

Congress clears postal reform legislation

On March 8, the Senate passed the Postal Service Reform Act of 2022 (PRSA), also known as HR 3076, in a long-awaited 79-19 vote.

With the House giving the legislation the go-ahead Feb. 8 by a vote of 342-92, the bill will now be sent to President Biden for his signature to become law, giving the U.S. Postal Service relief from a previous requirement to pre-fund decades into the future. The 2006 mandate, unlike requirements for other federal agencies, resulted in the Postal Service having more than \$58 billion in unpaid obligations.

"It also offers USPS a new lease on life by relieving debt to the federal government. Now we look forward to a revision of postage rates by both USPS and the Postal Regulatory Commission, which have attempted to retire some of this debt with dramatically higher postage rates," said Brett Wesner, National Newspaper Association (NNA) Chair and president of Wesner Publications.

The legislation drew bipartisan support with many rural Republicans voting with Democrats in favor of it.

Ultimately, the PRSA will shift about 40,000 postal workers onto Medicare parts



B and D for their primary health care benefit and require USPS to continue its practice of delivering mail and packages as part of one integrated network, rather than splitting up costs as some package service competitors wanted.

The legislation also included the Rural Newspaper Sustainability Act, giving newspapers using Within County mailing rates the ability to send more sample copies to nonsubscribers.

"This legislation gives

community newspapers a new ability to regain subscribers lost by the past few years of slow mail delivery," Wesner said.

Whereas before, community newspapers were limited to send copies equaling only 10% of their annual mailings; when the bill becomes law, they will be permitted to send up to 50% of their annual mailings to prospective readers. Newspapers pay for the postage to send these copies and generate new business for

USPS in doing so, as first-class postage is also purchased to complete new subscribers' invoicing and payments.

The PRSA was first introduced by Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), who chairs the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, in May 2021. It was co-sponsored by more than 100 other Congress members. Sen. James Lankford (R-OKC) voted no, and Sen. James Inhofe (R-Tulsa) did not vote.

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From the President

By John Denny Montgomery

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



We've all seen the atrocities of what three weeks of unprovoked military attacks on a democratic country look like.

The scenes and stories of innocent people being hurt, killed and displaced from their homes is sickening.

The war in Ukraine is yet another example of the importance of a free and open press.

Unfortunately, Vladimir Putin did not invent the ways of stifling and controlling the press. Many other countries all over the world have used similar tactics for decades.

When authoritarian figures are able to control and tamp down on the press their grip on the people becomes exponentially stronger.

There are clearly other factors involved in Russia's invasion of its neighbor, but we all recognize that a strong, free press would go a long way in helping the situation.

The power of honest and accurate reporting cannot be understated. If the press would have been able to freely report the news in Russia since Putin was elected president in 2012 his power may have never gotten to this level. The narrative within the country would likely be different than it is now.

At this point, we don't even know how the average Russian citizen feels about the war because media members can be arrested for reporting something Putin doesn't like. Media members can be arrested in Russia for just about anything.

Putin's actions towards the press tell the whole story. It tells how important his ability to tightly control the messaging really is to him and his war effort.

We're lucky to have freedoms in the U.S. not afforded to those in Russia. But we can't take those freedoms for granted and must continually fight against the erosion of them.

Issues surrounding freedom of information – open meetings, open records and public notices – continue to be hot-button issues for those of us in the media as well as local, state and federal governmental entities.

Through freedom of information laws, we serve as the watchdog for our governments. We all know this but events like the one going on in Ukraine bring this duty of ours into clearer focus.

These events remind us how real these issues are and they need to be approached with seriousness at all times.

There are times when the media serves as the best avenue for checks and balances of government officials.

The times when we spar with those in power aren't always fun. But they're necessary.

Then there's the misinformation problem out there.

Social media serves as means to connect with others, but it can also complicate situations that are already intrinsically complicated.

Thanks in large part to social media, anyone with a phone can put out false information. And sadly it gets repeated as the truth far too often.

Our jobs as journalists are more important than ever to help offset and weed out the lies and rumors.

I'm thankful to be a journalist in the United States. I'm thankful to know the ins and outs of what involves a free press.

Each day I'm thankful for the job of working toward informing our citizens. I feel proud of the work that we do, especially when it positively affects our way of life and the way that our representatives act on our behalf.

I truly believe we as journalists have one of the most important jobs in the world because we have the opportunity to improve people's lives every day. Not everyone can say that about his or her job.

I realize the conflict in Ukraine cannot be ended by giving the Russian press more freedom. I'm hopeful something will give soon so that so many innocent lives can be spared and those Ukrainians can return to their homes.

Keep up the good work out there.

Oklahoman wins APSE Triple Crown

The Oklahoman received seven Top 10 awards in the Associated Press Sports Editors contest, again earning the prestigious Triple Crown designation.

The Oklahoman's sports department was judged on print and digital work published in 2021.

Thunder reporter Joe Mussatto earned his second consecutive Top 10 for Beat Writing; Jenni Carlson placed in the Top 10 for Columns; and Oklahoma State beat writer Jacob Unruh placed in the Top 10 for Short Feature.

"I'm proud of the work our staff achieved and am humbled that our peers thought so highly of it," Oklahoman sports editor Jeff Patterson said. "It's truly a team effort."

Stillwell newspaper hosts photo contest

With Stilwell's popular Strawberry Festival slated for May, the Stilwell Democrat-Journal hosted a baby photo contest last month.

Parents were asked to submit baby photos to the Democrat-Journal with their name, the child's name and age, and a contact number. The contest was free to enter.

Photos ran in the newspaper and readers could vote on their favorite photo for \$1. Winners were printed in February issues of the Stilwell Democrat Journal and Westville Reporter. Each winner received a cash prize and a spot in the upcoming Strawberry Festival Parade.

New owners at The Ringling Eagle

The Ringling Eagle officially changed hands on March 2.

Scott and Amy Renfro purchased the weekly newspaper from Melissa and Jay Grace, who have owned the newspaper since 1991.

"Amy and I couldn't be more pleased with this new opportunity. Any new business venture is scary, but the operation that Melissa has going here certainly has made my job much easier than perhaps it otherwise would be," Scott Renfro said.

Renfro said although he thought the sale was going to take place late last year, the extra time allowed him to learn more from Melissa Grace.

"It's obvious that her love of this community and its people is the foundation of The Ringling Eagle," he said.

"Small towns and small newspapers seem to be closing shop and giving up to the new urban age that's sweeping across America, but that's not what we're doing here in Ringling.

"We have businesses, town leaders and people who want to work here and take pride in their town. It's our job to



New owners of the Ringling Eagle, Scott and Amy Renfro, accept the reigns from Melissa and Jay Grace.

make sure those people and businesses are promoted and to report the town's news accurately," Renfro said.

"I look at the integrity with which Melissa has handled so many news stories over the past 22 years and I'm thankful for that because it's not something we have to start doing, but rather, continue doing."

Jay and Melissa Grace purchased The Ringling Eagle from Leon Gleason in 1991. The Graces moved the newspaper office from Gleason's home to Main Street.

"Our kids — Jessica and Tyler — grew up in the Eagle office," Melissa said. "We followed them through their school days at Ringling and all the sporting events."

Melissa said she is leaving the newspaper in good hands.

"I couldn't be more proud for Scott and Amy Renfro and the Ringling community," she said. "They have been training since June 2021, and are more than ready to soar in their new adventure and roles.

"On March 2, 2022, I became a retired newspaper veteran. The only things I've done longer than working at the paper is being a daughter, a Christian and a wife. I'm ready to turn over the reins, responsibility, and challenges and start a new journey.

"For me, The Eagle has landed."

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CNHI names Lisa Chappell as regional executive

CNHI has promoted Lisa Chappell, a veteran Texas publisher, to regional executive for the company's newspapers in North Texas and five others in Oklahoma.

Chappell presently serves as publisher for the Greenville Herald Banner and its Texas sister papers in Gainesville, Royce City, Rockwall County, Weatherford and Cleburne.

Her new role will include working with the The Ada



LISA CHAPPELL

News, The Duncan Banner, Pauls Valley Democrat, McAlester News-Capital and Woodward News.

Donna Barrett, CNHI's president and CEO,

said Chappell's promotion is in line with the company's assignment of senior publishers to wider management roles as regional executives.

"Lisa is an addition to a strong management team in place to respond to critical functions and initiatives," said Barrett.

"Her leadership skills and her knowledge of newspaper operations across all departments will help sustain our success."

Chappell said she is excited with the wider opportunity to assist CNHI newspapers serve their communities with relevant local print and online information.

"Together," she said,

"we will pursue with vigor local news, advertising and subscriptions. They are the essence of a newspaper's success in print and online."

Chappell has been in the newspaper business for about 20 years, starting as a sales representative for the Greenville Herald Banner. In 2007, she was named publisher at the Herald Banner.

Chappell studied at Bryan College in Dayton, Tennessee.

Martin, McGuire join OPA staff

The Oklahoma Press Association (OPA) has two new faces.

Alexis Martin, a new OPA member services coordinator, and Jacob McGuire, who will be handling the editorial side of the Oklahoma Publisher, as well as assisting with the association's legislative efforts, started March 1.

"We are thrilled to welcome Alexis and Jacob. They are both quality individuals that will represent OPA members in a great way, and members will enjoy working with them on projects important to all of us," said Mark Thomas, executive vice president of the Oklahoma Press Association.

"In our recent benefits survey the members made it clear they want top notch member service and legislative representation. Alexis and Jacob will help us achieve those goals."

Martin was born and raised in Texas. After graduating from Midwestern State University in December with a bachelor's degree in communication, she moved to Oklahoma City.



ALEXIS MARTIN

Martin said she spends most of her spare time wrangling her two dogs.

"It's been a lot of fun exploring the city and I can't wait to see more of what OKC has to offer," Martin said. "I'm so excited to join the OPA team and look forward to taking over the internship program and the monthly contests."

Originally from Tuttle, McGuire is a University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (USAO) graduate, earning a bachelor's degree in communication. While studying at USAO, he served in multiple roles on the staff of The Trend, USAO's student newspaper, including sports editor and editor-in-chief.

McGuire was a crime and courts reporter for The Nor-



JACOB MCGUIRE

man Transcript for three years, where he reported on several first-degree murder trials, including the infamous Alton Nolen case. Additionally, McGuire is a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army, commissioning via Officer Candidate School in Ft. Benning, Georgia.

"Public service is something I am very passionate about. I have tried to live my life through service with my work at The Transcript, as well as my military service," he said. "I believe the importance we place on the freedom of the press and what it means to a strong democracy is an integral part of what separates the U.S. from other countries. I am excited for the opportunity to join OPA in ensuring its members are well-represented at the State Capitol."

McGuire also holds a master's from the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service. He and his wife, Britni, have been married for about seven years, and they have two dogs.

Roach named publisher of three state newspapers

Christy Roach has been named publisher of the Altus Times, Mangum Star, and Frederick Press-Leader.

Roach is also publisher of several other newspapers in the Hicks Media group including five newspapers in Texas — The Free Press in Diboll, Silsbee Bee, Red River Sun in Childress, Post Dispatch and Knox County News-Courier.

New reporter at News Leader

Recent University of Central Oklahoma graduate Taylor Cook has joined the Guthrie News Leader team.

Serving as a reporter, Cook will write news in both Guthrie and Edmond.

With a degree in English, and a minor in creative writing this job is an "absolute perfect fit," said Cook. "I am absolutely thrilled about starting this position. I'm excited to meet everyone in town and write the stories of the community."

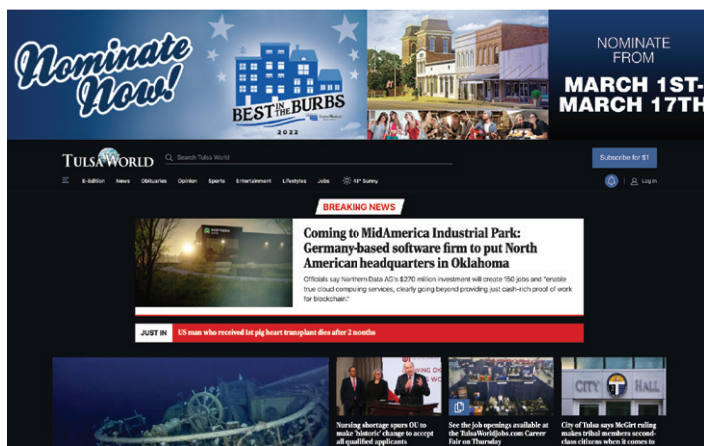
Tulsa World revamps website

The Tulsa World is sporting a new website design with hopes to provide a more customized experience for its readers.

“As you use the site, your preferences will be used to personalize your experience,” said Jason Collington, Tulsa World editor.

“Seven spots on the top of the homepage will offer a mix of what the Tulsa World has to offer at any time. And this mix will change throughout the day, reflecting what people are talking about and what they should be talking about. We want you to find what you’re looking for or find something you didn’t know was happening.”

The new homepage also offers a space to see the latest



TulsaWorld.com has a new look and offers a customized experience for readers.

episodes of the Tulsa World’s lineup of eight podcasts. Find out more at tulsa-world.com/subscribe.

Collington said by subscribing to the print edition, readers also receive a digital

subscription. He said the website design is the first of many changes the newspaper plans to implement, including to its mobile application and email newsletters.

Holdenville News transitions to tabloid format

Bill and Dayna Robinson have switched the last of their newspapers to the tabloid format.

The Holdenville News made the change for its March issue – a change Bill said will be positive.

“Today marks a major milestone in the 100+ years of the Holdenville News,” Bill said. “You will see much higher quality, added color, increased pages and additional news.”

In addition to the Holdenville News, the Robinsons own the Allen Advocate,

Coalgate Record-Register and the Hughes County Tribune. Those publications made the switch to tabloid in January.

“This marks our fourth newspaper to make the transition and it has been extremely well received in the other three communities,” said Bill.

“It has been a lengthy journey to arrive at this point, but we feel our customers are worth the effort.”

The new format is printed in-house with a finished page size of 9 inches by 12 inches under the direction of Holley Clendening.



The Holdenville News’ first issue in its new format debuted March 1.

Owasso Reporter receives honor from Rotary Club

The Owasso Rotary Club recognized the Owasso Reporter as the Business of the Month for February, highlighting the newspaper’s ongoing community service efforts.

Editor Art Haddaway was at the Feb. 17 meeting to receive the award.

“I’m honored and humbled to receive this,” Haddaway said. “Thanks so much to Owasso Rotary for this recognition.”

“This just validates my purpose in continuing to uplift and encourage the Owasso community one story, one picture at a time.”

The Rotary Club created its Business of the Month initiative in August 2021 to highlight local individuals and establishments who strive to make it a priority to give back to their hometown community on a daily basis.

“The Rotary Club members appreciate Art’s hard work and dedication in reporting the news of Owasso every week,” Rotary member Jennifer Ballard said. “He is also a big advocate of Rotary and our commitment to the community. For all these reasons, we felt he was more than deserving of the Business of the Month award.”



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The Oklahoma Press Association offers three videos that describe and illustrate the standards and best practices for publication of notices along with downloadable material.

OG&E[®] PHOTO CONTEST



TOP: Tecumseh's Ben Corley scores two points over Shawnee's Jalen Wicks (#22) and T.J. Bishop (#5) during the third quarter of the game at Shawnee on Jan. 14. Corley made nine points in that quarter and 21 points for the game. Shawnee won 63-58.

Photo by NATASHA DUNAGAN, Countywide & Sun, January 20, 2022

LEFT: Okmulgee firefighters douse the fire at the old Hotel Sparks around noon after responding to the scene at 6th and Comanche around 11 a.m. The building was completely destroyed in the blaze.

Photo by PATRICK FORD, Okmulgee Times, January 19, 2022

JANUARY 2022
WEEKLY WINNER:
**NATASHA
DUNAGAN**
Countywide & Sun

JANUARY 2022
DAILY, SEMI- AND TRI-WEEKLY WINNER:
**PATRICK
FORD**
Okmulgee Times

The January 2022 contest was judged
by a member of the
Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame.

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New editor at Mangum Star

Brad Gilbert was recently named as editor of the Mangum Star.

Gilbert spent the first 11 years of his life in Mangum. He later moved to Altus, graduating from high school in 1992.

Gilbert earned his teaching degree from the University of Central Oklahoma.

In addition to teaching English and art to high school kids, Gilbert was the sports reporter at the Altus Times for a few years.

"My intentions are simple in my new role," Gilbert said. "I want to be a positive force in Mangum. I want to put the good times and the fun of youthful activities front and center as often as possible."

Gilbert and his wife, Tara, are parents of two sons and one daughter.

Hinton Record ceases publication

After 120 years of coverage, the Hinton Record has ceased publication.

Purchased by Wesner Publications in December 2010, the Record had been operated from Wesner's Watonga offices for the past several years along with The Geary Star. The Star folded into the Watonga Republican in 2021.

Graham Dudley, editor of the Watonga Republican, said the decision comes as community newspapers nationwide face tough decisions amid declining ad sales, rising expenses and a general pivot to online news.

The Republican has taken over Hinton news coverage. Hinton residents with an active Hinton Record subscription have begun receiving the Republican.

Meisners recognized by Editor & Publisher

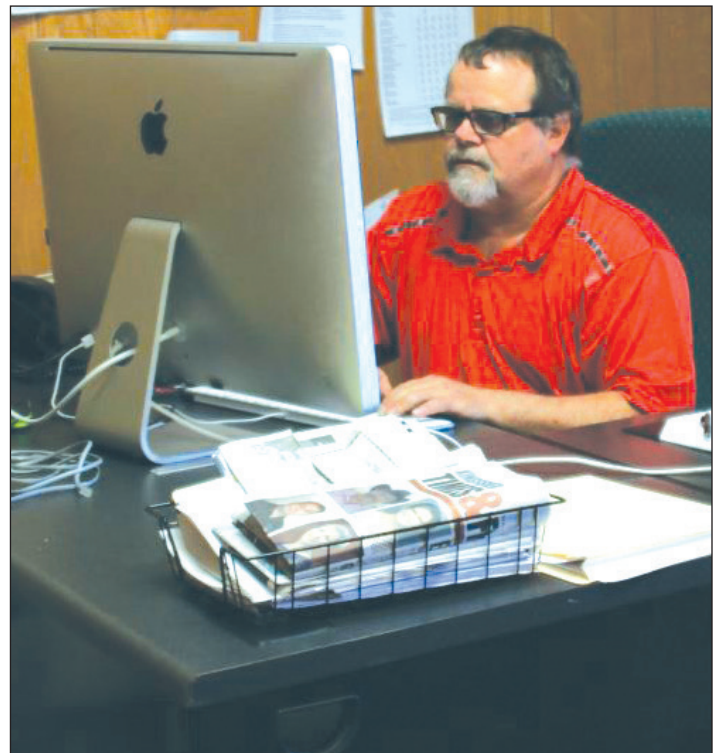
J.D. and MaryLee Meisner, who own and operate Cimarron Valley Communications (CVCLLC), were named to the Editor & Publisher's 2022 class of '10 News Publishers That Do It Right.'

Each year, Editor & Publisher (E&P) chooses 10 publishers who show innovation, whether it is in the form of revenue, content, community service, engagement or platform.

The Meisners, who own the Cushing Citizen, Drumright Gusher and Yale News, were chosen for their determination in expanding and growing their publications, despite operating in the midst of a pandemic.

One initiative E&P highlighted was the student reporter program the Meisners implemented in Drumright to give English students a chance to write, get credit and be published in the paper, as well providing art students with the opportunity to work as photographers at various community events.

"J.D. has changed the way people view journalism, especially on the local level. Our communities are small. We are not a profit-driven company,



J.D. Meisner sits at his desk at the Cushing Citizen. Meisner and his wife, MaryLee, were recently named to Editor & Publisher's 2022 class of "10 News Publishers That Do It Right."

and we are proud of that fact... Our goal is and always will be to keep the local news alive," said Allie Prater, managing editor and daughter of J.D. and MaryLee.

MaryLee, a full-time schoolteacher, saw a need to keep kids engaged and informed. So she created Smartypants, a full-color,

weekly kids page in-house, that is published in over 50 newspapers across the U.S. and even in one newspaper in Ireland.

Additionally, the Meisners publish Okie Charmed, which prints six times a year and covers Oklahoma women, women-owned businesses and fashion.

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OPA Board of Directors meet at State Capitol



**OKLAHOMA
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The Oklahoma Press Association Board of Directors met at the Oklahoma State Capitol in Oklahoma City on Feb. 10, 2022.

Officers attending were President John Denny Montgomery, The Purcell Register, and Vice President Mark Millsap, The Norman Transcript. Directors present were Zonelle Rainbolt, Wesner Publications; Don Mecoy, The Oklahoman; Shauna Belyeu, The Eufaula Indian Journal; Sheila Gay, Woodward News; and Suzie Campbell, Countywide & Sun.

Also in attendance were Mark Thomas, OPA Executive Vice President/Secretary, and Lisa Sutliff, Member Services Director.

Treasurer Jeff Mayo, Sequoyah County Times, and Misti Rinehart, Tulsa World, were absent.

Montgomery called the meeting to order and asked the board to review minutes of the Nov. 11, 2021, meeting. The minutes were approved as presented.

The board reviewed financial statements and investment reports for OPA and LSP.

Thomas said OPA income was higher at this time last year due to sponsorships that carried over from the canceled 2020 convention.

He added that LSP is not currently defending any lawsuits.

The board reviewed a cash consolidated summary showing available cash on hand for OPA, LSP and Oklahoma Press Service, Inc., as well as the investment report. The

Executive Committee of Montgomery, Millsap and Mayo authorized the transfer of investment funds to BOK Investment Foundation (BOKF) by email vote on Jan. 6, 2022.

A motion to ratify the Executive Committee's decision was approved unanimously.

Thomas noted the transfer of funds was completed and BOKF is proceeding with identification of investment options and strategies.

Board members acknowledged receipt of the OPA and LSP financial statements and investment reports for the period ending Dec. 31, 2021.

In its previous meeting the Board agreed to request proposals for audit and tax preparation services. The Board reviewed three proposals and voted unanimously to hire Arledge & Associates, P.C., for audit and tax preparation services for OPA and its affiliated entities.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

In committee reports, Rainbolt said the Education Committee is working on 2022 Convention sessions and activities. The tour of Prairie Surf Studios was canceled due to a production making much of the space inaccessible. Mike Blinder, president of Editor and Publisher, is being asked to present a revenue session. The committee agreed to ask attendees to dress in costume as a favorite movie character at the Welcome Dinner, then in cocktail attire and suits for the awards banquet.

In the Government Relations Committee report, Mecoy said the committee met three times in the past few months. Thomas reviewed the

legislative bills affecting open meetings, open records and newspaper industry business during the Legislative Summit.

In the Revenue and Promotion Committee report, Belyeu said the OPS staff plans to sell a print-plus-digital fundraising campaign to political candidates. Staff is working to compile a list of campaign contacts, a self-promotion plan and a list of key advertising contacts and advertisers.

Thomas said the Nominating Committee, chaired by past president Ray Dyer, will meet to recommend a new director and slate of officers for the 2022-2023 term.

In other business, The Freedom Call newspaper applied for OPA business membership. The board reviewed the application notice, which was published in the February issue of The Oklahoma Publisher. A motion passed to approve The Freedom Call for business membership pending successful completion of the protest period.

Thomas said he will provide final by-laws amendment language for review at the next scheduled board meeting.

AWARDS REVIEW

The board reviewed candidates for the Milt Phillips award and voted by secret ballot, however, due to a split vote, they plan to finalize the vote via email when all board members can participate to determine the award recipient.

Thomas presented the following nominees for the OPA Half Century Club and Quarter Century Club:

Half Century Club: Joey Goodman, sports writer at The Lawton Constitution, and Jim

Fienup, late publisher of The Spiro Graphic.

Quarter Century Club: Todd Brooks, publisher/editor of The Comanche Times; Sheila Gay, publisher of Woodward News; and Mark Millsap, publisher of The Norman Transcript.

Quarter Century Club nominations for Joshua Small and Melissa Small of the Johnston County Capital-Democrat are awaiting confirmation by publisher Tom Lokey. A motion to approve the nominees for induction pending successful confirmation of their years of service passed unanimously.

OPS BOARD MEETING

Minutes of the Nov. 11, 2021, OPS Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Thomas presented the OPS financial report, which showed an increase in advertising commissions, total assets and net income compared to this time last year. Expenses were also lower compared to the previous year. Thomas said he is in the process of hiring two new staff – one in member services and one to assist with legislative efforts and serve as editor of The Oklahoma Publisher.

Thomas also noted the board of OPS' parent company, Oklahoma Press Association, selected a new audit firm, Arledge & Associates, P.C. for the fiscal year. The audit will be performed after the close of the fiscal year on June 30, 2022.

A motion to acknowledge receipt of the OPS financial statement for the period ending December 31, 2021, passed unanimously.

Journalism, arts important to Oklahoma communities

David Stringer, a former Oklahoma Press Association (OPA) president and current publisher of The Lawton Constitution, presented during the Arts for All Luncheon in February. His message: art and journalism are essential to a community.

"A community without a newspaper is one step closer to not being a community," Stringer said. "It's one additional step, just like losing a major employer, a hospital or, usually as the final nail, the school."

Stringer said art and journalism often work hand-in-hand within a community, and historically, newspapers spend more time than most other media outlets covering the arts.

In fact, Stringer said he noticed the artistic presence in Lawton immediately after taking the publisher job in 2019.

"One of the things I loved about Lawton quickly was the murals we have around town," he said. "I lived in one community in Southern California where we tried every year to



DAVID STRINGER

raise \$10,000 to do one mural. Lawton has, what, two, three, four a year?"

Arts For All is a collective of organizations that share resources to create works of theatre, music, fine arts and other forms in the Lawton community.

Stringer served as OPA president in 2006, while he was the publisher at The Norman Transcript. He also completed a seven-year stint for the Pauls Valley Democrat in the 1980s, covering the sports beat, as editor, and eventually the publisher.

Northwest Oklahoman adds new features to online services

The Northwest Oklahoman in Arnett recently added new features to bolster readership and content.

The staff revamped the newspaper's website (northwestoklahoman.com), streamlined its brand on Facebook, created content for its TikTok account, and worked to create an additional weekly digital-only issue for subscribers.

The digital-only issue

will have more color photos and links to videos and other media related content, said Dub Wagnon, publisher of The Northwest Oklahoman.

The website features more content including articles and ads using QR codes.

"We have battled COVID-19, pneumonia, bronchitis and some cold temperatures to pull this off," Wagnon said.

Adams returns to Thomas Tribune

After moving to Florida in 2020 for cancer treatment, Tami Adams has returned to The Thomas Tribune, cancer free.

Adams will serve in a support role to Colton and Arianna Parkinson, owners and publishers of The Thomas Tribune, providing layout and design assistance, ad sales and copy writing.

Adams served as managing editor for the paper from 2018 to early 2020 when she left to pursue other interests.

However, before the end of 2020, she was diagnosed with breast cancer, prompting a move to Florida.

"It has been a ride full of unexpected twists and turns, but my heart will always belong here in Oklahoma," she said.

"I've always believed in the power of small-town journalism to be one of the powerful ways that rural communities bond together," Adams said.



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Computer Notes

from the road
by Wilma Newby
wnewby@okpress.com

Computer security is different on each computer, depending on the operating system. Windows vs. Mac, older vs. newer operating systems all have an effect on how a good security plan is approached.

It's a good idea to look for full antivirus software protection when getting a new computer. Some of the better ones listed below are owned by American companies.

Norton 360 Deluxe is a division of NortonLifeLock, based out of Mountain View, California. Norton covers Windows 11, 10, 8 and 7. At \$49.99 for the first year, it covers five computers, phones or tablets. It is also available for Macs, down to Mac OS X 10.10.x (Yosemite).

McAfee is also a California-based company, owned by Advent International, headquartered in Boston, Massachusetts. The interface seems to have improved over the last few years so you might give them a look. McAfee is \$39.99 per year for five computers as an introductory offer. It is available on PCs for Windows 11, back to Windows 8.

This price seems to be the going rate for most new products. Most of them go up after

the first year, so watch for that when comparing prices.

In the world of free anti-virus, Avira is a leader. Originally owned by a German multinational company, Avira is now owned by American software company Norton-LifeLock. It is available for Mac and PC.

Webroot and Malwarebytes are also American-based and offer free versions. Both are available for Mac and PC.

AVG, owned by Avast, has been a solid free antivirus software for many years.

If you're serious about protection on computers and phones, paid for antivirus software is the way to go. Ones that offer ransomware protection are better so look for that in the specs. And make sure the antivirus software is updated.

The next step in security is frequent backups. One external drive off-site and one on-site is a good plan for the most critical computers.

Cloud backup is a great idea as well. Often these are not whole system backups but critical file backups. Many newspapers use services like Dropbox, Microsoft's OneDrive, or Google Drive for file backups of their most critical data. A large flash drive could be the on-site backup in case the Internet is down. Redundancy is always a good idea, and make sure the staff

is backing up important files at least weekly.

You can use Time Machine on Macs for backups. It's found under the **Apple menu > System Preferences > Time Machine**.

On newer Windows computers, look under **Settings > System > Storage > Backup Options**. Microsoft wants the computer to back up to the OneDrive cloud. To do a local backup go to **Control Panel > Backup and restore**.

Many older computers are still useful and should be sheltered from online activity if possible. In order to keep older computers safe from hackers, several offices run older and newer computers next to each other. All web work is done on a phone or defensible newer computer where downloads can be checked by the antivirus before going to the older system to be processed. Even older systems should have a firewall turned on.

On an Apple, the firewall is found under the **Apple menu > System Preferences > Security & Privacy > Firewall**. Be sure it's turned on. It may require unlocking the system lock at the bottom of the screen, using an administrative user name and password.

On Windows computers, Windows Defender keeps the firewall going unless it is purposely turned off.

Update computers as much as possible within the limits of the software on them. Take the time to do all security updates. Update browsers on the computers. Browsers now have their own defenses built in and need updating just like computers.

In most browsers go to the **name of the browser** in the menu and down to **about (name of browser)**. This will initiate a search for updates. The browsers will need to be restarted.

If possible look at getting a newer router for the office. Many Internet service providers are offering updated equipment right now.

Some offices have two ways of getting on the Internet if one goes down. It's a good time to revisit these setups in the office because its springtime in Oklahoma.

NEW MAC STUDIO

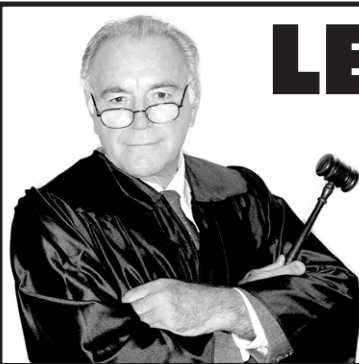
Apple made it's spring announcement and introduced a new Mac – the Mac Studio.

Starting at \$2,000, it is a completely different computer from what has been offered before.

It offers lots of ports and memory, 32 GB of unified memory and a 512 GB solid state drive. It's guaranteed to be fast. It can be configured with 64GB RAM and 8TB of hard drive space. Mac Studio has all the ports you want and can support up to five displays at once. The WiFi 6 and RJ-45 connector with 10GB Ethernet uses the full duplex protocol.

This is one fast machine.

OPA Computer Consultant Wilma Newby's column is brought to you by the Oklahoma Advertising Network (OAN). For more information on the OAN program, contact Oklahoma Press Service at (405) 499-0020.



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Remembering our friends & colleagues who died the previous year.

Richard 'Dick' Newman
Feb. 15, 2021

Anne Marie Zimmerman
Feb. 11, 2021

John Link
March 24, 2021

Larry Joe Marcy
March 17, 2021

William White
March 9, 2021

DEATHS

VIRGINIA BROWNING BRADSHAW, a longtime journalist and member of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame, died February 9, 2022. She was 92.

Bradshaw was born February 21, 1929, during an oil well gusher in Braman. Her family moved to Chandler, and at age 17, she began writing for the Chandler News-Publicist.

After graduating from Chandler High, Bradshaw entered the University of

Oklahoma in 1947. She married Jim Bradshaw on Jan. 18, 1951, in Chandler.

Virginia worked for more than 40 years in Oklahoma journalism, including 26 at the Shawnee News-Star, three at The Norman Transcript, 10 for The Oklahoman and about four for the Countywide & Sun in Tecumseh.

She retired twice from newspaper reporting, the first time in 2002. When her husband died in 2006, she returned to the profession

writing for The Oklahoman. In 2016, she began working for the Countywide & Sun, a job she continued until early 2020 when she retired for a second time.

Virginia is survived by her son, Jim Bradshaw and wife Peggy of Springfield, Virginia; son Tom Bradshaw and wife Lara of Justin, Texas; daughter Nancy Antosh and husband Jim of Shawnee; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

BOB D. ROUNSAVELL, a columnist whose work frequently appeared in the Tulsa World and Oologah Lake Leader, died Dec. 21, 2021. He was 82.

After graduating from college, Rounsavell worked as both a general reporter and a

deejay at Wichita radio station KAKE-AM.

In the early 1960s, he joined the Peace Corps and was assigned to the Philippines. That is where he met his wife Maria, who was his boss at the University of Philippines Los Banos, where she chaired the Department

of Humanities and he was assigned to teach English as a Second Language.

Rounsavell is survived by his wife of 57 years, Maria Rounsavell; two children, Shanti Camp of Ft. Smith, Ark., and Roland Rounsavell of Virginia, and many family and friends.

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OKLAHOMA NATURAL GAS CONTEST WINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE JANUARY WINNERS

Column: **BARB WALTER**, *The Hennessey Clipper*

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

JANUARY COLUMN WINNER

BARB WALTER, *The Kingfisher Times & Free Press*

Voters to the rescue

Some of you remember the 1977 Farmer's Oil Supply fire in Hennessey and many of us remember the tragic Big Red Fire in April 1971. But this afternoon I'm remembering the Sunday evening fire in 2007 on the west side of the 100 block of South Main Street.

It got my attention because it was across the street from our then-news-paper office in Hennessey.

I was in bookkeeper mode working on state and federal reports at The Clipper office when I heard the fire call on our police scanner.

I went into reporter mode, grabbed a camera and ran out the front door. Before the first fire truck got there I saw only a little smoke coming out of the buildings across the street from the newspaper office.

When the first truck arrived there, I remember throwing the camera over my shoulder, and standing by LaPorte's Pharmacy and yelling at passersby not to run over the fire hose.

I didn't think the fire would be much, but took photos of firefighters breaking glass to get into one of the buildings.

Before long it seemed as if all of Main Street was on fire and I don't know if my husband, Bill, was in the darkroom soup-ing film, or at home, but all the sirens got him outside with his camera, too.

The east side of the street was filled with people taking pictures with their

cell phones of the two brick buildings, the one-story American Legion and the two-story IOOF, that ended up totally engulfed in flames.

It was surreal that people just stood there taking pictures while I worried our town would burn down.

The vacant Dinkler Drug building was heavily damaged because it shared interior walls with the IOOF building and drugstore building was demolished later which also caused many phone photos.

I believe we went home sometime after midnight, but our local firefighters were there until daybreak when they had to go to their paying jobs.

The loss of those three buildings looked as if Main Street was missing three front teeth from 2007-2011.

That's when they were replaced by a grand 9,400 square foot structure.

The construction cost of the Kirkpatrick Oil Co. Office was \$2.1 million.

Over the years it has also been the site for several HHS proms and visits from Santa during the Lions Club's Mistletoe Magic events.

Kingfisher lost its Main Street 89er Theater the year before the Hennessey fire.

It wasn't lost on me that county voters turned out in big numbers in the spring of 2008 in support of taxes that continue to support the local fire departments in Kingfisher County.



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