

Another great OPA Convention wraps up

Members and friends of the Oklahoma Press Association celebrated the power of newspapers in film at the June 10-11 Annual Convention at the Sheraton Oklahoma City Downtown Hotel.

The show delivered. At the gala event Saturday night, members walked the red carpet to enter the banquet hall where awards were presented.

But let's rewind and look at the events leading up to the red carpet night.

The annual business meeting kicked off the two-day convention where officers and directors for 2022-2023 were elected. Zonelle Rainbolt, executive editor of Wesner Publications, was elected president; Don Mecoy, managing editor of The Oklahoman, was elected vice president; and David Stringer, publisher of The Lawton Constitution, was elected treasurer. All officers will serve a one-year term.

John Denny Montgomery, co-publisher of The Purcell Register, will serve as immediate past president.

Erin Dyer Thompson, advertising director of the El



Members of the Oklahoma Press Association attend a session during the June 10-11, 2022, Annual Convention at the Sheraton Oklahoma City Downtown Hotel.

Reno Tribune, was elected as a new director for a three-year term and a three-year director term for Sheila Gay, publisher of the Woodward News, was renewed. The appointment of Mark Codner, publisher of The Newcastle Pacer, to fulfill the final year of a three-year director term also was approved.

Members at the meeting also voted to approve revisions to OPA By-Laws including new membership classifications as Legal Newspaper, General News Media, Affiliate

News Media, Retired, Strategic Partner and Individual Professional.

MIKE BLINDER & FRIDAY EVENTS

Mike Blinder, publisher of Editor & Publisher magazine, presented "Stop Overthinking and Just Do It" as the Friday keynote.

"Get back to basics," Blinder said. "Find out what they [readers] want and give it to them."

He recommends finding an audience and monetizing it.

"Local businesses are in trouble," Blinder said.

However, newspapers are in a great position to help them by showcasing their value with advertising.

Four panelists offered their insight and experience on working with films in the community – Carol Conner, publisher of The Fairfax Chief; Sean Dyer, co-publisher of the El Reno Tribune; Richard Janes, an Emmy-winning producer and owner of Green Pastures Studio in

See CONVENTION, Page 7

WHAT A SHOT! All convention photos in this edition as well as those on our Facebook page were shot by Kyle Phillips, The Norman Transcript (Friday, June 10) and Glen Miller, El Reno Tribune (Saturday, June 11).



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

CONVENTION COVERAGE STARTS ON PAGE 8.

Complete list of 2021 OPA Better Newspaper Contest Winners, Milt Phillips Award Winner, Beachy Musselman Award Winner, Quarter and Half Century Club Inductees and much more!

From the President

By John Denny Montgomery

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



I brought my kids to the convention this year for the first time.

I figured it was the perfect opportunity to do it with their father ending his term as president of the association.

As we fell asleep in our hotel room at the Sheraton I recalled my own memories of attending summer conventions as a kid.

They were always at either the lodge at Lake Texoma or Southern Hills, which is now of course Sequoyah State park.

Man, those were the days.

There was always a gaggle of kids to play with. Kids that I had known for years but mostly only saw once a year. But we picked up where we left off each time we were reunited and we played our hearts out.

We had water gun fights and watermelon seed spitting contests and one year we got to write a song with a recording artist. There were so many kids that OPA had an actual kids program for us.

We took tram rides and nature walks. I think my parents still have a belt buckle from a "fishing tournament" I won with my brother, Matt, on Fort Gibson Lake.

There were always rumors of high school kids having beer busts in a pasture near the Texoma Lodge but I was too young to be invited.

My parents would even bring baby sitters for us to the convention when we were too little to navigate the halls of the lodges on our own.

These are fantastic memories I'll always cherish.

Of course things are different now. Parents rarely bring their kids to the convention as a modified family vacation.

Gone are the days of the Clancy Frost Golf Tournament and conventions that lasted nearly a week. We're all too busy now doing more with less at each of our newspapers.

But that's okay, we're still here learning new things, talking with our peers and putting out great newspapers.

And we're here despite what some people, especially our media competitors, say about where we're supposed to be.

Newspaper people are gritty and determined and we're still here. We're serving our communities and putting in work to preserve our democracy and we're putting out the highest quality journalism this world has ever seen.

And that's what keeps me still going.

We're doing such good work and we need to pause every once in a while to acknowledge just what we mean to our communities.

Things have changed as far as the way we do our jobs. But what hasn't changed is our commitment to the values we hold dearly as journalists.

We're doing a damn fine job and the world knows it.

So keep up the good work and don't be afraid to pat yourself on the back a little.

I've always thought print journalists are the worst about promoting themselves.

We shouldn't be that way and we need to take credit for our contributions to our communities.

We're bedrocks of our democracy. We have served and will continue to serve some of the most vital roles of society.

From watchdog to chroniclers of history, that's what we do.

It's been an honor and a pleasure to serve as the OPA's president this year.

I've learned so much about Oklahoma newspapers throughout my time on the board and have had a great time over the past few years.

I've been blessed with fantastic colleagues who have served with me whom I call true friends.

Someone told me early on after I got on the board of directors that I'll get more out of it than I could ever give. My experience serving the OPA couldn't be summed up any better.

OML issues call for entries

The Oklahoma Municipal League (OML) is looking for nominees for its Don Rider Transparency in Government Award.

To nominate someone, submit a Letter of Nomination not exceeding two pages that includes length of service, various positions held with the city and community involvement, as well as a photo of the nominee. Up to two additional Letters of Recommendation from other community, state or national leaders may also be submitted.

All entries are due no later than Aug. 5. After the selection committee reviews the entries, the chosen nominees will be invited to attend and be recognized at the OML Awards Banquet on Sept. 15.

The award was established in 2021 to recognize municipal governments and employees who live up to the principles of transparency, both in the letter and spirit of the law.

PRC approves rate increases

The Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) has approved United States Postal Service proposed postage rate changes. The changes are scheduled to take effect July 10, 2022.

For Periodicals, the overall increase is 8.540 percent, while Marketing Mail sees an overall increase of 6.5 percent.

"The Alliance continues to work with the PRC, USPS and Congressional leaders on solutions that will help protect news publishers and communities' access to high-quality journalism," the News Media Alliance said in a June 10 blog post.

Norman residents file lawsuit against OTA for alleged violations of Open Meeting Act

Norman area residents are suing the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority (OTA), claiming state Open Meeting Act violations.

The lawsuit was filed last month by Norman attorney Stan Ward and takes aim at the OTA's agendas for its meetings on Jan. 25 and Feb. 22, 2022. Ward won a lawsuit against the City of Norman last year for Open Meeting Act violations.

Ward claims the OTA "willfully violated the public policy of facilitating an informed citizenry regarding the Kickapoo Turnpike extension," after it announced its Advancing and Connecting Communities and Economics Safely Statewide [ACCESS] plan Feb. 22.

The \$5 billion, 15-year plan includes two new toll roads in Norman.

The agendas were not stated in "simple, direct and [comprehensible] language to be understood by a person of ordinary education and intelligence," Ward said in his petition to the court.

The Jan. 25 agenda included an item for "a revolving line of credit" to finance "certain turnpike projects," it reads.

The agenda item "fails to identify with specificity what those projects are," Ward wrote. A second item on that same agenda described "program management services, long-range turnpike improvement and expansion program" under a contract with Poe &

Associates but did not provide "constructive notice" to residents who would be affected by it.

More details on the plan were also absent from the minutes of the meeting, Ward noted.

The Feb. 4, 2022, agenda for the regularly scheduled OTA meeting mentioned a project status report, but only described it as "ACCESS Bond Project" and showed Poe & Associates as the project manager for \$4.9 million with \$39.7 million in awarded construction costs.

The lawsuit is the second one filed since May 3, when Pike Off OTA, an organization dedicated to fighting the Norman area turnpikes, filed a lawsuit.

Federal judiciary endorses free PACER searches

The United States Judicial Conference revealed where it stands on the free PACER debate. In a newly released report from a March 15 closed-door meeting, federal judiciary policymakers endorsed making PACER searches free for

non-commercial users in any future overhauls of the system.

Currently, users are required to pay 10 cents to view a page, capped at \$3 for larger filings. The PACER bill, known as the Open Courts Act of 2021, is looking to change that. The judiciary did not

approve removing charges for downloads.

In a bipartisan vote in December, the Senate Judiciary Committee advanced the bill to the full Senate for its consideration. The U.S. House of Representatives passed a similar bill in 2020.

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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.

You should join OPA'S LEGAL SERVICES PLAN!

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



Cato-Remer named editor at Sequoyah County Times

Amie Cato-Remer has been named the new editor of The Sequoyah County Times. She replaces former editor Roy Faulkenberry, who retired on May 26.



AMIE CATO-REMER

Cato-Remer is no stranger to news, having worked in the newspaper industry for 31 years. She is also the current editor of the Vian Tenkiller

News and Eastern Times-Register.

"I've worked on both the east and west ends of the county for decades and now I'm coming to the middle," Cato-Remer said. "I've had a close working relationship with the Times for many years and it takes a team to produce a good quality product. I'm thankful to have such an experienced staff who is willing to work hard to give our readers beneficial news from our area

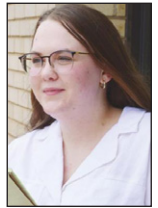
and other surrounding communities."

Jeff Mayo, publisher of the Sequoyah County Times, said he first met Cato-Remer nearly 20 years ago, and he has been amazed at her ability ever since.

"She is a gifted editor and reporter and I am very happy to have her take over as editor to lead our news team in covering all of Sequoyah County," Mayo said.

Clinton Daily News writer enjoying role

Nydia Campbell, a recent addition to the Clinton Daily News staff, is enjoying working for her hometown newspaper.



NYDIA CAMPBELL

"While I did not initially plan on going into this field [journalism], I knew I wanted to write and I found a job where I could do that in my hometown," she said.

Campbell's first official day at the office was May 23. She is a 2018 graduate of Clinton High School and graduated in May from the University of Oklahoma with a bachelor's degree.

Since she first started at the Daily News, Campbell says she has found that she is fond of talking to people as she interviews them for stories.

"While I continue to write, I am hopeful to be someone the public can trust to give accurate news and tell stories truthfully," she said. "It is important that people know they can rely on a news source to give them factual information."

Jennings hired as new Clinton Daily News sports editor

Josh Jennings is the new sports editor for the Clinton Daily News.



JOSH JENNINGS

"I always knew I wanted to do something in sports growing up, so I'm excited to have that opportunity now. I'm especially excited to work in a place like Clinton with such a successful athletics department and rich history," said Jennings.

Jennings, who is originally from Bethany, recently graduated with a degree in mar-

keting and a minor in sports management from Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford.

He got his start in sports journalism when his cousin, Kelly Hines, invited him to shadow her while she reported at a sporting event.

"My cousin worked at the Tulsa World and the day she let me shadow her was when I really learned about and fell in love with this side of journalism," he said.

After that, Jennings worked in various capacities at different newspapers in the state. He also worked in the athlet-

ics department of Southwestern Oklahoma State University where he learned of the opening for sports editor at the Clinton newspaper.

While Jennings is excited to cover Clinton sports, he also hopes to expand his coverage to other schools.

"I'd love to be able to branch out to different schools in the area as well and write about some of the other amazing sports programs in western Oklahoma."

Got News?

Share news about your newspaper with other OPA members!

If you have a new hire, sales promotion, contest, or have received an award or honor tell us about it so we can put it in The Oklahoma Publisher.

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Lewis named new Tulsa World Media Co. president

Mark Lewis is the new president of the Tulsa World Media Co.



MARK LEWIS

"I am excited for the opportunity Tulsa offers," Lewis said. "In my first week, I have been impressed with the community and the people I have met. I look forward to many more introductions and relocating permanently to the area."

Lewis started as publisher of The Journal Times in Racine, Wisconsin, in 2009. When Lee Enterprises, which owns the Tulsa World,

acquired United Communications Corp. (UCC) in 2019, he went on to lead the Keno-sha News and Lake Geneva Regional News.

"Mark has earned this promotion," said Chris White, president of Lee's Western Media Group. "During his work, Mark developed a reputation for delivering outstanding performance and for developing strong, high-performing teams."

During his tenure with the Wisconsin Valley Media group, Lewis was actively involved in the community, serving as chairman of the board for Racine Area Man-

ufacturers and Commerce (RAMAC), vice chairman for the Racine County Economic Development Corporation, on the board for the Wheaton Foundation and served on administrative services for Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Racine.

In his new role, Lewis will act as publisher for Tulsa World, Owasso Reporter, Sand Springs Leader, Skiatook Journal and Wagoner County American-Tribune.

Before this promotion, Lewis served as the publisher and president for the Wisconsin Valley Media Group.

Longtime editor of Sequoyah Co. Times announces retirement



Sequoyah County Times Editor Roy Faulkenberry retired after more than 40 years in the

newspaper business.

During his career as a newspaper editor, Faulkenberry has had the opportunity to interview four U.S. Presidents, a first lady and a suspected serial killer. If there's a story to tell, he has one.

"I didn't become a journalist until I was nearly 30," Faulkenberry said. "I held plenty of different jobs as laborer, equipment operator, bartender, greens keeper at a golf course, deckhand on a tugboat, welder's helper, waiter, anything I could do in my youth to make a dollar. I think doing all those things helped me as a writer."

He was hired by Jim Mayo at the Times in 1977, working for eight years before leaving to be a copy editor for the Southwest Times Record in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Faulkenberry spent the next few years working for The Poteau Daily News, The Press Argus-Courier (Van Buren, Ark.), where he worked as editor for about 12 years and met his wife, Janice. He also worked at the Heavener Ledger. He left the Ledger to return to where it all started.

"The first time Roy worked at [the Times], I was in grade school," Jeff Mayo, Times publisher, said. "I am happy for him in his retirement, but will miss his calm, steady voice."

Faulkenberry said he is looking forward to retirement, spending time with his wife, family and dogs, and maybe doing a little camping.

Tulsa World Media Co. makes advertising promotions

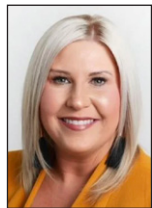
Misti Rinehart is now the Tulsa World advertising director, and Kathryn Bezler has been named advertising operations director for the Lee Enterprises South Region.

"Having been born and raised in the Tulsa area, this is my home," said Rinehart, who is a member of the Quapaw Nation.

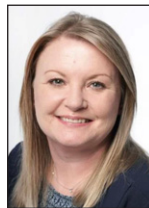
"I love the people here, and I'm extremely passionate about serving and helping my community thrive.

"I know that marketing can be a stressful industry to work in, so I strive to ensure my Tulsa World family has a healthy work-life balance, in addition to the tools and resources needed for professional success."

Bezler, who has been in advertising for 17 years, started at the Tulsa World in 2005 in the classifieds department. She was a sales leader before



MISTI RINEHART



KATHRYN BEZLER

being named advertising operations manager.

Her new role as South Region operations director serves Lee news organizations in Oklahoma, Texas, Alabama, Nebraska and South Carolina.

Bezler was born in Dublin, Ireland, and became a United States citizen in 2021.

"My career with the Tulsa World has always been about learning, growing and what my contribution to the company's success is," Bezler said.

"So I am thrilled to be given this opportunity to expand my team, allowing us to share workflows for sales support and operations."

Rinehart has worked in the media and advertising industry for 21 years. She started at the Tulsa World as an inside retail sales supervisor in 2016 before being named an outside media sales manager.

She then became the manager of sales and events for the Tulsa World and the Oklahoma Weekly Group, which includes the Owasso Reporter, Skiatook Journal, Sand Springs Leader and the Wagoner County American-Tribune.

Dedicated to the media community, she also serves on the board of directors of the Oklahoma Press Association and serves as vice chair of the OPA revenue and promotion committee.

The Tulsa World is one of 77 news organizations owned by Lee Enterprises in 26 states.

New exhibit in Sand Springs explores editorial cartoons

"Lines with Power and Purpose: Editorial Cartoons" is the title of a new exhibit coming to the Sand Springs

Cultural and Historical Museum.

The exhibit features 51 original editorial cartoons

from the nation's great metropolitan newspapers. The exhibit will be on display through June 20.

Michael Swisher named to 2022 E&P Extraordinaire list

Kingfisher Times & Free Press managing editor Michael Swisher was recently recognized by Editor & Publisher magazine as a 2022 Editor Extraordinaire.

Swisher was nominated by a coworker who wrote: "Michael Swisher is the epitome of a small-town editor; no job is too big or too small. His official title is managing editor, but he also serves as sports editor/writer (covering every sport in six school districts), news and feature writer, photographer, ad circular inserter and newsstand-filler.

"Over the years, he's mentored a number of interns and fledgling writers and always manages to find projects that ignite their enthusiasm as he teaches them the value of an engaging lead and tight, active writing," the nomination said. "When COVID-19 swept through our office last year, 'Swish' was emailing articles from his bed as he waged a five-day battle to stay out of the hospital."

Swisher said his advice to young journalism professionals would be to be well-rounded.

Swisher said in addition to covering a variety of news events, you also need to know how to update the website and social media.

"Oh, and sometimes you've got to take a break from the 1,200-word feature you're working on to stuff ad inserts into the latest print edition and deliver them to the newsstands. Don't be too big for any task. ... All of it matters here."

Seminole Producer returns to downtown

The Seminole Producer has returned to the downtown district after a nearly month long absence, but in a new office.

"When city officials offered us the chance to move into the library, I gladly accepted because the newspaper needs to be downtown and accessible to the public," said Mike Gifford, publisher. "People are used to coming into our office to pay their bills, place an ad, or give something to the news department. They haven't been able to do that for the past month because of the tornado damage to our building at 121 N. Main. I'm very grateful to the city and the library staff for bringing us back to the downtown district."

The Thursday, May 5, edition of the Seminole Producer was in the process of being printed when a powerful tornado began bearing down on the city. Downtown Seminole, where the newspaper's office is located, took a direct hit just before 8 p.m. on May 4. The tornado was nearly a mile wide, had multiple vortexes and its path totaled 31 miles,



The Seminole Producer's office received extensive damage in the May 4 tornado. The newspaper's signage was pulled off the building and siding peeled away. Many businesses in downtown Seminole were damaged in the storm.

according to the National Weather Service.

The staff in the building was forced to evacuate, leaving the paper unprinted.

"We almost waited too late to get out of there," said John Lewis, the paper's longtime pressman and circulation manager. "My wife, Laurie (Producer mailroom manager), was watching and listening to what was going on outside, and she finally convinced me it was time to leave."

Despite sustaining heavy damage to the offices and missing one edition (May 5), the 95-year-old newspaper was back in business within 48 hours. The paper is being printed by a facility in Lindsay.

"We're far from finalizing plans for a permanent home for the paper," Gifford said. "In the meantime, we're just going to make the best of the situation and work from the library."

OU Daily stops printing weekly newspaper

Last month, OU Daily managing editor Jillian Taylor announced the student newspaper is changing its focus from printing in a traditional capacity to instead publishing less frequent themed guides.

For over 100 years, The OU Daily has existed in print and was once distributed five times a week. Through decades of coverage, the paper shifted its presentation to occupy several mediums, including magazines, tabloids and now its website.

Taylor said she recognized the papers were sitting for

countless hours in piles on newsstands.

"An increased digital presence means you are no longer required to carry around our four-page paper to get the latest news," she said. "Although we love our physical paper and the history it has had as an informative, independent news source that students, staff and Norman residents can pick up any time on campus, it no longer matches our digital focus," she said.

The newspaper's final weekly edition printed May 10.

Taylor said editions, including the Crimson Quarterly, New to OU, Back to School, Living Guide, etc., will still be distributed, along with some new editions under the umbrella term "guide."

These guides will be published about once a month and will cover themes ranging from a Best of Norman guide, an expressions guide that will be a compendium of opinion columns and essays written by students and Daily staffers and a guide celebrating OU's graduating class.

CONVENTION

Continued from Page 1

Oklahoma City; and Kim Mott, a film production coordinator. Many scenes from the upcoming film "Killers of the Flower Moon," starring Leonardo DiCaprio, were filmed in Fairfax. The viewpoint of both the community and the film crew were provided by the panelists.

Several members dressed in costume for Friday evening events. Spotted milling in the crowd were Maleficent, characters from "The Life Aquatic," a Newsie character, the cast of Despicable Me, Citizen Kane and Rosebud, and the Pink Ladies crew. Mark Millsap hosted a competitive Movie Trivia game where the top prize went to the team of Todd and Sarah Brooks, Bob and Rose Lane, and David and Sandra Stringer.

BILL HANCOCK

Saturday morning's keynote speaker was Bill Hancock, executive director of the College Football Playoff.

"It's a pleasure to be back in the softball capitol of North America," Hancock said, referring to the Oklahoma Sooners' second consecutive national championship in the 2022 Women's College World Series.

Hancock's Oklahoma roots run deep. He grew up in Hobart, working at his father's newspaper, The Hobart Democrat-Chief.

After graduating from the University of Oklahoma, he began his career in sports, which now spans five decades including his present position as executive director of CFP.

"My job is remarkable," he said. "I just happened to be in the right place at the right time."

He has been to 15 Olympic

games, including two in one year in Tokyo and Beijing. "The Olympics remind us that we share the world together," he said. "That's what I treasure about the Olympics."

But for Hancock, it all began at the newspaper.

"Being a paper boy was the best job I ever had," he said. "You show up, do your job, put the paper on the porch. It's all you need to know. I can't think of a better way to grow up."

He continues to write two columns each week for the Hobart Democrat-Chief where his nephew, Todd Hancock, is now publisher.

"You show me a good community and I'll show you a community with a good newspaper," he said.

NEWS FLASH

In what might be described as clips, three OPA members offered four ideas to take home at this year's News Flash session.

Carrie Carberry, advertising director of the Sequoyah County Times, showed how to boost circulation revenue with a Black Friday sale, and how to create a Halloween Art Contest to increase readership and revenue. Allie Prater, editor of the Cushing Citizen, discussed using local students to cover events and take photos, and Brian Blansett, publisher of The Lincoln County News, showed how to launch a sponsored Teacher of the Week ad series in newspapers of any size.

CONGRESSIONAL PANEL

U.S. Reps. Frank Lucas, Markwayne Mullin and Stephanie Bice spoke to members of the press during the convention.

"We have several crises that are plaguing the country," Bice said. "You have the border, you have immigration,



Piotr Marek from 4media shows his product to Rochelle Stidham, publisher of the Guthrie News Leader. 4media was one of seven vendors at the OPA Convention. Other vendors were ASK-CRM, Advantage Newspaper Consultants, eType Services, Oklahoma Watch, Publications Plus and Smartypants.

you have crime and you have energy."

Bice said her focus was protecting the energy industry.

The delegation also answered several questions from media representatives.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Following the Awards Luncheon (see all award winners in this issue of The Oklahoma Publisher), concurrent sessions including news, revenue and legal tracks began. These 45-minute short sessions gave attendees the opportunity to pick and choose.

Speakers included Jason Collington, editor of the Tulsa World; Mark Millsap, Norman, Okla.; Joe Wilhite, The Norman Transcript; Doug Dodd, OPA attorney with Doerner Saunders Daniel & Anderson; Ted Streuli, Oklahoma Watch; political consultants Neva Hill and Pat McFerron; Sterling Cosper, Native American Journalists Association; Paige Willett, communications coordinator for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation; Kim Poindexter, executive editor at the Tahlequah Daily Press; Adrian O'Hanlon, McAlester News-Capital; Scotty Maxwell, Wesner Publications; Phillip Reid, Weath-

erford Daily News; and Thad Swiderski and Marcus Mitchell, eType Services. These eight concurrent sessions featured a lot of local talent willing to share their expertise with others.

BLOOPER SHOW

Of course, no convention is complete without the annual Bloopers Show and this year was no exception.

OPA Vice President Mark Thomas led the audiences through the gaffes (including one from this publication) before bestowing the not-so-coveted Grand Bloopers Award (a toilet seat) to Cindy Allen, publisher of the Enid News & Eagle.

AWARDS BANQUET

At the Saturday evening Awards Banquet, members donned their finery to walk the red carpet into the banquet hall where hundreds of awards were presented (see all winners of Better Newspaper Contest in this issue).

As the group dispersed with their hardware and headed to the after party for a cocktail, some say they heard in the halls, "That's a wrap."

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The Oklahoma Press Association and its members appreciate all the sponsors of the 2022 OPA Convention. Your support of Oklahoma newspapers helped make the convention a success.

Red Carpet Moments

Photos from the Saturday, June 11, OPA Awards Reception



Mindy Ragan Wood, The Norman Transcript, with Ryan and Jasmine Horton, Choctaw Times



Emma Keith, Abby Bitterman, Kyle and Holly Phillips, The Norman Transcript



Martha and John Brock, Inola Independent



Ross D. Johnson and Jaida Pervis, The Oklahoma Eagle (Tulsa)



Heather Flores and Brooklyn Peek, The Cordell Beacon



Gary Reid, Kingfisher Times & Free Press, and Phillip Reid, Weatherford Daily News (Reid Newspapers)



Richard Barron and Mackenzie Crosby, The Ada News, with Eric Swanson, Southwest Ledger

Congratulations to the 2021 Oklahoma Press Association BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST WINNERS



2021 BETTER NEWSPAPER CONTEST SEQUOYAH AWARD WINNERS: Front row: Emma Keith, The Norman Transcript (Division 1); Carol Conner, The Fairfax Chief (Division 8); Reina Owens, McAlester News-Capital (Division 2); Crystal Childers, The Duncan Banner (Division 3). Back row: Ryan Horton, Choctaw Times (Division 5); Brian Blansett, Lincoln County News (Division 7); David Bublitz, The Cameron University Collegian (College); Adrian O'Hanlon, McAlester News-Capital; John Denny Montgomery, The Purcell Register (Division 6); Jeff Harrison, Midwest City Beacon (Division 4). Awards were presented June 11, 2022, during the 2022 Oklahoma Press Association Convention at the Sheraton Oklahoma City Downtown Hotel.

DIVISION 1 – DAILIES, City/Town Population more than 30,000

SEQUOYAH AWARD WINNER

The Norman Transcript

NEWS CONTENT

FIRST PLACE: The Lawton Constitution
SECOND PLACE: The Norman Transcript
THIRD PLACE: Muskogee Phoenix

LAYOUT & DESIGN

FIRST PLACE: The Norman Transcript
SECOND PLACE: Stillwater News Press
THIRD PLACE: Muskogee Phoenix

ADVERTISING

FIRST PLACE: The Lawton Constitution
SECOND PLACE: Muskogee Phoenix
THIRD PLACE: The Journal Record (OKC)

EDITORIAL WRITING

FIRST PLACE: The Norman Transcript
SECOND PLACE: Enid News & Eagle
THIRD PLACE: Muskogee Phoenix

PHOTOGRAPHY

FIRST PLACE: Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise
SECOND PLACE: Stillwater News Press
THIRD PLACE: The Norman Transcript

SPORTS COVERAGE

FIRST PLACE: The Norman Transcript
SECOND PLACE: Stillwater News Press
THIRD PLACE: The Lawton Constitution

SALES PROMOTION

FIRST PLACE: The Lawton Constitution, "Lawton's 120th Birthday Celebration"
SECOND PLACE: Muskogee Phoenix, "Left-handed newspaper for International Left-handers' Day"
THIRD PLACE: Stillwater News Press, "Gift Guide"

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

FIRST PLACE: The Journal Record, "2021 Beacon Awards"
SECOND PLACE: The Norman Transcript, "City Budget Process"
THIRD PLACE: Enid News & Eagle, "Hope Summit"

NEWS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Kathryn McNutt, The Journal Record, "FDA to humans: 'You are not a horse'"
SECOND PLACE: Janice Francis-Smith, The Journal Record, "Tensions flare in Azerbaijan, Washington as Stitt tours Baku"
THIRD PLACE: Mindy Ragan Wood and Max Bryan, The Norman Transcript, "Residents, council offended at Lynn's remarks"

FEATURE STORY

FIRST PLACE: Scott Rains, The Lawton Constitution, "Daughter serenades her late parents"
SECOND PLACE: Janice Francis-Smith, The Journal Record, "Garland: Terror 'still with us'"

THIRD PLACE: Susan Riley, Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise, "Nursing: A noble profession"

SPORTS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Mike Tupa, Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise, "Bartlesville griddler Droz electrifies with TD run"
SECOND PLACE: Glen Brockenbush, The Lawton Constitution, "Like a daydream"
THIRD PLACE: Mike Kays, Muskogee Phoenix, "Controversial call"

BUSINESS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Kathryn McNutt, The Journal Record, "Dolese Bros. moving to new headquarters"
SECOND PLACE: Kathryn McNutt, The Journal Record, "Presley Apartments emerge from old Lincoln Plaza Hotel"
THIRD PLACE: Susan Riley, Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise, "'Dawgs' to dentistry: Hot dog cart helps Bartlesville student raise college cash"

EDUCATION STORY

FIRST PLACE: Kathryn McNutt, The Journal Record, "Addressing gender imbalance in tech fields"
SECOND PLACE: Emma Keith, The Norman Transcript, "Black, Latino students significantly underrepresented in Norman's gifted education"
THIRD PLACE: Michelle Charles, Stillwater News Press, "Suit to force schools open continues"

IN-DEPTH REPORTING

FIRST PLACE: Alexander Ewald, Enid News & Eagle, "City of Enid and its Kaw Lake water project"
SECOND PLACE: Mindy Ragan Wood and Reese Gorman, The Norman Transcript, "Norman ward reapportionment process and controversy"
THIRD PLACE: Kim McConnell, The Lawton Constitution, "Virtual learning"

COLUMN WRITING

FIRST PLACE: Emma Keith, The Norman Transcript
SECOND PLACE: D.E. Smoot, Muskogee Phoenix
THIRD PLACE: David R. Stringer, The Lawton Constitution

SMALL SPACE AD

FIRST PLACE: Kathy Young, Enid News & Eagle, "Helping students get to the heart of the matter"
SECOND PLACE: Kayla Durham and Belinda Darnell, The Lawton Constitution, "Brady's design center inventory reduction"
THIRD PLACE: Rebecca Howe, The Norman Transcript, "Norman stamp and seal"

LARGE SPACE AD

FIRST PLACE: Kayla Durham and Cindy Wright, The Lawton Constitution, "Anderson's Pharmacy"
SECOND PLACE: Kathy Young, Enid News & Eagle, "Happy Mother's Day"

THIRD PLACE: Brenda Adams and Angela Jackson, Muskogee Phoenix, "The great St. Patrick's Day sale continues"

NEWS PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Andy Dossett, Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise, "WCSPCA reduces adoption fees"

SECOND PLACE: Billy Hefton, Enid News & Eagle, "A man tries to get a closer look at a submerged car..."

THIRD PLACE: Ashlynd Huffman, Stillwater News Press, "Fire tears through tow yard"

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Kyle Phillips, The Norman Transcript, "Fourth of July fireworks"

SECOND PLACE: Andy Dossett, Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise, "Refined by fire"

THIRD PLACE: Billy Hefton, Enid News & Eagle, "Darlene Pottorf looks at her wedding dress..."

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Kyle Phillips, The Norman Transcript, "Spring forward"

SECOND PLACE: Kyle Phillips, The Norman Transcript, "Movin' on up"

THIRD PLACE: Glen Brockenbush, The Lawton Constitution, "Frederick seniors"

PHOTO ESSAY/PICTURE PAGE

FIRST PLACE: Andy Dossett, Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise, "July 4 fun a real blast"

SECOND PLACE: Kyle Phillips, The Norman Transcript, "Norman High wins state"

THIRD PLACE: Jason Elmquist, Stillwater News Press, "Cowgirl softball advances to College World Series"

FRONT PAGE DESIGN

FIRST PLACE: Dee Ann Patterson, The Lawton Constitution, "July 25: Rescue funds"

SECOND PLACE: Dee Ann Patterson, The Lawton Constitution, "Feb. 16: Walloped"

THIRD PLACE: Jamie Berry, The Norman Transcript, "July 4"

DIVISION 2 – DAILIES, City/Town Population less than 30,000

SEQUOYAH AWARD WINNER

McAlester News-Capital

NEWS CONTENT

FIRST PLACE: Tahlequah Daily Press
SECOND PLACE: McAlester News-Capital
THIRD PLACE: Weatherford Daily News

LAYOUT & DESIGN

FIRST PLACE: McAlester News-Capital
SECOND PLACE: Tahlequah Daily Press
THIRD PLACE: The Ada News

ADVERTISING

FIRST PLACE: McAlester News-Capital
SECOND PLACE: Weatherford Daily News
THIRD PLACE: Weatherford Daily News

EDITORIAL WRITING

FIRST PLACE: McAlester News-Capital
SECOND PLACE: Tahlequah Daily Press
THIRD PLACE: The Ada News

PHOTOGRAPHY

FIRST PLACE: Claremore Daily Progress
SECOND PLACE: Tahlequah Daily Press
THIRD PLACE: Weatherford Daily News

SPORTS COVERAGE

FIRST PLACE: McAlester News-Capital
SECOND PLACE: The Ada News
THIRD PLACE: Claremore Daily Progress

SALES PROMOTION

FIRST PLACE: McAlester News-Capital, "Gridiron Preview Football Vision"
SECOND PLACE: Tahlequah Daily Press, "Newcomers Guide 2021"
THIRD PLACE: Weatherford Daily News, "Dinner on Us"

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

FIRST PLACE: McAlester News-Capital, "Angel Tree"

SECOND PLACE: The Ada News, "Fall in love with a shelter pet"

THIRD PLACE: Weatherford Daily News, "Elf in the park"

NEWS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Denton Thomason, Vinita Daily Journal, "First 'degree' explosion rocks big cabin"

SECOND PLACE: Adrian O'Hanlon, McAlester News-Capital, "Man convulsed, vomited in Oklahoma's first execution since 2015"

THIRD PLACE: Richard Barron, The Ada News, "Jaimone Kirkland remembered at balloon release"

FEATURE STORY

FIRST PLACE: Jeff Cali, The Ada News, "Indiana Jones has nothing on Karsyn Johnson"

SECOND PLACE: Mackenzie Crosby, The Ada News, "Cold War love affair"

THIRD PLACE: Montgomery Malone, Weatherford Daily News, "World War II plane takes flight in Weatherford"

SPORTS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Kevin Green, Claremore Daily Progress, "Edwards finds calling in sitting volleyball"

SECOND PLACE: Derek Hatridge, McAlester News-Capital, "Caity Clark kicks her way to McAlester history"

THIRD PLACE: Jeff Cali, The Ada News, "The real winner on Saturday was Team Landree"

BUSINESS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Derrick James, McAlester News-Capital, "Pete's Place continues family tradition"

SECOND PLACE: Angela Thomason, Vinita Daily Journal, "Giving wall set up at Hi-Way Cafe"

THIRD PLACE: Chelsea Weeks, Claremore Daily Progress, "Morton's open New Perspective"

EDUCATION STORY

FIRST PLACE: Brian King, Tahlequah Daily Press, "Local man's racist remarks"

SECOND PLACE: Adrian O'Hanlon, McAlester News-Capital, "Retired McAlester educator doesn't want history to repeat itself"

THIRD PLACE: Grant Crawford, Tahlequah Daily Press, "Campus Protest"

IN-DEPTH REPORTING

FIRST PLACE: Montgomery Malone, Weatherford Daily News, "He killed his mother and says it was 'God's will'"

SECOND PLACE: Denton Thomason and Angela Thomason, Vinita Daily Journal, "Bomb threats lock down school, shake city"

THIRD PLACE: Derrick James, McAlester News-Capital, "McGirt ruling"

COLUMN WRITING

FIRST PLACE: Jeff Cali, The Ada News

SECOND PLACE: Richard Barron, The Ada News

THIRD PLACE: Kim Poindexter, Tahlequah Daily Press

SMALL SPACE AD

FIRST PLACE: Heather Ruotolo, Tahlequah Daily Press, "Straight Edge Barbershop"

SECOND PLACE: Jill Harris, McAlester News-Capital, "Olive Branch"

THIRD PLACE: Juanita Lewis, Tahlequah Daily Press, "Downsizing at Go Ye"

LARGE SPACE AD

FIRST PLACE: Jana Weddle, McAlester News-Capital, "Gameday poster"

SECOND PLACE: Joe Mack, Tahlequah Daily Press, "Northeastern Health System"

THIRD PLACE: Jana Weddle, McAlester News-Capital, "Southeast Clinic"

NEWS PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Derrick James, McAlester News-Capital, "Stitt commutes Julius Jones sentence"

SECOND PLACE: Adrian O'Hanlon, McAlester News-Capital, "Reporting Oklahoma's first execution since 2015"

THIRD PLACE: Grant Crawford, Tahlequah Daily Press, "Student campus protest"

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Josh Burton, Weatherford Daily News, "Player carrying flag"

SECOND PLACE: Richard Barron, The Ada News, "Independence Day events a success"

THIRD PLACE: Richard Barron, The Ada News, "Vanoss High School senior class president is unable to hold back his tears"

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Jay Lederman, Claremore Daily Progress, "Sequoiah freshman receiver"

SECOND PLACE: DJ Johnson, Vinita Daily Journal, "Sliding into home like Superman"

THIRD PLACE: Josh Burton, Weatherford Daily News, "Carsyn Chase makes contact with a ball"

PHOTO ESSAY/PICTURE PAGE

FIRST PLACE: Richard Barron, The Ada News, "Asher town Christmas Parade"

SECOND PLACE: Richard Barron, The Ada News, "AdaFest"

THIRD PLACE: Derrick James, McAlester News-Capital, "Julius Jones supporters"

FRONT PAGE DESIGN

FIRST PLACE: Dawnnyl Hill, McAlester News-Capital, "May 29: Greenwood, a century later"

SECOND PLACE: Dawnnyl Hill, McAlester News-Capital, "Nov. 19: Governor commutes Julius Jones sentence"

THIRD PLACE: Phillip Reid, Perry Daily Journal, "Sept. 15: Grit and Glamour"

DIVISION 3 – SEMI- AND TRI-WEEKLIES

SEQUOYAH AWARD WINNER The Duncan Banner

NEWS CONTENT

FIRST PLACE: Sequoyah County Times
SECOND PLACE: Okmulgee Times
THIRD PLACE: The Duncan Banner

LAYOUT & DESIGN

FIRST PLACE: Okmulgee Times
SECOND PLACE: Sequoyah County Times
THIRD PLACE: The Duncan Banner

ADVERTISING

FIRST PLACE: Henryetta Free-Lance
SECOND PLACE: Sequoyah County Times
THIRD PLACE: The Duncan Banner

EDITORIAL WRITING

FIRST PLACE: Sequoyah County Times
SECOND PLACE: Okmulgee Times
THIRD PLACE: The Duncan Banner

PHOTOGRAPHY

FIRST PLACE: El Reno Tribune
SECOND PLACE: Yukon Review
THIRD PLACE: The Duncan Banner

SPORTS COVERAGE

FIRST PLACE: The Duncan Banner
SECOND PLACE: Poteau Daily News
THIRD PLACE: Sequoyah County Times

SALES PROMOTION

FIRST PLACE: Henryetta Free-Lance, "Salute to our veterans"

SECOND PLACE: Sequoyah County Times, "Bingo"

THIRD PLACE: The Duncan Banner, "State Bound"

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

FIRST PLACE: The Duncan Banner, "Take out Tuesday"

SECOND PLACE: El Reno Tribune, "News brief videos"

THIRD PLACE: Okmulgee Times, "Cookie Crawl"

NEWS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Charlene Belew and Andy Morpheu, The Duncan Banner, "Conviction overturned: DA, sheriff, family react to murder dismissal"

SECOND PLACE: Staff, El Reno Tribune, "Blaze burns countryside"

THIRD PLACE: Dawnita Fogleman, Woodward News, "Local sheriff blames shooting on flawed warrant procedure"

FEATURE STORY

FIRST PLACE: Christine Reid, The Kingfisher Times & Free Press, "Eyewitness to history"

SECOND PLACE: Tamara Gregor, The Duncan Banner, "Avionics student"

THIRD PLACE: Ray Dyer, El Reno Tribune, "Firefighter and Kepo take on Hollywood, The Pack"

SPORTS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Glen Miller, El Reno Tribune, "Tracing her father's past"
SECOND PLACE: Andy Morphew, The Duncan Banner, "22 strong"
THIRD PLACE: Michael Swisher, The Kingfisher Times & Free Press, "In My Heart, We Won"

BUSINESS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Glen Miller, El Reno Tribune, "Commercial businesses hit hard by lack of running water"
SECOND PLACE: Michael Pineda, Yukon Review, "Rustic flair"
THIRD PLACE: Moira McGhee, Miami News-Record, "The Stables Casino taps Miamian for top post"

EDUCATION STORY

FIRST PLACE: Moira McGhee, Miami News-Record, "Double cast brings The Nutcracker to life"
SECOND PLACE: Carolyn Boothe, The Grove Sun, "Shark Tank inspires two young entrepreneurs"
THIRD PLACE: Carolyn Boothe, The Grove

Sun, "Grove school buses drive nearly 1,920 miles per day"

IN-DEPTH REPORTING

FIRST PLACE: Haley Humphrey, Yukon Review, "Homelessness"
SECOND PLACE: Staff, El Reno Tribune, "Deep freeze causes massive water outages"
THIRD PLACE: Dawnita Fogleman, Woodward News, "Potential closing of William S. Key Correctional Center"

COLUMN WRITING

FIRST PLACE: Michael Pineda, Yukon Review, "Banner"
SECOND PLACE: Andy Morphew, The Duncan Banner
THIRD PLACE: Tamara Gregor, The Duncan Banner

SMALL SPACE AD

FIRST PLACE: Lyndsay Bayne, El Reno Tribune, "DJ Dezire & LynzB"
SECOND PLACE: Larissa Copeland and Paula Settle, Yukon Review, "Del Rancho"
THIRD PLACE: Crystal Childers, The Duncan Banner, "Shop Downtown Main Street Duncan"

LARGE SPACE AD

FIRST PLACE: Lyndsay Bayne, El Reno Tribune, "St. Katharine Drexel Veteran's Day"
SECOND PLACE: Crystal Childers, The Duncan Banner, "Branded Apparel"
THIRD PLACE: Carrie Carberry and Silver Cole, Sequoyah County Times, "Diamond Daze"

NEWS PHOTOGRAPH

(Combined with Division 4)
FIRST PLACE: Glen Miller, El Reno Tribune, "Dousing the flames"
SECOND PLACE: Glen Miller, El Reno Tribune, "Construction worker"
THIRD PLACE: Jeff Harrison, Midwest City Beacon, "Carl Albert student Cole McNeely at the Welders Rodeo"

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Glen Miller, El Reno Tribune, "Colorful pressure"
SECOND PLACE: Glen Miller, El Reno Tribune, "Wave watchers"
THIRD PLACE: Johnny McMahan, Woodward News, "Ducks"

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Glen Miller, El Reno Tribune, "El Reno High School catcher Brayden Fulton"
SECOND PLACE: Kelly Wray, The Duncan Banner, "Empire bulldogs"
THIRD PLACE: Glen Miller, El Reno Tribune, "Taking one in the chin"

PHOTO ESSAY/PICTURE PAGE

FIRST PLACE: Glen Miller, El Reno Tribune, "What a fun fair"
SECOND PLACE: Johnny McMahan, Woodward News, "Tournament action"
THIRD PLACE: Glen Miller, El Reno Tribune, "Homecoming parade"

FRONT PAGE DESIGN

FIRST PLACE: Glen Miller and Lyndsay Bayne, El Reno Tribune, "Sept. 22: Tribune transforms into Tinseltown"
SECOND PLACE: Leslie Carberry-Mendoza, Jan Herod and Carrie Carberry, Sequoyah County Times, "Oct. 8: Sasquatch"
THIRD PLACE: Tracy Goza, Henryetta Free-Lance, "Nov. 24: Thanksgiving"

DIVISION 4 – WEEKLIES, City/Town Population more than 19,000

SEQUOYAH AWARD WINNER

Midwest City Beacon

NEWS CONTENT

FIRST PLACE: Midwest City Beacon
SECOND PLACE: OKC Friday
THIRD PLACE: The Oklahoma Eagle, Tulsa

LAYOUT & DESIGN

FIRST PLACE: Mustang News
SECOND PLACE: Midwest City Beacon
THIRD PLACE: Mustang Times

ADVERTISING

FIRST PLACE: Mustang Times
SECOND PLACE: Midwest City Beacon
THIRD PLACE: OKC Friday

EDITORIAL WRITING

FIRST PLACE: Mustang Times
SECOND PLACE: The Oklahoma Eagle
THIRD PLACE: OKC Friday

PHOTOGRAPHY

FIRST PLACE: Mustang Times
SECOND PLACE: Mustang News
THIRD PLACE: Midwest City Beacon

SPORTS COVERAGE

FIRST PLACE: Midwest City Beacon
SECOND PLACE: Mustang Times
THIRD PLACE: OKC Friday

SALES PROMOTION

FIRST PLACE: Midwest City Beacon, "Eastern Oklahoma County Football Preview"
SECOND PLACE: Mustang Times, "Living 50 Plus"

THIRD PLACE: OKC Friday, "Celebrate Oklahoma"

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

FIRST PLACE: The Oklahoma Eagle, "Of Greenwood"
SECOND PLACE: Midwest City Beacon, "Holiday Food Drive"
THIRD PLACE: Mustang Times, "Food Drive"

NEWS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Sharon Bishop-Baldwin, Sand Springs Leader, "Store's owner robbed, beaten"
SECOND PLACE: Sharon Bishop-Baldwin, Sand Springs Leader, "4 found dead in home"
THIRD PLACE: Art Haddaway, Owasso Reporter, "'Brave' and 'heroic': Guard members - one living, one killed in line of duty - honored"

FEATURE STORY

FIRST PLACE: Jeff Harrison, Midwest City Beacon, "Siblings raise awareness about lupus"
SECOND PLACE: Art Haddaway, Owasso Reporter, "Divine intervention: Local couple survives house fire thanks to good samaritan"
THIRD PLACE: Art Haddaway, Owasso Reporter, "Owasso gym owner teams up with 'Heroes,' 'Star Wars' actor to raise awareness of epilepsy"

SPORTS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Sharon Bishop-Baldwin, Sand Springs Leader, "Joe Medlin: Gaining his voice"

SECOND PLACE: Art Haddaway, Owasso Reporter, "I'm an Olympian for life: Owasson Patrick Callan reflects on swimming in Tokyo Olympics"
THIRD PLACE: Jason Jewell, OKC Friday, "Crossings Christian wins state basketball championship"

BUSINESS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Sharon Bishop-Baldwin, Sand Springs Leader, "Cannabis site appealed"
SECOND PLACE: Sharon Bishop-Baldwin, Sand Springs Leader, "Power line route finalized"
THIRD PLACE: Jeff Harrison, Midwest City Beacon, "Intermission ends at Warren Theatre"

EDUCATION STORY

FIRST PLACE: Sharon Bishop-Baldwin, Sand Springs Leader, "Living history lesson"
SECOND PLACE: Art Haddaway, Owasso Reporter, "A promising hotelier: Owasso a launching pad for Ethiopian student's hospitality career"
THIRD PLACE: Sharon Bishop-Baldwin, Sand Springs Leader, "Stroke 'opened so many' doors"

IN-DEPTH REPORTING

FIRST PLACE: Victor Luckerson, Mary Noble, M. David Goodwin and Gary Lee, The Oklahoma Eagle, "Of Greenwood"
SECOND PLACE: Sharon Bishop-Baldwin, Sand Springs Leader, "The City's COVID losses aren't statistics. They're friends, neighbors and relatives."
THIRD PLACE: Sharon Bishop-Baldwin, Sand Springs Leader, "COVID kills 1 in 25"

COLUMN WRITING

(Combined with Division 5)
FIRST PLACE: Dawn Tree, The Oklahoma Eagle
SECOND PLACE: Allie Prater, Cushing Citizen
THIRD PLACE: Art Haddaway, Owasso Reporter

NEWS PHOTOGRAPH

(Combined with Division 3)
FIRST PLACE: Glen Miller, El Reno Tribune, "Dousing the flames"
SECOND PLACE: Glen Miller, El Reno Tribune, "Construction worker"
THIRD PLACE: Jeff Harrison, Midwest City Beacon, "Carl Albert student Cole McNeely at the Welders Rodeo"

PHOTO ESSAY/PICTURE PAGE

(Combined with Division 5)
FIRST PLACE: Kevin Hilley and Dubie Torrez, The Altus Times, "Altus Balloon Festival"
SECOND PLACE: Rose Lane, OKC Friday, "Cookies & Cocktails"

FRONT PAGE DESIGN

FIRST PLACE: M. David Goodwin, Ross Johnson and Samantha Levrault, The Oklahoma Eagle, "June 4: 'We Demand...'"
SECOND PLACE: Rose Lane, OKC Friday, "June 4: Made of Clay"
THIRD PLACE: Rose Lane, OKC Friday, "Feb. 12: 'Spiro' opening at The Cowboy"

DIVISION 5 – WEEKLIES, City/Town Population 7,000 - 19,000

SEQUOYAH AWARD WINNER Choctaw Times

NEWS CONTENT

FIRST PLACE: Wagoner County American-Tribune
SECOND PLACE: Choctaw Times
THIRD PLACE: The Express-Star (Chickasha)

LAYOUT & DESIGN

FIRST PLACE: Wagoner County American-Tribune
SECOND PLACE: Choctaw Times
THIRD PLACE: The Express-Star

ADVERTISING

FIRST PLACE: Choctaw Times
SECOND PLACE: The Express-Star
THIRD PLACE: The Newcastle Pacer

EDITORIAL WRITING

FIRST PLACE: The Newcastle Pacer
SECOND PLACE: Choctaw Times

PHOTOGRAPHY

FIRST PLACE: The Newcastle Pacer
SECOND PLACE: Choctaw Times
THIRD PLACE: The Express-Star

SPORTS COVERAGE

FIRST PLACE: The Newcastle Pacer
SECOND PLACE: Wagoner County American-Tribune
THIRD PLACE: Durant Democrat

SALES PROMOTION

FIRST PLACE: The Express-Star, "Jan's Santa Book"
SECOND PLACE: Choctaw Times, "Eastern Oklahoma County Today"

THIRD PLACE: The Newcastle Pacer, "National FFA Week"

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

FIRST PLACE: The Newcastle Pacer, "Help for non-profits during pandemic"

SECOND PLACE: Choctaw Times, "Choctaw Hoops"

NEWS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Justin Ayer, Wagoner County American-Tribune, "Tulahassee leaders drive revitalization in Oklahoma's oldest surviving all-Black town"

SECOND PLACE: Jessica Lane, The Express-Star, "Grady residents share stories from Sunday storm"

THIRD PLACE: Kevin Hilley, The Altus Times, "Is it 'curtains' for historic City Auditorium?"

FEATURE STORY

FIRST PLACE: Jessica Lane, The Express-Star, "Check it out: Heilmans cover Chickasha Library in community's favorite books"

SECOND PLACE: Kevin Hilley, The Altus Times, "Local artist channels energy into giant murals"

THIRD PLACE: Justin Ayer, Wagoner County American-Tribune, "Tulahassee leaders drive revitalization in Oklahoma's oldest surviving all-Black town"

SPORTS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Kevin Farr, Durant Democrat, "Victory King"

SECOND PLACE: Austin Litterell, The Express-Star, "Elam discusses journey, Chickasha's support and future of softball"

THIRD PLACE: Justin Ayer, Wagoner County American-Tribune, "Coweta basketball standout Jenni Bryan remembered for huge heart"

EDUCATION STORY

(Combined with Division 6)

FIRST PLACE: Natasha Dunagan, Countywide & Sun, "Bethel senior receives standing ovation"

SECOND PLACE: Justin Ayer, Wagoner County American-Tribune, "12-year-old Wagoner boy emails mayor wanting a skate park"

IN-DEPTH REPORTING

(Combined with Division 6)

FIRST PLACE: Justin Ayer, Wagoner County American-Tribune, "Preservation versus cost: Roof needed at Wagoner's historic Katy Depot"

SECOND PLACE: Jerry Fink, The Eufaula Indian Journal, "McGirt Ruling, 2010 Murphy, Court ruling, Dozens Indicted, Hammer, McGirt, Prosecution, Two more cases"

COLUMN WRITING

(Combined with Division 4)

FIRST PLACE: Dawn Tree, The Oklahoma Eagle

SECOND PLACE: Allie Prater, Cushing Citizen

THIRD PLACE: Art Haddaway, Owasso Reporter

NEWS PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Kevin Hilley, The Altus Times, "Blue lights"

SECOND PLACE: Matt Swearingin, Durant Democrat, "Police officer funeral"

THIRD PLACE: Kevin Hilley, The Altus Times, "Summer storm"

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Jessica Lane, The Express-Star, "Fly 'em Cowboy': Falcon Flight Formation Team takes off"

SECOND PLACE: Kevin Hilley, The Altus Times, "Tiniest policegirl"

THIRD PLACE: Jessica Lane, The Express-Star, "Multiple events draw crowd to downtown Chickasha"

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Matt Swearingin, Durant Democrat, "Caddo Bruin Chandler Lackey is fouled by a Tushka player"

SECOND PLACE: Matt Swearingin, Durant Democrat, "SE Lady Storm players Jordan Benson and Kamryn Cantwell walk"

THIRD PLACE: Austin Litterell, The Express-Star, "Ninnekah bounces back to win district title"

PHOTO ESSAY/PICTURE PAGE

(Combined with Division 4)

FIRST PLACE: Kevin Hilley and Dubie Torrez, The Altus Times, "Altus Balloon Festival"

SECOND PLACE: Rose Lane, OKC Friday, "Cookies & Cocktails"

DIVISION 6 – WEEKLIES, City/Town Population 3,500 - 7,000

SEQUOYAH AWARD WINNER

The Purcell Register

NEWS CONTENT

FIRST PLACE: The Purcell Register

SECOND PLACE: The Eufaula Indian Journal

THIRD PLACE: Countywide & Sun, Tecumseh

LAYOUT & DESIGN

FIRST PLACE: The Eufaula Indian Journal

SECOND PLACE: The Purcell Register

THIRD PLACE: Bristow News

ADVERTISING

FIRST PLACE: The Purcell Register

SECOND PLACE: Countywide & Sun

THIRD PLACE: Bristow News

EDITORIAL WRITING

FIRST PLACE: The Eufaula Indian Journal

SECOND PLACE: The Purcell Register

THIRD PLACE: The Stilwell Democrat Journal

PHOTOGRAPHY

FIRST PLACE: The Eufaula Indian Journal

SECOND PLACE: The Marlow Review

THIRD PLACE: The Purcell Register

SPORTS COVERAGE

FIRST PLACE: The Purcell Register

SECOND PLACE: Countywide & Sun

THIRD PLACE: The Eufaula Indian Journal

SALES PROMOTION

FIRST PLACE: The Eufaula Indian Journal, "Focus 2021"

SECOND PLACE: The Purcell Register, "Football Preview"

THIRD PLACE: Countywide & Sun, "Local Folks: Locally owned businesses here to serve you!"

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

FIRST PLACE: The Eufaula Indian Journal, "Domestic Violence Awareness"

SECOND PLACE: The Purcell Register, "Operation Christmas"

THIRD PLACE: Bristow News, "Light Up Bristow Christmas Lighting Contest"

NEWS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Elizabeth Pitts-Hibbard, The Marlow Review, "Suspect in Custody, Shelter from the Storm"

SECOND PLACE: Renee Fite, The Stilwell Democrat Journal, "WOKA Whitewater Park"

THIRD PLACE: Suzie Campbell, Countywide & Sun, "New Challenges for 2021 PCJLS"

FEATURE STORY

FIRST PLACE: Elizabeth Pitts-Hibbard, The Marlow Review, "Local expert adds authenticity to 'Stillwater'"

SECOND PLACE: Renee Fite, The Stilwell Democrat Journal, "A Story of Valor: Dwight Birdwell up for Congressional Medal"

THIRD PLACE: Renee Fite, The Stilwell Democrat Journal, "Violet's View: 60-year DJ columnist shares her history"

SPORTS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Shalene White, The Madill Record, "Fans or no fans?"

SECOND PLACE: DJ Johnson, Nowata Star, "Oklahoma Union wins state basketball title"

THIRD PLACE: Shalene White, The Madill Record, "Former football player arrested"

BUSINESS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Natasha Dunagan, Countywide & Sun, "After 81 years of service"

SECOND PLACE: Renee Fite, The Stilwell Democrat Journal, "WOKA Whitewater Park now under construction"

THIRD PLACE: Renee Fite, The Stilwell Democrat Journal, "Business owners plagued by illegal dumping"

EDUCATION STORY

(Combined with Division 5)

FIRST PLACE: Natasha Dunagan, Countywide & Sun, "Bethel senior receives standing ovation"

SECOND PLACE: Justin Ayer, Wagoner County American-Tribune, "12-year-old Wagoner boy emails mayor wanting a skate park"

IN-DEPTH REPORTING

(Combined with Division 5)

FIRST PLACE: Justin Ayer, Wagoner County American-Tribune, "Preservation versus cost: Roof needed at Wagoner's historic Katy Depot"

SECOND PLACE: Jerry Fink, The Eufaula Indian Journal, "McGirt Ruling, 2010 Murphy, Court ruling, Dozens Indicted, Hammer, McGirt, Prosecution, Two more cases"

COLUMN WRITING

FIRST PLACE: Megan Moss, The Madill Record

SECOND PLACE: Charles White, The Madill Record

THIRD PLACE: Renee Fite, The Stilwell Democrat Journal

SMALL SPACE AD

FIRST PLACE: Bristow News, "Wizard of Oz"

SECOND PLACE: Juanita Lewis, The Stilwell Democrat Journal, "Free kittens"

THIRD PLACE: Bristow News, "Vote Root"

LARGE SPACE AD

FIRST PLACE: Bristow News, "Faith Baptist Church"

SECOND PLACE: Jean Gawf, The Eufaula Indian Journal, "Gold Star"

THIRD PLACE: Bristow News, "Hutchins Maples Tree of Remembrance"

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Renee Fite, The Stilwell Democrat Journal, "Berry good day"

SECOND PLACE: Renee Fite, The Stilwell Democrat Journal, "Pure happiness"

THIRD PLACE: Renee Fite, The Stilwell Democrat Journal, "Choose life: Rally aims to prevent suicide among youth"

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Rodney Haltom, The Eufaula Indian Journal, "Agony of defeat"

SECOND PLACE: Summer Bryant, The Madill Record, "Cannon: living and loving the rodeo life"

THIRD PLACE: Rodney Haltom, The Eufaula Indian Journal, "Bull rider Ramon De Lima"

PHOTO ESSAY/PICTURE PAGE

FIRST PLACE: Renee Fite and Mackenzie Oestreich, The Stilwell Democrat Journal, "WOKA Whitewater Park now under construction"

SECOND PLACE: Juanita Lewis, The Stilwell Democrat Journal, "Winter of 2021 whiteout"

THIRD PLACE: Renee Fite, The Stilwell Democrat Journal, "Ready, set, go hunt for Easter Eggs"

FRONT PAGE DESIGN

FIRST PLACE: Juanita Lewis, The Stilwell Democrat Journal, "March 24: Easter egg hunt"

SECOND PLACE: Denton Thomason, Nowata Star, "Nov. 10: Veterans Parade"

THIRD PLACE: Bristow News, "Oct. 7"

DIVISION 7 – WEEKLIES, City/Town Population 2,000 - 3,500

SEQUOYAH AWARD WINNER

Lincoln County News

NEWS CONTENT

FIRST PLACE: Watonga Republican

SECOND PLACE: The Cleveland American

THIRD PLACE: McIntosh County Democrat

LAYOUT & DESIGN

FIRST PLACE: The Lincoln County News

SECOND PLACE: McIntosh County Democrat

THIRD PLACE: The Drumright Gusher

ADVERTISING

FIRST PLACE: McIntosh County Democrat

SECOND PLACE: Watonga Republican

THIRD PLACE: The Lincoln County News

EDITORIAL WRITING

FIRST PLACE: Johnston County Sentinel

SECOND PLACE: The Drumright Gusher

THIRD PLACE: The Cleveland American

PHOTOGRAPHY

FIRST PLACE: The Cleveland American

SECOND PLACE: The Lincoln County News

THIRD PLACE: Watonga Republican

SPORTS COVERAGE

FIRST PLACE: Johnston County Sentinel

SECOND PLACE: The Lincoln County News

THIRD PLACE: Eastern Times-Register (Roland)

SALES PROMOTION

FIRST PLACE: Watonga Republican, "Watonga Cheese Festival guide"

SECOND PLACE: Eastern Times-Register, "School sections"

THIRD PLACE: The Drumright Gusher, "Cimarron Christmas"

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

FIRST PLACE: Johnston County Sentinel,

"Tishomingo Sales Tax Proposition"

SECOND PLACE: The Lincoln County News, "Teacher of the week"

THIRD PLACE: McIntosh County Democrat, "Food challenge"

NEWS STORY

FIRST PLACE: John Small, Johnston County Sentinel, "Duncan pleads guilty in federal court"

SECOND PLACE: Rebecca Carroll, Marietta Monitor, "Tiger King drama continues"

THIRD PLACE: Brandi Ball, The Cleveland American, "COVID-19: One year later"

FEATURE STORY

FIRST PLACE: Lily Huff, The Lincoln County News, "Sierra Wade: Dancer"

SECOND PLACE: Joani Hartin, Marietta Monitor, "Local man works with big stars"

THIRD PLACE: Natasja Kemp, The Cleveland American, "Four-legged staff member"

SPORTS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Brian Blansett, The Lincoln County News, "Big day for Meeker"

SECOND PLACE: Graham Dudley, Watonga Republican, "State champs"

THIRD PLACE: Brandi Ball and William Howell, The Cleveland American, "Cleveland grad named"

BUSINESS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Kendra Johnson, The Lincoln County News, "A different kind of farm south of Meeker"

SECOND PLACE: Mike McCormick, The Lincoln County News, "A passion for draft horses"

THIRD PLACE: Brandi Ball, The Cleveland American, "Fireworks supply short after pandemic blew up"

EDUCATION STORY

FIRST PLACE: Brandi Ball, The Cleveland American, "Road rage"

SECOND PLACE: Graham Dudley, Watonga Republican, "Girls seek dress code changes"

THIRD PLACE: Natasja Kemp, The Cleveland American, "Teacher of year"

IN-DEPTH REPORTING

FIRST PLACE: Brandi Ball, The Cleveland American, "CHS alumna on death row"

SECOND PLACE: Graham Dudley, Watonga Republican, "Watonga police chief investigation"

THIRD PLACE: Mike McCormick, The Lincoln County News, "A growing problem for authorities"

COLUMN WRITING

FIRST PLACE: Rusty Ferguson, The Cleveland American

SECOND PLACE: MaryLee Meisner, The Drumright Gusher

THIRD PLACE: John Small, Johnston County Sentinel

SMALL SPACE AD

FIRST PLACE: Kindra Blansett, The Lincoln County News, "Good luck, IFYR contestants"

SECOND PLACE: Rusty Ferguson, The Cleveland American, "Celebration"

THIRD PLACE: Kimberly Jenkins and Tatiana Ryland, Watonga Republican, "RoCo Dog Grooming Salon"

LARGE SPACE AD

FIRST PLACE: Jean Gawf, McIntosh County Democrat, "City of Checotah"

SECOND PLACE: Rusty Ferguson, The Cleveland American, "Overman anniversary"

THIRD PLACE: Brian Blansett and Tatiana Ryland, Watonga Republican, "Cimarex Christmas"

NEWS PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Jean Gawf, McIntosh County Democrat, "House fire"

SECOND PLACE: Lily Huff, The Lincoln County News, "Lots of big catfish"

THIRD PLACE: Brian Blansett, The Lincoln County News, "We got your kicks"

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Graham Dudley, Watonga Republican, "Firefighter Walk"

SECOND PLACE: Brian Blansett, The Lincoln County News, "Sierra Wade: Dancer"

THIRD PLACE: Natasja Kemp, The Cleveland American, "Pinewood Derby"

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Brian Blansett, The Lincoln County News, "Football catch, Chandler v. Crossings Christian"

SECOND PLACE: Rick Hester, The Lincoln County News, "Run at state: Girls basketball leaping coach"

THIRD PLACE: Rick Hester, The Lincoln County News, "Pirates fall in baseball semifinals"

PHOTO ESSAY/PICTURE PAGE

FIRST PLACE: Rick Hester, Traci Cook, Kindra Blansett and Brian Blansett, The Lincoln County News, "Friday night football: Stroud v. Prague"

SECOND PLACE: Brian Blansett, Jennifer Pryor and Mario Holland, The Lincoln County News, "State track meet"

THIRD PLACE: Rick Hester and Mario Holland, The Lincoln County News, "Football scrimmages"

FRONT PAGE DESIGN

FIRST PLACE: Tatiana Ryland, Watonga Republican, "May 12: Track & field state champs"

SECOND PLACE: Tatiana Ryland, Watonga Republican, "Sept. 15"

THIRD PLACE: Tatiana Ryland, Watonga Republican, "May 19: Graduation"

DIVISION 8 – WEEKLIES, City/Town Population less than 2,000

SEQUOYAH AWARD WINNER The Fairfax Chief

NEWS CONTENT

FIRST PLACE: Vian Tenkiller News

SECOND PLACE: The Fairfax Chief

THIRD PLACE: Mountain View News

LAYOUT & DESIGN

FIRST PLACE: The Fairfax Chief

SECOND PLACE: Vian Tenkiller News

THIRD PLACE: Minco-Union City Times

ADVERTISING

FIRST PLACE: Minco-Union City Times

SECOND PLACE: Vian Tenkiller News

THIRD PLACE: The Fairfax Chief

EDITORIAL WRITING

FIRST PLACE: The Fairfax Chief

SECOND PLACE: Vian Tenkiller News

THIRD PLACE: Minco-Union City Times

PHOTOGRAPHY

FIRST PLACE: The Fairfax Chief

SECOND PLACE: Mountain View News

THIRD PLACE: Minco-Union City Times

SPORTS COVERAGE

FIRST PLACE: Minco-Union City Times

SECOND PLACE: Inola Independent

THIRD PLACE: Mountain View News

SALES PROMOTION

FIRST PLACE: Vian Tenkiller News, "Meet the merchants tab"

SECOND PLACE: Mountain View News, "Football runner up celebration tab"

THIRD PLACE: Minco-Union City Times, "Shop Local Guide"

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

FIRST PLACE: The Fairfax Chief, "Trunk Show event"

SECOND PLACE: Vian Tenkiller News, "Cancer signs for Vian toddler"

THIRD PLACE: Minco-Union City Times, "Missing, lost or adoptable animals on front page"

NEWS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Carol Conner, The Fairfax Chief, "Leo lights up the night"

SECOND PLACE: Todd Brooks, The Comanche Times, "Who Killed Mary?: After 33 years, family still seeks answers to murder"

THIRD PLACE: Carol Conner, The Fairfax Chief, "Not a plane, not a bird, not even a UFO"

FEATURE STORY

FIRST PLACE: Todd Brooks, The Comanche Times, "Cowgirl Up"

SECOND PLACE: Todd Brooks, The Comanche Times, "Breaking the shackles of sin"

THIRD PLACE: Joe Conner, The Fairfax Chief, "Hidden past discovered by author McAuliffe"

SPORTS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Todd Brooks, The Comanche Times, "Remembering Britny: Miller switches number in memory of cousin"

SECOND PLACE: Madelyn Murphy, The Fairfax Chief, "Shidler takes tournament honors"

THIRD PLACE: Vannesa Asher, The Fairfax Chief, "District playoffs up next for Cougars"

BUSINESS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Jayson Knight, Minco-Union City Times, "Blossom time"

SECOND PLACE: Carol Conner, The Fairfax Chief, "Where's the beef? In Hominy"

THIRD PLACE: Todd Brooks, The Comanche Times, "Library emerges in hair salon"

EDUCATION STORY

FIRST PLACE: Carol Conner, The Fairfax Chief, "Toung students learn history"

SECOND PLACE: Carol Conner, The Fairfax Chief, "Superintendent doesn't resign, school board votes to suspend"

THIRD PLACE: Carol Conner, The Fairfax Chief, "Board to hire interim superintendent"

COLUMN WRITING

FIRST PLACE: Bruce Hadden, The Fairfax Chief

SECOND PLACE: Deanna Maddox, Yale News

THIRD PLACE: Jyl Hobbs, Mountain View News

SMALL SPACE AD

FIRST PLACE: Sherry Stinson, The Fairfax Chief, "Cleveland Vision Center"

SECOND PLACE: Sherry Stinson, The Fairfax Chief, "Muffins for Summer"

THIRD PLACE: Sherry Stinson, The Fairfax Chief, "TallChief sign"

LARGE SPACE AD

FIRST PLACE: Johnna Kidd, Inola Independent, "Carl Parson's Inola Storage Buildings"

SECOND PLACE: Sherry Stinson, The Fairfax Chief, "Kraft Pest Control"

THIRD PLACE: Sherry Stinson, The Fairfax Chief, "Southwest Native American Art"

NEWS PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Owen Hutcheson, The Fairfax Chief, "Dancers delight!"

SECOND PLACE: Carol Conner, The Fairfax Chief, "It's back - Ralston's Labor Day!"

THIRD PLACE: Joe Conner, The Fairfax Chief, "Po-Hi Steppers unfurl Old Glory"

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Sherry Stinson, The Fairfax Chief, "Flames loom over Leo"

SECOND PLACE: Sherry Stinson, The Fairfax Chief, "Dan 'Reride' Smith drives wagon on set of Killers of the Flower Moon"

THIRD PLACE: Joe Conner, The Fairfax Chief, "Towering tree enlivens season"

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Jyl Hobbs, Mountain View News, "Tiger Jarrett Butler stretches"

SECOND PLACE: Owen Hutcheson, The Fairfax Chief, "Nate Lockert catches and shoots an alley-oop pass from Mason Dysart"

THIRD PLACE: Owen Hutcheson, The Fairfax Chief, "Cade Potts hangs on sideways until he hears the buzzer at the Pawnee Bill Memorial Rodeo"

PHOTO ESSAY/PICTURE PAGE

FIRST PLACE: Joe Conner, Carol Conner and Candice Cason, The Fairfax Chief, "Veteran's Day parade"

SECOND PLACE: Owen Hutcheson and Sherry Stinson, The Fairfax Chief, "Filming Faux Fairfax"

THIRD PLACE: Owen Hutcheson, The Fairfax Chief, "101 Rodeo"

FRONT PAGE DESIGN

FIRST PLACE: Sherry Stinson, The Fairfax Chief, "Aug. 12"

SECOND PLACE: Sherry Stinson, The Fairfax Chief, "Nov. 11"

THIRD PLACE: Sherry Stinson, The Fairfax Chief, "July 8"

Congratulations
to all the Better Newspaper Contest and Award winners.

DIVISION 9 – COLLEGE NEWSPAPERS

SEQUOYAH AWARD WINNER

The Cameron University Collegian

NEWS CONTENT

FIRST PLACE: The O'Colly, Oklahoma State University
SECOND PLACE: The Gazette, Langston University
THIRD PLACE: Northwestern News, Northwestern Oklahoma State University

LAYOUT & DESIGN

FIRST PLACE: The Cameron University Collegian
SECOND PLACE: The O'Colly
THIRD PLACE: Northwestern News

EDITORIAL WRITING

FIRST PLACE: The Cameron University Collegian
SECOND PLACE: Northwestern News

PHOTOGRAPHY

FIRST PLACE: Northwestern News
SECOND PLACE: The Cameron University Collegian
THIRD PLACE: The O'Colly

SPORTS COVERAGE

FIRST PLACE: The Cameron University Collegian
SECOND PLACE: Northwestern News

NEWS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Sasha Ndisabiye, The Gazette, "The worst experience of my life, Administrators knew housing was limited"
SECOND PLACE: Ryan Novozinsky, The O'Colly, "Curtain call"
THIRD PLACE: Ryan Novozinsky, The O'Colly, "Madam President"

FEATURE STORY

FIRST PLACE: Ben Hutchens, The O'Colly, "Pete's pick-up"
SECOND PLACE: Sudeep Tumma, The O'Colly, "Greenwood's barber"
THIRD PLACE: Anna Pope, The O'Colly, "Still Dreaming"

SPORTS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Adam Engel, The O'Colly, "Culture club"
SECOND PLACE: Cade Kennedy, Northwestern News, "Rangers bash Bulldogs"
THIRD PLACE: Sam Hutchens, The O'Colly, "Building a program"

BUSINESS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Kaylea Brown, Laney Cook and Devyn Lansden, Northwestern News, "Canna-Bizness is booming"

EDUCATION STORY

FIRST PLACE: Jordan Green and David Thornton, Northwestern News, "\$9 Million raised by Alva Incentive Tax to fund scholarships for NWOSU students"
SECOND PLACE: Cambron Alsbrook, The

Cameron University Collegian, "A COVID-19 Update with President McArthur"
THIRD PLACE: Cambron Alsbrook, The Cameron University Collegian, "Cleaning up Elmer Thomas: Cameron's 'Day in the Park'"

IN-DEPTH REPORTING

FIRST PLACE: Kaylea Brown, Devyn Lansden and Laney Cook, Northwestern News, "Mental Health Matters"
SECOND PLACE: Chris Becker, The O'Colly, "2011: A decade later"

COLUMN WRITING

FIRST PLACE: Jordan Green, Northwestern News
SECOND PLACE: Alison Malawey, The Cameron University Collegian
THIRD PLACE: Makenna Hill, The Cameron University Collegian

NEWS PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Devyn Lansden, Northwestern News, "Alondra Salas, Miss Ringwood"
SECOND PLACE: Joshua Cleary, The O'Colly, "Mike Holder, OSU athletic director"
THIRD PLACE: Joshua Orndorff, The Cameron University Collegian, "Feast your pies on this!"

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Jimm Alley, The Cameron University Collegian, "Kalen Haynes: Baseball and beatmaking"
SECOND PLACE: Jordan Green, Northwestern News, "SGA car bash"

THIRD PLACE: Abby Cage, The O'Colly, "Ballner battles mental health, cross country and foreign land"

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Abby Cage, The O'Colly, "Cowboys plaster Red Raiders..."
SECOND PLACE: Devyn Lansden, Northwestern News, "Gavin Garner races toward the endzone"
THIRD PLACE: Joshua Cleary, The O'Colly, "Weekend warriors"

PHOTO ESSAY/PICTURE PAGE

FIRST PLACE: Devyn Lansden and Jordan Green, Northwestern News, "Howdy from Hawaii"
SECOND PLACE: Devyn Lansden, Northwestern News, "Showing off their true colors"
THIRD PLACE: Cambron Alsbrook, The Cameron University Collegian, "Library Renovation"

FRONT PAGE DESIGN

FIRST PLACE: Cambron Alsbrook, The Cameron University Collegian, "March 8: Celebrations from Zoom - Cameron homecoming festival"
SECOND PLACE: Karisa Sheely, The O'Colly, "2021 Football preview"
THIRD PLACE: Joshua Cleary, The O'Colly, "April 9: Madam President"



Allie Prater from the Cushing Citizen (standing) asks a question during a session at the OPA Annual Convention.



Kendra Johnson from The Lincoln County News looks over some of the first place winners from the Better Newspaper Contest at the OPA Convention.



John Denny Montgomery's children – Jack, Lane and Thomas – come on stage to accept the plaque for The Purcell Register at the OPA Awards Banquet. Montgomery, president of OPA and co-publisher of The Purcell Register, was handing out plaques to winners of the Better Newspaper Contest.

Kelly Dyer Fry receives Milt Phillips Award



Kelly Dyer Fry, former editor and publisher of The Oklahoman, is the Oklahoma Press Association's Milt Phillips Award winner for 2022.

The award was presented June 11, 2022, at the OPA Convention in Oklahoma City.

Fry is a third-generation journalist and graduate of Oklahoma State University. She began her career at her family's newspaper, the El Reno Tribune. She then owned and edited the Okarche Chieftain for eight years.

"I grew up in the Oklahoma Press Association, as part of the Dyer clan from El Reno, so it was an honor to win this award," she said in a video acceptance speech. "I loved the people the most. There has never been a better time to be in journalism, with all of the stories that need to be told, the connections with readers and the data that is available."

Fry joined The Oklahoman in 1994 and worked there 26 years. She began as a features editor, moved to the digital side

in 1996 and led the team that launched NewsOK, and was named editor in 2012. She was the first woman to be named editor and publisher of The Oklahoman. She retired from the paper at the end of 2020.

Fry has served on numerous boards including the United Way of Central Oklahoma, The Greater Oklahoma City Chamber and City Care. She was inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame in 2014.

She served on OSU's Student Media Board and on the boards of the Health Alliance for the Uninsured and F.A.T.E., Fighting Addiction Through Education. She also served on the Teen Recovery Solutions board for six years helping grow Oklahoma's only sober high school.

Nationally, Fry served on the board of the Associated Press Media Editors and the New Media Federation of the Newspaper Association of America.

United Way of Central Oklahoma named Fry as the recipient of the John and Berta Faye Rex Community Builder Award, which recognizes individuals who share the Rexes' vision in finding long-term solutions to community needs. Fry has utilized her influence in the community and media to advocate for issues such as mental health, addiction, homelessness and justice reform.

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

Kim Poindexter receives Musselman Award

Kim Poindexter Cisternino is the 2022 recipient of the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation's Beachy Musselman Award.

The award was presented June 11, 2022, at the OPA Convention.

Poindexter has been at the forefront of Oklahoma journalism for nearly four decades.

"I've had the opportunity to mentor many young journalists, something I believe is very important at this time in journalism. I believe at [The Tahlequah Daily Press] we've made a difference in the community. We made a lot of people mad, but we have also influenced people in positive ways," she said in her acceptance video.

Poindexter studied journalism at the University of Oklahoma and Northeastern Oklahoma State University. She began working at the Tahlequah Daily Press in 1985, where she

was named managing editor in 1987, and then executive editor in 2015.

She has led teams of award-winning journalists, many of whom have gone on to become professors, journalists at metro newspapers and broadcast outlets such as ESPN, and book authors.

Known for her commitment to community newspapers and grassroots journalism, Poindexter was inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame in 2018.

She was named to CNHI's regional editor team and now advises news teams at all 14 Oklahoma papers.

Poindexter is well known for her in-depth reporting and opinion writing, as shown in the many column and editorial awards she's won, including a fourth ONG-OPA Editorial Sweepstakes Award this year.



Kim Poindexter (right), editor of the Tahlequah Daily Press, receives the Beachy Musselman Award from Maria Noble at the OPA Convention. Noble is president of the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation and publisher of Oologah Lake Leader.

Two new members inducted into Half Century Club

Joey Goodman and James F. Fienup (posthumously) were inducted into the OPA Half Century Club during the OPA Convention. Following is a brief bio on the two 2022 inductees.

JOEY GOODMAN

Joey Goodman, longtime sports editor at The Lawton Constitution, gained his love for sports at an early age.

His battle against polio pushed him toward a career where he could become involved in athletics at any level. Goodman contracted polio in the fall of 1953 and spent 85 days in a polio ward. At the age of 6 he began a series of surgical procedures on both legs that eventually allowed him to function with the assistance of one leg brace.

Goodman met former Constitution Sports Editor Herb Jacobs, who hired Goodman to be a stringer in 1972. Just six months later Goodman was elevated to full-time status, primarily covering prep sports at Lawton High, Eisenhower and MacArthur.

In 1986, Goodman was named

sports editor, leading the department until retiring in 2018 after the local paper sold to Southern Newspapers Inc. After a change in publishers, Goodman was rehired and continues to assist the paper with sports coverage on a regular basis.

As a member of the Associated Press Sports Editors Association he was selected to represent Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska as the small-paper representative at the annual APSE national contest judging in Redondo Beach, California. In that role, Goodman was asked to help form an Oklahoma branch of that organization and at the initial meeting he was elected president.

In 2019, Goodman was one of the first three state media members who received the OSSAA Media Appreciation Award.

"The thing that stands out in my mind is working with so



Joey Goodman accepts the Half Century Club plaque from OPA President John Denny Montgomery. The award was presented June 11 at the OPA Convention in Oklahoma City.

many great young journalists," said Goodman. "I'm now in my third generation for many families. I've gone to cover some of

these area teams of young people who are playing, and I covered their grandparents when I first started. It has been a great ride."

JAMES F. FIENUP

Spiro Graphic Publisher James F. Fienup, who passed away last year, has been posthumously inducted into the Oklahoma Press Association Half Century Club for 2022.

Known to everyone as Jim and many times referred to as 'Scoop,' he was always on the beat to get the story first before other newspapers could publish.

The veteran news reporter and writer worked in the newspaper industry for 54 years, from 1967 to 2021, covering seven decades. His health took a toll, but Fienup always was aware of current issues in the state and local area.

He earned two degrees in Journalism and Communications from the University of Oklahoma. As a student intern at OU, he covered the 1963

assassination of John F. Kennedy in Dallas.

In 1967, Fienup was a reporter for the Russell, Kansas Daily News when he interviewed Presidential candidate Bob Dole, one-on-one.

Fienup served as news manager of the Mansfield (Ohio) News-Journal for nearly two years. He worked for many newspapers and publishing companies, including the Poteau News & Sun in the 1970s and into the 1980s.

After a seven-year stint with the Chickasha Star from 1985 to 1993 as news editor, Fienup returned to LeFlore County and invested in Poteau Today, a weekly newspaper, as owner and news editor.

In November of 1994, he purchased the Spiro Graphic and made Spiro his home for the last 27 years.

Under the leadership of



OPA President John Denny Montgomery posthumously inducted James F. Fienup, publisher of the Spiro Graphic, into the Half Century Club during the OPA Awards Luncheon. Accepting the award on Fienup's behalf is John Clark, longtime editor of the Spiro Graphic.

Fienup, the Spiro Graphic expanded coverage into the Panama, Pocola, Arkoma, Cameron, Keota, Shady Point and Bokoshe communities

offering readers expanded coverage of sports, local school boards, town government and water districts.

Quarter Century Club inducts six new members during annual OPA Convention in Oklahoma City

Six new members were inducted into the OPA Quarter Century Club at the OPA Convention.

Following is a brief bio on each of the 2022 inductees.

TODD BROOKS

Todd Brooks, publisher of The Comanche Times, is well known in the sports journalism arena.

He began his newspaper career at The Valley Times-News in Alabama in 1991. Brooks worked in sports journalism in four different states for about the next 20 years, until he became the news editor at The Marlow Review. After seven years at the Review, Brooks took on the publisher role at the Times in 2019.

Brooks and his wife, Sarah, have four children – Matthew, Maggie, Mark and Micah.

SHEILA GAY

Sheila Gay started her career at the Woodward News in 1997 as an advertising executive. In 2001, she became advertising manager and was named the sev-

enth publisher of the Woodward News in 2012.

She is also active in the Oklahoma Press Association, serving on the board of directors and as chair of the awards committee. She also served on the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation board for several years.

Gay served her country in the Army Reserves. She and her husband John have three children, Chelsea, J. C. and Ty.

MARK MILLSAP

Mark Millsap started as an advertising sales intern at his hometown newspaper, the Muskogee Phoenix, in January 1996.

After five years at the Phoenix, Millsap and his family moved to Wisconsin where he was advertising director at The Reporter in Fond du Lac. This would be the first of many moves for him and his family, as he took on advertising roles in Alabama and Louisiana, before moving back to Oklahoma in 2011 to be publisher of the Chickasha Express-Star. He then became

publisher of The Norman Transcript in 2014.

He graduated from Northeastern State University with a bachelor's degree in mass communications, with an emphasis in advertising.

ELIZABETH RIDENOUR

Elizabeth Ridenour began her journalism career freelancing for the Muskogee Phoenix in 1997.

After a short stint at the Wagoner Tribune, Ridenour re-joined the Phoenix as a reporter in August 1998. She covered multiple beats with an emphasis on crime and court reporting.

She was promoted to assistant city editor in 2005. She then served as city editor for more than 10 years before becoming executive editor in 2019.

JOSHUA SMALL

Joshua Small has delivered newspapers to Johnston County residents since he was five years old. Now he also serves as Johnston County Sentinel's chief photographer and oversees the newspaper's advertising design.

Small is a second-generation member of the Sentinel staff, being the eldest son of managing editor John Small. He worked as a part-time staff photographer for several years then transitioned to full-time when the Sentinel was established as the successor publication to the Capital-Democrat in early 2018. Small graduated from the New York Institute of Photography in 2016.

MELISSA SMALL

In addition to being a registered nurse at Mercy Hospital in Tishomingo, Melissa Small is a vital member of the Johnston County Sentinel, formerly the Capital-Democrat.

Small began as a carrier for the Capital-Democrat in 1996. She later became an inserter and now assists with labeling and bagging papers that are mailed to subscribers throughout Oklahoma and several other states. She often pulls double-duty on Wednesdays, working at the newspaper during the day, followed by her 12-hour night shift at the hospital.



OPA President John Denny Montgomery presents Quarter Century Club plaques to the 2022 inductees.

Top row: Todd Brooks, Sheila Gay and Mark Millsap.



Bottom row: Elizabeth Ridenour, Joshua Small and Melissa Small.

ADDITIONAL AWARDS & HONORS

2021 DIGITAL MEDIA AWARDS

DAILY DIVISION

FIRST PLACE

THE JOURNAL RECORD (OKC)

SECOND PLACE

TAHLEQUAH DAILY PRESS

THIRD PLACE

THE LAWTON CONSTITUTION

WEEKLY DIVISION

FIRST PLACE

OKC FRIDAY

SECOND PLACE

THE PURCELL REGISTER

THIRD PLACE

THE OKLAHOMA EAGLE (TULSA)

2021 OPA MAGAZINE CONTEST

FIRST PLACE

CUSHING CITIZEN

SECOND PLACE

**THE LAWTON
CONSTITUTION**

THIRD PLACE

THE DUNCAN BANNER



2021 JOSEPH H. EDWARDS OUTDOOR WRITER OF THE YEAR AWARD

ED GODFREY, *The Oklahoman*

2021 RAY LOKEY MEMORIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN REPORTING

ASHLYND HUFFMAN, *Stillwater News Press*

2021 OPA PERFECTA AWARD WINNERS

The Perfecta Award honors OPA member newspapers that achieve 100 percent accuracy on advertising orders from Oklahoma Press Service in the previous year.

The Allen Advocate
The American (Afton)
The Anadarko Daily News
Atoka County Times
Blackwell Journal-Tribune
The Boise City News
Bristow News
Broken Bow News
The Carnegie Herald
The Chelsea Reporter
The Cheyenne Star
Clinton Daily News
Coalgate Record-Register

The Comanche Times
The County Times (Lawton)
Cushing Citizen
The Delaware County Journal
The Duncan Banner
Eastern Times-Register (Roland)
El Reno Tribune
The Eufaula Indian Journal
The Fairfax Chief
Frederick Press-Leader
Garvin County News Star

Guthrie News Leader
Harper County Leader
The Healdton Herald
Henryetta Free-Lance
The Hobart Democrat-Chief
The Hominy News-Progress
The Hooker Advance
Johnston County Sentinel
Kiowa County Democrat
The Konawa Leader
The Lindsay News
The Logan County Courier
Marietta Monitor
The Marlow Review
McIntosh County Democrat
McCurtain Gazette (Idabel)
Midwest City Beacon
The Mooreland Leader

Muskogee Phoenix
Northwest Oklahoman (Arnett)
OKC Friday
The Oklahoman
Oklmulgee Times
The Perkins Journal
Perry Journal
The Piedmont-Surrey Gazette
The Prague Times-Herald
The Purcell Register
The Ringling Eagle
The Rush Springs Gazette
Sequoyah County Times
The Sentinel Leader
Skiatook Journal
Stigler News-Sentinel

Sulphur Times-Democrat
Talihina American
The Thomas Tribune
Tulsa Beacon
Tulsa World
The Valliant Leader
Vian Tenkiller News
The Vici Vision
Waurika News Journal & Ryan Leader
Weatherford Daily News
The Wewoka Times
The Wilson Post-Democrat
Woods County Enterprise
Woodward News
Yale News
Yukon Progress

Congratulations to the Perfecta Award Winners

OG&E[®] PHOTOS OF THE YEAR



Second baseman Davin Shamblin takes a shoulder to the chin from a base runner. Shamblin had a cut on the face from his sunglasses.

Photo by GLEN MILLER, El Reno Tribune, June 2021

2021 SEMI-, TRI-WEEKLY
& DAILY SWEEPSTAKES WINNER:

GLEN MILLER

El Reno Tribune

2021 WEEKLY SWEEPSTAKES WINNER:

KATHLEEN GUILL

Frederick Press-Leader

Congratulations to the
2021 OGE Photo Contest
Sweepstakes Winners!

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OkPress.com/OGE-Photo-Contest



*The Photo Contest Sweepstakes
was judged by members of the
Kentucky Press Association.*

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

A man rides a bucking bronc until the sound of the buzzer at a recent rodeo.

Photo by KATHLEEN GUILL, Frederick Press-Leader, August 2021



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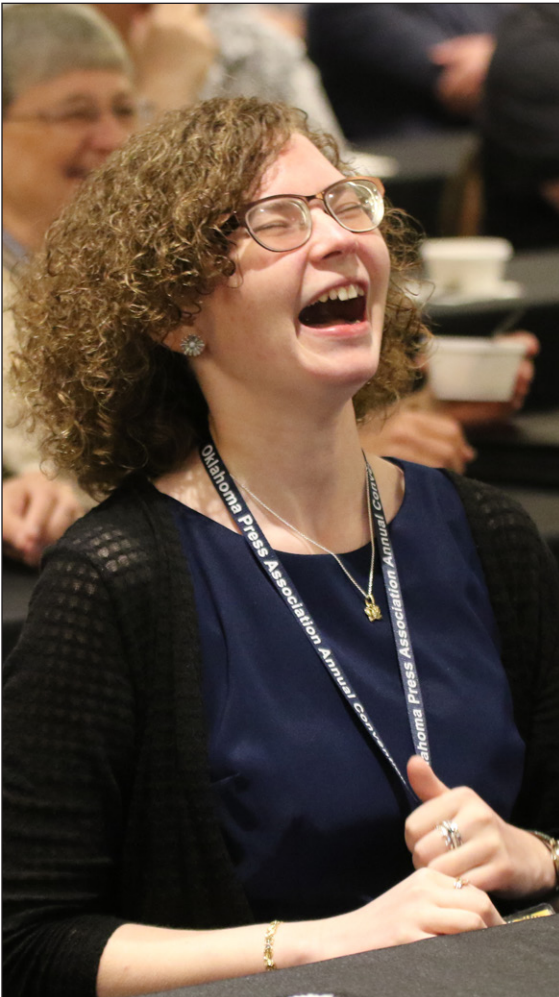
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OPA CONVENTION SNAPSHOTS

June 10-11, 2022 • Oklahoma City, OK



Katrina Crumbacher, The Journal Record, breaks out in laughter during the Bloopers Show.



Rod Serfoss, Clinton Daily News, looks over the silent auction items. The auction raised \$3,080 for the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation.



Connor Choate, Marietta Monitor, takes notes during a session at the OPA Convention.



Maria Noble, Oologah Lake Leader, and Carrie Carberry, Sequoyah County Times, look over the sales promotion material that Carberry presented during the News Flash session.



Art Haddaway, Owasso Reporter, snaps a photo of one of the prize winning entries. All first place winners in the OPA Better Newspaper Contest were on display during the convention.

In Memoriam

June 2021 to May 15, 2022

Commemorated at the Oklahoma Press Association
Annual Convention in Oklahoma City, OK
June 10, 2022

*In accordance with membership wishes, this list includes
only those who were either longtime newspaper employees
still engaged in the trade at the time of death, or those who had,
though retired, made newspaper work their principal occupation.*

Barbara Anderson

Bethany Tribune

Donald Ray Beene

Cushing Daily Citizen

Virginia Browning Bradshaw

Shawnee News-Star

Robert M. 'Bob' Carpenter

Tulsa World and Tribune

Nellie Catlett

Enid News & Eagle

Tim Curtin

Watonga Republican

Brandon Spencer Dale

The Vista (UCO)

James Marion Etter

The Oklahoman

James F. Fienup

Spiro Graphic

Kristy Johansson Geisler

Claremore Daily Progress

Susie Anna Harjo-Cliff

Seminole Producer

Edward Joe Hauck

Enid News & Eagle

Max Heath

National Newspaper
Association

Ron Jenkins

The Associated Press

Sandra Jane Jeter

The Ponca City News

Ralph S. Lawson

Enid News & Eagle

Wanda Lee (Brown) McCully

Stilwell Democrat Journal

Joan Gilmore McLaughlin

The Oklahoman
& The Journal Record

Mike Owensby

The Lawton Constitution

Tommy Dean Quinn

Donrey Media Group

Amy Lane Raymond

The Oklahoman

Dana Reinschmiedt

The Thomas Tribune

Bob D. Rounsavell

Oologah Lake Leader

Paul Leo Schnoebelen

The Mooreland Leader

Robert L. Shaw

The Associated Press

Rosemary Riddle Simpson

The Daily Oklahoman

Harold R. Soles Jr.

The Oklahoman

Sarah (Sally) Livermore

Carmack Spencer

The Norman Transcript

Sabra S. Tate

McAlester News-Capital

Margery Sue Taylor

Enid News & Eagle

Bill Edward Torbett

Okmulgee Daily Times

Vance Trimble

Wewoka Times, Scripps

Howard

Blake Allan Wells

The Boise City News

Cloyce Wiley

Tecumseh Countywide
News

Joe Worley

Tulsa World

DEATHS

EDDIE ALBERT OWENS, a former reporter at The Clayton Today, died April 29, 2022. He was 82.

Owens was born in Clayton, Okla., April 8, 1940.

After working for many years in Arizona and Nevada, he moved back to Clayton in 2003. That was when Phil Boatner asked him to write an article for Clayton Today. Boatner later left to work on another project, which led to Owens working as the local reporter for the paper for several years.

Owens was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force from 1957 to 1966, in active and reserve status.

Owens is survived by his wife, Karen; sister Patricia; and stepbrother, Frank "Buck" Patrick, Jr.

MARY ELIZABETH (MARIBETH) FORD PATE, who owned The Madill Record along with her husband Jim for more than 60 years, died June 7, 2022. She was 93.

Pate was born in Sentinel, Okla., on April 22, 1929. She spent her early childhood years in western Oklahoma before her parents relocated the family of seven to Norman in 1940.

She received a business degree from The University of Oklahoma in 1951. Pate worked with student publications, including The OU Daily at the University of Oklahoma where she met her husband, Jim. They married on June 10, 1954.

Jointly, Jim and Maribeth oversaw publication of The Madill Record, a Pate family-owned newspaper from 1929 until 1994. Maribeth published a column "Maribeth's Meanderings" for many years.

Maribeth is survived by three children, Martha Jean (Marti) Gallardo and Laura Jane (Lauri) Kimball, both of Dallas, Texas, and William Clay (Bill) Pate of Houston; nine grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

FRANCES ROSE SETTLE, a former publisher of several Oklahoma newspapers, died May 30, 2022. She was 86.

Settle was born September 18, 1935, in Walters, Oklahoma. She is originally from Chickasha, and graduated from Anadarko High School in 1954.

Settle served as co-publisher of the Chickasha Star, the Tuttle Times and the Minco Minstrel from 1975 until 1996, along with her husband H. Marshall Settle. She was also co-publisher of several Kansas newspapers.

Marshall Settle preceded her in death on February 6, 2006.

She is survived by her two sons, John M. Settle and wife Paula of Oklahoma City, and David A. Settle and wife Anita of Lyons, Kansas; brother Tommy Reece of Abilene, Texas; sister Gwen Moser of Norman; six grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Remembering our friends & colleagues who died the previous year.

Amy Lane Raymond
May 9 2021

James F. Fienup
June 4, 2021

Ralph S. Lawson
June 18, 2021

Vance Trimble
June 16, 2021

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James Goodwin inducted into Great Plains Hall of Fame

The Tulsa Press Club recently inducted Oklahoma Eagle Publisher James O. Goodwin into the Great Plains Journalism Hall of Fame.

Goodwin was cited for his leadership as publisher of the Eagle for over four decades and his accomplishments as a prominent Tulsa attorney. The Eagle has been owned by the Goodwin family since 1936.

"These are challenging

times but also exciting times," Goodwin told the lunch crowd of reporters and editors. "The press today is under constant pressure. It's going to be your challenge to make sure you get the facts right and tell the truth."

Goodwin is well-known for successfully challenging before the U.S. Supreme Court the constitutionality of a state statute, and before the

Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals the constitutionality of a Tulsa city ordinance prohibiting freedom of speech. He was also co-counsel in the matter of reparation for victims of the 1921 Tulsa race riot.

He is graduate of the College of Law – University of Tulsa and the University of Notre Dame.

News Media Alliance and Association of Magazine Media merges

The News Media Alliance and The Association of Magazine Media (MPA) announced an agreement to merge the two organizations in May.

The new combined association will be called the News/Media Alliance and will focus on building a powerful future for quality journalism. The memberships of both organizations have approved the merger, which, subject to regulatory

approval, is expected to close this summer.

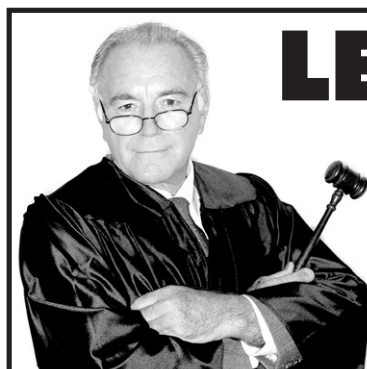
The two organizations have overlapping missions and advocate on many of the same issues.

Current Alliance President & CEO David Chavern will act as CEO of the combined entity.

"We are extremely excited about the opportunity to bring our two organizations together

and leverage our collective voice to achieve our shared vision of a bright and thriving future for high-quality journalism and content," Chavern said.

The News/Media Alliance will be adding resources including hiring to build out legislative, technical and research capabilities for the combined organization.



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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE OPA COLUMN & EDITORIAL AWARD WINNERS

2021 SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

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

Column: **CINDY ALLEN**, *Enid News & Eagle*

Supporting Fourth Estate is critical

Excerpts from 2021 Editorial Sweepstakes Winner (October 2021)

BY KIM POINDEXTER,
TAHLEQUAH DAILY PRESS

Hometown newspapers serve their communities with pride and determination. They are held to high standards that social media outlets don't understand, or don't even consider. They cover meetings of boards of education, city councils, and trust authorities. They immerse themselves in courts and crime news so the public will know who has gone wrong, and who has turned to the straight and narrow. Most importantly, as watchdogs, they hold to

the fire the feet of elected officials and those appointed to cushy berths they'd like to keep permanently, without answering to the public.

Without newspapers, there would be no one to hold the powers-that-be accountable – and that's as the powerful want it. When someone repeatedly calls the media “the enemy of the people” and lumps them all into that same sorry category, it's a sure bet the detractor doesn't want the scrutiny with which “the press” was charged by no less than the Framers of the U.S. Constitution.

Everyone likes to lambaste the local

newspaper, but critics should ask themselves what their communities would be like without them. The answer is unthinkable. That's why it's so important to support newspapers, just like other local businesses. Otherwise, papers can't survive – and if they go away, so will the communities that relied on them for the service no one else can provide. TDP appreciates the support of Cherokee County and its residents – and in return, we pledge to do the job we were called to do.

Bloopers can sometimes be funny

Excerpts from 2021 Column Sweepstakes Winner (October 2021)

BY CINDY ALLEN,
ENID NEWS & EAGLE

There's nothing we hate more in the newspaper business than to make a mistake in a story and have to run a correction. However, because we preach transparency and accuracy, it's imperative that we quickly run a correction and apologize for the mistake.

As seriously as we take mistakes in the newspaper, sometimes the mistakes end up being pretty funny. Every year when news-

paper executives across the state meet for the annual Oklahoma Press Association conference, part of our program is the annual “Bloopers” presentation.

We published a pretty funny one last week in an editorial about the cannabis industry in Oklahoma. I had written the editorial and had misspelled the word “cannabis” a couple of times, which spellcheck picked up. However what I didn't notice was that on those errors, I accidentally selected the wrong word to replace the misspelling. So in a couple of plac-

es in the editorial, “cannabis” was turned into “cannibals.”

As mad as I was that neither I nor the page editor caught the error, I can't help but laugh a little. No, we don't have a cannibal growing issue in Oklahoma, but we do have a cannabis growing issue here in the state. The good thing is I could correct that error online. However it will live in print forever, and I imagine will be featured in next year's OPA blooper show.

Read All Winning Column & Editorial Winners at Okpress.com

Monthly contest winners are judged by a member of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame.

**MONTHLY WINNERS RECEIVE
A CERTIFICATE AND \$100!**

1. Each month, email a full-page tearsheet of your best column and/or editorial to news@okpress.com. Entries may also be mailed to Oklahoma Press Association, 3601 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105-5499.
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 Press Association 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 association's opinions.