

Crane damages Oklahoman building



Crews inspect a crane that fell into the side of a building in downtown Oklahoma City at Robinson and Sheridan avenues.

Photo by Addison Kliever, The Oklahoman. Reprinted with permission.

A 60-ton crane recently crashed into the building that houses The Oklahoman.

Authorities were notified Sept. 17 that a crane had fallen into the building at 100 W. Main St. in Oklahoma City. Police and firefighters evacuated the building and closed streets in the area.

The OKC Fire Department said construction workers

were attempting to remove a Jumbotron (large display screen) when the crane tipped over and hit the building.

Authorities said the crane operator was taken to a local hospital and treated for minor injuries.

Don Mecoy, managing editor of The Oklahoman, said as far as he knew, the building was never closed.

"I came to work Monday morning like usual," Mecoy said. "However, the parking garage was closed. The incident had almost zero impact on our operations other than folks who came to the office having to find a different place to park.

"For those of us who worked in the office on Monday, it was interesting to

watch all the heavy equipment clean up the mess."

Mecoy said the building sustained some damage, and the video screen was "in pretty bad shape."

Multiple news outlets are headquartered in the building, including The Oklahoman, Oklahoma Watch and News 9.

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From the President

By Zonelle Rainbolt

Executive Editor, Wesner Publications • OPA President 2022-2023



WHEN FORMER JAPANESE PRIME Minister Shinzo Abe was assassinated last July, I was part of a group that was discussing why his death was categorized as an assassination.

We all had a fairly clear idea of how the meaning for that word was different from what would be used for the murder of a lesser known person. I went a step further, however, and looked at the Webster definition and was not surprised to read, “murder by sudden or secret attack, often for political reasons.”

Some time later I was again following the news and was saddened to read of an elderly man who had been attacked by a group of teenagers. Imagine my surprise to read the “elderly man” was 73 years old! Really? That is alarmingly close to my age and I do not consider myself elderly! (No, I did not look up that word for fear it may confirm the original writer’s definition.)

At a recent gathering of friends I was offered a “secret recipe” dessert and was assured I would love it. While it was very delicious, my feeling about it fell way short of love.

Not long ago I met a person for the first time, someone about whom I had heard a great deal. Imagine my surprise when the person looked nothing like the mental image I had formed, nor was their personality anything like what I expected.

Last month we all read articles and watched television specials about the life and death of Queen Elizabeth II.

Those reporting about her often used words like admired, loved, stoic, steadfast, regal and constant. Their words painted a picture of a woman who had lived her life in service to her country and seemed to confirm the image we had of her.

ALL OF THAT HAD ME THINKING about the power and influence of words. Our profession, more than any other, is all about words. Knowing how choosing one word over another can influence actions and decisions has often had me sitting almost paralyzed in front of my computer as I try to decide which word is best.

Brett Wesner, the owner of the Cordell Beacon where I wrote for many years and recent chairman of the board of the National Newspaper Association, once told me he could tell when I had struggled to write an article.

He said it was because the article was often stilted and dry and explained that was because I was trying so hard to take my personal feelings about the subject out of the article that I had lost the soul of what I was writing about.

In my concern about being fair and equal, I had written an article that wasn’t interesting – fair and equal, yes, but so boring nobody would want to read it. My words had lost their power because they weren’t being read.

In these times of so much strife and division in our country, I think maybe we have all tried too hard to take our feelings out of what we write. It is still a problem I deal with in every article I write.

I BELIEVE PERSONAL OPINIONS belong on the editorial page, but I also believe it is okay to have a passion for the articles we write. Will you know how I will vote in the coming elections based on the articles I write? No, I don’t think so, but you will know I have a passion for voting. There is a difference and I believe we can use our words to inspire others without compromising our journalistic integrity. That is part of what makes our jobs so fascinating and keeps us meeting deadline after deadline.

As I have discovered through the limited number of articles I have written for The Oklahoma Publisher, it is easier to write about facts than thoughts, ideas and beliefs, but our jobs include not only writing about both, but also knowing the difference and handling them appropriately. You and I may not agree on specific issues – political, religious, OU or OSU, and the list goes on – but I am confident we agree that our jobs of writing about events in our communities are among the most important in our state and we must continue to choose our words with care.

OPA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For more information on upcoming events, visit okpress.com/events

Mon., October 24, 2022, 1-4 PM OPEN MEETING & OPEN RECORDS REGIONAL SEMINAR

Cameron University, McMahon
Centennial Complex, 501 SW University
Dr., Lawton, OK

Thurs., October 27, 2022

OKLAHOMA PRESS NEWS/ EDITORIAL ROUNDTABLE

OPA Roundtables provide an excellent opportunity for news media leadership to come together and discuss issues facing their organizations. OPA member organizations may register at no cost at <https://tinyurl.com/mr3zaecn>

Thurs., November 10, 2022, 2:00 PM

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF ADOBE ACROBAT

Newspaper Academy Webinar, \$69.
Kevin Slimp will teach attendees how to carry out many important functions in Adobe Acrobat. Register at newspaperacademy.com/webinar/acrobat22

Mon., November 14, 2022 1-4 PM OPEN MEETING & OPEN RECORDS REGIONAL SEMINAR

Metro Tech Conference Center, Business
Conference Center Auditorium, 1900
Springlake Dr., Oklahoma City

Thurs., November 17, 2022, 1:00 PM

WINNING THE TALENT WAR

Online Media Campus Webinar
Jeff Butler will show you how to attract and keep the best talent in the up and coming generation. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/yc3r9a7y>

Thurs., January 12, 2023, 2:00 PM

THE BASICS OF ADOBE ILLUSTRATOR

Newspaper Academy Webinar, \$69.
Kevin Slimp shows why you and your staff need to learn how to use Illustrator. For more information or to register, see newspaperacademy.com/webinar/illustrator23

Mon., January 16, 2023

ONF HOST NEWSPAPER INTERNSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE

For more information or to apply visit okpress.com/internships. The program is made possible by a grant from the Inasmuch Foundation.

Thurs., February 9, 2023, 9:30 AM

OPA LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT

Oklahoma State Capitol, Oklahoma City.
For more information or to register, see okpress.com/legislative-summit

Wed., February 15, 2023

ONF STUDENT INTERNSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE

For more information visit okpress.com/internships. The program is made possible by a grant from the Inasmuch Foundation.

Fri. & Sat., June 9-10, 2023

OPA ANNUAL CONVENTION

Mark your calendar to attend the 2023 Convention at the Grand Casino Hotel & Resort in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

Lee Enterprises forms Public Service Journalism team

Lee Enterprises, parent company of the Tulsa World, is shining an investigative reporting spotlight across its 77 daily news markets throughout the country.

Lee recently announced its new 12-member Public Service Journalism team, which is made up of veteran reporters who will function as three teams across the company's East, Midwest and West news regions, respectively.

One of the members is former Tulsa World staff writer Corey Jones.

The investigative reporting roles are newly created positions intended to drive public accountability journalism throughout Lee's local news markets, including the Tulsa World.

"The creation of our Public Service Journalism team strengthens our company's commitment to investigative and data journalism, because it's the work that can truly make a difference in the com-

munities we serve," said Jason Adrians, Lee Enterprises' vice president-local news. "At Lee Enterprises, we're investing in local news talent and tools, premium reporting and storytelling, and the development of young journalists."

Lee's new Public Service Journalism team members bring expertise in various topical backgrounds, including public safety, public health, government, social justice and the environment.

The regional Public Service Journalism teams will assist reporters in local markets with access to public records, track taxpayer money and government spending, examine data related to health, crime and safety issues, and serve as watchdogs for communities across the country.

In their previous reporting roles both inside Lee newsrooms and in other news markets, these team members' work has helped free the inno-

cent, put the guilty behind bars and change laws.

The teams include a Pulitzer Prize finalist; three members of the nationally renowned ProPublica Local Reporting Network; a grant recipient from the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting; a regional Edward R. Murrow Regional Award winner; top national award recipients from Investigative Reporters and Editors and the national Society of Professional Journalists; and a data journalism specialist and former reporter and researcher for the Pulitzer Prize-winning Better Government Association in Chicago.

Work by these teams has already begun, with in-depth reporting on leading causes of death throughout more than a dozen Lee markets, and a recently published investigation, in partnership with ProPublica, on a systemic pattern of abuse and mistreatment of mental health patients in a state-run facility in Illinois.

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Open Meeting & Open Records 2022 Seminars

LAWTON – OCTOBER 24 1-4 PM

Cameron University Centennial Complex
501 SW University Drive Lawton, OK 73505

OKLAHOMA CITY – NOVEMBER 14 1-4 PM

Metro Tech Conference Center
Business Conference Center Room: Auditorium
1900 Springlake Drive Oklahoma City, OK 73111-5240

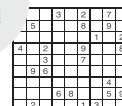
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OPA Board of Directors meets in Oklahoma City

The Oklahoma Press Association Board of Directors met Sept. 22 in the OPA Building Conference Room in Oklahoma City.

Officers attending were President Zonelle Rainbolt, Wesner Publications; Vice President Don Mecoy, The Oklahoman; and Treasurer David Stringer, The Lawton Constitution.

Directors attending were Past President John Denny Montgomery, The Purcell Register; Shauna Belyeu, The Eufaula Indian Journal; Sheila Gay, Woodward News; Suzie Campbell, Countywide & Sun; Erin Dyer Thompson, El Reno Tribune; and Mark Codner, The Newcastle Pacer. Misti Rinehart, Tulsa World, was absent.

Staff at the meeting were Mark Thomas, Executive Vice President/Secretary, and Lisa Sutliff, Member Services Director.

Guests at the meeting were Evan Walter, Ronnie Jobe and Sean Chitwood from BOK Financial; Jake Winkler, Partner with Arledge & Associates, P.C., and OPA Accounting Manager Jeannie Freeman.

After the meeting was

called to order, minutes of the August 25, 2022, meeting were approved as presented.

The board reviewed and acknowledged receipt of the OPA and LSP profit and loss statements ending August 31, 2022.

BOK Financial representatives Walter and Jobe reviewed the investment performance of OPA and LSP as of June 30, 2022.

Winkler, Partner with Arledge & Associates, reviewed the combined financial statement audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. Winkler said it was a clean audit opinion and performed in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. After further discussion, board members acknowledged receipt of the OPA audit and OPA/OPS consolidated audit reports.

ACTIVITY REPORTS

In activity reports, Thompson said the Awards Committee discussed creating a separate division in the OPA Better Newspaper Contest for General News Media. After discussing the suggestion, the board directed the committee to allow General News Media members to compete in the same contest divisions as Legal Newspapers.

Online organizations will need to submit PDFs in the contest categories.

Thomas said the committee plans to modify the eligibility rule, which currently requires that an organization be a member for at least six months prior to the contest entry deadline, so members that join OPA before the contest entry deadline may enter if they have paid dues for the fiscal year.

Campbell said the Education Committee has begun

discussing speakers, sessions and entertainment for the 2023 Annual Convention and will meet in person at OPA on Oct. 20 to discuss those topics.

OPA is partnering with the Attorney General's Office to hold five free Oklahoma Open Meeting and Records seminars in Enid, Tulsa, McAlester, Lawton and Oklahoma City this fall. Sutliff said virtual roundtables are scheduled for Oct. 13 (Advertising) and Oct. 27 (News/Editorial).

In the Government Relations Committee update, Thomas said the state legislature will hold a special session Sept. 28-30. Thomas said he participated in an interim study on videoconferencing.

The LSP Committee reviewed the quarterly report prepared by LSP Attorneys Doug Dodd and Emily Allen, which contained a summary of 48 LSP calls received in the previous quarter. Names of members calling LSP are redacted.

More detail on the specific issues was requested without revealing the name of the caller or newspaper requesting advice.

The Revenue and Promotion Committee discussed recent political advertising efforts. Sales promotion ideas for Christmas sales planning has been distributed to OPA members and more ideas will be shared to assist in revenue promotions for the first quarter of 2023.

Bernie Heller, director of Amplified Performance Marketing (Lee Enterprises) and former publisher of the Tulsa World, discussed partnering with OPA and its members in a pay-per-lead program.

OTHER BUSINESS

In other business, the board reviewed a new engagement

agreement for the legal services of Doerner, Saunders, Daniel and Anderson for Fiscal Year 2022-23. Thomas said the proposed rates did not change from the 2021-22 agreement. Board members accepted the new engagement agreement and rates for DSDA to continue as OPA and LSP counsel.

Also reviewed was the board members current Flexi Plus Five insurance policy that includes Directors and Officers liability insurance provided by Philadelphia Companies.

Thomas also reviewed and asked board members to sign the Conflict of Interest Statement. The same statement was signed by the staff.

Past President Montgomery was presented with a bound book of The Oklahoma Publisher issues produced during his term as president. The board thanked Montgomery for his years of service.

OPS BOARD MEETING

Minutes of the August 25, 2022, meeting were approved as presented. The board also reviewed and acknowledged receipt of the OPS profit and loss statement as of August 31, 2022.

Stringer said salary expenses will increase now that individuals were hired to fill two open positions..

Winkler, a partner with Arledge & Associates, reviewed the OPS audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.

Winkler said it was a clean audit opinion and performed in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

After further discussion, board members acknowledged receipt of the OPS audit reports.

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.

Send your news or story ideas to

news@okpress.com
or call 405-499-0028

Eric Hunter's advice: 'Plan Ahead'

By ZONELLE RAINBOLT,
Wesner Publications

"Plan ahead!" said Eric Hunter, production manager at the Clinton Daily News (CDN) when asked what is the one thing he wished everyone knew to make it easier for the press to print their papers. "Especially in the weeks between the beginning of school and the New Year, it is really great when papers have a plan about how many pages and how many sections they think they will print each week – and then let us know."

As an added bonus, Hunter said planning ahead makes production costs cheaper.

"When we have that information in advance, we can make better plans and that doesn't just make production easier, it makes it cheaper," Hunter explained.

Rising costs of newsprint, and sometimes shrinking availability, have made advance planning critical.

"At one point during the worst of the tariff issue, we were down to about a week's stockpile of paper," Hunter said. "What we have on hand now should get us through the end of the year. That is sure a relief."

Rod Serfoss, CDN publisher, echoed Hunter's recommendation of planning ahead, but also added, "Communication."

"Planning ahead is great, but if those plans don't get communicated to us, we can't act on it," he said.

Serfoss went on to say that communication about daily or weekly deadlines is also important, as is letting the press know when pages will be late arriving. He said



Eric Hunter stands in front of the press at the Clinton Daily News.

Photo by Zonelle Rainbolt, Wesner Publications

knowing how to schedule personnel depends on getting timely, and correct, information from the papers.

In addition to their own paper, CDN prints for 12 other papers each week, plus one paper every two weeks, as well as newsletters and school papers.

"That is a lot of pages every week," Hunter said. "At a minimum there are 120 pages a week. Scheduling press time and then adding folding, inserting and labeling for some papers adds up to a lot of man hours."

The computer-to-plate technology has made life easier for Hunter and other newspaper production managers.

A real time-saving device, the machine has reduced the time to get a plate from the computer to the press by about two-thirds.

"It really makes it possible for us to print 12 papers and have the time and resources to do more," Hunter said. "And, we don't have to schedule printing for five days a week. Before the CTP, we had to spend a lot more man hours

just getting the plates to the press."

With his computer experience, many times Hunter can spot a problem and have minor corrections made before the plates are burned.

"It makes it easier for our print customers, and us, if we can make some of those little changes ourselves," he explained. "We can't fix really big things, but we are pretty good at getting the little things tweaked and not having to call an editor back to the office after they think the paper has been put to bed."

Hunter began his stint at CDN while he was still in high school.

"I was working at a local grocery store and Rod offered me a job doing computer work," Hunter explained.

"I got a bit of a raise and was working in an office. That was big. And I just kept learning and doing new parts of the job. Then one day Rod told me the press operator wasn't here any longer and I was going to do that job!"

"I didn't exactly throw him into the deep end of the pool," Serfoss said with a chuckle, "but he did have to learn how to swim pretty fast."

For the last 15 years Hunter has been production manager and it seems like a really good fit. He and Serfoss have combined to win numerous printing awards and they take obvious pride in their work.

"If I am going to do this job," Hunter said, "then I'm going to do it to the very best of my ability."

That dedication to his craft shows in the excellent products Hunter puts out day in and day out, month in and month out, year after year.

New editor at Marlow Review



Toni Hopper is the new editor of The Marlow Review.

She replaces Elizabeth Pitts-Hibbard, who recently resigned.

Pitts, who worked at the Review in 1998 after moving to Marlow from Colorado, said she's excited to be back.

Her background includes working as a photo chief for an agriculture newspaper in Southeast Colorado, and juggling duties for both a weekly and daily paper prior to her return to Oklahoma.

Hopper worked at The Duncan Banner from 2000-2013, with a three-year stint as managing editor of the Waurika News-Democrat during that time. She then worked for the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center for nearly seven years.

She "semi-retired" in June 2020, but kept busy with photography.

"Transitioning back into a newsroom has been easier than I thought it would be," Hopper said.

"I'm excited about reporting the community news."

Hopper attended Marlow Public Schools in the 1970s and was on the Marlow yearbook and newspaper staff before she moved to Colorado.

She resides in Duncan with her husband, Rex.

Stillwater hires new sports reporter



Jon Walker has joined the staff of the Stillwater News Press as a sports reporter.

Walker graduated from Northwest Missouri State University in May. While attending college in Maryville, he doubled as a sports reporter at the St. Joseph News-Press, while continuing to cover North-

west, the Mid-America Inter-collegiate Athletics Association and preps in the greater Kansas City area.

It was in Maryville that Walker learned readers don't just want to know what the final score of last night's game was.

"So, instead, my goal is to tell the stories people don't see, stories that would never come to light otherwise," he said.

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 1. Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541)
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Average: 0; Single Issue: 0
 3. Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS
Average: 3; Single Issue: 2
 4. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail
Average: 3; Single Issue: 0
 - e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))
Average: 6; Single Issue: 6
 - f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)
Average: 221; Single Issue: 218
 - g. Copies Not Distributed
Average: 29; Single Issue: 32
 - h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)
Average: 250; Single Issue: 250
 - i. Percent Paid
Average: 97%; Single Issue: 97%
17. Publication of Statement of Ownership
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18. JENNIFER GILLILAND, EDITOR
Date: 09/20/2022



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Twister Smith of Luther pulls back the rope as his horse Denise puts on the breaks in the tie-down calf roping event during the Yukon FFA Rodeo.

Photo by CHUCK REHERMAN, Yukon Progress, August 10, 2022



August Hoeltzel pies Yale basketball coach Mike Moore in the face as Coach Green stops Coach Moore from escaping doing the annual YHS fall sport pie auction fundraiser.

Photo by ALLIE PRATER, Yale News, August 18, 2022

AUGUST 2022 DAILY, SEMI-
AND TRI-WEEKLY WINNER:

**CHUCK
REHERMAN**

Yukon Progress

AUGUST 2022 WEEKLY WINNER:

**ALLIE
PRATER**

Yale News

*The OGE Photo Contest
was judged by a member of the
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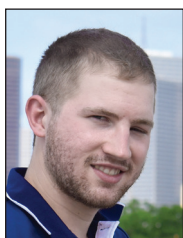
2022 SUMMER INTERNS

Thanks to a grant from the Inasmuch Foundation, 17 journalism students received paid internships at various newspapers across the state.



The internship program, now in its 15th year, is facilitated by the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation. This month, the final five interns share their experiences.

Johannes Becht, The Lawton Constitution Southwestern Oklahoma State University



The lead. It's the most important piece of a story after the headline and picture. It's the most difficult piece of the story.

How do you start the article in a way that won't bore the reader in a world of pop-up notifications and information flooding? What's the top priority? Otherwise known as the "kitchen call," which is how we'd say it in Germany. That's where I'm originally from.

The lead is the first encounter you have with a stranger.

My name is Johannes Becht, but I usually go by Joe. I learned basic journalism skills in Germany

as freelancer during high school and then took them to the United States when I moved to Oklahoma a few years ago.

The difficulty of finding an interesting lead hasn't changed, though. Fortunately, after completing the internship at The Lawton Constitution, I can honestly say that I've made some significant progress in writing leads.

Interestingly, the best way to learn the art of writing a good lead is by writing crime stories. At least for me it was. Unlike other stories, the police report hands you the best information on a silver platter. You just need to take it and "have some fun with it." The quote is from reporter Scott Rains. I just call him "The Dude." He is the police and court reporter at The Constitution. He gave

me amazing advice and was always eager to check my articles to improve them.

I was extremely excited about finally being in a corporate newsroom setting again after a very long time. There were just two main worries. Would I be able to prove myself as a reliable, serious and good journalist to both my colleagues and the local community? And second, would I be productive and efficient enough?

I'm very thankful that Dee Ann

stand-alone pictures, as well as videos, I could have done more.

It was also Dee Ann who gave me rides to the office every day for a week after my car broke down. That was a nightmare for an ambitious journalist who wanted to go out and get stories.

I am glad I was able to use the eight weeks of the internship to work on some of my weaknesses and improve my strengths, but especially to be a productive member of the

“ *Would I be able to prove myself as a reliable, serious and good journalist...*

Patterson, our managing editor, had enough trust in me to send me to assignments from the very first day and let me learn by doing. She also gave me some very helpful feedback. Although I ended up with more than 60 published articles and many more

Constitution newsroom. Thank you to everybody at The Lawton Constitution for supporting me in every way they could and for being amazing colleagues.

Stephanie Woolsey, The Lincoln County News Oklahoma Baptist University



Fake news is a growing infection, one that plagues the news world of today more than ever. It's

something that makes people scared to be asked questions or trust their story to be shared. As a young journalist in today's society, I have fallen victim to this misconception of misleading media more than I care to admit.

There were many times when I was defeated by an unreturned call or an unpleasant answer that caused me to lose motivation when completing whatever

I was covering. People shied away when I held a camera and became far less approachable when I mentioned I worked for the newspaper.

However, I was never quick to lose hope and my colleagues were encouraging as I adjusted to my new environment and developed new ways to work through it.

One of the most important things I learned is that the relationships you develop in the community are just as important as your involvement in it. So I devoted much of my time to taking photos in the community.

Whether it was a photo assignment or the opening of a

new building, the people of Chandler became more familiar and welcoming to me. Soon I became comfortable wandering about taking pictures or asking people questions when covering stories and, as I continued my internship, there was a noticeable shift in people's attitudes toward me.

It did not take long before I was out on my own finding things to cover outside of my weekly tasks. As people became more familiar with who I was, they became more approachable and eager to share.

Joining the Lincoln County News team challenged me to strengthen my skills and pushed me to build new connections in the community. Not only have I become involved in ways I never would have imagined, but I have

also been able to gain meaningful experiences that continue to set me up for my future career goals.

Though I first walked into the newsroom unfamiliar with my surroundings and not knowing what to expect, it wasn't long before I found myself falling in love with the people of Chandler as I watched them come through our doors and trust us to share their stories. There was something warming about their determination to share whatever it was they brought in and the passion they had for their voices to be heard.

It was moving to witness how the lives of so many people can be intertwined with something so simple as the words printed on a page and I am honored to have been a part of it.

Jacie Bennett, The Duncan Banner University of Oklahoma



As I entered the news office on the first day of my summer internship with The Duncan Banner, I

thought I knew what was in store for me.

I expected the general tasks of the position – planning stories, conducting interviews, attending events and networking. I had even prepared myself for the long hours, inevitable writer's block and strict deadlines. I had the entire summer planned out in my head.

While these expectations certainly rang true, there are just

some things that no one can predict.

For example, I never expected to be whisked off, just hours into my first day on the job, to a property fire in Empire where fellow reporter Tamara Gregor and I would have to trudge through the woods to capture the perfect photo for the front page. None of my media or writing textbooks had mentioned anything about that side of the job. It was on that first shift when I realized just how unpredictable journalism could be.

I experienced this with each passing day in the newsroom. The news cycle never allowed for any sort of uniformity. Whether I was traveling to nearly a dozen

separate property fires this summer, hopping on a call with a Korean War veteran or attending a primary election watch party, each day contained something exciting and different.

I thoroughly enjoyed hearing and writing the stories of small business owners, fundraising coordinators and even city officials. I have grown an appreciation for things I was unfamiliar with before because this internship provided the opportunity to connect with people through the things they are passionate about.

My time at The Duncan Banner has impacted me from an academic and skill standpoint, but it has also touched me on a personal level. I will never forget the relationships I have built with my fellow reporters, staff and community members. Thank you

to Tamara and Andy for always answering my ridiculous questions without hesitation and for being so kind and patient with me as I learned the ropes.

To Crystal, Jason, Sherrie and everyone else at The Banner, thank you for being so hospitable and for giving me such a kind welcome to The Banner family.

To my editor, Charlie, I am forever grateful for your praise and constant reassurance during my times of self-doubt. Thank you for taking a chance on me.

Thank you to anyone who has ever taken the time to even skim through something I wrote. I appreciate the overwhelming support I have received from you all throughout the past ten weeks. I promise this is not the last you will see of me.

Rachel Dallalio, OKC Friday Oklahoma Christian University



Heading into my internship with OKC Friday, I had no idea what to expect. I had never heard of it

before, but I knew I wanted a real-world journalism experience after working at my college newspaper.

I have lived in Oklahoma for 10 years and I feel like I only just discovered the Oklahoma City area. This area is rich with com-

“...I wanted a real-world journalism experience...”

munity, art and education, which I never imagined could be buried in this great city.

This experience is all thanks

to writing for OKC Friday. This internship allowed me to realize how much I enjoy hearing people's stories and how I have the capability to share those stories with others who may need to hear them.

College is great for preparation in facing the real world, but there is nothing compared to the experience of hands-on learning.

This internship reignited my passion for journalism and I truly plan to use everything I learned in my future career path.

To everyone at OKC Friday, you have been a light and a joy to work with. You made me feel welcome and comforted as I transitioned into looking for a real career. Thank you all for being the community I never knew I was looking for. Thanks to OKC Friday, I have learned how important community is to any newspaper, no matter the size.

By Hope King, Enid News & Eagle University of Oklahoma



I am a journalism and religious studies double major and preparing to start

my senior year at the University of Oklahoma. My goal is to be a foreign correspondent for a large newspaper

Before the News and Eagle, I lacked any sort of newspaper experience. I wasn't sure what would be required of me; I was terrified, but also excited. I was given several different types of writing assignments ranging from rewriting press releases to covering events and important news stories. Working at the News and Eagle was interesting because it had a small staff and covered so

much, meaning I was expected to cover a diverse number of topics.

I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity that was given to me. I've learned so much. The people I worked with at the News

“... I was terrified, but also excited..”

and Eagle have been so kind and encouraging.

This program is so important because it allows students the

opportunity to learn in an environment that is greatly different from a classroom. I worked at different paces for different pieces, ranging from having to reach out to someone repeatedly to being told to

head out to an event or interview with a minute's notice.

I have learned so much here

Tips for Cloud storage and how to speed it up



Computer Notes

from the road
by Wilma Newby
wnewby@okpress.com

Let's talk about cloud storage. You can create a good workflow for all your newspaper files on a cloud based storage system, but it can cause problems if your internet speed is slow.

Apple iCloud, Adobe Creative Cloud, Microsoft OneDrive, Google Drive and Dropbox are just some of the platforms offering cloud storage.

Older computers – created in a time when most everything was shared over a local network – may respond slowly to cloud programs and become even slower over time.

Older computers tend to have slower WiFi adapters so they use ethernet instead. If you're expecting to sync vast amounts of local files over the internet, it can really slow your computer to a crawl.

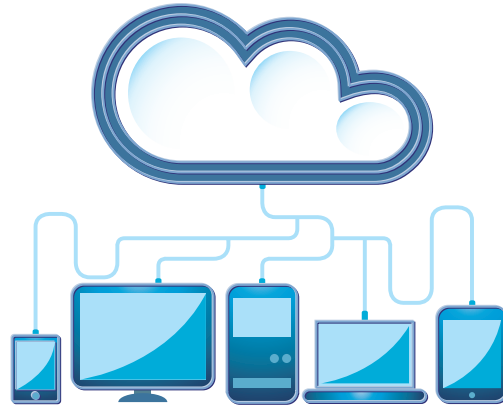
If your computer is running slow take a careful look at how many cloud programs are running. Since they run in the

background, it can slow down your internet speed.

If they don't need to run all the time, just use the web-based version of programs (such as Dropbox) and uninstall the local copy. To uninstall, look at your startup programs. It's in task manager on Windows. To bring it up, hold down **Control** plus the **Alt** key and hit **Delete**. Expand the box if needed, then look at the **Startup Apps**. Disable them if they're not used all the time, then restart.

On an Apple computer look at the **Apple menu > System Preference > Users and Groups > Login items button**. Select the item you don't need and hit the **minus** sign at the bottom of the screen.

Next, look at the amount of data being synced to the computer. Is it in the 10 GB range or hundreds of GB range? An older computer with a slow WiFi connection will not be good at handling the syncing of all those files. Also, thousands of files will fill a small hard drive and even newer



computers can suffer from this problem. Don't forget that your cloud area can quickly fill up with many people placing files on it at once.

Carefully plan what is being saved to cloud storage and set aside some time to review the amount of files on it.

A local server or external drive can offload files from the cloud; just be sure they are in two places. It takes a little time to do this but saves time for all users when you're putting the paper out.

You can purchase better WiFi adapters for older computers for under \$30.

TP-Link and Netgear adapters are good brands that

support both Windows and Mac OS computers. They can speed up older Mac or Windows computers if you only have WiFi available. A USB 3.0 port is needed so check first to see if the computer has one.

Look for Mbps (megabits per second) when shopping; 600 and up is a fast speed. The internal WiFi on many

older Macs is half that speed. Of course, a lot depends on how fast your internet at the office is.

You can also just use old-fashioned ethernet wires to connect devices to the network. Even older computers can run 1000Base-T speeds. Replace wires in the network that have been run over by chairs and foot traffic with Cat5e or Cat6 cables. Rewiring or new adapters is much more cost effective than employees waiting for the internet to load or files crashing.

Be sure to save files in two places every hour or so when working over the internet. The simplest way is to close the file and copy it to another location on the computer or in the cloud. Or **Save As** to another place and **Save As** back to the working folder every hour.

Now no more than one hour's worth of work can be lost.

There are several timer apps available on the web or in the app stores but research them before downloading.

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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- Can I photograph minors without consent?
- Can police deny access to records by issuing a press release?
- Should I alter my archives when a person demands it?
- Can I report inaccurate testimony given in open court?
- What are the laws about liquor advertising?

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



DEATHS

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Remembering our friends & colleagues who died the previous year.

Barbara Anderson
Sept. 23, 2021

Nellie Catlett
Sept. 22, 2021

Kristy Johansson Geisler
Sept. 19, 2021

Edward Joe Hauck
Sept. 22, 2021

Wanda Lee (Brown) McCully
Sept. 29, 2021

Bill Edward Corbett
Sept. 13, 2021

James Marion Etter
Oct. 28, 2021

Ron Jenkins
Oct. 5, 2021

**CYNTHIA (CINDY) LEE
BYRD**, a columnist for The Ada
News, died September 13, 2022.
She was 65.

Byrd was born October 9,
1956, in Tulsa.

Byrd served as a teacher at
Ada High School for more than

three decades where she taught
French and English, and served
as a guidance counselor. After
retiring, she went on to become a
counselor at Pontotoc Technology
Center.

She also started a well-known
blog, [musingsofamatureamerican-
woman.wordpress.com](http://musingsofamatureamerican-woman.wordpress.com), that was

featured in the Ada News. Byrd's
column received awards in the
OPA Better Newspaper Contest in
2021.

Byrd is survived by her hus-
band, Marty Byrd, daughter Kylie
Byrd, sisters Anita, Sharon and
Kathy, and brother Johnny.

DAVID LEO CROUCH, who
worked at Oklahoma newspapers
for half a decade, died September
29, 2022, in Muskogee. He was
88.

Crouch was born June 11,
1934, in Chickasha. He graduated
from high school in 1952 and
attended college for a year.

He was married to Madona
Madeline Massey for 53 years
until her death on May 27, 2009.

Crouch was in the U.S.
Army for 17 months, stationed
in Hanau, Germany. He served
an additional 5-1/2 years in the
Oklahoma National Guard.

Crouch worked for 50 years
with daily newspapers in Okla-
homa. His career began at the
Chickasha Express. He also
worked at The Duncan Banner
and Bartlesville Examiner-Enter-
prise, with the last 26 years of his
newspaper career spent as man-

ager and publisher of the Pauls
Valley Democrat and Durant
Democrat. He retired in 1998 but
worked part-time for the last five
to six years at the Atoka County
Times in Atoka.

Crouch is survived by two
daughters, Dana Lynn Parrish of
Lawton and Gina Beth Cherry
of Stigler; three granddaughters;
two grandsons; nine great-grand-
daughters; and his special com-
panion, Louise Cain of Atoka.

**DONALD EUGENE HAYDEN,
JR.**, former photo editor for
The Tulsa Tribune, died July 10,
2022. He was 81.

Hayden was born August 5,
1940, in Syracuse, N.Y. After
serving in the U.S. Navy for four
years, he resumed his education

at the University of Tulsa, where
he met his future wife, Jane
Smith. They were married August
19, 1967.

Hayden's newspaper career
included working at the Tulsa
World, Tulsa Tribune and Sand
Springs Leader. He was photo
editor at The Tulsa Tribune from

1990 until they stopped publish-
ing in 1992.

In 1983, he opened a pho-
tography studio, "Imagery by
Hayden." Hayden also served as
president of the Professional Pho-
tographers of Oklahoma in 1999.

He is survived by his wife,
Jane Smith Hayden, of the home.

WILLIAM RAY PUCKETT, a
longtime newspaper carrier, died
Oct. 1, 2022. He was 86.

Puckett was born July 6,
1936, and attended school in

Bartlesville. He graduated from
College High in 1955.

He held numerous jobs before
starting his life-long career deliv-
ering the Tulsa Tribune, Tulsa
World and then the Bartlesville

Examiner-Enterprise for more
than 55 years.

Puckett is survived by
three sons, Bradley, Tim and
Chris; three grandsons and four
great-grandchildren.

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OKLAHOMA NATURAL GAS CONTEST WINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AUGUST WINNERS

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

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



AUGUST EDITORIAL WINNER *(Excerpts from editorial. Read entire editorial at okpress.com/ong-contest)*

KIM POINDEXTER, *Tahlequah Daily Press*

Teachers deserve public's support

Teachers these days are treated in the stereotypical manner of used car salespeople, tawdry lawyers, and as of late, journalists. All provide a vital service, but the public hates them for it. It's ironic, since no profession – outside of emergency health care – is more important than teaching.

America's treatment of public school teachers is a national disgrace, so much so that some state legislatures have seen fit to pass measures to protect them. Others, however, continue to heap additional responsibilities upon them, without heaping any additional pay into their bank accounts. Oklahoma, sadly enough, is among them – and that's despite the efforts of State Superintendent Joy Hofmeister, a loyal Republican who left her party in disgust and is now running for governor.

Many legislators in both political parties are publication advocates. That's true of most of those who represent Cherokee County. But even they sometimes support measures that will put impossible burdens on the backs of teachers – perhaps without realizing they have done so. But they all know about the challenges, and some – like Sen. Dewayne Pemberton – have actually been there.

Last week, House Education Budget Chairman Mark

McBride, R-Moore, said the State Department of Education and local districts should work together to provide \$4,000 relocation bonuses for teachers who move to Oklahoma, and \$5,000 bonuses for teachers who suffer the indignity of staying here. McBride knows, as do most others, that the state has a teacher shortage, and given the dismal pay and the hostility of those who would rather funnel money into the pockets of wealthy private school patrons and homeschooler parents, it's no wonder.

Most "regular folks" in Oklahoma support teachers. They pass laws to increase their funding, but the Legislature moves it elsewhere. Almost every well-intentioned voter measure to boost funding for public education has been misused by lawmakers over the years. It's difficult to understand why these same voters will turn around and re-elect a person who is essentially nothing more than a common thief.

And it gets worse. Now, teachers are apparently supposed to employ X-ray vision to decide whether students are "masquerading" under the banner of genders other than what they were assigned at birth. It's not just athletic programs, where the concept of transgender girls competing against cisgender girls is an understandably controversial topic.

AUGUST COLUMN WINNER *(Excerpts from column. Read entire column at okpress.com/ong-contest)*

JEFF MULLIN, *Enid News & Eagle*

The heart keeps us alive, gives us life

The heart, a muscular organ roughly the size of two closed fists, is tasked with pumping blood throughout the body.

The average adult heart weighs about 10 ounces and beats some 60 to 100 times per minute, roughly 100,000 times a day and three billion times over the course of a lifetime.

The heart, in automotive terms, is the body's fuel pump.

Thus the heart is rather simple to explain.

Ah, if only it were so.

Over time the heart has come to symbolize so much more. The literal heart is a marvelous bit of biological machinery, but the figurative heart is far more many-layered.

I lost my heart many years ago, at a party, when the dark-haired, hazel-eyed beauty I had just introduced myself to flashed her smile. In an instant, my heart was gone, or if not gone, at least no longer mine.

We wed less than a year later and have been hand-in-hand on life's journey together ever since.

Love is the function of the figurative heart that doesn't keep us alive, but gives us life. Her heart is the biggest, warmest and most loving I have ever known.

My heart's a mess, with AFib requiring me to take a handful of pills every day to keep it in proper rhythm, rather than going off on some wild, improvised heavy metal drum solo. The heart has been the downfall of many men in my family, and it likely will someday be mine. My father, my uncle, my grandfather, all were felled by heart attacks.

But hers has been faithfully thump-thumping along for as long as she has walked the earth. Until, that is, she was diagnosed with something called aortic stenosis.

What that means is that her aortic valve was slowly and inexorably hardening, thus hindering its ability to do its primary job, which is to regulate the flow of oxygen-rich blood to the aorta and then to the rest of the body. Hers was hardening to the point it was barely opening.

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2. Include the author's name, name of publication, date of publication and category entered (column or editorial).
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4. All entries for the previous month must be at the OPA office by the 15th of the current month.
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