrilled about the opportunity to rejoin this dedicated team and work in a role that allows me to combine several of my interests,” said Hart.

“My days of covering sports in Stillwater were some of the best times imaginable when I was a student reporter, and thanks to the Stillwater News Press, I don’t have to leave them. Instead, I can add to those memories and continue learning from the people who have shaped my career so far.”

SWOSU student writing sports for Eakly Country Connection News



Kade Kimble recently joined the staff of The Country Connection

News as a sports writer.

The Hydro-Eakly High School graduate describes himself as “an avid sports fan with a passion for writing.”

He is a student at Southwestern Oklahoma State

University, majoring in Mass Communications.

He has volunteered at the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, and is a contributor to Boomtown Hoops, where he writes and runs the Instagram page.

In addition to his new position at The Country Connection News, Kimble works at a service station.

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CAPS payment for postage ends

The Centralized Account Processing System (CAPS) will retire October 2021.

All customers with CAPS accounts must migrate to Enterprise Payment System (EPS) as soon as possible to prevent loss of the ability to mail within the Postal Service.

This change does not affect newspapers that pay by hard-copy check. It is for larger mailers that may be sending mail from central locations and prefer to use one payment for several publications.

For Periodicals, permits for users still on CAPS were targeted to be marked inactive on August 15 if payment systems had not migrated. Newspapers with inactive permits have until September 30 to contact USPS to be re-activated or permits may not be usable in the future.

Hicks Media starts NIE program

Hicks Media, the new owner of the Altus Times, Frederick Press-Leader and Mangum Star, announced that it is launching a Newspapers in Education (NIE) initiative.

The goal is to partner with local schools, businesses and individual sponsors to provide resource materials in the form of newspapers that teachers can use in a variety of ways in their classrooms.

As sponsors of NIE, businesses help offset the costs of printing additional newspapers that will be delivered to schools for use in classrooms, to libraries and to other education-related locations. The businesses will be featured prominently in the newspaper each week as NIE sponsors and supporters of education in the community.

Trotters

Continued from Page 1

end, but neither one of us had a clue about the business end, and that was a learn-as-you-go situation," said Gloria.

Always blazing new trails, the Trotters were one of the first weekly newspapers to use Apple desktop computers for layout.

"Those little old Macs weren't very big ... but we put out the paper on them," said Wayne.

Their son, Greg Trotter, wrote a billing program and postal program for his parents.

"He really helped us get into the computer age," said Gloria.

Wayne and Gloria have covered some big stories in Tecumseh including the folding of The Farmers and Merchants Bank in 1984, Tecumseh Public Schools' random drug testing Supreme Court case in 2002 and the hold-up at Ralph's Pharmacy in 2010.

The Trotters sold the Countywide & Sun in 2017 to Suzie Campbell, a longtime staff member at the newspaper, but they continued working there until August 2021.

Their journalism has earned them more awards than they have walls to hang them on. Wayne has won a record 11 annual OPA-ONG Editorial



Wayne and Gloria Trotter stand in front of a wall adorned with awards Wayne won for his editorial writing. (Photo from 2012)

Sweepstakes Awards and more than 100 monthly OPA awards for editorials or columns. He's also won best editorial in the National Newspaper Association contest twice. Gloria has also won two OPA-ONG Column Sweepstakes Awards.

Gloria was named as recipient of the 2004 Charles E. Thornton Outstanding Journalism Award, which is presented annually by the Journalism Alumni Board of the University of Memphis. In 2005, she received the National Newspaper Association's McKinney Award.

In April 2009, Wayne and Gloria were inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame. They are both recipients of the OPA's H. Milt Phillips Award, Wayne in 2007 and Gloria in 2010. And both were awarded the Oklahoma

Newspaper Foundation's Beachy Musselman Award, Wayne in 2000 and Gloria in 2014. Both served as president of the Oklahoma Press Association, Wayne in 1999 and Gloria in 2009.

They earned more than 200 awards in the OPA Better Newspaper Contest including a dozen Sweepstakes awards.

Gloria said their curiosity, love of people and being part of the community kept them going.

"Mostly, I love the people you meet because the great thing about journalism is you meet so many different kinds of people."

For those setting their sights on journalism, the Trotters have some advice.

"Play it straight," said Wayne. "Just do what's right."

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Two Oklahoma journalists named 2021 NextGen Under 30 winners

McAlester News-Capital sports editor Derek Hatridge and Stillwater News Press reporter Ashlynd Huffman were named as 2021 NextGen Under 30 winners.

NextGen Under 30 recognizes individuals who demonstrate talent, drive and service to their communities. More than 300 other Oklahomans 30 and younger were selected this year in several categories.

Hatridge started as the McAlester News-Capital sports editor in January 2020,

"We're proud of the work ethic and passion Derek puts into covering our community," said Reina Owens, publisher of the News-Capital. "He has helped the News-Capital reach more people with increased online presence through podcasts, videos and more with entertaining and informative content."

Hatridge started the "If The Hat Pods" podcast covering



Derek Hatridge



Ashlynd Huffman

local sports and is the host of the News-Capital's "mmm... That's Tasty" video series featuring local restaurants.

Huffman was named in the Media, Public Relations, Marketing and Advertising category. She began her professional journalism career with the Stillwater News Press in November 2019.

"Ashlynd has established herself as one of the top young journalists in the state and is very deserving of this honor," said Beau Simmons, News Press editor. "Her curiosity, work ethic and sense of justice and fairness makes her a dogged reporter."

Oklahoman taking steps to become more diverse

The Oklahoman is working to become more diverse by adopting hiring practices and pursuing coverage that more accurately and fairly reflect their community's demographics.

USA TODAY and Gannett, along with 260 news organizations including The Oklahoman, made a commitment a year ago to achieve gender, racial and ethnic parity by 2025.

Results of the 2020 census show the U.S. is increasingly multiracial. In Oklahoma County, the mixed-race population grew by more than 170% over the past 10 years, and the state already has the

nation's largest concentration of Indigenous tribes, representing 39 sovereignties.

In the past year, The Oklahoman took measures to build a staff that looks more like the community. They partnered with the national Native American Journalists Association to create yearlong fellowships for early career Native American journalists with a goal of growing the pipeline of Native American journalists in Oklahoma and across the country.

Joining their team has been a Native American videographer, a mixed-race reporter, an Hispanic journalist and a Black reporter.

Tulsa County Bar names Dodd as outstanding senior lawyer

Doug Dodd was recently named the Tulsa County Bar Association's Outstanding Senior Lawyer for 2021.



Doug Dodd

Dodd is an attorney with Doerner, Saunders, Daniel & Anderson, LLP, and is the lead attorney for the Oklahoma Press Association's Legal Services Plan.

His practice includes representation of national and local media companies with an emphasis on First Amendment and defamation issues.

He lectures to both attorneys and journalists on open meetings and open records issues.

Dodd graduated from the University of Tulsa with a Bachelor's degree in speech and later obtained his Juris Doctor from the University of Tulsa College of Law.

Prior to joining the firm of Doerner, Saunders, Daniel & Anderson, he clerked with the

Honorable James O. Ellison, United States District Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma.

He is a veteran of the United States Air Force, and has served on numerous boards in the Tulsa area.

Dodd is also an ordained elder at Southminster Presbyterian Church.

He is the recipient of numerous awards including Oklahoma Bar Association and TCBA awards for professionalism and public service, and is listed as a Super Lawyer and Best Lawyer.

Tulsa County District Court Judge Kurt Glassco describes Dodd as "an outstanding lawyer and human being."

"He has also served his country as a member of the armed forces, served his community on the school board and serves his church as a deacon," said Glassco, and is "a committed family man with strong, positive and lasting contributions to the improvement of our honorable and noble profession."

SPJ Oklahoma wins national award

The Society of Professional Journalists Oklahoma Pro Chapter was recently named as winner for this year's Small Chapter Circle of Excellence Award for Diversity.

SPJ annually honors select professional chapters for their commitment to SPJ's mission and the journalism profession.

The organization also distinguishes seven of its professional chapters with Circle of Excellence Awards, a collection that recognize outstanding work in First Amendment/ Freedom of Information, professional development, diversity and student relations.

"The timing couldn't be better with the centennial of the Tulsa Race Massacre and the McGirt v Oklahoma decision," Sterling Cosper, Oklahoma SPJ Pro Chapter president, said in a Facebook comment. "Coverage of these and similar issues that continue to impact our community is essential to the ongoing and delicate public discourse."

The Large Chapter of the Year award is open to chapters with 75 or more members, while the Small Chapter of the Year award is open to chapters with fewer than 75 members.

Bias training required to acquire OSSAA playoff press passes

Every full-time sports department employee covering Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association (OSSAA) playoff events is now required to complete a free Implicit Bias Course in order to obtain an official playoff press pass.

The one-hour course defines and illustrates examples of Implicit Bias and provides research on how it affects society.

Employees covering

OSSAA playoff events must request their own pass through the link at www.ossaa.com under the "Media" tab.

Complete instructions for applying are available on the website.

Those needing OSSAA press passes should apply as soon as possible. Approved passes are printed and mailed during the second and fourth full weeks of each month.



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Photo by RICHARD R. BARRON, *The Ada News*, July 8, 2021



July 6 demolition of the 121-year-old Mopar Building in Eufaula.

Photo by JERRY FINK, *Eufaula Indian Journal*, July 15, 2021

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Meet the 2021 ONF Summer Interns

Six more interns share their experiences this month. Thanks to a grant from the Inasmuch Foundation, 19 journalism students received paid internships at various OPA business member newspapers. The internship program, now in its 13th year, is facilitated by the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation. More stories will be featured in the October issue of The Oklahoma Publisher.



**Galen Hawes, Countywide & Sun
East Central University**

On my first day I was nervous, but also excited.

I had previously interned at The Ardmoreite in the summer of 2018 and the Shawnee News Star in the summer 2020.

I was looking to learn even more about newspaper journalism that would help me move forward into a journalism career.

I mostly covered meetings for the summer and a lot of great stories came out of it.

I appreciate how community members were so kind and would provide me with information when needed for a story.

I have always enjoyed writing human-interest stories. I was able to meet many individuals in the community and interviewed a few of them.

Some of the stories that I enjoyed writing the most were about local ophthalmic assistant Susan Tischer retiring, Shawnee Homeless Initiative Coordinator Lauren Craig telling Shawnee City Commissioners that over half of the homeless in Shawnee

are children and Dale High School Softball Seniors experience winning the state championship for the fifth time.

These stories had an impact on me because I loved interviewing the individuals involved.

While in the newsroom, I learned how to upload stories to the website, how to use Tweetdeck to schedule Twitter posts and that there is always more to learn even when you think you know what you are doing, for the most part.

Throughout my time at the Countywide & Sun I got to know my coworkers and they all taught me something along the way. I will miss them and I am sad that my internship is coming to an end.

I would like to thank Suzie, Gloria, Jennifer, Natasha and Alex for welcoming me into the newsroom and helping me to learn even more about journalism. I would also like to thank anyone who took the time to read any of the stories I have written.



**Jazz Wolfe, Enid News & Eagle
The University of Oklahoma**

My dad was a writer. He wrote poetry, usually about love and family. He sewed words together by hand, delicately stitching each line like it could hold together a split in the space-time continuum.

My mom writes, too. She writes contracts and agreements, barter deals between warring families and warring attorneys. Her words are welded into powerful paragraphs, making the most complicated of relationships run smoothly.

Can you guess what I am?

Obviously, I'm a journalist. With each article I write, I send a part of myself into the world. I send my father's hand-sewn words and bright lessons, my mother's welded machines and sharp wit. All of it goes into the ink on the page. All of it goes toward an honest, fair future.

Working at the Enid News and Eagle, I've gotten to send more of myself into the world than I had ever thought possible. I remember when I was 13 and my first poem was published, I dreamed of publishing again. Turns out, as a journalist, you publish more than you thought a single person could write in one day.

In a newsroom like this, you are stretched to your limits and then a little bit more. People dodge your calls and emails, deadlines loom over you like the fluorescent lighting, and your hands cramp from rapidly jotting down notes and typing up articles late in the evening.

In a newsroom like this, I feel the most accomplished I have ever felt. Each person, both in and out of the newsroom, has been incredible in their own way. From publisher to writer, from copy editor to the ad room, I have felt welcomed, supported and encouraged to stick with journalism.

The best thing is, I will stick with it. The Enid News and Eagle has not only reinvigorated my love for journalism but solidified it into something that can withstand the test of time (and copious amounts of stress).

I'm proud to follow in my parents' footsteps and thrilled that I got to start my own path in the town that raised me.

My dad was a writer. My mom is, too. Can you guess what I am?



Chloe Brooks, *The Duncan Banner* The University of Oklahoma

Expect the unexpected. That is a mantra I can appropriately use to describe my experience as a summer intern for *The Duncan Banner*.

When I arrived, I was greeted with overwhelming hospitality and encouragement that I had not expected. From eating half-priced hamburgers with my new coworkers to being given challenging assignments, the first day of the internship was marked by an unexpected sense of acceptance and comfort that made the *Banner's* newsroom a place in which I could flourish.

Just two weeks later, I was given the most taxing assignment: edit, design and submit two publications. To say I was not expecting to design two newspapers for an audience of thousands would be an understatement; however, it challenged me as a learner and reaffirmed my passion for journalism. Additionally, to have a boss and coworkers that placed such confidence in my abilities has given me a newfound belief in my skills.

From spotlighting high school athletes, to covering bi-weekly city council meetings, to featuring uplifting stories of community members assisting one another, I improved on my qualities such as versatility, a desire to be educated, intentionality, initiative and much more. Each of these opportunities enabled me to grow deeper in my writing abilities and desire to connect with my audience.

I did not expect to cover such a variety of news and events. I

did not expect to gain such a better understanding and appreciation for the community where I spent 18 years of my life. I did not expect to develop genuine connections with my coworkers. Each of these expectations was exceeded, but not from my own doing. Without the guidance and insight my boss and coworkers instilled into me, my dull expectations would have been fulfilled.

To Charlene, from the bottom of my heart, thank you for believing in me and my writing skills. The confidence and encouragement you poured into me has been heavily impactful to my growth these past two months. Not only were you an encourager, but you were a friend and a confidant when I needed one.

To Andy, Crystal, Jason, Tamara, Suzan and Sherrie, thank you all for directing me when I needed assistance and giving me a good laugh during a busy workday. From creating inside jokes to axe-throwing, I will always value the family-like connections I have with each of you.

My ten weeks at *The Duncan Banner* will be remembered as a monumental season of growth, connection, and unexpectedness in my pursuit of a career in sports journalism.

Emily Every, *Muskogee Phoenix* The University of Tulsa



Spending a summer in the Muskogee Phoenix newsroom is a crash course in being a working journalist. I strived to create accurate, well-written stories, with some successes and the occasional flop. There were frustrating moments and there were touching moments. Really, I celebrated every published story of mine as a little victory.

I knew going into this internship that it would be exacting, detail-focused work. I spent four years on my college newspaper staff, so I felt prepared for the broad strokes of what this internship would entail.

I was often amazed by people's generosity with their time, with their stories, with their emotions. So many people were willing to talk to me about treasured memories with lost ones, their financial difficulties, their challenges and hardships. It was humbling, really, to be someone's confidant like that. People drove me around town in their own vehicles, let me into their homes and were vulnerable to me in such unexpected ways. I still don't know how to respond to all that other than to say thank you. The community support from Muskogee was always astounding.

However, I sometimes found myself annoyed on the job. I made so many phone calls that went nowhere, ran into so many

brick walls, often had to tell people "I'm just the intern" so they would talk to me. At times, setting up a meeting with someone felt like pulling teeth. Rarely, but sometimes, people would be outright antagonistic to me. With the good of community acceptance came the periodic bad of community suspicion.

In those moments, though, the newsroom staff was always ready to lend their time and advice. If I ever needed a contact, my editor or someone in the newsroom had their phone number or a way to contact them. If I could not figure out a way to make progress on a story, someone knew a way forward. The people here are a veritable source of knowledge and were always beyond patient with my bumbling out-of-townerisms.

The internship was challenging but rewarding. I learned a lot about myself, the newspaper business and how to interact with the world at large. Of course, there were growing pains, but those are only a symptom of growth itself.

I guess all I can say is thank you again to everyone who sat through those necessary pains with me.



Ian Nikkel *Cushing Citizen* Oklahoma State University

I remember receiving a call in March about an interview with the *Cushing Citizen*. I had been to Cushing once before but didn't remember where it was. I would have an interview with Allie Prater. I thought the interview went well. I was feeling pretty good about it but was still uncertain. Fifteen minutes later, I was offered the internship.

Being primarily a sportswriter, I had to adapt to writing some regular news on occasion as summer isn't the biggest time for sports in Cushing. There was still sports news to cover and I was able to do several articles on various sports around the state.

I was also able to cover some things outside of Cushing in

Drumright and Mannford. Both are great towns with their own news. Being out at Keystone Lake covering their 4th of July was very enjoyable.

A big story I covered in Drumright was the news that their head football coach resigned. They're still looking for a new one as I'm writing.

I'm thankful for my time at the *Cushing Citizen*. I'm thankful to have worked with J.D. Meisner, Allie Prater, DeAnna Maddox and Sapphire Smith. It's a great team and a great organization to be a part of and I'm thankful to have spent the past two months working there.

Here's to the future and I can't wait to see what happens next in Cushing. Thanks y'all.

Mackenzie Crosby, *The Ada News* East Central University



My time here at The Ada News has been little short of exciting. From car accidents, sports and countless interviews – the action never really stops. I've always known that documentary photography and storytelling is where my heart lies, and my friends here at The Ada News have pushed and encouraged me to do exactly these things.

Telling stories untold and giving a platform to underrepresented voices using journalism is my dream, and I've had my first real glimpse into that dream during this internship. I've been encouraged to practice every kind of journalism I am interested in and was helped to do so along the way.

Many photographs, adventures and walks to Subway later, and my internship is coming to a close.

I will cherish the memories made alongside my friend and mentor, Richard Barron. Richard is a staff writer and photographer for The Ada News.

I met Richard when I was in the eighth grade. He photographed me shaving my teacher's head after winning a fundraising competition in my school. Around the same time, he photographed me dissecting a pig in the junior high science lab. He still has both of those images today.

Not too many years later, while in high school, I took a photography course at the Pontotoc Technology Center, in which Richard was the instructor. If I remember correctly – and it's likely that I do not – it was around this time that we became Facebook friends, and he began following along my journey of writing and photography, never short of offering me encouragement and friendship.

This is still true today. We have gone on many adventures in the short eight weeks of my internship, and he has pushed me to face some of my biggest fears (recall my column about having a needle phobia...). Let's not forget the advice I've received from

him in dealing with drama llamas (inside joke.)

I was even able to attend the 2021 Oklahoma Press Association convention and awards ceremonies in June.

Throughout the event there were editorial sessions open for attendance on the subjects of the Open Records Act, editorial and opinion writing, and investigative journalism. I learned a lot and became so excited for my future in these topics.

My favorite part of the OPA Convention was during the awards ceremony. I was able to cheer on my friends from the paper, and Ashlynd, who precedes me as The Ada News intern in 2019. With a glimpse into the excitement as only a supporting character – an extra if you may – I now can't wait to one day take home my own plaques and awards from the annual convention.

Some of my favorite assignments to cover were spot news. I love the exhilaration and adrenaline from working a car accident or crime scene, even though they are often heartbreaking.

An unlikely crime scene I covered was from the shooting of a miniature pony. Someone had walked up to the gate where Annie the miniature pony lived and shot her in the head.

The family was heartbroken and wanted to find out who would do such a thing. I don't believe they ever did.

I believe it's important to keep cold cases recent and talked about. A 14-year-old boy was murdered in Ada 26 years ago, and his case remains unsolved. I was able to interview his mother, as well as an officer involved in handling the case and an OSBI officer who is currently on the case. I hope to write more about similar cases.

Because of my time at The Ada News, the flame ignited within me for journalism has been fanned and continues to grow.

OPA Board of Directors meets by Zoom call on September 9

The Oklahoma Press Association Board of Directors met September 9, 2021, by Zoom video conference call.

Attending were OPA President John Denny Montgomery, The Purcell Register, and directors Don Mecoy, The Oklahoman; Shauna Belyeu, The Eufaula Indian Journal; Sheila Gay, Woodward News; Suzie Campbell, Countywide & Sun; and Misti Rinehart, Tulsa World. Mark Millsap, The Norman Transcript, and Jeff Mayo, Sequoyah County Times, were absent.

Staff attending were Executive Vice President Mark Thomas and Member Services Director Lisa Sutliff.

After calling the meeting to order, Montgomery asked the board to review minutes of the August 19, 2021, meeting. The minutes were approved as presented.

The audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, was not complete prior to the board meeting. Thomas recommended the board have a special teleconference Sept. 16 to review the audit.

Thomas also reviewed the profit and loss statement, cash consolidated summary and investment reports for the period ending July 31, 2021. The board acknowledged receipt of the reports as presented.

The board approved a \$1,000 donation to the National Newspaper Association Foundation Max Heath Postal Institute. The donated funds will be used to train newspapers and printers on best uses of the mail in a rapidly changing postal environment.

Board members also reviewed the proposed OPA and LSP budget for 2021-22. Thomas said he expects normal income for the convention and contest. Revenue is slightly lower due to a reduction in membership dues for papers that closed or combined during the Covid-19 pandemic last year. The board approved the OPA and LSP budgets.

OPA ACTIVITY REPORTS

In activity reports, Gay reported that the Awards Committee recommends adding three individual categories – Business Story, Education Story and Photo Essay/Picture Page – to the 2021 Better Newspaper Contest. The committee also recommends removing sports pages from consideration in the News Category since several newspaper groups have consolidated their sports coverage. Final contest rules changes will be approved by the board in November.

Gay said the committee

discussed changing the Better Newspaper Contest divisions to be based on town population instead of newspaper circulation. Montgomery said resources are more comparable in towns of similar sizes and the change would make the contest fairer. A motion to base the annual contest divisions on town population was made and approved by the board.

Rainbolt said the Education Committee began preliminary discussions on the 2022 Annual Convention to be held at the Sheraton Oklahoma City on June 10-11.

The committee will meet October 14 at OPA to plan sessions and speakers for the 2022 convention.

Campbell reported that the LSP Committee agreed to make LSP's Plan A advice free to all OPA members during Thomas's five-week sabbatical from the end of September through October. The committee also recommended approval of a new engagement letter for the legal services of Doerner, Saunders, Daniel and Anderson for LSP in FY 2021-22. A motion was made to approve the engagement letter for Doug Dodd and DSDA to continue as LSP counsel for FY 2021-22. The motion passed unanimously.

Rinehart said the Revenue

and Promotion Committee discussed political advertising sales strategy for 2022 during its conference call. The committee and OPA staff plans to share advertising and subscription promotion ideas and best practices with members to increase members' revenue.

Board members also discussed changes to OPA's membership categories, continuing discussions started last year. The board voted to create six membership categories. Thomas will prepare final by-laws amendment language for the board to review and send to a membership vote at the annual meeting in June 2022.

OPS BOARD MEETING

Minutes of the Oklahoma Press Service July 15, 2021, board meeting were approved as presented.

In financial reviews, Thomas said auditors failed to complete the audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, in time for the board meeting and recommended the board have a special meeting by teleconference on Sept. 16.

The board acknowledged receipt of the OPS Profit and Loss Statement as of July 30, 2021.

Thomas said the U.S. Small Business Administration has fully forgiven the second draw loan from the Paycheck Protection Program.

Thomas summarized the proposed OPS budget for 2021-22, and reviewed political advertising and staffing plans to increase revenue.

Expenses increased due to higher health insurance costs and a new contract with a local technology company as Jennifer Gilliland decreases her work hours.

The budget was approved as presented.



135th NNAF Annual Convention & Trade Show 2021
Jacksonville, Florida • September 30 - October 2

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NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ANNUAL CONVENTION & TRADE SHOW
September 30 - October 2, 2021 • Jacksonville, Florida
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WORTH MENTIONING

Enid News & Eagle debuts 'In Loving Memory'

The Enid News & Eagle is offering readers a new monthly section, "In Loving Memory."

The commemorative edition is a reprint of all the obituaries that were published in the previous month of the daily newspaper, said Cindy Allen, publisher of the Enid News & Eagle.

"Few items appear in our paper that are as important as the obituaries," said Allen. "We are proud to preserve these life stories, and sincerely hope this publication and subsequent editions of 'In Loving Memory' prove a meaningful, lasting tribute to those members of our families, circles of friends and acquaintances whom we've lost."

Allen said all obituaries in the News & Eagle start with a \$30 charge that includes the commemorative edition, plus the standard word charges.

There will be opportunities for retail advertising to appear in the section; however, those will be limited to certain businesses or professional services that are appropriate for the section.

Allen said the staff reached out to funeral homes about



two months ago to let them know about the new product and the automatic \$30 charge that would be added to obituaries. Also added was a \$5 automatic charge for funeral notices and death notices that also appear in the section.

"The response we received from the funeral homes was mostly positive," Allen said.

Extra copies of the section are provided to the funeral home for them to share with their clients.

"Since obituaries are among the most popular content in our newspaper, we believe our readers will appreciate having the commemorative monthly section, and we also believe families will appreciate having this commemorative section as a keepsake," Allen said.

Holidays you never knew existed

If you're looking for story ideas, check out the website brownielocks.com.

Kim Poindexter, executive editor of the Tahlequah Daily Press, said her staff has used the site for years to look for story ideas.

It looks like nearly every day of every month links to some obscure celebration.

"We get ideas from this website, which keeps regular tabs on such things," said Poindexter.

A quick look at October celebrations includes more than 100 monthly events, nearly 100 weekly holidays and more than 300 daily holidays. That's just for one month.

Poindexter even managed to pen a column about some of the lesser known "holidays."

If you're looking for some inspiration, check out brownielocks.com.

The Lawton Constitution helps city celebrate 120th birthday

To celebrate Lawton's 120th birthday on August 6, 2021, The Lawton Constitution produced a special edition.

The special edition included a reprint of the first edition of The Lawton Constitution published by John Shepler. Shepler bought The Constitution on Dec. 31, 1910. He published the first edition of The Lawton Constitution and Democrat on Jan. 5, 1911. The word Democrat was later

dropped from the name and the paper became The Lawton Constitution, a name it has retained for 110 years.

The Lawton Constitution also offered tours of the newspaper on August 7 from 1-4 p.m. featuring several old photos.

David Stringer, publisher of The Lawton Constitution, said around 70 people stopped by for the open house, including a few former employees.



Dee Ann Patterson, managing editor of The Lawton Constitution, shares the story of one of her most prized possessions, the Nov. 14, 1890, front page of The Milan (Mo.) Standard during the newspaper's open house event. The page was published by John Shepler, who would later publish the first edition of The Lawton Constitution and Democrat.

Photo by Scott Rains, The Lawton Constitution. (Reprinted with permission)



Lawton Constitution press room manager Michael Cross explains the final step for a paper to be "hot off the press" to visitors during the newspaper's open house.

Photo by Scott Rains, The Lawton Constitution. (Reprinted with permission)

New Mac OS 12 this fall, backup external drives



Computer Notes

from the road
by Wilma Newby
wnewby@okpress.com

If you're going to run Apple's next operating system, OS 12 Monterey, you need a newer Mac.

Monterey will be released in the next month or two and will come with many useful features that will up the game for Apple users.

If you're running OS 15 on a newer iPad, there will be a new way to share the screen with Monterey. The Mac computer will be available to share your screen, keyboard and mouse across all devices – maybe even an iPhone, although that's not confirmed.

This new way of sharing with the Monterey OS is called Universal Control. Newer computers and iPads are needed to make it work. The dream of using the iPad as an extra computer screen will become a reality. Universal Control will let you use three distinct computers using one mouse and one keyboard. You could be running Parallels with Windows for your circulation software on one computer, using your primary layout program on another and checking email on the iPad. And you will be able to drag and drop files between the three computers. This major feature for Monterey sounds

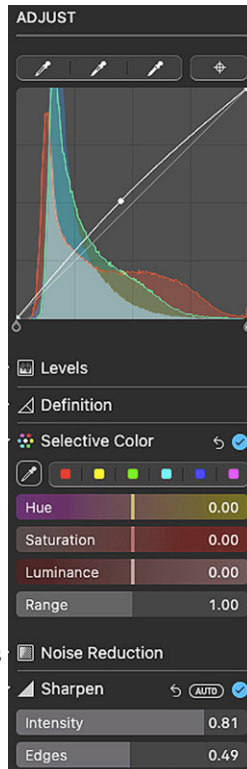
like power users heaven!

Apple also plans to release a new MacBook Pro, perhaps a new Mac Mini and a new batch of iPhones in the next few weeks. If you're thinking of getting a new computer or iPhone, you might want to hold off for a bit.

Monterey's newest version of Photos could be a good tool for correcting pictures for printing. It has curves, sharpening, image sizing and cropping – all the basics to fix a photo for press production. Best of all, it comes with the computer. Even though it's RGB, don't forget that InDesign will turn photos to CMYK in the PDF export settings.

Monterey's new version of Preview will do a lot of things Adobe Acrobat does. Preview can OCR type, turning it into usable text for the newspaper. You can also drag and drop pages from an open PDF into the current one just by dragging the thumbnail to the other document. That's great for combining documents.

Another new feature in



Monterey is the ability to create shortcuts that work not only on the Mac but also on your iPhone or iPad. Integrating into the Automator program, Shortcuts allow the creation of small macros to do tasks that are repeated every day.

Old Automator tasks can become shortcuts on OS 12. You could use it to copy all the files on your desktop to a new folder, date the new folder and then clean off your desktop. It could then drop that file to a server or external hard drive location,

always keeping your files where they are easy to find and backed up.

One blessing of the new Mac OS 12 may be its updated Mac Mail program. New privacy tools will keep others from tracking you online or finding your location.

Hopefully the new mail will run better. Older versions of Mac Mail are not working with many email servers because of security reasons.

With Mac OS 12 we gain control over all our passwords. A new icon in system preferences helps with remembering passwords across the

computer and with the authentication processes of password management.

Monterey looks like a useful update if your computer will run it. Here is the list of compatible computers:

These years and newer:

iMac, 2015

iMac Pro, 2017

Mac Pro, late 2013

Mac Mini, late 2014

MacBook, early 2016

MacBook Air, early 2015

MacBook Pro, early 2015

This upgrade puts you in computers that have glued-in memory. They're not upgradeable so if you're buying one, make sure it has at least 16GB of RAM or more to increase longevity.

GOODSYNC

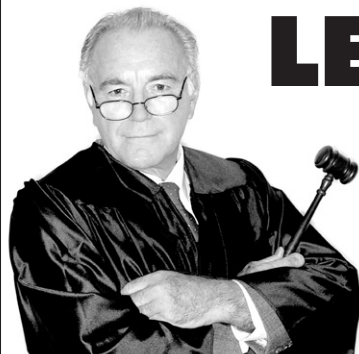
Many of you have at least one external drive attached to your computer for backup. GoodSync is a great way to automatically back up that drive to another drive.

GoodSync runs on Windows and Apple computers. For \$23.95 a year it will keep your files backed up to another drive, if both are accessible to the computer.

It requires Mac OSX 10.10 and newer or Windows XP, Vista, 7, 8, 10.

It supports NASS servers and backs up to Google Drive, Box.com, Dropbox and others. It's important to have what you need in two places with one offsite, if possible. Works in the background once setup.

Check it out on the web at goodsync.com.



LEGAL ADVICE

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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.

*Remembering our
friends & colleagues
who died the
previous year.*

Bob Henline
August 19, 2020

William David McCullough
August 27, 2020

B. Wayne Ratliff
Sept. 15, 2020

Mary McKinney Rice
Sept. 25, 2020

William 'Bill' Lewis Wright
Sept. 28, 2020

*Thank you to
Andy & Karen Rieger
for their donation
to the Oklahoma
Newspaper Foundation
in honor of
Wayne & Gloria Trotter*

DEATHS

**SARAH (SALLY)
LIVERMORE CARMACK
SPENCER**, who was raised in
the newspaper business, died
August 13, 2021.

She was born March 4,
1949, and grew up in Cla-
remore and Sapulpa. She
attended The University of
Oklahoma where like her

father and brother before her,
she majored in journalism.

After graduation, Sally
worked for The Norman Tran-
script and Southwestern Bell
Telephone before attending
law school at Oklahoma City
University.

In 1999, Sally moved to

Santa Fe, N.M., where she
lived until her death.

She is survived by her
daughter, Mary Carmack-Alt-
wies and her wife Jolene Alt-
wies; two grandchildren, Hud-
son and Hazel; sister Mary
Bush of Leawood, Kansas,
and brother Ed Livermore, Jr.
of Kerrville, Texas.

MARGERY SUE TAYLOR,
who with her husband John
Taylor and the Garber family
published the Enid Morning
News and Enid Daily Eagle
for two generations until
1988, died August 24, 2021.
She was 91.

Taylor was born in Okla-
homa City December 6, 1929.
She was raised in Stillwater,
where she graduated from
high school in 1947. On June
5, 1950, she married John
William Taylor. She and John
became parents in 1952 and
raised four children.

After raising her family,
Sue Taylor returned to Okla-

homa State University, grad-
uating in 1984 from the OSU
College of Home Economics.

She was a philanthropist,
Enid community leader,
homemaker and loyal OSU
alumna.

Taylor served 15 years as
director and secretary of Enid
Publishing Company, and as
publisher of the Enid News
& Eagle. She also served the
same positions for the Enid
Radiophone Company.

She served as president for
the Enid YWCA and in 1979
was honored for her major
contributions to the organiza-
tion by being named "Woman
of the Year."

In 1990, she received the
OSU Alumni Associations'
Distinguished Alumni Award.
Among her many OSU honors
are the Henry G. Bennett Dis-
tinguished Service Award and
the Alumni Association's Dis-
tinguished Alumni Award.

Taylor is survived by her
children: daughter Kathryn
Upchurch of Woodward; son
Tom of Steamboat Springs,
Colo.; son Steve of Wood-
ward; daughter Susan May-
berry of Yukon; her grandchil-
dren and great-grandchildren;
two sisters, and numerous
nieces and nephews

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Donations to the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation will support its efforts to improve the state's newspaper industry and quality of journalism. If you would like to make a donation, please send a check to:

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OKLAHOMA NATURAL GAS CONTEST WINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE JULY WINNERS

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

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

JULY COLUMN WINNER

JEFF MULLIN, *Enid News & Eagle*

America at 245, you've come a long way, baby

Once again we pause to celebrate America's birthday.

This year the old girl is turning 245, just five years shy of her sestercentennial celebration.

America is a mere pup compared to many of the world's great nations. England, for instance, is a ripe old 1,094 years old. China was first united under one rule in 221 BC. Russia's history dates back to 862.

America has certainly made its mark on the world in the past 245 years, to the delight of many, to the chagrin of others.

America has established itself as a beacon of hope, a bastion of liberty, a symbol of freedom and opportunity.

We are a land populated, for the most part, by immigrants of every stripe, but we have not always been as welcoming to our newest residents as the poem engraved on the Statue of Liberty indicates we are. We still aren't, truth be told.

Immigration is just one of the issues our sharply divided lawmakers grapple with these days.

The fact is we don't agree on much when it comes to how the country should be run. The divide between red and blue, left and right, has never, it seems, been sharper or wider.

We are the most diverse nation in the world, at least according to an article in the Washington Post. You name it, it is a source of diversity in America — our race and ethnicity, our geography and economy.

So who are we, those of us who call ourselves Americans? Again according to the Washington Post, the average American Joe isn't a Joe at all, but a Jane. According to Census Bureau statistics, the average American is a white woman, 52 years old. She has a bachelor's degree and works in education and health services.

Average American Jane earns \$889.62 per week and lives in a city, most likely Frisco, Texas, a suburb of Dallas. Politically she is an independent who tends to vote Democratic.

She has a 26.1-minute commute, does Average Jane. She is married and lives with her spouse. She lives in a house that she owns and she is an evangelical Baptist.

So that is Average Jane American. I dare you to try and find her.

That's an interesting piece of data mining, but hardly a realistic picture of America. We are every color of the rainbow, practicing every religion, or none at all. We work at every profession known to man, earning a wide range of salaries.

We live in every corner of every state, in the tangle of urban canyons or in the clean, fresh spaces of natural ones.

We are staunchly conservative, unabashedly liberal, and every place in between.

I maintain there is no such thing as an average American, because this country has never aspired to be merely average. We celebrate achievement, innovation, ingenuity. We would rather reach for outstanding than settle for just good enough.

Not that we're ever going to agree on everything, or much of anything, for that matter. And that's OK, as long as we respect other people's right to have a different opinion than ours, and don't condemn them for it.

One of the freedoms we enjoy thanks to our Constitution is the right to disagree with our fellow Americans. Lockstep isn't our style, we'd much rather dance to our own tune than march to the beat of a lone drummer.

We are celebrating the first Independence Day in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, though we have yet to fully conquer the virus. We will gather to enjoy fireworks, to burn burgers, to deck ourselves out in all the red, white and blue we can find and fly the flag.

And we will struggle to come to grips with the images of how that flag was used to beat police officers and to break windows at the U.S. Capitol last Jan. 6. That, too, was America, albeit a warped, angry version of same.

The events of that day serve as a reminder that while 85% of Americans surveyed by statista.com consider themselves very patriotic, that fervor can manifest itself in radically different ways.

Regardless, this is a day for putting aside our differences and celebrating our land. We've made it 245 years since we declared our independence. We've come way too far to let our differences derail us.



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

The July 2021 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.